

## 4 HISTORY

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### INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORICAL RESOURCES CHAPTER

On September 20, 2001, the Planning Board recognized the Townwide Area Form (Area K): Historic Properties in Kensington, N.H. This study documents the historical development of the town and the cultural and architectural resources that describe its rural character. The following history is excerpted from this document:

#### *1630-1732: Town of Hampton, Land Division, Settlement of Western Sections, Parish of Hampton Falls*

Kensington was initially a part of the area laid out as the town of Hampton, settled by residents of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1630's. Prior to settlement by the English, the seacoast area was inhabited by native Americans until a smallpox epidemic of c.1615.

The first grant of land in what is now Kensington was made in 1663. By 1668, grants totaling five hundred acres were made at Grassy Swamp on the Exeter line. Roads were laid out through the area in the 1660's roughly following the east-west ridge lines, including South Road (now NH Route 107) and the Middle Road (NH Route 84 and Stumpfield Road).

In 1702, the First West Division of Hampton provided some 312 Hampton men with half-shares and land ownership of new tracts in Kensington. Other Divisions followed in 1708 and 1714. The original patterns of land division in long, rectangular lots remain evident in the lot lines on town tax maps. Because Kensington was divided and settled as part of an older town, it developed without principles of town planning, with scattered houses, irregular roads, and no center or village.

Settlement patterns in Kensington have been defined by topography, particularly by its many hills, ridges and several large, low-lying swamps and meadows. Kensington has more hills than any other town in the surrounding area. The long ridges of high ground offered excellent locations for houses. In addition to the South and Middle Roads, the North Road, including the southern end of Drinkwater Road, North Road, Moulton Ridge or Red Oak Ridge Road, and the western end of Route 108 at York Hill, was in place by the 1730's.

#### *1732-1761: Parish of Kensington, Meetinghouse Built, Continued Settlement*

By 1732, there were over sixty families in Kensington. The parish of Hampton Falls was organized in 1718, which included Kensington. In 1733, following several controversies about forming new parishes, a private grant of land was made to the "inhabitants of the upper or westerly part of the Falls' parish in Hampton." This lot, called the Meetinghouse Acre, included the location of the present churches and town hall, the burying ground, and the Meetinghouse Parade, where the road is now. The frame of a new meetinghouse was moved to this site, and the first service was held on February 2, 1734. Petitions for a completely separate parish continued, and on April 1, 1737, the Parish of Kensington, named for the London suburb, was incorporated. The new parish included thirty-two men and thirty-five women from the Hampton Falls parish, and another six from Hampton.

As of 1735, Kensington contained over a hundred homes. Some seventy-two families living in the town had only fifty-two different last names. By 1737, a plague of diphtheria reduced the population by one hundred and twenty, to five hundred.

A number of new roads were laid out in the 1730's, including new north-south roads to connect to the meetinghouse, such as the northern stretch of Drinkwater Road, laid out as Exeter Lane in 1734. Many previously private ways were made public, including Trundlebed Land and Pevear Lane. Southern sections of what became Amesbury Road (NH Route 150) were built in the 1750's.

In 1738, the Parish of Kensington voted to set up three schools, on Horsehill, Stumpfield, and Drinkwater Roads, but this was not done right away. From 1738, school was kept in the meetinghouse, then later in private residences. The first true schoolhouse was built on South Road before 1758.

Early Kensington was a farming community. Most residents owned tracts of salt marsh in Hampton Falls and Seabrook. The salt hay was used for raising stock and was also exported to the south. The proximity to the port towns of Newburyport and Salisbury meant easy access to imported goods. Cattle were driven over land to Boston, and salted beef was shipped out by coaster.

Lumber and farm products were processed in several mills. A sawmill was built in 1732 on lower Beaver Dam Brook, near the Amesbury road, and was later joined by other mills. Early blacksmith shops were located on lower Drinkwater and South Road; the latter building was still standing as late as 1957. The first store in town opened in 1752. The first tavern operated c.1754-64 on South Road, which was then the main road between Kingston and Hampton. In 1759, a tavern was also built near the meetinghouse.

