

III. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KENSINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Amendment to the **Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation** that established the Kensington Historic District (Atlas #31/6) was adopted and approved October, 1986.

The Preservation Commission found the Kensington Historic District met Criteria 1a and 2a of the Historic Preservation Ordinance which states:

1. Historical and Cultural Significance:
The historic resource:
 - a. has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the County, State or Nation;

2. Architectural and design significance:
The historic resource:
 - a. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction;

Findings of Historic and Architectural Significance

The Preservation Commission stated the significance of the Kensington Historic District as follows:

Originated as an agricultural community along the Bladensburg Turnpike which connected Old Georgetown Road and the port at Bladensburg, became known as Knowles Station in 1873 with the advent of the B&O Railroad which connected D.C. to western Maryland.

Became Kensington, a Victorian summer retreat, in the 1890s when Brainard Warner purchased 300+ acres and developed it as an upper-middle class community which by the early 20th century contained shops, churches, a town hall, railroad station and library as well as numerous fine residences.

Today contains a remarkable concentration of Victorian and revival style homes, many built by local builders, George Peters and AC. Warthen, as well as several Knowles station era farmhouses and some 1920s era bungalows.¹

¹ M-NCPPC, Approved and Adopted Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, October, 1986.

As listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Kensington National Register Historic District is distinguished as a collection of late 19th and early 20th century houses exhibiting a variety of architectural styles popular during the Victorian period including Queen Anne, Shingle, Eastlake, and Colonial Revival. The houses share a uniformity of scale, set back, and construction materials that when coupled with the subdivision plan creates a Victorian garden suburb.

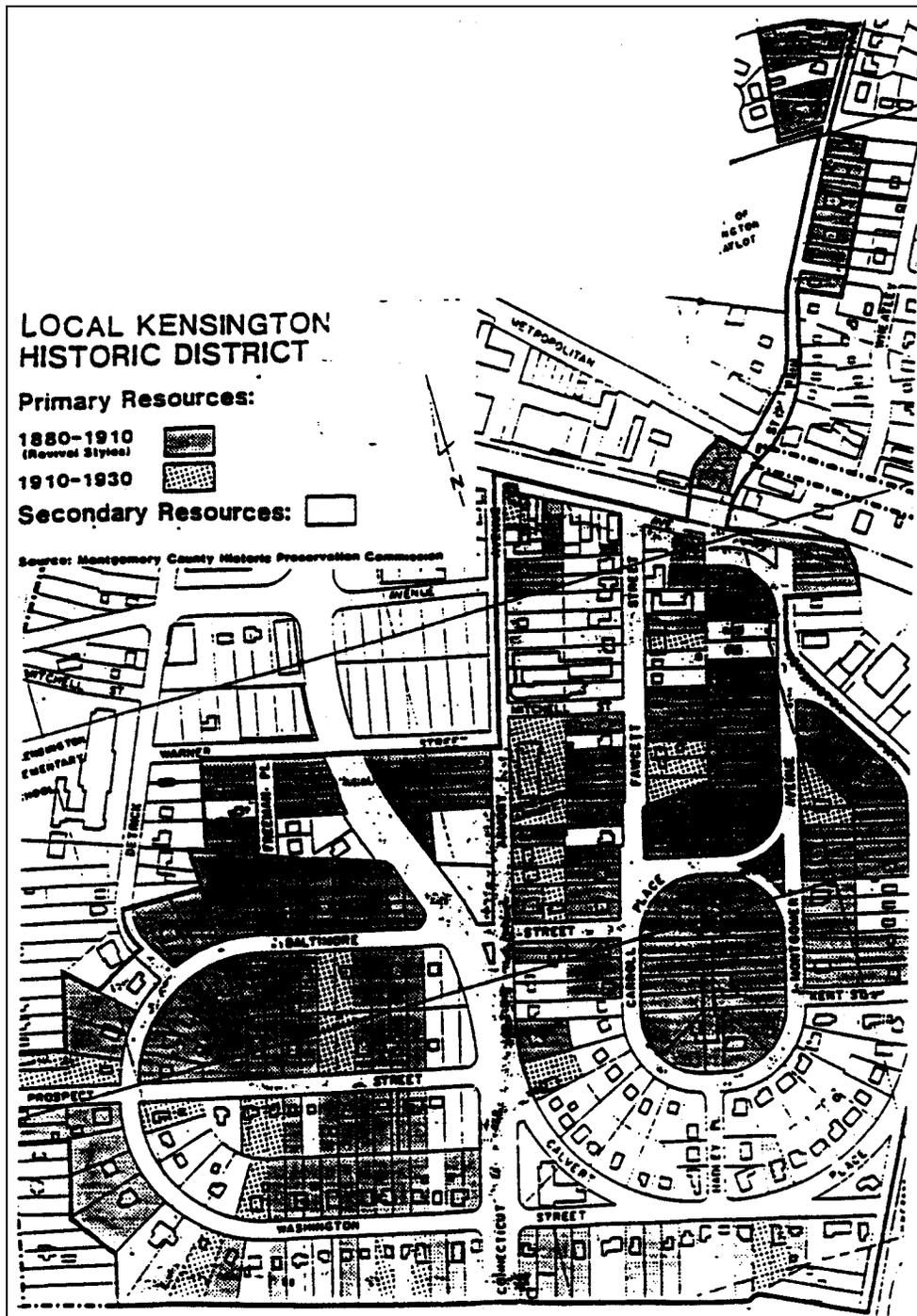


Figure 1: Map of Kensington Historic District.