

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Kensington Town Center Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Amesbury Road (NH Route 150)

City or town: Kensington State: New Hampshire County: Rockingham

Not For Publication: _____ Vicinity: _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

_____ national _____ statewide _____ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	Date
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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title Government	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>20</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u>4</u>	_____	sites
_____	<u>1</u>	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>24</u>	<u>6</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 3

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Multiple Dwelling, Secondary Structure

COMMERCE/TRADE: General Store

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

GOVERNMENT: City Hall, Fire Station, Post Office

EDUCATION: School, Library

RELIGION: Religious Facility, Parsonage

FUNERARY: Cemetery, VAULT

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Field, Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, Multiple Dwelling, Secondary Structure

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

GOVERNMENT: Town Hall, Fire Station

EDUCATION: School, Library

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Cemetery, VAULT

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural Outbuilding

LANDSCAPE: Parking Lot, Unoccupied Land

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL: Georgian

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate, Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT: Mid-century Modern

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Weatherboard, Shingle; BRICK; STONE; ASPHALT; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located near the geographic center of the town of Kensington, New Hampshire, the Kensington Town Center Historic District is an approximately one-half-mile-long linear district along Amesbury Road/NH Route 150, the principal north-south road through the town. Amesbury Road is a relatively level, slightly windy road that was laid out in segments in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The district extends from just north of the intersection with Osgood Road to just south of the intersection with Trundlebed Lane. The Kensington Town Center Historic District is a collection of well-preserved late eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century civic, religious, cultural, educational, residential, and funerary resources characteristic of a rural town center in southern New Hampshire. It comprises nineteen properties including two cemeteries, and two sites, with a total of 27 contributing resources and 6 noncontributing resources (due to age). The architectural resources are nearly all wood-frame buildings in forms and styles characteristic of the building type and their period of construction. This includes a Georgian center-chimney house, a Federal/Greek Revival ell house, gable-front civic and religious buildings in the Greek Revival or Italianate style, end houses in the late Greek Revival style, and four mid-twentieth century resources including a Mid-Century Modern grade school, a Colonial Revival Cape Cod Form, a transitional ranch house, and a firehouse. Only one building is of brick construction, the Classical/Queen Anne-styled library. The district also contains three mid-nineteenth-century village barns, one late nineteenth-century barn, and a 1960s barn constructed from parts of three older barns. The

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two burying grounds, known as the Upper Yard and the Lower Yard, contain eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century markers in a range of materials with gravestone art characteristic of their period of manufacturer. The Upper Yard contains some markers made by well-known eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century carvers active in southern New Hampshire. Three buildings (the Kensington Town Hall, the Union Meetinghouse/Universalist Church, and the Kensington Social Library) previously have been listed individually in the National Register. One (First Congregational Church of Kensington) previously has been listed in the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The district retains considerable integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

Location and Setting

The Kensington Town Center Historic District extends nearly 0.5 miles along Amesbury Road near the center of the town of Kensington in southeastern New Hampshire and covers an area of approximately eighty-seven acres. In the district, Amesbury Road is a relatively level, slightly winding north/south running road, that gently rises towards Meetinghouse Hill at the north end. Osgood Road intersects with Amesbury Road at the north end of the district and Trundlebed Lane intersects the road at the south end. Mill Brook, located just north of the historic district, flows just north and northwest of the district and creates wetlands to the northwest. It historically powered saw and grist mills. A small pond at the north end straddles two parcels. Additional wetland is present at the southwest end of the district. A few stone walls and granite posts from old fences demarcate property lines or run parallel to Amesbury Road. Several properties have some type of wood or iron fencing along the front property line. The lots (many subdivided from larger parcels over time) range in size from just 0.1 acre to 20.66 acres, with the smallest lots associated with the civic, religious, and cultural resources. The two largest parcels are associated with residential resources and retain open or mowed fields and wooded areas indicative of their historic agricultural associations. Wooded land abutting the east side of the district is either under a conservation easement or owned by the town.

The district contains nineteen properties, two of which are town-owned cemeteries (the Upper Yard, established ca. 1733, and the Lower Yard, established 1828) and two are sites, also town owned. The primary architectural resources range in date from the late-eighteenth century to the mid-1960s. The buildings are characteristic forms and styles of the late eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, common to a southern rural New England town center. All primary architectural resources were constructed more than fifty years ago, and the majority of building additions also occurred more than fifty years ago.

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*Figure 1: Universalist Church, Town Hall, and Congregational Church on Meetinghouse Hill, 1898
(Sawyer Collection, Kensington Social Library)*

The north end of the district, historically referred to as the Upper Village, has been the civic and religious center since the eighteenth century and since the mid-nineteenth century has featured a trio of well-recognized architectural resources plus the original eighteenth-century burying yard (Figure 1, above). The southerly end of the district, known as the Lower Village, historically has featured a greater mix of resources, including residential, commercial, small-scale manufacturing, religious, and cultural resources. The middle third of the district historically contained two residential resources including one farmstead and the early nineteenth-century lower burying yard. In the mid-twentieth century some town and residential resources were constructed on previously undeveloped land associated with those residential resources.

Several the residential resources had agricultural associations and retain some open land and outbuildings; several of the other residences also have village barns.

The following narrative presents the buildings in the Kensington Town Center Historic District in chronological order, followed by the two cemeteries, and the two sites. The district contains 28 buildings (23 contributing, 5 non-contributing), four contributing sites, and one non-contributing structure (a burial vault less than fifty years of age). The five non-contributing buildings are small outbuildings, all less than fifty years of age.

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A **Table of Properties** (page 26) is located at the end of Section 7 and first lists the properties along the west side of Amesbury Road, beginning in the Upper Village and running from north to south. It then continues from south to north along the east side of Amesbury Road. The text includes the street address along with the National Register Map Number when first mentioned, to assist the reader. The map number continues to be used throughout the text for the same reason.

Buildings, cemeteries, and sites



*Figure 2: ca. 1780 Stuard/Blake House and barn, before removal of side entry, ca. 1940(?)
(Collection of Kensington Social Library)*

**Stuard/Blake House, contributing, ca. 1780, 134 Amesbury Road
Map No. 10, Photos 13-15**

**Barn (Map No. 10A), contributing, late 19th century
Pool Shed (Map No. 10B), contributing, 20th century
Shed (Map No. 10C), noncontributing, 2018**

The earliest architectural resource in the district, located at the south end of the town center, is **134 Amesbury Road**, the *Stuard/Blake House* (Figure 2, above).¹ This ca. 1780 late-Georgian two-and-a-half story center-chimney house has nineteenth and/or twentieth-century two- and one-story additions to the side and rear. The clapboard walls are trimmed with corner boards, a water table, and molded cornice. The characteristic five-bay façade has a center entry, flanked by side lights and topped by a shallow pediment, both added sometime between 2012 and 2018, replacing the original Georgian frontispiece.

¹ By the beginning of the twentieth century, it was known as the Warner House because of its occupancy by Blake descendant Mary (Blake) Warner (1840-1912).

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The front of the house features narrow 9/6 wood sash windows on the first story and 6/6 wood sash windows above, all with window trim with an ovolo back band. A secondary entry on the south gable end was removed sometime in the second half of the twentieth century. An attached two-bay garage, added likely added in the mid to late twentieth century, extends north from the rear ell. The property includes several outbuildings. The largest is the late nineteenth century clapboarded gable-front barn with nearly centered door openings on both gable ends. Additional massing elements include a shed-roofed addition along the north elevation and a narrow shed-roofed twentieth-century addition along the full depth of the south elevation, set on a concrete block foundation. A second outbuilding is a small shingled gabled-roofed building, with at least one 2/2 wood sash window and an interior chimney. The property also includes a non-contributing large, side-gabled clapboarded shed with large windows and a shed-roofed dormer, built in 2018. The roughly rectangular fourteen-acre parcel is one of the larger ones in the district and retains some mown fields and split-and-rail fenced horse paddocks.



Figure 3: Hilliard-Prescott House, 111 Amesbury Road (Map No. 8) ca. 1870 (Collection of Kensington Social Library)

Hilliard-Prescott House, contributing, ca. 1820/1850, 111 Amesbury Road

Map No. 8, Photos 10, 11, 31

Barn (Map No. 8A), contributing, ca. 1850

Nearby, at the northwest corner of Amesbury Road and Trundlebed Lane is the southerly facing *Hilliard-Prescott House, 111 Amesbury Road* (Figure 3 above). The second oldest architectural resource in the district, the main block of the house dates to the early decades of the nineteenth century but it was completed and expanded over time as the interior building technologies and finishes demonstrate. Built on the site of an earlier building, the two-and-a-half story ell house is one-room-deep with bilateral

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symmetry. A long two-story rear ell added in the third quarter of the nineteenth century, replacing a smaller one, extends from the easterly half. An early to mid-nineteenth-century one-story, shed-roofed addition sits in the re-entrant angle between the main block and ell.² The main block primarily features Federal and Greek Revival finishes. A Greek Revival frontispiece frames full-length sidelights flanking the center entry. To either side of the entry on the first story and on the second story are historic 6/6 wood sash windows. This window type is used throughout the rest of the building on both stories and range in date from the early nineteenth to the twentieth century. Other historic elements include clapboard siding, narrow corner boards, raking cornices on the gable ends, and plain board window trim.

On the interior, the two sides of the main block feature different periods of finish. The east half retains late Georgian and Federal style finishes including wainscoting, interior shutters, exposed corner posts, four-panel feather-edged paneled doors, and Federal period mantels. The stair hall and west half feature simple Greek Revival four-panel doors and plain baseboards and window trim. The original ell appears to have been replaced with the present extended two-story one ca. 1850. The southeast second-floor room in the ell has a coved ceiling, done either to provide a higher ceiling in that area or for acoustical purposes for use as a meeting room (Mallory 2018).³ Usage of the ell has changed over time, including use as a boot manufactory, later a store (1880s to 1920s), and since the 1930s for residential purposes.

To the north of the house is a recently restored nineteenth-century gable-front village barn fronting on Amesbury Road. Set on a new granite block foundation, the wood frame building has double sliding doors centered on the façade, with a round window above in the gable. The rear (west) gable end has new fenestration, consisting of a pair of small 3/3 sash windows illuminating the main level and a single one above illuminating the loft. A new window has also been added on the south elevation to the west of the off-center entry. Though the building retains its historic footprint and some of its historic fenestration patterns, the exterior finishes are new, along with the entry door on the south elevation. Three of the elevations have clapboard siding while the rear elevation is covered with shingles. The property retains a number of historic granite fence posts just west of the house.

² It may have been added in the 1840s to provide a second kitchen for a second household. In the 1850 Census two generations of Hilliards are listed as separate households living in the house (1850 U.S. Census).

³ The Kensington tax valuations do not provide an exact date for the construction of the rear ell and later alterations to the second floor obscure the purpose of the cove ceiling on the second floor. The existing historic building fabric is inconclusive as to the date of construction of the rear ell beyond mid-nineteenth century.

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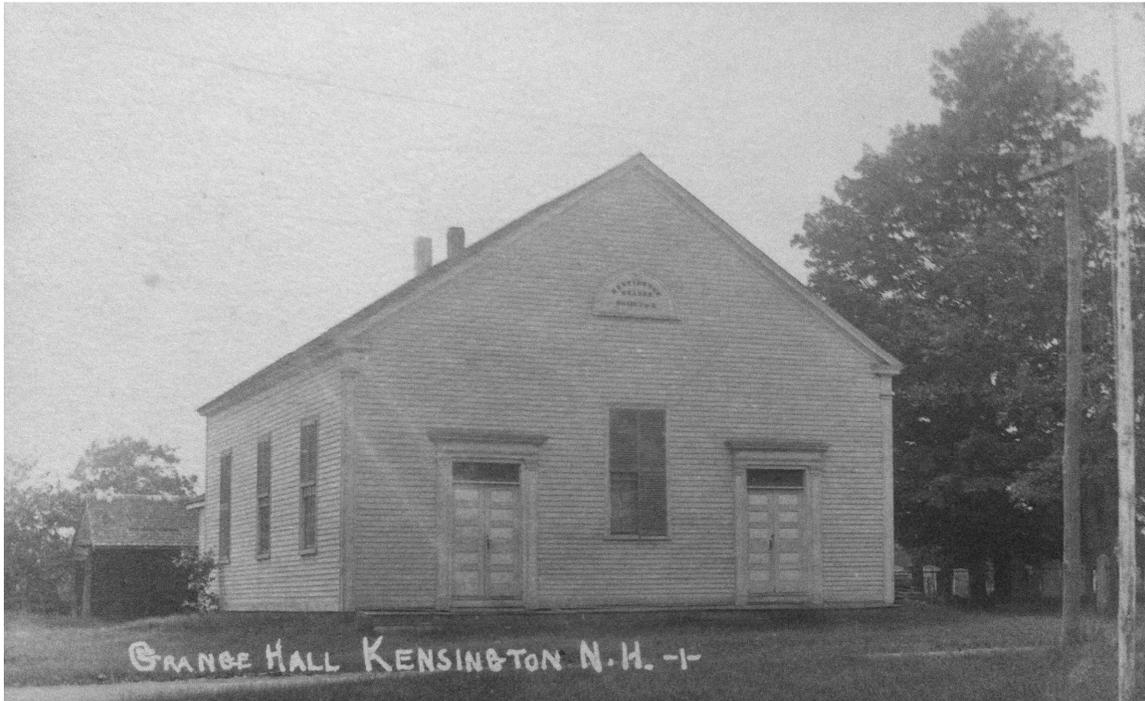


Figure 4: Kensington Grange Hall, originally the Christian Baptist Meetinghouse, ca. 1910
(Collection of the Kensington Social Library).

**Christian Meetinghouse/Kensington Grange, contributing, 1838, 109 Amesbury Road
Map No. 7, Photos 9, 11, 31**

Just north of the Hilliard-Prescott property is the *Christian Meetinghouse/Kensington Grange*, **109 Amesbury Road**, built in 1838 (Figure 4, above). It is one of three small churches erected in the district between the 1830s and the 1870s. The building replaced an earlier 1813 meetinghouse of the First Christian Society of Kensington. Characteristic of well-preserved mid-nineteenth century rural New Hampshire churches, the building is a small, one-and-a-half-story gable-front building in the Greek Revival style with paired entries. The wood clapboarded building rests on a granite block foundation and rises to an asphalt-clad gable roof. The regularly fenestrated gable-front building is three bays wide and three bays deep. The paired entries with double five-horizontal-panel doors flank a centered 20/20 wood sash window. Each entry is topped by a six-light transom and framed by a Greek Revival frontispiece with paneled pilasters. The regularly fenestrated three-bay-deep side elevations have tall 20/20 wood sash windows and louvred wooden shutters. On the west gable end is a small 2/2 wood sash window providing light to the attic space. Other characteristic Greek Revival style ornament includes paneled corner pilasters, cornice returns, and a blind demilune in the front gable. Around 1915 the Grange added a one-story, hip-roof rear addition across the rear gable end. The addition, which is not visible from the street, is now clad with vinyl siding and has 6/6 sash windows.

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Union Meetinghouse/Universalist Church, contributing, 1839-1840, 97 Amesbury Road, Map No. 4, NR No. 13000008, Photos 4, 28, 29

Located between the Town Hall and the Upper Yard in the Upper Village is the *Union Meetinghouse/Universalist Church, 97 Amesbury Road*. Construction began in 1839, with completion the following year. Though more elaborate, it features a number of similarities to the Christian Meetinghouse/Kensington Grange as the two were built by the same well-known local carpenters Josiah B. Sanborn (ca. 1805-1846) and Dearborn Blake (born 1810). This remarkably well-preserved building is a typical rural church of the Greek Revival period and is one of two Greek Revival styled buildings erected on Meetinghouse Hill in the mid-nineteenth century. The one-and-a-half-story, clapboarded timber-framed building rises from granite block underpinnings to an asphalt-clad gable roof. The regularly fenestrated gable-front building is two bays wide and three bays deep. It exhibits multiple, characteristic early Greek Revival elements including paneled corner pilasters with simple capitals suggestive of the Grecian Doric order, a simple plain board frieze below the boxed and molded eaves, and tall 20/20 sash windows. A two-stage square steeple surmounted by Gothic pinnacles, a feature added within a decade of original construction (possibly 1848), is in keeping with the Greek Revival style. The steeple consists of an unrelieved first stage supporting a stepped-in square belfry. Each face of the belfry has a louvered opening edged by thin pieces of trim to suggest pilasters and corner blocks, resembling the detailing on the windows. Gothic pinnacles sit atop short pedestals that are bridged with pedimented boards. An exterior brick flue chimney, added ca. 1915 to vent the newly added furnace, rises along the rear gable end.

On the façade, each doorway is flanked by three-quarter sidelights and surrounded by a frontispiece with molded pilasters supporting a full entablature. Single large granite steps provide access to each double-leaf five-panel door. Centered above each doorway is a 12/8 sash window flanked by shutters. A keystone blind demilune is centered in the closed gable pediment. The side elevation windows are flanked by original split-leaf louvered wooden shutters and topped by original keystone, louvered demilune blind arches like that in the front gable.

The intact interior includes a vestibule with gallery above and auditorium with plastered walls rising to a plastered coved ceiling, and door trim of fluted architraves and corner blocks. The auditorium layout, seating, and lowered pulpit are characteristic of rural churches of the 1830s, consisting of two aisles with rectangular slip pews in a double center section and side sections and smaller pew sections set at ninety degrees to and on either side of the pulpit. The characteristic low height pulpit retains its original Grecian style furniture.

**Kensington Town House, contributing, 1846, 95 Amesbury Road
Map No. 1, NR No. 13000155, Photos 1-2, 28-30**

In 1846, the town replaced the 1770s Meetinghouse in the Upper Village next to the Union Meetinghouse with the *Kensington Town House, 95 Amesbury Road*, reusing some framing members and masonry from the older building. This small mid-nineteenth century purpose-built town house in the Greek Revival style was the last of the three public buildings constructed in this style in the district. It remains in use as the town hall. The form and scale are characteristic of such Greek Revival styled buildings constructed in many rural New Hampshire communities in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Common characteristics of the building include a three-bay gable front façade with paired entries, corner pilasters,

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cornice returns, frieze, transoms above the entries, pedimented door lintel, and regular fenestration (a mix of 15/15, 12/12, 8/8, and 6/6 sash windows). A hip-roofed enclosed porch located just beyond the fifth bay on the southwest elevation has a secondary entry. Two modest additions, in 1883 and 1916, occurred within the historic period. The greatest changes occurred in 1980. The building was moved back from the road on the same historic lot roughly twenty-five feet and set on a concrete block foundation. At the same time a rear addition was constructed underneath the 1916 rear addition. Beginning in 2014, to address moisture issues in the 1980 addition, remediation and repair work was done to preserve the town hall as the center of civic life in the community. The 1980 addition, which remains not visible from the road, was expanded slightly with a two-story addition to provide additional space and ADA compliant access. The work was completed in 2016. A new centered pedimented gable supported by Tuscan posts screens the center entry. The windows were modified with new large windows on the second story. A new shed, added in 2016, is sited at the south edge of the rear parking lot.

The interior has undergone changes over time, as with the exterior. The interior of the original main block includes the original thirty-foot square meeting hall. The small selectmen's room originally in the front corner was removed, replaced by stairs down to the lower level in the twentieth century. The finishes are a mix of predominantly of nineteenth and early twentieth-century finishes, along with the boxed flared wall and corner posts (reused from the 1770-1771 meetinghouse originally on this site). Milk glass light fixtures are suspended from the plaster ceiling. The walls are plastered above horizontal board wainscoting. The flooring is maple floorboards, installed in the early twentieth century. At the northwest end of the hall is the decorative trim added in 1916 around the new stage, including a proscenium flanked by pilasters. With the 1980s changes, the lower level housed the Selectmen's Office, Police Department, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector. The upper level remained a meeting hall. Further interior changes occurred in 2011 at the rear of the rear of the hall. Walls were added in the southwest corner to screen the exterior entry to the Town Clerk's office, the stage was removed, and the opening was filled in. Offices were constructed to the rear of the enclosed opening. The 2016 work provided improved space and offices for the town departments.

