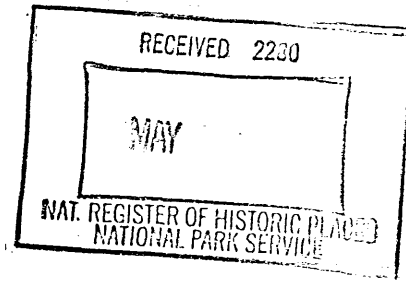


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Kents Corner Historic District

other names/site number na

2. Location

street & number Kent Hill Rd, Old West Church Rd, Robinson Cemetery Rd, Fowler Rd, Bliss Pond Rd.

not for publication na

city or town Calais vicinity na

state Vermont code VT county Washington code 023

zip code 05648

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally x statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne C. Jamelle, N.R. Specialist 5-18-06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Handwritten Signature] 6/30/06

Signature of 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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
41	47	buildings
10	1	sites
1	1	structures
1	1	objects
53	50	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 26

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

Kents Corner Historic District, Calais, Washington County, Vermont

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: Single dwelling
DOMESTIC	Secondary structure
DOMESTIC	Hotel
COMMERCE/TRADE	Department store
COMMERCE/TRADE	Restaurant
GOVERNMENT	City hall
RELIGION	Religious facility
FUNERARY	Cemetery
RECREATION AND CULTURE	Museum
RECREATION AND CULTURE	Monument/marker
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE	Agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE	Animal facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE	Agricultural outbuilding
INDUSTRY	Manufacturing facility
LANDSCAPE	Garden
LANDSCAPE	Forest
LANDSCAPE	Natural feature

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: Single dwelling
DOMESTIC	Secondary structure
GOVERNMENT	City hall
RELIGION	Religious facility
FUNERARY	Cemetery
RECREATION AND CULTURE	Museum
RECREATION AND CULTURE	Monument/marker
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE	Agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE	Animal facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE	Agricultural outbuilding
LANDSCAPE	Garden
LANDSCAPE	Forest
LANDSCAPE	Natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- Federal
- Greek Revival
- Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Granite
- roof Wood shingle
- walls Weatherboard
- Brick
- other Granite

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Kents Corner Historic District, Calais, Washington County, Vermont

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)

Kents Corner Historic District, Calais, Washington County, Vermont

- 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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Agriculture
- Industry
- Commerce
- Religion
- Government
- Landscape
- Conservation

Period of Significance 1800-1955

Significant Dates 1803
1825
1837

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Kents Corner Historic District, Calais, Washington County, Vermont

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
=====

9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

_____ Other State agency

_____ Federal agency

_____ Local government

_____ University

_____ Other

Name of repository: SHPO, Montpelier, Vermont

10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property Approx. 1100 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)
=====

11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title John Johnson, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization _____ date 11/1/2005

street & number 5378 Hollister Hill Road telephone 802-426-3411

city or town Marshfield state VT zip code 05658

Kents Corner Historic District, Calais, Washington County, Vermont

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Calais, Washington County, Vermont

Summary

This National Register nomination reflects a resurvey and boundary increase to the original Kents Corner Historic District and the original Old West Church and Cemetery nomination in Calais, Vermont, that were both listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The original Kents Corner Historic District (KCHD) included several resources within a quarter mile, in all four directions of the corner, and all of these resources are intact. The original KCHD nomination did not identify specific buildings, neither by map or description. The original Old West Church nomination, only one mile south of the original Kents Corner Historic District, included a church and cemetery, and these resources are intact.

This boundary increase includes an historic district extension north along Robinson Cemetery Road, west along Kent Hill Road, south along the Old West Church Road and east along Kent Hill Road (see new district map). The boundary increase adds landscape features and cultural resources to the historic district and reflects to a greater extent than the original nominations, the rich and diverse architecture and landscape around Kents Corner. All the property descriptions from the 1973 nomination have been renumbered and rewritten.

The Kents Corner Historic District is a quintessential Vermont crossroads neighborhood. The district is a thinly-settled area composed of historic buildings associated with the agricultural and industrial heritage of this rural neighborhood, several landmark buildings, and a mostly open landscape. The center of the district lies at the intersection of Kent Hill Road, Robinson Cemetery Road and the Old West Church Road. The Kents Corner Historic District is located in the Town of Calais in the northern part of Washington County in the state of Vermont.

The Kent Museum (#1), a masterpiece of the Greek Revival style of architecture at Kents Corner, is one of the historic focal points of this rural neighborhood which also

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includes the Robinson Sawmill (#20), the Old West Church (#29), and the Christian Church/Calais Town Hall (#7) that since 1868 has served as the Calais Town Hall. All of these landmark resources are well maintained and historically intact. The Receiving Vault at the Robinson Graveyard (#19), the Bliss Monument at the Old West Church Graveyard (#29a), the Wheelock Monument (#2e), and the Vermont state historic marker (#1b), ground this rural neighborhood in tradition.

Settlement at Kents Corner was established by 1800. The hills of Calais were covered with forests of maple, beech, birch, hemlock, spruce and pine trees. During the late 18th and early 19th century this land was cleared for pasture and cropland, and the production of potash, leaving small patches of forest for cordwood and sugaring. Fieldstone walls, constructed as the land was being cleared, range in height from collapsed ruins to three feet high. These surviving stone walls give historic definition to the rural landscape of the district. A late 19th century photograph of Kents Corner reveals that about 90 % of the land had been cleared of trees. As agriculture declined during the 20th century, much of the cleared land gradually returned to forest. Fortunately, there are still several large fields in the district that are kept open for haying or silage crops and these fields contribute to the feeling of an open agricultural landscape. The first dirt roads of the district were laid out by 1800 and are a light footprint on the land. Their alignment has remained almost unchanged and they are still unpaved.

The Kents Corner Historic District includes 42 properties, with 53 contributing and 50 non-contributing structures, that cover about 1100 acres. Most of the historic resources date from 1800 to about 1880 and building activity in the neighborhood was very infrequent until the 1960s. The Kent Museum (#1) at Kents Corner operated during the summer and fall seasons from 1953 until 1988 by the Vermont Historical Society. The building stock in the

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neighborhood grew slowly after the period of significance, after 1955, when 15 non-contributing houses were added to the historic district.

The district has intact examples of several types of historic resources generally found in Vermont towns of its size, including two cemeteries, two churches, a sawmill, a hotel, a general store, as well as farmsteads, barns, and single-family houses. Most of the historic buildings in the district have granite foundations, timber or plank frames, and clapboard sheathing. There are two brick buildings, the historic Kent Hotel (#1) and the Joseph W. E. Bliss House (#33) on the Old West Church Road. The bricks were made at the Kent Brick Kiln site (#6) in Gospel Hollow on the eastern edge of the historic district. The fieldstone, granite and timber framing materials were probably taken from the surrounding land while it was being cleared. Much of the sawn wood was procured from the Robinson Sawmill (#20) and the Joshua Bliss Sawmill (#34a).

The oldest structure in the historic district is the first Remember Kent house (Pioneer Cottage, 1797) that about 1810 was relocated and is now within the Remember Kent Pioneer Cottage (#13). The only standing industrial structure is the Robinson Sawmill (#20) built in 1803. There are several Cape Cod form houses built between 1810 and 1830; for example the Remember Kent House (#21) built c. 1810 and the Abdiel Kent House (#1) built c. 1830. Several of the early Cape Cod form houses later received Greek Revival details beginning in the 1830s. In the 1840s and 1850s, the only residential architectural style in the Kents Corner Historic District was the popular Classic Cottage house form enhanced with Greek Revival details. Excellent examples of these Greek Revival style houses include the Kent Hotel (#1), the J. M. Jacobs House (#12), the L. Wood House (#27), the M. Wright House (#30), the J. W. E. Bliss House (#33), the S. Goodenough House (#34), and the J. White House (#35). Impressive two-story examples of this style include the L. A. Kent House (#2), the E. Robinson

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House (#18), and the A. Bliss House (#28). Both churches in the district, the Old West Church (#29) and the Christian Church (#7), have Greek Revival detailing.

Historic architectural details enrich the visual character of the district: local brick on the Kent Hotel (#1), decorative eave brackets on the I. Kent Barn (#1a), an impressive wrap-around porch on the L. A. Kent House (#2), symmetrical porches on the E. Robinson House (#18), functional cupolas on the barns (# 18a, 22a, 32c), and dramatic church spires on the Old West Church (#29) and the Christian Church (#7).

Historic farmsteads comprise mid-19th century Greek Revival style houses and farm buildings such as sheep, dairy and horse barns, wagon sheds, milk houses and sugarhouses. The district has several prominent barns, for example the I. Kent Barn (#1a), the E. Robinson Barn (#18a), the M. A. Kent Barn (#22a). The J. W. E. Bliss Barn (#32c), associated historically with the J. W. E. Bliss House (#33) is directly across the road, but is now owned by Walter Balentine (#32). Most of these historic agricultural resources retain architectural integrity although many are deteriorated due to lack of maintenance. The three intact farmsteads are the 150.1 acre property around the E. Robinson House (#18), the 112.25 acre property around the L. Wood House (#27) and the 183.5 acre property around the A. Bliss House (#28). These farms and other properties (#s 11, 14, 15, 16, 23, 25, 33, 40, 41, 42) keep the landscape open and agricultural.

The Bliss Pond Town Forest (#27) is a 120 acre wooden property that is historically associated with property (#30). Property (#28) is an active sheep and horse farm, haying is a summer activity on all the open fields in the district, sugaring is a winter activity on the established maple groves in the district, and the Robinson Sawmill (#20) is operated on special occasions. These agricultural activities contribute to preserving the historic agricultural landscape in the district. There are no commercial properties, farm stands or offices in the district. The district serves principally as a

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Calais, Washington County, Vermont

commuter-oriented community for employment in large towns to the south, for example Montpelier and Barre.

Historic-period archaeological resources include the Abijah Wheelock House site (#2e), the granite foundations of the Joshua Bliss Sawmill (#34a) at the outlet of Bliss Pond, the fieldstone foundation of the Goodenough-Wheeler Farm House site (#42b) and the Kent Brick Kiln site (#6).

The 15 non-contributing houses, and their associated out buildings, are all late 20th and early 21st century structures built on lots divided from the farms. The predominant architectural styles of the non-contributing houses built after 1955 are the Log Cabin, Ranch, Colonial Revival and Greek Revival styles.

The rural nature of the historic district is enforced by the presence of dirt roads, stone walls, open fields, mature trees, a mill pond and several brooks. The historic district boundary follows the outer perimeter property lines of the parcels that lie adjacent to the roads in the district. Woodlands also form a ring around most of the historic district's boundary. Kents Corner is at an elevation of 1345 feet and descending east to Gospel Hollow the elevation falls to 1235 feet. Dramatic views of the surrounding countryside are offered from several hill-top properties (#11, 18, 25). Three solely agricultural properties (# 14, 15, 16) have no structures, however they were historically associated with a Kent farm and are included in the immediate view shed of Kents Corner.

Most of the extant historic buildings retain their integrity of location, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, setting and design. The historic landscape has retained its integrity of location, materials, feeling and association. All of the historic buildings in the district maintain a large degree of historic integrity and several agricultural buildings have been adapted over time to conform to new uses.

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Description of Properties in the new Kents Corner Historic District

For the purposes of this section: the principal building is listed first, with the historic name in **Bold Letters**, followed next by date of construction, next by Contributing or Non-contributing, next by the name of the current property owner and finally by address. The historic name for the property was taken from the Kents Corner and Calais maps of 1858, or the Calais map of 1873, unless there was documentation for a significant earlier or subsequent owner.

1. **Kent Museum**, 1953, contributing, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, 7 Old West Church Road
(Listed 'A. Kent' and 'I & A Kent Store' on the Kents Corner section of the 1858 map and 'A. Kent' and 'Saddlers Shop and Store, I & A Kent' on the Calais section of the 1858 map. Listed 'A. Kent' and 'L. A. Kent Store' on the 1873 map)

This 4.75-acre property is located on three corners at the junction of the Old West Church Road and Kent Hill Road at a rural crossroads known historically as Kents Corner. The property contains the Kent Museum that is composed of three connected buildings on the southeast corner, an historic barn on the northeast corner, as well as an historic marker and barn foundations on the southwest corner. The Kent Museum was operated seasonally by the Vermont Historical Society from 1953 until 1988.

Abdiel Kent House, c. 1830

This single-story side-gabled wood-frame building whose north elevation joins the Kent Hotel (1837) and the south elevation joins the Kent General Store (1854), was constructed as a three-quarter Cape Cod form house about 1830. The building rests on a brick-covered poured concrete foundation with red-painted clapboards and white-painted flat trim boards. The front, or west elevation facing the Old West Church Road, has a three double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 lights) windows and wood steps leading up to the four-panel wood entrance door. The east elevation has a

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screened porch with a screen door set into the façade and three double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 lights) windows on the right side. The side-gabled roof has wood shingles. There is physical evidence and historic photos of a second entrance door on this elevation that is now covered with clapboards.

Kent Hotel, 1837

The 2½-story brick building was constructed as a Georgian plan house between 1833 and 1837. The exterior of the building features elements of the Greek Revival style. The 5 x 5 bay building features a granite and poured concrete foundation. There are two, 4 pane fixed wood windows set into the foundation, topped with granite lintels, on all four elevations of the building. The building is timber framed and has double-layered brick walls laid in a common bond. On the south elevation below grade there is a solid wood entrance door leading into the basement and a wood frame window. This door and window are framed with granite blocks and a poured concrete foundation. On the north elevation granite steps lead up to the main entrance. The recessed white-painted front entrance surround includes a full transom and ¾ length sidelights with matching molded panels around an eight-panel wood door. The entrances, with granite lintels, are centered on the west and east elevations with a full transom above white-painted paneled wood doors. There are two (12 over 12 lights) windows in each gable end. Double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 lights) windows are set in granite sills and lintels (with aluminum storm windows) and wrought-iron shutter holdbacks set in the brick walls on all elevations. The narrow wood cornice line and returns in the gable ends sit below a side-gabled wood-shingle roof. The building has four interior brick chimneys that project above the roofline near the gable ends. The interior has a full basement and many rooms on the first, second and attic floors. The most prominent architectural feature of the interior is a large ballroom on the second floor. On the south elevation the Kent House connects with this building just below the roofline.

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Calais, Washington County, Vermont**Ira & Abdiel Kent General Store, 1854**

This 2-½ story building joins the Kent House on the south elevation. The building was constructed in a three-bay form with exterior elements of the Greek Revival style. This wood-frame building rests on a poured concrete foundation and has red-painted clapboards and white painted flat trim boards. The first floor of the front, or west elevation, has a pair of wood-paneled and glass entrance doors and two double-hung wood sash (15 over 15 lights) windows. There is a wood-shingle shed roof, supported by wood brackets, over the entrance door, and a sign that reads "*I & A Kent General Store*". On the second floor, there are three double-hung wood sash (15 over 15 lights) windows on the west elevation. There is a similar window (12 over 12 lights) on the second floor of both the east and south elevations and on the third floor in the south gable end. On the east elevation, the two-story building extends with a cross-gabled roof addition. A shed-roofed porch on the northeast corner also connects a large addition on the back of the building. On the second floor of this addition, there are three double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 lights) windows on the north elevation, five similar windows on the east elevation, and three similar windows on the south elevation. There are two fixed basement windows on the north elevation and three on the south elevation. The cross-gabled roof is covered with wood shingles and has a boxed cornice and returns. From inside the building there are two wood doors leading onto this wooden porch. There is also another wood door on the first floor of the north elevation of the addition that now has no entrance steps.

1A Ira Kent Barn, c. 1870, contributing

(Not listed on the 1858 map and listed 'I. Kents Barn' on the 1873 map)

Located across the Kent Hill Road from the Kent Hotel, this gable-front Bank style barn was built about 1870. The 1 1/2-story timber-frame barn rests on a granite and poured

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concrete foundation on the west elevation and wood posts on the other elevations. The barn has decorative eave brackets, yellow-painted clapboards, red-painted trim boards and a rusted sheet metal roof. Fieldstone abutments set next to the west elevation indicate that a wooden ramp entered the front barn door. On the front, or west elevation, there is a sliding barn door hung on iron rollers, a smaller sliding barn door on the left and three open windows in the gable end. The main doorway enters on a driveway that runs the length of the main floor where livestock were stabled and above the first floor are open haylofts. Two turn-of-the-century interior silos were installed on the right side of the center aisle. The north elevation has an opening on the ground floor and four open windows. The east elevation has three open windows in the gable end and shows evidence of an addition that was removed. The south elevation has no fenestration and has openings on the ground floor. The ground floor is open on the south elevation. Two additions have been removed from the barn and a Corn Barn was relocated from the property to (#2a) in 1932. The site has a wood fence on nine granite posts set above a fieldstone retaining wall that was the foundation of an addition on the south elevation.

1B Historic Marker, 1997, non-contributing

This Vermont state-sponsored historic marker was erected in 1997 on the southwest corner at Kents Corner to commemorate the '*Historic Kent Tavern*'. The cast aluminum marker has a state seal, is painted green with gold lettering and sits on an aluminum-clad concrete post. The sign reads: *This brick tavern was built by Abdiel Kent between 1833 and 1837. It served as his home, and from 1837 to 1846 was a stagecoach stop on the road from Montpelier to Canada. The Kent family settled in Calais in 1798 and this section of town is known as Kents Corners. One of Abdiel's six brothers, Ira Kent, lived in the white clapboard house across the street. Together from 1837 until 1860 they operated the I & A Kent Store in the two story*

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Calais, Washington County, Vermont

wooden addition on the tavern. The Kent family owned the property until 1916 and at various times and places in town made and sold shoes and boots, ran a brickyard and sawmill and farmed. The barn is the only survivor of the several outbuildings that stood on the property. Louise Andrews Kent, the best selling author of the 'Mrs. Appleyard' series of books, convinced her cousin, A. Atwater Kent, the radio inventor and magnate, to purchase his great uncle's home and restore it as a museum in 1930.

1C Abdiel Kent Barn foundations, c. 1860, contributing
(Not listed on the 1858 map and listed 'A. Kents Barn' on the 1873 map)

Concrete foundations supported one of four wood-frame barns that stood on this corner and were dismantled c. 1960.

2. Leroy Abdiel Kent House, c. 1845, contributing, Boxer-Kent Corporation, 748 Kent Hill Road
(Listed 'J. V. R. Kent' on the Calais section of the 1858 map and not listed on the Kents Corner section of the 1858 map. Listed 'B. (Benjamin) P. White' on the 1873 map. Leroy Abdiel Kent lived here from 1875-1911)

This 59.7-acre property consists of five buildings and the historic Wheelock Monument in a wooded area south of the buildings. The building was constructed as a side-gabled Cape Cod form house about 1845 and reconstructed in the Greek Revival style about 1875. The original 1 ½ story house was raised and the lower story built, underneath the original house, about 1875.

The house has corner pilasters and a thin boxed cornice with returns. The 2½-story 5 x 2 bay wood-frame house has a flat roofed c. 1880 Queen Anne style porch, with turned wood posts and square railings, on the right half of the east elevation that wraps around the corner on the north elevation. The main house rests on a granite-over-concrete foundation, has white-painted clapboards, wood sash (12

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Calais, Washington County, Vermont

over 12 lights) windows and green painted wood shutters. There is a double-leaf entrance door centered on the east elevation and covered by the porch. There is an entrance door on the west elevation surrounded with a wooden arch. The roof has three gabled dormers on both the east and west elevations (added c. 1950), and two brick chimneys at the ridge of the steel roof. Attached to the main house on the south elevation is a single-story wood-frame addition (c. 1950). This addition rests on a granite foundation, has white-painted clapboards and a sheet metal roof. A hip-roofed porch, with square posts and curved brackets, connects the main house with the addition at the northeast corner. On the east elevation there is an entrance door on the porch, a large Palladian window (for a restaurant remodeling) and a second entrance door framed with a Palladian top light and a double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 lights) window on each side. The west elevation of the addition features a bay window. On the south elevation of the addition is another single story addition painted red.

2A Corn Barn/Writing Studio/Cabin, c. 1870, contributing
This 1 ½ wood-frame gable-front vernacular style corn barn was originally built across the road at the Ira Kent Barn (#1b) and was relocated here in 1932. The barn rests on fieldstone and brick piers. On the north elevation there is a wood door and three fixed six-pane windows with blue-painted wood shutters. The barn has unpainted vertical wood siding and the wood-shingle roof has two skylights. There are two double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows on the west elevation. There is a boxed-in chimney on the south elevation.

2B Barn, c. 1845, contributing
This 2 ½-story wood frame gable-front New England style barn rests on a fieldstone foundation and has both red-painted clapboard and vertical board siding with white-painted trim boards. On the north elevation there is a sliding barn door, a hay door on the second floor and one double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) window in the gable

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Calais, Washington County, Vermont

end. There are ten windows of miscellaneous styles on the other elevations and the barn has a sheet metal roof.

2C Barn/Garage, c. 1845, contributing

This 1 ½-story wood-frame gable-ended vernacular style garage was originally built as a New England style barn. The garage has two vehicle entrances on the east elevation, with a double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) window with solid wood shutters in the gable end, and a sliding barn door on the west elevation. The other three elevations have two double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows with solid wood shutters. The metal roof has boxed cornices with returns. The garage is painted red with white trim boards and blue shutters.

2D Garden Shed, c. 1960 non-contributing

This single-story vernacular style garden shed consists of two small buildings joined together. The front half has a solid wood entrance door on the north elevation, red-painted wood shingles, a fixed wood window in the west elevation and a wood shingle roof. The back half has unpainted wood shingles, fixed nine-pained wood windows in the roof and on three sides. The shed has a wood-shingle roof.

2E Wheelock Monument, 1930, contributing

The descendants of Abijah Wheelock constructed this memorial in 1930 on the site of his 1789 log cabin. There is a bronze plaque set in a boulder surrounded by four granite posts connected with a chain. The site is in a wooded area south of the buildings on this property. The plaque reads: *Abijah Wheelock first permanent settler of Calais Vermont came with family from Charlton, Mass. April 13, 1789. Settled on lot no. 51 Reared a family of eleven. Cleared other lots planted orchards and provided farms for four sons and one daughter. Died in Calais in 1846. Erected on site of cabin by descendants 1930.*

3. **John Van Rensselear Kent House**, c. 1810, contributing,
Paul Hannan and Cornelia Carey, 760 Kent Hill Road

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(Listed 'J. V. R. Kent' on the Kents Corner section of the 1858 map and listed 'M. W. Powers' on the Calais section of the 1858 map. Listed 'J. Persons Jr.' on the 1873 map).

This 2-acre property consists of a house with a garage addition and another detached garage. This building was constructed as a three-quarter Cape Cod form house about 1810 and has Greek Revival style details. This side-gabled house rests on a granite foundation, with an open-air shed-roofed entrance porch on the west elevation. The single-story house has plain corner boards and a thin boxed cornice. The house has white-painted clapboards, a wood entrance door on the porch, double-hung wood sash (2 over 2) with molded lintels on the west elevation. There are (6 over 6 lights) windows in the ell and a steel roof with two gabled dormers on the east elevation.

On the east elevation of the main house there is a connector (an older part of the house) that leads to a garage. The connector has one similar (6 over 6) window and paneled- with-windows wood entrance door on the north elevation, and a pair of similar windows on the south elevation. The 1 ½-story wood-frame front-gabled vernacular style garage (1995) has an entrance door with a transom and a fixed diamond-shaped window in the gable end on the north elevation. The garage has unpainted vertical board siding, three double-hung green-painted wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows on the east elevation and an entrance door with six double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows on the south elevation. The garage addition to the main house has a gray steel roof. On the south elevation of the main house is a single story addition (c. 1960) with two double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows on the west elevation. There is an open-air porch and two fixed wood windows on the east elevation. The connector and the garage addition have steel roofs.

