

A CHRONOLOGY OF BROOK FARM HISTORIC SITE

Early history	Massachusetts Indians set up weirs in the Charles to catch alewives and shad; hunted deer, rabbits, squirrels, and birds in the woods.
1646-1700	John Eliot, "Apostle to the Indians," preaches to the Indians and founds towns for them. Pulpit Rock is said to be one of his preaching sites.
1665	Dedham Street (Baker Street) is laid out as the main highway between Dedham & Watertown.
1683	First sawmill on Palmer's Brook (Saw Mill Brook) is built.
1700	War and epidemic have all but wiped out the native population.
1700	Edward Ward acquires the property. The farm passes through four owners by 1840.
1740	John Palmer builds "The Nest" which becomes the Brook Farm school.
1836	Transcendental Club begins meeting in Boston.
1838	Newton cedes the Brook Farm property to Roxbury.
1841	George and Sophia Ripley and 18 others, including Nathaniel Hawthorne, take possession of the Ellis farmhouse in April. The Brook Farm Institute of Agriculture and Education is organized on September 29. The Ripleys purchase the Ellis farm on October 11 for \$10,500.
1841-1844	The community expands and builds the Eyrie, the Cottage, Pilgrim House, the greenhouse, and the factory.
1843	Josiah Wolcott paints Brook Farm with rainbow.
1844	Brook Farm is reorganized as the Brook Farm Phalanx based on the ideas of French socialist Charles Fourier. Construction of the Phalanstery begins in 1845 to be the main dwelling of the new community. Wolcott paints Brook Farm showing Phalanstery under construction.
1845	The first issue of <i>The Harbinger</i> is published at Brook Farm on June 14. The journal was devoted to social reform and the cause of Associationism. In June 1847, <i>The Harbinger</i> was transferred to the American Union of Associationists and published in New York until 1849.
1846	The Phalanstery burns to the ground just before completion.
1847	Brook Farm is quietly disbanded. After many years, George Ripley repays all debts owed by the association.
1848	Brook Farm is sold at auction for \$19,150 to John Plummer, chairman of a committee on the removal of the Roxbury almshouse [source: L. Swift]. The City of Roxbury uses the property to provide the indigent with housing and farm work until 1855.
1855	The Hive and barn are destroyed by fire.* Rev. James Freeman Clarke, a Transcendentalist and contributor to <i>The Harbinger</i> , purchases Brook Farm. *Some sources state the Hive was only damaged. Camp Andrews headquarters and orphanage may or may not be the original Hive.
1861	Clarke loans the farm to the Commonwealth as a training camp for the Massachusetts 2 nd Infantry Regiment. Camp Andrew, named for the governor, was in use from May through July 1861. A memorial to the Mass. 2 nd Regiment was dedicated in 1911. In 1942, a gun from the USS Constitution ("Old Ironsides") was placed in memory of Camp Andrew.
1868	Laurence and James Munroe purchase Brook Farm for \$18,000 for use as a summer boarding house.
1870	Gottlieb Burkhardt purchases Brook Farm for \$24,000 and in 1871 forms the Association of the Evangelical Lutheran Church for Works of Mercy to provide a temporary home for orphans and destitute half-orphans.
1872	The Martin Luther Orphan's Home is formally dedicated.
1873	Gethsemane Cemetery is laid out.
1872-1944	The orphanage is home to more than 400 children. The printing shop produces bibles, postcards, and pamphlets until it closes in 1924. An addition to the main building is built in the 1920s.
1944-1948	Board of Management closes the orphanage and loans the property to the Commonwealth for use by foster parents to care for dependent and neglected children.
1947	Wooden cow barn in the meadow burns.
1948	Brook Farm Home reopens as a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children.
1952-1979	Cemetery caretaker lives in the Cottage (known as Margaret Fuller Cottage).
1965	Brook Farm is listed as a National Historic Landmark.
1973	Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is directed to purchase Brook Farm for \$1.1 million, but Lutherans ask for \$1.6 million.
1974	Brook Farm Home closes.
1977	Brook Farm is declared a landmark by the Boston Landmark Commission. Fire destroys the main building.
1984	The Cottage is destroyed by fire set by vandals.
1987	Gov. Dukakis signs a capital outlay bill of \$3 million.
1988	MDC purchases the property from Lutheran Services Association.
1990s	First archaeological digs and trail clearing at Brook Farm.
Present	Department of Conservation and Recreation owns the property. New Brook Farm, Inc. organizes tours and events and is seeking to plant a demonstration garden on a small parcel of the site.