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

The district contains structures which are one to two stories in height and which are built on narrow lots approximately 16' wide. The buildings are therefore small in scale and tend to be long rectangular-shaped houses. The structures are constructed near the roads and are placed on short piers. Little open spaces are found in the area and most structures are within arms length of each other. Many of the homes have gabled roofs with their ends facing the street, however, hip, jerkinhead and gambrel roofs are also employed. All structures are shingled or clapboarded, however many have been sided with asbestos shingles. Other common features include the use of front porches, many of which are enclosed, grouped windows, shed dormers, and lean-to rear and side wings. The structures are grouped together on 3 narrow roads known as 26th and 27th Streets and Ship Bottom Avenue.

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURES: Excellent % Good % Fair % Poor %

REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: [X] Yes [ ] Possible [ ] No

THREATS TO DISTRICT/LOCAL ATTITUDES:

COMMENTS:
SIGNIFICANCE:

These small vernacular structures built at the turn of the century represent an unusual settlement on Long Beach Island; unlike many towns on the Island in which upper middle and upper class resorts were established. Ship Bottom was a small settlement of fishermen and their families. These people built vernacular structures and simple homes. These buildings are the earliest examples of such construction in the area. The Life Saving Station which stood on the vacant lot between 26th and 27th Streets was a main reason why the settlement existed here. The first station, #117 Ship Bottom Avenue, still exists as does the original post office at the corner of Union and 26th Street.

REFERENCES: (Include representation in existing surveys)

1529-1
Ship Bottom Historic District
Ship Bottom
October 1980
View: East

1529-1
Ship Bottom Historic District
Ship Bottom
October 1980
View: South

1529-1
Ship Bottom Historic District
Ship Bottom
October 1980
View: Southwest
HISTORIC NAME: Life Saving Station #20
LOCATION: 117 E. Ship Bottom Avenue
MUNICIPALITY: Ship Bottom
OWNER/ADDRESS: Wayne and Esther Stauffer
339 w. Main St. Leola, Pa.

COMMON NAME: 
BLOCK/LOT 21/3
COUNTY: Ocean
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION
Construction Date: late 19th century
Source of Date: style
Architect:
Builder:
Style: Vernacular
Form/Plan Type: rectangular
Number of Stories: 2
Foundation: low, concrete block, lattice screening
Exterior Wall Fabric: painted cedar shingles, clapboard, asbestos shingle
Fenestration: 1 bay
Roof/Chimneys: gable
Additional Architectural Description:

All windows are 1/1. Two shed dormers are located on the east and west elevations. The structure is long and narrow. Many additions have been made to the roof and facade. An open porch is located on the west side, with square posts.

PHOTO Negative File No. 1529-2

Map (Indicate North)
SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

The structure is located on a narrow alley-like street in the oldest part of Ship Bottom. Similar structures built on approximately 20' by 40' lots surround the building.

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

SIGNIFICANCE:

This structure was the first Life Saving Station at Ship Bottom. (A later structure, c.1900 has been demolished.) This vernacular, shingled building was influential in the establishment of Ship Bottom. Like other towns along the coast, a settlement was founded near the station at the turn of the century. The structure is similar in design to the early "Houses of Refuge" containing two floors and narrow proportions.

ORIGINAL USE: Life Saving Station
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 ☐

REFERENCES:

Nash, Charles Edgar. Lure of Long Beach. Published by the L.B. Board of Trade 1936.
Ship Bottom Tax Office

RECORDED BY: M. May & P. Nissen
ORGANIZATION: Heritage Studies
DATE: October 1980