

LITTLE EGG HARBOR

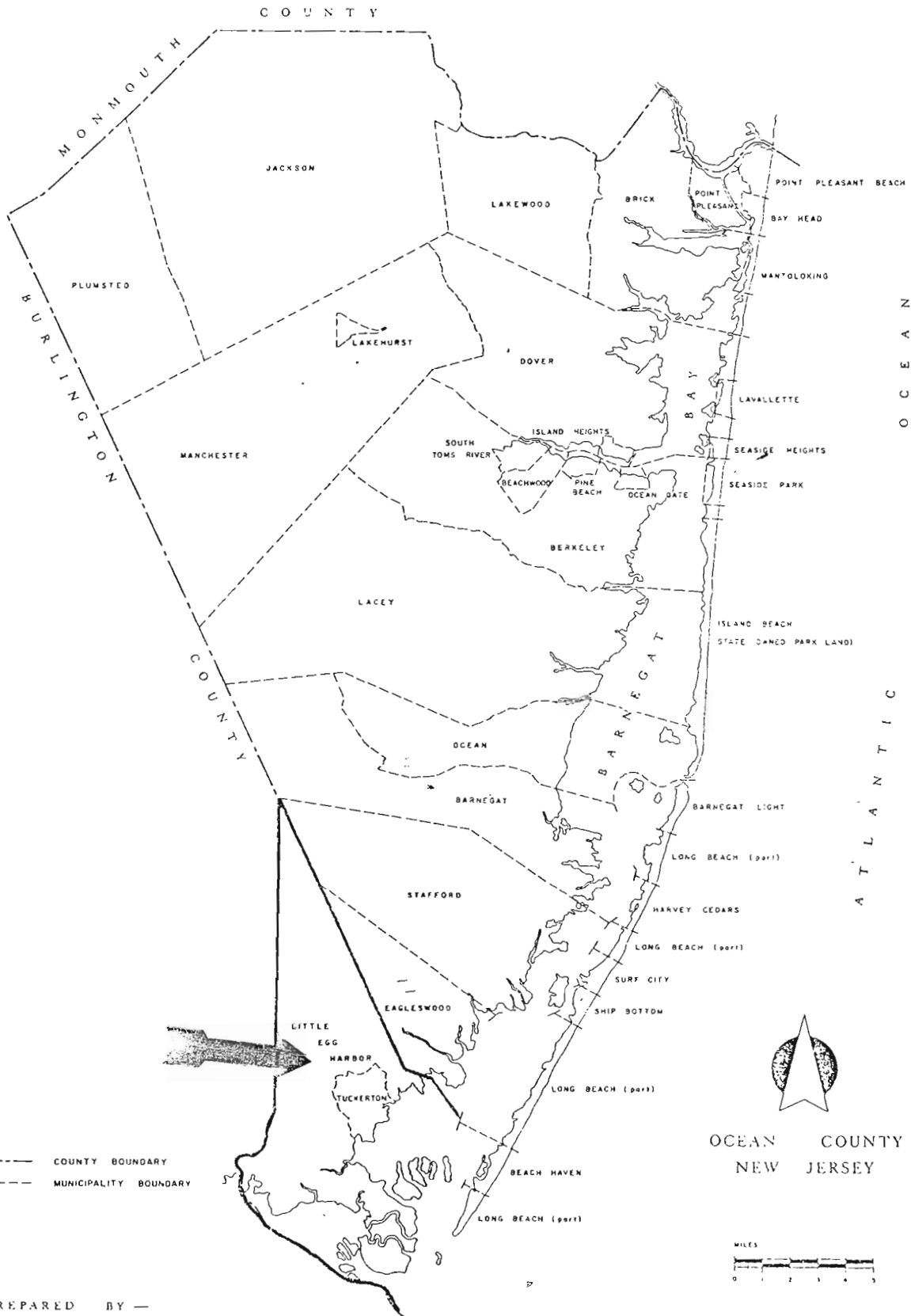


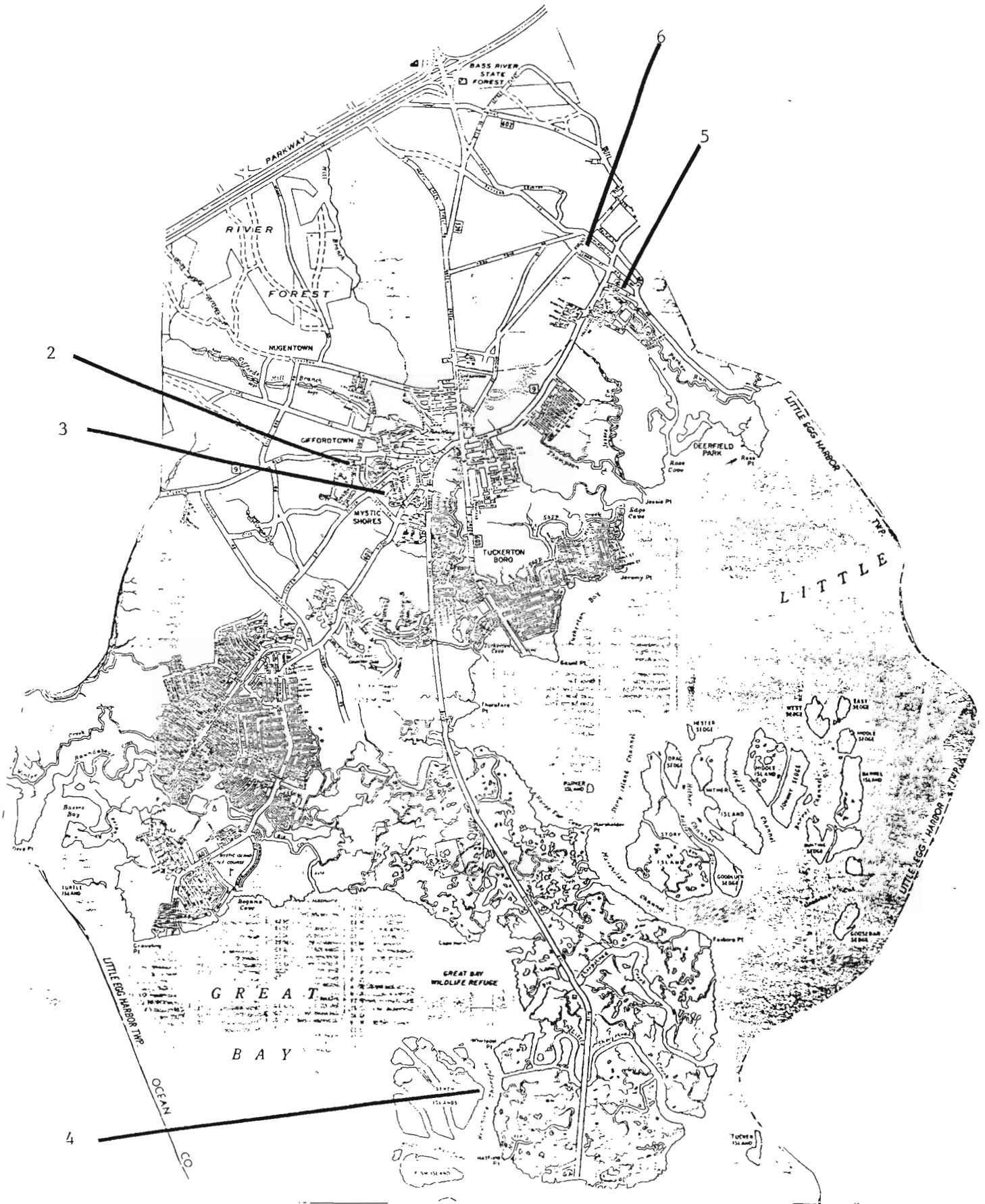
TABLE OF CONTENTS

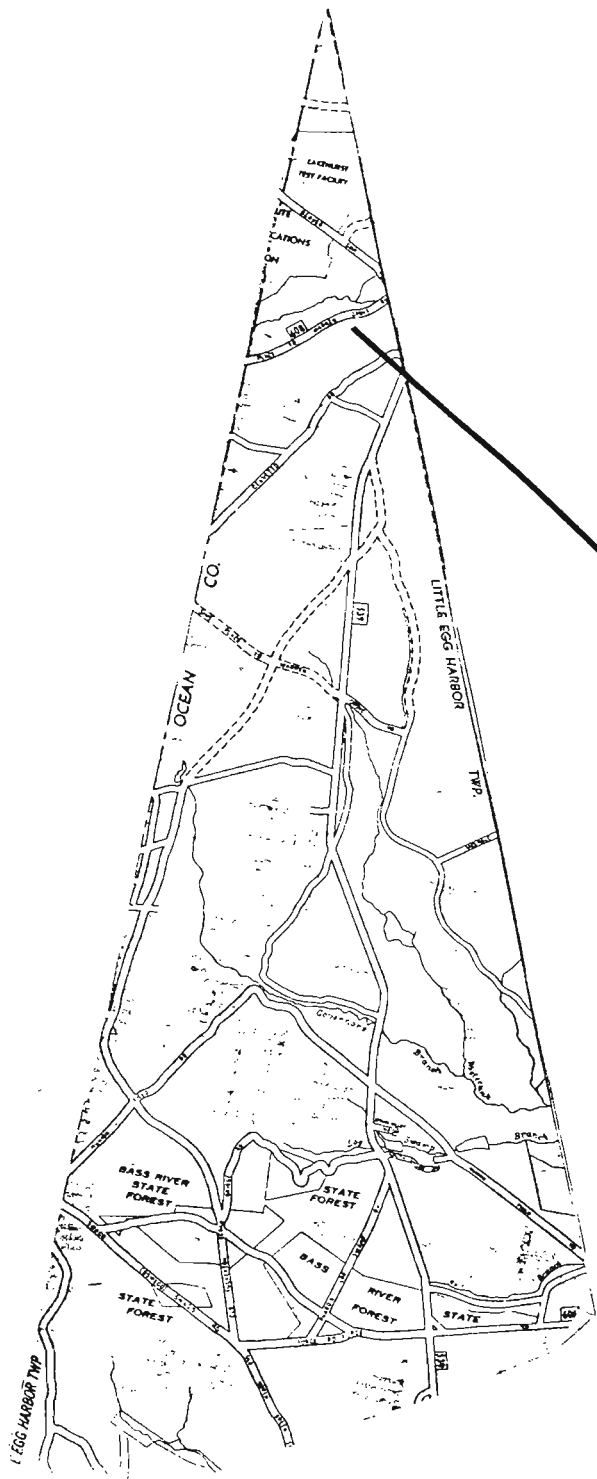
Letter of Transmittal i
Table of Contents ii
Introduction 1 - 17
Little Egg Harbor Historical Overview 1 - 4
Survey Forms 1517-1-6
Listings 1517-L1-L18
State and National Register of Historic Places Recommendations
Appendix

Maps

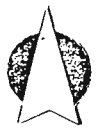
-(This survey was conducted by Michael May).







1



LITTLE EGG HARBOR

Little Egg Harbor, the southernmost township in Ocean County, is bordered on the east by Little Egg Harbor, on the south by Atlantic County, on the west by Burlington County, and on the north by Eagleswood Township. Little Egg Harbor contains approximately 49.5 square miles with a population of over 8,000. Acres of pine forest, swampland, scattered 19th century settlements and recent tract housing are found within the township's boundaries.

The first recorded account of the area was made by Captain Cornelius Jacobsen Mey who sailed the harbor area in 1614. This early explorer named the area Eyre Haven (Egg Harbor) since numerous bird nesting sites were found.¹ However, not until the turn of the 17th century was the area inhabited by white men, with the earlier settlements made in what today is Tuckerton Borough. Tuckerton, once part of Little Egg Harbor, played an important role in the history of the township, since it was the shipping port from which, in the 18th and 19th centuries, products such as lumber and charcoal were exported. Isolated settlements were found outside Tuckerton in the 18th century including farms along Center Street and north along Route 9. As early as 1721, Joseph Parker began the settlement of Parkertown, which developed into a small village in the 19th century.² As was the case in other coastal communities in Ocean County, 18th century settlers in Little Egg Harbor farmed, hunted and collected food from the bay for their survival. At the end of the 18th century the outlying area of Tuckerton was utilized for its natural resources, bringing more settlement along the main roads leading into the village.

