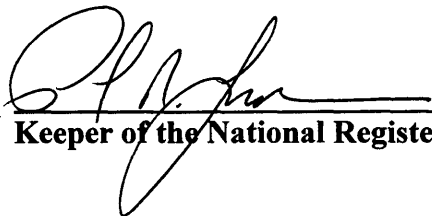




# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, as part of the Spring Lake, New Jersey as a Coastal Resort Multiple Property Submission, in Monmouth County, New Jersey, reference number 91000116, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 03/08/1991, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of March 15, 1991. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

  
x \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

11/13/2008  
Date

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National 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 Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Holy Trinity Episcopal Church other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Monmouth and Third Avenues NA not for publication city, town Spring Lake vicinity state New Jersey code 034 county Monmouth code 025 zip code 07762

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Spring Lake, NJ as a Coastal Resort, 1870-1935 Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Acting Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO Date: 1/14/91

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Church

Church

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Stick Style/Gothic Revival

foundation brick

walls frame

roof slate

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, built on a cruciform plan, displays Gothic Revival and Stick Style influences. The high steep roof and lancet-arched stained glass windows identify the church's Gothic inheritance; the overhanging eaves and large knee brackets testify to the designer's knowledge of Stick Style precedents. Inside, Gothic elements are found in the carved and paneled altar, while the bracing for the trusses is detailed in a manner similar to the original Stick Style gable trim.

Holy Trinity occupies the middle of two flat, tree-shaded lots at the southwest corner of Monmouth and Third Avenues. Like almost all of Spring Lake, the neighborhood is residential. The church is oriented on a north-south axis.

Exterior

Holy Trinity's distinctive Stick Style features are applied on a design essentially Gothic. Wide overhanging eaves supported with large brackets, exposed framing in the side gables, and flat stickwork on the side doors are expressions of the Stick Style which embellish a traditional Gothic cruciform plan. When Holy Trinity was completed in 1880, its hybrid style was typical of New Jersey shore church architecture. Similar churches are found in Little Silver (St. John's Episcopal Church, 1876); Keyport (First Presbyterian Church, 1879); and in Fair Haven (Fisk Chapel, 1882).  
(1)

Gray, hexagonally shaped slates, which appear to be original, cover most of the steeply pitched roof. A wooden steeple, sheathed in copper above and below wooden ventilators, is centered directly above the front entry doors. Four triangular clerestory windows pierce each side of the main gable.

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Coastal Resort MPN, Spring Lake Boro, Monmouth County,  
NJ

The north gable end is marked by a projecting vestibule entered through a pair of Gothic-arched wooden doors. Within the vestibule gable a decorative vergeboard extends over the width of the peak with elongated Gothic motifs cut into it, a pattern repeated in the peaks of the two side entrances in the cross gable. On the west elevation is a roof extension surviving from a slightly larger porte-cochere. The doors of the side entrances are embellished with diagonal and horizontal flat stickwork.

Painted white with blue trim, Holy Trinity is clad in 3" clapboard. Five buttresses, reaching halfway up the side elevations, separate the arched stained glass windows, which are framed with flat stickwork, decoratively cut at the springline. The church sits on a brick foundation over a five-foot-high dirt crawlspace with brick footings supporting the floor beams.

An historic photograph shows that Trinity Church had undergone cosmetic alterations fairly soon after its completion. (2) Prominent trim that filled the peak of the front gable and the lower gable of the entrance was removed early in the 20th century. This shows manifestation of the Stick Style may simply have fallen out of favor with the pendulum swing of taste towards simpler architecture. A memorial window, given by the Kirkbride family, now occupies the space above the entrance originally covered by the gable stickwork. These changes are indicative of the desire by members of the congregation to embellish and improve their summer church.

Interior

Although the footprint of Holy Trinity Church describes a cruciform plan, the cross gable visible outside is not evident inside the nave. Two rows of benches divided by a center aisle with two side aisles stretch the full length of the rectangular nave. Doors close off the ends of the transept to create an unbroken nave facing the chancel.

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The single-story church reaches 45 feet to the peak of the roof. Narrow tongue and groove boards, laid in a diagonal, herringbone pattern, cover the ceiling. Five exposed wooden trusses with king post and arched diagonal braces support the roof. Additional bracing decorated with circles and attenuated trefoils extends the support of the trusses downward beyond the break of the roofline onto the side walls. Narrow tongue-and-groove wainscoting around the nave forms the lower portion of white plaster walls.

