

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or 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 an 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 listed in 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 Propertyhistoric name Cape May Historic District (Additional Documentation)

other names/site number _____

2. Locationstreet & number multiple☐ not for publicationcity or town Cape May City☐ vicinitystate New Jerseycode 34County Cape Mayzip code 08204**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Deputy SHPO, Assistant Commissioner for Community Investment & Economic Revitalization

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ 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:) _____

Name of Property

County and State

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

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing Noncontributing

68

4

68

4

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

3157

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single and multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE

EDUCATION: school

RELIGION: religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single and multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE

EDUCATION: school

RELIGION: religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum; outdoor recreation

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th century

Late Victorian

Late 19th and Early 20th century American movements**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick; stucco

walls wood

roof Asphalt; cedar

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity. Use one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

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.)

- ☒ **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 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations. Follow with at least one paragraph for each area of significance. Use as many continuation sheets as needed.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: African AmericanSocial History: African American Civil Rights**Period of Significance**1846 - 1948**Significant Dates**1948**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation**Architect/Builder****Primary location of additional data**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Cape May Historic District (AD)
Name of Property

Cape May County, New Jersey
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1198.32

Latitude / Longitude Coordinates

(Note to Preparers: NJ HPO will complete this portion of the Registration Form for all Preparers, based on the coordinates derived from the Site Map or District Map that HPO produces.)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Lat. 38.94136108 | Long. -74.93159962 |
| 2. Lat. 38.94990953 | Long. -74.91381788 |
| 3. Lat. 38.94720887 | Long. -74.89348301 |
| 4. Lat. 38.93876644 | Long. -74.89032843 |
| 5. Lat. 38.92929666 | Long. -74.93342434 |

(NJ HPO will place additional coordinates, if needed, on a continuation sheet for Section 10.)

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet for Section 10.)

Boundary Justification Statement

(Explain, on the section sheet following the Verbal Boundary Description, how the chosen boundaries meet the requirements for boundary selection and are the most appropriate boundaries for the nominated property or district.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy L. Zerbe (Stephanie Brisita, Andrea Tingey)

organization ARCH², Inc. (NJ HPO) date 11/23/2022, rev 12/12/2023

street & number 81 Rector Street (P.O. Box 420) telephone 908-208-1288

city or town Metuchen (Trenton) state NJ zip code 08840

Additional Documentation

(Submit the additional items with the completed form that are outlined in the "Standard Order of Presentation" that NJ HPO provides. Each page must contain the name of the nominated property or district, and the State and the county in which the property or district is located. Consult with NJ HPO if you have questions.)

Property Owner

(Either provide the name and address of the property owner here or provide the information separately to NJ HPO. Check with NJ HPO for other requirements. All owners' names and addresses must be provided, including public and non-profit owners, but their presence on the form, itself, is not required).

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. The proper completion of this form and the related requirements 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Direct questions regarding the proper completion of this form or questions about related matters to the Registration Section, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail code 501-04B, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description Summary

The Cape May Historic District is located at the southern end of New Jersey in the City of Cape May, Cape May County, New Jersey. The historic district was placed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places in 1970 and designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1976. The boundaries of the two designations are similar in that they are roughly conterminous with the municipal boundaries, with some variations between the two historic districts. The National Register boundaries are described as: Bounded on the south by the Atlantic Ocean from 2nd Avenue on the West to the Coast Guard Base on the east; bounded on the north by Cape May Harbor to Schellenger's Creek to Cape Island Creek and thus westerly to 6th Avenue, and thus south on Pacific Avenue to Sunset Boulevard, and south to Cape Island Creek, east to Broadway, south to Mt. Vernon Ave, and west to 2nd Avenue. The NHL historic district boundaries differ in two key aspects: the NHL historic district does not encompass any portion of the Borough of West Cape May; however, it includes more of the beach along the ocean.¹

The Cape May Historic District was nominated in the 1970s for its historic significance as a late-nineteenth century spa resort and for its “almost complete showcase of late-Victorian architecture” that was described in 1970 as “the largest collection of nineteenth and early twentieth century frame buildings left standing in the United States.” The 1970s nominations did not include any reference to or evaluation of the city’s African American history.

This Additional Documentation: (1) provides historic documentation relating to the city’s African American community; (2) analyzes the significance of that history as a new area of significance under the National Register Criteria for Evaluation; and (3) identifies properties within the historic district that relate to the new area of significance.²

The following properties, previously identified through survey activities as contributing to the significance of the Cape May Historic District, have been evaluated as contributing to the theme of Ethnic Heritage – African American:

- 5 religious buildings:
 - Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church, 715 Franklin Street (#18)
 - Franklin Street Methodist Church, 727-729 Franklin Street (#22)
 - Macedonia Baptist Church, 632-636 Lafayette Street (#8)
 - Howell House Macedonia Baptist Church Parsonage; (Harriet Tubman Museum), 632-636 Lafayette Street (#9)
 - Franklin Street Methodist Church Parsonage, 712 Lafayette Street (#53)
- Schools:
 - Franklin Street School, 720 Franklin Street (#21)

¹ Edwin C. Bramble. “Cape May Historic District.” National Register of Historic Places Nomination. Cape May Cottagers’ Association Preservation Committee, 1970, (NRIS# 70000383); Carolyn Pitts. “Cape May Historic District.” National Historic Landmark Nomination. National Park Service, 1976, (NRIS# 70000383_NHL).

² Throughout the inventory, resources previously surveyed will include their previous cultural resource name in brackets next to their updated cultural resource name, should they be different. Contemporary names are in parentheses.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 2

- Old Cape May High School, 643 Washington Street (#45)
 - Indian Queen School, 900-02 Washington Street (#51)
- Former African American businesses:
 - Richardson Hotel, 219 Jackson Street (#41)
 - 802 Lafayette Street, previously part of the Dale Hotel (#11)
 - 717 Washington Street work by mason Hezekiah Greene, (#43)
 - Keith's Steam Laundry, 202 Perry Street (#47)
 - Summer Dental Office of Doctor Vivian Pennock Bailey, 510 Washington Street (#65)
- Places of African American Employment:
 - Congress Hall, 251 Beach Avenue (#42)
 - Emlen Physick Estate, 1048 Washington Street (#44)
 - The Chalfonte Hotel, 301 Howard Street (#46)
 - Cape May Golf Clubhouse, 1033 Lafayette Street, (#49)
 - Skinner House, 28-30 Congress Street, (#50)
 - Office of Dr. VMD Marcy, 115 Ocean Street, (#52)
 - Washington Inn/Irving House, 801 Washington Street, (#54)
 - US Post Office, 700 Washington Street, (#56)
 - 128 Decatur Street (#66)
 - Cap't Mey's Inn B & B, 202 Ocean Street, (#59)
- African American houses:
 - 569-571 Bank Street (#1)
 - 615 Broad Street (#2)
 - 514 Elmira Street (#3)
 - 519 Elmira Street (#4)
 - 536 Elmira Street (#5)
 - 544 Elmira Street (#6)
 - Stephen Smith House, 645 Lafayette Street (#10)
 - 802 Lafayette Street, part of Hotel Dale (#11)
 - 826 Lafayette Street, (#12)
 - 828 Lafayette Street, (#13)
 - 830 Lafayette Street, (#14)
 - 832 Lafayette Street (#15)
 - 834 Lafayette Street (#16)
 - 836 Lafayette Street (#17)
 - 719-721 Franklin Street (#20)
 - 811 Jefferson Street (#23)
 - 815 & 815A Jefferson Street (#24)
 - 819 Jefferson Street (#26)
 - 825 Jefferson Street (#27)
 - 808 Dale Place (#28)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 3

- 808 Corgie Street (#29)
- 810 Corgie Street (#30)
- 817 Corgie Street (#32)
- 823 Corgie Street (#36)
- 826 Corgie Street (#37)
- 828 Corgie Street (#38)
- 836 Corgie Street (#40)
- 532 Elmira Street (#72)
- 517 Broad Street (#62)
- 605 Broad Street (#61)
- 529-31 Elmira Street (#60)
- 814 Corgie Street (#57)
- 511-513 Broad Street (#55)

The following properties were previously identified as not contributing to the Cape May Historic District. They have now been evaluated as contributing to the historic district due to their association with the theme of Ethnic Heritage – African American:

- African American houses:
 - 811 Corgie Street (#31)
 - 821 Corgie Street (#34)
 - 802 Queen Street (#58)
 - 311 Mansion Street (#63)
 - 817 Jefferson Street (#25)
- Places of African American Leisure:
 - Charlie's Bar (Collier's Liquors), 202-216 Jackson Street (#64)
- Former African American Businesses:
 - Opera Huff's Bakery, 621 Lafayette Street (#7)

The following properties were previously identified as not contributing to the historic district. The current assessment has evaluated them as not contributing to the theme of Ethnic Heritage – African American:

- 819 Corgie Street (#33)
- 822 Corgie Street (#35)
- 830 Corgie Street (#39)

The following properties were previously identified as not contributing to the historic district. The current assessment concurs with that evaluation.

- The former Allen AME Parsonage at 717 Franklin Street (#19) was moved to the site in the mid-1950s and therefore post-dates the period of significance.
- The following two properties have suffered from too many alterations and therefore lost their architectural integrity.
 - 819 Corgie Street (#33), and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 4

- 822 Corgie Street (#35).
- The final property, 830 Corgie Street (#39), post-dates the period of significance, as the building that previously stood in that location was removed between 1970 and 1974.

The following properties were previously unidentified through survey activities but are within the boundary of the Cape May Historic District. They have now been evaluated as contributing to the historic district due to their association with the theme Ethnic Heritage – African American:

- Places of African American Leisure:
 - Grant Street Beach, Grant Street and Beach Avenue (#48)
- African American houses:
 - 162 Leaming Avenue (#70)
 - 156 Leaming Avenue (#69)
 - 132 Leaming Avenue (#68)
 - 409 Pacific Avenue (#67)
 - 170 Leaming Avenue (#71)

Integrity

The Cape May Historic District (AD) retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance in the area of Ethnic Heritage – African American. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The contributing resources retain their design and configuration and most of the resources have maintained their original form, with a few smaller resources being demolished over time. Most, if not all contributing resources have remained in their historic location. While some alterations, such as window and siding replacements, have taken place over time, the district still retains enough of its historic fabric and workmanship that these changes don't greatly affect the district's overall integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 5

Section 7 Appendix: Property Inventory

1. **Address: 569-571 Bank Street** **Block/Lot: 1054/1**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID#401987838)
Prior Status: C **Current Status: C**

Photo 1

Description: The main block of this 2-story, late vernacular Victorian-period residence has a side-gable-roof. An enclosed shed roof porch spans the front (southwest) elevation. A 2-story, shed-roof ell spans the rear (northeast) elevation of the main block. At the rear (northeast) of 569 Bank Street is a two-story shed-roof stucco rear addition. At the rear of 571 Bank Street is a one-story stucco rear addition. The building has an asphalt-shingle roof with extended wood eaves. The main block and the ell are clad in asbestos shingles. The front porch and rear additions are clad with stucco and the foundation is stuccoed. Windows are typically vinyl 1/1 double-hung sash with wood surrounds. The enclosed front (southwest) elevation porch includes two single wood doors with aluminum storm doors and concrete steps in the outer bays. The northwest end includes a paired casement window, and the southeast end includes 4 paired 1/1 windows. The second floor of the front elevation includes two 1/1 windows. At the southeast side elevation, the first floor includes a paired 1/1 windows at the front porch, with an area of scalloped wood shingles above, two 1/1 windows in the main block, a paired 1/1 windows in the rear ell, and a single door accessed by a set of concrete steps and a 1/1 window in the rear stuccoed addition. The second floor includes two 1/1 windows in the main block, a 1/1 window in the rear ell, and a casement window in the rear stuccoed addition. At the northwest side elevation, the first floor includes a 1/1 window at the enclosed front porch, two 1/1 windows at the main block, a 1/1 window at the rear ell, and a single door with wood steps at the rear stuccoed addition. The second floor includes two 1/1 windows on the main block and a 1/1 window at the rear ell. At the rear (northeast) elevation, the stuccoed first floor addition includes a large fixed-pane window at the southeast side, and a jalousie window at the northwest side. On the rear between the first- and second-floor levels of the southeast half of the building is an asphalt-shingled pent roof. The second floor includes two casement windows at the rear of the southeast half of the building, and a louvered vent or jalousie window and single door at the northwest half. There is a 1-story, 2 bay stuccoed, flat-roof shed the east corner of the property. The property is located at the corner of Bank Street and Venice Avenue. The building is setback approximately 10' from the sidewalk on Bank Street and Venice Avenue. The lot is mainly grass, with several small bushes and outdoor metal dining furniture metal-and-wood benches in the rear yard. There is a wood fence along the northeast property line.

African American Association:

In 1930, 569 Bank Street was rented to Robert Turner, his wife Ida Kirby Turner, and their daughter Allien. At the time Robert Turner was employed at City Hall as a janitor. Ida worked as a laundry hand (rower) while Allien did housework for private families. In 1930, 571 Bank Street was rented to Mary Tingle, who was listed as having no occupation. She lived here with her son, Oscar Tingle, was employed as a house painter, and her two daughters, Mary and Reba, who were also listed as having no occupation.³

2. **Address: 615 Broad Street** **Block/Lot: 1061/29**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID#988305885)
Prior Status: C **Current Status: C**

Photo 4

Description: The main block of this 2 ½-story Gothic Revival residence is 3-bays wide and 2-bays deep. The

³ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-32L> : Fri Oct 06 23:19:28 UTC 2023), Entry for Mary Tingle and Oscar Tingle, 1930.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 6

front (southeast) elevation includes a steeply pitched intersecting gable at the center of the façade. A 2-story, 3-bay deep ell is located at the northeast side of the rear (northwest) elevation. A 1-story shed-roof addition fills the "L" of the main block and ell creating a rectangular footprint. A shed roof porch spans the front (southeast) elevation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has overhanging wood eaves. A stuccoed chimney is located at the interior of the southwest gable-end of the main block and a second stuccoed chimney at the ridge of the ell. The walls are clad with aluminum siding and the foundation is brick. The foundation of the front porch is made of concrete block. Windows typically have 1/1 vinyl sash with wood surrounds. The front (southeast) elevation includes a single-light window with a triangular panel above within the pointed arched window opening of the gable end. The second floor has three 1/1 windows; the first floor has two windows, a new door opening in front of the historic door opening, and a transom at the northeastern bay. The shed roof porch has plain unpainted wood posts and a plain wood balustrade with steps on the northeastern bay. The northeast side elevation has a 1/1 window in the gable end of the main block, and three second floor 1/1 windows and four first floor 1/1 windows at the ell. The southwest side elevation of the main block has two window openings each with a 1/1 window within a panel in the gable end and two 1/1 windows at each the second and first floors. The southwest side elevation of the ell has three second floor 1/1 windows. The southwest side elevation of the 1-story addition has two single and one paired 1/1] windows at the first-floor level and a bulkhead door providing basement-level access. The property borders the train right-of-way to the northeast. The house is set back approximately 12 feet from the sidewalk. A hedge borders the sidewalk. Access to the surrounding grass lawn which is used for parking is provided on the southwest end of the property via the concrete apron.

African American Association:

In 1940, 615 Broad Street was rented to Edward Major who was employed as a truck driver for a coal yard. He lived here with his mother, Ella N. Major, his niece Marline R. Major, and Henry Beaman, a lodger who was employed as an ice truck helper. Ella and Marline were both listed as having no occupation.⁴

Though outside the Period of Significance, in 1950, the resource was occupied by Joseph E. Major, though it is not clear whether he rents or owns. He was employed as a construction laborer and lived here with his wife, Louisa Major, who was employed as a domestic worker.⁵

3. **Address: 514 Elmira Street** **Block/Lot: 1061/11**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -2118135762)
Prior Status: C **Current Status: C**

Description: This 2-story, vernacular Italianate residence is 3-bays wide and 2-bays deep, with a shallow side-gable roof. It has a shed-roof front porch that spans the full width of the front (northeast) elevation. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles, and the walls are clad in wood clapboard. The windows typically have 1/1 wood sash with wood trim. The doors, trim, and roof fascia are wood. The front porch has four wood posts and a wood deck raised one step above grade. The porch has wood trim and plain wood posts. At the front (northeast) elevation, the first floor includes a single wood paneled door with glazed fanlight and a wood screen door at the southeast bay, and two windows in the remaining bays. The second floor includes three windows. At the northwest side elevation, there are two typical windows on the second floor and one typical window and AC opening on the first

⁴ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-17Z> : Fri Oct 06 12:55:46 UTC 2023), Entry for Edward Major and Ella N Major, 1940.

⁵ "United States 1950 Census", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6F9L-9F9Q> : Wed Oct 04 03:56:07 UTC 2023), Entry for Joseph E Major and Louisa Major, 6 April 1950.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 7

floor. At the southeast side elevation, there are two windows at each of the first and second floors, including a 6/6 window at the southwest bay of the first floor. There is an enclosure with a shed roof on the southernmost bay. The second floor includes two windows and an A/C opening. The building is setback approximately 8' from the sidewalk on Elmira Street. A wooden walkway leads from the sidewalk to the porch. There is a gravel parking area to the northwest side of the house. The front yard is landscaped with a variety of flowering shrubs and plants. The rear yard is grass, with a wood patio and small formal garden with wood pergola. A gabled shed sits at the rear of the property. The rear and side property lines are heavily planted with large shrubs and trees. A wood picket runs along the front portion and a wood fence runs along the back of the southeast property line.

African American Association:

In 1930, 514 Elmira Street was rented by Mary Taylor, who was employed by private families for general housework. She lived here with Walter Wilson, a roomer who was employed as a laborer of odd jobs.⁶

4. **Address:** 519 Elmira Street [J. P. Tolon House] **Block/Lot:** 1061/8
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# 1395787307)
Prior Status: C **Current Status:** C

Description: This 2 1/2-story, front-gabled, vernacular Victorian period residence is 2-bays wide and 2-bays deep. A hipped-roof porch extends across the front (southwest) elevation. A 1-story, asphalt-shingled, shed roof addition [sits] across 2/3 of the rear (northeast) elevation and a 1-story shed-roofed enclosure is located within the corner of the ell. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has extended eaves, a boxed cornice and gable end returns. The house is clad in asbestos shingles. The 1-story addition within the ell is clad in asbestos shingles. The foundation is stuccoed. Windows are typically 1/1] wood, double-hung sash with wood surrounds. The front porch is supported by bracketed wood posts. The porch steps are bounded by a stuccoed knee wall and the balustrade includes turned wood balusters. A 3-light, paneled wood entrance door is located in the northernmost bay of the front (southwest) elevation and a typical window is located on the southernmost bay. The second floor of the south elevation includes two windows, and at the attic-level a pointed arch 1/1 double hung wood window. The southeast side elevation of the main block has two typical windows on each story. The northwest side elevation of the main block has a single window on the first story and two windows on the second story. An exterior wall, stuccoed chimney is located on this elevation of the main block. At the rear (northeast) elevation of the main block is an attic-level window and two windows on the second floor. The roof of the rear addition extends to provide a protective covering for the sliding patio door below, leading to a wood deck. The deck has a set of wooden steps on the south side. A paired aluminum casement window is located on the enclosure within the ell. The house faces south onto Elmira Street and is set back about 15 feet from the curb. It has no driveway and is surrounded by a grassy lawn dotted with a few deciduous shrubs.

African American Association:

In 1920, 519 Elmira was rented by Fred A Stevinson, who was employed as a general laborer. He lived here with his wife, Maggie Stevinson, who was listed as having no occupation, and with Ritta Neal, a boarder who was employed as a private servant.⁷

In 1930, 519 Elmira Street was rented by Ellen Seals, who was listed as having no occupation.⁸

⁶ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-9BG> : Fri Oct 06 05:45:47 UTC 2023), Entry for Mary Taylor and Walter Wilson, 1930.

⁷ "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CWW> : Thu Nov 09 01:34:47 UTC 2023), Entry for Fred A Stevinson and Maggie Stevinson, 1920.

⁸ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-W2W> : Wed Oct 04

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 8

5. **Address:** 536 Elmira Street **Block/Lot:** 1054/6
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -1769693348)
Prior Status: C **Current Status:** C

Photo 2

Description: This 2-1/2 story vernacular Victorian-period residence has a front-gable-roof main block that is 2-bays wide and 3-bays deep. It has a hipped roof rear addition that is slightly wider than the main block, projecting slightly to the southeast and wrapping around the rear bay of the main block. The remnants of a porch on the façade includes a deteriorated deck and concrete steps. There is an internal brick chimney centered on the main block at the ridge, and an internal brick chimney towards the southwest end of the main block at the ridge. The roofs are covered in asphalt shingles. The roof of the main block has a boxed cornice with gable-end returns. The walls are clad in aluminum siding. The windows generally typically have wood 1/1 double-hung sash. The foundations are brick. The second floor of the front (northeast) has two 1/1 vinyl windows, and there is a 1/1 vinyl window in the front gable end. On the first floor, there is a single light door with a storm door and paired typically windows. Just below the second floor, the remnants of the porch's attachment to the wall as well as the original wood siding exposed underneath broken aluminum siding are visible. The hipped roof of the rear block extends over this door to form an entrance porch. The rear entrance porch is supported by a square wood column and a wood wall bracket. At the northwest side elevation, the first floor includes two windows at the main block and one window at the rear block. The second floor has a single window on the main block. At the southeast side elevation, the first floor has two windows in the main block, and a single 9-light wood paneled door and aluminum storm door, under the covered entryway. The second floor has three windows in the main block. There is a single glazed-panel door centered on the rear block, accessed by a set of concrete steps. On the southeast side is a single window. There is a single window on the second floor of the main block, and two windows at the rear gable-end. The building is set back approximately 10' from the sidewalk on Elmira Street. There is a grass parking area to the southeast of the house. The front yard is grass. The grass rear yard is overgrown with shrubs directly behind the house.

African American Association:

In 1940, 536 Elmira Street was rented by Ludia Coleman. She was listed as having no occupation and lived here until her death on September 19, 1942.⁹ Prior to her residence here, Lydia Coleman lived at 712 Osborne Street in 1920.¹⁰

6. **Address:** 544 Elmira Street **Block/Lot:** 1054/4
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -525641561)
Prior Status: C **Current Status:** C

Photo 3

Description: This 2-story, vernacular Victorian-period residence has a side-gable-roof main block that is 2-bays wide and roughly square in plan. It has a hipped roof front porch that spans the full width of the front (northeast) elevation, a rear-gable-roof center block, and a shed-roof rear block. It has an internal stuccoed chimney located at the southeast end of the ridge of the main block. The roofs are covered in asphalt shingles, with wood fascia boards. The walls are clad in textured lapped plywood siding, with wood trim. The windows typically have 1/1

04:37:06 UTC 2023), Entry for Ellen Seals, 1930.

⁹ "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-H31> : Thu Oct 05 20:54:51 UTC 2023), Entry for Ludia Coleman, 1940; *Cape May Star and Wave*, September 24, 1942, p 4. <https://vdl.s.cmlibrary.org/>

¹⁰ "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-61X> : Thu Nov 09 01:31:19 UTC 2023), Entry for Ludia Coleman and Charles Coleman, 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 9

vinyl sash, with wood wall-applied shutters and wood trim, including a projecting decorative element at the lintels. The foundations are partially stuccoed and partially brick. The front (northeast) elevation porch is supported by four wood posts, with a wood box beam and a decorative flat-sawn paneled balustrade. It is accessed by a set of wood steps with wood railings. At the front elevation, the first floor has a single 9-light door with glazed upper panel, centered on the main block. The door is flanked by two windows. The second floor has two windows. At the northwest side elevation, the first and second floors each have a single window at the main block and a single window at the center block. There is a wood louvered vent in the side gable end. There are no windows at the southeast side elevation. At the rear (southwest) elevation, the first floor has a 9-light wood paneled door, accessed by a set of wood steps, and a single-light casement window. The second floor includes a paired window in the center block, and there is a wood louvered vent in the rear gable end. There is a gable-roof, T111-sided shed in the rear yard. The property is located at the corner of Elmira Street and Venice Avenue. The building is set back approximately 10' from the sidewalk on Elmira Street and is approximately 5' from the sidewalk on Venice Avenue. A concrete strip driveway is located in the rear yard. The remainder of the property is grass. There is a wood fence along the southeast property line.

African American Association:

In 1920, 544 Elmira Street was rented to James Dickerson, who was employed as a private chauffeur. He lived here with his wife Rebecca Dickerson, who was listed as having no occupation, and with their infant son, George.¹¹

7. Name: Opera Huff's Bakery [621 Lafayette Street]

Address: 621 Lafayette Street Block/Lot: 1060/28

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -729938527)

Photo 5

Prior Status: NC Current Status: C

Justification: Despite the alterations, this building contributes because it is one of the few extant buildings used as an African American business.

Description: This 2-story, flat-roofed, wood clapboard building is 2 bays wide and has been significantly modified since its original construction as a store c. 1910-1920, with applied Italianate decorative elements. The building footprint of the main block is irregular, wider at the front (southeast) elevation, and narrowing towards the rear. Two, rear 2-story, flat roof additions are architecturally similar to the main block and include wider footprints. Beyond the 2-story additions is a 1-story flat-roof addition at the rear with a roof top deck. The building is clad with wood clapboard. A decorative bracketed wood frieze with dentils is located below the projecting wood roof cornice, with larger brackets located at building corners. The foundation has been stuccoed. All windows at the main block are typically 2/2 wood, double-hung sash with wood surrounds and profiled lintels. The first floor of the front elevation includes a large, fixed, 15-light, wood window in the southernmost bay and a paired, wood paneled entrance door with arched glazing and a wood surround. The entrance has a wooden stoop with decorative, capped wooden posts, railings, and decorative wood flat jigsaw cut balusters. The second floor has two wood windows with operable paneled shutters. The northeast side elevation of the main block includes a window with operable paneled shutters at each the first and second floors and two small windows. The northeast side of the addition has 2 bays with one 3-light and one 6-light window on the second floor and a projecting bay with shed roof and recessed bay on the first floor. The preceding addition has a 2/2 double-hung window on the second and first floor; the first floor on this addition is recessed. There is a multi-light door with profiled lintel on the 1-story addition. The southwest side elevation of the main block has a 2/2 window on the second floor and a

¹¹ "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-KJZ> : Thu Nov 09 03:20:17 UTC 2023), Entry for James Dickerson and Rebecca Dickerson, 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 10

6-light window on the first floor. The immediate addition has a 2/2 window on the first floor. The preceding addition projects outward 1 bay from the rest of the building on both stories. There is a 2/2 window on the second floor, front elevation of this projecting bay. On the southwest elevation, there is a 2/2 window on the second floor and a paneled door on the first floor. The 1-story addition has a secondary entrance with a shed roof porch. The rear (northwest) 1-story addition is topped by a second floor-level deck, with a decorative wood flat jigsaw-cut balustrade. A multi-light wood door provides access to the deck. A small enclosure extends back from the rear 1-story addition. The building stands on a lot that measures approximately 35' wide by 75' deep and faces east onto Lafayette Street. It is set back approximately 15' from the curb. The front yard is stepped up from the sidewalk, is surrounded by stone pavers, has a graveled landscape, and is enclosed with a low iron fence. A concrete path leads from the iron fence gates to the stoop. The iron fence also encloses a portion of the northeast side yard, which has been graveled. There are foundation plantings edged with stone pavers along the façade foundation wall. The front sidewalk is also lined with stone pavers. A spaced wood picket fence defines the southwest, rear (northwest) and part of the (north)east lot lines.

African American Association:

The Social Security Death Index lists an Opera Huff, born in Pennsylvania (11/27/1890) and dying in Cape May (Aug 1970).¹² There is an Opera Matichette Huff buried in the Mount Zion Cemetery in West Cape May (born 11/27/1897, died 8/29/1970).¹³ Bernice Gordon (born 1927) recalls working for Miss Huff at her bakery during the summer of 1943.¹⁴

8. **Name: Macedonia Baptist Church [632-636 Lafayette Street]**
Address: 632-636 Lafayette Street **Block/Lot: 1059/2**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2021 (ID# -71523247)
Prior Status: C **Current Status: Key**

Photo 7

Description: The 1 ½-story, gable-roofed, rectangular-plan main volume of the reinforced concrete church on a concrete foundation is 3 bays wide and 5 bays deep and is fronted on the northwest by a 1-story, gable-roofed entry volume and backed on the southeast by a 1-story, gable-roofed, asbestos shingle-clad frame volume. A secondary, gable-roofed, ground-floor, frame entry volume with exposed rafter tails is located on the southwest elevation of the main entry volume; it has a front facing single light window and a side door. The roofs are clad throughout in asphalt shingle. An interior, concrete block and adjoining metal chimney are located in the central bay of the southwest, side elevation. The main volume is predominantly lighted by historic, pointed arch, stained-glass windows. The main entry volume includes central, historic, paired wood doors with segmental arch lights accessed by a poured-in-place concrete stair with a cast iron rail. The entry volume is lit on the main elevation by an irregular pentagonal, inscribed light with a sill over the main entrance and on the side elevations by a single window. The southwest and northeast bays of the main elevation of the main volume are both lighted by double segmental arch windows with a central rose window. Beneath the southwest bay is a 2/2 wood sash window at the ground level. The southwest and northeast elevations are both lighted by 5 single windows separated by 4 simple concrete buttresses, except the rearmost window on the northeast side, which is a dual lancet arched window. Beneath each arched window is a 2/2 wood sash window at the ground level. The southeast elevation of the main

¹² "United States Social Security Death Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:J231-H3V: 8 January 2021>), Opera Huff, Aug 1970; citing U.S. Social Security Administration, *Death Master File*, database (Alexandria, Virginia: National Technical Information Service, ongoing).

¹³ "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV77-VHS5 : 20 May 2020>), Opera Matichette Huff, 1970; Burial, ; ; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>.

¹⁴ Community Center for Arts. *Black Voices of Cape May: A Feeling of Community*, (Gordon, 2003), p 95.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 11

volume is lighted in the second story by a central, round-edged triangular, stained-glass window flanked by rectangular windows. The rear volume is accessed on the northeast by a straight stair to a secondary door flanked by a single 2/2 wood sash window. The southeast elevation of the rear volume is lighted by 2/2 wood sash windows in the outer bays and a small, fixed window in the central bay. On the northeast bay, there is a wooden ramp connected to the front entrance volume.

African American Association:

In August 1892, "the religious society and congregation of Colored Baptist[s] living in the Cape May met for the purpose of organizing a Colored Baptist Church."¹⁵ The incorporation was likely accomplished at the August 10, 1892 meeting reported in local press. According to the *Cape May Daily Star*, "The colored Baptists will meet at Hand's Hall, Sunday, August 14th" with the Rev. William Alexander, from Pattison Avenue Baptist Church, Baptist.¹⁶ On December 23, 1895, the West New Jersey Association officially incorporated Macedonia Baptist Church. The congregation originally met in the rear of the Banneker House, in a location identified as "Bannacia Lane."¹⁷ Around January 1896, they purchase the lot at the corner of Jackson and Lafayette Street and constructed a church building.¹⁸

In 1909, the congregation purchased the property at the southwest corner of Lafayette and Franklin Streets and constructed the current building. The church's 1909 acquisition included the adjacent Howell House, which historically served as the church's parsonage. The congregation sold off property at the rear of the church along Franklin Street in 1927 to the city as part of the construction of the Franklin Street School and arranged for private use of the Howell House for development of the Harriet Tubman Museum.¹⁹

9. **Name: Macedonia Baptist Church Parsonage (Harriet Tubman Museum) [632-636 Lafayette Street]**
Address: 632-636 Lafayette Street **Block/Lot: 1059/2**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2021 (ID# -71523247) **Photo 30**
Prior Status: Key **Current Status: Key**

Description: The 2 ½-story, side-gabled, rectangular-plan main volume of the wood clapboard-clad, frame residence on a parged foundation is 4 bays wide and 2 bays deep and is fronted on the northwest by a 1-story, standing seam metal-clad shed roofed, full-width, porch and is backed to the southeast by an added 2-story volume in the northeast bays and an added 1-story volume in the southwest bay. The predominantly asphalt shingle-clad roofs include a central, scalloped wood shingle-clad wall gable flanked by 2 gabled dormers on the northwest roof slope of the main volume. A stuccoed interior chimney is located in both the northeast and southwest bays of the main elevations. The windows predominantly have 6/6 historic wood sash. The front porch, which includes a replaced wood floor, replaced square-plan posts, and a replaced rail with square-plan balusters, is accessed by a central, replaced wood stair with a replaced rail. The main entrance, which includes a 9-light, paneled, replacement wood door and a historic door surround of Tuscan pilasters and a simple architrave with

¹⁵ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*; based on a review of church records: Jack Fichter. "Exhibit Witnesses to Strength of Black Churches," *Cape May County Herald*, 17 January 2011 (in the "Black Churches" vertical file at the County Historical Society.)

¹⁶ "Notice," *Cape May Daily Star*, August 10, 1892, p 2.

¹⁷ Newark, New Jersey: The Historical Records Survey. *Inventory of the Church Archives of New Jersey: Baptist Bodies*, 131.

¹⁸ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, p 67; *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey*. Sanborn Map Company, - 1909: Vol. 4, 1909, 1909. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_007/.

¹⁹ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, p 68.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 12

dentils, is and located in the central bay, is accessed by the porch, and is flanked on either side by 10-light French doors with paneled wood shutters. The second floor of the main elevation is lit by 4 single windows with paneled wood shutters. The third floor is lit by a single window in each dormer and a round window in the wall gable. The southwest and northeast side elevations are both lighted by a single window on the first and two single, fixed windows on the third floor, one of which is boarded on the southwest. The added rear volumes are accessed by double 18-light doors on the southwest elevation and are lighted on the rear and northeast elevations by regularly fenestrated, new, 6/6 wood windows with shutters on most (2 on each floor of both elevations). An added wood ramp with a wood rail and square-plan balusters adjoining the porch wraps around the northeast elevation.

African American Association:

Associated with the Macedonia Baptist Church. It served as a parish house and was used by ministers.²⁰

10. Name: Stephen Smith House

Address: 645 Lafayette Street

Block/Lot: 1060/22

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -1438046463)

Photos 6 & 29

Prior Status: C Current Status: Key

Description: This 2 1/2-story, side gabled, vernacular residence is 3-bay wide and 1-bay deep. A two-level porch with a modestly sloped shed roof extending from the roof eave spans the front elevation. The 2-story rear ell aligns with the southwestern building wall and is stylistically similar to the main block. It has a minimally sloped shed roof that intersects the main block just below the cornice line and is 2-bay wide and 1-bay deep. At the rear of the building is a small, 1-story shed roof addition. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and a stuccoed chimney is located at the interior of the northeast gable end. The ell has a standing seam metal roof. The main block is clad with wood clapboard and rests on brick piers with wood lattice covering the crawlspace. The front porch has a concrete deck and is and plain wood posts. A simple balustrade with square balusters extends across the second floor. The entrance door is located in the southwest bay of the front (southeast) elevation and includes a paneled wood door with a 3-light transom window. The two remaining bays of the first floor have full-height window or possibly French door openings, extending up from the first-floor level approximately 7'-0", protected by full height louvered shutters. The second-floor arrangement of openings is similar to the first with a door leading to the upper level of the porch in the southwest bay and a 6/6 double hung wood sash window covered by louvered wood shutters in each of the remaining two bays. At the northeast gable end of the third floor of the main block, flanking the chimney, are window openings covered by single casement-style vertical board shutters. A door on the first floor and a 9/6 wood window with wood trim can be found at the northeast elevation of the ell. A wood paneled entrance door that might have served for storage or as an outhouse is located at the north elevation of the 1-story addition. At the southwest elevation, in the third-floor gable end is a 6/6 wood window with surrounding wood trim. The south elevation of the ell includes a boarded window on the first floor and a painted 6/6 wood window above. At the rear (northwest) elevation of the main block the northernmost bay remains visible, and it includes a 6/6 wood window with wood surrounds at the second floor, and a single casement-style, vertical board shutter covering the opening at the first floor. The rear elevation of the ell includes a door opening at the second floor, without any visual evidence of a former porch, and a shuttered door at the first floor. The house stands on a lot that measures approximately 87' wide x 80' deep (irregular) and faces east onto Lafayette Street; it is set back approximately 10' from the street. There is a grassy lawn to the north. Mature plantings of lilacs and other bushes are scattered around the perimeter walls.

²⁰ Hope Gaines, "To Worship & Preserve," *Cape May Magazine* (Cape Publishing Inc., Spring 2015), <https://www.capemaymag.com/feature/to-worship-preserve/>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 13

African American Association:

Constructed by the prominent African American Stephen Smith around 1846. "Stephen Smith was born around 1795 in Dauphin County, Pa. He was sold at a young age and was taken to Columbia, Pa. His mother, Nancy Smith, escaped to rescue him and was pursued by the woman who owned her. When her owner tried to forcibly remove her, Stephen's new owner, along with some Columbia residents, stood with Nancy, and she stayed with her son. This event galvanized the region and is considered by some historians to be a turning point in the start of the Underground Railroad. It also had a profound effect on the young Smith."²¹ Smith would later become a successful businessman, AME minister, and an active participant in the early nineteenth century Negro Convention Movement.

11. Address: 802 Lafayette Street Block/Lot: 1092/1
 Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 2034305631) Photo 8
 Prior Status: C Current Status: Key

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, cross-gabled, brick, Late Federal/Greek Revival residence has a nearly rectangular footprint and is 3 bays wide and 4 bays deep. A 1-story, gabled, entrance porch is centered on the front (northwest) elevation, a second entrance porch is located between the two rear bays on the southwest elevation, and the rear includes a 1-story, gabled, addition. The roof is covered in diamond-shaped asbestos shingles and has shallow eaves with a wood box cornice. Interior brick chimneys are located at the gable-ends; the southeastern chimney is stuccoed. The walls and foundation are brick, with the exception of the southeast elevation of the main block that has been stuccoed, and the rear addition, which is clad in wood shingles. The dormers are clad in asbestos shingles. The windows typically have wood 6/6 double-hung sash with wood surrounds. The front (northwest) elevation includes a gabled dormer, with pilasters flanking the window, and two windows at each the first and second floors. The pediment is deteriorated. A centrally located vinyl door with fanlight is located beneath the entrance porch. The porch is supported by wood posts and includes a wood deck and stairs. The southwest elevation includes a dormer with a deteriorated pediment and three windows on each of the first and second floors. A vinyl door is located beneath the entrance porch. The rear addition includes one 1/1 window. The rear (southeast) elevation includes a gable-end opening in the main block and the rear addition includes an aluminum door. The northeast elevation includes a gable-end 4-light window and a window at each the first and second floor, and a door on the first floor that accesses a wood deck. The rear addition includes one window. The house is set back approximately 20 feet and is located on the corner of Lafayette and Jefferson Streets. A concrete pathway accesses the entrance porches, and the front and side yards are covered in shrubs and plantings. A concrete driveway is located to the northeast off Lafayette Street and includes a wood gate and wood fence that wraps around the rear property line. The rear yard includes a mature tree.

African American Association:

This house was historically associated with the Hotel Dale.

In 1901, Edward Dale was also operating a buffet and café in Cape May.²² Known as Dale's, it was

²¹ Michael Clemmons. "It's Time to Honor Stephen Smith, Once the Richest Black Man in the U.S.: OP-ED." Philadelphia Inquirer, Feb 11, 2022. <https://se.resources.njstatelib.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/s-time-honor-stephen-smith-once-richest-black-man/docview/2627343373/se-2>.

²² *The colored American*. [volume] (Washington, D.C.), 16 Feb. 1901. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1901-02-16/ed-1/seq-12/>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 14

located at 107 Jackson Street.²³

Also in 1901, he was operating another Hotel Dale, located in Atlantic City on the corner of Kentucky and Atlantic Avenues.²⁴

Edward Dale also operated the Dale Auditorium (aka Dale Auditorium Hall) by 1901²⁵.

The 1905 NJ Census shows this property as a boarding house run by Virginian Anderson, a 28-year-old African American widow born in Virginia. Her boarders, all also African American, included: William Johnson (a 40-year-old bartender), Mary Jackson (a 29-year-old house servant), Alexander Biggs (a 31-year-old day laborer), and Clarence Dorsey (a 31-year-old waiter).²⁶

The 1930 US Census shows this as the residence of 64-year-old Edward W. Dale who was a hotel manager. While he was living here alone in 1930, in 1910 he was living at 744 Lafayette St with his wife Mary, their adopted son Cecil Miles, and a servant named Augustus Redwood.²⁷ This is a rare instance of an African American family in Cape May appearing to have servants in residence. In the 1900 US Census Dale appears as a liquor dealer.²⁸ In the 1910 census he appears as a retired liquor dealer.²⁹

In 1906, Dale purchased White Hall, a hotel built for the use of white guests in the 1850s.³⁰ It later was known as the Hotel Dale and was promoted as a first-class hotel for African Americans. A 1927 newspaper advertisement announced an auction of all hotel equipment, furniture, and furnishings of Hotel Dale.³¹

12. Address: 826 Lafayette Street [826C Lafayette Street] Block/Lot: 1092/6
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# -831823860)
Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, wood-framed, side-gabled, Folk Victorian residence has a nearly rectangular plan and is 5 bays wide and 2 bays deep. A 1-story porch, topped by a roof deck, spans the front (northwest) elevation and a 2-story intersecting-gable ell spans most of the rear elevation. A porch, topped by a roof deck, is located at the northeast side of the ell on the rear elevation of the main block. A 2-story, shallow gable, addition is located at the rear of the ell and a 1-story shed-roof addition is located at the juncture between

²³ *Cape May Herald*, December 14, 1901, p 1.

²⁴ *The colored American*. [volume] (Washington, D.C.), 16 March 1901. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1901-03-16/ed-1/seq-4/>>

²⁵ *The colored American*. [volume] (Washington, D.C.), 24 Aug. 1901. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1901-08-24/ed-1/seq-2/>.

²⁶ "New Jersey State Census, 1905," , FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-95NB-9658?cc=1928107> : 1 April 2016), > image 1 of 1; Department of State, Trenton.

²⁷ "United States Census, 1930", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-X38> : Wed Oct 04 16:19:21 UTC 2023), Entry for Edward W Dale, 1930.

²⁸ "United States Census, 1900", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9NT-962> : Wed Oct 04 04:38:32 UTC 2023), Entry for Edward Dale and Mollie Dale, 1900.

²⁹ "United States Census, 1910", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKTS-YTP> : Tue Oct 03 19:42:23 UTC 2023), Entry for Edward W Dale and Mary C Dale, 1910.

³⁰ *Cape May Herald*. December 27, 1906, p 1.

³¹ *Cape May County Times*. May 6, 1927, p 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 15

the ell and the 2-story addition on the south[east] elevation. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and the main block has a wood box cornice, paired decorative wood jigsaw cut brackets, and gable-end returns. Two interior brick ridge chimneys are located at the northeast and southwest gable ends of the main block. The walls are clad in wood clapboard siding and trim, and the foundation is stuccoed. The windows typically have wood 2/2 double-hung sash on the main block, and vinyl 6/6 windows on the ell and additions. The front (northwest) elevation of the main block includes two gabled dormers, with semi-circular multi-light wood windows and 3-panel storm windows. The second floor includes a central single-light vinyl door flanked by two windows at each outer bay. The door accesses the roof deck of the porch which has wood railing with wood support posts and turned wood balusters. The first floor includes a central paired wood paneled door, topped by a wooden 3-light transom, and flanked by 6-light vinyl doors, with 2-light transoms above and windows at the outer bays. The porch is supported by wood chamfered posts with decorative brackets and is infilled at the outer bays by a wood railing with turned wood posts. At the southwest elevation, the main block includes two gable-end wood 4/4 windows, a wood 6/6 window on the second floor, and a single window on the first floor. The ell includes two gabled dormers with 6-light casement windows, and three windows on each the second and first floors. The rear addition includes two windows on the second floor and one window on the first floor, and the shed-roof addition includes one window. The rear addition also includes a metal bulkhead door. At the rear (southeast) elevation, the main block includes a 6/6 wood window at each the first and second floor of the northeast bay. The ell has a window in the gable end. The shallow-gable addition includes two windows on the second floor. At the northeast elevation, the main block includes two gable-end wood 4/4 windows. The ell includes two dormers. The second-floor door accesses a wood deck with a wood stair to grade level. The second-floor deck is supported by wood chamfered posts. The house is set back approximately 15 feet from the Lafayette Street sidewalk. A brick paved driveway is located at the southwest of the property and leads to a gravel parking area at the rear of the house. The front yard is covered in shrubs and includes a concrete pathway to the primary entrance. Small hedges are located at the southwest and southeast property lines, and hedges and mature trees are located at the northeast property line.

African American Association:

In 1930, 826 Lafayette Street was rented by Marjorie Howe, who was employed as a houseworker for a private family. She lived here with her daughter Ella Howe, who was a public-school teacher, her son, Levi, who was 16 years old with no occupation, and her cousin, [Mack Bush], who was a blacksmith at a blacksmith shop.³²

In 1940, the resource was rented to Rebecca Short, who was employed as a cook for a private family. She lived here with three lodgers at the time: George Robinson, who was employed as contract painter; Mary Enos, who was employed as a houseworker for a private family; and Eugene Williams, who was employed as fish cleaner for a fish market.³³

13. Address: 828 Lafayette Street Block/Lot: 1092/7
 Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 1388309951)
 Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: This is a 2-1/2-story, wood-framed, hipped-roof, vernacular residence that is rectangular and 2 bays wide and 3 bays deep. A 1-story, hipped-roof, enclosed porch spans the front (northwest) elevation. The roof is

³² "United States Census, 1930", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-QVX> : Fri Oct 06 01:43:34 UTC 2023), Entry for Marjorie Howe and Ella Howe, 1930.

³³ "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-QG8> : Wed Nov 22 12:09:13 UTC 2023), Entry for Rebecca H Short and George Robinson, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 16

covered in asphalt shingles and has projecting eaves with a wood box cornice. The walls are clad in asbestos siding, with exception to the enclosed porch, which is clad in wood clapboard siding. The foundation is stuccoed. The windows typically have vinyl 1/1 double-hung sash with vinyl surrounds. The front (northwest) elevation includes a hipped dormer with a single-light vinyl casement window and a paired window on the second floor. The enclosed porch includes a set of three windows, paired windows at the side elevations, and an entrance door beneath a braced shed entry roof. The door is accessed by concrete steps with a metal railing. The northeast elevation includes a window on each floor, and the basement level includes two screened openings. The second-floor window has shutters. The first floor includes a 6-light entrance door that is accessed by a wood deck. The southwest elevation includes three windows on the second floor, and a typical window, a central paired window. The house is set back approximately 10 feet from the Lafayette Street sidewalk. A concrete pathway accesses the primary entrance, and the front yard includes a lawn enclosed by a wood picket fence. The rear yard is covered in grass with a gabled shed sitting along the rear fence. A wood picket fence runs along the southwest side of the property with tall shrubs and mature trees on the adjacent property.

African American Association:

In 1940, 828 Lafayette Street was rented by Robert E Green, who was employed as truck driver for a retail coal yard. He lived at this residence with his wife Adelle, who was listed as having no occupation, his son Robert S. Green, and his daughter, Adelle C. Green, who was a new worker.³⁴

14. **Address:** 830 Lafayette Street **Block/Lot:** 1092/8
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 1567954453)
Prior Status: C **Current Status:** C

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, front-gabled, wood-framed, Gothic Revival house is 2 bays wide and 3 bays deep. A 2-story, shallow-gabled, ell spans the rear elevation and 1-story, shed-roof, addition spans the rear of the ell. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has projecting eaves with a wood box cornice and gable-end returns at the main block. The roof of the ell is either membrane roof or standing seam metal and the roof of the addition is standing seam metal. An interior stuccoed ridge chimney is centered on the main block. A second stuccoed chimney is located towards the rear of the ell. The walls are clad in wood clapboard siding with corner board and the foundation is brick. The windows typically have wood 2/2 double-hung sash with wood surrounds and aluminum screens. The front (northwest) elevation includes a gable-end gothic arched 2/2 window, and a single and paired window flanked by wood paneled applied shutters at the second floor. The first floor includes a paired window with shutters and the primary multi-light entrance door, with a wood screen door and single-light transom. The porch rests on brick piers with lattice infill and is supported by wood posts with decorative wood jigsaw cut brackets. Brackets aligned with the posts run along the cornice of the porch. The wood railing includes a jigsaw cut pattern. A set of brick steps flanked by wooden railings lead to the porch. At the southwest elevation, the main block includes two windows on the second floor, and three windows and a paneled wood door on the first floor. The ell includes a wood 12/12 window on the second floor and two typical windows on the first floor. At the northeast elevation, the main block includes a window towards the rear on the second floor, and the first floor includes one window towards the front and a hipped-roof oriel with a 1/1 window at each side towards the rear. The ell includes a window on each floor and the shed-roof addition includes one window. The house is set back approximately 10 feet from the Lafayette Street sidewalk. The front yard is enclosed by a wood fence and includes a paved brick pathway to the porch and a lawn. The gate on the fence has jigsaw cut patterned pickets matching the porch. The fence runs along the northeast side, enclosing a side lawn

³⁴ "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-QG4> : Wed Nov 22 12:09:16 UTC 2023), Entry for Robert E Green and Adelle Green, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 17

with a few trees, shrubs, and plantings. A gravel driveway is located to the southwest and accesses the rear yard, which includes a brick patio, lawn, and gable-roof garage.

African American Association:

In 1920, 830 Lafayette was owned by Handy I Fassett, who was employed as waiter for a private family. He lived here with and with his wife, Nezdee Fassett, who was employed as a cook for a private family, and with his 20-year-old stepson, Henry Jarvis, who was listed as having no occupation.³⁵

In 1930, the resource was rented to William Owens, who was employed as a grocery store chauffeur. He lived here with his wife, Fanny Owens who is employed as a public-school teacher.³⁶

In 1940, the residence was owned by Fannie D Owens, who was employed as a public-school teacher. She lived here with her niece, Elsie D Davis, who was listed as having no occupation.³⁷

15. **Address: 832 Lafayette Street** **Block/Lot: 1092/9**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 1675299032)
Prior Status: C **Current Status: C**

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, wood-framed, front-gabled, Folk Victorian residence is 2 bays wide and 2 bays deep with a front, shallow hipped roof porch. A 2-1/2-story cross-gabled ell is located at the rear and is 2 bays wide and 2 bays deep. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and the main block has projecting eaves with a wood box cornice and gable-end returns. An interior brick ridge chimney is located in the main block. The walls are clad in wood siding and trim, and the foundation appears stuccoed. The windows typically have vinyl 1/1 double-hung sash with wood surrounds and vinyl louvered applied shutters above the first floor and applied paneled shutters at the second floor. At the front (west) elevation, the main block includes a gable-end window and two windows on the second floor. On the front (northwest) elevation of the main block, the first floor includes a multi-light Queen Anne wood double-hung window flanked by applied paneled shutters and vinyl paneled door with a storm door. The porch is supported by wood posts with decorative wood jigsaw cut brackets and wood railing with a jigsaw cut pattern. Above, there are two typical windows on the second floor and a typical window in the gable. The rear ell includes a paired window on the second floor and a tripartite oriel window, with paneled wood shutters and topped by a hipped roof, on the first floor. The southwest elevation of the main block includes two windows on the second floor and two multi-light Queen Anne wood windows on the first floor. The ell includes a gable-end wood, octagonal window, two windows on the second floor, and the first floor includes two paired of windows. The rear (southeast) elevation includes two paired windows on the second floor, and a paired window and 2-part sliding vinyl door on the first floor. This elevation also includes a wood shower enclosure in the center. At the northeast elevation, the main block includes two windows on the second floor and two multi-light Queen Anne wood windows on the first floor, though one doesn't have shutters. The ell includes a gable-end wood, octagonal window, two windows on the second floor, and a 2-part sliding vinyl door on the first floor. The house is set back approximately 10 feet from the Lafayette Street sidewalk. The front yard is partially enclosed by a wood fence and includes a concrete walkway shrub, and a mature tree. A gravel

³⁵ "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-W3Q> : Thu Nov 09 02:35:48 UTC 2023), Entry for Handy I Fassett and Nezdee Fassett, 1920.

³⁶ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-QVD> : Fri Oct 06 01:43:33 UTC 2023), Entry for William Owens and Fanny Owens, 1930.

³⁷ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-QG7> : Wed Nov 22 12:09:12 UTC 2023), Entry for Fannie D Owens and Elsie D Davis, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 18

driveway is located to the southwest of the main block and faces the ell. A gate at the ell on the southwest encloses the rear which includes a brick patio and gravel yard with shrubs. The rear is enclosed by a wood fence.

African American Association:

In 1920, 832 Lafayette was owned by David P. Woodson, who was the proprietor of a barbershop. He lived here with Tillie Kennedy, who was listed as his private housekeeper.³⁸

In 1930, the resource was owned by David Woodson, who was a barber at a barbershop. He lived here with, Tillie Kennedy, who was listed as his private housekeeper.³⁹

By 1940, the residence was rented by John R Beach, who was employed as a butler for a private family. He lived here with his wife, Evelyn M Beach, who was listed as having no occupation, and with his three children, John W. Beach, Henrietta M Beach, and Charles A Beach.⁴⁰

In June of 1922, this was the home of Mrs. Tillie Kennedy who hosted a reception and party in honor of Mr. C. R. Thompson, the principal of the Annex School.⁴¹

16. **Address: 834 Lafayette Street** **Block/Lot: 1092/10**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 1218974492)
Prior Status: C **Current Status: C**

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, side-gabled, wood-framed, Folk Victorian residence is 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep, and includes a 1-story, shed-roof, porch that spans the front (northwest) elevation. A 2-1/2-story, 2 bay deep, intersecting gabled ell is centered and spans most of the rear of the main block and a 2-story, 1 bay deep, extremely shallow-gambrel roof addition with spans the rear of the ell. The roof is covered in scalloped asphalt shingles, with exception to the front porch which includes metal standing-seam and the rear addition, which appears to be composite or membrane. There is an interior, capped, brick and stuccoed chimney on at the gable end of the ell. The roof of the main block has projecting eaves with a wood box cornice, gable-end returns, and decorative wood jigsaw cut brackets at the façade corners. A denticulated frieze board is located below the cornice on the front elevation. The walls are clad in wood clapboard siding and trim, and the foundation includes brick piers at the main block, and a brick foundation at the rear ell. The windows typically have wood 1/1 double-hung sash with wood surrounds and aluminum screens. The front (northwest) elevation includes three windows on the second floor, and two windows and a leaded glass wood door with transom light on the first floor. The porch is supported by turned wood posts, and includes a wood railing with turned wood balusters, wood stairs, and is enclosed by wood lattice at the base. The fascia board on both sides of the porch are covered with scalloped wood shingles. At the northeast elevation, the main block includes two gable-end single-light wood windows, and a window on each the second and first floors. The intersecting gable includes two windows on each floor, and the rear ell includes one window at each floor. The rear (southeast) elevation includes two single light wood windows in the gable end of the ell. The addition has a fascia board along the gable end, two windows on the second floor and a wood door on the first floor with a wooden, braced shed entry roof. The door is accessed by a

³⁸ "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-W3S> : Thu Nov 09 02:36:33 UTC 2023), Entry for David P Woodson, 1920.

³⁹ "United States Census, 1930", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-QVZ> : Fri Oct 06 01:43:33 UTC 2023), Entry for David Woodson and Tillie Kennedy, 1930.

⁴⁰ "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-QGM> : Wed Nov 22 12:09:15 UTC 2023), Entry for John R Beach and Evelyn M Beach, 1940.

⁴¹ *Cape May Star and Wave*, June 10, 1922, p 6.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 19

wood deck with wood stairs and a wood railing. At the southwest elevation, the main block includes a gable-end window, the intersecting gable includes a window at each floor. The house is set back approximately 10 feet from the Lafayette Street sidewalk. The front yard is enclosed by a wrought iron fence and includes a concrete pathway to the porch, and the lawn is covered in shrubs. A gravel driveway is located to the northeast and leads to the rear yard, which includes a pre-manufactured shed, a brick patio, and a mature tree. The northeast side of the property is enclosed by hedges and the rear yard is enclosed by a wood fence.

African American Association:

In 1920, 834 Lafayette was owned and mortgaged by Lewis Y. Cox, who was employed as a Preacher for the M. E. Church. He lived here with his wife, Isabel P. Cox, who was listed as having no occupation.⁴²

In 1930, 834 Lafayette was occupied by Alice Bacicrisas, who doesn't have a listed occupation. She lived here with her step-granddaughter, Alice Jackson, who was 9 years old at the time. It states that she is a wife, but it's unclear to whom she is married to.⁴³

In 1940, 834 Lafayette was rented by Sarah Holland, who was employed as a housekeeper for a private family.⁴⁴

17. Address: 836 Lafayette Street Block/Lot: 1092/11

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 1096586120)

Photo 9

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, side-gabled, wood-framed, vernacular residence is 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep. A 1-story, shed-roof, enclosed porch spans the front (northwest) elevation, and a 2-story shallow-gabled ell spans the rear of the main block. The roofs of the main block and enclosed porch are covered in wood shingles and have projecting eaves with a wood box cornice and gable-end returns at the main block. The ell has a standing seam metal roof. The walls are clad in asbestos diamond-shaped shingles and the foundation is stuccoed. The windows typically have wood 1/1 or 2/2 double-hung sash with wood surrounds and aluminum storm windows. The front (northwest) elevation includes three 1/1 windows on the second floor of the main block, and a set of three windows, and a three-light wood door at the enclosed porch. The porch rests on brick piers with intermittent lattice. The door is accessed by a wood deck with wood railing. The deck and porch are enclosed with wood lattice at the base. At the northeast elevation, the main block includes two gable-end wood 4-light casement windows, and two 2/2 wood windows at each the first and second floors. The enclosed porch includes paired windows, and the ell includes two 2/2 windows on each floor. The basement level includes two screened openings. The rear (southeast) elevation includes two wood 1/1 windows on the second floor, and a wood 1/1 window and a door on the first floor of the ell. The door is located beneath a braced shed entry roof covered with asbestos shingles and is accessed by a wood deck and stairs. At the southwest elevation, the main block includes a gable-end 4/4 wood sash window, and a paired diamond patterned and 2-light casement windows on the first floor. The enclosed porch includes a paired window, and the ell includes a wood 4/4 window on the second floor and a 1/1 window on the first floor. The house is set back approximately 5 feet from the sidewalk at the corner of Lafayette Street and Queen Street. The front and side yards include a lawn and shrubs, and the rear

⁴² "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-W3M> : Thu Nov 09 03:44:07 UTC 2023), Entry for Lewis Y Cox and Isabel P Cox, 1920.

⁴³ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-QVH> : Fri Oct 06 01:43:33 UTC 2023), Entry for Alice Bacicrisas and Alice Jackson, 1930.

⁴⁴ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-QL1> : Wed Nov 22 12:09:15 UTC 2023), Entry for Sarah Holland, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 20

yard which has hedges and shrubs is enclosed by a wood fence.

African American Association:

In 1920, 836 Lafayette Street was owned by Walter G. Redden, who was employed as a chauffeur for a private family. He lived with her with his wife Elizabeth A. Redden, who was employed as a cook for a private family.⁴⁵

In 1930, the residence was owned by Walter G. Redden, who is a manager in cleaning and pressing. He lived here with his wife Elizabeth A. Redden, who was listed as having no occupation.⁴⁶

In 1940, the residence was owned by Walter G. Redden, who was employed as a valet service for a private shop. He lived here with his wife, Elizabeth A. Redden, who was listed as having no occupation.⁴⁷

Walter Greenleaf Redden's World War I Draft Registration Card lists this as his permanent address and his occupation as a truck driver.⁴⁸ Redden was a business owner who in 1925 represented the African American community in its request for a new school (see page 8-36). Redden owned two valet shops on Washington Street and a cleaning plant that was located in the 800 block of Lafayette Street.⁴⁹ Period news clippings show him as: opening a new pool room and smokers headquarters at 221 Decatur Street (1908),⁵⁰ a tire distributor operating out of 836 Lafayette St⁵¹ (1919),⁵² and a manager of Richardson's Garage (1920)⁵³ Walter Redden was also a founding member of the Cape May Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. in 1921⁵⁴

18. Name: Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church [Allen AME Church]

Address: 715 Franklin Street Block/Lot: 1088/30

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -1215579916)

Photo 10

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: Between March 2018 and March 2019, a central hipped roof tower centered at the front entrance was removed. This 1-story, front gable-roof, vernacular Victorian-period church is 3-bays wide and 4-bays deep. A 1-story, 1-bay wide, 1-bay deep front gable-roof chancel is centered at the rear (northeast) elevation. The roof is

⁴⁵ "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-C84> : Thu Nov 09 04:02:57 UTC 2023), Entry for Walter G Redden and Elizabeth A Redden, 1920.

