

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

FEB 21 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Bay Front Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location roughly bounded by Shore Rd., George,

street & number Decatur & Bay Avenues

NA not for publication

city, town Somers Point

vicinity

state New Jersey

code NJ

034

county Atlantic

code 001

zip code 08244

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
189	42	buildings
1	2	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
191	44	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Allen Schuch

02/09/89

Signature of certifying official

Date

Asst. Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/ Deputy SHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. 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:)

Alvares Byer

Entered in the National Register

3/23/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/hotelRECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreationRECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Stick/Eastlakefoundation BRICKBungalow/ Craftsmanwalls WOODOTHER/ Cottageroof ASPHALTother _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Bay Front Historic District includes an approximately triangular-shaped area of 82 acres in Somers Point, New Jersey, a mainland town in southern Atlantic County. Ten streets and two alleys run in a gently sloping course from Shore Road to Bay Avenue. The latter runs parallel to the shoreline of Egg Harbor Bay and many of the properties on its east side extend to the waterfront. The district contains a total of 231 buildings (42 or 18% are non-contributing), most of which are private residences built between 1890 and 1935. The largest buildings in the district are on Bay Avenue and include hotels, houses, and a movie theater dating from the district's period of significance as well as modern commercial marine businesses. Architectural styles within the area include popular adaptations of Stick, Eastlake, Bungalow, and Gothic Revival, and a large percentage of the houses fall into the cottage category. A large majority of the buildings are wood, but modern siding now covers many exteriors. The standard of workmanship is high, and even the smallest houses have moulded wood lintels, wooden porch balustrades, and other details rarely seen in post-World War II construction. Maintenance throughout the district is good, and the private residences retain a high degree of integrity. Alterations are more pronounced on the larger commercial buildings. The buildings within the district are primarily a compact group of modest-sized houses that conveys the feeling and atmosphere of a late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century seaside community.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G NA

Areas of Significance (enter categories from Instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1890-1935

Significant Dates

NA

Cultural affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect Builder

Steelman, Somers S.

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

SUMMARY SIGNIFICANCE

The Bay Front Historic District in Somers Point, New Jersey, is significant under criterion A because of its importance in the development of the town of Somers Point and South Jersey as a resort area. From the time that its first settlers arrived, residents of the town have fished, built boats, and engaged in maritime trades. Toward the end of the nineteenth century and following the development of Atlantic City, Somers Point, like other shore towns, began to attract tourists who had discovered the joys of recreational swimming, sailing, and fishing. Although the town is not on the ocean, its location on Great Egg Harbor Bay provides a sheltered area for water sports. The arrival of the railroad in 1880 made Somers Point accessible to inland residents, although many preferred the oceanfront resorts on Absecon Island. Construction of houses accelerated in the Bay Front Historic District around the turn of the century when new trolley services no longer limited the luxury of a seaside visit to the rich and fashionable. The Bay Front Historic District is also significant under Criterion C because it is a cohesive group of buildings built in the styles and types that were popular in resort areas between 1890 and 1935. Although there are a some large houses and former hotels overlooking the bay and a few buildings that once served commercial purposes, most of the buildings are houses in cottage, bungalow, and vernacular modes typical of seaside colonies. Nowhere else in Atlantic County is there a similar group of modest-sized cottages in good condition retaining their original fabric to such a large degree.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Andrew, Russell M. *Railroading in Atlantic County, New Jersey*. Atlantic County Historical Society, 1981.

Atlantic County Historical Society, Somers Point, New Jersey, Collection of photographs, post cards, and undated newspaper clippings.

Beers Map of Atlantic County, 1872

Business Review of the County of Burlington, Atlantic and Gloucester, New Jersey. Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Publishing Co., 1981

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file NPS: NA

- 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

Specific repository

Somers Point Historical Society
Atlantic County Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 82 acres

USGS quad Ocean City

UTM References

A 118 15131418180 4 8 15 11 151 50
 Zone Easting Northing
 C 118 15131513120 4 8 15 11 121 30
 E 118 15131416120 4 3 15 10 191 60

B 118 15131511160 4 8 15 11 141 00
 Zone Easting Northing
 D 118 15131417140 4 13 15 0 8 140

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Bay Front Historic District Boundaries are shown by a heavy dotted line on the accompanying map based on the Atlantic County tax map. The scale of the accompanying map is 1" = 200'. The district boundaries follow the curb lines and rear property lines as noted on the map. The district boundaries are roughly Egg Harbor Bay on the east, Decatur Avenue on the north, George Avenue on the south and the Shore Road Historic District on the west. See Continuation Sheet for Details

see continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The district boundaries were selected to include the buildings that fit within the period of significance, 1890-1935, and which form a cohesive group. To the west of the district is the Shore Road Historic District which is significant for its mixed commercial and residential aspect over a much longer period of time. To the north of the district is a large modern hospital complex and other new buildings. The waters of Egg Harbor Bay form a natural boundary to the east. At the south end of the boundary which is much narrower than the north end are several large new commercial buildings and the southern boundary of the town of Somers Point.

see continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Bay Front Historic District in Somers Point is within a triangular shaped area between Shore Road and Egg Harbor Bay. The tidal salt water of the bay forms the eastern boundary of the district and creates its seaside atmosphere. The town of Somers Point is at the southern end of Shore Road, one of Atlantic County's oldest mainland routes. The town's shoreline is on Egg Harbor Bay which lies at the mouth of the Great Egg Harbor River between Absecon Island on the Atlantic Ocean and the mainland. From colonial times until the late nineteenth century the bay provided a water thoroughfare and a livelihood for local residents engaged in the maritime trades. As resorts developed along the south Jersey shore the recreational potential of the bay attracted tourists and permanent residents. Today, as in the past, it is the bay with its fishing, boating, and swimming that attracts people to the Bay Front Historic District.

Shore Road on the west side of the district is a busy street with many local businesses. The small, quiet residential streets of the Bay Front Historic District gently slope down to the bay from the west side of Shore Road. Private residences line these one-block long parallel streets. Bay Avenue, on which there are more businesses than the other streets, runs in a generally north-south direction parallel with the shore line of Egg Harbor Bay. The largest businesses on Bay Avenue are marinas and yacht brokers which require waterfront locations. The Somers Point public beach with a long pier extending out into the bay is also on Bay Avenue. The three streets at the north end of the district all have a short section on the east side of Bay Avenue. Here some of the houses face the bay and all have a view of the water.

The view of Egg Harbor Bay, Absecon Island, and the towns of Ocean City and Longport are important features of the Bay Front Historic District. From all the residential streets a vista extends across the expanse of Egg Harbor Bay with its fishing and pleasure boats. In the distance the drawbridge that connects Longport to Ocean City periodically opens and closes. Across Egg Harbor Bay to the south another bridge crosses the Rainbow Islands to Ocean City. The commercial section of Shore Road and the newer housing developments of Somers Point are just west of the district. Nevertheless, boats, seagulls, wild ducks, and the sea air create a distinctively salty atmosphere in the district.

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There are very few vacant lots on the residential streets and the houses are generally close together. Nearly every house has a front yard with some shrubbery, small trees, and flower gardens. The commercial nurseries and farms of South Jersey are famous, and Somers Point, like other small towns here, seems to have its share of talented gardeners. Nearly every house in the district has a neatly trimmed lawn and a small garden with brilliant flowers in the summer. Sidewalks on both sides of the street provide a place for pedestrians. The traffic is light on the residential streets making the area a safe one for children to play or walk to the nearby beach.

Wood is the primary construction material in the district, although aluminium, vinyl, and asbestos now cover many exteriors. Stone, brick, and concrete block also appear in some of the older buildings, and the new commercial buildings, particularly those along the waterfront, incorporate modern materials such as metal and plastic. At least 50% of the buildings are now white, and many of them have probably always been this color. However, property owners are beginning to paint some of the older houses in Victorian color schemes. Also, many owners have selected modern sidings in shades of blue, yellow, brown.

The workmanship in the district is generally of a high quality compared with today's standards. Although none of the houses are elaborate, most include more trim and finish elements than post-World War II houses. Wooden box cornices with large cornice returns finish many of the roofs; wooden frames with moulded lintels surround double hung wooden sash windows; exposed rafter ends trim the eaves; and Gothic windows with slender hoodmoulds fill the gable ends of many houses. Wood shingles and weatherboards cover many exteriors. Some of the original porches have deteriorated over the years or have undergone alterations, but others still retain their original trim. Wooden balustrades with turned or square balusters and brackets in different designs trim many porches. Fancy bargeboards trim the roof lines of a some houses.

Most of the buildings are one or two stories high. The larger buildings which are clustered along Bay Avenue are three stories. Fortunately, the large new commercial buildings are in this same waterfront location where they are less of an intrusion than they would be on the smaller residential streets. High style does not appear in

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the district, but popular versions of a variety of styles blend together to create a group of houses in similar scale and proportion.

An early twentieth century advertisement of Somers S. Steelman, a local contractor, indicates that he built many of the houses in the district. It appears that he and others used builder's plans. Elements of the Second Empire, Gothic Revival, Stick, Eastlake, Bungalow, and Foursquare styles appear in the district - often in combination with each other in the same building. The Anchorage Inn on Bay Avenue has a mansard roof in the Second Empire mode. 800 Bay Avenue, originally a hotel, is more Gothic in design with its steep cross gables and steep pitch gable roof. The large house at the south end of the district, once a club, has a mix of styles as does the large private house at 905 Bay Avenue. All of these large buildings featured verandas with trim in a mixture of Stick and Eastlake elements.

Among the older private residences, the most popular type was an ell or T-shaped house with gable roof and a few Gothic elements such as a window in the gable end. A wraparound porch with wooden balustrade, posts, and brackets generally trims this type of house in the district. The cottage, usually one story with a gable roof with its end facing the street was appropriate for a seaside community and is the dominant house type in the district. Although this same simple house form continues to be popular, most of the cottages in the Bay Front Historic District are built of wood, have porches, and incorporate wooden trim.