The stained glass windows depict biblical scenes and Christian symbols. A large roundel above the altar is dramatically backlit by natural light to accentuate the figure of Christ seated among celestial clouds. The windows in the nave have double, lancet-arched panels; the two side windows in the chancel are triple-arched panels surmounted by tracery.

Niches, cut into both of the chancel side walls, hold a baptismal font with model ship suspended above it (a reminder of the nearby sea), and a set of organ pipes. The chancel itself, contained in an apse, has diagonally laid narrow-board ceiling panels like the nave. Hardwood wainscoting, carved with Gothic motifs, surrounds the three sides and rises to double height behind the altar. Beyond the brass altar rail, the tiered floor is laid with buff colored tiles. A wooden triptych retable carved with crockets and finials stands behind the altar, which is decorated with arches and trefoils. An oak-encased organ, dating from 1903, strikes a colorful note with pipes polychromed in blue, rose and gold. At the right front of the chancel stands a lectern with carved eagle, and on the left a wood and brass pulpit.

A small vestry off the chancel holds a closet and built-in drawers for liturgical vestments and linens. The original gas lighting pipes are visible here, although the fixtures were removed as early as 1928. (3) Apart from modern fixtures in the vestry, the only artificial illumination in the entire church comes from a row of concealed bulbs in the chancel.

Holy Trinity Church is in excellent condition. It is well maintained and appears to be structurally sound.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Spring Lake as a  
Coastal Resort MPN, Spring Lake Borough, Monmouth  
County, NJ

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### Contributing Building

A small gabled building behind Trinity Church in the southwest corner of the lot measures approximately 26' x 10.' Sheathed in clapboard siding and hexagonally shaped roof slates, the building faces east. Its single wooden door on the east facade is flanked by two rectangular, diamond-paned windows; another diamond-paned window is centrally located on the south facade and a single-paned double sash window occupies the north facade. Simple flat stickwork decorates the peaks of both gables, with crosses above. The building is painted white with blue trim to match the church.

Originally used for changing choir robes, the building is now used for storage, but remains in very good condition. Inside are two rooms at either end, with a short hall and washroom between. Walls and ceiling are paneled in narrow tongue and groove boards with a chair rail in the north room. Medium-width pine boards cover the floor and a closet is built out into each room.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

architecture  
settlement

1880-1935

1880

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

n/a

n/a

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church meets National Register Criteria A and C as the oldest church in Spring Lake, New Jersey, closely associated with the resort's founding and development, notable for its Stick Style/Gothic Revival architecture.

Organized by a group of men instrumental in the early development of the area as a seaside retreat, the church has grown with the community over the past 100 years yet has maintained its open-for-the-summer-only status, a lingering reflection of the resort's original identity. Alterations to the exterior were made within the first 25 years of Holy Trinity's existence, evidence of the beneficence of a congregation which identified the church as a religious and a social landmark indispensable to their lives.

News of the ground-breaking for Holy Trinity was reported in the September 17, 1880 issue of "The Sea Side." (4) Two years earlier three men had purchased from the Spring Lake Beach Company a double lot for the new church. Led by J. Barlow Morehead, a Philadelphian who had amassed a fortune from iron manufacturing near Lake Champlain, the small group proceeded with plans for a chapel. (5)

Construction started the following January, according to "The Sea Side," but was not complete until summer. On the first Sunday in July of 1881, Bishop Scarborough, the fourth Bishop of New Jersey, officiated at the dedication. Such an auspicious beginning for a small chapel underscores the prominence of its wealthy parishioners. (6)

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Coastal Resort MPN, Spring Lake Borough, Monmouth  
County, NJ

The Manasquan Sea Side regularly named the architects engaged to design Spring Lake's fashionable cottages and hotels, but makes no mention of an architect for Holy Trinity, an omission repeated in the church's scant records. In view of the simplicity of the design, it seems plausible that the church may have come from the hand of a competent builder who might have worked with the assistance of several architectural pattern books: Richard Upjohn's Rural Architecture (1852) remained a popular source for country churches into the 1880s; Rev. George Bowler's Chapel & Church Architecture with Designs for Parsonages (1856) and Frederick Withers' more up-to-date Church Architecture (1873) furnished ample advice on construction and provided plans and details to choose in whole or in part.

Joseph M. Reeves, the first appointed trustee, wrote, "This, being an unorganized summer chapel, under the care of Joseph M. Reeves, M.D., Trustee, who is under the Bishop of New Jersey, and appointed by him, has no permanent rector, was built and is supported by summer visitors to Spring Lake and with no expense from this Diocese." (7) Visitor rectors were put up at Spring Lake hotels, and as late as 1921 the Spring Lake Gazette mentions a different pastor almost every week, a practice that has persisted from the beginning.