⁴⁶ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-QVW> : Fri Oct 06 01:43:34 UTC 2023), Entry for Walter G Redden and Elizabeth Redden, 1930.

⁴⁷ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-QLY> : Wed Nov 22 12:09:12 UTC 2023), Entry for Walter G Redden and Elizabeth A Redden, 1940.

⁴⁸ "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," , FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-LBRY-9Q1K?cc=1968530&wc=9FHN-K68%3A928311801%2C928512101> : 24 August 2019), New Jersey > Cape May County; H-Z > image 1579 of 2846; citing NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

⁴⁹ John T. Nash, *Recollections and Remembrances (Businesses and Prominent People in Cape May, NJ)*, n.d., on file at the Center for Community Arts.

⁵⁰ *Cape May Herald*, June 11, 1908, p 4.

⁵¹ His home, resource #17

⁵² *Cape May Star and Wave*, April 26, 1919, p 2.

⁵³ *Cape May Star and Wave*, August 21, 1920, p 3.

⁵⁴ *Cape May Star and Wave*, November 12, 1921, p 5. <https://vdl.cs.cmlibrary.org/>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 21

covered with asphalt shingles and has extended eaves. An exterior stuccoed chimney is located northwest of the chancel at the rear (northeast) elevation. The walls are clad with asbestos shingles and the foundations are stuccoed. The section of the wall on the front (southwest) elevation where the tower once stood has boarded up with plywood along the entire height of the building. All windows are boarded up with plywood sheets with the exception a diamond-shaped 4-light window in the gable of the chancel; the boarded-up openings are as follows: four on both the northwest and southeast elevations; two on the front; one on the rear; and two on the side elevations of the chancel. The rear (northeast) elevation has a secondary entrance door with a wood surround at the northwest bay and a hatch door on the chancel. Part of the gable is covered in plywood. A raised concrete patio and stairs with a metal railing span the northwest bay. The church is located at the corner of Franklin and Osborne. It is set back approximately 5 feet from the sidewalk on Franklin St. A small asphalt parking lot is accessed from Osborn. The remainder of the property is largely covered by a grass lawn. There are exterior cellar/basement doors on the southeast side of the building.

A comparison of the Allen AME Church as depicted on the 1890 and 1909 Sanborn maps reveals that several key changes took place during that 19-year period. First, there appears to have been a small addition constructed at the rear of the church. An early church history indicates that the wooden pews that flank the church's central aisle were built in 1898, so it is possible that the addition might have been built at that time. In addition, the 1909 map shows a two-story residential building on Osborne Street that is not shown on the 1890 map. This building, located immediately adjacent to the church, was used as the church's first parsonage. An early twentieth century photograph of the church provides a clear view of this parsonage.⁵⁵

The church history indicates that significant changes were made to the church building in the 1920s, when the pulpit and choir loft were enlarged and modernized; the circular communion rail was built; the hymnal racks were built on the pews; the pipe organ was unveiled; the interior of the church was decorated and painted; and the eleven memorial windows were placed, with individual families each contributing the \$65 cost per window.⁵⁶ Church records indicate that the church bell was removed in the 1940s and "never seen again."⁵⁷

African American Association:

Named for Richard Allen, founder of the national AME church. This African American congregation was incorporated in 1888 and completed this church building by 1890.

In 1909, the commencement ceremonies for the Annex (the segregated African American grammars school) were held at the Allen AME Church.⁵⁸ A community partnership borne out of the necessity that the school lacked adequate facilities for the function.

- 19. Name:** Allen AME Parsonage [717 Franklin St]
Address: 717 Franklin Street **Block/Lot:** 1080/31
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -532735276)
Prior Status: NC **Current Status:** NC

⁵⁵ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey*. Sanborn Map Company, - 1909: Vol. 4, 1909, 1909. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_007/; *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey*. Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 4, 1890. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_003/.

⁵⁶ Lulu M. Wilson, *A History of Allen*, 1948 (on file with CCA).

⁵⁷ *Allen A.M.E. Church Book of Minutes, 1964-1997* (on file at the Center for Community Arts).

⁵⁸ *Cape May Star and Wave*, May 29, 1909, p 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 22

Justification: Based on historic map research and church records, this building was moved to the property in the mid-1950s to serve as the church parsonage. It therefore post-dates the period of significance.

Description: This 1-story, front gable-roof, Ranch house is 2-bays wide and 4-bays deep. A shed roof porch spans the front elevation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and a wood cornice. The walls are clad with asbestos shingles and the foundation is stuccoed. The front (southwest) elevation porch is concrete with a concrete stair located at the southeastern bay aligning with the entrance door. The porch posts and railings are plain wood. The wood entrance door is obscured by an aluminum storm door. A 4-light window is located at the center of the front elevation with a gable-end louvered vent above. Two paired vinyl 1/1 double-hung windows are located at the southeast elevation. Two wood sash windows are located at the basement level. The northwest elevation includes a secondary entrance door with a wood stair at the southwest bay, two small single 1/1 vinyl windows and paired 1/1 vinyl windows. Two wood sash windows are located at the basement level. A front gambrel-roof manufactured shed is located immediately behind the house. The house is set back approximately 8 feet from the sidewalk. A dirt driveway is located southeast of the house. The parcel is largely covered by a grass lawn.

African American Association:

This resource has post-period-of-significance African American association. It is used as the parsonage for the Allen AME Church.

20. **Address: 719-721 Franklin Street** **Block/Lot: 1080/32**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -39537287)
Prior Status: C **Current Status: C**

Description: The main block of this 2-story, shallow hipped-roof, vernacular Victorian-period, duplex residence is 6-bays wide and 3-bays deep. A shallow hipped roof porch spans the front elevation. A centered 2-story 4-bay wide, 2-bay deep, hipped-roof ell spans most of the rear (northeast) elevation. A 1-story hipped roof porch spans the rear (northeast) of the ell. On the main block, there is a small shed-roof projecting bay on the first floor, on the northernmost end of the southeast elevation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and includes a projecting boxed cornice. The porch, rear porch, and projecting bay have standing seamed metal roofs. The walls are clad in wood siding. The foundation has brick piers with concrete block infill and stucco. The windows at 721 Franklin (northwest) are generally wood 2/2 double-hung sash with wood surrounds while most of the windows at 719 Franklin (southeast) have 2/2 (possibly wood) double hung sash with wood surrounds. Previous survey data implies that the windows on the 719 Franklin side were fabricated to match the original windows/the windows of 721 Franklin Street. Moving forward, the 2/2 double-hung sash will be known as typical windows. The front (southwest) elevation includes four windows on the second floor. The front entrance porch has bracketed simply corbelled wood posts and a wood 1" square balustrade. Wood stairs with wooden railings are located on the outer bays aligned with the entrance doors and the foundation is hidden behind lattice. The entrance doors are both plain wood with wood storm doors and wood surrounds. There are four typical between both entrances. Previous survey data implies that these windows were fabricated to match. The northwest side elevation of the main block includes two wood typical windows at the second floor and two wood typical windows on the first floor. The northwest side elevation of the ell has a single vinyl 1/1 window on the first floor and a typical window and small 2-light awning window on the second floor. The southeast side elevation of the main block has three typical windows on the second floor. On the first floor is a single typical window at the southwest bay. The projecting bay includes two typical windows at the southeast elevation and a single casement window at its front (southwest) face. On the southeast elevation of the ell, there is a typical window and a 2-light awning window on the second floor and two typical windows on the first floor. At the rear (northeast) elevation of the ell, there are two second

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 23

floor typical windows in the central bays and on the first floor there are two windows on the central bays and doors on the outer bays. The rear porch is identical to the front porch with a few exceptions: smaller to match the ell's width, no brackets, and fewer posts. A side gable-roof shed clad in T-111 siding is located at the east corner of the property. It has an overhead garage door at the northwest elevation and two 3-light awning windows and a door at the northeast elevation. The house is set back approximately 8 feet from the sidewalk with brick pavers leading to each entrance. A dirt driveway is located southwest of the house. The parcel is largely covered by a grass lawn with some scattered trees in the rear yard.

African American Association:

In 1920, 719 Franklin Street was owned by Frank Greene, who was employed as general laborer. He lived here with his wife, Pathania Greene, who was employed as an at-home laundress, with his son, William H, who was employed as an expressman. He also lived here with his mother, Elizabeth Greene, his daughter-in-law Mary E Greene, and his grandchildren Evelena P Powell and Franklyn Yancey, all of whom are listed as having no occupation.⁵⁹

In 1930, 719 Franklin Street was owned by Parthenia Green, aged 60, who was listed as having no occupation. She lived here with her son, Chauncy Green, aged 41, who was employed as a city-streets laborer, with her grandson Franklin Gaucy, who was 14 years old, and her adopted son, Edward Powell, who was 10 years old. In 1930, 721 Franklin Street was rented by William H. Green, who was a trucker for an express truck service. He lived here with his wife, Mary Green, who was listed as having no occupation, Morris Upshaw, a roomer who was employed as a laborer for an express truck service, and Roscoe Ware, a roomer who was employed as an odd-jobs laborer.⁶⁰

At some point 719 Franklin Street was occupied by Hezekiah Green, who was self-employed as a mason for his business Hezekiah Green Block Builders and Trucking, using a unique mold to create concrete blocks that can be found used throughout the city.⁶¹

21. Name: Franklin Street School

Address: 720 Franklin Street **Block/Lot: 1059/3**

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2021 (ID# -623842327)

Photos 25 & 27

Prior Status: C **Current Status: Key**

Connection to African American Community: Annotations on the 1890 Sanborn map and subsequent maps indicate that the area west of Lafayette Avenue and north of Franklin Street was inhabited by a predominantly Black community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Historic aerial photographs indicate that the Franklin Street School was constructed between 1926 and 1932. The school appears in the 1932 aerial photograph as a 2-story, flat-roofed, T-plan building with a large, 1-story, flat-roofed rear volume. The building is documented on the 1909 Sanborn corrected to 1932 as the "Franklin St. School," a 2-story, T-plan, brick building with a 1-story, rear gymnasium. The 1937 Sanborn map corrected to 1945 indicates that the building was constructed in 1927.⁶²

⁵⁹ "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-6Y8> : Thu Nov 09 01:31:53 UTC 2023), Entry for Frank Greene and Pathania Greene, 1920.

⁶⁰ "United States Census, 1930", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-4FP> : Fri Oct 06 12:46:01 UTC 2023), Entry for Parthenia Green and Chauncy Green, 1930; "United States Census, 1930", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-SWL> : Fri Oct 06 12:46:00 UTC 2023), Entry for William H Green and Mary Green, 1930.

⁶¹ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, p. 89.

⁶² *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey*. Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 4,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 24

Information on signage currently at the school reports that the main volume was constructed as a segregated elementary school for the local Black community and that the gymnasium, which had no internal connection to the elementary school, was used by the nearby integrated high school. The windows of the gymnasium, which appear open in the 1939 aerial photograph, have been infilled and stuccoed and visual evidence suggests that the doors of the gymnasium have been replaced. This property is a key-contributing property in the Cape May Historic District because it retains integrity and such character defining features as its historic massing, historic stone details, historic windows, and historic doors. The Franklin Street School is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with an important place in the history of segregated education in the City of Cape May. The Franklin Street School, built in 1927, is a key-contributing property in the Cape May Historic District.

Description: The 2-story, flat-roofed, rectangular-plan main volume of this brick school is 3 bays wide and 1 bay deep and is backed on the southwest by a 2-story, flat-roofed, 1-bay deep volume that in turn is backed by a 1-story, flat-roofed, 4-bay deep volume. This volume is backed by a 1-story, flat-roofed, 1-bay deep, 6-bay wide volume. The volumes diminish in width moving northeast to southwest. The main volume includes a stone foundation course, a stone and aluminum siding-clad cornice, and brick quoining on the main and side elevations. The roof of the main volume includes a brick parapet on all elevations with stone coping. The central bay of the main volume, which projects slightly northeast, is flanked on either side by brick quoining and full-height, stone pilasters and is topped by a simple stone and aluminum siding architrave. The parapet of the central bay, which is slightly taller, includes a central stone panel and is flanked on either side by aluminum-clad stone. The main entrance includes a stone door surround with "FRANKLIN STREET SCHOOL" engraved into the architrave. The recessed, historic, 6-light, paired wood doors and 5-light wood transom of the entrance are accessed by a straight concrete stair with brick and stone sidewalls. A single metal railing sits in the middle of the stairs. The outer bays of the main elevation are lighted on both floors by banks of 5 historic, 12/12 or 24-light wood sash windows with stone sills and brick lintels. On both floors, there is a rectangular patinaed louvered vent beneath the window closest to the central bay. The stone course separates the first floor and basement level on the outer bays and on the remaining elevations. At each outer bay of the basement level, there are four 6-light wood sash windows and a small 2-light wood sash window. The 2-light window is adjacent to the stairs. The northwest and southeast side elevations are lighted on the first floor by a historic 9/9, wood sash window and on the second floor by a 6/9 wood sash window. At the basement level of the southeast elevation, there are three 6-light wood sash windows and on the northeast, there is 1 6-light wood sash window and two louvered vents. These openings have a stone sill. The 2-story rear volume includes a secondary, ground-floor entrance with paired, historic, 6-light wood doors under a historic, 5-light transom and a stone panel engraved with "BOYS" on the southeast elevation. The upper floors are both lighted by historic 6/6 wood sash windows. This volume has a profile brick cornice and brick parapet with stone coping. The rear elevation of this volume has a centered pair of 6/6 wood sash windows. The 1-story rear volume includes 4 closed, large, arched window openings with stone sills and keystones and is accessed by a replaced metal and glass door set within the northeast window opening. The rear corner of this volume has brick quoining and a brick parapet with stone coping. The southwestern-most volume is lighted on the northeast by a single window with 6/6 historic wood sash. This volume includes a brick and stone parapet that is taller in the outer and central bays of the rear elevation. This volume also has brick quoining. The outer bays of the rear elevation extend slightly southwest of the elevation and include round-arched openings with historic, paneled doors and 5-light transoms. The central bays are lit by 4 single 6/6 windows. The northwest, side elevations of the rear volumes are not visible from the public right-of-way; however, they are likely symmetrical to the southeast

1890. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_003/; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, - 1909: Vol. 4, 1909, 1909. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_007/; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, - Jun 1945: Vol. 4, 1945. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_008/;

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 25

elevation.

African American Association:

The Franklin Street School, built in 1927 for the segregated African American grammar school students of Cape May, was designed by Edwards and Green Architects. Partners Byron H. Edwards and Alfred Green maintained office at 548 Federal St in Camden NJ and 34 South 17th Street in Philadelphia PA. In addition to the Franklin Street School, they were responsible for the design of the Cape May County Jail, the Cape May Court House, and the Cape May County Almshouse addition.⁶³ The school remained segregated until 1948.

22. Name: Franklin Street Methodist Church [Franklin Street United Methodist Church]

Address: 727-729 Franklin Street **Block/Lot: 1080/ 1.01 & 1.02**

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -867812036)

Photo 11

Prior Status: C **Current Status: Key**

Description: This wood frame, Gothic-Revival style church is built on an irregular plan, with the main, gabled nave volume intersected by a transept that projects only on the northwest (Lafayette Street) side. A corner tower on the southwest corner of the building (at the intersection of Franklin and Lafayette streets) holds the main historic entrance to the building, and a lower, one-story chancel volume projects from the main nave on the northeast. The building is clad in wood clapboard throughout, with substantial wood trim around the windows and heavy barge boards at the gables. The roof is clad in wood shingles except for the tower, which has a seamed metal hip roof. The projecting corners of the volumes are decorated by substantive wooden buttresses. The tower is organized into two stories (at the time of original construction it also features a tower that was struck by lightning and removed ca. 1930s). On the main, or southwest elevation, the entrance is located on the lower level of the tower with a large, triplet tracery window above on the second level. The door is paneled and in two leaves. The door surround features a large cross above a gabled pediment with an over-door light with a quatrefoil-stained glass window. The southwest elevation of the nave volume is lit by a large tracery window in two levels: the lower level is divided into three Gothic-arch, lancet windows and the upper into a larger, Gothic arch divided by the lower windows with an ornately carved chevron pattern panel. The large window sits within a slightly projected, gabled surround with substantive buttresses and a large cross at the top of the gable. This is flanked by two smaller, tracery window groups (also in two levels with decorative carving separating them) surmounted by Gothic hood molds. The southwest elevation of the transept is lit at the upper level by a paired, Gothic-arch window with Gothic hood molds. On the northwest, or Lafayette Street elevation, a window group consisting of paired, Gothic-arch windows immediately surmounted by a round window lights the entry in the tower on its lower level and a second large, tracery triplet window lights the second level. The side aisle of the nave volume is lit by a similar group of two Gothic arch windows surmounted by a round window. The end of the transept volume is lit by a large, Gothic-arch window group in two levels. The upper level consists of a large, leaded, and fixed-panel window with spiral Gothic tracery. This window was installed after 2005. Below this, three double-hung windows with tracery and leaded stained glass in the upper sash are divided by decorative Gothic Revival panels. A door is located in the clapboarded (northwest) side of the chancel on the northeast end of this elevation. The nave volume of the building's southeast elevation is subdivided into 5 bays by buttresses. Five gabled dormers with gothic arch windows added after 2005 rise above the roof in each bay. Most of the bays are fenestrated by a double-hung, Gothic window with substantial surround and hood mold surmounted by a round window with substantial surround except for the northeastern-most bay which has a triple double-hung,

⁶³ *Cape May County Times*, June 24, 1927, p 30.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 26

Gothic window. The southeast side of the chancel has a door. The lower Gothic window in the bay to the northeast of the southwestern-most bay has been lengthened to accommodate an entrance for one of the condominium units created ca. 2006 in the building. On the northeast elevation, the projecting, 1-story chancel end of the building is lit by four Gothic-arch, double-hung windows like those on the other elevations of the building. These are surmounted by a group of four round windows in a wide roof cornice. The northeast elevation of the transept has a Gothic-arch, double-hung window on two levels. The two inner Gothic-arch windows and all of the round-arch windows have been added since 2005. Above the chancel volume, a large, Gothic-arch window with simplified tracery (also added since 2005) lights the upper level. The building is set back approximately 10 feet from the sidewalk at the corner of Franklin and Lafayette. An iron fence and substantial plantings are located along both street frontages. Two landscaped patios with service buildings are located on the southeast side elevation. A concrete and stone paver parking area is located along the southeast side elevation.

Two small, service buildings also constructed since 2005 are located just to the southeast of the building. They are each 1-story, 1-bay wide, 1-bay deep with side gable roofs. The roofs are covered with wood shingles and the walls with wood clapboard. There are two doors on each building, one located at each side-gable.

African American Association:

This building has served two different denominations: a Baptist congregation from 1879 to 1913, and an African American congregation from 1913 until 2003. Both congregations played a role in Cape May's African American history.

In 2003, as the dwindling African American congregation faced financial challenges associated with maintaining the church building, the congregation merged with the United Methodist Church and relocated all services to the church on Washington Street.⁶⁴ In 2006, the congregation sold the building to a developer, who divided it up into three condominiums.

23. Name: Dr. Draper Residence [811 Jefferson St]

Address: 811 Jefferson Street Block/Lot: 1092/26

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -847286271)

Photo 12

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: This 2-1/2-story, side-gabled, wood-framed, Colonial Revival residence is 5 bays wide and 2 bays deep. A 1-story, 3 bay wide, flat-roof enclosed porch, topped by a roof deck, is centered on the front (southwest) elevation and a 2-story intersecting gabled ell is centered on the rear (northeast) of the main block. The east side elevation of the intersecting gable includes a 1-story shed-roof addition that is topped by a flat-roof addition at the second floor. The rear (northeast) elevation includes a 1-story, shed-roof, addition at the main block and another larger, shed-roof, addition at the rear of the ell. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has shallow eaves with a wood box cornice. Interior stuccoed ridge chimneys are at each of the gable-end walls of the main block. The walls of the main block and ell are clad in wood shingles, and the enclosed porch and rear additions are clad in asbestos siding. The foundation is brick. The windows typically have vinyl 1/1 double-hung sash with wood surrounds and aluminum storm windows. The gable-ends of the main block include wood 4/4 windows. At the front (southwest) elevation, the main block includes two dormers with gable end returns, and wood pilasters that flank the wood windows. One dormer has a 6/6 and the other a 6/1. The second floor includes a single-light wood

⁶⁴ Robert W Elwell and Cape May United Methodist Church, "History of Methodism in Cape May," Cape May United Methodist Church, January 23, 2012, <https://www.capemayumc.org/historyofmethodismincapemay.php>. Accessed May 10, 2022.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 27

door at the central bay that accesses the roof deck flanked by two typical windows. The deck includes wood railing with "X" bracing. The first floor of the main block includes a central enclosed porch flanked by single typical windows. The enclosed porch includes a centered vinyl door with a 1/1 window flanked by a set of three 1/1 windows that wrap the porch with paired 1/1 windows on the sides. The porch includes is accessed by a concrete stair flanked by brick cheek walls. The enclosed porch also includes paired decorative wood brackets below the roof deck. At the southeast elevation, the main block includes two gable-end windows and one window on each of the first and second floors. The second-floor addition includes a band of five 6/1 windows, one 6/1 window on the southwest elevation, and the first-floor addition includes four vinyl 2-part sliding windows with a single light door on the southwest elevation. At the rear (northeast) elevation, the main block includes a window at each the first and second floors of the west bay, the intersecting gable includes one window, and the shed-roof addition includes one window. At the northwest elevation, the main block includes two gable-end windows and one window on the second floor. There is also a 3-light basement window within the foundation. The intersecting gable includes two windows at each the first and second floors. The house is set back approximately 5 feet from the Jefferson Street sidewalk. A paved pathway connects the sidewalk to the primary entrance at the enclosed porch. A paved pathway curves from the entrance path to the back of the building. Most of the front, west, and rear yards are covered in lawn. The east side and northeast corner of the house are obscured by large shrubs and mature trees. A wood fence encloses the property. At the entrance path, the gate along the fence is flanked by low-lying pedestals.

African American Association:

In 1920, 811 Jefferson Street was rented by Dr. Edgar A Draper, who was a medical doctor with his own practice. He lived here with his wife, Pauline E Draper, his mother, Jesse T Draper, and his sister Frederica C Draper, all of whom are listed as having no occupation.⁶⁵

In 1930, 811 Jefferson Street is rented to Dr. Edgar Draper, who was a medical doctor with his own office and practice. He lived here with his wife, Katherine Draper and his mother, Justina Draper, both of whom are listed as having no occupation.⁶⁶

In 1940, the residence was owned by Dr. Draper. He lived here with his wife, Katherine S, Draper who was listed as having no occupation.⁶⁷

24. Address: 815 & 815A Jefferson Street [815A Jefferson St] Block/Lot: 1092/ 28, 29, & 30
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# -518836224)
Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: This property contains two attached residences, in an L-shaped plan, separated by a party wall. 815 Jefferson is a 2-1/2-story, front-gabled, wood-framed, Folk Victorian residence located at the front of the property, and 815A Jefferson is a 2-1/2-story, hipped-roof, wood-framed, Colonial Revival residence, located at the rear of the property, oriented perpendicularly to the house at 815. 815 Jefferson is located along the Jefferson Street sidewalk and 815A is set back approximately 50 feet. A concrete-strip driveway is located at the southeast side of the property. A concrete pathway is located on the east side of the houses. The perimeter of 815 Jefferson is lined with shrubs, and the rear of 815A Jefferson is covered with grass and includes several mature trees.

⁶⁵ "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-C8T> : Thu Nov 09 02:34:16 UTC 2023), Entry for Edgar A Draper and Pauline E Draper, 1920.

⁶⁶ "United States Census, 1930", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-QN5> : Wed Oct 04 16:19:20 UTC 2023), Entry for Edgar Draper and Katherine Draper, 1930.

⁶⁷ "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-BZY> : Wed Nov 22 11:52:13 UTC 2023), Entry for Edgar A Draper and Katherine S Draper, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 28

815 Jefferson is rectangular and 2 bays wide and 4 bays deep, fronted by a full-width, hipped-roof, enclosed porch with a hipped entry porch at the east bay. An intersecting, pedimented, gable is located on the [south]east elevation and includes a 3-sided oriel window at the second floor. A 2-story, flat-roof, 2 bay deep ell is projected at the rear. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and includes projecting eaves with a wood box cornice and gable-end returns. An interior stuccoed chimney is located northeast of the intersecting gable. The walls are clad in wood clapboard siding, with the exception to the front porch, which is clad in vertical wood siding, and the northwest elevation, which is clad in diamond-shaped asbestos shingles. The foundation is stuccoed. The windows typically have wood or vinyl 1/1 double-hung sash with wood surrounds and aluminum screens. The front (southwest) elevation includes a wood gable-end window, and the second floor includes paired windows. The enclosed porch includes a set of three windows consisting of a vinyl typical window flanked by 9-light wood casements, and a 15-light wood door flanked by 15-light sidelights. The sides of the porch include paired wood 6-light casement windows. The door is accessed by concrete steps with stuccoed cheek walls, topped by wood railing with square balusters. The enclosed porch and entry porch are supported by turned, wood posts. At the southeast elevation, the main block includes a gable-end window in the pediment, and three windows in the oriel and one window on the second floor. The first floor includes a paired and single window, and the basement includes a door. The ell includes a window on the second floor, and one window at each the basement and first floor. The rear (northeast) elevation is attached to the rear residence. At the [north]west elevation, the main block includes a window on each floor. The ell includes one window on the second floor, and two windows on the first floor.

Description: 815A Jefferson is rectangular and 4 bays wide and 2 bays deep. A 1-story, shed-roof, enclosed porch is located on the front (southwest) elevation and includes a semi-octagonal entry porch. At the rear, a 1-story, flat-roof addition, topped by a roof deck, is located at the eastern bays and a 1-story, shed-roof projection is located to the west. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and includes projecting eaves with a wood box cornice. walls are clad in wood clapboard siding and trim. The replacement windows have wood surrounds. The front (southwest) elevation includes two gabled dormers with wood 2/2 windows, two windows on the second floor, one window on the first floor, and a nine-light vinyl door to the basement. The dormers include a decorative verge board and gable detailing. A band of five 15-light wood windows span the shed-roof enclosed porch, and the side of the porch includes one window and a door. The porch is supported by turned, wood posts, includes wood stairs and wood railing with turned, wood balusters, and is enclosed by wood lattice at the base with a stone veneer flanking the basement door. The southeast elevation of the main block includes two windows on each floor, and a fan light at the flat-roof addition. At the rear (northeast) elevation, the main block includes two gabled dormers, and three windows and a 9-light door that accesses the roof deck on the second floor, and one window on the first floor. The flat-roof addition includes two windows, and a shed-roof addition. The northwest elevation includes a gabled dormer with a window and two windows on each floor.

African American Association:

In 1920, 815 & 815A Jefferson Street was owned by William E. Johnson, who was employed as caterer. He lived here with his wife Delia V. Johnson, who was employed as an at-home seamstress.⁶⁸

In 1930, two families occupied 815&815A Jefferson Street. The resource was rented by Charles Thompson, who was employed as a public-school principal. He lived here with his wife, Lillian Thompson, and his mother, Annie Thompson, both of whom are listed as not having an occupation.

⁶⁸ "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-C8V> : Thu Nov 09 01:32:57 UTC 2023), Entry for William E Johnson and Delia V Johnson, 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 29

William E. Johnson and his wife, Della Johnson, were listed as lodgers at this residence. William was employed as a tailor, while Della was listed as having no occupation.⁶⁹

In 1940, two families also occupied 815 & 815A Jefferson Street. 815 Jefferson Street was owned by William E. Johnson, who lived here with his wife, Della V. Johnson. Both were listed as having no occupation.⁷⁰ In 1940, 815 was rented by 66-year-old Charles R. Thompson, who was employed as the principal of a public school. He lived here with his wife, Lillian, who was listed as having no occupation.⁷¹

25. **Address:** 817 Jefferson Street **Block/Lot:** 1092/35
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# -2133672712)

Prior Status: NC **Current Status:** C

Justification: Despite the alterations, this building contributes because it is one was used as a residence by the African American community.

Description: This house is a 1-story, front-gabled, wood-framed, vernacular ranch residence that is 2 bays wide and 4 bays deep. A 1-story intersecting gable is located on the front (southwest) elevation at the western bay and a 1-story shed-roof ell is located on the rear (northeast) elevation at the eastern bay. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has projecting eaves with an aluminum cornice. The walls are clad in aluminum siding and the foundation is stuccoed. The windows typically have vinyl 1/1 double-hung sash with vinyl surrounds and vinyl storm windows. The front (southwest) elevation includes a window on the main block and three windows on the intersecting gable. The door on the southeast side of the intersecting gable is accessed by concrete steps. The southeast elevation includes three windows on the main block and one window on the rear shed-roof ell. The northwest elevation includes four windows on the main block and paired single pane windows at the ell. The house is set back approximately 5 feet from the Jefferson Street sidewalk. The front yard includes a paved pathway to the primary entrance and a planting bed at the sidewalk. A paved pathway is adjacent to the house on the southeast elevation and accesses the rear.

African American Association:

In 1920, 817 Jefferson was rented by Ellsworth Major, who was employed as a Chauffeur for a private family. He lived here with his wife Armenia (Hattie) Major, who was employed as a cook for a private family.⁷²

In 1930, the property is owned by Isabella Cox, who is listed as having no occupation. She lived here with her grandson, Thomas Washington, who was employed as a hotel cook, and with her granddaughter,

⁶⁹ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-X3L> : Wed Oct 04 16:19:20 UTC 2023), Entry for Charles Thompson and Lillian Thompson, 1930; "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-XWL> : Fri Oct 06 17:51:48 UTC 2023), Entry for Joseph O Elwell and Emma Elwell, 1930.

⁷⁰ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-BZL> : Wed Nov 22 12:09:14 UTC 2023), Entry for William E Johnson and Della V Johnson, 1940.

⁷¹ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-BZP> : Wed Nov 22 11:52:10 UTC 2023), Entry for Charles R Thompson and Lillian Thompson, 1940.

⁷² "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-C82> : Thu Nov 09 04:00:57 UTC 2023), Entry for Elsworth Major and Armenia Major, 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 30

Louise Washington, who was employed as a cook for a private family.⁷³

In 1940, 817 Jefferson Street was owned by Thomas J.C. Washington, who was employed as a hotel cook and waiter. He lived her with his wife, Emma S. Washington, who was listed as having no occupation.⁷⁴

Ellsworth Major was Cape May's first African American Police Officer⁷⁵ He is listed as a police officer in the 1930 US Census (although by that time he and his wife had moved to 827 Jefferson Street).⁷⁶

26. **Address: 819 Jefferson Street** **Block/Lot: 1092/36**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 522062722) **Photo 13**
Prior Status: C **Current Status: C**

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, wood-framed, front-gabled "L"-shaped Folk Victorian residence is 2 bays wide and 2 bays deep at each leg. A 1-story, hipped-roof, porch wraps the southwest corner of the main block. A 1-story, shed-roof, ell spans most of the rear (northeast) elevation of the main block. The roof and porch roof are covered in asphalt shingles and have projecting eaves with an aluminum cornice. An interior concrete block ridge chimney is located at the front volume and a second interior chimney is located near the eave wall of the rear volume of the main block. The walls are clad in vinyl siding and the foundation is concrete block. The windows typically have vinyl 1/1 double-hung sash and vinyl surrounds. At the front (southwest) elevation, the front volume includes a gable-end window, a window flanked by louvered shutters on the second floor, and a paired window flanked by louvered shutters on the first floor. The cross-gable volume includes a window on the second floor and a 9-light wood door with a wood screen on the first floor. The wood porch is supported by turned wood posts and includes decorative jigsaw cut brackets. The wood railing includes wood balusters and turned wood newels. Some of the balusters have fallen off. The porch is supported by piers with intermittent wood lattice. At the northwest elevation, the front volume includes a window flanked by shutters at each the first and second floors, and the first floor includes a wood paneled door. The cross-gable volume includes a gable-end window, and a window at each the first and second floors. The shed-roof ell includes a 2-part vinyl sliding door that is accessed by wood steps. The rear (northeast) elevation includes two windows on the second floor and the rear ell includes a window. The southeast elevation includes a gable-end window, three windows on the second floor, two windows on the first floor of the main block, and a window on the rear ell. The house is set back approximately 5 feet from the Jefferson Street sidewalk with a short concrete pathway leading up to the wood steps. The front and side yards include shrubs that line the perimeter.

African American Association:

In 1920, 819 Jefferson Street was owned by Nobel J. Saunders who was employed as a cook for the US Navy. He lived here with his wife, Harriet E. Saunders, who was employed as an at-home laundress, his stepdaughter Martha A Williams, and his mother-in-law, Martha A Palmer. They were both listed as having no occupation.⁷⁷

⁷³ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-X3V> : Wed Oct 04 16:19:20 UTC 2023), Entry for Isabella Cox and Thomas Washington, 1930.

⁷⁴ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-BZK> : Wed Nov 22 12:09:14 UTC 2023), Entry for Thomas J C Washington and Emma S Washington, 1940.

⁷⁵ Vertical files, Center for Community Arts.

⁷⁶ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-X3D> : Wed Oct 04 16:19:20 UTC 2023), Entry for Ellsworth Major and Armenia Major, 1930.

⁷⁷ "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-C8X> : Thu Nov 09 02:34:13 UTC 2023), Entry for Nobel J Saunders and Harriet E Saunders, 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 31

In 1930, the resource was owned by Harriet Saunders, who was employed as a houseworker for a private family. She lived here with her nephew, Albert Mash Jr, who was nine years old.⁷⁸

In 1940, 36-year-old Martha Cook was listed as the head of the household and was listed as having no occupation. She lived here with her stepfather, Noble Saunders, who was employed as a bartender at a saloon.⁷⁹

In the 1910 US Census, Nobel Saunders is listed as a 31-year-old butler living in the home of John and Edythe Doyle at 817 Kearney Ave.⁸⁰

27. **Address:** 825 Jefferson Street **Block/Lot:** 1092/37
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 1019198121)
Prior Status: C **Current Status:** C

Description: The main block of this 2-story, hipped-roof, duplex building is 2 bays wide and 2 bays deep, and includes a 1-story, shallow hipped-roof, enclosed porch that spans the front (southwest) elevation. The rear (northeast) elevation includes two shed-roof volumes: a 1-story ell and a smaller 1-story addition. The roof of the main block is covered in asphalt shingles and the porch has a standing seam metal roof. Both have projecting eaves with a wood box cornice. The rear additions are covered in membrane roofing. An interior stuccoed chimney is located at the rear of the main block. The walls are clad in diamond-shaped asbestos shingles, with exception to the rear (northeast) elevation second floor of the main block and rear addition, which are clad in horizontal asbestos shingles. The enclosed porch is clad wood paneled vertical siding. Between July 2016 and August 2018, the porch was renovated. Previous survey data indicates that the porch had wood panel siding under the porch windows. Additionally, the porch had a band of four of 4 windows flanking the main entrance on each side and paired windows on the sides on the porch. The foundation of the main block, ell, and rear addition are not visible; however, the porch sits on a concrete foundation. The windows typically have wood 1/1 and 2/2 double-hung sash at the main block and aluminum 1/1 windows at the porch; all with wood surrounds and profiled lintels, except for those on the porch, which has vinyl surrounds and lintels. The front (southwest) elevation includes two windows flanked by wood louvered shutters on the second floor of the main block. The enclosed porch includes a centrally located vinyl door with a 1/1 window that is flanked by three windows on each side. Each set of windows has a continuous apron. There is a single window on the sides of the porch. The southeast elevation includes a horizontal pivot window and single 2/2 window on the second floor, and two 2/2 windows on the first floor of the main block. The ell includes a 2-light stacked awning window and a wood bulkhead door. The rear (northeast) elevation includes two windows on the second floor of the main block. The rear addition includes two 3-light wood doors, with aluminum screens, each accessed by a concrete step. The northwest elevation includes two 2/2 windows on each the first and second floors. The ell includes a 4/4 wood window. The house is located at the corner of Jefferson Street and Dale Place. The east yard is covered in grass. The rear yard includes a patio and is lined by hedges at the northwest corner and a wooden fence with overgrown vines at the end of the property.

⁷⁸ "United States Census, 1930", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-QN5> : Wed Oct 04 16:19:20 UTC 2023), Entry for Edgar Draper and Katherine Draper, 1930.

⁷⁹ "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-BZJ> : Tue Oct 03 08:09:28 UTC 2023), Entry for Martha Cook and Noble Saunders, 1940.

⁸⁰ "United States Census, 1910", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKT3-7PB> : Wed Oct 04 10:03:31 UTC 2023), Entry for John P Doyle and Edythe G Doyle, 1910.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 32

African American Association:

In 1920, 825 Jefferson Street was rented by Edward D. Ball, who was employed as general laborer. He lived here with his wife, Mary E Ball, who was listed as having no occupation, his 9-year-old daughter Edna M, and his 7-year-old son Edward D Jr.⁸¹

In 1940, 825 Jefferson Street was owned by Issac E. Smith, who was a self-employed barber. He lived here with his wife, Marion Smith, who was listed as having no occupation.⁸²

28. Address: 808 Dale Place Block/Lot: 1092/31

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -1096687518)

Photo 14

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: This 2½ story 2-bay gable-end-to-street house has a concrete block foundation, vinyl siding on the first floor of the façade, and asbestos siding on the rest of the house. There is a shed roof front porch with wood turned posts and railing across the entire façade, with wood stairs at the south end of the porch. The side elevations of the main block have three one-over-one windows and a bay window on the first floor and four windows on the second floor. There is a 2-story 1-bay addition to the rear of the house with one window and one door on the first floor of the south elevation and one window on the second floor. The roof has asphalt roofing material, two brick chimneys, and overhanging eaves and gable end returns. All windows are one-over-one replacement windows.

African American Association:

In 1920, 808 Dale Place (Dales Court in 1920) was owned by Calvin R. Edmonds, who was employed as a house plumber. He lived here with his wife Martha Edmonds, who was employed as a cook for a private family, with his son, John, who was employed as a grocery store, and their daughter, who was listed as having no occupation.⁸³

In 1930 US census, and Martha Edmond own 808 Jefferson St was owned by Calvin Edmond(s), who was employed as a plumber in building construction. He lived here with his wife, Martha who was listed as having no occupation.⁸⁴

In 1940, 808 Dale Place was owned by Richard Edmonds, who was employed as a contracted plumber. He lived here with his wife, Martha Edmonds, who was listed as having no occupation. During this time, two lodgers occupied the residence as well: James Harris, who was employed as a truck driver for the highway department; and James' wife, Anna Harris, who was listed as having no occupation.⁸⁵

⁸¹ "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-C8Z> : Thu Nov 09 02:33:41 UTC 2023), Entry for Edward D Ball and Mary E Ball, 1920.

⁸² "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-BZJ> : Tue Oct 03 08:09:28 UTC 2023), Entry for Issac E Smith and Marion Smith, 1940.

⁸³ "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-61L> : Thu Nov 09 01:34:38 UTC 2023), Entry for Calvin R Edmonds and Martha E Edmonds, 1920.

⁸⁴ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-X3X> : Wed Oct 04 16:19:20 UTC 2023), Entry for Calvin Edmond and Martha Edmond, 1930.

⁸⁵ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-BZJ> : Tue Oct 03 08:09:28 UTC 2023), Entry for Richard Edmonds and Martha Edmonds, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 33

29. **Address: 808 Corgie Street** **Block/Lot: 1090/2**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# 517049576)
Prior Status: C **Current Status: C**

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, side-gabled, framed vernacular Queen Anne/Eastlake residence is 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep. A 1-story hipped-roof porch spans the front (northwest) elevation. An intersecting, 2-story shallow-gabled ell is attached at the rear of the main block. On the southwest elevation the rear ell has an enclosed porch on the first floor spanning its entire length. A 2 ½ story, 3-bay wide, 2 bay deep, side-gabled addition is attached to the rear of the ell, extending past the other volumes on the southwest. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has extended eaves with a box cornice and gable end returns on the main block. An interior chimney is located at the midpoint of the ridge of the 2-story, rear volume. The walls are clad in wood clapboard siding with wood trim. Historic clapboard appears to survive on the southwest elevation and newer clapboard is found on the northeast elevation. The foundation consists of historic brick piers with wood lattice infill. The windows are typically 2/2, double-hung sash, wood windows with wood trim and aluminum screens. Several windows include applied wood louvered shutters; historic, hinged shutters appear to survive on the southwest elevation. The front (northwest) elevation includes 3, 2/2 windows with louvered wood shutters and profile lintels on the second floor. The first floor includes a pair of 2/2 windows with wood shutters and a wood door with 2-light sidelights within the front porch. The front porch has turned wood posts and a wood balustrade with wood stairs at the north. The northeast elevation includes a 5-light window with shutters in the gable. The 2-story addition rear ell includes two 2/2 windows on both the second and first floors. The rear addition has a window on the second floor. The rear (southeast) elevation includes two windows and a door with stairs on the rear addition. The southwest elevation includes a 5-light gable-end window, two, 2/2 windows with shutters on the second floor, and a pair of 2/2 windows with shutters on the first floor of the main block. The rear ell includes three 2/2 windows with shutters on the second floor and bands on windows flanking double doors on the first floor of the enclosed porch. The rear addition has two windows on the first floor. The house, located on Corgie Street, is set back approximately 15 feet from the sidewalk, and is lined with hedges. An unpaved driveway is located to the northeast and a brick paved pathway leads to the rear. The front yard includes a brick paved path to the entrance. A lawn wraps the south and east sides of the house and includes several mature trees. A single story shed roof addition previously existed on the rear of the ell. It was replaced with the 2 ½ story addition between February of 2021 and February of 2022. The enclosed porch on the ell was added at this time.

African American Association:

In 1930, 808 Corgie Street was owned by James Perry, who was employed as a hotel bellman. He lived here with his wife, who was listed as having no occupation.⁸⁶

In 1940, 808 Corgie Street was owned by James E. Perry, who was employed as butler for a private family. He lived here with his wife, Hatie Perry, who was employed as a maid for a hotel.⁸⁷

30. **Address: 810 Corgie Street** **Block/Lot: 1090/ 3 & 4**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 846145917) **Photo 17**
Prior Status: C **Current Status: C**

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, front-gabled, wood framed Craftsman style residence is 2 bays

⁸⁶ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-35K> : Fri Oct 06 01:38:13 UTC 2023), Entry for James Perry and Katie Perry, 1930.

⁸⁷ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-11H> : Wed Nov 22 11:54:04 UTC 2023), Entry for James E Perry and Hatie Perry, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 34

wide and 3 bays deep. A projecting, central, oriel with an intersecting gable is located on the second floor of the northeast side of the main block. A small, 1-story, shallow shed-roof projecting central bay is located on the first floor of the southwest side of the main block. A 1-story, hipped-roof, enclosed porch spans the front (northwest) elevation. A 1-story, shed-roof addition spans the rear. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has extended eaves with exposed rafter tails. A wood fascia board is supported by wood brackets on the front elevation. Wood brackets are also located under the southwest shed-roof projection. An exterior brick chimney is located on the southwest side of the house. The walls are clad in wood shingles with exception to the shed-roof addition which is clad in asbestos siding. The foundation is stuccoed concrete block. The windows are typically vinyl, 6/6, double-hung replacement sash windows without through-muntins, with wood trim surrounds and aluminum screens. The front (northwest) elevation includes a 4-light, awning, historic wood window in the gable and two-typical windows on the second floor of the main block. The enclosed porch includes a triplet window of two typical windows and a 9-light, wood door. The door is accessed by concrete steps with a metal railing. These windows include two windows on the second floor and a pair of windows on the projecting oriel. The southwest elevation includes a 6/6 window on the second floor. The first floor includes two windows on the first floor and a pair of wood, 6-light casement windows on the shed-roof bay. The enclosed porch includes a pair of vinyl replacement, 6/6 windows. The house, located on Corgie Street, is set back approximately 6 feet from the sidewalk, and includes a gravel driveway at the northeast. A brick patio from the driveway accesses the rear deck and rear yard. The front yard consists of shrubs and hedges and the southwest and northeast yards include a lawn with several trees.

African American Association:

In 1920, 810 Corgie Street was owned by James O. Brown, who was employed as a house carpenter. He lived here with his wife, Keziah E Brown, and his daughter, Francis M. Brown, both of whom were listed as having no occupation.⁸⁸

In 1930, 810 Corgie Street was owned by James A. Brown, who was employed as a carpenter in building construction. He lived here with his wife, Keziah C. Brown, who was employed as a hairdresser at a beauty parlor.⁸⁹

31. **Address: 811 Corgie Street** **Block/Lot:1091/19**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 792507971)
Prior Status: NC **Current Status: C**

Justification: The house, located within a block that historically contained the homes of African Americans, was owned by an African American during the period of significance. Despite the alterations and the additions to the side and rear of the house, the façade of the main block continues to represent the building's original configuration.

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, front-gabled, wood-framed, Colonial Revival residence is 2-bays wide and 3-bays deep. A hipped-roof front porch spans the front (southeast) elevation of the main block. A 1-story, shed-roof screen porch is located at the rear elevation. A 1-story, shed roof addition spans the length of the southwest elevation of the main block. A 1-bay wide, 2-bay deep hipped-roof addition fills the juncture between the two 1-story additions at the southwest corner of the house. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has

⁸⁸ "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CV8> : Thu Nov 09 01:31:39 UTC 2023), Entry for James O Brown and Keziah E Brown, 1920.

⁸⁹ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-WQ9> : Fri Oct 06 02:11:07 UTC 2023), Entry for James A Brown and Keziah C Brown, 1930.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 35

extended eaves with a wood box cornice. An interior stuccoed ridge chimney is centrally located at the main block. The walls are clad in wood shingles with wood trim. The southwest addition has two skylights towards the rear. The foundation is made of concrete block with brick piers on the additions. The windows typically have vinyl 6/1 double-hung sash with wood trim and aluminum screens. The front (southeast) elevation includes a gable-end window and two windows at each the first and second floors. An 8-light wood door is located at the northern bay and is accessed by a porch. The porch has wood posts with a wood railing with square balusters and is accessed by brick stairs. The southwest shed-roof addition includes a window at the front elevation. The southwest elevation includes three windows on the second floor of the main block. The southwest shed roof addition includes two single windows and a paired window. The hipped-roof addition includes a window and an 8-light wood door accessed by wood steps. The hipped-roof addition has a 6/1 window and multi-light wood door accessed by a wood platform step. The northeast elevation includes a 6/1 window and a 4-light, vinyl awning window on the second floor and two leaded glass wood windows on the first floor. The house is set back approximately 12 feet from Corgie Street. The front yard has several shrubs and a concrete block wall at the front perimeter. A concrete and brick pathway connects the front lawn to the concrete driveway at the south. The rear yard includes a brick patio and lawn.

African American Association:

In 1900, 811 Corgie Street was rented by Harry A. Bean, who was employed as a waiter. He lived here with his wife, Margaret A. Bean, who was listed as having no occupation.⁹⁰

In 1905, 811 Corgie Street was rented by 56-year-old Lavinda Taylor, who was employed in washing. She lived here with 37-year-old Frank Taylor, who was employed as a day laborer, 35-year-old James Taylor who was employed as a day laborer, 28-year-old Marcella Taylor, who was listed as having no occupation, 26-year-old Floyd Taylor, who was employed as a hustler, 22-year-old William Spain, who was employed as a day laborer, 22-year-old Elizabeth Spain, who was listed as having no occupation, and Frank Finneman, who was employed as a day laborer.⁹¹

In 1930, 811 Corgie Street was owned by Adger Horace, who was employed as gardener for a private family. He lived her with his wife Cora Horace, who was employed as a cook for a private family.⁹² At some point before his death in 1942, Charles R. Thompson is said to have lived at 811 Corgie Street. In his obituary, he is noted as the "principal of the colored school [...] for the past 20 years".

In his 1942 obituary, Charles R. Thompson, who was the "principal of the colored school here for the past 20 years", was noted to live at 811 Corgie Street.⁹³

32. Address: 817 Corgie Street

Block/Lot: 1091/18

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 1080040982)

Photo 15

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

⁹⁰ "United States Census, 1900", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9NT-QDN> : 14 January 2022), Harry A Bean, 1900.

⁹¹ "New Jersey State Census, 1905", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KMW8-9RB> : Mon Nov 13 23:14:02 UTC 2023), Entry for Lavinda Taylor and Frank Taylor, 1905.

⁹² "United States Census, 1930", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-HCF> : Fri Oct 06 00:34:18 UTC 2023), Entry for Adger Horace and Cora Horace, 1930.

⁹³ *Cape May Star and Wave*, January 29, 1942, p 4. <https://vdl.s.emclibrary.org>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 36

Description: The main block of this wood-framed, 2-story, side-gabled, vernacular residence is 3 bays wide and 1 bay deep. A hipped-roof wood porch spans the front (southeast) elevation. A 2-story, 1 bay wide, 1 bay deep, intersecting gable-roof addition is located at the center of the rear elevation. A 1-story, shed roof addition with a central intersecting gable roof that spans the rear elevation. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has extended eaves at the gables with wood box cornices. The walls are clad in wood clapboard siding with wood trim. The foundation is brick piers with wood board infill. The windows typically have vinyl 6/6 double-hung sash with wood surrounds and aluminum trim. The front (southeast) elevation includes two windows on the second and first floors. A single-light wood door is centered on the elevation under the porch. The porch is supported by wood posts and accessed by wood steps flanked by wood railings. The southwest elevation includes a gable-end louver and a window on the first floor of the main block. The rear (northwest) elevation includes two second floor windows at the main block. The shed-roof addition includes a central gable-end louver centered over large, single-light, sliding-glass doors, and an octagonal window to the northeast. The northeast elevation includes a gable-end louver and a single 6/6 window on the first floor. The house is set back approximately 12 feet from Corgie Street and has a brick paved patio from the sidewalk to the porch. The front yard includes a lawn with several small trees. The southwest side of the house has tall trees and shrubs. The northeast side has tall shrubs and a low wooden fence. The rear yard consists of a lawn with shrubs and a lattice wood fence at the rear property line.

African American Association:

In 1900, 817 Corgie Street was rented by G.B. Coleman, who was employed as a clergyman. He lived here with his wife, Amanda Coleman, who was listed as having no occupation.⁹⁴

In 1905, 817 Corgie Street was rented by 40-year-old George Jefferson, who was employed as a day laborer. He lived here with his wife, 40-year-old Sophia Jefferson, who was employed in washing, and with 56-year-old Sarah Jefferson, who was employed in washing.⁹⁵

In 1920, 817 Corgie Street is rented by George R. Jefferson, who was employed as a city constable. He lived here with his wife Sophia Jefferson, who was employed as an at-home laundress.⁹⁶

In 1930, the resource was owned by Joseph Blacknoll, who was employed as a caretaker for a retail coal and ice company.⁹⁷

In 1940, 817 Corgie Street was owned by Leroy J. Blacknall, who was employed as a fire [canes] laborer. He lived here with his wife, Harriet E Blacknall, who was listed as having no occupation, and with his children, Leroy J Blacknall, Joseph D. Blacknall, martin C Blacknall, William E Blacknall, Harriet E Blacknall, and John T Blacknall. Of his children, Leroy J. was employed as a laborer on a farm, while Joseph was employed as a dishwasher at a hotel.⁹⁸

⁹⁴ "United States Census, 1900", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9NT-QDX> : Tue Oct 03 13:09:16 UTC 2023), Entry for G B Coleman and Amanda F Coleman, 1900.

⁹⁵ "New Jersey State Census, 1905", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KMW8-9RR> : Tue Nov 14 00:05:32 UTC 2023), Entry for George Jefferson and Sophia Jefferson, 1905.

⁹⁶ "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CVJ> : Thu Nov 09 01:32:58 UTC 2023), Entry for George R Jeffirson and Sophia Jeffirson, 1920.

⁹⁷ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-HCJ> : Fri Oct 06 00:34:17 UTC 2023), Entry for Joseph Blacknoll, 1930.

⁹⁸ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-SDH> : Wed Nov 22 11:40:45 UTC 2023), Entry for Leroy J Blacknall and Harriet E Blacknall, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 37

33. **Address: 819 Corgie Street** **Block/Lot: 1091/17**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# -2077945924)
Prior Status: NC **Current Status: NC**

Justification: Although the house was occupied by an African American during the period of significance, this house continues to be non-contributing due to the extensive alterations.

Description: The main block of this wood framed, 2 1/2-story Victorian-period residence is 2-bays wide and 2-bays deep. A 1-story hipped porch spans the front elevation. A 2-story, 2-bays deep, shallow gabled-roof ell spans the rear elevation and includes a shed-roof entrance porch located at the west bay of the northeast elevation. A 1-story shed-roof addition wraps the southwest corner of the 2-story ell. The roof is covered in scalloped asphalt shingles with exception to the 2-story addition, which is covered in corrugated sheet metal. A shallow wood cornice is located beneath the shallow eaves. The walls are clad in wood clapboard siding with exception to the front gable end, which is clad in scalloped wood shingles. The windows typically have wood 2/2 double-hung sash with wood surrounds and aluminum screens. The front (southeast) elevation includes a gable-end, wood hexagon window and at the second-floor paired wood windows. The first floor includes two windows flanking a central entrance door. The front porch is supported by chamfered wood posts and has a decorative wood, jigsaw cut railing with lattice infill below. The northeast elevation of the main block includes two 1/1 windows at both the second and first floors. The 2-story ell includes two 1/1 windows on the second floor; the first floor includes paired 1/1 windows, a 1/1 window and a wood door with a wood screen and entrance porch. The entrance porch has turned wood posts and wood, jigsaw cut railings. The shed-roof addition has a smaller shed-roof utility enclosure on this elevation. The northwest (rear) elevation of the ell includes a second-floor window. The southwest elevation of the main block includes two 2/2 windows on the second floor and one 2/2 window on the first floor. The first floor of the ell includes a 2/2 window to the east. The 1-story addition includes two 2/2 vinyl windows and a single-light vinyl awning window. A wood shower enclosure is located on this elevation. The house is set back approximately 12 feet from Corgie Street. Hedges surround the front yard, and a brick patio pathway connects the sidewalk to the front porch. The driveway, located to the northeast, is unpaved. The rear yard includes a lawn and a pre-manufactured shed.

African American Association:

In 1900, 819 Corgie Street was rented by Edward Farrell, who was employed as a day laborer. He lived here with Fannie Farrell, who was as having no occupation. They also lived with three Horace W Adger, who was employed as a day laborer, Mary J Robinson who was employed as a waitress, and 2-year-old Almina Robinson.⁹⁹

In 1905, 819 Corgie Street was rented by 40-year-old Mary Bacon, who was employed in washing. She lived here with Florence Bacon, who was also employed in washing.¹⁰⁰

In 1920, 819 Corgie Street was rented by Robert Turner, who was employed as a hod carrier for a construction company. He lived here with his wife, Ida V Turner, who was a laundress for a private family, his brother, George Turner, who was a general laborer, and with his children, 14-year-old Olivia

⁹⁹ "United States Census, 1900", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9NT-QDC> : Tue Oct 03 13:09:16 UTC 2023), Entry for Edward Farrell and Fannie Farrell, 1900.

¹⁰⁰ "New Jersey State Census, 1905", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KMW8-9RP> : Mon Nov 13 23:56:13 UTC 2023), Entry for Mary Bacon and Florence Bacon, 1905.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 38

A., 10-year-old, Henry A, and 8-year-old Allien E.¹⁰¹

In 1930, the resource was owned by Clarence Bose, who was employed as the head waiter at a hotel. He lived here with his wife, Emma Bose, who was listed as having no occupation, his sons, Albert, John, Charles, Joseph, Robert, and Martin, and his daughters, Sarah, Dorothy, Anna Mae, Florence, and Bessie.¹⁰²

In 1940, the property was owned by Clarence N. Bose, who was employed as a janitor for the US post office. He lived here with his wife, Emily F. Bose, who was listed as having no occupation, and with his children, Laura B, who was employed as a houseworker, Joseph W, Robert N, Martin N, and Bessie M.¹⁰³

34. Address: 821 Corgie Street Block/Lot: 1091/16

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 511941010)

Photo 16

Prior Status: NC Current Status: C

Justification: Despite the alterations to this house, it has significance as the Stiles guest house (listed in the *Green Book* in 1952, 1955, 1966-7), one of the few extant guest houses that serviced the African American population.

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, wood-framed, side-gabled, Colonial Revival residence is 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep. A 1-story shed roof porch spans the front (east) elevation. A 2-story gabled projection is located at the rear bay on the south elevation of the main block. A 2-story shallow-gabled addition spans the rear of the main block and the south elevation projection and includes a recessed porch on the second floor. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and includes projecting eaves with a wood box cornice. The walls are clad in wood siding, with exception to the addition, which includes wood panels beneath the window openings; the foundation is stuccoed. The windows typically have vinyl 1/1 double-hung sash with vinyl surrounds except at the rear addition, which has single-light casement windows. The front (east) elevation includes a gabled dormer with a paired window and the second floor has two windows with wood paneled shutters. The first floor has a centered single-light wood door flanked by windows with paneled shutters. The porch is supported by wood posts and includes a wood replacement balustrade with wood balusters. The gabled projection includes a window at each the first and second floor. At the south elevation, the main block includes a gable-end window, and a paired window at each the first and second floors. The gabled projection includes a single-light awning gable-end window and a window on the first and second floor. The south elevation of the rear addition includes four casement windows on the second floor with the recessed porch to the west end and at the first floor, it includes six casement windows and an alcove at the east bay with a single-light wood door. At the rear (west) elevation, two sets of paired single-light doors provide access to the second-floor porch, which is supported by wood posts with vinyl railing. The first floor includes a band of five casement windows with an opening at the north bay. The north elevation includes a paired gable-end window, two windows and a casement window on the second floor, and a paired window and single window on the first floor of the main block. The rear addition includes three casement windows on the recessed porch at the second floor with two shower enclosures below.

The house is set back approximately 10 feet from Corgie Street. A gravel driveway is located along the south side

¹⁰¹ "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CVK> : Thu Nov 09 02:36:04 UTC 2023), Entry for Robert Turner and Ida V Turner, 1920.

¹⁰² "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-HC9> : Tue Oct 03 22:14:17 UTC 2023), Entry for Clarence Bose and Emma Bose, 1930.

¹⁰³ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-SD9> : Wed Nov 22 11:40:44 UTC 2023), Entry for Clarence N Bose and Emily F Bose, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 39

of the house. The front and sides of the house are surrounded by shrubs and the rear includes a brick patio and lawn.

African American Association:

In 1905, 821 Corgie Street was rented by 30-year-old James Jackson, who was employed as a [hustler]. He lived here with 28-year-old Martha Jackson, who was employed in washing, 7-year-old Katie Fryer, and 47-year-old Julia Brown, who was listed as having no occupation.¹⁰⁴

In 1920, 821 Corgie Street was rented by Marjorie Howe or Hour, who was employed as an at-home laundress. She lived here with her children, 10-year-old Ella, and 7-year-old Levi Jr, and with her grandmother, Mildred Irvin, who was listed as having no occupation.¹⁰⁵

In 1930, 821 Corgie Street was owned by Jane Pinkett, who was a self-employed dressmaker. She lived here with her husband Thomas Pinkett, who was employed as a chauffeur for a retail ice and coal company.¹⁰⁶

In 1940, the property was owned by Jane D. Pinkett, who was a self-employed dressmaker.¹⁰⁷

35. **Address: 822 Corgie Street** **Block/Lot: 1090/8**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 1529625544)
Prior Status: NC **Current Status: NC**

Justification: Although the house was rented by an African American during the period of significance, this house continues to be non-contributing due to the extensive alterations.