2

Little Egg Harbor's most important 18th century occurrence was perhaps the battle between Colonial and British troops. During the Revolutionary War men of the area often seized British ships in the bay causing the burning of Tuckerton by the British in retaliation. A battle soon followed outside the town in October of 1778.³ The site of the battle is marked today with a stone monument along Radio near Mystic Island.

In the 19th century, activity in the area continued to center around the Tuckerton port. However, by the late 19th century, Parkertown began to develop into a village at the northern end of the township. In 1880, Leah Blackman described Parkertown as a rural village, two miles from Tuckerton containing thirty houses and a school district. The village grew around the original Parker farmhouse and was settled by Parker's descendants. As each generation died, the land was divided among the descendants until the farm took the appearance of a small village.⁴

Other settlements developed in the 19th century including Sea Haven (also known as Tucker's Island or Short Beach.) The Island, now underwater, was once the most popular beach in the county. This early resort contained two hotels in the late 19th century. The first hotel was opened by Reuben Tucker for those interested in swimming, fishing and hunting as early as 1765.⁵ By 1935 the last remaining structure, the Lifesaving Station was destroyed.

The 20th century brought new fame to the area. In 1912 Little Egg Harbor became the site of the Tuckerton Wireless, the largest radio tower in the world. From Tuckerton, transatlantic cables were received and broadcast. The tower, designed by Dr. Rudolf Goldschmidt, a German scientist, was built on Osbourne Island by the German government and stood 850'; weighing 800 tons. When operations began in 1914 the station became

important for the transmission of sailing information to German warships. Unconfirmed rumors that a transmission "get the Lucy" was broadcast from the wireless, leading to the sinking of the Lusitania by a German submarine on May 7, 1915, brought the take-over of the station by the U.S. Government.⁶

By the 1950s the tower had become obsolete and in 1955 the tower was demolished. Both the Little Egg Harbor and Tuckerton governments intervened to save the tower, but to no avail. Today only its large concrete anchors and a few outbuildings remain.

Crab Island (a fish factory) was created in the bay in the 1930s. The factory served as the largest fish producing company in the United States until it was abandoned in the 1960s.

Today much of Little Egg Harbor's architectural heritage remains intact. A number of early 19th century houses can be found along Route 9, in Parkertown and on side roads. These structures are typical of vernacular / saltbox and side hall plan buildings in the region. Small one and one half story wood frame houses with eyebrow windows and center doors are common (Dock Road, Parkertown and Sims Road, Warren Grove.) Many of these structures have been altered over the years or are part of later buildings.

In Parkertown, along Main, Railroad and Dock Roads, a variety of structures from the 19th century can be found including mid century two and one half story, three bay side-hall door houses and vernacular / Queen Anne houses with shingled exteriors and turned porch elements.

Unlike larger communities in the county, Little Egg contains only a handful of 18th and 19th century structures, due largely to the lack of a major community in the township. The buildings which do exist are typical examples of vernacular 18th and 19th century side and center hall construction.

LITTLE EGG HARBOR

FOOTNOTES:

¹ Major E.M. Woodward and John F. Hageman. History of Burlington and Mercer Counties, New Jersey. (Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1883), p.332.

² Ibid., p.332.

³ Woolman and Rose. Historical and Biographical Atlas of the New Jersey Coast. (Philadelphia: Woolman and Rose, 1879), p.40.

⁴ Leah Blackman. History of Little Egg Harbor Township. (Trenton, New Jersey: Trenton Printing Co., 1963), p.46.

⁵ History of Burlington. p.343.

⁶ "History of Little Egg Harbor." Distributed by the Ocean County Bureau of Public Relations, p.27.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Asbury Park Press. February 5, 1967.

The Beacon. May 23, 1974.

Blackman, Leah. History of Little Egg Harbor Township. (Trenton, New Jersey: Trenton Printing Co., 1963, p.46.

"History of Little Egg Harbor." Distributed by the Ocean County Bureau of Public Relations.

Woodward, Major E.W. and John F. Hageman. History of Burlington and Mercer Counties. Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1883.

Woolman and Rose. Historical and Biographical Atlas of the New Jersey Coast. Philadelphia: Woolman and Rose, 1897.

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO. 1517-1

HISTORIC NAME:
LOCATION: Sims Place to Warren Grove Rd.

COMMON NAME:
BLOCK/LOT

MUNICIPALITY: Little Egg Harbor Twp.
USGS QUAD:
OWNER/ADDRESS:

COUNTY: Ocean
UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: late 18th century

Source of Date: style

Architect:

Builder:

Style: vernacular / side hall

Form/Plan Type: rectangular with rear wing

Number of Stories: 2

Foundation: low, stucco

Exterior Wall Fabric: natural wood shingle

Fenestration: 2 bay

Roof/Chimneys: gable roof / 1 central chimney

Additional Architectural Description:

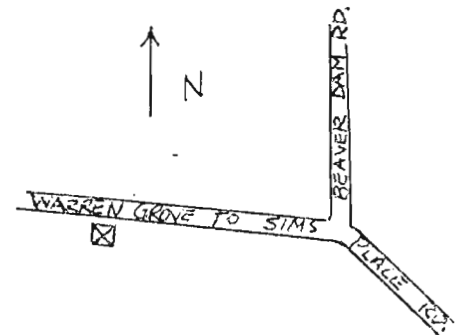
An open porch is located across the facade containing a hip roof, square posts and a blind balustrade. 6/6 windows are found on the first floor and in the gable peaks. Six paned single sash windows are located on the second floor. An enclosed porch is found on the west elevation.

PHOTO

Negative File No. 1517-1



Map (Indicate North)



SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

The structure is located on a narrow road and is surrounded by open fields and pine forest.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Urban Suburban Scattered Buildings
Open Space Woodland Residential Agricultural Village
Industrial Downtown Commercial Highway Commercial Other

SIGNIFICANCE:

The structure is an excellent example of local late 18th / early 19th century architecture, containing a central chimney, 6/6 windows, and narrow second floor windows. Typical of early structures is the narrow width (2 bay) and the short two story plan.