3A Garage, 2002, non-contributing

This 1 ½ story wood-frame front-gabled vernacular style garage has a sliding solid wood door on the north elevation

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and a shed roof extension supported on four wood posts on the west elevation. The east elevation has two small wood doors and two double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 lights) windows. The south elevation has two similar windows and a sliding wood door.

4. Oliver Chesaux House No. 1, 1969, non-contributing, Peter and Mary Condaxis, 1082 Kent Hill Road

This 3-acre property consists of a modern log house and a small woodshed. This 1 ½-story side-gabled Log Cabin style house is constructed of unpainted round logs. On the north elevation there is an open-air, shed-roofed porch and an entrance door. The windows are modern steel sash and there is an entrance door on the south elevation. The east elevation has an exposed concrete foundation wall with two similar windows. The log house has an entrance door into the concrete basement on the north elevation and a red-painted steel roof.

4A Woodshed, c. 1970, non-contributing

This single-story vernacular style woodshed has a shed roof and two storage rooms.

5. Oliver Chesaux House No. 2, 1977, non-contributing, Linda Chesaux, 1164 Kent Hill Road

This 30-acre property consists of a modern log house and four detached out buildings. This 2 ½-story gambrel-roofed Log Cabin style house has a covered porch on the first and second floor of the east elevation and a covered porch on the third story of the north elevation. There is a shed-roofed open-air addition that is used as a garage on the south elevation. There is a brick chimney on the ridge of the rusted sheet metal roof.

5A Garage, 1970, non-contributing

This single-story, front-gabled Log Cabin style garage has two vehicle entrances on the west elevation and entrance doors on the south and north elevation. There are three

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double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows and a sheet metal roof with a concrete block chimney.

5B Horse Barn, 1970, non-contributing.

This 1 ½-story front-gabled pole-frame vernacular style barn has horse stables, a hay loft and a sliding solid wood door on the west elevation. The walls are covered with vertical board and half-round log siding and there is a sheet metal roof.

5C Sugarhouse, 1970, non-contributing

This single-story, front-gabled vernacular style sugarhouse has a ridge ventilator, vertical board siding, a rusted sheet metal roof and no processing equipment.

6. **Kent Brick Kiln site**, c. 1833–c. 1873, contributing, Stevens Family, no number on Kent Hill Road
(Not listed on the 1858 map and listed 'Brick Kiln' on the 1873 map. Also listed 'Vermont Yankee Boy's Stable' on the 1858 map and 'Calais Trotting Park' on the 1873 map)

This 44 acre property is an historic archaeological site that was the site of one or several brick kilns and drying yards in the mid 19th century. There is evidence in historical documents of the kiln but not the horse stable or trotting park.

7. **Christian Church/Calais Town Hall**, 1866, contributing, Town of Calais, 1662 Kent Hill Road
(Not listed on the 1858 map and listed 'Chris Church' on the 1873 map)

This 1-acre property has an historic church that is used as the Town Hall. This front-gabled 1 x 3 bay Greek Revival style church was constructed in 1866. The building has flat corner boards, an entablature cornice and returns. The two-story wood-frame building rests on a concrete block foundation and is covered with white-painted clapboards and a sheet metal roof (1926). There are three large double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 lights) windows with peaked lintels on the first floor and three large double-hung wood windows (20 over 20 lights) on the second floor of the east and west

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elevations. There are sets of green-painted louvered wood shutters on all of these large windows and the top shutters on the second floor are closed. An historic photo reveals that two original wood entrance doors and a tall center window (similar to the existing windows) on the north elevation were replaced by a Greek Revival style pedimented entry supported on square wood columns. Also, a wide wooden staircase, between the original doors, was replaced with a central wood staircase leading up to the porch and paired-wood entrance doors. There is a small woodshed attached at the bottom left corner of the north elevation. On the east elevation there is a single wood door, covered with a pedimented hood supported with wood brackets, on the first floor front corner. On the south elevation there is an enclosed two-story front-gabled stair-case addition (1991) to the building with a double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 lights) window and a wood entrance door. The roof of the addition is covered with wood shingles. Also on the south elevation is a double-hung wood window (12 over 12 lights) on the first floor and a triangular air vent in the gable end. A brick chimney sits on the gable roof. The church is capped with a simple, two stage, square bell tower and spire. Each stage of the tower has corner boards and an entablature. On the interior, the first floor has a large open meeting space with a kitchen (1916) and on the second floor is a large meeting space, called the sanctuary, with original wooden box pews.

8. **Theophilus C. Holt House**, c. 1870, contributing, Matthew Myers and Louise Low, 1653 Kent Hill Road (Not listed on the 1858 map and listed 'T. C. Holt' on the 1873 map. Listed 'T. Cushman Holt' in the 1880 Census)

This 3-acre property consists of a house and two outbuildings. This 1 ½-story 4 x 2 bay side-gabled Greek Revival style house was built c. 1870. The house has aluminum (1 x 1) windows, a bay window on the front or south elevation, a pent roof over the centered entrance door

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with label molding, and two wall dormers with paired windows set in the south elevation. There is an exterior staircase on the second floor of the west elevation. The walls are covered with asbestos shingles and there is a brick chimney on the ridge of the metal roof.

8A Barn, c. 1870, contributing

This wood-frame gable-front style barn has a large open entrance on the west elevation, vertical board siding and a sheet metal roof.

8B Tractor Barn, c. 1930, contributing

This wood-frame vernacular style building rests on a fieldstone foundation, has a double swinging entrance door on the south elevation, is covered with clapboards and has a rusted sheet metal roof.

9. Reverend Orrin Davis House, c. 1850, contributing,
Jennefer Isaacs, 1567 Kent Hill Road
(Listed 'Rev. O. Davis' on the 1858 and the 1873 map)

This 3.5-acre property consists of an historic house and a barn. This building was constructed in a three-quarter Cape Cod form with Greek Revival style details. The side-gabled house was built about 1850 with wide corner boards, a frieze, a boxed cornice and returns. The 1 ½-story house rests on a granite foundation, is covered with red-painted clapboard siding and white trim boards. Most of the house has aluminum (1 x 1) windows. The south elevation has a solid wood paneled entrance door with narrow transom and surround with molded lintel. On the west elevation is a single-story ell. The ell has an open-air full-length porch with a shed roof on the south elevation, three double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows. It has a rusted sheet metal roof, and there is a concrete block chimney on the ridge of the rusted sheet metal roof over the main house.

9A Barn, c. 1980, non-contributing

This wood-frame front-gabled barn rests on concrete piers and has two open entrances on the south elevation, vertical board siding and a sheet metal roof. There is a small shed-

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roof woodshed on the west elevation and a solid wood entrance door on the north elevation.

10. **Joseph Marshall House**, 1965, non-contributing, Karen Knaebel, 1417 Kent Hill Road

This 4-acre property consists of a modern Colonial Revival style house built in 1965. The original house is a 2 ½ story side-gabled building with clapboard siding, modern windows and there is a brick chimney and two skylights in the south elevation of the asphalt covered roof. There is an open-air porch, with a gabled-eyebrow, supported on wood posts on the south and east elevations. There are two additions on the northeast corner of the main house and a shed-roof woodshed on the west elevation.

11. **Nicholas and Cornelia Emlen House**, 1997, non-contributing, Nicholas and Cornelia Emlen, 835 Kent Hill Road

This 41-acre property consists of a modern Greek Revival style house built in 1997, a connecting barn/garage, a workshop and a sauna. The house is a 1 ½ story 3 x 4 bay front gabled building. The house has a central brick chimney, wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows, three gabled dormers, a metal roof and a Greek Revival style entrance on the south elevation. On the east elevation of the house there is an ell with a brick chimney and hipped-roof open-air porch on the south elevation. On the north elevation there is a single story connector leading to a 2 story gable-front barn that is used as a garage. The barn/garage has a metal roof, 6 x 6 wood sash, two skylights on the north side of the roof and an attached woodshed on the north elevation.

11A Workshop, 2000

This single story vernacular style workshop has an entrance door and three windows on the north elevation.

11B Sauna, 2003

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The five-sided vernacular style wood frame sauna has wood shingle walls and roof. It is wood heated and is located in the woods northeast of the house.

12. **James M. Jacobs House**, c. 1840, contributing, David and Linda Schutz, 833 Kent Hill Road (Listed 'J. M. Jacobs' on the 1858 map and 'J. Persons' on the 1873 map. In the 1880 Census, Joseph Persons is listed as a blacksmith)

This 1.5 acre property consists of an historic house and two outbuildings. This building was constructed as a Classic Cottage form house with Greek Revival details about 1840. There are corner pilasters, a frieze, a boxed cornice with returns. The 1 ½ story 5 x 2 bay side-gabled wood frame house rests on a concrete foundation and is covered with white-painted clapboard siding. The south elevation has a recessed entrance door with full side lights and a simple surround with full entablature. The house has double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows, peaked lintels and dark green-painted shutters. There is an exterior brick chimney on the east elevation of the asphalt-shingle roof. On the east elevation of the main house there is a single-story gable roofed modern (c. 1962) ell containing a kitchen with a bay window, and glassed in porch with eight fixed (1 x 1) windows and three entrance doors.

12A Garage, c. 1962, non-contributing

This single-story wood-frame vernacular style garage has two vehicle entrances on the south elevation, has red-painted clapboard and vertical board siding with yellow-painted trim boards, two double-hung wood sash (2 over 2 lights) windows and an asphalt-shingle roof. The foundations of an historic barn are near the garage.

12B Garden Shed, c. 1968, non-contributing

This single-story wood-frame vernacular style garden shed has an entrance door and a fixed six-light window on the south elevation, is covered with red-painted clapboard with yellow-painted trim boards, and has an asphalt shingle roof.

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13. **Remember Kent Pioneer Cottage**, c. 1797, contributing, Kurt Janson and Eileen Murray, 757 Kent Hill Road
(Listed 'L. E. Persons' on the 1858 map and 'A. Kent' on the 1873 map)

This 4-acre property consists of an historic house, a covered bridge and a dam. This house was originally constructed by Remember Kent as either a log house or a simple frame house c. 1797 and relocated from Kents Corner, less than a ¼ mile, to this site c. 1810. At some point the building received a Cape Cod form exterior and is referred to as the 'Pioneer Cottage'.

The side-gabled 1 ½ story house rests on a granite foundation and is covered with white-painted clapboard siding. The house has double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows and aluminum windows. The east elevation has an entrance door and full length, shed roofed open-air porch with exposed rafter tails, with a shed roof supported on square wood posts and a square cross-braced railing and a lattice skirt. The south elevation has a shed dormer. There is a brick chimney near the ridge of the sheet metal roof. On the west elevation of the main house is an addition with a sliding solid wood door on the south elevation and an asphalt-shingle shed roof. On the west elevation of the addition is a smaller addition.

On the north elevation of the main house is a wood-frame connector (1994) to a single-story building with red-painted clapboards, double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 lights) windows, a metal gable roof and a false door on the west elevation. This addition was constructed as the Kent Blacksmith Shop in 1835, relocated here c. 1960 and remodeled in 2001. (Listed 'B. S. Shop' on the 1858 map and 'I. Kent B S Sp' on the 1873 map)

13A Kents Corner Covered Bridge, 1964, non-contributing
This covered wood bridge is a Kingpost truss and is 23' long and 10' 7" wide. The bridge has unpainted vertical board

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siding, two open windows on each side, a wood shingle roof and sits over Curtis Brook. It was restored in 1994.

13B Dam, 1946, contributing

This poured-concrete dam was built to create a pond by impounding water in Curtis Brook.

14. **Elizabeth R. Kent Property**, no date, contributing, Elizabeth R. Kent, no address on Robinson Cemetery Road

This 16.9 acre property has no standing structures, is maintained as an agricultural field, is within the immediate view shed of Kents Corner and historically was part of the Kent Farm.

15. **Margaret Kent Wilkinson Property**, no date, contributing, Margaret Kent Wilkinson, no address on Robinson Cemetery Road,

This 10.1 acre property has no standing structures, is maintained as an agricultural field, is within the immediate view shed of Kents Corner and historically was part of the Kent Farm.

16. **Polly Kent Champion Property**, no date, contributing, Polly Kent Champion, no address on Robinson Cemetery Road,

This 12 acre property has no standing structures and is maintained as an agricultural field, is within the immediate view shed of Kents Corner and historically was part of the Kent Farm.

17. **Ira and Abdiel Kent House**, c. 1810, contributing, Laurie Lipp, 140 Robinson Cemetery Road
(Listed 'I & A Kent' on the 1858 map and 'A. Wells' on the 1873 map. Alvah Wells is listed as a 'Carpenter' in the 1880 Census)

This 1-acre property consists of an historic house and a camp. The building was constructed as a 5 x 2 bay Cape Cod form house about 1810. The 1 ½-story house rests on a

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granite and concrete block foundation, an asphalt shingle roof with boxed cornices, white-painted clapboards and wood sash (6 x 6 light) windows. On the south elevation there is a solid wood entrance door and six double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows. There is an exterior brick end chimney on the west elevation of the asphalt-shingle roof. On the east elevation of the main house has been extended with a two bay addition and a connector that leads to a garage. There is a single story gable roofed ell at the northwest corner of the house.

17A Camp, c. 1960, non-contributing

The camp/playhouse was constructed in a Log Cabin style and has a sheet-metal roof.

18. Elon Robinson House, c. 1855, contributing, Stanley and Elaine Fitch, 230 Robinson Cemetery Road
(This house and the house across the road, no longer standing, are listed 'E. Robinson' on the 1858 map and 'H. Ainsworth' on the 1873 map)

This 150.1-acre property consists of an historic house, other buildings associated with agricultural uses and a camp. This cross-gabled Greek Revival style house was built about 1855. The 1 ½-story wood-frame house rests on a granite foundation and is covered with white-painted clapboards. There are corner pilasters, full entablature and cornice with returns. The south, or front elevation, projects toward the road and has two side hip roofed corner porches, with several posts at the intersection of the ells and the main house. These open-air porches rest on wood columns and they each shelter entrance doors. The house has double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows, molded lintels and black-painted shutters. There are three brick chimneys, set on the ridge of the steeply pitched sheet metal roof, at each of the gable ends. There is a large single-pane window and a bay window (c. 1896) on the first floor of the east elevation. On the north elevation of the main house there is a 1 ½-story addition on a granite foundation with similar

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detailing, a double door on the east elevation and a brick chimney set in the ridge of the sheet metal roof. Where this north, or rear, addition meets the main house, there is a gabled dormer.

18A Barn, c. 1855, contributing

This gable-front New England style bank barn was built c. 1855. The first four bays are the original barn set on a granite foundation, and c. 1900 another three-bay barn was attached to the south elevation. At the time of the addition, a dome-shaped cupola was built at the center of the ridge on the roof. The timber-frame 2 ½ story barn features red-painted vertical board siding and a sheet metal roof. A sliding barn door is centered on the north elevation and there is a 36-light transom and three double-hung sash (6 over 6 lights) windows with peaked lintels in the gable end. The west elevation has seven identical fixed six pane wood windows, set in each of the bays, on the main floor. The south elevation has an opening on the ground level and three fixed windows in the gable end. The east elevation of the barn has three additions; a gable roofed milk house built c. 1950, a shed-roofed milking parlor built c. 1950 and a free-stall cow barn built c. 1965 with a sliding barn door in the north elevation. The barn is capped with a smaller-than-original square cupola and a small cow-shaped weathervane. There are two round concrete silo bases near the southwest corner of the barn.

18B Machinery and Vehicle Shed, c. 1860, contributing

This single-story side-gabled vernacular style building consists of an original section (east end) and two additions on the west elevation for the storage of vehicles and machinery.

18C Cabin, c. 1920, contributing

This 1 ½-story wood-frame vernacular style gable-front building was built as a garage and remodeled into a cabin. The cabin has red-painted clapboards with white-painted trim boards and a shed-roofed open-air porch on the south elevation. On the north elevation there is an six pane wood

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entrance door and a fixed six pane window. On the east and west elevations there are two fixed six pane windows.

18D Sugarhouse, c. 1970, non-contributing

This wood and pole-frame vernacular style building was built as a storage shed and later used as a sugarhouse. The building has horizontal board siding and a sheet-metal roof. There is an evaporator and syrup processing equipment.

18E Camp, c. 1965, non-contributing

This wood-frame vernacular style camp/playhouse rests on fieldstone piers, has vertical and horizontal wood siding and a sheet-metal roof.

18F Summer House, c. 1970, non-contributing

This modern wood-frame octagonal-shaped gazebo has a wood shingle roof.

19. Robinson Graveyard, c. 1814, contributing, Town of Calais, Robinson Cemetery Road
(Listed 'Cemetery' on the 1858 and the 1873 map)

This 6.5 acre property is a large rural cemetery that opened in 1814. It contains more than a hundred burials and is still in use. There are maple, apple, cedar and lilac trees throughout the cemetery. A white-painted wooden fence surrounds the graveyard supported on wooden posts strapped to logs and granite posts. The majority of the grave markers are different shapes of slate, marble, and granite, as well as a few made of cast zinc. The forms of monuments include perpendicular and horizontal tablets, footstones, obelisks, and a granite bench. The grave markers are decorated with inscriptions, epitaphs, biblical quotations and floral carvings that represent symbolism used to enrich the memorials. Several of the tombstones are hand-carved with a perpendicular square base, topped with a gable roof and a turned decorative urn. The "Converse" grave marker is a granite mill stone with the inscription, "This mill wheel ground wheat on the Robert Converse Farm from 1828-

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1854", thus preserving a tradition of agricultural and industrial virtue in Calais.

The most prominent structure in the cemetery is a Receiving Vault set near the road. The stepped vault, with a central pavilion of cut granite posts and lintels with peaked cap, was constructed in 1888 of large cut granite blocks and built into a small hillside. The semi-rusted steel door is flanked by simple granite posts and five horizontal blocks on each side.

At the top of the tomb is a gray granite block with the hand-carved words, '*Erected by I. Kent. 1888*' that is set over a solid semi-rusty steel door hung on wrought iron hinges. A wooden flagpole tops the tomb. To the right of the tomb are granite steps that were used to assist the transport of coffins from wagons into the graveyard.

20. Robinson Sawmill, 1803, contributing, Aldrich Memorial Association, Robinson Cemetery Road
(Listed 'A. Kent Saw Mill' on the 1858 map and not illustrated on the 1873 map)

This 2-acre property consists of a mill pond, dam and an historic sawmill. The mill was constructed at a stone dam on the south side of a mill pond in 1803. The mill pond is fed from Curtis Brook that originates in Curtis Pond at Maple Corner. The two-story rectangular timber-frame building is covered with vertical unpainted boards and galvanized sheet metal on a gable roof. There is a fieldstone foundation on the west elevation that forms part of the dam, and half of the south foundation. The timber framing is exposed on the bottom of the mill and it rests on concrete and field stone piers. There is a shed roof addition on the west end of the mill and a 2-story shed roof addition on the east end of the mill. At the top of the dam a steel gate leads water through a steel penstock, and into a smaller wood box penstock, and into a turbine in a shed roof addition on the north elevation.

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In 1876, the configuration of the machinery was changed from an upright saw to a circular saw. The 'Barre Turbine Water Wheel' was manufactured by Smith, Whitcomb and Cook, in Barre, Vermont, and this scroll-case turbine was installed in 1876. From the turbine a main shaft and large drive pulley powers the woodworking machinery in the mill. On the first floor of the mill, a Lane Manufacturing Company model '00' sawmill, manufactured in Montpelier, Vermont, was also installed in a remodeling of the building in 1876.

The south elevation has no wall; large logs are fed to the Lane sawmill from the log yard south of the building. The north wall of the mill has no fenestration. On this floor there is also an edger that is powered on a separate (not operational) shaft and pulley, a large wood vise and Lane sawmill carriage parts stored in the rafters. There is an old planer (not operational) with heavy cast iron legs, shafting, pulleys, belting, saw blades and miscellaneous bearing parts in the bottom floor of the east addition with two entrance doors. The building was never electrified and the mill was reinforced with concrete foundation walls (1956) and operated with the power of a gas engine until 1958. The stone dam was faced with concrete in 1961, there was a restoration of the building in 1986, and the turbine and sawmill were restored to working condition in 2004. There is an interpretative sign, about the history of the mill, near the road.

21. **Remember Kent House**, c. 1810, contributing, Judith Bingham, 647 Kent Hill Road
(Listed 'I. Kent' on the 1858 map and the 1873 map)

This 1.2-acre property consists of an historic house and a garage. This building was constructed as a Cape Cod form house about 1810 and has Greek Revival details. The side-gabled 1 ½ story 5 x 2 bay wood-frame house rests on a granite foundation and is covered with white-painted clapboards and wide corner boards. On the east elevation

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there is a solid wood entrance door with ½ length sidelights with a plain surround and peaked lintel. On the west elevation is an entrance door, and a full length hip-roof porch, with three square posts and a side entrance door on the south elevation. There are double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows and green-painted wood shutters on all four elevations. There is a brick chimney in the middle of the ridge on the asphalt-shingle roof and two gabled dormers (c. 1980) on both the east and west elevations. On the north elevation of the main house there is a single story addition (c. 1997). This addition has comparable clapboards, windows with modern shutters, and roofing material. The west elevation of the addition has a screened porch with Syrian arches supported on wood posts. There is a brick chimney on the north edge of the roof ridge. There is a white-painted wood fence that extends from the main house to the garage.

21A Garage, c. 1960, non-contributing

This 1 ½ story wood-frame front-gabled vernacular style garage is covered with red-painted clapboards and white-painted trim boards. There are double-hung wood sash windows and a brick chimney on the ridge of the sheet-metal roof. The south elevation has two vehicle entrances with vertical board doors and three double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 lights) windows in the gable end.

22. **Josephine M. Kent House**, c. 1880, contributing, Allyson Evans, 605 Kent Hill Road
(Not listed on the 1858 map or the 1873 map. Josephine Mattie Kent (1860-1886) was a daughter of Abdiel Kent and married George W. S. Ide in 1881.)

This 1-acre property consists of an historic house and historic barn. This front-gabled Greek Revival style house was built c. 1880. The 2 ½ story 3 x 4 bay wood-frame house rests on a granite foundation and is covered with yellow and white-painted clapboards. There are double-hung wood sash (2 over 2 lights) windows with molded lintels

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on all four elevations. There are corner pilasters and a boxed cornice with returns. On the south elevation there is a double wood entrance door covered with a shed roof that is supported on wood posts set on a small brick porch. There is an exterior brick end chimney on the south elevation and an asphalt-shingle roof with two skylights on the east elevation. On the north elevation there is a 1 ½-story wood frame gable roof ell with a gabled dormer on the west elevation. This ell also has a single-story addition with a bay window on the west elevation.

22A Barn, c. 1880, contributing

This gable-front New England style Bank style barn was built about 1880. The 2 ½ story wood-frame barn is covered in red-painted clapboards, white-painted trim boards and has double-hung wood sash (2 over 2 lights) windows on all four elevations. There is a sliding barn door and a hay loft door on the south elevation and a wall opening in the basement level on the east elevation. There is evidence of a small addition around an entrance door on the west elevation. The barn has a square cupola set in the middle of the ridge on the rusted sheet-metal roof. The north elevation of the barn is unpainted.

23. Judith Fitch and Paul Montore House, 1996, non-contributing, Judith Fitch and Paul Montore, 469 Kent Hill Road

This 10.8 acre property has a Colonial Revival style house built in 1996. The 1 ½-story front-gabled house has white-painted clapboards and a variety of modern windows. There is a wrap-around open-air porch on the east, south and west elevations. The house and the front porch both have metal roofs. On the north elevation of the main house there is a 1 ½-story addition with similar details. The house has a metal roof, two shed dormers on the east elevation and three skylights.

