NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)	1/53 ONB No. 1024-0018
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	MAY 2 4 1994
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM	811 A PRESERVATION OFFICE
in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. I	l (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" f any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter aution, materials, and areas of significance, enter only cateeories and
1. Name of Property	
historic name <u>Joseph Falkinburg House</u>	
other names/site number <u>N/A</u>	
2. Location	
street & number <u>922 Delsea Drive</u>	NA 🗌 not for publication
city or town South Dennis, Dennis Township	vicinity
state <u>New Jersey</u> code <u>034</u> county <u>Ca</u>	ape May code _009 _ zip code _08245
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural my opinion, the property K meets $\Box$ does not meet the National considered significant $\Box$ nationally $\Box$ statewide K locally. Signature of certifying official/Title Assistant Commissioner for Natural & State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property $\Box$ meets $\Box$ does not meet the National comments.)	(□ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  Date Historic Resources/DSHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
E entered in the National Desistar	ture of the Keeper Date of Action Andres RECEIVED 413 AUG 191994

٥	removed	from	the	National	Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Registration Form page 2

Joseph Falkinburg House		N/A	Cape May County, New Jersey		
Name of Property		e/inventory number	County a	nd State	
5. Classification				·····	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	<b>Category of Propert</b> (Check only one box)	-		ources within viously listed re	n Property sources in the count)
<pre>     private     public-local     public-State     public-Federal  Name of related multiple </pre>	<pre>building(s) district site site object </pre>	Numbe	2 r of cont		buildings sites structures objects Total sources
(Enter "N/A" if property is not par		Regis	-		MUCIONAL
<u>N/A</u>		non	e		
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions	)	<b>Current F</b> (Enter catego		structions)	
Domestic/single dwellin	g	Social/C	ivic (off	ices, Assoc	iation for
		Retard	ed Citize	ens)	
7. Description					
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Architectural Classificat (Bater categories from instructions		<b>Materials</b> (Enter catego		structions)	
<u>Federal</u>		foundation	n <u>Brick</u>	····=	
Georgian (influence)		walls <u>B</u>	rick, wea	therboard	
Italianate					
		other			

# Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

		Registration Form page 3
Joseph Falkinburg House	R/A	Cape Nay County, New Jersey
Name of Property	site/inventory numbe	er County and State
8. Statement of Significance		
Applicable National Register Criteria (Nark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)	(Bater c	of Significance sategories from instructions)
A Property is associated with events have made a significant contribution the broad patterns of our history.	that Polit	tecture tics/Government
B Property is associated with the liv persons significant in our past.	es of	
C Property embodies the distinctive of teristics of a type, period, or meth of construction or represents the w of a master, or possesses high arti- values, or represents a significant distinguishable entity whose compon- lack individual distinction.	nod ork Period stic and <u>Ca.1</u>	l of Significance .800-1940
D Property has yielded, or is likely yield information important in prehistory or history.	to Signif _Ca. 1	icant Dates .805
Criteria Considerations $N/A$ (Nark 'x' in all the boxes that apply)		
Property is:	-	icant Person e if Criterion B is marked above)
A owned by a religious institution or for religious purposes.	used <u>Josep</u>	h Falkinburg
<b>B</b> removed from its original location.	Cultur	al Affiliation
C a birthplace or a grave.	<u>N/A</u>	
D a cemetery.		
<b>E</b> a reconstructed building, object, or structure.		ect/Builder
<b>F</b> a commemorative property.		
□ G less than 50 years of age or achieve significance within the past 50 year		
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more co	ontinuation sheets)	

Joseph Falkinburg House	N/A	Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of Property	site/inventory number	County and State
9. Major Bibliographical References		
Bibliography		
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparin	ng this form on one or more o	continuation sheets)
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary lo	ocation of additional data:
<ul> <li>preliminary determination of individualisting (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register</li> <li>previously determined eligible by the National Register</li> <li>designated a National Historic Landman Variable of Previously Historic American Building Survey # <u>NJ-756</u></li> <li>recorded by Historic American Engineer Record #</li> </ul>	ted. [] Other ister [] Feder [] Local [] Unive rk [] Other gs Name of re	
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Propertyapproximately_eight a	acres	Woodbine, NJ Quad
<b>UTM References</b> (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)		
1 8 5 1 5 4 8 0 4 3 3 5 7 7 0 Zone Easting Northing	3 Lul Luu Zone Eastin 4 Lul Luu	g Northing
-`	🗌 See co	ntinuation sheet.
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sh	eet)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation s	beet)	-
11. Form Prepared By		·····
name/title <u>Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectur</u>	al Historian	
organization <u>Preservation Associates</u> , Inc	:	date <u>April 5, 1994</u>
street & number <u>19942 Lehmans Mill Road</u>		telephone <u>301-791-7880</u>
city or town <u>Hagerstown</u>	state <u>Ma</u>	ryland zip code21742

