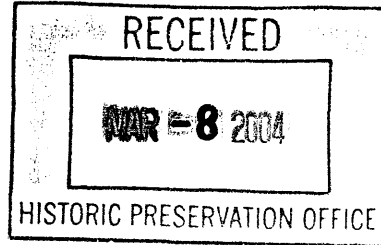


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



04-0976-1B2

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and 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 from 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 Property

historic name Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House

other names/site number Philip Godfrey House

2. Location

street & number 3097 Shore Road (Route 9)  not for publication

city or town Upper Township  vicinity

state New Jersey code 034 county Cape May code 009 zip code 08230

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally,  statewide,  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 12/4/04  
 Signature of certifying official/Title  
 John S. Watson, Jr., Assistant Commissioner Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO  
 State of 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 the property is:
- 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson Beall 3/9/05

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	
1	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	Total

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Postmedieval English

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD/shingle

roof WOOD/shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

see attached continuation sheets

Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House

Name of Property

Cape May County, NJ

County and State

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

C: architecture

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1695 - ca. 1800

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1695; ca. 1770; ca. 1800

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Cape May County Historical & Genealogical Society

Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House  
Name of Property

Cape May County, NJ  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 6.44 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 8 |   | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 4 |   | 4 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 7 |  
Zone      Easting      Northing  
2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  
Zone      Easting      Northing  
4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

see attached continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) see attached continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joan Berkey, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date February 16, 2004

street & number 1003 Bartlett Avenue telephone 609/927-7950

city or town Linwood state NJ zip code 08221-1137

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Lew and Jean Albrecht

street & number 3097 Shore Road telephone 609/624-1323

city or town Ocean View state NJ zip code 08230

**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.).

**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.

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, NJ

**Narrative Description**

*Summary Description*

The Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House is a 2-story wood frame residence comprised of three separate heavy timber frame sections, two of which are historic: (1) the southernmost two-thirds of the main block represents what was originally a 2-story heavy timber frame house with a one-story lean-to built ca. 1695; about 1770 the lean-to was raised to the present two stories; (2) the northernmost third of the main block consists of a 2-story heavy timber frame section built ca. 1800; and (3) a 1½-story, heavy timber frame rear lean-to, built in 1967, which incorporates a modern kitchen on the first floor and two modern bathrooms in the upper half-story. The oldest section of the main block has exposed framing members comprised of gunstock and molded or carved chimney and corner posts, some exposed corner braces, several original doors and windows, and joists and beams decorated with a chamfer ending in a lamb's tongue stop. The ca. 1800 section also has exposed joists and corner posts, and both sections have ca. 1820 flush board interior walls.

The Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House was moved to this location in 1962 to save it from demolition; it was originally sited on the west side of Seashore Road (US Route 9) in Middle Township, about seven miles south of its present location. Set back about 1,000' from Seashore Road, the house faces west and is located in Upper Township, Cape May County, New Jersey. The house stands on a 6.44 acre lot that contains a several acre Christmas tree farm located on the portion of the lot closest to the road. Standing on level ground, the house is surrounded by mature landscaping, brick paved sidewalks, and numerous flower beds. To the rear, the site is heavily wooded. Also on the site are two non-contributing buildings: (1) a ca. 1795 house that was also moved to the site [photo #20], and (2) a modern garage/barn built in 1971 [photo #19]. Neighboring buildings on Seashore Road include several houses which date from the early 1700s to the late 1800s, as well as the historic Seaville Friends Meeting House (built in 1763 and located to the north) and the historic Seaville United Methodist Church, (built in 1856 and located to the south), both of which are located on the opposite side of the road. [photo #1]

*Exterior Description:*

The main block of this two-story house has a rectangular footprint approximately 52' wide x 18' deep that is seven (irregular) bays wide and two bays deep, with a cedar shake exterior and a cedar shake roof. [photo #2 and #3] There is a boxed cornice with no returns and the eaves of the gable ends are flush with the side walls. The gable roof ridge runs parallel to the façade (west elevation) and is pierced in the middle by a large, corbelled brick chimney. Windows are

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, NJ  
(Section 7 continued)

predominantly 6/6 double-hung wood sash that, except where noted, appear to date from ca. 1800 or earlier. The doors on the façade are comprised of original board and batten with original hardware and strap hinges; one is located in the north section and the other is located in the south section. The door in the south section is flanked to the north by a reflective lantern (now electrified, see fig. 8) that appears to date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and was found in the attic by the present owners.

The façade of the southernmost section (built ca. 1695) has two original windows to the south and an original door to the north on the first floor, and two original windows on the second floor. The south (side) elevation of this section has two windows on the first floor; one is a reproduction 6/6 double hung wood sash and the other is a 6/6 double hung wood sash that was originally on the east wall of the northernmost parlor (room #3). There is a single reproduction window (to the east) on the second floor. The rear (east) elevation of this section has two windows with a door (original) placed between them on the first floor: both windows are original and that to the north is a 4-light single wood sash. The second floor of the rear elevation of this section has three windows: that to the south is a reproduction, that in the middle is original, and that to the north was originally located on the east wall of the north bedroom (room #8). The latter two windows are 4/4 double hung wood sash that appear to date to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The façade of the middle section (which represents the original 1-story lean-to) has two windows on the first floor and one window on the second floor. The rear (east) elevation of this section is now covered by the modern addition.

The first floor of the north section (built ca. 1800) has an original window to the south and an original door to the north on the façade and two reproduction windows on the north (side) elevation. The second floor of this section has one original window on the façade and two reproduction windows on the north (side) elevation. The rear (east) elevation of this section is now covered by the modern addition.

A 1967 addition to the rear (east), which creates a saltbox profile, is also sheathed in cedar shakes and has a cedar shake roof. [photos #4 and #5] Its windows, most of which are 6/6 double hung wood sash, are modern reproductions. The sloped roof of the rear (east) elevation of this section is pierced by two gable roofed dormers which have 6/6 double hung wood sash windows. The south (side) elevation has a door (reproduction board and batten) to the west, one 4-light single wood sash and one window to the east on the first floor, and two windows on the upper floor: one is a 6/6 double hung wood sash (reproduction) that lights the bathroom and the other is a 4-light single wood sash that lights the storage space behind the knee wall. The east (rear) elevation has three windows on the first floor and two dormers with 6/6 reproduction

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, NJ  
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double hung wood sash on the second floor, while the north (side) elevation of this section has one window on the first floor and two windows on the second floor: one is a 6/6 double hung wood sash (reproduction) that lights the bathroom and the other is a 4-light single sash that lights the storage space behind the knee wall.

The house stands on a modern poured concrete footing faced with brick.

**Interior Description:**

The house is comprised of three heavy timber frame sections, two of which are historic. Rooms in the following description are keyed to room numbers on the floor plans.

*the ca. 1695 section:*

The oldest section, consisting of the southernmost 5 bays of the main block and measuring approximately 38' wide x 18' deep, was built ca. 1695 and features a chimney girt and a transverse summer beam on the first floor, molded and gunstock posts, and chamfered joists with lamb's tongue stops, all of which are original. In plan, it was originally configured with a 2-story section to the south (represented by the present parlor) having a footprint of 26' wide x 18' deep, to which was attached a 1-story lean-to to the north having a footprint of 12' wide x 18' deep (represented by the present dining room). [see floor plans]

The first floor of the original section consists of a parlor [room #1 on floor plan] to the south and a dining room [room #2 on the floor plan] (likely the original kitchen) to the north. In the parlor, a brick fireplace dominates the north wall. [photo #6 and #7] The fireplace, with an opening that now measures 42" wide x 21", appears to have been re-worked from its original size and was made smaller as evidenced by (1) a nail pattern on the north face of the chimney girt showing where the original paneled fireplace wall extended, and (2) the lack of a chamfer on the north face of the chimney girt. The fireplace has a simple wood mantel shelf supported by 1" thick wood supports that are modestly scrolled. The mantel appears to date from ca. 1770-1800.

The chimney girt and summer beam are supported by oak posts that are molded or carved with a quarter-round profile; some of the posts and beams are numbered with Roman numerals and both the chimney girt and summer beam are decorated with a chamfer that ends in a lamb's tongue stop. [fig. #7] Floor joists, made of hard pine, are also chamfered and have a lamb's tongue stop. Floors are random width yellow pine that run east to west. According to the owners, the original flooring was originally set into a channel in the sill.

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, NJ  
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The perimeter walls are sheathed in random-width horizontal flush boards, most of which appear to date to ca. 1825, while the fireplace wall is covered with vertical flush boarding, also random width, all hand planed. These boards alternate male (tongue) and female (groove), and most are held with square head machine cut nails. The room currently serves as the living room.

Tucked in the northeast corner of the parlor, between the chimney and end girts, is a straight flight of stairs accessed from the dining room.

Windows in the parlor on the east and west walls have their original trim which consists of 3.25" wide molding that includes a 1/2" wide interior bead. The corner posts in the northeast, northwest, and southwest corners are straight and are not chased, while that in the southeast corner is also straight, but is chased. Door trim appears to be original: on the east and west walls it consists of 3.5" wide molding that includes a 1/2" wide interior bead, while the door openings on the north wall are trimmed with 2 7/8" wide molding that includes a 1/8" interior bead. There are no baseboards.

The front and rear doors are board and batten, and are mounted with what appears to be their original wrought iron strap hinges and pintles. The front door also has what appears to be its original lift latch and sliding bolt, both of which are hand wrought.

The second floor of this section, located directly over the parlor, contains two bedrooms (rooms #5 and #6) and a stair hall (room #9). Floors are random-width yellow pine that run east to west, and the original floor joists of hard pine are identical to those on the first floor—they are also chamfered and have a lamb's tongue stop. Window trim in most instances is identical to that found in the parlor below, door moldings are also similar at 3" wide with a 1/4" interior bead, and baseboards are modestly molded 1 1/4" wide.

The southernmost bedroom (room #4, photo #12) has two gunstock corner posts in the southeast and southwest corners, while those in the northeast and northwest corners of the room are carved and have an ogee profile [fig. #11] that is almost identical to those of the Thomas Leaming House built in 1706 in Middle Township, Cape May County, New Jersey. The east and south walls are plaster that appears to date to ca. 1800, while the north wall is vertical flush board paneling and the west wall is horizontal flush board paneling; all paneling appears to date to ca. 1825.

The bedroom in the north part of this section (room #6, photo #13) has ca. 1825 horizontal flush boards on the west wall and vertical flush boards on the east and south partition walls. The north wall is open, and reveals the corner braces (rising) of both this part of the house and the adjoining middle section over what is now the dining room. The corner braces are not beaded or



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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
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chamfered. The back of the corner brace for the original section of the house has vertical saw marks, as do some of the joists overhead. There is no evidence this bedroom ever had a fireplace.

The hallway (room #9, photo #11) has ca. 1825 horizontal flush boarding on the east (partition) wall, and ca. 1825 vertical flush board paneling on the remaining walls. Three posts are exposed on the east wall: (1) the chimney post in the middle of the wall, which supports the chimney girt and is chamfered; and, (2) two corner posts in the northeast corner, which are both gunstock and are not chamfered. The top of the stair is enclosed with ca. 1825 horizontal flush boards on all three sides; two wood posts, topped with 4-sided, pyramidal heads, support the stair wall at the northwest and southwest corners and appear to date to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. At the first floor level, the east wall of the enclosed staircase has ca. 1825 flush boarding laid diagonally, and flush boarding laid vertically on the west wall. The end girt at the first floor level has been chamfered to provide more headroom. A change in the floorboards overhead--most have a beaded edge, except for those in this corner--in the northeast corner of the main block suggests that there was originally a winder stair, rather than a straight stair, in this part of the house.

The middle section of the house on the first floor is used as a dining room and has a footprint of approximately 12' wide and 18' deep; it was originally a one-story lean-to built at the same time as the parlor. (room #2, photo #8 and #9) The south wall features a large, "walk-in" fireplace located directly behind the living room fireplace and sharing the same chimney stack. The firebox of this fireplace appears to be original and measures 6' wide by 28" deep. The mantel has a shelf with a bead on the bottom edge, supported by simple wood shelf supports with a modest scroll. These supports are nailed to the paneled wall with large rose head nails. The mantel is identical to that in the living room and both appear to date to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Floor joists in the dining room are also identical to those in the parlor and are chamfered and have lamb's tongue stops. The fireplace wall is sheathed in ca. 1825 vertical boards while the remaining walls of the room are of modern plaster. These walls were originally sheathed with horizontal yellow pine flush boards, but were removed by the current owners because of extensive damage by powder post beetles. The front and end girts also have a lamb's tongue stop. The north end girt also shows pockets, now filled in with wood, where rafters were once joined to the frame when this section of the house was a 1-story lean-to. The baseboard is 3" high, made of wood, and has a simple bead; it appears to be original. Re-used historic bricks (brought from a house in Philadelphia, one marked "Quaker") were used to re-lay the hearth in the 1970s. There are 3 doors on the south wall, all original board and batten—two leading to the parlor on each side of the fireplace and one fronting the stairs. The floor consists of random width pine boards that run east to west. The east wall is open to the modern kitchen. Corner posts are exposed in the northwest and northeast corners and are gunstock in profile.

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**

Cape May County, NJ

(Section 7 continued)

The second floor over the dining room contains a bedroom (room #7, photo #14); its walls are also sheathed in hand-planed flush boards that appear to date to ca. 1825, and the corner posts are molded with a half-round profile. These corner posts face each other, in an east-west direction, compared to those on the floor below which face in a north-south direction. Ceiling joists are not chamfered, but instead have a double bead and are made of cedar. Window trim is 4.75" wide and includes a 1/2" wide interior bead and a 1.5" ogee molding; there are no baseboards. Door trim is 1 7/8" wide with a 1/2" interior bead, and all trim appears to date to ca. 1825.