#### ***1761-1784: Town of Kensington Incorporated, Population Growth, Prosperity, Revolutionary War***

Kensington began to petition for town status as early as 1740, and in 1761 was set off from Hampton Falls. In 1762 the first town meeting was held. The new town voted to build a Grammar School in the center near the meeting house, which was completed in 1763. The three smaller schoolhouses were attended by the younger children and by all students during the winter months, when travel to the town center was difficult. In 1774, the town erected five schoolhouses, two on the Middle Road, one on South Road, and two on North Road. School was held in these various locations on a rotating basis. In 1779 the town voted to discontinue use of the Grammar School in the town center, and it was sold.

The town's population continued to grow slowly, from 755 in 1767 to 797 in 1779, after which it remained relatively constant for two decades. The prosperous community desired a new meetinghouse, and in 1771 a new structure modeled on the one recently built in North Hampton was constructed.

Kensington remained almost purely a farming community. It had several mills and a large number of tanners, who processed hides produced by local farmers. Local shoemakers made shoes in their homes from the tanned hides. In the early 1780's the history of the town might have changed dramatically, as John Phillips of Exeter contemplated building his academy in Kensington, but farmers objected, fearing that the boys would damage their fields and orchards.

Kensington sent some eighty-nine men to serve in the Revolutionary War. Throughout the War, the town furnished supplies to the soldiers. Some twenty Tories from New York State were taken prisoners of war and brought to Kensington to be boarded in local houses to keep them from fighting with the British.

Kensington retains a significant number of large houses from these early periods. The oldest extant house, located on Drinkwater Road (N18), was built between 1706 and 1714, and was occupied by the same family until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### *1784-1826: Turnpikes and Stagecoaches, Agricultural Prosperity*

The late 18<sup>th</sup> century was a height of growth and development in the town. The population peaked in 1790 at eight hundred people. Over the next several decades it declined, reaching 709 in 1820. The town map of 1823 shows 113 houses owned by families with fifty-four surnames, eight names accounting for half of all households.

The construction of stagecoach routes increased the availability of transportation, and Kensington became a regular stopping point on the Newburyport-Concord stage. Wild Pasture Road, Kimball Road, Dearborn Road, and the section of Haverhill Road between Moulton Ridge and Hobbs Roads were all constructed or acquired by the town in the early 1800's.

Business increased at local stores and taverns. A tavern at Eastman's Corner was established in 1785; the building remained standing until 1911. A tavern near the meetinghouse was operated into the early 1800's. Several small stores were operated in town, including locations near the meetinghouse, on South Road opposite the schoolhouse, and on Osgood Road.

In 1798, the town disposed of its older buildings and erected three new schoolhouses: one in the center at the head of Trundlebed Lane, one on North Road at the site of the present Brick School, and one on South Road at the head of Beaver Dam Road. The Kensington Social Library, originally formed in 1767, was incorporated in 1798. It operated from a private residence and was open two afternoons a week.

Turnpikes provided access to markets, and increasing amounts of surplus produce were grown for sale. The early 1800's were prosperous times in the Seacoast and the height of exports. Kensington farmers exported produce, livestock and timber. Milling, tanning and shoemaking continued.

In the early 1800's, the Christian or Baptist Church became increasingly popular in New England. In 1813 a Christian Meetinghouse was erected on the site of the present Grange. The church was formally organized in 1822. Following the Toleration Act of 1829, members of

other churches were exempted from paying taxes to support the Congregational Church, and by the mid-1820's it was virtually defunct.

Kensington retains several public buildings from this period, but with limited integrity. Of the three schoolhouses built in 1798, one structure remains extant and gives some idea of the original form. This was the North School, moved south of the intersection of Amesbury Road and North Road. The 1813 Christian Meetinghouse survives on Cottage Road (S25) as a center chimney cape; it was moved when the second church was built in 1838.

### ***1826-1850: Shoemaking, Farming, Religious Division, New Churches and Public Buildings***

During the 1820's, several new businesses were established in town, including several stores and a tavern that became the local post office. The post office shifted to a store on the Amesbury Road in 1838 with the completion of a new route to Exeter, what is now NH Route 150. As of 1840, six stagecoaches passed through the town daily running to Boston, Salem, Newburyport, Dover and Concord.

The shoe industry, which was to play a major role in the town's history, grew in the 1830's and 1840's as several large-scale shops were established by local families. As of 1835 it was said that "Kensington is the place to buy either fine or coarse boots." In addition to those employed in larger shops, increasing numbers of Kensington farmers did outwork for Lynn shoe factories during the winter months. About a hundred men made shoes during the winter season, and forty men worked at it year-round.