		Kegistiation form page 3
Joseph Falkinburg House	N/A	Cape May County, New Jersey
Name of Property	site/inventory number	County and State
Additional Documentation		
Submit the following items with the completed form:		
Continuation Sheets		
Maps		
A <b>USGS map</b> (7.5 or 15 minute series	) indicating the prop	perty's location.
A <b>Sketch map</b> for historic districts resources.	and properties having	ng large acreage or numerous
Photographs		
Representative black and white photo	graphs of the propert	ty.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)		
Property Owner	·····	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)		
name <u>The Arc of Cape May County, Inc.</u>		·
street & number <u>P.O. Box 255</u>		telephone <u>609-861-7100</u>
city or town <u>South Dennis</u>		w Jersey zip code245

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. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)	REC	CEIVED 4	13	OMB No	. 1024-0018
United States Department of the In National Park Service	terior	AUG 1 9 1994	site	N/A e/inventory number	
	a da ba		CEDennis	oh Falkinburg House mme of Property Township	
Section Number <u>7</u> Page <u>1</u>			11d y	<u>v County, New Jersey</u> ounty and State	

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Joseph Falkinburg House is located on the east side of New Jersey Route 47, just south of School House Lane at South Dennis in Cape May County. The house is situated along the road parallel to it, and faces due west.

The property contains approximately eight acres and includes the house, a frame barn and some sheds and outbuildings. The house is a two story, five bay Georgian and Federal style influenced L-shaped brick building dating from the 1800-1806 period. (Construction dates have been given variously as 1801, 1805 and 1806.) The front, brick portion of the house is single pile, or one room deep. The bricks are laid in flemish bond at the front elevation, with common bond used at the side and rear elevations. A belt course consisting of two parallel courses of corbeled bricks also arranged in flemish bond pattern extends across the front elevation. The brickwork does not include the use of jack arches above the openings.

Openings are arranged symmetrically on the front with the entrance centrally placed. The main door has six raised panels beneath a semicircular fanlight. The door surround includes a pediment with dentil trim and pilasters flanking the door. The pilasters are fluted with stop flutes extending approximately one third of the way up the pilasters. Separating the "capitals" of the pilasters from the shaft is a cornice band with delicate carved trim. Above this are applied oval decorations. The jamb area is paneled to match the door.

Windows have six over six pane sash within wide wooden frames with pegged joints and ovalo trim. First floor windows have shutters with three raised panels, configured like those of the doors. Second floor shutters are louvered. Many of the shutters appear to have original hardware.

The cornice is trimmed with a course of dentil molding. Above the cornice, the roofing material is wooden shingles. Brick chimneys with corbeled tops are located inside the end walls.

Extending to the east or rear of the house is a two story framed L-addition covered with lapped siding. Its more elaborate facade faces north and includes a three bay Italianate porch and paired brackets at the eaves. A third section telescopes back from the frame section. It is a one and a half story, two bay structure with a brick chimney located several feet west of the east gable end. A one story shed-roofed extension was attached to the north end in the 1940s. A projecting bay window at the north wall of the extension accommodates a kitchen and dates from the 1970s.

The interior of the main (brick) part of the house is bisected by a central stair and entrance hall. The hallway as well as other portions of the brick section display a mix of Federal and Italianate style woodwork and trim design. The newel post, hand rail, balusters, architraves, baseboards, cornice and plaster ceiling medallion are large and robust and characteristic of the 1860s and the Italianate style. The doors and door jambs, however, have delicate trims and moldings of the 1800-1810 period. Other features of the entrance hall include cornice molding and a hanging oil lamp, now electrified, of the 1860s period.

The parlor is located to the south of the entrance hall and includes a fireplace centrally placed in the south end wall. The room is lit by six windows all of which retain original delicately carved jambs. Additional heavy moldings of the 1860s have been added to the architraves, contrasting with the earlier reeded and fluted surfaces. The mantelpiece also combines Federal style and Italianate elements. This room along with the other main spaces in the house has an elaborate plaster ceiling medallion, of bold design of the 1860s.

The room north of the hall has only north and west windows, there having always been, apparently, some sort of wing or attachment at the rear. The mantelpiece in this room retains its Federal style detailing including fluted colonnettes and a central tablet with a delicately carved swag. Centrally located in the north wall of this room is a doorway leading into the rear L.