*the ca. 1800 addition:*

The northernmost section of the house has a footprint of approximately 12' wide x 18' deep and it represents a ca. 1800 addition. Currently used as a sitting room, the first floor of this section has horizontal flush boarding on the north, west, and south walls, and vertical flush boards on the east wall all of which appears to be date to ca. 1825. (room #3, photo #10) The east wall features a set of winder stairs to the north and a bookcase, both added by the current owners and most of which is built from wood re-used from a flush board partition wall that was removed from the parlor. The random width wood floors run east to west. Joists are beaded (double), and the end, front, and rear girts are faced with beaded-edge boards. The corner posts are chased with beaded-edge boards and do not flare. Window trim varies between 3" and 4.5" wide and has an interior bead and an ogee profile. Door trim on the west wall is 3.5" wide and includes a 1/2" interior bead; door trim on the south wall is 3" wide and has no molding or bead.

The second floor bedroom of this section (room #8, photo #15) has exposed corner posts that are hand-hewn and not chased; because they have no nail holes in them, they were likely never chased. Joists overhead are made of hand-hewn cedar, planed smooth and given a double beaded edge. Walls in this room are of modern plaster. Baseboards, on the south and east walls only, are new and are 3" wide with a 1/2" bead. Door trim (original) is 1.5" wide and includes a 1/2" interior bead. Window trim on the original (west) window is 3" wide with a 1/2" bead and a 1.25" ogee, while the reproduction windows are trimmed with reproduction 3" wide molding with a 1/2" interior bead and a 1" ogee.

*the attic:*

The attic is accessed by a ladder located on the second floor adjacent to the chimney stack in the ca. 1695 section. The ladder was replicated from the original, which was stolen before the

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, NJ  
(Section 7 continued)

owners moved the house to this location. [fig. #9] The rafters over the original, 2-story section of the house are notched for roof lath placed 13.5" -14" on center to accommodate the nailing of wood shingles; the rafters appear to be original. At the apex, the rafters are pegged together with mortise and tenon joints, and are numbered with Roman numerals. Rafter feet are pegged to the top of the joists (which extend to form the soffit) with a mortise and tenon joint. The roof lath, which measure approximately 1.5" x 3.5," are vertical sawn while the rafters are hand-hewn. The chimney stack rises at the north end of this section; its bricks have a very lumpy surface and are likely original and hand-made. Most measure 8.5" x 4" x 2" and some are vitrified. The chimney stack measures 34.5" square and has two flues.

Behind the chimney, to the north, the original gable end of the ca. 1695 section is extant. [fig. #10] It has its original cedar shingle exterior consisting of hand-split cedar shingles approximately 34" long, 7"-8" wide, and 5/8" thick. The shingles are held with rose head nails that are face nailed and the shingles are exposed approximately 13.5" to the weather. They are weathered, and appear to have been exposed to the elements for possibly 50+ years.

The attic floor consists of 1" thick true tongue and groove boards, with a beaded edge laid face down. The rafters over the original lean-to section are also hand-hewn; those on the west side are identical to those on the original 2-story section, and are also notched at the same intervals for roof lath. Rafters on the east side are hand-hewn, but are not notched. It is possible that when the one-story lean-to was raised to two stories, the original lean-to rafters (there were a total of 5—2 on the ends and 3 in between) were re-used in this new position, which would explain the difference between those on the façade (west side) and those on the rear (east side). They are also pegged together with mortise and tenon joints, and a Roman numeral was seen on one of them, while the rest could not be closely examined for numbers.

The rafters over the north addition appear to be vertical sawn, are not notched for roof lath, and are also pegged together with mortise and tenon joints.

*the rear lean-to, built in 1967:*

The rear lean-to, built in 1967, has a rectangular footprint that is 32' wide and 13' deep; it covers the northernmost two-thirds of the rear (east) elevation of the main block and comprises a kitchen on the first floor and two bathrooms on the upper story.

The kitchen features exposed heavy timber frame members of gunstock corner and intermediate posts, joists, and transverse summer beams, all modern and made of locally-sawn cedar. [photo #16] Finishes are modern and consist of a hand-made antique brick floor and plaster walls. A

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**

Cape May County, NJ  
(Section 7 continued)

built-in wood cabinet, which appears to date from ca. 1850-1870, is placed on the west wall near the door on the south wall. It was originally located in a pantry, since removed, sited to the west of the chimney in the original parlor. Doors are board and batten with the interior face boards laid horizontally and the exterior face boards laid vertically. They were made by the current owners and have 18<sup>th</sup> century door hardware not original to the house. Windows are reproduction 6/6 double hung wood sash.

Incorporated into the framing of both bathrooms on the upper story are exposed upright posts that were salvaged from the house's ca. 1820 rear lean-to. Floors are ceramic tile and walls are plaster; both bathrooms have modern bathroom fixtures. [photo #17 and #18]

**Setting:**

The house stands on a 6.44 acre flag lot that is located between US Route 9 (Seashore Road) and the Garden State Parkway. Set back approximately 1,000' from Route 9, the building faces west and is accessed by a tree-lined, gravel lane leading in from Route 9. Approximately 50 white pines (*Pinus strobus L.*) line the lane and a white rail fence defines that part of the north lot line near the road.

Several of the acres to the west of the house are used for a Christmas tree farm and are planted with white pine (*Pinus strobus L.*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), and Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris L.*). The approximately 2 acres behind (to the east) of the house are heavily wooded with oak trees (*Quercus alba*), white pines (*Pinus strobus L.*), red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*), and dense underbrush.

The area around the house has been extensively landscaped with rhododendrons (*Rhododendron*), sweet gum trees (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), a pink dogwood (in the rear, *Cornus florida rubra*), several American holly trees (*Ilex opaca*), a Tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), several Kwanzan cherry trees (*Rosaceae Prunus serrulata*), two tulip magnolias (*Magnolia*, in the rear), a southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*, in the front), white pines (*Pinus strobus L.*), and a Buford holly (*Ilex cornuta Bufordii*). Ground cover consists primarily of vinca (*Vinca*) and Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*). A split rail fence, partly covered with wisteria (*Fabaceae*), lines the drive in front of the house. Other bushes that are part of the landscape include pyracantha (*Pyracantha*), boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* and *Buxus microphylla*) and euonymus (*Euonymus*).

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A brick walk leads from a parking area on the north side of the house to the two front doors, while another leads to the rear door in the modern lean-to. A brick patio, covered with a shed roof, fills the southeast corner between the modern addition and the rear of the main block.  
[photo #5]

**Original Appearance and Subsequent Alterations:**

*[Note: all directional notations are referenced to the house in its current orientation, facing west; the house originally faced east before it was moved to this location. Figures refer to drawings made by the current owner and illustrated in the attached "Supplemental and Historic Images," pages 4 and 5.]*

**Ca. 1695 (fig. 1):** When built ca. 1695, the house consisted of a 2-story building, 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep, with a one-story lean-to attached to the north. Depending on the location of the original stairs, the door would have been located in the 2-story section either where it is now, or in the center bay (where it was when the current owners took possession), flanked by two windows, with two windows on the second floor. This latter configuration was a very typical fenestration pattern for vernacular Cape May County architecture, and was popular well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The façade (west elevation) of the lean-to had a door to the north and a 9/6 double hung wood window to the south. The house was sheathed in 3' long cedar shingles, face nailed with hand-forged nails; the shingles were held to nailers that were attached to the exterior faces of the studs and corner posts. Some of these shingles are extant on the present north wall of the first story of what was the original lean-to and are now covered by the ca. 1800 addition to the north. The house had no interior finish on the walls, and the backs of the shingles were exposed on the interior: when the current owners purchased the house and began restoring it, they found wallpaper had been placed directly on the backs of the shingles.

Determining the location and configuration of the original stairs is perplexing for a variety of reasons. With this house's framing so clearly rooted in the heavy timber frame building traditions of the Massachusetts Bay and Long Island areas, one would expect the winder stair to have been located against the side wall of the chimney stack (in this house, against its west wall), where it would have risen between the chimney girt and the end girt as is found earlier in those two locales. The façade door would have been placed in this bay also, so one would have stepped into a small hall (or "porch") and faced the stair. The orientation of the stair would have been parallel with the façade and perpendicular with the fireplace girt, rather than the reverse as most winder stairs are built in Cape May County. The present hall, or chimney bay, is approximately 8' wide (north to south) and approximately 5' deep (east to west), which would

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certainly be just large enough to accommodate that arrangement. Access to the lean-to may have been gained through a passageway east of the chimney stack, where a passageway today exists.

However, the current owners found no evidence that there ever was a door that opened from the façade wall into the chimney bay, and although the current owners have placed the parlor door there now, there was no prior evidence in the form of studs for a door that would confirm one was there originally.

There are open mortise pockets on the first floor north wall of the original main block, in both the north end girt and in the corresponding corner posts, clear evidence that corner braces were originally located here and both would have restricted access to the lean-to. Given their presence, it is most likely that the winder stair was originally located east of the chimney stack, against the rear (east) wall where the straight stair is currently located and this original stair's orientation was parallel with the fireplace girt as is commonly found in Cape May County. This location would have also accommodated a passageway into the lean-to, located to the west where it is today. This stair plan has no known precedent on Long Island or in Massachusetts Bay, but it certainly would have provided access to both the second floor and the lean-to without having to remove the corner brace. A change in the attic floorboards overhead on the second floor in the northeast corner of this original section (see second floor plan) suggests that this configuration was the original one. The change in attic floorboards might also suggest that the chimney was expanded (or was originally built) with a bake oven behind it, as was also typical on Long Island and in the Massachusetts Bay area.

When built, the house also might have had leaded glass casement windows, since double hung wood sash was not in general use until ca. 1703 in the major cities, and probably later in Cape May County. No evidence of leaded glass windows, however, was found by the owners when restoring the building.

**Ca. 1770 (fig. 2):** Around 1770, possibly when Philip Godfrey purchased the house in 1767, the one-story lean-to addition was raised to two stories. A window was added to the new second floor on the façade (west elevation), and the second story was sheathed in clapboard while the remainder of the house retained its original wood shingles. Some of this clapboard was extant in the north wall when the current owners bought the house. It is likely that the lean-to rafters were reused in the roof, since those in place today on the west (façade) slope of this section are identical to those over the original 2-story section. A date of ca. 1767 is more likely for the raising of the lean-to because the quarter round profile of the corner posts used on the second floor are stylistically similar to two other houses built in Cape May County at this time—the Ludlam Johnson House (Dennisville, Dennis Township, built ca. 1765) and the Joseph Edwards

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House (Upper Township, built ca. 1768). It is also likely that the winder stair in the original main block was removed at this time and replaced with the straight stair that is extant today.

**Ca. 1800 (fig. 3):** Around 1800, possibly shortly after Philip Godfrey devised his homestead to his son Philip in 1797, a 2-story frame addition was placed against the north wall of the main block. It is likely that the two gabled dormer windows seen in the ca. 1910 photographs were added at this time to unify the appearance of the façade. [fig. #1, #2, and #3] It is also probable that the parlor fireplace was re-worked to its smaller configuration at this time. Interestingly, the addition was framed separately, and was placed up against the existing exterior wall, thereby preserving the original wood shingle and clapboard exterior that was still *in situ* when the current owners purchased the property.

It is also likely that the fireplace mantels were installed between 1770 and 1800, as well. Early 18<sup>th</sup> century fireplaces did not have mantels originally, and most were enframed with simple bolection molding, if trimmed at all. A similar mantel is found in the Whilldin-Miller House in the City of West Cape May, built ca. 1715 and altered ca. 1775-1800.

**Ca. 1820-1825 (fig. 4):** About 1820-1825, a one-story saltbox addition, or lean-to, was placed against part of the rear (east) elevation of the house. The date for this addition was determined by the owners, who saw the house with the saltbox addition before moving only the main block. Because most of the interior flush board paneling is held with square head cut nails, it is likely that the flush boarding was added to all of the interior walls at this time. The flush board paneling in the oldest section of the house was added after new (replacement) flooring was laid in the ca. 1695 parlor and its second floor because that paneling is set on top of the floor. Similarly, the flush board paneling in the south bedroom of the ca. 1695 section was custom fit to accommodate settlement of the plate on the west side of the house, further confirming that the flush board interior walls were not part of the original interior finish.

**Ca. 1870 (fig. 5):** Around this time, the one-story lean-to was removed from the rear wall and moved back about 20 feet. In the space between the lean-to and main block, a 2-story ell was built. This arrangement is seen in the historic photographs taken ca. 1910. [fig. 3]

**1962:** Threatened with demolition, the house was moved from its original site in Swainton (7 miles to the south), to its present location in Upper Township, near the Dennis Township border, off of Route 9. The current owners separated the main block from its Victorian ell and rear lean-to, then moved the main block only up the Garden State Parkway to its present location; they waited until December so the ground would be frozen enough to allow them to move it across an open field to the Parkway.

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They began the laborious process of restoring the building which was vacant and covered with ivy. [fig. 15] The original wood shingle exterior was replaced with 16" long, double-coursed cedar shingles from New Brunswick, Canada. The front door in the ca. 1695 2-story section was moved from its center bay location to its present position in the chimney bay. The facade door in the lean-to and the adjacent 9/6 window were removed and replaced with two modern 6/6 double hung wood sash windows. The insect-damaged flush board interior walls in the dining room were removed and replaced with plaster. Two modern reproduction 6/6 double hung wood sash windows were placed on the first and second floors of the north (side) elevation of the ca. 1800 addition, replacing a single 6/6 double hung wood window on each floor of that side. Two reproduction windows were placed on the first floor south side, and one reproduction window was placed on the second floor south side of the original ca. 1695 section. The façade dormers were also removed.

The present entry, to the west of the chimney stack in the parlor, had been enclosed and was used as a pantry by previous owners; this was removed by the current owners during restoration. The parlor had also been divided into two rooms, separated by a flush board partition wall that ran the length of the transverse summer beam. [fig. 12] This partition wall was removed by the current owners and the boarding re-used in other places of the house where needed.

Most of the hand-forged hardware, paneling, doors, and windows are original. Some things, particularly door and other hardware in the saltbox addition, were salvaged from other 18<sup>th</sup> century houses in the county that were being demolished, and additional wrought iron hardware was forged by Donald Streeter of Iona, New Jersey.