Blake-Sawyer House, contributing, ca. 1840, 132 Amesbury Road

Map No. 11, Photos 16, 17, 32

Barn/Garage (Map No. 11A), contributing, early-mid 20th century/2006

Barn (Map No. 11B), contributing, 19th century

In the Lower Village, on the east side of the road, John T. Blake built **132 Amesbury Road**, in the late 1830s or early 1840s. Known locally as the *Blake-Sawyer House*, Blake erected it to house some of the workers employed in his nearby boot manufacturing shop (located on the Blake Store Lot, Map No. 9). The property continued to be owned by multiple generations of the same family until the early 1990s. From at least the 1860s to the 1960s (if not originally) it was a duplex but is now a single-family residence. The house is one-and-a-half stories with a center entry on the wide five-bay gable-front facade. The two-bay-deep main block is augmented with a one-story rear ell set on a brick foundation and an attached shed-roof woodshed behind the north half. The south half is augmented with a one-and-a-half story short wing and ell with an entry and a shed-roofed dormer on the rear roof slope. The main block is set on a granite block foundation. The walls are clapboarded with simple plain board trim. Plain Greek Revival elements include the two-panel front door, narrow full-length sidelights, and simple board trim, as well as 6/6 wood sash windows. The property includes a deteriorating nineteenth-century, two-story village barn with horizontal board sheathing, sliding barn door, pedestrian entry under a loft door, a 6/6 wood sash window

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in the gable, and shed-roofed lean-to on the south side, sited just northeast of the house. To the southeast is a two-story gable-front garage set on a concrete block foundation that was remodeled in 2006 with the addition of a full upper story, new windows, and a new center entry double overhead garage door.



Figure 5: Rena Towle (born 1898), daughter of Howard and Nellie Towle, in front of their house, the ca. 1858 Walton House, ca. 1905 (Collection of Kensington Social Library)

Walton House, contributing, ca. 1858, 130 Amesbury Road

Map No. 12, Photos 18, 32

Outhouse (Map No. 12A), non-contributing, 1970s

Chicken coop (Map No. 12B), non-contributing, ca. 2000

Just to the north of the Blake-Sawyer House is **130 Amesbury Road**, built in the late 1850s for George Walton (Figure 5, above). The house is a one-and-a-half-story end house in the Greek Revival style with a one-story wing connecting to a gable-front village barn. The two-bay wide, two-bay deep main block, wing, and barn all rest on granite foundations and all are sheathed in clapboards. An enclosed porch is located in the re-entrant angle between the main block and wing. Greek Revival detailing on the main block includes a frontispiece with a plain entablature supported by pilasters framing the full-length sidelights and front entry, corner pilasters, cornice returns, taller 8/8 wood sash windows on the first story and a pair of shorter 6/6 wood sash windows centered in the gable, all topped with plain lintels. The wing also has 6/6 wood sash windows. The attached village barn has a wood paneled garage door in the original barn door opening with a loft door above. An original round window is centered in the gable above and a pair of stall windows are present on the south side. Local sources suggest the barn may pre-date the house by a few years. Located behind the house is a late twentieth century, non-contributing wood frame, gable-front outhouse. Further east, in the woods is a chicken coop, built ca. 2000 (Brucato 2023).

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Hilliard House, contributing, ca. 1860, 128 Amesbury Road

Map No. 13, Photo 19

Barn (Map No. 13A), contributing, ca. 1860

The ca. 1860 *Hilliard House*, **128 Amesbury Road**, built for Elizabeth (Betsy) Hilliard (1790-1870), is immediately north of the Walton House.⁴ The two houses share some similarities. The well-preserved one-and-a-half-story end house has a modicum of Greek Revival and Italianate detailing. Like its neighbor to the south, it is two bays wide with a side hall plan. It rests on a granite foundation and is sheathed in clapboards. Additional massing elements include a square bay on the north side and a short one-story rear ell with a small shed-roofed addition with a rear entry. The corner pilasters, cornice returns on the front and rear gable ends, 8/8 and 6/6 wood sash windows, and frontispiece are characteristic of the Greek Revival style, but the double window centered in the front gable and the thin molded lintels above the windows are more characteristic of the Italianate style. Located just northeast of the house is a one-and-a-half story wood-frame, gable-front barn, of a size typical to a town setting. Characteristic features of the barn include a sliding barn door with a loft door above and flanked by a window and smaller pedestrian entry. The building now rests on a replacement concrete block foundation.

⁴ Elizabeth Hilliard was the younger sister of Jonathan Hilliard, who built the Hilliard-Prescott House (**111 Amesbury Road, Map Number 8**).

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Figure 6: The ca. 1860 Poor House, with its original back house, 1957 (Collection of Kensington Social Library)

Poor House, contributing, ca. 1860, 116 Amesbury Road

Map No. 8, Photos 24, 25

Barn (Map No. 8A), contributing, 1960s

In the Upper Village on the east side of the road is the *Poor House*, **116 Amesbury Road**, built ca. 1860, for the Joseph Poor family (Figure 6, above).⁵ The Poor House is oriented with the three-bay gable end to the road, with an entry on the three-bay deep southerly elevation into an enclosed porch. The two-and-a-half-story house has a one-and-a-half story rear service ell. A mid to late twentieth century one-and-a-half story addition on the easterly gable end along with a twentieth century connected two-story, two-bay garage both sit on a concrete block foundation. The main block and rear ell are sheathed in clapboards and rest on a granite block foundation. Additional massing elements include an enclosed porch on the southerly elevation, spanning the rear pile and wrapping around the rear elevation to the ell. A screened porch and square bay and a full width shed dormer augment the northerly elevation. The limited late Greek Revival/early Italianate decorative detailing includes corner pilasters, cornice returns on the gabled ends, molded frieze, molded window hoods, and 6/6 wood sash windows.

⁵ It occupies land first developed in the mid-eighteenth century with the John Blake House. To make way for the newer house, the Blake House was relocated to Trundlebed Lane (still extant), outside the town center (Sawyer 1946, 326). Until the late 1940s, the farm included land on both sides of the road, meadow land in the Great Meadow, and marsh land in Hampton Falls. Some of the land on the easterly side of the road had been part of the late seventeenth-century "Hog-Pen Farm" (*Exeter News-Letter* 18 March 1948, p. 11; RCD 1094/258).

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Located southeast of the house is a 1960s gable-front barn with multiple shed-roofed additions on each side and to the rear. It was constructed from parts of three older barns historically located elsewhere. The size is typical of a town setting. The gable-front section has an off-center sliding barn door and a 6/6 wood sash window centered in the gable. The building is sheathed with unfinished vertical boards or board and batten siding. The sections are topped with either standing seam metal roofing or corrugated metal sheets.

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Figure 7: First Congregational Church, 1880. Aside from the removal of the stove flue chimney the exterior of the original church building is largely unaltered (Collection of First Congregational Church)

**First Congregational Church, contributing, 1865-1866, 108 Amesbury Road
Map No. 19, NH State Register of Historic Places 2019, Photos 26-28, 30
Shed (Map No. 19A), non-contributing, 20th century**

The *First Congregational Church, 108 Amesbury Road*, built 1865-1866 in the Upper Village at the intersection of Amesbury and Osgood roads, is the last of the nineteenth-century religious buildings constructed in the district (Figure 7, above). The highly visible original building resembles rural churches constructed in New Hampshire between the 1820s and 1850s but detailed with Italianate rather than Greek Revival decorative detailing. The well-preserved two-part building consists of the original two-story gable-front section and a mid-1950s gable-roofed, one-and-a-half-story rear Sunday School Room and

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office addition, sited at a lower level than the sanctuary at the basement or vestry level. The original clapboarded building rises from a granite block and brick foundation to an asphalt-clad gable roof. The addition rests on a concrete foundation and is clad with wide ship-lap clapboards. On the three-bay façade, the recessed entries and paired arches over the entry porches are somewhat distinctive. Each recessed doorway is flanked by sidelights and a frontispiece with plain boards supporting a simple entablature. The steeple, which straddles the ridge adjacent to the front façade wall, consists of a two-stage square belfry surmounted by a lantern and pointed spire. The above ground basement story is fully illuminated on each side with 6/6 wood sash windows. Characteristic Italianate elements include molded corner pilasters and tall paired window openings with a 4/4 double-hung sash windows topped by four-light arched windows and flanked by louvered shutters. Owing to the placement of the steeple, somewhat unusually, the peak of the front gable is open or “broken.”⁶

The interior plan is clearly legible on the exterior by the location of the entries on the façade. The large open sanctuary has two aisles with curved slip pews in a double center section and in side sections. At the northerly end is a low semicircular pulpit with a low platform at the south end for the choir. A railing, originally the pulpit railing, defines the edge of the choir platform. The ceiling is coved to improve the acoustics. Characteristically of the period and style, the front and back corner walls are curved. Historic decorative detailing includes the stained wainscoting and wood grained doors. The vestry below, finished in the late 1870s, has some historic finishes including wainscoting and display cabinets.

Located east of the church is a small, gable-front storage shed set on concrete-block footings.

⁶ Though not known for sure, this may be the result of the addition of the steeple after initial construction had begun. The presence of unweathered roof shingles covering the roof sheathing below the steeple suggests a design change occurred late in the building’s construction.

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Figure 8: Library as originally built, before 1974 and 1986 additions (Collection of Kensington Social Library)

**Kensington Social Library, contributing, 1894-1895, 126 Amesbury Road
Map No. 14, NR No. SG100005160, Photos 20-21**

The last of the nineteenth-century buildings constructed in the district was the *Kensington Social Library, 126 Amesbury Road* (Figure 8, above). Located in the middle of the town center, opposite the Lower Yard and the Kensington Grange, it remains the only town public library. Designed by the Boston, Massachusetts, architect George T. Tilden (of Rotch & Tilden) in the Classical Revival and Queen Anne styles, the 1894-1895 brick building rises one-and-a-half-stories from a low granite foundation to a side-gabled slate roof. Historic detailing and finishes include the irregular fenestration patterns and varied window types, inset porch, elliptical fanlight over the center-entry double-leafed door, grooved paneling in the entry vestibule, classically derived architectural terra cotta trim such as column capitals and entablature details, and sandstone name panels, including one with the name of the donor Joseph C. Hilliard.

A two-part rear addition, designed by Earle W. Bolton, III, (1932-2003) was added in 1974, creating a T-shaped footprint. As initially built, it consisted of a one-story, glass-and-stucco stairwell section and a two-story, hip-roofed brick, glass, and concrete section. Exterior finishes on the addition, notably the brick veneer and tinted cast concrete lintels and sills, resemble the materials on the original building. Bolton previously had worked in the office of Louis I. Kahn and been the supervising architect of the Academy Library on the Phillips-Exeter Academy campus in neighboring Exeter, New Hampshire. In 1986, as designed by Goodspeed and Associates, the roof of the stairwell section was raised to two stories under a hip roof for fire code purposes.

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The interior of the original building retains its historic floor plan including one large room and closet vault on the first floor and a high-ceilinged lecture hall above, accessed from an enclosed stairway with an exterior entrance. Original interior finishes include multi-light wood sash windows and varnished wood window trim, paneled doors, wainscoting, wood railings, a pair of brick and architectural terra cotta fireplace mantels, and built-in wood bookcases along the walls. The 1974 addition provided a second main entry, restroom, and stack space on the upper level, and a children's room on the lower level.



Figure 9: Kensington Elementary School, ca. 1953, as built (Collection of Kensington Social Library).

**Kensington Elementary School, contributing, ca. 1952/1963/1987/1998/2003, 122 Amesbury Road
Map No. 16, Photo 23**

The *Kensington Elementary School*, **122 Amesbury Road**, constructed 1951-1952, is one of two town buildings erected in the middle of the town center in the early 1950s, just northeast of the library (Figure 9, above). Located just northeast of the library, it remains the only public grade school in town. The original one-story side-gabled brick building has been expanded several times with brick additions to create the present asymmetrical U-shaped footprint. The original section has banks of nearly full-height window openings with replacement windows consisting of opaque fiberglass panels with black lines, a row of awning windows mid-height, and casement windows to either side of the recessed entry. On the south end, is a one-story gable-roofed brick wing, added in 1962, with a center entry and replacement windows similar to those in the original section. On the north end is a long gable-roofed section oriented perpendicular to the original section with large awning windows topped by pairs of fixed windows, added in 1987. The 2003 one-story and two-story additions, located to the rear of the 1962 addition, have flat roofs and a brick band near the top of the walls with alternating vertical and horizontal soldier bricks and regularly spaced cast concrete squares and edged top and bottom with recessed dark bricks. One section has tall window openings with sliding windows topped by pairs of fixed square windows and recessed entries, some distinguished by pediment entry hoods. The two-story section, a gymnasium, has glass brick windows set high on the walls.

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When the building was first completed, the town annual report enumerated a number of features considered to be “important requirements of a modern school building” (1952 *Kensington Annual Report*, 41). These included full height windows spanning much of the walls to provide natural light, lighter shades of asphalt floor tiles, light pastel colors on the walls, natural wood furniture, ample green chalkboards and bulletin boards, and movable furniture. In addition to two classrooms, the original building included a kitchen allowing for a hot lunch program, an activities room which if needed could become a third classroom, and modern restrooms. The grounds included a playground for the children (1952 *Kensington Annual Report*, 41).

The town hired New Hampshire architects experienced in school designs for the original building and its several additions. Architect Roland S. Simonds of Manchester designed the original building. The Durham based architectural firm of Irving W. Hersey Associates designed the 1962-1963 addition. Marinace Architects of New Hampton designed the 1987 and 2003 additions.



Figure 10: Fire Station after addition of 1961 ambulance bay (Collection of Kensington Social Library).

**Kensington Fire & Rescue Station, contributing, 1952/1961/1980/1991, 124 Amesbury Road
Map No. 15, Photo 22**

The *Kensington Fire & Rescue Station, 124 Amesbury Road*, is the other town building constructed in 1952 in the center of the district (Figure 10, above). The three-bay asymmetrical gable-front wood frame

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building has brick veneer on its façade and vinyl siding on its side elevations. The original section retains three original 6/6 wood sash windows on the northerly side. It has been enlarged several times, first with an added bay in 1961 (now the ambulance bay) on the southerly side. A second addition, a two-story concrete block rear addition occurred in 1980-1981, and in 1991 the building was extended to the front and remodeled (Preservation Company 1997, 44).

**Chase House, contributing, 1962, 107 Amesbury Road
Map No. 5, Photo 7**

The 1962 *Chase House*, **107 Amesbury Road**, is one of two houses built in the 1960s on the westerly side of the road in the center of the district. It is a characteristic Transitional Ranch Form with an integral one-bay garage. The recessed center entry is flanked by an original large three-part multi-light window on one side and a pair of 6/6 sash windows on the other side. Characteristic of ranch houses, it has a low-pitched asphalt-clad gabled roof, wide interior brick chimney straddling the roof ridge, combination exterior cladding including brick under the three-part window. Set on a concrete block foundation, the house is now clad with vinyl siding and has replacement 6/6 sash windows, except for the original three-part window. The garage has a replacement overhead garage door.

**Smith House, contributing, 1966, 101 Amesbury Road
Map No. 4, Photo 6**

Garage/workshop (Map No. 4A), 1966, contributing

Just next door, to the north, is the *Smith House*, **101 Amesbury Road**. Constructed in 1966, it is a mid-twentieth-century Cape Cod Form house. The four-bay wide, one-and-a-half-story wood frame main block has a one-story two-bay wing. It has a walk-out basement and a pair of shed-roofed additions on the rear side of the wing. The building is clad with wood shingles, but the windows are replacement 1/1 sash windows or casements. Large chimneys straddle the roof ridges of the main block and wing. Located south of the house is a deep gable-front garage and workspace with an asymmetrical gable roof to accommodate a pedestrian entry and a garage bay. Four fixed-light sash windows illuminate the pedestrian bay, and the pedestrian door appears original, though the garage door is a paneled metal replacement. A three-bay addition extends to the rear of the garage, just beyond the concrete block stove flue that straddles the ridge at the southwesterly gable end.

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Figure 11: Upper Yard, unknown date (Collection of Kensington Social Library)

**Upper Yard, contributing, 1733/1744/1773, Amesbury
Map No. 3, Photo 5, 28**

The historic district contains two cemeteries, both on the westerly side of Amesbury Road. The *Upper Yard* or “*Old Cemetery*,” established ca. 1733, is the oldest public cemetery in the town (Figure 11, above). Located immediately south of the Universalist Church in the Upper Village on part of the original “Meeting House Acre,” it was the primary town burying ground until the Lower Burying Yard was established in the 1820s. It is a characteristic small eighteenth-century town burying ground with approximately 260 markers. A dry laid irregular granite block stone wall with an iron gate separates the gently rolling 0.83-acre roughly rectangular parcel from the road. Mature evergreens demarcate the east and south boundaries. The original half acre burying yard was enlarged twice to the south in the eighteenth century. The eighteenth and nineteenth-century markers include fieldstones, tablet headstones, and footstones. The gravestone art reflects the evolving forms and symbolism of grave markers popular in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The markers are mostly slate or sandstone. The Upper Yard is the burial place of some of Kensington’s earliest families. Some markers have suffered damage due to exposure to the elements or have been lost through time, particularly the older ones. In addition, some of the stones have been broken, fallen, or have accumulations of moss and/or lichen, though the repairing, cleaning, and resetting of the old stones is being done over time.

The town historian Roland B. Sawyer, when writing in the mid-twentieth century noted:

The earliest stones were on the high ground near the back end of the present Universalist Church and near the old Pound. I found four stones marked with initials, 12 marked with names and dates, and 22 flat stones unmarked in any way, but placed in rows to

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show that beneath them lay the children who had died that awful summer (Sawyer 1946, 286).⁷

At least twelve Revolutionary War Soldiers are said to have been buried in this yard (Sawyer 1946, 201).

Scholars of gravestones makers have attributed some of the stones to particular stone carving families active in the Merrimack Valley and Seacoast region in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. They include Jonathan Hartshorne (Footstone, Edward Tucke; Joanah Smith 1775) and Jeremiah Lane (Deacon Jonathan Fellows, 1753; Elizabeth Fogg, 1779; Lt. Stephen Brown, 1786; Benjamin Rowe, 1790) (Knoblock 1996, 77-111; Knoblock 1999). With further study others might be identified.

**Lower Yard, contributing, 1828/1888, Amesbury Road
Map No. 6, Photo 8**

The “**Lower Yard**,” located in the center of the district, was first established in 1828 because the Upper Yard was becoming full. Originally 110 square rods with no paths, a high stone wall was constructed along the roadside in 1830. In 1888, the addition of the three-and-a-half acre **Dearborn Annex** to the west side significantly enlarged the cemetery. Around the same time, the existing iron fence and granite posts replaced the by then deteriorating stone wall (Sawyer 1946, 285). Additional land to the west was donated in 1970, increasing the total acreage to 6.25 acres. That additional acreage remains wooded and not in use.

The markers in the largely open two oldest sections are aligned in rows running north south, with the stones mostly facing east, in uncharacteristic fashion. Sandstone and slate are the predominant materials utilized for markers through the 1830s or 1840s, as befits the first few decades of the cemetery’s use. Marble then became the predominant stone, utilized for monuments and gravestones in the second half of the nineteenth century. Granite then replaced marble as the common material beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing through the twentieth century and up to the present. The nineteenth-century markers are mostly a collection of tablet headstones, footstones, and some pedestal stones and obelisks. The gravestone art reflects the evolving forms and symbolism of grave markers popular in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, notably urns and willows, and Victorian-era sentimental images such as wilted roses. Though the exact number has not been established it appears there are more than 700 markers in the cemetery.

