

## CHAPTER FOUR Historic, Cultural & Scenic Resources

### I. HISTORIC & SCENIC RESOURCES

Preserving historic, archeological, and scenic resources enables communities to retain links to their past, maintain their traditions (including quality of life), and can bring economic benefits through increased property values and tourism. Indeed, there are federal and state programs to assist communities with preservation which will be mentioned later. Tourism has been increasingly beneficial for much of the New England region, and particularly for Vermont due to its abundance of scenic resources. Thus, the Northeast Kingdom is fortunate to have communities that have already identified some of their assets and protected a significant number of historic resources. These include historic districts, a large number of historic buildings, archeological sites, covered bridges, barns, and areas of natural or scenic beauty. Despite the work that has already been done, there are many historic, community buildings and meeting houses still in need of restoration and preservation. Table 5.0 gives some representation of the existing historic and cultural resources within the region.

Table 5.0:

<b>Northeast Kingdom Historic Districts</b> <i>(Listed on the National Register of Historic Places)</i>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Caledonia County:</b>	
Railroad Avenue Historic District, St. Johnsbury	06-25-1974
St. Johnsbury Main Street Historic District	05-28-1975
Hardwick Street Historic District, Hardwick	06-22-1979
St. Johnsbury Historic District	04-28-1980
Downtown Hardwick Village Historic District	09-30-1982
Barnet Center Historic District	07-12-1984
William & Agnes Gilkerson Farm, Barnet	1992
Maple St./Clarks Ave. Historic District, St. Johnsbury	04-05-1994
Summer Street Historic District, St. Johnsbury	1994
West View Farm, Waterford	1995
Thresher Mill, Barnet	1996
<b>Essex County:</b>	
Island Pond Historic District, Brighton	01-31-1979
Guildhall Village Historic District	09-27-1980
Judge David Hibbard Homestead, Concord	1995
<b>Orleans County:</b>	
Brownington Village Historic District	05-09-1973
Crystal Lake Falls Historic District, Barton	07-07-1994

(Vt. Division for Historic Preservation, 2002)

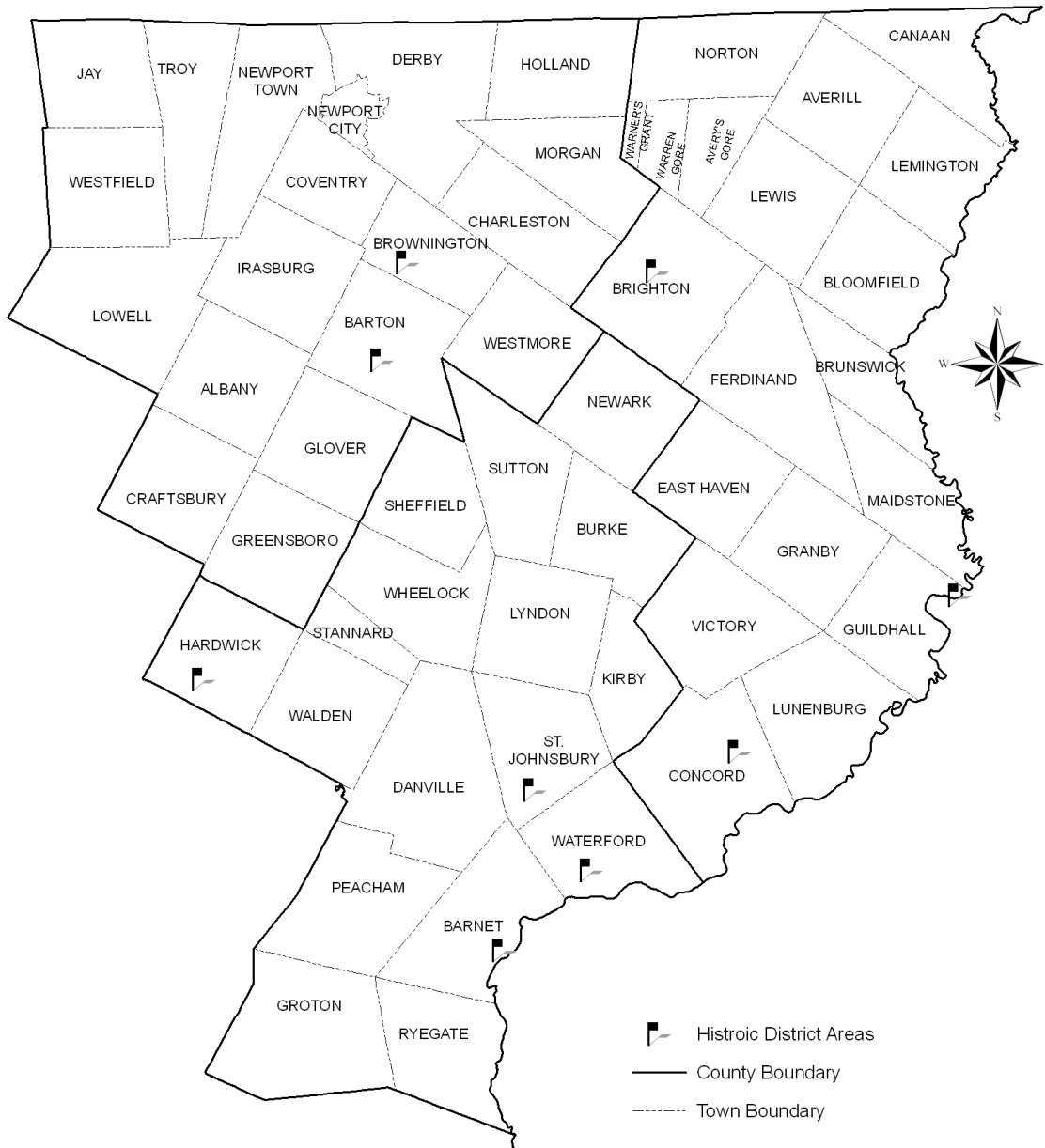
Each historic district also contains a number of properties listed on, or eligible for the National Registry.

