

COMMUNITY PROFILE

DEMOGRAPHICS

All demographic figures are based upon data collected from both the 1990 and 2000 Census, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. [<http://www.census.gov>] Financial information is based upon the 2002 New York State Comptroller’s report. [<http://osc.ny.gov>]

Population

According to the 2000 Census, the Town of Harrisburg experienced a –2.1% decrease in population. The population of Lewis County grew by 0.6%, and the state as a whole experienced a 5.5% increase in population.

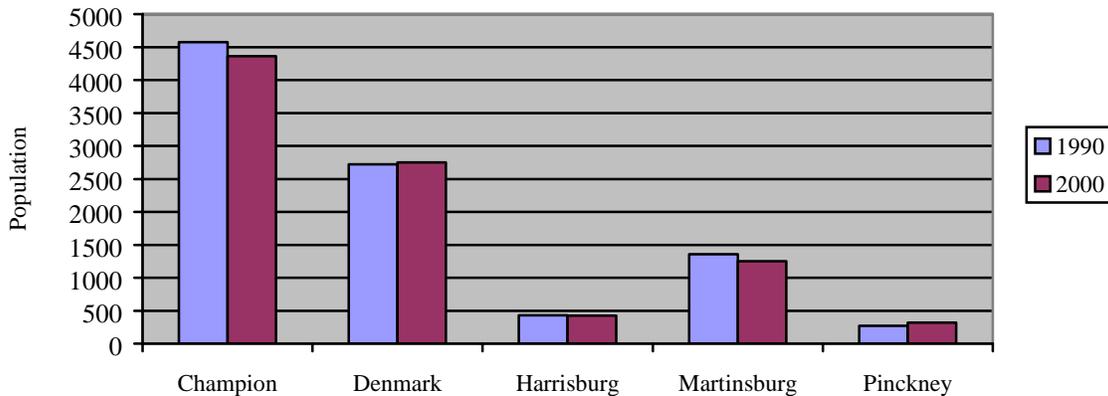
Table 1. Population Distribution

Population	1990	2000	% Change
Town of Harrisburg	432	423	-2.1
Lewis County	26,796	26,944	+0.6
New York State	17,990,455	18,976,457	+5.5

Regional Population Changes

Nearby towns also experienced population loss during the 1990s; Champion and Martinsburg declined in size between 1990 and 2000, by –4.7% and –8.0% respectively. The towns of Denmark and Pinckney experienced slight growth, at +1.1% and +18.1%.

Figure 1. Population Changes in Nearby and Adjacent Towns



Household and Family Size

The Town of Harrisburg has the largest average household size in the CTHC region, of 3.04 persons. The average household size in the CTHC region is 2.71 persons, which is slightly higher than the NY State average of 2.61. Average family size is also highest in the Town of Harrisburg, at 3.73 persons. The CTHC average is 3.17, which is slightly lower than the state average of 3.22.

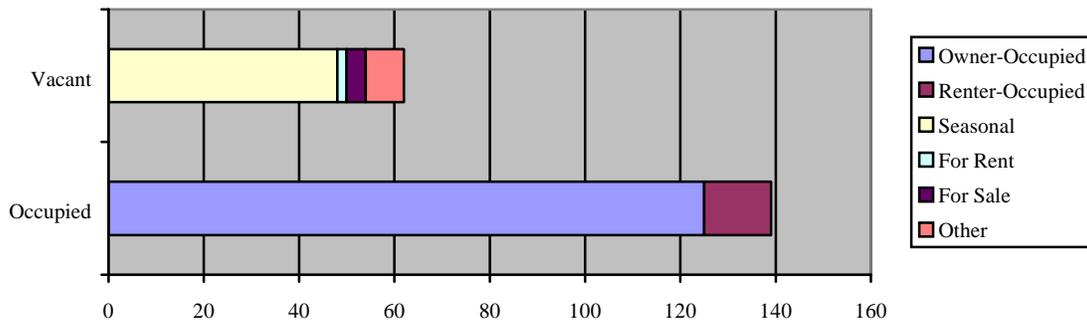
Table 2. Average Household and Family Size, 2000

	Town of Harrisburg	Lewis County	CTHC Region	New York State
Average Household Size (2000)	3.04*	2.66	2.71	2.61
Average Family Size (2000)	3.73*	3.12	3.17	3.22

Housing

According to the 2000 Census, 69.2% of all housing units are classified as occupied and 30.8% are vacant. Of occupied housing units, 89.9% are owner-occupied and 10.1% are renter-occupied. Seasonal units account for the majority of vacant housing (77.4%), while homes for rent and sale are 3.2% and 6.5% respectively.