**1967 (fig. 6):** The current owners added a salt box addition to the northernmost half of the rear (east) elevation, incorporating a modern kitchen with dining area and a half-bath on the first floor, and bathrooms on the second floor. This was done so as not to introduce modern plumbing into the original part of the house. Also added was a small porch against the east wall of the main block and the south wall of the modern lean-to.

**Integrity:**

The house retains a high degree of architectural integrity, with its exposed original framing members, original doors, much original hardware, original roof rafters, ca. 1775-1800 mantles, and ca. 1825 interior flush board paneling. Although altered and added to around 1770 and again in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the house nevertheless accurately conveys its historic character, and those later alterations have become historic in their own right.



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The modern rear lean-to has been sensitively designed to introduce modern amenities without compromising the historic nature of the main block.

**Non-contributing Buildings on the Site:**

*the ca. 1795 house:*

This small, 1½-story frame house is 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep with a modestly rectangular footprint of 21' wide by 17' deep; it features a single room on each floor and faces south. [photo #20] It has a modern clapboard exterior and its wood shingle-covered gable roof has a ridge that runs parallel with the façade (south elevation). The projecting cornice has no returns and the gable ends have tapered rake boards. A brick chimney pierces the westernmost end of the roof ridge and the front roof slope is punctuated with 2 gable roof dormers, each with a single 6/9 double hung wood window. The façade has a board and batten center door flanked by two 6/6 double hung wood windows. The west (side) elevation has a single 4-light single sash window to the south, while the rear (north) elevation has a center door (board and batten) with a 6/6 double hung wood window to the west. The east (side) elevation has two 6/6 double hung wood windows on the first floor, and a single 4/4 double hung wood window in the ½ story east gable end.

In plan, the house has one room on the first floor with a large, cooking fireplace and a winder stair at the west end; the second floor consists of a single bedroom. Interior walls are modern plaster, and the floors are random-width pine: those on the second floor are original while those on the first floor are modern. The house stands on a modern brick foundation.

The house was probably built by Job Corson around 1795, and its original location was approximately 3 miles to the north, on the east side of Route 9. It was moved to the site in the late 1900s and is now used as a shop for the Christmas tree farm that is part of the property.

*the barn/garage, built in 1971:*

Built with a saltbox profile, this 2-story wood frame building is 5 bays wide and 2 bays deep with a rectangular footprint of 46' wide by 22' deep. [photo #19] It features 3 garage bays and a utility room on the first floor and a carpenter shop on the second floor. Sheathed in board and batten siding on all but the rear (north) elevation, which is sheathed in wood shingles, the building stands on a brick foundation and faces south. It has a wood shingle roof, and is located 50' north of the house.

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The first floor of the façade has three garage doors to the east, a board and batten door (reproduction) to the west, and a 6/6 double hung window to the extreme west. The second floor of this elevation has a large, 54-light wood sash window in the center flanked by two wood shutters. To the east and west are 6/6 double hung wood windows. The east (side) elevation has a single 6/6 double hung wood window in the upper story, as does the west (side) elevation. The rear (north) elevation has a double garage door (hung on 18<sup>th</sup> century strap hinges with pintles) to the east.

The utility room on the first floor is located at the west end of the building and a carpenter/woodworking shop occupies the entire second floor.

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**Summary Statement of Significance:**

The Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House, built ca. 1695, is locally significant under criterion C/architecture as the best preserved, most intact example of first period (ca. 1695-ca. 1730) heavy timber frame construction in Cape May County, New Jersey. It has all of the hallmarks of that method of building as it was expressed earlier on Long Island and in the Massachusetts Bay area, including a summer beam (a feature rarely found in the Cape May County), decoration on the joists, chimney girt, and summer beam (consisting of chamfers ending in lamb's tongue stops), molded post heads, and gunstock corner posts. As such, it exemplifies a building form that was once common in New Jersey, but of which few examples remain. Of those that are extant, the most appear to be located in Cape May County in numbers large enough not to be considered as rare survivors.

The Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House is also locally significant as it represents all three periods of heavy timber frame construction found in Cape May County. In addition to the original first period section, the house was altered and expanded ca. 1770 in the second construction period (ca. 1730-ca. 1780-90), and again in the third construction period (ca. 1780-90 to ca. 1845). The ca. 1770 expansion/alteration is characterized by shouldered post heads having a quarter-round profile, exposed girts and plates, and exposed beaded joists, features that are common to second period construction, while the ca. 1800 addition is characterized by smaller-dimensioned straight corner posts, exposed beaded joists, and smaller-dimensioned exposed girts and plates, all of which are common to third period construction.

Although this house has been moved from its original location, it derives its significance from its architecture rather than from its local and historical associations. Thus, the fact that it no longer stands on its original site, nor retains its original setting, does not diminish its greater significance.

**Historical Background:**

The house was probably built by John Reeves (ca. 1668? – 1714), a cooper who rented 200 acres of land on the sea side of Cape May County in 1690 from Jeremiah Bass, agent of the West New Jersey Society.<sup>1</sup> Reeves was in the county earlier, because he is mentioned as a debtor to the estate of Richard Woodnutt, a bricklayer from Salem County, in Woodnutt's inventory of 12-10-

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<sup>1</sup> Lewis Townsend Stevens, The History of Cape May County, NJ (1897, rpt. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997), p. 39; Jeffrey Dorwart, Cape May County, New Jersey: The Making of an American Resort Community (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992), p. 273.

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1688.<sup>2</sup> In May of 1690, he gave a bond as administrator of Abraham Weston's estate (Weston was also from Cape May County), and Reeves was listed in the bond as "of Cape May, cooper."<sup>3</sup> Reeves is mentioned in Thomas Leaming's diary: "in 1697 I worked for John Reeves all summer," and it is interesting to note that Leaming's house, built in 1706 and sited just 2+ miles north of this house's original location, has corner posts that are molded with a similar ogee profile.<sup>4</sup> [see fig. 11] Reeves is also mentioned as sitting on a county jury in 1693.<sup>5</sup>

Reeves eventually purchased the land from the West New Jersey Society in 1695 and purchased an additional 100 acres in 1699.<sup>6</sup>

It is not known from where John Reeves came. There were Reeves families established in both Burlington and Salem (now Cumberland) counties in the late 1600s, and there may have been a connection with those in Cumberland County, which is discussed later. The Salem/Cumberland County Reeves family reportedly came in the late 1600s to the South Jersey area from Long Island, and this would have been a typical migration pattern for that time period.<sup>7</sup>

The Reeves family was extensively researched in the early 1900s by H. [Harry] Clifford Campion, Jr. (1876-ca. 1940), a descendant of Walter Reeves (ca. 1652 to 1698) of Burlington County, New Jersey. His genealogy files, now held by the Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society, show that despite corresponding with several of John Reeves' descendants, Campion could not directly connect John Reeves with the Cumberland County, Burlington County, or Long Island Reeves' families, nor could Reeves' descendants provide any further information about him or his origins.<sup>8</sup>

Reeves' will, written 12-29-1714 and proved 4-22-1715, gives his lands to his daughter, Sarah (ca. 1710-1757). His inventory, which was not itemized by room, mentions cattle and horses, 32 pounds of iron and 4 pounds of steel (presumably for his trade as a cooper), "implements and tools for husbanding," "corn in the ground," and sheep, hogs, geese and bees.<sup>9</sup> Reeves' wife, also named Sarah, then married John Ingram, and filed an accounting of her late husband, John

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<sup>2</sup> Salem County Wills, A, p. 17; New Jersey Calendar of Wills, Vol. 1, p. 521.

<sup>3</sup> NJ Calendar of Wills, Vol. 1, p. 500

<sup>4</sup> Aaron Leaming, Jr., *Surveys and Miscellaneous Records*, Cape May County Recorder's Office, Cape May Court House, NJ.

<sup>5</sup> Stevens, p. 49.

<sup>6</sup> Cape May County deeds, Liber A, p. 72; Liber B, p. 46.

<sup>7</sup> H. Clifford Campion, Jr. Genealogy Files, Reeves Folders I through IV, Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> NJ State archives, file #21E.

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Reeve's estate in 1731; as was typical, there was no mention of the house or a dwelling in the accounting.<sup>10</sup> John Reeves had died from an epidemic, described by Thomas Leaming in his early 18<sup>th</sup> century diary, that swept through Cape May County and killed 40-50 of its inhabitants in 1713 and 1714.<sup>11</sup>

Around 1730, his daughter Sarah married Michael Iszard (a. 1705-1754). Michael was the son of Michael Iszard (? – 1722) from Cumberland County. Sarah's sister, Cibel (conceived shortly before her father's death since she is not mentioned in his will), sold her share of her father's estate to Sarah's husband, Michael Izard in 1737.<sup>12</sup> After Iszard's death in 1754, the land descended to his oldest son, Reeves (ca. 1730-?); although Michael Iszard died intestate, his wife's will of 1755 mentions the land her husband bought and she willed that her son, Reeves, divide the land equally with his brother, John (ca. 1732-1796).<sup>13</sup> Michael Iszard's inventory was not itemized. Before her death in 1755, Sarah Reeves Izard remarried Daniel Holden in 1754.<sup>14</sup> Holden provided an accounting of her estate that included an inventory (not itemized) showing an estate valued at 133£.<sup>15</sup> Among the payments out of her estate was one to Abram Reeves, who may be the Abraham Reeves of Cumberland County who died there in 1761. Further research has not been able to determine that there was a familial connection.

In 1767, the Iszard brothers sold a 142 acre parcel of the property to Philip Godfrey (1723-1797). The purchase price of 380£ is certainly large enough to confirm that a house was on the property.<sup>16</sup>

Philip and his wife, Ruth Osborne, lived on the property and established a grist mill there, which is mentioned in his will. Philip Godfrey signed a petition to keep Cape May County militiamen within the county in 1778, and also signed the oath of allegiance the same year.<sup>17</sup> During the Revolutionary War, Godfrey was responsible for sending supplies to the Continental army, and also established a salt works with Reeves Iszard that produced much needed salt during that war.<sup>18</sup> He was the son of a Quaker, Andrew Godfrey, whose father Benjamin came to Cape May

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Maurice Beesley, *Sketch of the Early History of County of Cape May*, 1857. Reprinted: *Cape May Co. Magazine of History and Genealogy*, Vol. 8, No. 5, 1985, page 392.

<sup>12</sup> Colonial Deeds, Book K, p. 289.

<sup>13</sup> NJ State Archives, file #21E.

<sup>14</sup> William Nelson, *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey: Vol. XXII, Marriage Records 1665-1800* (Patterson, NJ: Press Printing and Publishing, 1900), p. 183.

<sup>15</sup> NJ State Archives, file #188E.

<sup>16</sup> Cape May County deeds, book C, p. 24

<sup>17</sup> Stevens, p. 205, 207.

<sup>18</sup> Dorwart, p. 55.

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County from England in the 1690s as a representative of Daniel Coxe.<sup>19</sup> Godfrey inherited 500 acres of land in Great Egg Harbor Township, now Atlantic County, from his father, which he sold in 1779 to George West, who established the town of Catawba there.<sup>20</sup>

Philip Godfrey's will, dated 12-4-1795 and proved 10-24-1797, gave the homestead plantation to his son, Philip (ca. 1752-?). There was no detailed inventory filed for his estate.<sup>21</sup>

In 1807, Philip and his wife, Phebe, sold the property, which then consisted of 167.5 acres, to Jacob and Millicent Garretson for \$1,750.<sup>22</sup> The Garretsons held onto the property until 1818, when they sold it to Henry Swain for \$2,000.<sup>23</sup> Upon Henry Swain's death in 1843, the land was divided among his four children, with his son Zebulon receiving the tract on which the house originally stood.<sup>24</sup>

The land division mentions numerous outbuildings—a shop, a stable, a “bedroom,” and a hay barracks. It is not known what is meant by “bedroom,” as this term has not been encountered elsewhere in the extensive research undertaken by this consultant in Cape May County. These outbuildings are possibly those seen in the ca. 1910 historic photographs, behind the house. (see figs. #1, #2, and #3)

The house remained in the Swain family until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when it went to Henry Mowers, who came to live with the Zebulon Swain family in the 1890s. After Mowers' death in 1962, the house was left to Thomas Shute, after which the house was condemned to demolition.<sup>25</sup>

Lewis Albrecht and his wife, Jean, of Cape May Court House, decided the house could be saved, and moved it in 1962 to its current location off of Route 9 in Upper Township.

### **A Brief History of Heavy Timber Framing**

Simply defined, heavy timber frame construction is a method of building that uses large, wood framing members (6”-8” wide or larger), which are joined and held together with pegged mortise

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<sup>19</sup> Cape May County Historical & Genealogical Society, Godfrey family file.

<sup>20</sup> Jean Albrecht, “The Philip Godfrey House,” *Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy*, 1977, p. 423.

<sup>21</sup> NJ State Archives, file #680E.

<sup>22</sup> Cape May County Deeds, Book F, p. 20.

<sup>23</sup> Cape May County Deeds, Book K, p. 272.

<sup>24</sup> Cape May County Book B of Reports, p. 270.

<sup>25</sup> Albrecht, *Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy*, 1977, p. 421-422.

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and tenon joints. The key components are a box frame composed of sills, posts, plates, girts, and bridging and/or binding beams; above the house frame itself is a roof constituting a separate structural system. Typically, the framing members—corner posts, floor joists, girts and beams—were meant to be exposed, and were sometimes decorated with molding that was either carved by hand or wrought by a molding plane.<sup>26</sup>

This type of construction was brought first to the Massachusetts Bay area of New England by English settlers in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Heavy timber frame, or post and beam, construction had been used in 16<sup>th</sup> century East Anglia, and it was only natural for New England colonists to use the same building methods in the New World with which they had been familiar in their native land.

The presence of a timber frame characterized all frame houses in America until the advent of the balloon frame in the nineteenth century, which came to most places in New Jersey in the 1850s at roughly the same time as the Italianate style. The balloon frame was composed of dimensional lumber (e.g. 2x4s and 2x6s), not timbers, hence it was not a “timber” frame. All frame building in New Jersey (and elsewhere) before the 1850s—for about 200 years—had a timber frame. In common parlance many of these structural systems have been loosely referred to as “heavy” timber frames, to distinguish them from “light” balloon frames.