The first room in the addition has mostly detailing from the 1860s and some modification from the 1970s, but evidence in the attic suggests that there was, prior to construction of the present addition, either originally or shortly after construction of the brick section, a one and a half story framed extension. Included in this room is a winder stair to the second floor of the brick section and access to the basement. There is also a built-in corner cupboard which appears to date from the late 18th century.

The basement of the brick section is distinguished by a parallel row of brick arches running east-west, approximately beneath the hallway walls. There are also arched piers for the two chimneys in the end walls. The arcaded support system seems to be unusual in the south Jersey region.

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One other component of the house complex is a one and a half story kitchen wing of framed construction attached to the frame wing but offset slightly to the south. This consists of one room which originally served as a kitchen. It has a large fireplace with a winder stair adjacent to it which leads to the upper level. The chimney is set well inside the gable wall to accommodate a bake oven which was once located behind the fireplace. The horizontally placed wood sheathing in this room was added in the 1970s and came from another building.

The second floor of the brick section is configured similarly to the first floor except with the addition of a small room at the front of the hall. Although now serving as a bathroom, the space is original to the construction of the house. The attic spaces are finished with plastered end walls and board and batten sheathing. The board and batten finish and a built-in cedar closet appear to date from the late 19th century.

Some distance east of the house is a framed L-shaped barn. It is a gable roofed structure which rests on stone piers. A long wing extending to the east has a four-bay porch extending across its front. It appears to be an addition to the main structure. The barn has horizontal lapped siding and probably dates from the 1860s.

In addition to the house and barn there are two sheds as well. The property contains eight acres and was once part of a large estate. The area near the house is landscaped with an iron fence along the highway. Oak trees on the property are said to be the oldest in Cape May County.

The house is in excellent condition.

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Meets criteria B under "Politics/Government" for its association with Joseph Falkinburg (1769-1846), and criteria C for its Federal style design, use of brick, and Italianate embellishments.

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

#### Summary

The Joseph Falkinburg House, dating from ca. 1805, is significant as the oldest and one of only three pre-1860 brick houses in Cape May County. The other two 19th century brick houses are the Stille House built in 1836, and the Randall Marshall House dating from 1841. Both are at Marshallville on the Cape May-Atlantic County line. The house is significant, not only for its rare brick construction, but also for its fine exterior and interior detailing reflecting the Federal style with renovations and modernizations in the 1860s in the Italianate The property is also significant for its association with the style. Ludlam-Falkinburg-Leaming families, all related, and leaders in the 18th and 19th century development of South Jersey. The Falkinburg House remained in family ownership from the date of construction until 1940. Joseph Falkinburg served in New Jersey's legislature during the War of 1812. He was a leader in County government and helped to establish mechanism for internal improvements for Cape May County.

#### **Resource History**

The date of construction of the Joseph Falkinburg House is variously given as 1801, 1805, and 1806. Its Federal style architectural detailing could place it anywhere in the first decade of the 19th century. It was built by Joseph Falkinburg who came there to live with his young daughter Abigail, born in 1796 and his second wife, Sarah, whom he married in 1801.

Little is known about Joseph Falkinburg prior to his construction of the brick house. The fact that he built such a refined house, a brick one at that, shows that he was a man of means. He married into one of Cape May County's founding families, the Ludlams, who maintained a position of wealth and leadership through three centuries. His only child married into another founding family of equal prominence, the Leamings. Other than Joseph, the name Falkinburg does not appear in Cape May County history.

Joseph Falkinburg's origin is in dispute. He is said to have

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come to Cape May County in 1791. One account says he arrived as a poor boy, trained as a tailor; another says he came from Tuckerton in Ocean County, "where his family owned substantial land and several businesses including a tavern that was a favorite hangout for pirates and privateers.<sup>1</sup> According to Jeffery M. Dorwart's 1992 history of Cape May County, New Jersey, Joseph Falkinburg was a shoe merchant who moved to Dennis Creek from Gloucester County. According to the draft book (diary) of Falkinburg's grandson, Coleman F. Leaming, he was born April 24, 1769. In 1795 he married Abigail Ludlam, eldest child of Henry Ludlam. She was born in 1773. The Ludlams came to Cape May County in the late 17th century as whalers, prospered and amassed substantial land holdings in the Dennis Creek area. Abigail Ludlam Falkinburg gave birth to a daughter, also named Abigail, on February 16, 1796. Two weeks later Joseph's wife, Abigail died of complications from childbirth. On March 1, 1801, Joseph Falkinburg married Sarah Ludlam, his wife's sister, who was probably born about 1777. Apparently, shortly after his second marriage, Joseph Falkinburg built and moved into the brick house. The land was acquired from his father-in-law Henry Ludlam. Sarah and Joseph had no children, but Abigail, his only child, married Jeremiah Leaming who was born May 25, 1792. They were married October 3, 1814.