Cottages continued to be popular in the district well into the early twentieth century, when other styles also began to appear. There are several versions of the Foursquare with its hipped roof, hip-roofed dormers, rectangular shape and front porch. The large house at 18 New Jersey Avenue is in the Colonial Revival style which was much more popular in the nearby oceanfront resorts than it was in Somers Point. Its Palladian window, symmetry, and other features recall the classical roots of colonial architecture. Several versions of the Bungalow with its long, gently sloping roof and recessed porch are also scattered through the district.

A large majority of the buildings in the district were there during its period of significance, 1890 - 1935. There are some houses of a more recent date, but the most prominent new buildings are the large commercial buildings on the east side of Bay Avenue. They are the major visual intrusion in the district; however, their function as

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marinas and yacht sales offices is compatible with the water-oriented nature of the entire district. These large commercial buildings also partially obstruct the view of Great Egg Harbor Bay and have changed the shoreline slightly. Probably the greatest difference in the appearance of the district now and during the time it achieved significance is in the streets rather than in the buildings. The trolley line was an important feature at that time, and today there are many automobiles in the district and the traffic is very heavy on Bay Avenue.

Maintenance within the Bay Front Historic District is generally good, and there are no vacant or badly deteriorated buildings. The district is a prime waterfront site. The major threat to the district is escalating real estate prices that encourage sale of houses for demolition and redevelopment as condominiums. There have been additions and alterations to many of the buildings over the years. The major alteration has been the addition of siding, including asbestos, aluminium, and vinyl. Many porches have been enclosed to create additional living space and some houses have a small wing added at the rear or side for the same purpose. Through the efforts of local individuals and organizations many residents are now taking a new interest in the historic aspect of their houses. Restoration and conservation of wood trim as well as recent applications of Victorian paint colors are evident throughout the district. A newly-formed local historical society is encouraging renovations that are consistent with the historic fabric of the houses.

A sketch map and inventory identify all the contributing and non-contributing buildings in the district. Identification of some buildings as key (K on the map) indicates that they are among the most important contributors to the significance of the district. There are a total of 231 buildings in the district. Of the total 42 or 18% are non-contributing. If the outbuildings are not considered, there are a total of 193 major buildings of which 32 or 16.5% are non-contributing. Most of the non-contributing buildings are in that category because they date from after the period of significance, although a few are older buildings that have undergone irreversible alterations. Ten of the thirty-eight outbuildings in the district are non-contributing. Most of the outbuildings are garages built during the 1920s and 1930s when automobile ownership was growing rapidly in America. One privy in the district at 905 Bay Avenue is unusual because it is a miniature version of its main house and is in excellent original condition.

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The one contributing site in the district is the public beach which enhances the waterfront section of the district. Within it is the district's one contributing object, a war memorial that also commemorates a small fort. Two non-contributing sites in the district are a parking lot and an open modern boat yard. The level of integrity is high in the private residences; it is not as good on large former hotel buildings on Bay Avenue. However, even in these buildings the main characteristics of the buildings, including fenestration, remain.

The district is distinct from its surroundings in two ways. First, new development including a major hospital, condominiums, and modern restaurants adjoin the district on both the north and the south. Second, the Shore Road Historic District which includes many older buildings and a large number of commercial buildings abuts the Bay Front District on the west. The Bay Front Historic District is a unique group of buildings not only in Somers Point but in Atlantic County. There has been no archaeological testing in the area. Reputedly there was a small fort near the present public beach which is the major open space within the district. It might warrant further archaeological investigation. An historic sites survey of North Atlantic County in 1986 identified above ground resources only. The wetlands within the district have been disturbed by the construction of bulkheads, docks, and buildings.

Among the key buildings the Anchorage Inn at the intersection of Delaware and Bay Avenues is a three story wood frame hotel building in Second Empire style. Gable-roofed dormers project from its shingle-covered mansard roof, and its six bay wide facade faces Egg Harbor Bay. Two-over-two double-hung windows fill the openings and a broad veranda wraps around the front and side. On the opposite side of the street, the large three and a half story wooden building at 800 Bay Avenue, built in about 1910, was once the Grand View Hotel. A hip and gable roof with steep cross gables tops this irregularly shaped building. A decorative collar beam, king post, and other trim fill the gable peaks. A veranda, now partially enclosed, wraps around from the street side to the water side of the building.

Four smaller two story cottages with gable roofs also stand on the east side of the 800 block of Bay Avenue. These two-bay wide houses have decorative collar beam trim in the gable ends (it is missing from two) and one story porches on the front. All were built at a slight angle to the street and had rear porches facing the bay. A similar group of four houses at 915-921 Bay Avenue are on the opposite side of

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the street and were built with two-story porches on their facades which face the bay. 905 Bay Avenue is one of the largest private residences in the district. It is a two and a half story house with jerkin head roof. The facade is four bays wide and two hip-roofed dormers face the street. A spacious hip roofed porch with spindle frieze and wooden balustrade wraps around three sides of the house. A privy at the rear is a miniature of the house with jerkin head roof, small cupola, and wood siding. A large bungalow stands at 825 Bay Avenue, and dates from about 1910. The first floor of the house is stone, and wood shingles cover the upper levels. The sloping gable roof covers a recessed porch on the first floor and opens into another smaller porch on the second floor.

Other buildings in the district are considered key because they are particularly good examples of a style or type. The John Monroe Steelman House at 28 Delaware Avenue is an excellent example of the ell-shaped vernacular house with Gothic features that appear throughout the district. Built in 1892, it represents the early phase of development. The house is two and half stories high with a gable roof. The end of the gable faces the street, is covered with wood shingles and contains a small Gothic window. Wood clapboards cover the exterior of the house below the eave line. A one-story hip-roofed porch wraps around the facade and one side. A balustrade, brackets and frieze in stick style trim the porch. Next door at 24 Delaware Avenue another house of similar size and shape also has wood clapboards and shingles on its exterior.

"San Souci", the cottage at 28 Anne Street, dates from just after the turn of the century and was pictured in an early twentieth century photographic booklet about Somers Point. It is one and a half stories with a hipped roof that extends beyond the house on two sides to form the roof of a wraparound porch. Wood clapboards cover the exterior. 29 Gibbs Avenue is an excellent unaltered example of the type of cottage that appears most frequently in the district. The end of the gable roof on this one and a half story house faces the street and a one story, shed-roof porch crosses the facade. Wood clapboards cover the exterior and the windows are six over one double hung sash. A wooden garage with two sets of double doors stands behind the house.

A complete inventory of all buildings in the district follows:

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All buildings, sites, and structures are contributing unless otherwise noted

ANCHORAGE LANE - This was called Echo Lane in the 1930s

- 12: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, gable roof, end to street, yellow asbestos siding.
- 16: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1935. Cottage, 1 story, gable roof with end to street, exposed rafter ends, enclosed porch across facade.
- 20: Single family detached dwelling. Cottage. gable roof, tan asbestos siding.
- 26: Single family detached dwelling. Cottage. gable roof, 1 story, 1/1 windows, wood shingles.
- 30: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. 2 story, hipped roof, wood clapboard siding, 2 bays wide, brick foundation, hip roofed porch on facade with heavy turned posts and wood balustrade, 2/2 windows; on the 1911, 1923 and 1930 atlases.
Contributing Garage on side.
- 33: Non-Contributing. 1 and 2 story single detached dwelling, many alterations and little original fabric remaining.
- 35: Non-Contributing. modern, 1 story dwelling,
- 38: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. small cottage, gable roof, white aluminium siding.
- 45: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. Cottage. jerkin head roof, shed roof dormer, porch on side, composition siding on first floor.

--- Contributing Garage on north side of street

---Non-Contributing garage also on north side of street

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ANNA AVENUE

- 14 : Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. Gothic elements. 2 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, 2 bays wide, 2/2 windows, Gothic window in gable peak, wraparound porch has replacement metal posts, grey asbestos siding; on 1906 through 1930 atlases.
- 18: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. Gothic elements. 2 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, Gothic window in gable peak, shed roofed dormer on side, white asbestos siding, on atlases 1906 - 1930.
- 22: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. Gothic elements. 2 1/2 story, stick style details, gable roof with end to street, stick style cross brace and pendant in gable peak, white asbestos siding, hip roofed porch has been enclosed; appears on atlases from 1906-1930.
- 23: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Cottage. Rusticated cement block house, jerkin head roof, recessed sunporch across facade, 6/1 windows, white asbestos siding on upper portion, triple window in gable end.
- 24: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. Stick Style. 2 story, steep gable roof with shed roofed dormer on side, barge boards and cross brace with pendant in gable peak, green and white wood clapboards, 2/2 windows, wraparound porch with chamfered posts and wood balustrade; on 1906, 1911, 1923, and 1930 atlases.
- 28: San Souci: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 1 story, wraparound porch, hipped roof, wood clapboards, chamfered posts support porch roof; is on atlases from 1911 through 1930. Key building
- 29 : Single family detached dwelling. date uncertain. 2 story, gable roof with end to street, white asbestos siding, new windows, altered wraparound porch; house is much altered, but there was a building on site at least as early as 1911.
Contributing Garage

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30: Single family detached dwelling. uncertain date. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, screened porch across facade;

BAY AVENUE - Was called Shore Road before 1906.

708: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925: Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with exposed rafter ends and end facing street, white composition siding, windows of mixed types, recessed sun porch across facade.

714: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. 1 story, double gable roofed porch, single gable on main house, yellow asbestos siding; on 1930 Sanborn atlas.

715: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Bungaloid Cottage. 1 story, hipped roof with hip roofed dormers, recessed porch across facade, bricktex siding; on 1923 and 1930 atlas

718: Single family detached dwelling. Age uncertain. 1 story, white German siding, gable roof with ridgeline parallel to street, 8/1 windows, porch across facade has flat roof supported by square posts and new metal rail.

719: Non-Contributing. 1 story, gable roofed house

NE Corner Higbee and Bay, Gateway Theater: Theater. c. 1925. 2 story, gable roof with end facing Higbee, small stepped parapet, white asbestos siding, modern marquee addition at corner; shown on the 1930 atlas as the Seaview Theater.