ORIGINAL USE: Residential
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Poor
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No Part of District
THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development Zoning Deterioration
No Threat Other

COMMENTS:

REFERENCES:

RECORDED BY: M. May
ORGANIZATION: Heritage Studies

DATE: March 1981

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION
 INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO. 1517-2

HISTORIC NAME:	Giffordtown Schoolhouse	COMMON NAME:	
LOCATION:	S.W. corner Leitz Blvd. and Wister Avenue	BLOCK/LOT	288/11
MUNICIPALITY:	Little Egg Harbor Twp.	COUNTY:	Ocean
USGS QUAD:		UTM REFERENCES:	
OWNER/ADDRESS:			Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date:	c.1880	Source of Date:	style
Architect:		Builder:	
Style:		Form/Plan Type:	T-plan
Number of Stories:	1		
Foundation:	low, cement		
Exterior Wall Fabric:	asbestos shingle		
Fenestration:	3 bay		
Roof/Chimneys:	gable roof / 1 central chimney		
Additional Architectural Description:			

A small gabled portico shelters the center door. Large paired 9/9 windows are employed.

PHOTO Negative File No. 1517-2

Map (Indicate North)



SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

The building is located at an intersection in a residential community. All of the adjacent structures date from the 20th century.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Urban Suburban Scattered Buildings
Open Space Woodland Residential Agricultural Village
Industrial Downtown Commercial Highway Commercial Other

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Giffordtown schoolhouse was built in the late 19th century outside Tuckerton. It is one of two remaining schoolhouses in the township and is currently being restored by the Tuckerton Historical Society. Giffordtown was a small 19th century community located south of Tuckerton along the main road. Today modern housing and commercial centers are found in the area.

ORIGINAL USE: Schoolhouse
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Poor
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No Part of District
THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development Zoning Deterioration
No Threat Other

COMMENTS:

Structure has been moved.

REFERENCES:

RECORDED BY: M. May
ORGANIZATION: Heritage Studies

DATE: March 1981

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO. 1517-3

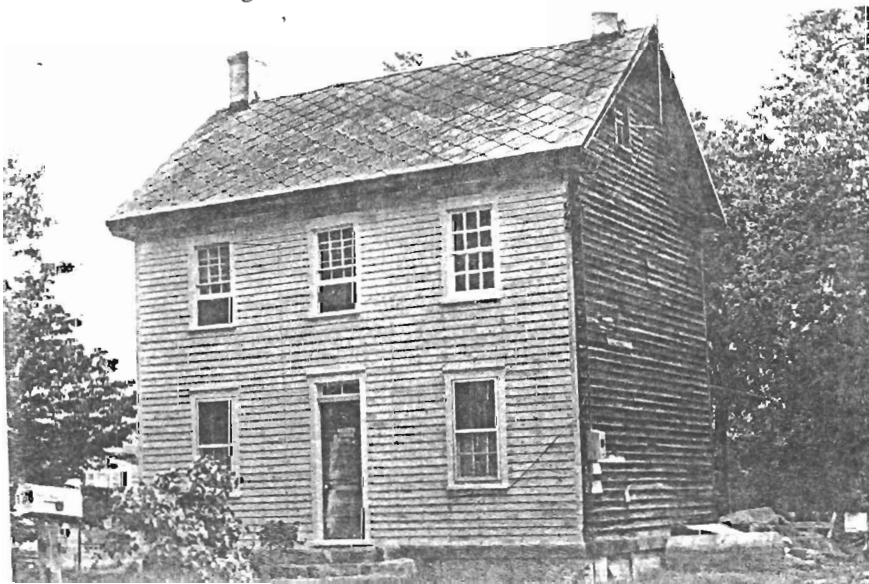
HISTORIC NAME:		COMMON NAME:	
LOCATION:	Center Street	BLOCK/LOT	292/
MUNICIPALITY:	Little Egg Harbor Twp.	COUNTY:	Ocean
USGS QUAD:		UTM REFERENCES:	
OWNER/ADDRESS:			Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION

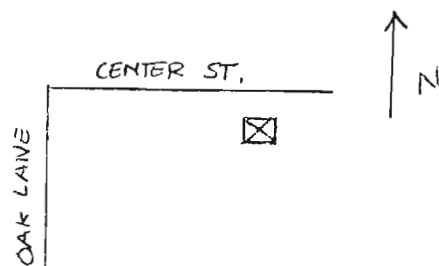
Construction Date:	mid 19th c.	Source of Date:	style
Architect:		Builder:	
Style:		Form/Plan Type:	rectangular
Number of Stories:	2½		
Foundation:	low, stone foundation		
Exterior Wall Fabric:	clapboard		
Fenestration:	3 bay		
Roof/Chimneys:	gable roof		
Additional Architectural Description:			

A rear addition has a gable roof and clapboard exterior. A center door contains a transom. Windows are 6/6.

PHOTO Negative File No. 1517-3



Map (Indicate North)



SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

The structure is located near the edge of the road on a large lot. Modern tract housing has been built around the property.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Urban Suburban Scattered Buildings
Open Space Woodland Residential Agricultural Village
Industrial Downtown Commercial Highway Commercial Other

SIGNIFICANCE:

The structure is a good example of early 19th century vernacular architecture of the area. Some of its original features include 6/6 windows, a center door with transom and a clapboard exterior.

ORIGINAL USE: Residential
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Poor
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No Part of District
THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development Zoning Deterioration
No Threat Other

COMMENTS:

REFERENCES:

RECORDED BY: M. May
ORGANIZATION: Heritage Studies

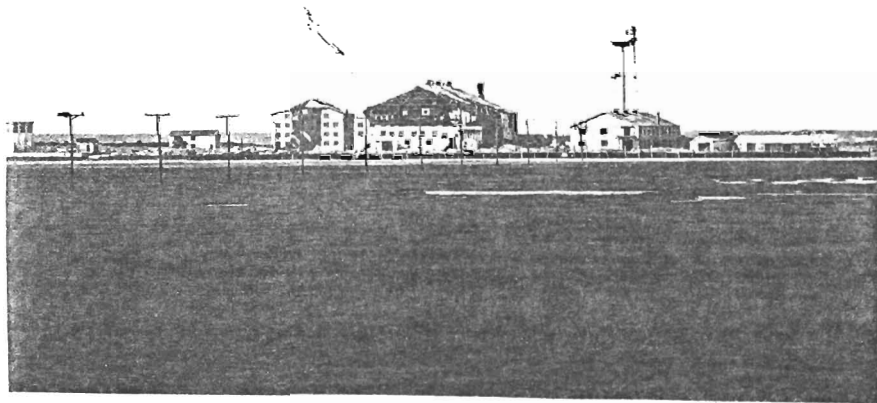
DATE: March 1981

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY # 1517-4
HISTORIC DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