The Lower Yard is the burial place of many descendants of Kingston’s earliest families along with successful local businessmen, farmers, and civic leaders, and their families. At least eleven known veterans in the Revolutionary War are present, in addition to Civil War veterans, though the number has not been established. Over sixty men from Kensington served in the latter war. Numbers of veterans of later wars has not been established. Some markers have suffered damage due to exposure to the elements or have been lost through time, particularly the older ones. Many of the sandstone and marble markers have accumulations of moss and/or lichen.

⁷ Sawyer is referring to the many children who died in the diphtheria or throat distemper outbreak in 1737.

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**Burial Vault, noncontributing, 1988, rear of Tow Hall parcel, Amesbury Road
Map No. 1A, Photo 3**

In 1988 a burial vault was constructed into the hillside behind the Universalist Church and Upper Yard on the town hall parcel (*1988 Kensington Annual Report* 1989, n.p.). Kensington does not allow winter burials because of the damage it causes to the cemetery.

**Blake Store Site, contributing site, corner of Amesbury Road and Trundlebed Lane
Map No. 9, Photo 12**

The historic district also contains two open parcels, both now town owned and historically part of the town center. In the Lower Village, at the south corner of the intersection of Amesbury Road and Trundlebed Lane, is a 10.54-acre parcel of which approximately three-quarters is located within the historic district boundaries. Historically the land was occupied by various shops, stores, and small-scale industrial buildings largely associated with multiple generations of the Blake family. It has been undeveloped since the late twentieth century, when the last remaining building burned. Now the land is a mix of open area, woods, wetland including a small pond. It was gifted to the town by a Blake descendant and to be open space in the town center. The part of the land outside the district boundary includes a portion of the baseball fields that are part of the 2008 Sawyer Park, a town park with athletic fields, playgrounds, nature trails, and other amenities and thus does not contribute to the significance of the town center.

**Municipal Parking Lot, contributing site, 110 Amesbury Road
Map No. 18, Photo 26**

In the Upper Village, 110 Amesbury Road (Map Number 18, Photo 26), is a trapezoidal parcel at the southeast corner of the intersection of Amesbury and Osgood roads, with a municipal parking lot on its northwest half. The remainder of the parcel is rolling and includes wetlands and part of a pond that spans the boundary with the neighboring Joseph Poor House property (116 Amesbury Road, Map Number 17). It has been town owned since the late 1950s, but the land has been a part of the town center's earliest development due to its proximity to the town's historic civic and religious center. It was sold to the town specifically for use by town inhabitants as a parking lot for assemblies at the town hall.

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Table of Properties

NR Map No.	Photo	Feature Name	Address	Date	Type	C/NC
1	Photo 1 Photo 2 Photo 28 Photo 29 Photo 30	Kensington Town House	95 Amesbury Road	1846	Building	C
1A	Photo 3	Burial Vault	95 Amesbury Road	1988	Structure	NC (age)
1B		Shed	95 Amesbury Road	ca. 2017	Building	NC (age)
2	Photo 4 Photo 28 Photo 29	Union Meetinghouse/ Universalist Church	97 Amesbury Road	1839-1840	Building	C
3	Photo 5 Photo 28	Upper Yard	Amesbury Road	1733/1744/ 1773	Site	C
4	Photo 6	Smith House	101 Amesbury Road	1966	Building	C
4A	Photo 6	Garage/ workshop	101 Amesbury Road	1966	Building	C
5	Photo 7	Chase House	107 Amesbury Road	1962	Building	C
6	Photo 8	Lower Yard	Amesbury Road	1828/1888	Site	C
7	Photo 9 Photo 11 Photo 31	Christian Meetinghouse/ Kensington Grange	109 Amesbury Road	1838	Building	C
8	Photo 10 Photo 31	Hilliard-Prescott House	111 Amesbury Road	ca. 1820/ ca. 1850	Building	C
8A	Photo 11 Photo 31	Barn	111 Amesbury Road	ca. 1850 (?)	Building	C
9	Photo 12	Blake Store Lot	Amesbury Road/ Trundlebed Lane		Site	C
10	Photo 13	Stuard/Blake House	134 Amesbury Road	ca. 1780	Building	C
10A	Photo 14 Photo 15	Barn	134 Amesbury Road	Late 19 th century w/early 20 th century additions	Building	C
10B		Former pool shed	134 Amesbury Road	20 th century	Building	C
10C	Photo 15	Shed	134 Amesbury Road	2018	Building	NC (age)
11	Photo 16 Photo 32	Blake-Sawyer House	132 Amesbury Road	ca. 1840	Building	C
11A	Photo 16	Barn/Garage	132 Amesbury Road	Early-mid- 20 th century/2006	Building	C
11B	Photo 17	Barn	132 Amesbury Road	19 th century	Building	C
12	Photo 18 Photo 32	Walton House	130 Amesbury Road	ca. 1858	Building	C

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NR Map No.	Photo	Feature Name	Address	Date	Type	C/NC
12A		Outhouse	130 Amesbury Road	1970s	Building	NC (age)
12B		Chicken coop	130 Amesbury Road	ca. 2000	Building	NC (age)
13	Photo 19	Hilliard House/ Congregational Church Parsonage	128 Amesbury Road	ca. 1860	Building	C
13A	Photo 19	Barn	128 Amesbury Road	ca. 1860	Building	C
14	Photo 20 Photo 21	Kensington Social Library	126 Amesbury Road	1894-1895	Building	C
15	Photo 22	Kensington Fire & Rescue Station	124 Amesbury Road	1952/1961/ 1980/1991	Building	C
16	Photo 23	Kensington Elementary School	122 Amesbury Road	1952/1963/ 1987/1998/ 2003	Building	C
17	Photo 24	Poor House	116 Amesbury Road	ca. 1860	Building	C
17A	Photo 25	Barn	116 Amesbury Road	1960s	Building	C
18	Photo 26	Municipal Parking Lot	110 Amesbury Road	1958	Site	C
19	Photo 26 Photo 27 Photo 28 Photo 30	First Congregational Church	108 Amesbury Road	1865-1866	Building	C
19A		Shed	108 Amesbury Road	20 th century	Building	NC
	Photo 28 Photo 29 Photo 30	Upper Village “streetscapes”				
	Photo 31 Photo 32	Lower Village				

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT (Criterion A)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (Criterion A)

ARCHITECTURE (Criterion C)

Period of Significance

1733 (when the first burying yard was allotted) to 1973 (NR 50-year cut-off)

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Significant Dates

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tilden, George T. Tilden (1845-1919)

Bolton, Earle W. Bolton III (1932-2003)

Simonds, Roland S. Simonds (1883-1963)

Marinace Architects

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

The Kensington Town Center Historic District was the first area to be settled in what would later become the Parish of Kensington in 1737 and then the Town of Kensington in 1761. The Kensington Town Center Historic District is a small rural town center in southern New Hampshire located just inland from the coast. The district meets Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with a local level of significance. The Areas of Significance are Exploration/Settlement, Community Planning and Development, and Architecture. Its historic resources reflect the development of a rural southern New Hampshire town center over nearly 250 years, during which times its earliest settlers and subsequent residents erected civic, religious, social, cultural, commercial, residential, agricultural, and educational buildings and landscapes. It includes representative examples of vernacular eighteenth and nineteenth century building types and forms, with elements of Georgian, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, or Colonial Revival detailing. The period of significance extends from 1733, when the first burying ground was allotted, through 1973 (based on National Register guidelines for a fifty-year cut-off for historic significance). It remains the active town center with most of the buildings maintaining their historic functions common to a town center, including religious, civic, cultural, educational, and residential. Despite some small changes to individual resources, the district possesses considerable integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement and Community Development

The Kensington Town Center Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Community Planning and Development. The evolution of the district over nearly 250 years beginning in the 1730s reflects themes that are prevalent throughout New Hampshire. These include European settlement, erection of a meetinghouse and later religious developments, small-scale industry, local commercial establishments, mixed agriculture and family farming, and civic and cultural institutions. Its ongoing use as the town center with a collection of civic, religious, social, cultural, educational, and residential resources convey its establishment and development from the early eighteenth century to the late twentieth century. It remains the active town center with most of the buildings maintaining their historic functions common to a town center, including religious, civic, cultural, educational, and residential. Some of the town's earliest settlement occurred here, near the geographic center of the town of Kensington, in what was later known as the Upper Village. The first meetinghouse was completed in the early 1730s (replaced 1771), and since that time it has remained the town's civic and religious center. Several important early families including the Blakes and Hilliards settled in the area. In 1846 the town replaced the 1771 meetinghouse with a new, still extant, purpose-built town hall. Around the same time, several different congregations erected new churches in the district, one in the Upper Village (the Universalist Church) and one further south. The town center historically also contained

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some small-scale manufacturing, notably shoes and boots, along with several stores essential to a local economy, though few of those resources survive. These were located predominantly in what was known as the Lower Village. Some historic farms also remain as agriculture continued as an important part of the local economy into the twentieth century. Indicative of the ongoing local importance of agriculture, the Kensington Grange No. 173 Patrons of Husbandry acquired the Christian Meetinghouse in the late nineteenth century. The building served as an important cultural center for decades under Grange ownership. Acquired by the town in the late twentieth century, it continues to serve in that capacity. The stagecoach route passed through the district beginning in the late eighteenth century and overtime the post office was located in different buildings in the Lower Village. Since the eighteenth century, Kensington has had a library, initially a subscription library housed in people's homes, including two in the historic district. In the late nineteenth century, a native of Kensington donated the funds for the construction of a purpose-built town library open to all. Beginning in the early twentieth century the summer recreation industry introduced a modest fluorescence in the local economy and some descendants of early families returned to Kensington, acquiring properties in the town center. In the mid-twentieth century, the town consolidated its elementary schools, erecting a new one, near the library, on former agricultural land. The two former agricultural properties retain their outbuildings and some of the land remains open, though now as mown fields. Both cemeteries (one of which remains in use) contain the graves of members of early families and their descendants, along with residents who served in the various wars since the mid-eighteenth century. Though a late eighteenth-century house was replaced in the mid-twentieth century with a new house, the two mid-twentieth century houses are characteristic of housing of that period. The district conveys the story of a small rural town center in southern New Hampshire located just inland from the coast and its evolution from the 1730s to the present.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Kensington Town Center Historic District is locally significant under Criterion C for its range of late-eighteenth- to mid-twentieth-century buildings with a majority dating to the nineteenth century. The district showcases a variety of building types and forms, construction techniques, architectural styles, and decorative finishes common to a rural New Hampshire town center. It includes not only civic, religious, cultural, and educational buildings but also residences. The majority of buildings are of wood frame construction with the exception of one late nineteenth-century brick building and two mid-twentieth-century brick and concrete block buildings. Most of the buildings have a modicum of stylistic ornament or detailing, characteristic of their period of construction, including Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Classical Revival/Queen Anne. Variations include massing, fenestration patterns, entry details, and chimney placement. Most of the nineteenth-century residential properties also retain their historic outbuildings. Three of the nineteenth-century buildings have previously been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A fourth nineteenth-century building has been listed in the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

Four of the buildings in the district are nineteenth-century, one-and-a-half story, gable front civic or religious structures with three bay facades and paired entries. Each retains all or a majority of their character-defining features. Two of the buildings are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Three of the buildings in the Upper Village constitute a highly visible trio of mid-nineteenth-century civic, ecclesiastical, and social buildings situated at one end of the linear town center.

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The 1838-1839 *Union Meetinghouse/Universalist Church (97 Amesbury Road, Map Number 2, NR No. 13000008)* features multiple, characteristic early Greek Revival elements including paneled corner pilasters with simple capitals suggestive of the Grecian Doric order, a simple plain board frieze below the boxed and molded eaves, Greek Doric frontispieces, a keystone, blind louvred demilune in the front gable, tall 20/20 sash windows, and a two-stage square belfry surmounted by Gothic pinnacles, added not long after original construction, which is in keeping with the Greek Revival style. It was individually listed in the National Register in 2013. The 1846 *Kensington Town Hall (95 Amesbury Road, Map Number 1, NR No. 13000155)* is an example of a small mid-nineteenth-century purpose-built town house in the Greek Revival style. Characteristic features include paired entries and a mix of wood sash windows. Decorative detailing includes clapboard exterior walls with corner pilasters and cornice returns, boxed eaves with a crown molding, and frieze board with an astragal at the bottom edge. Front entry detailing includes four-light transoms and plain board architrave capped with a flush-board sided pediment. Though the building has several small additions, most in the historic period, and was moved back from the road in 1980, it retains its character-defining features. It was also individually listed in the National Register in 2013. The 1865-1866 *First Congregational Church (108 Amesbury Road, Map Number 19, NH State Register of Historic Places)* in many respects resembles the rural churches constructed in New Hampshire between the 1820s and 1850s except for the Italianate decorative detailing and recessed entries with distinctive paired arches over the entry porches. Main Italianate characteristics include wood-frame construction, gable roof, entries on the gable end, molded corner pilasters, tall arched paired windows with 4/4 double-hung sash windows topped by four-light arched windows, and steeple. The mid-1950s addition occurred within the historic period and is in keeping with the historic form, massing, and finishes of the original building. It was listed in the NH State Register of Historic Places in 2019. Located in the middle of the town center, the *Christian Meetinghouse/Grange (109 Amesbury Road, Map Number 7)*, built 1838, resembles the Union Meetinghouse/Universalist Church in many ways though its decorative detailing is more modest, and it lacks a steeple. It also has paired entries with double-leaf wood panel doors topped by transom lights and framed by frontispieces with paneled pilasters supporting an entablature. Other characteristic Greek Revival style ornament includes paneled corner pilasters, boxed eaves, cornice returns, and a keystone blind demilune in the front gable end.

Two of the buildings in the district are two-and-a-half story side-gabled houses. The older is the ca. 1780 *Stuard/Blake House (134 Amesbury Road, Map Number 10)*, a center chimney house with later additions largely in the nineteenth century or first half of the twentieth century. Though the original Georgian frontispiece was replaced in the past ten years the building retains other elements common to a late Georgian center chimney house including wood clapboard siding, bilateral symmetry, narrow 9/6 wood sash windows, window trim with an ogee bead, corner boards, and boxed eaves and molded cornice. Across the street, the ca. 1820 *Hilliard-Prescott House (111 Amesbury Road, Map Number 8)* is an Ell house in the Federal/Greek Revival style. Character-defining elements include the rear wall chimneys, wood clapboard siding, bilateral symmetry, 6/6 wood sash windows, and a Greek Revival frontispiece with paneled pilasters and Doric entablature flanking full length sidelights. Though the house has recently undergone some renovation and restoration, the historic footprint, massing, fenestration patterns, and decorative detailing remain on the exterior, and many historic finishes on the interior.

Three of the buildings are mid-nineteenth-century one-and-a-half-story gable front houses built next to each other on the east side of the road. Two of the houses are nearly identical in form and fenestration patterns but have different outbuildings. The ca. 1858 *Walton House (130 Amesbury Road, Map*

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Number 12 is two bays wide with a side hall plan and a one-story wing that connects to the small gable-front barn. Characteristic late Greek Revival detailing includes a simple frontispiece, cornice returns, thin corner boards, and 6/6 wood sash windows, with a larger one on the first story of the façade. Just next door to the north, the very similar but smaller ca. 1860 *Hilliard House* (**128 Amesbury Road, Map Number 13**) is also two bays wide with a side hall plan and has similar detailing, except the large first-story façade window has 8/8 wood sash. The small barn is detached, located behind the house. The third building, located just south of the Walton House differs from the other two. The *Blake-Sawyer House* (**132 Amesbury Road, Map Number 11**) is five bays wide with a center entry and some additional massing elements, added over time in the historic period on the side and rear elevations. Character-defining details include a Greek Revival frontispiece with beveled pilasters supporting corner blocks and flanking full-length side lights, 6/6 wood sash windows, window trim with an ovolo back band, and wood clapboard siding.

The district also includes a ca. 1860 house in the Italianate style with a slightly unusual plan. The *Poor House* (**116 Amesbury Road, Map Number 17**) is a two-and-a-half story house oriented with the three-bay gable end to the road and the entry on the long elevation through a square bay spanning half the elevation. Augmented with an original one-and-a-half story rear ell and a twentieth-century ell addition, the house features some late Greek Revival/early Italianate decorative detailing including corner pilasters, cornice returns on the gabled ends, molded frieze, molded window hoods, and 6/6 wood sash windows.

The district includes one brick building, the *Kensington Social Library* (**126 Amesbury Road, Map Number 14, NR No. SG100005160**). Located in the middle of the town center, it is an outstanding example of an 1890s small public library in the Queen Anne and Classical Revival style and is a representative example of the work of its architect, George T. Tilden. In addition, the rear addition (a contributing element though outside the period of significance at this time due to the fifty-year cut-off) is significant as an example of the work of Earle W. Bolton, III, (architect in the office of Louis I. Kahn and clerk of the works for the 1970s Kahn-designed Phillips Exeter Academy Library). On the original building, the massing, symmetry, center entry, and masonry construction are characteristic of the Classical Revival style while the combination of building materials (red brick, sandstone, granite, and architectural terra cotta) plus the decorative detailing on the entablature, capitals, and the sunburst tiles are characteristic of the Queen Anne style. It was individually listed in the National Register in 2020.

The district also includes four mid-twentieth-century buildings. Two, the *Kensington Elementary School* (**122 Amesbury Road, Map Number 16**) and the *Kensington Fire and Rescue Station* (**124 Amesbury Road, Map Number 15**) have both undergone expansions over time since original construction in the early 1950s but they continue to contribute to the architectural significance of the historic district. The other two buildings are small mid-century houses common in New Hampshire towns. One is a transitional ranch form which retains integrity of form and massing along with some character-defining features such as its low-pitched gabled roof, wide interior chimney straddling the roof ridge, combination exterior cladding including brick under an original three-part window, and integral one-car garage. The other is a Cape Cod Form house (**101 Amesbury Road, Map Number 4**) with many characteristic elements including a main block with a wide, large chimneys straddling the roof ridge, and wood shingles.

Six of the residential properties retain their historic nineteenth-century barns. The largest and possibly earliest of these is the Blake Barn (**134 Amesbury Road, Map Number 10A**). The detached gable front barn is clad with clapboards and has nearly centered double sliding doors on the west end. It has been

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expanded on each side with shed-roofed additions. The south one, set on a concrete block foundation features large rectangular windows set adjacent to the eaves and featuring vertical bars. The barn on the other former farm property, the Poor Barn (**116 Amesbury Road, Map Number 17A**) is a gable-front barn with lean-to additions on the sides and rear elevation. Four of the properties have smaller gable-front barns of a size characteristic of a town center. One is connected (**130 Amesbury Road, Map Number 12A**); the other three (**111 Amesbury Road, Map Number 8A**; **128 Amesbury Road, Map Number 13A**; and **132 Amesbury Road, Map Number 11A**) are detached.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate.)

Chronological Development of Kensington Town Center Historic District⁸

1610s-1770s: Early Settlement, Roads, Meetinghouses

Settlement in the vicinity of the Kensington Town Center Historic District predates the arrival of Europeans. Native Americans had maintained several “permanent settlements” in present day Kensington including one on the edges of Hog Pen Meadow, a half mile long swampy area in the area of and adjacent to the historic district.⁹ They annually burned over the meadow to keep it open for cultivation, creating a grassy meadow. In addition, Native Americans had established trails between the seacoast at Hampton and Kingston Pond to the west, including one by Hog Pen and Stumpfield Lanes immediately south and west of the district. The trails subsequently served as the basis for some of Kensington’s early roads. Prior to European settlement of the coastal area of New Hampshire by residents of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1630s, smallpox had decimated the Native American population in the region ca. 1615 (Preservation Company 1997, 19).