During the years that Abigail was growing up in the new brick house, her father, Joseph held a series of elective political offices while amassing land and maintaining his store. He served in the New Jersey Assembly in 1803-1804 and 1810-1811. He also served in the Legislative Council, forerunner of the New Jersey Senate, in 1808-1809 and 1812-1814. He was "one of two delegates who met at Trenton, July 14, 1814 to name candidates for Congress who would vote to discontinue the war."<sup>2</sup> [with Great Britain]. (Merchants were opposed to the war because it interfered with trade and shipping.) Falkinburg, along with Robert M. Holmes, who were Federalists, represented Cape May County in Trenton. They opposed the war because of its affect on shipping and because of the threat of invasion of Cape May County by the British Naval forces patrolling the coast.

Joseph Falkinburg was also active in developing internal

<sup>1</sup>Herbert M. Beitel and Vance C. Enck, <u>Cape May County, A</u> <u>Pictorial History</u>, (Norfolk, Va: The Donning Co.) p. 71.

<sup>1</sup>Helena Way Fitzpatrick, "Some Old Houses of Cape May County." <u>The Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy</u>, Cape May County History and Genealogical Society, June 1951, p. 173.

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improvements in Cape Map County, principally construction of causeways and draining of meadows. He was on the Board of Directors of the South Branch of the Dennis Creek Meadow Company, organized in 1815. It led the internal improvement movement of the 19th century in Cape May County.

It seems that Abigail moved away after her marriage. Her second child, Coleman F. (author of the diary) is listed in Helena Way Fitzpatrick's article on old houses of Cape May County as having been born in Goshen. Fitzpatrick also says that Abigail's sixth child, Richard S. was born in the brick house in 1826, indicating that the family moved back into the house with Joseph Falkinburg at some point. Abigail's husband, Jeremiah Leaming apparently worked in Joseph Falkinburg's store.

Joseph's second wife, Sarah died on January 21, 1838, and Jeremiah Leaming, Abigail's husband, died in 1839. Abigail's son, Coleman F. Leaming, a doctor, wrote in his draft book: ..."my grandfather Falk@nburg@who was executor to my father's estate now... with years and infirmities strongly urged my return to Dennis Creek which I did in 1843 and commenced storekeeping in the same store house formerly occupied by my grandfather and father. I cut off much cordwood and cedar lumber averaging 2000 cords of wood a year and prospered in business." The draft book also indicates that Joseph Falkinburg died on April 30, 1846, aged 77, of "general dropsey." The Leamings apparently continued to live in the brick house. Abigail died December 14, 1865. Up until that time she was living "cozily in the brick homestead" with an unmarried daughter, Ellen.

According to Joseph Falkinburg's will (Will Book A, Page 266), he left the "Brick House and Farm" to his granddaughter Abigail L. Leaming, acknowledging it to be currently in the possession of his daughter Abigail. He gave his daughter a life estate in the property. There is no clear record of when or how the property transferred from Joseph Falkinburg's granddaughter Abigail to her brother Richard Leaming, but Richard is shown as the owner on the 1872 Cape May County Coleman F. Leaming's diary states that Richard came back Atlas Map. to Dennis Creek from Philadelphia when his mother died, and bought "the homestead of Abby and William Mattock." However, sometime between 1865 and 1872, Richard took over the Falkinburg house. It is likely Richard who did the Italianate modernizations and replaced the rear wing. Richard left the property to his son, Coleman F. Leaming, Jr. (nephew of the diary writer) who, in turn left it to his son, Richard S. Leaming, the last of the family to own the property. In 1940, Richard S. Leaming sold the place to Joseph Kennerd Skilling and

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Anna Mary Reed Skilling. They sold it to Charles M. and Constance Ashton. The Ashtons sold 8.5 acres to Wellington W. and Myrtle Dalling in 1949 (Deed Book 732, Page 58). In 1968, the Dallings sold it to Mauyer L. Lindsey and Barbara M. Lindsey who in turn sold it to Edgar L. and Jane L. Van Nuis in 1972 (1194/196, 1289/739). In 1989, it was purchased by the present owner, the Arc of Cape May County, Inc.

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Section Number <u>9</u> Page <u>1</u>

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Beitel, Herbert M. and Vance C. Enck. <u>Cape May County, A Pictorial</u> <u>History</u>, Norfolk, Va: The Donning Co.

Cape May County Land Records.