DISTRICT NAME: Crab Island UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Northing/Easting
MUNICIPALITY: Little Egg Harbor Township A
COUNTY: B
TYPE OF DISTRICT: C
USGS QUAD: D

DESCRIPTION: (General description of district as a whole and boundaries)

Crab Island contains numerous storage, factory and workers' shacks. Many of the structures are deteriorating at a rapid pace. Large commercial factory-like buildings dominate the Island. All of these structures are 2 - 3 stories with gable roofs. Small wooden and metal-clad buildings can also be found.



PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURES: Excellent % Good % Fair % Poor %
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: [] Yes [X] Possible [] No
THREATS TO DISTRICT/LOCAL ATTITUDES: deterioration
COMMENTS:

Today part of state wildlife refuge.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Crab Island has been a commercial fish processing Island since the late 19th century. Little is known of its early history, however by the turn of the century numerous structures and shacks for the workers existed. In the early 19th century fishmeal, fertilizer and fish oil were the principal products of the factory. Fishermen brought their catch to the Island where it was cooked in huge stemers and the oil removed. The oil was later used in making soap and for fuel. The remains were ground for animal feed. In the 1940s fish flour, a high protein source, was made here. During World War I, garbage from the Atlantic City area was brought by ferry to the Island where it was used to make compost. The fish processing factory remained until the 1970s. In its time it was known as the largest commercial producer of fish protein in the country and was the only plant not serviced by railroad. However, by the mid 20th century, approximately 60 men were employed on the 100 acre Island, half of which worked with the fishing fleet and half in the plant. A pilot was also employed and helped spot the fish for the boats. A runway was constructed on the Island for this purpose.

REFERENCES: (Include representation in existing surveys)

Asbury Park Press. February 5, 1967.

The Beacon. May 23, 1974.

The Tuckerton Beacon. October 22, 1964.

RECORDED BY: M. May
ORGANIZATION: Heritage Studies
DATE: March 1981

SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

The structure is located at the road's edge in the center of a small village. Small houses are built close to the structure.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Urban Suburban Scattered Buildings
Open Space Woodland Residential Agricultural Village
Industrial Downtown Commercial Highway Commercial Other

SIGNIFICANCE:

The schoolhouse is one of the few remaining schoolhouses in the area. It still retains many of its original elements including its large multi-paned windows, and cupola.

ORIGINAL USE: Schoolhouse PRESENT USE: Residential
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Poor
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No Part of District
THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development Zoning Deterioration
No Threat Other

COMMENTS:

REFERENCES:

RECORDED BY: M. May
ORGANIZATION: Heritage Studies

DATE: March 1981

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO. 1517-6

HISTORIC NAME: Calvary Baptist Church
LOCATION: Railroad Ave. & Prospect

COMMON NAME:
BLOCK/LOT 170/3

MUNICIPALITY: Little Egg Harbor Twp.
USGS QUAD:
OWNER/ADDRESS:

COUNTY: Ocean
UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: late 19th c.

Source of Date: style

Architect:

Builder:

Style: vernacular / Gothic Revival elements

Form/Plan Type: cross plan

Number of Stories: 1

Foundation: low, brick

Exterior Wall Fabric: clapboard / shingle

Fenestration: 3 bay

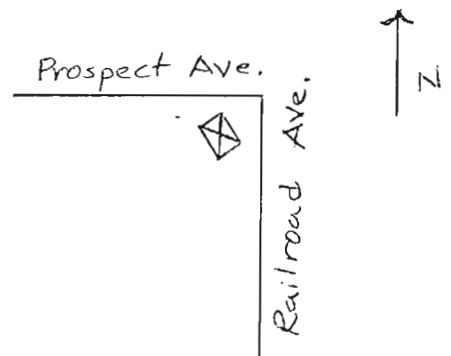
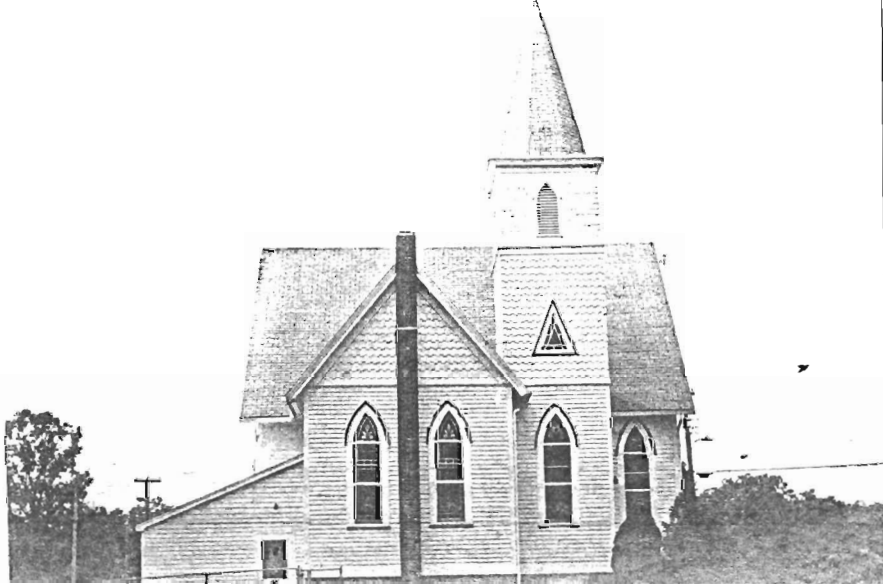
Roof/Chimneys: gable

Additional Architectural Description:

A tower is found in the northeast corner and contains a double-leaf door and triangular shaped window with shaped muntins. Staggered butt shingles are used in the gable peaks. All other windows are pointed arch with stained glass.