The techniques of building timber frames were not static across the two centuries. Methods evolved, in part to make erection of buildings simpler, faster, and cheaper, and in part because stylistic concerns demanded that the old ways which originally prevailed be abandoned. Generally, this evolution followed a course of a progressive lightening of the members themselves together with a simplification of their joinery. It is usually possible, even through casual inspection, to distinguish between early and late timber frames; with a more careful inspection it is sometimes possible to distinguish between “middle” and “late” frames.

As typically defined, the term “heavy timber frame” denotes only those frames that survive, generally speaking, from the “first period” of timber framing in New Jersey, a period that covers the 17<sup>th</sup> through the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. A more strict definition would include only those timber framed buildings with a summer beam. However, within the context of those houses which survive in Cape May County, the term is more broadly used to denote those heavy timber frame buildings with *exposed* framing members, held with pegged mortise and tenon joints, as found in Cape May County from ca. 1695 to ca. 1845.

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<sup>26</sup> The author wishes to acknowledge the contributions of Robert Craig, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist with the NJ State Historic Preservation Office, for his comments regarding the history and evolution of heavy timber frame construction.

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**Continuation Sheet**  
Section number 8 Page 6

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, New Jersey  
(criterion C continued)

The earliest examples of heavy timber frame construction in the United States are found in the Massachusetts Bay area of New England. Settled in the 1620s and 1630s by predominantly English religious dissenters, the Massachusetts Bay area contains more than three hundred extant examples that range in date from ca. 1640 to ca. 1750. These buildings were extensively studied by Abbott Lowell Cummings in the 1970s and he eventually published a well documented and heavily illustrated book about them entitled The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay: 1625-1725 (Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press, 1979). This groundbreaking volume marked the first intensive level analysis of this construction type in the country, and set the standard for bringing together primary sources with physical evidence to document the derivational heritage, evolution, and eventual demise of a construction method. In 1990, 113 heavy timber frame structures in the Massachusetts Bay area were also recognized with a thematic nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>27</sup>

As Massachusetts Bay area colonists migrated to other parts of the eastern seaboard in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, they took their building traditions with them. In the 1640s and 1650s, they settled on Long Island, New York, many lured by the thriving whaling industry there. Long Island's heavy timber frame buildings have also been studied, but to a lesser degree than those in the Massachusetts Bay area. The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documented eight of them between the 1930s and 1980s, and those studied have construction dates ranging from ca. 1649 to ca. 1740. HABS compiled brief histories of each house, took exterior photographs and sometimes interior photographs, and prepared measured drawings of them. These houses have also been written about in several books (among them, Long Island Landmarks, published by the Society for the Preservation of Long Antiquities in 1971, and Manor Houses and Historic Homes of Long Island and Staten Island, published in 1928 and written by Harold Eberlein), but neither book deals exclusively, or in-depth, with their construction type, nor are the buildings placed within historic contexts.

From Long Island, these New Englanders (or their descendants) moved to New Jersey in the last quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, settling not only in East Jersey (including Essex, Union, and Middlesex counties), but in West Jersey as well, particularly in Salem (now Cumberland), Gloucester (now Atlantic), and Cape May counties. Those who moved to Cape May County were attracted by both the lucrative whaling industry there and the availability of large tracts of land which could be purchased relatively cheaply. More often than not, these new residents

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<sup>27</sup> *First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts Thematic Resource Nomination*, 1990. A copy of this National Register nomination is available at the NJ State Historic Preservation Office.



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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, New Jersey  
(criterion C continued)

turned to heavy timber frame construction for their dwellings, not only because of their familiarity with it, but also because of the great availability of lumber with which to build.<sup>28</sup>

Although heavy timber frame construction was once common in New Jersey, few examples remain. Because other early New Jersey settlers built with more lasting materials—the Pennsylvania-influenced Quakers with brick and the Dutch settlers with stone, for example—their buildings have survived to a larger degree than those built of wood, the latter of which were more easily lost to fire, rot, or demolition by neglect.

Because of the migration from New England to Long Island and New Jersey, there are strong physical ties between Cape May County's first period buildings (ca. 1695 to ca. 1730) and the earlier precedents built beginning ca. 1650 on Long Island and ca. 1640 in the Massachusetts Bay area and continuing until ca. 1725. Heavy timber frame buildings in all three areas have large, exposed framing members: in the Massachusetts Bay area almost all timbers were usually hewn from oak, while in Cape May County almost all upright posts were hewn from oak, while the horizontal framing members (joists, girts, plates) were often made from Atlantic white cedar, and occasionally from hard pine.

In comparison, Cape May County's heavy timber frame buildings are smaller and more humble expressions than their New England counterparts, and despite their commonalities, there are subtle differences in the way they were framed, with more obvious differences in their floor plans, their placement of stairs, the size of their chimney bays, and their choices of interior finishes.<sup>29</sup> Generally speaking, Cape May's buildings: (1) were typically comprised of a single room on the first floor with a single bedroom or garret on the upper floor and a single, shallow end wall chimney, rather than two parlors on the first floor with a large center chimney and a stair hall; (2) placed their winder stairs so they were accessed from the room they served rather than a hall or "porch;" (3) used a smaller chimney bay that usually contained one fireplace rather than two; (4) placed their lean-tos to the side rather than to the rear, and (5) used flush board walls as an interior wall finish until ca. 1820, even though boarded interior walls were superceded by the use of plaster walls beginning ca. 1730 elsewhere in the state and in New England.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> It should be noted that large stones for building were not locally available in Cape May County.

<sup>29</sup> For an in-depth discussion of these similarities and differences, consult *A Survey of the Heavy Timber Frame Buildings of Cape May County* (Joan Berkey, Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society, 2003), copies of which are available at the NJ Historical Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society, and the Cape May County Public Library.

<sup>30</sup> Joan Berkey, *A Survey of the Heavy Timber Frame Buildings of Cape May County* (Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society, 2003), p. 10-69.

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Section number 8 Page 8**

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, New Jersey  
(criterion C continued)

### **The Heavy Timber Frame Tradition in Cape May County**

The heavy timber frame buildings in Cape May County were recently the subject of an in-depth intensive level survey of 69 buildings conducted by the Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society and published under the title, *A Survey of the Heavy Timber Frame Buildings of Cape May County* (2003).<sup>31</sup> This year and a half long project marked the first time these structures were intensively studied, researched, and compared to earlier precedents and contemporaries on Long Island and in Connecticut and the Massachusetts Bay areas of New England. The survey determined that Cape May County appears to have the most extant examples of exposed heavy timber frame construction in the state, and in numbers large enough that they cannot be considered as rare survivors of this construction type.

According to the survey, the following three distinct building periods were identified in the county.

*First period buildings* are defined as those built in Cape May County between ca. 1695 and ca. 1730. They most closely resemble those heavy timber frame buildings erected earlier on Long Island (ca. 1650-ca. 1730) as well as in Connecticut and in the Massachusetts Bay area (ca. 1640-ca. 1725). These houses are generally characterized by overly large, hand-hewn framing members (between 8" and 12" in size), some of which are carved or decoratively molded, flush board interior walls or no interior wall finish at all, exposed posts that are usually heavier at their tops, exposed floor joists often chamfered or beaded on the edge, and a large chimney bay between 4.5' to 10' wide. Lamb's tongue stops were also commonly used to decorate framing members, and some of the county's first period buildings have summer beams, which were also a common element in New England construction.

No single building height or fenestration pattern prevailed in the county during this period, rather 1, 1½ and 2 stories houses were found, with both center and off-center door placement. The most typical floor plan consisted of a single room with a large fireplace and winder stair at one end, and of the 20 first period buildings surveyed, only six (6) center chimney/double parlor plan houses were identified. Although leaded glass windows may have been used on these first period buildings, none were found extant in the houses examined in this survey.

*Second period buildings* are defined as those built in the county between ca. 1730 to ca. 1780-90 and they reflect the gradual slimming of framing members that occurred as the 18<sup>th</sup> century progressed. Although corner posts were still exposed, they were usually enclosed, or "chased,"

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<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, New Jersey  
(criterion C continued)

with boards having a beaded edge on the corner. Since plaster did not come into general use until about 1820 in Cape May County, interior walls were still covered with flush boards, usually vertically sawn and planed smooth, then laid vertically on the fireplace wall and partition walls, and horizontally on the other walls. Floor joists continued to be exposed overhead; these were planed as well, and were often decorated with a beaded edge. Like the framing members, the chimney bay was also reduced in size, although the size of the fireplace opening itself remained large, running up to 6' wide in some instances. The single room floor plan continued to prevail, with no particular dominance between 1, 1½, and 2 story heights.

During this construction period, particularly in the 1760s, there was a revival, or survival, of the first period framing characteristics of gunstock or molded corner posts, summer beams, and decorative lambs tongue stops on framing members. Of the 69 buildings surveyed, six are thought to represent this revival/survival, possibly spurred by the construction in 1763 of the Seaville Friends Meeting House (#30), which has these characteristics.

*Third period buildings* are those erected between ca. 1780-90 and ca. 1845, and they represent the final phase of heavy timber framing in the county. These buildings show the continued diminishing in the size of not only the framing members, but the fireplace openings as well. Although winder stairs adjacent to the chimney continued in their popularity, this period saw the introduction of the 5-bay wide Federal style dwelling, with its center hall/double parlor plan. As a building form, though, it was rarely used in the county and single room plan houses continued to predominate. As plaster walls came into common usage ca. 1820, surprisingly, corner posts and girts were still exposed, although modestly so, and were usually faced with beaded edge boards to dress them up.

Despite the introduction of plaster walls, flush board walls and exposed joists continued to be fashionable and are found being used as late as ca. 1832 in the Jesse Gandy House in Upper Township. The latest house in the survey to have both plaster walls and exposed corner posts and girts is dated at ca. 1847 (the Stillwell Smith House, Dennis Township) and its mid-19<sup>th</sup> century interior belies its mid-18<sup>th</sup> century exterior appearance.

Lean-tos in all three construction periods were typically placed to the side, and are found with this placement as early as ca. 1695 in this nominated house and as late as the previously mentioned ca. 1847 Stillwell Smith House (Dennis Twp.).

In all three of Cape May's construction periods, no one story height predominated, and numerous examples of 1-, 1½-, and 2-story houses were examined.

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**

Cape May County, New Jersey  
(criterion C continued)

Within the context of the intensive level survey, the Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey house emerges as one of twenty first period (ca. 1695-ca. 1730) houses to be identified, and joins four other first period houses in the county with carved or molded corner and/or chimney posts having nearly identical profiles—the Thomas Leaming House (1706), the Whilldin-Miller House (ca. 1711-1718), the Garretson House (ca. 1695-ca. 1700) and the Seagrave-Stites House (ca. 1700).

Summer beams have been found in only two other first period buildings and in two second period buildings in Cape May County—the Seagraves-Stites House (longitudinal, first period, built ca. 1700), the rear portion of the Nathaniel Holmes, Sr. House (longitudinal and transverse, ca. 1700-1730), the David Johnson House (second period revival/survival, built ca. 1765), and the Richard Stites Jr. House (transverse, although now hidden under a plaster ceiling, second period revival/survival, built ca. 1765). Joists and other framing members with chamfers and lamb's tongue stops were found in several other houses during this survey, and of these the Whilldin-Miller House, the Carman-Norton House, the Seagrave-Stites House, the Garretson House, the Thomas Gandy House, and the Thomas Leaming House are dated to the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Also typical in the Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House is the lack of an interior wall finish; in Cape May County, several first and second period buildings were found in the survey to have originally had no interior wall sheathing and the backside of the clapboard, vertical boards, or shingles served as the interior finish as well.

This house is different from those on Long Island and in the Massachusetts Bay area in its use of a lean-to placed to the side, rather than to the rear as was most commonly done in those areas. Also different is its original winder stair placed on a parallel axis with the fireplace opening, rather than on a perpendicular axis within a stair hall as tradition would have dictated. Both represent a significant change in building practice from earlier precedents, and signal variants that would be followed in Cape May County for at least another century and a half.

Most perplexing with this house is the presence of vertical saw marks on some of the joists and one corner brace in the original section of the house. Stylistically, the house appears to date to ca. 1695 because its substantially sized framing members compare favorably with those in the Leaming House (built 1706), the Garretson House (built ca. 1695-1700), and the Whilldin-Miller House (built. ca. 1713-1718), all of which were identified in the recently completed intensive level survey of the county's heavy timber frame buildings.<sup>32</sup> The summer beam in the Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House, at 9" x 14", is also similar in size to those in the Mulford House (built ca. 1680 on Long Island), which measure 12" x 12.5" and are also chamfered with lamb's tongue

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<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

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Section number 8 Page 11

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**

Cape May County, New Jersey  
(criterion C continued)

stops. By contrast, and in keeping with the decrease in size of framing members over time, the summer beam in the David Johnson House, built ca. 1765 in Dennis Township, Cape May County, is 6.25" x 13.25".

The presence of saw marks on a house with such an early date suggests that the timbers were not milled in Cape May County, since the earliest known sawmill to be established there was not until the 1750s in Dennisville, Dennis Township. According to Mr. Warren Adams of the Cumberland County Historical Society's Lummis Library, there was a sawmill established in Bridgeton as early as 1690, and it is possible that Reeves had the lumber sawn there.