Although the town's residents prospered, Kensington's population continued to shrink slowly from 717 in 1830 to 672 in 1860. The town purchased land for a new cemetery, the "Lower Yard," in 1828, and the Upper Yard gradually fell into disrepair. Kensington was redistricted in 1839 into two school districts, each responsible for its own funding and administration. North Road was District 1, in which the Brick Schoolhouse was erected in 1842. The Middle and South Roads combined into District 2, with terms alternating between the two older (1798) schoolhouses.

During the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the religious doctrines of Kensington residents diverged. In 1838, a new Christian Meetinghouse (now the Grange) was built on the site of the first. The Congregational Church no longer held regular meetings. Many families became Unitarian and Universalist, and in 1839-40 the Union Meetinghouse (now the Universalist Church) was erected.

With the construction of the two new churches and the inactivity of the Congregational Church, the old meetinghouse was used only for civic business and was too large to maintain. It was demolished in 1846, and the stone and lumber was used to build the present Town Hall in its place. As built, it contained a single room, thirty square feet, with a small selectmen's room.

As of 1850, there were eighty-six farms in the town. Farms were generally large; only fourteen contained fewer than forty acres of improved land. The focus on farming remained on mixed agriculture, primarily for home consumption. However, during this period, the number of non-

farming families increased, and the growing industrial cities nearby in northern Massachusetts provided a convenient outlet for local farms. Many farms had orchards, and apples and cider became increasingly important cash crops. Dairy products were important throughout the town's history, though the largest herds of dairy cows in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century had between seven and ten cows.

Saw and grist mills closed or operated on a very small scale. No mills were listed in the industrial censuses of 1850 and 1860. Several blacksmith shops operated in the town.

Existing Kensington homes of this period are interpretations of the Greek Revival style, including the well-preserved 1844 Wadleigh house (N11), occupied by the same family for over a hundred years. In the town center, M29 was built c.1840 to house workers in a local shoe factory. Kensington has a single residence in the Gothic Revival style, the Ezra Chase house on Cottage Road, dated 1844 (M20). During the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the "connected farm" configuration was widely adopted, with house and barn connected by a wing or ell. Several examples of this style survive in Kensington.

***c.1850-c.1890: Outwork Shoemaking, Farming, Civil War, Population Loss, Height of Civic Activity***

The larger shoe shops failed financially in the 1850's and most became stores. The tanning pits remained in use and Kensington families turned increasingly to doing outwork shoemaking for the large shoe factories in cities to the south. Agriculture continued to dominate the economy. Some ninety-one men were listed as farmers in the 1860 census; about a third of them worked on farms owned by others. Another forty men were counted as farm laborers. The workforce also included blacksmiths, a stone cutter and a mason, two storekeepers, a hatter, a soap maker, two physicians, two male teachers, and a minister. Three young men worked as mariners out of nearby seacoast towns. Unmarried young women generally lived at home and a few earned incomes, as did some older single women or widows. As of 1860, local women worked as dressmakers, milliners, shoe binders, and one was listed as a shoemaker, while another was listed as a tailoress. Three young women worked elsewhere as factory operatives. Seven women were teachers in Kensington or adjacent towns. There were fifteen domestic servants.

Increasing numbers of the population were born outside of Kensington. As of 1860, more than an eighth of the town's residents were natives of Massachusetts, and twenty-four were from Maine.

Others included natives of Vermont, New York and Illinois. The small number of foreign immigrants included nine people from Ireland and one from England.

In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Kensington's religious lines shifted again. In the early 1850's, the Congregationalists shared use of the Meetinghouse for morning services with the Unitarians, and later they met in the Town Hall. In 1859, the Congregational Church of Kensington was organized, including one surviving member of the town's original Congregational Church. In 1865 the current Congregational Church building was erected. The Unitarian Church was dissolved in 1865, while the Kensington Universalist Church was strengthened.

Kensington was bypassed by the railroads that were constructed through the region during this period. The railroads brought a decrease in stagecoach travel, though Kensington was connected by stage to Exeter and Amesbury throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Local residents could travel to railroad stations in Exeter or East Kingston.

Kensington lost twenty-five of the 125 men it sent to serve in the Civil War. Following the War, the population continued to decline, reaching 642 in 1870 and 547 in 1890. This reflected the statewide trend of population loss in agricultural communities as people migrated to better land in the west or job opportunities in industrial cities.