NW Corner Higbee and Bay - large open space, partially used for parking
Non-Contributing site

731: Non-Contributing. large 2 story modern professional building.

740: Non-Contributing, 1 story flat roofed stucco building.

741: Single family detached dwelling and office. c. 1920. 2 story, pyramidal roof with exposed rafter ends, many alterations, white

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asbestos siding, large 1 story addition on first floor; on 1923 atlas and on 1930 atlas as dwelling with an office in front.

- 745: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Cottage. 1 story, hipped and gable roof, white asbestos siding, 1/1 windows, moulded wood lintels; appears on 1930 atlas.
- 747: Commercial. c. 1920. 1 1/2 story, red asbestos siding, gable roof with end to street, store in front with store windows on either side of central entrance which is below a bracketed hood, triple window with decorative lintels in gable end; appears on 1923 atlas as long rectangular one story store.
- 749: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 story, hip roof, white asbestos siding, 6/1 windows, enclosed porch across facade; on 1923 atlas.
- SE Corner Gibbs and Bay: Non-Contributing. 1 story flat roof modern commercial or institutional building. Appears to have been a rest room.
- Public Beach and site of Monument at foot of New Jersey Avenue: commemorates military service in War of 1812 and later. Contributing site., Monument is one contributing object.
- 800: Commercial. c. 1910. Gothic and Stick style elements. 3 1/2 story, steep gable roof on main block, hip roof on end section, cross gable, cross brace, pendant, and stick trim in gable peaks, most windows 9/1, fish scale wood shingles on third floor, and rectangular shingles on lower floors, wraparound verandah, large corbelled chimney on one end; is on the 1911 Sanborn atlas as the Grand View Hotel, and on the 1930 Atlas as the Milton Latz Grand View Hotel (vacant at that time) Key building
- 801: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. 1 1/2 story, unusual 2 story cross gable, grey asbestos siding, gable roof, exposed rafter ends, 1 bay wide gable roofed entry porch; appears on 1930 atlas.
Contributing Garage.

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- 807: Commercial. c. 1920. 1 story, rusticated concrete block, low pitch gable roof, vehicle door in center and a regular door on either side of it with a pair of 2/2 windows. marked as LB Manufacturing Co, Fogel Furniture Co.; shown as a masonry garage on the 1923 and 1930 Sanborn atlases.
- 811: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Foursquare. 2 1/2 story, white asbestos siding, pyramidal roof with hip roofed dormer on facade, 2 bays wide, hip roofed wraparound porch with square posts; on the 1923 and 1930 atlases
- 812: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 story, gable roof with end to street, building is set at slight angle to street, 2 bays wide, hip roofed porch across facade; on 1911, 1923, and 1930 Sanborn atlases. Key Building.
- 814: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 story, gable roof with end to street, building is set at slight angle to street, 2 bays wide, hip roofed porch across facade; on 1911, 1923, and 1930 Sanborn atlases. Key Building
- 816: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 story, gable roof with end to street, building is set at slight angle to street, 2 bays wide, hip roofed porch across facade; on 1911, 1923, and 1930 Sanborn atlases. Key Building
- 820: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 story, gable roof with end to street, building is set at slight angle to street, 2 bays wide, hip roofed porch across facade; on 1911, 1923, and 1930 Sanborn atlases. Key Building.
- Anchorage Inn: Hotel. c. 1900. Second Empire. 3 story, mansard roof, 6 gable roofed dormers on facade and 2 on end, fishscale and square shingles on mansard, white aluminium siding on lower floors, 6 bays wide on facade, 1 story porch extends behind facade and has flat roof supported by square chamfered posts, new balustrade; on atlases of 1906 through 1930 as a hotel, at one time had a store on the north end. Key Building.
- 825: Commercial, originally a dwelling. c. 1910. Bungalow. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with ridgeline parallel to street, recessed porch across facade, exposed rafter ends, 2 shed roofed dormers

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and porch extend from second floor level, exterior stone chimney rises on north side of building, stained glass windows on either side of chimney, recently altered by enclosing porch with modern materials; on 1911 through 1930 Sanborn atlases, was the Louis Steuber residence. Key Building.

- 829: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. Gothic elements. 2 1/2 story, ell shaped, gable roof with end to street, 2 bays wide, 6/1 windows, moulded wood lintels, 2 Gothic windows in gable peak, wraparound porch has square wood columns and wood balustrade, bargeboard with tiny scallops; on 1906 through 1930 Sanborn atlases.
Garage at rear
- 833: Non-Contributing. Modern one story set on stilts.
- 837: Non-Contributing. Modern 1 story house with yellow asbestos siding.
- 839: Apartment house, originally a dwelling. c. 1900. 2 1/2 story, hip roof with hip roofed and shed roofed dormers, large new decks now on all floors with stairs to third floor on exterior, grey asbestos siding; on 1906 Sanborn atlas as a dwelling and by 1930 had become a store.
- 841: Apartment house, originally a dwelling. c. 1900. 2 1/2 story, hip roof with many hip roofed dormers, exposed rafter ends, all white aluminium siding, jalousie windows, wraparound porch now enclosed; on Sanborn atlases 1906 through 1930 as a dwelling, and was apparently one of the larger ones overlooking the bay. Was owned by Dr. Joseph Hall of Philadelphia.
- 905: Single family detached dwelling. Anna Somers House. c. 1900. Gothic and Stick Style elements. One of the largest and most prominent houses in the district, jerkin head roof with ridgeline parallel to the street, four bays wide, and two hip roofed dormers face the bay, obviously built to take advantage of the waterfront view, large verandah crosses the front and wraps around both sides, heavy turned posts support the hip roof of the porch which is trimmed with a balustrade and frieze of spindles in the Eastlake style, long windows in which the upper sash is surround by small panes are on the first floor within

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the porch. Appears as a dwelling on 1906 through 1930 Sanborn atlases.

2 Contributing outbuildings; one is a privy with jerkin head roof, wood shingles and small cupola. Key Building.

North of 915 Bay Avenue: Non-Contributing. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, maps indicate is not old enough to be contributing.

915: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 story, gable roof with end to street, house set at slight angle to street, 2 bays wide, 2 story porch across facade is enclosed on second floor; on 1906 and later Sanborn atlases. Key Building

917: Single family detached dwelling c. 1910. 2 story, gable roof with end to street, house set at slight angle to street, 2 bays wide, 2 story porch across facade; on 1906 and later Sanborn atlases Key Building

919: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 story, gable roof with end to street, house set at slight angle to street, 2 bays wide, 2 story porch across facade has been enclosed on second floor; on 1906 and later Sanborn atlases. Key Building.

921: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 story, gable roof with end to street, house set at slight angle to street, 2 bays wide, 2 story modern porch across facade; on 1906 and later Sanborn atlases. Key Building.

923: Non-Contributing. 1 story, new house with flat roof and red siding.

Bay Shore II Restaurant and Marina: Non-Contributing. 2 story, flat roof, aluminium siding, with unusual shaped entrance and sign area.

Mayers Marina: Non-Contributing. large Butler Building, Non-Contributing Site is yacht parking lot

Smith's Marina: Non-Contributing. large two-story white aluminium building.

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Dolphin Dock, South end of east side of Bay Avenue, north of 936: Two Non-Contributing. 2 Commercial buildings, one story, one with flat roof, one with gable roof.

936, Dick's Dock, South end of east side of Bay Avenue: Commercial Building, originally a dwelling. c. 1900. Gothic elements. 2 1/2 story, jerkin head roof with jerkin head and hip roofed dormers, T-shape, 2/2 windows, grey asphalt siding, now has a large one story commercial addition. Shown on the 1906, 1911, and 1923 atlases as a clubhouse with a boat house on the shore, shown as a dwelling on the 1930 atlas. This was at one time the Fennimore's boat house. Early city government meetings were held here.

DECATUR AVENUE

---: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1935. Cottage. Ell-shaped, 1 1/2 story, gable roof, porch at intersection of ell, semi-circular section of glass brick at side.

Contributing Garage and small outbuilding.

110: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1945. Cottage. 1 story, 3 bays wide, gable roof with end to street, enclosed one story porch across facade.

136: Non-Contributing. Cottage. addition at side covered with modern siding.

Set back between Decatur and Gibbs: Non-Contributing. 3 story, modern, with decks.

---: Single family detached dwelling. 2 1/2 story, close to water, gable roof with end to street, white asbestos siding, 6/1 windows, 3 bays wide,

Contributing 2-Car garage

DELAWARE AVENUE

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- 11: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. 2 1/2 story, gable roof, large cornice returns, 2/2 windows, hip roofed wraparound porch is enclosed, ell shape, yellow aluminium siding; Appears on 1911, 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 13: Single family detached dwelling. c.1925. 2 1/2 story, light green aluminium siding, gable roof with end to street, pediment, gable roofed porch across facade is enclosed; on 1930 atlas.
- 14 : Single family detached dwelling. c. 1905. 2 story, hipped roof, 2 bays wide, 2/2 windows, white aluminium siding, hip roofed porch across facade has been enclosed; on all the atlases, including the 1906.
- 16: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. some Gothic elements. 2 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, has two Gothic windows in peak, brown wood shingle on lower floor, wood fishscale shingle in gable pediment, 2 bays wide, hip roofed porch across facade has been enclosed, moulded wooden lintels above windows; is on 1906, 1911, 1923, and 1930 Sanborn atlases.
- 17: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, brown wood shingle siding, shed roofed dormer, porch across facade has gable roof and is enclosed. This may have been a meat store in 1911; on 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 19: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. Ell shaped, 2 1/2 story, gable roof, large cornice returns, wraparound porch with gable roof has been enclosed., asbestos siding, moulded wood lintels; on 1911, 1923, and 1930 Sanborn atlases.
- 21: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. 2 story, flat roof, 2/2 windows, wraparound porch has heavy turned posts and wood balustrade, white aluminium siding, 2/2 windows; shown as #24 on 1911 Sanborn Atlas and is also on atlases of 1923 and 1930.
- 24: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. Stick style elements. 2 story, ell shaped, bay window on east side, white wood clapboard siding with wood shingles in gable end, pair of Gothic windows in gable peak, 2/2 windows; The porch, which wraps around to the ell, has sawn fan motif and scalloped brackets; Is

