

The Herkimer Urban Area

A more valid indication of actual growth in the Herkimer area is available when the growth of the Herkimer Urban Area is considered. Political boundaries often tend to obscure the actual conditions, and as pointed out in the Economic Base Study, the population within the five municipalities of the Local Community disregards political boundary lines when concerned with shopping, working or living. The same also applies to the boundary line of the Village of Herkimer with respect to the Herkimer Urban Area. Here we are interested in the growth and distribution of population, not just within the limits of the Village of Herkimer, but rather the area where urbanization has taken place.

Growth will generally follow the line of least resistance and will occur where land is available for development. This urbanization will often take place outside of political boundaries, especially along major highways, where, as in Herkimer, little buildable land is available inside the limits of the municipality. East Herkimer is an excellent example of such peripheral growth and development, and here also growth must be considered in terms of the total urban area rather than only the immediate area.

Such areas surrounding the Village of Herkimer form the Herkimer Urban Area. Included are East Herkimer and those smaller developments to the north of the Village along Steuben Road and Route 28 and to the west along West German Street and Route 5.

In order to estimate the population of these outside areas, except for East Herkimer which is separately indicated by the 1960 Census, the number of dwelling units was determined through field surveys and multiplied by the estimated average population per dwelling unit. The total population

of the Herkimer Urban Area was then determined to be 10,757 people in 1960. The distribution of this population is shown both by the following table and by the Maps of Dwelling Unit distribution for the Village of Herkimer, the Town of Herkimer, and East Herkimer, and the Neighborhood Delineation Maps, Village of Herkimer.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION--1960

| Area | Dwelling Units | People per Dwelling | Total Population |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Village: | | | |
| Western Neighborhood | 1,003 | 3.12 | 3,127 |
| Eastern Neighborhood | 929 | 3.12 | 2,908 |
| Southern Neighborhood | 1,076 | 3.12 | 3,361 |
| Sub-total: Village | 3,008 | 3.12 | 9,396 |
| Town: Urbanized Area | | | |
| East Herkimer | 304 | 3.51 | 1,068 |
| North Urban Area | 50 | 3.40 | 170 |
| West Urban Area | 39 | 3.16 | 123 |
| Sub-total: Town (Urbanized Area) | 393 | 3.47 | 1,361 |
| Total Urban Area | 3,401 | 3.16 | 10,757 |
| Total Rural Area | 212 | 3.83 | 811 |
| Total (Town and Village) | 3,613 | 3.20 | 11,568 |

As indicated by the comparison of the 1950 and 1960 Census reports, the population of the Village of Herkimer changed from 9,400 to 9,396, a loss of four people, while the Town and Village combined increased from 11,235 to 11,568, a gain of 333 people. The rural population of the town of Herkimer changed little during the period from 1950 to 1960. Likely there was a decrease in farm population because of continued mechanization and the reduction of the number of farms, however this decrease appears to have been offset by the increase of rural non-farm population.

The Urban Area then actually increased by 333; from 10,424 in 1950 to 10,757 in 1960, a gain of 3.2 percent. When compared with the increase of 13.5 percent for the State, and the 8.1 percent increase in Herkimer County during this same period, a gain of 3.2 percent would appear to be low. It should be remembered, however, that this is a reversal of the trend of population loss started in 1930 and which continued until at least 1950, probably until 1955.

The 3.2 percent then should be considered to be the beginning of a growth period and a rate of growth subject to considerable improvement in view of the 8.1 percent rate of growth of the County as a whole.

Composition by Age Groups

The composition of the population by age groups of the Village of Herkimer, according to U.S. Bureau of the Census Reports for the years 1940, 1950, and 1960, shown on the accompanying graphs, indicate considerable changes during this period. The most striking change involves the age groups between the years 10-24. These groups include a large proportion of young adults of family forming and child bearing ages. When combined with the

loss indicated in the 40-49 age groups, it appears that the Village lost a considerable number of newly formed families and younger single people entering the labor force as well as a number of mature families with older children. When compared with the level of economic activity at that time, it would appear reasonable that much of this out-migration occurred for the purpose of finding employment.

In most other respects, the composition changes appear to be normal for the size and age of the community. For example, the generally high birth rate at the end of World War II would increase the number of children in the 0-4 year group. The older age groups from 50 and above gained in numbers, a trend seen throughout the country as medical science extends the average life span.

The age composition in the Village in 1960 has remained about the same though with certain modifications. In the 0-14 age groups, the numbers have increased somewhat due to the higher birthrate after the War, though little change is seen in the age group from 15-19. This group would normally show an increase, however it would appear that during the past ten years the greatest growth of young families has occurred in peripheral areas rather than in the Village. This is reflected by the considerably higher average number of people per dwelling unit in these outlying areas, 3.51 in East Herkimer, and the corresponding decrease in this average within the Village, from 3.29 in 1950 to 3.12 in 1960.

Forecast of Population

From the foregoing analysis of past growth trends and factors influencing this growth, including the projected development of the economic base of the Urban Area, the following conclusions have been reached:

1. Little change will occur in the rural areas of the Town of Herkimer. It is expected that losses caused by a decrease in farm population will be generally balanced by new rural non-farm population. The percentage growth rate for the rural area of the town has been estimated as follows: The high for 1970, 3.7 percent; the low, 2.5 percent; and the high for 1980, 5.9 percent, the low, 3.6 percent. The rural population is expected to range between 830 and 850 people in 1970 and between 860 and 900 in 1980.
2. The population within the present boundary limits of the Village will increase by only a small number due to the lack of available land for residential development. The expected increase will range from 0 to 100 persons by 1970 and from 0 to 200 persons by 1980. If the limits of the Village are changed to include more of the Urban Area population, this increase should be added to the above figures and subtracted from the population of the Urban Area outside of the Village.
3. The greatest change will occur in the Urban Area outside of the Village of Herkimer, as it has during the past decade. It is not expected that the Herkimer Urban Area will equal the growth rate of the County. However, if the present trends of developments of the economic base are continued, and this potential is indicated to be quite high in the Economic Base Study, the growth rate for the Urban Area will range from the present 3.2 percent to approximately 6.0 percent.

The population for the study area will then range according to the following table and as shown on the graph, "Population 1900-1980."

FORECAST OF POPULATION

| Area | 1960 | 1970 | | 1980 | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Low | High | Low | High |
| Village | 9,396 | 9,400 | 9,500 | 9,400 | 9,600 |
| Urban Area | | | | | |
| Outside Village | <u>1,361</u> | <u>1,702</u> | <u>1,902</u> | <u>2,057</u> | <u>2,486</u> |
| Total Urban Area | 10,757 | 11,102 | 11,402 | 11,457 | 12,086 |
| Rural Area | <u>811</u> | <u>830</u> | <u>850</u> | <u>860</u> | <u>900</u> |
| Total (Town and Village) | 11,568 | 11,932 | 12,252 | 12,317 | 12,986 |