Description: The main block of this front-gabled, wood-framed residence is 3 bays wide and 3 bays deep. A front entrance porch is located beneath a projecting gable on the west elevation. A 2-story intersecting gabled addition spans beyond the width of the main block on the south elevation. A shallow gable-roof second floor extension is located towards the west (front) of the intersecting gable, and a 2-story gable roof addition is located to the rear (east) of the intersecting gable. A 1-story gable roof addition with a wood deck is located to the rear (east) of the 2-story gable-roof addition. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and includes projecting eaves with exposed wood rafter tails. The shallow gable-roof second floor extension includes a gable roof wall dormer at each of the north and south elevations. The walls are clad in wood siding at the main block, vinyl siding at the additions, and the foundation is stuccoed. The windows typically have original wood 3/1 double-hung sash with wood surrounds, or replacement vinyl 1/1 double-hung sash. At the front (west) elevation, the main block includes a recessed porch with a central 4-light wood door flanked by wood windows. A vinyl gable-end window is located over the front porch; the porch is supported by wood posts and a wood railing with square pickets. At the south elevation, the main block includes a paired window and paired 2-part sliding window at the basement. Both the intersecting gable-roof addition and 2-story addition include paired windows at each the first and second floor. A

¹⁰⁴ "New Jersey State Census, 1905", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KMW8-9RK> : Mon Nov 13 23:12:24 UTC 2023), Entry for James Jackson and Martha Jackson, 1905.

¹⁰⁵ "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CVR> : Thu Nov 09 01:31:56 UTC 2023), Entry for Marjorie Howe and Ella Howe, 1920.

¹⁰⁶ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-HH1> : Tue Oct 03 22:14:17 UTC 2023), Entry for Thomas Pinkett and Jane Pinkett, 1930.

¹⁰⁷ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-SDM> : Wed Nov 22 11:40:42 UTC 2023), Entry for Jane D Pinkett, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 40

tripartite window is located at the 1-story addition. The rear (east) elevation of the 2-story gable roof addition includes a gable-end louver and two single-light windows on the second floor. The rear 1-story addition includes a single-light double sliding door and a paired window. A wood deck spans the southern portion of the 1-story addition and includes a vinyl railing and is enclosed by wood lattice and railing at the base. The north elevation includes a window at the main block, two single-light awning windows at both floors of the intersecting gable-roof addition, and a single window at both floors of the 2-story addition. The 1-story addition includes three 2-part sliding vinyl windows with paneling below. The basement level also includes two 2-part sliding windows. The house is set back approximately 20 feet and is located along Corgie Street. A brick paved pathway leads to the front porch entrance and runs adjacent to the house to access the rear deck. The rear and north side of the property is covered in grass and enclosed by hedges at the south.

African American Association:

In 1940, 822 Corgie Street was rented by Albert E Edgecombe, who was employed as a laborer for a WPA jetty project. He lived here with his wife, Sarah E Edgecombe, who was listed as having no occupation, and his children, Florence E, Emily E, and Albert E.¹⁰⁸

36. Address: 823 Corgie Street Block/Lot: 1091/15
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# -1963667470)
Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: The main block of this wood-framed, 2-1/2-story, front-gabled Victorian period residence is 2 bays wide and 1 bay deep. A 2-story, 3 bays wide and 3 bays deep, shallow-gable ell spans the rear elevation and wraps a portion of the south elevation. A 1-story shed-roof porch wraps the front (southeast) to the south elevation of the main block extending to the 2-story addition. A second-floor level deck spans the rear (northwest) elevation of the 2-story addition, and the north bay is partially enclosed by a 1 bay wide, 1 bay deep, utility enclosure. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has extended wood eaves with gable-end returns. The walls are clad in wood clapboard siding with a concrete block foundation. The windows typically have 6/6 double-hung wood sash with wood surrounds and aluminum screens. The front (southeast) elevation includes a 4/4 gable-end window. The second floor of the main block includes two 6/6 windows with wood paneled shutters. The first floor includes a 6/6 window with shutters and a wood paneled door at the north bay with a wood screen door. The front (southeast) elevation of the 2-story addition includes a 6/6 window with shutters on the second floor and a multi-light wood door on the first floor. The front porch is supported by bracketed, chamfered wood posts and includes a wood railing with square balusters and wood stairs. The northeast elevation of the main block includes a 6/6 window at each the second and first floors. The 2-story addition includes three 6/6 windows on the second floor and one 6/6 on the first floor. The 1-story utility enclosure includes a grade-level wood access door. On the southwest elevation, the main block includes a 6/6 window with shutters at each the first and second floors. The 2-story addition includes one 6/6 window on the second floor and two 6/6 windows on the first floor. The house is set back approximately 9 feet from Corgie Street. A brick paved pathway connects the sidewalk to the porch stairs. A large tree is located at the south end on the front lawn.

African American Association:

In 1900, 823 Corgie Street was rented by Lewis Boze, who was employed at the golf club. He resided here with Sallie Boze, who was listed as having no occupation, his son, 6-year-old Claren, his infant son, Alvin, his father-in-law, Henry Green, who was listed as having no occupation, and 7-year-old boarder,

¹⁰⁸ "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-11D> : Wed Nov 22 11:54:07 UTC 2023), Entry for Albert E Edgecombe and Sarah E Edgecombe, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 41

Florence Green.¹⁰⁹

In 1905, 823 Corgie Street, was rented by 43-year-old John M. Giles, who was employed as day laborer. He lived here with his wife (based on later census), 36-year-old Sarah Giles, who was listed as having no occupation, with 11-year-old Clarence Giles, 4-year-old Louis Giles, 18-year-old Eliza W Giles, who was listed as having no occupation, 46-year-old George Cox, who was employed as a day laborer, and 45-year-old Alvin McCoy, who was employed as a day laborer.¹¹⁰

By 1920, the property was rented by Robert Greene, who was employed as a driver for a coal company. He lived here with his sister, Laura R Morell, who was employed as an at-home laundress, with his brother-in-law, John Morrell, who was employed as a railway service [porter], and with their children, 12-year-old Winfield and 7-year-old Harriet M.¹¹¹

In 1930, 823 Corgie Street was owned by Leon Stiles, who was employed as a laborer in building construction. He lived here with his wife, Eva Stiles, who was listing as having no occupation, and with his children, Theresa, Storer, Doris, Grawild, and Gordon.¹¹²

In 1940, the property was owned by Leon A Stiles, who was employed as a laborer for a WPA jetty project, and as a gardener in the summers. He lived here with his wife Eva A Stiles, who was employed as a laundress for a private family, and with his children, Tracey E. Stiles, who was employed as a chambermaid for a private family, Leon S Stiles, Doras A Stiles, who was employed as a laundress in her own home, Granville G, who was employed as a hotel waiter, and Gordon J, who was employed as a baker's apprentice at a hotel.¹¹³

37. Address: 826 Corgie Street Block/Lot: 1090/9
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 1326680719)
Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, side-gabled, wood-framed, vernacular residence is 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep. A 1-story flat-roof enclosed porch spans the front (northwest) elevation and a 2-1/2-story gabled ell projects at the rear. A 1-story shed-roof enclosed porch is located at the southwest corner of the ell. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has projecting eaves with a wood box cornice and gable-end returns at the main block. The walls are clad in asbestos siding and the foundation is brick; the foundation of the front porch is stuccoed concrete block. The windows typically have vinyl 6/6 double-hung sash with wood surrounds and vinyl screens. The front (northwest) elevation includes a gabled dormer with gable-end returns and paired typical window. The second floor includes three typical windows. The enclosed porch serves as the primary entrance and includes a 9-light wood paneled door, accessed by wood steps with a metal railing at the north bay, and a band of

¹⁰⁹ "United States Census, 1900", database with images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9NT-Q8B> : 16 December 2021), Lewis Boze, 1900.

¹¹⁰ "New Jersey State Census, 1905", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KMW8-9RD> : Tue Nov 14 02:19:10 UTC 2023), Entry for John M Giles and Sarah Giles, 1905.

¹¹¹ "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CK9> : Thu Nov 09 02:36:07 UTC 2023), Entry for Robert Greene and Laura R Morrell, 1920.

¹¹² "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-HHG> : Tue Oct 03 22:14:17 UTC 2023), Entry for Leon Stiles and Eva Stiles, 1930.

¹¹³ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-S8P> : Wed Nov 22 11:40:42 UTC 2023), Entry for Leon A Stiles and Eva A Stiles, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 42

five typical windows. The northeast and southwest sides of the porch include paired typical windows. At the southwest elevation, the main block includes a gable-end window and two windows at each the first and second floors. The ell includes two windows on the second floor and one on the first floor. The shed-roof porch includes paired vinyl 2-part sliding windows that span the front and the southwest elevations. The rear (southeast) elevation of the ell includes a paired gable-end window, two windows on the second floor, and a window on the first floor. The shed-roof addition includes a 2-light aluminum door that is accessed by wood steps and leads to a wood deck. A gable-roof shower enclosure is located at the northeast corner of the ell. The northeast elevation includes a gable-end window and a window at each the second and first floors of the main block. The ell has one window on the second floor and three windows on the first floor. The house is set back approximately 5 feet from the Corgie Street sidewalk. The house has shrubs at the front and south elevations. The side and rear yards include a lawn and hedges, and mature trees line the east property line.

African American Association:

In 1920, 826 Corgie Street was owned by John M. Giles, who was employed as an express driver. He lived here with his wife Sarah Giles, who was an at-home laundress, and with his 14-year-old son, John T.¹¹⁴

In 1930, the property is owned by Sarah Giles, who was employed as a laundress at a hotel.¹¹⁵

By 1940, the property is rented by Albert C. Bose, who was employed as a laborer for fire [canes] for the WPA. He lived here with his wife, Mary Bose, and his three daughters, Mary Emma, Alice V, and Betty Jane.¹¹⁶

38. Address: 828 Corgie Street Block/Lot: 1090/10 & 11
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# -1770675378)
Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, wood-framed, side-gabled, Colonial Revival residence is 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep and includes a 2-story, 2 bay deep, shallow hipped-roof ell that spans the rear of the main block. A 1-story shed-roof porch spans the front (northwest) elevation, wraps the southwest corner of the main block, and is enclosed along the southwest elevation. A 2-story, 4-bay wide, 2-bay deep gable-roof addition spans beyond the northeast and southwest elevations of the rear of the ell and includes a screened deck at the northeast corner. The roof of the main block is covered in asphalt shingles, the roof on the porch is covered with a seamed metal roof, the roof of the ell is covered with a membrane, and the rear addition is covered with asphalt shingles. The roofs of the main block and rear addition each include a wood box cornice with gable-end returns. The walls of the main block, the ell, and the porch are clad in wood siding and the addition is clad in vinyl siding. The underlying foundation is brick and is stuccoed at the rear addition. The windows typically have vinyl 6/6 double-hung sash with wood surrounds and aluminum screens. The front (northwest) elevation includes three windows [with paneled shutters] on the second floor and the first floor includes the centrally located main entrance, [which is a paneled door with six lights and a paneled, screened door], flanked by windows at the outer bays of the main block. A secondary entrance is located at the enclosed portion of the porch and includes the same doors as the

¹¹⁴ "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CKH> : Thu Nov 09 02:36:42 UTC 2023), Entry for John M Giles and Sarah Giles, 1920.

¹¹⁵ "United States Census, 1930", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-WQ9> : Fri Oct 06 02:11:07 UTC 2023), Entry for James A Brown and Keziah C Brown, 1930.

¹¹⁶ "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-11J> : Wed Nov 22 11:54:01 UTC 2023), Entry for Albert C Bose and Mary Bose, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 43

main entrance. The window on the north end has both paneled shutters, while the window between the entrance had a single paneled shutter and a lattice screen between it and the main entrance. The front porch includes two wood stairs leading to each door, wood posts with decorative jigsaw cut wood brackets, and the wood railing includes wood jigsaw cut balusters. The base of the porch is enclosed by wood lattice. At the southwest elevation, the main block includes a gable-end window and a window on the second floor, and the ell includes a window on the second floor and two windows on the first floor. The enclosed porch includes two windows. The addition includes two sets of paired 2/2 windows on the first floor and a 2/2 window on the southeast end on the second floor. The rear (southeast) elevation has 4 2/2 windows on the second floor. The first floor has paired 2/2 windows on the northeast end of the elevation and sliding patio doors adjacent to it; on the southeast end is a 2/2 window and paired 2/2 windows adjacent to it. The partially screened deck is accessed by stairs on the northeast end. At the northeast elevation, the main block includes a third-floor level 4 light window, two windows on the second floor with paneled shutters, and a window with paneled shutters on the first floor. The ell includes a window on the second floor and paired windows on the first floor. The addition has a 2/2 window at the eastern end on each the first and second floors. The house is set back approximately 5 feet from the sidewalk along Corgie Street. The front yard includes a mature tree and shrubs at the perimeter of the house. The rear yard includes a lawn and shrubs and is lined by trees at the east property line. On the northeast side of the property, a gravel driveway leads to the rear.

African American Association:

In 1920, 828 Corgie Street was occupied by two families as a duplex. Half was rented to Joseph D. Blacknoll, who was employed as a laborer for a sand company. He lived here with his wife, Maggie Blacknoll, who was listed as having no occupation, and with his son Le Roy, who was employed as a general laborer. The other half of the residence was rented by Hampton T. Johnson, who was a preacher for the M.E. Church. He lived here with his wife, Mattie F, who was listed as having no occupation, and his children, 21-year-old Cornelius L, 18-year-old Dorothy V, and 15-year-old Clarence.¹¹⁷

In 1930, the building was owned by Noah Bryan, who was employed as a hauling truck driver. He lived here with his wife, Gussie Bryan, who was listed as having no occupation.¹¹⁸

In 1940, the property was rented by James Green, was employed as a hotel cook. He lived here with his wife Etta C Green, was employed as a houseworker, his daughter Ruby, and his mother-in-law, Ella C Ellis, who was listed as having no occupation.¹¹⁹ In 1940, 828 ½ Corgie Street was rented by James L Brown, who was a self-employed barber. He lived here with his wife, Mary A Brown, who was listed as having no occupation.¹²⁰

¹¹⁷ "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CK8> : Thu Nov 09 02:34:21 UTC 2023), Entry for Joseph D Blacknoll and Maggie D Blacknoll, 1920; "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CKX> : Thu Nov 09 01:31:46 UTC 2023), Entry for Hampton T Johnson and Mattie F Johnson, 1920.

¹¹⁸ "United States Census, 1930", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-WQQ> : Fri Oct 06 02:11:06 UTC 2023), Entry for Noah Bryan and Gussie Bryan, 1930.

¹¹⁹ "United States Census, 1940", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-11G> : Wed Nov 22 11:54:04 UTC 2023), Entry for James Green and Etta C Green, 1940.

¹²⁰ On historic maps, two buildings are shown to have the address of 828 ½ Corgie Street. It is presumed that James L Brown and his wife lived here at the 828 ½ Corgie Street which shares the building with 828 Corgie Street instead of the one-story structure located behind 830 Corgie Street on historic maps (both of which are no longer extant). It is plausible that since James Brown was a self-employed barber, the rear building could have served as his barbershop. (See 1945 Sanborn Map). "United States Census, 1940", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-11T> : Wed Nov 22

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 44

39. **Address: 830 Corgie Street** **Block/Lot: 1090/12**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# 470291514)
Prior Status: NC **Current Status: NC**

Justification: The resource at 830 Corgie Street was extant on this property by 1987. The previous building, which records have shown to be Bryan's Villa/Hotel DeGriff, was extant until 1970. It was demolished between 1970 and 1974. Therefore, 830 Corgie Street is not contributing as it was constructed outside of the period of significance.¹²¹

Description: The main block of this 1-1/2-story, wood-framed, front-gabled, residence has been elevated to include a habitable lower level and is 2 bays wide and 3 bays deep. A 2-story gabled porch is located at the raised main level of the front (northwest) elevation at the southernmost bay. Shed-roof dormers span most of the north and south sides of the main block. A 2-story shallow-gabled addition is located at the rear of the main block. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has projecting eaves with an aluminum box cornice. The walls are clad in vinyl siding with exception to the gable-end walls, which are clad in wood, scalloped shingles. A band of scalloped shingles and decorative wood brackets also wraps the perimeter of the house between the lower level and raised main level. The foundation is not visible. The windows typically have vinyl 2-part single-light casement or 2-part sliding windows. The front (northwest) elevation includes a gable-end 1/1 window with an awning-style louvered shutter, also called Bahama shutters in the main block, an oriel window at the first floor, and a 1-bay garage at grade level. The bay oriel window includes a hipped-roof of scalloped shingles, a 4-light window in the center and a 1/1 window with Bahama shutter on each of the side facades. The primary entrance for the main floor is located at the porch and includes a single-light wood door with wood screen. The front porch is supported by turned wood posts and includes decorative jigsaw cut verge boards between the posts. The wood railing of the porch and wood stairs includes a jigsaw cut pattern and the base of the porch is surrounded by bands of wood, scalloped shingles, verge boards, and wood lattice. The southwest elevation includes exposed structural bracing and supports at the ground level of the main block. There is a window centered on the shed dormer and paired windows on the southeast end of the main block of this elevation. The addition has a set of stairs centered on the elevation leading to the rear porch. The northeast elevation includes two windows in the shed-roof dormer, and a casement window and an oriel window on the first floor of the main block. The rear addition includes a casement window on the first floor and a sliding window at the lower level. The house is set back approximately 30 feet from Corgie Street. A brick-paved driveway is located at the front elevation that accesses the garage and porch stairs. The front yard includes a tree, and several shrubs. The northeast and rear sides of the property are lined with several mature trees and the rear yard is covered in grass.

African American Association (For the non-extant resource):

In 1900, 830 Corgie Street was rented by John Frank Cooper, who was employed as a day laborer. He lived here with, his wife Wilbertian Cooper, who was listed as having no occupation, his son Charles H, who was employed as a day laborer, and the rest of his children, 15-year-old Amanda, 14-year-old Viola, 12-year-old Ida, 9-year-old Laura, 8-year-old, Cascealia, 7-year-old Edward, 3-year-old William, and 1-year-old Daniel.¹²²

11:54:06 UTC 2023), Entry for James L Brown and Mary A Brown, 1940.

¹²¹ *Historic Aerials of Corgie Street in Cape May City, New Jersey from 1970 and 1987. Historic Aerials by NETRONLINE. NETRONLINE. Accessed December 12, 2023. <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>; Historic Aerials of Corgie Street in Cape May City, New Jersey from 1974. NJ HPO INTERNAL CRGIS APP. Accessed January 9, 2024. <https://dep-gisags.dep.state.nj.us/njdep/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d78ca008a57341f49f802e4d728dc0ca#>.*

¹²² "United States Census, 1900", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9NT->

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 45

By 1920, 830 Corgie Street was owned by Noah B. Bryan, who was employed by Express and Railway. He lived here with his wife, Gussie C. Bryan, who was listed as having no occupation. At this time, a boarder, Cornelius Coleman, who was employed as a general laborer, also lived here.¹²³

40. **Address: 836 Corgie Street** **Block/Lot: 1090/13**
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# -1749776361) **Photo 18**
Prior Status: C **Current Status: C**

Description: The main block of this 2-1/2-story, foursquare wood frame residence is 2 bays wide and 2 bays deep. A 1-story, shallow-hipped-roof porch with small central gable spans the front (northwest) elevation. A 1-story added hipped-roof porch is located on the southwest side of the main block. A 1-story, 2-bay deep, 3-bay wide, hipped-roof, altered rear volume with a small central intersecting gable spans the rear elevation. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has extended eaves with wood box cornice and vinyl soffits. The walls are covered in wood clapboard siding and wood trim; the foundation is stuccoed with the exception of the porches, which rest on wood posts with lattice infill. The windows typically have vinyl, 1/1 double-hung replacement sash with wood trim and aluminum screens. The front (northwest) elevation includes a hipped dormer with a pair of typical windows and the second floor includes 2, 1/1 windows. The first floor includes a central, 7-light wood door flanked by 2, 1/1 windows at the porch. The wood porch is supported by chamfered wood posts and includes prominent wood stairs with a wood railing with square balusters and wood deck that wraps the northwest corner of the house to the side porch. The southwest elevation includes a hipped dormer with a pair of typical windows and three-1/1 windows on the second floor. The first floor includes a 1/1 window on the main block and a pair of 7-light, wood doors under the side porch. The 1-story hipped addition includes a 1/1 window and a pair of 1/1 windows. The basement of the 1-story addition includes a 1/1 window and a pair of wood access doors. The southeast (rear) elevation includes a hipped dormer with a single-light casement window and two 1/1 windows on the second floor. The 1-story rear volume includes a pair of 1/1 windows, a single 1/1 window and a central single-light door which accesses a raised wood deck with a wood railing with square balusters and wood stairs. The northeast elevation includes a dormer with a typical window and 2, 1/1 windows on the second floor. The first floor includes a pair of 1/1 windows and a single 1/1 window and the basement includes 2, 1/1 windows. The 1-story addition includes a single 1/1 window. The house, located on Corgie Street, is set back approximately 12 feet from the sidewalk. A brick pathway leads from the sidewalk to the porch steps. Hedges line the front and south sides of the property and enclose a lawn that includes several large trees. The rear includes a brick pathway from the shower enclosure to the stairs of the deck.

African American Association:

In 1920, 836 Corgie Street was owned by Charles T. Ferguson, who was employed as a hotel chef. He lived here with his wife, Rachael E Ferguson, who was listed as having no occupation, his daughter, Madeline R, who was employed as a domestic worker for a private family, and his 4-year-old grandson, Charles T. Ferguson Jr.¹²⁴

Q87 : 14 January 2022), Wilbertian Cooper in entry for John Frank Cooper, 1900.

¹²³ "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CKP> : Thu Nov 09 02:33:49 UTC 2023), Entry for Noah B Bryan and Gussie C Bryan, 1920; "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CKR> : Thu Oct 05 20:17:40 UTC 2023), Entry for Cornelius Coleman, 1920.

¹²⁴ "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CKK> : Thu Nov 09 04:03:30 UTC 2023), Entry for Charles T Ferguson and Rachael E Ferguson, 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 46

In 1930, the property is owned by Rachel E. Ferguson, who is listed as having no occupation. She lived here with her daughter, Rachel Negron, who was employed as a beauty specialist at a beauty parlor, and her grandson, Thomas Potter, who was 14 years old.¹²⁵

In 1940, the property was owned by Rachael Ferguson, who was listed as having no occupation. She lived here with her daughter, Rachael M Negron, who was employed as a teacher for the WPA recreation [building].¹²⁶

41. Name: New Cape May Hotel (a.k.a. Richardson's Hotel) [219-225 Jackson Street]

Address: 219 Jackson Street Block/Lot: 1046/11.02 & 12

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -862533503)

Photo 19

Prior Status: C Current Status: Key

Description: The main block of this 2 1/2-story, Second Empire corner building has an "L" shaped footprint and 6-bays wide and 4-bays deep at the street frontage with a 2-bay wide ell. A shallow recessed porch is located on the corner of the building at Board and Jackson. A large 1-story stepped addition spans the rear (northeast) elevation and the rear ell. On the northeast end of the rear ell, the addition has a shed roof. A one-story addition also sits at the north corner of the main block. This addition butts up against the sidewalk and extends northeast passed the rear stepped addition. Between August 2013 and July 2016, an addition was added on top of the stepped rear addition within the corner of the ell. This addition is one-bay wide and two bays deep, extending northeast beyond the ell. The roof of this addition is also a mansard. The concave mansard roof is covered with asphalt shingles and extended wood eaves with a boxed cornice. The walls of the main block and rear addition are clad with wood clapboard and the north addition is clad in asbestos shingles on the northwest elevation and vinyl siding on the northeast elevation. The foundation of the main block is stuccoed, and the rear addition is brick. Windows at the main block and addition typically have 2/2 replacement double-hung sash with wood surrounds and paneled shutters. Previous survey data and research indicates that between 2011 and August 2013, the windows in the dormers and second floor on the front elevation were replaced. Additionally, it is likely that the replacement of the dormer and second floor windows on the remaining elevations were completed at the same time. The second floor had 4/4 wood sash windows. Between August 2018 and October 2019, paneled shutters were added to the second-floor windows. The front (southwest) Jackson Street elevation has six gable roof dormers with 2/2 windows spanning the third-floor level. The second floor has six 2/2 windows. The first floor has three hipped-roof slightly projecting rectangular bays with standing seam metal roofs and paired 4-light fixed display windows. Northwest of each bay is a six-light wood entrance door with a transom above and wood steps flanked by wood railings. The west corner of the first floor has a plain wood post at the corner of the recessed porch with wrapping wood steps with wood handrails at each post. The northwest side elevation facing Broad has four gable dormer windows at the third-floor level with four 2/2 windows on the ell. There are four 2/2 windows at the second floor. A single projecting display window is located at the northeast bay and a paired 4-light display window under the recessed porch. The chamfered southeast and northwest corners of the addition each have a single-light entry door. The northwest side elevation of the addition has two paired flanked by two single windows with wood decorative sash at the rectangular window openings. The decorative sash includes paired arched and round lights within a larger arch at the upper sash and a 2-light sash below. The southeast side

¹²⁵ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4D3-ZX8> : Wed Oct 04 14:01:13 UTC 2023), Entry for Rachel Ferguson and Rachel Negron, 1930.

¹²⁶ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-11B> : Wed Nov 22 11:54:00 UTC 2023), Entry for Rachael E Ferguson and Rachael M Negron, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 47

elevation of the main block has a single gable roof dormer with a 2/2 window at the third-floor level and two projecting hipped-roof bays with paired 4/4 display windows at the first-floor level. The southeast side elevation of the rear stepped addition has a tripartite 9-light sash window and a single 2/2 window. The second level addition has two dormers: a door with a set of stairs leading to a walkway on the roof of the rear addition; and a 2/2 window. It is unclear if there are openings on the second floor of this addition. At the edge of the rear stepped addition, the walkway connects to another set of steps leading to the ground. The rear (northeast) elevation of the main block has two gable-roof dormers with 2/2 windows at the third-floor level. The rear (northeast) elevation of the ell has two gable-roof dormers with 2/2 windows at the third-floor level and one 2/2 window and a single light door on the second floor leading to a deck which sits partially on both the rear stepped and north additions. On the second level addition, there is one dormer on the third floor and a window on the second floor. Each has a 2/2 window. The building is located adjacent to the sidewalk at the corner of Jackson and Broad Streets. The rear (northeast) side of the property includes several trees, shrubs and vines obscuring the rear elevation. To the southeast is a paved parking lot belonging to the adjacent property.

African American Association:

In 1905, Harry Richardson, an African American, purchased the hotel from Fleming J. Carr.¹²⁷ Richardson operated the hotel at least until 1919. Born in Philadelphia on November 3, 1867, Richardson was profiled in the 1919 edition of *The National Cyclopedia of the Colored Race*¹²⁸. He appears in the 1905 NJ Census as a saloon keeper¹²⁹; the 1910 US Census as a hotel proprietor¹³⁰; the 1915 NJ census as a hotel keeper¹³¹; the 1920 US census as a businessman¹³²; and the 1940 US Census as a café manager¹³³. By 1943, it was known as 'Richardson's Hotel'.¹³⁴ According to one source, this hotel served the African-American community as a hotel for over 40 years.¹³⁵ Many functions for the local and regional African American community were held at the hotel, including:

- June 1909 – the 16th annual banquet of The Friday Night Banquet Association, an organization composed of prominent African American political leaders of Philadelphia.¹³⁶
- June 1913 - Dinner for the girls' choir of the Ocean City First AME Church.¹³⁷

¹²⁷ *Cape May Herald*, January 23, 1908, p 1.

¹²⁸ Clement Richardson, ed., *The National Cyclopedia of the Colored Race*, Google Books, vol. 1 (Montgomery, Alabama: National Publishing Company Inc, 1919), https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_National_Cyclopedia_of_the_Colored_R/b9mJ6sT-1bAC?hl=en&gbpv=1&kptab=overview.

¹²⁹ "New Jersey State Census, 1905", database, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KMW8-SDD> : 31 May 2022), Harry Richardson in entry for Louisa Talbert, 1905.

¹³⁰ "United States Census, 1910", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKTS-2LH> : Tue Oct 03 18:10:22 UTC 2023), Entry for Harry Richardson and James Cooper, 1910.

¹³¹ "New Jersey State Census, 1915", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV93-VLZL> : Wed Oct 04 15:21:07 UTC 2023), Entry for Harry Richardson and William Harper, 1915.

¹³² "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-C1C> : Fri Oct 06 02:13:03 UTC 2023), Entry for Harry Richardson, 1920.

¹³³ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-QVD> : Tue Oct 03 07:47:26 UTC 2023), Entry for Harry Richardson and Clementine Richardson, 1940.

¹³⁴ *Cape May Star and Wave*, July 1, 1943, p 6.

¹³⁵ Don & Pat Pocher, *Cape May in Vintage Postcards*, 1998, p 21.

¹³⁶ *Cape May Herald*, June 3, 1909, p 1.

¹³⁷ *Ocean City Sentinel*, June 26, 1913, p 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 48

Future researchers must be careful to correctly distinguish information about the New Cape May Hotel located on Jackson Street and the new Cape May Hotel (or Hotel Cape May), a roughly contemporaneous large (600 rooms) fireproof building located on the beach.

42. Name: Congress Hall

Address: 251 Beach Avenue

Block/Lot: 1028/1.01

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -999795874)

Photo 20

Prior Status: Key Current Status: Key

Description: The is 3 ½ story building is L-shaped building with a 3 story, 17 bay wide, 3 bay deep front rectangular addition spanning most of the northeast elevation. This addition has a 1 story, 3-bay by 3-bay shop with roof deck on the southeast elevation. To the northwest of the front addition there is another addition. This is a 1-story, one bay wide, four bay deep addition which wraps in between the front addition and the main hotel, creating an “L” shape. A 2 ½/3 -story, 1 bay wide hyphen connecting the hotel and the front addition meets the L-shaped addition. The remaining space southwest between the hotel and the front addition is filled in with 1-story block with mechanical equipment in its roof and a 4-bay wide shed at the southeastern end. The roof of the hotel is a combination mansard-hipped roof except where the front addition is, where the roof is only mansard. The roof of the front addition and the hyphen appear to be membrane or EPDM roofing. The 2nd floor deck of the shop addition is wood, and the roof of the shed addition is standing seam metal on the northwest and gabled glass panels in between the hotel and front addition. The hip edges of the mansard-hipped roof are standing metal seam; the top of the mansard appears to be membrane or EPDM roofing while the walls are scalloped and square wood/slate shingles. On the end of the northwest wing and north corner of the hotel, the mansard roof has slightly elevated blocks above the rest of the mansard. The hip of the hotel roof extends beyond the wall and is held up by 3-story square columns with simple square bases and molded capital with scrolled details. Above each column are a pair of scrolled brackets with saw-toothed trim between posts. The rafters of the hip are exposed underneath. The walls of the hotel, the front addition and the shop addition are painted brick. The northwest addition appears to be wood. The typical windows on the hotel and the front addition are 4/4 double hung sash wood windows with wood surrounds and sills. The windows of the hotel gradually shorten in height from the first floor to the third floor. Some windows on the first floor have louvered shutters. The mansard roof has gabled dormers with typically paired 2/2 double hung sash wood windows with wood surrounds and scrolled detailing; the dormers typically span two bays. The interior corner of the hotel has an angled wall.

Northwest Wing

The southeast elevation which faces the interior courtyard is 21 bays wide. There are ten typical dormers (two in the elevated mansard) and one dormer with a single 2/2 window with wood surrounds and scrolled detailing at the inner corner of the hotel (adjacent to the angled wall). The third and second floors have a typical window in each bay. There are balconies with half jigsaw cut pattern, half simple railing on the second floor. From the southwest corner to the angled wall, the second-floor balcony bays are as follows: 4-bay balcony; 2 bays without; 4-bay balcony; 2 bays without; 4-bay balcony; 2 bays without; and 2-bay balcony. The view of the first-floor bays is obscured; however, some windows have shutters and there are some doors along on this elevation with and without canvas awnings.

The southwest elevation (end of the “L”) is 3 bays wide. The mansard has three single 2/2 window dormers. The third and second floors have a typical window in each bay. The first floor has a central door with a 4 light transom and small canvas awning. The outer bays are typical windows with shutters.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 49

The northwest elevation is 26 bays wide. The north corner's elevated mansard has a single 2/2 window dormer flanked on each side with a typical dormer. The southwestern elevated mansard has two typical dormers. There is an interior brick chimney between the northern elevated mansard and a single 2/2 window dormer. There are 8 typical dormers throughout the rest of this elevation. The third and second floors have a typical window in each bay, except for one bay on the second floor; centered between the northern elevated mansard (third bay from the northern corner), the window has a single panel beneath it. On the first floor some of the typical windows have two panels underneath with louvered shutters spanning the whole height of this configuration. These will be referred to as typical with panels and shutters. Additionally, the typical door along this elevation is a four-light paneled wood door with 4-light transom and a small canvas awning; these doors have a step up from the ground. From the northern corner to the end of the wing, the bays on the first floor are as follows: two typical with panels and shutters; double leaf, double arched, panels, wood doors with a three-light transom; two typical with panels and shutters; 2-bay wide entrance door with set of same double leaf doors flanked by 2-light and panel sidelights and a projecting sign that reads "Congress Hall"; two typical window with shutters; typical door; typical window with shutters; typical door; two typical with panels and shutters; typical door; three typical with panels and shutters; a typical window with shutters; a typical door without awning; two typical windows with shutters; typical door without awning; two typical windows with shutters; and a typical door without awning.

Northeast Wing

The northeast elevation of this hotel wing is 23 bays wide, with 4 bays on the north/northwest end and 2 bays on the south/southeast end not aligned with the front addition. The hip of the mansard-hip combo roof ends where the front addition begins. On the north corner elevated mansard, there are two typical dormers. On the east corner of this mansard there is a small square tower with a hipped roof and single light window on its northwest elevation. There are nine more typical dormers on the rest of the mansard with an interior brick chimney and a single 2/2 window dormer between the typical dormer and the tower block. The third and second floors have 22 typical windows. At the hyphen, a third-floor window is cut off. On the first floor beneath the elevated mansard, the innermost bay is hidden by the shed roof addition. From the addition to the corner of the building, the bays are as follows: double leaf door with three-light transom; and two typical with panels and shutters. At the southeastern end, there is a 4-bay wide shed on the first floor.

The northeast elevation is three bays wide. The roof has 3 single 2/2 window dormer. The three and second floors have a typical window in each bay; the center bay on the second floor has a similar balcony. The first floor has central door with a three-light transom. The outer bays have a typical window with first-floor panels and shutters.

The southwest elevation of this hotel wing, which faces the interior courtyard, is 18 bays wide. The roof has nine typical dormers and one single 2/2 dormer at the inner corner of the hotel (adjacent to the angled wall). The third and second floors have a typical window in each bay. Like the elevation, the second floor of this elevation has similar balconies. From the southern corner to the angled wall, the second-floor balcony bays are as follows: 2-bay balcony; 2 bays without; 4-bay balcony; 2 bays without; 4-bay balcony; 2 bays without; 2-bay balcony. The view of the first-floor bays is obscured; however, some windows have shutters and there are some doors along on this elevation with and without canvas awnings.

The angled wall is one bay wide. The roof has a one typical dormer. There is a trio of typical windows between the third and second floors and the second and first floors. The view of the first floor of this wall is obscured.

Front Addition

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 50

The roof of the addition has mechanical equipment above. The typical window on the front addition is the same as the hotel windows, however unlike the hotel, they are the same height on each floor. The northwest elevation has three bays. The third and second floors have a typical window in each bay. The first floor is covered by the northwest addition. The northeast elevation is 17 bays wide. On the north/northwest end there is an exterior stuccoed chimney, which sits between the last two bays on the third and second floors. On the first floor the chimney is wider and takes up a bay. The third and second floors have a typical window in each bay. The first floor has three slightly projecting storefronts and two tripartite single light windows with a transom above each window; both are each two bays wide. Above is a simple frieze, typically with the store name, and a simple cornice. The storefronts each have a set of wooden steps with simple metal railings leading to a large single light door with a single light transom above and an irregular 6-light storefront window separated by a simple pilaster; the storefronts also have these pilasters on their corners. The tripartite windows each have canvas awnings above and a stairwell enclosed with metal railings leading to a basement access door beneath. From the shop addition to the northwest addition, the bays are as follows: a typical window with a two-light transom; storefront; metal door with a large boarded up transom opening; tripartite window; a storefront; a typical window; tripartite window; storefront; two typical windows; exterior chimney; and a typical window. The southeast elevation is three bays wide. The third and second floors each have a typical window in each bay. The second-floor windows have a continuous canvas awning supported by simple poles. The first floor is covered by the shop addition. The southwest elevation faces the hotel. It is 17 bays wide. The third and second floors have windows in 14 bays. One bay is covered by the hyphen (6th bay from the northwest end) and two are covered by mechanical equipment (3rd and 4th bay from the shop addition). On the northwest elevation, the hyphen has a band of five 2/2 double hung sash windows on the third and second floors and panels between the floors. Additionally, its roofline is stepped.

Shop Addition

The northeast elevation has three bays and typical windows are 4/4 double hung sash wood windows. The central bay has a slightly projected entrance with simple pilasters, frieze with store name and cornice, like that of the storefronts on the front addition. A set of wooden steps with metal railings leads up to the door which is flanked by single light sidelights; the door and sidelights each have a single light transom. The door and sidelights have wood surrounds. The outer bays each have a typical window with a two-light transom. The southeast elevation has three bays. The westernmost bay has double leaf single light, paneled doors with a two-light transom. The other bays each have a typical window with a canvas awning. The view of the southwest elevation is obscured. The roof deck has wood railings with turned balusters. It is unclear where access to the roof deck is.

Northwest Addition

This addition has triangular dentils with brackets and pilasters at the corner. The northeast elevation is one bay wide with a pair of 15-light paneled windows. The northwest elevation has four bays. Each bay is divided by pilasters. Each has a pair of 15-light paneled windows except for the western most bay, which has a 10-light paneled door and a 15-light paneled window. In front of this elevation is a paved patio with a pergola and shrubbery.

The northwest wing is setback from the sidewalk. It has a paved driveway and lawn in front. The front addition is up against the sidewalk. The interior courtyard has a swimming pool area with an adjacent gabled pergola. To the southwest along Congress Street is a hedged parking lot; to the southeast along Perry Street is another parking lot.

African American Association:

Congress Hall employed many African Americans in service of their patrons. In 1901, William Dover

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 51

was employed as the head waiter at Congress Hall¹³⁸.

43. **Address:** 717 Washington Street **Block/Lot:** 1079/2 (rear of the lot)
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2008 (ID# 2102526108)
Prior Status: C **Current Status:** C

Photo 28

Description: At the rear of the property, there is a 3-bay concrete block garage with 3 evenly spaced garage doors facing Osborne Street and with a hipped asphalt roof. Decorative blocks are located on the Osborne and south side elevations; plain concrete blocks are located on the north side elevation. The north side elevation has one one-over-one wood window in the center of the elevation. The south side elevation has two evenly spaced one-over-one wood windows.

African American Association:

African American mason Hezekiah Green, who used a unique mold to create decorative concrete blocks, designed and built this garage.

44. **Name:** Emlen Physick Estate
Address: 1048 Washington Street **Block/Lot:** 1110/14
Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2007 (ID# 560705999)
Connection to African American Community: Place of Employment
Prior Status: Key **Current Status:** Key

Photo 22

Built in 1879 in the Stick style, this massive, 2½-story house has a complex roofline, irregular footprint, numerous porches, multiple stepped brick chimneys, and a unique design that makes the building unlike any other in the city. After decades of neglect, the house was restored to its original appearance by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts which operates the building as a historic house museum.

In general, the house's footprint consists of a modestly rectangular main block (52' wide by 60' deep) with a rectangular rear (east) ell (22' wide x 35' deep) that contains a kitchen and servants' quarters; the ell and main block were built at the same time. Behind (to the east) of the kitchen ell are two, later 1-story additions, one another kitchen (shown on the 1909 Sanborn map) and the other an enclosed porch, not shown on the 1909 Sanborn map.¹³⁹ The house stands on a brick foundation, has a roof covered with fish-scale shingles, and is covered with clapboards between the exposed stick framing. Windows throughout appear to be original 1/1 or 2/2 double-hung wood sash. The roof line is pierced by numerous shed-roofed or jerkinhead dormers, 2 to 3 per elevation, with exposed rafter ends. The jerkinhead dormers are supported by large wood brackets and project, hood-like about 2' beyond the windows. The roof is comprised of three different roof lines: cross gables (in the southwest corner of the main block), hip, and mansard.

The facade (west elevation) features a front ell that projects modestly beyond the front wall; it contains a 2-story bay window on the west elevation that is topped with a shed-roof dormer, and a 2-story bay window on the north

¹³⁸ The colored American. [volume] (Washington, D.C.), 03 Aug. 1901. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1901-08-03/ed-1/seq-2/>>

¹³⁹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, - 1909: Vol. 4, 1909, 1909. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_007/.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 52

elevation. This ell ties into a cross-gable which projects from the wall surface about 1'-2' at the attic level on both the north and south side elevations; the projections are supported by heavy brackets with circular motifs. The cross gables are decorated with heavy wood braces and plain vergeboards ending with jigsaw-cut circular decorations. Tucked into the ell created by the bay is the main entrance, sheltered by a porch that wraps around the facade to the north (side) elevation. The porch is supported by square posts with large, curvilinear braces; that part of the porch which runs along the facade has been enclosed. The south side elevation of the main block has a 1-story shed roofed enclosed porch with exposed rafter ends. There is a 2-story bay window on the rear (east) elevation of the main block with a shed roof.

There are four massive brick chimneys arising from the interior walls of the house. The brick work is stepped, or corbelled in reverse, as the stacks rise and terminate in two square openings that are capped with what appears to be a large piece of slate.

The original kitchen ell, 2-stories tall, has exposed rafter ends, a standing seam metal roof, and paired windows on the south side elevation.

Setting: The house stands on one of the largest single lots in the city, comprised of 5+ acres in a park-like setting. The house is set back about 100' from the street and faces west onto Washington Street. North of the house is a carriage house built in 1876. Behind the house are several outbuildings, some of which are historic. Washington Street is 1.3 miles long and follows a northeasterly path from the commercial center of Cape May City to Cape Island Creek. It is characterized by irregular lot sizes, most of them less than ¼ acre in size, which were developed in piecemeal fashion as the city expanded. The residential part of the street, roughly from Ocean Street to the north, is lined with trees and has paved sidewalks. Most houses are set back from the curb about 15' to 20' and many have a garage, often one dating from the early to mid-20th century, in the back yard. Few buildings retain their original fences of wood or wrought iron, but several have historically appropriate replacements. Buildings range in date from the early 1800s to the early 20th century, but most were erected within the period of significance and include examples of almost all local historic building styles from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

African American Association:

In 1900, 30-year-old Lizzie B. Smith was employed as a servant maid at Elmen Physick Estate. 48-year-old Leah Showell, who also worked at the Elmen Physick Estate in 1900, was employed as a cook. By 1910, two different African Americans worked here: 22-year-old Zerania Davis, who was employed as a private waitress; and 27-year-old Alice Johnson, who was employed as a private cook.¹⁴⁰ Ottier Howard was also said to have worked at the estate as a houseman and as a gardener.¹⁴¹

45. Name: Old Cape May High School (Cape May City Hall)

Address: 643 Washington Street

Block/Lot: 1059 / Lot 11

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2008 (ID# -56739898)

Photos 23 & 24

Prior Status: Key Current Status: Key

¹⁴⁰ 1900 Federal Census, Cape May City, Enumeration District 109, sheet 2

[https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-D5B7-](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-D5B7-CMS?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM9NT-H26&action=view)

[CMS?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM9NT-H26&action=view](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RKH-XHP?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMKTS-J3F&action=view); 1910 Federal Census, Cape May City, Enumeration District 86, Ward 2, Sheet 3A <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RKH-XHP?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMKTS-J3F&action=view>

¹⁴¹ *Black Voices of Cape May: A Feeling of Community*, (Bounds 1997), p 95-97.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 53

Description: This is a two-story, classical Beaux Arts building with a rectangular plan and symmetrical facade. The exterior is a Flemish bond brick and the parapet has scrollwork limestone with the words Cape May High School inscribed. There is a broad, molded, wood cornice band. Patterned brick with diamond motifs is located between the second and first floors. The front has banks of four, twelve over one, replacement windows. Aluminum coil covers the trim. There are limestone sills. On the first floor, the centered double door consists of two modern aluminum frame doors with single rectangular lights. These doors are set beneath a divided light transom and surrounded by an elaborate surround that includes limestone pilasters, a keystone lintel, and limestone brackets supporting a large entablature. There are metal pipe handrails and poured concrete front steps. The steps are flanked by poured concrete sidewalls that have short gas lamps on iron posts at the ends. A large limestone watercourse surmounts basement windows that are located just above grade.

The west side elevation faces the United Methodist Church. There is a band of four, twelve over one, replacement windows and a pair of twelve over one, replacement windows on both floors. Then there is a rear projecting ell with tall, one over one, wood sash windows on each floor. The basement level of the ell has the side door that is a modern aluminum frame two-pane door. The recessed rearmost wing has a pair of twelve over one, replacement windows than a bank of four, twelve over one, replacement windows on the second story and a bank of three, twelve over one, replacement windows on the first floor.

The rear elevation has very few windows. There is one on the second floor which is a nine over one, replacement window and a paired awning window on the first floor. The poured concrete foundation has no windows on the back.

The east side elevation has a bank of four, twelve over one replacement windows on the second floor then a slightly projecting stairwell lit with floor-to-ceiling windows. Then there's a projecting side wing that has three sets of paired, three over one, replacement windows. There is patterned brick between the floors. The first floor has a small one over one wood sash window then a bank of the three, twelve over one, replacement windows then a side entryway leading into the municipal offices in court indicated by a suspended sign. The double doors are set within a recess and they are modern aluminum frame doors with single lights. The doors are surmounted by a divided light transom that has a segmental arched top. Further back are three pairs of twelve over one, replacement windows and a second rear entryway similar to the one leading to the municipal offices. This indicates the entryway for the Police also indicated by a suspended sign. The rearmost wing has banks of four, twelve over one, replacement windows on each floor. The basement windows have been in-filled with parged cement.

African American Association:

The Cape May High School was constructed in 1917 and while classes were integrated, sports programs remained segregated.¹⁴²

46. Name: The Chalfonte Hotel

Address: 301 Howard Street

Block/Lot: 1071/7, 8, & 9

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2008 (ID# 409727179)

Photo 21

Prior Status: C Current Status: Key

¹⁴² CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, p 21-51, 44.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 54

Description: This hotel complex is made up of several buildings including the main hotel building, a Foursquare at 309 Howard Street, a two-story, late 19th-century dwelling at 408 Franklin Street, and a 2 1/2-story Gothic Revival staff house on Sewell Avenue. This old-fashioned hotel constructed with simplicity and style is the last remaining large hotel of this type in Cape May.

Chalfonte Hotel

This is a three-story, Italianate building that forms a large J-shape with wings off Howard Street, and along both Howard Street and Sewell Avenue. The main façade on Howard Street has a central belvedere and a two-level arcaded porch. This consists of two gabled blocks each with three bays flanking the central bay with the main entryway on the first floor, paired windows on the second and third stories, and belvedere above.

The rectangular belvedere has flat seam metal roofing, centered intersecting gables on each side, and bracketed eaves with plain board friezes. The front and rear faces have a Palladian window that consists of a tall, round-headed, four over four, wood sash window in the center flanked by shorter, rectangular, four over four, wood sash windows. The north and south faces have only one round-headed, four over four, wood sash window.

The roof is sheathed with standing seam metal. The façade has two blocks with centered gables that have broad overhanging eaves with paired, large brackets alternating with two, individual smaller brackets. The building is clad with clapboard butting up against corner boards. There are arched, two over two, wood sash windows centered under the gable peaks and rectangular two over two, wood sash windows flanking them. All of the windows have functional louvered wood shutters. There is a pair of small two over two wood sash windows on the third floor beneath the belvedere.

The second story of each block has the top level of the arcaded porch with centered doors with single light transoms opening onto the porch flanked by 2/2 wood sash windows. The deck and balustrade continue across the façade and there is a double leaf veranda door under a shallow hood in the center beneath the belvedere. Both leaves are wood frame with large rectangular lights in the upper sections. The doors have wood frame screen doors and operable, full-height, louvered shutters. The arcaded porch includes a bracketed and dentilled cornice, jigsaw spandrel brackets springing from impost blocks, and jigsaw balusters between a molded top and bottom rail.

The first floor has the same pattern of fenestration with centered doors flanked by two over two wood sash windows. The doors are surmounted by single-light transoms. The main entryway consists of a double leaf, wood frame door with each leaf having two round-headed, framed lights in the upper section and two frame panels in the lower section. This is surmounted with a stained-glass transom that has the numbers 301. The front porch at this level has a balustrade with squared and capped newel posts supporting jigsaw balusters. Chamfered posts with jigsaw corner brackets support the upper level of the porch. Canvas awnings shield each bay of the porch. Stairs leading to the first-floor porch align with the doors. The building has a slated wall with gable and brackets on the corner of Howard Street and Sewell Avenue. The porch on both levels wraps the corner to the end of the wall, though the porch roof continues down the length of the building on Sewell Avenue. The first floor has two 2/2 wood sash windows with louvered shutters. The second floor has a 2/2 wood sash window with louvered shutters and a double leaf wood frame doors with louvered shutters. The third level has two 2/2 wood sash windows without shutters. A set of stairs lead to the porch at this corner of the building.

The 200-foot-long south face traverses along Sewell Avenue. It has taller columns supporting a gabled porch roof above the second story windows. There are two porch roof gables that align with the two gables of the building. The Sewell Ave elevation does not have brackets or dentils beyond the slated wall along the eaves. The deck of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 55

the first-floor porch at the corner seems to lower slightly to where the slated wall ends. The balustrade continues throughout the length of the elevation except for stairs aligned with the entrances on Sewell Avenue. There are four inner balconies with jigsaw balustrades. With few exceptions, the typical window on this elevation are 4/4 wood sash windows with louvered shutters. The first floor has several doorways interspersed along the length of the wall. The first doorway on the left consists of an enclosure within jigsaw brackets that has four 8-light floor-to-ceiling divided windows, multi-light transoms, and a central eight-light, divided light door. There are three typical windows and then the next set of doors. This set consists of wood frame double doors with two round headed framed inset panels in the top sections and rectangular framed panels in the lower sections. The doors are surmounted by a two-light transom and a large cornice with a centered pediment. There are four typical window bays, two 2/2 wood sash windows with louvered shutters, and then a third doorway that consists of a set of double doors. Each leaf has a wood frame, a single round-headed inset panel in the top section and a rectangular inset panel in the lower section. There are three more 2/2 window bays on the far right. On the second floor, there are 15 typical windows. The four balconies span two windows each. Towards the northeast end of the elevation, there is a smaller 6-light window between the last two windows on each level and one above the final set of doors on the second level, which is also between two windows. The third level has 15 typical windows without shutters. There are two small 6-light windows in the same location as on the second level. There is a louvered pointed arch vent in each gable of this elevation.

The northeast elevation of the Sewell Avenue section of the hotel has three bays. The roof has no brackets or dentils but has a substantial overhanging eave. In the gable there is a louvered point arch vent. The Sewell-Avenue-bay has a 4/4 wood sash window with shutters on the third and second level and a 2/2 wood sash window with shutters on the first level. The central bay has a 4-light, 3-panel door on the third and second levels. These doors have landings in front of each with stairs. The stairs in front of the second-floor landing lead upwards and connect to the adjacent building's roof. The stairs from the third level lead down and inward towards the property to the second level. It is unclear whether this meets up with the other stairs. The first level connects the hotel to the adjacent property via a hyphen on which the stair landings and walkways rest on. It is unclear if the hyphen has a shed or gable roof, however the roof that is exposed is a standing seam metal roof. The 2-bay hyphen has a door with transom on the hotel side and a full height lattice panel in the other bay. The door bay has a ramp leading in from the sidewalk with a balustrade matching the rest of the hotel lining the ramp. Hedges sit between the ramp and the adjacent properties.

The porch wraps around on both levels to the northwest elevation on Howard Street. The first two levels are three bays wide while the third level is 2 bays wide. An interior stuccoed chimney sits on the ridge towards the end of this elevation. The third level has two 2/2 wood sash windows with louvered shutters. On the second level, each bay has a 2/2 wood sash window. A 6-light window sits between two of the windows. On the first level, the bay closest to the street has a four-panel door with a transom above. The transom has an A/C unit in it. The remaining bays have 2/2 wood sash windows, however only the central bay window has shutters. Steps with a simple one-sided railing leading up to the porch butt up against an attached building sitting slightly behind the hotel.

This attachment's main block is 2 stories high, 4 bays deep and 3 bays wide. It has a hipped roof with overhanging eaves, paired brackets and dentils and has wood clapboard butting up against corner-boards. Towards the courtyard, (southeast) there are three ells attached to the main block. From Howard Street towards the rear of the building the order is as follows: a 2-story shallow gabled block, which is attached to the hotel; a 2-story shed roof block; and a 1-story shed roof block. In the same order, the depth of these ells are 2 bays; 1 bay; and 1 bay. These ells are each two bays wide. Moving towards the interior corner of the hotel (southeast), there are additions attached to the ells. There is a single story 2-bay deep, 2-bay wide addition and a single story, 1 bay deep, 2 bay wide hyphen, which are both attached to the hotel. They both have shed roofs. Heading southeast, the central ell

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 56

has a two story, 1 bay by 1 bay addition with a shallower shed roof and a 1 bay wide by 2-bay deep shed roof wing. This wing does not connect to the rearmost ell of the main block. The hip roof of the main block and the gable roof of the ell have a standing seam metal roof. The shed roofs appear to be seamless metal. On the gabled roof ell there is a central interior chimney and a projecting bay extending from the hotel and rests on the southeast slope of the gable.

The front (southwest) elevation faces Howard Street. The southernmost bay is aligned with the porch of the hotel on both stories. There is a 2/2 wood sash window with louvered shutters in the central bay of both the first and second floor. In the porch bay, there is a multi-light wood door on the second floor and a paneled door on the first floor. Both have single-light transoms. The first floor also has a paneled door with a screened door and a 3-light transom on the remaining bay. There are steps leading up to the door with a simple one-sided railing. The northwest elevation has four 2/2 wood sash windows with louvered shutters on both the first and second floors except for the second story window on the southwest corner (Howard Street corner). On the rear of the main block, there is a window on the central bay of the second floor and a door on the southeast bay. A set of stairs with a balustrade facing northwest leads up to the door, while the landing creates a canopy for the door below. The door below has a few steps leading to it and a screened enclosure the size of the landing above reaching the landing of the stairs below. The view of the central bay from the first floor is obscured by the stairs, but the remaining bay has an opening.

The rear elevation of the rear ells in the aforementioned order are as follows: nothing; two windows; and three windows and a door on the northwest end. The door has a few steps with simple one-side railing. Between the windows of the central ell, an upward exhaust fan sits on the rearmost ell's roof. From the northwest to the interior corner of the hotel courtyard (southeast), the rear elevation of the hyphen is as follows: door; two 3-light awning windows, a single square awning window, and a screened door with a screened sidelight and one step. Attached to the wall of the hotel is a set of stairs leading from a door on the third floor to roof of the hyphen, which has a simple railing leading to a wooden straight ladder (on the perpendicular wall of the hotel) adjacent to the screened door that leads to the ground. The rear elevation of the wing has two windows. The southwest elevation of the rear ells in the same aforementioned order are as follows: window and exhaust fan; window; and one window. The southwest elevation of the shallow shed roof addition (which is off the central addition) has a window. The wing has a 2/2 wood sash window. From the hotel to the rear, the secondary block attached to the hyphen has two single light casement windows with wood screened storm windows, a paneled door, and another casement window. Between the wing, the hyphen, the hotel, and the secondary block attached to the hotel, there is a small courtyard with low-lying plants closed off by a gate at the end of the wing. A stone paver pathway leads from the gate and forks. The stone path continues to the screened door of the hyphen. A raised wooden platform heads from the junction of the pathway to the other door in the hyphen.

Cottage of the Chalfonte Hotel

This is a two story, two-bay house with a low-pitched gable roof that has been incorporated into the Chalfonte Hotel complex. The roof is sheathed with standing seam metal and there are half round gutters with round fluted downspouts. The house is clad with wood clapboard butting up against corner boards. There are two, four over four, wood sash windows on the second story. The first floor has the door on the left and one, four over four, wood sash window with a wood frame screen window and functional louvered shutters on the right. The door is a wood frame door with four frame panels. It has an old wood screen door. The porch roof has standing seam metal and is supported by the original turn posts with new jigsaw brackets. It has a molded top rail and plain stick balusters supported with a plain bottom rail. The porch has brick piers and there are framed lattice panels between the piers. The porch wraps to the south side elevation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 57

Chalfonte storage building

This is a two-story, side gabled, out-building now used for storage. It was built over two time periods. The west half has a large sliding door indicating that this was originally a stable. This half has three windows across the top floor and a casement window, a door, and a six over six, wood sash window next to the sliding door. The sliding door is vertical boards with cross braces.

The first map evidence of this building is on the 1886 Scott map of Cape May. There is a large stable situated across the rear lot line. The 1890 Sanborn-Perris map shows the building in greater detail. By this time, it is labeled "Storehouse." This footprint only shows the west half of the building. There was a one-story wing on the east end. By 1909, the building is labeled "Help" showing it had been converted for residency. This remained the case into the 1950s. The 1970s HABS drawings show that by this decade, the building had been extended with the east half.¹⁴³

Chalfonte Hotel staff quarters

The Staff quarters is adjacent and connected to the hotel on Sewell Avenue. This is a 2 1/2-story, 2-bay wide 3-bay deep, front gabled main block dwelling with a full-width front porch and additions. A 2-story 1-bay shed roof addition is located on the southwest side of the building; the porch extends to the addition. To the rear is an irregular shallow gabled roof two-story addition. The rear addition is 3-bays wide and 2 bays deep on the first floor. At the rear of the addition, the second floor has a one-bay deep, one-bay wide "cutout" at the southwest corner. (For the purposes of this description, the elevations that have the cutout will be referred to as "L"-shaped. Please note that a wall does exist but is recessed from the elevation. An asterisk will be placed on any openings that are on the recessed plane; if no opening is present, the recessed wall will not be mentioned.) The roof of the main block has asphalt shingles and the roof of the rear addition is standing seam metal. The typical window is a 4/4 wood sash window. The front gable has a round-headed 4/4 wood sash window with round-arched shutters and acroteria. The house is clad with wood clapboard butting up against corner boards. Including the side addition, the second windows are typical windows. The first floor has a single door on the addition bay and double 5-light double leaf doors with louvered shutters on the main block's bays. The front porch has a standing seam metal roof, chamfered posts, impost blocks and small jigsaw brackets. The balustrades of the porch match that of the hotel. There are canvas awnings shielding the porch bays. On the northeast elevation of the main block, the second floor has a typical window with louvered shutters on the central and rear bay and on the first floor, a typical window with louvered shutters on all three bays. On the rear addition, the second floor has a typical window on each of its two bays and on the first floor is a typical window and a paneled door with screened door in the rearmost bay. A set of wood steps flanked by simple wood railing leads to the door. The rear (northwest) elevation is irregular and "L"-shaped with the northeastern and central bays at 2 stories high and the southwestern bay at one story high. At the first floor, there is a door at the central bay and a typical window at the southwestern bay. The southwestern bay is covered with a standing seam metal shed roof. Within the gable of the main block there is a window with shutters. The southwestern bay of the main block has 2 gabled dormers with a paneled door in each. A walkway connects the two dormers with stairs (previously mentioned in the hotel description) connecting the hotel to the southeastern dormer. On the southeastern bay there is a hyphen (previously described) connecting to the hotel on the first floor and a typical window on the second floor. The central bay is obscured

¹⁴³ 1886 J. D. Scott Map of Cape May City, New Jersey; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 4, 1890. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_003/; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, - 1909: Vol. 4, 1909, 1909. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_007/; Historic American Buildings Survey, Creator. Chalfonte Hotel, Cottages, Howard & Sewell Streets, Cape May, Cape May County, NJ. New Jersey Cape May Cape May County, 1933. Documentation Compiled After. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/nj0964/>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 58

from view. The rear bay of the main block on this elevation has a window on the second floor. The elevation of the rear addition is a reversed "L"-shape. The southeastern bay of the addition has a shed roof, a window on the second floor, and a door with a shed-roof hood. The door has a set of stairs leading to it. On the second floor, there is a window*. The building has a split rail fence and gravel driveway on the northeast and low hedges on the southeast.

