

SECTION 3 – CURRENT CONDITIONS

3.1 Land Use

The land uses of the various parcels in the Village of Dresden are compiled by the Yates County Office of Real Property Services and represents the tax assessor’s estimation of land use.

According to this data, there are 173.79 acres of real property in the Village of Dresden (Note: this is not the same thing as the land area of the Village, since public road right-of-ways are not included). Please see Table 1 below for a detailed break down of land uses.

Table 1: Land Use

Land Use	Percent of Village
Active Agricultural Land	3.9%
Single Family Homes	24.5%
Two Family Homes	6.4%
Three Family Homes	0.5%
Seasonal Homes	1.0%
Mobile Homes	1.8%
Vacant Land*	38.2%
Commercial	1.4%
Industrial	5.0%
Military	1.8%
Parks and Recreation	6.2%
Railroad	5.1%
Other	4.2%
* described as vacant residential, commercial, or industrial land or vacant or abandoned agricultural land	

3.2 Population and Housing

According to the 2000 United States Census, the Village of Dresden has 307 people. 51.5% are male and 48.5% are female. 94.1% identified themselves as white and 5.9% as American Indian and Asian. 9.8% identified themselves as Latino (Note: the Census considers Latino an ethnicity, not a race).

The median age of village residents is 42.9 years, compared with 37.9 for Yates County as a whole.

The Village's building stock is very old by national standards, but not unusual for many Upstate New York villages, especially one that saw its greatest economic growth in the 19th century. 78.5% of the structures were built before 1939. The total number of housing units in the Village of Dresden is 139. Of those housing units 116 are considered occupied housing and 14 are seasonal housing, with the remaining 9 units vacant.

Out of the 116 occupied housing units, 74.1% are owner-occupied and only 25.9% are rental units. The average household size is 2.58 persons per unit. The median cost of an owner-occupied unit is \$63,200. 76.2% of the owner-occupied units are priced between \$50,000 and \$99,999.

The 2000 Census shows that the largest employment base for the residents of Dresden are educational, health, and social services, which provide jobs for 23.4% of the employed population. Manufacturing followed with 21.1% while agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining employed 19.4% of the population. (Although the Census combines agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining into one category, it can be surmised that in Dresden, most of the employment in this category is from the first two sub-categories, agriculture and forestry).

Over two-thirds (67%) of the residents have either graduated from high school or have some form of higher education. The median household income is \$42,500.

3.3 Services

Water

A public water system was installed in the village during the 1930s. The Dresden system has always utilized water from Keuka Lake, which it purchases wholesale from the Village of Penn Yan. This agreement was last updated in November 1995. The water flows to Dresden via an 8 inch transmission main along Route 54 that was replaced in 1996. The Village then distributes the water to properties within the village, and 18 properties, mostly along Route 54, that are outside the village limits. As part of the water service agreement, the Village of Dresden can sell water to any property within 500 feet of the Route 54 right-of-way.

Sewer

There are no public sewers in the village, each property has private on-site waste water systems of various ages. Most property owners report few problems since Dresden is built upon gravelly soil that percolates adequately. The effect of these aging systems on Seneca Lake water quality is less well known. It is anticipated that during the summer of 2004, Hobart and William Smith Colleges will sample the water of Seneca Lake off Dresden; more conclusions about the waste water situation can then be drawn.

There have been preliminary discussions, regionally, about constructing public sewers along the Route 14 corridor. This would include the Village of Dresden. The Village should be a part of these discussions and any feasibility studies/planning activities that come out of them.

Gas

Natural gas service is available in the village; it is provided by New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG).

Electric

The electric distribution infrastructure is own by New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG). Residents are able to chose their electricity provider.

Communication

Dresden's telephone infrastructure is owned and maintained by Verizon Corporation. Individuals are able to chose from many local and long distance service providers. Digital subscriber line (DSL) high-speed internet service is not available and there are no plans to offer it in the Dresden area in the foreseeable future.

Cable television is available in Dresden and is provided by Time Warner Cable, Rochester service area. High speed internet via cable is not available and Time Warner has no plans to offer it in the Dresden area in the foreseeable future.

3.4 Community Organizations, Institutions, and Government

Village Government

The Village was incorporated in 1868 and is run by a mayor and board of two trustees. There are three full time employees: clerk/treasurer, public works superintendent, and public works laborer. In addition, there is a planning board of five people (one current vacancy), a zoning board of appeals of five people (one current vacancy) and an informal tree committee of approximately five people that helps oversee and maintain the public trees in the village.

The Village Hall is a section of the village highway garage on Firehouse Avenue. It is currently being expanded to connect with the Fire Hall next door and to provide handicapped accessible bathroom facilities.

The village provides public water and maintains the squares, parks, and streets owned by the village.