#### Historic Preservation Programs and Assistance

Criterion 8 of Act 250 protects scenic and aesthetic resources, historic sites, and rare or irreplaceable natural areas. A historic site is defined as "any site, structure, district or archeological landmark which has been officially included in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the state register of historic places or which is established by the Vermont

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as being historically significant" [10 V.S.A Section 6001 (9)]. If a site has been nominated, then designated as historic, the state provides a number of programs for communities and groups to help achieve their preservation goals.

**MAP 10:**



**NVDA Region: Historic Districts**

The University of Vermont puts out a guide to the *Division for Historic Preservation Services* ([www.uvm.edu/~vhnet/hpres/org](http://www.uvm.edu/~vhnet/hpres/org)) that explains the programs available for historic and cultural preservation efforts, information, and technical assistance. These programs are available to communities, neighborhoods, individuals, and businesses and provide many benefits.

## Other Regional Resources

Local area Chambers of Commerce can provide much of the information on business & industry, schools, housing, local attractions, and services available in or near a municipality. Table 5.5, below, is included as a resource for additional information.

Barton Area Chamber of Commerce, Barton	<a href="http://www.bartonareachamber.com">www.bartonareachamber.com</a>
Burke Area Chamber of Commerce, East Burke	<a href="http://www.burkevermont.com">www.burkevermont.com</a>
Danville Chamber of Commerce, Danville	<a href="http://www.vtliving.com/chambers">www.vtliving.com/chambers</a> (contact info)
Hardwick Area Chamber of Commerce, Hardwick	<a href="http://www.hardwickvta.com">www.hardwickvta.com</a>
Island Pond Chamber of Commerce, Island Pond	<a href="http://www.islandpond.com/chamber-of-commerce.html">www.islandpond.com/chamber-of-commerce.html</a>
Jay Peak Area Association	<a href="http://www.jaypeakvermont.org">www.jaypeakvermont.org</a>
Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce, Lyndonville	<a href="http://www.lyndonvermont.com">www.lyndonvermont.com</a>
Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce, St. Johnsbury	<a href="http://www.vermontnekchamber.org">www.vermontnekchamber.org</a>
Vermont's North Country Chamber of Commerce, Newport	<a href="http://www.vtnorthcountry.com">www.vtnorthcountry.com</a>

Northeast Kingdom Travel and Tourism Association (NEKTTA), the regional marketing organization for the Northeast Kingdom is an active partner with NVDA on many projects, including regional transportation projects, planning, and marketing efforts. The NVDA and NEKTTA organizations annually submit a joint work program plan to the State of Vermont. NEKTTA is also involved in assisting individual businesses and the local chambers of commerce shown in Table 6 with their marketing efforts. More about the NEKTTA organization can be found at their web address listed above.