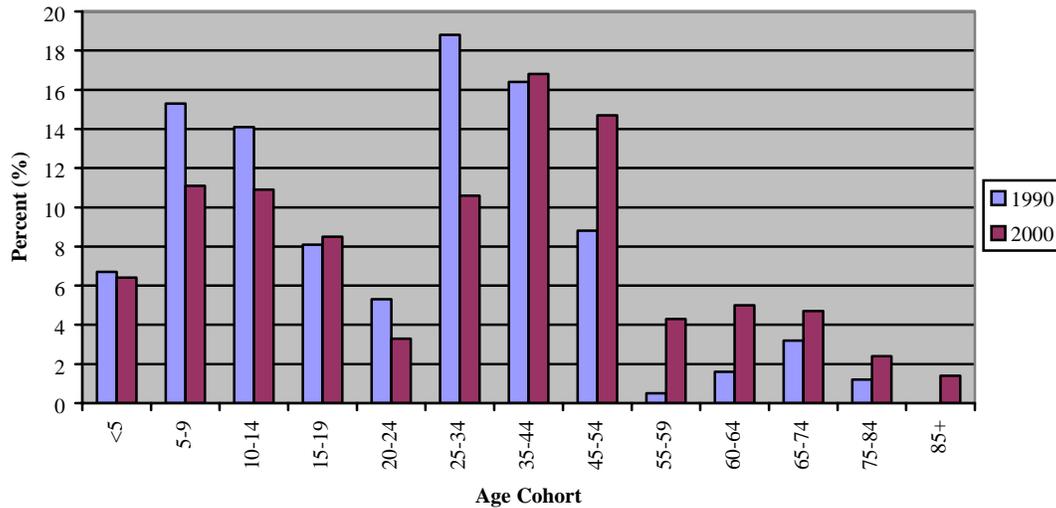
Figure 2. Housing Units, by Classification (2000)



Age

Between 1990 and 2000, all age cohorts under age 35 (with the exception of 15-19) experienced fairly significant decline. The most marked decline occurred in the 25-34 age group, which decreased from 18.8% of the total population in 1990 to only 10.6% of the total population in 2000. Growth was most significant in cohorts over age 35, especially for 45-54, which increased from 8.8% of the total population in 1990 to 14.7% in 2000. Figure 3 represents the percent change in each age cohort.

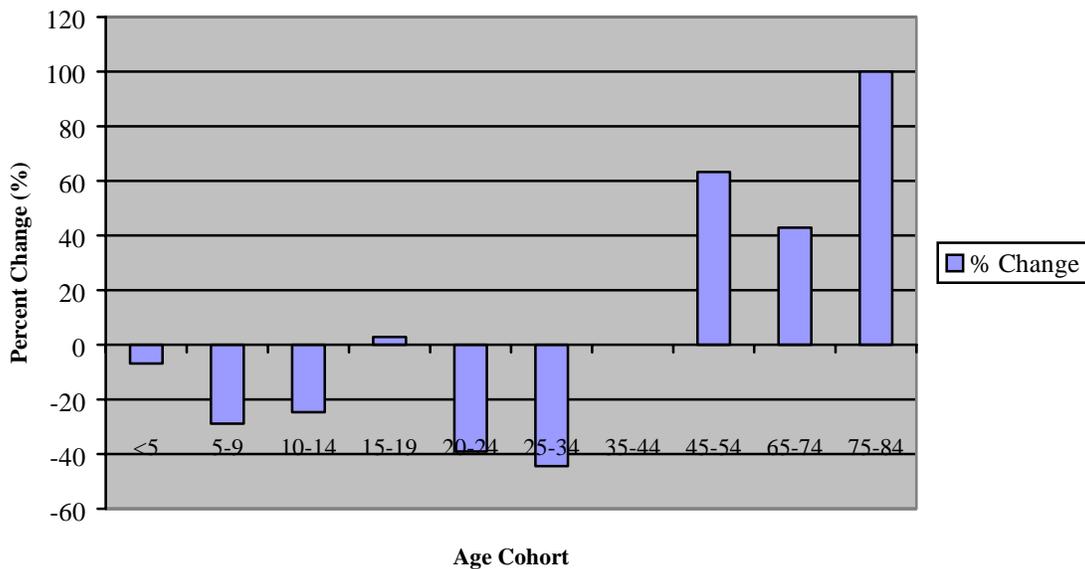
Figure 3. Age Cohorts by Percentage of Total Population, 1990 and 2000