PHOTO Negative File No. 1517-6

Map (indicate North)



SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

The structure is located on a large corner lot surrounded by open land. The building was moved to this lot in 1962 and was placed at an angle to the intersection.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Urban Suburban Scattered Buildings
Open Space Woodland Residential Agricultural Village
Industrial Downtown Commercial Highway Commercial Other

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Calvary Baptist Church was originally established in West Creek, Eagleswood Township in 1876. A graveyard on Thomas Avenue was the site of the original church. This structure was the second church, first built at that site and moved in 1962 to Railroad Avenue and Prospect Boulevard. The church contains elaborate stained-glass windows and decorative shingle peaks.

ORIGINAL USE:
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Poor
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No Part of District
THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development Zoning Deterioration
No Threat Other

COMMENTS:

REFERENCES:

The Beach Haven Times. March 3, 1978.

RECORDED BY: M. May
ORGANIZATION: Heritage Studies

DATE: March 1981

LITTLE EGG HARBOR LISTINGS

1517-L1

Not Available

32 Main Street

2½ story, 3 bay, painted shingle exterior, gable roof. This mid-19th century structure has few decorative elements. Windows are 2/2. A screened porch runs across the facade.

1517-L2

Not Available

Main Street

2½ story, 4 bay, natural wood shingle, gable roof. This early 19th (poss. late 18th c.) structure was built in two sections, each 2 bays wide. An enclosed porch runs across the facade. The building is hidden by large shrubs and trees.

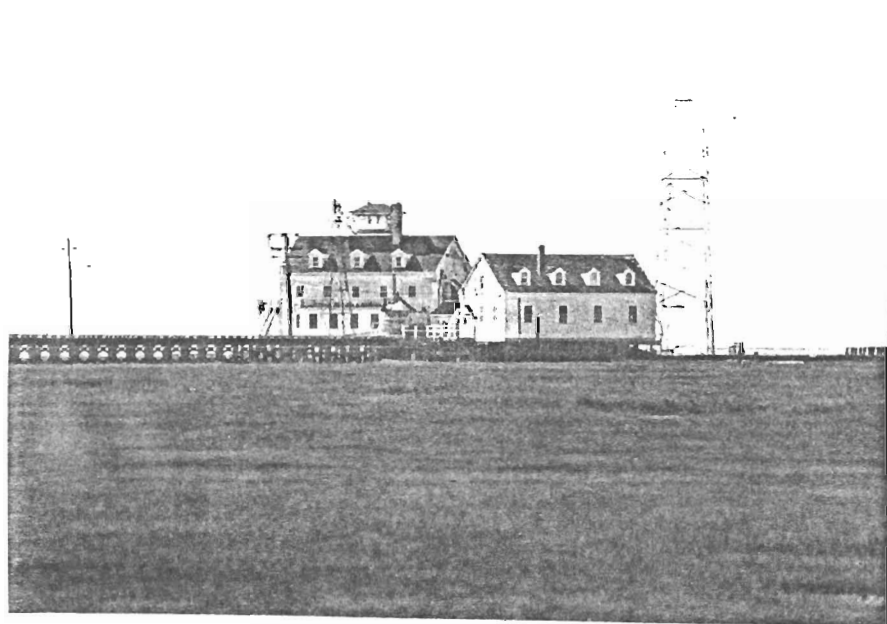
1517-L3



Center Street at southwest corner of Gale Road

2½ story, 5 bay, staggered butt shingle, gable roof. The structure was built in two sections, 3 bay / 2 bays wide, similar to the above. A lean-to addition is found in the rear. Windows are 2/2. Numerous out-buildings are found in the rear yard, including one brick structure.

1517-L4



Egg Harbor Coast Guard Station / Great Bay Boulevard

2½ story, 5 bay, clapboard, gable roof. The main building contains a cupola or look-out tower centered on its roof. The station, now part of Rutgers University Marine Studies, is located on an elevated pier. A small boardwalk leads to the complex from the road.

1517-L5



Pulaski Monument / Radio Road

A stone monument stands in Mystic Islands believed to be the site of General Pulaski's military engagement. (Others believe that the American soldiers who died in the battle were buried here.) The monument which commemorates Count Casimir Pulaski's stand against the British invasion of the South Jersey shore was erected in 1894 and reads: "This tablet is erected by the Society of the Cincinnati in the state of New Jersey to commemorate the massacre of a portion of the legion commanded by Brigadier General the Count Casimer Pulaski of the Continental Army in the affair at Egg Harbor, New Jersey, October 15, 1778 in the Revolutionary War." The battle, believed to be one of the most important military movements in the region, occurred due to the desire on the part of the British to stop the privateering of their ships. During the expedition against Little Egg Harbor, Chestnut Neck, Atlantic County and a number of structures in the Tuckerton area were burned. The outpost of Pulaski's troops were attacked by the British on the Ridgway Farm off what is now Radio Road. Forty American soldiers were killed, and five captured in the skirmish.

1517-L6

Not Available

Main Street, south of Bay / Parkertown

2½ story, 3 bay, asbestos siding, gable roof, mid 19th century. Although altered the structure still retains some of its original features including a stone foundation, and doorway with transom.

