

# From Fox Chase to Kemblesville

*Excerpted from Franklin Township's Comprehensive Plan: Historic Resources*

## 18th Century

By 1750, the road from Lancaster to Newark, Delaware was laid out. Now called New London Road (Route 896), it was a major route for the transportation of agricultural products from Chester County farms to markets in Delaware. Roadway improvements led to the establishment of inns and stagecoach stops, including the Plough and Harrow Inn (c.1758) and Kemblesville Hotel (c.1763), as well as Franklin's villages—Kemblesville (originally called Fox Chase) and Chesterville.

## 19th Century

By the early 1800s, Fox Chase was a prosperous and busy village along the road from Newark to Lancaster boasting three mills, a hotel and a pottery works (Darlington Cope's Pottery). By 1816, Fox Chase was renamed Kimble, and later Kimbleville, after the prominent John J. Kimble family who settled the area in 1783. John's youngest son, George, was a storekeeper who opened the village's first post office in his shop in 1823 and served as postmaster for 33 years. George's brother Samuel, whose house stands on the southern limits of

Kemblesville, operated the hotel and tavern, which became the local polling place. Family members spelled the name "Kimble" or "Kemble," and throughout the 19th century the name of the village vacillated between "Kimbleville" and "Kemblesville."

## 20th Century

At the beginning of the 20th century, Kemblesville became increasingly important as a commercial center. Dr. J. G. West became one of the leading citizens of the village. A medical doctor, West lived in a brick house facing New London Road. He added a wing onto his house in the late 1800s where he operated a drug store and post office. Another leading citizen, C. T. Richards, opened a saddlery shop and owned a half interest in the village's blacksmith shop.

## What do you know about SECCRA?

The Southeastern Chester County Refuse Authority (SECCRA) is the landfill that takes all trash from our community.

SECCRA is a full-service environmental center that provides free recycling at 10 drop-off centers, plus used oil recycling, composting, large appliance disposal (including those with Freon) at its site at 219 Street Road (near Route 926) in Cochranville.

Did you know the SECCRA site is also a Salvation Army used clothing drop-off site? Or that SECCRA is generating electricity from the methane created at the landfill and selling back to energy companies?

Check out the SECCRA website at [www.seccra.org](http://www.seccra.org) to learn more. There's information about the best ways to conserve the limited space available in the landfill from recycling to reusing to not creating trash. Of special note, click on the Recycling link for a comprehensive "Do's and Don'ts of Recycling."

## Thank you!

**A sincere and heartfelt thank you goes out to Wendy Toman, the first chairperson of the Franklin Township Historic Commission and Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB). Recently, Wendy moved out of the Township and she has resigned from both organizations.**

**Over her tenure, Wendy conducted a great deal of research and was an enthusiastic collector of historic documents, photographs, and artifacts about Franklin Township. She contributed extensively to the Historic Resources section of the updated Franklin Township Comprehensive Plan.**

**Wendy guided the creation of both the Historic Commission and the HARB over the past decade. She was instrumental in researching and preparing the design guidelines used in the HARB application.**

**She was also responsible for three successful community events: the Franklin Township Photo Contest, the Benjamin Franklin Historic Walking Tour in Philadelphia, and the Underground Railroad Tour.**

**We will miss Wendy's dedication to and enthusiasm about Franklin Township's past.**

## Township Directory

### Board of Supervisors

Dick Whipple, Chairman  
Paul Overton, Vice Chairman  
Eric Brindle, Member  
Norman Hughes, Member  
Nan Latimer, Member

### Administration

Jeffrey Eastburn, Assistant Township Manager  
Joan McVaugh, Treasurer  
Sharon Norris, Secretary (W-F)  
Eileen Rembecki, Secretary (M-T)  
Duane Brady, Building Inspector and Zoning Officer

### Contact Information

#### **In person:**

20 Municipal Lane  
Kemblesville, Pa. 19347  
Office Hours: M-F, 8 am-4 pm

**By Phone:** 610-255-5212

**By Fax:** 610-255-0659

#### **By Mail:**

P. O. Box 118  
Kemblesville, PA 19347

#### **Email:**

[info@franklintownship.us](mailto:info@franklintownship.us)

#### **On the web:**

[www.franklintownship.us](http://www.franklintownship.us)

### Township Meetings

*All meetings are held in the meeting room at the Township Office.*

**Supervisors' Work Session—**

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

**Supervisors' Board Meeting—**

3rd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

**Planning Commission—**

1st Thursday of the month, 7pm

**Historical Architectural Review Board and Historic Commission—**

3rd Tuesday, odd months, 7pm

**Open Space Committee—**

2nd Monday of the month, 6:30pm

Want more info?

The Township's website is continuously updated!

**[www.franklintownship.us](http://www.franklintownship.us)**

*The Franklin Township Newsletter is published by the Franklin Township Board of Supervisors and produced by Lucas Communications and Publications.*