The percentages (as represented in Figure 3) show each cohort’s size relative to the total population. Figure 4 more accurately illustrates growth or decline within each age cohort, as the cohort size itself is compared from 1990 and 2000. In terms of percent change for each age cohort, the most significant positive change (growth) occurred in the age 55-59 cohort (800%). The largest decline occurred in the age 25-34 cohort (-44.4%). In 1990, there were no persons over the age of 85 in the Town of Harrisburg; by 2000, this figure had increased to six persons.

Two extreme outliers (800% and 200%) were removed from the chart (Figure 4) in order for the other values to be observable. All figures are presented in Table 3. Median age in the Town of Harrisburg was 34.6, which was less than the average median age in the CTHC region (36.8).

Figure 4. Percent Change by Age Cohort, 1990 to 2000



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Table 3. Percent Change by Age Cohort, 1990 to 2000

Age Cohort	1990	2000	% Change
<5 years	29	27	-6.9%
5-9	66	47	-28.8%
10-14	61	46	-24.6%
15-19	35	36	+2.9%
20-24	23	14	-39.1%
25-34	81	45	-44.4%
35-44	71	71	0.0%
45-54	38	62	+63.2%
55-59	2	18	+800%*
60-64	7	21	+200%*
65-74	14	20	+42.9%
75-84	5	10	+100%*
85+	0	6	n/a*
TOTAL	432	423	-2.1%

Income

In the CTHC region, the average household income is \$34,507, while the average family income is slightly higher, \$38,406. Median annual income in the Town of Harrisburg was \$30,750 for households and \$37,250 for families. Both figures are slightly lower than the average value for all CTHC towns.

Table 4. Median Income, 2000

LOCATION	Town of Harrisburg	CTHC Region	Lewis County
Median household income	\$30,750	\$34,507	\$34,361
Median family income	\$37,250	\$38,406	\$39,287

Employment and Occupation

Just over 75% of the population aged 16+ is in the labor force. Most persons in the labor force are employed (70.2%), though 5.1% are classified as unemployed. The Town of Harrisburg is one of eight CTHC towns in which the largest percentage of the employed population works in management, professional and related occupations (37.6%). Service occupations are the second most common (16.1%), followed by sales and office occupations (14.6%). Refer to Table 5 for employment figures and Table 6 for occupation information.

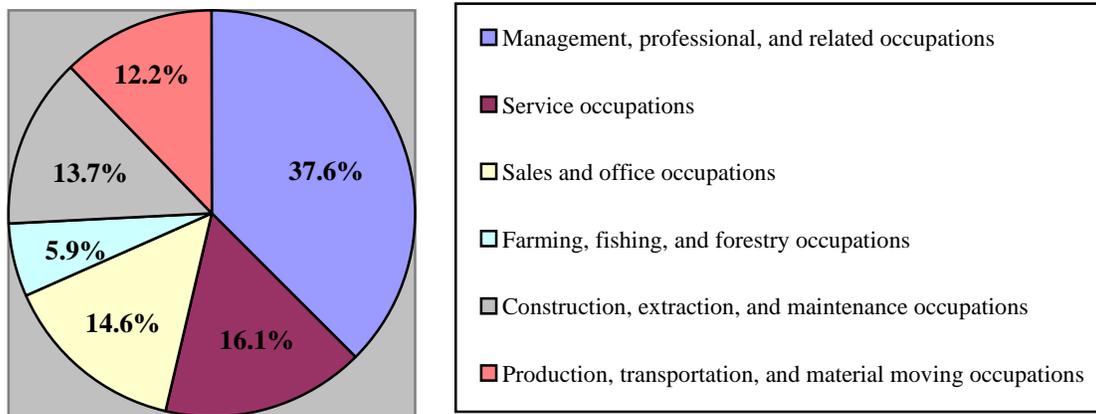
Table 5. Employment Status, 2000

Population age 16 years and over...	
In labor force	75.3%
Civilian	75.3%
Employed	70.2%
Unemployed	5.1%
Armed Forces	0%
Not in labor force	24.7%