309 Howard Street

This is an early-20th-century, 2½-story, Foursquare with a modified hipped roof that resembles a mansard. The roof is sheathed with three-tab asphalt shingles. The front slope has a hip dormer with a pair of four over four, wood sash windows. Wood screens covered the lower sashes. The upper floor exterior is wood shingles and the first floor has wood clapboard butting up against corner-boards. This dwelling has a two-story full-width front porch. The second story has eight over one, wood sash windows with wood screens over the lower sashes on the left and a door to the second story of the porch on the right. The first floor has its porch screen set within the original square posts on the left side with carved corner brackets, a molded and incised top rail holding plain balusters atop an incised bottom rail on the right. The front door is in the recessed side portion and it has a wood frame with three horizontal panels in the lower section and a large, beveled glass in the upper section. This has an aluminum frame storm door.

The southeast side elevation has a hipped, through-cornice, wall dormer with one, eight over eight, wood sash window. There is a hip dormer further back 8/8 wood sash window. The second story has an eight over one, wood sash window with aluminum frame storm window and then there is a smaller replacement casement window lower down indicating an interior stairwell. On the second story beneath the rear dormer are two windows: a small, fixed square with heavy surrounds and an 8/1 wood sash window. The first floor has three, eight over one, wood sash windows. On the recess portion of the porch is the screened-in area butting up against the clapboard and an 8/1 wood sash window. The railing from the front elevation continues onto the southeast elevation with a set of wood stairs with simple wood railing leading to the porch.

The northwest side elevation has one hip dormer with a window and a sidewall chimney. There is one, two over two, wood sash window on the second floor, a six over one, wood sash window further back, and a 4/1 wood sash window. The first floor has an eight over one, wood sash window toward the front then three more further back. The rear elevation has a hipped dormer with a door and stairs leading to the ground level. The appears to be a 1 story addition to the rear.

408 Franklin Street

This is a 2-story 2 bay wide, 3-bay deep gabled-roof cottage with a centered 2-story, 2 bay wide, 1 bay deep, shed roof addition that spans most of the rear of the main block. The main block has a full porch which wraps and extends to most of the southeast elevation on the main block. All the roofs are standing seam metal. The building had wood clapboard butting up against corner-boards. The roof of the main block has overhanging eaves. The typical window is a 4/4 wood sash window with louvered shutters. The front (northeast) elevation has 2 typical windows on the second floor and on the first floor is a typical window and paneled door with a wood screen door. The porch roof is supported by turned posts decorated with scrolled brackets which run the length of the frieze between each post and the wall. The balustrade runs the length of the entire porch and has molded handrails and square balusters. In front of the porch, nearly spanning, the width of the main block, is a set of wooden stairs with balustrade leading and connecting to the porch. The entrance of the stairs is in the northwest side. The porch sits atop brick piers with wood lattice panels between them. The foundation of the rest of the building appears to be brick piers or a brick foundation. On the northwest elevation, the fascia of the porch has wood vertical boards following a sawtooth pattern at the bottom. On the main block there are two typical windows each on the first and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 59

second floors. On the rear addition there is a 6/6 wood sash window without shutters on the second floor and a 12-light with panel door on the first floor. There doesn't appear to be stairs leading to the door. The rear (southwest) elevation has a window on the second floor. The first floor is obscured. The southeast elevation has three typical windows on the second floor. On the first floor is a typical window without shutters under the porch, a door, and a 2/2 or typical window without shutters towards the rear outside of the porch. Stairs facing southwest lead up to the porch. On the rear addition there is a 6-light wood sash window on the second floor and a 1/1 replacement window on the first floor. The building has a building immediately to the rear, a single-story wood-shingled gabled roof garage to the southeast, and a low wood fence between it and the adjacent property on the northwest. The front has a few low-lying plantings and concrete pathway leading to the porch steps. It is unclear if the garage is associated with this property.

Chalfonte Storage - 408 Franklin Street – Rear Building

This is a 2 story, 3-bay wide, 2-bay deep side gable roof out-building with overhanging eaves and a 1 story, 1 bay wide, 2 bay deep addition on the northeast that extends slightly beyond the main block. The building has vinyl siding on the front (southeast) elevation and wood clapboard and vertical vinyl siding on the second and first floors of the southwest elevation, respectively. Access to the other elevations was not possible. The building has a standing seam metal roof and a brick foundation. It appears between 2016 and 2019, the building was raised, and the current addition was built. In the 2008 survey, the 6/6 wood sash windows were described as new and set into additional framing in the old window openings. The front elevation has two 6/6 wood sash windows with paneled shutters and the first floor has a central 6-light, paneled wood door flanked by 6/6 wood sash windows with paneled shutters. The windows have planter boxes beneath. A set of wood steps facing southwest with a simple railing lead up to the door. On the addition there is a small 6-light window with small, paneled shutters. The addition has a deck above with a simple railing matching the front door stair railing. The northeast elevation has a door centered in the gable leading to the deck. The view of the first floor of the addition is obscured. The view of the rear (northwest) elevation is obscured. The southwest elevation has two 6/6 windows on the first floor and a window on the second floor. A set of stairs with railings begins on this elevation, facing southeast. The deck of the stairs wraps the corner to the rear. The building sits far recessed from the sidewalk and shares the gravel driveway with the Staff quarters. The rear of the building has wood fencing.

This building is first depicted on the 1890 Sanborn-Perris map labeled as a Laundry. On the 1909 Sanborn map, the building is labeled "Help." There are no changes noted on the subsequent Sanborn map updates.¹⁴⁴

African American Association:

The Chalfonte Hotel was a place of employment for African Americans during the period of significance.¹⁴⁵

47. Name: Keith's Steam Laundry [202 Perry Street]

Address: 202 Perry Street

Block/Lot: 1030/13 & 14

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2008 (ID# 2007321501)

Photo 31

¹⁴⁴ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 4, 1890. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_003/; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, - Jun 1945: Vol. 4, 1945. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_008/; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, - 1909: Vol. 4, 1909, 1909. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_007/.

¹⁴⁵ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, p 128.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 60

Prior Status: C

Current Status: C

Description: This is a 3-and-1/2- story hipped roofed building facing Perry Street on the northeast. The building is 3 bays wide, five bays deep, mostly rectangular in plan and sits on a concrete foundation with a partial basement. Towards the rear (SW), a smaller 2—story building is attached to the main building via a recessed hyphen. On the northwest elevation, the two frontmost bays extends passed the plane of the rest of the elevation on the 1st and 2nd stories. The building is clad in clapboard siding with corner board. The asphalt-shingled hipped roof has deep overhanging eaves with wood-shingle-clad shed roof dormers on the Perry Street (front) and South Lafayette Street (SE) elevations and an interior chimney on northeast elevation. The dormers' roofs have deep overhanging eaves, and each has a single one-over-one window. Gutters wrap around the building. Typical windows are six-over-six double hung sash with storm windows, flat window surrounds, and simple lintels and sills. There is a 2-story, full length porch with a shallow standing metal seam hipped roof on the façade. It also has deep overhanging eaves, gutters, and wood plank flooring on the 1st floor. Four posts with simple bases and capitals support the porch on each level. The porch sits on a foundation covered by paneled piers and latticework. The porch is accessed via five wooden steps from Perry Street roughly centered on the façade. Simple balustrades can also be found on each porch level. The 3rd floor of the façade has three typical windows. The 2nd floor has a central door flanked on each side by a typical window. The door is covered by a storm door. The first floor has a central door with a two-light transom above and is flanked on each side by a one-over-one double hung sash window with typical window surrounds. The door and windows on the first floor each have louvered shutters. The central door is a wooden, single-pane, half-light, paneled door with a multiple light storm door. On the northwest elevation, the extended bays have a shallow shed roof with decorative brackets and exposed rafter tails. There are a few windows on this elevation. On the rear (SW) elevation, there are two typical windows on the 3rd floor and at least one typical window on the 1st and 2nd floors. On the South Lafayette Street (SE) elevation, there are four typical windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors and three typical windows on the 1st floor. At the foundation level, there are four three-light awning windows and one with louvered vent.

Rear Addition: The small 2-story rear addition is one bay wide and three bays deep facing S. Lafayette Street. The addition has an asphalt-shingled, front-facing gable roof with deep overhanging eaves, gutters, and exposed rafter tails and purlin ends. There is an interior central chimney. The building is clad in clapboard siding with corner board, except the gable end on the façade, which is clad in scalloped shingles. On the 2nd floor of the façade, there is a central six-over-six double hung sash window with louvered shutters, a wide window surround and a simple lintel. On the 1st floor, there is a paired two-over-two wooden window with wide window surround and a two-light, wooden paneled door with storm door. On the southwest elevation, the 2nd floor has three windows matching the 2nd floor window of the façade. On the 1st floor, there are two 9-light windows with louvered shutters and a three-over-one window. Each has a wide window surround and a simple lintel. There are no openings on the northeast elevation, however the hyphen has a shed roof with gutters and a small, paneled door with steps leading to it.

In 1890, the property was only referred to as a store, however by 1909, it became a Steam laundry. By this time, the small rear building was added. Between 1909 and 1945, the Steam Laundry became The Clinton, Rooming; by 1945, the hyphen was added, connecting The Clinton to the small rear building. The third story of the building and second story of the porch were extant at this time.¹⁴⁶

¹⁴⁶ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey*. Sanborn Map Company, - 1909: Vol. 4, 1909, 1909. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_007/; *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey*. Sanborn Map Company, - Jun 1945: Vol. 4, 1945. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_008/; *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 61

African American Association:

Robert M. Keith began his laundry business in a small room on Decatur Street in 1904. In two years, his business had grown to the extent that he had a "well equipped laundry with power and the latest machinery . . . on the corner of Perry and South Lafayette sts."¹⁴⁷

48. Name: Grant Street Beach

Address: Block/Lot: 1000/19, 19.01, 20, 20.01, 21, 21.01 (some or all of lots 19, 19.01, 21, and 21.01)

Prior Survey: N/A

Photo 32

Prior Status: N/A Current Status: C

Description: Grant Street Beach is a beach located along the shoreline of the Atlantic Ocean. The entrance is situated at the end of Grant Street, where it meets Beach Ave. Directly across the intersection of Grant Street and Beach Avenue is a single-story lifeguard pavilion sitting on stilts. A raised concrete pathway lined with benches and sitting lower than the pavilion extends east and west along the coastline, separating the pavilion from the street. An accessibility ramp and a set of stairs lead from the street to the pathway with an additional set of ramps and stairs leading from the pathway to the pavilion. It is a white sand beach with very few intrusions. West of Grant Street, a small, single story, restroom facility is situated on the beach at the same height as the elevated concrete pathway. A set of stairs lead from the street to the pathway in front of the restroom. Separating the pathway from the beach are dunes with varying degrees and varieties of vegetation. Starting at the southernmost tip of New Jersey, Grant Street Beach's shoreline is part of a concaving, wave pattern, which runs east until Queen Street. Centered between Grant Street and Windsor Avenue to the east, the waved shoreline protrudes outwards to a point, which is just shy in distance seaward of the southernmost tip.

An aerial from 1920 also shows a small building on the beach centered between Grant Street and Windsor Avenue. It is still extant in 1933 but is gone by 1940. The 1940 aerial also shows the beach was much shallower and the shoreline was roughly even without the wave pattern seen today. It seems in 1956 there is evidence of divisions along the entirety of the Cape May shoreline. The lifeguard pavilion was not extant until at least 1963, however a small pavilion is visible west of the Grant Street and Beach Avenue intersection. It can still be seen as late as 1956, however it was gone and replaced by the restroom facility by 1963.¹⁴⁸

African American Association:

Though the beach used by African Americans changed over time, Grant Street Beach was where the African American community would frequent for seaside leisure for a longer consecutive period of time than any other beach during the period of significance. African American lifeguards were assigned to this Grant Street section of the Cape May City shoreline.¹⁴⁹

49. Name: Cape May Golf Club Clubhouse [1033 Lafayette Street]

Address: 1033 Lafayette Street

Block/Lot: 1061/63.03

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -911823859)

Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, Vol. 4, 1890. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_003/.

¹⁴⁷ *Cape May Daily Herald*, July 1, 1908, p 4.

¹⁴⁸ *Historic Aerials of Beach Drive in Cape May City, New Jersey from 1920, 1933, 1956, and 1963.*, *Historic Aerials by NETRONLINE* (NETRONLINE), accessed January 9, 2024, <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>; *Historic Aerials of Beach Drive in Cape May City, New Jersey from 1940*, *NJ HPO INTERNAL CRGIS APP*, accessed January 9, 2024, <https://dep-gisags.dep.state.nj.us/njdep/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d78ca008a57341f49f802e4d728dc0ca#>.

¹⁴⁹ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, p99-103.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 62

Prior Status: **C** Current Status: **C**

Description: This 3-story, Italianate residence was originally constructed for a single family, and later converted into a 2-family residence. The building is 6-bays wide and 2-bays deep with a hipped roof. A 1-story, shed-roof porch with a central gable-front pediment spans the front elevation and wraps around a portion of the north and south side elevations. The roof is covered with asphalt-shingles and has deep overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. A frieze with recessed panels surrounds the top of the building, with panels separated by ornate brackets with drop pendants each bracket. The exterior is clad with wood clapboards that extend to grade. Windows are typically 1/1 double-hung sash replacements with wood surrounds. The front porch has simple wood posts, and the porch deck is concrete. Symmetrically paired entrance doors are located at the center of the front (east elevation). Above the entrance door are paired lancet windows with 1/1 double-hung sash within a single arched-head opening. Two 1/1 double-hung sash flank the central entrance and paired lancet windows at the front elevation. Four third floor windows are located along the frieze. The north elevation has two windows at each of the first, second and third floors. The south elevation has 3 windows on the first floor and two on the second and third floors. The rear (west) elevation includes two central 9-light doors and two windows on the first floor, and four window openings on the second floor. Three windows are located at the frieze. A divided wood deck is located at the center of the rear elevation. The house stands on a lot that is approximately 75' wide x 100' deep, facing east onto Lafayette Street. It stands about 40' from the curb. The façade (east elevation) is almost totally obscured by 2-story tall evergreen shrubs. The front yard is grassy, and a concrete walkway leads from the sidewalk to the front door. A concrete driveway leads from the street to the south side elevation. The back yard is grassy, and the rear lot line is defined by tall deciduous trees.

Setting: Lafayette Street is 1.2 miles long and follows a northeasterly path from the commercial center of Cape May City to Cape Island Creek. As the main thoroughfare connecting the downtown commercial center with the south terminus of the Garden State Parkway, it is heavily traveled. Lot sizes, most of them less than ¼-acre in size, are irregular and were developed in piecemeal fashion as the city expanded. The residential part of the street, roughly from Ocean Street to the north, is lined with trees and has paved sidewalks. Most houses are set back from the curb about 15' to 20' and many have a garage in the back yard. Few buildings retain their original fences of wood or wrought iron. Buildings range in date from the early 1800s to the early 21st century, but most were erected within the period of significance and include examples of historic building styles from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

African American Association:

William J. Moore was employed at the Cape May Golf Club during the summers. As early as 1910 Mr. Moore started working as a locker room attendant; he worked his way up to become the manager of the club. Mr. Moore was recognized as a tennis pro in the early 1910s; he would go on to establish the tennis arm of the Cape May Golf Club and become its manager. When the golf club was disbanded in the 1950s, Mr. Moore sublet the facilities at the golf club, keeping tennis in the city and giving adults and tennis enthusiasts an athletic outlet. It was during his time at the golf club that Mr. Moore and his son, Wilbur engineered the construction of a new clay courts bed.¹⁵⁰ Additionally, Lewis Boze was employed at the golf club in 1900 (see p7-40).

50. Name: Skinner House [28-30 Congress Street]

Address: 28-34 Congress Street

Block/Lot: 1024/1&2

Photo 26

¹⁵⁰ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, p 38; CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, (Moore 2007), p 94; Commander G. M. Schellenger to Cape May Star & Wave (Miami, New Jersey: Miami, September 11, 1970).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 63

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2008 (ID# -1598480196)

Prior Status: C **Current Status:** C

Description: This is a three-story, six bay, high style Italianate style house of frame construction that is divided down the middle to form a side-by-side duplex dwelling. 28 Congress Street is the left half and 30 Congress Street is the right half. Although the interior was not inspected, the exterior suggests that this is divided in half on the interior as well. The flat roof is capped with a centered, square cupola that has a flaring tent roof sheathed with flat seam metal and a fringe of carved wood pendants. The cupola has dentil molding and vertical board shutters on the inside of the tri-arched openings. The roof sheathing was not visible from the street although metal drip edges were visible and the HABS drawing indicates this house has a standing seam metal roof. A brick chimney with an elaborate copper cap pierces the roof on the north side of the house (30 Congress). Two terra cotta chimneys are located on the south side of the roof (28 Congress). The eaves around the third story are decorated with a carved wood pendant fringe. Built-in gutters are drained by round fluted downspouts. The building's exterior is wood clapboard butting up against corner boards. The majority of the windows are the original, divided light, wood sash windows with two over twos on the third floors and larger four over fours on the first and second floors. There are several exceptions including wood sash windows with diamond shaped lights on the first and second stories of the north side and the first-floor façade of 30 Congress Street. These replacement windows may have been installed at the beginning of the 20th century and have achieved significance in their own right. The window surrounds are plain wood boards. The front doors of both #30 and #28 are the original wood frame doors with six framed inset panels. They have identical wood frame screen doors. The doors are flanked with diamond light sidelights atop one raised panel and surmounted by diamond light transoms. There is an old-fashioned, wall-mounted, lantern light next to each door. All of the porch elements are wood. On the first floor, there are the original chamfered posts with impost blocks, compact constructed geometric brackets, molded top rails, and simple jigsawed wood balusters. The second level chamfered posts are more slender than those on the first story and the large, pierced panel brackets are more elaborate than the first floor's simpler brackets. They connect in the middle between posts to form round-headed arches. The upper level's top rail and jigsawed balusters are similar to those on the first floor. Framed wood lattice panels divide the front porch into two as the interior common wall is continued out to the exterior. The small lattice apron set between the brick piers under the porch floor on the front is plastic. #28 Congress Street's south side elevation has several wood ladders (fire escapes) affixed flush to the walls. There are two bays of 4/4 wood sash windows flanked by operable wood shutters on each of the three floors. A multiple story porch extends off the rear of this half of the house. It is partially enclosed on the first floor, open on the second floor, and fully enclosed with walls and banks of small windows on the third floor. The second floor's balustrade is similar to the front porch's balustrade and the chamfered posts support triangular jigsawed brackets. The brick piers have framed wood lattice panels set between them. #30 Congress Street: The two-story front porch wraps around and extends along the entire north side elevation of 30 Congress Street. It continues to wrap around the back for two bays. On the second floor, the two rearmost bays have been fully enclosed with aluminum frame windows set within the existing bracketed posts and railing. The rear of this house has a two-story porch with triangular bracketed posts and an attached, two-car garage facing west on the first level.

Setting: This main house is setback approximately twenty feet off Congress Street and approximately forty feet off South Lafayette Street. The front yard is divided with a fence draped with ivy. Two parallel walkways lead to the public sidewalks. An old, iron, hairpin and spear fence encircles the perimeter of the property from the south side property line of 28 Congress to the north side of 30 Congress Street continuing around the vacant lot on the corner of Windsor Avenue and South Lafayette Street. There are several gates in the fence. The lot has many evergreen bushes, perennial beds, mature trees, and there are mature street trees along both Congress and South Lafayette Streets. There is a bluestone curb and sidewalk in front of 30 Congress Street while a poured concrete

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 64

sidewalk and curb are located in front of and along the south side of 28 Congress Street. Congress Street is a one-way street northbound and it has parking meters. There is a 1959 gas lamp close to the corner of South Lafayette Street. A driveway leads from the attached garage on back to Windsor Avenue between the buildings at 29 and 33 Windsor Avenue. The converted stable (33 Windsor Avenue) is located on the west side of the lot. It fronts on Windsor Avenue. This building is built right at the street. There is no front yard--only a poured concrete sidewalk between the curb and the foundation. The driveway has a wood picket gate and a poured concrete driveway apron at the sidewalk. There is a driveway just to the north of this building that has a wood picket gate and a poured concrete driveway apron. This leads into a vacant corner lot at the corner of Windsor Avenue and South Lafayette Street. The yard and garden on the north side are enclosed with a fence that is covered with vegetation.

African American Association:

The Skinner House employed African American workers. On May 14, 1937, Mrs. George Skinner (Margaret) wrote to Iola Farmer, asking her to get the house ready for the season. The task was to clean the house – windows, floors, beds, dishes, curtains¹⁵¹

51. Indian Queen School [902-904 Washington Street]

Address: 900-02 Washington Street

Block/Lot: 1093/1

Prior Survey: Cape May Historic Survey 2007 (ID# 392186732)

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: Built in the mid-19th century in the Folk Victorian style, the rectangular main block of this .2½-story, 2-family house is 6-bays wide and 2-bays deep. There are several additions to the rear (east). All sections but one addition in the rear (east) are covered with wood clapboard; all have standing seam metal roofs. The house is a rare, early example of a two-family house on a street which has mostly single-family historic dwellings. The main block: The main block sits on a foundation of brick piers. The façade (west elevation) has two centrally located doors that abut each other. The doors have 1 large pane of glass over raised panels and appear to date to the late 19th /early 20th century. Windows are 2i1 double-hung wood sash on the first and second floors that also appear to date to the late 19th/early 20th century. There are two original pedimented dormers on the façade, and they have original 6/6 double hung wood sash, while windows in the gable ends are 4/4 double-hung wood sash. There are original brackets along the front (west elevation) and rear (east elevation) cornices and in the eaves of the gable ends. There is a stucco-covered brick chimney, which appears to be original, at the south gable end. Windows on both stories are flanked by shutters with fixed louvers that appear to date to the Victorian era. However, those on the second floor of the facade are too narrow and too long to have been original to this building. There is a full-width front porch with square porch posts with brackets, and a balustrade of turned balusters that appears to date to the late 1800s.

To the rear are several additions: On the rear (east) elevation of the main block is-to the north-a 2-story addition almost square in plan, while to the south is a rectangular addition, also 2-stories tall, that is almost twice as deep as it is wide. On the south side of this section is a one-story addition that was originally a porch but is now enclosed. To the east of this is a 1-story shed-roofed addition.

Setting: The house stands on a city lot at the northeast corner of Queen and Washington Streets and faces west onto Washington Streets. The lot is approximately 65' wide by 75' deep and is fronted by a modern white picket fence.

¹⁵¹ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, p 92.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 65

African American Association:

Between 1861 and 1867, the building at 900-02 Washington Street was used as an integrated school. It was called the Indian Queen School, named after the Indian Queen Hotel, which was the prior function of the building before it was purchased by the city and converted into an integrated school.¹⁵²

52. Office of Dr. VMD Marcy [115 Ocean Street]

Address: 115 Ocean Street

Block/Lot: 1057/1 & 2

Prior Survey: Cape May Intensive Level Architectural Survey 2008 (ID# -1012452577)

Prior Status: C

Current Status: C

Description: This is a 2½-story, front gable, rectangular plan, vernacular Queen Anne style building that has a squared 3-story turret slightly recessed on the northwest corner. The roof is sheathed with architectural dimensional asphalt shingles. The building is clad with wood clapboard butting up against corner boards. There is elaborate trim-work that includes a molded cornice, circles set in cross braces in the gables, and rows of half-circle vergeboards. The third story of the turret on the left has a one over one, wood sash window with an aluminum frame storm window flanked by inoperable affixed shutters and in the gable peak on the right, there is a replacement, one over one vinyl frame window with plastic muntins simulating a four over four pattern. This window is flanked by paneled shutters that appear to be functional; however, they are in a fixed position. The second story has three, four over four, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows and affixed louvered shutters, one is in the turret and two are in the main block. The first floor has a full-width front porch that has been fully enclosed with floor to ceiling, 15-light doors set between the original chamfered posts. The front steps are new synthetic wood steps and there are concrete blocks sidewalls. Canvas awnings shield each of the three sections of the porch. There are half round gutters and round fluted downspouts. The south side elevation has four regularly spaced, four over four, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows and affixed louvered shutters in the main block and two, four over four, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows and affixed louvered shutters in the two-story rear extension. The first floor has two individual, four over four, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows and affixed shutters, then a bay window that has vertical board window surrounds, four over four, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows in each facet, and appliques inset in wood frame bulkheads. The rear two-story ell has two individual, four over four, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows. On the first floor there are a side door and windows in a one-story addition off the rear two-story addition. A stockade fence made it difficult to make out the details. A 3-story wood fire escape descends to this side of the house.

The north side elevation faces Hughes Street. There is a four over four wood sash window with an aluminum frame storm window and affixed louvered shutters in the turret. Further back is a four over four wood sash window and a side intersecting gable this has an aluminum frame storm window and affixed shutters. The second story has two, four over four, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows and affixed louvered shutters in the main block and an additional individual, four over four, wood sash window with aluminum frame storm windows and affixed louvered shutters in the rear two-story extension. The first floor includes an individual, four over four, wood sash window with aluminum frame storm window and affixed louvered shutters, then a small, four light casement window, then a bay window with bas relief carved wood, framed, inset panels bulkheads. The windows in the bay window are large, one over one, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows. A cornice above the bay has small brackets and jigsawn trim. There are appliquéd plaques on the frieze between the brackets. The one-story ell constructed laterally off the back has a replacement, one over

¹⁵² CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, p23, 167; *Cape May Ocean Wave*, March 20, 1862, p3; *Cape May Ocean Wave*, April 19, 1860, p 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 66

one, vinyl frame window with snap-in muntins creating a 6/6 pattern and a door that is a wood frame door with crossbuck panel in the lower section and nine divided lights in the upper section. This has an aluminum frame storm door. There are K gutters and rectangular downspouts located at the back of the building. The rear (east) elevation has a door in the gable with a wood fire escape descends down to the south side. There is a low-pitched gable on the two-story rear extension. There are three individual, four over four, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows with affixed louvered shutters on the second story. The one-story rearmost addition has a pair of small, one over one, wood sash windows and an individual 6/6 wood sash window with aluminum frame storm windows. The edge of the rear wall is right at the property line.

This house is located on the southeast corner of Ocean Street and Hughes Street. It is set back approximately 12 feet off Ocean Street and 5 feet off of Hughes Street. There is a bluestone curb, a brick and poured concrete sidewalk, a 1959 gas lamp post, mature street trees, a parking meter, and old marble hitching post with a brass ring, and a fire hydrant in front of this house. The front yard has lush perennial garden beds, foundation plantings, and a signpost with a suspended sign that has the address 115 Ocean Street on an iron bracket. An iron spear fence crosses the front and wraps to the north side along Hughes Street. There are bluestone curbs, mature street trees, and a brick sidewalk along the Hughes Street side. There is a brick landing outside of the door of the rear ell. This house is across the street from the public library. Ocean Street is a two-way street with metered parking on both sides. Hughes Street is a one-way westbound street with parking on this side.

African American Association:

In her CCA oral history, Agnes Hicks reported that as a 10-year-old she went to work with her mother for Dr. Marcy at 115 Ocean Street. She reported that her grandmother and great-grandmother had been employed there as well.¹⁵³

53. Franklin Street United Methodist Church Parsonage [712 Lafayette]

Address: 712 Lafayette Street

Block/Lot 1080/1.02

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -287591288)

Prior Status: C

Current Status: C

Description: This 1-1/2 story Bungalow is rectangular in plan, with a front-gable-roof main block that is 3 bays wide and 4 bays deep. It has a hipped-roof front porch that spans nearly the full width of the front elevation, and a small shed-roof addition supported by concrete posts at the rear (east) side of the main block. There is a wide shed-roof dormer centered on each side of the main gable roof, spanning the two center bays. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles, with wood fascia and eaves, and exposed rafter tails. There is a stuccoed ridge chimney located at the center of the main block. The walls are clad in asbestos siding. The windows typically have wood 3/1 double-hung sash with wood trim surrounds. The foundations are form stone (rusticated concrete block). At the front (west) elevation, the front porch has a concrete-block foundation, concrete deck, and a wood hipped roof supported by 4 square wood posts. It is accessed by a set of concrete steps. On the first floor, a single wood door with aluminum storm door is flanked by two paired windows under the front porch roof. There is a paired window in the front gable-end, directly above the porch roof. At the south side elevation, there is a single 3-light window at the basement level. The first floor has three paired windows and a single door located in the third bay from the front. The door is accessed by wood steps with a wood railing and has a hipped-roof door hood

¹⁵³ Rachel Dolhanczyk, *Agnes Hicks Interview*, December 7, 2023, Agnes Hicks, page 12. Corroborated by the 1920 census which records V.M.D. Marcy, a physician, at this address. "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CB1> : Fri Dec 08 02:15:42 UTC 2023), Entry for V M D Marcy and Helen W Marcy, 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 67

supported by a pair of square wood columns. At the dormer, there is a paired window and a single window. At the north side elevation, there are two 3-light windows at the basement level. The first floor has three paired windows and a single window at the main block, and a single doorway accessed by a set of wood steps at the rear shed-roof addition. At the dormer, there is a paired window and a single window. At the rear (east) elevation, there is a single basement window to the south of the shed-roof addition. Two windows flank the shed-roof addition on the first floor. There is a paired window on the second floor above the addition. The building is setback approximately 5 feet from the sidewalk on Lafayette Street, with a strip of grass between the building and the sidewalk. The north side yard is grass. There is a concrete parking area immediately to the east of the building. The asphalt parking lot for the Franklin Street Methodist Church at 727-729 Franklin is located next to the house on the south side.

Setting: Lafayette Street is 1.2 miles long and follows a northeasterly path from the commercial center of Cape May City to Cape Island Creek. As the main thoroughfare connecting the downtown commercial center with the south terminus of the Garden State Parkway, it is heavily traveled. Lot sizes, most of them less than 1/4-acre in size, are irregular and were developed in piecemeal fashion as the city expanded. The residential part of the street, roughly from Ocean Street to the north, is lined with trees and has paved sidewalks. Most houses are set back from the curb about 15' to 20' and many have a garage in the back yard. Few buildings retain their original fences of wood or wrought iron. Buildings range in date from the early 1800s to the early 21st century, but most were erected within the period of significance and include examples of historic building styles from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

This building, constructed on the northeastern portion of Franklin Street Methodist Church property, presumably served as the rectory for the congregation or as a rental property. Visual evidence suggests its dates to the 1920s, and it first appears on the 1909 Sanborn map corrected to 1932, with a garage to the rear (southeast) that no longer survives. This property is a contributing property in the historic district because it retains integrity and key character-defining historic features, such as original 3-over-1 windows and trim, exposed rafter tails, original porch, and form stone/concrete block base.

African American Association:

This building served as the parsonage for Franklin Street ME Church. According to Mildred Payne Moore, the parsonage was built in the late 1920s; the church held regular teas here and for several years it was the headquarters for the CCA.¹⁵⁴

54. Washington Inn/Irving House

Address: 801 Washington Street

Block/Lot: 1092/25

Prior Survey: City of Cape May Historic District – Intensive-Level Survey 2007 (ID# 1079202843)

Prior Status: Key

Current Status:

Key

Description: Built ca. 1845, this 2 ½ -story, side gabled house is comprised of a 5-bay wide main block I-house (1-room deep) with a center hall/double parlor plan; the main block is Federal in style, but was re-worked ca. 1920-30 in the Colonial Revival style and given dormers with paired windows, a new front porch with balustrade around the top, and some fenestration changes. The building has a mélange of later 2- and 1-story additions to the rear (west elevation) and on the north (side) elevation. The roof is covered with what appear to be asphalt shingles (red in color) and the main block is covered with wood clapboard, some of which appear to be original or at least mid- to late 19th century. Brick interior end wall brick chimneys emerge at both ends of the gable roof. The gable

¹⁵⁴ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, (Moore, 2002), p 65.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 68

ridge ends of the main block, both north and south, have a finial-like "ornament" of either wood or metal that may date to ca. 1920-30. A Colonial Revival style front porch on the façade (east elevation), probably added in the early 1900s, is supported by round columns in between which is a balustrade of square balusters. The porch wraps around both the north and south sides of the main block; it is enclosed on the first floor except for an 8-10' wide portion in front of the front door. Windows on the enclosed porch are 12-light single wood sash and the porch roof is topped by a balustrade of square half-columns and square balusters. The porch roof is accessed by a door in the center bay on the second floor of the façade (east elevation). A small addition with a flat roof and single sash windows is placed against the south side of the main block over the front porch. Windows on the second floor of the main block and in the south gable end are 6/6 double-hung wood sash that may be original. Windows on the first floor of the façade are 9/6 double-hung wood sash that appear to be original; they have pintels for shutters that are no longer hanging. Windows elsewhere are multi-light diamond sash on the north and south (side) elevations that appears to date to the 20th century, or 1/1 double-hung wood sash. The front door appears to date to ca. 1920 and consists of a large glass panel under which is a sunk panel with wood trim and a letter slot. The door has a transom and sidelights of clear leaded glass set in various diamond shapes; all appear to be original to the house's construction ca. 1845. The rear (west) ell, located at the south end of the main block, also has two dormers that are identical to those on the main block. The rear ell may have been built concurrent with the main block. The south side of the rear ell section is fronted by what may have been a 1-story porch, but is now enclosed and covered with asbestos shingles. It has a triple window of diamond panes topped with a wood pediment. Below the window are three diamond-shapes in the asbestos shingles. Later additions to the rear and north side appear to date from the mid to late 20th centuries and appear to provide kitchen and service areas in conjunction with the building's present use as a restaurant.

Interior Description: The house is being used as a restaurant (the Washington Inn) and has served in that capacity for several decades. As such, it has been altered from its original historic appearance. The front door leads into a small hall. The south parlor has been enlarged from its original configuration by removing the wall separating it from the rear parlor. It now serves as a bar and lounge; its fireplace on the south wall has been entirely removed. Trim around the windows and doors consists of wide moldings with bulls-eye corner blocks and probably dates to the turn of the last century. A door on the south wall of the parlor leads to the south half of the enclosed front porch. Observed here are the original clapboard exterior walls (un-beaded) along with beaded edge corner boards at the building's southeast corner. The north parlor does retain its original fireplace (and if not original is historically appropriate) and fireplace cupboards. The mantel consists of fluted columns supporting a molded entablature and shelf. It appears to be original and is similar to numerous mantels of the same general style and proportion found elsewhere in the county and which date from ca. 1790 to ca. 1830. The brick fireplace is too small for cooking but adequate for heating and has a keystone lintel. Another fireplace is located in the room behind (to the west) of the center hall in what was probably a rear ell originally. It is not known if the fireplace is original to the house or not. It appears to have been re-worked from its original appearance with its fireplace opening being greatly reduced in size. Its mantel, probably made in the early to mid-1800s, is of a design not typically seen in the county: it features reeded columns supporting a broadened tabature decorated with rectangular and diamond-shaped sunk panels. A row of dentils lines the bottom edge of the molded cornice. A "garden room" is located behind the front porch on the north side of the main block. It has exposed joists, a vaulted ceiling, and windows at the north end topped with diamond-shaped panes of glass. To the west is a large section filled with plants and segregated from the dining area. Part of the basement has been converted into a wine cellar and a small banquet room. Rooms closed to the public were not examined.

African American Association:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 69

During the summertime in the mid-1940s, 16-year-old Bernice Howard Gordon worked for Mrs. Hand as a pantry girl, who was the owner of Washington Inn at the time.¹⁵⁵

55. 511-513 Broad Street [511 Broad St] & [513 Broad St]

Address: 511-513 Broad Street

Block/Lot: 1054/15&14.02

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -120531547; -1431578489)

Prior Status: NC

Current Status: C

Description: This 1 1/2-story, vernacular Victorian-period, duplex residence is 6-bays wide and has a 3-bay deep main block with a shallow front-gable roof and a steeper false-gable. It has a shallow hip-roof porch spanning the full width of the front (southeast) elevation, and a shed-roof rear addition spanning the full width of the rear (northwest) elevation. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles, and the walls are clad in wood clapboard. The windows generally have 1/1 wood sash with wood trim. The roof fascia is wood, with aluminum soffits. The foundations are concrete blocks. The front porch has five wood posts and a wood fascia board that is scalloped along the front (southeast) elevation. The porch deck is a concrete slab on-grade. At the front (southeast) elevation, the first floor includes a single wood door with a single glazed panel at each of the outer bays, accessed by a set of wood steps. There are four windows in the remaining bays. The second floor includes two windows with wall-applied louvered shutters in the front gable-end. At the northeast side elevation, there are two vent openings at the foundation level. The first floor includes three windows at the main block and a tripartite window at the rear addition. The second floor includes three windows on the main block. At the northeast side elevation, there are two vent openings at the foundation level. The first floor includes two windows at the main block and a tripartite window at the rear addition. The second floor includes three windows in the main block. At the rear (northwest) elevation, there are two vent openings at the foundation level. The first floor includes two single wood doors at the center of the duplex, accessed by three sets of wood steps and a combined patio. The doors are flanked by two four-part windows. The second floor includes two windows in the rear gable-end. There are two woodsheds on the property, one in the rear yard of each unit. The building is set back approximately 15' from the sidewalk on Broad Street. There is a concrete driveway on each side of the duplex. The front yard is grass, with a single tree at the southwest corner. The rear yard is grass with a flagstone patio and wood-plank walkways and is enclosed by a wood fence. There is a large tree in the rear yard.

Additional Information: Visual evidence indicates that the building has undergone an extensive campaign of alteration recently, with the replacement of all exterior windows and cladding materials.

African American Association:

In 1940, 511 (then called 509) was rented by James W. Finnamin, who was employed as a laborer in road construction. He lived here with his wife, Cora, who was employed as a cook for a private family. In 1940, 513 Broad Street (then called 511) was rented by Paul Major, who was employed as a laborer for the Water Department. He lived here with his wife, Bertha, who was employed as a maid for a private family.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁵ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, (Gordon, 2003), p 95; "Washington Inn History," Washington Inn, accessed December 12, 2023, <https://washingtoninn.com/history.php>.

¹⁵⁶ "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-HQ6> : Tue Nov 28 17:28:45 UTC 2023), Entry for James W Finnamin and Cora Finnamin, 1940; "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-HQ8> : Tue Nov 28 17:28:44 UTC 2023), Entry for Paul Major and Bertha Major, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 70

56. US Post Office – Cape May [700 Washington Street]

Address: 700 Washington Street

Block/Lot: 1078/1

Prior Survey: Cape May Intensive Level Architectural Survey 2008 (ID# -1217077547)

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: This is a one-story, six bay, rectangular plan, brick building with a flat roof constructed in 1938. It was designed by architect William Dewey Foster and built under the supervision of architect Louis A. Simon. This is a brick building with wood pilasters flanking paneled bays that have very large, 12/12, wood sash windows. There are five bays on the right and one separated bay on the left. A broad cornice band with the words United States Post Office also has geometric trim with clustered triangle motifs. The main entryway has a double leaf, wood frame door with each leaf having a framed inset panel in the lower section and a rectangular beveled light in the top section. This is surmounted by a 12-light transom. It is flanked by pilasters, which support a header with the words Cape May New Jersey and the zip code 08204. There is a poured concrete watercourse. The front steps are granite steps with low granite sidewalls that support an iron fence with a repeated geometric pattern of four triangles meeting in the center across the length of the railing. There are also two geometric versions of the 1959 gas streetlamps located at the top points of the sidewalls. A center railing has the same motifs. The four-bay, west side elevation has the same 12/12 wood sash windows set within paneled and pilasters windows surrounds. There are also basement windows that have grates over them. The poured concrete steps leading to the basement level have the same type of metal railings with geometric motifs. The rear south elevation has many loading docks and smaller, 6/6, wood sash windows. The east side elevation was very difficult to see due to a vegetative screen along the east property boundary.

Setting: This building is located on a large corner lot set between Washington Street and Franklin Street to the west and Corgie Street to the south. There are many mature sycamore trees around the perimeter of the property. The Washington Street side has brick walkways, sidewalks, planting beds, a bike rack and benches, a flagpole and foundation plantings. The Franklin Street side has a bluestone curb, brick sidewalks and walkways, a poured concrete driveway apron and mature street trees. The Corgie Street side has a bluestone curb, brick sidewalk, and poured concrete driveway aprons. To the east is the large property of The Southern Mansion. There is a dense vegetative screen along the east property boundary. Washington Street is a very busy two-way street and there are several 15-minute parking spots in front of this building. Franklin Street is a narrow two-way street and there are no parking zones on either side of the street. Corgie Street is a one-way street eastbound and there is no parking on Corgie Street.

African American Association:

In 1940, Clarence N Bose (see p7-37) and William Major were both employed as janitors at the post office.¹⁵⁷

57. 814 Corgie Street

Address: 814 Corgie Street

Block/Lot: 1090/5

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# -1108987423)

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

¹⁵⁷ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-SD9> : Wed Nov 22 11:40:44 UTC 2023), Entry for Clarence N Bose and Emily F Bose, 1940; "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-74G> : Tue Nov 28 16:49:06 UTC 2023), Entry for William Major and Hannah Major, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 71

Description: The main block of this 1-1/2-story, asymmetrical-plan, framed side-gabled bungalow style residence is 3 bays wide and 4 bays deep. The primary entrance is located under a projected gabled entrance porch on the front (southeast) elevation on Page Street. The brick porch is elevated approximately 6 feet above grade. A shallow gable oriel supported by wood posts is centered under the gable on the southwest side. Two large gable-roof dormers are located on the southeast and northwest sides of the ridge. A 1-story gable-roof addition is located at the northwest corner of the main block. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and has extended aluminum eaves. Exterior brick chimneys are located at both the northeast and southwest elevations and a stuccoed chimney is located at the rear. The walls are clad in vinyl siding with vinyl trim. The foundation is historic rusticated concrete block that has been painted. The windows are typically vinyl, 1/1 double-hung, replacement windows with vinyl trim surrounds and aluminum screens. The front (southeast) elevation dormer includes a pair of 1/1 windows. The first floor includes a central multi-light door and is flanked by paired 1/1 windows. The entrance porch is accessed by brick steps with brick piers. The front elevation of the 1-story addition includes a 2-part, sliding, vinyl window. The northeast elevation includes a pair of 1/1 windows on the second floor. The first floor includes a pair of 1/1 windows, 3 single-light, casement windows, and a 1/1 window. At the basement, the main block includes two added glass-block windows and the 1-story rear volume includes a single glass-block window. The northwest elevation includes a pair of 1/1 windows in the dormer and a sliding window and multi-light door on the first floor. An added raised wood deck with wood railing is located at the rear and includes wood stairs. The rear of the 1-story rear volume includes a 2-part, sliding vinyl window. The southeast elevation includes 2, 1/1 windows on the second floor. The first floor includes two pairs of 1/1 windows, a 2-part sliding vinyl window, and a pair of 1/1 windows at the oriel. The basement includes two added glass-block windows and a multi-light wood door flanked by single-light windows. The house is set back several yards from Corgie Street and faces Page Street. A paved driveway is located off Page Street to the southwest of the house and another paved driveway is located on Corgie Street that accesses the rear of the house. The side and rear yards consist of a lawn with several large trees and shrubs along the side of the house. A gable-roof garage is located at the end of the driveway on Page Street.

Setting: Corgie Street is a three-block residential street that runs northeast from Franklin Street to Madison Avenue. The street is lined mostly with houses that range in date from the last quarter of the 19th century to the late 20th century and have setbacks of approximately 15-20 feet from the sidewalk. Page Street is a short three-block long residential street that runs northeast from Franklin Street and extends into a dead end after Jefferson Street. It provides access to the interior of the block between Corgie Street and Columbia Avenue.

Additional Information: Visual evidence indicates the relatively recent recladding of the exterior with vinyl retains integrity and key character-defining historic features, such as historic massing and fenestration patterns and the rusticated concrete block foundation.

African American Association:

In 1940, 814 Corgie Street was owned by Noah B Bryan, who was listed as having no occupation. He lived here with his wife, Gussie C, who was also listed as having no occupation.¹⁵⁸

58. 802 Queen Street

Address: 802 Queen Street

Block/Lot: 1091/12

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2013 (ID# -1601405637)

Prior Status: NC Current Status: C

¹⁵⁸ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-11Z> : Tue Nov 28 08:09:35 UTC 2023), Entry for Noah B Bryan and Gussie C Bryan, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 72

Justification: Despite the alterations, this building contributes because it is one was used as a residence by the African American community.

Description: This 1 ½-story, wood-framed residence is oriented towards Corgie Street and has been greatly modified to include Victorian-period detailing. The main block has a side-gable roof and is 3-bays wide and 1-bays deep. A 1 ½-story, 1-bay deep intersecting, gable-roof ell is located to the north facing Queen Street, and includes a 1-story, shed-roof porch enclosure. A 2-story ell is located at the south elevation. A low-sloped roof spans between the gable roofs. The visible portions of the roof are covered in asphalt shingles and include box cornices. The walls are clad in wood clapboard siding with exception to the gables, which are clad in wood, scalloped shingles. The foundation of the main block is stuccoed. The enclosed porch has brick piers with lattice infill. The windows typically have vinyl 6/6 double-hung with wood surrounds. The (front) east elevation includes two intersecting gable-roof dormers with 6/6 windows. The first floor includes two 6/6 windows flanking a central 9-light entry door. The entrance porch is covered by a pedimented gable roof supported by chamfered wood posts with scalloped shingles in the gable-end. The porch is accessed by wood steps with a square wood railing with chamfered newel posts. The north elevation facing Queen Street includes a 6/6 window gable-end window in the east block and a 6/6 window in the intersecting gable to the west dormer. The first floor includes a 6/6 window below in the east block. The enclosed porch includes a 15-light wood door flanked by pairs of 10-light wood casement windows with applied trim forming panels below. Similar paired 10-light windows are also found on the east and west elevation of the projecting porch enclosure. The entrance is accessed by a central landing with flanking wood steps with a square wood railing with chamfered newel posts. The west (rear) elevation includes a 6/6 window in each of the two intersecting gables. The first floor includes three 4/4 windows. The second floor of the south elevation includes a 6/6 gable-end window to the east and 4/4 window to the west. The first floor includes a 4/4 window, a single-light vinyl window and a 9-light wood door with wood screen accessed by wood stairs with a wood railing. The house is set back approximately 6 feet from Queen Street and is located on the corner of Queen Street and Corgie Street. A large tree is located at the corner of the front lawn and bushes are planted around the front of the house. A concrete pathway surrounds the rear of the house and provides access to a pre-manufactured shed at the rear.

Setting: Queen Street was historically a twelve-block long residential street that runs northwest from Beach Avenue, turning northwest at Wenonah Street and continuing to Lafayette Street. Currently, the start and ends are the same but is now blocked off between Wenonah Avenue and Corgie Street and becomes a one-way street from Corgie Street to Lafayette.

African American Association:

In 1940, 802 Queen Street was owned by Minnie R. Jackson, who was listed as having no occupation. She lived here with her 44-year-old daughter, Marjorie Norton, who was employed as a work-out houseworker, and with her 4-year-old grandson, Robinson Norton.¹⁵⁹

Though outside the period of significance, Jackson, her daughter, and her grandson continued to live here into the 1950s.¹⁶⁰

59. (Cap't Mey's Inn B & B) [202 Ocean Street]

¹⁵⁹ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-S82> : Tue Nov 28 16:43:29 UTC 2023), Entry for Minnie R Jackson and Marjorie Norton, 1940.

¹⁶⁰ "United States 1950 Census", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6F9G-H5JR> : Fri Oct 06 15:50:37 UTC 2023), Entry for Minie R Jackson and Margaret M Norton, 15 April 1950.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 73

Address: 202 Ocean Street

Block/Lot: 1049/4

Prior Survey: Cape May Intensive Level Architectural Survey 2008 (ID# 1453951404)

Prior Status: C **Current Status:** C

Description: This is a grand, 2½-story, 3-bay, center hall, Colonial Revival style house with a hip roof built around the turn of the 20th-century. The roof is sheathed with architectural dimensional asphalt shingles and punctured by two internal and one external corbelled brick chimneys. The broad overhanging eaves have a crown molding, half round gutters, and round fluted downspouts. The exterior is wood clapboard butting up against corner boards. There are dormers on each slope of the hipped roof with paired, six over one, wood sash windows that have the horizontal muntins and aluminum frame storm windows. The second floor has an individual, six over one, wood sash window with an aluminum storm window and functional louvered wood shutters, then a centered bay window with six over one wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows, then an individual six over one wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows and louvered shutters on hinges. The first-floor façade has bay windows flanking the centered main entryway. The bay window has six over one wood sash windows with horizontal muntins and aluminum frame storm windows in each facet. The main door is a wood frame door with three horizontal raised panels in the bottom section a row of carved trim above the panels and a large, beveled glass light in the top. There is a new, period appropriate, storm door with Plexiglas panels. The porch elements include a pediment over the main staircase, the original Tuscan columns, a molded top rail, and a bottom rail incised horizontally on the sides, turned balusters, and the old ceiling boards. There is newer wood flooring and a suspended light constructed from brass and glass. There are canvas valences and curtains and suspended lattice panels on the north side of the porch. This house was built on brick piers foundation and there are framed lattice panels between the piers. The north side elevation has a dormer with paired, six over one, wood sash windows that have aluminum frame storm windows. There is a side wall corbelled brick chimney. The second floor has one six over one wood sash window with aluminum storms and louvered shutters, then a projecting bathroom that has frosted glass windows with this same horizontal muntins in a three over one configuration, then an individual six over one wood sash window with aluminum frame storm window. The first floor has fixed, six-light windows with Plexiglas storm windows flanking the exterior brick wall chimney, then a projecting section further back with a bay window that has a one over one wood sash window with diamond pattern, leaded stained-glass windows in both sashes on each of the three facets, then there's a rear addition with a descending wood staircase and an outdoor shower stall. The south side elevation on Hughes Street has a hip dormer with a six over one wood sash window with aluminum frame storm windows. The second story from front to back has: an individual six over one wood sash window with aluminum frame storm window and hinged but ineffectively small shutters; then an oriel bay window with six over one wood sash windows and aluminum frame storm windows and non-functional louvered shutters, then two, six-light casement windows with frosted glass. The first-floor fenestration from front to back has: an individual, six over one, wood sash window with wood panel shutters that are affixed to the wall at the end of the wrapped porch; an old wood door with three inset panels in the lower section and chicken wire embedded glass in the top section; then an individual, six over one, wood sash window with aluminum frame storm windows and inoperable panel shutters; then a pair of four over one wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows and inoperable shutters. The rear porch has been enclosed with banks of aluminum frame windows and there is a modern aluminum frame storm door as part of the enclosure. There are new aluminum frame slider windows in the basement on this side. The rear (west) elevation has a hip dormer with a six over one wood sash window and a metal steel plate door located beneath that and a wood fire escape that descends from the doorway down toward the north side yard. There are two original, six over one, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows and a small four-light casement window located in the back porch enclosure. There are framed lattice panels beneath the rear porch enclosure and a contemporary two-sided staircase located at the back door.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 74

Setting: This building is located on a large corner lot at the northwest corner of Ocean and Hughes Streets. The building is set back approximately six feet off both streets. There is a low poured concrete wall across the front creating raised planting beds. Carved lions on brick pedestals flank the main staircase. There are foundation plantings, a new brick sidewalk, a bluestone curb, a granite stepping stone and an iron, horse head hitching post in front, and a young street tree on the corner. A large asphalt parking area is located on the lot north of the house (Lot 3) but is not part of this property. There is a low brick wall with a lattice fence delineating the property boundary. There's a brick walkway along the north side of the house. On the west rear side there is a yard with a brick patio, a vertical board and lattice fence, and a low poured concrete wall that defines the boundary between this property and the neighboring property on Hughes Street. The Hughes Street south side has a brick sidewalk, parking meters, mature street trees, and a poured concrete curb. There is one parking spot at the rear porch with a poured concrete driveway apron on Hughes Street. Across Hughes Street is the public library.

African American Association:

Mary Anderson, grandmother of Lynda Towns worked for Dr. Franklin Hughes, father of Dr. Humphrey Hughes.¹⁶¹

In 1940, Ella White was living at 202 Ocean Street, as a hired hand. She was employed as a cook for the family.¹⁶²

60. 529-531 Elmira Street

Address: 529-531 Elmira Street

Block/Lot: 1061/11

Prior Survey: Phase I And II Cultural Resource Investigation Atlantic City Electric Proposed Substation Expansion, City of Cape May 2020 (ID# 589742382)

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: This house, built between 1890 and 1909, contributes to the significance of the Cape May Historic District. This 2-story, T-plan, shallow-pitch, side gable-roofed, frame, wood clapboard-clad residence on a stuccoed foundation is 6 bays wide and 4 bays deep. A shed-roof porch spans the front (southwest) elevation. The main, T-plan volume is backed on the northeast by a 1-story, shed-roofed rear ell, which is backed in turn by an added deck. An inside, stuccoed, ridge chimney is found near the rear (northeast) wall of the main volume. The roofs throughout are clad in asphalt shingle and include deep overhanging eaves encased in vinyl. Photovoltaic panels span the southwest slope of the main roof. The windows typically have vinyl, 1/1, double-hung sash with vinyl surrounds. The windows at the second-floor front (southwest) elevation and side elevations of the front portion of the main volume have applied louvered shutters. The front porch includes unpainted, replaced, square-section posts with a replaced railing and applied decorative corner brackets. The underside of the porch is screened with unpainted, wood diagonal lattice. The formerly symmetrical double house configuration is discernible in the pattern of openings at the front façade (south elevation), with the main entrance off-center to the northwest presumably corresponding to the historic entrance to 531 Elmira Street. The first floor is lit by 2 single windows in the outside bays, with an added, pivoting, octagonal window to the southeast of the entrance, which includes a replace, multi-light door. The second floor is lit by 4 windows. The northwest and southeast, side elevations are also symmetrically fenestrated, with single windows on the first and second floor and side doors in the southwestern bay adjacent to the return in the T-plan of the main volume. The rear (northeast) elevation is lit on the second floor by 2 windows in the main volume, with a louvered vent at the peak

¹⁶¹Lynda Towns to Rachel Dolhanczyk, *Dr Hughes*, December 12, 2023.

¹⁶²"United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-9P2> : Tue Nov 28 17:28:30 UTC 2023), Entry for Warren D Robbins and Clara Robbins, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 75

of the gable. Symmetrically placed rear doors access the deck. A wood, exterior shower enclosure is located to the southeast of the northwestern rear door. A manufactured, front gable-roofed, vinyl shed is located in the rear yard.

Setting: Elmira Street runs northwest from the southwestern end of Lafayette Street in Cape May's commercial district, leading across Island Creek where it becomes Leaming Avenue and continuing into West Cape May. The street is lined mostly with houses that range in date from the last quarter of the nineteenth to the late twentieth century.

Additional Information: This house retains key character-defining historic features such as its historic massing, fenestration patterns, and front porch.

African American Association:

In 1940, 529-31 Elmira Street was rented by Irene C Hunt and Anna Wolford. Irene, who was employed as a housekeeper for a private family, lived at 529 with her friend, Cassandra Turner, who was listed as having no occupation. Anna, who was employed as a work-out houseworker lived at 531 with her 12-year-old daughter Florence M, and her cousin James G Shelton, who was employed as a dishwasher at a hotel.¹⁶³

61. 605 Broad Street

Address: 605 Broad Street

Block/Lot: 1061/1

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2015 (ID# -807515315)

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: The house at 605 Broad Street, built ca. 1875-80 and moved to this location from an unknown previous site ca. 1970-1987, contributes to the significance of the Cape May Historic District. According to oral history reports, the house was moved from diagonally across the street (518 Broad Street). Looking at Sanborn maps and historic aerials, it seems the building currently at 518 Broad Street shares the same footprint, massing, size, and material as the building historically at 605 Broad Street.¹⁶⁴

This 2 ½-story, frame, vinyl siding-clad, front gable-roofed, vernacular Gothic Revival-style residence on a parged foundation is 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep. The main volume is fronted on the south by a full-width, shed-roofed front porch and backed by a 1-story, full-width rear el. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles and has overhanging eaves and a box cornice with gable-end returns. With the exception of a historic, wood, 2/2, lancet-arch, double-hung window with wood surrounds in the front gable end, windows throughout have vinyl, 1/1, double-hung sash with wood surrounds. The front (south) elevation includes a wood door with applied moldings in the westernmost bay, with single windows in the 2 eastern bays on the first and second floors. The front porch includes square-section, wood posts, has flat jigsaw-cut brackets and added balusters, and is accessed by wood

¹⁶³ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45F-1W2> : Tue Nov 28 17:49:42 UTC 2023), Entry for Irene C Hunt and Cassandra Turner, 1940; "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-SZS> : Tue Nov 28 17:49:48 UTC 2023), Entry for Anna Wolford and Florence M Wolford, 1940.

¹⁶⁴ *Historic Aerials of Broad Street in Cape May City, New Jersey from, 1933, 1956, 1963, 1970, 1984, and 1987.. Historic Aerials by NETRONLINE.* NETRONLINE. Accessed December 12, 2023. <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer/>; *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey.* Sanborn Map Company, - 1909: Vol. 4, 1909, 1909. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_007/; *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey.* Sanborn Map Company, - Jun 1945: Vol. 4, 1945. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_008/.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 76

steps with simple wood handrails in the westernmost bay. The underside of the porch is screened with painted, wood lattice. The west elevation is lit in the main volume by single windows on both floors in the northern bay and by an additional window in the rear ell. The east elevation of the main is lit by 2 windows on both floors. A rear entrance is located in the ell on this elevation and is fronted by a straight, poured-in-place concrete stair with a wrought iron railing. The ell is lit by a single window to the north of the door. The rear (north) elevation includes 2 small, casement windows at the attic level and a single window on the second floor in the main volume. A wood shower enclosure is located on the eastern side of the rear ell.

Setting: Broad Street is a mostly residential street that runs northeast-southwest, from St. John Street at the north to Bank Street at the south. The street developed slowly after the mid-nineteenth century, with a concentration of historic buildings south of the railroad tracks that bisect the street nearly in half. The north end of the street has primarily 2-story apartment buildings erected in the last quarter of the twentieth century.

Additional Information: The house's original location and date of construction is unknown, although visual evidence suggests that it was built ca. 1875-80 somewhere else in Cape May and moved to this location. In spite of its relocation, the house retains its historic form, mass and details including the lancet arch window at the gable end, the box cornice with gable-end returns and the full-width front porch.