Cape May County Probate Records.

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- Dorwart, Jeffery M. <u>Cape May County, New Jersey.</u> <u>The Making of an</u> <u>American Resort Community</u>, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992.
- Fitzpatrick, Helena Way. "Some Old Houses of Cape May County." <u>The</u> <u>Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy</u>, Cape May County History and Genealogical Society, June 1951.
- Leaming, Coleman F. "Draft Book," (diary), unpublished, Cape May County Historical Society Library.

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Joseph Falkinburg House Name of Property Dennis Township Cape May County, New Jersey County and State

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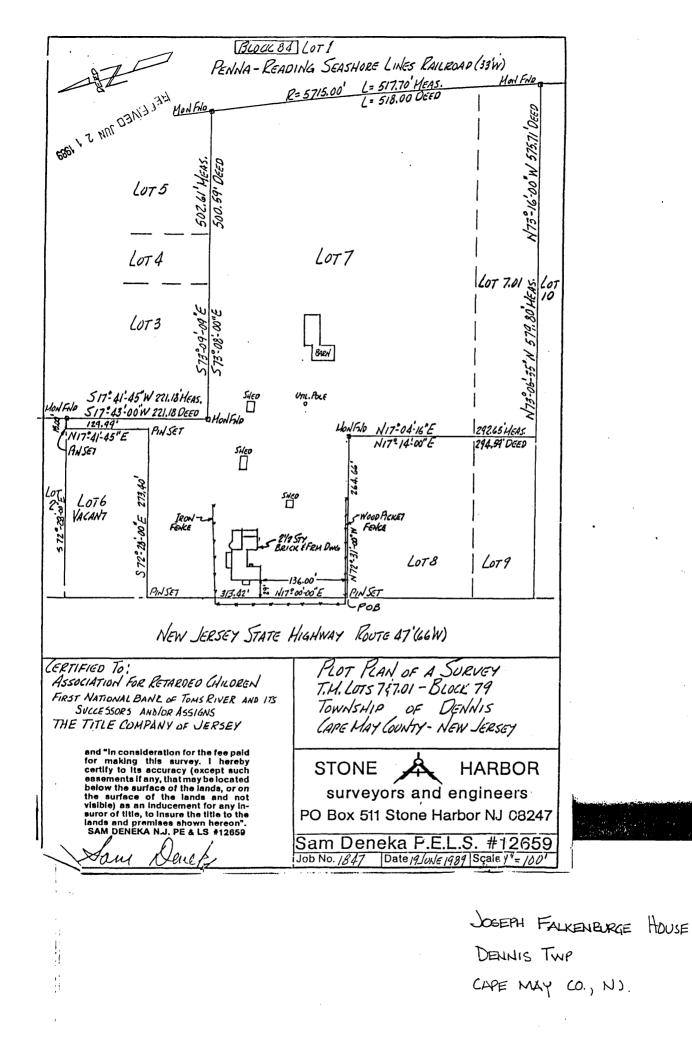
#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated area contains the entire property as described on the current deed.

## **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

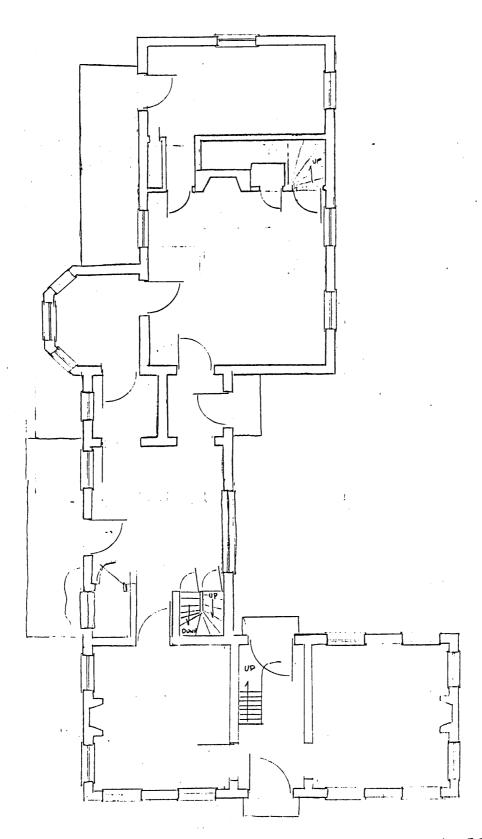
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The nominated area includes all of the remaining land included with the Falkinburg homestead.



NOT TO SCALE

JOSEPH FALKENBURGE HOUSE DENNIS TWP. CAPE MAY CO., NJ



- NORTH