Table 6. Percentage of Employed Population by Occupation, 2000

Occupation	
Management, professional, and related occupations	37.6%
Service occupations	16.1%
Sales and office occupations	14.6%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	5.9%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	13.7%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	12.2%

Figure 5. Percentage of Employed Population by Occupation, 2000



Industry

The largest industry employing persons from the Town of Harrisburg is agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining (24.4%), which is true of only one other CTHC member town, Turin. Construction (18.0%) and educational, health, and social services (17.1%) are the second and third largest sectors.

Table 7. Percentage of Employed Persons by Industry, 2000

Industry	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining	24.4%
Construction	18.0%
Manufacturing	5.9%
Wholesale trade	4.4%
Retail trade	6.8%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	1.5%
Information	2.4%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	2.9%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	2.4%
Educational, health, and social services	17.1%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	2.9%
Other services (except public administration)	2.9%
Public administration	7.3%

Educational Attainment

Over half (68.5%) of the population age 25+ has attained a minimum of high school education. Only 10% have bachelor's degrees or higher. Nearly one quarter (24.7%) of persons have gone to high school but not completed.

Table 8. Educational Attainment, 2000

Percent of the population age 25+ with...	
Less than 9 th grade	6.8%
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	24.7%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	45.4%
Some college, no degree	5.2%
Associate degree	8.0%
Bachelor's degree	4.0%
Graduate or professional degree	6.0%
Percent high school graduate or higher	
	68.5%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	
	10.0%

Transportation to Work

The majority of workers from the Town of Harrisburg drive alone to work (71.2%), although 3.4% carpool with others. A fairly sizeable group of persons work from their homes (16.1%). Approximately seven percent walk to work. On average, the time spent commuting to work is 23.7 minutes.

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Table 9. Means of Transportation, Employed Population Age 16+ (2000)

Means of transportation	
Car, truck, or van – drove alone	71.2%*
Car, truck or van – carpoled	3.4%
Public transportation (including taxicab)	1.0%
Walked	7.3%
Other means	1.0%
Worked at home	16.1%*
Mean travel time to work	
	23.7 minutes

FINANCE

Revenues

Revenues for the Town of Harrisburg totaled \$348,700 in 2002. Intergovernmental revenues accounted for 60%, followed by 38% raised from real property taxes.

Figure 6. Source of Revenues, 2002

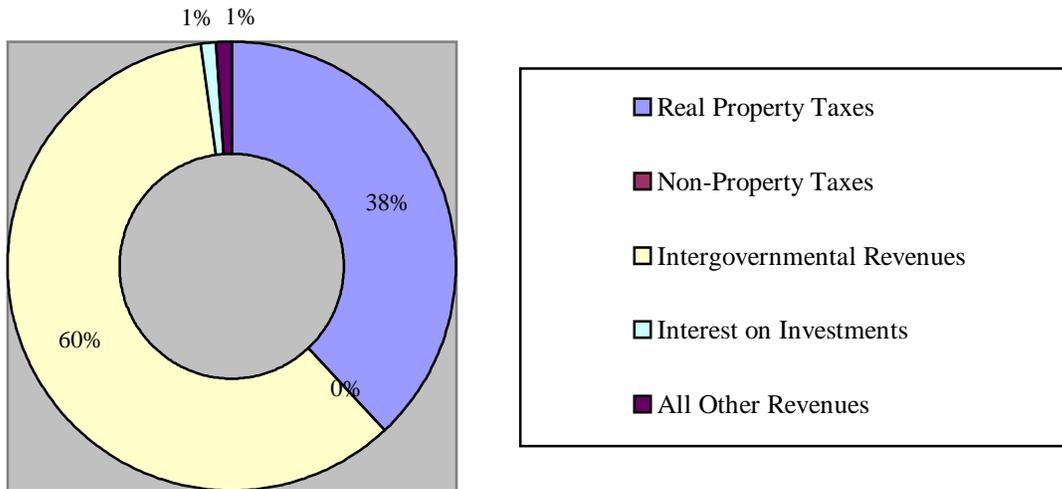


Table 10. Amount of Revenues Generated, by Source (2002)