African American Association:

According to oral history, the building currently at 605 Broad Street was originally at 518 Broad Street (diagonally across the street). Though outside the period of significance, in 1950, 518 Broad Street was occupied by George Applegate, who was employed as a gulf oil tanker cook. He lived here with his wife, Nettie, who is listed as having no occupation, his 11-year-old niece Dorothy Mae, and his 17-year-old niece Mabel Johnson. The census indicates that lived here in 1949 as well.¹⁶⁵

62. 517 Broad Street

Address: 517 Broad Street

Block/Lot: 1054/13&14.01

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# 1073374567)

Prior Status: C

Current Status: C

Description: This 3-story, shallow hipped-roofed, Italianate duplex residence is 4-bays wide and 3-bays deep. A 2-story, 2-bay deep, flat-roof ell spans the rear (northwest) elevation. A shed-roof porch extends across the front (southeast) elevation and wraps half of the flanking side elevation. The walls are clad with clapboard siding and are topped by a plain wood frieze and a deep extended eave with paired wood decorative brackets. The foundation is stuccoed. The windows typically have replacement wood 2/2 double-hung sash with wood surrounds. The front (southeast) elevation has two paired windows on the second and third floors. The first floor includes two central wood paneled doors topped by 2-light transoms. The entry doors are flanked by windows. The wrapping porch has tapered turned wood columns and a jigsaw-cut balustrade and a central wood stair flanked by matching handrails. The area below the porch is concealed by lattice. The northeast side elevation has four windows on each the second and third floors of the main block and three windows at the first floor. The rear ell is topped by a wood deck with a 1" square railing. The first floor has a 4-light wood paneled door with a 2-light transom window flanked by double-hung windows. A hipped roof entrance porch has turned wood columns, a central wood stair and a jigsaw-cut railing and handrail. The southwest side elevation has four windows on each the second and third floors of the main block and three windows at the first floor. The rear ell has two second

¹⁶⁵ "United States 1950 Census", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6F9R-GT5L> : Fri Oct 06 18:49:46 UTC 2023), Entry for George Applegate and Nettie Applegate, 1 May 1950.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 77

floor windows at the second floor, a paired window and secondary door leading to a wood deck with a stair down to grade. The rear (northwest) elevation has two central windows flanked by doors leading to the roof deck. The rear (northwest) side elevation of the ell has two paired and one single second floor window and two paired first floor windows. This duplex is located at the corner of Broad and Elmira. The house is set back approximately 15 feet from the sidewalk. A brick parking area is located at the southwest side of the house and another northeast of the house with access from Elmira. Foundation plantings surround the house, with a few large trees at the front and rear yards. The remainder of the parcel is largely covered with a grass lawn.

Setting: Broad Street is a mostly residential street that runs roughly north to south, from St. John Street at the north to Bank Street at the south. The street developed slowly after the mid-19th century, with the concentration of historic buildings south of the railroad tracks that bisect the street nearly in half. The north end of the street has primarily 2-story apartment buildings erected in the last quarter of the 20th century. Elmira Street runs roughly from west to east, ending at Lafayette Street (to the east) which represents the beginning of the commercial district. The street is lined mostly with houses that range in date from the last quarter of the 19th century to the late 20th century.

Additional Information: The rear ell may have been expanded by this date as well, but remained at one story. Visual evidence suggests that the building was re-clad, the windows replaced, and anachronistic eave brackets were added as part of this renovation. This property, despite alterations, retains integrity and character-defining historic features, such as historic massing of the main block and front porch, Colonial Revival porch columns which are appropriate to the period of construction. Though it exists as 517 Broad today, the building was addressed as 515 on Sanborn maps. On census records both 515 and 517 Broad Street appear. This building is divided into two apartments, so it is believed that addresses referred to as both 515 and 517 Broad Street were associated with this building.¹⁶⁶

African American Association:

In 1940, 515 Broad Street was rented by Narcissa Hight, who was employed as a works-out housekeeper.¹⁶⁷

In 1940, 517 Broad Street was rented by Albert J Briscoe, who was employed as a W.P.A. fire line laborer. He lived here with his wife Irene, who was employed as a houseworker for private homes, and with his children, 15-year-old daughter Olga M, 10-year-old daughter Gloria F, 9-year-old son, Donald A, 7-year-old son Walter E, 4-year-old daughter Mary E, and 2-year-old daughter Clarabel.¹⁶⁸

63. 311 Mansion Street

Address: 311 Mansion Street

Block/Lot: 1039/10.03

Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# 1435150579)

Prior Status: NC

Current Status: C

¹⁶⁶ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey*. Sanborn Map Company, - 1909: Vol. 4, 1909, 1909. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_007/; *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey*. Sanborn Map Company, - Jun 1945: Vol. 4, 1945. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_008/.

¹⁶⁷ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-MWN> : Tue Nov 28 17:42:45 UTC 2023), Entry for Narcissa Hight, 1940.

¹⁶⁸ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-M3J> : Tue Nov 28 16:23:13 UTC 2023), Entry for Albert J Briscoe and Irene Briscoe, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 78

Justification: Oral history reports state that the house was moved from its location at 315 Mansion Street to 311 Mansion Street, where it stands today, so that Collier's Liquors could put in a driveway.¹⁶⁹

Description: This building is a 2 ½ story restaurant, originally built as a residence. It has a front facing gable and sits on a concrete foundation. It is two bays wide by three bays deep. In the rear, there is a single story three-bay-wide by two-bay-deep, a hipped roof addition; its mechanical equipment is encased by balustrades. The building is clad in horizontal siding. The roofs of the building are standing metal seam. The gable roof has overhanging boxed eaves and is adorned with gingerbread trim vergeboard. Its gable peaks are punctuated with decorative pinnacles. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl replacements with simple window surrounds, sills, lintels, and louvered shutters. On the façade, there is a single story, enclosed, wrap-around porch. The porch extends beyond the plane of the building eastward, accommodating additional space and an ADA ramp on the rear of the porch. The porch has a hipped roof with an intersecting gable above the front entrance; the gable has a scroll cutout. Beneath it is a simple fascia and frieze supported by posts, which have simple balustrades and scrolled bracket arches between. The porch is enclosed with a series of vinyl siding and large three pane windows. The porch sits on brick piers; lattice panels situated between each. The entrance is accessed via seven steps. Brick pavers lead from the sidewalk to the porch front steps. The front porch entrance is covered with an awning that extends to the sidewalk.

On the façade (SE), there is a four-pane casement window with typical window surround, lintel, sill, and shutters in the gable. On the second level, there are three typical windows. On the side (NE) elevation, there is a single typical window on the second level adjacent to the restaurant and theme signage. On the first level, there are three typical windows. The foundation on this side is covered by the ramp, but it appears to have vents. The ramp is made of wood and has a simple railing; it sits on wooden posts with lattice panels between. There are no openings on this elevation of the rear addition. On the rear (NW) elevation, there is a four-pane window in the gable with typical window surround, lintel, sill, and shutters. The rear of the porch has a 15-pane door and a single pane window. On the rear addition, there are two doors on the west end: a paneled door with a simple door surround, and a detached transom opening in-filled with a lattice panel above; and a large single pane and paneled door with simple door surround, a detached awning transom window and louvered vent above. On the side (SW) elevation, there is an opening infilled with a lattice panel on the rear addition. The foundation also has a lattice-panel infilled opening, two small vents, and drainage pipes.

This building is located at the corner of Mansion Street and Chestnut Street. The building is set back approximately 10' from the sidewalk of Mansion Street. The curb of Chestnut Street is immediately adjacent to the southwest side of the building. There is a brick walkway along the front of the property, leading to the front steps, flanked by two areas enclosed with a metal fence. The building is surrounded by an asphalt parking area. There is a small area of shrubbery and a brick-paved area adjacent to a wheelchair-access ramp on the northeast side of the building.

Setting: Mansion Street runs for a single block between Perry Street and Jackson Street. It is a wide right-of-way, with the traffic in each direction divided by a grass median and two rows of parallel parking. The southeast side of the street consists of the rear of commercial properties along Washington Street Mall.

African American Association:

¹⁶⁹ Pip Campbell, *Eulalia Vance Art Hair School PLUS Mansion Street Woolford House plus Bars*, December 15, 2023.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 79

In 1940, 315 Mansion Street (moved to its current location on 315) was rented by Arthur Dillion, who was employed as a road construction laborer. He lived here with his wife, Mildred, who was employed as a private family maid.¹⁷⁰

This was the house of Anna Woolford, who in 1967 saved her home from demolition during the Urban Renewal period in Cape May. According to an article, Ms. Woolford was awarded a grant to rehabilitate the house, which had been spared from demolition.¹⁷¹

Though outside the period of significance, in 1950, 315 Mansion Street was occupied by Anna Woolford, who was listed as having no occupation. She lived here with lodger Alfred Welsh, who was employed as a waiter at Penn University. The census also states Anna was living at 315 Mansion Street in 1949.¹⁷²

64. Charlie's Bar (Collier's Liquors) [202-216 Jackson Street]

Address: 202-216 Jackson Street

Block/Lot: 1039/10.02

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -1247195067)

Prior Status: NC Current Status: C

Justification: Despite the alterations, this building contributes because it is one of the few extant buildings used for leisure by African Americans.

Description: This 1-story side-gable-roof commercial building is a single block, with a chamfered corner at the east corner of the structure. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal, with a small overhang at the front (northeast) elevation. At the front (northeast) elevation, the walls are clad in wood clapboard with a stucco foundation. The southeast half includes an 8-light wood storefront window in a projecting bay, with a brick base. There are two metal-and-glass doors at the center of the structure, and a wood-trimmed recess containing an ATM machine near the northwest half of the elevation. There is a wood paneled frieze below a projecting wood cornice. Rows of exterior light fixtures are attached to the cornice. There are two louvered vents within the frieze above the ATM machine. The northwest side elevation is stuccoed, with a flat wood cornice at the roofline. At the southeast side elevation, the walls are clad in wood clapboard. On the first floor, there is a projecting 3-sided 6-light wood bay window with brick foundations at the northeast side. The second floor includes two 1/1 windows with wood awnings. There is a projecting wood cornice. At the rear (southwest) elevation, the walls are stuccoed. There is a 1-light vinyl casement window, a boarded-up window opening, and a metal door. The property is located at the corner of Jackson Street and Mansion Street. The building is immediately adjacent to the sidewalk. There is a metal bike rack on the Jackson Street sidewalk. The northwest and southwest sides of the building are surrounded by an asphalt parking lot. There are two fenced-in areas at the rear (southwest) side of the building, as well as two large ice coolers. There is a small brick planter with a single shrub at the northwest corner of the building.

Setting: Jackson Street is less than 1/2 mile long, curving from the intersection of Perry Street and West Perry Street and continuing southeast to Beach Avenue. Swain's Hardware Store and a city parking lot anchor its northwest end. The street cuts across Washington Street Mall; to the southeast of this intersection are lots

¹⁷⁰ "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-4KH> : Tue Nov 28 16:57:44 UTC 2023), Entry for Arthur Dutton and Mildred Dutton, 1940.

¹⁷¹ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, p. 119.

¹⁷² "United States 1950 Census", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6F9R-113H> : Wed Oct 04 05:31:05 UTC 2023), Entry for Anna Woolford and Alfred Welsh, 26 April 1950.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 80

containing large Victorian-period homes, many of which have been converted to commercial uses such as shops and inns.

Additional Information: Visual evidence indicates that the exterior of the building has been extensively renovated within the last decade, with the replacement of cladding and roofing.

African American Association:

Previously known as Charlie's Bar, it was a place where African Americans would go to see singers, dancers, and listen to music. It was a popular place of entertainment.¹⁷³

65. Summer Dental Office of Doctor Vivian Pennock Bailey [510 Washington St Mall]

Address: 510 Washington Street

Block/Lot: 1050/3

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# 370698877)

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

Description: This 2-story, Italianate wood-frame building has a shallow-gable roof with a raised front (northwest) elevation parapet. The building is clad with wood clapboards. The first floor of the front (northwest) façade includes two wood single-light half-round head, entry doors flanking a central, wood tripartite display window with a 6-light transom. The projecting wood storefront cornice includes paired scroll brackets above each door. The second story includes three wood 1/1 windows with jigsaw-cut decorative wood scrollwork above each lintel. The projecting wood building cornice has paired brackets and jigsaw-cut trim applied to the frieze board between the brackets. The southwest side elevation is only partially visible and is separated from the adjacent building by approximate 16". The rear elevation is obscured by surrounding structures. The lot measures approximately 20' x 49' and has a minimal setback from the sidewalk on Washington Street. There is a small wood fence limiting access to the alley on the southwest side of the building.

Setting: Washington Street Mall is a three-block long pedestrian street that runs from Perry Street to Ocean Street. The small lots along Washington Street Mall are lined with rows of commercial buildings. The majority of buildings were constructed in the late 19th century following the fire of 1878, but there are several modern infill structures scattered throughout. Washington Street Mall is anchored by the former Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church building at the northeast end.

Additional Information: Visual evidence indicates that the building has had significant repairs and replacement of exterior materials. This property retains integrity and key character-defining historic features, such as some historic trim or reconstruction of same, despite repairs.'

African American Association:

510 Washington Street was the dental office of Doctor Vivian Pennock Bailey in the summer.¹⁷⁴

66. 128 Decatur Street

Address: 128 Decatur Street

Block/Lot: 1041/3

¹⁷³ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May*, (Hunt, 2000; Burton 1999; Turner 2002) p103-105; Pip Campbell, *Eulalia Vance Art Hair School PLUS Mansion Street Woolford House plus Bars*, December 15, 2023.

¹⁷⁴ *Philadelphia Tribune*, May 30, 1914, p 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 81

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Intensive Level Architectural Survey 2008 (ID# 2043912264)

Prior Status: C **Current:** C

Description: This is a 2½-story, four bay, Second Empire house with a concave mansard that is a side-by-side duplex. #128 Decatur Street is on the right and #126 Decatur Street is on the left. A plaque indicates the house was built in 1884. The mansard is sheathed with architectural dimensional asphalt shingles and the building is clad with asbestos shingles. The eaves have regularly spaced, carved brackets. This house was built on a low brick foundation that has been parged. #128 Decatur Street is the right (north) half of this duplex house. The shed roof dormer has a pair of two over two, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows. The second floor has two, two over one, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows and plastic shutters that are affixed to the walls. The first-floor fenestration includes two early-20th-century, one over one, wood sash windows with aluminum frame storm windows. The front door is located in a recessed ell that also projects to the north. The door is an old wood frame with four framed inset panels. There is a new, period appropriate, wood frame screen door. A single light transom with the numbers 128 surmounts the door. The front porch has unique curving and intersecting jigsaw brackets, chamfered posts, jigsaw balusters between molded top and bottom rails, new and complimentary wood front steps with a new handrail. The north side elevation has round fluted downspouts draining the internal roof gutters. There are four shed roof dormers with the original, two over two, wood sash windows and aluminum frame storm windows. The projecting ell has a two over one, wood sash window in the street facing side. On the first floor an additional window is located on the projecting ell.

Setting: This duplex house fills up its lot from side to side and it was built with a setback of approximately 15 feet. There is a bluestone curb in front of 128 Decatur Street. A mature street tree is on the grassy verge. There are foundation plantings, a small front yard, poured concrete walkways to the backyard. The backyard is enclosed with a tall lattice fence. Decatur Street is a two-way thoroughfare and there are two parking spots in front of this house.

African American Association:

Anna Woolford worked as the maid for M Augustus Lengert and his wife Charlotte.¹⁷⁵

67. 409 Pacific Avenue

Address: 409 Pacific Avenue

Block/Lot: 37/7

Prior Survey: N/A

Prior Status: N/A **Current Status:** C

Description: 409 Pacific Avenue is a 2 ½ story, one-bay-wide by two bays deep, front-facing-gabled residence facing north. The building has a large, gabled two-story side ell to the east, which is three bays wide. The ell has a shallow roofed, 2 story addition to the east that wraps around to the rear and terminates at the center of the ell. On the rear elevation the addition only has a second level and is supported by simple posts. The rear of the main block has a single story hipped roof bay. The building rests on a tall concrete block foundation. The building is clad in vinyl siding and the roofs are clad in asphalt shingles. There is an interior brick chimney that is situated between the ell and the addition. Typical windows are one-over-one double hung sash vinyl with simple window surrounds. There is an enclosed, hipped roof porch on the (N) façade of the main block. The porch has a central door with a storm door. The porch has a central door with an aluminum storm door flanked by large single-pane, sliding windows; there is also a large single-pane, sliding window on each porch elevation. A tall, concrete stoop

¹⁷⁵ Pip Campbell, *Eulalia Vance Art Hair School PLUS Mansion Street Woolford House plus Bars*, December 15, 2023.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 82

extends from the porch to the rear addition. The stoop entrance is flanked by lion statues. Towards Pacific Avenue, the stoop is accessed via six concrete steps, where a concrete pathway leads directly from the street as there is no sidewalk. Towards the other end of the stoop is another set of six concrete steps.

On the façade, there is a nine-pane wooden window in the gable. On the second level, the ell has two typical windows, and the addition has one. On the first level, the ell has one typical window, and the addition has a multi-pane door with a storm door. On the side (west, Pacific Avenue) elevation, there is a typical window on the second level and a large single pane sliding window. The bay has a typical window. On the rear (south, Sees Alley) elevation, there is a nine-pane wooden window in the gable. On the second level, there is a typical window on the main block, a typical window on the ell, and two typical windows on the addition. On the first level, the bay window has paired typical windows, and the ell has three typical windows, two of which are beneath the second story of the addition. On the side (east) elevation, there are two typical windows on the second level of the addition. On the first level, the bay has a typical window, and the addition has two square single pane windows. At the foundation level, there is an opening covered by a small door.

The building slightly set back from the curb. The land is relatively flat and covered with grass lawn. There is a small, prefabricated shed in the rear and a smaller trailer. The property is lined with vinyl fencing.

Based on maps and aerials, the building at 409 Pacific Avenue, (then called (Rear or R) 120 5th Avenue) appears to be extant by 1920.¹⁷⁶

African American Association:

As early as 1910, the lot where 409 Pacific Avenue was built was owned by Ottier Howard. From 1910 through at least the 1950s, the Howard family occupied 120 5th Avenue (demolished between 2002-2007). By 1930, Howard's son, Ottier Jr. would move into the house that stands as 409 Pacific Avenue.¹⁷⁷

In 1930, 409 Pacific Avenue (then called (R) 120 5th Avenue) was owned by Ottier Howard Jr. and William J. Moore. Mr. Howard Jr was employed as a driver for a coal and ice company and lived here with his wife Oeatvine M, who was listed as having no occupation, and with his children, 4-year-old son Theodore O, 3-year-old daughter Bernice C., and infant daughter, Jeanne O. Mr. Moore was employed as a public-school teacher and he lived her with his wife, Susie L., who was listed as having no occupation, and his children, 19-year-old son, Osceola D, 22-year-old son Wilbur D, 18-year-old son Sylvius L, 16-

¹⁷⁶ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey*. Sanborn Map Company, - Jun 1945: Vol. 4, 1945. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_008/; *Historic Aerials of Pacific Avenue in Cape May City, New Jersey from 1920, 1933, 1956, and 1963*. *Historic Aerials by NETRONLINE*. NETRONLINE. Accessed January 9, 2024. <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>.

¹⁷⁷ Additional research is needed regarding when 409 Pacific Avenue was built and by whom. According to the 1920 census, William J. Moore was also listed under 120 5th Avenue, but the census is unclear on whether this was the rear of the property. "United States Census, 1910", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKT3-F7D> : Wed Oct 04 20:18:49 UTC 2023), Entry for Otties Howard and Mary C Howard, 1910; "United States Census, 1920", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-NN9> : Fri Dec 08 02:38:00 UTC 2023), Entry for Atties M Howard and Mary C Howard, 1920; "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4DQ-7GL> : Wed Oct 04 05:05:05 UTC 2023), Entry for Ottier M Howard and Mary C Howard, 1930; "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-BNT> : Tue Nov 28 17:37:35 UTC 2023), Entry for Ottier Howard and Cordelia Howard, 1940; "United States 1950 Census", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6F9Y-CM7L> : Wed Oct 04 11:37:37 UTC 2023), Entry for Ottier Howard and Cordelia Howard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 83

year-old daughter Susie L., 14-year-old daughter Amaleta A, all of whom were either in college or in school. He also lived here with his mother, Marion C.¹⁷⁸

In 1940, 409 Pacific Avenue (then called (Rear) 120 5th Avenue) was owned by Ottier C. Howard, who was employed as a truck driver for a coal and ice company. He lived here with his wife, Ocatvine, who was employed as a house maid for a private family, and his children, 12-year-old daughter Bernice, 14-year-old son Theodore, 10-year-old daughter Jean, and 7-year-old son Richard.¹⁷⁹

68. 132 Leaming Avenue

Address: 132 Leaming Avenue

Block/Lot: 9/22

Prior Survey: N/A

Prior Status: N/A Current Status: C

Description: 132 Leaming Avenue is a 2 ½ story residence facing Leaming Avenue on the northeast. There is a two-story, gabled ell on the rear elevation, a single-story, shed roof addition on the ell, and a second story, shed roof addition on the side (SE) elevation of the ell that sits on posts. The building has a side gable roof with overhanging eaves; the ell's gable is very shallow. The roofs are clad in asphalt shingles, except the rear addition, which has standing metal seam, and the building is clad in diamond-shaped siding with corner boards. The southeast addition is clad in wide horizontal siding. There is a stuccoed brick interior end chimney on the side (NW) elevation. With the exception of the front door, all openings are boarded up. Window openings are all boarded up. There is a single-story, hipped roof, full length porch on the façade. It has a simple wooden post on a concrete pad. The porch is relatively low to the ground. In various locations, the siding has come off the building and vegetation, specifically, climbing vegetation is attached to the building.

On the façade, there are two windows openings on the second floor. On the first floor there is one window opening, and a paneled door. On the side (NW) elevation, there are two small window openings in the gable end. On the rear ell, there are two door-length openings on the second floor; there are three door openings on the first floor. On the rear, the second floor has two windows on the ell on the second floor and an opening on the first floor. The rear addition appears to be a door opening. The side (SE) elevation is covered in excessive vegetation and is very obscured. There is an opening on the side addition. On the first floor, there is one window opening on the main block, what appears to be two window openings on the rear ell, and a door opening on rear addition. The building is set back from the sidewalk. There is no path leading to the building. There is a low wooden fence on the (NW) elevation running from the front of the building to the rear of the property. The land is relatively flat with grass lawn.

African American Association:

In 1930, 132 Leaming Avenue was owned by Estelle Wright, who was employed as a domestic worker for a private family. She lived here with her 3-year-old great-grandson, Lenard Holloway.¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁸ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4DQ-7GR> : Wed Oct 04 05:05:05 UTC 2023), Entry for Ottier Howard, Jr, Jr and Otavius M Howard, 1930. "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4DQ-7PM> : Wed Oct 04 05:05:06 UTC 2023), Entry for William J Moore and Susie L Moore, 1930.

¹⁷⁹ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-BJM> : Tue Nov 28 17:37:40 UTC 2023), Entry for Ottier C Howard and Octavine Howard, 1940.

¹⁸⁰ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4DQ-71X> : Thu Oct 05 20:51:38 UTC 2023), Entry for Estelle Wright and Lenard H*way, 1930.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 84

In 1940, 132 Leaming Avenue was owned by Julia Christan, who was a chambermaid for a private family. She lived here with a 13-year-old Lunk Holloway, who was listed as a ward of the state.¹⁸¹

69. 156 Leaming Avenue

Address: 156 Leaming Avenue

Block/Lot: 9/17

Prior Survey: N/A

Prior Status: N/A Current Status: C

Description: 156 Leaming Avenue is a 2 ½ story, side-facing gabled residence that is three bays wide by two bays deep. The building has two rear additions: an L-shaped, shed roof addition that spans the entire length of the building and a small, shed roof addition on the larger addition's ell. Both additions share the small roof pitch. The building is clad in wide horizontal siding and sits on a concrete foundation. The typical window is a vinyl one-over-one with simple window surrounds and sills and storm windows. The roofs of the building are clad in asphalt shingle except for the rearmost addition, which appears to be another material. There is a single story, near-full length enclosed shed roof porch centered on the façade. A set of three concrete landings lead from the sidewalk to the small concrete step of the front porch. Gutters line the eaves of the roof on the façade and the porch.

On the façade (NE), there are three typical windows on the second floor whose windows surrounds butt up against roofline. On the enclosed porch the door is centered with a typical window on either side. The door has a single large pane and doesn't appear paneled. It is covered by an aluminum storm door and has a simple door surround. This entrance is flanked on either side by paired typical windows. Access to the side (NW) elevation is obscured, but there are paired typical windows on the L-shaped addition. The rear (SW) elevation is not accessible. On the (SE) elevation, there are two small typical windows in the gable and one typical window on the first level which has a simple lintel. On the L-shaped addition, there is a tripartite window with a large pane flanked on each side by a one-over-one window; this also has a simple lintel. On the rear addition, there are paired typical windows. The building is set back from the sidewalk and there are a few plants around the foundation. There are a few small shrubs scattered on the property which is relatively flat with grass lawn. On the SW elevation, there is also a short gravel driveway.

African American Association:

In 1930, 156 Leaming Avenue was owned by Blanche Johnson, who was employed as a catering cook. She lived here with her 20-year-old daughter Maude, 12-year-old son Paul S., and infant daughter Shirley E.¹⁸²

In 1940, 156 Leaming Avenue was owned by Mary Tingle, who was listed as having no occupation. She lived here with her daughters, Elsie Tingle, and Reba Steele, both of whom were employed as houseworkers for private families. She also lived here with her 1-year-old grandson, William Steele,¹⁸³

70. 162 Leaming Avenue

Address: 162 Leaming Avenue

Block/Lot: 9/14

¹⁸¹ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-BLX> : Tue Nov 28 17:20:30 UTC 2023), Entry for Julia Christan and Lunk Holloway, 1940.

¹⁸² "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4DQ-7BT> : Tue Oct 03 21:58:50 UTC 2023), Entry for Blanche Johnson and Maude Johnson, 1930.

¹⁸³ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-BL5> : Tue Nov 28 17:20:28 UTC 2023), Entry for Mary Tingle and Elsie Tingle, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 85

Prior Survey: N/A

Prior Status: N/A **Current Status:** C

Description: 162 Leaming Avenue is a 2 ½ story residence that is 2 bays wide by 3 bays deep and has a front-facing gable. There is a 2-story, L-shaped addition on the NW elevation that wraps around to the back of the residence and extends slightly passed the plane of the main block. It has a very shallow shed roof. This addition is one bay wide and 4 bays deep on side (NW) elevation and 3 bays wide on the rear (SW) elevation. Starting at the center of the NW elevation and ending roughly on the center of the rear (SW) elevation, the first level, the addition is open and supported on square posts. There is a single story, shed roofed addition on the rear of the L-shaped addition that is 1 bay wide by 2 bays deep.

The roofs throughout are covered in asphalt shingles and have overhanging eaves; the building and its additions are clad in wide, horizontal siding and it sits on a concrete foundation while the posts sit on small individual concrete footings. The typical window is a two-over-two double hung wood sash with simple window surrounds and sills and storm windows. On the front (NE) elevation, there is a single-story full width, hipped roof porch. Its roofline is decorated slightly exposed rafter tails. The porch roof is supported by simple square posts adorned with jigsaw cut decorative brackets. A concrete path leads from the sidewalk to a concrete landing by the porch steps. The entrance to the porch is off center on the façade and is accessed via four concrete steps from the concrete pathway.

The façade (NE elevation) has two small typical windows (without storm windows) in the gable with a decorative sun-themed ornament above. On the second level, there are two typical windows. On the first level, there is a typical window and the front door. The front door has a single pane wooden, paneled door with an aluminum storm door. The door surround is plain simple matching the window surround.

On the side (NW) elevation, there is a typical window centered between the two levels and three typical windows on the second floor. Beneath the second level of the L-shaped addition is a typical window on the main block of the house and a typical window on the first floor of the addition where it continues at the rear. The rear addition has a small window opening. The rear elevation has two small typical windows in the gable. On the L-shaped addition, there are two typical windows. The rear addition has two horizontal window openings and a door opening. On the side (SE) elevation there are two typical windows on the second level of the main block. There is a typical window on the first floor of the main block and the addition. This elevation is not entirely accessible.

The building is set back from the street. There are low few plants around the foundation of the building and a few large shrubs throughout the property. The land is relatively flat and covered in grass lawn. Towards the rear of the property is a small, two-door garage, which does not appear to be in use.

Based on historic maps, 162 Leaming Avenue was previously both 168 and 137 Leaming Avenue.¹⁸⁴

African American Association:

In 1930, 162 (then called 137) Leaming Avenue was owned by Roberth Keith. He was employed as a [cosmetics] dealer.¹⁸⁵

¹⁸⁴ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, - Jun 1945: Vol. 4, 1945. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_008/.

¹⁸⁵ The census has legible, but it appears to read 'cosmetique'. "United States Census, 1930", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4DQ-7YB> : Tue Oct 03 21:58:49 UTC 2023), Entry for Robert Keith, 1930.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 86

71. 170 Leaming Avenue

Address: 170 Leaming Avenue

Block/Lot: 9/13

Prior Survey: N/A

Prior Status: N/A Current Status: C

Description: This dwelling is 1 ½ story with a front facing gable facing Leaming Avenue to the NE. It is two-bays wide by three bays deep, clad in vinyl siding, and sits on a concrete block foundation. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and has a shed dormer centered on each side of the building. Typical windows are one-over-one vinyl replacements with simple wide window surrounds. Each dormer has a paired typical window. The roof also has deep overhanging eaves. On the side (SE) elevation, a stuccoed exterior chimney bisects the roof of the building and the shed dormer. There is a full-length enclosed front porch. It has a shed roof that is also clad in asphalt shingles. Like the rest of the building, it is clad in vinyl siding. The porch has a band of six one-over-one vinyl replacement windows. The porch is accessed on the east corner of the porch where a set of steps leaning against the building lead to the door on the side (SE) elevation. The steps also have prefabricated railings. On the rear of the side (SE) elevation, there is a wooden deck with prefabricated railing, constructed in a similar fashion to the front steps. On the south side of the chimney, there is an unsupported bay with a hipped roof.

On the front façade, the gable end has a paired window. On the side (NW) elevation, there is a paired window in the center. It is flanked on each side by one typical window. At the foundation level, there is a diamond-shaped window opening and two large openings. On the rear, there is a paired typical window in the gable and two typical windows on the first floor. On the (SE) elevation, the bay has a typical window on each of its three sides while the other side of the chimney has one typical window. A screened door leads to the rear deck. Adjacent to it is a typical window.

The building is setback from the sidewalk with a concrete path leading to the front porch. The property is covered in a grass lawn with a few plantings against the building and a few shrubs throughout. A low fence separates the rear of the property, where there is a small, prefabricated shed.

African American Association:

In 1930, 170 Leaming Avenue was owned by David O. Farmer, who was employed as a school janitor. He lived here with his wife, Iola V, who was listed as having no occupation, and his 9-year-old daughter Doris.¹⁸⁶

In 1940, 170 Leaming Avenue was owned by David Farmer, who was employed as a school and church janitor. He lived here with his wife, Lola, who was employed as a houseworker for a private family.¹⁸⁷

72. 532 Elmira Street

Address: 532 Elmira Street

Block/Lot: 1054/7

Prior Survey: Cape May Local Historic District Survey 2011 (ID# -1485001939)

Prior Status: C Current Status: C

¹⁸⁶ "United States Census, 1930", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X4DQ-7BV> : Tue Oct 03 21:58:49 UTC 2023), Entry for David O Farmer and Iola V Farmer, 1930.

¹⁸⁷ "United States Census, 1940", , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-BGW> : Tue Nov 28 17:20:24 UTC 2023), Entry for David Farmer and Iola Farmer, 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 87

Description: This 2-story vernacular Italianate residence has a 3-bay-wide by 3-bay deep flat-roof main block, with a shed-roof rear addition spanning the full width of the main block and a shed-roof enclosed screen porch spanning the full width of the addition. The main block roof has deep overhanging eaves and a denticulated wood frieze. The rear addition has a wood fascia, with a denticulated wood frieze at the rear (southwest) elevation. The walls are clad in wood clapboard. The windows in the main block have 1/1 vinyl sash with wood trim. The first-floor windows and doors at the main block have decorative denticulated wood lintels. The windows in the rear addition are vinyl windows with wood trim. The window openings in the rear enclosed porch have fixed wood-frame screens with a center mullion. The foundations are stuccoed. At the front (northeast) elevation, the first floor has two windows with wall-applied paneled shutters, and a single paneled wood door with fluted pilasters. The second floor has two windows with wall-applied louvered shutters. At the northwest side elevation, the first floor has a single window with wall-applied shutters at the northeast bay of the main block, a single window at the southwest bay of the main block, and a paired 6/1 window at the rear addition. There are two window openings at the rear porch, separated by an engaged wood column. The second floor has a single window with wall-applied louvered shutters and a tripartite casement window at the main block, and paired 6/1 windows at the rear addition. At the southeast side elevation, the first floor has a single window with wall-applied louvered shutters at the northeast bay of the main block, a raised window centered on the main block, and a single wood door with aluminum screen, accessed by a set of concrete steps with a metal railing. There is a paired 8/1 window at the rear addition, and two window openings at the rear porch, separated by an engaged wood column. The second floor has two windows at the main block; the northeast window has applied shutters. There is a paired 8/1 window on the second floor of the rear addition. At the rear (southwest) elevation, the first floor of the rear enclosed porch is divided into three bays by engaged wood columns. It has a double wood screen door in the center bay, with a pair of window openings in the outer bays. There is a gable-roof wood-clapboard shed in the rear yard. The building is setback approximately 15' from the sidewalk on Elmira Street. There is a brick driveway on the southeast side of the house, with several brick planting beds. The small grass front yard is enclosed by a wood picket fence. The grass rear yard is enclosed by a wood fence. There are several shrubs along the rear fence and building foundations. There is a wood patio to the rear of the house.

African American Association:

In 1920, 532 Elmira Street was rented by Thomas Driscoll (misspelled Driskell in the census). He was employed as a shoe repairer with his own shop.¹⁸⁸ According to oral history reports, he also had his shoe repair shop on the 200 block Perry Street adjacent to Chestnut Street.¹⁸⁹

Future Research

While the above inventory gives a great deal of contributing properties, there are still properties in Cape May which would need further research to determine whether they are contributing to the district for African American significance. The following is a list based on oral reports. Additional research may yield more contributing resources:

- 810 St. John's Street;
- 825 Corgie Street;
- 512 Elmira Street;
- 172 Leaming Avenue;

¹⁸⁸ "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-KV7> : Fri Dec 08 02:04:16 UTC 2023), Entry for Thomas Driskell and Martha Driskell, 1920.

¹⁸⁹ CCA. *Black Voices of Cape May* (Vasser, 1998), p 82-83.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 88

- 158 Leaming Avenue;
- 609 Broad Street;
- 136 Leaming Avenue;
- 505 Broad Street;
- 926 Corgie Street;
- 811 Corgie Street;
- 501 Broad Street;
- 504 Broad Street;
- 1023 New York Avenue;
- 1028 New York Avenue;
- 712 Lafayette Street;
- 704 Benton Avenue;
- 521 Lafayette Street
- 701 Benton Avenue; and
- 4 E. Mechanic Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 1

Significance

Summary

The Cape May Historic District (AD) meets National Register Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage/Black and Social History/African American Civil Rights at the local level of significance for its representation of multiple themes related to African American life in a prominent seaside resort in the nineteenth-and the first half of the twentieth-century.¹ African Americans lived in Cape May since the 17th century but were drawn in greater numbers by the economic opportunities offered by the growing resort community. But life wasn't all about work. A vibrant community formed, offering opportunities for religious expression, education, recreation, and multiple types of housing. The period of significance extends from 1846, the date of the construction of the earliest extant resource with a demonstrable association to the African American community, the Stephen Smith House (#10), to 1948, the end date for Cape May's segregated school system, represented by the Franklin Street School (#21).²

Cape May HD (AD) is also significant under Ethnic Heritage: African American because the African American community played an integral role to the success of Cape May as a thriving sea resort. Like many other resort shore towns, much of the labor and staffing was supplemented by the African American community. Their contributions to these towns are underrepresented in nominations and in history. As compared to other shore resort towns, like Atlantic City, which also had an African American community and workforce³, Cape May Historic District remains greatly intact, showcasing the various resources that the African American community of Cape May impacted through their work, business ventures, educational systems, religious pursuits, home ownership, and leisure. Through the labor of the African American community, vacationers were able to maintain their seaside summer homes and business owners could keep up with the need for staffing when the visitor season arrived.

Introduction

Historian Graham Russell Gao Hodges stated that African Americans "valued religious belief, education, independence, and fraternity."⁴ The text below, in recognition of those themes and a few additional, is organized by the following: Religion, Residential, Business & Employment, Education, Vacationing, and Recreation. All of which relate to extant resources in the previously listed historic district. However, due to extensive loss of resources over time and in great part due to Urban Renewal, the extant resources fail to fully capture the vibrancy and history of the African American community in Cape May. Additional historical material is included towards the end of this section under the heading 'Supplemental History'.

¹ This project builds upon the Center for Community Arts (CCA)'s extensive African American research, which is housed in the CCA's John T. and Dolly D. Nash African American History Archives.

² Additional future research might yield information that would support extending the period of significance up to the initiation of Urban Renewal in Cape May c 1961.

³ 1. Sarah Allaback and Chuck Milliken, eds., "Chapter IV: The Boardwalk," essay, in *Resorts & Recreation: An Historic Theme Study of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route: The Atlantic Shore--Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, Atlantic, and Cape May Counties* (Mauricetown, NJ: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route, 1995), https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/nj1/chap4.htm.

⁴ Hodges, *Black New Jersey, 1664 to the Present Day*, 70.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 2

Although the themes below are helpful to understanding historic resources, the people who used these buildings historically certainly did not think of them as necessarily distinct. There are many instances of crossovers, indications of cooperation and support within the African American community. For example:

- By 1922, the graduation for the students at the segregated school for African American students, known as the Annex, was held in the high school auditorium.⁵ Presumably the Annex lacked a suitable auditorium or a gymnasium⁶.
- In 1914, the Annex night school benefit concert and assembly was held at the Hotel Dale.⁷ Again, pointing to the need to better facilities than the school offered.

There is also a common thread that runs through these themes creating an overarching character and enduring legacy for the African American community in Cape May: the pursuit of excellence. As the themes are explored below, a concerted attempt has been made to both recognize instances of African American achievement while simultaneously recognizing the often-challenging circumstances in which those achievements were made, thereby underscoring their importance. In essence a recognition of W.E.B. Du Bois' concept of 'life behind the veil'⁸ in other words, a vibrant life full of spiritual depth and complexity coexisting behind the veil of racism and segregation.⁹

Religion

Historians have emphasized the importance of churches within the African American community, calling them "organizations devoted to human and spiritual uplift"¹⁰ and indicating that "outside the family, no other social institution is as intimately tied to the birth of the African American communal life as the church."¹¹ Cape May's three extant African American churches – Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church (#18), Franklin Street Methodist Church (#22), and Macedonia Baptist Church (#8) – represent the primary role that early African American churches played by fostering a sense of community and offering educational opportunities via Sunday School programs and literary societies.

One way that African American religious leaders provided leadership within the community was through the National Negro Convention Movement, (1830-1864)¹² which was a vital part of African

⁵ "School Notes" *Cape May Star and Wave*, 3 June 1922 p 4, accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/>, 30 November 2023.

⁶ The building that was present in 1922 is no longer extant. It was replaced when the Franklin Street School was built in 1927.

⁷ "Benefit Postponed" *Cape May Star and Wave*, 3 January 1914 p 6, accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/>, 30 November 2023.

⁸ W.E.B. Du Bois. *The Souls of Black Folk*. accessed via https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Souls_of_Black_Folk/nv7oDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=WEB+Du+Bois+life+behind+the+veil&printsec=frontcover, 18 December 2023.

⁹ Hall, Stuart, "Tearing down the Veil," *The Guardian*, February 23, 2023, accessed via <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2003/feb/22/featuresreviews.guardianreview30>, 12/19/2023.

¹⁰ Clement A. Price, "We Knew Our Place, We Knew Our Way, Lessons from the Black Past of Southern New Jersey, 12.

¹¹ Gary J. Hunter, *Neighborhoods of Color, African American Communities in Southern New Jersey, 1638-2000*, 21.

¹² "During the antebellum period, when Philadelphia was home to one the North's largest free African American

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 3

American culture in the mid-nineteenth century. Starting with the first convention held in Philadelphia's Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church (aka Mother Bethel AME Church)¹³ in September 1830, both national and regional conventions were held.¹⁴ New Jersey historians Clement A. Price and Giles R. Wright acknowledge that New Jersey's religious leaders, including those in southern New Jersey, were actively involved in the conventions.¹⁵ According to Wright, through these conventions, the African American religious leaders were "in the forefront of political protest" and "deliberated on ways to improve the conditions of the black race and to chart its future direction."¹⁶ Robert Cox, founding trustee of the Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church in Lower Township (whose congregation moved into Cape May in the 1880s), attended the 1865 State Convention of Colored Men, and it is likely that other religious leaders from the Cape May area participated in other conventions.

According to the 1865 meeting report, Robert Cox was appointed to serve as a member of the committee that drafted the convention's public statement, which included the following language:

*Resolved, That the Equal Rights League, of the State of N.J. does insist upon the general improvement of colored people in morals, education, industry, wealth and religion.*¹⁷

Building upon the African American churches' emphasis on education, at least two of Cape May's three churches, i.e., Allen AME (#18) and Macedonia Baptist (#8), held educational events in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Macedonia's literary society hosted performances by soloists, literary readings, and debates on topics such as whether or not the sun can move, and—a topic of special significance for the African American community—"Private Property in Land is Unjust and Originated in Either Farce or Fraud."¹⁸ In the summer of 1903, the Allen AME Church reorganized the Allen

communities, the city's Black leaders launched the National Negro Convention Movement to address the hostility, discrimination, exclusion, and violence against African Americans by whites in northern cities. As national forums, the National Negro Conventions held from 1830 to 1864 brought together African Americans to debate and adopt strategies to elevate the status of free Blacks in the North and promote the [abolition of slavery](#). Lucien Holness, "National Negro Convention Movement" *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*, 2014 accessed via <https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/essays/national-negro-convention-movement/>, 12/19/2023.

¹³ Mother Bethel AME Church was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 16, 1972 (NRIS#72001166)

¹⁴ Shawn C. Comminey, "National Black Conventions and the Quest for African American Freedom and Progress, 1847-1867," *International Social Science Review*, Volume 91, Issue 1, Article 2, 2015, 91, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/intesocierevi.91.1.02>, 15 April 2022.

¹⁵ Price, "We Knew Our Place, We Knew Our Way, 14; Giles Wright, *African Americans in New Jersey*, 32.

¹⁶ Wright, *African Americans in New Jersey*, 32.

¹⁷ *Proceedings of the State Convention of Coloured Men of the State of New Jersey, Held in the City of Trenton, N.J., July 13th and 14th, 1865*, accessed via <https://udspace.udel.edu/handle/19716/17178>.

¹⁸ "A Lady President," *The Colored American* (Washington D.C.), 22 August 1903, https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/data/batches/dlc_foxtrot_ver01/data/sn83027091/100493238/1903082201/0478 accessed 19 October 2022; "Cape May News," *The Colored American* (Washington, D.C.), 6 July 1901, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1901-07-06/ed-1/seq-2/> accessed 19 October 2022.; "The Cape May News," *The Colored American*, (Washington, D.C.), 22 June 1901, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1901-06-22/ed-1/seq-1/> accessed 19 October 2022; "The Cape May News," *The Colored American*, (Washington, D.C.), 03 Aug. 1901, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1901-08-03/ed-1/seq-2/>, accessed 19 October 2022.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 4

Literary and Historical Association, with the first meeting described as:

Among those present were many students from Lincoln University, who spoke in behalf of the organization and its importance along educational and social lines. A president, vice-president and secretary were elected pro tem, after which a short volunteer program was rendered. The society convenes every Thursday night and will, in course of a few weeks, be a place of much interest for all literary hotel waiters and bellmen.¹⁹

In addition to a foundation in the Negro Conventions, the churches' literary societies would also have built upon the literary traditions of AME pastor Stephen Smith and his involvement with the literary Banneker Institute (no longer extant).

Multiple oral histories of members of Cape May's African American community reinforce historians' claims of the centrality of the African American churches in the lives of the congregants. In statements that were reflective of many within the community, Bernice Gordon stated "Of course, church life was always very important; we belonged to everything that had anything to do with the church" and Jack Vasser described his grandfather as "a devoted churchman. Regardless of weather, nothing stopped him from going to church."²⁰

Despite the lack of early church records for Cape May's three African American churches, there is documentation of church activities in the form of local and national church newspapers, oral histories, and members' obituaries. These activities include worship services, Sunday School programs (local, regional, and statewide), Bible studies, religious revivals, literary societies, missionary societies, and auxiliary groups.

Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church (#18)

Similar to the national model, Cape May's first African American church developed out of the Methodist Church. African Americans were drawn to the Methodist tenet of equality for all; however, African Americans became dissatisfied that they were not treated as equal to whites within the church structure. In approximately 1792, in protest against African Americans being told that they had to sit in the upstairs balcony of a Philadelphia church, Richard Allen and Absalom Jones led a protest, left the church, and established Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1816, there was a meeting in Philadelphia to formally establish the African Methodist Episcopal Church as a formal denomination.²¹ The AME church was "the first black church that achieved complete independence, meaning that it had control of its own property and freedom from the jurisdiction of white denominational officials."²² The organization rapidly

¹⁹ "Echoes from Cape May," *The Colored American* (Washington D.C.), 25 July 1903, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1903-07-25/ed-1/seq-7/>; accessed 19 October 2022.

²⁰ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022.

²¹ "Men of Mark in Pennsylvania, Richard Allen." *The Negro History Bulletin* (Association for the Study of African American Life and History) 5, no. 3 (December 1941): 62, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4424664>, accessed 18 May 2021.

²² William H. Becker, "The Black Church: Manhood and Mission, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, September 1972, 40, no. 3, Oxford University Press, 318, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1461321>, accessed 18 May 2021.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 5

spread up and down the East Coast as African American evangelicals in predominantly white churches seized the opportunity to establish their own authority within the religious structure.²³ Jarena Lee, a former enslaved person became an AME minister and preached in Cape May County. Kimber Thomas, in her Master of Arts thesis *The Extraordinary Black Slave Woman in Nineteenth-Century Slave Narratives*, studied Lee and five other African American enslaved women, concluding that these “extraordinary” women “are depicted as domestic workers, manual laborers, physical resisters, mothers, and spiritual sisters.”²⁴ By the time of the Civil War, African American churches, belonging to one of several denominations, had been formed in at least 17 communities in New Jersey.²⁵

The Methodist religion was introduced to Cape May (then called Cape Island)²⁶ in the 1770s by Methodist circuit riders who traveled throughout the county. In Cape Island, these clergy spoke at meetings held in private homes, in the former schoolhouse that was located at the corner of Lafayette and Franklin streets, and in the dining room in the former Congress Hall. On October 15, 1842, at a quarterly conference of the old Cape May circuit, a committee of three was appointed to find a location in Cape Island for building a Methodist church. “Brother Shaw” donated a lot on Franklin Street; in 1843, a 32’x40’ building was constructed by master builder Joseph Ware, at the cost of \$1,030.²⁷ This early church building, no longer extant, was located on the south side of Franklin Street, across the street from the existing Allen AME Church.

In the early nineteenth century, some of Cape May’s African Americans attended the Methodist Church, which, as was typical for Methodist congregations, consisted of a mix of white and African American members. However, shortly after the Methodists constructed their church, a group of African Americans applied to establish an AME church in Cape Island. This was the first all-African American congregation in the city. An 1863 obituary for one of the AME members stated that the church was formed in 1845.²⁸ By that time, Cape May would certainly have been influenced by the itinerant AME preachers such as Richard Allen, founder of the national AME church. In addition, the new church was formed around the same time that Stephen Smith, who was a minister in the AME church and an active participant in the early nineteenth century Negro Conventions, built a summer house in Cape Island.²⁹

In 1854, the AME congregation (which would become Allen AME) was able to purchase the Methodists’ 1843 church on Franklin Street. The reason for the Methodists’ sale of their church building

²³ Douglas R. Egerton, “Review: Judging the Founders: Richard Allen and the Soul of America.” *Reviews in American History*, March 2009, Vol. 37, No. 1 (March 2009), 24-25, accessed via JSTOR.

²⁴ Kimber Thomas, *The Extraordinary Black Slave Woman in Nineteenth-Century Slave Narratives*, 2014, ii.

²⁵ Wright, *African Americans in New Jersey*, 30.

²⁶ What is now Cape May City was referred to as Cape Island until 1848; then Cape Island City until 1851; and finally became known as Cape May City in 1869

²⁷ *History of Methodism in Cape May*, Cape May United Methodist Church, <https://www.capemayumc.org/>, accessed 05/10/22.

²⁸ Obituary, Chrissy A. Brown, *The Christian Recorder*, 19 December 1863.

²⁹ Rilling, Donna J. and Michael Clemmons, *Philadelphia Register of Historic Places Nomination, Smith-Whipper Houses, 919-21 Lombard Street*, (14 December 2021); Barbara Dreyfuss, “Freedom’s Corner: Anti-Slavery Leaders in Cape May.” *Cape May Magazine*, Spring 2019.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 6

after only a relatively short time period of eleven years is not known; however, it is possible that there was a racial issue with Franklin Street becoming more African American by that time period. The AME congregation (Allen AME) worshipped in the former 1843 Methodist church building until approximately 1887-88 when they lost the building due to a dispute with the Mount Zion Methodist Church in Lower Township (see below under the Franklin Street M. E. Church). As a result of the loss, the congregation incorporated in 1888 under the name Allen AME Church and initiated construction of the current building at 715 Franklin Street (#18), across Franklin Street from the 1843 church building. When the building was complete, it received a very positive review in *The Christian Recorder*:

The new A.M.E. church, better, larger and more beautiful, though now unfinished, stands almost directly opposite the old Mt. Pisgah, under the solid and inspiring title of Allen A.M.E. church. For more than two years Brother Thompson has led the people most successfully, till now this beautiful building is enclosed and occupied on the pay-as-you-go plan, excepting a debt on the ground.

Alex. Winlock, Charles Cox, Henry Wilkins and other trustees and stewards, are splendid lieutenants. Mrs. Griffin, the popular boarding house keeper on Decatur street, and other sisters are as faithful as the officers, "planking" dollar for dollar with them at every call. Last Sunday was the third in a series in which efforts were made to relieve the church of a small obligation to the lumber merchant. In these efforts about \$400 was raised. Last Sunday's collection footed up close to \$150.³⁰

When the Allen AME Church celebrated its birthday in 1921 the pastor, Rev. C. G. Parks urged white people to attend the celebrations saying:

It is not because we feel that the white people are not sufficiently supplied in Sunday entertainment, but because this and similar meetings afford the only opportunity for our friends to study us as we are reflected in our church environments and religious aspirations.³¹

These remarks illustrate an attempt to raise the veil and reveal the spirituality and humanity of the congregants.

Individuals who were especially important in the life of Allen AME Church include:

- Reverend J. S. Fishburn, pastor of the Allen AME Church in the early twentieth century and a leader in the effort to establish Whitesboro as an African American colony.³²
- Armenia C. Major, a life-long active member of the Allen AME Church, who was called "Mother of the Church" in her obituary, having served for 20 years as Church Secretary, Choir member, Pulpit Aid, Daughters of Allen. She was also a charter member of the Ruth Chapter #6, Order of Eastern Star, in which she held multiple positions including

³⁰ "The Seaside," *The Christian Recorder*, 21 August 1890; <https://www.accessible-archives.com>, accessed 6 April 2022.

³¹ "Allen A.M.E. Church to Celebrate Birthday." *Cape May Star and Wave*, 12 February 1921 p3 <https://vdl.s.cmlibrary.org/> accessed 30 November 2023.

³² Jeffery M. Dorwart, *Cape May County, New Jersey*, 171-172.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 7

Past Matron.³³ Her husband, Ellsworth Major, was appointed to the Cape May police force in 1917.³⁴

Franklin Street Methodist Church (formerly Mt. Zion Methodist Church)(#20)

The African American Franklin Street Methodist congregation has its roots in the Mount Zion Methodist Church, which was originally located at the southeast end of Shunpike Road in Lower Township (near the current location of the Mount Zion Methodist Cemetery B 752.01, L 37). Exactly when and how the transition from one to the next occurred has not been determined. Mount Zion Methodist formed and incorporated in October 1875. By the 1880s, it was considering relocating into Cape May and purchasing property adjacent to the Stephen Smith House (#10). By then, the AME (Allen) congregation had purchased the former 1843 Methodist church building that was located on the south side of Franklin Street (across from the current Allen AME Church). The AME (Allen) congregation, most likely feeling threatened by another African American church in such close proximity, decided to make a higher offer for the land in order to prevent Mount Zion from obtaining it. The AME's offer was accepted; however, the financial commitment for both their church building and the Lafayette Street land was too much for the congregation. As a result, the AME church (Allen) lost both their church building and the Lafayette Street property, thereby opening up the opportunity for the Mount Zion Methodist Church congregation to purchase the AME's existing church.³⁵ The entire affair was quite acrimonious and resulted in numerous press stories both in the local press as well as in national African American newspapers:

Charles Cox, Clerk of Allen Chapel, Cape May, N.J., writes: Doubtless you have heard of our struggles at Cape May, viz., our church sold after so much labor spent, as well as money. Yet, thanks to the Bishop, he sent us a man who has been adequate to the emergency. He has been our Moses, indeed, throughout this conference year. We can honestly and justly say that the Rev. J. Height Bean has walked the line of a Christian pastor and a Christian gentleman in and out before his congregation. If the Rev. Bean had taken charge of Cape May Circuit four years ago we would have our church. But we trusted in the God, asking him to send us a man that would stand up for right and pull down wrong, and one who would preach Christ and him crucified, and our prayers were answered.³⁶

Brother Thompson has had a struggle at Cape May, the magnitude of which is hardly appreciated by his brethren. He found there nought but a loyal people. Many know of our misfortunes at this point; how our church was shamefully betrayed and sold out, root and branch, thank God, not soul, by an unscrupulous and trusted official, and our property turned over to the M.E. connection – a worse than New Haven case. We have never felt quite sure that the pastor at that time was not somewhat responsible for the incipency of this adverse movement, but let that pass.³⁷

An important leader within the church was Rev. Charles Albert Tindley, who was ordained in 1885 and

³³ Obituary, Armenia C. Major (in "Church History" files, Center for Community Arts).

³⁴ Obituary, Ellsworth Major, *Cape May Star and Wave*, 25 February 1943 p3 <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> accessed 30 November 2023.

³⁵ Barbara Dreyfuss. "The Song Remains the Same," *Cape May Magazine*, Spring, 2020.

³⁶ "Church News," *The Christian Recorder*, 12 April 1888, <https://www.accessible-archives.com>, accessed 6 April 2022.

³⁷ "The Seaside." *The Christian Recorder*, 21 August 1890, <https://www.accessible-archives.com>, accessed 6 April 2022.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 8

then spent his first two years at Mt. Zion Church in Lower Township. Although Rev. Tindley left Cape May before the property dispute arose between Mt. Zion and the AME church (Allen) in Cape May, he was called back to lead Mt. Zion, unfortunately facing criticism from members of the AME church who blamed him for Mt. Zion ending up with their church. Music was an important part of his ministry, including writing gospel songs and dictating them to a transcriber. He wrote over 30 hymns, including a song "I Shall Overcome" that was later changed and became "We Shall Overcome," the song that was the anthem for the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.³⁸

According to newspaper accounts, Rev. Tindley returned to Cape May a few times as a guest speaker, including in 1903, when his visit was described in the local press as having drawn a large crowd of both African Americans and whites:

Rev. C. A. Tindley, of Philadelphia, preached an able sermon to a large congregation at the Franklin M. E. Church. Rev. Tindley is a noted pulpit orator and there were many white clergymen and church goers out to greet him. His sermon was the beginning of a series of meetings to be held in said church, and it is believed that a handsome sum will be realized. Contributions have been solicited from all hotel employees, which will help to swell the fund.³⁹

The Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal congregation stayed in the building on the south side of Franklin Street until 1913 when they purchased from the Baptist congregation the church building built in 1879 at 727-729 Franklin Street.

Macedonia Baptist Church (#8)

Macedonia Baptist congregation began as "the religious society and congregation of Colored Baptist(s) living in Cape May City", who in August of 1892 met to "organiz[e] a Colored Baptist Church." After receiving recognition from the West New Jersey Association, they were certified as the Macedonia Baptist Church on December 23, 1895. Around 1909, the congregation occupied a small single-story building (no longer extant) on the 201 Jackson Street parcel belonging to "The Douglass", a hotel (no longer extant) for African Americans. During that same year, the congregation had a church constructed on land it acquired (its present location at 630 Lafayette Street) through donation.⁴⁰ It is during this time that the congregation also acquired the Howell House (#9), which sits on the lot adjacent to the church building. The Howell House would become their parish house, where ministers would reside. In 1928, the congregation sold a rear parcel of its land to the city for the construction of the Franklin Street School (#21), completed that same year.

Howell House (#9)

The Howell House is deeply associated with the Macedonia Baptist Church congregation, who acquired

³⁸ Barbara Dreyfuss, "The Song Remains the Same," capemaymagazine.com, Spring, 2020; Tom Wilk, "Gospel Great Had Cape May Connection," *Atlantic City Weekly*, 30 October 2013.

³⁹ "A Lady President," *The Colored American*. (Washington, D.C.), 22 Aug. 1903, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1903-08-22/ed-1/seq-11/>, accessed 19 October 2022.

⁴⁰ Hope Gaines. "To Worship & Preserve." Cape May Magazine. Spring 2015. <https://www.capemaymag.com/feature/to-worship-preserve/>. Accessed 13 November 2023; *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey*. Sanborn Map Company, - 1909: Vol. 4, 1909, 1909. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn05568_007/.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 9

the circa 1850 building and the adjacent land where the church was subsequently built on in 1909. They were both donated to the congregation by George Howell, a merchant from Philadelphia.⁴¹ For many years, Howell House served as the parsonage for the Macedonia Baptist Church.

Leaders within Macedonia Baptist Church include:

- In 1942, the pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, Reverend Augustus Chancy, served as secretary of the Afro-American B.Y.P.U. State Convention of New Jersey.⁴²
- Reverend Robert O. Davis served as pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church from 1961 to 2009. Although he served during a period that post-dates the period of significance, his role within the African American community was very significant and worthy of noting. As pastor of Macedonia, he organized the Entertainment and Education committee, Progressive Workers, and organized and directed the Macedonia Concert Choir that for 45 years, sang traditional Negro Spirituals at Convention Hall in Cape May. Rev. Davis was also a tenor soloist with the famed Wings Over Jordan Choir. As a community leader, he was instrumental in leading the African American community through the negotiations with the city during the 1960s urban renewal program. In addition, for 25 years, he was a permanent substitute teacher with the Lower Township Board of Education.⁴³
- Dot Jarmon, who was honored in 2000 for her extensive volunteer community service, including president of the Usher Board at Macedonia Baptist Church; member of the Sea Gals, providing gift certificates, baskets of food, and clothing; Post Chairperson of VFW Post 386's Voice of Democracy program, promoting annual Youth Essay Contests to help children stay out of trouble; volunteer at nursing homes; coordinator of gifts from merchants at Christmas time for the Auxiliary of the military Order of the Cooties; and initiator of effort to clean up the Mount Zion African American cemetery in Lower Township.⁴⁴

Extant Resources related to religion:

- Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church, 715 Franklin Street (#18),
- Franklin Street Methodist Church, 727-729 Franklin Street (#22)
- Macedonia Baptist Church, 630 Lafayette Street (#8)
- Howell House (historic Baptist parsonage; current Harriet Tubman Museum), 632 Lafayette Street (#9)

Home Ownership/Housing

Home was one of the most important places where a stress on pursuing excellence within the community

⁴¹ Gaines. "To Worship & Preserve." Cape May Magazine. Spring 2015.

⁴² Announcement, *Press of Atlantic City*, 17 January 1942, 12, accessed via Press of Atlantic City Archives, 9 May 2022.

⁴³ Obituary, Reverend Robert O. Davis, *Gazette of Cape May County*, 30 December 2015.