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on 1906, 1911, 1923, and 1930 atlases and appears to have changed little over the years. Key Building.
1 Contributing garage

- 27: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1930. 1 1/2 story, white stucco, gable roof with ridgeline parallel to street, 6/1 windows, 1 bay wide projection on facade contains entrance.
- 28: The John Monroe Steelman House: Single family detached dwelling. 1892. Ell shape, 2 1/2 story, gable roof, blue wood clapboard siding with wood shingles in the gable end, Gothic windows in gable peak, wraparound porch has balustrade and brackets in stick style; Is shown on Sanborn atlases of 1906, 1911, 1923, and 1930 and appears to be nearly unchanged from its original condition. Key Building.
1 Contributing outbuilding, garage or utility building
- 29: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. Stick style elements. 2 1/2 story, bay window on each side, gable roof with end to street contains stick style trim in peak and lacy bargeboard, rusticated concrete block foundation, tan asbestos siding, 2/2 windows, enclosed porch across facade; shows on the 1906, 1911, 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 32: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Bungalow/Cottage. 1 1/2 story, brick, hipped roof with hip roofed dormers, recessed sunporch across facade, 1/1 windows; A different house is here on the 1923 atlas, this one first appears on the 1930 atlas.
1 Contributing garage
- 35: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. some Queen Anne elements. 2 1/2 story, yellow aluminium siding, many 2/2 windows, gable roof with end to street and large cornice returns, brick foundation, 2 story dormer on side, enclosed wraparound porch; shown on the 1906 atlas as a pair of semi-detached houses, and by 1923 it was the Colonial Boarding House. Non-Contributing Guest House at rear of lot.
- 36: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1930. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, 9/1 windows, hip roofed sunporch across facade, shed roofed dormer at side, light green asbestos siding, rusticated concrete block foundation; on 1930 atlas.

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- 40: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. 2 story, gable roof, exposed rafter ends, alterations include complete enclosure of porch with new walls and windows, white and grey asbestos siding; on 1923 and 1930 atlas.
- 51: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. 2 1/2 story, gable roof with ridgeline parallel to street, 2 bays wide, white asbestos siding, rusticated concrete block foundation, enclosed sunporch across facade, some 6/1 windows; on the 1923 and 1930 atlases.

GEORGE STREET

- 7: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. Cottage. small 1 story, brown wood shingle siding, hipped roof, shed roof porch above entrance; on 1923 and 1930 Sanborn atlases.
Non-Contributing garage
- 15: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, grey asbestos siding, recessed screened porch across facade, 9/1 windows, moulded wood lintels, triple window in gable peak, plain barge boards; on 1923 and 1930 Sanborn atlases.
- 17: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. 2 1/2 story, ell shape, 2/2 windows, oriel window on second floor has colored panes surrounding upper sash, white asbestos siding, saw-tooth bargeboard and cornice trim, wraparound porch enclosed with jalousie windows; on 1906 through 1930 Sanborn atlases.
- 22: Single family detached dwelling, Vacant. c. 1910. 2 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, exposed rafter ends, asbestos siding, hip roofed porch across facade has been enclosed, many windows missing, very dilapidated; is on 1911 atlas as vacant and the 1923 atlas as a restaurant and later atlases as store.
- 24: Commercial Building, Vacant. c. 1910-20. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, red wood clapboards, entrance in center of facade with boarded up show windows on either side. Was once a fish store.

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GIBBS AVENUE

- 14: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Foursquare. 2 1/2 story, wraparound porch has been enclosed, hipped roof with hip roofed dormers, 1/1 windows, 2 story bay window at side, cream color wood shingles on upper part, narrow wood clapboards on lower part, moulded wood lintels; shows as #121 on 1923 atlas and as 14 on 1930 atlas; Contributing Garage at rear.
- 15: Single family detached dwelling. 1 1/2 story with a front porch and smaller porch in rear, frame with clapboard siding, gable roof with end to street, main gable roof has large cornice returns, a pair of windows in the gable end have hoodmoulds, the hipped roof porch is screened with a solid knee wall; foundation is cast "rusticated" concrete block. Shown on 1930 and 1923 Sanborn atlases.
- 18: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. Bungaloid Cottage. This adaptation of the bungalow style has a jerkin head roof on the main roof and on the dormer that projects toward the street. The main roof extends to form a porch roof that is supported by large square wooden posts, white wood clapboards, 9/1 windows, oriel window at side, panelled shutters, 3 bays wide, entrance in central bay, excellent original condition, rusticated concrete block foundation; shown as 119 on the 1923 atlas and as 18 on 1930 Contributing wooden garage at rear has glass in upper part of doors.
- 19: Single family detached dwelling. 1930. Cottage. end of gable roof facing street has large shed roof dormers on either side, pent roof extends from main block and small extension on front, windows are triple, paired or single six over one, there is a very small six light window in end of extension/wing, over the door is a small gable roofed hood on heavy brackets, foundation is of cast concrete block; is on 1930 map as one story dwelling with extension to west side of facade.
- .23: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 1/12 story, wood clapboard siding, gable roof, enclosed gable roofed porch, house

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is now boarded up; is on the 1923 atlas without the side addition, is also on the 1930 atlas.

- 26: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, jerkin head roof, exposed rafter ends, shed roofed dormer at side, yellow wood shingle and asbestos siding, moulded wood lintels, porch on facade; shown on 1923 atlas as 119 and on 1930 atlas as 26
- 27: Single family detached dwelling. 2 story, yellow asbestos siding, gable roof with end to street, one bay wide gable roofed porch across part of facade is enclosed; Is shown as #27 Gibbs on the 1923 Sanborn Atlas, and is also on the 1930 atlas.
- 29: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, cross gable in center of shed roofed enclosed porch across facade, wood shingle siding; is on 1923 and 1930 maps
- 30: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Bungalow. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with ridgeline parallel to street, gable roofed dormer on facade, enclosed sunporch across facade., light green aluminium siding; is on 1930 atlas.
Non-Contributing garage at rear.
- 37: Single family detached dwelling. 1 1/2 story, wood siding, gable roof with end to street, 3/1 windows, recessed sunporch across facade, cement blocks in shape of dressed stone form foundation. Shown on the 1930 Sanborn atlas as # 35 Gibbs.
- 38: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Cottage. 1 story, jerkin head roof with narrow end to street, 6/1 windows, recessed sunporch across facade; is on 1930 atlas.
Non-Contributing garage at rear
- 42: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. Cottage. 1 1/2 story cottage, gable roof with end to street, wood clapboards, exposed rafter ends, 6/1 windows, gable roofed section projects from half of facade and has new shed roofed porch beside it; is on 1930 atlas.
1 Contributing garage.

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- 43: Single family detached dwelling. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with ridgeline parallel to street, grey asbestos and wood siding, gable roofed dormer on front, recessed 1 bay wide corner porch contains entrance, 6/1 windows. Shows on 1930 map as rectangular one story house with enclosed porch on rear.
- 44: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with shed roofed dormers, white wood clapboards and asbestos shingle siding, 9/1 windows, concrete block foundation looks like dressed stone, oriel window at side; is on 1930 atlas Contributing garage at rear with wooden doors.
- 47: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Foursquare. 2 1/2 stories, green and white wood shingle(top) and clapboards(first floor), hipped roof with hip roofed dormer on front, 6/1 windows, enclosed sunporch on front; is on 1930 map as a rectangular house, 2 stories, porch across front Contributing wood 1-car garage.
- 48: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, hipped roof, white aluminium siding, shed roofed dormer at side, rusticated concrete block foundation, 3 bays wide; is shown as #111 on 1923 atlas and as 48 on 1930 atlas
- 50: Non-Contributing. 1 story, gable roof, modern house.
- 55: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, 6/1 windows, shed roofed porch across facade is now enclosed, asbestos siding; is on 1930 atlas as square one story with porch across part of front.
- 56: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 story, white wood weatherboard siding, hipped roof on front section, gable roof tops two story bay window at side, appears to be a recessed sleeping porch at rear, brick and concrete foundation, exposed rafter ends, enclosed hip roofed porch on facade, moulded wood lintels; shown as 108 on 1923 atlas and as 56 on 1930 atlas Contributing gable roofed garage with folding doors at rear.
- 59: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, white wood clapboards, gable roof with end to street and exposed rafter ends, 3 bays wide, door with glass in upper half, shed

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roofed porch across facade has square wood posts and wood balustrade. Shows on both 1923 and 1930 atlases. Key Building.

- 67: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, rusticated concrete block in natural color, gable roof with end to street and exposed rafter ends, shed roofed dormer on side, raised basement, concrete lintels above 6/6 windows, enclosed sunporch across center of facade. Shows on 1930 atlas as masonry building with porch across facade
- 71: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 story, gable roof with end to street, new wood shingle on facade, 6/1 windows, some have moulded wood lintels, shed roofed porch across facade has new wood posts and balustrade. Is shown on the 1923 Sanborn atlas as #132 Gibbs with a wraparound porch, is also on 1932 atlas.
- 73: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street and exposed rafter ends, bright green asbestos siding, recessed porch at corner is now enclosed. This is probably the house shown as #75 on the 1930 atlas, and as #131 on the 1923 atlas - There is no #73 on the 1930 atlas and numbers were probably changed after the house next door was built at #75
- 75: Non-Contributing. Single family detached dwelling. White stucco, 1 story, appears to be too modern to be contributing.
- 77: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. Hip roofed cottage with narrow end to street, 3/1 windows, wood lintels, grey asbestos siding, recessed porch on facade is enclosed with jalousie windows. This house is shown on the 1923 atlas as #129 and as 77 on the 1930 atlas
- 78: Non-Contributing. 1 story, modern house.
- 79: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 story, hipped roof with narrow end to street, blue aluminium siding, porch enclosed; shown as #128 on 1923 atlas and as 79 on 1930 atlas -
Contributing tiny gable roofed cottage at rear, is also shown on both atlases.