SOURCE	Amount (\$000)	Percentage of Total Revenues
Real property taxes	132.6	38%
Non-property taxes	0	0%
Intergovernmental revenues	208.5	60%
Interest on investments	3.4	1%
All other revenues	4.2	1%

Expenditures

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General government expenses (62%) accounted for the majority of expenses for the Town of Harrisburg in 2002. Transportation costs accounted for 35.8% of expenditures.

Figure 7. Expenditures by Function, 2002

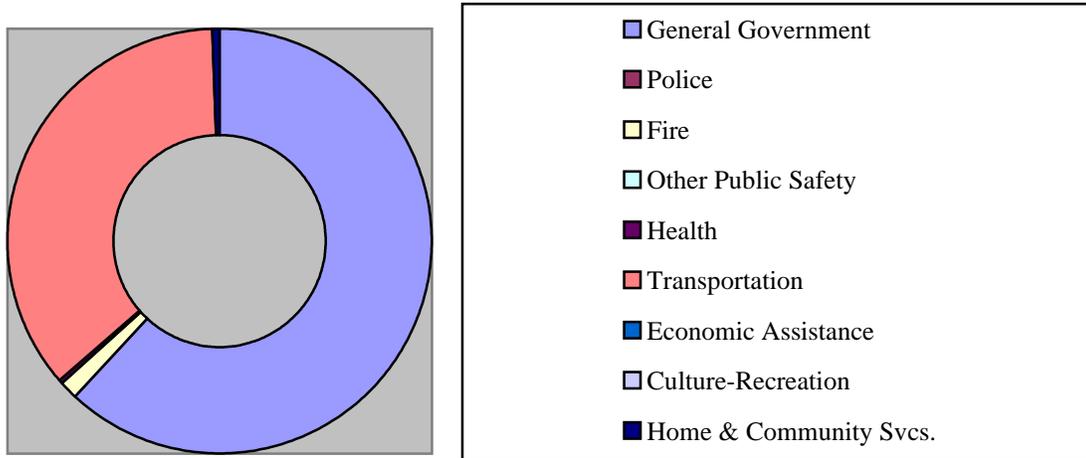


Table 11. Expenditures

General Government	\$301,400	62%
Police	\$0	0%
Fire	\$6,700	1.4%
Other Public Safety	\$500	0.1%
Health	\$1,300	0.3%
Transportation	\$174,100	35.8%
Economic Assistance	\$0	0%
Culture-Recreation	\$200	0%
Home & Community Svcs.	\$2,100	0.4%
TOTAL	\$486,300.00	100%

Tax Rates

The NYS Comptroller reports the following property tax rates for 2003. Full taxable value is reported for 2002.

TOWN	COUNTY	FULL TAXABLE VALUE (tax base)	County Tax (per \$1000)	Town Tax (per \$1000)	School Tax (per \$1000)
Harrisburg	Lewis	\$14,780,000	7.70	8.57	12.42-12.44

The Town of Harrisburg - Yesterday and Today

The Town of Harrisburg was formed February 22, 1803 and is the oldest Town in what is now, Lewis County. Sections of what are now Lowville, Champion, and Mexico touched the new Town of Harrisburg. Areas that are now Pinckney and Denmark were removed later leaving Harrisburg with its current size of 25,634 acres. Harrisburg is located in the west central part of Lewis County and is on the very top of the Tug Hill Plateau. Blessed with the highest annual snowfall east of the Rocky Mountains (around 300 inches annually), the unique geology and weather that is the Tug Hill is foundational to the metamorphosis of the Town. The Town of Harrisburg was named for Richard Harrison, who owned land in this area and in other northern New York townships.