Town Government

The Village of Dresden is located in the Town of Torrey. The town was incorporated in 1851 and is run by a supervisor and council of four. The Town Hall is located within the village on Geneva Street.

Churches

There are currently two active congregations in the village. The Dresden United Methodist Church, which has a membership of about 150, uses its historic 1829 building on Cornelia Street just north of Grosvenor Square. The Good Samaritan Baptist Church, which has a membership of about 12, uses the former schoolhouse on Main Street just west of Grosvenor Square.

Formerly, there was also a Presbyterian congregation, whose church is now a private residence on Main Street, and an Episcopal congregation, whose brick church building (demolished in 1968) stood on Charles Street.

Schools

Dresden has been part of the Penn Yan Central School District since the district was formed in 1954. Currently there are no operating schools in the village. However, much evidence of local education still exists in the village. In 1847, a school house was constructed on Grosvenor Square. This structure served the village until the 1880s when it was moved to the southeast corner of Seneca and Geneva Street, where it is used today as a private home. In 1887 a new two storey brick school house was built on the same Grosvenor Square site. This was used as a school until after World War II. Today the building is home to the Good Samaritan Baptist Church. In 1956, after becoming part of the Penn Yan Central School District, an elementary school was built at the northeast corner of Main Street and Route 14. This school closed after the 1984-1985 school year.

Fire Department

The Dresden Volunteer Fire Department is housed in the firehall on Firehouse Avenue, next to the Village offices and department of public works. The Fire Department serves the Village and the Town of Torrey. The department dates back to the 19th century and still owns a 1921 Brockway Fire Engine. A Fire Auxiliary was formed in the 1960s. There are currently 44 firefighters, 10 members of the auxiliary, and eight qualified EMTs.

Law Enforcement

Dresden has no formal or contractual arrangements for law enforcement. The village is patrolled and serviced by the regular activities of the Yates County Sheriff and New York State Police.

Post Office

The first post office was established in Dresden in the 1820s and for many years was located at the village's "four corner's" area. Since the 1950s, the post office has used a quaint structure on Main Street just west of Charles Street. Although there are no delivery routes associated with this post office (ZIP code 14441), it remains an important community asset and helps create a sense of identity.

3.5 *Economy*

Dresden's economy has varied over time, from the commercial boom of the canal, to steady employment with the railroad and the mills along the Outlet, to the present day, where many people find opportunity in places such as Penn Yan, Geneva, and Canandaigua. Agriculture is a vital part of the regional economy and establishments from vineyards to dairy farms thrive outside the village limits. Recreation and tourism also play increasingly important roles, not only in Dresden, but throughout Yates County and the Finger Lakes. Visitors can sample the region's wineries, explore unique natural and historic sites, and utilize amenities such as the Keuka Outlet and its trail for hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, and kayaking.

For a small village, however, there remain some noteworthy economic establishments in and around the community. Three of these are listed below:

Abtex

The Abtex Corporation is located within the village in the former elementary school at the corner of Main Street and Route 14. Since 1978, Abtex Corporation has manufactured fiber abrasive brushing tools.

Over the past 21 years the company has expanded their brush line as well as their line of machinery. Their mission is to provide customers with the most effective and efficient brushing tool for their specific application. Abtex employs approximately 20 people.

AES

The Greenidge Power Plant lies just south of the Dresden village line. This coal-fired electrical generation plant was built in stages from the 1930s to 1950s by New York State Electric and Gas. The plant was sold to AES Corporation in 2000.

The AES Corporation is a leading independent power company that owns and operates over \$30 billion of assets in 27 countries on 5 continents.

The AES Greenidge plant consists of two pulverized coal units capable of producing a maximum of 161 megawatts of generating capacity. The plant employs nearly 50 people.

U.S. Navy

The Seneca Lake Sonar Test Facility at the foot of Main Street in Dresden is a field station of the Naval Sea Systems Command. The Test Facilities and Operations Division of the Engineering Test and Evaluation Department manage the test facility.

The facility performs tests and evaluation of sonar systems and related equipment. This world-class site has been utilized by many organizations over the years, including agencies of the federal government, universities, foreign governments, state and local agencies, and private industry.

Seneca Lake is the Navy's primary active instrumented test and measurement facility. Due to the Lake's depth, it does not freeze. Weather conditions on Seneca Lake are also relatively calm compared to the ocean or the Great Lakes. For this reason, operations may be conducted throughout the year on a 24-hour, round-the-clock basis. Large test items may be brought to Seneca Lake from the Atlantic Ocean or the Great Lakes via the Erie and Seneca-Cayuga Canals. One of two test barges, the System Measurement Platform (SMP), can be seen permanently moored near the center of lake. Transport boats serve the test facility.

This facility is a key component of the Navy's infrastructure and there are no indications that it will close. Due to security reasons, the Navy could not provide an employment figure for this facility.