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- 83: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. Originally 2 story, now has a 3rd story on top, blue vinyl siding, new 1/1 windows, flat roof, wraparound porch has hip roof with exposed rafter ends and solid balustrade, there is a 2 story 3 sided bay window on the east side; shown on 1923 atlas as #127, two stories with bay window on side and wraparound porch - shown the same shape as #81 on 1930 atlas
- 106: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, raised rusticated concrete block basement, enclosed sunporch above it, white stucco exterior, 9/1 windows, steps lead to entry at side; shown as #20 on the 1923 atlas, a house with masonry on the first floor, and with porch at rear, also shown on 1930 atlas.
- 110: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. 1 1/2 story, green asbestos siding, gable roof with ridgeline parallel to street, 9/1 windows set in pairs and threes, shed roofed dormer on front, enclosed projecting gable roofed entry porch; is shown on 1930 atlas.
- 111: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. Cottage. 1 story, hip roof, 3 sided bay window on side, the narrow end of the house faces the street, wide wood shingles, moulded wood lintels, recessed porch on facade is enclosed; shown as #27 on 1923 atlas, and as #111 on 1930 atlas
- 117: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. 1 story, white wood clapboards, hip roof with narrow end to the street, overgrown with shrubbery, screened recessed porch across facade has wood balustrade; shown as #25 on 1923 atlas - and as 117 on 1930
- 118: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 story, hipped roof with narrow end to street has gable roofed dormer, shed roofed dormer at side, white aluminium siding, rusticated concrete block foundation; shown as #18 on 1923 atlas and as 118 on 1930.
- 122: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. 2 story, raised basement of rusticated concrete block, white asbestos siding,

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gable roof with end to street, enclosed porch across facade; is shown as two story masonry with two story porch on 1930 atlas

- 124: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. Cottage. 1 story, stucco, gable roof with end to street, owner says it is 80 years old, and it is shown as #17 on the 1923 atlas and on the 1932 atlas.
- 125 : Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. 2 story, stucco on first floor, white asbestos siding on second floor, hipped roof with narrow end facing street, 1/1 windows, moulded wood lintels, exterior stairs to second floor, second floor porch appears to have been enclosed; shown as #24 on 1923 atlas and as 125 on 1930 atlas.
- 130: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. 1 1/2 story, white aluminium siding, gable roof with end to street, gable roofed dormer at side, 6/1 windows, wraparound sun porch, rusticated concrete block foundation; on the 1930 atlas. Contributing garage of concrete block in a dressed stone pattern has folding doors with glass in the upper part.
- : Single family detached dwelling. Set back behind 130 Gibbs and facing the bay: 2 story, 3 bay wide, square brick building painted white, flat roof with low parapet faces the water, appears to have been a commercial building. There is a one story dwelling that appears to be a different building on this site on the 1930 atlas.
- 131: Non-Contributing. faced with brick and cypress, 2 story, gable roof with end to street.
- 133: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. 1 story, hipped roof, blue and cream asbestos siding, rusticated concrete block foundation, porch at side is enclosed, apparently had a porch across the front at one time; shown as #23 on 1923 atlas where it is one story with porch across front and back, on 1930 atlas it is #133. Contributing 1-story garage of rusticated concrete block 1 non-contributing outbuilding is two stories high

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---: Single family detached dwelling. Set back from Gibbs: Single family detached dwelling. Cottage. 1 story, grey asbestos siding, gable roof with end facing water. Non-Contributing garage at rear

HIGBEE AVENUE

- 9: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 story, 2 bays wide, red asbestos siding, hipped roof with exposed rafter ends, hip roofed wraparound porch with heavy turned posts, moulded lintels; shows as #142 on 1923 atlas and as #9 on 1930 atlas.
- 12 : Single family detached dwelling. c.1900. ell shaped, 2 1/2 story, gable roof with exposed rafter ends, hip roofed wraparound porch is screened and has solid balustrade, white asbestos siding. Shown as 119 on 1923 atlas and as 12 on 1930.
- 14: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, 3/1 windows, recessed porch enclosed with windows, white asbestos siding, small triple window in gable end; shown as 118 on 1923 and is on 1930 atlas.
- 15: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1930. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with ridgeline parallel to street, 9/1 windows, shed roofed dormer on front, projecting gable roofed section contains entry, white stucco exterior; is on 1930 atlas.
- 17: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1930. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, white aluminium or vinyl siding, gable roof with end to street, shed roofed dormer on side, gable roof tops projecting section across half of facade; is shown as 17 on 1930 atlas
- 20: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, exposed rafter ends, white aluminium siding, recessed screened porch across facade; is shown as #24 on both 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 21: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, light green asbestos siding on upper half, large cornice returns, white aluminium siding on lower half, hip

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roofed wraparound porch is now enclosed with windows; shown as #139 on 1923 atlas, and is on 1930 atlas

- 29: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1930. Cottage. 1 1/2 story gable roof with end to street, shed roofed dormer at side, white aluminium siding, new windows; is on 1930 atlas as one story no porch
- 32: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, white stucco raised basement of rusticated concrete block has auto entrance on front, recessed screened porch across facade; is on 1930 atlas.
- 33: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 story, light tan wood clapboards, hipped roof with small hip roofed dormer on facade, exposed rafter ends, recessed porch across facade with square wood columns and wood balustrade, 3 bays wide, entrance in central bay, moulded wood lintels; shown as #136 on 1923 atlas and as 33 on 1930 atlas
- 38: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. 1 1/2 story, wood clapboards, wood lintels above one over one windows, wraparound porch, gable roof with end to street and cross gables at sides, is on 1923 atlas as 112 and is on 1930 atlas.
- 39: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, blue wood clapboards, rusticated concrete block foundation, gable roofed entry porch projects from two bays of the 3 bay wide facade, 6/1 windows, most set in pairs; shown as 135 on 1923 atlas and as 39 on 1930
1 Contributing garage
- 43: Non-Contributing. 1 story, gable roof with ridgeline parallel to street, original houses dates from 1920s, but has had radical alterations and retains little of original appearance or fabric.
- 45: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1930. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, 3 bays wide, gable roof with end to street, white aluminium siding, rusticated concrete block foundation, 4/1 windows, hip roofed porch across facade is enclosed; on 1930 atlas

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- 48: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1930. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, oriel window at side, white aluminium siding, recessed porch across facade; shows on 1930 atlas.
- 50: Single family detached dwelling. c, 1910. 2 story, hipped roof with exposed rafter ends, white asbestos siding, 1/1 windows, moulded wood lintels, enclosed hip roofed porch across facade; shows as 103 on 1923 atlas and is on 1930 atlas.
1 Contributing garage
- 53: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1935. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, entrance in central of 3 bays, hip roofed porch across central part of facade.
- 55: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1930. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, white aluminium siding, enclosed porch across facade, concrete block foundation, entrance in central bay; is on 1930 atlas.
- 56: Non-Contributing. 1 story, gable roof, aluminium siding, new house.
- 58: Single family detached dwelling. Date uncertain. 2 story, low pitch gable roof with ridgeline parallel to street, shed roofed porch across facade, light green aluminium siding, rusticated concrete block foundation; Neither the 1924 nor 1930 atlases show a house on this spot, however, both show a house further back on the same lot.
- 59: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1930. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, grey asbestos siding, moulded wood lintels, exposed rafter ends, gable roofed projection on half of facade contains entrance; on 1930 atlas.
- 60: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 story, hipped roof with narrow end to street, blue vinyl siding, recessed enclosed porch across facade, rusticated concrete block foundation; shown on both 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 63: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, white aluminium siding, recessed

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porch across facade is screened but has wood balustrade, 3/1 windows, rusticated concrete block foundation; is on 1930 atlas.

- 67: Non-Contributing. 1 1/2 story gable roofed house, cinder block foundation, white aluminium siding; appears to be too modern to be contributing.
- 110: Commercial Building. c. 1920. 2 story, almost flat roof, rectangular shape, white asbestos siding on first floor and light green asbestos siding on second, moulded lintels, wood window frames; was apparently built as a one story house as shown on the 1923 atlas and later appears to have become the clubhouse shown on the 1930 atlas;
2 Non-Contributing outbuildings.
- 111: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. now 2 story, but appears to have originally been a 1 story house of rusticated concrete block, gable roof with end to street, 2 story enclosed porch across facade; is on 1923 atlas as masonry building, no porch has porch added on 1930 atlas
- 121: Single family detached dwelling. 1924. Cottage. 2 story, 2 bays wide, gable roof with end to street, exposed rafter ends, gable roofed porch with exposed rafter ends wraps around one corner and is enclosed, white and grey asbestos siding; second floor appears to be a later addition; shown as #22 "as from plans" on 1923 atlas and is 1 story house with porch at corner on 1930 atlas
- 123: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920, Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, exposed rafter ends, rusticated concrete block foundation, white asbestos siding, recessed enclosed sunporch across facade, most windows 6/1; shown as #21 on 1923 atlas and as 123 on 1930 atlas.
- 127: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. Bungalow. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end facing water, shed roofed dormer, exposed rafter ends, 6/1 windows, grey asbestos siding; shown as #20 on 1923 atlas and as 127 on 1930 atlas.

MILLER LANE - This was originally Elk Place

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7: Non-Contributing. 1 story, new house.

---Contributing garage

---Contributing garage

---Non-Contributing Garage

15: Single family detached dwelling. Cottage. Small, grey wood clapboard siding, shed roofed porch across facade, gable roof with end to street, bargeboards, 2/2 windows. Local sources say this was at one time the Post Office and was moved to its present location from Delaware Avenue.

24: Single family detached dwelling. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, shed roofed dormer, rusticated concrete block foundation; local resident says this was home of Captain Layton.