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24. Murray A. Kent House, c. 1850, contributing, Louis and Robin Garcia, 532 Kent Hill Road
(Listed 'I & A Kent' on the 1858 map and 'A. Kent' on the 1873 map)

This .5-acre property consists of an historic house and a historic barn. The front-gable sidehall plan Greek Revival style house was built c. 1850. The 1 ½ story 3 x 3 bay wood-frame house rests on a granite foundation and has white-painted clapboard siding. The north elevation has a recessed entrance door with sidelights (2x3) and a simple surround with molded lintels above the wood entrance door. There are double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 and 2 over 2 lights) windows and green-painted shutters. There are corner pilasters, a boxed cornice with returns and wide frieze. There is a shed roof wall dormer with three (2 x 2 light) windows on the east elevation and a brick chimney on the ridge of the asphalt-shingle roof. On the south elevation of the main house there is a 1 ½ story ell and a brick chimney on the ridge of the asphalt-shingle roof. The ell connects with a modern shed-roofed open-air porch on the south elevation to the barn.

24A Barn, c. 1900, contributing

The side-gable English style bank barn has a sliding door on the north elevation and is covered with unpainted horizontal board siding. There are two double-hung wood sash (2 over 2 lights) windows and an entrance door in the basement level on the east elevation. There is an entrance door to the barn on the porch that connects to the house. The connecting porch and the barn are covered with a red-painted sheet-metal roof.

25. Janet Ancel and Stephen Reynes House, 2002, non-contributing, Janet Ancel and Stephen Reynes, 270 Old West Church Road

This 65.49 acre property consists of a modern Neo-traditional style house built in 2002. The 1 ½-story side-gabled wood-frame house rests on a poured concrete

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foundation and has gray-painted weatherboard siding and modern casement style windows. There is a porch on both the west and east elevations. There is a brick chimney at the ridge line and a wall dormer on the north elevation of the asphalt-shingle roof.

26. **Paul Ohman House**, 1968, non-contributing, Richard Jenny and Judith Harden, 336 Old West Church Road

This 8-acre property consists of a Ranch style house and a garage. This house was originally built in a Log Cabin style that was remodeled to resemble a Ranch style house. The 1 ½-story wood-frame house has gray-colored weatherboard siding and modern windows. There is an open-air porch and a full-length shed dormer on the east elevation. There is a brick chimney on the ridge line of the sheet-metal and asphalt-shingle roof.

26A Garage, 1985, non-contributing

This 1 ½-story wood-frame vernacular style garage has a large garage door on the east elevation, an entrance door on the west elevation, gray-colored weatherboard siding and an asphalt-shingle roof.

27. **Lewis Wood House**, c. 1850, contributing, Christopher and Joyce Martin, 504 Old West Church Road

(This house, and another house across the road not standing, are listed 'L. Wood' on the 1858 map and listed 'L. Wood' on the 1873 map)

This 112.25-acre property consists of an historic house, an historic barn and a garage. This side-gabled Greek Revival-style Classic Cottage was built c. 1850. The 1 ½ story wood-frame house rests on a granite foundation and is covered with white-painted clapboards. The east elevation has a recessed entrance with a transom and a simple surround with peaked lintel. The house has double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows and some 2 x 2 windows on all four elevations, peaked lintels and green-painted shutters. There are corner pilasters, a boxed cornice with

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returns and wide frieze on the gable ends. There is a screened porch on the west elevation of the main house. There are two brick chimneys on the asphalt-shingle roof. On the south elevation of the main house is a gable-roofed wing that has a full-length open-air shed roof porch, with square posts, railings and lattice skirt, sheltering an entrance door to the wing and an open bay on the east elevation. There is a pedimented dormer on the east elevation and a brick chimney on the ridge of the asphalt-shingle roof. The left side of the wing is an open-air woodshed. There are two double-hung wood sash (9 over 6 lights) windows in the gable end of the woodshed.

27A Barn, c. 1850, contributing

This 1 ½-story wood-frame side-gabled extended English style barn is composed of two parts. The right half has a shed-roof entrance, left of the central barn door, and the left half is a Wagon Shed with two openings for vehicles or machinery on the east elevation. Both halves have laid-up stone foundations, unpainted vertical board siding and a sheet metal roof. In the south elevation of the right half there are two fixed six-pane wood sash windows.

27B Garage, 1990, non-contributing

This is a 1 ½-story wood-frame vernacular style garage with two vehicle entrance doors on the north elevation. The garage is covered with unpainted vertical board siding and there is an entrance door on the east elevation. There are three double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows and a sheet metal roof.

28. A. Bliss House, c. 1810, contributing, David and Kathryn Morse, 732 Old West Church Road
(Listed 'A. Bliss' on the 1858 map. Listed 'A. Sanders' on the 1873 map, this is either Austin or Asbury. There is also an 'A. Sanders' across the road on the 1873 map and this house is not standing).

This 183.5-acre farm property has an historic house, four barns and a sugarhouse. The earliest part of this

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building was constructed as a Cape Cod form house about 1810 and on the east elevation there is a Classic Cottage addition (c 1830) that connects to the 2 ½ story house with Greek Revival and Italianate details that was built about 1860.

The 2 ½- story 5 x 2 bay wood-frame house rests on a granite foundation and is covered with white-painted clapboards. There are corner pilasters, a boxed cornice, with a wide frieze with returns. The east elevation has a recessed entrance with double wood doors, with leaf-patterned arched windows. It has a simple surround with peaked lintels. The house has double-hung wood sash (2 over 2 lights) windows, peaked lintels and black-painted wood shutters only on the east elevation. There is a brick chimney above the roof on the west elevation of the main house. On the west elevation of the 2 ½ story house there is a 1 ½-story frame ell, It has a recessed entrance door with 2/3 sidelights and simple surround with molded lintel on the south elevation and gable dormers on the south and north elevations. On the west elevation of the ell there is the 5-bay original house with an entrance door in the first bay and four double-hung wood sash (9 over 6 lights) windows on the south elevation. This original house now has two gabled dormers on the south elevation, a brick chimney above the roof on the north elevation and a screened porch on the north elevation. On the west elevation of the original house is another gable roof addition that serves as an open two bay garage. There is a sheet metal roof on the 2 ½ story house and all the additions.

28A Barn, c. 1840, contributing

This gable-roof English style barn has a large barn door opening (now closed) and a smaller opening on the east elevation. The barn is covered with horizontal and vertical board siding and has a rusted sheet metal roof. There are shed-roof pole-frame additions on the south, west and north elevations of the barn covered with sheet metal roofs.

28B Barn, c. 1860, contributing

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This gable-front Bank style barn was built c. 1860. There is a large barn door and a smaller pedestrian door on the east elevation. The barn is covered with vertical board siding and a rusted sheet metal roof. There is a steel silo attached to the north elevation. Attached to the northeast corner of the barn is a milk house that is a 1 ½ story, gable roof, clapboard sided building with an entrance door in the center gable end with a fixed window above.

28C Dairy Barn, 1994, non-contributing

This large single-story late-twentieth-century Dairy style barn rests on a poured concrete foundation and is covered with vertical boards, plywood and molded plastic sheet siding and a sheet-metal gable roof.

28D Mink Shed, 1986, non-contributing

This single story pole-frame shed was constructed to raise mink. The 20-bay building is open on the south elevation and has a sheet-metal roof.

28E Sugarhouse, c. 1980, non-contributing

This single-story wood-frame gable-roofed sugarhouse has a large steel vent on the rusted sheet metal roof and a woodshed addition on the north elevation.

29. Old West Church, 1825, contributing, Old West Church Association, 758 Old West Church Road

(Listed 'Union Ch' on the 1858 map and 'Uni. Ch' and 'Cem' on the 1873 map)

This 1.5 acre property consists of an historic church and graveyard. This landmark meetinghouse and church was constructed in the Greek Revival style and completed in 1825. The 2 1/2-story wood-frame building sits on a fieldstone and granite foundation and has a front-gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles (1993). The building is covered with white-painted clapboards on three sides and red-painted clapboards on the back or west elevation. The church is composed of a rectangular nave and is 3 bays wide and 5 bays long. The east elevation was built with a projecting tower; however the front corners of the building

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were filled in during construction to give the present appearance of a full front facade. The east elevation is marked by a tower composed of a three-stage steeple capped with a wooden spire and a weathervane. The top third of the steeple was rebuilt after a fire in 1953. The bell in the tower was relocated (1973) from the public school at Maple Corner. The front, or east elevation, has three green-painted six-panel solid wood entrance doors each framed with pilasters and a wide cornice over the entrance. The building has double-hung wood sash (12 over 12) windows and a brick chimney (1831) on the ridge of the roof.

On the interior, the wood floor of the vestibule shows evidence of the original corners of the building that were enclosed. The vestibule has a Mason and Hamlin pump organ, donation baskets, a bench and two corner stairs leading up to a second floor vestibule and a three-sided balcony with numbered box pews and wood benches. In the downstairs vestibule there is a copy of the original pew chart with names of the subscribing families that financed construction of the church between 1823 and 1825. The first floor has the original floor plan with numbered box pews set throughout the space and a pulpit that was originally set higher on the west wall. In 1831 six box pews were removed from the back of the space for the installation of two cast-iron box stoves with a long stove pipe running up to the ceiling where a brick chimney is set in the roof. One stove was manufactured by Morrison & Tibbets of Troy, New York and has a patent date of 1850. The second stove has an elaborate scroll pattern. There is no electricity, plumbing or central heating system in the building.

Above the pulpit are the words: *"REMOVE NOT THE ANCIENT LANDMARK WHICH THY FATHERS HAVE SET"*. The quotation is from Proverbs 22:28 and is composed of cedar fronds attached to the wall in 1886.

29A Graveyard, 1826, contributing

This cemetery opened in 1826, contains about 100 burials, is used very occasionally and contains a variety of grave

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markers and styles. The four-rail white-painted wood fence has an arched gate on the east elevation. The variety of grave markers and plot enclosures is similar to the Robinson Graveyard (#19).

The Bliss Monument was erected by descendents of Abdiel Bliss, Sr. before 1932. The monument is a cast bronze plaque set in a large boulder. The inscription reads: *Capt. Abdiel Bliss born Rehoboth, Mass., Dec. 15, 1740. Died in Calais June 10, 1805. His wife Lydia Smith born in Rehoboth, Mass., April 8 1739, Died in Calais, VT, Mch 27 1820. An officer of the Revolution, a leader of men, a pioneer of Calais where in seven years he cleared seven farms for his children.*

30. **Medad Wright House**, c. 1810, contributing, Forest and Elizabeth Davis, 842 Old West Church Road (Listed 'M. Clark' on the 1858 map and 'Town Farm, H. H. Needer' on the 1873 map)

This 2 acre property has an historic house and a wagon shed. This building was constructed as a Cape Cod form house about 1810 and received a Greek Revival style addition at the front of the house about 1830. The 2 ½-story 5 x 3 bay gable roof, eaves front wood-frame house rests on a granite foundation and is covered with red-painted clapboards and white-painted trim boards. On the east elevation there is a recessed entrance with ¾ sidelights and a simple surround with full entablature. The house has double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows. There are corner pilasters, a box cornice with returns. There are two brick chimneys on the ridge of the rusted sheet-metal roof. On the west elevation of the main house is the original single-story house. This original part has an entrance door and an open-air porch on the south elevation. This original section is covered in clapboards and has a brick chimney at the ridge of the sheet-metal roof. On the west elevation of the original house is another addition (1976) with a garage door, an entrance door on the south elevation, vertical board

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siding, aluminum windows and a concrete-block chimney on the ridge of the asphalt-shingle roof.

30A Wagon Shed, c. 1850, contributing

This single-story wood-frame gable-front wagon shed has a hinged wood door and a hay loft door on the north elevation. The building is covered with vertical board siding and a sheet-metal roof. There is a woodshed on the west elevation and an addition on the south elevation with four fixed windows.

31. Bliss Pond Town Forest, 1871, contributing, Town of Calais, west of Old West Church Road

A path from the road leads to this 120-acre wooded property that was acquired by the town in 1871 and used by the Town Farm (#30). It was established as the Town Forest in 1925. There are no standing structures. (no photograph)

32. Walter and Carolyn Balentine House No. 1, 1963, non-contributing, Walter and Carolyn Balentine, 1082 Old West Church Road

The 52-acre property has a modern house with two outbuildings, two historic barns and a milk house. This single-story Ranch style house has an addition and screened porch on the south elevation. There a modern wood sash (2 over 2 light) windows, two brick chimneys, an asphalt-shingle roof and a deck on the west elevation of the addition.

32A Workshop, 1995, non-contributing

The single-story wood-frame workshop has two wood entrance doors on the south elevation and wood frame windows on all elevations. The front-gabled roof has asphalt shingles.

32B Garden Shed, 1990, non-contributing

The small wood-frame garden shed has an entrance door on the east elevation, wood shingle siding and an asphalt-shingle roof.

32C Barn, 1888, contributing

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This Bank style barn was built with a high-drive about 1880. The timber-frame two-story gable-front barn features red-painted board and batten siding with white-painted trim boards and a sheet-metal roof. The gable roofed, covered opening to the high-drive is centered on the west elevation. The main doorway enters on a driveway that runs the length of the main floor where livestock were stabled and above the first floor are open haylofts. The barn rests on a granite, field stone and brick foundation. The south elevation has four identical four-light fixed windows, a solid wood entrance door and two sliding barn doors on the ground floor. The north elevation has four windows on the ground floor level. A wood-frame rectangular cupola sits in the middle of the roof ridge.

32D Milk House, c. 1920, contributing

This single-story front-gabled wood-frame milk house has an entrance door on the north elevation, fixed windows on the west and south elevations and a wood-shingle roof.

32E Barn, c. 1840, contributing

This 1 ½-story English style barn rests on a fieldstone foundation and is covered with vertical boards and an asphalt-shingle roof. There is an open door on the south elevation and open windows in the gable ends.

33. Joseph W. E. Bliss House, c. 1835, contributing, Norman and Donna Moser, 1116 Old West Church Road (This house, and another house across the road no longer standing, is listed 'J. W. E. Bliss' on the 1858 map and 'Moses Stone settled here in 1787' and 'J. W. E. Bliss' on the 1873 map)

This one acre property has an historic house. This side-gabled Federal style house was built c. 1835. The 1½ story brick house rests on a granite foundation, has a boxed cornice with returns. The east elevation has granite steps leading up to a solid wood entrance door with a four-pane transom and granite sills. The brick work on the east elevation is unevenly repointed. All the windows on the

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house are double-hung wood sash (12 over 12), with the exception of a three-part casement window on the west elevation. There are two gabled dormers on the east elevation and a larger gabled dormer on the west elevation. There are three brick chimneys above the sheet-metal roof. On the north elevation of the house there is a single-story wood-frame wing (c 1900) covered with white-painted clapboards. On the east elevation there is a full length covered shed roof porch, with decorative square wood porch supports, running the entire length of the addition. On this same elevation there are four double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows and a solid wood entrance door. On the north elevation there is a garage door. On the west elevation (from left to right) there is a woodshed with a tar-paper roof, a double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) window, an entrance door and an aluminum window. The addition has a wood-shingle roof and there is a brick chimney above the roof line near the gable end that is attached to the main house.

34. Salem Goodenough House, c. 1850, contributing, Richard Lynch, 761 Bliss Pond Road (Listed 'S. Goodenough' and 'Saw Mill' and 'Shop' on the 1858 map and 'S. Goodenough' and 'S. Mill' on the 1873 map. Salem Goodenough is listed as a 'Carpenter & Joiner' in the 1880 Census)

This 13 acre property has an historic house and the archeological remains of a sawmill foundation on the brook. This building was constructed as a Sidehall plan house with Greek Revival details about 1850. The front-gabled 1 ½ story 3 x 3 bay house rests on a granite foundation and is covered with gray-painted clapboards and white-painted trim boards. There are corner pilasters, a frieze, a boxed cornice with returns. The east elevation has a recessed entrance door with ¾ side lights and a simple surround with peaked lintel. Also on this elevation there are two double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows with peaked lintels with wood

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shutters on the first floor and two similar windows on the second floor. The north elevation has two double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows and a smaller fixed wood window on the first floor. There is a brick chimney above the roof and a shed dormer on the north elevation. The south elevation has three double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows on the first floor. On the west elevation of the main house there is a single-story ell with a full length, shed roof porch, supported by three wood posts, running the entire length of the south elevation. There is a solid wood entrance door with side lights and three double-hung windows on the south elevation. The north elevation of this addition has an entrance door and two windows. The roof has a brick chimney above the roof line and a large shed dormer on the north elevation. On the west elevation of the ell is a second addition with an entrance door and three double-hung wood windows on the south elevation. There is a steel stove pipe above the roof. The main house and both the additions have a wood-shingle roof.

34A Joshua Bliss Sawmill foundation, 1824, contributing

This is an historic archeology site in Bliss Brook on the south side of the road. Worked granite posts, set in Bliss Brook running from Bliss Pond, are all that remain of a sawmill that was on this site in the 19th and early 20th century. A Woodworking Shop was east of the mill.

34B Summer House, c. 1970, non-contributing

This modern wood-frame octagonal-shaped summer house/gazebo has screens and a wood-shingle roof.

35. **Jesse White House**, c. 1830, contributing, Alice Blachly,
184 Fowler Road

(Listed 'J. White' on the 1858 map and 'L. Perry' on the 1873 map)

This 22-acre property consists of an historic house and a garage. This side-gabled Greek Revival style Classic Cottage was built c. 1830. The 1 ½ story 5 x 3 bay house

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rests on a granite foundation and is covered with red-painted clapboards with red trim boards. There are wide corner boards, a boxed cornice with returns. The south elevation has a recessed entrance door with $\frac{3}{4}$ sidelights and a simple surround with corner blocks and a granite sill. The house has double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows with black-painted wood shutters. The wood-shingle roof has a brick chimney at the ridge line. There is a wall dormer on the west elevation of the main house. On the south elevation of the main house is a single-story wing with a sheet metal roof. The wing has an open-air recessed porch and a vehicle bay on the south elevation. There is a wood fence attached to granite posts in the front yard.

35A Garage, c. 1962, non-contributing

This single-story wood-frame front-gable vernacular style building has a garage door on the west elevation. The building is covered in red-painted board and batten siding with white-painted trim boards. The garage has three fixed wood windows and an asphalt-shingle roof. There is a wood ramp leading up to the garage door.

36. Balentine House No. 2, 1980, non-contributing, James and Sally Olmsted, 167 Fowler Road

This 10.2 acre property has a house and a garage. This side-gabled Colonial Revival style house has several additions. The 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -story wood-frame house rests on a poured concrete foundation and is covered with white-painted clapboards. The house has steel sash windows and three skylights with a brick chimney in the middle of the ridge on the metal roof. On the north elevation there is a screen porch, a wall dormer and two skylights. On the west elevation of the main house there is a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -story addition. The addition has similar detailing, as well as a large shed dormer and a steel stovepipe on the north elevation.

36A Garage, 1980, non-contributing

This single-story wood-frame front-gable vernacular style building has a garage door on the south elevation. The

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garage is covered with white-painted clapboards and an asphalt-shingle roof. There is an aluminum window on the east elevation and an entrance door on the west elevation.

37. Peter Harvey and Lucy Wollaeger House, 1996, non-contributing, Peter Harvey and Lucy Wollaeger, 1155 Old West Church Road

This 10.1 acre property has a house, garage and workshop. This side-gabled Colonial Revival style house rests on a poured concrete foundation. The 1 ½-story wood-frame house has white-painted clapboards, double-hung wood sash (12 over 12 lights) windows and three solid-wood entrance doors. There is a central brick chimney at the ridge of the wood-shingle roof.

37A Garage, c. 1995, non-contributing

This single-story wood-frame front-gable vernacular style building rests on a poured concrete foundation. There is a garage door on the south elevation and the garage is covered with vertical-board siding and a wood-shingle roof.

37B Woodworking Shop, 1994, non-contributing

This single-story wood-frame front-gable vernacular style building rests on concrete piers. There is an entrance door on the south elevation and the building is covered with building wrap. The building has six window openings covered with plastic and a wood-shingle roof with a steel stovepipe on the north elevation.

38. Balentine House No. 5, 1990, non-contributing, Karen Balentine, 1093 Old West Church Road

This 10.2 acre property has a side-gabled Colonial Revival style house resting on a poured concrete foundation. The 2 ½-story wood-frame house has white-painted clapboards, double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows and an entrance door on the south elevation. There is a central brick chimney at the ridge of the asphalt-shingle roof. On the west elevation of the main house is an addition with an open-air porch, with entrance door, and a garage

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door on the south elevation. There is an entrance door on the north elevation of the addition.

39. **Don and Sharon Martin House**, 2004, non-contributing, Don and Sharon Martin, 981 Old West Church Road

This 20 acre property has a modern house and vehicle storage shed. The 1 ½ story 5 x 3 bay Colonial Revival style house has an asphalt shingle roof and an off-centered small brick chimney on an asphalt shingle roof. There is an elevated open-air porch, supported on six square wood posts on the west elevation and a central entrance door. The west and south elevation is completed with wood clapboards and wood sash windows (2 x 2), the east elevation and north elevation are covered in insulation and comparable windows.

39A Vehicle Storage Shed, 2004, non-contributing

This single story wood frame storage shed is covered with a metal roof and has three bays on the east elevation. The walls are covered with vertical boards and insulation.

40. **Balentine House No. 4**, 1988, non-contributing, Edgar and Lorraine Clodfelter, 921 Old West Church Road

This 10-acre property has a Colonial Revival style house and a garden shed next to a swimming pool. This side-gabled Ranch style house rests on a poured concrete foundation. The 1 ½-story wood-frame house has gray-painted clapboards and double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows. On the west elevation there is an open-air shed-roofed porch with an entrance door. There is a wall dormer on the east elevation of the main house and a central brick chimney at the ridge of the asphalt-shingle roof. On the south elevation of the main house is a single-story addition with an entrance door and porch on the south elevation. On the north elevation of the main house there is a garage addition with an entrance door and two garage doors on the west elevation. There is a screened porch on the east elevation of this garage addition.

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40A Pool and Garden Shed, c. 2000, non-contributing

This single-story wood-frame side-gable vernacular garden shed rests on a poured concrete foundation. The building is covered with gray-painted clapboards and a metal roof. There is an entrance door and 3 double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows on the south elevation. There is a large entrance door on the east elevation.

41. **Balentine House No. 3**, 1985, non-contributing, Steven and Susan Killoran, 825 Old West Church Road

This 3-acre property has a house and a garden shed. This side-gabled Colonial Revival style house rests on a poured concrete foundation. The 1 ½-story wood-frame house has white-painted clapboards with black-painted trim boards and an asphalt-shingle roof. There is a combination of double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) windows and steel-frame windows. On the east elevation there is a closed-in porch. On the west elevation there is an entrance door. On the west elevation of the main house there is an addition with a central brick chimney on the ridge of the roof, a bay window on the south elevation and a shed dormer on the north elevation. On the west elevation of this addition there is a connector to the garage addition. The connector has an entrance door on the south elevation. The front-gabled vernacular style garage addition has two garage doors on the south elevation and an asphalt-shingle roof. The north elevation of the house and the additions is a continuous elevation from the garage addition back to an addition on the main house.

36A Garden Shed, 1988, non-contributing

This single-story side-gabled wood-frame garden shed is covered with white-painted vertical-board siding and a metal roof. There is a sliding entrance door and a single double-hung wood sash (6 over 6 lights) window on the north elevation. There are two large 32-pane fixed wood windows on the south elevation. There is wood-frame pergola attached to the east and west elevations of the garden shed.