During this period, the shoe business flourished in nearby cities, and many Kensington residents participated in out-work shoemaking. By 1880, there were twenty-two small shoe shops in town, and other families had a room set aside for it in their houses. Few shoemakers worked full-time at that trade. During planting and harvesting season they often worked for area farmers or on their own farms.

According to the 1880 census, there were one hundred thirteen farms in Kensington, with seventy-eight Kensington men as farmers, plus three women who were running their family's farm.

The schoolhouses in District 2 were in poor condition by this time, and in 1873, the District voted to build new ones, known as the East and West Schools. Both buildings are still extant, the East School (#11) retains a high degree of integrity. The School District system was abolished by the State in 1885, and schools came under the control of the Town government. This revived an earlier conflict between the north and south parts of the town. The north had almost half the pupils, but the south had two schools and received two-thirds of the funding.

The late 19<sup>th</sup> century was a time of considerable civic and social activity, fostering a sense of community for the town's shrinking population. An addition was built on the rear of the Town Hall in 1883. Dances were held there regularly. Other events were church socials, "huskings," sleigh rides, and dancing and singing schools. A debating society, which later became the Farmer's Club, formed about 1870. Religious activities included a series of camps meetings held by the Baptists in 1883. This did not revive the popularity of the church, however; regular meetings were held in the Christian Meetinghouse until 1884, and occasionally until 1899, when they ceased altogether.

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 Revolutionary War soldiers, thirty-five War of 1812 veterans, one Mexican War veteran, and nineteen Civil War soldiers. The Lower Yard was enlarged in 1888, and an iron fence was added around the Yard which is still extant.

Kensington is significant for the many properties that retain groupings of historic outbuildings from this period, several of which include former workshops: a plow shop (N57), a shoe shop (N48) and a blacksmith shop (N50).

***1890-1920: Shoemaking Ends, Population Decline, Farming and Property Values, Summer Residents***

The introduction of shoe sewing machines in 1890 marked the end of local shoemaking. During the 1890's, all shoe shops closed, and many men moved away or traveled to Exeter and other nearby towns for work. Over thirty young people went to work in shoe factories in Newburyport and Haverhill.

Electricity was first mentioned in the Town Report in 1905. George Shaw built and managed the telephone exchange and also installed gas generators and electricity in area homes.

As part of a larger movement to promote farming, the Kensington Grange No. 173 P. of H. was formed in 1892 with thirty-six charter members. By 1902 there were one hundred seven members. In 1906 the former Christian Meetinghouse was dedicated as the John F. Gill Grange Hall. The group put on programs and lectures and held social events. During the early 1900's, approximately seventy-five Kensington men made their living at farming; another twenty or thirty were farmhands. A handful of widows maintained farms, and two young women were identified as farmers in the town directory. The Great Meadows were still being hayed, but because milk customers considered salt hay to give milk a strange taste, its use was discontinued. Orchards remained important; at one point there were some twenty-two horse-powered cider mills in town making cider and vinegar.

Local civic activity continued. A local Order of United American Mechanics was established in the 1890's, the Ladies Aid Society of the Congregational Church was formed in 1899, and another group, the King's Daughters from the Congregational Church, gave papers, hosted speakers and raised money for charity. In 1893 the Town voted to establish a free town library, and in 1894-95 a brick library was erected for the town as a gift from Joseph Chase Hilliard of Boston to the people of his native town. The new building took the name of the original Kensington Social Library. It housed books of the public library, the Ladies Library Association, and some 160 books of the original Social Library.

In the 1890's Kensington was still "the town of families that settled here." As of 1895, there were 175 names on Kensington's voting list; by 1904 there were only 140. In 1900 the population was 524. The most rapid decline occurred between 1900 and 1910, when the town lost over a hundred people. The low point was reached in 1920, when there were only 383 residents. The decline would have been greater but for a number of people who moved away but kept Kensington as their legal residence. Real estate prices reached a low point, and large areas of land were purchased and cut by lumber companies.

At the same time, Kensington's rural character made it known as a summer retreat for families from Boston and northern Massachusetts cities. Some families took in summer boarders, while others operated boarding houses and several farms were sold to become summer residences.

During the summer months, families and young people made day trips to Hampton Beach and attended dances at the Casino there.