--- on south side: Non Contributing red barn

--- on south side: Contributing garage for house on Somers Avenue

--- on south side: Contributing 2 car garage for house on Somers Avenue

--- on south side: Non-Contributing garage.

NEW JERSEY

9: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. 2 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, 2 bays wide, yellow wood clapboards, entrance in side bay contains a door with glass in upper half, one story hip roofed porch across facade has square wood posts and wood balustrade, gable roof tops 2 story bay window at side; Is on 1911, 1923 and 1930 atlases

11: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1925. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, jerkin head roof, bay window on side, most windows are 6/1, recessed porch on facade is enclosed; shown on 1930 atlas.

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- 18: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Colonial Revival. 2 1/2 story, 5 bays wide, gable roof with 3 gable roofed dormers, Palladian type window in central bay of second floor is above a one bay wide entry porch that covers the main entrance, arched transom and sidelights surround the door; on the 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 25: Single family detached dwelling. c 1900. 2 1/2 story, gable roof with end to street, cross gables at side, one story wraparound porch; on the 1911 atlas and 1923 and 1930.
1 Contributing garage.
- 30: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. 2 1/2 story, ell shaped, white asbestos siding, gable roof, large cornice returns, moulded lintels, wraparound porch has new metal supports; on 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 31: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1935. Cottage. 1 story, white aluminium siding, gable roof, end to street, gable roofed section projects at front across half of facade.
1 Contributing garage.
- 33: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. Gothic elements. 2 1/2 story, gable roof, ell shape, white aluminium siding, 2/2 windows, Gothic window in gable peak, three sided bay window on first floor facade; on the 1911, 1923 and 1930 atlases showing changes over the years.
1 Contributing garage.
- 34: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Bungaloid Cottage. 1 1/2 story, hip roof with hipped roof dormer, exposed rafter ends, enclosed recessed porch has cast concrete columns on rusticated concrete block piers; on both the 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 37: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. Gothic elements. 2 1/2 story, gable roof, ell shape, Gothic windows in gable ends, cross gable on side, blue asbestos siding, two story porch at side; on all three atlases 1911, 1923 and 1930.
- 38: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. Gothic elements. Ell-shaped, 2 1/2 story, gable roof, Gothic windows in gable ends,

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moulded wood cornice returns, 2/2 windows, wraparound porch with plain posts and no balusters, picket fence surrounds the yard; Shows on the 1911, 1923 and 1930 atlases.

- 41: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1935. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, screened front porch.
- 42: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1910. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, hip roof, gable roofed dormer on front, bay window on side, no porch, grey vinyl siding; Appears on 1911, 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 43: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1935-40. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, white wood clapboards.
- 45: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Dutch Colonial Revival. 2 story, 3 bays wide, gambrel roof with end to street, shed roofed dormers on both sides, hip roofed porch across facade, 1/1 windows, light grey wood shingle siding; on 1923 and 1930 atlases.
Contributing garage at side rear.
- 46: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. 2 1/2 story, ell shape, gable roof, 2 bays wide on end to street, new wood clapboards siding on front, stucco on rear where there is a one story, 3 sided bay window; Appears on the 1911, 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 49: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 1/2 story, hip roof, overhanging eaves, shed roofed dormer on side, blue asbestos siding, recessed porch across facade is enclosed with 6/1 windows, door in center bay has sidelights and transom; on both the 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 50: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. This was apparently originally a one story house, but is now 2 story, concrete block made to look like dressed stone on first floor and yellow asbestos on second, 1 story bay window on side, scored stone lintels, porch across facade has square posts on stone piers. Appears on the 1923 and 1930 atlases.
Non-Contributing garage.

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- 54: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1915. Cottage. 1 story, hipped roof with hip roofed dormer on facade, white asbestos siding, exposed scrolled rafter ends, enclosed porch on facade; on the 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 57: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. Queen Anne elements. 2 1/2 story, pyramidal roof, enclosed wraparound porch, tower at side rear with pointed hexagonal roof; on 1911, 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 63: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. 2 story, flat roof, white asbestos siding, 2/2 windows, 3 bays wide, entrance in central bay, moulded wood lintels, raised basement of rusticated concrete block, wraparound porch has hipped roof supported by square wood columns and wood balustrade; on all three atlases of 1911, 1923, and 1930.
- 65: Single family detached dwelling.. c. 1900. 2 story, gable roof with end to street, exposed rafter ends, stick style trim in gable end, enclosed wraparound porch, green asbestos siding, 6/1 windows; on 1911, 1923, and 1930 Sanborn atlases.

SOMERS AVENUE

- 2: Single family detached dwelling, date uncertain 1 1/2 story, gable roof with ridgeline parallel to street, white asbestos siding, 2 gable roofed dormers and steep gable over entrance.
- 17-19: Single family detached dwelling. Was originally a pair of semi-detached houses or a duplex. c. 1920. Foursquare. 2 1/2 story, wood clapboards, hip roof with hip roofed dormers, enclosed porch across facade, 1/1 windows; first Catholic Mass in Somers Point was held in this house. on the 1923 and 1930 atlases
- 20: Non-Contributing. Modern one story house with gable roof
- 22: Non-Contributing. 1 story house, not old enough to be contributing

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- 24: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof with end to street, recessed porch across facade, tan asbestos siding; on 1923 and 1930 atlas
- 25: Non-Contributing. 1 story, gable roof, many alterations and little original fabric remaining.
- 26: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1920. Cottage. 1 story, gable roof, yellow aluminium or vinyl siding, recessed porch on facade with new posts; on 1923 and 1930 atlases.
- 27: Non-Contributing. 1 story, gable roof, modern.
- 28: Non-Contributing. 1 story, gable roof, modern house.
- 31: Single family detached dwelling. c. 1900. Gothic elements. 2 1/2 story, ell shape, gable roof, Gothic windows in gable ends, large cornice returns, white asbestos siding, wraparound porch on 3 sides, has heavy turned posts, wood balustrade, and spindle frieze; on 1906 to 1930 atlases.
- 37: Single family detached dwelling. Appears to be c. 1900. Some Gothic elements. 2 story, gable roof with end to street and Gothic window in gable end, wraparound porch has Chippendale-like balustrade and square wood posts, yellow asbestos siding; the earliest atlas on which this house appears is the 1930, but the house appears to date from before that time.
1 Contributing garage

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HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Bay Front Historic District in Somers Point covers a few blocks between the present Shore Road and Great Egg Harbor Bay in the town of Somers Point in Atlantic County, New Jersey. Although Somers Point has a long history and was an important commercial and transportation center among the Shore Road towns of Atlantic County, it also contains the largest and most cohesive group of medium-sized late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century houses that make up a resort community.

Atlantic City, the "Queen of Resorts" in Atlantic County, developed in the mid-nineteenth century and grew rapidly with the construction of luxury hotels and its famous boardwalk. Ventnor, Margate, and Longport followed Atlantic City's lead in becoming vacation spots for those who sought the open Atlantic Ocean. Somers Point could not offer the long sandy beaches and rolling waves of the ocean. Instead, it offered the quieter waters of Egg Harbor River and Bay where vacationers could bathe in calm water, sail their small boats in comfort, and fish if they chose. Luxury hotels and the huge "cottages" of the very rich never found their way to Somers Point; here more modest hostelrys and moderate sized cottages and houses near the bay suited vacationers with less pretentious means and tastes. Their cottages and even some of their hotels have weathered the test of time. Over two hundred buildings in the Bay Front Historic District are tangible reminders of an earlier day. However, they are not simply reminders of the past; they continue to serve their original purpose of being comfortable dwellings close to the salt water of Great Egg Harbor Bay.

The towns along Shore Road, the old road that stretched from Somers Point at the south to Leeds Point at the north, were among the earliest settled in Atlantic County. Atlantic City soon outstripped them after the railroad connected the new resort to Camden and Philadelphia in 1854. The Shore Road towns supplied some of the new resort's foodstuffs and personnel, but the people in them continued to lead rather quiet agricultural and maritime lives for several decades after the establishment of Atlantic City. Although the 1860 census is not broken down to show who lived in precisely the area that is presently Somers Point, it does list the people in the Somers Point Post Office area within Egg Harbor Township. In 1860 the residents of Somers Point were still mainly engaged in farming and the maritime trades, while in Atlantic City the majority of the population were innkeepers,

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laborers, bartenders, housekeepers, and in other occupations related to the growing resort industry. In 1860, the Somers Point residents with the greatest wealth were primarily farmers whose land holdings accounted for their net worth.¹

The period of significance for the The Bay Front Historic District is from 1890 to 1935, the years during which housing in the district developed. This was also the time when seaside cottages and the time to use them became available to large numbers of Americans who had not enjoyed them before. After 1935 and World War II construction methods and styles for vacation houses as well as for permanent residences changed abruptly. Within the district there are only a few reminders of Somers Point's early history which goes back to colonial days. One of those reminders is the stone monument overlooking the beach at the foot of New Jersey Avenue that is a memorial to those who served in the war of 1812, but nothing remains of the fort which once stood nearby.

As in most waterfront communities, man has altered the shoreline over the centuries with filling and dredging to suit his current needs. There have been alterations to the marshes in Great Egg Harbor Bay, and old marine railroads and other reminders of early maritime commerce are gone. In their place, recreational boating, salt water swimming, sport fishing, and pleasant waterfront living continue a tradition established in the late nineteenth century.

Cape May and Atlantic City were among the resorts that firmly established the South Jersey shore as a vacation area. Their development came about partly because of the growing attitude of Victorians toward fresh air and the seashore as beneficial to health. As Richard Guy Wilson explains in "Nineteenth Century American Resorts and Hotels," the search for health-giving waters was the impetus behind the development of the earliest American resorts. As more and more people attributed healthful qualities to the seashore, it joined the spa as a holiday destination. Sports such as tennis became a part of the resort scene, which soon included luxurious accommodations and sumptuous dining.² Cities were expanding with the growth of industry, and their

¹ Donna Lynne Corson, Compiler. *United States Census Returns, Atlantic County, New Jersey, 1860*. Published 1978.