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42. Craig and Tinatin Line House, 1998, non-contributing,
Craig and Tinatin Line, 287 Old West Church Road

This 51.1-acre property has a house and a sugarhouse. This side-gabled Colonial Revival style house rests on a poured concrete foundation. The 2 ½-story wood-frame house has white-painted clapboards, double-hung wood sash (8 over 8 lights) windows and a recessed entrance door with sidelights on the north elevation. On the south elevation there are three sets of French style doors. There is a brick chimney above the asphalt-shingle roof. On the east elevation of the main house there is a single-story addition with an entrance door on the north elevation and an open-air porch on the east elevation.

42A Sugarhouse, 2005, non-contributing

This side-gabled vernacular style sugarhouse rests on a poured concrete foundation. The west elevation has a solid wood entrance door and four fixed wood sash (2 over 2 lights) windows. The north elevation has an elevated maple sap tank, covered with a shed roof, and the south elevation has a sliding solid wood entrance door. The east elevation of the building is uncovered. There is a large roof vent, molded plastic skylights and a steel flue pipe on the ridge of the metal roof.

42B Goodenough-Wheeler House site, c. 1810, contributing
The house was built about 1810 and burned about 1888. This fieldstone foundation is an historic archeological site.

42C House, c. 1850, non-contributing

This front-gabled Greek Revival style house is in ruin and has lost integrity of design and materials. The house is missing all its windows and doors, as well as siding on the south elevation. There is a rusted sheet-metal roof and a chimney opening on the roof ridge.

End of property descriptions.

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National Park Service

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Summary

The land surrounding Kents Corner is a quintessential rural Vermont crossroads neighborhood. Kents Corner is named for the pioneer homesteader Remember Kent and his descendants who settled on the high ground along Curtis Brook in the western part of the Town of Calais. Located less than ten miles from Montpelier, Calais always has been a hill town without a geographic center. The neighborhood around Kents Corner is more than a cluster of dwellings; it is a network of cultural, economic and social linkages.

The Kents Corner Historic District meets the National Register Criteria C for the design value of the neighborhood's predominant historic architectural style, Greek Revival as interpreted in rural north-central Vermont in the mid 19th century. This style of architecture was the most popular 19th century style in Vermont and is well represented in the Kents Corner Historic District. The period of significance for the district is 1800-1955 and there are 42 properties, with 53 contributing and 50 non-contributing structures. Building stock in the neighborhood grew slowly after 1955 when 15 non-contributing houses were added in the district. There are several historic archeological sites in the district: (Wheelock Monument (#2E), Goodenough-Wheeler Farm site (#42B), Joshua Bliss Sawmill and Woodworking Shop site (#34A), and the Kent Brick Kiln site (#6).

Kents Corner neighborhood is a product of traditional Vermont agriculture interrupted here and there by small industry and religious expression and is also eligible under National Register Criteria A. Shaped by local tradition, this mixture of natural and cultural forms is the remarkable landscape that surrounds Kents Corner today. Kents Corner Historic District is significant in the following areas: Architecture, Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, Religion, Government, Landscape, and Conservation/Preservation.

The Kents Corner Historic District meets the National Register Criteria C for the design value of the community's predominant historic architectural style, Greek Revival as

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interpreted in the 1840s and 1850s in rural north-central Vermont. This style of architecture was the most popular 19th century style in Vermont and is well represented in the Kents Corner Historic District. Kents Corner neighborhood is a product of traditional Vermont agriculture interrupted here and there by small industry and religious expression and is also eligible under National Register Criteria A. Shaped by local tradition, this mixture of natural and cultural forms is the remarkable landscape that surrounds Kents Corner today. The district is located in the western part of the Town of Calais in Washington County, Vermont.

Early Settlement at Kents Corner

The earliest published account of Kents Corner appeared in a letter written by Shubael Wheeler (1827-1856), Calais's first resident lawyer and later judge, published in 1824 in Vermont's first *Gazetteer* by the historian Zadock Thompson (1796-1856).¹ The 36-square mile township of Calais was granted to Colonel Jacob Davis and Stephen Fay, both residents of Charlton, Massachusetts, and sixty-eight other men by the General Assembly of the Independent Republic of Vermont in 1781.² Abby Maria Hemenway (1828-1890), the renowned Vermont historian of the 19th century published a letter in 1882 by Calais residents James K. Tobey and Edwin E. Robinson. Tobey and Robinson speculated that the town was named by Colonel Davis, a principal proprietor in the grants of both Montpelier and Calais, because Davis "had become prejudiced against the custom, so common among the settlers, of giving the name of the old home to the new, and wishing to avoid this in his selection of names, his attention was naturally drawn to France, rather than England, by her attitude toward this country at that time, and perhaps, also by thought of a prior claim upon *Verd Mont* through her daring and gallant son Champlain. And, so it came about that two of the beautiful old cities of France had namesakes in the Green Mountain Wilderness".³ Esther Swift, a twentieth-century historian of Vermont place names, reported that Davis's son-

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in-law speculated that Davis picked “French names” for Montpelier and Calais “because there was great enthusiasm in this country over France’s aid during the Revolution”. In 1781, the Calais Township was granted along with 42 other towns, the most granted in any year of the Republic of Vermont.⁴ By the mid 18th century, southern New England was full of farms and limited opportunities, Vermont attracted these immigrants with cheap land and no taxes.

Within a month of the official Republic charter in 1781, the proprietors began meetings in Charlton, Massachusetts, from where many would emigrate. Proprietors were non-resident land speculators who obtained charters and often sold lots to settlers and drew gridded land divisions on original town maps often with no knowledge of the topographic character of the town. In the summer of 1787, Abijah, Asa and Peter Wheelock cleared the forests near Kents Corner and returned the following spring with four more men from Charlton to build the first log dwellings. The next year the first proprietors meeting was held at the new house of Peter Wheelock (1750-1820). The first families settled in the spring of 1789 and the Wheelocks raised large families. Calais historian Marcus Warren Waite reported that in the first Vermont census, taken just one month after the independent Republic of Vermont became the fourteenth state to join the United States in 1791; there were three Wheelock farms with 23 inhabitants out of a total of 45 inhabitants for the entire town of Calais.⁵

In 1794, Joel Robinson (1772-1831), also from Charlton, settled at Kents Corner. Robinson married Rachel Stevens in Charlton in 1797 and later that year was appointed hay warden in Calais. Joel and Rachael produced six children, all born in Calais. In 1798, Colonel Caleb Curtis from Charlton and Captain Abdiel Bliss and Remember Kent from Rehoboth, Massachusetts settled in Calais. Calais born historian Dorman B. E. Kent summarized that thirty-six of the original settlers came from Charlton, thirty-three from Rehoboth and seventeen from Brookfield, Massachusetts

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making these three towns equal to seventy percent of the total settlers between 1787 and 1809.⁶

Remember Kent (1775-1855) was elected a captain in the local militia and his descendants became prominent in business and town affairs. Remember Kent married Rachael Bliss in 1799 and acquired 80 acres in the southerly part of town lot number 46 of the first division and later acquired part of lot number 47. Remember's wife Rachael was the daughter of Calais pioneer Captain Abdiel Bliss (1740-1803) and she received 75 acres in lot number 50, of the first division, as a gift from her father. By 1800 Remember Kent owned an extensive farm of more than 155 acres at the junction of lot numbers 46, 47, 50 and 51.⁷ In 1797 Remember Kent built a log house, at what would later be named Kents Corner, and about 1810 it was relocated less than a ¼ mile east. Kent's first home would later be redesigned into a Cape Cod form, be called the 'Pioneer Cottage' and that structure is now part of the house at property #13.

For the purposes of this National Register Nomination the period of significance begins when the first roads in Kents Corner, blazed trails cut from the land that connected farm to farm, were established to accommodate settlement around 1800.⁸ The junction of two major roads (the north-south road, later named the Old West Church Road running southward and the Robinson Cemetery Road running northward, and the east-west road, named Kent Hill Road), met on land owned by Remember Kent. The area around this significant crossroads was named for Remember Kent and his descendants and came to be known as Kents Corner.

Abijah Wheelock (1764-1846), one of the first of several members of Wheelocks to settle in Calais, built a log cabin in 1788 southeast of Kents Corner (#2E). Captain Abdiel Bliss (1740-1805), a Revolutionary War veteran, cleared the forest in seven years for seven farms, which he gifted to his seven children. A monument to Captain Bliss, in the cemetery (#29A) of the Old West Church, commemorates this remarkable achievement. Colonel Caleb

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Curtis (1770-1836) settled west of Kents Corner around Curtis Pond in Maple Corner and four of his seven daughters married four of the seven Kent brothers: Polly married Ira Kent, Fanny married Abdiel Kent, Laura married John Van Rensselaer Kent and Minerva married Ezekiel Kent. The Bliss, Curtis, Kent, Robinson and Wheelock families were the social nucleus of a place that in subsequent years was called Kents Corner. Fertile productive soils, water power, and access to a rudimentary road network gave economic advantages to these families.

By 1800 Calais grew ten fold to 443 inhabitants living in 74 dwellings; the largest families were the Bliss Family with eight farms and the Wheelock Family with six farms in the Kents Corner neighborhood.⁹ Settlers were motivated to establish family farms in a mature forested landscape on the hills of Calais and this still rural landscape was shaped for two hundred years by families who were looking for an opportunity to make a living on the bedrock of New England.

The Kent Family

The Kent family was active in agriculture, industry, commerce, government, religion, conservation and preservation for many generations. Remember and Rachel Bliss Kent had eight children between 1799 and 1817: Remember Jr., Rachel Bliss, Ira, Abdiel, George, Ezekiel, John Van Rensselaer, and Samuel Newell. Remember's first son, Remember Kent, Jr. (1799-1881) married Delia Tucker in 1825 and after her death in 1860, he married Lucy White Goodell in 1861. Remember's daughter, Rachael Bliss Kent (1800-1897) married Aaron Tucker. Remember's second son, Ira Kent (1803-1898) married Polly Curtis in 1831 and following his father's death in 1855 they lived in the Remember Kent House (#21). Remember's third son, Abdiel Kent (1805-1887) built the Abdiel Kent House (#1) and later the Kent Hotel (#1), married Fanny Curtis in 1846, and after her death, married Lucy A. Bliss in 1859. Remember's fourth son, George Kent (1807-1885) married Mehitable Hill. Remember's fifth son, Ezekiel Kent (1811-1893) married

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Minervia Curtis in 1836. Remember's sixth son, John V. R. Kent (1813-1892) married Laura Curtis in 1844, and five years after her death, married Catherine Bliss Morse in 1856. Remember's seventh son Samuel Newell died as a result of a fall from a horse (1817-1835).¹⁰ Remember Kent's children and their marriages extended the Kent family into the commercial, religious and social life of the neighborhood.

Historic Architecture in the District

Kents Corner Historic District is significant under National Register Criteria C for a concentration of Greek Revival style buildings, the prevailing architectural style of the 19th century in Vermont. This unity of style is one of the most important visual components giving cohesion and architectural order to what is appreciated as the New England aesthetic in the district. These buildings obeyed constructions of tested stability and common usage and were genuinely appreciated by their builders and owners.

Pioneer dwellings of temporary logs or rough boards on hewn timber frames were soon replaced by permanent clapboarded post-and-beam frame houses and "their replacement was regarded as proof of progress" in Calais.¹¹ The structural system concealed within these houses is either; a post and beam, mortise-and-tenon frame house with horizontal board siding, or a post and beam, mortise and tenon frame house with vertical plank walls.¹² Depending on the time of arrival, Calais settlers experienced a three-house progression: rustic shelter, log house or frame house. Hememway credits Bucklin Slayton, a master carpenter who "set out" many of the frame dwelling-houses and stores of Montpelier and Calais, with introducing the 'square rule' method of construction in the late 1820s that superceded the old 'scribe rule' method of framing a building. The new 'square rule' method of framing produced a frame that tended toward standardization of parts. Introduction of the 'square rule' did not do away with the traditional mortise-and-tenon method of joining timbers; it merely standardized the procedure so that each joint was no

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longer a unique feature and the structure was erected faster.¹³

The earliest houses surviving in the historic district are examples of the Cape Cod form of architecture which were later refashioned into the Greek Revival style. The residents of Calais wanted their buildings “to appear suitably dignified” and “this meant formal as opposed to rustic, symmetry of façade and plan as opposed to asymmetry, and (their) dwellings looked more like public buildings than the cottages of farm folk that most of them were”.¹⁴ Most farmers confined their stylistic choices to a simple vernacular version of this classical Greek Revival architectural vocabulary.¹⁵ The earliest dwellings soon gave way to the fashion of remodeling with Greek Revival details (#s 1, 3, 17, 21, 28, 30). In the later half of 19th century Calais builders modified their constructions by introducing simplified techniques associated with the balloon-frame system of construction using dimensional milled lumber.¹⁶ The substantial early houses rested on long large granite blocks, called capstones, for the upper section of fieldstone foundation walls.

By the 1830s the Greek Revival style was spreading throughout Vermont, popularized in part by newly published handbooks for carpenters. Greek Revival became the official state architecture with Ammi B. Young’s (1798-1874) design of the Vermont State House in 1838, a masterpiece of this popular style. Inspired by the ancient architecture of Greece that had been adopted by the popular culture, the Greek Revival style was selected for local houses and churches. In Calais, most of the stylistic emphasis is on the main entry, a paneled door flanked by pilasters and usually surrounded by a full transom light. The surviving Greek Revival houses in the district are the work of local joiners and carpenters who continued craft traditions passed on by experienced builders.

In the 1830s, 1840s and 1850s, buildings were constructed or remodeled in the district in the Greek Revival style (#s 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 12, 17, 18, 21, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35). Classic Cottages (#s 12, 27, 35) were an evolution of the earlier Cape Cod form that received Greek Revival detailing

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and new floor plans. Likewise the Old West Church (#29) and the Christian Church/Calais Town Hall (#7) are topped with classically detailed steeples. After the Civil War, Greek Revival-inspired houses continued to be built (#s 8, 22). The Salem Goodenough House (#34), the Murray A. Kent House (#24), and the Josephine M. Kent House (#22) feature a two-story sidehall plan with a side entrance hall and parlor in the front of the house. The Elon Robinson House (#18) features symmetrical front porch entrances. In some cases the architectural detail of the main house is diminished on the little house and further diminished on the back house and the barn.¹⁷

By the mid 19th century, the vernacular-classical tradition was the overwhelming selection for the articulation of most buildings in Kents Corner. Farmers built in two traditions: the tradition of permanence, involving a high degree of building maintenance, reuse and preservation; and the tradition of change, involving the practices of building modification, alteration and rehabilitation. Buildings were valued and often moved and reused. The architectural tradition of permanence was balanced by the equally strong tradition of change or impermanence. The buildings that were reused were not saved in a spirit of “nostalgic preservationism”, but were unceremoniously adapted in a practical no-nonsense spirit of farm improvement and modernization.¹⁸

Historic Agriculture in the District

Kents Corner Historic District is significant for a concentration of agricultural resources that represent the dominant economic pursuit during the 19th century in Calais. Land making and agricultural patterns were fundamental to developing the commercial, cultural and physical character of the landscape of Calais. The New England husbandman was called by the middle of the eighteenth century a cultivator, or an agriculturalist, and by 1820, a farmer.¹⁹

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19th century agriculture around Kents Corner evolved from nearly-self-sufficient farms to surplus-based farms. Prosperity blessed farmers whose fathers paid for and cleared land, who had good soil, good luck with weather and prices, good stock, tight buildings, sharpened tools, and who got their chores and seasonal activities completed at the right times. Even with good luck and foresight, their non-agricultural skills contributed much to their prosperity.²⁰

In the language of agricultural historians, these farms were a system of mixed-husbandry, home-industry, and small-scale family farming. Mixed husbandry meant that Calais farmers never put all their agricultural eggs into a single product basket but harvested a variety of crops and animal products. Home industry relied on non-agricultural income to support the farm, including lumbering, clothing and craft occupations. Small-scale family farming with limited production and commitment to traditional cultural values has consistently characterized most of Vermont's agricultural community in all periods.

Farmers cherished the practices of their fathers and three principles guided their management of land and resources: 1) Although crops were frequently rotated to maintain soil fertility, overall field organization for farmers remained uniform throughout the 19th century because most farmers operated farms according to a system of mixed-farming, home-industry agriculture. Fields were most frequently planted in potatoes, corn, beans and a variety of grains, including oats, barley and wheat. Throughout the 19th century there were wide fluctuations in the production of these staples due to weather, soil quality, crop failures, personal preferences and market conditions. 2) Grazing animals were pastured and kept out of plowing and mowing fields, so that the grain or hay might be harvested for winter consumption or sold for profit. 3) The woodlot was an important economic unit, supplying a winter crop of timber and firewood.²¹ The Vermont farmer is referred to as a 'summer farmer, winter woodsman' and the farm year is an endless cycle of seasonal activities.²²

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In 1842 Judge Wheeler's account of agriculture was published in Thompson's *Gazetteer*. At this time, Calais participated in the Vermont sheep boom and farm livestock consisted mainly of sheep (5,409), cattle (2,919), swine (666) and horses (252). Grain production consisted of bushels of oats (18,473), Indian corn (5,089), wheat (3,630), buckwheat (1,394), rye (578), and barley (152). Other farm products included maple sugar (24,420 pounds) potatoes (24,246), wool (14,160 pounds), and hay (5,899 tons).²³ After 1832 livestock and staples not consumed on the farm could be traded for goods at the I. & A. Kent General Store (#1) at Kents Corner.

Between Wheeler's account in 1842 and the agricultural census of 1850 we can see changes on the agricultural landscape. By 1850 there were 157 farms with an average of 119 acres that supported more milk cows and horses, and fewer sheep, cattle and hogs. In 1849 these farms produced butter (97,780 pounds) and cheese (63,065 pounds). Thirty years later in 1879, the farms produced much more butter (205,440 pounds) and less cheese (7,900 pounds).²⁴ During the second half of the 19th century, sheep farming for mutton and wool declined and was gradually eclipsed by the dairy industry that, with the arrival of the railroad and the opening of urban markets in southern New England, became Vermont's leading agricultural industry. The short-lived or fluctuating nature of many agricultural activities has rendered historic agricultural buildings particularly vulnerable.

Historically, a typical farm in the district included a variety of land forms: farmstead (front yard, door yard, kitchen garden, barnyard), orchard (apples, plums, pears), plowed fields (corn, oats, potatoes, wheat, etc.), meadows (hay), pasture (grazing), woodlot (lumber, firewood), sugar bush (maple sugar), gravel pit (sand, gravel) and swamp, pond or cedar grove. Farm layout was not random; rather, it was carefully planned around topology and land quality with an eye toward an efficient farming operation. Farmsteads were a cluster of buildings that included a farmhouse and

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main barn, as well as several outbuildings: animal shelters, produce storage structures, vehicle storage structures, domestic structures and often a home-industry workshop.²⁵ Field patterns, hedgerows, stone walls, and fence lines for enclosing livestock still mark property boundaries in the Kents Corner Historic District.

Three intact farmsteads are the 150.1 acre property surrounding the Elon Robinson House (#18), the 112.25 acre property surrounding the Lewis Wood House (#27) and the 183.5 acre property surrounding the Abdiel Bliss House (#28). The farmstead historically associated with the Joseph W. E. Bliss House (#33) was divided and its two historic barns are owned by the builder of five non-contributing houses (#s 32, 36, 38, 40 and 41) in the district.

Barns “celebrated common engineering” and are the “traditional symbol for the agrarian values and life-style of its builders.”²⁶ The architectural progression from side-door English barns, to gable-door New England barns, to high-drive Dairy barns of the late 19th century is illustrated in the district. Internally most barns have undergone continuous periods of remodeling. There are ten historic barns in the district:

- Joseph W. E. Bliss Barn (#32E) an English style field barn constructed c. 1835,
- A. Bliss Barn (#28A) an English style barn constructed c. 1840, with additions.
- Lewis Wood Barn (#27B) an English style barn constructed c. 1850, with a wagon shed addition.
- Leroy A. Kent Barn (#2B), a gable-front New England field barn constructed c. 1850.
- Leroy A. Kent Barn (#2C) a gable-front New England field barn constructed c. 1850 and converted to a garage.
- Elon Robinson Barn (#18A) a gable-front New England bank barn constructed c. 1855 and enlarged with the addition of another barn.
- A. Bliss Barn (#28B) a gable-front New England barn constructed c. 1860, with side-bay addition, exterior silo and milk house addition.
- Ira Kent Barn (#1A) a gable-front New England bank barn constructed c. 1870 with additions removed.
- Josephine M. Kent Barn (#22A) a gable-front New England bank barn constructed c. 1875.

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- Joseph W. E. Bliss Barn (#32C) a gable-door covered high-drive Dairy barn constructed in 1888, with detached milk house.

In addition to these barns, surviving agricultural outbuildings include a wagon shed (#30A), a machinery and vehicle storage shed (#18B), a tractor shed (#8B) and several woodsheds. Most of the historic agricultural outbuildings in the district have disappeared from the landscape. There are two modern sugar houses (#s 28E, 42A) in the district.

Historic Industry in the District

Kents Corner Historic District is significant for a concentration of early industrial resources that represent the importance of the economic sector during the 19th century in Calais. In addition to agricultural endeavors, the brothers Ira (1803-1898), Abdiel (1805-1887), and J. V. R. Kent (1813-1892) were the most successful businessmen at Kents Corner in the 19th century with extensive real estate holdings and ownership in a variety of businesses.

Prior to the establishment of industry in Calais, the settlers brought seed and grain from grist mills in settled towns to the south, Williamstown, Brookfield and Royalton, at distances of 30 miles or more. The first farmers harvested and transported grain fifteen miles south to a grist mill in Williamstown. In 1792 Calais proprietors offered "200 acres of land to any person who would build a corn (grist) mill and a saw mill". This land bounty for mills encouraged settlement and served loggers and grain farmers.

In 1793 the Proprietors accepted a grist mill and saw mill constructed by Col. Jacob Davis and Samuel Twiss erected at Calais Center, at the falls on Dugar Brook northeast of Gospel Hollow, just beyond the northeast corner of the historic district.²⁷ Davis and Twiss combined resources to acquire a water-power site and an upright saw for the mill. Sawmills civilized the land and their mills were conveniently situated in the geographic center of the new town, that came to be known as Calais Center. This first Calais sawmill operated for over 75 years.²⁸

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As a byproduct of homesteading, another local industry emerged when Lemuel Perry made potash in Gospel Hollow. Potash (potassium carbonate) processed from wood ash was important for manufacturing soap, glass, gunpowder, textiles and bleach.²⁹ About 1810 Perry moved the operation up the Dugar Brook and continued business until 1825. Forest products included timber, firewood, maple sugar and handmade shingles.

Early mills were the economic link between farmer, commerce, and industry. Mostly the builders of mills were the millers themselves but also during the 19th century, some joiners and carpenters specialized as millwrights. The expertise of millwrights, craftsmen and lumbermen together initiated a wooden age in Vermont that by 1840 listed 1,018 sawmills.³⁰ In Calais, early industries were recorded by Shubael Wheeler for Thompson's *Gazetteer* in 1824. Wheeler reported that "timber on the streams is mostly hemlock, spruce and pine; on the higher lands, maple, beech, etc."³¹ Other timber included fir, tamarack, ash, elm, poplar, basswood, and birch, and the demand for construction lumber initiated other saw mills.