Some of the earliest European settlement in what became Kensington was in the vicinity of the historic district. The land originally was part of the large town of Hampton, which laid out some roads near the historic district to provide access to lots in present-day Kingston to the west (Preservation Company 1997, 20).¹⁰ Because Kensington was divided and settled as part of an older town, it initially developed with irregular roads, scattered houses, and no center or village. Over time, a town center would develop as a

⁸ Much of this chronological development is taken from the townwide survey of Kensington prepared by Preservation Company in 1997 which drew upon Roland D. Sawyer’s 1946 *The History of Kensington, New Hampshire* along with a variety of primary sources including U.S. Population and Agricultural censuses and multiple local records.

⁹ Hog-Pen “playne and meadow” extended generally from west of the Upper Village and Meetinghouse Hill south for more than one half mile west of the rear of the Lower Yard and Grange Hall and continuing south to Lamprey’s Corner outside of the district. The meadow just north of Trundlebed Lane was later known as “The Bishop.” The other known settlement, along the large Grassy Swamp or Great Meadow, which covers more than five hundred acres, was in the northeast part of town near the present-day Exeter border (Sawyer 1946, 14; Jacobs *et. al.* [n.d.]).

¹⁰ Hampton originally included land that became North Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, Kingston, East Kingston and Danville, as well as part of Seabrook.

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linear district along a primary north-south road through the town in the nineteenth century. It began at the north end of the district, on Meetinghouse Acre.

The first grant of land in what became Kensington was made in 1663, when Rev. Seaborn Cotton, the fourth minister of Hampton, received two hundred acres of the Hog Pen Plain and Meadow. The grant was not officially surveyed and laid out until 1668. William Fuller received a farm adjoining Rev. Cotton's Hog-Pen Farm (Sawyer 1946, 12, 18). John Fuller built and briefly occupied a house on Cotton's land in 1670. The following year, Rev. Cotton sold the farm to John Garland of Hampton. Over the next several years, the tract was divided into four parts of fifty acres each, none of which were permanently settled (Sawyer 1946, 18-19).

General European settlement in Kensington only began in the early 1700s, in the wake of several land divisions made in 1702, 1708, and 1714. The original patterns of land division in long, rectangular lots remain evident in the lot lines on modern tax maps. Due to ongoing conflicts between the Indigenous population and Europeans in the first half of the eighteenth-century settlement was slow though by 1732 over sixty families resided in the area that became Kensington (Preservation Company 1997, 20-21).

In 1733, to establish a more central and mutually agreeable location for a meetinghouse, Elihu Chase gave one acre of land near Hog Pen Meadow to the "inhabitants of the upper or westerly part of the Falls' parish in Hampton" called the Meetinghouse Acre (Preservation Company 1997, 21). The meetinghouse frame that initially had been raised on North Road, outside the town center, was moved to this site, and finished, with the first service held on 2 February 1734 (Preservation Company 1997, 21).

Finally in April 1737, the Parish of Kensington, named for the London suburb, was incorporated out of the western part of Hampton Falls. At the time, the population of the parish totaled about 600 (Preservation Company 1997, 21). The new parish required public roads to the meetinghouse from all directions and many previously private ways were made public. Trundlebed Lane, a private road of Elihu Chase between Stumpfield Road and the meetinghouse, was made public in 1739.

The organization of the new parish coincided with the outbreak of Diphtheria or Throat Distemper. Centered around Kingston, Kensington, and Hampton Falls, it continued into the 1760's and ultimately resulted in 250 deaths, many of them children. The victims were some of the first burials in the new Upper Yard (**Map Number 3**), which was enlarged in 1744 with the purchase of an additional half acre south of the original section (Preservation Company 1997, 21). It would be expanded again in 1773 with an eighty-four-rod parcel, some of it already enclosed by the burying yard fence (Sawyer 1946, 287, 283). Stray livestock were kept in an animal pound at the edge of the cemetery to the northwest, beginning in 1764 (Sawyer 1926, 42).

The French and Indian Wars continued through this period. Some twenty Kensington residents fought at Louisburg in 1745, and many then served in the Crown Point campaign. Military practice was held on the "meetinghouse parade," the level land in the vicinity of the present-day Congregational Church (**108 Amesbury Road, Map Number 19**) (Sawyer 1946, 160, 194). It would continue to be used for several decades by the militia company for its spring meeting and maneuvers (Sawyer 1946, 157).

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In 1761, the parish was finally set off from Hampton Falls and incorporated as the town of Kensington though efforts to do so had begun as early as 1740 (Preservation Company 1997, 23). By the early 1770s the town population totaled over 800 persons.



Figure 12: Second Meetinghouse, built 1770-1771 and dismantled in 1840s (Sawyer 1946, 6)

The prosperous community desired a new meetinghouse. In 1771 a building committee of Ezekiel Worthen, Jonathan Brown, Moses Shaw, and Ebenezer Lovering modeled the new meetinghouse on one recently built in North Hampton (Sawyer 1946,160; Hazlett 1915, 480). It was erected on Meetinghouse Hill roughly on the site of the later 1846 Town House (**95 Amesbury Road, Map Number 1**) (Figure 12, above).¹¹ At that time, Amesbury Road ended at the building though there was a road slightly to the east that ran north.

Over the course of this period, other development in the district remained limited and included a handful of residential, commercial, and agricultural buildings plus a few small-scale shops. None of these resources are known to survive in the town center, having been replaced by later buildings, or relocated to elsewhere in Kensington. In the Upper Village, churchgoers could warm themselves between services and purchase food and drink at the home of William Evans opposite the meetinghouse (Sawyer 1946, 260). Nearby, the joiner John Blake (died 1775) erected a new house on the easterly side of the road where he operated a tavern beginning in 1759 (in the vicinity of **116 Amesbury Road, Map Number**

¹¹ The still extant 1784 Rocky Hill Meetinghouse in Salisbury, Massachusetts, was based on the Kensington one (Sawyer 1946, 6).

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17).¹² A blacksmith shop/clock shop, possibly erected by the blacksmith Elisha Purington Jr. (sometimes spelled Purinton), is said to have been located near the Meetinghouse, on the east side of Amesbury Road, as of the 1740s. Used by others in subsequent decades, it may have survived into the early nineteenth century or been moved (Sawyer 1946, 269-270).

In the 1760s, Timothy Blake Locke erected a small house on the east side of the road (no longer extant, on **134 Amesbury Road, Map Number 10**) in the Lower Village. Locke, a shoemaker and tanner who processed hides produced by local cattle farmers, had a tan shed and shop near his house on the westerly side of the road, south of Trundlebed Lane (in the vicinity of site **Map Number 9, Amesbury Road**) (Sawyer 1946, 87, 234,323; Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Book 110, Page 208 [hereafter RCD 110/208]; Preservation Company 1997, 23).¹³

1780s to mid-1820s: Roads and Stagecoaches, Agricultural Prosperity, Commerce and Manufacturing

In the post-Revolutionary period, the region and Kensington prospered. New transportation routes improved access to markets and enabled better interaction with surrounding towns. As would be true throughout the nineteenth century, a stage passed through the town center twice a day. The population peaked in 1790 at 800 people and then declined slightly over the next several decades to 709 by 1820 (Bureau of the Census 1940). A number of buildings were added to the district in this period, primarily residential, along with one religious and one small-scale commercial and industrial. By 1823, the Town Center contained six houses, the Meetinghouse, the Baptist or Christian Meetinghouse, and at least one store.

¹² In John Blake's probate (No. 4214 O.S., 1776), the division of his land in 1786, ten years after his death, distinguishes between parts of the house as the highhouse (which was set off to Blake's son Jeremiah) and the lowhouse. His widow received one-third as her dower, which included the lowhouse and some of the barn, plus some of the cellar under the highhouse. Some of the description includes the following: "We have also set off to s'd Love Worthen one third of the Cellar under the highhouse set off to Jeremiah Blake viz. The Easterly end of s'd Cellar with the privilege of passing and repassing from a door out of the lowhouse into the high house through the Bar room so called to the Cellar door down stairs into said Cellar." Blake's surviving children received the other two-thirds. The description also mentioned a horse barn, obviously to house travelers' horses.

¹³ For a time in the 1760s Locke may also have had a store in his home. He also had a tannery on the west side of the road (Sawyer 1946, 87, 234).

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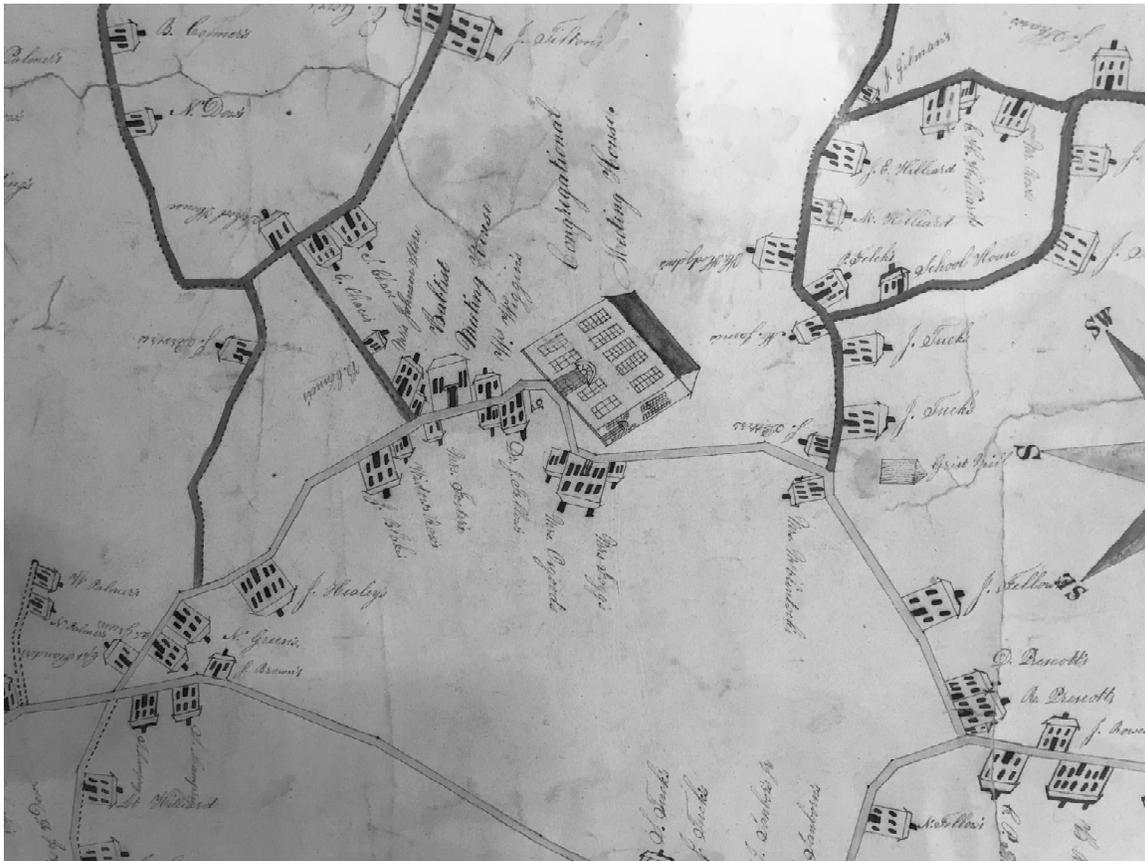


Figure 13: Detail, 1823 Rand Map of Kensington, with the 1771 Meetinghouse illustrated at a larger scale. The Osgood-Fogg House shown near the Meetinghouse is farther away from the town center than appears on this map.

Several property owners in the town center benefitted from and availed themselves of the improved transportation routes. The town center continued to include a few taverns, stores, and shops along the primary artery to and from the Meetinghouse. After John Blake's death in 1775, his widow Love married Jacob Worthen in 1781 and they continued to run the tavern near the meetinghouse for a time (vicinity of **116 Amesbury Road, Map Number 17**). Deacon Jeremiah Fellows, a blacksmith, then operated the tavern which he had acquired from Love Worthen's children in 1793 (RCD 138/14, 150/434). He continued doing so into the early 1800s.

The Lower Village underwent some change in this period. In 1778, David Stuard/Stewart, a blacksmith, acquired two parcels of land on either side of Amesbury Road from Timothy Blake Locke. He replaced Locke's small house with a large two-story center chimney house around 1780 (**134 Amesbury Road, Map Number 10**) (RCD 110/208). In 1805, Hezekiah Blake acquired the house from Stuard's heirs along with property across the street (**Amesbury Road, Map Number 9**), which may still have included Locke's shop and tan shed. Multiple generations of the Blake family, who had been one of the early families to settle in Kensington, would own both properties for over 150 years until the mid-twentieth century (Sawyer 1946, 87-88, 271).

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Towards the end of this period, the *Hilliard-Prescott House (111 Amesbury Road, Map Number 8)* was built at the northwest corner of Amesbury Road and Trundlebed Lane in the late 1810s or early 1820s.¹⁴ Jonathan Hilliard (1783-1828), “a carpenter by trade, and a man of moderate means,” acquired two parcels at the corner of Amesbury Road and Trundlebed Lane in the 1820s (Hurd 1882, 362; RCD 254/372, 251/128). Hilliard either replaced an earlier building on the site or expanded it, though any earlier building was replaced when the existing rear ell was added in the mid-nineteenth century. Though Hilliard died at a relatively young age in 1828, his family remained in the house. At that time the property had a two-story house with an adjoining one-story building (likely a rear ell) used as a kitchen and also occupied by a store (1828 Jonathan Hilliard Probate No. 11581, Old Series). This property has been owned by multiple generations of the same family since its construction.

The district also had some small manufacturing shops in this period. Deacon Jeremiah Fellows either used the Purrington blacksmith shop and clock shop or replaced it with a new one. He and brother Nathaniel made the works for clocks in the late eighteenth century (Sawyer 1946, 260). At the south end of the town center, David Stuart/Stuard had a blacksmith shop near his ca. 1780 house (**134 Amesbury Road, Map Number 10**).

Kensington has a lengthy history of libraries, albeit initially private ones often known as “subscription” or “social” libraries, open only to subscribers whose dues covered the cost of book purchases. Kensington’s first social library, named the Social Library in Kensington, was formed in 1767 though it was relatively short-lived (Sawyer 1946, 255; Mertinooke 1964, 1). In 1798 the social library was revived and incorporated as the “Kensington Social Library”, during a time that many towns established similar organizations (Preservation Company 1997, 25; Preservation Company 2020, 22). The library, housed in the home of Jeremiah Fellows, and later Joseph Poor (site of **116 Amesbury Road, Map Number 17**) was open two afternoons per week. Members paying dues of twenty-five cents a year could take out one book at a time, while those who paid a dollar a year could take out five books. Non-dues-paying members were allowed to borrow books for two cents a day. By 1816 there were forty-three shareholders, and in 1820 the library owned 139 books (Preservation Company 1997, 25).

The religious landscape in Kensington’s town center underwent changes in this period. The religious division that became a major theme in town in subsequent decades had begun in the 1780’s with opposition to the liberal Arminian doctrines of Kensington’s long-time minister Rev. Jeremiah Fogg. In 1789, a council voted 53-50 to dismiss him. The next minister, Naphtali Shaw, who lived on Amesbury Road just south of the town center, preached from 1792-1813 (Sawyer 1946, 153; Hazlett 1915, 479). The Congregational Church had no settled minister after 1816 and within the next decade it was virtually defunct (Sawyer 1926, 23). Following the Toleration Act of 1819, members of other churches were

¹⁴ Local sources suggested a 1730s date of construction of a building moved to this site in 1794 by Abigail Johnson, a widow, but neither the historic building fabric of the existing house nor the documentary evidence support such an early date of construction. Johnson did acquire some of this land in 1817 (RCD 233/303). No buildings were mentioned in the deed. Johnson did however have a license to sell liquor in 1807 and in 1820 the selectmen certified her “as a retailer and tavern keeper” (Kensington Town Records). However, it cannot be documented at this time that her home, store, and tavern were one and the same. A store is there by 1823, as shown on the 1823 Rand map.

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exempted from paying taxes for the support of the Congregational Church. The Meetinghouse continued to be used for civic purposes such as the Annual Meeting.

In the early 1800s, the Christian or Baptist Church had become increasingly popular in New England. It was considered more democratic and less formal than the Orthodox Congregational Church. A Christian Church organized in Hampton Falls in 1805 drew families from the surrounding towns. Then in 1808, 1809 and 1810 camp meetings were held in Kensington and numerous residents were baptized. Finally, in 1813 the First Christian Society erected a Christian Meetinghouse in the town center (site of **109 Amesbury Road, Map Number 7**), and the church was formally organized in 1822 (Sawyer 1946, 163-166). The one-story, gable-roofed building was plain and unpainted without pews or pulpit (Hazlett 1915, 481).

Mid-1820s-early 1850s: Boot Manufacturing, Religious Division, New Churches and Public Buildings

In the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the town center became more densely developed and increasingly a center of activity. Several of Kensington's most important religious and civic buildings, all in the town center, date from this period of local prosperity. Along with being the civic and religious center, it also contained several stores and some small-scale industry, notably boot manufacturing. Some of the development was enabled by the extension of Amesbury Road north to the Exeter town line, making the road through the town center a primary thoroughfare that allowed for regular stagecoach traffic enabling the locating of the post office in the town center, in addition to facilitating the provision of goods to the local stores and manufactories. New construction included two new churches (the 1838 Christian Meetinghouse, the 1838-39 Union Meetinghouse), the 1846 town hall, a double house for shoe workers, and the expansion of existing buildings to house the boot manufactories. Well-known local carpenters Josiah B. Sanborn (ca. 1805-1846) and Dearborn Blake (born 1810) constructed the two meetinghouses and the town house, so the buildings share some general similarities (Sawyer 1926, 166; Preservation Company 2013a; Preservation Company 2013b). The town added a second burying ground between the Upper and Lower Villages. The population fluctuated slightly each decade in this period, from 717 in 1830 to 700 in 1850 (Bureau of the Census 1830, 1840, 1850).

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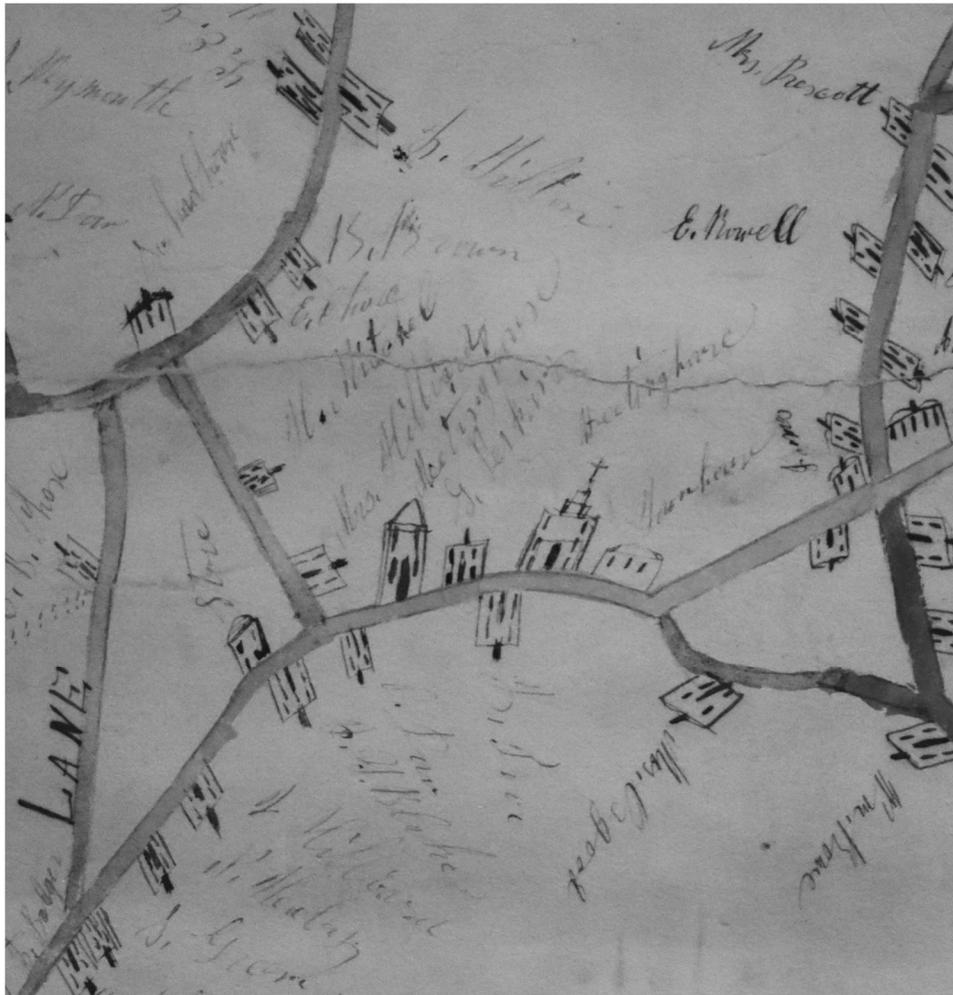


Figure 14: Detail of 1849 Brown Map, showing Kensington Town Center.