Also interesting is the use of hard yellow pine for floor joists. This is the only house examined in the previously-mentioned survey with yellow pine floor joists, and it is likely they were made from a naturally-occurring hybrid of pitch pine and pond pine (*Pinus rigida X serotina*) found only in Cape May and Cumberland Counties.<sup>33</sup>

**Significance:**

Thus, within the contexts established by the *Survey of the Heavy Timber Frame Buildings of Cape May County*, the Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House is significant under Criterion C as a well preserved example of first period heavy timber frame construction as expressed in Cape May County. With its large-dimensioned girts, plates, summer beam, and posts—most decorated with either a carved or molded post head, and chamfers ending in lamb's tongue stops—exposed joists, board and batten doors, and rafters notched for roof lath, the original section of the house has all of the characteristics that typify this period of construction in Cape May County. Its floor plan, with a single parlor and side lean-to, was also typical for the county's heavy timber frame houses, and was used in the county from its earliest settlement in the 1690s until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Among the twenty extant examples of first period heavy timber frame houses in Cape May County identified in the intensive level survey, the Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House is the best preserved and least altered. Of the other nineteen examples, most have had their original chimneys removed or re-worked, their framing members cut back or covered with modern materials, their original doors removed and replaced, and their flush board walls removed or plastered over. The Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey retains a high degree of integrity in terms of historic fabric, having all of its original, exposed framing members and most of its original ca. 1695

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<sup>33</sup> Elbert Little, Jr., Silas Little, and Warren T. Doolittle, Natural Hybrids Among Pond, Loblolly, and Pitch Pines, U.S. Forest Research Paper NE-67, 1967.

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, New Jersey  
(criterion C continued)

exterior and interior doors with hand-wrought hardware. As such, it is significant as the first period house in Cape May County that most closely resembles the earlier heavy timber frame buildings erected on Long Island and in the Massachusetts Bay area of New England, and that most clearly conveys this architectural heritage.

Although the original 1-story lean-to was raised to 2-stories about 1770, and the interior was modestly "updated" with flush board and plaster walls in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, those alterations have also become historic in their own right. Also historic is the ca. 1800 addition to the north, which with its smaller dimensioned framing members, reflects the gradual slimming of building timbers as the practice of heavy timber framing progressed into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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Cape May County, NJ

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**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, New Jersey

**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary comprises block 559, lot 12 as shown on the Upper Township, Cape May County tax map.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property is the one with which it has been associated since it was moved to this location in 1962.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Photographs**

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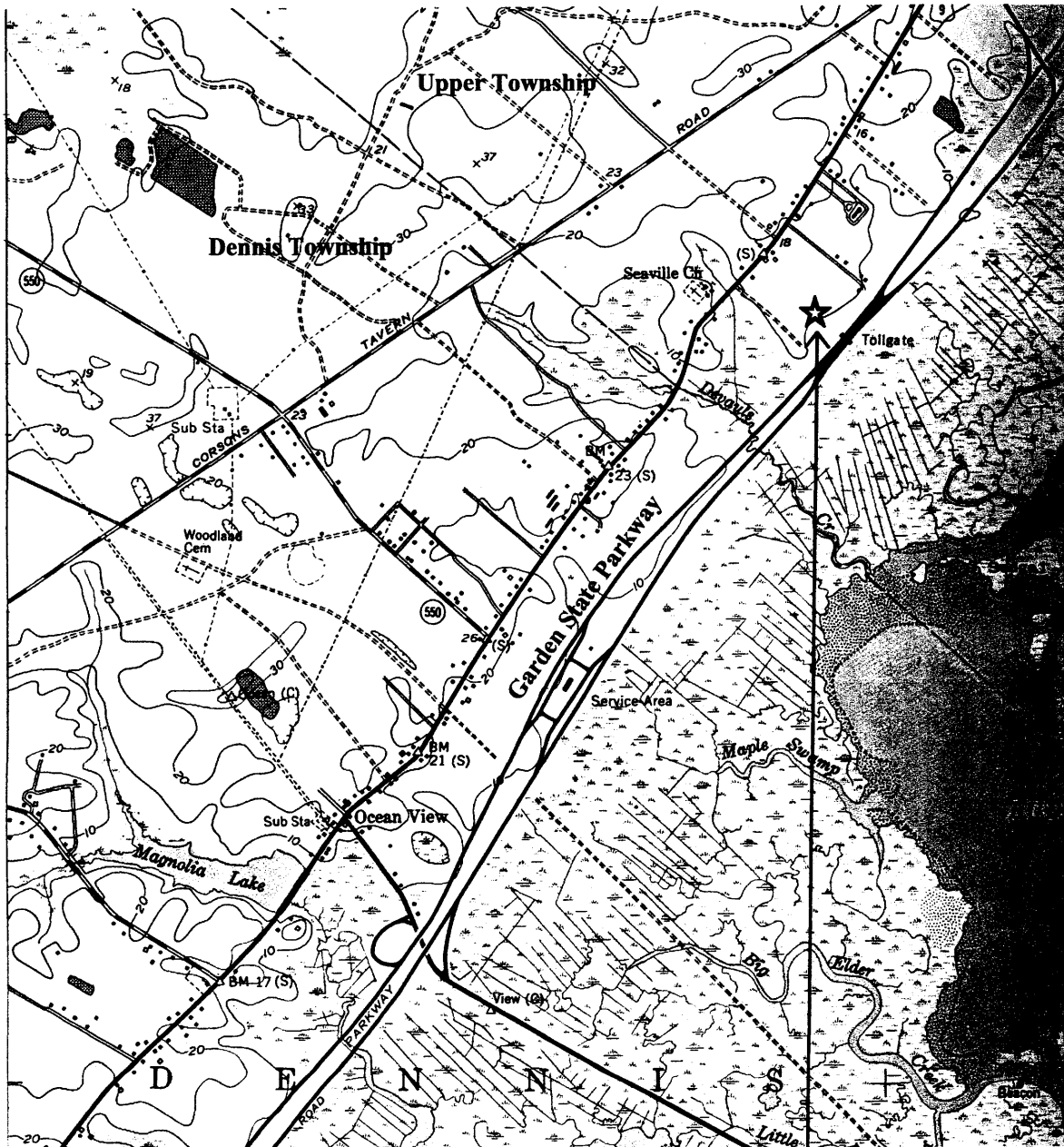
**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Cape May County, New Jersey

Typical Information for All Photographs

1. Name of Property: Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House
2. County and State: Cape May County, New Jersey
3. Photographer: Joan Berkey
4. Date of Photograph: January 2004
5. Location of Negatives: Joan Berkey  
1003 Bartlett Avenue  
Linwood, NJ 08221

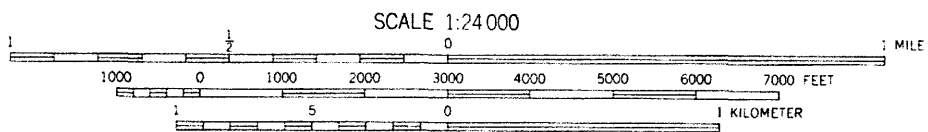
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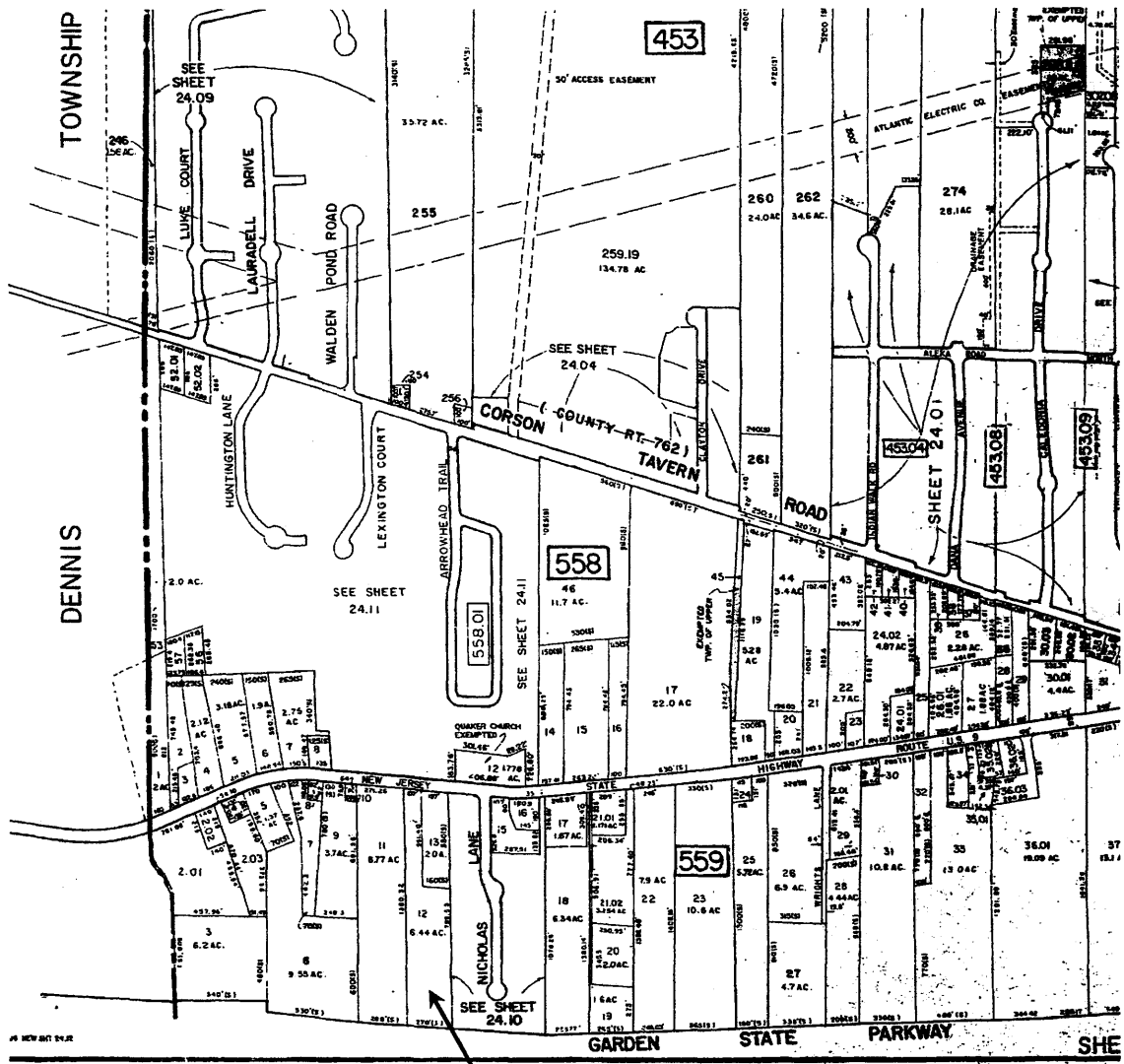
1. Exterior view showing setting and streetscape, view northeast; the lane which leads back to the house is in front of the white fence seen in the center of the photograph
2. Exterior showing house's setting: façade (east elevation) and south (side) elevations; looking northeast
3. Exterior: façade (east elevation) and south (side) elevations; looking northeast
4. Exterior: north (side) elevation and rear (east) elevation; looking southwest
5. Exterior: rear (east) elevation, looking almost west
6. Interior: parlor in ca. 1695 section, view showing fireplace, summer beam, and chimney girt; looking northeast
7. Interior: parlor in ca. 1695 section; looking southeast
8. Interior: dining room in ca. 1695 section; looking southeast
9. Interior: dining room in ca. 1695 section; looking northwest
10. Interior: sitting room in ca. 1800 section; looking southwest
11. Interior: second floor hallway in ca. 1695 section; looking northeast
12. Interior: bedroom (#5) in ca. 1695 section; looking northwest
13. Interior: bedroom (#6) in ca. 1695 section; looking northwest
14. Interior: bedroom (#7) added ca. 1770 over ca. 1695 lean-to; looking southwest
15. Interior: bedroom (#8) in ca. 1800 section; looking southwest
16. Interior: kitchen (#4) in modern addition; looking southeast
17. Interior: master bathroom (#10) in 1967 addition; looking almost south
18. Interior: bathroom (#11) in 1967 addition; looking southeast
19. Exterior of garage/barn (built in 1971), non-contributing; looking northeast
20. Exterior of ca. 1795 Corson House, non-contributing; looking northwest



**USGS Map  
Sea Isle Quad**

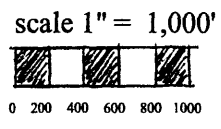
partial photocopy  
showing the location of the  
Reeves-Iszard Godfrey House

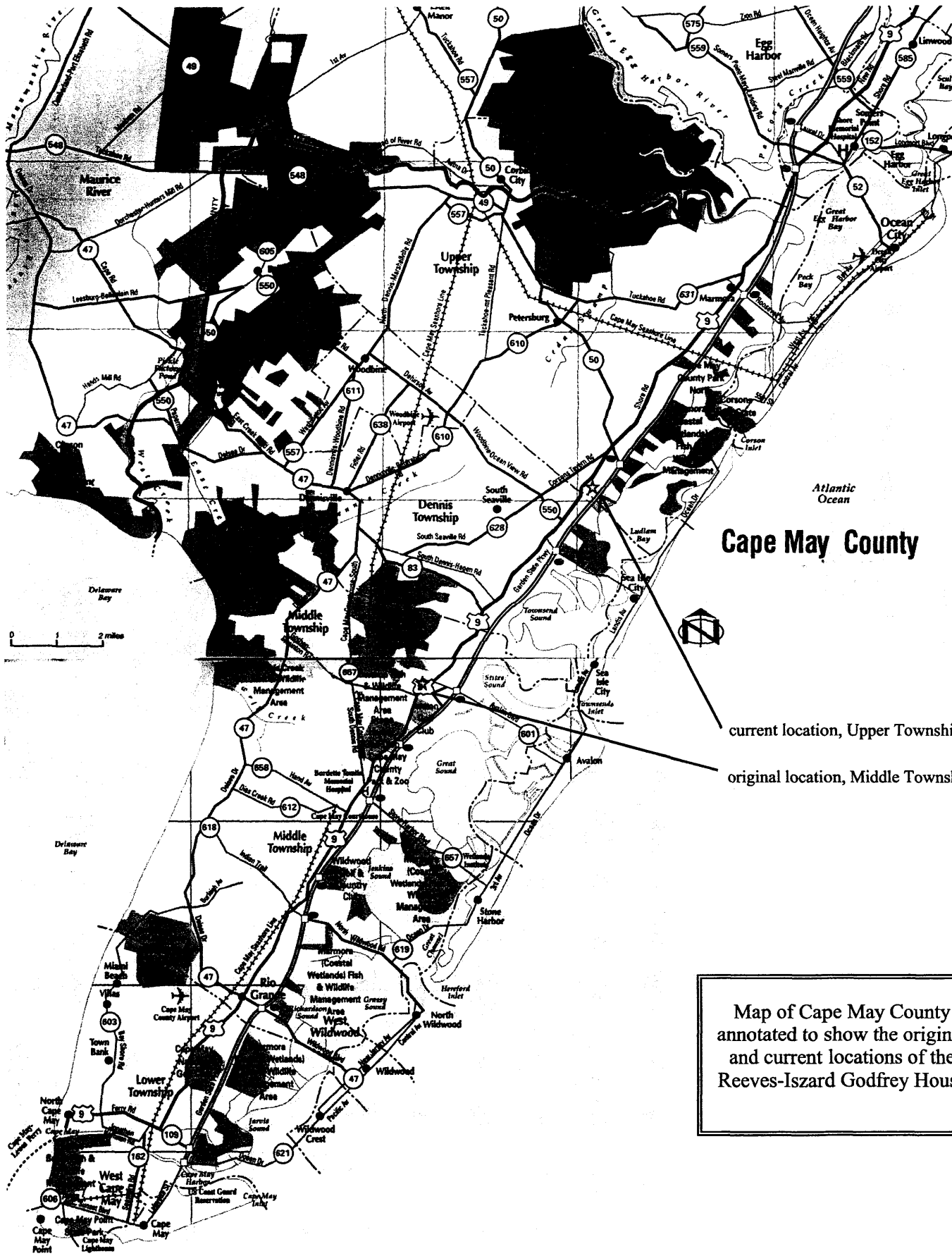




true north  
 N → narrative north

**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
 Upper Township, Cape May County, NJ  
**TAX MAP ANNOTATED TO SHOW LOCATION**  
 block 559, lot 12





