



**Incorporated: 1762**

**Hampshire County**

The Town of Chesterfield is a rural recreational hill town between Northampton and Pittsfield. The town was laid out in 1739 and sites were granted to King Philip's and King William's war veterans in 1740, but initial settlement of the town did not take place until around 1755. The town center was established after the Revolution with well preserved Federal Period houses along Main Road and landmarks of civic buildings in a later Greek Revival style. In its early days, the town supported a largely agricultural economy, with wool from Merino sheep as a major product. However, there were sawmills and tanneries in operation as well as cloth dressing mills, and in the early 19th century these superseded farming and brought in a small immigrant population that was mostly Irish. Progress wiped out most of the industry in Chesterfield and by the turn of the century a re-emerging agricultural economy developed alongside the growing trade from summer residents.

( Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)

**Population:** 1201 (2000 census)

**Government:** Open Town Meeting; Selectmen

**Total Area:** 31.29 square miles +/-

**Tax Rate:** \$15.26 (2010)

**School Superintendent:** 527-7680

**Public Schools:** Hampshire Regional School District

**Colleges and Universities:** none

**Private Schools:** none

**Shopping:** local convenience stores; 25-30 minutes to Northampton

**Libraries:** Chesterfield Public Library 296-4735

**Recreational Facilities:** Chesterfield Gorge; Fourth of July Parade

**Utilities:**

Cable not available

Gas: No natural gas available

Electric: Western Mass Electric Co. 800-286-2000

Telephone: Verizon 800-870-9999

**Child Care Providers:** 413-582-4218

Child Care Focus

56 Vernon Street

Northampton, MA 01060

--provides a list of licensed childcare facilities

**For More Information:**

**Town hall:** 296-4771

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