In the 1830s, Amesbury Road was extended north from Osgood Road in two phases. First, in 1832, a new road was laid over a formerly private way between the Meetinghouse and North Road. Then in 1838, the road was continued north from North Road to the Exeter town line and from there into the center of Exeter. As of 1840, six stagecoaches passed through the town daily running between Boston, Salem, and Newburyport, Massachusetts, and Dover and Concord, New Hampshire (Mace *et. al.* 1901, 25, 27; Preservation Company 1997, 27).

Meanwhile, beginning in the 1820's several new businesses were established in the town center, including one that would become an important and long-lasting commercial establishment into the twentieth century. In 1826, Philemon Blake (1803-1828) opened a store on the westerly side of Amesbury Road, just south of Trundlebed Lane, possibly in the former Timothy Blake Locke shop (**Amesbury Road/Trundlebed Lane, site Map Number 9**). It was located across the road from the house his grandfather Hezekiah Blake had purchased in 1805 (**134 Amesbury Road, Map Number 10**). When Philemon Blake died unexpectedly in 1828, his younger brother John T. Blake (1806-1883) returned to Kensington after spending six years in Boston learning the boot making trade. Blake took over running the store, doing so until the mid-1850s. The store became a center of activity and Democratic politics in

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town.¹⁵ The *Boston Daily Globe* sold there was the first daily paper received in town. Weekly papers from Portsmouth, Concord, and Boston were also received there. Blake went to Boston every other week to purchase goods which were then shipped to Portsmouth and transported to Exeter by gundalow or carried to Newburyport and then Kensington by team (Sawyer 1946, 73, 87, 234-235, 262; Preservation Company 1997, 26-27).

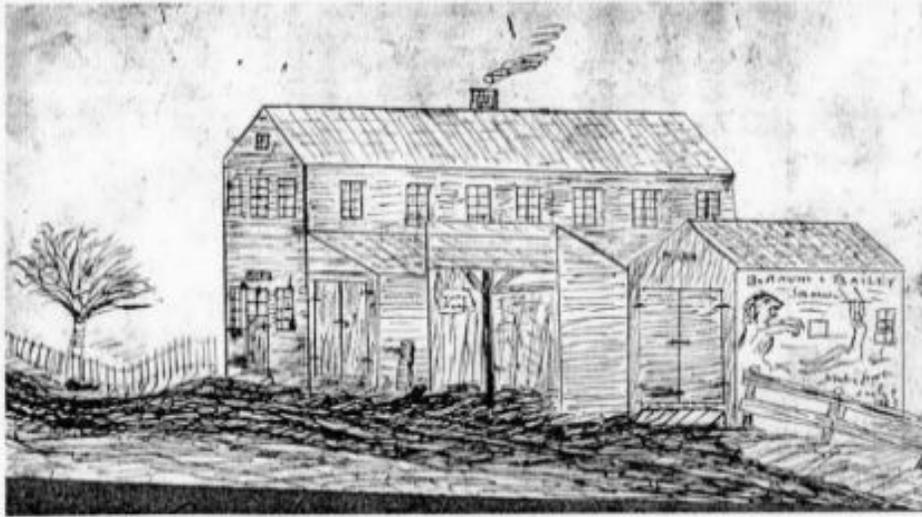


Figure 15: Blake Store and Boot Manufactory (Collection of Kensington Social Library)

In addition to running the store, Blake also used his knowledge of boot making to establish a boot manufactory on the second floor of the three-room deep store building about a year after taking over the store (Figure 15, above). Doing so helped establish shoe manufacturing in Kensington where it played a major role in the local economy for much of the nineteenth century. Blake's boot manufactory, along with those of several others, though still modest in scale, employed more persons than the individual shoe shops found on a number of farms throughout the town. Blake tanned much of the leather used in the shop (Preservation Company 1997, 27).

As of 1837 it was said that "Kensington is the place to buy either fine or coarse boots" (Sawyer 1946, 76). At its height, before 1840, the Blake shop employed about forty men and women, though many of the women would have been doing the work in their homes as outwork (Sawyer 1946, 102). By 1850 the Blake Boot manufactory employed six men and three women, making two thousand pair of boots a year (Bureau of the Census 1850a). Blake ran the boot shop until 1854 when changing personal fortunes required him to close the business (Sawyer 1946, 88).

By the late 1830s or early 1840s, a post office was housed in one of the stores in the Lower Village, indicative of the area's increased recognition as the town center. That remained the case until 1909 after

¹⁵ Blake's daybooks and those of his son George Blake and daughter Mary Ester (Blake) Warner survive in the archival collections of the University of New Hampshire. John T. Blake was active in public affairs, serving as town clerk and selectman for many years, for three years in the General Court, and as a Justice of the Peace for over thirty years (Sawyer 1946, 87-88, 271; *Exeter News-Letter* 2 June 1916, p. 7).

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which Kensington no longer had a post office. As of the late 1820s the post office was located in Oliver Locke's tavern on Amesbury Road south of the town center. It remained there under Locke and then Capt. Henry Brown until the late 1830s or early 1840s (U.S. Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832-1971; Preservation Company 1997, 26-27). From then on, the post office would almost always be located in a building in the town center. It, however, moved around, dependent on changing political winds and the postmaster's political allegiance. By 1841, if not slightly earlier, the post office was located in John T. Blake's store, remaining under his direction until 1853. Then it was located outside the town center for a few years (U.S. Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832-1971).

Change occurred in the middle of the town center in this period. In 1828 the town acquired land for a second cemetery, the *Lower Yard (Amesbury Road, Map Number 6)*. This was necessary because the original Upper Yard was largely full. The Lower Yard was not formally platted and so by the 1860s it had become crowded with many unmarked graves. Its establishment led to the Upper Yard falling into disrepair and becoming overgrown with pine trees through neglect, though some trimming did occur in 1851.

During the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the religious doctrines of Kensington residents continued to diverge but the town center remained the locus for religious buildings. Churches were important part of Kensington's social and civic life. With the continued popularity of the Baptist movement, the Christian Baptists replaced their 1813 building with a fashionable new Christian Meetinghouse in the Greek Revival style in 1838 (**109 Amesbury Road, Map Number 7**) (Sawyer 1946, 163-166; Zimmerman 1984, 60).¹⁶

Beginning in the 1820s, the Congregational church, divided by the Unitarian/Trinitarian controversy, no longer held regular meetings. Many families became Unitarian and Universalist, reflecting the liberalism and tolerance which had begun with the town's original Quaker residents and with the anti-Calvinist beliefs of Rev. Fogg. Unitarian leaders were invited to preach in the old meetinghouse, and in 1832 the First Unitarian Society of Kensington was formed. In March of 1839, a notice was posted in the *Exeter News-Letter and Rockingham County Advertiser* requesting proposals for building a new Meetinghouse (except for the stone work and painting) to measure 55' long by 40' wide with 16' posts and to contain 54 pews, with a belfry upon it. The Union Meetinghouse (**97 Amesbury Road, Map Number 2**) was to be used by several "religious sects of the Protestant religion" (Sawyer 1946, 170). Pews were sold at auction (Sawyer 1946, 170). The building committee consisted of Lewis Gove, Josiah B. Sanborn, and John T. Blake (*Exeter News-Letter and Rockingham County Advertiser* 19 February 1839, p. 3). By June 1839 a notice appeared in the paper announcing that a group of four men (Benjamin Dow, Dearborn Blake, Lewis Gove, and John T. Blake along with some associates) had formed a Society to be known as the Union Society in Kensington and had it recorded in the book of records (*Exeter News-Letter and Rockingham County Advertiser* 25 June 1839, p. 4).

Use of the Union Meetinghouse changed over time, varying with membership size. During the 1840s, a joint Unitarian Society of Kensington and Hampton Falls met in the building on Sunday mornings. In the afternoons, the Universalists held services in the summer and autumn months and occasionally in the winter. They had no settled minister but were visited by itinerant ministers and many prominent members

¹⁶ The still extant original one-story building was sold, moved outside the town center and converted to a residence with a center chimney.

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of the denomination. The Unitarians had an active social calendar holding dramas and concerts in conjunction with the church in Hampton Falls (Sawyer 1946, 119).

More building activity in the town center occurred in the 1840s. About 1840, John T. Blake built a double house (**132 Amesbury Road, Map Number 11**) for some of the men working in his boot manufactory on the northerly end of his house property (**134 Amesbury Road, Map Number 10**) in the Lower Village (Sawyer 1946, 324). Blake employed several Irish immigrants including Timothy Mahoney, the first Catholic Kensington resident. He and his family lived in Blake's housing for a time (Preservation Company 1997, 30; Monroe January 1998).

By the 1840s, with the construction of two new churches, the relative inactivity of the Congregational church, and its use only for civic purposes, the large 1771 Meetinghouse had become too costly to maintain. In 1846, it was replaced with a new purpose-built Town House (**95 Amesbury Road, Map Number 1**) in the Upper Village. Some of the framing members from the old meetinghouse were reused in its construction, including the boxed flared wall and corner posts visible on the interior. As with the two churches, carpenters Josiah B. Sanborn and Dearborn T. Blake constructed the new civic building (Preservation Company 2013b). With its completion the town house became the center for all civic activity in Kensington, the site for many social activities, and an important local landmark.

The town center continued to be the heart of cultural activity in Kensington. In 1849, a second private or subscription library was organized in 1849 by Mrs. Abby Lincoln, wife of the unitarian minister. Though a subscription library, its organization may have been related tangentially to the recent legislation enacted by the state. Known originally as the Ladies' Sewing Society Library, its purpose was "to promote the social, intellectual and moral improvement of its members" (Board of Library Commissioners of New Hampshire 1896, 40). The group met each fortnight and sewed while one member read aloud. The proceeds of the sewing projects were then used to purchase new books (Sawyer 1946, 173, 256). The librarian, Elizabeth O. Osgood resided in a house near the Upper Village. The library would become important in the town center later in the nineteenth century.

Early 1850s-1890s: Outwork Shoemaking, Civil War, Height of Civic Activity, Religious Change

In this period, the population of Kensington declined each decade, from 672 in 1860 to 547 by 1890, with the sharpest decrease in the 1880s (Bureau of the Census 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890). This reflected a statewide trend of population loss in New Hampshire agricultural communities, as people migrated to better land in the west or for job opportunities in industrial cities. In spite of the decline, new construction occurred in the town center in this period. In addition to the First Congregational Church in the Upper Village in 1865 and a town library in 1894-1895, two new houses were constructed in the Lower Village and one in the Upper Village. The local economy remained centered around agriculture and shoemaking, though the two boot manufactories in the town center eventually closed during this period. Shoemaking in Kensington shifted to outwork, with numerous small shoe shops scattered around town though none remain in the historic district (Chace 1857). The arrival of railroads by the mid-nineteenth century in neighboring towns led to a decrease in stagecoach travel, though Kensington remained connected by stage to Exeter and Amesbury throughout the nineteenth century. The Boston and Maine Railroad which opened in 1840 ran just beyond the northwest corner of town. Local residents could travel to railroad stations in Exeter or East Kingston depending on in which part of town they lived.

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Figure 16: Detail, 1857 Chace map showing the town center.

John T. Blake was not the only resident to establish a boot manufactory in the Lower Village. Francis Hilliard (1825-1908) also learned the trade of boot and shoe making. He grew up in the *Hilliard-Prescott House* located across from the Blake Store (**111 Amesbury Road, Map Number 8**). Sometime around 1850 when still a young man Hilliard replaced the original rear ell on his family’s house with a long two-story ell. The upper floor is believed to have been used for boot and shoe manufacturing and may have been one large open space originally.¹⁷ Hilliard was successful enough to employ “a large number of men and women in the manufacture of these goods” for at least ten years (Hurd 1882, 363). By 1860 Hilliard employed twelve men and six women. The average monthly cost of men’s labor was \$220 while that of the women’s labor was just \$72 (Bureau of the Census 1860, Industrial). Hilliard remained in the boot and shoe manufacturing business until 1862 (Hurd 1882, 362).

Meanwhile, the Blake boot manufactory had closed in the mid-1850s though Blake family members continued to work as shoemakers as late as 1860 (Bureau of the Census 1860). Kensington families turned

¹⁷ An examination of the roof framing of the ell features sawn rafters. Originally it appears that faux king posts provided some support for the wide span but they have been cut off, likely made unnecessary when a nearly centered dividing wall was added on the second floor, providing support to the wide ceiling (Mallory 2018).

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increasingly to doing outwork shoemaking for the large shoe factories in Massachusetts cities (Sawyer 1946, 231).

The Lower Village continued to have two stores in this period. Col. John T. Blake had lost his businesses in 1856 but the store was taken over by his cousin Ferdinand Blake who ran it until the Civil War (**Amesbury Road, Map Number 9**). Then John T. Blake's son Thomas (1835-1906) took it over for a time. By 1870, son George (1831-1892) ran the store, doing so until his death. Daughter Mary (1840-1912) (who had married William Warner in 1872 but was soon widowed) then took over the family store (Sawyer 1935, 28).

Across the street, George W. Walton ran a store for a few years in the mid-1850s on the first floor of the rear ell of the *Hilliard-Prescott House* (**111 Amesbury Road, Map Number 8**). Walton ran a trade route to Newburyport, going weekly with produce and bringing back goods for Kensington residents (Sawyer 1946, 41). Walton "received eggs, butter, dressed fowl and so forth from the farmers in exchange for things they needed" (Sawyer Papers, Box 79, Folder 13). Walton was also postmaster off and on from the mid-1850s to 1864 (U.S., Appointments of U.S. Postmasters). By the 1860s, Francis Hilliard had bought out Walton and ran the store himself, one of his many business endeavors in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. He was appointed Postmaster in 1867 by the Republican government and kept the Post Office in the store (mail delivered by stagecoach) until 1886 when the Democrats returned to power. During Republican years, the Hilliard store was the local gathering spot.

The Post Office moved from the Hilliard-Prescott House back to the Blake Store (**Amesbury Road, Map Number 9**) in 1886, remaining there until 1890. The mail stagecoach between Amesbury and Exeter stopped there twice a day. Then the post office was located in the Walton House (**130 Amesbury Road, Map Number 12**) for a few years (Hurd 1892).

The residential landscape of the town center changed in this period with the construction of several new houses. In the late 1850s George W. Walton built a house in the Greek Revival style with a connected carriage barn (**130 Amesbury Road, Map Number 12**) in the Lower Village on the west side of the road, near his store in the Hilliard-Prescott House (**111 Amesbury Road, Map Number 8**).¹⁸

Around 1860, Francis Hilliard's aunt, Elizabeth "Betsy" Hilliard (1790-1870), moved back to Kensington to be close to family members. She had been living in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her brother Abraham, a successful lawyer, until his death in 1855.¹⁹ Soon after purchasing a small lot on the east side of the road, Hilliard commissioned a small new house in the Greek Revival style (**128 Amesbury Road, Map Number 13**) for her occupancy that strongly resembled the Walton House.²⁰ After Hilliard's death, the house was owned and occupied by two different Congregational Church ministers between the mid-1870s and 1891.

¹⁸ The 1946 town history states that Walton built a barn and then a house in 1854 (Sawyer 1946, 328). Walton did not acquire the land until 1858 (RCD 380/68). He purchased some additional land in 1859 (RCD 394/277).

¹⁹ They are both buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

²⁰ Betsy never married but was financially secure thanks to inheritances from her mother and her brother Abraham after his death in 1855.

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In the early 1860s Joseph Poor (1814-1895) constructed a new house in the Greek Revival/Italianate style (**116 Amesbury Road, Map Number 17**) in the Upper Village.²¹ The barn was always on the other side of the road. Like many Kensington residents Poor worked in a variety of capacities including as a farmer, blacksmith, licensed auctioneer, and sawmill owner.²² He was active in numerous local civic, cultural, and religious institutions, serving for many years as town clerk and as a selectman, housing the library of the Kensington Social Library, and active in the establishment of the Universalist Church.

Kensington remained primarily a farming community in this period. Though the largest farms were located outside the town center, there were two farms in the town center that continued to be farmed as of 1880. The Poor Farm, which included land on both sides of the road and in other parts of town, not only produced stuff for the family but also sold some dairy products, along with crops. Their focus was more oriented towards livestock than the Blake Farm, the other farm in the town center. The Poores' improved land included fifteen acres of tilled land, twenty-three acres of other plus seven acres of woodland. From their grasslands they harvested fifteen tons of hay. In contrast with the Blakes, the Poores had four milk cows which produced 500 gallons of milk that they sold, along with seventy pounds of butter. They also owned four other cows. Other livestock included twenty-eight barnyard and other poultry. Crops included fifty bushels of Indian corn, ten bushels of oats, one bushel of beans, and seventy-five bushels of potatoes. The Poores had forty apple trees that produced over fifty bushels of apples (Bureau of the Census 1880, Agricultural).²³

In the Lower Village, the Blakes' property in 1880 (**134 Amesbury Road, Map Number 10**) had improved land consisting of twenty acres of tilled land and twelve acres of other (permanent meadows, pastures, and orchards) plus sixteen acres of woodland. From their grasslands they harvested eight tons of hay. Most of the livestock would have been for family use including the two milk cows that produced seventy-five pounds of butter, two swine, and forty-five barnyard and other poultry. Similarly, most of the crops would have been for family consumption, including forty bushels of Indian corn, ten bushels of oats, two bushels of beans, and 100 bushels of potatoes. The Blakes also had thirty apple trees that produced over thirty bushels of apples (Bureau of the Census 1880, Agricultural).²⁴

²¹ The Blake Tavern was moved by sixty yoked oxen to Trundlebed Lane to be the parsonage for the Congregational Church, occupied by Rev. Erasmus Darwin Eldredge (served 1864-1875) (Preservation Company 1997, 32). The Blake Tavern had descended to Poor through his mother Mary (died 1856), granddaughter of Jeremiah Fellows.

²² Poor built a sawmill on Mill Brook (near the town center), which operated through about 1890 (Sawyer 1926, 41). As of 1870, the mill produced 20,000 board feet of lumber annually and employed three men for five months of the year (Bureau of the Census 1870, Industrial). He also had a blacksmith shop (originally the Fellows blacksmith and clock-making shop) on the west side of the road near his house until it burned in 1876 (Sawyer 1946, 229, 269). In the 1860s and 1870s he regularly advertised in the Exeter newspaper as a licensed auctioneer.

²³ At the time, the household consisted of Joseph Poor (age 65), Frank H. (age 19), Joseph's only surviving child who worked on the farm, and a niece, Mary A. Hilliard (age 40), who kept house for the men (Bureau of the Census, 1880).