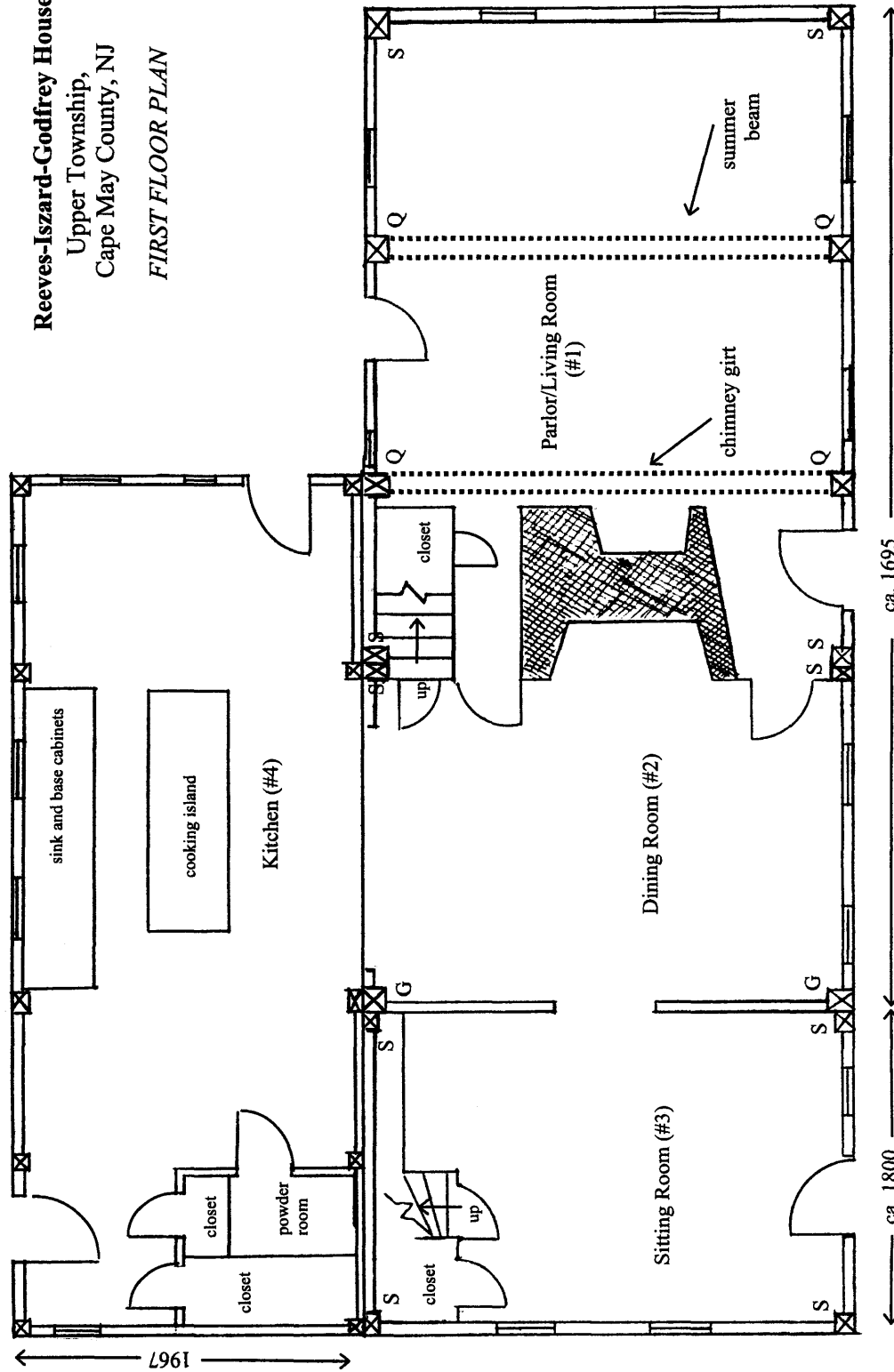
# Cape May County

current location, Upper Township  
 original location, Middle Township

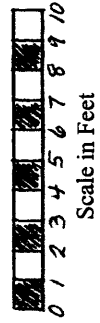
Map of Cape May County annotated to show the original and current locations of the Reeves-Iszard Godfrey House

**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
 Upper Township,  
 Cape May County, NJ

**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

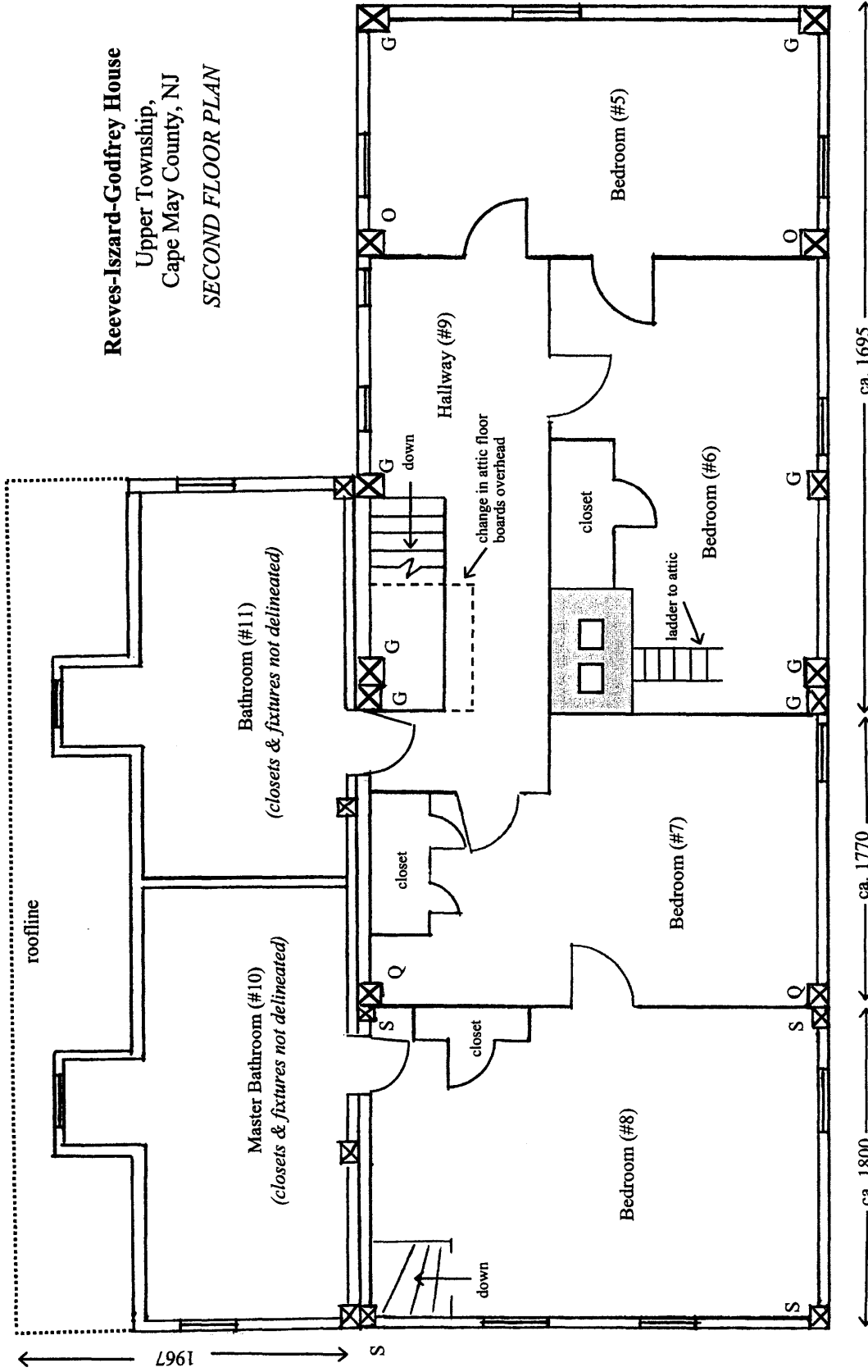


corner post  
 S = straight post  
 Q = molded post, quarter round  
 G = gunstock post



North

**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
 Upper Township,  
 Cape May County, NJ  
**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**



	corner post
	S = straight post
	Q = molded post, quarter round
	G = gunstock post
	O = molded post, ogee profile

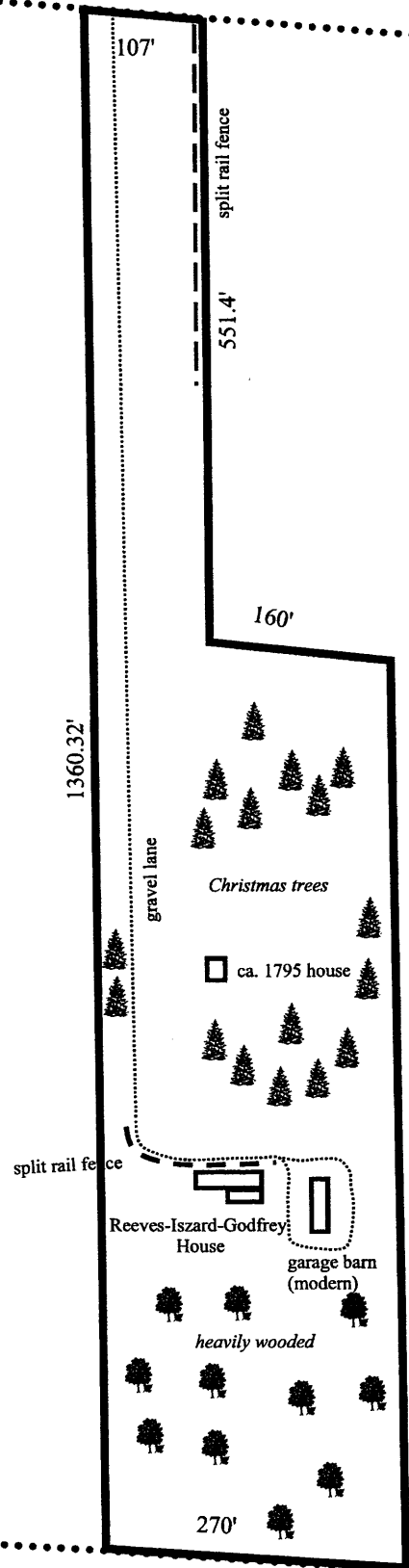
Scale in Feet

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

North

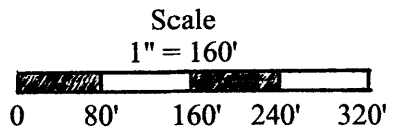
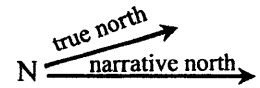