## II. CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Public Libraries

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, St. Johnsbury
Northeast Regional Library, St. Johnsbury
Cobleigh Public Library, Lyndonville
Pope Memorial Library, Danville Green, Danville
Samuel Read Hall Library, Lyndon State College, Lyndonville
Alice M. Ward Memorial Library, Canaan
Island Pond Public Library, Island Pond
Craftsbury Public Library, Craftsbury Common
Derby Free Library, Derby Center
Goodrich Memorial Library, Newport
Haskell Free Library and Opera House, Derby Line

The Northeast Kingdom is fortunate to have many library resources as centers of learning (many of which are architecturally significant) to complement the region's educational systems. It is important to keep all of these facilities updated to meet the informational and technological needs of area residents. Table 5.1 depicts some of the private and public libraries in the region.

In addition to public library resources in the region, Table 5.2 shows a number of alternative public and private learning institutions possessing cultural and informational resources worthy of mention. Internet addresses have been provided as well.

Table 5.2:

School	Location	Website
Community College of VT	St. Johnsbury/Newport	www.ccv.vsc.edu
Lyndon Institute	Lyndon Center	www.lyndoninstitute.org
Springfield College	St. Johnsbury	www.spfldcol.edu
Sterling College	Craftsbury	www.sterlingcollege.edu
Lyndon State College	Lyndonville	www.lsc.vsc.edu
North Country Career Center	Newport	
King George School	Sutton	www.kinggeorgeschool.com
Burke Mountain Academy	East Burke	www.burkemtnacademy.org
Northwoods Stewardship Center	East Charleston	www.northwoodscenter.org
St. Johnsbury Academy	St. Johnsbury	www.stjohnsburyacademy.org

(NVDA, 2002)

## Museums

Museums are another excellent cultural and informational resource, as well as a link to the distant and recent past. There are many museums in the Northeast Kingdom worth visiting and popular ones include the Old Stone House Museum in Brownington; the offbeat Bread & Puppet Museum in Glover; and the Athenaeum, Fairbanks, and Maple museums in St. Johnsbury. Each of these has a wide array of exhibits and programs for all ages. Table 5.3 lists the region's resources for historic information and museum collections.

Table 5.3:

Historical and Museum Collections in the Northeast Kingdom	Location
Barnet Historical Society – Goodwillie House	Barnet
Crystal Lake Falls Historical Society - Pierce House	Barton
Old Stone House Museum / Orleans County Historical Society	Brownington
Alice Ward Library	Canaan
Craftsbury Public Library	Craftsbury
Derby Historical Society	Derby
Haskell Library and Opera House	Derby Line
White School Museum	East Burke
Bread and Puppet Museum	Glover
Greensboro Historical Society	Greensboro
Holland Historical Society	Holland
Island Pond Historical Society	Island Pond
Shores Memorial Museum	Lyndon Center
Goodrich Memorial Library	Newport
Missisquoi Valley Historical Society	North Troy
Peacham Historical Society	Peacham
Maple Grove Museum and Factory	St. Johnsbury
St. Johnsbury Athenaeum	St. Johnsbury
Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium	St. Johnsbury
Stannard Historical Society	Stannard
Hitchcock Memorial Library and Museum	Westfield

(NVDA, 2002)

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## **HISTORIC, CULTURAL & SCENIC RESOURCE GOALS**

- Future development should follow traditional development patterns, while providing for economic development opportunities and livable communities.
- Significant historic, cultural, and scenic resources within the region should be identified and preserved.

## **STRATEGIES**

- Promote local and regional tourism, since it an important part of our economic base.
  - Assist communities to preserve and maintain historic downtowns, village centers, buildings, and rural and scenic landscapes.
  - Rehabilitate and re-use significant cultural, architectural, and historic sites, and community facilities, whenever feasible.
  - Promote local traditions, skills, crafts, and the performing arts within the region.
  - Utilize federal, state, and local programs for developing or preserving local cultural and historic assets.
  - Disseminate information about historic tax credits to businesses and property owners.
  - Assist communities to designate downtowns and village centers under the Vermont Downtown Program.
  - Support local cultural resource initiatives to revitalize communities and downtowns.
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