Joel Robinson (1772-1832), a resident of Kents Corner since 1795, built the Robinson Sawmill (#20) in 1803, on the Curtis Brook running just north of Kents Corner, on land acquired from Remember Kent. This upright sawmill supplied lumber for the earliest houses and all types of buildings in the neighborhood. The sawmill was dependent on rainfall that fed into Curtis Pond, down Curtis Brook and eventually into the small mill pond west of the mill. For this reason the operation was often referred to as a 'thunderstorm mill'. The construction of this timber-frame water-powered upright sawmill was a technological improvement over log building construction. The power mechanism consisted of an overshot water wheel, set at the fieldstone dam, which powered a horizontal shaft fitted with a crank to drive the saw frame up and down through a connecting rod called a pitman, after the sawyers they historically replaced. The improved upright sawmill was a

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straight saw blade mounted in a wood frame that moved up and down vertically. While Joel Robinson waited for sufficient water to accumulate in the mill pond, he kept busy with his principal pursuit, daily farm activities associated with agriculture. A Woodworking Shop was built north of the brook, and the original Robinson Farm (#18) was north up the hill. Farmers delivered logs with horses and oxen to the mill yard on the south side of the mill. A sawyer and helper custom cut beams, boards, planks, and other dimensional lumber during spring and summer and left the mill unattended during fall and winter with only occasional maintenance. At Joel Robinson's death in 1832, his son Elon (1809-1863) continued producing lumber until the mill and three acres were purchased by Ira and Abdiel Kent in 1837. The Kents operated the sawmill for sixty years.³² For construction of the Old West Church (#29), large timbers were hand hewn on site and 36" spruce boards used by joiners and carpenters probably came from the Robinson Sawmill (#20) or the Joshua Bliss Sawmill (#34A).

The Joshua Bliss Sawmill (#34A) was built in 1824 at the outlet of Bliss Pond at the south end of the historic district. The mill was rebuilt about 1840 by Jesse White (1798-1872) (#35)³³ and operated into the 20th century. A Woodworking Shop, just east of the mill, appears on the 1858 map. Salem Goodenough (1796-1886), who lived across the road, was a carpenter and joiner and may have owned the mill in the 1850s to 1880s.³⁴ Worked granite foundation stones for the sawmill are visible in Bliss Brook and the former mill is now an historic archaeological site.

Calais had several modest-sized water privileges on streams where mills with machinery were constructed in the first decades of settlement.³⁵ In 1824 Shubael Wheeler reported a nail factory, three grist mills, seven saw mills, two smut mills, two clover mills, two distilleries, two potashes, two trip hammer shops, one carding machine and one store.³⁶ These early industries found a stable market in the settled farming community around Kents Corner.

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In 1876 Kent replaced the original upright saw in the Robinson Sawmill (#20) with a new portable sawmill, a state-of-the-art circular saw. The Lane "00" model sawmill was fitted with an extra bed for the carriage that enabled the saw to cut logs up to forty feet. The sawmill machinery was manufactured by the Lane Manufacturing Company of Montpelier, a Vermont company that developed into the leading manufacturer of sawmills in the northeastern United States. The mill was outfitted with a Lane shingle mill and a bolting saw to cut short logs.

At this time, the overshot waterwheel was replaced by an iron gate, wood penstock and steel scroll-case water turbine to power all the machinery in the mill, because the higher speed requirements of the circular saw mandated the use of a turbine. The 'celebrated Barre Turbine Water Wheel', manufactured by the Smith, Whitcomb and Cook Company of Barre, was also installed in 1876 to power the mill. This sawmill and turbine are still in the mill and are in working condition. Calais resident Allen Morse, in a letter to Abby Hemenway, reported that the Kent Sawmill was "in good repair" in 1882. The mill continued under the ownership of I. & A. Kent, and later their sons, for sixty years, until it was sold in 1897.³⁷

Calais historian Jill Mudgett characterized Abdiel Kent as a 19th century 'entrepreneur' who was "involved in a mixture of industry, real estate, and farming, both in Calais and in neighboring towns". While men of his father's generation concentrated on farming, Kent became concurrently a farmer, a merchant and a manufacturer.³⁸ Abdiel traveled to New Hampshire and Massachusetts, before returning to Calais in 1827, and by 1829 had opened a Shoe Making Shop at Kents Corner.³⁹ Kent's 1 ½ story Shoe Shop was built south of the present Kent Museum (#1) facing the Old West Church Road and stood until about 1910. Soon after his homecoming about 1830 Abdiel constructed his first dwelling, the Abdiel Kent House (#1), a single-story Cape Cod form house, near the southeast corner at Kents Corner.

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Abdiel Kent operated the Boot and Shoe Shop year-round and delivered hundreds of pairs of footwear to merchants in Montpelier - the shire town, the state capitol, and the nearest commercial center. Kent was a 'shoe manufacturer' and shoe production on this scale depended on the labor of hired workers. While Kent employed both men and women, apprentices and wage laborers, locals and newcomers, boarders and outworkers, the majority of his laborers were young, unmarried men from Calais or nearby communities, many of whom boarded with Kent while working in the shop for wages. Kent's young journeymen entered a rural community where agricultural demands were answered and where social, civic and educational interests often took precedence over industrial ones - a manufacturing environment where, in short, cash-poor and landless young men found benefits they measured in more than monetary terms.⁴⁰

In 1837, the business was renamed the Ira & Abdiel Kent Boot and Shoe Manufacturers and continued for about forty years.⁴¹ The shop was organized during a period of transformation, as the earlier system of apprenticeship training slowly gave way to an emerging industrialism based on factory production and wage labor. In 1860, the factory employed four men and one woman who used hand tools and a foot-powered sewing machine to combine leather soles, sides, uppers and calf skins in the manufacture of \$ 3,000 worth of boots and shoes.⁴² In 1870 the factory employed four men, year round, who used hand tools, a sewing machine and a pegging machine to manufacture 1400 boots valued at \$ 6,400 and 100 shoes valued at \$ 200.⁴³

Kents' footwear business was complemented by harness making from 1842 until about 1868. Kent took hides in trade, delivered them to local tanners and then Abdiel's workers made shoes, harnesses, and bridles, necessities for every farmer in Calais. In 1860 Ira and Abdiel Kent's Harness and Saddlery business employed two men who used hand tools and machinery to make hardware for 50 harnesses (bridles, collars, saddles and breechings) worth

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\$ 1,000 and \$ 150 worth of other leather items.⁴⁴ Account books from 1839 to 1852 recorded at least fifty-five men employed during that period in the manufacture of footwear and harness equipment. The vital local industry of shoe making was “all but motionless” about 1880 and discontinued being a source of employment.⁴⁵

The Kent Brick Kiln (#6) located on Kent Hill Road in Gospel Hollow, which was recorded in Abdiel Kent’s account records as early as 1833, appears in a list of manufacturers until 1868 and also on the Beers map of 1873.⁴⁶ Gospel Hollow provided an ideal site for constructing a brick kiln: a clay deposit, fresh water from Dugar Brook, clean fine sand, abundant sources of cordwood, a production area and access to the road. Bricks, small baked clay units laid in mortar, were in demand for the construction of building foundations, walls, fireplaces and chimneys. The land in Gospel Hollow is a natural site for drying the hand-molded bricks and building a kiln to burn or bake the stacked bricks. The historical record has not provided evidence for the working of the kiln; however the kilns were most likely fueled by wood for burning, or firing the bricks. Houses in the historic district that were constructed of bricks from the Kent Brick Kiln are the Kent Hotel (#1) and the Joseph W. E. Bliss House (#33). The brick bonding system on both buildings is the American Common Bond.⁴⁷ Many other brick buildings have survived in Calais outside this historic district and were possibly constructed of bricks from this kiln. Today the Kent Brick Kiln (#6) is an historic archaeological site in Gospel Hollow on the eastern edge of the historic district.

The Kent Blacksmith Shop (#12) was built in 1835 across the road from the Kent Hotel (#1) that was then under construction. Abdiel Kent contracted George W. Tewksbury to build a blacksmith shop and in exchange, Kent agreed to board Tewksbury during construction and to pay him a mixture of cash, boots and shoes, grain and meat. ⁴⁸ Tewksbury was a blacksmith and wheelwright and responded to the seasonal needs of his customers,

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particularly farmers. Customary work of the shop included making and repairing agricultural and household implements, vehicle repair, and shoeing of horses and oxen. Joseph Persons, Jr. was listed as a blacksmith as early as 1872 and Joseph Persons, Sr. was a blacksmith in Kent's shop in the 1880 Census.⁴⁹

In 1844, Abdiel Kent with his brother Ira, and L. Bancroft, constructed a starch making factory on Dugar Brook northeast of Gospel Hollow that operated until 1866. Starch, made from potatoes, was in demand for the sizing or finishing of cloth and for making potato whiskey.⁵⁰ In the 1860 Census, the Kent and Bancroft Starch Factory operated only two months a year, after the potato harvest, and processed, with water power, 4,000 bushels of potatoes into 15 tons of starch worth \$ 1,120.⁵¹

In 1847 John Robinson, son of Joel Robinson, began a grist mill and machine shop at the 'Red Shop' in Maple Corner and it was operated until 1852 by machinist Nathan Bancroft. In 1852 the Kent brothers acquired the Red Shop with a grist mill, and leased it to various men who made horse rakes, cut shingles, ground grain, and did general repair work until 1902. The Kent partnership owned: the Norcross Mill and a general store in Woodbury; a general store, woolen factory, mills and hotel in Craftsbury; and the Brown Sawmill (1811-1841) in the northwest part of Calais. Ira and Abdiel Kent continued as successful business partners until 1867.⁵²

Historic Commerce in the District

Kents Corner Historic District is significant as the first commercial center of Calais where the Ira & Abdiel Kent General Store (#1) was the focus of commerce in the neighborhood for over eight decades (1832-1916). The Kent family's involvement in industry and commerce meant that Calais residents could access, with one trip to the rural-industrial crossroads at Kents Corner, a more diverse selection of goods and services than would have been available in a single rural mercantile.

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In 1832 Abdiel Kent enlarged the existing shoe shop and installed “a small stock of staple dry good and groceries”; it was the first general store in town and would be the only store in Calais for sixteen years.⁵³ Increased demand led to the building of a larger store. The Ira and Abdiel Kent General Store (#1) was built in 1854 to increase revenue for both the shoe shop and the small store. The new store was stocked with an assortment of goods and many of the young shoemakers purchased items on credit. At Kents Corner, traditional patterns of local, non-cash exchanges between households persisted in this rural Vermont farming community. Even in their myriad productive activities, Vermont rural households were almost never completely self-sufficient. Abdiel Kent’s account books recorded the prices paid for goods and services at his store and illustrate the increasing reliance by farmers on sources outside their farm for goods and services. At Kents Corner neighbors could obtain everything, for cash or trade, from boots and shoes to axes, boards, bricks, cloth, grain and tea. In order to obtain these goods, farmers began producing surplus agricultural items for both their household and for trade. By accepting as payment a variety of agricultural products, Kent was able to consolidate the local supply of goods and services into one location, his general store. Utilitarian, functional household goods dominated Kent’s trade, necessities easily produced at the local level. Calais historian Jill Mudgett, summarized, “Kent’s store acted largely as a trading post, a place where farm-produced goods, labor and small amounts of cash were exchanged for a mixed stock of locally-produced goods and supplies Kent brought in from local and non-local suppliers.”⁵⁴ As a common practice, salesmen and peddlers came directly to the Kent’s store to sell baked goods, tinware, brooms, baskets, stoneware, agricultural tools, garden seeds and patent medicines.⁵⁵

The Kent General Store (#1), continued by Abdiel and Ira and their relatives, was the focus of commerce at Kents Corner into the 20th century. Leroy Abdiel Kent (1843-1911), Ira Kent’s second son, operated the Kent-owned general store

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in Craftsbury from 1868 till 1870 and then the family-owned store at Kents Corner. In 1873 Leroy Kent became the Postmaster and advertised “staple and fancy dry goods, boots, shoes, hats, caps, groceries, Queensware, hardware, nails and glass, drugs and medicines, paints, oils, dye stuffs, family medicines, perfumery and notions”. The “goods were sold cheap for cash” and the Kent Store took country produce in exchange for goods.⁵⁶ Management of the Kent General Store passed to Abdiel’s third son Herbert A. Kent (1864-1916) and the store closed after his death in 1916.⁵⁷ The Herbert Kent Farm, with 190 acres and many of the buildings at Kents Corner, was sold out of the Kent family in 1916.⁵⁸

The Kent Hotel (#1) was constructed for Abdiel Kent between 1835 and 1837 and was connected to his original c. 1830 house. This architectural landmark is a 2½-story timber-frame and brick building constructed as a Georgian plan house that features elements of the Greek Revival style. The presence of the building, with brick walls, granite details and four brick chimneys, is a landmark on this rural landscape. The granite foundation was hauled from Barre, brick came from the Kent Brick Kiln (#6) in Gospel Hollow, the iron work came from the Kent Blacksmith Shop (#12) across the road, the timbers and finished wood came from the Robinson Sawmill (#20) just north of Kents Corner. The moldings and detailed woodwork were made on site. The windows and blinds came from a factory in North Calais.⁵⁹

Between 1837 and 1847, the Kent Hotel was a family residence, a hotel for stagecoach travelers and a boarding house for Abdiel’s employees. The Kent Hotel was a stagecoach stop for Concord coaches on the post road that originated at the state capitol in Montpelier. The post road proceeded north from Kents Corner to Woodbury, Hardwick, Greensboro and up to Derby Line before crossing into Canada.⁶⁰ Kent offered accommodations and the hotel was a convenient place to exchange teams of tired horses for fresh horses kept at Abdiel Kent’s Barns (#1c). The tavern went beyond providing meals and lodging to occasional passersby;

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it was also a place where people gathered to exchange news and opinions, or to engage in personal business. The Kent Hotel was closed to travelers in 1847, probably because of Abdiel's first marriage to Fanny Curtis in 1846 and the arrival of their first two children, Murray Abdiel in July 1847 and Ella Fanny in January 1849.⁶¹

The Kents were active in family-owned agricultural and commercial enterprises throughout the 19th century. Shubael Wheeler's 1840 letter about industry and commerce was published in Thompson's *Gazetteer* in 1842. At this time, I. & A. Kent operated the only general store in Calais even though the local industry included eleven sawmills and five grist mills.⁶² Remember Kent, Jr. (1799-1881) was a farmer that worked as a millwright in the construction of buildings. John Van Rensselaer Kent (1813-1892), may have lived in the Leroy A. Kent House (#2) and was the foreman in the family-owned shoe factory {1833-1848}.⁶³ Ezekiel Kent (1811-1893) and George Kent (1807-1885) were successful farmers. Ira Richardson 'Rich' Kent (1833-1875), Ira Kent's first son, joined the family firm at age 20 and "assumed the entire management of the mercantile business of I. & A. Kent" until about 1859 when he started a business of buying livestock for markets in Massachusetts until 1865. Murray A. Kent (1847-1915), Abdiel Kent's first son, managed his father's boot and shoe business until about 1880.⁶⁴ At Kents Corner, Remember and Rachel Kent's children started farms, industries and businesses and the cornerstone of the family enterprise, the Kent General Store, continued into the second decade of the 20th century.

Historic Religion in the District

Kents Corner Historic District is significant in the religious history of Calais and prominent cultural resources remind us of this legacy. Two country churches in the district are local landmarks on the rural landscape and architecturally they are excellent examples of the Greek Revival style. Both have been well preserved. The Old West Church (#29) and the Christian Church (#7) "tell us who we

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are. What we believe defines us, just as the churches we build symbolize our spiritual beliefs in physical form. As the most basic unit of civic architecture, churches also are landmarks of our history and sign posts of our aspirations".⁶⁵

Vermont did not decree a particular denomination as the established state church; each town, by majority vote could determine the denomination of its choice. Dedicated to the separation of church and state, in 1806 Vermont ended town church establishment and thereafter members of each church society had to pay for their own ministers and buildings.⁶⁶

The religious life of Calais was first recorded by Shubael Wheeler for Thompson's *Gazetteer* in 1824. Wheeler wrote that there were five religious societies in town; Baptists, Congregationalists, Universalists, Methodists and Freewill Baptists, and "the greatest harmony prevails among them". At this time, there were two preachers and one meetinghouse shared by all denominations. In his 1842 letter to Thompson, Wheeler adds that there is also a "Society of Free Enquirers", which was organized in 1835, and the meeting house was "occupied alternatively by the different religious sects".⁶⁷

From the first town settlement in 1787 to the framing of the Old West Church in 1823, Calais was served by a variety of religious elders who conducted services, married couples and baptized children. These frequently-itinerant elders held services in homes, barns or schoolhouses on a very occasional basis. Elders generally had no formal religious training, having learned their calling from older colleagues. It is hard to say that they had a 'settled congregation' in any modern sense, for their followers were often changing groups of people, moving to different parts of town or even out of town.⁶⁸

Meetinghouses that served secular and religious functions were popular during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. They were the symbolic focus of the settlement. Many of the towns consisted of a number of religious

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denominations, as “perhaps forty-five towns had a single house of worship and most of these were ‘Union’ meeting houses, occupied by two or more denominations, in proportion to contributions toward its construction or to number of taxpaying adherents”.⁶⁹

The First Universalist Society of Calais was organized in 1820 by fifty men mostly from the west side of town in the Maple Corner and Kents Corner neighborhoods.⁷⁰ In August 1823, a call was issued by Caleb Curtis, Medad Wright and Nathan Bancroft, to all substantial citizens from the west side of town, asking all interested in building a meeting house in Calais, to meet at the house of Medad Wright (#30). The First Meeting House Society was organized, a building lot purchased from Caleb Bliss, and a plan designed to build a meeting house “40 by 42 feet, 40 pews on the lower floor, 5 feet by 6 and 18 (pews) above (in the balcony) of the same size”. Payment for pews was offered in three equal installments, payable one-half in neat (cows, steers, oxen) cattle or grain. Pews were sold to prosperous families to finance construction and ‘seating’ was the process by which a hierarchy of spaces in the meetinghouse was assigned to town residents.

Lovell Kelton, a framer and resident of Calais, assembled large timbers to form the wooden skeleton of the building in the fall of 1823. When the building was originally framed there was a tower projection on the east elevation, supporting the steeple, but during construction the corners were filled out providing the building (#29) its present shape. During the next two years the meeting house was completed under the supervision of Mr. Griffin of Hardwick, Vermont. Officers, committees and members of the society appeared in Tobey and Robinson’s letter to Hemenway’s *Gazetteer* in 1882.⁷¹ Membership in the First Meeting House Society, mostly from the west side of Calais, was a communal rather than a denomination undertaking and its use followed a nondenominational pattern since.⁷² Calais historian Jill Mudgett’s research revealed that “Calais records contain very little to suggest the kind of contention and dissent so often

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cited in scholarship on religion in early 19th century Vermont.⁷³

The meeting house, later named the Old West Church (#29), was dedicated as a Union Church in November 1825 and the cost of construction was \$2,005 gained from the sale of individual pew boxes. At a later date carriage sheds were built behind the church to shelter horses during church services.⁷⁴ In 1828 the first apportionment was made with use of the meeting house on Sundays divided as follows: "Baptists 10 Sabbaths (Sundays), Universalists 20, Congregationalists 9, Christians 6, Free Will Baptists 4 and Methodists 3. Twenty years later the division was Universalists 32, Congregationalists 7, Methodists 5, Baptists 4 and Christians 4 Sundays."⁷⁵

The Universalist faith, under the leadership of Colonel Caleb Curtis was the predominant religious movement responsible for organizing this church and their principal belief was the freedom of religious expression. Ira, Abdiel, and John V. R. Kent all married daughters of Caleb Curtis and they became officers of the Universalist Society. Abby Hemenway stated that "the Universalist element" had become such a force in the Kents Corner neighborhood of Calais, that by 1881, it was "entirely owned and controlled by this denomination."⁷⁶ The Vermont historian Hamilton Child, writing in 1889, agreed with Hemenway's assessment of the social position of the Universalists, "The Union church is now owned and controlled by them." and added, "this has always been a liberal, moral, intelligent and independent neighborhood."⁷⁷ Prior to 1882, about fifty Universalist ministers preached occasionally in Calais.⁷⁸ The church was used nearly every Sunday year round until 1860 when attendance declined, but Tobey and Robinson wrote in 1882 that "the pride of the present generation has induced them to keep in repair the work of their fathers."⁷⁹

Calais-born historian Dorman B. E. Kent (1875-1951) agreed that the church was "used constantly" for the first 35 years until 1860, and until 1885 services were held with "considerable regularity", but that since then "with the

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exception of a few Sundays in the summer, no preaching is heard within its walls"; and that it "has been exceptionally well cared for".⁸⁰ Perhaps there was increased competition for religious services after the building of the East Calais Union Church (1848) and the Christian Church (#7) (1866) in Gospel Hollow. The meeting house was known as the 'Old Church', the 'West Church' and later the Old West Church (#29) because it served principally the residents on the west side of town. In addition to services the building was used for weddings and funerals, as well as lectures, concerts, organizational meetings and dramas. An organization known as the Ladies Union was organized in 1897 to support the maintenance of the church and when this organization dissolved, the Old West Church Association was formed in 1921 to see to the "preserving and keeping" of the church.⁸¹

The architecture of the Old West Church (#29) has been referred to by historian Edmund Sinott as "Originally Transitional, now Type III", a church of the first quarter of the 19th century. Its plain front and three entrance doors, framed with Greek Revival pilasters, are on the east elevation with a continuous cornice over the doors. Set back on the roof is a Greek Revival tower that features a wooden spire and a weathervane.⁸² The exterior of the church may have original colors: white-painted clapboards on three elevations and red-painted clapboards on the west or back wall.

On the interior, the first floor is the original plan with a raised pulpit at the west end and numbered box pews set throughout the space. The wooden pews display original painted numbers on the doors and a chart of original owners of each pew is framed in the vestibule. While boxed pews kept out cold drafts, winter parishioners brought foot stoves filled with hot coals or heated freestones. In 1831 six box pews were removed from the back of the first floor for the installation of two cast-iron box stoves with a long stove pipe running to the ceiling where a brick chimney was set in the attic. One of the current stoves was manufactured by Morrison & Tibbets of Troy, New York and has a patent date

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of 1850; and the other stove has an elaborate scroll pattern.⁸³

Above the pulpit are the words: *"REMOVE NOT THE ANCIENT LANDMARK WHICH THY FATHERS HAVE SET"*. This quotation is from Proverbs 22:28 and was selected from the Webster Bible translated by Noah Webster in 1833. Webster's translation of the ancient proverb was fashioned of cedar fronds and placed on the wall about 1899.⁸⁴ This proverb is referred to by local residents as sacred language and these words of wisdom are often quoted as a maxim for the gospel of historic preservation. Dorman B. E. Kent, Robert F. Bliss and Dennis Pocket supervised restoration work on the church in 1921; there was additional maintenance in 1938 and in subsequent years.⁸⁵ When a lightning bolt struck the rod of the steeple, there was a small fire that was quickly extinguished in the summer of 1953.

In 1940 Vermont architectural historian Herbert Wheaton Congdon (1876-1965) wrote that neither the Old West Church (1825) nor the Meeting House at East Montpelier Center (1823) "is significant architecturally, but both have a strong nostalgic charm". Congdon later wrote the Calais church "is of unsophisticated design, but well and honestly built". Congdon's architectural assessment of these churches is too severe, as they are products of their time and significant for their simple architectural statements on the landscape. Congdon photographed the churches and found them "kept in repair by loving hands" and that "long years of worship by devout people have left their deep spiritual imprint".⁸⁶ Calais resident and author Louise Andrews Kent wrote in 1948 that "the Old West Church in Calais retains its original appearance as much as any New England meetinghouse. It still shines outside with white paint. Inside, the pine (sic) of the old box pews has mellowed to brown in pleasant contrast to the smoke-blue paint of gallery and pulpit".⁸⁷

The Old West Church Graveyard (#29A) was opened behind the church in 1826 because the religious belief was that a cemetery in the churchyard was hallowed ground.⁸⁸

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Funerals were family and community rituals enacted on hallowed ground by people deeply cognizant of tradition. There is a variety of styles of stone monuments and the back row may contain graves of paupers, probably from the Town Poor Farm at the Medad Wright House (#30) just to the south of the cemetery.

