

THE CHANGING SITUATION AND FUNCTION
OF COLCHESTER, ILLINOIS, THE NINETEENTH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT

An Abstract of a Thesis

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ABSTRACT

This study of Colchester, Illinois, examines how a small town is modified in function by changes in situation. The concept that a change in situation is reflected by a change in geographic function is key to the study. The situation and functions of Colchester were studied at four time periods; namely, nineteenth century Colchester, Colchester about 1930, about 1960, and the present. Each of these periods represent a distinct situation in the city's history.

The study is historical geography and, as such, uses historical records as primary data sources. However, for the more recent study dates, interviewing and "on site" examination were also used to collect data.

Colchester does illustrate how a change in situation can be reflected in a change in geographic function. The changes in functions are noted and explained.