In spite of Holy Trinity's brief annual season, sufficient money was collected by 1890 to retire the debt. In 1896 Bishop Scarborough returned to Holy Trinity to officiate at its consecration, marking the change in status from chapel to church. (8)

The congregation was indeed wealthy, a simple fact of life for Spring Lake's early developers and one that continued into the 20th century. The founder of Holy Trinity, J. B. Morehead, owned an entire block of ocean-front real estate where he built rental cottages and cottages for his family. The Sea Side called Morehead's own "cottage," south of the Monmouth Hotel, a palatial residence. (9) Other important congregants include William Rolin (President of the Centennial Bank Note Company of Philadelphia, who built a family cottage overlooking Spring Lake), John Moses (of Trenton Pottery, who owned more than 17 choice lots and built "model cottages," according to the local newspaper), James Moses (also an owner of multiple lots), Dr. Frank Kirkbride (of Philadelphia, builder of the exuberant Stick Style cottage next to the Warren Hotel), and the Roebling family (of Brooklyn Bridge fame). (10)



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Coastal Resort MPN, Spring Lake Borough, Monmouth County  
NJ

The ties that bound the congregation to its summer church are evident in the number of memorial gifts made over the years. Upon occasion, these gifts resulted in architectural alterations to the church. The spire, given by Ruth Roebing, replaced the original small belfry; the heavy paneled front doors, a memorial to James Moses, replaced the Stick Style doors. The Rolin family gave the elaborately carved wooden altar, and stained glass windows were donated by many families, including the Kirkbride window above the entry in the principal gable.

Because Holy Trinity was built so early in Spring Lake's history, its Stick Style architecture is typical of New Jersey seaside resorts of the 1880s. Subsequent changes reflect the importance this religious institution held for a congregation that gathered only ten weeks out of the year. Their memorial gifts not only enriched the church but added improvements that replaced architectural features probably considered overstated and out-of-date within twenty or thirty years after construction -- just as the Stick Style represented old fashioned residential taste by 1900.

Holy Trinity's strong identification with Spring Lake's summer resort years continues today, when the church remains open only during the summer. This vestige of the past is a link with a way of life that has passed in Spring Lake as the town has become a year-round community.

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Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Spring Lake as a Coastal  
Resort MPN, Spring Lake Borough, Monmouth County, NJ

## NOTES

1. Gail Hunton and James McCabe, Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory: Summary Report, 1980-84, p. 141.
2. Charles Wrege, Spring Lake: An Early History, (Spring Lake, NJ: Bicentennial History Committee, 1976), p. 36.
3. Marion Thompson, "Holy Trinity: A Summer House of Worship," Asbury Park Press, June 4, 1979.
4. The Sea Side (Manasquan, NJ), September 7, 1880, p. 3.
5. The Sea Side, March 17, 1882, n.p.
6. The Sea Side, July 8, 1881, n.p.
7. Holy Trinity church records, the Canonical Church Register, p. 29.
8. Holy Trinity church records
9. The Sea Side, March 17, 1882, P.3.
10. William Rolin biographical material, The Sea Side, May 29, 1880; John Moses biographical material, The Sea Side, August 27, 1880. Real estate information found in Wolverton's Atlas of Monmouth County, 1889.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See Main bibliography

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property ± one acre Asbury Park, NJ Quad

UTM References

A 

1	8
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5	8	2	5	4	0
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4	4	4	4	2	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies lot 1, tax block 35 in the Borough of Spring Lake, New Jersey.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries as described encompass the parcel of land historically associated with the nominated property.