⁴⁴ "Faith Makes Dot Jarmon Outstanding," *Herald Newspapers*, 23 August 2000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 10

was expressed and taught to upcoming generations. The oral histories that the Cape May Center for Community Arts (CCA) conducted of African Americans in Cape May reflect these values, especially the importance of education and independence. In her August 29, 2005 oral history, Mary Cordelia Howard Bounds perhaps summed it up the best when she said that her mother insisted “Whatever you do, do your best. Don’t, don’t, you know don’t mess around. Do it well.” Pride was “a legacy that they imbued in all of us.” Bernice Howard Gordon, in her November 19, 2003 oral history stated “...you know, we were always polite. Well, you couldn’t live with Octavine Howard [her mother] and not be polite!” William J. Moore, whose daughter quoted him as focusing on working hard to improve with the goal of ultimately being able to “make a difference,” credited her father with instilling in his own 11 children “a sense of responsibility, duty, and thrift which became valuable habits.”⁴⁵

Starting in the early nineteenth century, Cape May’s African Americans formed a community. It’s location was described in the 1904 newspaper article as “in the vicinity of Lafayette and Jackson streets.”⁴⁶ This location was generally considered less desirable because it was further away from the ocean and the commercial center, while also being in close proximity to institutional and industrial facilities such as the gas works (no longer extant, which was located on the northeast corner of Lafayette and St. Johns Streets) and water tank (no longer extant, which was located at the corner of Franklin and Washington Streets).⁴⁷

In 1901, a piece in *Cape May Herald* advocated for removing African Americans from Cape May. The paper’s editor, Marcus Scull, who owned property along the African American section of Lafayette Street, published on the front page of the paper a letter from a resident who wanted to establish Lafayette Street as “an attractive avenue for settlement by white families.” The letter recommended removing the African American population, the “gas works and all things else objectionable.”⁴⁸ Thankfully, this effort was not successful. But it does demonstrate the challenges and sometimes outright hostility faced by the African American community overtime.

The close-knit nature of the African American community is reflected in the various census records by the fact that many blocks were either all-African American or all-white, although there is no indication that this was formally imposed. However, oral histories conducted by the Center for Community Arts indicate that there were unwritten restrictions. In 2020, Emily Dempsey relayed how the African American mayor of West Cape May⁴⁹ faced this discrimination:

But while you could go to the beach for relaxation, you couldn’t live along the beach, or buy property at the beachfront. Jack Vasser, mayor of West Cape May for 27 years and a large property owner in West Cape May, told friends about his efforts to buy along the beach. He said he was told by people selling property there, “It’s for sale, Jack, but if I sold it to you, I would not be able to

⁴⁵ <https://www.newspapers.com>, 10 May 2022. Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022.

⁴⁶ “The Farrow Divorce Case.” *Cape May Herald*, 22 December 1904 p1, <https://vdls.cmclibrary.org/>, accessed 12/19/2023.

⁴⁷ Thomas and Doebley, 23.

⁴⁸ Dorwart, 172.

⁴⁹ A portion of West Cape May Borough is included within the boundaries of the National Register listed Cape May Historic District.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 11

live in this town.”⁵⁰

A second example was provided in a CCA oral history describing when Pete and Shirley Stiles, a mixed-race couple living in Cape May, purchased a home at 821 Beach Drive by allowing Mrs. Stiles, who was white, to handle the purchase up until the closing, when:

...just as they were ready to sign the paperwork, her husband, a tall, good-looking African American man walked in, “and they all almost fell over backwards in their chairs,” recalled a relative. But they could not stop the sale.⁵¹

In the early 1960s, the city conducted a housing study that—although written after the period of significance—resulted in two relevant assessments. First, the city acknowledged the undesirability of the neighborhood containing Elmira and Bank Streets, an area with numerous African Americans and Italian immigrants, two groups considered more undesirable:

The usually low quality of housing abutting on an intensively used industrial district is familiar to most people. This is an extreme example of conflicting land use, which makes the area undesirable for residential use and discourages the maintenance of the dwellings located there. An example of the detrimental effects of mixed land use occurring in Cape May can be found in the Elmira-Bank Street section of the City.⁵²

In addition, as part of the same assessment, the city identified as a problem the fact that the “Negro community lives in a confined area of the City,” with the estimated magnitude of the problem being “entire Negro pop. With exception of one block.” The proposed solution was: “Realtors should not restrict Negroes to a confined area – Negroes should be encouraged to seek homes in all neighborhoods.”⁵³ This statement implies that the city certainly believed or understood that African Americans were being discouraged from moving to other neighborhoods in Cape May.

Extant resources associated with African American housing:

- 569-571 Bank Street (#1)
- 615 Broad Street (#2)
- 514 Elmira Street (#3)
- 519 Elmira Street (#4)
- 536 Elmira Street (#5)
- 544 Elmira Street (#6)
- 645 Lafayette Street, Stephen Smith House (#10)
- 802 Lafayette Street, part of Hotel Dale (#11)
- 826 Lafayette Street, (#12)

⁵⁰ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022. (Emily Edgecombe Dempsey Oral History, October 2017).

⁵¹ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022. (Stiles Oral History, 2020).

⁵² City of Cape May, “Statistical Profile,” n.d., Part 111, 19 (on file at the Center for Community Arts).

⁵³ Ibid., 38. The report does not identify the one block that was considered an exception, although it is possible that it was referring to the 800 block of Corgie Street, which is non-contiguous with other African American residential blocks.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 12

- 828 Lafayette Street, (#13)
- 830 Lafayette Street, (#14)
- 832 Lafayette Street (#15)
- 834 Lafayette Street (#16)
- 836 Lafayette Street (#17)
- 719-721 Franklin Street (#20)
- 811 Jefferson Street (#23)
- 815 & 815A Jefferson Street (#24)
- 817 Jefferson Street (#25)
- 819 Jefferson Street (#26)
- 825 Jefferson Street (#27)
- 808 Dale Place (#28)
- 808 Corgie Street (#29)
- 810 Corgie Street (#30)
- 817 Corgie Street (#32)
- 823 Corgie Street (#36)
- 826 Corgie Street (#37)
- 828 Corgie Street (#38)
- 836 Corgie Street (#40)

Economic (Business & Employment)

Business

Articles in national African American newspapers and CCA oral histories indicate that thrift was an important virtue, one that was clearly linked to gaining both independence and status within the community. Two examples of this theme on the national level were in *The Christian Recorder*. Specifically naming the elite resorts of Cape May, Newport, and Saratoga, a June 1866 article encourages the young men who were about to leave for a summer working in those communities to “avoid the temptations to extravagance, in their leisure hours, that surround these places.” The young men were encouraged to “save money enough at a watering place to make a start in life to buy a lot-or commence to buy a house.”⁵⁴ An 1879 article also emphasized the importance of thrift, stating,

If we could persuade well, no more than ten percent of these to save the earnings of one season at Cape May, or Newport, or Saratoga, and come west, not fearing a little MANLY work and buy a farm, we could just be instrumental in turning so many into lives of ease, honor and use...A better field than Kansas for aspiring young men of ability, who wish to enter the arena of politics, cannot be found.⁵⁵

In Cape May, the push for financial independence was manifested in several ways, including home

⁵⁴ “Going to the Watering Places,” *The Christian Recorder*, 16 June 1866, accessed via Accessible Archives, 9 April 2022.

⁵⁵ “Kansas,” *The Christian Recorder*, 9 July 1870, accessed via Accessible Archives, 9 April 2022.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 13

ownership, the development of African American-owned businesses, and the establishment of Whitesboro, an African American settlement, referred to during the early 20th century as a 'colony'.

In the mid-nineteenth century, the African American community in Cape May City primarily lived near the intersection of Lafayette and Franklin Streets with the community expanding further east and south along Lafayette, Jefferson, and Corgie Streets. By the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, more African Americans had moved northwest to houses along St. Johns, Broad, Elmira, and Bank Streets. Census records reflect the increase in homeownership within Cape May's African American community, with a higher degree of home ownership in the 800 blocks of Lafayette, Jefferson, and Corgie Streets than within the areas north of Lafayette Street. This dynamic is consistent with the fact that some of the residents in the areas of Lafayette, Jefferson, and Corgie Streets appear to have occupations requiring higher skill levels, including clergy, teachers, business owners, and a medical doctor. In 1900, 9% of all African American households in Cape May owned rather than rented their home. By 1920, the percentage of African American homeownership had increased to 23%; by 1930 to 32%, and by 1940 to 34%.⁵⁶

Using information obtained from the oral histories, CCA compiled a list of many of these businesses. As described by CCA:

Many of them [businesses] were located on Jackson Street between West Perry and Washington streets, and on Lafayette Street between Jackson and Jefferson streets. Between, and parallel to, Jackson and Perry streets, running west from Mansion, was a tiny lane called Chestnut (now an alley), which also was occupied by buildings and businesses. Others were located along Washington Street.⁵⁷

The businesses identified by CCA include a wide range of services, including hotels and small rooming houses, restaurants, tea rooms, bakery, pool room, bars / nightclubs, barbershops⁵⁸ and beauty parlors, groceries, drugstores, dry cleaners, shoe repair shop, trucking or hauling services, cement business, ice business, cleaning plant, gas station.⁵⁹

In 1933, a group of business and professionals met to establish an organization which would attempt to solve some of the problems affecting the business and professional members of the community.⁶⁰ It is unclear whether the 'problems' were due solely to the impact of the Great Depression or whether race was also a factor.

⁵⁶ United States Census data (on file at Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/>).

⁵⁷ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022.

⁵⁸ For additional context on the history and significance of black barbershops see Bristol, D. W., Jr. (2002). *From outposts to enclaves: A social history of black barbers, 1750–1915* (Order No. 3078215). Available from ProQuest Central. (305525715). Retrieved from <https://se.resources.njstatelib.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/outposts-enclaves-social-history-black-barbers/docview/305525715/se-2>

⁵⁹ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022.

⁶⁰ *Philadelphia Tribune*, 11 March 1933 p. 8 <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/> accessed 19 December 2023.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 14

Cape May's successful African American business community not only reflected African American values to strive for self-improvement and independence it also represented the national movement for the African American community to respond to growing restrictions by focusing on developing "entertainment and consumer district[s] of their own," as part of African American "spend your money among your own people" campaigns.⁶¹

Businessmen who contributed to Cape May's African American community, but are not represented by extant resources, included:

- Joseph Leach, editor of the *Cape May Ocean Wave*, abolitionist, and member of Cape Island's Baptist church.⁶²
- Joseph G. Vance, who was described as "a successful hotel man and groceryman at Cape May, N.J.," and "one of the oldest and most respected colored men in Cape May."⁶³ He conducted a grocery store and lodging house on Lafayette Street.⁶⁴ His grocery store caught fire, and the second floor was practically destroyed in 1909.⁶⁵
- Harry Williams was a driver for a local feed store, but qualified for and received his chauffeur license.⁶⁶
- Mrs. Lillie Hughes, lived at 712 West Avenue, but also owned a four-family apartment near Seventh Street and West Avenue.⁶⁷
- Dr. Vivian Pennock Bailey, a dentist from Germantown PA who summered in Cape May and practiced at 510 Washington Street from at least 1913 to 1915.⁶⁸
- Ernest White had an establishment (presumably a restaurant/bar/club) located on Elmira Street.⁶⁹

Employment

Cape May's history exemplifies the social class distinctions that African Americans faced. Within a predominantly white resort town, they were relegated to the lowest level jobs, including general labor, housekeeping, and service positions (e.g., waiters, waitresses, cooks, maids, porters, and busboys) within Cape May's hotels and boarding houses, including the large hotels such as the Chalfonte (#46) and Congress Hall (#42). IN the summer of 1850, one visitor commented "All the waiters here are negroes or mulattoes."⁷⁰ Occasional articles in African American newspapers name specific hotels in reference to their African American staff. For example, in 1901, brief news stories describe a large lawn

⁶¹ Goldberg, *The Retreats of Reconstruction*, 74; Myra B. Young Armstead. *Revisiting Hotels and Other Lodgings: American Tourist Spaces through the Lens of Black Pleasure-Travelers, 1880-1950*, 141.

⁶² Barbara Dreyfuss, "Freedom's Corner: Anti-Slavery Leaders in Cape May," *Cape May Magazine*, Spring 2019.

⁶³ Social Announcements, *The New York Age*, 19 February 1914, 5, accessed via <https://www.newspapers.com>, 10 May 2022.

⁶⁴ "A Small Fire" *Cape May Herald*, 4 November 1909 p 1, accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 19 December 2023.

⁶⁵ "Vance's Store Burns." *Cape May Star and Wave*, 30 October 1909 p1, accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/>

⁶⁶ "Chauffer Seized with an Attack of Vertigo." *Cape May Star and Wave*, 3 July 1915 p8 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

⁶⁷ Cape May County Times, 16 November 1923 p 8 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

⁶⁸ *Philadelphia Tribune*, 2 October 1915 pg. 7 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023. and *Philadelphia Tribune*, 30 May 1914 p. 3 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

⁶⁹ "Police Break Up Charleston Party." *Cape May County Times*, 12 March 1926 p1 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

⁷⁰ Cape May Geographic Society Eighteenth Annual Bulletin, June 1965, p 11.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 15

party held at the Chalfonte by the chef, Mrs. George Anderson,⁷¹ and the Congress Hall staff providing entertainment at Dale Auditorium Hall.⁷²

A review of the United States Census data indicates that throughout the late nineteenth century, many African Americans in Cape May held low-level positions. In 1870, the majority of the African American males were listed as “laborers;” the majority of the females in Cape May were listed as ‘Keeping House,’ presumably meaning not working outside of the house. In later census data, there is a greater variety of employment listed for African Americans, including numerous hotel-related jobs. For the African American women, there are increasingly more women listed in domestic positions, including general housework, laundress, child nurse, or live-in servants with white families.⁷³ The Emlen Physick Estate (#44) illustrates this trend. The 1900 census shows two African American women living as servants. Lizzie B. Smith was 30 and serving as a servant maid. Leah Showell was 48 and serving as a cook.⁷⁴ The 1910 census shows two different African American women living as servants. Twenty-two-year-old Zerania Davis was working as a private waitress and twenty-seven-year-old Alice Johnson was working as a private cook.⁷⁵

For the many African American men who listed their work as “laborer,” some of them undoubtedly found employment in the construction activity. Following the Civil War, there was an extensive number of public infrastructure improvement projects in Cape May, leading to the comment in 1868 that “[t]here are more improvements underway than in any half dozen previous years.”⁷⁶ In 1868, there were extensive road improvements, including extending Beach Drive north from Ocean Street, widening Lafayette Street and parts of Washington Street, opening and grading Grant Street by the West Jersey Railroad, and lowering the grade on Washington and Jackson Streets for drainage and surface preparation.⁷⁷ In 1878, the city’s water works, located at Washington and Franklin Streets, was improved by the addition of a new tank.⁷⁸ Other public construction projects—in addition to the ongoing construction of hotels and guest houses, especially following one of the city’s fires—included the Victor Denizott Pier and the Cape May and Schellengers Landing Passenger Railway (1881); the Cape May Beach Improvement Company’s grading of lots at the old Mount Vernon Tract; the 1884 completion of the Ocean Pier; construction of pavilions along the beach front in 1891; construction of the South Jersey Railroad Company tracks for its 1894 opening; the 1896 construction of a new auditorium with stores

⁷¹ “Dr. Creditt in Cape May,” *The Colored America*, (Washington, D.C.) 24 August 1901, accessed via <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1901-08-24/ed-1/seq-2/>, 19 October 2022.

⁷² “The Cape May News,” *The Colored American* (Washington, D.C.), 03 Aug. 1901, accessed 19 October 2022. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1901-08-03/ed-1/seq-2/>;

⁷³ United States census data, accessed via <https://www.ancestry.com>.

⁷⁴ 1900 Federal Census, Cape May City, Enumeration District 109, sheet 2

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-D5B7->

[CMS?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM9NT-H26&action=view](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-D5B7-CMS?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM9NT-H26&action=view)

⁷⁵ 1910 Federal Census, Cape May City, Enumeration District 86, Ward 2, Sheet 3A

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RKH-XHP?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMKTS-J3F&action=view>

⁷⁶ Hand, 91.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid, 110.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 16

and a public hall on Jackson Street; the 1896 construction of a new and wider boardwalk; the construction of new schools in 1901, 1917, and 1927-28; and the 1940 WPA jetty project.⁷⁹

As a resort town that attracted affluent guests from throughout the mid-Atlantic area—from New York to Washington, D.C.—Cape May, similar to other affluent vacation spots such as Saratoga and Newport, provided a sharp contrast between the city's affluent white visitors and its lower income African American labor, who staffed the city's many hotels and restaurants, and worked in the homes of affluent white homeowners. The two separate roles, i.e., white guests and the African American staff that served them, are exemplified in the African American Franklin Street M.E. Church's August 1890 notice in the local newspaper. The ad, which promoted the church's upcoming rally to raise funds to pay off the church's debt, showcases the African American community's close ties to the hotels:

The waiters and help of each hotel have been organized, with president, secretary and treasurer. Small envelopes, with the name of each hotel upon them, have been provided. The head waiter of the hotel bringing in the largest amount of money on that day will be presented with a handsome banner. We sincerely hope that the various hotels and villas will help those who wait upon them, day by day, in this grand and noble cause [to pay off the church debt].

We especially invite our white friends to the morning and afternoon services as the colored people do not get through their work in time to attend these services.⁸⁰

It was not only Cape May's year-round African American residents who worked in the resort industry; the opportunity for summer employment attracted many other African Americans—especially the young—to Cape May and other shore communities. Historian David E. Goldberg discussed this phenomenon:

Laboring often as dishwashers, cooks, hotel attendants other service-oriented positions in Philadelphia, New York City, and Baltimore during the winter months, many blacks often left these posts for the summer to take up similar work in Atlantic City, Asbury Park, and Cape May. Although the competition for these jobs left many to accept positions and wages beneath those they occupied back home, service work at the shore offered economic and social advancement beyond the opportunities available in many northern cities. Indeed, the availability of such positions allowed many African Americans to accept job opportunities as headwaiters, managers, desk clerks, and entertainers that accorded them middle- and upper-class status, which would have been nearly impossible in other northern communities. On the other hand, black seasonal laborers who took work as busboys, dishwashers, or boardwalk rolling-chair attendants faced harsh work schedules and degrading workplace encounters, and they were often susceptible to economic downturns, bad weather, and dismal living conditions that affected their pay and leisure opportunities.⁸¹

⁷⁹ Hand, *A Book of Cape May, New Jersey*; Historic Building Architects, LLC, *Preservation Plan for the Franklin Street School*, 2002; United States Census data, accessed via <https://www.ancestry.com>; Dorwart, *Cape May County, New Jersey*; Thomas and Doebly, *Cape May, Queen of the Seaside Resorts*.

⁸⁰ "Franklin Street M.E. Church," *Cape May Daily Star*, 7 August 1890, 3, accessed 18 September 2022.

<https://cmclibrary.org/>.

⁸¹ David E. Goldberg. *The Retreats of Reconstruction* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2017), 27.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 17

A June 1866 article in *The Christian Recorder* discussed the fact that within the upcoming weeks “numbers of colored men will leave the large cities for the watering places, where they will be employed as stewards, headwaiters, porters, barbers, etc.” The article openly acknowledges that “Prejudice, keeping them out of other business, forces them to engage in this kind of employment to so great an extent. They must make a living.”⁸² The influx of African Americans to Cape May for summer employment is indicated by the fact that there was an employment agency on Mansion Street that assisted African Americans coming to Cape May for summer employment, but the dates of this business’ operation are unknown.⁸³ There was also the Douglass Employment Agency run by Mrs. Joana Adams, which advertised along with the Douglass Hotel, which catered to African American clientele,⁸⁴ located on the corner of Lafayette and Jackson Streets⁸⁵. In the early twentieth century, advertisements specifically seeking “Black” or “colored” workers for Cape May appeared in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as well as local newspapers. These ads described a variety of low-level positions, including “middle-aged colored woman, assist with cooking and make herself generally useful;” “colored cook,”⁸⁶ “two colored waitresses,”⁸⁷ and even as late as 1943 “presser and tailor, colored,” a year-round position.”⁸⁸

Indicative of Goldberg’s claim that service work offered some opportunity for advancement, a 1903 news story about a “veteran head waiter” at Cape May’s Stockton Hotel (no longer extant) exemplified the potential for at least a few successful African Americans. Mr. F. Howard, who lived in Washington, D.C., was described as:

[having] charge of the Stockton Hotel, which accommodates 1,000 guests Mr. Howard has under his immediate control about 75 men, and is noted for his wide experience as head waiter and the ‘nack’ of handling men. He has two assistants and one private secretary.⁸⁹

Many African Americans worked in private service as well. Ottier Howard was the houseman for the Physick Estate, he came to the estate in 1901. Howard lived with his family in West Cape May.

Anna Woolford was a domestic working for M. Augustus Lengert Jr. and his wife Charlotte at their

⁸² “Going to the Watering Places,” *The Christian Recorder*, 16 June 1866, accessed 9 April 2022, via Accessible Archives,.

⁸³ Center for Community Arts, “African-American Heritage Walking Tour of Cape May,” October 2021.

⁸⁴ Cape May City: including Cape May Point, South Cape May and West Cape May, Cape May County, New Jersey (Sheet 14) 1909 Sanborn

⁸⁵ Advertisement, *Cape May Herald*, 23 August 1906 p3 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

⁸⁶ Classified Advertisement, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 7 June 1900, 12, accessed 26 December 2021. via <https://www.newspapers.com>.

⁸⁷ Classified Advertisement, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 12 August 1902, 12, accessed 26 December 2021. via <https://www.newspapers.com>.

⁸⁸ Classified Advertisement, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 1 January 1943, 26, accessed 26 December 2021. via <https://www.newspapers.com>.

⁸⁹ “A Veteran Head Waiter,” *The Colored American* (Washington, D.C.). August 1903. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress, accessed 19 October 2022 <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1903-08-01/ed-1/seq-2/>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 18

summer home located at 182 Decatur St. (#)⁹⁰. Like many African American domestics working for summer families, Woolford did not live in. She is enumerated at 531 Elmira Street in the 1940 census (no longer extant).⁹¹ Since domestic service for cottagers was seasonal work, it makes sense that employees would often live separately.

Iola Farmer presents another example of someone working in private service. On May 14, 1937 Mrs. George Skinner (Margaret) wrote to Iola Farmer, asking her to get the house ready for the season. The task was to clean the house – windows, floors, beds, dishes, curtains (Figure #XXX).

In contrast to the possibilities offered for advancement, newspaper accounts and the CCA oral histories reveal some of the challenges African American workers faced in their relations with either visitors or their employers. In 1856, two guests at the Mount Vernon Hotel in Cape May threw a glass at an African American waiter. According to the press story, the waiter simply remarked that the action “was not that of a gentleman.” One of the young white men, described as the son of a highly respectable citizen of Washington, D.C., later returned with a gun and a dagger and stabbed the waiter in the back. There is no indication that there were consequences for the young white man, simply a statement of “When will a hot headache young men of this country learned (sic) to control themselves.” The African American waiters, however, were described as incensed.⁹²

Opportunities for advancement and therefore additional wages undoubtedly attracted African Americans such as a pastor of an African American church in Wilmington, Delaware who was reported in a Delaware press story in July 1872 as “taking his rural vacation as a hotel-waiter at Cape May.”⁹³

In September 1897, approximately 50 African Americans at Congress Hall (#42) protested the lack of payment of their wages. According to the press story:

The unpaid colored help at Congress Hall, about fifty in number, have possession of the house and are clamoring for their wages. They are subsisting on donations of food given by charitable grocers, butchers, and market men. They propose to hold the fort until their claims are satisfied. Proprietor Cake, his wife and maid are still in the house, but there are no guests.⁹⁴

In 1905, *The Vicksburg Herald* in Vicksburg, Mississippi picked up on a story in the local Cape May press:

The *Cape May Star* tells the negro employees and job hunters of that famous sea side resort that their claiming the right to hire bathing suits, and dip in with the white guests, is senseless. And that ‘if they persist in this line of conduct along the coast, it will have a tendency to drive patrons from

⁹⁰Pip Campbell personal correspondence to Andrea Tingey 15 December 2023.

⁹¹ "United States Census, 1940", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K45N-SZS> : Tue Nov 28 17:49:48 UTC 2023), Entry for Anna Woolford and Florence M Woolford, 1940.

⁹² “An Outrage at Cape May,” *The National Era*, 14 August 1856, accessible 6 April 2022 via Accessible Archives,.

⁹³ *Wilmington Daily Gazette* (Wilmington, Delaware), 29 July 1872. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, Library of Congress, accessed 17 October 2022 <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84026836.1871-07-29/ed-1/seq-1/>.

⁹⁴ “The ‘Help’ Holds the Fort,” 07 September 1897, accessed 20 June 2022 via <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024441/1897-09-07/ed-1/seq-4/>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 19

the resorts at which these things occur, and when the patrons go they will necessarily be out of jobs and will have to leave also. The ultimate result will be that hotels will dispense with colored help in order to protect their business.’⁹⁵

Indeed the 1905 New Jersey census illustrates the wide breadth of jobs filled by African Americans in Cape May, the most prevalent were: day laborer (112), waiter (57), cook (38), domestic servant (54), washing (28), waitress (19), washing and ironing (15), maid (11), house servant (11), laundress (7), and barber (7). But also included were: bartender (4), bellman (3), bootblack (3), carpenter (3), cater (1), chambermaid (4), chiropodist (1), grocery store clerk (2), coachman (2), drayman (1), dressmaker (1), ice wagon driver (1), farmer (3), fisherman (1), garbage (1), gardener (3), general housework (1), hod carrier (2), hostler (1), hotel keeper (1), housekeeper (1), keeps boarding house (2), keeps hotel (1), landlord (1), manicurist (2), minister (3), nurse (3), plasterer (1), pool and billiard room (1), pool room (1), porter (3), preacher (2), provisions store (1), restaurant (1), saloon keeper (1), School teacher (1), shoemaker (2), stackman (1), stationary engineer (1), and teamster (2).⁹⁶

There are several examples of multiple generations of the same family sharing the same employer. Three generations of the Dickerson family worked at the Chalfonte (Aunt Kate, Helen Dickerson, and Helen’s daughters – Dot and Lucille)⁹⁷. In her CCA oral history, Agnes Hicks reported that as a 10-year-old she went to work with her mother for Dr. Marcy at 115 Ocean Street. She reported that her grandmother and great-grandmother had been employed there as well.⁹⁸

In her 2006 oral history, Cape May African American Agnes Hicks gave several examples of the challenges she experienced with even such a basic human need as use of a bathroom:

There was one place I worked, and I told the lady, I told her I had to do Number One. She said, ‘There’s plenty of hog troughs on the way home.’ I said, ‘Well, I have to go home, then.’ So, I walked.

So, one day I cleaned the bathroom, and I had to do Number One. She comes in. ‘Agnes, did I hear you flush the toilet?’ I said, ‘Yes, I had to do Number One.’ “Well, you must learn to take care of your wants before you leave home. Now you clean it, but you don’t use it.”⁹⁹

Extant resources associated with places of African American business and employment:

- Opera Huff’s Bakery, 621 Lafayette Street (#7)

⁹⁵ *The Vicksburg Herald* (Vicksburg, Mississippi), 30 July 1905, 4, accessed 5 May 2022 via <https://www.newspapers.com>.

⁹⁶ "New Jersey State Census, 1905." Database. FamilySearch. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 9 November 2023. Department of State, Trenton.

⁹⁷ CCA, John T. and Dolly D. Nash African American History Archives, oral histories, Libby Allison.

⁹⁸ CCA, John T. and Dolly D. Nash African American History Archives, oral histories, Agnes Hicks, page 12. Corroborated by the 1920 census which records V.M.D. Marcy, a physician, at this address. "United States Census, 1920", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M454-CB1> : Fri Dec 08 02:15:42 UTC 2023), Entry for V M D Marcy and Helen W Marcy, 1920.

⁹⁹ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 20

- Keith's Steam Laundry, (#47)
- Congress Hall, 251 Beach Avenue (#42)
- Emlen Physick Estate, 1048 Washington Street (#44)
- Chalfonte Hotel, 301 Howard Street (#46)
- Doctor Virgil Marcy's Office, 115 Ocean Street(#)
- Doctor Vivian Pennock Bailey's Summer Dental Office, 510 Washington Street (#)

Education

Primary and Secondary Schools

Historic records indicate that early public education in Cape May followed a pattern that Marion Thompson Wright identified as typical throughout New Jersey, i.e., religious leaders collaborated to develop schools for their respective communities.¹⁰⁰ By 1833 in Cape Island, land at the corner of Franklin and Lafayette Streets had been either purchased from or donated by Aaron I. Schellinger in order to construct a school. Typical of other communities, Cape May's earliest public schools were not segregated.¹⁰¹ Thompson Wright also indicated that African American children were often educated via church Sunday School programs.¹⁰² Due to the fact that an African Methodist Episcopal church had been formed in the city by 1845, it is likely that the church would have developed a Sunday School program that served to supplement educational efforts for African American children.

Census data provides some information on the number of African American students in Cape May County and the city in the mid-nineteenth century. Throughout the county there were 28 African American students attending school at some point prior to 1860, and 73 in 1860. For the city, it is not clear how many African American students were attending school in 1850, but there are nine listed for 1860.¹⁰³ Because of the fact that the Cape Island Superintendent of Schools included in his 1861 annual report to the state a discussion of the teaching challenges associated with "mingling" African American and white students, it is presumed that the few African American students in the city were still being taught in the combined school.

In 1860-61, there was a push in Cape Island for better school facilities. A February 1860 editorial in the *Cape May County Ocean Wave* reflected this concern, stating "While we at Cape Island have every opportunity to have the best schools in the county, and equal to any in the state, we are really five or ten years behind almost every section of the county, and in reality, are nowhere."¹⁰⁴ A year later, Dr. James S. Kennedy, the Cape May Island Superintendent of Schools, submitted a report to the State School

¹⁰⁰ Marion Manola Thompson, *The Education of Negroes in New Jersey*, 1941, as included in Graham Russell Gao Hodges, *The Marion Thompson Wright Reader*, 2022, 135; 159.

¹⁰¹ Historic Building Architects, LLC, *Preservation Plan*, IV-3.

¹⁰² Marion Manola Thompson, *The Education of Negroes in New Jersey*, 1941, as included in Graham Russell Gao Hodges, *The Marion Thompson Wright Reader*, 2022, 135.

¹⁰³ Historic Building Architects, LLC, *Preservation Plan*, IV-3.

¹⁰⁴ Editorial, *Cape May County Ocean Wave*, 23 February 1860, as reported in Historic Building Architects, LLC, *Preservation Plan for the Franklin Street School*, 2002, IV-4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 21

Superintendent, which references the need for “a more suitable” school, “located in a more central part of the city” and one that is “sufficiently commodious.” He also indicated that Cape Island needed a school “where the colored classes may also receive the instruction designed for them, without mingling so much with the whole school, which to the minds of some is not a very pleasant reflection, and also to the teacher is oftentimes very annoying, and causes him, generally speaking, more trouble than three times the same number of white children would do, placed in the same position, (owing to the peculiar temperament of the African race.)”¹⁰⁵ In 1861, the city purchased the former Indian Queen Hotel, located near Queen and Washington streets, and used this building as a school for only a few years.¹⁰⁶ In 1863, the New Jersey State Superintendent of Schools, responding to an inquiry from “lower Cape May County,” provided the interpretation that municipalities only had to be equal in the funding they provided to separate races, but they could maintain separate schools.¹⁰⁷ In 1867, the year before the city sold the former hotel, a letter to the editor discussed the new location selected for a school: “One thing more is wanted: a fine schoolhouse and City Hall at the corner of Franklin street, opposite the new Episcopal church, with rooms suitable for lectures or concerts.”¹⁰⁸

In 1867, the city funded the first public school in a location described as being on Franklin Street not far from the site of the privately funded 1833 school. With the construction of the 1867 school¹⁰⁹, Cape May initiated segregation. The white children attended school in the new schoolhouse; the African Americans attended school in the one-room African American Masonic Lodge that was located across Franklin Street and between Lafayette and Osborne Streets.¹¹⁰

In 1881, New Jersey passed legislation that forbade school assignment based on race or nationality. It passed, in part because of a circumstance in Red Bank NJ where the African American community demanded access to the white school because their own school had been destroyed by fire. It was quickly challenged with hearings held in Trenton in 1883. One argument for maintaining segregated education was that the races maintained separate churches.¹¹¹ Although this law was challenged, it was upheld by the State Supreme Court in 1884.¹¹² Following the passage of the 1881 law, municipalities in the northern part of the state acted more quickly to desegregate. In the southern part of the state, some people advocated for desegregated schools out of concern for African Americans dealing with inferior school infrastructure as well as lower quality of education. Some African Americans, however, preferred to have separate schools, which historians have attributed to multiple factors, including: the comfort level of African Americans from the southern states who were used to segregation; a desire for their own school that—similar to their own churches and fraternal organizations—provided the African American

¹⁰⁵ “Superintendent’s Report,” *Cape May Ocean and Wave*, 21 March 1861, 1 accessed via <https://vdl.s.cmcclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁰⁶ Barbara Dreyfuss, “Past, Present and Future of the Franklin Street School,” Spring, 2018.

¹⁰⁷ Hodges, *Black New Jersey, 1664 to the Present Day*, 72; Historic Building Architects, LLC, *Preservation Plan*, IV-5.

¹⁰⁸ Letter to the Editor, *Cape May County Ocean Wave*, 17 July 1867, as reported in Historic Building Architects, LLC, IV-4.

¹⁰⁹ The 1867 School was located at 514 Franklin Street on the 1890 Sanborn Map (Sheet 12) directly across from Osborne Street.

¹¹⁰ Historic Building Architects, LLC, *Preservation Plan*, IV-5.

¹¹¹ *Cape May Wave*, 24 November 1883 p2 accessed via <https://vdl.s.cmcclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹¹² Wright 1971, 50.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 22

community with more of a sense of self-direction; fear that African American teachers would lose their jobs in schools that were integrated; and fear that African American students would be subject to racial prejudice in a desegregated environment.¹¹³ Marion Thompson Wright attributed the reaction in the southern part of the state as “the tendency of South Jersey to follow the lead of Pennsylvania and Delaware, the more continued homogeneity of Population elements, and the migration of Negroes into this section from contiguous states where separate schools were the rule combined to support an opinion making for the acceptance of the separation of the races in the schools.”¹¹⁴

In 1892, the state superintendent of schools “had been asked to settle the question of a color line in schools” that was initiated by the family of an African American girl who was denied entrance into Cape May High School due to her race.¹¹⁵ In the fall of 1901, African American parents retained an attorney to fight in court for the school board to provide rooms in a newly built school for their children. The school board believed the children could have their needs met by two rooms in the old school. At the time there were approximately 500 white students, and 100 African American students.¹¹⁶ In 1901, the city built a two-story brick building on Lafayette Street for white students, leaving the whites’ former school, which became known as the “Annex,” to the African Americans.¹¹⁷ For the second time, the white children received a new school building, while the African American children were assigned to an older, recycled building. In 1917, during World War I and what was described as “a wartime building boom,” the city built a new high school (#45) on Washington Street. Although the lower grades remained segregated, both whites and African Americans attended the new high school.¹¹⁸

In addition to the population increase, the city was facing increased needs in its educational infrastructure. The building known as the Annex that was used by the African American lower school children was described as being in “dangerously poor condition” and not large enough for the increase in the number of children. In addition, the only gymnasium was in the basement of the Lafayette Street School and did not provide optimal conditions.¹¹⁹ In addition, there was pressure from the African American community. In February 1925, the community, represented by Walter Redden, an African American businessman and homeowner, spoke up for its needs. As described in a local newspaper,

Perhaps the most definite step taken in this direction [the city committing to a new school] was made just a few weeks ago, at the City Hall. Walter Redden, a well known and respected colored citizen, appeared before the city commissioners, representing certain

¹¹³ Wright, 52; Price, “We Knew Our Place, We Knew Our Way, Lessons from the Black Past of Southern New Jersey,” 19-20.

¹¹⁴ Thompson Wright, 228.

¹¹⁵ “History From Our Files,” *The Courier-News*, 12 November 1947, 20, accessed via <https://www.newspapers.com>, 11 May 2022.

¹¹⁶ “The Colored Scholar Question.” *Cape May Herald*, 28 September 1901, p 1, accessed via <https://vdl.s.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹¹⁷ The school building is on the 1909 Sanborn Map (Sheet 16) at 616-630 Lafayette Street (presumably the address as it sits between 614 and 632 Lafayette St; Historic Building Architects, LLC, *Preservation Plan*, IV-5-6.

¹¹⁸ Historic Building Architects, LLC, *Preservation Plan*, IV-5-6.

¹¹⁹ Historic Building Architects, LLC, *Preservation Plan*, IV-6-7.

¹¹⁹ *ibid.*, IV-6.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 23

civic organizations of colored people, and presented a verbal petition for the building of such a school, setting forth the necessities, and discussing some of the practical aspects of the situation.¹²⁰

It is unclear what civic organizations he represented; however, this situation provides an excellent example of the African American community working together to speak up for its rights. In May 1927, the city posted its plans for a new school in the local newspaper:

The Annex School is to face on Franklin Street, adjoining the Macedonia Baptist Church and the gymnasium will adjoin the present Lafayette Street School facing the rear of that building.¹²¹

Construction took place the following year, with the Franklin Street School opening in October 1928.¹²²

In the 1930s and 1940s, there were an increasing number of controversies about segregated schools in multiple communities in New Jersey, including in Toms River, Montclair, East Orange, and Trenton.¹²³ These controversies led to the development of two statewide studies. First, the New Jersey Commission on the Urban Colored Populations included in its 1945 annual report a statewide assessment of the public education system's treatment of African American students, using data from the 1943-44 school year. Cape May County was found to be one of ten counties in New Jersey that still had segregated schools. Statewide, only 25.4% of all African American students were in segregated schools. Of the 463 African American teachers working in New Jersey, only nine were working in desegregated schools.¹²⁴ The Commission's summary assessment of segregated schools included the following:

Besides the disparity reflected in inferior buildings, inadequate equipment and scarcity of many needed training facilities, the effects of overcrowded Schools were observed to be unusually disastrous, very obviously, resulting in a serious, indisputable handicap to the students. While the Negro elementary school teachers ... apparently averaged as much training as the white elementary school teacher in the same community, they were required to teach upward to 40 per cent more students.¹²⁵

The Cape May County Superintendent's annual reports to the state from 1918 to 1947 provide annual counts of the number of African American students in each municipality's school. Starting in 1918, there were 109 African American students in Cape May City's public schools. Consistent with population data concerning the migration of African Americans from the south, the number of African American students gradually increased until the mid-1920s, then peaked in 1924 at 165 African American students. In the mid-1930s, the numbers declined at a faster rate, with only 136 students in

¹²⁰ "New School to be Built," February 1925, Vol 70, no. 6 (newspaper clipping in the collection of Robert W. Elwell, Sr.)

¹²¹ *Cape May Star and Wave*, 19 May 1927, 6, as reported in Historic Building Architects, LLC, *Preservation Plan*, IV-7.

¹²² Historic Building Architects, LLC, *Preservation Plan*, IV-6.

¹²³ "Segregation Fought in Jersey Schools," *The Hartford Chronicle*, 19 April 1947, accessed via <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn92051342/1947-04-19/ed-1/seq-16/>.

¹²⁴ New Jersey Commission on the Urban Colored Population. *Annual Report, The Negro Citizen and New Jersey Democracy*, 1945.

¹²⁵ *ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 24

1935; 122 in 1940; and 98 in 1947.¹²⁶ By 1943-44, the number had dropped to 74 students and three teachers.¹²⁷

In the fall of 1946, the New Jersey Conference of N.A.A.C.P. branches conducted a survey of 52 communities (including Cape May) in 18 counties.¹²⁸ In the spring of 1947, the N.A.A.C.P. was invited to present its findings to the State Commission of Education and the State Council Against Discrimination. The Chair of the State Council Against Discrimination was Dr. Robert C. Clothier, who would serve as President of the New Jersey Constitutional Convention. His dual role ultimately led to incorporation of the school segregation topic into New Jersey's third constitution, which was drafted at a constitutional convention in the summer of 1947 and was passed by the electorate in November 1947. In early 1948, Governor Alfred E. Driscoll instructed all state government departments to implement the new constitutional requirements.¹²⁹ In response to the new constitution, Cape May desegregated its school system in 1948.

In 1968, twenty years after integration, a city planning report included the following statement:

Desegregation took place in the elementary school in 1948. This action helped to promote the education of the Negro children but lack of pre-school experiences still gave many of these children (as well as the children of other low-income families) a handicap from the start.¹³⁰

In the twentieth century, there was increased concern throughout the state about the effects of segregated schools. In May 1923, during a meeting of the Organization of Teachers of Colored Children, it was reported that in three New Jersey counties, Salem, Cape May, and Monmouth, "color teachers" were "being paid from \$100 to \$200 per [sic] annum less than white teachers." A special committee, appointed by the organization to look into the issue, passed a resolution condemning the situation; the resolution was sent to the State Teachers' Association. The committee planned to pursue the issue with the State Commissioner and State Board of Education.¹³¹

In the 1920s, the city's overall population grew, as well as its African American population. The 1930 United States census reflected an approximate 51% increase in the city's population.¹³² The number of African American students in the city's schools grew from 109 in 1918 to 165 in 1924.¹³³

¹²⁶ *Annual Report of the County Superintendent for Cape May County* (for the School Years Ending 1918-1947), on file at the New Jersey State Archives; New Jersey Commission on the Urban Colored Population. *Annual Report, The Negro Citizen and New Jersey Democracy*, 1945.

¹²⁷ *Annual Report of the County Superintendent for Cape May County* (for the School Years Ending 1918-1947), on file at the New Jersey State Archives.

¹²⁸ "Segregation Fought in Jersey Schools," *The Hartford Chronicle*, 19 April 1947, accessed via <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn92051342/1947-04-19/ed-1/seq-16/>.

¹²⁹ Joseph L. Bustar, *The New Jersey Story Concerning the Development of Racially Integrated Public Schools*, 16-18 April 1952, 6-7.

¹³⁰ City of Cape May, "Statistical Profile," Part 111, 1968, 67, on file at the Center for Community Arts.

¹³¹ "New Jersey Teachers Make Fight on Salary Differences in State," *The New York Age*, 16 February 1934, accessed via <https://www.newspapers.com>, 10 May 2022.

¹³² *ibid.*

¹³³ *Annual Report of the County Superintendent for Cape May County* (for the School Years Ending 1918-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 25

Until 1928, white children received newer buildings and schoolbooks, with African American children using secondary facilities and schoolbooks. In 1928, the city built the Franklin Street School (#21) as a school for the African American lower grades. Although African American children had for the first time a new building, they still dealt with a segregated school system with hand-me-down textbooks and restricted access to the new gymnasium attached to the rear of their school.¹³⁴ Cape May historian Robert W. Elwell, Sr. described how the gymnasium, rather than the larger part of the building, i.e., the African American school, received the greater press attention at the time of the building's opening, as well as the greater fanfare for the separately held dedication ceremonies. According to Elwell's analysis, such steps "gave [him] a real awakening as to just how serious the school system was about segregation."¹³⁵

The segregation of Cape May's schools continued until 1948, when the city was forced to desegregate following the State of New Jersey's 1947 adoption of a new State Constitution that forbade school segregation.¹³⁶

Giles R. Wright, Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission's Afro-American History Program, tied the significance of Cape May's Franklin Street School to the high value that African Americans placed on education, stating:

Underscoring the import that can be attached to the Franklin Street School, warranting its preservation, is the exalted place education has occupied historically in the black community. No group in the nation has endowed education with greater meaning in its quest for self-improvement than African Americans.¹³⁷

African Americans' understanding of the importance of education had a strong foundation in the early-to mid-nineteenth century Negro Conventions, which encouraged:

vocational training and work opportunities, proper home training for children, the formation of societies for promoting intellectual improvement and correct moral conduct, and the philosophy which should direct educational facilities for Negroes.¹³⁸

As reflected in various agendas and meeting reports, these conventions were highly structured, formal gatherings that focused on and organized petitioning of state legislatures on important social issues for African Americans, including poverty, education, and enfranchisement.¹³⁹ Historian Shawn C. Comminney credits these conventions as "a vital part of a continuous, strengthening, black political

1947), on file at the New Jersey State Archives.

¹³⁴ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May: A Feeling of Community*, 2022.

¹³⁵ Robert W. Elwell, Sr. "Franklin Street School Opens for Black Students in 1928," *Cape May Gazette*, n.d.

¹³⁶ Barbara Dreyfuss, "Past, Present and Future of the Franklin Street School," *Cape May Magazine*, Spring, 2018.

¹³⁷ Correspondence, Giles R Wright to the Center for Community Arts; "Frank Johnson, Leader, and His Famous Band," *The New York Age*, 11 April 1907, 1, accessed via <https://www.newspapers.com>, 10 May 2022.

¹³⁸ Wright, *African Americans in New Jersey*, 102.

¹³⁹ Price, "We Knew Our Place, We Knew Our Way, Lessons from the Black Past of Southern New Jersey, 14.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 26

consciousness and the foundation for future black protest in America.”¹⁴⁰ John Cromwell, who has studied these conventions, provided this explanation:

The conventions were great educators, alike of the Negro and the American whites. They taught the former [sic] parliamentary usages and how to conduct deliberative bodies. They brought to light facts pertaining to the Negro's status which tended to establish that he was thrifty and steadily improving as a moral and economic force, while the American whites had in them an object lesson from which they learned much.¹⁴¹

Robert Cox, who attended the 1865 State Convention of Colored Men, would have understood and shared with his home community the importance of education. Two years after Cox attended the State Convention, Cape Island segregated its schools. Despite the ensuing 81 years of forced segregation, oral histories of African Americans in Cape May who attended the segregated school include positive comments about the quality of their educational experience, crediting their teachers with striving to give them a good education:

Teachers often lived in the local community, knew the families, and were deeply involved in the lives of their students. They worked closely with the parents to make sure that the children focused on their work and got the support they needed to excel (Dempsey, 2020).

... I just see things that I learned from those people [teachers], you know, the dignity, and the pride, and they took pride in teaching us, and they took pride in us, as neighborhood kids (Smith, 1997).

Teachers taught Black history, instilling pride in the students about the achievements of political leaders, scientists, educators, writers, and historians. While there were books detailing these accomplishments, the teachers often taught through oral histories, sometimes relating the inspiring stories of people they knew. Mrs. Fannie D. Owens, a teacher at Franklin Street School, for example, was a personal friend of famed educator Mary McLeod Bethune. Bethune was an advisor to President Franklin Roosevelt and part of his “Black Cabinet” (Edgecombe, 2019).

Isabel Woodson, a teacher at the one-room Masonic Lodge on Franklin Street, was the sister of Dr. Carter Woodson, Dean of Howard University and known as the “father of Black history.” Writer, journalist, and historian Carter Woodson founded the *Journal of Negro History* and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (Brown, n.d.)¹⁴²

Curriculum included African American history, highlighting prominent figures such as George Washington Carver and Frederick Douglass.¹⁴³ Students also learned skills such as sewing, knitting,

¹⁴⁰ Comminey, “National Black Conventions and the Quest for African American Freedom and Progress, 1847-1867,” 1.

¹⁴¹ Marion Manola Thompson, *The Education of Negroes in New Jersey*, 1941, as included in Graham Russell Gao Hodges, *The Marion Thompson Wright Reader*, 2022, 157-158, citing John Cromwell, *The Negro in American History* (Washington 1914).

¹⁴² Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022.

¹⁴³ *Black Voices*, p 28

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 27

reed basket weaving, and chair caning.¹⁴⁴ There was also a robust cooking department.¹⁴⁵ Much of this would not have been part of lessons in an integrated school.

Local newspaper articles document several attempts by the African American population to improve educational facilities and opportunities for their children. In 1909, Charles Key, an African American veteran and resident, was a candidate for the Board of Education in Cape May City. In this case his supporters had no complaint with the schools or the treatment of their children, rather they wanted to show “white people how much power they had when banded together for a particular object[ive].”¹⁴⁶ Unfortunately the outcome was not successful as the ballots submitted were thrown out because they carried only one name (two seats were available) and did not specify a term.¹⁴⁷ In 1914, Harry Bean, an African American resident, was a candidate to the Board of Education in West Cape May. His supporters felt that there were not adequate facilities supplied for all children.¹⁴⁸ The outcome of this election would require additional research to document.

Despite often inferior facilities, Cape May’s segregated schools offered students many opportunities for education and enrichment. Newspaper articles detail: May Day sports with prizes,¹⁴⁹ a glee club,¹⁵⁰ baseball,¹⁵¹ and lectures by subject matter experts.¹⁵²

Due in large part to the dedication and wisdom of the faculty, many African American students thrived. Cordelia Howard Bounds, a teacher at the Franklin Street School from 1937 to 1945, was admired by her students. She had also been an excellent student, the third in her family to graduate with the highest ranking in their respective classes at Cape May High School (#45), after studying in the lower grades in West Cape May’s segregated Annex. Although her older brothers were both named Valedictorians of their classes, the school administration did not grant her that honor. After high school, Cordelia went on to college because, as she explained in her CCA oral history, her father insisted that she get a college education. Her father wanted his children to have professions, stating “My women are not going to work in some white person’s kitchen.”¹⁵³

Another example of a student who excelled in Cape May’s segregated system was Dr. James Morgan Griffin, who attended two of Cape May’s segregated schools, the Annex and the Franklin Street School,

¹⁴⁴ *Black Voices*, p 29

¹⁴⁵ *Philadelphia Tribune*, 31 January 1931, p. 4, accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/> 19, December 2023.

¹⁴⁶ “The School Elections.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 20 March 1909, p 4 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ “Stirring School Election in West Cape May.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 21 March 1914, p8 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁴⁹ “Annex News.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 13 May 1922 p 2 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁵⁰ “Annex School Notes.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 1 October 1921 p3 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁵¹ “Annex Notes.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 29 April 1922 p8 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁵² “Lectures for Annex School.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 26 September 1914 p8 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁵³ Barbara Dreyfuss, “Past, Present and Future of the Franklin Street School,” Spring, 2018.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 28

and graduated from Cape May High School in 1936. As a child, Griffin lived in the Hotel DeGriff, which his parents owned. After high school, he earned an undergraduate degree from Hampton Institute, a master's degree from Springfield College, and a Ph.D. from New York University. He served as a member of the Hampton faculty and head coach of its football team. Active in many organizations outside of his teaching and coaching career, he served on numerous boards, including on the U.S. State Department International Exchange Board and as a gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia State Block Grant Advisory Commission.¹⁵⁴

In addition to providing education for children, African American schools offered some educational opportunities for adults. In the 1940s the Annex School (located on Franklin Street, but no longer extant) offer night school classes. Over 13 weeks, they had an enrollment of 15 students. After the formal sessions concluded, lectures continued on a less structured basis. Topics included: "What is the Negro, His Origin, His Place in American Life" and "History of the African Abroad".¹⁵⁵

The Franklin Street School is individually significant under Criterion A in the Area of African American Civil Rights. Schools played a crucial role in the Civil Rights Movement providing education, community, and meeting places.

Other Educational Opportunities

African American churches offered many opportunities for education. In 1932, the Macedonia Baptist Church hosted 'a lecture and a night of mysticism lead by Prof. Ram Chandra, 'a Hindu mystic'.¹⁵⁶ Macedonia Baptist also offered a Teachers' Training Course.¹⁵⁷

There is one newspaper reference to the Eulalia Vance Art Hair School and its alumni.¹⁵⁸ Eulalia's married name was Lewis. But no additional information has been uncovered to date.

Extant resources associated with African American education:

- Franklin Street School, 720 Franklin Street (#21)
- Former Cape May High School (City Hall), 643 Washington Street (#45)

Recreation

According to African American historian Giles Wright, "While the church continued its pivotal position in the Black community, secular activities also increased and took new forms between 1870 and

¹⁵⁴ Robert W. Elwell, Sr., "A Cape May Youth Who Went on to Great Honors," *Cape May Gazette*, 20 February 2003.

¹⁵⁵ "Annex Night School Closes." *Cape May Star and Wave*, 28 March 1914 p 8 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁵⁶ *Philadelphia Tribune* Jul 23, 1932, p. 4 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

¹⁵⁷ *Philadelphia Tribune* Jun 10, 1933, p. 5 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

¹⁵⁸ "Notes From Cape May" *Philadelphia Tribune*, 23 June 1927, p. 13 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 29

1910.”¹⁵⁹ These activities included service organizations, literary groups, social organizations, and sports.

Lodges, Fraternal Organizations

Historian Graham Russell Gao Hodges described the formation of African American lodges:

Blacks throughout the state established social organizations including black lodges of the Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks, Knights of Pythias, American Woodmen, Sons and Daughters of Africa, Order of Moses, Good Samaritans, Eastern Star, Queen Esther Court of Calanthe, and the Household of Ruth. These organizations created leadership training and community and civic service. Blacks established glee clubs, literary societies, and race-defined versions of the Boys and Girls Scouts.¹⁶⁰

Press stories and oral histories reflect Cape May’s African Americans’ involvement with secular organizations, including participation in local branches of national organizations, hosting of meetings of national organizations and talks by nationally prominent individuals, and participation in an all-African American baseball team (the Cape May Giants, which were owned and managed by James L. Washington through at least the 1920s¹⁶¹). African Americans in Cape May participated in the following local chapters of national organizations: Oziel Grand Chapter of the State of New Jersey, an order of the Eastern Star; Ruth Chapter #6, an order of the Eastern Star; Eureka Masonic Lodge Number Five¹⁶², Free and Accepted Masons; Josephus Lodge, G.U.O. of Odd Fellows¹⁶³; VFW Post 386’s Voice of Democracy program; Auxiliary of the military Order of the Cooties, Carroller Lodge Odd Fellows¹⁶⁴; John Murray Post No. 113 G.A.R.¹⁶⁵; Magnolia Temple of Elks¹⁶⁶; and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)¹⁶⁷.

The press also mentions many seemingly more local clubs: Les Bon Freres, The Phyllis Wheatley Welfare Club,

Through their involvement in secular activities, the Cape May African American community hosted:

- Booker T. Washington in September 1914 as part of his tour throughout New Jersey that was described as “primarily to awaken interest in the movement for the betterment of the negro race,

¹⁵⁹ Giles R. Wright, *African Americans in New Jersey*, 48.

¹⁶⁰ Graham Russell Gao Hodges, *Black New Jersey 1664 to the Present Day* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2019), 135.

¹⁶¹ *Black Voices*, p 113

¹⁶³ The “Colored Oddfellows” are mentioned as a participating organization in the 1922 Fourth of July Parade. (“Fourth of July Parade to be Biggest Ever Held in This City.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 1 July 1922 p 1)

¹⁶⁴ On August 13, 1910 the “Carroller Lodge Odd Fellows (colored)” gave a street parade in regalia, headed by a fife and drum corps (“Carroller Lodge’s Street Parade.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 13 August 1910 p 1 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.)

¹⁶⁵ The John Murray Post GAR appears to have been named after John Murray, the first African American from Cape May to die in the Civil War (“Cape May Point.” *Cape May Ocean Wave*, 18 February 1864, p 2)

¹⁶⁶ *Philadelphia Tribune* 22 Jan 1931 p. 14 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

¹⁶⁷ The first regular meeting of the NAACP was held in the Masonic Hall in 1921. There were 63 members. “Cape May Point.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 12 November 1921 p 5 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 30

in the language of the time.” Washington spoke for about an hour in the casino, emphasizing the importance of thrift, a sense of community, and education, stating “Get lands, get homes, become responsible citize’ns and all men whose opinions are worth much will respect you and honor you and assist you.” Following Washington’s talk, there was a banquet at Hotel Dale.¹⁶⁸

- Negro Race Congress on September 5, 1916 thanks to the efforts of one of the organization’s officers, Cape May African American H. Richardson. This session was held at the joint request of the Negro American Alliance and the League of Negro Republicans, with the main topic being African Americans’ rights under the New Jersey Civil Rights Bill. The leadership of the Congress was concerned about effectiveness of the law, with there being an increase in both discrimination and segregation, with special concern about the failure of the state legislature to provide for an African American regiment in the National Guard.¹⁶⁹
- W.E.B. DuBois at a banquet at the Hotel Dale in 1916, with Cape May’s Dr. Draper offering the toast to DuBois.¹⁷⁰
- Paul Robeson in April 1944 at a meeting held in the Jackson Street USO (which was a segregated USO for African Americans in service). The reaction to his speech was described as “No one who was present will soon forget the timely forceful address of Mr. Paul Robeson. He gave us hope for a better tomorrow.”¹⁷¹
- The Salvation Army Servicemen’s Club in New York City for entertainment at the USO during World War II.¹⁷²

After the passage of the 19th Amendment, the Republican Association of Colored Women of Cape May came into being. Robert H. Keith (of West Cape May) was credited with instigating the movement that resulted in the formation of the organization. The purpose was to give instruction in the process of voting as well as to inform regarding the positions advocated by candidates. The organization was governed by 21 women ‘of good report’. There was also an advisory board made up of 5 or 6 men.¹⁷³

The first regular meeting of the N.A.A.C.P. was held in the Masonic Hall on November 3, 1921. There were 63 members. The Executive Board was comprised of: Mr. Walter Redden, Mrs. Fannie Brown, Mr. John Pinder, Prof. C. Thompson, Mr. David Woodson, Mr. Charles Richardson, and Dr. Edgar Draper.¹⁷⁴

¹⁶⁸ Robert W. Elwell, Sr. “Booker T. Washington Once Spoke in Cape May,” *Cape May Gazette*, n.d.

¹⁶⁹ “Negro Race Congress Called in New Jersey,” *The New York Age*, 31 August 1916, 5, accessed via <https://www.newspapers.com>, 10 May 2022.

¹⁷⁰ Personal communication from Barbara Dreyfuss, 23 March 2022.

¹⁷¹ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022.

¹⁷² “Beatrice Madison and [sic] 150 Hostesses Bring Servicemen Pleasure,” *The New York Age*, 14 July 1945, 4, accessed via <https://www.newspapers.com>, 11 May 2022.

¹⁷³ “Colored Women’s Republican Association.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 23 October 1920 p 3 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org> 30 November 2023.

¹⁷⁴ “Cape May Point.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 12 November 1921, p 5 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org> 30

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)

County and State

Cape May County, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 31

It is not known where all of these organizations met, although it was most likely in one of the three churches or in one of the public meeting spaces such as the Odd Fellows building on Franklin Street, the Opera House on Jackson Street that served as the African American USO Center, or Dale Auditorium Hall.¹⁷⁵

Entertainment

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, African Americans in Cape May were restricted from accessing many recreational facilities that were allocated for whites, including theaters and bars. Although African Americans were allowed to see movies in the Liberty Movie Theater, they had to sit in their own section.¹⁷⁶

To compensate for their restricted access to white recreational facilities, the African Americans developed a vibrant network of facilities to provide entertainment for their own community. They frequented their own bars and clubs, including Charlie's Bar¹⁷⁷, Paul's Bar, and Vance's Bar, Hotel DeGriff, Richardson Hotel (#41), and Dale Hotel. They saw movies or attended events in either the African American Odd Fellows Building on Franklin Street or the Dale Auditorium Hall on Jackson Street between Lafayette and Washington Streets (neither of which are extant). E. W. Dale purchased this building in 1902 and used it both for showing "moving pictures" and as a café.¹⁷⁸ Multiple events were held in the Dale Auditorium Hall, with newspaper notices promoting events such as entertainment by Congress Hall waiters,¹⁷⁹ a cake walk¹⁸⁰, and a ball.¹⁸¹ A church that was located next to the Franklin Street School was used as a movie theater, with Ottier Howard, an African American electrician,

November 2023.

¹⁷⁵ 1909 Sanborn Sheet 14 depicts the Dale Auditorium as a three-story brick building with a restaurant and saloon on the first floor, theater on the second floor, and lodge rooms on the third floor. This was a separate facility from the Dale Hotel.

¹⁷⁶ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022. (John T. Nash Oral History, January 1997).