² Richard Guy Wilson. "Nineteenth Century American Resorts and Hotels." *Nineteenth Century*: Vol 8, Nos. 1-2 (Philadelphia, 1982) p. 14

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residents soon had the opportunity to enjoy the clean and quiet countryside and seashore. Wilson pointed out that "Contributing to the great age of American resorts was the development of transportation and also the innovation of vacations - or at least days off."³ One of the sports that developed and became popular in waterfront resorts was sailing or yachting in small boats. The great yachts had been popular with the very rich for some time before the racing of small sailboats became popular. Surely there were informal sailing and racing of small open boats in much earlier times, but it was not until the late nineteenth century that there were regattas and that the racing of small sailboats became a sport.⁴ Somers Point, with its sheltered bays but easy access to the ocean, was perhaps the ideal spot for the sport. Thomas Eakins' paintings of catboats sailing on the Delaware in 1874 bears a striking resemblance to a series of early photographs of sailboats in Somers Point. The Bay Front Historic District in Somers Point had all the attributes necessary to become an attractive resort: salt water, fresh air, transportation, and space for construction.

In the 1870s there was virtually no development within the Bay Front Historic District. However, by the end of that decade an atlas of the New Jersey Coast said that Somers Point "lying directly on Great Egg Harbor Bay is much resorted to in summer for the advantages of sailing and fishing."⁵ The same atlas listed several yachts, pleasure boats as opposed to working vessels, owned by Somers Point residents: F. Steelman owned the 24-foot *American Eagle*; W. Steelman owned the 24-foot *Wave*; J. Steelman owned the 27-foot *Hinkin*; J. Townsend and J. Somers each owned a 24-foot boat.⁶

In 1880 the Pleasantville and Ocean City Branch of the West Jersey and Atlantic Railroad began operating to Somers Point. The passenger station, which no longer stands, was located just outside the district near the intersection of Bay and Gull avenues.⁷ In the same year Captain John Townsend and Harry Van Sant convinced the Philadelphia

3. Wilson. "Nineteenth Century American Resorts and Hotels." p. 14

4. Douglas Phillips-Birt. *The History of Yachting*. (New York, 1974) p. 114-127

5. T.F. Rose and H.C. Woolman. *Historical and Biographical Atlas of the New Jersey Coast*. (Philadelphia, 1879) p. 41

6. Woolman & Rose. p.59

7. Russell M. Andrews. *Railroading in Atlantic County, New Jersey*. (Atlantic County Historical Society, 1981) p.124

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and Atlantic Railroad to construct a narrow gauge line between Pleasantville and Somers Point.⁸ Townsend and Van Sant had built the Bradford House hotel in 1881, and they also owned Bradford Cottage and Bay View House, which stood near the present bridge to Ocean City. These properties which are no longer standing gave Townsend and Van Sant a vested interest in transportation to Somers Point. Rail service apparently was not adequate because as late as 1891 a business review extolled the virtues of Somers Point but complained that "until better railroad facilities are provided its growth must be very slow, and indeed without some provisions an untimely death is to be feared."⁹ A guide to the New Jersey coast in 1889 simply referred to Somers Point as a small village on Great Egg Harbor that served as a port of entry. There was no mention of its virtues as a resort.¹⁰ Peck's Beach Association in Ocean City invested in a steamboat to make the trip to that resort from Somers Point, promoting a round trip by ferry, rail, and steamer between Philadelphia and Ocean City for \$1.65. A similar service operated between Somers Point and Longport.¹¹ Somers Point was more of a transportation center than a resort.

In 1886 Somers Point became an independent borough within Egg Harbor Township, and it had a post office and a telegraph office in addition to expanding public services and local businesses. By 1891 Townsend and Van Sant's three hotels could accommodate eighty guests with dining room seating for fifty people at a time. The owners provided rowboats, yachts, bathing, fishing, and gunning for vacationers. Both men were retired sea captains, and in addition to their hotel venture, they had laid out "a large and desirable tract of land overlooking the bay into building lots, which they offered to those contemplating building at very low rates and upon easy terms."¹² This was apparently the beginning of the promotion of development in the Bay Front Historic District.

Although there were some houses in the district prior to 1900, it was the advent of trolley service that spurred the sale of lots

8. Andrews. *Railroading in Atlantic County*. p. 57

9. *Business Review of the Counties of Burlington, Atlantic and Gloucester, New Jersey*. (Philadelphia, 1891. p. 158

10. Gustav Kobbe, *The New Jersey Coast and Pines* (Short Hills, N.J., 1889), p. 74.

11. Andrew. *Railroading in Atlantic County*. p. 57

12. *Business Review*. p. 158

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and development in the Bay Front area. The Atlantic and Suburban Railway, also known as the Florida Avenue Line started operating in 1903. From Atlantic City the trolley ran to Pleasantville, where it split into two lines, one running north to Absecon and the other running south to Somers Point. The Somers Point branch ran along Shore Road to New Jersey Avenue, where it turned and ran east to Bay Avenue and continued toward the bridge to Ocean City.¹³ Almost immediately a second trolley line went into operation. In 1906 this second line, also originating in Atlantic City and travelling via Pleasantville, began operating on the old steam railroad tracks west of Shore Road in Somers Point. A year later trolley service extended to Ocean City via a new trestle bridge crossing four channels and three islands in Egg Harbor Bay.¹⁴ Ferry service was no longer necessary to connect Ocean City and Somers Point.

By 1900, Townsend and Van Sant seem to have had some success with their land-development venture for there were at least thirty private houses and hotels within the district. The Schick Hotel stood just outside the district on Bay Avenue and is no longer standing. Its owner, Jacob Schick, had been born in Germany, and several other German-born residents lived in the district. One owner whose name is illegible in the census records, lived on New Jersey Avenue and was a bayman. Another owner, Robert Reidel, was a painter who lived on Delaware Avenue.

A total of seven baymen (watermen) lived in the district at that time, along with house carpenters, a few laborers, a steamboat captain, and two men who listed their occupation as yacht sailing. Several residents were "gentlemen" or were retired on their own income.¹⁵ There is no map showing exactly how many houses there were in the district in 1900. However, ten years later there were considerably more houses than there were residents, indicating that many of the houses were either vacation houses or rental properties.

In 1910 there were several hotels along Bay Avenue, most of which were in the popular resort styles of the time, although smaller in scale than the large hotels in famous resorts. The Anchorage Hotel,

13. Andrews. *Railroading in Atlantic County*. p. 99

14. Andrews. *Railroading in Atlantic County*. p. 99-100

15. U.S. Census for Atlantic County, 1900

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built in the Second Empire style, is located at the corner of Delaware Avenue, and Schick's Hotel, mentioned above, stood on the west side of Bay Avenue. Across the street the large house that now belongs to Dicks Dock served as a clubhouse, and the present 800 Bay Avenue was the Grand View Hotel. The hotels and the big house at 905 Bay Avenue were the largest buildings in the district and all had a view of the bay. A small restaurant on George Street, a meat store and a drug store on Delaware Avenue, and a general store beside Schick's Hotel were the only other commercial buildings in the district. In 1911, however, hen houses behind one of the houses on George Street and on the present Anchorage Street were still reminders of the small town heritage of Somers Point.¹⁶

The number of Germans in the district had increased in 1910 perhaps because of the influence of Schick's Hotel or the town's proximity to the German Community in Egg Harbor City. In addition to Jacob Schick, Lewis Diether, a retail hardware merchant, Louis Steuber and Adolph Schlect, both born of German parents and both with their own independent incomes, lived on Bay Avenue. Steuber owned the stone bungalow at 825 Bay Avenue.

The four residents of George Street included two who had independent incomes, one retail merchant, and a laborer. A fisherman and a saloon proprietor lived on Annie (it was not yet called Anna) Avenue. Adolph Kappella, a fire-insurance agent, and John Fassio, a native of France with an independent income, lived on Somers Street. The residents of Delaware Avenue included house carpenters, a police officer, a meat merchant, a druggist, a mail carrier, the captain of a pleasure yacht, and one woman with her own income. New Jersey Avenue showed a similar diversity, and three of its residents also had independent incomes.

Census records and old maps make it possible to compare the number of residents and the number of houses on a street. This comparison points out the resort nature of the district. For example, there were six residents of Bay Avenue while there were twenty-three houses. On Annie Avenue there were two residents but seven houses, while there were nine residents of New Jersey Avenue for fifteen houses.

¹⁶. Sanborn Atlas, 1911

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Clearly, the houses were owned by people whose residence was recorded elsewhere.¹⁷

Home construction, particularly of vacation houses, came to a halt during World War I. The war and the advent of Prohibition starting at about the same time had a deleterious effect on the hotel and resort business. Events also had a negative effect on the German-Americans whose ancestry associated them with the enemy and whose business was frequently in the brewery or restaurant trades. It is uncertain just what the overall effect was of these two events on the Bay Front District, but, as in many other places, some of the hotels became clubs where there might have been some leniency in the general prohibition against alcoholic beverages. The Grand View Hotel became a vacant building, and although Schick's and the Anchorage stayed open, their businesses must have changed when they no longer had the saloons they originally featured.