See continuation sheet

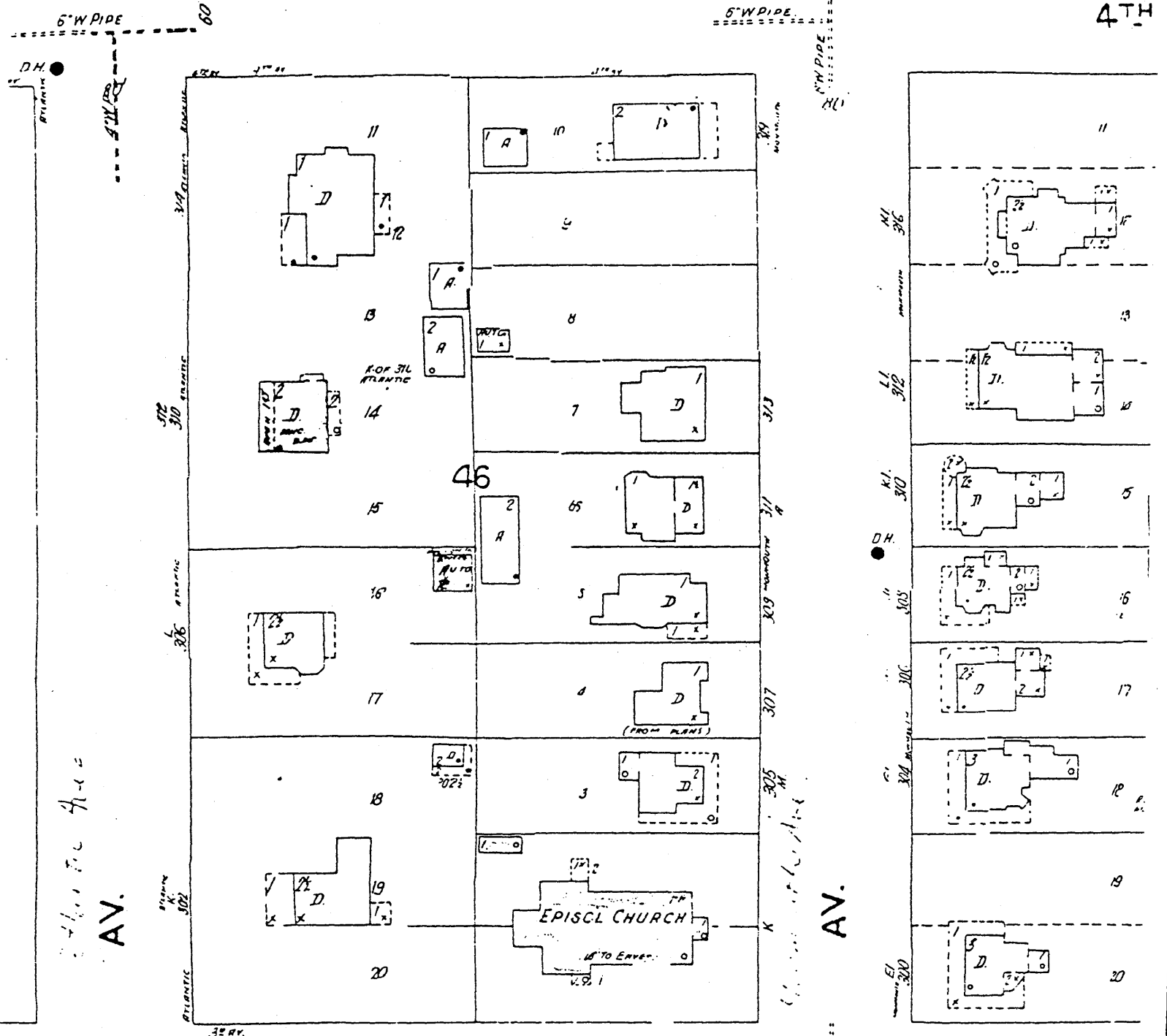
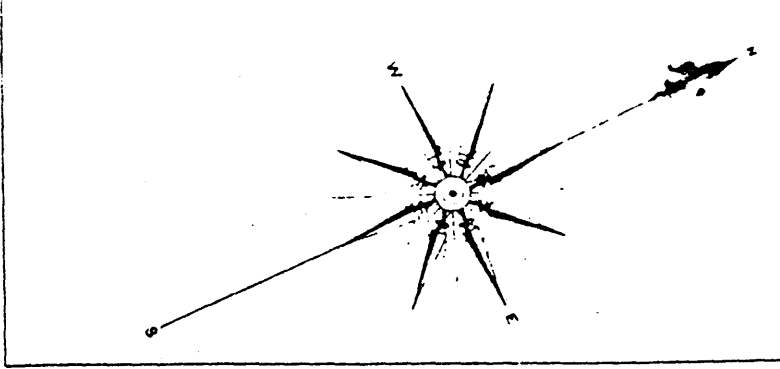
**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sally Milner and Nancy Strathearn

organization ACROTHERION date March 1990

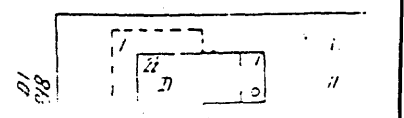
street & number 71 Maple Avenue telephone (201) 984-9660