¹⁷⁷ Located at Jackson and Mansion streets ("Cape May Man Fined After Disturbance." *Cape May Star and Wave*, 1 April 1943 p2)

¹⁷⁸ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022. (John T. Nash Oral History, January 1997); "Hotel Dale" booklet.

¹⁷⁹ "The Cape May News," *The Colored American* (Washington, D.C.), 03 August 1901, accessed 19 October 2022 <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1901-08-03/ed-1/seq-2/>.

¹⁸⁰ A cake walk was a dance that originated on plantations and was often performed by African Americans in the nineteenth century as part of minstrel shows. Source: <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/12/23/256566647/the-extraordinary-story-of-why-a-cakewalk-wasnt-always-easy>. A newspaper article from 1892 describes it as an 'entertaining spectacle' where couples form a line "with great care and at a given signal the couples proceed to march around exhibiting the ease and gentleness of movement, as well as various spiral gyrations which are supposed to be particularly beautiful because they imply a succession of curved lines. The whole processions lives and moves in curves . . . The prizes are awarded to a couple and not to individuals . . ." ("A Cake Walk." *Cape May Daily Star*, 20 August 1892 p2). Cake walks appear regularly in Cape May newspapers from the early 1890s into the 1920s. They were often sponsored by waiters or bellman from specific hotels for the amusement of the guests, and the moderate enrichment of the staff. Prizes ranged from cakes to cash. Cake walks were often held in conjunction with other entertainments such as concerts, dances, balls, etc.

¹⁸¹ "A Lady President," *The Colored American* (Washington, D.C.), 22 August 1903, accessed 19 October 2022, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1903-08-22/ed-1/seq-11/>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)

County and State

Cape May County, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 32

running the movies.¹⁸²

In addition to the restrictions as to use of specific facilities, there are also examples of African Americans being excluded from specific events. For example, in June 1901, City Councilman R. J. Cresswell forbade African Americans from joining a city-sponsored trip to Wilmington, Delaware to see the launching of the ferryboat *City of Cape May*.¹⁸³

Sports

Excluded from white sports, African Americans in New Jersey “embraced baseball as a performance and spectator sport,” with teams formed in Newark, Atlantic City, Jersey City, Trenton, and Cape May.¹⁸⁴ Cape May’s team, the Giants, played every Monday and Thursday. In approximately 1920, a baseball field was constructed for city teams at a park across from the city’s water tower at the corner of Columbia and Madison avenues. Approximately ten years later, the field was relocated to the corner of Grant Street and Beach Drive. The African American team could only use the field if there were no schedule conflicts; otherwise, they had to move to “the Stockton lot” across from the Chalfonte Hotel. None of these fields are extant. In addition to a city team, at least one hotel, i.e., the Stockton, had its own baseball team.¹⁸⁵ There was also a separate Young Men’s Athletic Association, that maintained their own football team.¹⁸⁶

There was an early 20th century movement to establish an African American branch of the YMCA in Cape May. However, it was opposed by the African American community, and never came to fruition. The opposition appeared to be based on a lack of sympathy with the proponent Robert Keith rather than the facility type.¹⁸⁷

In 1943, there was also a movement to establish a community center for the African American population of Cape May. It was sponsored by the Civic Welfare League of Cape May. The intent was to provide better facilities for recreation and social development.¹⁸⁸ The outcome of this effort has not been discerned.

Beaches

As with any coastal community, a primary attraction for Cape May is the beach. Swedish author, Fredrika Bremer (1801—1865) visited Cape May in the summer of 1850. In her letters to her sister she wrote vivid descriptions of the public’s enjoyment of the beach:

¹⁸² Vertical files, Center for Community Arts.

¹⁸³ Dorwart, 172.

¹⁸⁴ Hodges, *Black New Jersey 1664 to the Present Day*, 134; Cape May MAC, Exhibit, Summer 2022.

¹⁸⁵ “The Cape May News,” *The Colored American*, (Washington, D.C.), 17 Aug. 1901,

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1901-08-17/ed-1/seq-11/>, accessed 19 October 2022; Cape May MAC, exhibit, summer 2022.

¹⁸⁶ “Facts in Brief.” *Cape May Herald*, 22 November 1902 p1 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁸⁷ “Colored Y.M.C. A. Meets Opposition.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 16 July 1921 p1 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁸⁸ “Recreation Planned for Colored Youth.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 13 May 1943 p 5 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 33

. . . many hundreds, in fact more than a thousand people, men, women, and children, in red, blue, and yellow dresses: . . . and yellow straw hats with broad brims, and adorned with bright red ribbons, go out into the sea in crowds, and leap up and down in the heaving waves, or let them dash over their heads, amid great laughter and merriment. Carriage and horses drive out into the waves, gentlemen ride into them, dogs swim about; white and black people, horses and carriages, and dogs – all are there, one among another¹⁸⁹

But, this picture of racial equality at the beach, whether real or just the perception of a European visitor, did not last. A 1907 newspaper piece notes that:

Much complaint is made of the presence of negro bathers among the whites. Four colored men were mixed up with them on the strand on Stockton grounds, and were also bathing alongside yesterday. Presumably they were waiters from some hotel. It is thought efforts should be made to prevent this.¹⁹⁰

In 1914, the attorney for the local NAACP did an investigation into attempted segregation on the Cape May Beach.¹⁹¹ They determined that “the public has a right to bathing, boating, canoeing, walking on the beach according to common law and opinions on well-defined cases in New Jersey.”¹⁹² However, the issue does not seem to have been resolved as in 1917, the following declaration was made: “We are glad to day that the color line on the beach has been wiped out,”¹⁹³ implying that the issue endured but was now resolved. However, de facto segregation continued.

As described in various oral histories by Cape May African Americans, there was a tacit understanding that African Americans should use the beach near Grant Street, with its African American lifeguards and separate facilities (including restrooms, water fountain, and a city-owned concession stand that was leased each year to African Americans).¹⁹⁴ None of these amenities are extant, only the beach itself (#47).

Bernice Howard Gordon described her impression of beach access:

There were no signs posted on the beach keeping African Americans off some areas of the sand, but everyone knew where they could hang out. Perhaps it was the Black lifeguards that were stationed in only one area, or the looks and comments you got when

¹⁸⁹ *Cape May Geographic Society Eighteenth Annual Bulletin*, June 1965, p 5.

¹⁹⁰ “The Strand and Bathing.” *Cape May Daily Herald*, 1 August 1907 p 1 accessed via <https://vdls.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁹¹ “Cape May, N.J. Talk.” *Philadelphia Tribune* 8 August 1914, p. 3 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

¹⁹² “Cape May, N.J. Talk.” *Philadelphia Tribune* 22 August 1914, p. 4 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

¹⁹³ “Cape May Letter.” *Philadelphia Tribune* 1 September 1917, p. 3 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

¹⁹⁴ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022. (Sylvia Riddick Turner Oral History).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 34

you strayed too far, but there definitely was what was known as the “Black Beach.” It was at Grant Street for the longest time. But it moved, too, some people said, because of opposition from hotel owners to African Americans near their properties.¹⁹⁵

Sylvia Riddick Turner explained:

Oh man. The beach was always, the Black Beach had to be moved down every year, you know that? We had the pavilion. The Black people had the beach with the pavilion on it. And every year they'd move it down another beach, another whole beach, 'cause they didn't want the Black people in front of the Congress Hall Hotel. And they didn't want them in front of that other hotel, next to the Congress Hall. What was that, the Windsor? So they moved it down every year. I remember that about Cape May.¹⁹⁶

Nurses appear to have been the exception. African Americans were tolerated on the white beaches if they were caring for white children.¹⁹⁷

Maintaining a separate beach for African American bathers persisted at least until 1943. An article published in the *Cape May Star and Wave* reports the allocation of lifeguards at the Jefferson, Stockton, Congress-Windsor, Shields, and “colored” beaches.¹⁹⁸

Extant resources associated with African American recreation:

- Grant Street Beach (#47)

Vacationing

In addition to living, learning, recreating, working, and worshipping in Cape May, African Americans also vacationed here since before the Civil War. There were three distinct types of vacationers: the wealthy who were able to invest in a vacation home and often stayed for an entire season; those who came for shorter stays and enjoyed hotels and guest houses; and finally, those who came on excursion trips.

The Philadelphia Tribune, American’s oldest African American newspaper, ran a regular piece noting happenings in Cape May from c1912-1949. Frequent mention was made of people vacationing in Cape May.

- “After spending a pleasant vacation in the city by the sea, Mr. William Hill of Greens Hotel, Philadelphia, returned to duty.”¹⁹⁹

¹⁹⁵ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022. (Bernice Howard Gordon Oral History, January 1997).

¹⁹⁶ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022. (Sylvia Riddick Turner Oral History).

¹⁹⁷ Interview with Elizabeth Dempsey, 12/4/2023.

¹⁹⁸ “Bathers Warned to Cooperate with Lifeguards.” *Cape May Star and Wave*, 1 July 1943, p 6 accessed via <https://vdls.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

¹⁹⁹ “Cape May, N.J. Talk.” *Philadelphia Tribune*, Oct 31, 1914, p. 3 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 35

- Mrs. Maggie Lawton and Mrs. Trusty of Providence RI, spending the summer²⁰⁰.
- Mrs. Laws from Philadelphia, spending the summer.²⁰¹

Summer Homes

Stephen Smith is one example of an African American who built a vacation home in Cape May. Stephen Smith's House still stands at 645 Lafayette Street (#10)²⁰².

S.H. Vick, a prominent businessman and the former postmaster in Wilson, North Carolina also owned property in Cape May. However, since he appears to have been a seasonal visitor, he does not appear in Cape May census records and the location and nature of his property have not yet been determined.²⁰³

Hotels and Guest Houses

The Banneker Hotel, established in 1858 by Philadelphia's Banneker Institute,²⁰⁴ was the first hotel established in Cape May specifically to accommodate African American visitors who were not accepted at the facilities that welcomed white guests. Indeed, it has been heralded as the only seaside resort for African Americans before the Civil War.²⁰⁵

The Hotel Dale, which had been constructed in the 1850s as a hotel for white guests (known as White Hall), was purchased in December of 1906²⁰⁶ by an African American (Edward W. Dale²⁰⁷) and opened for African American guests by 1911. An advertisement in the August 1911 issue of *The Crisis* describes the Hotel Dale as a:

. . . magnificent four-story structure, with every modern convenience . . . without exception the finest and most complete hostelry in the United States for the accommodation of our race . . . The interior of this hotel may be described as the acme of luxury, comfort, and elegance . . . contains one hundred light, airy and luxuriously furnished rooms with every modern convenience.

²⁰⁰ "Cape May, N.J. Talk." *Philadelphia Tribune*, Jun 24, 1916, p. 3 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

²⁰¹ "Cape May, N.J. Talk." *Philadelphia Tribune*, Jun 24, 1916, p. 3 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

²⁰² Additional about Stephen Smith can be found incorporated in the inventory listing in Section 7.

²⁰³ "Pertinent Paragraphs." *The colored American*. (Washington, D.C.), 18 June 1904. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83027091/1904-06-18/ed-1/seq-3/>

²⁰⁴ HSR (CAP HSR 300) (p IV -2)

²⁰⁵ Barbara Dreyfuss, "National Park Service accepts the Stephen Smith House into Network to Freedom." CapeMay.com Blog, 23 January 2020, <https://www.capemay.com/blog/2020/01/national-park-service-accepts-the-stephen-smith-house-into-network-to-freedom/>, 30 November 2023.

²⁰⁶ "R. W. Fale Buys White Hall." *Cape May Herald*, 27 December 1906 p1 accessed via <https://vdl.s.cmcmlibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

²⁰⁷ "Have Finished Good Job." *Cape May Herald*, 15 August 1907 p 4 accessed via <https://vdl.s.cmcmlibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)

County and State

Cape May County, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 36

Electric lights throughout the entire house. Suites with bath and long distance telephone connections.²⁰⁸

Ads for the hotel also appeared in: *The New York Age*, a New York-based African American newspaper (1911-1912); *The Christian Recorder* (1919); and *The National Cyclopaedia of the Colored Race*.²⁰⁹ The Dale was promoted as a first-class hotel for African Americans “to supplant the old custom of being crowded into small lodging and boarding houses, where the sanitary conditions, as a rule, were not conducive to good health.”²¹⁰ Guests lists for the Hotel Dale published in the *Philadelphia Tribune* include travelers from: Philadelphia PA, New York City NY, Baltimore MD, Cambridge MD, Camden NJ, Battle Creek MI, Pittsburgh PA, Atlantic City NJ, Washington DC, Tarrytown NY, Easton PA, Lancaster PA, Oakeola PA, Wildwood NJ, Newark NJ, Orange NJ, Boston MA, St. Louis MO, Columbus OH, and Little Rock AR²¹¹. The Hotel Dale was razed by the city in 1936.²¹²

In 1902, Harry Richardson opened the New Cape May Hotel.²¹³ It had been previously operated by Fleming J. Carr, also an African American, for a brief period.²¹⁴ According to the 1909 Sanborn map, this hotel offered a saloon as well.²¹⁵ Richardson’s New Cape May Hotel, located at the corner of Jackson and Broad Streets, should not be confused with the New Cape May Hotel, later called the Christian Admiral Hotel, located on Beach Ave, which catered exclusively to white guests during this period. In 1914, Richardson undertook improvements to his hotel: “Not only has the proprietor of this up-to-date hostelry renovated every sleeping apartment in the hotel, but has recently added a pool and billiard parlor. . .but this is not all, for there has been added a summer garden that has a seating capacity of about 250 guests. The new pool and billiard parlor is furnished throughout in mission and is one of the most commodious and beautiful.”²¹⁶

²⁰⁸ “Where to Stop.” *The Crisis: A Record of the Darker Races*. Volume 2, Number Four, August 1911 p.171 accessed via <https://books.google.com/books?id=AFoEAAAAMBAJ&pg=PA171&dq=%22Hotel+Dale%22&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUK-EwjRopng8MGCAXnppUCHYLUAME4ChDoAXoECAUQAQ#v=onepage&q=%22Hotel%20Dale%22&f=false> 19 December 2023.

²⁰⁹ *The National Cyclopaedia of the Colored Race*, <https://archive.org/details/nationalcycloped01richrich>, 442.

²¹⁰ *ibid.*

²¹¹ “Hotel Dale Guest, Cape May. N. J.” *Philadelphia Tribune* 18 July 1925, p.16 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023; “Hotel Dale Guest, Cape May, N. J.” *Philadelphia Tribune*, 15 August 1925, p. 13 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023, “Hotel Dale Guest, Cape May, N.J.” *Philadelphia Tribune*, 22 August 1925 p. 13 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023 and “Hotel Dale Guest, Cape May. N. J.” *Philadelphia Tribune*, 12 September 1925, p. 6 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

²¹² Don and Pat Pocher, *Cape May in Vintage Postcards*, p. 28.

²¹³ Clement Richardson, ed. *The National Cyclopaedia of the Colored Race* v 1 1919, p. 221 accessed via https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_National_Cyclopaedia_of_the_Colored_R/b9mJ6sT-1bAC?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Harry+Richardson+Cape+May&pg=PA221&printsec=frontcover

²¹⁴ “Advertisement” *Cape May Herald*, 31 May 1902 p 5 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

²¹⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from New Jersey Coast, New Jersey Coast, New Jersey. Sanborn Map Company, 1905 - 1909: Vol. 4, 1909.

²¹⁶ “Cape May, N.J. Talk.” *Philadelphia Tribune*, 6 June 1914, p. 3 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 37

From the 1930s to 1960, many African American travelers were guided by publications such as the *Green Book*. Guest houses served food, whereas rooming houses did not.²¹⁷

Places that provided African American accommodations that are no longer extant, but are known through their advertisement in either African American newspapers or travel guidebooks, include:²¹⁸

- Banneker House/Hotel, situated at Lafayette and St. Johns Streets, adjacent to the Stephen Smith House. Built in 1845²¹⁹, demolished in 1956²²⁰.
- Hotel Dale, located on Lafayette just north of Jefferson.
- DeGriff Hotel, formerly Bryan Villa²²¹, which was listed at 830 Corgie Street²²² in the *Green Book* from 1938 to 1955 and in 1966-67, in the *Travelguide* in 1951, and in the *Go Guide* in 1952. It was operated by the Griffin Family.²²³ It closed in the mid-1960s and was demolished in 1996.²²⁴
- Mrs. S. Giles tourist home, 806 Corgie Street, listed in the 1938, 1939, 1940 *Green Book*.
- Mrs. M. Green, 728 Lafayette Street, listed in the 1938, 1939, 1940 *Green Book*.
- Sea Breeze Hotel, promoted in *The Christian Recorder* in 1872 as “erected especially for the accommodation of excision [sic] parties, stating that it “contains everything necessary for the comfort and amusement of excursioners,”²²⁵ and listed in an 1874 city directory as an “Excursion House.”²²⁶
- The Douglass Hotel, formerly the U.S. Hotel and named for Frederick Douglass²²⁷, which until the 1950s was located at the intersection of Lafayette and Jackson Streets. According to Emily Dempsey in her oral history, this hotel (in later years) had the informal nickname of “The Bedbug Inn.”²²⁸

Excursion Trips

In addition, lower income African Americans often traveled to Cape May as part of one-day “excursions” that urban churches organized as fundraisers and promoted as an inexpensive escape.

²¹⁷ *Black Voices*, p84

²¹⁸ The list of properties included in travel guides is compiled from several sources, including material compiled by Andrea Tingey at the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office and copies of travel guides available at <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org>.

²¹⁹ *Black Voices* p 75

²²⁰ *Black Voices*, p 76

²²¹ “The Backbiters’ Give Dance at Cape May.” *Philadelphia Tribune*, 6 September 1928, p. 4 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

²²² In some instances, it is listed as 83 Corgie Street, though this is likely a typo as 83 Corgie Street doesn’t appear on Sanborn maps during this time period.

²²³ *Black Voices*, p 18

²²⁴ *Black Voices*, p 76

²²⁵ “Second Anniversary and Grand Excursion to Cape May,” *The Christian Recorder*, 6 July 1872, accessed via Accessible Archives, 6 April 2022.

²²⁶ *Belisle’s Cape May Directory for the Year 1874*. Camden, New Jersey: Robert F. S. Belisle, publisher.

²²⁷ CCA, John T. and Dolly D. Nash African American History Archives, Oral histories, Libby Allison

²²⁸ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022. (Emily Edgecombe Dempsey Oral History, October 2017).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 38

In 1868, the West Jersey Railroad opened and graded Grant Street in conjunction with its railroad station, which was in close proximity to the beach and consequently was called “the summer station”²²⁹ (no longer extant). Related to its development of the new station, the rail company built the Sea Breeze excursion house in close proximity to its station.²³⁰ In 1872, the Sea Breeze was promoted in *The Christian Recorder* as “erected especially for the accommodation of excision [sic] parties, stating that it “contains everything necessary for the comfort and amusement of excursioners.”²³¹ Amenities included a restaurant, changing facilities, and day rooms.²³² A month later, *The Christian Recorder* reported on a fundraising excursion to the Sea Breeze Hotel by an AME church in Frankford, Pennsylvania. Although there was some concern that the group would not be accepted because “colored excursionists have never been permitted to occupy this house before,” the group was accepted and “the excursion proved to be a great success.”²³³

An 1890 article in *The Christian Recorder*, the national newspaper of the AME Church, described excursions to New Jersey shore points, including Cape May:

A trip to the seaside is the delight of the city pressed millions at this season of the year. In one way or other hundreds of thousands participate in this pleasure. Cheap railroad excursion tickets; as one and a half dollars to Asbury Park and Cape May, a distance, round of over 160 miles, or \$1.00 to Atlantic City; a 75 cent boat ticket to Cape May – these enable many very poor Philadelphians to sniff old ocean’s pure breath and bask in her healing waters once or more a year. What a blessing!²³⁴

Excursion trips often involved drinking and partying and were therefore controversial, especially among affluent African Americans and some church leaders who felt that the rowdy nature made African Americans look bad. It is not known to what extent the excursions created problems in Cape May.²³⁵ By 1913, the city seemed to be embracing excursionists to some degree by appropriating \$5,000 for music for the season at the public pavilion on the beach²³⁶, although other vacationers certainly benefited from this expenditure as well.

A 1916 article in the *Philadelphia Tribune* noted the continued popularity of day tripping:

²²⁹ Albert Hand, *A Book of Cape May, New Jersey*. Cape May, New Jersey: The Albert Hand Company, 1937, 91.

²³⁰ Thomas and Doebley, 26.

²³¹ “Second Anniversary and Grand Excursion to Cape May,” *The Christian Recorder*, 6 July 1872, accessed 6 April 2022 via Accessible Archives,

²³² Thomas and Doebley, 26.

²³³ “The Great Excursion of the Season,” *The Christian Recorder*, 31 August 1872, accessed 9 April 2022 via Accessible Archives,

²³⁴ “The Seaside,” *The Christian Recorder*, 21 August 1890, accessed April 6, 2022. <https://www.accessible-archives.com>.

²³⁵ Brian E. Alnutt, “‘The Negro Excursions’: Recreational Outings Among Philadelphia African Americans, 1876-1926,” *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, January 2005, 129, no. 1, p. 82, accessed 27 January 2021. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20093765>.

²³⁶ “Cape May, N.J. Talk.” *Philadelphia Tribune*, May 3, 1913, p. 2 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 39

Last Sunday was a gay day with us. Both railroads and the steamer brought great crowds of people to the sea shore . . . Everybody who accommodate the comers and goers were overtaxed last Sunday, trying to take care of their friends²³⁷.

Properties associated with vacationing:

- Richardson Hotel (#41) (aka "New Cape May Hotel"), 219 Jackson Street,²³⁸
- Stiles Tourist Home, 821 Corgie Street (#34)²³⁹.
- House connected to the Hotel Dale, 802 Lafayette Street (#11)
- Stephen Smith House, 645 Lafayette Street (#10)

Supplemental History

While extant resources in the Cape May Historic District illustrate many aspects of African American life during the period of significance of the district, there is much that is not represented.

Enslavement

Although it is not known exactly when enslaved persons were first brought to Cape May County, several documented examples in the county indicate it was as early as the late seventeenth century. These include a West Jersey proprietor's 1688 statement that "I have either at Cape May or Burlington four stout Negroes;" Cape May County resident Joseph Holdin's 1696 inventory indicating that he had owned "a Negro sarvant [sic];" and the 1697 Cape May County marriage record for George Taylor's enslaved person Peter for his marriage to Elizabeth Donkan.²⁴⁰ Free blacks appear as taxable residents as early as 1791.²⁴¹

Early census data reflects that the southern part of New Jersey, then called "West Jersey," had a proportionally smaller number of African Americans than the northern counties of "East Jersey." This dynamic is attributed to multiple factors, including a stronger anti-enslavement sentiment in West Jersey due to the Quaker influence, and the smaller size of West Jersey farms, thereby minimizing the need for enslaved persons. The 1726 and 1738 censuses reflect that the East Jersey counties of Bergen, Essex, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Somerset contained respectively 54.08 and 53.18 percent of the white population and 74.20 and 77.14 percent of the African American population.²⁴² From 1726, the first year that the census included African Americans, until 1810, Cape May County consistently had a low percentage of African Americans in relation to the overall population, ranging from approximately 2% in 1726 to 4% in 1738 and 1745 and to 5-6% in 1772, 1790, 1800, and 1810. In contrast, many northern

²³⁷"Cape May, N.J. Talk." *Philadelphia Tribune*, Aug 12, 1916, p. 3 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

²³⁸ listed in the *Green Book* from 1938-1952; 1954-1955, 1966-67; the 1951 *Travelguide*; and the 1952 *Go Guide*. Andrew F. Jackson & Associates, Publisher, *Go Guide to Pleasant Motoring and Modern Living*, 1952, 39, <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org>, accessed 1/29/22.

²³⁹ listed in the 1952, 1955, 1966-67 *Green Book*

²⁴⁰ Joan Berkey, *Owen Coachman House National Register Nomination*, 8-3.

²⁴¹ Joan Berkey, *Owen Coachman House National Register Nomination*, 8-5.

²⁴² Peter O. Wacker, *Land and People, A Cultural Geography of Preindustrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Patterns*, 191.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)

County and State

Cape May County, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 40

counties such as Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and Bergen, averaged 10-20% during the same time period.²⁴³

The number of enslaved persons in Cape May County were 14 in 1726, 42 in 1738, 52 in 1745, 111 in 1772, 141 in 1790, 98 in 1800, 81 in 1810, 28 in 1820, and 3 in 1830.²⁴⁴ In the mid-1800s, Lower Township had more free African Americans than the other townships in Cape May County, with the following numbers: 101 in 1830, 107 in 1840, and 155 in 1850.²⁴⁵ These numbers are important to a study of African Americans in Cape May due to the close geographic proximity between Lower Township and Cape May as well as the interactions between African Americans from Lower Township and the employment opportunities in Cape May.

Enslavement was abolished in New Jersey through a series of legislative acts. In 1786, New Jersey outlawed trading of enslaved persons, which in essence prevented additional enslaved persons from being brought into the state for sale.²⁴⁶ By 1790, approximately 20% of New Jersey's African Americans were free.²⁴⁷

Historical records indicate that perhaps the largest holders of enslaved persons in Cape Island were members of the Hughes family. A 1796 will for Jacob Hughes 2nd includes enslaved people named Patience, Dinah, Julius, Zebidiah, and Toney.²⁴⁸ Memucan Hughes, proprietor of a Cape Island tavern,²⁴⁹ bequeathed to his wife when he died in 1812:

...a black boy by the name of Marshel until he is twenty five years of age which will be the twentieth day of April anno Domini 1826. At which time I order and will that the said Marshel be set free by my executors.²⁵⁰

In addition, he bequeathed to his daughter Martha "a black boy by the name of Peter five years;" ordered that his enslaved persons Ned, Cesar, and Centha be set free in one year, one month, and one year, respectively; and ordered that his enslaved person Abraham be sold to a new "master" until he reaches the age of twenty-five. Memucan's brother, Ellis Hughes, owner of Atlantic Hall or Hughes' Tavern in Cape Island, freed his enslaved person James Lively on August 19, 1805. Jacob Hughes, believed to be related to Memucan and Ellis, bequeathed an enslaved person to each of his children when he died in 1796.²⁵¹

²⁴³ *ibid.*, 190.

²⁴⁴ Berkey, *Owen Coachman House National Register Nomination*, 8-4.

²⁴⁵ *ibid.*

²⁴⁶ Wright, *Afro-Americans in New Jersey, A Short History*, 22.

²⁴⁷ *ibid.*, 23.

²⁴⁸ "Mayflower Descendants in Cape May County." *Cape May Star and Wave*, 20 September 1919, p 8 accessed via <https://vdl.cmclibrary.org/> 30 November 2023.

²⁴⁹ Memucan Hughes' tavern, originally located at the end of Cape Island Road (the current Jackson Street), was moved to 653 ½ Washington Street and currently houses the Greater Cape May Historical Society.

²⁵⁰ Carol Boyd and Laurie E. Boyd-Thomas, "The Slaves of Cape Island," *Cape May Magazine*, Spring 2011, 39-41 (on file at the Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society, Cabinet B, Drawer #4).

²⁵¹ *ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)

County and State

Cape May County, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 41

Gradual Manumission

In 1798, New Jersey passed legislation that established a process for manumitting enslaved persons; Cape May County started to manumit its enslaved persons in 1802.²⁵² In 1804, New Jersey passed legislation that facilitated the freedom of children born to enslavement after July 4, 1804. These children were to serve as apprentices to their mother's master until age 21 for females and age 25 for males.²⁵³ In 1846 New Jersey passed an abolition law that didn't truly abolish enslavement. All African American children born after its passage were declared free, but already enslaved persons became "apprentices" for life and in many respects continued to be enslaved persons.²⁵⁴ By 1846 in Cape May County, slaveholders had manumitted all of their enslaved persons with the exception of one 81-year-old woman. By 1860, the number of enslaved persons in New Jersey had been reduced to 18. Officially, New Jersey was one of the slower northern states in regards to abolition, and New Jersey was in fact the only northern state that Abraham Lincoln did not carry in the 1860 Presidential Election; he also didn't carry New Jersey in his 1864 re-election.

Free African Americans

The area that is now Cape May was originally part of Lower Township, which had one of the earliest settlements in Cape May County of freed or escaped African Americans. Established prior to the mid-19th century, this settlement was located in Cold Spring where the Shunpike intersects with Tabernacle Road. This area was "probably the start of the Union Bethel settlement, and perhaps the place where Jarena Lee, the first known female preacher in the African American Methodist Episcopal Church, attended meeting." There was also a settlement, perhaps related to the one in Cold Spring, that developed further south in closer proximity to resort-related jobs in Cape Island. In 1859, the African Americans at this second location built the Mount Zion Chapel.²⁵⁵

In 1850, "Lower Township African-Americans between the ages of fourteen and nineteen lived and worked in the houses, general stores, or hotels of the leading business gentry families," including Joseph Squirrel at George Stratton's hotel; Lemuel Harmon, waiter at W. B. Miller's; John Obekiah at George Bennett's general store; Anthony Trusty with Israel Townsend, one of the wealthiest men in Cape Island; Ann Trust as domestic servant with Humphrey Hughes; Susan Armour as domestic servant with Elijah Bennett; and Julia Jackson with Dr. Samuel S. Marcy.²⁵⁶

Very few of the county's free blacks owned land in the first half of the 19th century. Those who did purchased small tracts, usually between 1 and 3 acres in size.²⁵⁷

According to the earliest census data that lists Cape Island, there were 39 African Americans in the city in 1860 and 38 in 1865.

²⁵² Berkey, *Owen Coachman House National Register Nomination*, 8-5.

²⁵³ Wright, *Afro-Americans in New Jersey, A Short History*, 27.

²⁵⁴ James J. Gigantino, II, *The Ragged Road to Abolition, Slavery and Freedom in New Jersey*, 234-235.

²⁵⁵ Dorwart, *Cape May County, New Jersey*, 82.

²⁵⁶ *ibid.*, 83.

²⁵⁷ Berkey, *Owen Coachman House National Register Nomination*, 8-6.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 42

Antebellum Development

The city's development as a resort community, one that would eventually attract African Americans for both leisure and employment, began in the early nineteenth century and grew slowly until the 1840s. By 1850, there were approximately two dozen hotels, many within two blocks of the intersection of Perry and Washington streets.²⁵⁸ Prior to the Civil War, Cape May was attractive to prominent families in the north (including New York and Philadelphia) and the south, including Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Richmond and "still more distant places."²⁵⁹

Early Efforts to Gain Freedom from Enslavement

Cape May, known as Cape Island until 1869,²⁶⁰ is historically associated with efforts to free enslaved persons through the abolition and Underground Railroad work of free African Americans who spent time in the city. Cape May's popularity as an attractive upper-class resort provided an unusual opportunity for the city to connect with members of Philadelphia's "colored aristocracy" who were "closely identified with the abolitionist cause, several benevolent societies, and various civic and religious enterprises, and especially the prestigious Banneker Institute."²⁶¹ Formed in Philadelphia in 1854, the Institute was one of many literary organizations, including an earlier Bannaker [sic] Association formed in Philadelphia in 1819. The Banneker Institute's ca. 1859 call for a Convention of Literary Societies emphasized education's ties to civil rights, stating, "There can be no more effective manner of elevating our people than by a spread of literature, and no more speedy way of demonstrating to those in authority in our government that we are susceptible of the highest degree of mental culture and worthy of the rights which have been so long withheld from us."²⁶²

As explained in the exhibit material at the Harriet Tubman Museum in Cape May, leading abolitionists who spent time in Cape May include:

- Stephen Smith, a wealthy Philadelphian, minister in the AME church, abolitionist, Underground Railroad conductor, and one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society. In 1846, Smith built his summer home at 645 Lafayette Street (#10; see p7-13).
- James Harding, Smith's friend and a wealthy Philadelphia undertaker who in 1845 built the Banneker House (no longer extant) as a "boarding house" for African American visitors.
- Harriet Tubman, who earned money by working in a Cape May hotel in 1852 (records indicating which hotel have not been found). She made more than 13 trips to Maryland's Eastern Shore area to rescue more than 70 enslaved persons.
- William Whipper, Smith's business partner and an ardent abolitionist active in the Underground Railroad.

²⁵⁸ Thomas and Doebley, *Cape May, Queen of the Seaside Resorts*, 26.

²⁵⁹ Hand, *A Book of Cape May, New Jersey*, 67.

²⁶⁰ For clarity in this nomination, the following terminology will be used: "Cape Island" to refer to the Cape May City prior to its name change in 1869; "Cape May" to refer to the city post-1869; and "Cape May County" to refer to the entire county.

²⁶¹ Willard B. Gatewood, *Aristocrats of Color, The Black Elite, 1880-1920* (Bloomington & Indianapolis, Indiana: Indiana University Press 1993), 97.

²⁶² Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 43

- Thomas Dorsey, a wealthy Philadelphia African American businessman who founded the Vigilant Association to participate in the Underground Railroad and who along with Stephen Smith co-founded the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, and who in 1868 co-purchased Cape May's Banneker House along with Stephen Smith.²⁶³
- John C. Bowers, one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society.
- George W. Goines, who led anti-enslavement protests as a civil rights leader.
- Nathaniel W. Depee, active in the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia.
- Lucretia Mott, Philadelphian abolitionist.
- William Furness, Philadelphia Unitarian minister and abolitionist.
- Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner, a white advocate for both freedom and equal rights for African Americans.²⁶⁴

The accomplishments attributed to the abolitionists include the 1845 construction and operation of the Banneker House, Cape May's first guest house to accommodate African American guests. Events held at the Banneker House, which was located immediately adjacent to the Stephen Smith House, include "lectures and debates on political, literary, scientific and social issues, especially enslavement and equal rights" and an 1855 "First of August" celebration of the anniversary of the end of enslavement in the West Indies. Extant correspondence between Stephen Smith, US Senator Charles Sumner²⁶⁵, New Jersey abolitionist William Still, and poet and abolitionist Henry Wadsworth Longfellow documents Smith's abolitionist beliefs and Underground Railroad activities.²⁶⁶ Although none of these abolitionists was a permanent resident of Cape May, their interactions within Cape May provided the opportunity for significant collaborative efforts on behalf of promoting African American freedom and rights.

Civil War

Although New Jerseyans were divided on their views of enslavement and the Civil War, indications are that Cape May primarily supported the Union.²⁶⁷ On January 4, 1861, the Cape Island churches held a union service following President Buchanan's proclamation for prayer.²⁶⁸ Both the county and the city voted to approve paying a bounty for men who volunteered to fight in the war. Although the bounty did not originally include colored volunteers, it was later expanded to include them.²⁶⁹ Of the 88,000+ New Jerseyans who fought in the Civil War, there were 2,872 African Americans, of whom 469 died in

²⁶³ James Terbush and Barbara Dreyfuss, "Black Hotelier Had Pivotal Role in the Fight Against Slavery," *Cape May Magazine*, Mid-Summer, 2021.

²⁶⁴ This list is based on the exhibit material at the Harriet Tubman Museum, 632 Lafayette Street, Cape May.

²⁶⁵ US Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts was severely beaten with a cane by US Congressman Preston S. Brooks of South Carolina on the Senate floor in May 1856. It took Sumner three years to recover from the beating. (<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-Sumner>) Sumner came to Cape May for a week to aid his recovery (<https://www.capemaymag.com/feature/a-cape-may-connection/>)

²⁶⁶ Barbara Dreyfuss, "Freedom's Corner: Anti-Slavery Leaders in Cape May," *Cape May Magazine*, Spring 2019; Harriett Tubman Museum exhibits; Terbush and Dreyfuss, "Black Hotelier Had Pivotal Role in the Fight Against Slavery."

²⁶⁷ *ibid.*, 75.

²⁶⁸ *ibid.*

²⁶⁹ *ibid.*, 79.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 44

action.²⁷⁰

Although the Civil War resulted in fewer visitors coming to Cape May, the city did receive a boost when the Cape May and Millville Railroad arrived in 1868, initiating a new wave of development.²⁷¹ Also following the Civil War, there was a significant increase in the number of African Americans in Cape May. Between 1870 and 1900, the number of African Americans in New Jersey almost tripled, primarily due to migration from the south.²⁷² The migration continued well into the twentieth century with the number of African Americans in Cape May expanding to 245 in 1900, 437 in 1920, and 468 in 1930.²⁷³

Turn of the Century Civil Rights

By the late nineteenth century, African Americans within New Jersey shore communities were increasingly raising questions about their rights to enjoy leisure pursuits in the communities where they lived and worked. As historian David E. Goldberg summarized, they were asking “Was it possible...for an African American to be both a worker and a consumer in the same recreational space?”²⁷⁴ This questioning was in many respects in response to tightening restrictions on African Americans, which significantly increased with the United States Supreme Court’s *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision. In one of many African American challenges to transportation restrictions orchestrated by African American civil rights groups, Louisiana Creole Homer Plessy challenged his state’s separate car law by taking a seat in the white section of a train in 1891. When the case reached the United States Supreme Court in 1896, the court ruled that rail companies within a state could “provide equal but separate accommodations for the white and colored races.” Although the ruling applied to transportation, the decision “provided an important and lasting precedent for a wide variety of municipal and state segregation laws, mandating ‘separate but equal’ public schools, toilets, restaurants, hospitals, hotels, theaters, cemeteries, and public facilities of all kinds from 1896 through to 1954.”²⁷⁵

In the early twentieth century, Cape May’s African American community developed a thriving business community with approximately 100 African American-owned businesses, although not all of these operated at the same time.²⁷⁶ Thanks to the work of Cape May’s Center for Community Arts (CCA), a list of many of these businesses and their general location has been compiled, primarily utilizing oral histories of Cape May African Americans.

Also at the start of the twentieth century, there was renewed optimism about the city’s future in a phenomenon that a local newspaper called the “New Cape May” movement.²⁷⁷ Numerous clean-up and infrastructure projects took place, including the construction of a new high school in 1901 (no longer

²⁷⁰ Wright, *African Americans in New Jersey*, 28.

²⁷¹ Thomas and Doebley, *Cape May, Queen of the Seaside Resorts*, 26.

²⁷² Wright, *African Americans in New Jersey*, 45.

²⁷³ United States Census data (on file at Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/>).

²⁷⁴ Goldberg, *The Retreats of Reconstruction*, 64.

²⁷⁵ Mia Bay, *Traveling Black, A Story of Race and Resistance*, 2021, 60-61.

²⁷⁶ Information on Cape May’s African American businesses is primarily derived from CCA’s *African American Walking Tour*, which describes the community as having contained approximately 60 businesses, and their upcoming book, which describes it as containing approximately 100 businesses.

²⁷⁷ *ibid.*, 168.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)

County and State

Cape May County, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 45

extant), which was replaced by a new high school (the current City Hall, #45) in 1917.²⁷⁸ This was also a time of increased prejudice against African Americans, with a concerted effort to remove them from the city.

Whitesboro

In 1901, a campaign to push the African Americans out of Cape May led to the establishment of Whitesboro, an independent community a few miles north of the city. The controversy started in January when the editor of the *Cape May Herald*, Marcus Scull, who owned property along the African American section of Lafayette Street, published on the front page of the paper a letter from a resident who wanted to improve Lafayette Street to make it “an attractive avenue for settlement by white families.” The letter recommended removing the colored population, the “gas works and all things else objectionable.”²⁷⁹ In the same month that the *Cape May Herald* started its anti-African American campaign, there was a meeting “of colored citizens” in order to plan an African American town. The pastor of the Cape May AME Church, Reverend J. S. Fishburn, was described as “the leader in the movement.” At that point, that the goal of the effort was “to establish an industrial school, set up a saw mill and establish a farming colony.”²⁸⁰ Two months later, Reverend Fishburn, along with Joseph G. Vance, a storeowner, and William L. Selvey, organized the Colored American Equitable Industrial Association.²⁸¹ Cape May investors in Whitesboro included: Reverend James W. Fishburn (Allen AME Church), Joseph Vance, William Selvy, Thomas Griffin (proprietor of the De Griff Hotel), and Charles H. Finamen.²⁸²

Although the impetus for starting Whitesboro related to the racial animus in Cape May, the primary marketing for African Americans to purchase land in the new town was focused on South Carolina, where Reverend Fishburn had lived prior to moving to Cape May in approximately 1900.²⁸³ Promotional material developed to attract African Americans to move to Whitesboro emphasized the importance of both financial independence and homeownership:

[Whitesboro] starts on business principle. Nearly every man who goes there will have a personal interest in the success of the [sic] interprise. [sic] An we now understand it, every [sic] hand of a family who goes to Whitesboro, the new settlement, will own his own home.²⁸⁴

Have You a Home? Why Not? because Owning a home makes you a better citizen and a more desirable neighbor. There is nothing on earth like a place you can call home when you own it in fee simple.²⁸⁵

²⁷⁸ *ibid.*, 168-170.

²⁷⁹ Dorwart, *Cape May County, New Jersey*, 172.

²⁸⁰ “Cape May’s Colored Colony,” *Courier Post*, 15 January 1901, 3, accessed via <https://www.newspapers.com>, 27 May 2022.

²⁸¹ Dorwart, *Cape May County, New Jersey*, 171-172.

²⁸² *Black Voices* p 18

²⁸³ Dorwart, *Cape May County, New Jersey*, 172.

²⁸⁴ “An Interesting Experiment,” *Anatomy of Protest in America Series: Newspapers, 1729-1922*, based on *The Christian Recorder*, 19 June 1902.

²⁸⁵ Sales and Promotional Material for George H. White’s Cape May/Whitesboro, New Jersey Housing Project, Beinecke

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 46

Ultimately it seems that few families moved out of Cape May to Whitesboro. Most residents for the new community migrated from the south.

Ku Klux Klan

In the 1920s, Cape May—similar to other towns—was targeted by the second revival of the Ku Klux Klan, which lasted from 1915 to 1930. “Immigration, urbanization, and the internal migrations of African Americans made the Klan’s white, patriotic, and Protestant message appealing.”²⁸⁶ By 1918, there were 15 Klan chapters and by the early 1920s, there was a Klan chapter in all of the 48 continental states.²⁸⁷ As presented in Kelly J. Baker’s doctoral thesis, “the Klan’s underlying ideas of racial separation and the white Protestant supremacy...echoed throughout the white society of the 1920s, as religious and racial hatreds determined the political dialogue in many communities.”²⁸⁸

In January 1924, Cape May Mayor Frank B. Mecray instructed the police to arrest anyone caught distributing Klan literature. City officials were concerned because the Klan had “sent warnings to several citizens of the county who have been in the habit of drinking ‘block and fall’ and ‘white mule’ and then going home and beating their wives and children.”²⁸⁹ Ten days after he issued his warning, *The New York Times* reported that the Klan had issued warnings to people in Cape May as well as Cape May Court House and Wildwood. Ignoring the Mayor’s warning, the Klan had “flooded” Cape May and the other two towns on the night of January 30 “with little crosses bearing the inscription in red, ‘Wife beaters and wrong doers, watch your step. Vengeance is mine, said the Lord’.” The article proceeded to explain that a cross had been burned on the meadows north of Cape May on the previous Sunday evening. With the increase in Klan activities, the local officials were trying to identify the Klansmen in lower Cape May County.²⁹⁰

In February 1924, *The New York Times* again reported on Klan activity in Cape May:

A fifteen-foot cross was burned at Columbia ball park here last night by a band of hooded Klansmen, who stood around it in a pool of water two feet deep. It is understood that the Klan is investigating the burning of the cottage known as the Cedars at Highland Beach last week, which has been attributed to bootleggers, and the Klan is determined to break up bootlegging in the County. Warnings have been sent to a prominent hotel man in Wildwood.²⁹¹

In August 1924, when the former head of the KKK in New Jersey passed away in Atlantic City, it was

Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

²⁸⁶ Kelly J. Baker, *The Gospel According to the Klan: The Ku Klux Klan’s Vision of White Protestant America, 1915-1930*, Dissertation, Florida State University, 2008, 2.

²⁸⁷ *ibid.*, 2-3.

²⁸⁸ Kelly J. Baker, *The Gospel According to the Klan*, 17.

²⁸⁹ “Cape May Mayor Puts Ban on Klan Literature,” *Courier-Post* (Camden, New Jersey), 21 January 1924, 2, accessed via <https://www.newspapers.com>, 28 March 2022.

²⁹⁰ “Klan Warns Three Towns,” *The New York Times*, 31 January 1924, p.30, accessed via ProQuest Historical Newspapers, 4 April 2022.

²⁹¹ “Klan Active at Cape May,” *The New York Times*, 22 February 1924, p.16, accessed via ProQuest Historical Newspapers, 4 April 2022.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 47

reported that he had moved to Atlantic City in 1923, having then organized Atlantic and Cape May counties for the Klan.²⁹²

According to research conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University, two klans or “klaverns” were formed in Cape May County in the 1920s: Theodore Roosevelt Klavern #11 established in 1926 in Wildwood and Stone Harbor, and Ocean City Klan Klavern #19 established in 1928 in Palermo near Ocean City.²⁹³ However, in the early 1920s, prior to these two groups’ formations, there was Klan activity in lower Cape May County.

In July 1925, the *Cape May County Times* reported that the Junior O.U.A.M. of Palermo and the KKK of Ocean City were well represented at a Sunday evening church service in Beesley’s Point.²⁹⁴ The same month, it was reported that the KKK of Cape May County had recently acquired 250 acres in the county and were making plans to build a home.²⁹⁵ In August 1925, the representatives from New Jersey for a large KKK march in Washington D.C. included klansmen from at least eight New Jersey towns, including Cape May.²⁹⁶

1930s and 1940s

During the 1930s and 1940s, there were numerous construction projects that likely employed some of Cape May’s African Americans. In 1939 and 1940, the Works Progress Administration employed over 700 workers; census data indicates that at least a few of Cape May’s African Americans worked on these projects.²⁹⁷ Two other major public works projects in 1942, which may have employed some of Cape May’s African Americans, include the construction of both the Cape May Canal and the Naval Air Station Wildwood (called Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Rio Grande until 1943).²⁹⁸ Additionally, the construction of the Northwest Magnesite plant on Sunset Boulevard in nearby Lower Township in that same year, created employment opportunity for both construction and long-term work at the plant.²⁹⁹

With a decline in visitors during World War II, Cape May was described as “a large military base where servicemen and their families developed a tight-knight [*sic*] community, with USO and other entertainment facilities.”³⁰⁰ Like most other facilities at the time, the African Americans had a separate

²⁹² “State Klan Head Dies Suddenly,” *The News* (Paterson, New Jersey), 6 August 1924, p.13, accessed via <https://www.newspapers.com>, 05 May 2022.

²⁹³ *Virginia Commonwealth University Time-Lapse Map of Klaverns*; <https://labs.library.vcu.edu/klan/>; accessed 10 April 1922.

²⁹⁴ “Announcement,” *Cape May County Times*, 17 July 1925, accessed via <https://cmclibrary.org/>, accessed 6 April 2022.

²⁹⁵ “South Jersey Jottings,” *The Morning Post* (Camden, New Jersey), 13 July 1925, accessed via <https://www.newspapers.com>, 4. It is not clear where this property is located or whether or not the house was ever constructed.

²⁹⁶ “DC March,” *The Baltimore Sun*, 9 August 1925, 2, accessed via <https://www.newspapers.com>, 4 April 2022.

²⁹⁷ Dorwart, *Cape May County, New Jersey*, 221; United States Census data (on file at Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/>).

²⁹⁸ *ibid.*, 228-229.

²⁹⁹ *ibid.*, 230-231.

³⁰⁰ Emily T. Cooperman, Ph.D., *Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Survey, City of Cape May*, 2018, 3-24.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
 County and State
 Cape May County, New Jersey
 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 48

USO facility from the white service members.³⁰¹

In the 1930s and 1940s—after decades of increases in the number of African Americans in Cape May—the numbers declined from 468 in 1930 to 407 in 1940 and 327 in 1950.³⁰² One factor that certainly contributed to that would have been African Americans, especially the younger ones, leaving for employment opportunities. William J. Moore, the well-respected tennis coach who taught for many years in West Cape May's African American school, provides some insight into this dynamic. In conjunction with writing an autobiography, Moore prepared a list of 39 of his past students, including any college attendance, current positions, and geographic location. Although these African Americans were from a neighboring community, their stories would have been similar to the African Americans who attended Cape May's schools. Mr. Moore's list reflects that the overwhelming majority of the 39 students attended college, were at that time working in professional positions, and were living somewhere other than Cape May.³⁰³

Post Period of Significance

Cape May's urban renewal program in the 1960s is representative of programs implemented throughout the country. As in other communities, the African American community in Cape May was disproportionately impacted, resulting in the demolition of numerous African American residential and commercial buildings. In 1963-64, the City developed a plan to work in three areas of the city, including renewal of the Elmira/Bank Street area for public housing, reconfiguring of the Washington Street commercial center, and historic preservation of the area between the commercial center and the beach.³⁰⁴ In August 1964, the city authorized creating a Public Housing Authority in order to develop between 50–100 housing units in order to address “a substantial area of substandard housing.”³⁰⁵ On October 28, 1964, the City of Cape May passed a resolution authorizing the work in the Elmira/Bank Street area as part of the “Cape Island Creek Project” for “improving living conditions and providing for maximum economic development” in “the area bounded by Lafayette Street, Jackson Street, Cape Island Creek, the Elementary School Site, Queen and Osborne Streets, extended,” which according to the resolution “includes substantial numbers of inadequate homes.”³⁰⁶ The following year, the discussion of a targeted area for a Cape Island Creek project under Urban Renewal was defined as having a 25-acre target area “bounded roughly by Cape Island Creek, Washington Street, Jackson Street and Queen Street, extended.” The project goals were stated as “improved living conditions and maximum economic development.”³⁰⁷ Ultimately, the city received funds for 85 homes (35 family units and 85 senior citizen units).³⁰⁸ The first phase of the project, targeted to renewal and new public housing, resulted in the demolition of 68 buildings.³⁰⁹

³⁰¹ Center for Community Arts, *Black Voices of Cape May*, 2022.

³⁰² United States Census data (on file at Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestry.com/>).

³⁰³ *William J. Moore Papers*, Pennsylvania Historical Society.

³⁰⁴ Philippa Campbell, “Then and Now: The Impact of Urban Renewal,” *Cape May.com*, 1 May 2013.

³⁰⁵ “Cape May City Set to Create Housing Board,” *Atlantic City Press*, 6 August 1964, 1.

³⁰⁶ City of Cape May, Meeting Minutes of the City of Cape May Council.

³⁰⁷ “Water Bond Issue Voted by Cape May,” *Atlantic City Press*, 29 April 1965, 35.

³⁰⁸ “Urban Renewal Clippings” file, Cape May Center for Community Arts.

³⁰⁹ Campbell, “Then and Now: The Impact of Urban Renewal.”

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 49

Though outside the period of significance, one example of the role of the church in the life of the community is important to this story as it led to the formation of Cape May's Center for Community Arts, the organization devoted to preserving Cape May's African American history. At a time when a group of African American youth were being treated harshly, a member of the Allen AME Church turned to the church for assistance:

In the 1990s when Black teenagers were arrested for playing loud music on the boardwalk and thrown into jail cells without their parents' notification, the AME Church was quick to help. Emily Dempsey, a sixth-generation Cape May native, formed Citizens for Progress to address the situation. She planned a meeting with the county NAACP and, as its members were on their way to town, the place where the meeting was supposed to be held suddenly posted a note on the door withdrawing permission. Dempsey contacted the AME and, she told the *Sentinel*, "just that quick we had the meeting at Allen AME. From then on, the church left the doors open to us. They didn't know anything about our organization, we weren't incorporated, just a little grassroots organization kicking up some sand."³¹⁰

Resources with African American Associations after the Period of Significance:

- Kings Rest Well Inn, 610 Lafayette Street, listed in the *Go Guide* in 1952.³¹¹ Also advertised in *The Philadelphia Tribune* in 1953.³¹²
- Admiral Arms, 226 Jackson Street, listed in the 1966-67 *Green Book*.
- Dot's Guest House, 230 Jackson Street, listed in the 1966-67 *Green Book*.
- Billy Boy and Lees restaurant at 220 Jackson Street, listed in the 1954 *Green Book*. Also advertised in *The Philadelphia Tribune* in 1951.³¹³

Summary

The history of Cape May's African American community is representative of the strive for self-improvement and civil rights that African Americans throughout the country dealt with. In addition, Cape May's role as a popular shore resort for both affluent whites and African Americans provided some rather unique circumstances. First, by attracting free African American abolitionists, Cape May was able to play an important role in early struggles for freedom. Second, Cape May historically provided an environment with sharp contrasts between the affluent summer visitors—both white and African American—and the African Americans who served them. Finally, the fact that Cape May is a small city and is more removed from the large urban centers appears to have resulted in perhaps a less overall aggressive push back from the African American community. But, the key components of early struggles for freedom and equality and later efforts to establish their lives as free people were part of Cape May's history.

³¹⁰ Bob and Barbara Dreyfuss, "City Plans to Buy Historic AME Church," *Cape May Sentinel*.

³¹¹ *ibid*.