U.S. Route 9



**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Upper Township,  
Cape May County, NJ

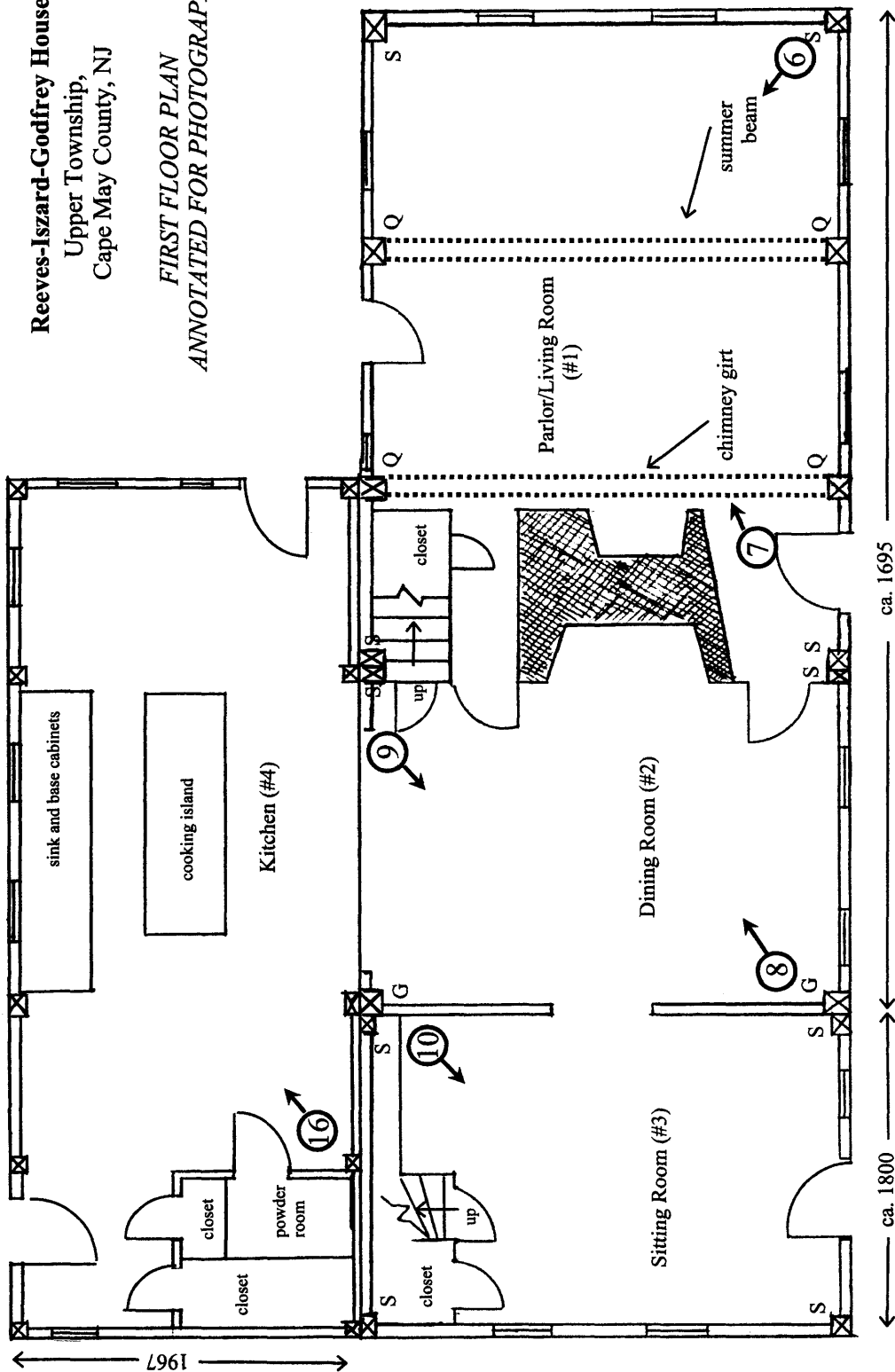
*SITE PLAN*



Garden State Parkway

**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
 Upper Township,  
 Cape May County, NJ

**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**  
 ANNOTATED FOR PHOTOGRAPHS



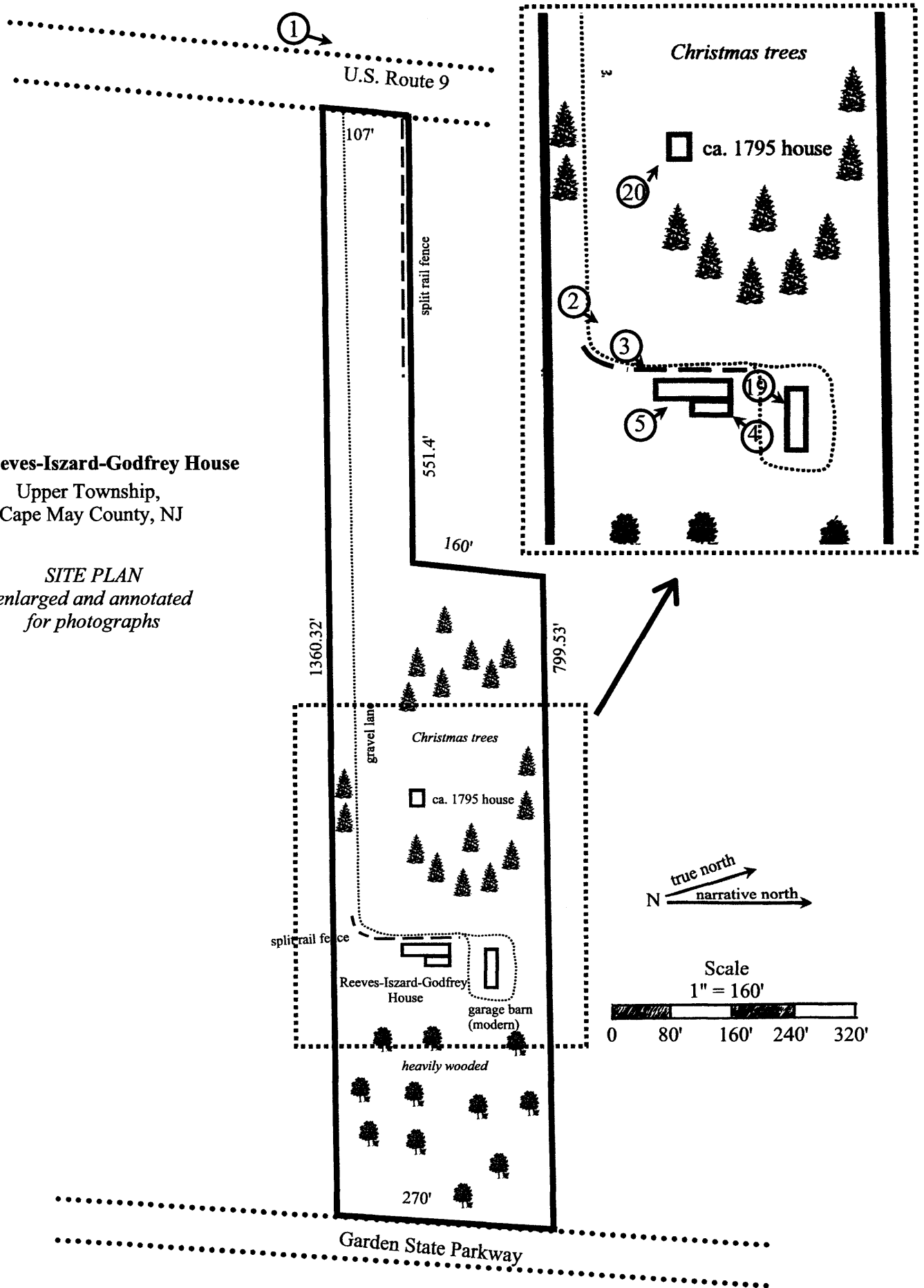
corner post  
 S = straight post  
 Q = molded post, quarter round  
 G = gunstock post





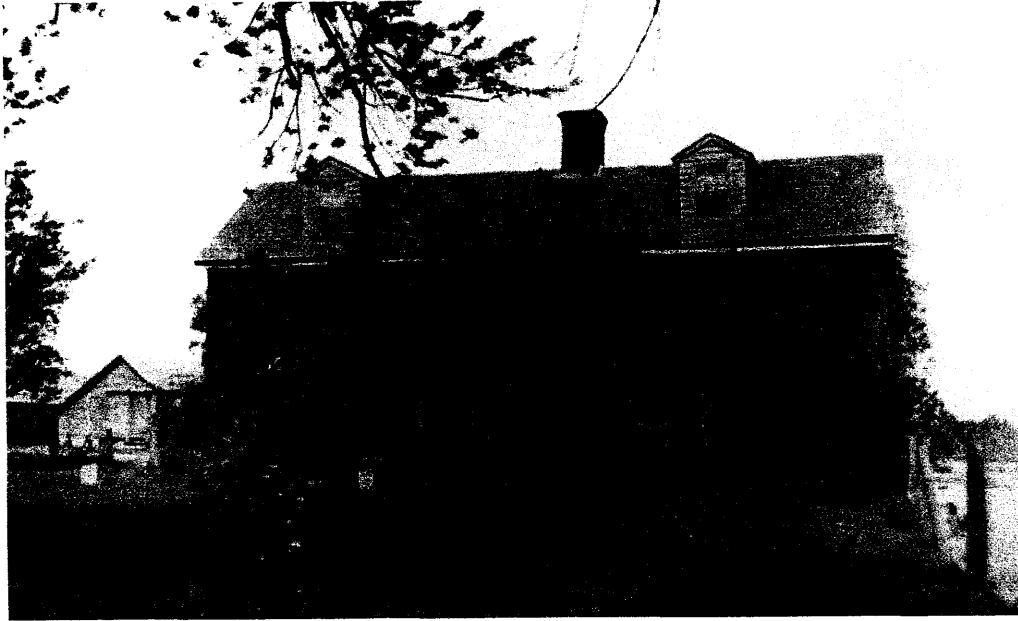
**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House**  
Upper Township,  
Cape May County, NJ

*SITE PLAN*  
*enlarged and annotated*  
*for photographs*



## Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House

### SUPPLEMENTAL AND HISTORIC IMAGES



**Figure 1: ca. 1910 photograph taken at the house's original location**

View almost west.  
[Lars deLagerberg, New Jersey Architecture: Colonial and Federal (Springfield, MA: Walter Whittum, Inc., 1956)]



**Figure 2: ca. 1910 photograph, view southwest**

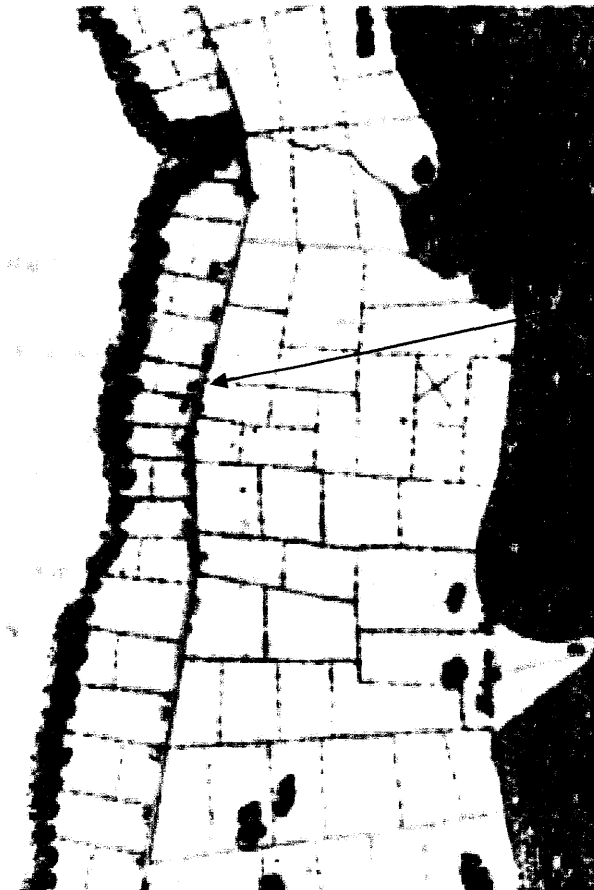
Note the various outbuildings to the rear.  
[deLagerberg]



**Figure 3: ca. 1910 photograph, view northwest**

This view shows the ca. 1820 rear lean-to which had been detached ca. 1850-70 from the main block then connected via a 2-story Victorian addition.

[deLagerberg]