²⁴ In 1880, the household consisted of John T. Blake (age 74), who worked for a shoe factory, wife Mary E. (age 73), and three adult children. Sons George (age 48) and Henry T. (age 34) farmed the property while daughter Sarah F. (age 36) would have helped her parents and brothers with many household and farm tasks (Bureau of the Census, 1880).

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By the beginning of this period, Kensington's religious lines had begun to shift again. The "Christian" movement had declined, particularly after the division, disappointment, and ridicule that resulted from Miller's failed prediction of the Second Advent in 1843-1844 (Preservation Company 1997, 32). By the 1880s, membership in the Christian Baptist Meetinghouse had decreased such that services were held only occasionally (Preservation Company 1997, 32). The number of Unitarians decreased also in this period such that in 1865 the Unitarian Church was dissolved. In that same year ten men (including Francis Hilliard and Joseph Poor) met at Poor's house (**116 Amesbury Road, Map Number 17**) and organized a Universalist Society (Sawyer 1946, 183).

In contrast with the Christian and Unitarian Churches, the Orthodox Congregational Church revived during this period. A small number of Kensington Congregationalists began to hold occasional meetings in the 1840s (Sawyer 1926, 23, 172; Preservation Company 1997, 26, 28). With the decrease in the number of Unitarians, the Congregationalists began to share use of the 1839-1840 Union Meetinghouse for morning services. By the 1850s, they began to use the 1846 Town Hall when the Union Meetinghouse was unavailable (Sawyer 1946, 172). In 1859, the movement was formalized with the organization of the Congregational Church of Kensington, followed a year later with the formation of the Congregational Society or Parish. Construction of a church began soon thereafter, in the spring of 1865 on a small parcel in the Upper Village (**108 Amesbury Road, Map Number 19**). Dedicated on 28 March 1866, the church was finished on 3 April 1866 (First Congregational Society Records, vol. 1). Soon thereafter membership included seven men and thirty-six women (Quint 1867, 62). In 1899, the church formed the Ladies Aid Society of the Congregational Church (Preservation Company 1997, 38).

In 1869, discussion for a new burying ground began, but no agreement for a location could be reached (Sawyer 1946, 113). Then in 1888 the Lower Yard (**Amesbury Road, Map Number 6**) was expanded to the west with the Dearborn Annex. George W. Dearborn (a Kensington native who became a successful Philadelphia merchant) purchased land from Joseph Poor and Francis Hilliard that abutted the existing lower burying ground and donated the 3.5-acre parcel to the town. Initially, lots in the Dearborn Annex were sold at auction but in 1892, the town voted to make the lots free to Kensington residents. At that time, a plan of the yard was to be prepared (Sawyer 1946, 285). Dearborn also paid for an iron fence, that remains extant, to be erected around the Lower Yard. In a failed attempt at street beautification in the Lower Village, a local resident funded the planting of shade trees along the highway and in front of the Lower Yard. Vandals ultimately tore up most of the trees (Preservation Company 1997, 36).

Occasionally the Upper Yard (**Amesbury Road, Map Number 3**) underwent clean up. In 1851 and again in 1873 the volunteer pines were thinned or removed but by the late 1880s they had seeded in again throughout the yard. The oak and maple trees had been trimmed out in the 1860s (Sawyer 1946, 283).

The first "Decoration Day" or Memorial Day (one of the first in the state) was held in 1878 when flags were placed on the graves of Civil War soldiers. The next year, graves of all soldiers were decorated by the G.A.R. A total of sixty-three graves were marked, including eight of Revolutionary War soldiers, thirty-five War of 1812 veterans, one Mexican War, and nineteen Civil War soldiers (Sawyer 1946, 124). These activities improved the residents' awareness of the conditions of their two cemeteries.

The second half of the nineteenth century was a time of considerable civic and social activity, fostering a sense of community even as population numbers declined. Frequently such gatherings occurred in one of the town center buildings. The Town Hall (**95 Amesbury Road, Map Number 1**) was expanded in 1883

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with an addition to the rear to better accommodate such activity including regular dances along with an occasional Ball during the winter. Socials were also popular (Sawyer 1946, 115). Other town events included church socials, "huskings," sleigh rides, and dancing and singing schools. A debating society, which later became the Farmer's Club formed about 1870. The Temperance Movement thrived in Kensington between 1865 and 1895. The Hoosac Division of the Sons of Temperance, No. 25 formed in 1867, with meetings and lectures held in the Town Hall. By 1870 membership numbered ninety, and the group boasted that no liquor was sold in any store or tavern in the town (Sawyer 1946, 16, 119).

Cultural activities also remained an important part of life in Kensington with many happening in the town center. The Kensington Social Library remained active into the 1850s with the last group of officials elected in 1856. Even after the library ceased functioning, the book collection remained intact, housed in Joseph Poor's House (**116 Amesbury Road, Map Number 17**) (Mertinooke 1964). Another library, the Ladies' Sewing Society Library, remained intact and generally active in this period, though its fortunes fluctuated over time. Beginning ca. 1870 it was maintained in the home of A. Maria Hilliard (1838-1909), a former schoolteacher and wife of Francis Hilliard (**111 Amesbury Road, Map Number 8**) (Mace et. al. 1909, 6; Board of Library Commissioners of New Hampshire 1896, 40; Mertinooke 1964). In 1889, the name was changed to the Ladies' Library Association, after which the library continued to flourish such that by 1895 the collection contained 725 volumes. The Ladies Library Association would play a role in the public library movement in Kensington. In the several years before the completion of the 1895 library, books began to be purchased for a public library. Housed at the home of Mrs. Hilliard (**111 Amesbury Road, Map Number 8**), who was appointed librarian, the collection became available to the public in September 1893. The library was open every Saturday from 2 to 5 PM and again from 7 to 9 PM (*Kensington Annual Report* 1893, 11).

1890s-1920s: End of shoemaking, Continued Population Decline, Summer Residents

During this period, the population continued to decline, from 524 in 1900 down to 383 in 1920, the lowest level since the eighteenth century (Bureau of the Census 1900, 1910, 1920). In spite of the population decline, a new public library was constructed in the town center and the Christian meeting house became the home of the newly established Kensington Grange No. 173 Patrons of Husbandry. One of the stores closed in this period. Some of the residential properties were purchased by or occupied by summer residents or descendants of early Kensington families who either returned to Kensington to live permanently, or during the summer months. Trees in the Upper Yard (**Amesbury Road, Map Number 3**) were finally removed in the early 1900s (Preservation Company 1997, 42).

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Figure 17: “The Center, Kensington, N.H.,” looking south on Amesbury Road. Early twentieth-century postcard. The Kensington Social Library at left, Lower Burying Ground at right before replacement of the stone wall with the cast iron fence and the Grange just beyond, ca. 1900 (Collection of Kensington Social Library)

In 1894-1895, a small brick public library in the Classical Revival/Queen Anne style was constructed in the Lower Village (**126 Amesbury Road, Map Number 14**). The philanthropy of Joseph Chase Hilliard (1821-1905), a Kensington native who made his fortune in insurance, funded the building’s construction. He gifted the newly completed library and its land to the Library Board of Trustees. The Boston, Massachusetts, architect George T. Tilden (of Rotch & Tilden) designed the building. It was named for the Kensington Social Library established in 1798 and, as the Articles of Association stated, the library was to be “for the free use and benefit of all the people of said Town of Kensington, to be used by said people for general library purposes under such reasonable regulations” as established by the Trustees (Rockingham County Deed 1895, Book 551, Page 1). The library is an example of the pattern of construction of small public libraries in small towns funded by local philanthropists in the second half of the nineteenth century. It is the first and only public library in the town of Kensington and it continues to be used for that purpose. The collection of the Ladies’ Library Association became part of the library’s original collection and Maria Hilliard was the first librarian of the Kensington Social Library.

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Figure 18: Warner Store as it was built after the 1894 fire (Collection of Kensington Social Library)

In 1894 the Blake Store burned but Mary (Blake) Warner, who was postmistress at the time, soon rebuilt (**Amesbury Road, Map Number 9**). The new building was a one-and-a-half story, gable-front building ornamented with a wraparound porch, and Stick Style gable verge boards, a truss, and cut shingles. Storage and wagon sheds extended north of the building (Figure 18, above).



Figure 19: General Store of Herbert M. Prescott in the rear ell of the Hilliard-Prescott House. Postcard, ca. 1900 (Collection of Hilliard-Prescott House).

Figure 20: Card for one of the items sold by the Prescotts in the store (Collection of Hilliard-Prescott House)

In 1889 Herbert M. Prescott and his wife Alice took over the store in the *Hilliard-Prescott House* (**111 Amesbury Road, Map Number 8**) (Figure 19, above). They maintained a meat and grocery store and “quick lunch” until the mid-1920s (Draft Card 1918; Manchester Directories; Anonymous 1915). They also sold general item such as wallpaper (Figure 20, above). For a time, the post office was also in the store. Prescott served as Postmaster between 1901 and 1909, after which time Kensington no longer had a post office (Postmaster Appointments).

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In addition to the stores in the Lower Village, a small blacksmith shop was constructed on the southwest corner of Amesbury Road and Trundlebed Lane on a small piece of land Mary Warner sold to the blacksmith Howard Towle (**Amesbury Road/Trundlebed Lane, Map Number 9**) (RCD 593/319).²⁵ A stipulation of Mary's original sale to Towle was that the property be sold back to her when he ceased to use it.

Shoemaking in Kensington came to an end in the 1890s due to changing technology. The introduction of powered sewing machines made hand sewing (and thus home manufacture) unprofitable (Sawyer 1946, 104). As a result, the remaining local shoe shops closed. Many young men from Kensington moved away or traveled to Exeter and other nearby towns for work opportunities (Sawyer 1946, 131).

As part of a larger movement to promote farming, the Kensington Grange No. 173 Patrons of Husbandry was formed in 1892 with thirty-six charter members. Membership had increased to 107 by 1902 (Sawyer 1946, 121). In 1904 the Grange acquired the Christian Baptist Meetinghouse (**109 Amesbury Road, Map Number 7**) (RCD 603/200). Dedicated as the John F. Gill Grange Hall in 1906, it was used for meetings, lectures, dances, and other local functions. To make it more usable for such purposes, the Grange added the rear addition ca. 1915 to accommodate a kitchen to improve usability as a meeting place. A wooden house was located on the northwest corner (Monroe 1990, 1).

Changes also occurred with some of the religious institutions in the town center. In 1915 the Town deeded the Union Meetinghouse lot (**97 Amesbury Road, Map Number 2**) to the Universalist Society, which united with the Newfields Society in calling a joint pastor, Rev. Fred Payson that same year.

Indicative of the continued importance of the town hall (**95 Amesbury Road, Map Number 1**) and its use for social events, an addition to house a kitchen and some back rooms was made in 1916. At the same time a raised stage seems to have been added, framed by a proscenium with pilasters (Preservation Company 2013b, 7:7).

1920s-1970s: Rise of the Automobile, Post-war Development, New School and Fire Station

Between 1920 and 1950, Kensington's population reversed its pattern of decline. Instead, it steadily increased each decade from just 383 in 1920 to 540 in 1950 and increased eighteen percent just between 1940 and 1950. That growth accelerated in the next two decades, nearly doubling to 1,044 by 1970 as part of the post-War economic boom in the region. Kensington's proximity to Portsmouth and the Boston, Massachusetts, metropolitan area attracted young families. Regionally, population growth created a need for more classroom space, particular beginning in the 1950s, which led to the renovation of or additions to older schools or the construction of new buildings using new construction methods, as was the case in Kensington (Mausolf 2012, 10). The town constructed a new grade school and fire station in the town center, on former agricultural land. Two new houses were also constructed in the town center in the period. The Lower Yard was expanded to the west.

²⁵ Towle had purchased the Walton House (**130 Amesbury Road, Map Number 12**) in 1899 (RCD 571/32).

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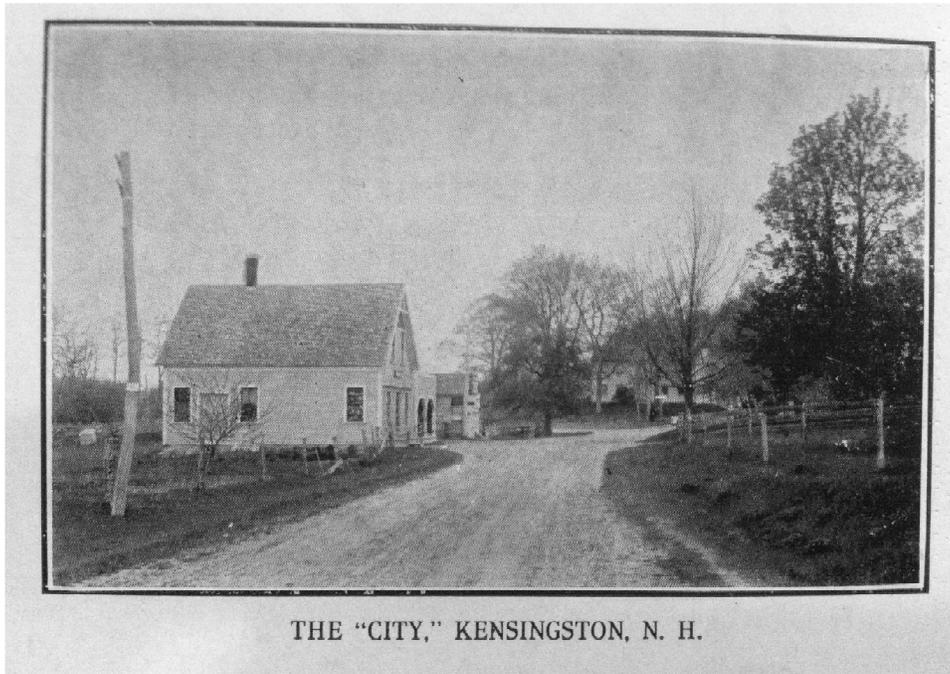


Figure 21: The Lower Village of the "City," Kensington, N.H., looking north towards Warner Store and Towle shop at left, and the Hilliard-Prescott House in the background (Collection of the Kensington Social Library).

The Upper and Lower Villages or "The City" (as the town center ironically came to be known) remained the center for the town's civic, religious, cultural, and social life. The Town Hall (**95 Amesbury Road, Map Number 1**) remained a vital venue not only for town government but as a space regularly used by various local organizations for meetings and social events including regular dances. One such group was the American Legion Post No. 105, founded in 1947-48 by a group of forty-six local veterans. Fifteen women formed the Auxiliary. Meetings were held in the Town Hall (and in the Brick School). Fundraising dances occurred weekly to raise funds (Potts 1987, 16). In the 1950s and 1960s square dances took place at the hall (Monroe June 1997). The Grange also held regular dances (Preservation Company 1997, 43). The Annual Kensington Christmas Fair, established 1961, was hosted at the Town Hall until the early 1970s, when it moved to the new and larger American Legion Hall built in 1973 on Amesbury Road south of the town center (Monroe November 1996).

By the 1920s, with the end of Rev. Fred Payson's pastorate the Universalist Church (**97 Amesbury Road, Map Number 2**) began to be used only for summer services (one to four times per year) and occasional weddings or funerals. It did however establish one enduring annual event that remains popular up to the present. Beginning in 1935, they observed Old Home Day one Sunday each August (Preservation Company 1997, 43). In the early 1960s, when the Universalist Church merged with the Unitarian Church, the Universalist Society of Kensington chose to remain separate and continued to own the church.

The Warner Store (**Amesbury Road, Map Number 9**) remained the only commercial establishment in the town center in this period. Miss Esther Warner operated it through the 1950s as Kensington's only general store (Preservation Company 1997, 40). Miss Warner added a Blue Seal grain dealership in an adjacent building and also had gas pumps. Next door, Howard Towle turned to woodworking as well as

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early auto repair, continuing until the 1940s or 50s. The replacement of the horse and carriage with the automobile had led to a decline in the need for his blacksmithing services (Mace *et. al.* 1909; Sawyer 1946, 229).

In the 1920s, Herbert and Alice Prescott closed the store in the Hilliard-Prescott House and moved out of town (**111 Amesbury Street, Map Number 8**). The house continued to be owned by other Hilliard and Prescott family members. In the late 1930s, Hiram (1867-1957) and Marion (1867-1963) Prescott moved back to Kensington and renovated the rear ell “to suit their comfort” (“Who’s Who in Old Rockingham,” *Exeter News-Letter* 1937).²⁶ Marion’s sister Nellie Hilliard (died 1961), who had been working in Boston as a bookkeeper, moved into the main block of the house (Bureau of the Census 1930; Kaczmarek 2018). After the death of Nellie and Marion in the 1960s, Priscilla (1910-2003) and Edith Prescott (1912-2008), granddaughters of Francis Hilliard and nieces of Marion and Nellie occupied the house into the twenty-first century.²⁷

The greatest change to the historic district in this period occurred in the mid-twentieth century. The new development, however, reinforced its importance as the town center. The death in the late 1940s of the owner of the Poor Farm (**116 Amesbury Road, Map Number 17**), one of two agricultural properties in the town center, opened the way for some of its development over the next twenty years. The farm consisted of three parcels on both sides of the road in the Upper Village, with forty acres on the west side of Amesbury Road and twenty on the east side. The farmhouse had been unoccupied for some time when Rachel Smith (1901-1995), the daughter of minister and town historian Roland Sawyer (1874-1969), and her husband Harold (1901-1972) purchased the property in 1948 to be closer to family members in the area (RCD 1094/258). Over the next several decades, the Smiths subdivided portions of the property and sold it, often to the town. This led to the construction of the town’s first centralized elementary school in town, to a fire station, and an expansion of the Lower Burying Ground.²⁸ They also built a new house for themselves on the west side of the road.

The population increase in the post-war period contributed to the need for a new elementary school for grades one through six.²⁹ Construction of a new school began in 1951 on land the town acquired from

²⁶ Hiram was an older brother of Herbert Prescott. Marion was the daughter of Francis Hilliard. The couple had resided in Haverhill, Massachusetts, for many years.

²⁷ Each graduated from Robinson Female Seminary in Exeter and Radcliffe College. After college each became schoolteachers. Before they returned to Kensington late in their lives, they taught at various schools in the Eastern United States including the Emma Willard School in Troy, New York, and internationally and each traveled extensively (Elaine Kaczmarek 2018; *Hampton Union* 4 Nov 2003).

²⁸ The Smiths sold a small parcel of land to the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department in 1950 for development with a fire station (RCD 1223/122). The deed indicated that any building must be set back at least thirty-five feet from the road and that any building erected on the parcel must only be for the purpose of a Fire, Police, Library, Town Hall, or Town Office Building. In 1951 they sold a 3.71-acre L-shaped lot to the Kensington School District for a new elementary school (RCD 1230/47). Nearly twenty years later, in 1970, the Smiths gifted land to the town for an addition to the west side of the Lower Yard (RCD 2043/182).

²⁹ Kensington never had a junior or senior high school and so students attended ones in Exeter. In 1997 the Exeter Region Cooperative School District was formed, including Exeter, Kensington, East Kingston, Brentwood, Newfields, and Stratham.

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Rachel and Harold Y. Smith (**122 Amesbury Road, Map Number 16**). Designed by Manchester, New Hampshire, architect Roland S. Simonds and built by contractors Edwin S. and Paul B. Currier of Amesbury, Massachusetts, the school contained two classrooms and had two teachers for six grades, as well as an assembly room, a kitchen, and modern restrooms. With the opening of the newly completed school for the 1952-1953 school year, the last two schoolhouses in town closed. Over the next decade, the numbers of elementary school age children in Kensington continued to increase. This led to an addition on the south side, designed by Irving W. Hersey Associates of Durham, New Hampshire, and built by S.E. LaPerle & Sons. Completed by the beginning of the 1962-1963 school year, the addition added three classrooms (*1961 Kensington Annual Report 1962, 77; 1962 Kensington Annual Report 1963, 71*).