The most prominent grave marker is the Bliss Monument, a cast bronze plaque set in a large boulder that was erected by descendents of Abdiel Bliss before 1932. The inscription reads: *Capt. Abdiel Bliss born Rehoboth, Mass., Dec. 15, 1740. Died in Calais June 10, 1805. His wife Lydia Smith born in Rehoboth, Mass. April 8, 1739, Died in Calais, VT, March 21, 1820. An officer of the Revolution, a leader of men, a pioneer of Calais where in seven years he cleared seven farms for his children.* Captain Bliss undoubtedly was helped in these efforts by his five sons and six daughters.⁸⁹

Universalism did not totally dominate the religious beliefs of the residents of Calais. The Christian Church, organized in 1810 with a membership of about fifty people, existed in Calais long before its church building (#7) was constructed in 1866 at Gospel Hollow. In 1850 Reverend Orrin Davis (1808-1897) was ordained and in 1851 began a pastorate that would last nearly five decades until his death in 1897.⁹⁰ The Christian congregation made plans to erect a church and in 1865 a subscription was started. The church was built on lot 45 of the first division, a lot set aside in the original lotting plan of the Town of Calais for public use. In 1866 the Christian Meeting House Vestry Society was formed "for the purpose of putting a basement under the Christian church now in the process of building . . . to be used at all times for civil and moral purposes but not to intrude with the usual religious meeting in the church above". Funds from the sale of stock financed construction of the first floor for town meetings. Stock was sold at \$5 a share and between 50 and 60 stockholders raised at least \$600. In 1866 the building was constructed with the Vestry Society holding title to the first floor and the Christian Church to the second floor. When the town began holding annual Town

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Meetings in the vestry, the Vestry Society charged the town rent. Between 1877 and 1886 stockholders received a total return of 60% on their investment and over the years the stock was traded. By 1889 J. V. R. Kent had acquired 105 shares of stock and when the Town voted to buy the Vestry the stockholders received a final dividend of 79% of each dollar of capital stock. J. V. R. Kent was a successful businessman and over time collected shares of stock in the Association until owning a majority, resulting in profit when the Vestry was sold to the Town.⁹¹

After the death of Reverend Orrin Davis in 1897 no other pastor served the church for any length of time and the church was often referred to as the 'Davis Church'. When religious services ceased c. 1910 the building was used for Town Meetings and it began to be thought of more as a community church than a denominational one. Town meetings were held in the Vestry until 1916 when the Selectmen voted to have their Town Meetings upstairs. The town gave the Ladies Home Mission, organized in 1882 under the leadership of Lucy Kent, permission to build a kitchen in the back of the Vestry. At that time, the Mission also accepted responsibility for the oversight of the building.⁹² Today the building is known as the Calais Town Hall (#7).

The Robinson Graveyard (#19) figures prominently in the religious life of the neighborhood as an early place to commemorate the dead. This large rural cemetery opened in 1814 and all the pioneer families are represented.⁹³ There was a gradual transition in the material and design of the grave markers, from the early use of slate and marble to the later use of granite. A variety of forms were selected, including perpendicular and horizontal tablets, footstones, and obelisks. The tombstones are decorated with inscriptions, epitaphs, biblical quotations and floral carvings that represent symbolism used to enrich the memorials. Several tombstones are hand-carved with a perpendicular square base, topped with a gable roof and a turned decorative urn. The most prominent structure in the

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cemetery is a Receiving Vault, constructed of granite blocks set into a mound near the road. This granite structure held coffins until the spring thaw and was commissioned by Ira Kent in 1888.⁹⁴ The Old West Church Graveyard and the Robinson Graveyard are outdoor museums of the stone carver's art that mark events of personal importance and historical interest. They represent the craftsmanship, materials, and burial customs of their period in the historic district.

Historic Government in the District

Kent Corner Historic District is significant in the role of government in Calais. The town charter envisioned an agrarian, self-governing community whose inhabitants, not the government, held title to land. Private ownership and use of land were bundled with civic obligation to the community. The settlement of Calais "must be viewed in the context of a tension between a longing for individual private control of land in a garden – and individual economic security – and a communal forbearance in a wilderness – social security." In all of their endeavors, they were "driven to seek both individual expression and covenanted communities".⁹⁵ Neighbors joined together at Kents Corner, "a place on the land where a community is formed".⁹⁶

Calais settlers found themselves living sequentially in Orange County (1781), Caledonia County (1792) and Jefferson County (1810), until the county name was fixed as Washington County in 1814. The first meetings of local government were held at annual town meetings beginning in 1788 at the home of Peter Wheelock. Wheelock's house was the center of town activities for several years and at the first town meeting in 1795, he was elected Town Clerk and later became the first representative (1795-1799) from Calais to the State of Vermont. According to the Calais historian Marcus Waite, "Peter Wheelock was the leading man in the first ten years of Calais history".⁹⁷

Annual Town Meetings were held in private homes and schoolhouses until 1839 when meetings were held in the

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new Town House (no longer standing) on Jack Hill.⁹⁸ When the vestry of the Christian Church (#7) became available in 1868 meetings at the Town House were abandoned and the annual town meeting, a venerable Vermont institution, was held in this church. After 1868 the church was also known as the Calais Town Hall (#7) and the annual town meeting is still held there today.⁹⁹

In the first decade of settlement the population of Calais increased nearly ten fold between 1790 (43 people) and 1800 (443 people) and nearly doubled in 1810 (841 people). The population doubled again by 1840 (1709 people), but decreased in 1850 (1410 people) and this downward trend continued until the 1960 (684 people) census. Only recently in 2000 (1783 people) has the population increased back to the peak level of 1840.

Between 1791 and 1820 the Calais population increased dramatically from 45 to 1,111. As a measure of social control Vermont law allowed a procedure know as 'warning out' whereby the Selectmen could officially tell a family to move out of town because they were paupers and the Town did not want any financial responsibility for their care. From 1803 to 1817, 198 householders were warned out of Calais.¹⁰⁰ The Selectmen also 'hired out' paupers to various people who agreed to care for them at a given price and struggled for nearly four decades to find a better solution. In 1841 the Town appointed Jabez Mower as the first Overseer of the Poor and this position was later held by several members of the Kent family, including Abdiel Kent (1845, 1875-1877), Ira Rich Kent (1864), J. V. R. Kent (1865, 1881) and Herbert A. Kent (1906-1912).¹⁰¹

Three decades later in 1871, the Town appointed three Overseers, purchased the Medad Wright House (#30) to subsidize the cost of welfare and appointed a resident manager of the Town Poor Farm. The residents were a mixture of transients (people temporarily out of work or homeless) and permanents (chronically poor, as well as the handicapped, usually elderly and often with mental illnesses) with no one to turn to for help. One of the benefits of the

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agricultural poor farm, in addition to providing meaningful work, was that it produced income; potatoes, fresh meat, pigs and up to 1,000 pounds of butter in some years were sold from the farm. The town farm included a hundred acre woodlot that supplied lumber, bark, shingles, and cedar posts. In 1925 the Selectmen voted to designate this woodlot a Town Forest (#31) with the goal of managing this natural resource. William B. Greeley, chief of the U. S. Forest Service and an early proponent of sustained-yield harvesting and scientifically-based forestry, made a personal visit to Calais in the mid-1920s to inspect the Town Forest.¹⁰² Vermont historian Robert McCullough concluded that "this type of consistent but measured marketing of wood products suggests a utilitarian stewardship that recognized the renewable nature of woodlots and sought to sustain resources over a period of time. This conservation ethic is significant, too, because it is so firmly rooted in community welfare".¹⁰³

The transition from agricultural poor farm to Town Forest was partly prompted by the rise of charity organizations and the creation of the Vermont Department of Public Welfare in 1923.¹⁰⁴ In 1926 tree warden Edward A. Lamphere reported stands of white pine, cedar, spruce, hemlock, fir and mixed hardwoods. Professional foresters harvested marketable timber and began transplanting fast-growing, commercially salable, coniferous types: red, scotch and white pine or Norway and white spruce. Calais has been a quiet steward of its three town forests that today peaceably accommodate wildlife habitat, protection of water supplies, cultivation of timber, ecological study and recreation. In 1955 Bliss Pond Town Forest (#31) was officially designated a Municipal Forest by the state and is permanently protected by conservation easements, with public access to the 120 acre forest, from the owner of the Medad Wright House (#30).¹⁰⁵

The Kent family was active in local government in the post office, town offices and representation in Vermont government. The first postmaster in Calais was the pioneer

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Gideon Wheelock (1771-1851) from 1816-1830 at Calais Center in Gospel Hollow. In 1849 Ira Kent established a post office in the Kent General Store (#1), and was postmaster for sixteen years. Ira was followed by Alfred Goodenough (1865), Benjamin P. White (1868), and Abdiel's son Leroy A. Kent (1873). In 1883 George W. S. Ide, Abdiel's son-in-law, was the postmaster at the store for five years until Leroy took the job back (1887) and continued until he was followed by Abdiel's son Oliver Howard Kent (1897), then George Kent (1901) and finally by Abdiel's son Herbert A. Kent (1904). In 1906 the post office was relocated to Maple Corner.¹⁰⁶ Vermont historian Abby Hemenway said of Ira Kent, that he "has held nearly all the offices in the gift of the town, and that he has served acceptably is shown in his continued re-elections".¹⁰⁷

Joshua Bliss, Edward Tucker and Jonas Comins were the first Selectmen in Calais. Abdiel Kent served on the select board for seven years, J. V. R. Kent served for five years, Ezekiel Kent served for two years, and Herbert A. Kent served for six years. Oliver H. Kent and George Kent served as Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. Abdiel Kent was the Vermont state representative in 1841-1842; his brother J. V. R. Kent served in 1862-1863 and Ira Kent's son Leroy A. Kent served in 1882-83.¹⁰⁸ Calais historian Weston A. Cate, Jr. recorded a list of men active in local government.¹⁰⁹

Calais men who participated in annual militia training also served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican American War, Civil War, Spanish American War, World War I and II, and other wars of the 20th century. Many veterans are honored in the Robinson Cemetery (#19), the Old West Church Cemetery (#29a), and the Soldier's Monument erected in 1921 at Memorial Hall (1886) in North Calais.¹¹⁰

Landscape in the Historic District

As architectural forms were expressed in the structures for agriculture, industry and commerce, a pastoral landscape evolved at Kents Corner that is remarkably similar to the landscape of today. This

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combination of natural and cultural resources conveys a sense of the historic landscape that was significant in the district from 1800-1955. Artists captured a romanticized view of alluring scenery and rural charm in the landscape around Kents Corner in the later part of the 19th century.¹¹¹

James Franklin Gilman (1850-1929) lived as an itinerant artist with families in central Washington County from 1872 until 1891. He created paintings, sketches and etchings of local houses, farms, and village scenes, as well as people in oil, crayon, pen and ink, watercolor and charcoal. Gilman taught art at the Goddard Seminary in Barre, wrote about a philosophy of art and reproduced some of his art in etchings. Gilman devoted attention to people living in the built environment of houses, barns, fences and fields.

The majority of Gilman's work in Calais includes portraits of the Kent family during summers in the early 1880s. Two charcoal drawings, both entitled '*Kents Corners*', were done in 1882 and are valuable resources for interpreting the landscape of the late 19th century. '*Kents Corner-Sunday Afternoon*' is a southwesterly view showing three Kent brothers, Abdiel, Ira and John Van Rensselaer walking across their land. A second version, '*Kents Corner*' is a northeasterly view from a vantage point on Wheeler Hill. Both of the Gilman drawings of Kents Corner are valuable documents for their detailed representation of the buildings and landscape in the early 1880s. The early 1880s were good years for James Franklin Gilman, his paintings were commissioned and appreciated by the most affluent families in the community; he lived in their homes and shared their circle of friends. Gilman's pictures found favor with Vermonters who wanted an appealing representation of their property or family. Gilman's "passionate representation" of the rural landscape at Kents Corner would not attract the public's attention until 1951 when Louise Andrews Kent organized a Gilman exhibition at the Kent Museum (#1).¹¹²

In the process of creating a community, first and second generation residents created a landscape that shows the tensions between communal values and private

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interests.¹¹³ The classic agrarian landscape at Kents Corner escaped the industrialization and commercial growth that happened in the late 19th century ten miles south in Montpelier and Barre. At Kents Corner vestiges of the historic landscape continue into the 21st century. The surviving keepsakes (open fields, stone walls, maple trees and old barns) together constitute the vestiges of landscape that still serve Vermonters as the standard by which a new form on the landscape is judged. After the period of significance, amateur and professional designers alike continued to recreate the landscapes of the past with modern interpretations of log cabins, colonial houses and Greek Revival farmhouses. In the Kents Corner neighborhood “the detached house surrounded by land kept in equilibrium remains the spatial epitome of the ‘good life’”.¹¹⁴ Residents have remained faithful to the spatial values of their ancestors and local efforts to conserve this landscape seek an image of a rural, pre-industrial landscape that establishes a firmly rooted sense of place.

Conservation and Preservation in the Historic District

Residents of the Kents Corner neighborhood inherited the traditions of conserving natural resources and preserving cultural resources. Many of these resources were preserved by the stewardship of the remaining farmers in Calais. This legacy of memory is commemorated in the naming of Kents Corner after Remember and Rachel Kent and their descendants that pioneered this rural neighborhood in the 19th century. This pastoral landscape was captured in the ‘genre painting’ of James Franklin Gilman when he lived with the Kent family during summers in the early 1880s. The Bible verse painted over the pulpit about 1899 in the Old West Church (#29) “*REMOVE NOT THE ANCIENT LANDMARK WHICH THY FATHERS HAVE SET*” was scripture for the tradition of historic preservation. Ancestors were honored at the installation of the Bliss Monument (#29A) in the cemetery of the church.

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Calais resident-historian Alma Davis Leonard (1854-1935), a great-granddaughter of the pioneer Abijah Wheelock, organized the dedication of the Wheelock Monument (#2E) in 1930 to commemorate the earliest pioneers of Kents Corner. She was "a prime mover in the founding of the Wheelock Family Association" and her research into local cemeteries and genealogy are invaluable documents preserved in the Town Clerk's vault. As a result of Alma's efforts the annual Wheelock picnic became 'Old Home Day' in Calais. In 1934 a history pageant, under the direction of Nora Mower Gallagher (1874-1955), depicted episodes from early town history and Calais historian Marcus Warren Waite (1882-1968) called the pageant "probably the most interesting and spectacular event ever enacted in town".¹¹⁵ In 1941 the Vermont Writers Project, a program in the federal Works Projects Administration, published a profile of the Green Mountain State that featured the state's architecture and landscape. The Old West Church, one of only two churches in the state featured in the prestigious publication, was illustrated as an example of the "simplicity that characterized rural churches of the period".¹¹⁶

In 1941 the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the statehood of Vermont was celebrated at the annual town meeting in an address presented by Calais-born historian Dorman B. E. Kent (1875-1951), grandson of Abdiel Kent. Dorman spoke about town history, his childhood in Calais and his pride of growing up at Kents Corner.¹¹⁷ Dorman's parents, Murray Abdiel and Ruth Eaton Kent, moved to Montpelier when Dorman was twelve and he graduated from Montpelier Seminary in 1894. Dorman had a successful career at the National Life Insurance Company in Montpelier and devoted much of his life writing about the history of Calais. Dorman was a diarist, Unitarian, and Mason, as well as, the librarian, curator and later President of the Vermont Historical Society. In the official history of the Vermont Historical Society, Calais historian Weston A. Cate, Jr. (Director from 1975-1985) said "probably no member of the

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Society ever cared more about the Society or worked longer it its behalf than Dorman Kent.” It is to Dorman’s credit that the Society specialized in genealogical materials and there were “stretches of time when Kent literally was the Society”.¹¹⁸

Ira Rich Kent (1876-1945), Dorman B. E. Kent’s cousin and grandson of Ira Kent, graduated from Tufts in 1899 and was an editor for *The Youth’s Companion*, one of the most popular and influential publications for children of the 19th century, and later at Houghton Mifflin publishing company in Boston, Massachusetts. Ira Rich Kent married Louise Andrews (1886-1969) in 1912 and they lived year round in Brookline and later during the summer at Kents Corner.

Louise Andrews Kent (1886-1969) grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts, and after attending Simmons College, she met her future husband Ira Rich Kent at her Boston ‘coming-out’ party. They married and had three children. After their marriage, Ira Rich Kent brought Louise Andrews (Lulie to her friends and family, or LAK), to his mother’s house, the Leroy A. Kent House (#2) at Kents Corner. Beginning in 1924, the ‘White House’ became their summer home and LAK transformed the property into a festive gathering place for family and friends. Ira Rich Kent and his mother, Susan Blanche Hollister Kent (1852-1938), had “an interest in and influence over several properties” around Kents Corner and although his wife had no legal control over the properties, she “did wield enormous influence in the decisions concerning who bought or rented them”. Beginning in 1928, LAK began inviting friends from outside Vermont to visit and eventually to own property in Kents Corner. One of the families who came to Vermont as a result of their friendship with LAK was James and Esther Aldrich (#17). In the depression of the 1930s, adding new members to the summer community served dual purposes: it added a social dimension and the sale meant that some building badly in need of repair would be restored.¹¹⁹ The collection of farms in Calais offered Kent and her summer

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friends a vision of a traditional agrarian past free of industrialization and rapid change and was reflective of times remembered as trouble-free. This landscape shaped by agriculture became the standard by which people of her generation condemned cityscape.

In 1929, five years after Ira Rich and Louise Andrews Kent acquired the 'White House' (#2) and became summer residents at Kents Corner, Ira's cousin, Arthur Atwater Kent, Sr., acquired the historic Kent Hotel (#1) and the property returned to the Kent family.¹¹⁹ Arthur Atwater Kent, Sr. (1873-1949), grandson of Remember Kent, Jr. was an inventor and millionaire who established the Atwater Kent Manufacturing Works in Philadelphia in 1902. Beginning in 1923 his company made radios and by 1930 was the leading firm in the radio industry. In 1927 he established the Atwater Kent Foundation, retired in 1936 and died in 1949 with an estate estimated at \$ 8 million.¹²⁰

From 1929-1944, Louise Andrews Kent used the Kent Hotel (#1) as a guest house and began to slowly restore the deteriorated buildings on the old Herbert Kent property. Beginning in 1932 Louise relocated the old Corn Barn (#2A), from across the road and used it as a writing studio. During the 1940s Ira Rich Kent gave the 'Pioneer Cottage' (#12) to his daughter Elizabeth (1913-1985) and either the Remember Kent House (#21) or the J. M. Jacobs House (#11) to his son Hollister (1916-1974).

In addition to initiating a summer colony at Kents Corner, Louise Andrews Kent had a career as an author of twenty six books: adventure stories for children, New England cookbooks, and *Village Greens in New England*. Louise assumed the persona of 'Mrs. Appleyard' to write the novel *Mrs. Appleyard's Year* in 1941 and her autobiography *Mrs. Appleyard and I* in 1968. From 1962 to 1969 she wrote her Mrs. Appleyard food column for each quarterly issue of *Vermont Life* magazine that was edited (1950-1972) by her

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neighbor Walter R. Hard, Jr. (#35). Her 'summer kitchen' (1957) and 'winter kitchen' (1962) cookbooks were based on personal experience, family stories and fictionalized accounts of summer people.

After World War II the Farmer's Museum at Cooperstown in New York, the 'living history' museum at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, and the Shelburne Museum in Vermont were collecting, preserving and interpreting early American history. These museums were designed with relocated structures, but Kents Corner had remained an authentic place. The idea of a 'living history' or farm museum in Vermont was attractive to the trustees of the Vermont Historical Society especially considering the state's rural heritage. Calais historian Weston Cate, Jr. wrote that "no one can document who first had the idea that the Kent Tavern property in Calais, ten miles from the Society's headquarters, might be the spot for such an endeavor". Cate speculated that Dorman Kent may have suggested the idea, or perhaps it was Ira Rich Kent or his wife Louise Andrews Kent, who lived next door to the old Herbert Kent property, who first envisioned the historic Kent Hotel (#1) as a museum. At that time the "Vermont Historical Society had high hopes that the old Kent Tavern could become the centerpiece of an historic district that would include the Old West Church, the Robinson Sawmill, and extend down the hill to include the old Town Hall"¹²², a vision that would eventually be realized. In January 1944, the Kent Foundation gave the Society \$5,000 and in July the Society paid the foundation \$4,000 for the property and reserved \$1,000 for necessary repairs. An additional \$5,000 was forthcoming from the Foundation and the restoration work started in 1947. In 1949, A. Atwater Kent, Sr. died, left an endowment of \$30,000, and for the next three years Louise Andrews Kent managed the restoration of the buildings and was finally reimbursed by the Society for her expenses in 1952.¹²³ Calais historian Jill Mudgett concluded that Louise Andrews Kent's great efforts to operate the Kent Museum during the last decades of her life

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“would be the embodiment of her unique perspective – a celebration of her husband’s nineteenth-century ancestors that was bound inextricably to contemporary twentieth-century connotations of place”.¹²⁴

Louise Andrews Kent, as Curator and chair of the Society’s Kent Tavern Committee for several years, chose the landscape paintings of James Franklin Gilman to illustrate the historic environment around Kents Corner at informal open houses in the restored Kent Hotel beginning in 1951. Gilman’s work of a romantic, bucolic, pastoral and picturesque landscape at Kents Corner was ideal for Louise’s 1950s interpretation of Colonial Revival. The ideology of the Colonial Revival was of a simple, rationally ordered, harmonic, and visually appealing past environment.¹²⁵

At the official opening of the Kent Museum (#1) in July 1953, Hollister Kent, great-grandson of Ira Kent, presented remarks on the history of the Kent Tavern and Society director Arthur Wallace Peach (1886-1956) expressed enthusiasm about the possibilities for the museum, as well as other historic buildings in what ultimately would become a historic district. Louise Kent’s interpretation of Colonial Revival was realized in the opening of the Kent Museum (#1) and it grounded the neighborhood in local tradition for four decades.

Post Period of Significance: A Tradition Continued

Active interest lapsed in the Kent Museum when “no sustained effort was mounted to develop the resource” and the Society’s small staff “had little time, money, or inclination to worry about the tavern”. As the Society moved in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, it had not found a long-term solution to the management of the museum.¹²⁶ In 1978 the Vermont Historical Society acquired the Kent Barn (#1b), along with nearly four acres at Kents Corner, and restored the barn under the leadership R. Gregory Belcher (1903-1987) (#11), Society Trustee and President of the Calais Historical Society.¹²⁷

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During the mid 1980s Calais resident and anthropologist Dr. Eleanor Ott conducted archeological investigations at the Goodenough-Wheeler Farm Site (#42b) just south of the museum and also at the Abijah Wheelock homestead (#2e). Summer archeology workshops, '*Historic Archaeology and Rural Heritage*', renewed an interest in the early history of the Kents Corner neighborhood.¹²⁸ Finally, in 1989 Michael Sherman, Society director from 1985-1995, announced that the Kent Museum would not reopen for the summer season. In 1991 the museum was transferred to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the museum has not yet reopened.¹²⁹

At the same time that the Kent Museum was getting established in the 1950s there was renewed appreciation for the historic significance of the Robinson Sawmill (#20). In 1956 Bill Borland, of North Calais, acquired the 153-year-old operating Robinson-Kent Sawmill and kept the machinery operating until 1958. Howard Kent and Laura McKnight Kent Cooley, grandchildren of Abdiel Kent, acquired the mill, repaired the dam to preserve the mill and did not restart the machinery. The Aldrich Memorial Association was created in 1961 to preserve the mill and maintain a nature preserve around the mill pond. R. Gregory Belcher (#11) was president of the association in the 1970s and local architect John Ostrum (#12) supervised restoration work in the 1980s. In 2004 the turbine was restored, the sawmill was operated and the Robinson Sawmill (#20) is probably the oldest operating water-powered sawmill in Vermont.¹³⁰

In the early 1960s the historic architecture and rural landscape of this neighborhood was recognized and Forest Davis (#30) served as chair of the Calais Town History Committee in 1963. The Kents Corner Historic District and the Old West Church were both listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. R. Gregory Belcher (#11), while president of the Calais Historical Society and Trustee of the Vermont Historical Society, proposed the creation of a town ordinance to protect the Kents Corner-Old West Church Historic District to the Calais Planning Commission

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in 1975.¹³¹ The historic architecture and sensitive development in the Kents Corner neighborhood were preserved officially by the Town in the formation of the Kents Corner-Old West Church Historic District and a 'design control district' in 1976.