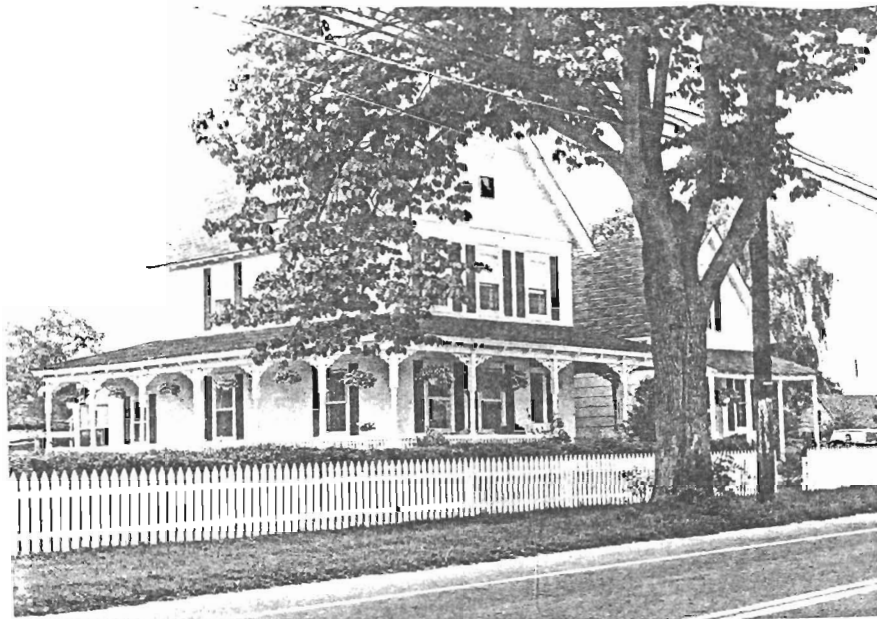
1517-L7



Bait and Tackle / Main Street, across from Bay Avenue 170/16 / Parkertown

2½ story, 4 bay, asbestos siding, gable roof, c.1860. 2/2 windows, pointed arch gable peak windows and large interior chimneys can be found. An enclosed porch runs across the facade.

1517-L8



Main Street at Railroad Avenue, 171/10 / Parkertown

2½ story, 3 bay, asbestos siding, gable roof, late 19th century. A 1½ story, 3 bay north extension with open porch and exposed rafter tails is connected to the main house. The main section contains a double leaf door with transom and 1/1 windows. An open porch has turned posts, valance and brackets. A cupola tops the structure.

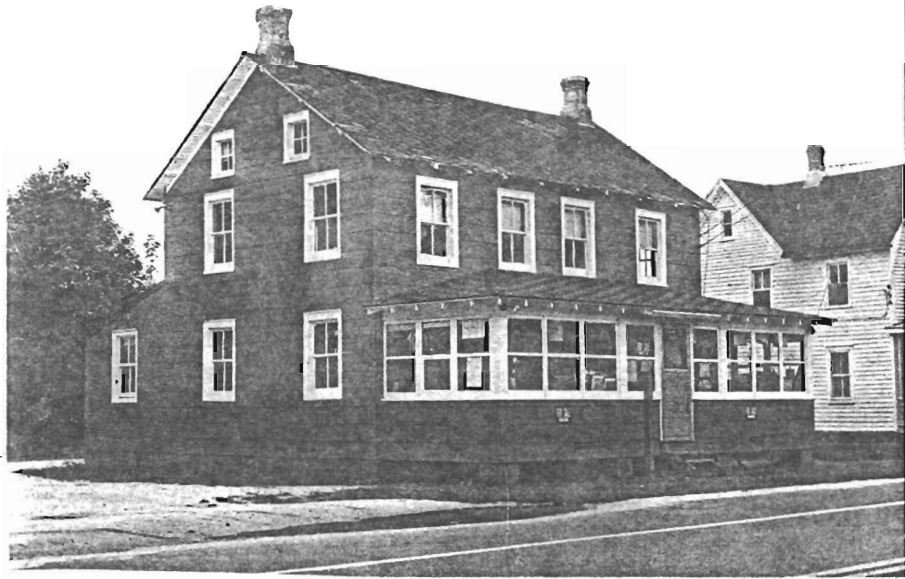
1517-L9



Main Street at Walnut Street, 171/7 / Parkertown

2½ story, 4 bay, clapboard and shingle exterior, cross gable roof, late 19th century. Windows are 6/6 and 2/2. An enclosed porch runs across the facade. The structure has been altered.

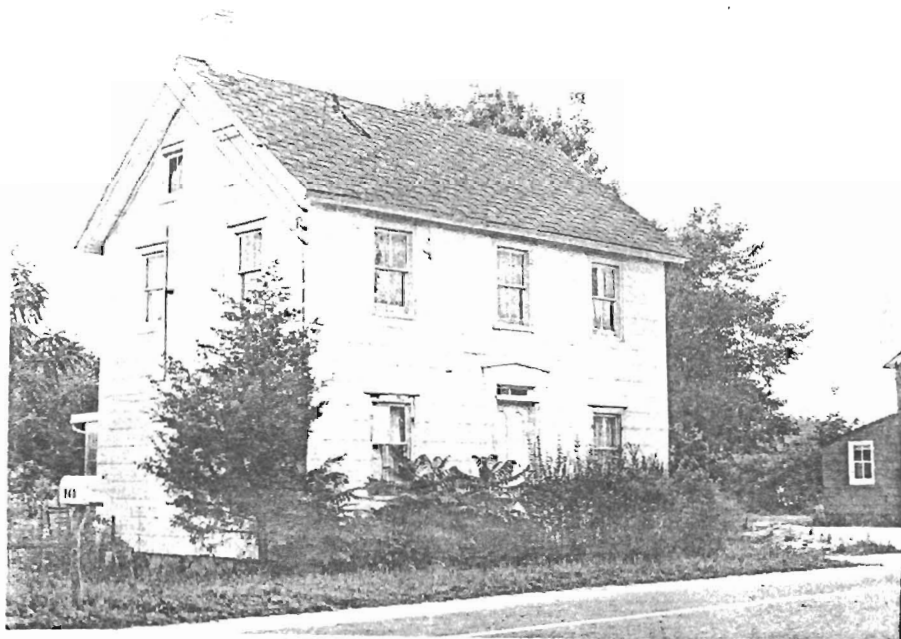
1517-L10



Antique Shop / Main Street across from Railroad Ave., 176/4 / Parkertown

2½ story, 4 bay, asbestos siding, gable roof with exposed rafters, mid 19th century. A lean-to addition is found in the rear. An enclosed porch runs across the facade. Windows are 2/2. The structure is typical of mid-late 19th century construction in the area.