In 1948 the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department was organized following a summer of drought. The first equipment included surplus military supplies and a 1936 Ford V8 oil truck. Meetings were held at Everett Palmer's meat market on Amesbury Road (outside the town center) and the truck was parked there. In 1950, the Ladies Auxiliary was formed to earn money for the purchase of equipment (Potts 1987, 25-26). Construction of the new fire station finally began in 1952, two years after acquisition of the land, with the first addition in 1961 on the south side (now the ambulance bay) (**124 Amesbury Road, Map Number 15**).

Also, in the mid-twentieth century the Congregational Church membership determined a need for increased space for use as Sunday School rooms and meeting space (**108 Amesbury Road, Map Number 19**). It coincided with a pattern seen in churches nationally of increased educational and social activities (Buggeln 2015, 169). In 1955 "the decision was made to build four more classrooms, including a larger assembly room for group meetings besides Church School" (Pastor's Report 1956, First Congregational Society Records). The addition was dedicated on 16 September 1956 (First Congregational Society Records). In 1957, the Congregational Christian Church denomination united with Evangelical and Reformed Church denominations, creating the United Church of Christ denomination, of which the Kensington church remains a part.

In 1958, Frederick W. Yardley sold a 2.1-acre parcel at the corner of Amesbury and Osgood roads, opposite the First Congregational Church, to the town for the creation of a municipal parking lot (**110 Amesbury Road, Map Number 18**). It was subdivided from the historic 9 Osgood Road parcel, just east of the district. It was intended "to provide a parking lot for the use of the inhabitants of the Town of Kensington for assemblies at the Town Hall" (RCD 1478/175). It has been used for that purpose ever since.

Two new houses were constructed on the west side of Amesbury Road in the 1960s, one replacing a late eighteenth-century house (**107 Amesbury Road, Map Number 5**)³⁰ and the other on some land

³⁰ By the mid-nineteenth century the property was owned by the Maria Hilliard, the widow of Jonathan Hilliard who had built the Hilliard-Prescott House (**111 Amesbury Road, Map Number 8**). Maria purchased this property for her son Rufus K. (1814-1895) and his family (RCD 365/394). Rufus' daughter Elizabeth Josephine Hilliard remained in the house until her death in 1905, when the property was sold (RCD 588/375). Frank H. Poor (**116 Amesbury Road, Map Number 17**) eventually acquired it in 1916. In 1947, the property was sold to John and Mildred Chase who subsequently replaced the existing building with a ranch house in the early 1960s (RCD 1094/442).

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subdivided from the Poor Farm by the Smiths for their occupancy (**101 Amesbury Road, Map Number 4**).

1970s-present: Additions to Civic and Educational buildings, Land Conservation

The Kensington Town Center remains the center of civic, educational, and cultural activities for the town of Kensington. The population doubled between 1970 and 2000, from about 1,000 to 2,000. This growth led to a need for additions to a number of the public buildings in the town center including the town hall, the elementary school, the fire station, and the library. Development pressures have served to encourage residents to maintain the historic character of the town center and foster the preservation of the buildings and in a few instances find new uses for the buildings while preserving their character-defining features.

In 1970, the Smiths gifted to the Town of Kensington land abutting the west side of the Lower Yard/Dearborn Cemetery for expansion purposes (**Amesbury Road, Map Number 6**) (RCD 2043/182). The gift brought the acreage total to 6.25 acres and regularized the western boundary.

During this period, the fire station (**124 Amesbury Road, Map Number 15**) underwent several expansions. Additional expansions occurred in 1980-81 and then again in 1991 with an extension on the front along with some remodeling (Monroe May 1998).

In 1980 the town hall was moved about twenty-five feet back from the road and a rear addition was constructed underneath the earlier rear addition (**95 Amesbury Road, Map Number 1**). In 2015, the 1980 rear addition was redesigned and expanded to address moisture problems and improve the interior spaces and layout. It was designed by Paul Gosselin and Roger Rossignol, Salmon Falls Architecture. The firm is well known for its designs including sensitive additions to historic buildings in New Hampshire and Maine. Though the town hall has not been used for town meetings since the 1970s it remains the center of town government, continuing to house town departments including that of the Police, Selectmen's Office, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector and is also used for smaller social events.

The Kensington Social Library (**126 Amesbury Road, Map Number 14**) also underwent expansion in response to increases in local population and usage. In 1974 the building was expanded to the rear, with a further modification in 1986. The library remains a vital component of the cultural and educational activities in the town center.

By the late 1980s, the Kensington Elementary School (**122 Amesbury Road, Map Number 16**) needed to be expanded further. In 1987 an addition with four classrooms was completed on the north side of the original building. A kindergarten room was added in 1998. In 2003, the school underwent renovation to provide space for a nurse and a library, and a new multi-purpose gymnasium was added on the southeast side. The 1987 and 2003 additions were designed by the New Hampton based firm Marinace Architects, which specializes in school building design in New Hampshire.

The Congregational Church (**108 Amesbury Road, Map Number 19**) has remained a small, active local church that in addition to Sunday services hosts a number of community events including Potluck Suppers. Though the Universalist Church (**97 Amesbury Road, Map Number 2**) is used only occasionally it remains an important component of the town center. A group of Kensington residents recently established the Union Meetinghouse Trustees for the purposes of restoring and bringing the building back into public

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use. The Universalist Church will be repairing its steeple which has suffered structural issues since its original construction.

With the decline of farming in Kensington by the late twentieth century, Grange membership had also waned. In 1990, the Grange deeded the property (**109 Amesbury Road, Map Number 7**) to the Town of Kensington (RCD 2858/935). Renovations to the Grange extended over a ten-plus year period and included work on the interior and exterior, putting a foundation under the ell, installing a central heating system, adding running water and installing interior restrooms (*Kensington Annual Reports 1990-2003*). The building has continued to be used for various social and local events.

Though some parts of Kensington outside of the town center have experienced the development of former agricultural land, large sections remain rural or open in part through concerted efforts to preserve open space. Residents have done this through a variety of means including conservation easements and donation of land to the town. Some conservation land is located adjacent to the Kensington Town Center Historic District to the east. Town-owned Sawyer Park, which is located on Trundlebed Lane mostly outside the boundaries of the historic district includes the westerly portion of the parcel historically occupied by the Blake/Warner Store at the corner of Amesbury Road and Trundlebed Lane (**Amesbury Road/Trundlebed Lane, Map Number 9**). The store had burned in the 1960s and Towle's shop burned in the 1980s (Bragg 2023). In 1998, the parcel was sold as part of a wetlands plan for public open space, and later sold to the town in 2007 (RCD 3351/2530, 4874/726). In the district, several property owners maintain open mowed fields.

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Interviews

Nathalie Potts, 2000
Stephen Mallory, walk-through, Hilliard-Prescott House, 18 April 2018.
Elaine Kaczmarek, 2018
Harold Bragg, 2023
Rebecca Brucato, 2023

Historic Photographs

Hilliard-Prescott House, private collection
Collection of the Kensington Social Library

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 87 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	Lat 42.932262° N Lon 70.945347° W
2	Lat 42.932671° N Lon 70.944059° W
3	Lat 42.931194° N Lon 70.942042° W
4	Lat 42.927580° N Lon 70.939338° W
5	Lat 42.924972° N Lon 70.943244° W
6	Lat 42.929403° N Lon 70.948479° W

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Kensington Town Center Historic District encompasses nineteen parcels. The outer lot lines of the parcels on the westerly and easterly side of Amesbury Road define the district boundary, encompassing the surviving historic buildings and land. The district is generally bounded on the northwest by lots north of Osgood Road, on the northeast by wooded and conservation land, on the southeast by house lots on the easterly and westerly sides of Amesbury Road and on the southwest by wetland.

The boundaries of the Kensington Center Historic District are shown below on Kensington tax maps and on the Historic District Sketch Map. The nominated property consists of the following lots in the local assessor's records:

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Tax Map 11: Lots 1, 2, 3, 9, 54

Tax Map 8: Lots 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 67

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Kensington Center Historic District has been drawn to include the contiguous concentration of eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth-century resources that characterize the historic town center along both sides of Amesbury Road/Route 150 from just north of the intersection with Osgood Road at the north to just beyond the intersection with Trundlebed Lane to the south. The historic buildings including civic, religious, social, cultural, educational, and residential resources, cemeteries, undeveloped land, and historic road layout that represent the historic town center. The boundary includes two sites, one of which historically was an important part of the town center's commercial history, and the other has been a part of the civic history since the mid-twentieth century but also possibly a part of the land where the militia trained in the eighteenth century.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Laura B. Driemeyer, Kristen Powell, Lynne Monroe, Teresa Hill
organization: Preservation Company
street & number: 5 Hobbs Road
city or town: Kensington state: NH zip code: 03380
e-mail: PreservationCompany@comcast.net
telephone: 603.778.1799
date: October 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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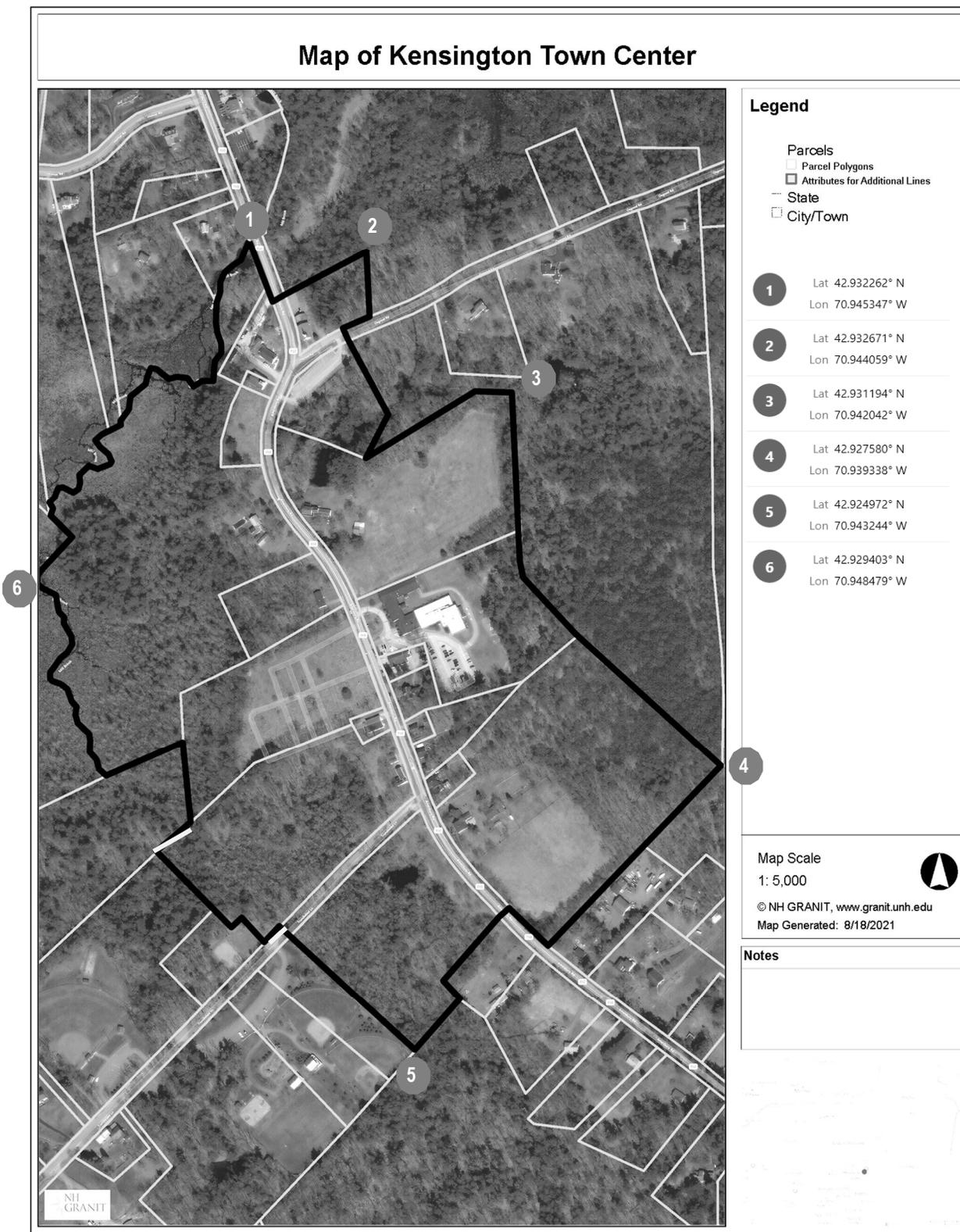


Figure 22: Granit Map showing boundaries and coordinates

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Figure 23: Granit Map zoomed out to show the district in a larger context

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Sketch Map

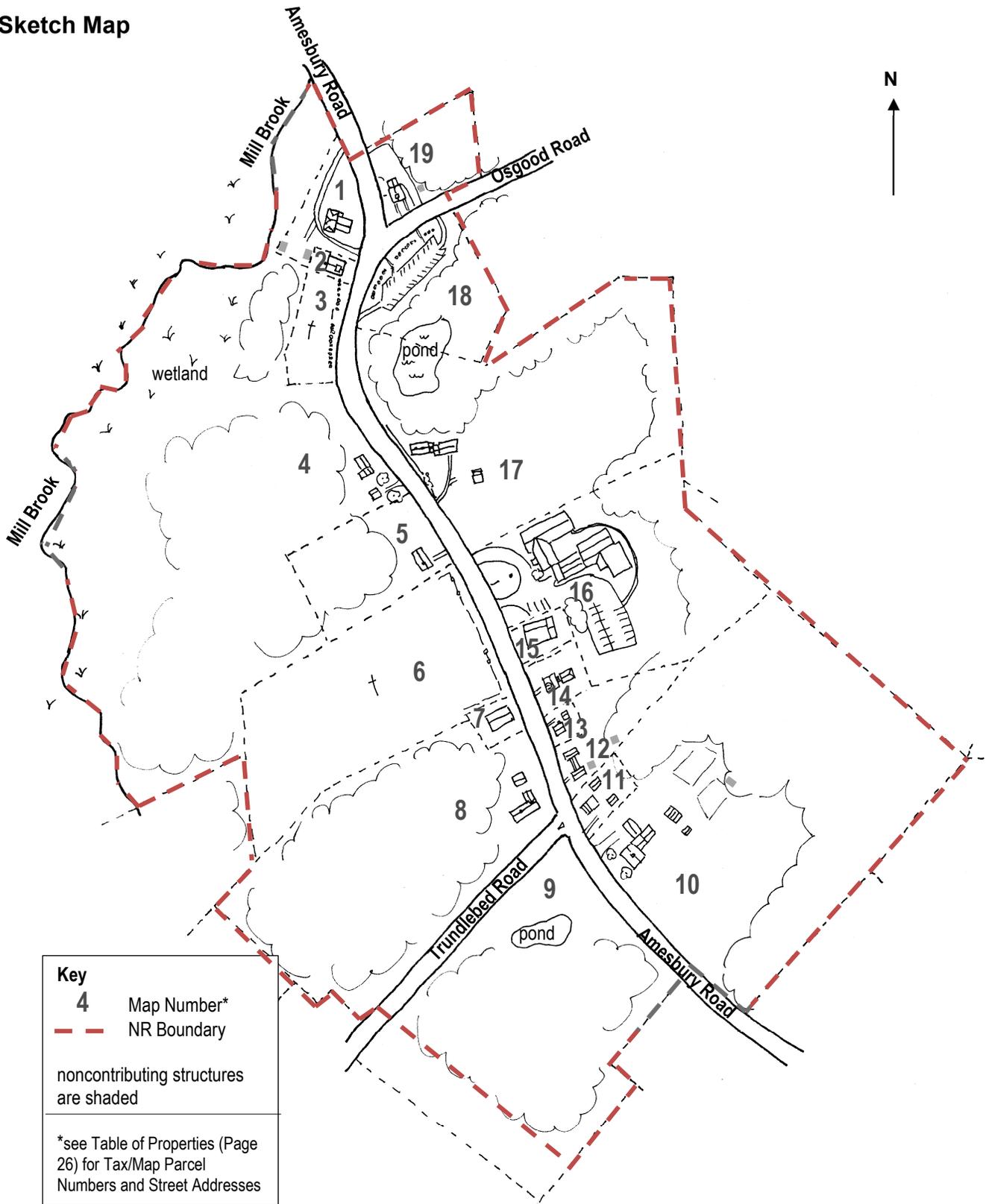


Figure 24: Sketch Map showing Map Numbers and boundary

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Photo Keys

Key	
	Photo Number and direction
4	Map Number*
*see Table of Properties (Page 26) for Tax/Map Parcel Numbers and Street Addresses	

