

WHY DOES 'MAMARONECK' INCLUDE TWO TOWNS, TWO VILLAGES AND AN 'UNINCORPORATED AREA?'

The Town of Mamaroneck was incorporated March 07, 1788. It was a very rural area. State law gave towns very limited power in their charters: "organizing and supervising elections, administering judicial functions, and constructing and maintaining highways.

The population growth at the end of the 1800s concentrated in two areas of the town. One was Larchmont Manor where wealthy New Yorkers had summer vacation properties near the water. Many of these were becoming year round residents. The other was at the commercial center of the town near the Harbor on both sides of the Mamaroneck River.

If a place could receive state incorporation as a 'Village' they would be granted the legal right to tax for and organize municipal services such as water supply, sewage disposal, garbage collection, sidewalks, street lighting, police and fire services. All services a 'Town' was not authorized to provide.

Larchmont Manor did not originally meet the state requirement of 300 people per square mile so it expanded its boundaries beyond its original 288 acres and then qualified.

The people living across the Mamaroneck River in the Town of Rye, decided (barely) that it made sense to join in the incorporation of a Village with the residents on this side, since they had so much social and economic interaction.

The remainder of the Town didn't have a dense enough population to warrant being included in either incorporated village and became referred to as the 'Unincorporated' area.

By the end of World War I, New York State made the decision to change the regulations and allow Towns the same rights as Villages in regards to providing services. Even though the population density increased in the Unincorporated area, there was now no necessity to incorporate.