1517-L11



Main Street, Rt. 9, 175/5 / Parkertown

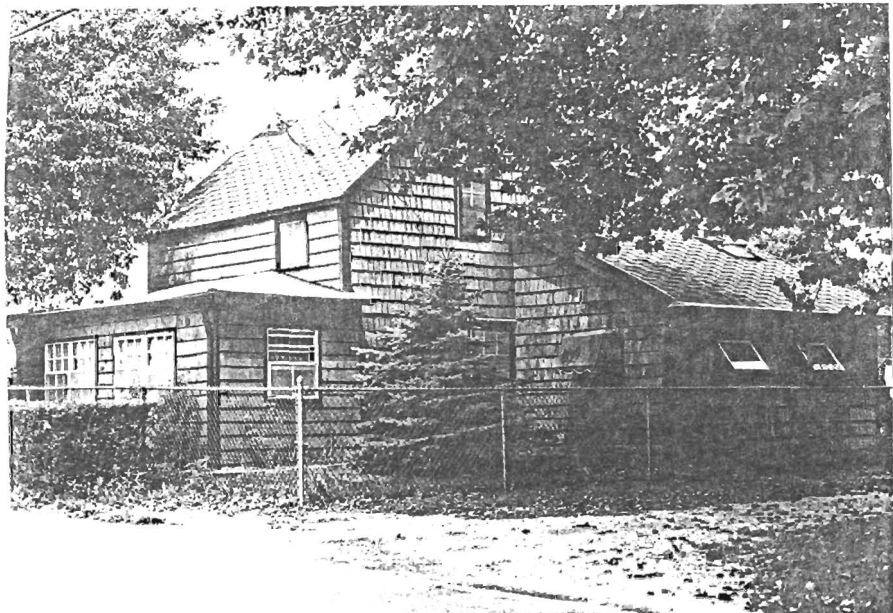
2½ story, 3 bay, asbestos siding, gable roof. A stone foundation, center door with transom and 2/2 windows are employed. The building has been extensively altered over the years.

1517-L12

Not Available

Main Street, Rt. 9, east side across from Eagleswood Village / Parkertown

2½ story, 3 bay, aluminum siding, cross gable roof. A decorative rake-board runs along the perimeter of the building. 2/2 windows and paired Roman arch attic lights are employed. A stone foundation and a central chimney are also found. The facade has been recently altered.



1517-L13

Dock Road, 174/21 / Parkertown

1½ story, 2 bay, asbestos siding, gable roof. An enclosed porch is found along the facade. Narrow single paned windows are located on the second floor. The proportions of the structure indicate that it dates from the early 19th century.

1517-L14



Dock Road (south side) / Parkertown

1½ story, 2 bay, asbestos siding, gable roof. This small structure has an enclosed front porch and 6/6, 1/1 and single sash second floor windows. The building possibly dates from the early 19th century.

1517-L15



Dock Road (south side) / Parkertown

2½ story, 2 bay, asbestos exterior, gable roof. An open front porch contains brackets and square posts. 2/2 windows and vergeboard are also employed, c.1880.

1517-L16



Box 32 Railroad Avenue / Parkertown

2½ story, 3 bay, asbestos siding, gable roof. A center door is flanked by 2/2 windows. An open front porch contains turned posts and a blind balustrade. Pendants are found in the gable ends.

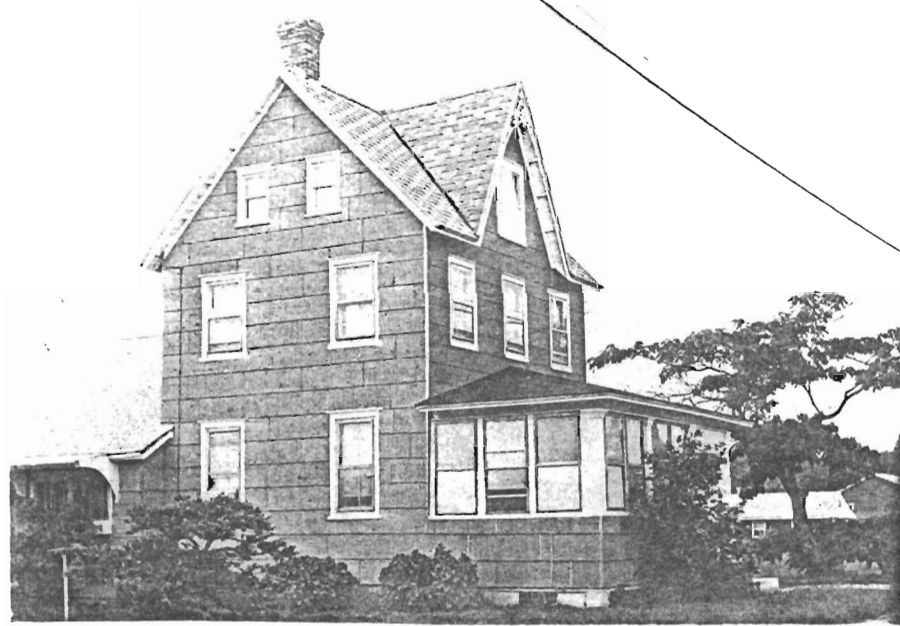
1517-L17



99 Walnut Street / Parkertown

1½ story, 3 bay, staggered butt shingle exterior, gable roof. A small one story east wing with center door has been added in recent years. The main section contains a center door, a chimney, 1/1 windows, and narrow single-sash second floor windows. The structure's plan and massing indicate that the building dates from the early 19th century.

1517-L18



Walnut Street, 171/6 / Parkertown

2 story, 3 bay, asbestos siding, cross gable roof. An enclosed porch runs across the facade. Windows are 2/2 and there are vergeboard peaks. The building is typical of late 19th century architecture found in the Little Egg Harbor area.

LITTLE EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP

STATE AND NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

ON REGISTERS:

PENDING:

RECOMMENDED FOR STATE AND NATIONAL REGISTERS

The following list of buildings, districts or sites have been reviewed by the survey team and are considered eligible to be placed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. For a complete explanation of the register program and criteria, contact the Office of Cultural and Environmental Services, 109 West State Street, Trenton, N.J. 08625. Telephone: (609) 292-2023.

FORM #	NAME AND ADDRESS	YES	POSSIBLE	PART OF DISTRICT
1517-1	Sims Place to Warren Grove Rd.		X	
1517-2	Giffordtown Schoolhouse, S.W. cor. Leitz Blvd. & Wister		X	
1517-4	Crab Island Historic District		X	
1517-6	Calvary Baptist Church, Railroad Ave. & Prospect		X	
1517-L5	Pulaski Monument, Radio Road		X	