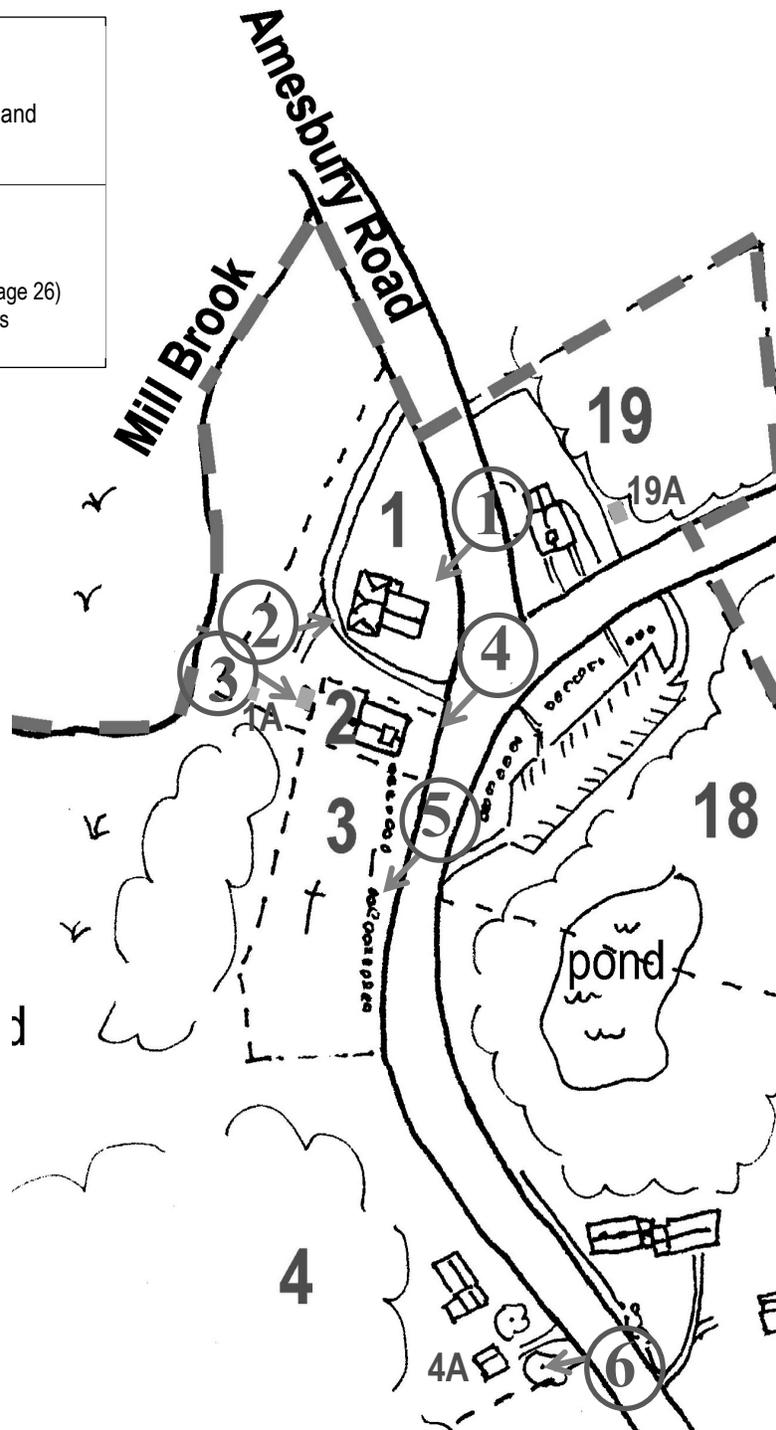


Figure 25: Photo Key 1: Photos 1 – 6

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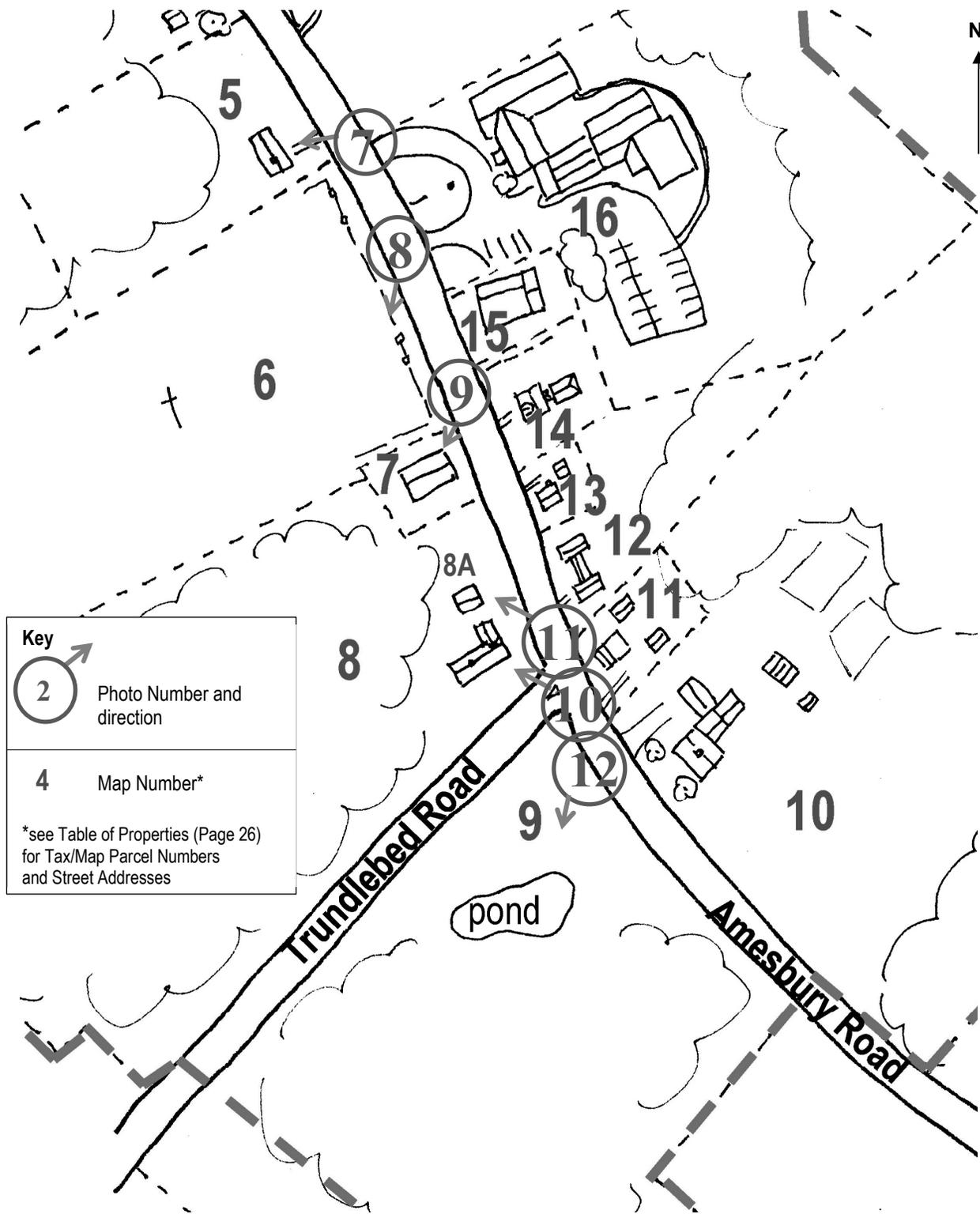


Figure 26: Photo Key 2: Photos 7 – 12

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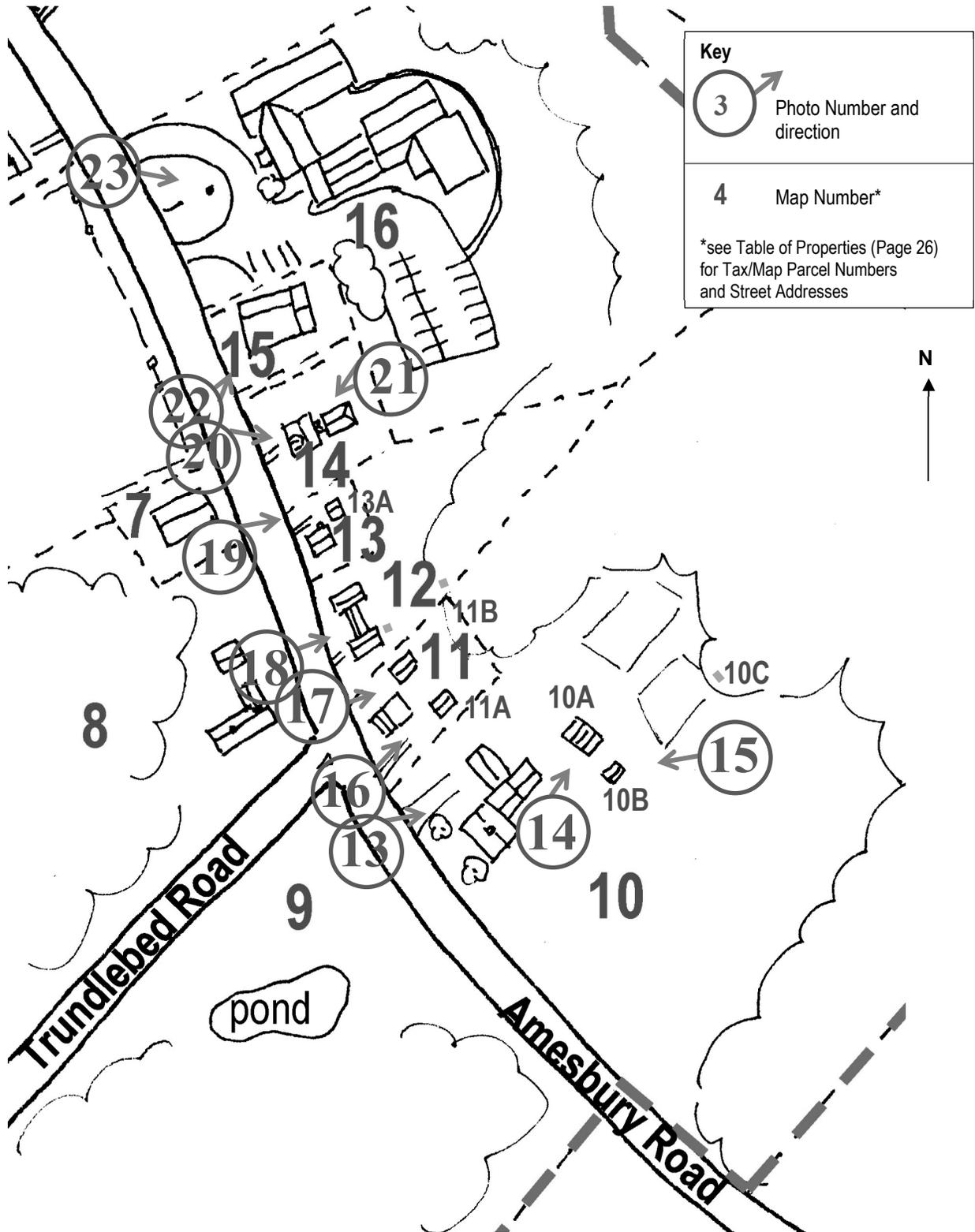


Figure 27: Photo Key 3: Photos 13 – 23

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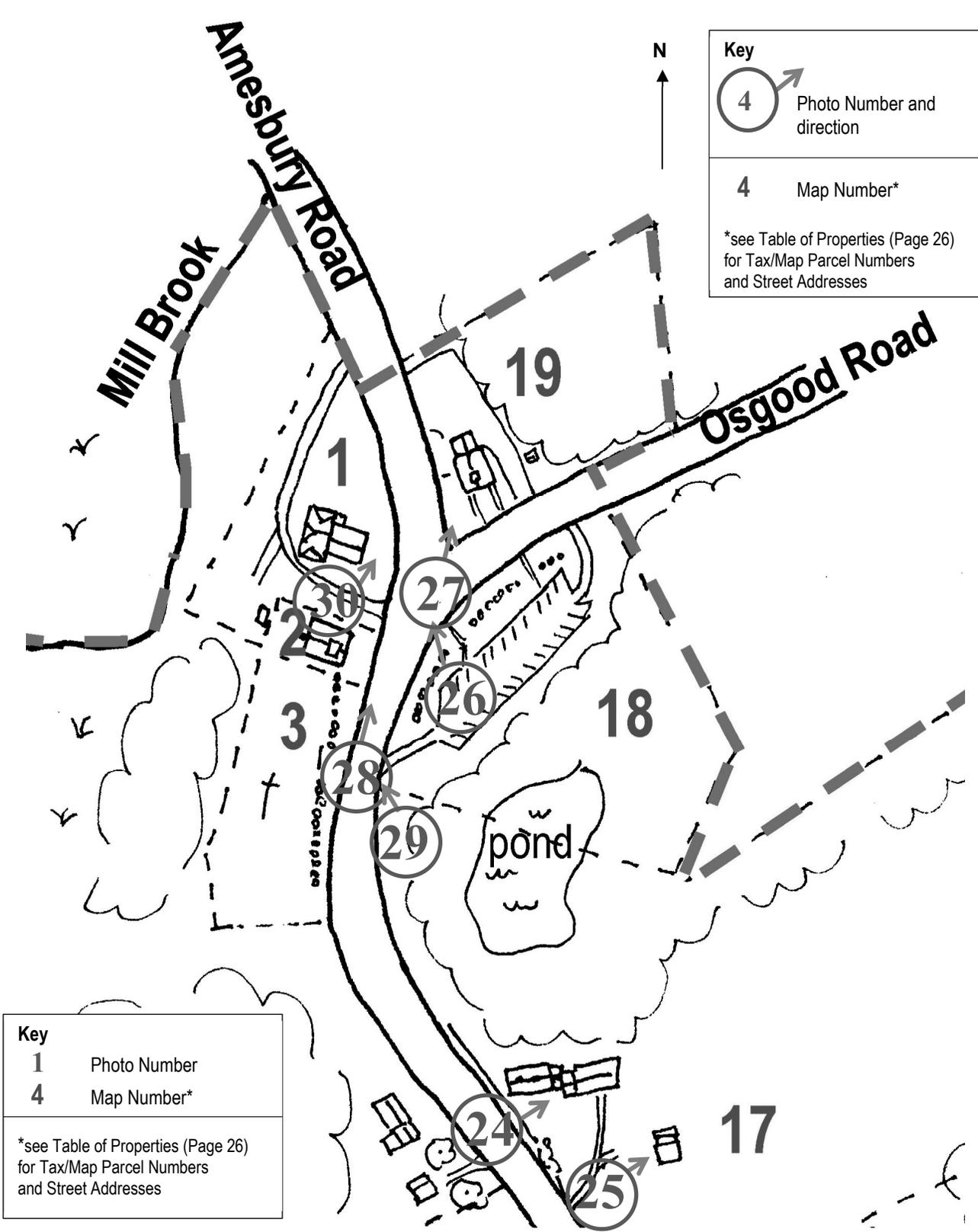


Figure 28: Photo Key 3: Photos 13 – 30

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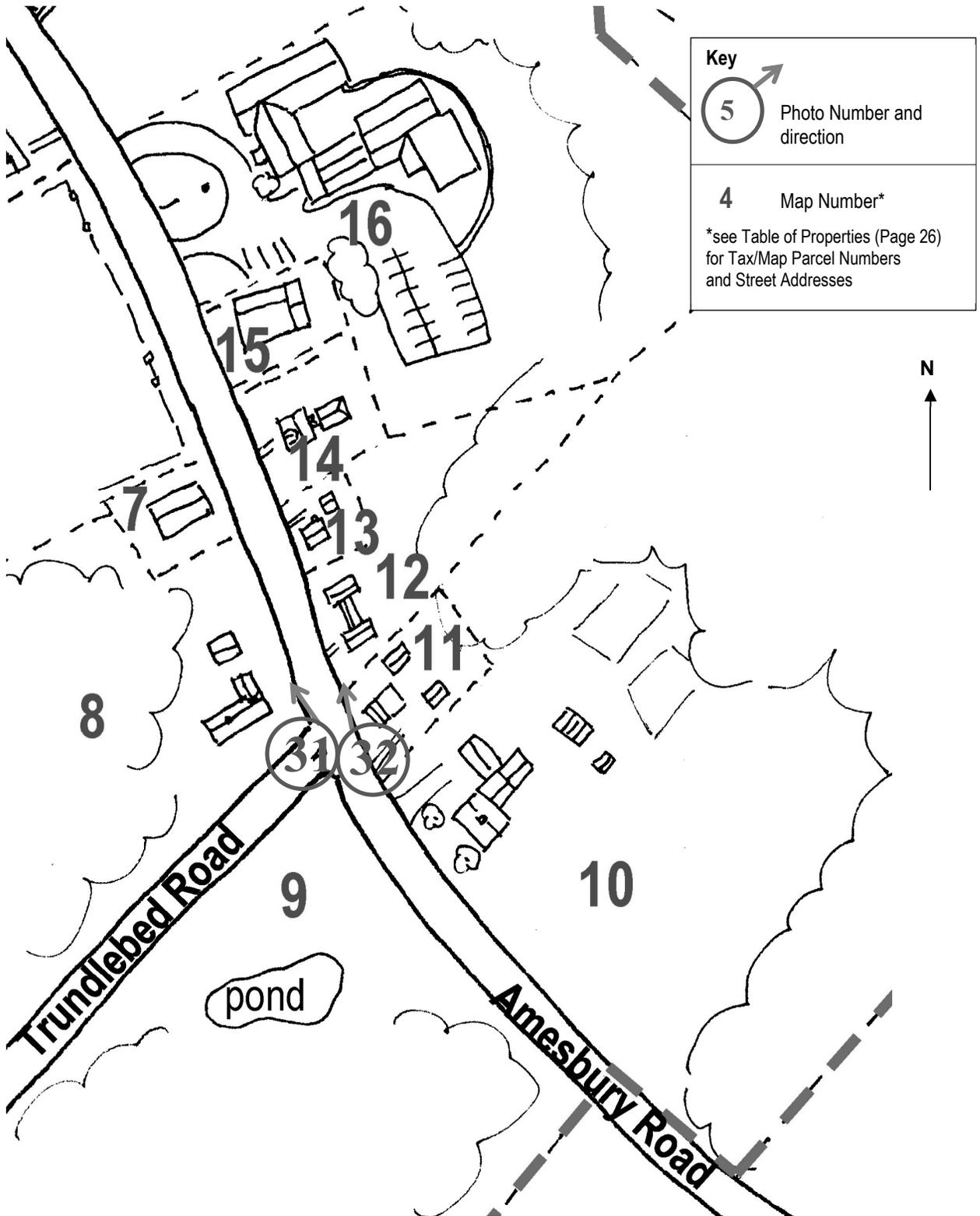


Figure 29: Photo Key 4: Photos 31 – 32

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered, and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Kensington Town Center Historic District

City or Vicinity: Kensington

County: Rockingham

State: New Hampshire

Photographer: Lynne Monroe

Date Photographed: October 2022; February, May 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 0001. Façade (east elevation) and north elevation of Kensington Town Hall (Map Number 1), camera facing southwest.
- 0002. Rear (west) and south elevations of Kensington Town Hall (Map Number 1), camera facing east-northeast.
- 0003. Burial vault (Map Number 1A), camera facing east-southeast.
- 0004. Façade (east) and north elevation of Union Meetinghouse/Universalist Church (Map Number 2), camera facing west-southwest.
- 0005. Upper Yard (Map Number 3), stone wall, gate, and headstones, camera facing south-southwest.
- 0006. East facades of Smith House Garage/Workshop (Map Number 4A) and Smith House (Map Number 4), camera facing west.
- 0007. South elevation and façade (east elevation) of Chase House (Map Number 5), camera facing west.
- 0008. Lower Yard (Map Number 6), iron fence and headstones, camera facing south.

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0009. Façade (east elevation) and north elevation of Christian Meetinghouse/Kensington Grange (Map Number 7), camera facing south-southwest.
0010. Façade (south elevation) and east elevation of Hilliard-Prescott House (Map Number 8) and east façade of barn (Map Number 8A), camera facing northwest.
0011. South elevation and façade (east elevation) of Hilliard-Prescott Barn (Map Number 8A) with south elevation and façade (east elevation) of Kensington Grange (Map Number 7) in background, camera facing northwest.
0012. Blake Store lot (Map Number 9), camera facing south.
0013. Northwest elevation and façade (southwest elevation) of Stuard/Blake House (Map Number 10), camera facing east.
0014. Façade (southwest elevation) of Stuard/Blake Barn (Map Number 10A), camera facing northeast.
0015. Shed (Map Number 10C) and southeast and northeast elevations of Stuard/Blake Barn (10A) camera facing west.
0016. Façade (southwest elevation) and southeast elevation of Blake-Sawyer House (Map Number 11) and Barn/Garage (Map Number 11A), camera facing north-northeast.
0017. Façade (southwest elevation) of Blake-Sawyer village barn (Map Number 11B), camera facing northeast.
0018. Façade (southwest elevation) of Walton House (Map Number 12) with connected urban barn, camera facing northeast.
0019. Northwest elevation and façade (southwest elevation) of Hilliard House/Congregational Church Parsonage (Map Number 13) and village barn (Map Number 13A) in background, camera facing east.
0020. Northwest elevation and façade (southwest elevation) of Kensington Social Library (Map Number 14), camera facing east.
0021. Northwest elevation of 1974 addition and original Kensington Social Library (Map Number 14), camera facing southwest.
0022. Façade (southwest elevation) and southeast elevation of Kensington Fire Station (Map Number 15), camera facing northeast.

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0023. Façade (southwest elevation) of Kensington Elementary School (Map Number 16), camera facing southeast.
0024. South elevation of Poor House (Map Number 17), camera facing east-northeast.
0025. Façade (west elevation) of Poor House Barn (Map Number 17A), camera facing northeast.
0026. Municipal parking lot (Map Number 18) in Upper Village, camera facing northwest.
0027. Southwest elevation and façade (southeast elevation) of First Congregational Church (Map Number 19), camera facing northeast.
0028. Upper Village, streetscape with Union Meetinghouse/Universalist Church (Map Number 2), Kensington Town Hall (Map Number 1), and First Congregational Church (Map Number 19), camera facing northeast.
0029. Upper Village, streetscape with Union Meetinghouse/Universalist Church (Map Number 2) and Kensington Town Hall (Map Number 1), camera facing northwest.
0030. Upper Village, streetscape with Kensington Town Hall (Map Number 1) and First Congregational Church (Map Number 19), camera facing northeast.
0031. Lower Village, streetscape with Hilliard-Prescott House (Map Number 8) and barn (Map Number 8A) and Christian Meetinghouse/Kensington Grange (Map Number 7), camera facing northwest.
0032. Lower Village, streetscape with Hilliard House/Congregational Church Parsonage (Map Number 13), Walton House (Map Number 12), and Blake-Sawyer House (Map Number 11), camera facing north.

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Rockingham, New Hampshire

County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.