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation erected a marker (#1C) to honor the 'HISTORIC KENT TAVERN' in 1997 and continues to maintain the Kent Museum buildings. The Calais Historic Preservation Commission was created in 2002, appointments made in 2003 with Certified Local Government status awarded in 2004. Historic Kents Corner Inc., a private preservation organization, was organized in 2000 and is dedicated to the preservation of the Kent Museum and the cultural environment of the neighborhood. The Kents Corner Historic District evokes a distinctive sense of time and place and this Calais tradition of preserving the memory of its past is a civic religion called historic preservation.

¹ An account of the settlement of Calais was prepared by "S. W." (Shubael Wheeler) and printed in Zadock Thompson, ed., *A Gazetteer of the State of Vermont*, 1824, pp. 88-90; The account prepared by "S. W." for Thompson's 1842 gazetteer is a longer letter, pp. 41-43.

² "The Charter of Calais", *State Papers of Vermont, Volume Two*, pp. 37-39.

³ "Whence the Name" in Abby Maria Hemenway, *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, pp. 130 and 154.

⁴ Esther Munroe Swift, *Vermont Place Names: Footprints of History*, pp. 438-441; Dorman B. E. Kent was not convinced, "no good proof to my mind has ever thus far been offered that he had anything to do with naming the two towns", in "History of Calais", *The Vermonter*, Vol. 19, No. 10-11, Oct.-Nov. 1914, pp. 163-168.

⁵ Thompson (1824), pp. 88-90; Hemenway, pp. 130-131; Marcus Warren Waite, "Pioneers of the Town of Calais, Vermont: 1781-1800", np.

⁶ D. B. E. Kent, "History of Calais" in *The Vermonter*, Vol. 19, No. 10-11, Oct.-Nov. 1914, pp. 163-168. D. B. E. Kent provides the name and place of origin of 179 of the first male settlers of Calais up until 1809. The second part of this article concludes in Vol. 19, No. 12, December 1914. For a rebuttal on these figures, see Jill Mudgett's "Kents Corner: A Guide to Documents Pertaining to Calais, Vermont, 1800-1850", footnote 13. T. D. Seymour Bassett offers reasons for this migration in "Migration to Vermont, 1761-1836" *Vermont Geographer*, Vol. 2, 1975, pp. 7-20.

⁷ "Kent Family" in Hemenway, pp. 158-160; see also Kent Family genealogy in Waite.

⁸ Waite, "Pioneers". The author drew a map of the early roads "drawn entirely from descriptions of early roads, early locations of the pioneers, etc." as they "appeared about

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the year 1799". This hand drawn map shows the present Old West Church Road, Kent Hill Road and Robinson Cemetery Road meeting at what would become Kents Corner.

⁹ Curtis Family genealogy in Hemenway, pp. 152-154, and Curtis and Bliss Family genealogies in Waite, np; The 1800 census is summarized in Waite.

¹⁰ L. Vernon Briggs. *Genealogies of the Different Familis Bearing the Name of Kent in the United States together with Their Possible English Ancestry: A. D. 1295-1898*, pp. 131-132.

¹¹ James B. Garvin. *A Building History of Northern New England*, p. 7.

¹² This statement is not based on field evaluation. There may be buildings in Calais with the 'vertical plank' structural system. See, Jan Lewandoski, "The Plank Framed House in Northeastern Vermont" *Vermont History*, Vol. 23, No. 2, Spring 1985, pp. 104-121.

¹³ Hemenway, pp. 137-138. See "Scribe Rule and Square Rule Framing" in Garvin, pp. 10-11. For a discussion of the construction of mortise and tenon timber frames see Rob Tarule, "The Mortise and Tenon Timber Frame: Tradition and Technology" in *Tools and Technologies: America's Wooden Age*, pp. 28-42.

¹⁴ Jan Lewandoski, "The Early House in Northeastern Vermont: Typical and Atypical Forms, 1770-1830" *Vermont History*, Vol. 61, No. 1, Winter 1993, p. 38.

¹⁵ Curtis B. Johnson, Ed. *The Historic Architecture of Vermont: Guide to Vermont Architecture*, pp. 9 and 20. Thomas C. Hubka. *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*, p. 134. Garvin, "The Greek Revival Style", pp. 114-118.

¹⁶ Hubka, p. 142.

¹⁷ Hubka, p. 134.

¹⁸ Hubka, p. 138-139.

¹⁹ John R. Stilgoe. *Common Landscape to America, 1580-1845*. p. 137.

²⁰ T. D. Seymour Bassett. *The Growing Edge: Vermont Villages, 1840-1880*, p. 5.

²¹ Hubka, pp. 9, 81-83.

²² Scott E. Hastings, Jr. and Geraldine S. Ames. *The Vermont Farm Year in 1890*.

²³ Thompson (1842), p. 43.

²⁴ Agricultural Extension Service, University of Vermont, "Agricultural Trends in Calais, Vermont", 1940. This report also includes the production and acreage of various crops.

²⁵ For examples of these structures see Hubka, "Outbuildings", pp. 61-68; and Visser, pp. 105-198.

²⁶ Stilgoe, p. 155. Hubka, "Barns", pp. 52-61. Thomas D. Visser. "Barns" in *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*, pp. 59-103. See illustration of Ira Kent Barn in Visser, p. 78.

²⁷ Allen Morse, "Manufactories in Calais" in Hemenway, p. 170. H. F. Walling, *Map of Washington County, Vermont*. 1858.

²⁸ Cate, *Forever Calais*, p. 10. F. W. Beers. *Atlas for Washington County, Vermont*, 1873.

²⁹ Albers, Jan, "Trees and Ashes" in *Hands on the Land*, p. 107. Rolando, Victor R. "Potash Kettles" in *200 Years of Soot and Sweat: The History and Archeology of Vermont's Iron, Charcoal, and Lime Industries*, pp. 37-39.

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³⁰ Nathan Rosenberg, "America's Rise to Woodworking Leadership" in Brooke Hindle, ed. *America's Wooden Age: Aspects of its Early Technology*, pp. 37-62. Census figures for 1840, 1850 and 1860.

³¹ Thompson (1824), pp. 89-90.

³² No author, "Joel Robinson's Old Sawmill, typescript, c. 1974. For Deacon Joshua Bliss's sawmill, see Dorman B. E. Kent, "Calais", Typescript, 1926. See also Garvin, "Upright and Reciprocating Sawmills", pp. 19-20, and Visser, "Saw Marks", pp. 26-30.

³³ Hemenway, p. 170. D.B. E. Kent, "History of Calais", p. 195.

³⁴ S. Goodenough (Salem) appears on both the 1858 and 1873 maps. In the 1880 Census he is listed as a carpenter and joiner.

³⁵ For a history of mill development in Calais, see Morse, "Manufactories in Calais" in Hemenway, pp. 170-171. Walling, 1858. Beers, 1873.

³⁶ Hemenway, p. 170. The one store may have been Samuel Rich's general store in Rich's Hollow (North Montpelier), see Cate, p. 40.

³⁷ Hemenway, p. 170. Garvin, "Circular Sawmills", pp. 26-27. "Joel Robinson's Old Sawmill", passim. For the operations of a typical upright sawmill converted to a circular saw, see Scott E. Hastings, Jr. *The Last Yankees: Folkways in Eastern Vermont and the Border Country*, pp. 49-59.

³⁸ Jill Mudgett. "By Work in Shop": Boot and Shoe Production in Calais, Vermont, 1829-1850" in *Vermont History*, Vol. 69, Winter 2001, Symposium Supplement, pp. 105-115. See also, Jill Mudgett, "Kents Corner: A Guide to Documents Pertaining to Calais, Vermont, 1800-1850", Abstract.

³⁹ Hemenway, p. 158. In "Kents Corner: A Guide", Mudgett concludes that Abdiel learned the craft of shoe making from Kent relatives in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, p. 11.

⁴⁰ Mudgett, p. 106.

⁴¹ Hemenway, p. 158. See Mudgett, "By Work in Shop", for a look at Abdiel Kent's business practices in the Boot and Shoe Manufactory, pp. 104-115.

⁴² U. S. Census of Manufacturers, 1860, Calais. Unfortunately the Census of 1840 only gives gross numbers for agricultural and manufactured products and no company names. The Calais page is missing in the Census of 1850.

⁴³ U. S. Census of Manufacturers, 1870, Calais.

⁴⁴ U. S. Census of Manufacturers, 1860, Calais.

⁴⁵ D. B. E. Kent, "Calais". Mudgett, "By Work in Shop", pp. 108 and 114.

⁴⁶ D. B. E. Kent, "Calais". The Brick Kiln does not appear on Walling's map of 1858, but does appear on the Beers map of 1873, south of Kent Hill Road, east of the Rev. O. Davis House in Gospel Hollow. See Mudgett, "Kents Corner: A Guide", footnotes 115 and 116.

⁴⁷ Garvin, "Brick Manufacture", pp. 48-54. Harley J. McKee. *Introduction to Early American Masonry: Stone, Brick, Mortar and Plaster*. Pp. 41-55.

⁴⁸ Mudgett, "Kents Corner: A Guide", footnotes 115 and 117. The blacksmith shop appears on the Walling 1858 map as simply 'B. S. Shop' and on the Beers 1873 map as 'I Kent B. S. S.' Walling. Map of Washington County, Vermont, 1858. Beers, Atlas of Washington County, Vermont, 1873.

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⁴⁹ D. B. E. Kent, 'Merchants, Manufacturers, Mechanics, Artisans, 1800-1925' in *Calais*. The 1858 map lists L. E. Persons in house #13 and the 1873 map lists J. Persons in house # 12 and J. Persons, Jr. in house # 3.

⁵⁰ Cate, p. 50.

⁵¹ U. S. Census of Manufacturers, 1860, Calais.

⁵² Hemenway, p. 158. Mudgett points out the difficulty of verifying the information in Hemenway about Kent's real estate holdings outside of Calais.

⁵³ Cate, p. 40. For an account of 1839 prices for goods and services available at the store, see Cate, pp. 47-48.

⁵⁴ Abdiel Kent's Account Book and three Daybooks, at the Vermont Historical Society, are discussed in detail in Mudgett's "Kents Corner: A Guide to Documents Pertaining to Calais, Vermont, 1800-1850". Jack Larkin, "A Busy, Bustling, Industrious Population", in *The Reshaping of Everyday Life, 1790-1840*, pp. 1-61.

⁵⁵ Carolyn Fuller Sloat. "The Center of Local Commerce: The Asa Knight Store of Dummerston, Vermont, 1827-1851" *Vermont History*, Vol. 53, No. 4, Fall 1885, pp. 205-220. For the lifestyle of a storekeeper, see Jane Beck, *The General Store in Vermont: An Oral History*. 1980.

⁵⁶ Beers, 1873.

⁵⁷ Hemenway, p. 158.

⁵⁸ Calais Land Records, Book 19, Page 398, December 22, 1916.

⁵⁹ This list of building components comes from Louise Andrews Kent, "The Kent Museum", Brochure, Vermont Historical Society, 1956. See also, Mudgett, "Kents Corner: A Guide", footnote, 98.

⁶⁰ Bassett, "Vermont Post Roads, 1837-1841" in *Growing Edge*, p. 28. Barbara Floersch. "The Road to Memphremagog: A Remembrance of Roads Past" *Vermont Life*, Fall 1984.

⁶¹ D. B. E. Kent, "History of Calais", Vol. 1.

⁶² Thompson (1842), p. 43.

⁶³ Hamilton Child. *Gazetteer of Washington County, VT: 1783-1889*, p. 229.

⁶⁴ Hemenway, pp. 158-160, I. R. Kent may have only operated the general store; D. B. E. Kent, 'Merchants', *Calais*.

⁶⁵ William Morgan. *American Country Churches*. p. 9.

⁶⁶ John C. DeBoer and Clara Merritt DeBoer. "The Formation of Town Churches: Church, Town and State in Early Vermont" *Vermont History*, Vol. 64, No. 2, 1996, pp. 69 and 85.

⁶⁷ Thompson (1824), p. 89 and Thompson (1842), p. 42.

⁶⁸ Cate, pp. 73-74.

⁶⁹ T. D. Seymour Bassett. *The Gods of the Hills: Piety and Society in Nineteenth-Century Vermont*, p. 105.

⁷⁰ Rev. Lester Warren, "Universalist Parish in Calais" in Hemenway, pp. 145-147.

⁷¹ Hemenway, pp. 143-144.

⁷² Cate, p. 76.

⁷³ Mudgett, "Kents Corner: A Guide", p. 47.

⁷⁴ For a photograph of the carriage shed behind the Old West Church, see Dorman B. E. Kent. *History of Calais*. There is a better photograph in the collection of the Calais Historical Society.

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Calais, Washington County, Vermont

⁷⁵ Hemenway, p. 144.

⁷⁶ Hemenway, p. 154.

⁷⁷ Child, p. 228.

⁷⁸ Rev. Lester Warren, "Universalist Parish in Calais" in Hemenway, pp. 145-147.

⁷⁹ Hemenway, p. 144.

⁸⁰ D. B. E. Kent. "History of Calais", p. 172.

⁸¹ Cate, pp. 78 and 86.

⁸² For comparison to other New England Meetinghouses and Churches built before 1830 and still standing, see Sinott, Edmund W. *Meetinghouse and Church in Early New England*, pp. 211 and 237. Sinott described 509 buildings and recorded four types for the meetinghouses and churches in the Puritan tradition of Congregational and Unitarian.

⁸³ The years which saw a gradual architectural change from meeting house to church in New England also saw the dominant interior spaces of the 17th and 18th centuries increasing warmed with artificial light, stove-generated heat and decorative textiles. Jane C. Nylander. "Toward Comfort and Uniformity in New England Meeting Houses, 1750-1850" in *New England Meeting House and Church: 1630-1850*, p. 86.

⁸⁴ "Old West Church" in *Barre Daily Times*, July 31, 1928.

⁸⁵ D. B. E. Kent, "Historic Old West Church in Calais", *Montpelier Evening Argus*, June 13, 1921. "Church Restoration Leads to Other Changes", *Barre Daily Times*, June 6, 1938.

⁸⁶ Herbert W. Congdon. *Old Vermont Houses*. 1940, pp. 181-183. Also, "Some Old Vermont Meeting Houses and Churches" *Vermont History*, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1959. pp. 3-17. Congdon may have been comparing these churches to larger churches with more elaborate details.

⁸⁷ Louise Andrews Kent. *Village Greens in New England*, pp. 39 and 41. In 1956 she prepared a pamphlet about the history of the church that was distributed to visitors until the text was expanded by the Old West Church Association in 2005.

⁸⁸ Alma Leonard. "Records Obtained From Inscriptions Upon Headstones in the Cemeteries of Calais Of Persons Buried Previous to 1870". "Miscellaneous Record Book", recorded by C. R. Dwinell, Town Clerk, 1919. This cemetery contains about 100 burials and it still in use.

⁸⁹ "Bliss Genealogy" in Waite.

⁹⁰ Rev. Orrin Davis, Miscellaneous Record Book, Calais Town Clerk's office.

⁹¹ Cate, *Forever Calais*, pp. 82-84.

⁹² Hemenway, p. 144-145, Cate, pp. 82-84. For more information about the various churches and their pastors see Marcus Warren Waite. For congregational ministers in Calais, see John M. Comstock. *The Congregational Churches of Vermont and Their Ministry, 1762-1942, Historical and Statistical*, p. 48. See Hemenway, p. 146 for a list of Universalist ministers.

⁹³ Leonard. "Records Obtained From Inscriptions Upon Headstones".

⁹⁴ Allan I. Ludwig. *Graven Images: New England Stonecarving and its Symbols, 1650-1815*. For a list of tombstones see, Alexander Spidle. "Gravestones (copied) in the Robinson Cemetery in Calais, Vermont to November 1970". See also Leonard. "Records Obtained From Inscriptions Upon Headstones in the Cemeteries of Calais Of Persons Buried Previous to 1870".

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Calais, Washington County, Vermont

⁹⁵ Joseph S. Wood, *The New England Village*, p. 65.

⁹⁶ Jan Albers. *Hands on the Land: A History of the Vermont Landscape*, p. 12.

⁹⁷ Thompson (1824), pp. 88-90; See, Wheelock genealogy in Waite, np. For a list of Washington County Senators from Calais, Calais Town Representatives and Calais Town Officers, see Cate, *Forever Calais*, p. 226.

⁹⁸ Walling, 1858 map.

⁹⁹ Cate, *Forever Calais*, pp. 114-115.

¹⁰⁰ For a list of 'warnings out' in Calais, see Alden M. Rollins, *Vermont Warnings Out, Vol. 1, Northern Vermont*, pp. 294-299.

¹⁰¹ D. B. E. Kent, "Calais", Vol. 1. "Overseers of the Poor".

¹⁰² Cate, *Forever Calais*, pp. 115-120; Robert McCullough "A Forest in Every Town: Vermont's History of Communal Woodlands", *Vermont History*, Vol. 64, No. 1, Winter 1996, passim.

¹⁰³ McCullough "A Forest in Every Town", p. 12.

¹⁰⁴ Steven R. Hoffbeck. "'Remember the Poor' (*Galatians* 2:10): Poor Farms in Vermont" *Vermont History*, Vol. 57, No. 4, Fall 1989, p. 235.

¹⁰⁵ Calais Conservation Commission and Russ Barrett, "Management Plan for the Bliss Pond Town Forest", 2004, pp. 4-6. This management plan includes an inventory of natural and cultural resources.

¹⁰⁶ Max Jolley, *The Postmasters of Vermont*, "Washington County, Calais", pp. 2.

¹⁰⁷ Hemenway, p. 158. See also, Cate, pp. 226-231.

¹⁰⁸ State of Vermont, *Legislative Directory*, 1882.

¹⁰⁹ Cate, *Forever Calais*, pp. 226-228.

¹¹⁰ Cate, *Forever Calais*, pp. 229-231. The monument was updated with names in 2004.

¹¹¹ J. Kevin Graffagnino, "Arcadia in New England: Divergent Visions of a Changing Vermont" in *Celebrating Vermont: Myths and Realities*, pp. 45-60.

¹¹² Adele G. Dawson. *James Franklin Gilman: nineteenth century painter*. (Canaan, NH: 1975), pp. 9, 55-60, 117-118. In the first version of 'Kents Corner' the left corner of the picture features Abdiel's youngest son Howard, Herbert, and a grandson, Fred Bacon, whose mother, Ellen, was Abdiel's oldest daughter. The group to the right includes the youngest members of the family, Marion Kent, Laura Bacon and Dorman Kent. This is the only one of Gilman's landscapes of farm and family in which the people are posed. At Kents Corner, Gilman made charcoal portraits of Ira Richardson Kent, Polly Curtis Kent, Ira Kent, Leroy Abdiel Kent, Blanche Hollister Kent and Ruth Bridgman Eaton. Kevin F. Graffagnino, "The Sylvanus Morse Farm" in *Vermont in the Victorian Age*. pp. 79-81. See also, Louise Andrews Kent and Elizabeth Kent Gay, "James F. Gilman: Forgotten recorder of rural Vermont", *Vermont Life*, Vol. XI, No. 11, Winter 1956-57, pp. 32-38. And the museum catalog, *James Franklin Gilman, 1850-1929*. Robert Hull Fleming Museum, University of Vermont, Burlington: 1970.

¹¹³ Albers, pp. 129-131.

¹¹⁴ Stilgoe, p. 342.

¹¹⁵ Marcus Warren Waite. *The Wheelock Family of Calais, Vermont: Their Ancestry and Descendants*, pp. 8 and 9.

¹¹⁶ *Vermont: A Profile of the Green Mountain State*, p. 8.

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Calais, Washington County, Vermont

¹¹⁷ D. B. E. Kent. "Address given by Dorman B. E. Kent at the annual town meeting of Calais, March 4, 1941, as part of the special celebration of the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the statehood of Vermont".

¹¹⁸ Prentiss C. Dodge. "Dorman Bridgman Eaton Kent", *Encyclopedia Vermont Biography*, p. 242. "D. B. E. K", *Vermont History News*, Vol. 2, No. 12, August 1951, pp. 7-8. Weston A. Cate, Jr. *Up & Doing: The Vermont Historical Society, 1838-1970*, pp. 86-90.

¹¹⁹ Janet E. Schulte. "'Summer Homes': A History of Family Summer Vacation Communities in Northern New England, 1880-1940", pp. 59-69.

¹²⁰ Actually, Louise A. Kent purchases the Herbert Kent farm, with 190 acres that included the Brick House (Calais Land Records, Book 20, Page 265, March 7, 1929), and sells it a few months later to A. Atwater Kent.

¹²¹ "Arthur Atwater Kent", *Dictionary of American Biography*, pp. 451-453. A. A. Kent, Jr. (1909-1988).

¹²² Cate, *Forever Calais*, p. 195.

¹²³ Cate, *Up & Doing*, pp. 75-79. "The Kent Tavern Enters Into History", *Vermont History News and Notes*, Vol. 3, No. 12, August, 1952, pp. 89-90.

¹²⁴ Mudgett, "Family Folklore and Twentieth-Century American Regionalism as Combined Influences on One Woman's Understanding of Like in a Vermont Town", pp. 1-2.

¹²⁵ Wood, pp. 149 and 174.

¹²⁶ Cate, *Up & Doing*, pp. 78 and 79, and Cate, *Forever Calais*, pp. 195-196.

¹²⁷ "Kent Barn on Firm Footing" *Vermont History News*, January-April, 1979, pp. 54-55.

¹²⁸ Eleanor Ott and Doug Frink, "There's a Hole in Your History", *Vermont History News*, Vol. 37, No.2, March-April 1986, pp. 39-47. And "Two Hundred Years of History" *Vermont History News*, Vol. 39, No. 2, March-April 1988, pp. 42-47.

¹²⁹ "VHS will not operate Kent Museum in 1989" *Vermont History News*, March-June, 1989, p. 60. "The Kent Museum- A New Proposal" *Vermont History News*, January-April, 1990, pp. 60-62. For an understanding of the partly state-operated Vermont Historical Society and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, see Michael Sherman, *Vermont State Government Since 1965*. pp. 417-452.

¹³⁰ "Robinson Sawmill Back On Line" in *The Hardwick Gazette*, September 29, 2004; "Kent Barn on Firm Footing", *Vermont History News*, January-April, 1979, pp. 54-55; "R. Gregory Belcher, 1903-1987", *Vermont History News*, November-October, 1987, pp. 110-111.

¹³¹ *Vermont History News and Notes*, May-June, 1975, p. 20.

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Calais, Washington County, Vermont

9. Major Bibliographical References

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CTC = Calais Town Clerk's Office

OWC = Old West Church Association, Calais

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Section number 10 Page 1 Kents Corner Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Calais, Washington County, Vermont

Geographical Data

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	700171E	4917064N
2	18	700623E	4916998N
3	18	701796E	4916099N
4	18	701369E	4915240N
5	18	699679E	4913333N
6	18	698815E	4914502N

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Calais, Washington County, Vermont

Boundary Description

The boundary of the new Kents Corner Historic District is delineated on the shaded area of the map accompanying the nomination form. The original (1973) historic district is indicated in a one-quarter mile radius from Kents Corner; and the original (1973) Old West Church nomination is now property #29. The original historic district and property #29 are both incorporated in the new district. The irregular boundary of the new district follows the perimeter property lines of the properties along Kent Hill Road, Robinson Cemetery Road and the Old West Church Road. These three roads form the axis of the district and meet at Kents Corner. These property lines are derived from the Town of Calais's official tax map. The map was printed with these property lines by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Council in Montpelier.