**Figure 4: 1842 topographical map showing the house at its original location**

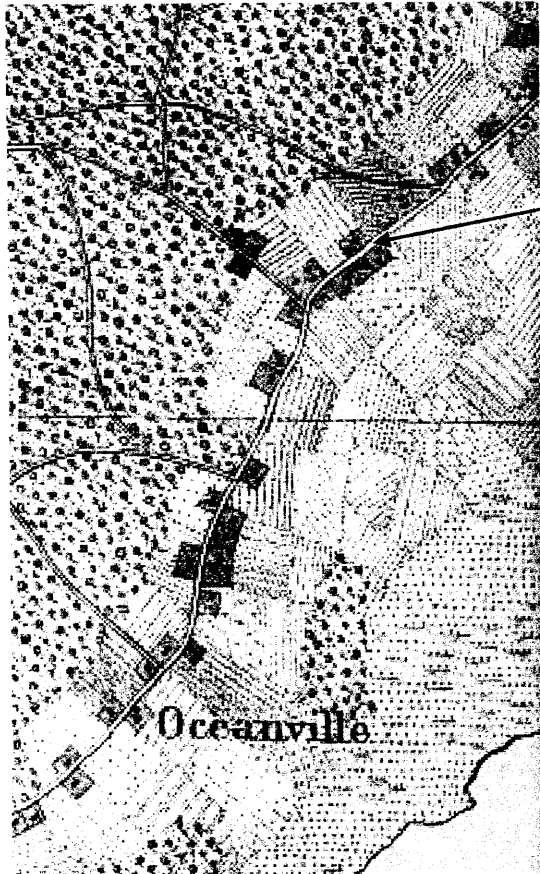


Figure 5: 1856 map showing the house at its original location

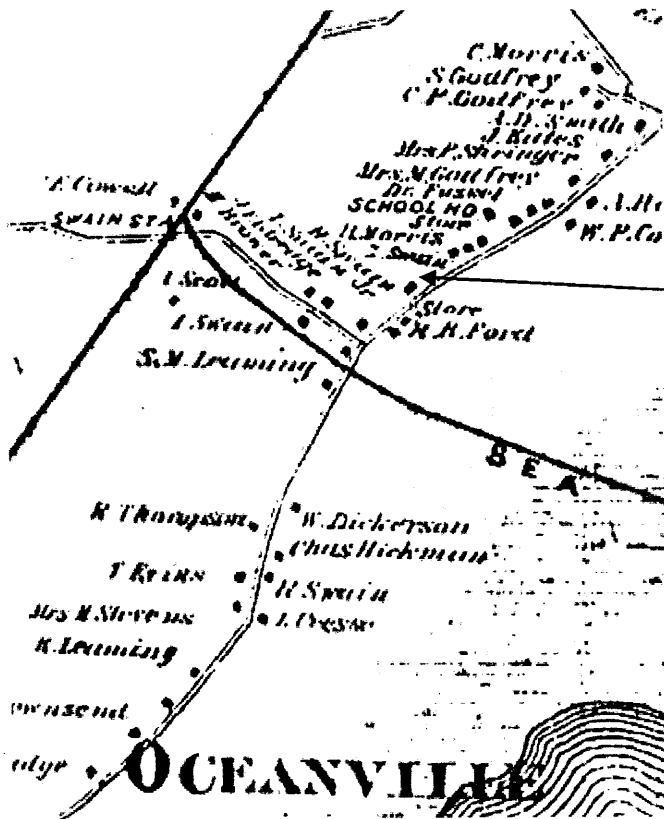
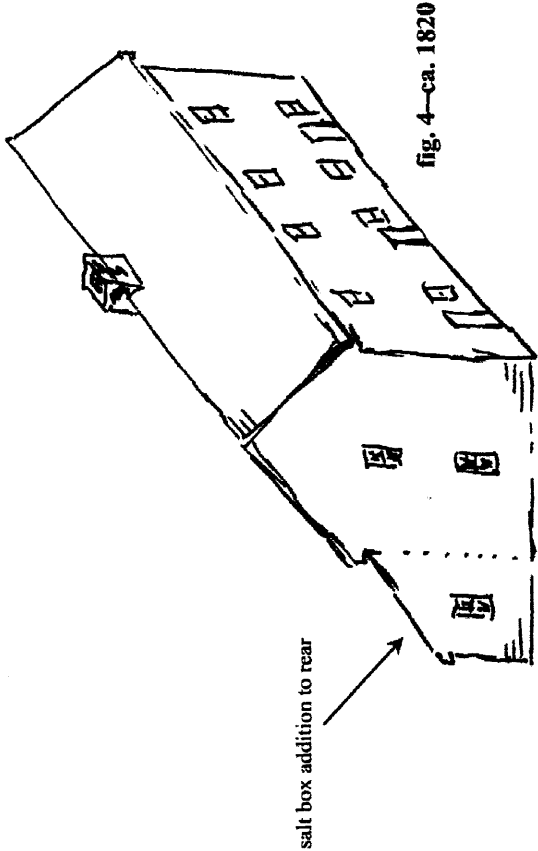
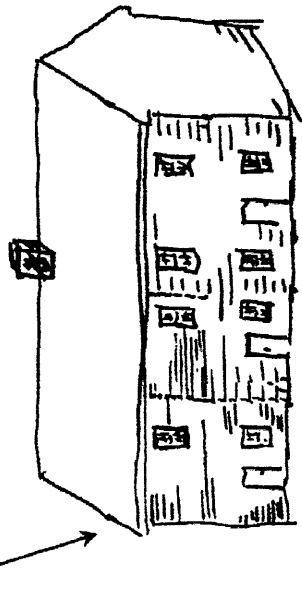
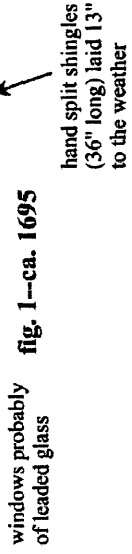
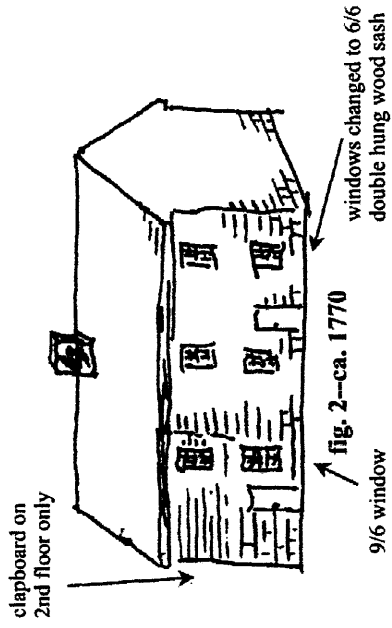


Figure 6: 1872 Beers map showing the house at its original location

At the time, the house was owned by Henry Swain.

**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House  
evolution from ca. 1695 to ca. 1820\***



\*adapted from perspectives prepared by owner



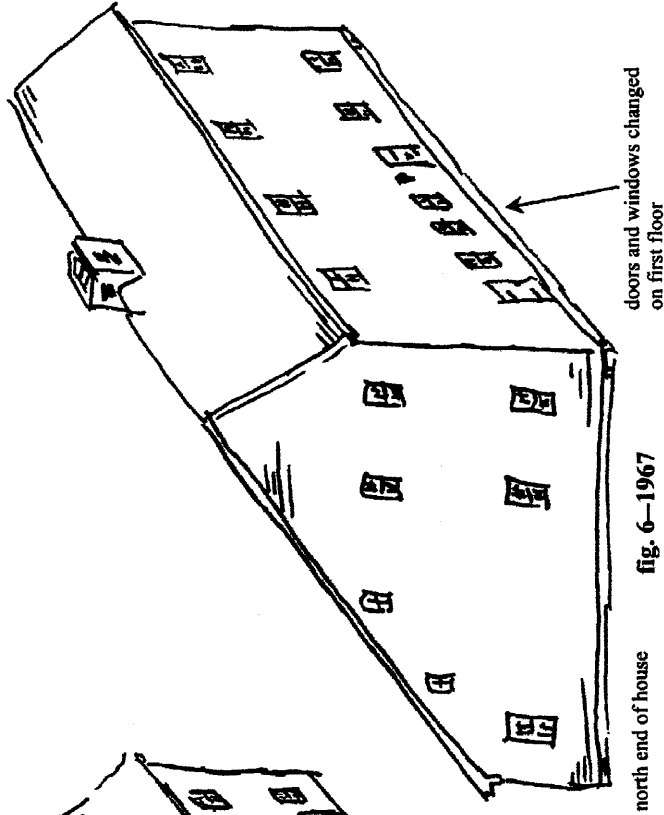


fig. 6-1967

house moved to Seaville, Upper Twp.,  
Dec. 17 & 18, 1962  
and rear saltbox addition built in 1967

**Reeves-Iszard-Godfrey House  
evolution from ca. 1870 to ca. 1967\***

\*adapted from perspectives prepared by owner

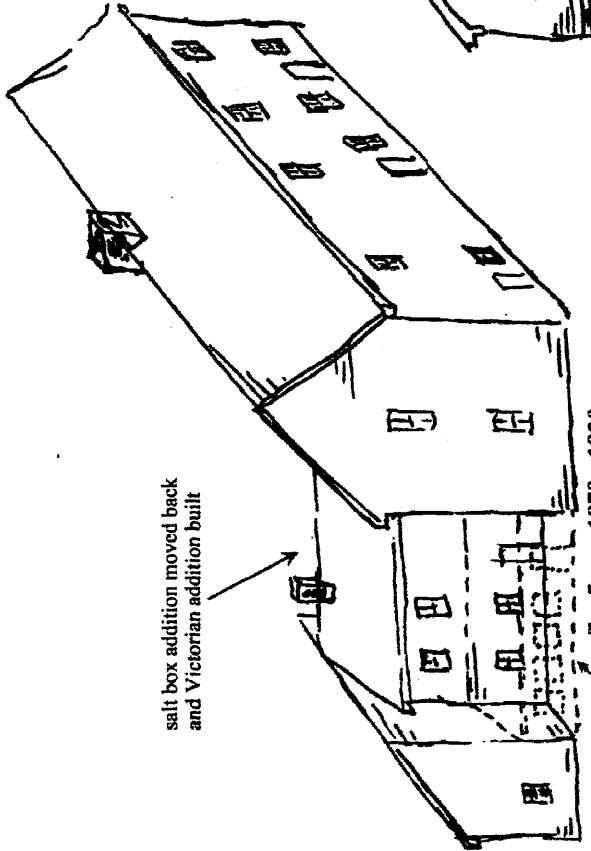


fig. 5-ca. 1870 - 1930

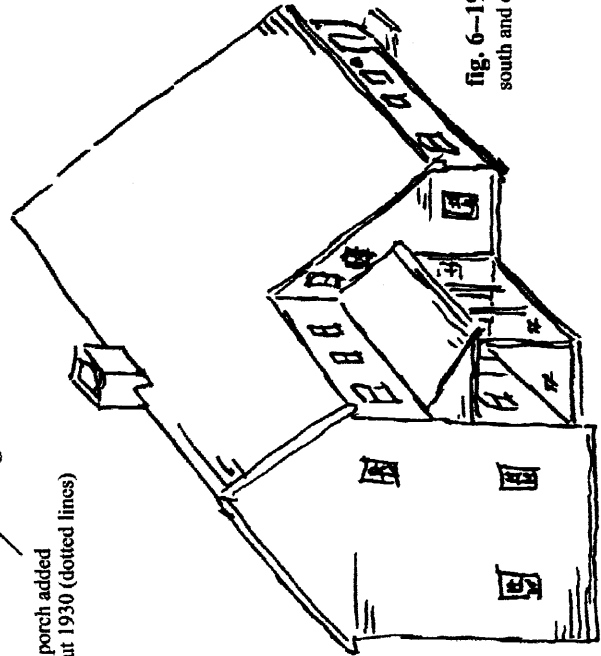


fig. 6-1967

south and east (rear) elevations

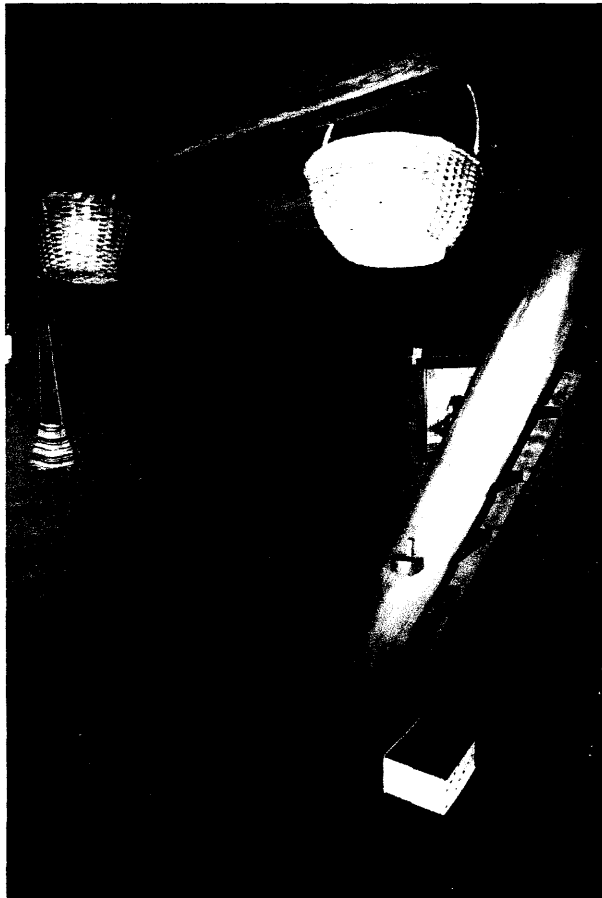


**Figure 7 (left): close-up of the chimney post and girt in the ca. 1695 parlor**

Both the post and the girt are incised with the Roman numeral II. Note the chamfer ending in a lamb's tongue stop on the girt.

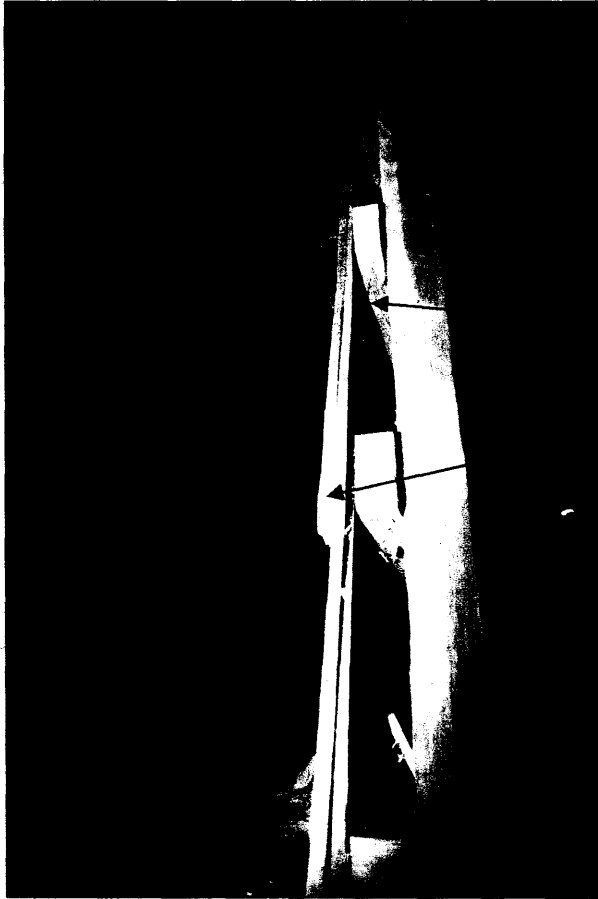
**Figure 8 (below): 18th century lantern**

This oil lantern, now electrified, was found in the attic.



**Figure 9: close-up showing the second floor framing in the ca. 1695 section**

The ladder is a replication of the original that was stolen before the present owners took possession of the house. The corner brace seen behind the closer one represents the bedroom added over the original lean-to ca. 1770. View northwest.



**Figure 10: original gable end in ca. 1695 section**

This view, looking almost east, shows the original ca. 1695 gable end *in situ* with the studs, nailers for the 3' long exterior shingles, and some of the exterior shingles intact. It was left in place when the adjoining 1-story lean-to was raised to two stories tall ca. 1770.

Nailers

Shingles

**Figure 11 (below): close-up of the carved corner post in the ca. 1695 section, north bedroom**

The profile seen here is almost identical to that found in the Thomas Leaming House (built in 1706), sited a few miles to the south of the house's original location.





**Figure 12: rear (east) parlor door in ca. 1695 section, showing the flush board partition wall (covered with wallpaper) that ran the length of the transverse summer beam.**

Photo taken in 1962 by the current owners; view southeast.



**Figure 13: bedroom (#8) in 1962**

This photo shows how the walls and ceiling in the bedroom of the ca. 1800 addition were covered with lath, but were never plastered. Instead, the lath was covered with wallpaper. View northwest.



**Figure 14: ca. 1962 photograph showing the original ladder to the attic**

Note also the extensive ivy vines growing inside the house before it was moved, and the paint that appears on the backsides of the original cedar shingles.



**Figure 15: the ivy-covered house at its original site, ca. 1962**

This view shows the front door to the oldest section nearly overgrown with ivy. Note the original 3' long shingles.