Kensington lost its local post office in 1902, when delivery began from Exeter. R.F.D. service was instituted in 1909. In 1915 the Town deeded the Union Church to the Universalist Society, which held three Sunday services each summer. A second addition was built on the Town Hall in 1916. In the same year, Kensington entered the State's School Union No. 16. The following year, improvements were made to the Brick Schoolhouse at the demand of the State Board of Health. Older students attended high school in Exeter, Amesbury, Newburyport or the Sanborn Seminary in Kingston from the eighth grade.

Six young men from Kensington served in the First World War. A local arm of the Red Cross was active from 1917-21.

Kensington contains few buildings from this period of relative economic decline. The town's only true Queen Anne style house was built with a connected carriage barn in 1891 as a summer home (N77).

#### ***1920-1948: Rise of the Automobile, State Highways, Continued Decline in Farming***

The period during and just after the First World War provided job opportunities in the region, particularly in the town of Amesbury. Wages rose, and the automobile allowed Kensington residents to commute to work. Route 108 became a State Road in 1917, and Route 150 was paved in 1929. As of 1935, these were the only two roads in town that had been paved. Improvements to local roads soon followed.

As the automobile replaced the horse and carriage, the town's last blacksmiths closed. Filling stations were usually associated with small stores selling limited groceries. Business declined in the late 1930's when Route 125 replaced Route 108 as the main road from Massachusetts to the White Mountains.

As of 1924, there were sixty farmers in Kensington, a livestock dealer, four milk dealers, a market gardener, plus twenty-six farmhands and three widows managing family farms. Overall, Kensington farms were modernized relatively late. Electric lines were installed between 1928 and 1934. Wood stoves for heating and cooking were replaced during the period, and indoor plumbing was installed.

Dairy farming continued in Kensington, and many farms had milk routes in Exeter. Nearly every family had a cow, and even those with only three or four sold their milk to local dairy firms. This practice essentially ended with the TB scare in the early 1920's, after which many people sold their cows, changing the local way of life. State health regulations also proved too costly for small-scale farmers. Poultry farming was popular, and many families maintained poultry for their own egg and meat consumption. Fruit and vegetable farms near transportation routes remained prosperous, and most local families had large gardens and did home canning.



In 1941 the West School was closed and pupils transferred to the North School. Some were transported by automobile, including that of their teacher, who provided the first “bus service.” The local PTA was formed in 1937.

Memorial Day celebrations continued to be a major local event. In 1921, the Town erected a memorial to soldiers of the World War in the library yard. Beginning in 1935, the Universalist Society observed Old Home Day one Sunday each August; these continue to the present. Regular dances held at the Town Hall and Grange were popular; likewise, this tradition still continues, in a smaller fashion.

The town was hard hit by the Depression beginning in 1929. However, the population began to rise again, reaching 458 in 1940. World War II revived the economy of the region, in particular providing jobs at the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery. More than sixty men and five women from Kensington served in various branches of the military during the War. A lookout tower was built on Shaw’s Hill.

There was considerable new construction in Kensington during this period, considering the economy. However, houses are united by their small modest cottage forms, with little pretension towards architectural styles. The newly established State Highways were the locations of new development.

#### ***1950 – present: Post-War Growth, Residential Development, Commuting***

During the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the population of Kensington, like that of the surrounding region, increased substantially. In 1950, Kensington had 542 residents, in 1970, 1,044, and by 1990, 1,631. In 1961, families with twelve of the original fifty-two last names of Kensington residents were still living in the town. As of 1980, a fifth of the population had lived their entire lives in Kensington, and another fifth had lived in the town for twenty years or more. However, forty-five percent of town residents had lived there fewer than five years.

Land values rose with the demand for residential development. The growing town required increased public services. Construction on a new Elementary School for grades one through six was completed in 1952 and the last two schoolhouses closed. Older students attended Exeter Area Junior and Senior High Schools. By 1958, the elementary school was already too small, and an addition was built in 1963.

The Kensington Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1948. In 1950, the Ladies Auxiliary was formed to earn money for the purchase of equipment. Land was donated near the center of town for a fire station, and construction began in 1952. The building was enlarged in 1961 and again in 1980 and 1991.

The American Legion Post No. 105 was formed in 1947-48 by forty-six local veterans. Fifteen women formed the auxiliary. Meetings were held in the Brick Schoolhouse and the Town Hall. In 1954, the Legion purchased the East School, remodeled it and built an addition. In the 1950’s, the Congregational Church built an addition for Sunday School and meeting space.