Boundary Justification

The new historic district is comprised of the land and resources associated historically with the Kents Corner neighborhood. This rural landscape retains the integrity of appearance that was present during the period of significance, 1800-1955. The new district follows the perimeter property lines of the properties along Kent Hill Road, Robinson Cemetery Road and the Old West Church Road. These three dirt roads were established by 1800, form the axis of the district and meet at Kents Corner. Woodlands form a ring around the district's entire boundary and the Bliss Town Forest (#31) is included because of its historical association with property #30. Three solely agricultural properties (#14, #15, #16) have no structures, however they were associated historically with a Kent farm and are included in the immediate view shed of Kents Corner. The eastern boundary of the district is extended into the area known as Gospel Hollow because the Christian Church (#7), now the Calais Town Hall, is significant to the history of government affairs in the neighborhood. Also, Reverend Orrin Davis (#9) was minister to the neighborhood for over 50 years. The Kent Brick Kiln site (#6) was operated by the Kent family and contributed to the industrial history of the district. The historic properties in Gospel Hollow were integral to the life ways of the neighborhood. These 42 properties and their boundaries are sufficient to convey the historic significance of the Kents Corner Historic District.

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Section Photograph Labels Page 1_ Kents Corner Historic District
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The following is the same for all photographs:
Kents Corner Historic District
Town of Calais, Washington County, Vermont
Photographs by John Johnson, May 2005
Negatives on file at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photograph # 1
Facing southeast from property # 18, looking toward Kents Corner.

Photograph # 2
Facing southwest from property # 11, looking toward Kents Corner.

Photograph # 3
Facing north from property # 25.

Photograph # 4
Facing west toward property # 7.

Photograph # 5
Property # 1, facing south toward Kent Museum.

Photograph # 6
Property # 1, facing east toward Kent Museum.

Photograph # 7
Property # 1A, facing northeast toward Kent Barn.

Photograph # 8
Property # 2, facing northwest toward L. A. Kent House.

Photograph # 9
Property # 2A, facing southwest toward Corn Barn/Cabin.

Photograph # 10
Property # 2B and # 2C, facing southwest toward Barn and
Barn/Garage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photograph Labels Page 2_ Kents Corner Historic District
Calais, Washington County, Vermont

Photograph # 11

Property # 2E, facing southwest toward Wheelock Monument.

Photograph # 12

Property # 3, facing northeast toward J. V. R. Kent House.

Photograph # 13

Property # 7, facing southwest toward Christian Church.

Photograph # 14

Property # 8, facing northwest toward T. C. Holt House.

Photograph # 15

Property # 8A, facing east toward Barn.

Photograph # 16

Property # 8 and # 8B, facing northeast toward T. C. Holt House and Tractor Barn.

Photograph # 17

Property # 9, facing northwest toward Rev. O. Davis House.

Photograph # 18

Property # 12, facing northwest toward J. M. Jacobs House.

Photograph # 19

Property # 13, facing southwest toward R. Kent Pioneer Cottage.

Photograph # 20

Property # 13B, facing northwest toward Dam.

Photograph # 21

Property # 17, facing northeast toward I. & A. Kent House.

Photograph # 22

Property # 18, facing northwest toward E. Robinson House.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Photograph Labels Page 3_ Kents Corner Historic District
Calais, Washington County, Vermont

Photograph # 23
Property # 18A, # 18B, and #18C, facing southwest toward Barn,
Machinery Shed, and Cabin.

Photograph # 24
Property # 19, facing southwest toward Receiving Vault in Robinson
Cemetery.

Photograph # 25
Property # 20, facing northwest toward Robinson Sawmill.

Photograph # 26
Property # 21, facing northwest toward R. Kent House.

Photograph # 27
Property # 22, facing northwest toward J. M. Kent House.

Photograph # 28
Property # 22A, facing southwest toward Barn.

Photograph # 29
Property # 24, facing southwest toward M. A. Kent House.

Photograph # 30
Property # 25, facing southwest toward Ancel & Reynes House.

Photograph # 31
Property # 27, facing northwest toward L. Wood House.

Photograph # 32
Property # 27A, facing southwest toward Barn.

Photograph # 33
Property # 28, facing northwest toward A. Bliss House.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photograph Labels Page 4_ Kents Corner Historic District
Calais, Washington County, Vermont

Photograph # 34

Property # 28A, # 28B and # 28C, facing northwest toward Barn, Barn and Dairy Barn.

Photograph # 35

Property # 29, facing southwest toward Old West Church.

Photograph # 36

Property # 29A, facing west at Bliss Monument in Old West Church Cemetery.

Photograph # 37

Property # 30, facing northwest toward M. Wright House.

Photograph # 38

Property # 30A, facing southeast toward Wagon Shed.

Photograph # 39

Property # 32C and # 32D, facing southeast toward Barn and Milk House.

Photograph # 40

Property # 32E, facing northwest toward Barn.

Photograph # 41

Property # 33, facing southwest toward J. W. E. Bliss House.

Photograph # 42

Property # 34, facing northwest toward S Goodenough House.

Photograph # 43

Property # 35, facing southwest toward J. White House.

Photograph # 44

Property # 37, facing northwest toward Harvey & Wollaeger House.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photograph Labels Page 5 Kents Corner Historic District
Calais, Washington County, Vermont

Photograph # 45
Property # 42A, facing southeast toward Sugarhouse.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Table of Properties Page 1

Kents Corner Historic District
Calais, Washington County, Vermont

Map #	Historic Name of Property	Address	Date Built	Style	Contributing or Non-Contributing
1	Kent Museum • Abdiel Kent House • Kent Hotel • I & A Kent Store A. I. Kent Barn B. VT Historic Marker C. A. Kent Barns Foundation	7 Old West Church Road	c. 1830 1837 1854 c. 1870 1997 c. 1835	Cape Cod Greek Revival Greek Revival Bank n/a n/a	C C C C NC C
2	L. A. Kent House A. Corn Barn/Cabin B. Barn C. Barn/Garage D. Garden Shed E. Wheelock Monument	748 Kent Hill Road	c. 1845 c. 1870 c. 1845 c. 1845 c. 1960 1930	Greek Revival Vernacular New England Vernacular Vernacular n/a	C C C C NC C
3	J. V. R. Kent House A. Garage	760 Kent Hill Road	c. 1810 2002	Greek Revival Vernacular	C NC
4	O. Chesaux House, No. 1 A. Woodshed	1082 Kent Hill Road	1969 c. 1970	Log Cabin Vernacular	NC NC
5	O. Chesaux House, No. 2 A. Garage B. Horse Barn C. Sugarhouse	1164 Kent Hill Road	1977 1970 1970 1970	Log Cabin Log Cabin Vernacular Vernacular	NC NC NC NC
6	Kent Brick Kiln	Kent Hill Road	n/a	n/a	C
7	Christian Church	1662 Kent Hill Road	1866	Greek Revival	C
8	T. C. Holt House A. Barn B. Tractor Barn	1653 Kent Hill Road	c. 1870 c. 1870 c. 1930	Greek Revival Vernacular Vernacular	C C C
9	Rev. O. Davis House A. Barn	1567 Kent Hill Road	c. 1850 c. 1980	Greek Revival Vernacular	C NC
10	J. Marshall House	1417 Kent Hill Road	1965	Colonial Revival	NC
11	N. & C. Emlen House A. Workshop B. Sauna	835 Kent Hill Road	1997 2000 2003	Greek Revival Vernacular Vernacular	NC NC NC
12	J. M. Jacobs House A. Garage B. Garden Shed	833 Kent Hill Road	c. 1840 c. 1962 c. 1968	Greek Revival Vernacular Vernacular	C NC NC
13	R. Kent Pioneer Cottage A. Covered Bridge B. Concrete Dam	757 Kent Hill Road	c. 1797 1964 1946	Cape Cod Kingpost Truss Poured concrete	C NC C
14	E. R. Kent Property	Robinson Cemetery Road	n/a	n/a	C
15	M. K. Wilkinson Property	Robinson Cemetery Road	n/a	n/a	C
16	P. K. Champion Property	Robinson Cemetery Road	n/a	n/a	C
17	I. & A. Kent House A. Camp	140 Robinson Cemetery Rd.	c. 1810 c. 1960	Greek Revival Log Cabin	C NC
18	E. Robinson House A. Barn B. Machinery Shed C. Cabin D. Sugarhouse E. Camp F. Summerhouse	230 Robinson Cemetery Rd.	c. 1855 c. 1855 c. 1860 c. 1920 c. 1970 c. 1965 c. 1970	Greek Revival Bank Vernacular Vernacular Vernacular Vernacular Vernacular	C C C C NC NC NC
19	Robinson Graveyard	Robinson Cemetery Road	1814	n/a	C

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Table of Properties Page 2Kents Corner Historic District
Calais, Washington County, Vermont

20	Robinson Sawmill	Robinson Cemetery Road	1803	Vernacular	C
21	R. Kent House A. Garage	647 Kent Hill Road	c. 1810 c. 1960	Greek Revival Vernacular	C NC
22	J. M. Kent House A. Barn	605 Kent Hill Road	c. 1880 c. 1880	Greek Revival Bank	C C
23	Fitch & Montore House	469 Kent Hill Road	1996	Colonial Revival	NC
24	M. A. Kent House A. Barn	532 Kent Hill Road	c. 1850 c. 1900	Greek Revival English	C C
25	Ancel & Reynes House	270 Old West Church Road	2002	Neo-traditional	NC
26	P. Ohman House A. Garage	336 Old West Church Road	1968 1985	Colonial Revival Vernacular	NC NC
27	L. Wood House A. Barn B. Garage	504 Old West Church Road	c. 1850 c. 1850 1990	Greek Revival English Vernacular	C C NC
28	A. Bliss House A. Barn B. Barn C. Dairy Barn D. Mink Shed E. Sugarhouse	732 Old West Church Road	c. 1810 c. 1840 c. 1860 1994 1986 c. 1980	Greek Revival English Bank Dairy Vernacular Vernacular	C C C NC NC NC
29	Old West Church A. Cemetery	758 Old West Church Road	1825 1826	Greek Revival n/a	C C
30	M. Wright House A. Wagon Shed	842 Old West Church Road	c. 1810 c. 1850	Greek Revival Vernacular	C C
31	Bliss Pond Town Forest	Old West Church Road	1871	n/a	C
32	W. Balentine House No. 1 A. Workshop B. Garden Shed C. Barn D. Milk House E. Barn	1082 Old West Church Road	1963 1995 1990 1888 c. 1920 c. 1850	Ranch Vernacular Vernacular Bank Vernacular English	NC NC NC C C C
33	J. W. E. Bliss House	1116 Old West Church Road	c. 1840	Federal	C
34	S. Goodenough House A. Bliss Sawmill Foundation B. Summer House	761 Bliss Pond Road	c. 1850 c. 1824 c. 1970	Greek Revival Vernacular Vernacular	C C NC
35	J. White House A. Garage	184 Fowler Road	c. 1840 1962	Greek Revival Vernacular	C NC
36	W. Balentine House No. 2 A. Garage	167 Fowler Road	1980 c. 1980	Colonial Revival Vernacular	NC NC
37	Harvey & Wollaeger House A. Garage B. Woodworking Shop	1155 Old West Church Road	1996 1995 1994	Colonial Revival Vernacular Vernacular	NC NC NC
38	W. Balentine House No. 5	1093 Old West Church Road	1990	Colonial Revival	NC
39	D. & S. Martin House A. Vehicle storage shed	981 Old West Church Road	2004 2004	Colonial Revival Vernacular	NC NC
40	W. Balentine House No. 4 A. Pool and Garden Shed	921 Old West Church Road	1988 c. 2000	Colonial Revival Vernacular	NC NC

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Table of Properties Page 3

Kents Corner Historic District
Calais, Washington County, Vermont

41	W. Balentine House No. 3 A. Garden Shed	825 Old West Church Road	1985 1988	Colonial Revival Vernacular	NC NC
42	C. Line House A. Sugarhouse B. G. W. House Foundation C. House in Ruin	287 Old West Church Road	1998 2005 c. 1810 c. 1850	Colonial Revival Vernacular n/a Greek Revival	NC NC C NC
				Contributing	53
				Non-contributing	50
				Total	103

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Property Owners Page 1 Kents Corner Historic District
Calais, Washington, Vermont

1. Kent Museum , VT Division for Historic Preservation, National Life Building, Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05620
2. Boxer-Kent Corporation, 748 Kent Hill Road, East Calais, VT 05650
3. Paul Hannan and Cornelia Carey, 760 Kent Hill Road, East Calais, VT 05650
4. Peter and Mary Condaxis, 1082 Kent Hill Road, East Calais, VT 05650
5. Linda Chesaux, Box 134, East Calais, VT 05650
6. Arvin, Duane and Lee Stevens + Lois Atwood, 2156 Pekin Brook Rd, East Calais, VT 05650
7. Town of Calais, Town Clerk's Office, 3120 Pekin Brook Road, East Calais, VT 05650
8. Matthew Myers and Louise Low, 1653 Kent Hill Road, East Calais, VT 05650
9. Jennifer Isaacs, 1567 Kent Hill Road, East Calais, VT 05650
10. Edward Walbridge + Linda Thuren, 1417 Kent Hill Road, East Calais, VT 05650
11. Nicholas and Cornelia Emlen, PO Box 37, Calais, VT 05648
12. David and Linda Schutz, P O Box 83, Calais, VT 05648
13. Kurt Janson and Eileen Murray, 757 Kent Hill Road, East Calais, VT 05650
14. Edith R. Kent, % Nicholas and Amanda Kent, 691 Ocean Ave. Portland, ME 04103
15. Margaret Kent Wilkinson, 3021 Concord Lane, Anchorage, AL 99502
16. Polly Kent Campion, 44 King Road, Etna, NH 03750
17. Laurie Lipp, P O Box 44, Calais, VT 05648
18. Stanley and Elaine Fitch, 230 Robinson Cemetery Road, Calais, VT 05648
19. Robinson Cemetery, Town of Calais, Town Clerk's Office, 3120 Pekin Brook Road, Calais, VT 05648
20. Robinson Sawmill, Aldrich Memorial Association, P.O. Box 94, Calais, VT 05648
21. Judith Bingham, 647 Kent Hill Road, Calais, VT 05648
22. Allyson Evans, 605 Kent Hill Road, Calais, VT 05658
23. Judith Fitch and Paul Montore, P O Box 31, Calais, VT 05648

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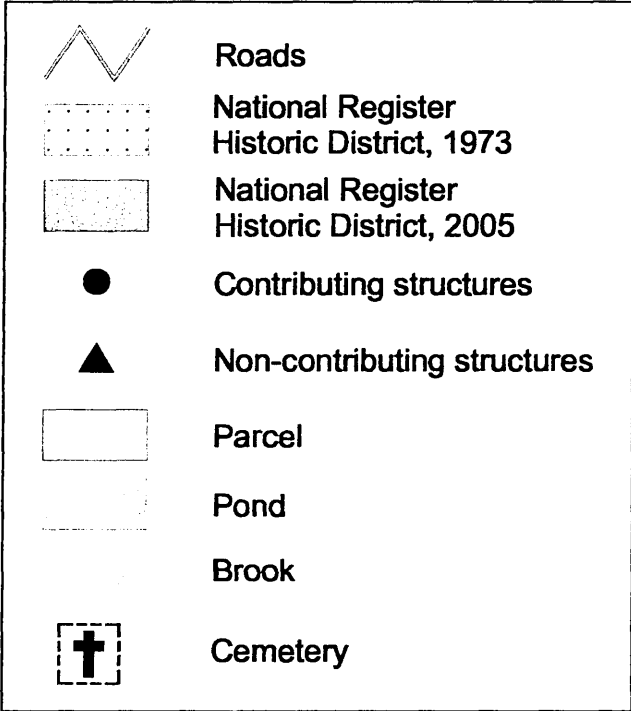
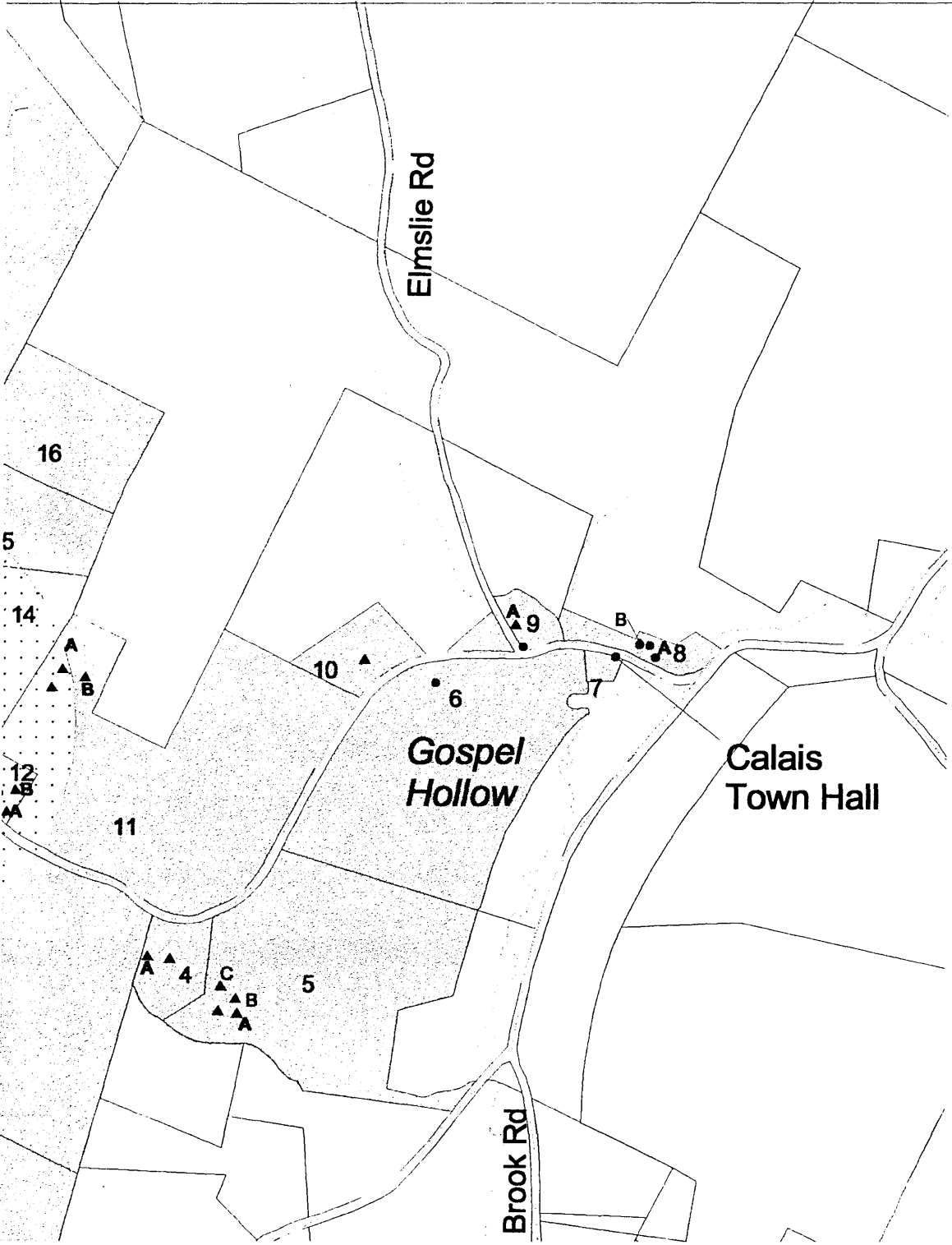
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Property Owners Page 2 Kents Corner Historic District
Calais, Washington, Vermont


24. Louis and Robin Garcia, 532 Kent Hill Road, Calais, VT 05658
25. Janet Ancel and Stephen Reynes, P O Box 123, Calais, VT 05648
26. Richard Jenney and Judith Harden, P O Box 199, Adamant, VT 05640
27. Christopher and Joyce Martin, 504 Old West Church Road, Adamant, VT 05640
28. David and Kathryn Morse, 732 Old West Church Road, Adamant, VT 05640
29. Old West Church Association, P. O. Box 200, Calais, VT 05648
30. Forest and Elizabeth Davis, 842 Old West Church Road, Adamant, VT 05640
31. Bliss Pong Town Forest, Town of Calais, Town Clerk's Office, 3120 Pekin Brook Road, East Calais, VT 05650
32. Walter and Carolyn Balentine, 1082 Old West Church Road, Adamant, VT 05640
33. Norman and Donna Moser, 1116 Old West Church Road, Adamant, VT 05640
34. Richard Lynch, 761 Bliss Pond Road, Adamant, VT 05640
35. Alice Blachly, P O Box 58, Calais, VT 05648
36. James and Sally Olmsted, 167 Fowler Road, Adamant, VT 05640
37. Peter Harvey and Lucy Wollaeger, 1155 Old West Church Road, Calais, VT 05648
38. Karen Balentine, 1093 Old West Church Road, Adamant, VT 05640
39. Dan and Sharon Martin, 981 Old West Church Road, Adamant, VT 05640
40. Edgar and Lorraine Clodfelter, 921 Old West Church Road, Adamant, VT 05640
41. Steven and Susan Killoran, 825 Old West Church Road, Adamant, VT 05640
42. Craig and Tinatin Line, P O Box 135, Adamant, VT 05640


Kents Corner Historic District Calais, Washington County, Vermont

Calais Historic Preservation Commission
Town of Calais
December 2, 2005

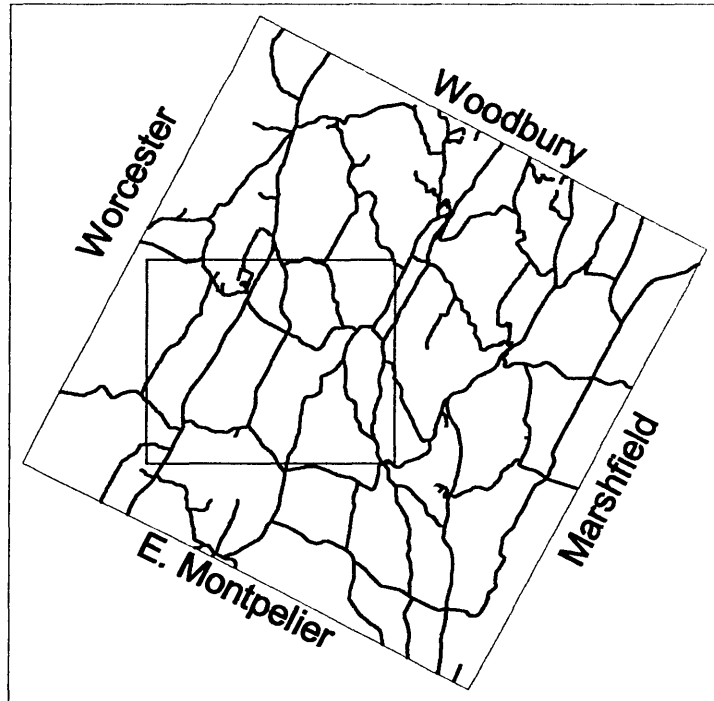




 Cemetery

1 3/4" = 0.25 miles
 

Town of Calais



Data Sets:
 Roads-1:5,000 VCGI E911 Roads 2005
 Surface Waters-1:5,000 CVRPC Surface Waters
 E911 Sites VCGI/E911 Data, 2005

Map Created 14-June-2005 by CVRPC
 Data is only as accurate as the original data source.
 This Map is for planning purposes only.
 This map may contain errors and omissions.