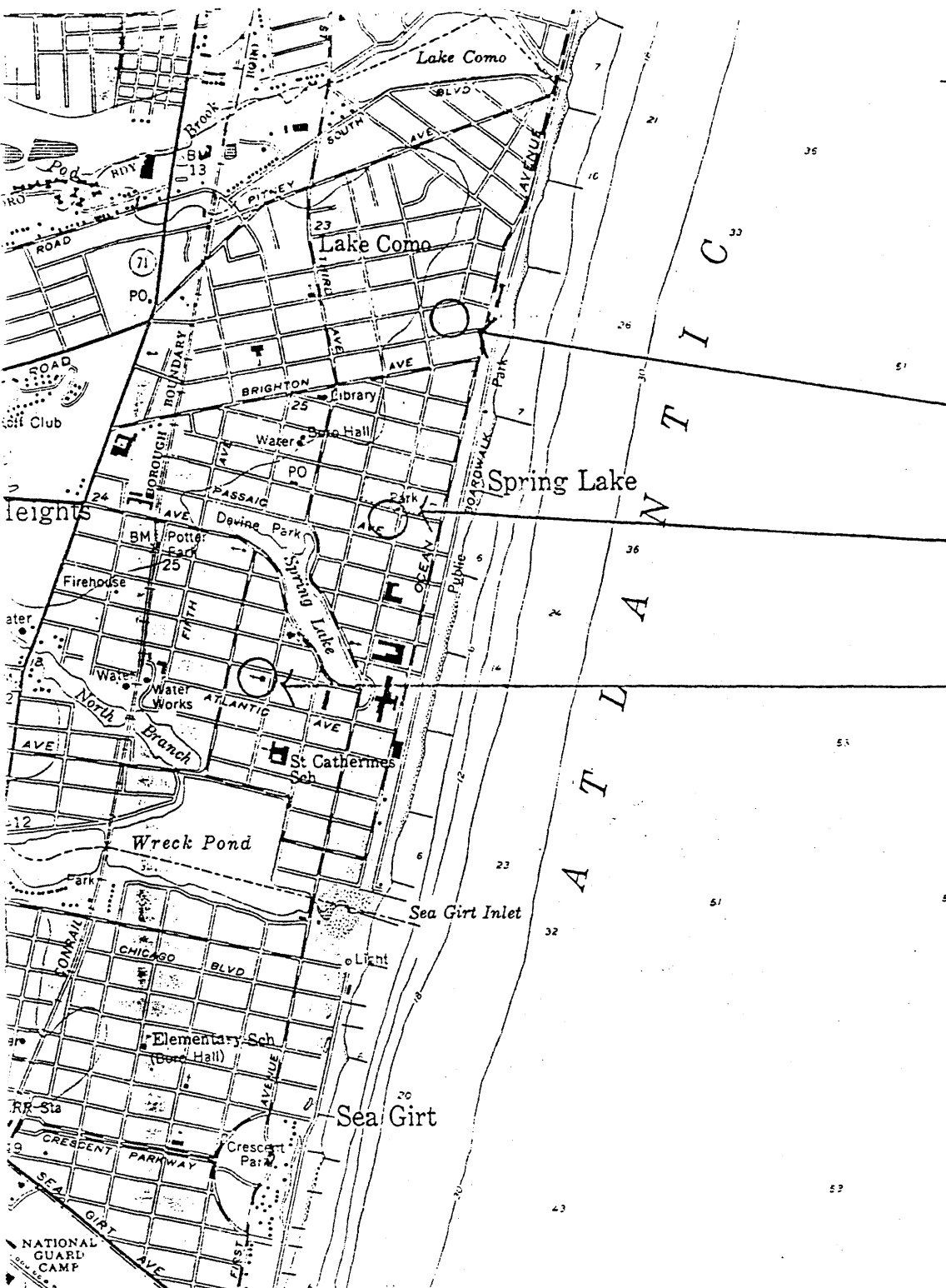
city or town Morristown state New Jersey zip code 07960



Holy Trinity Church (Spring Lake as a Coastal Resort MPN)  
 Monmouth & 3rd Avenues, Spring Lake, N.J. (Monmouth County)

1905 Sanborn base-map with





Spring Lake as a  
 4445 Coastal Resort, 1870-  
 1935 MPN  
 Spring Lake Borough  
 Monmouth County, NJ

Audenried Cottage  
 18/523240/4445600

4445  
 Martin Maloney Cottage  
 18/583820/4444000

Holy Trinity Episcopal  
 Church  
 18/582540/4444220

230" 582 583 584 585000m.E 74°00' 40°07'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium duty Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ASBURY PARK, N. J.  
 N4007.5—W7400/7.5

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey  
 from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other sources  
 This information not field checked. Map edited 1981  
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

1954  
 PHOTOREVISED 1981  
 DMA 6164 II NE-SERIES V822