As the population grew, the town needed a larger space for public meetings and events. This was provided by the new American Legion hall, erected in 1973 on Route 150. It is now used for annual Town meetings, Police Association events, the Community Christmas Fair, and dances. The Kensington Historical Society was formed in 1971 and took over the maintenance of the Brick School. In 1972, the Children's playground was given to the town. The Town Park on Trundlebed Lane was dedicated in 1975. A memorial to soldiers of WWII, the Korean and Vietnam Wars was installed in front of the Elementary School. The Library was expanded in the 1970's, the upstairs room renovated in 1986, and the main reading room restored in 1998. In 1980, the Town Hall was moved back from the road, and an addition was built for town offices. An addition was built on the Elementary School in 1987, and a Kindergarten added in 1998. Both churches underwent restoration work in the 1990's.

Until 1950, farming was the economic base of the town. Since that time, with the automobile, Kensington has become dependent upon the surrounding towns for work, shopping and social purposes. Farming has continued on a reduced basis during the subsequent decades. In 1983, the large York potato farm was purchased and converted to a polo field with horse barns. Shaw's Hill Farm sells vegetables, flowers and plants from a farmstand on the property. As of 1999, there were as many cows in the town as there were fifty years ago, but all are owned by the two remaining dairy farms. Other agricultural activity includes Christmas tree farming, berry crops, a maple syrup operation, and a honey farm. Increasing numbers of residents keep horses, both for their own use and boarded for others.

There has been little modern commercial development in Kensington. The Kensington Grocery was built on Route 150 in 1967. It remains the town's only store, gas station and restaurant. As of 1975, local businesses included tractor and lawnmower dealerships, excavating contractors, a beauty shop, a wooden boat building business, and electrical contractors. Exeter-Hampton Electric (Unitil) occupies a facility on Drinkwater Road, just south of the Exeter line. An ice cream take-out stand is located near the South Hampton line. Former farmland has been converted to gravel pits; eight were shown on the USGS map of 1980, and others have been opened since then.

Since 1950, Kensington has experienced considerable residential development. Approximately fifty-nine houses were built in the 1950's, seventy-one in the 1960's, and 131 in the 1970's. As of 1980, there were 307 single-family homes in Kensington, along with twenty-seven duplexes, nine multi-family dwellings, and two mobile homes. More than ninety percent of the homes were owner occupied. Between 1980 and 1988, 134 new homes were built. Kensington was increasingly chosen by families who commute to work elsewhere in the region. Many of the large historic houses were purchased and renovated or restored. This resulted in both good preservation of some buildings and loss of integrity of others. As of 1996, there were 556 single-family units, twenty-four multi-family units, and forty-eight mobile homes.

As of 1980, a quarter of Kensington's working population was employed within the town. Only nineteen Kensington residents made their living at farming. By 1997, only 16% worked in the community, the remainder commuting for an average distance of 24 miles. There were twenty-eight employers in Kensington; the largest was Exeter-Hampton Electric, with forty employees.

In 1997 the Town passed a measure eliminating the Town Meeting from local government. At that time, the population was 1,753. In 1999, the State Office of Planning estimated the town's population at 1,871.

#### 4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Town should make every effort to protect the historic rural character that is so highly valued by its citizens. The Townwide Area Form (Area K): Historic Properties in Kensington, N.H. documents the historic cultural and architectural resources in the town that contribute to create this character. The information in this study should be used as a guide for future planning decisions that relate to these properties.
2. The Town should appoint a committee to investigate various historic preservation options available to communities, e.g., the establishment of a Heritage Commission or Historic District Commission and obtaining Certified Local Government status.
3. The Town should investigate the possibility of creating an historic district for the purpose of protecting the town center.
4. The Town should consider establishing architectural design standards for new construction in portions of the town in order to preserve its cultural/historical identity.
5. The Town should actively seek matching grant funds from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP) as well as from the Federal Land Water Conservation Fund to help make land purchases that will conserve open spaces and protect important historical structures.
6. The Town should consider a public information program to encourage the recognition and appreciation of the historic resources that contribute to the rural character. The school should be encouraged to use information on the town's historic resources to teach local and architectural history.
7. The next Master Plan Committee should use the Townwide Area Form (Area K): Historic Properties in Kensington, N.H. to reevaluate the Master Plan from the perspective of historical resources.