The Town's rotary snowplow is pressed into service on the Cobb Road

A convention to create a new county was held in The Town of Harrisburg at the Freedom Wright Inn on November 18, 1944. This was the convention creating Lewis and Jefferson Counties out of territory belonging to Oneida County.

Agriculture, including dairy farming, butter and cheese making has long been a part of our history. In the early days, oxen did much of the work on farms. Beef cows, sheep, and chickens were very important and there was even a fish farm. Crops harvested included winter wheat, oats, Indian corn, potatoes, hops, and apples. Dairy farming remains a staple of Harrisburg's economy.

Early industry in the Town of Harrisburg included sawmills, gristmills, ice harvesting, a glass factory, a cheese factory and a brick factory. Small business included butcher shops, taverns, blacksmiths and a greenhouse. Natural resources included maple sap, timber, potash, peppermint

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oil, spruce gum and natural gas. Many residents still tell tales of experiences with pockets of natural gas that lie within the Town to this day. Today, tourism is the fastest growing industry in the area with hunting and snowmobiling now being challenged by ATV's for dominance of the local recreational industry.

Currently, the largest economic project ever proposed is under development. The project is the Flat Rock Wind Park and, along with the Towns of Martinsburg and Lowville, Harrisburg will host almost one-half of the largest wind farm ever constructed in the northeastern United States. The wind farm will have 188, 400 foot tall wind towers generating as much as 300 megawatts of electricity. Nearly \$300,000,000 will be spent in its development.

The earliest settlers were Puritans, but they never had a formal church. The earliest Church was the Free Communion Baptist Church formed in the Town of Harrisburg on July 16, 1822 by a council appointed from people living in Lowville, Martinsburg and Turin. Saint Patrick's Catholic Church organized and erected circa 1850 was located on the Thesier Road, near the junction with Woodbattle Road. This was one of the first Catholic edifices in all of Lewis County. The church was destroyed by fire on May 22, 1889 under unusual circumstances, but a church cemetery, maintained by the Town, remains on the site. Many churches were built in the Town of Harrisburg. There are currently no churches within the town. The former Third Baptist church located on Route 12 now serves as the home for our current town clerk.

The schools in Harrisburg were established starting in 1814. At one time there were 12 school districts in the Town of Harrisburg. The twelve rural districts were declining and on October 25, 1935, school districts No. 1,3,7 and 11 were centralized with the Copenhagen Central School. Districts No. 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 were incorporated into the Lowville Academy and Central School System when centralization was completed on June 25, 1952. District No. 4 at Windecker continued with grades I through 6 with an average of 25 students until 1958. All Harrisburg's schools are now closed with the Copenhagen and Lowville Academy districts still serving the Town's students.

The current residents enjoy many activities such as hunting, fishing, ATV, snowmobiling, biking, bird watching and family get-togethers. The Town of Harrisburg's latest census shows our population remaining steady at about 423 people. The only storefront business currently located within the Town is the "Maples" restaurant (formerly "Deer Hill"). We have many townspeople who run businesses from their homes, including: woodworking, construction, logging, butchering, computer sales and service, and a welding and fabrication shop. A new cabin rental and RV park is planned for development on the north side NYS Route 177 near the intersection of the VanDressen Road. The Town plans to develop new land use and planning tools starting with a comprehensive plan for development. These tools will ensure that landowners and residents will have a voice in the Town's future development.

New municipal facilities were built in 2001 replacing the aging highway department garage and single room Town Hall. The new facility houses: the municipal offices for the Town Clerk,

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Highway Superintendent, Justice Court and the Town Supervisor. Additionally there is a public meeting room, kitchenette and a records retention room. The rear of the facility houses the highway department's garage and maintenance facility. The meeting room and kitchenette are available for use by Town residents and landowners.



Harrisburg Town Hall and Highway Dept. garage on the Cobb Road

The future is as important as our past! With the undertaking of a Comprehensive Plan we will develop a vision and a plan that will set a course to the future. The Town government has forged new relationships with the County, State and Federal Government agencies to identify and develop economic opportunities. From the past to the future, the Town of Harrisburg that recently celebrated its bicentennial will be participating in the bicentennial celebration of Lewis County in 2005. We celebrate our yesterdays; endeavor with enthusiasm today to ensure a brighter tomorrow.