³¹² "Advertisement." *Philadelphia Tribune* 25 July 1953, p. 12 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

³¹³ "Advertisement." *Philadelphia Tribune* 16 June 1951, p. 9 accessed via <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/databases/>, 19 December 2023.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)

County and State

Cape May County, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 50

DRAFT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 2

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 4

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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County and State
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 6

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 8

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 9

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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County and State
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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County and State
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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County and State
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 13

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 14

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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County and State
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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County and State
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 17

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National Register of Historic Places
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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County and State
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 20

1850 Nunan *Map of Cape May County*.

1878 Woolman and Rose *Map of Cape May City*, <http://www.davidrumsey.com/maps>.

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**Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)**

New Jersey and National
Registers Nomination
Cape May City,
Cape May County, New Jersey

Boundary and Tax Map

Legend

-  SR & NR District boundary
- Resource
- Property Feature Status
 -  Contributing
 -  Key Contributing
 -  Non Contributing
-  Parcels Data (Block and Lot)
-  Coordinates

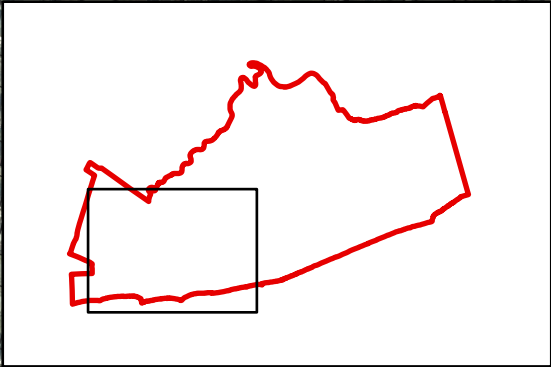
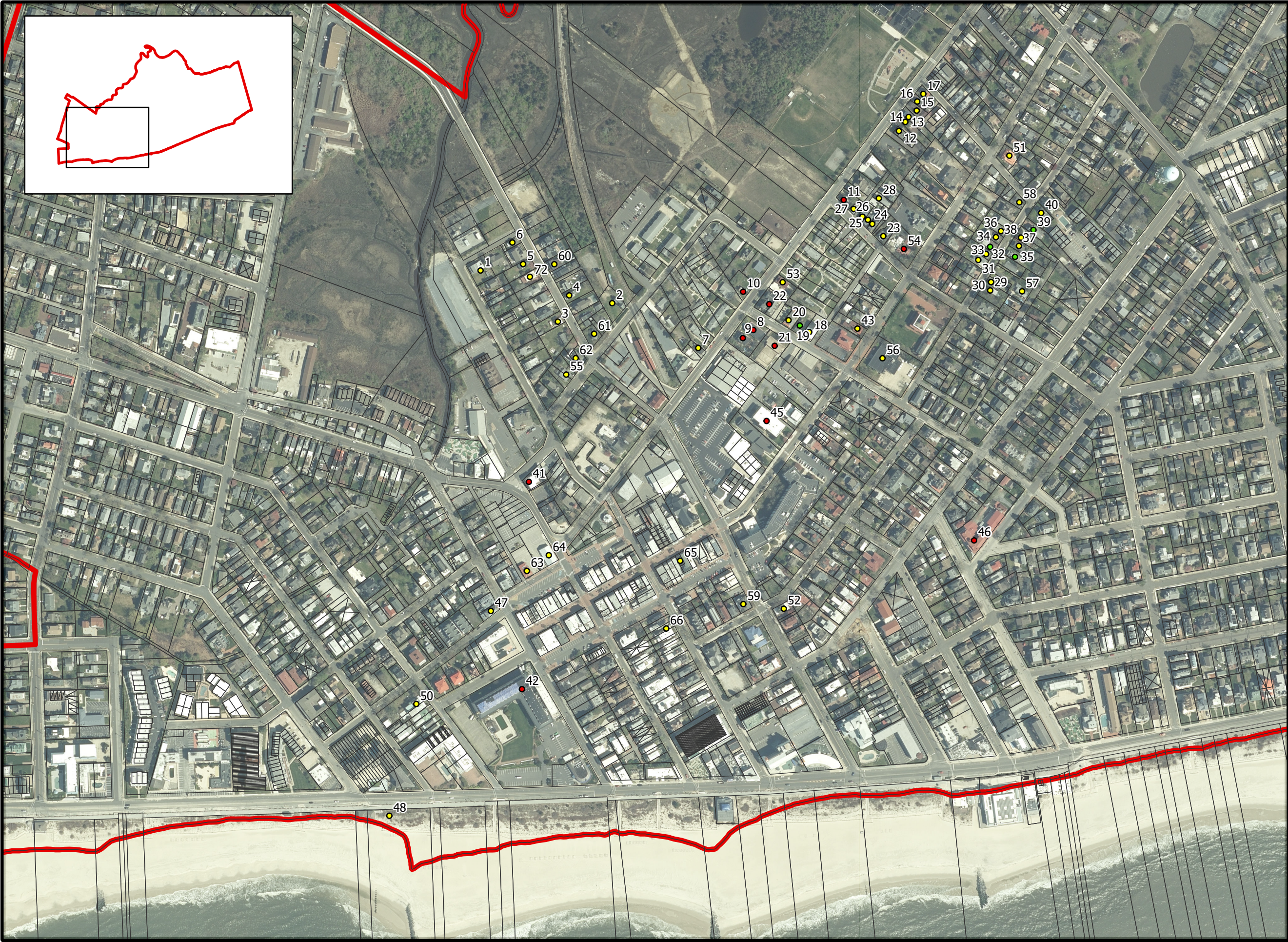
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1198.32 Acres

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NJDEP, Historic Preservation Office
January 2024









**Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)**

New Jersey and National
Registers Nomination
Cape May City,
Cape May County, New Jersey

Boundary and Tax Map

Legend

-  SR & NR District boundary
- Resource
- Property Feature Status
 -  Contributing
 -  Key Contributing
 -  Non Contributing
-  Parcels Data (Block and Lot)
-  Coordinates

Datum: NAD 1983 State Plane New Jersey

1198.32 Acres



NJDEP, Historic Preservation Office
January 2024

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Keys Page 1

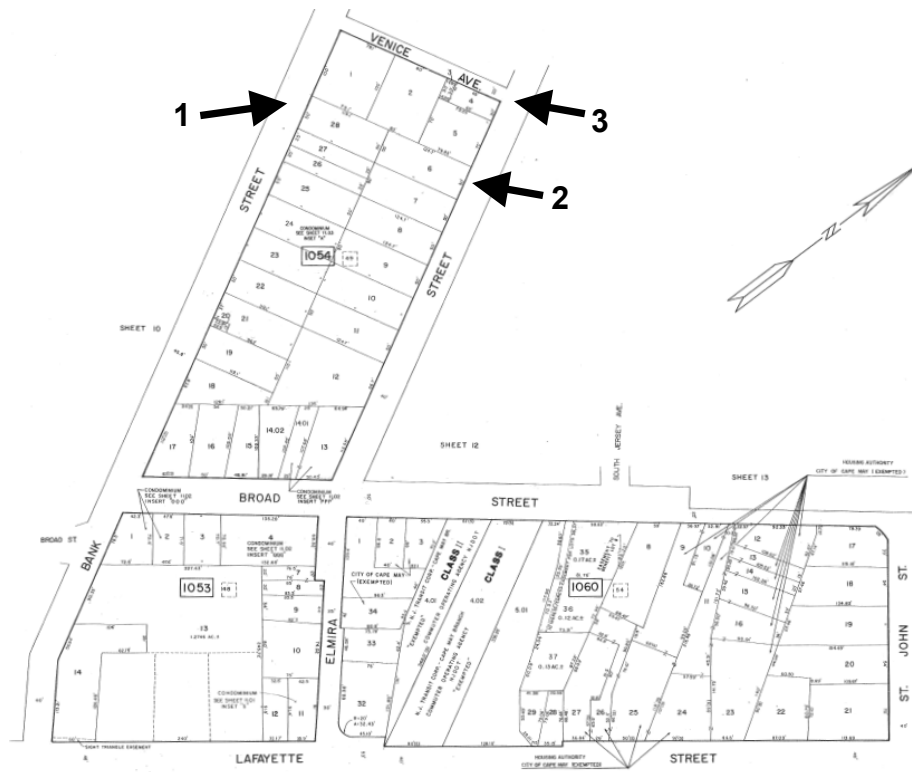


Photo Key Map 1

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Keys Page 2

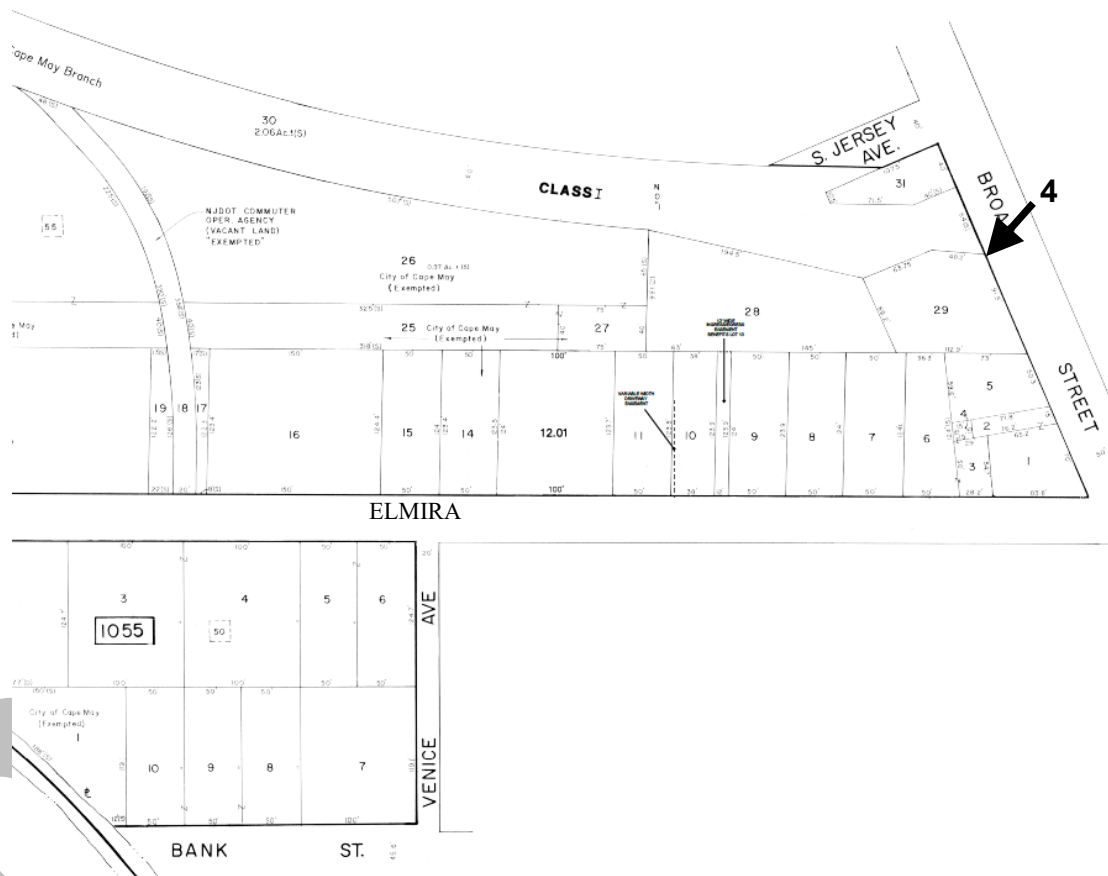


Photo Key Map 2

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

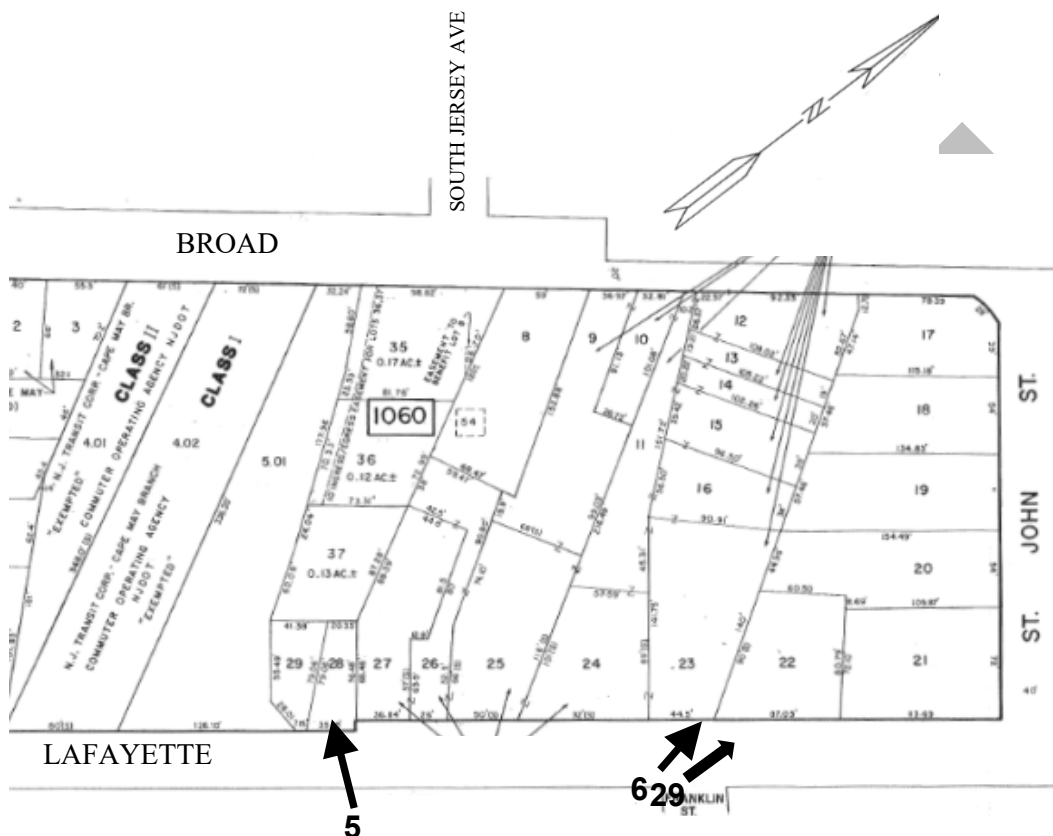
Section number Photo Keys Page 3

Photo Key Map 3

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
 (Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Keys Page 4

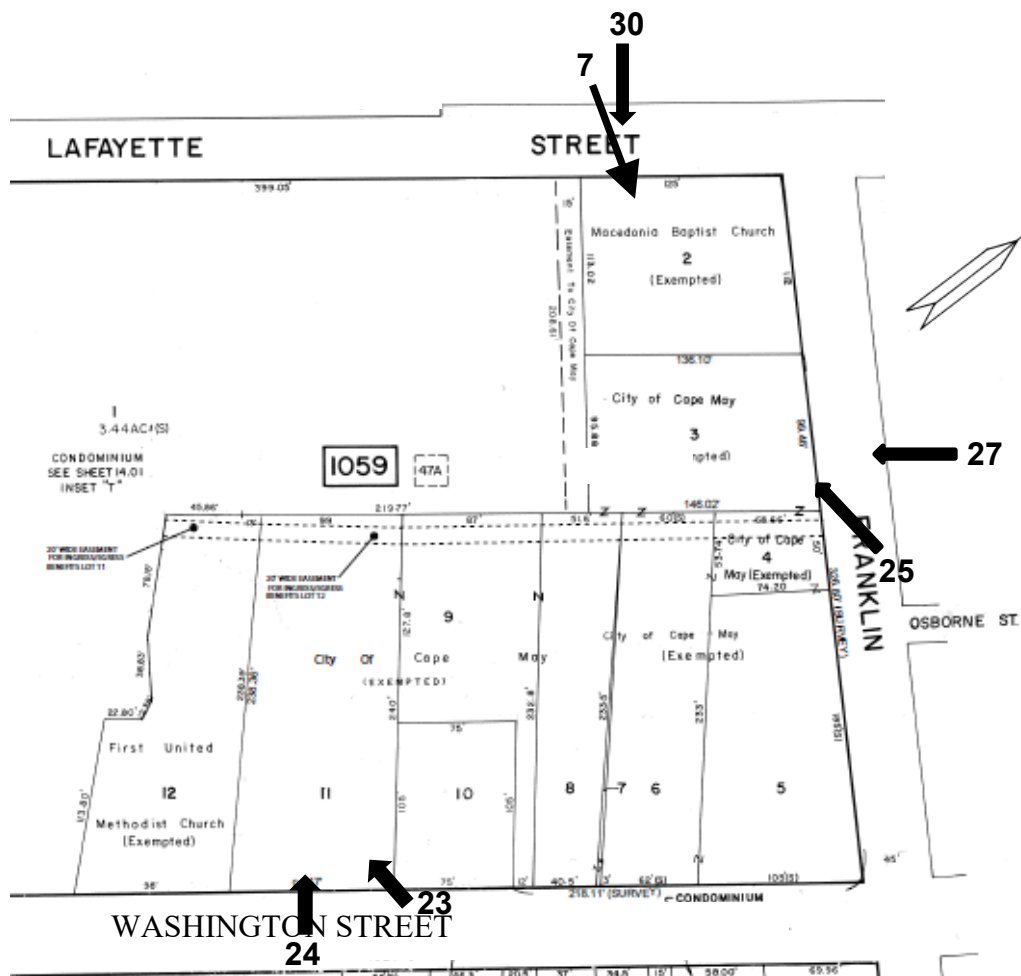


Photo Key Map 4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Keys Page 5

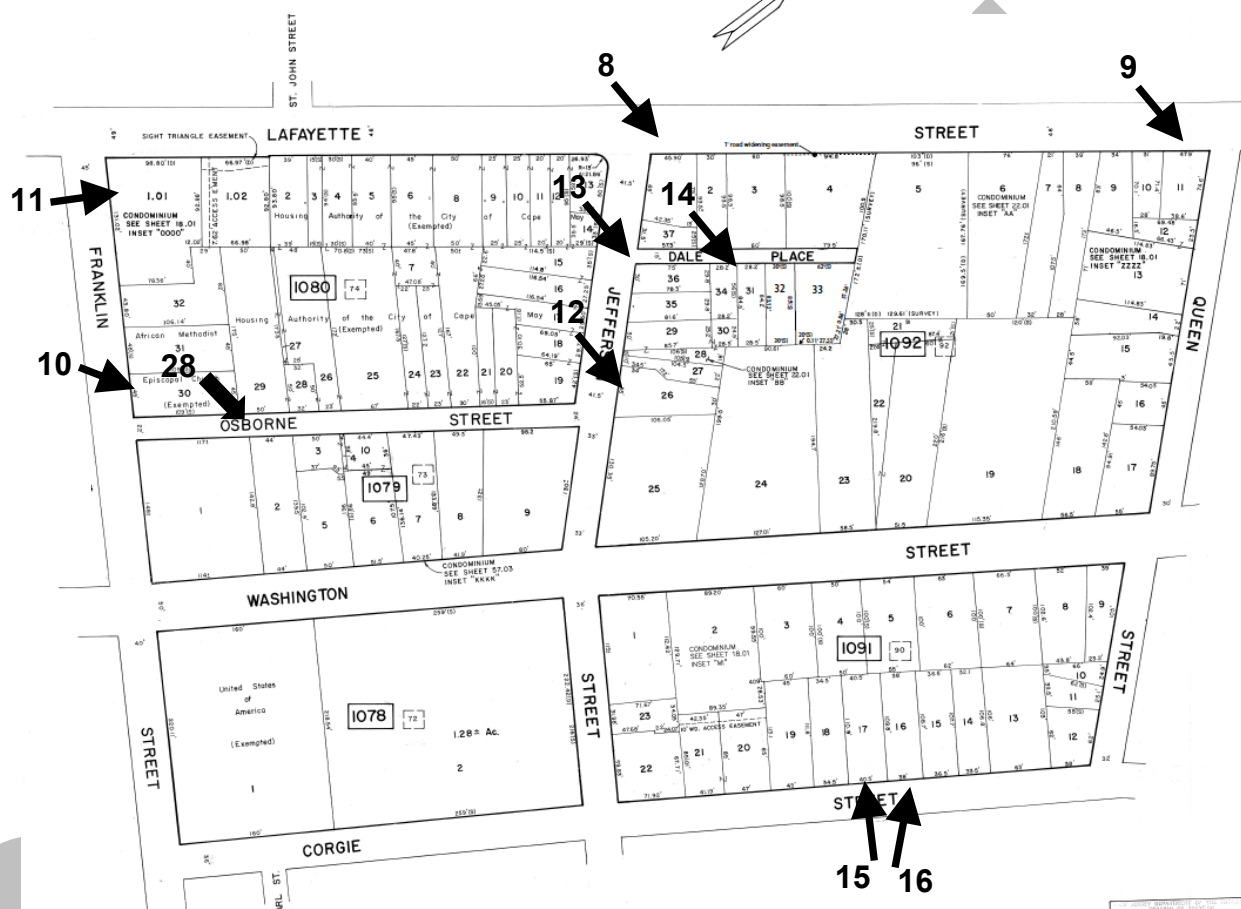


Photo Key Map 5

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

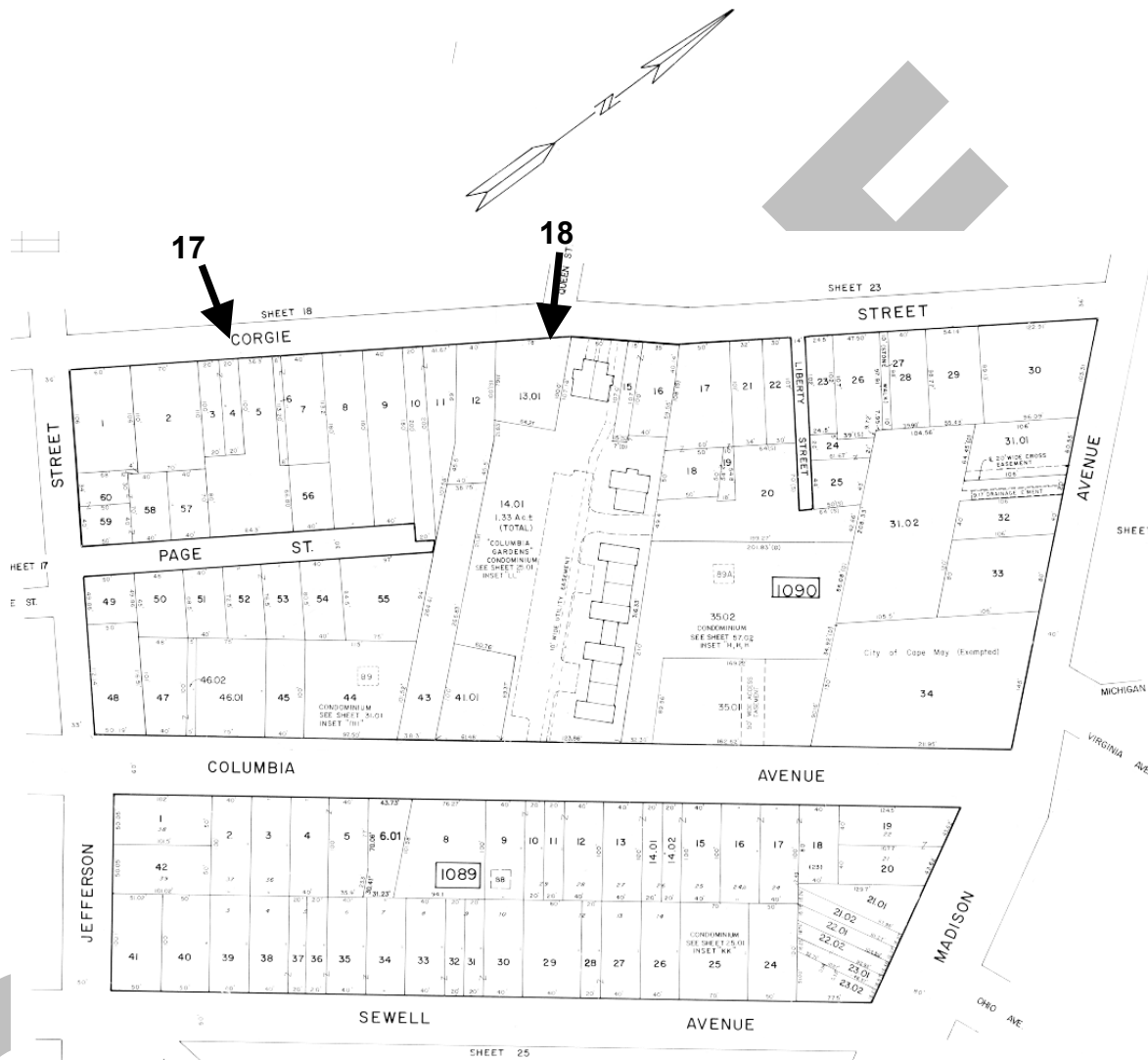
Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Keys Page 6



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Keys Page 7

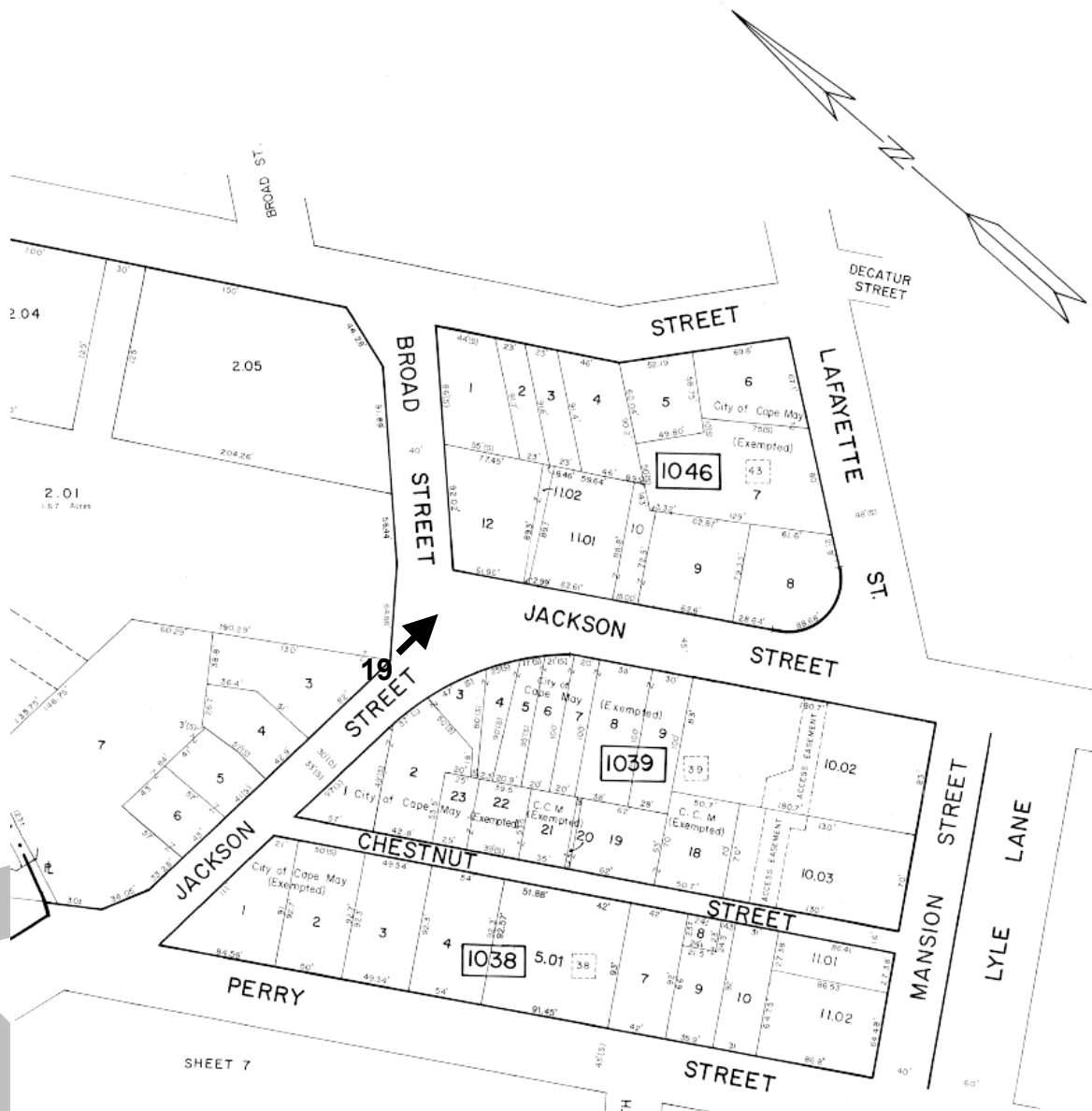


Photo Key Map 7

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
 (Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Keys Page 8



Photo Key Map 8

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Keys Page 9

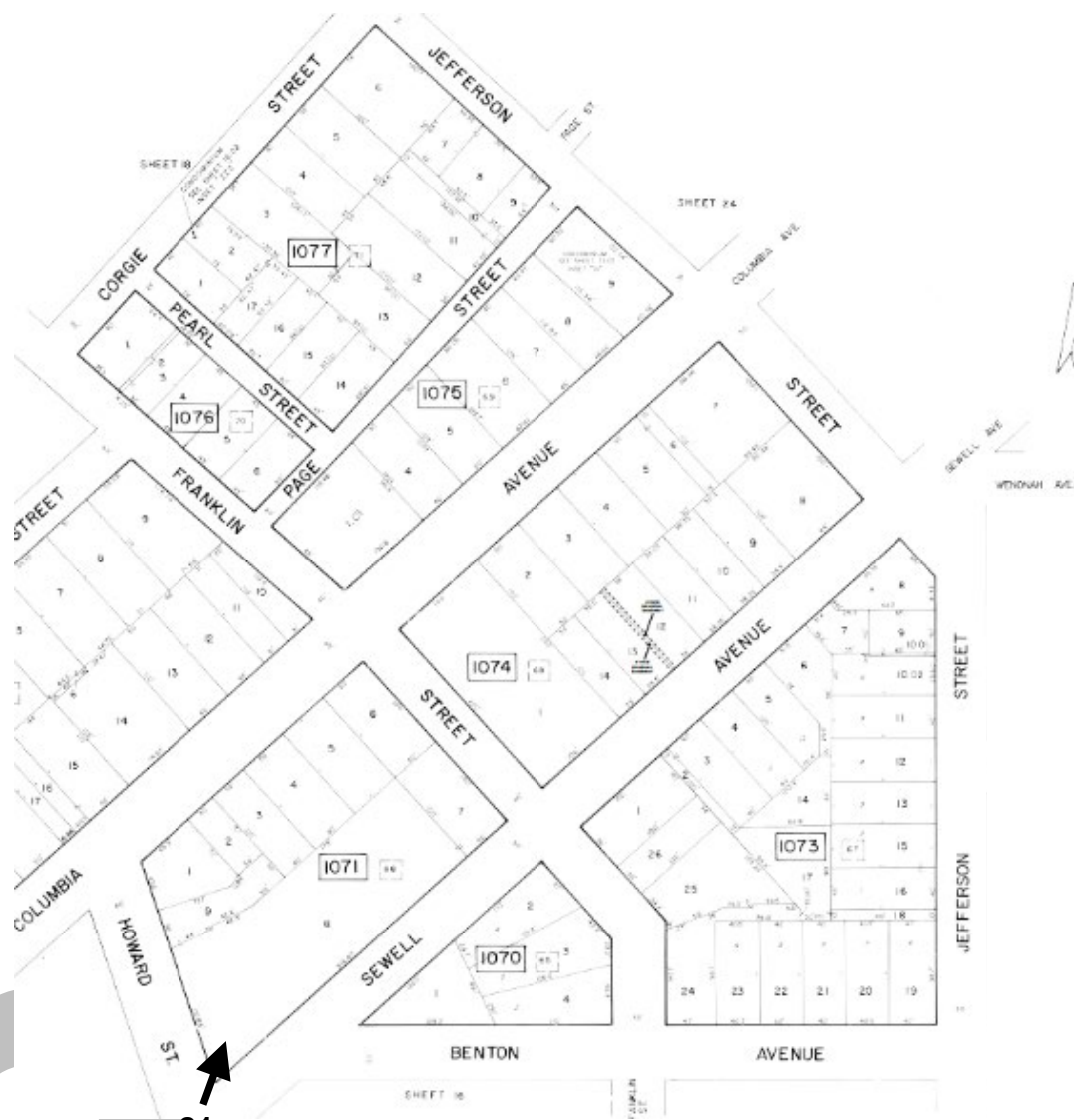


Photo Key Map 9

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Keys Page 10



Photo Key Map 10

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Keys Page 11

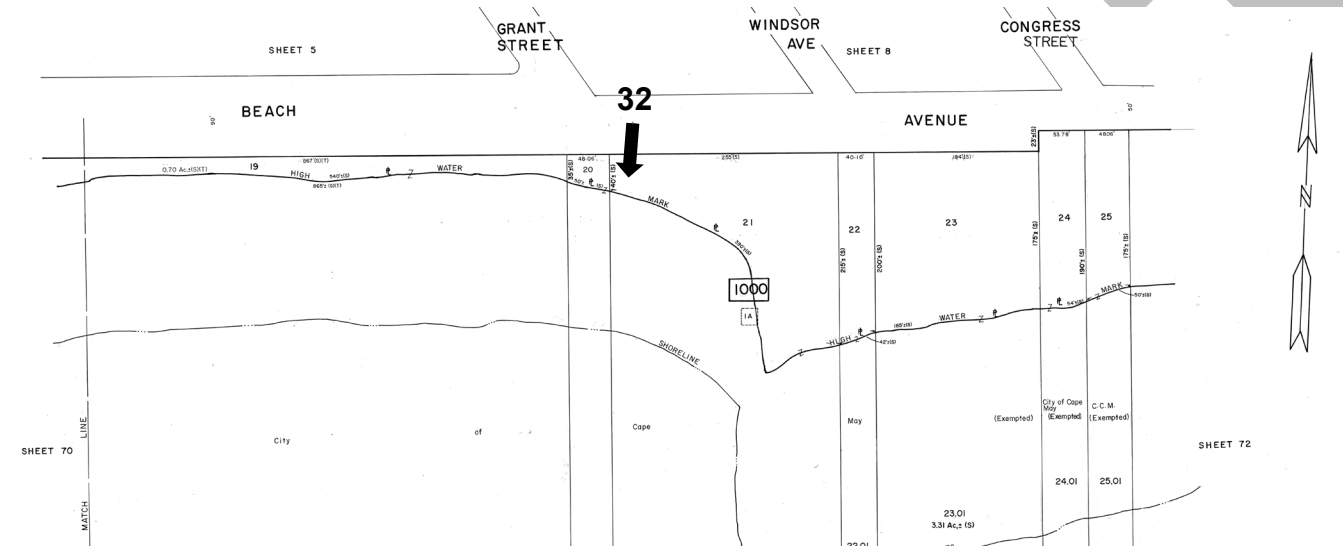


Photo Key Map 11

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 1



1850 Nunan Map of Cape May County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 2



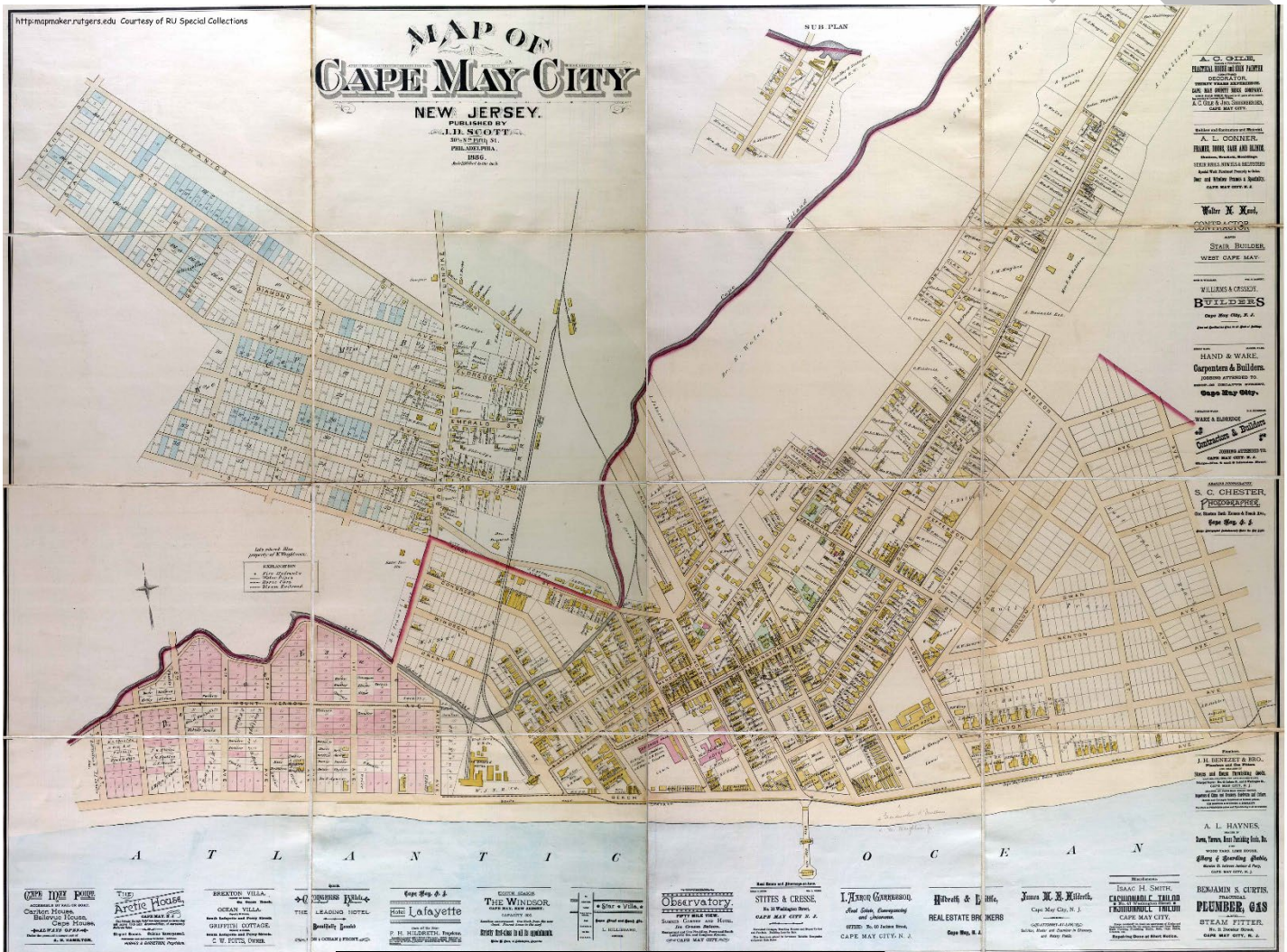
1878 Woolman and Rose Map of Cape May City.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 3



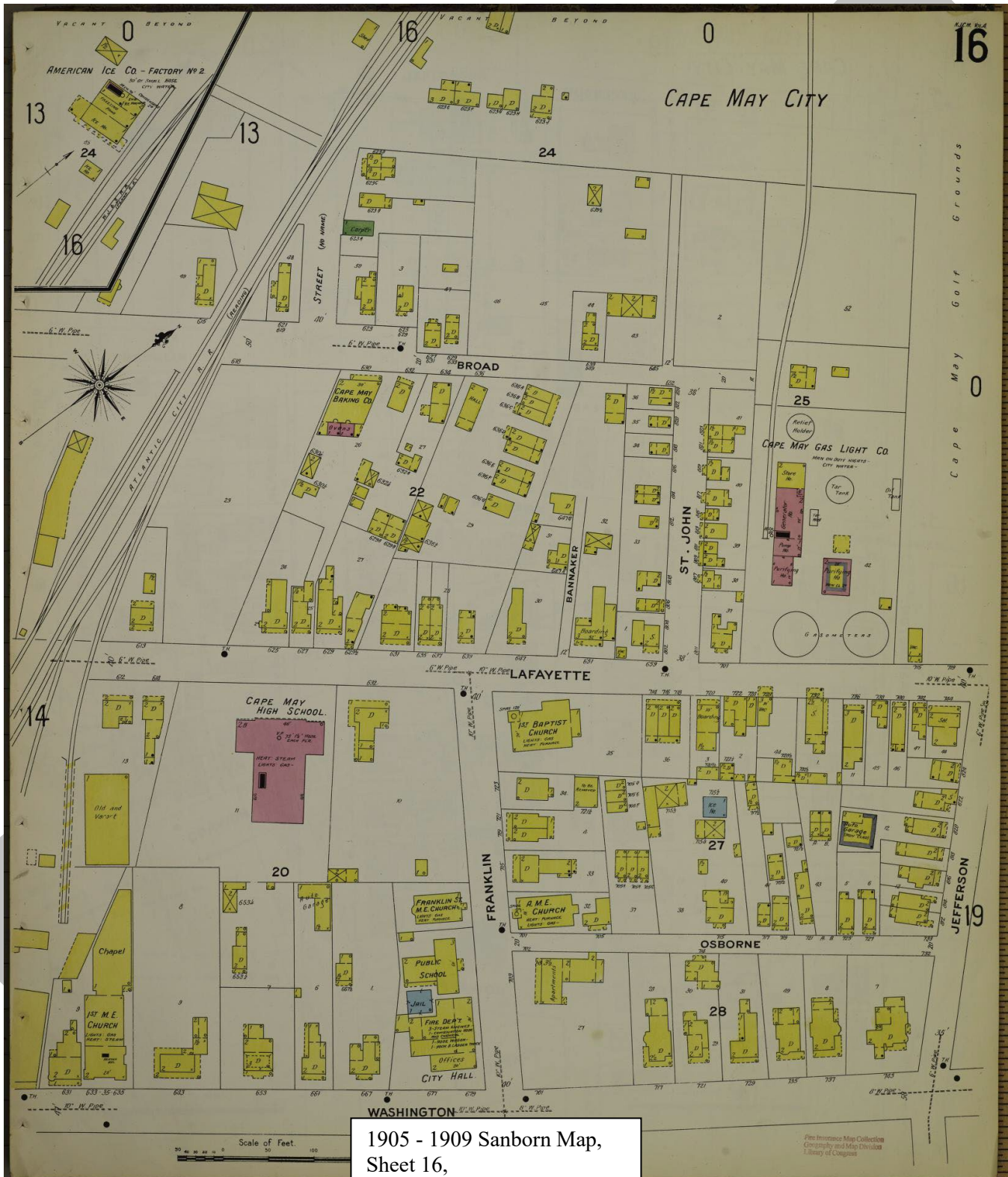
1886 J. D. Scott Map of Cape May City,
New Jersey.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 4



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 5



1905 - 1909 Sanborn Map, Sheet

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 6



1905 - 1909 Sanborn Map, Sheet 19,
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3814nm.g3814nm_g05568190904

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 7

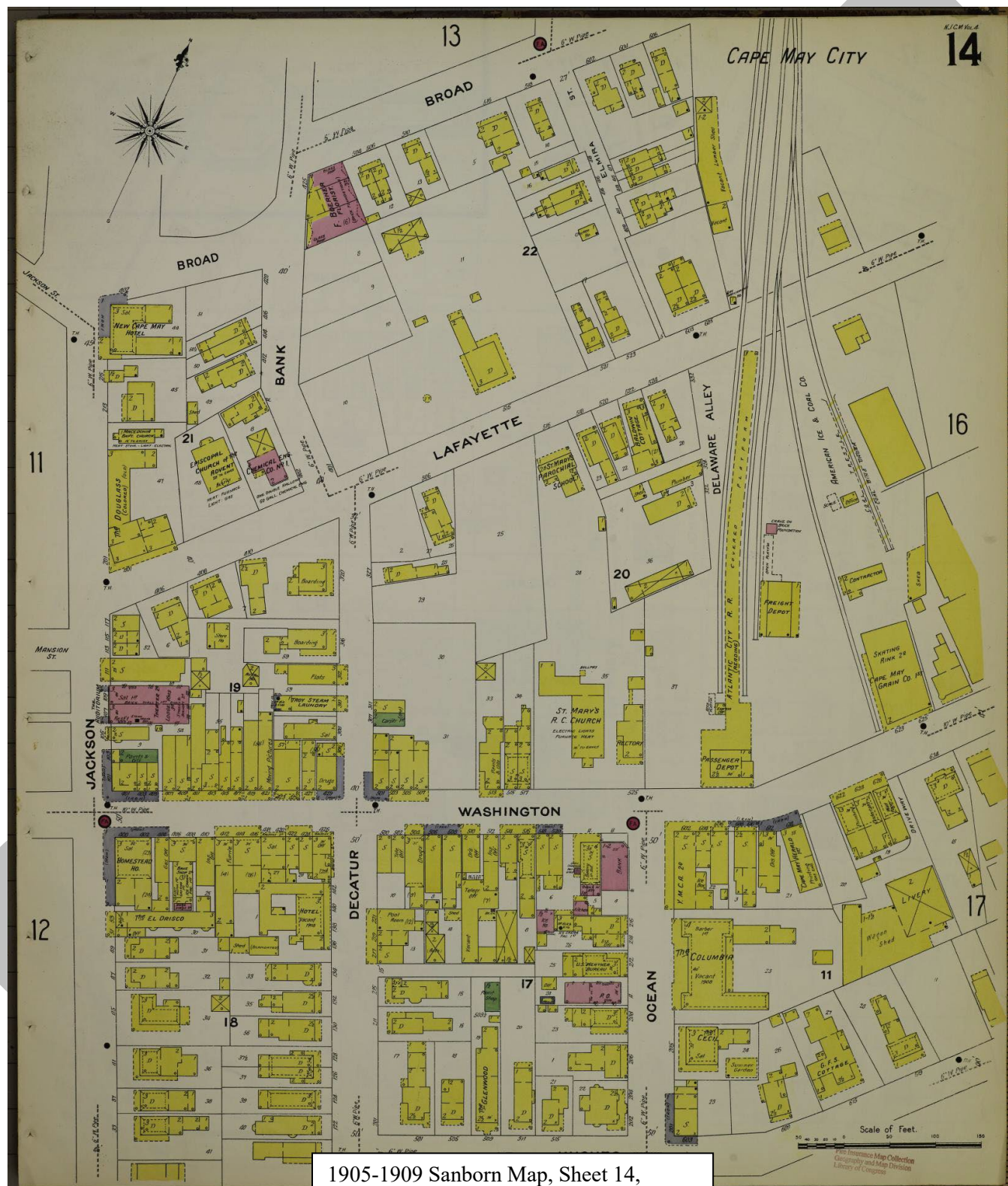


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 8



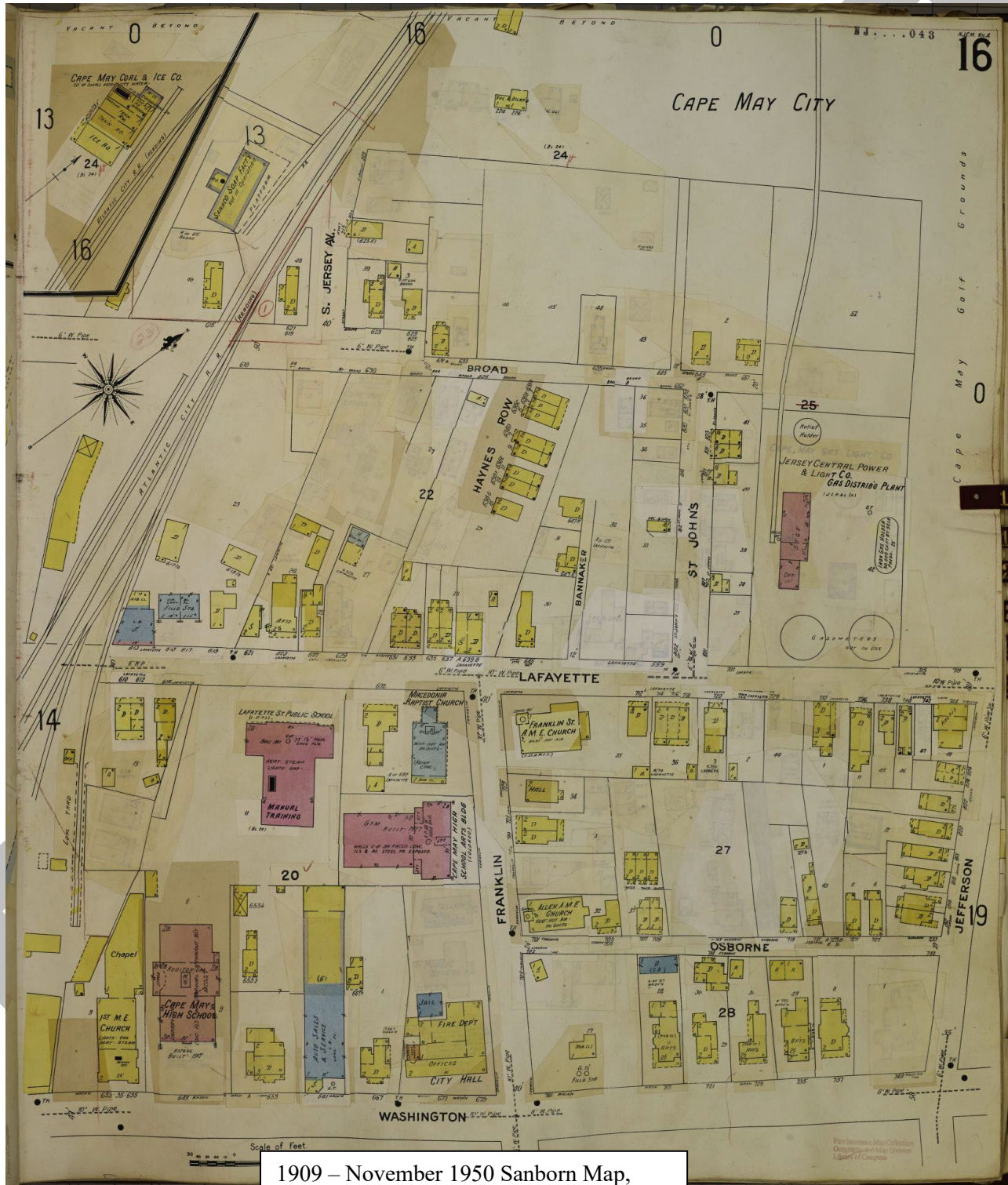
1905-1909 Sanborn Map, Sheet 14,
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3814nm.g3814nm_g05568190904

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 9



1909 – November 1950 Sanborn Map,
Sheet 16,
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3814nm.g3814nm_g05568195004

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 10



1909 – November 1950 Sanborn Map,
Sheet 19,
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3814nm.g3814nm_g05568195004

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 11

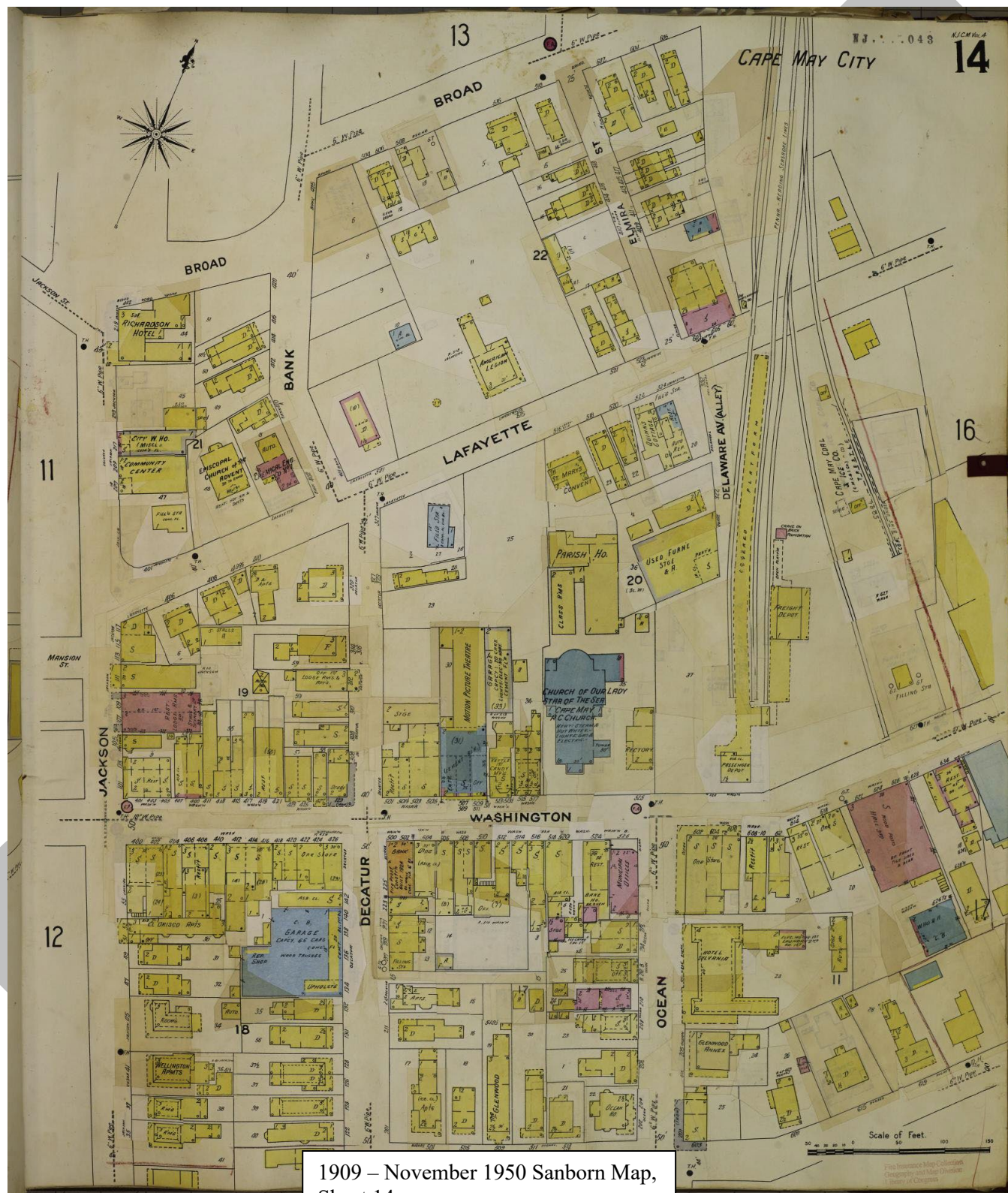


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
Cape May Historic District (AD)
County and State
Cape May, New Jersey
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Maps Page 12



1909 – November 1950 Sanborn Map,
Sheet 14,
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3814nm.g3814nm_g05568195004

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
Cape May County, New Jersey

Section number	Historic Photos	Page	1
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A. 1842 Cape May N.J. Franklin St. M E Church in which
the Delaware, (colored) Conference was held April 19 18

<https://catalog.gcah.org/omeka/files/original/8c24e0753bc75200f3f89912b82f8aba.jpg>

Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church , "Mission Photograph Album - Negro #1 page 0001," *UMC Digital Galleries*, accessed December 18, 2023, <https://catalog.qcah.org/omeka/items/show/49895>.

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

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
Cape May County, New Jersey

Section number	Historic Photos	Page	2
----------------	--------------------	------	---

Have water lines on
wherever you need it

Friday, May 14, 1937

Dear Iola,

Here I am again'

The Brown's want to come in
On the 1st of June. Now do you think
you could get the house cleaned by then.
That is, the windows, floors, beds, dishes

I have forgotten if we brought the curtain down to #30 to be washed but I do not think they would mind waiting for the curtains until after I get down. Get Dave and Cynthia to help you and I will pay you all when I get down.

Let me know if you can do this and then
I will write to Gallaher to put up screens
etc.

I am enclosing my keys for you.

You would need a private secretary to answer all my questions. I am feeling rotten with a mean cold so I am not of much account.

Let me know at once if the house can be ready for them to come into by June st. as I will have to let them know. They are not like the Friedman's.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Perry

Historic Photo # 1: Letter to Iola Farmer 1937, Courtesy of Nash African American History Archives, Center for Community Arts, Cape May, NJ.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
Cape May County, New Jersey

Section number Historic Page 3
 Photos



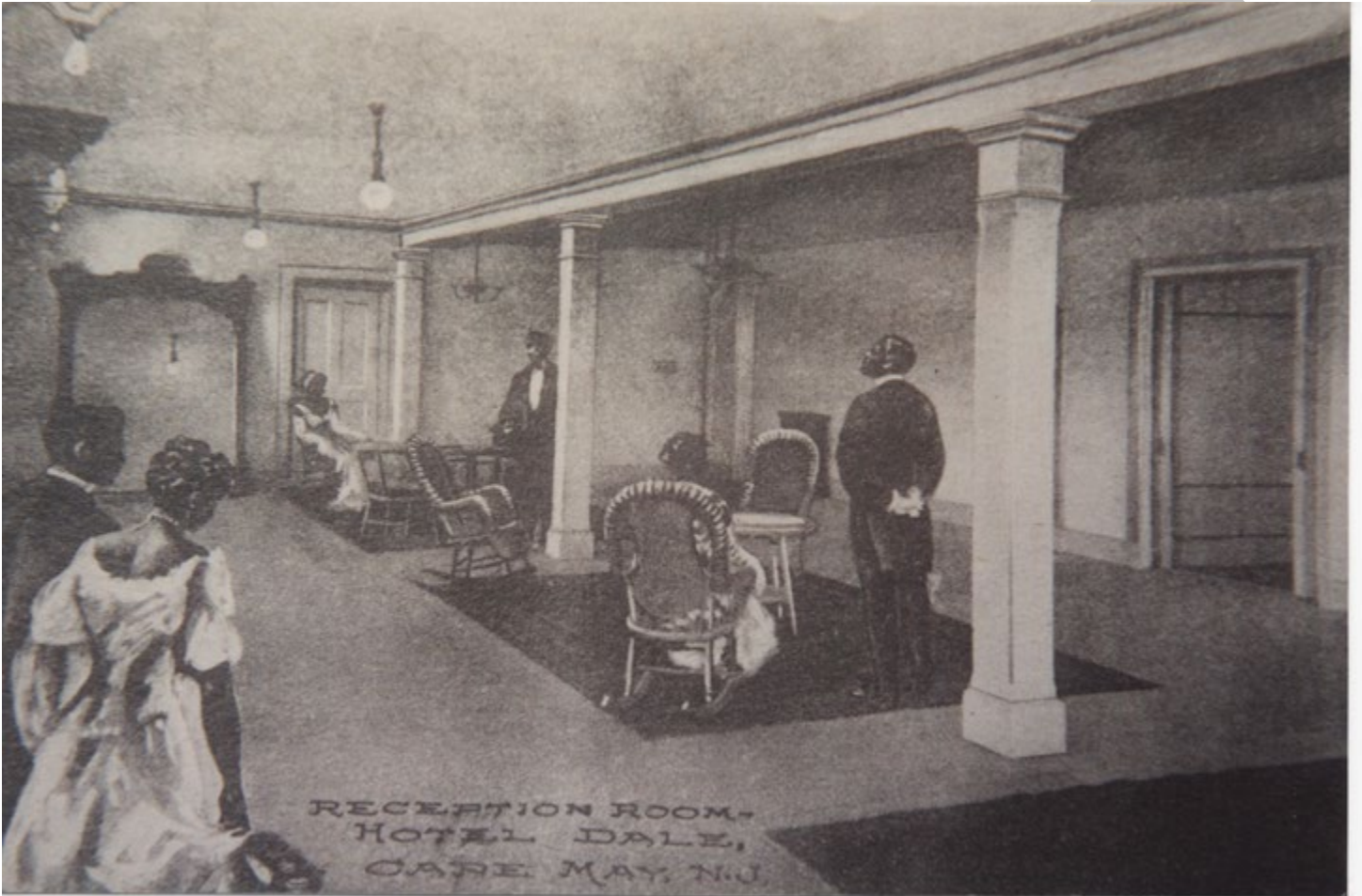
Historic Photo #2: Sunday school children from Franklin Street Methodist Church, Allen AME Church, and Macedonia Baptist Church, on steps of the Macedonia Baptist Church, c 1945. Courtesy of Nash African American History Archives, Center for Community Arts, Cape May, NJ.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
Cape May County, New Jersey

Section number	Historic Photos	Page	4
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Historic Photo #3: Postcard image of interior of the Hotel Dale, no date. Courtesy of Nash African American History Archives, Center for Community Arts, Cape May, NJ.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
Cape May County, New Jersey

Section number	Historic Photos	Page	5
----------------	--------------------	------	---



Historic Photo #4 : African American members of the Cape May Beach Patrol, no date. Courtesy of Nash African American History Archives, Center for Community Arts, Cape May, NJ.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District (AD)
Cape May County, New Jersey

Section number	Historic Photos	Page	6
----------------	--------------------	------	---



Historic Photo #5: David Farmer, Custodian at the Franklin Street School, standing in front of the Franklin Street School, no date. Courtesy of Nash African American History Archives, Center for Community Arts, Cape May, NJ.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Log Page 1

Photographs

Property Name: Cape May Historic District
Property Location: City of Cape May, Cape May County, New Jersey
Location of Negatives:
(Photos 1-21) ARCH², Inc.
81 Rector Street
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840
(Photos 22-32) New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
501 East State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08609
Photographer: Nancy Zerbe (Photos 1-21)
Andrea Tingey (Photos 22-32)
Date: September 21, 2022 (photos 1-4, 7, 8-13, 15-17, 19-21)
October 11, 2022 (photos 5, 6, 14, 18)
December 4, 2023 (photos 22-32)

Photograph No. 1 of 32: View looking north at 569-571 Bank Street.
Photograph No. 2 of 32: View looking southwest at 536 Elmira Street.
Photograph No. 3 of 32: View looking southwest at 544 Elmira Street.
Photograph No. 4 of 32: View looking northwest at 615 Broad Street.
Photograph No. 5 of 32: View looking northwest at 621 Lafayette Street.
Photograph No. 6 of 32: View looking north at the Stephen Smith House, 645 Lafayette Avenue.
Photograph No. 7 of 32: View looking west at Macedonia Baptist Church, 630 Lafayette Avenue.
Photograph No. 8 of 32: View looking northeast at 802 Lafayette Street.
Photograph No. 9 of 32: View looking east at 836 Lafayette Street.
Photograph No. 10 of 32: View looking northeast at the Allen AME Church, 715 Franklin Street.
Photograph No. 11 of 32: View looking northeast at the Franklin Street Methodist Church, 727-729 Franklin Street.
Photograph No. 12 of 32: View looking east at 811 Jefferson Street.
Photograph No. 13 of 32: View looking northeast at 819 Jefferson Street.
Photograph No. 14 of 32: View looking northeast at 808 Dale Place.
Photograph No. 15 of 32: View looking northwest at 817 Corgie Street.
Photograph No. 16 of 32: View looking northwest at 821 Corgie Street.
Photograph No. 17 of 32: View looking northeast at 810 Corgie Street.
Photograph No. 18 of 32: View looking southeast at 836 Corgie Street.
Photograph No. 19 of 32: View looking east at 219 Jackson Street.
Photograph No. 20 of 32: View looking east at Congress Hall, 251 Beach Avenue.
Photograph No. 21 of 32: View looking north at the Chalfonte Hotel, 301 Howard Street.
Photograph No. 22 of 32: View looking northeast at Physick Estate, 1048 Washington Street.
Photograph No. 23 of 32: View looking west at Cape May City Hall, 643 Washington Street.
Photograph No. 24 of 32: View looking northwest at Cape May City Hall, 643 Washington Street.
Photograph No. 25 of 32: View looking west at Franklin Street School, 720 Franklin Street.
Photograph No. 26 of 32: View looking west at 28-30 Congress Street.
Photograph No. 27 of 32: View looking southwest at Franklin Street School, 720 Franklin Street.
Photograph No. 28 of 32: View looking east at garage on 717 Washington Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photo Log Page 2

Photograph No. 29 of 32: View looking north at Stephen Smith House, 645 Lafayette Street.

Photograph No. 30 of 32: View looking southeast at Harriet Tubman Museum, 632 Lafayette Street.

Photograph No. 31 of 32: View looking west at Clinton Hotel, 202 Perry Street

Photograph No. 32 of 32: View looking south at Grant Street Beach, Grant Street and Beach Avenue.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 1

Photographs



Photograph No. 1 of 32: View looking north at 569-571 Bank Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 2



Photograph No. 2 of 32: View looking southwest at 536 Elmira Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 3



Photograph No. 3 of 32: View looking southwest at 544 Elmira Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 4



Photograph No. 4 of 32: View looking northwest at 615 Broad Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 5



Photograph No. 5 of 32: View looking northwest at 621 Lafayette Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 6



Photograph No. 6 of 32: View looking north at the Stephen Smith House, 645 Lafayette Avenue.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 7



Photograph No. 7 of 32: View looking west at Macedonia Baptist Church, 630 Lafayette Avenue.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 8



Photograph No. 8 of 32: View looking northeast at 802 Lafayette Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 9



Photograph No. 9 of 32: View looking east at 836 Lafayette Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 10



Photograph No. 10 of 32: View looking northeast at the Allen AME Church, 715 Franklin Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 11



Photograph No. 11 of 32: View looking northeast at the Franklin Street Methodist Church, 727-729 Franklin Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 12



DR
D
Photograph No. 12 of 32: View looking east at 811 Jefferson Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 13



Photograph No. 13 of 32: View looking northeast at 819 Jefferson Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 14



Photograph No. 14 of 32: View looking northeast at 808 Dale Place.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 15



Photograph No. 15 of 32: View looking northwest at 817 Corgie Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 16



Photograph No. 16 of 32: View looking northwest at 821 Corgie Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 17



Photograph No. 17 of 32: View looking northeast at 810 Corgie Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 18



Photograph No. 18 of 32: View looking southeast at 836 Corgie Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 19



Photograph No. 19 of 32: View looking east at 219 Jackson Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 20



Photograph No. 20 of 32: View looking east at Congress Hall, 251 Beach Avenue.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 21



Photograph No. 21 of 32: View looking north at the Chalfonte Hotel, 301 Howard Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 22



Photograph No. 22 of 32: View looking northeast at Physick Estate, 1048 Washington Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 23



Photograph No. 23 of 32: View looking west at Cape May City Hall, 643 Washington Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 24



Photograph No. 24 of 32: View looking northwest at Cape May City Hall, 643 Washington Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 25



Photograph No. 25 of 32: View looking west at Franklin Street School, 720 Franklin Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 26



Photograph No. 26 of 32: View looking west at 28 Congress Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 27



Photograph No. 27 of 32: View looking southwest at Franklin Street School, 720 Franklin Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 28



Photograph No. 28 of 32: View looking east at garage on 717 Washington Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 29



Photograph No. 29 of 32: View looking north at Stephen Smith House, 645 Lafayette Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 30



Photograph No. 30 of 32: View looking southeast at Harriet Tubman Museum, 632 Lafayette Street.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 31



Photograph No. 31 of 32: View looking west at Clinton Hotel, 202 Perry Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Cape May Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

County and State

Cape May, New Jersey

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 32



Photograph No. 32 of 32: View looking south at Grant Street Beach, Grant Street and Beach Avenue.