The 1920s was a time of prosperity in America, and the construction of houses in the Bay Front District accelerated. Between 1911 and 1923, there were several new houses built on Delaware Avenue, and one older house, now 35 Delaware Avenue, had become the Colonial Boarding House. There were also new houses on Echo and Elk, now Anchorage and Miller. New Houses on the south side of New Jersey Avenue included the concrete block house that is today #50, and #18, the large Colonial Revival house near Shore Road. Initially little development took place north of New Jersey Avenue, but by 1923 there were many houses on both Gibbs and Higbee Avenues. Higbee Avenue, probably named for a mayor of Somers Point, had originally been called Somers Avenue but its name was changed to eliminate the confusion of having two streets of the same name within a few blocks of each other.¹⁸

Somers Point was obviously becoming more of a resort community. An aerial view of the town dating from the mid 1920s shows a large concentration of houses in the Bay Front Historic District, a sandy beach along Bay Avenue, and four piers stretching out into Egg Harbor Bay. Having had a population of only 308 in 1900, the town now had a year-round population of 3,000 and a summer population of over 10,000. Promotion literature showed sailboats dotting the bay, and the town boasted that "Somers Point stands high in the list of ideal resorts

17. U.S. Census for Atlantic County. 1910. Sanborn Atlas of 1911.

18. *Aerial View of Somers Point, New Jersey*, Hughes and Cinquin, New York, c. 1924

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on the South Jersey Coast." Among its advantages were sea and bay shores, sailing, fishing, woodlands, game ranges, and the Ocean City Golf Course, just west of the Bay Front District.¹⁹

One trolley line continued to serve Somers Point and its Bay Front district via Shore Road, New Jersey and Bay avenues until 1929. The line increased its fare from 6 cents to 7 cents in 1920 but found it no longer feasible to operate the service after 1929. The tracks remained in place until World War II when they were sold for scrap. The Shore Fast Line west of Shore Road continued to operate until the late 1940s when a fire destroyed part of the bridge between Somers Point and Ocean City.²⁰

Trolley transportation might have remained a viable means to travel to the Jersey shore without the introduction of the automobile. The private automobile made it possible for more and more Americans to drive themselves wherever they wished to go. Along with the automobile, the private vacation house came within the means of an increasing number of Americans. By the time of the Great Depression of the 1930s all but a handful of the houses now in the Bay Front Historic District had been built. Behind many of the houses there was also a small garage, indicating that a number of the house occupants were also automobile owners. In addition to the private garages, an auto repair service was located on Delaware Avenue.

In 1930 there were almost no commercial enterprises within the district except for one small store on George Street and the new Seaside Movie Theater that still stands at the northwest corner of Bay and Higbee avenues.²¹ The Depression of the 1930s from which America did not recover until World War II, slowed all business, including resorts, almost to a standstill. The economic recovery in the form of wartime industry and mobilization of the armed forces did nothing to revitalize resort areas or vacation spots either. The slow housing growth of the Depression years had little effect on the Bay Front Historic District because it was nearly filled with houses by that time. Despite recent development along the waterfront and the expansion of

19. Alfred M. Heston. *Absegami: Annals of Eyren Haven and Atlantic City*. (Atlantic City, 1906) p. 308 and *Aero View of Somers Point*.

20. Andrews. *Railroading in Atlantic County*. p. 99-100

21. Sanborn Atlas of 1930

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marinas the general ambiance of the district has changed little in the past fifty years.

The Bay Front Historic District is significant under Criterion C for its architecture, a collection of over 200 moderate-sized houses and hotels dating from between 1890 and 1935. The hotel buildings remaining today include the Anchorage in Second Empire style at the corner of Delaware and Bay avenues. This large three-story wooden building with its mansard roof is a prominent landmark in the district. Second Empire was extremely popular for public buildings in American cities. Americans picked up the style after it appeared in the mid-nineteenth-century additions to the Louvre in Paris. The city halls of both Philadelphia and Boston are outstanding examples of this generally ornate style that seemed best suited for large buildings. It was undoubtedly its use in large government buildings that made hotel builders consider it to be appropriate for their buildings, which they also wished to have dominate the landscape. The Anchorage was certainly not a large hotel in its time, and the inspiration for its architecture may have come from the much larger Congress Hall Hotel in nearby Cape May. Like most hotels of the time, the Anchorage featured a large veranda overlooking its best view, in this case the Great Egg Harbor Bay. In their essay on verandas in Catskill resorts Betsy Blackmar and Elizabeth Cromley explain the purposes of this outdoor living space. It was a place to enjoy the view, a place to walk and enjoy nature, and a place to socialize.²²

The veranda was a defining trait of Victorian resorts. It served as a sign; just as a striped barber pole signifies a barber's shop, so did the verandah advertise the building as a hotel. In towns where other public institutions - the bank, the courthouse, or town hall - might have columned porticos, the hotels did not stop at an accentuated entry, but expanded the veranda the full length of the building, even to two or three sides, and to second and third stories. ²³

22. Betsy Blackmar and Elizabeth Cromley. "On the Verandah: Resorts of the Catskills" *Nineteenth Century*. Vol. 8, Nos. 1-2, (Philadelphia, 1982). p. 51-54

23. Blackmar and Cromley. "On the Verandah" p. 52

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Other hotels and large houses in the district followed similarly popular styles. The Grand View Hotel at 800 Bay Avenue, a block away from the Anchorage, is another large three-story building. However, it has a steeply pitched gable roof and cross gables more in the Gothic mode with Stick or Eastlake style trim elements. Its porch is now partially enclosed, but it originally extended from the front corner around the waterfront section of the building, where it was two stories high. Another large three story house at the south end of Bay Avenue is now a part of the Dick's Dock complex. Two sizes of dormers with hipped roofs extend from its steep jerkin head roof. With its irregular shape and two-story bay window it originally had elements of the Queen Anne Style. For many years it was a private club and had a large veranda wrapping around three sides of the building. The club also had its own boathouse and dock extending into the bay. A similar veranda extends around three sides of the large house on the west side of Bay Avenue between Anna and Somers avenues. It retains many elements of the Stick and Eastlake styles that was also popular in seashore areas. Exposed rafter ends and a spindle frieze trim the porch roof, and many of the windows contain sash surrounded by small colored panes. A small wooden privy behind the house has its wooden shingle and clapboard siding, similar no doubt to the original siding that covered the main house.

The private houses in the district echo popular American styles that were particularly adaptable to the smaller houses near the seashore. The simple wooden ell or T-shaped two-and-a-half-story house with balloon frame and gable roof could easily become a farmhouse, suburban house, or seaside cottage. It was relatively easy to build, and a variety of trim elements could dress it up in the owner's choice of styles. The house at 17 George Street is one of the older houses of this type in the district. It has had several additions over the years but still features a saw-tooth barge board, an oriel window at the side, and upper sash surrounded by colored panes. Houses at 12, 21, and 38 Higbee Avenue all have the steep gable roofs of this house type and show the variety of shapes it might assume. On New Jersey Avenue, #9, which probably dates from near the turn of the century, still has its wooden clapboards, cross gables at the side, and porch with wooden posts and balustrade. Several other houses on the street are of a similar type but have had more alterations. The John Monroe Steelman House at 28 Delaware Avenue dates from 1892 and is one of the best examples of the type in the district. This ell-shaped house has a wrap-around porch with Stick style trim, double doors on the main entrance, and wooden

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clapboard exterior. It probably most closely resembles what the houses of this type in the district looked like originally. Next door at 24 Delaware Avenue another similar house also has Gothic windows, wood-shingle trim, and a porch with openwork brackets. Houses at 31 and 37 Somers Avenue and 829 Bay Avenue have similar characteristics.

A simplified variant of the two-story ell-shaped gable-roofed house is the plain rectangular-shaped house. There are two groups of four two-story houses of this type on Bay Avenue: one is on the west side of the avenue in the 900 block and the other group is on the east side of the street in the 800 block. All stand at slight angles to the street, and originally had porches facing the bay. All date from before the 1920s, and the only trims remaining are in a simple stick style.

Dictionaries define a cottage as "a modest dwelling, frequently for summer use,"²⁴ and most Americans probably would agree with that definition. Architecturally, the term derived from A.J. Downing's mid-nineteenth-century designs for cottages. Downing believed that the simplest cottage could embody what he considered to be good taste incorporating his favorite stylistic motifs. As an architect, Downing was an advocate of the "picturesque," a term that to him would include "irregularity and a partial want of proportion and symmetry." Downing's designs for cottages included small cottages for a workingman, cottages trimmed with brackets along the roof lines, Gothic cottages, gatehouse cottages, Italianate cottages, Swiss cottages, and even a "Cubical cottage in the Tuscan style." None were as elaborate or as large as his designs for villas and country houses.²⁵

Americans popularized and adapted Downing's plans through the years, and eventually the plans as well as the components of such houses became available by mail. The cottage is the dominant house type in the Bay Front Historic District. Most are one-story houses with a gable roof that has its end toward the street. They are a simple design that many builders might have constructed without a plan, but they are very similar to Downing's Design I for a laborer's cottage.²⁶ In the Bay Front Historic District as well as in other resort areas, the cottage

24. Henry H. Saylor. *Dictionary of Architecture*. (New York, 1952)

25. A. J. Downing. *The Architecture of Country Houses*. (New York, 1969) p. 70--142. Reprint of 1850 edition with new introduction.

26. Downing. *The Architecture of Country Houses*. p. 72

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also made the best possible use of the narrow lots favored by most developers.

The majority of the cottages in the district have plain gable roofs, but some have jerkin heads, and others have hipped roofs. While many have lost some of their original features, 59 Gibbs Avenue is a good example of a cottage that still has its wood clapboard siding, wooden porch, and six-over-one windows. Its neighbor next door is a few years younger and has a similar basic shape but is built of rusticated concrete blocks, a material that became popular in the 1920s. A slight variation of the basic cottage is "Sans Souci" at 28 Anna Avenue, built before 1910. It has a hipped roof that slopes out to cover a wrap-around porch. The house once belonged to J.G. Winner and appeared in an early-twentieth-century promotional booklet about Somers Point. Somers S. Steelman of Somers Point was probably the contractor responsible for the construction of this and other cottages in the Bay Front District. He advertised in the same booklet that "most of the cottages illustrated in this booklet have been built by me. For fourteen years I have given satisfaction in the construction of the finest cottages and bungalows."²⁷

The Bungalow is another style popular within the Bay Front Historic District as well as throughout America. As Alan Gowans has written in *The Architecture of New Jersey*, the bungalow was probably more popular here than in any other state. Bungalows came in a number of styles, but the true bungalow was a one story house in which a dormer permitted use of the second floor. As Marcus Whiffen wrote in *American Architecture Since 1780* "the word bungalow is a corruption of the Hindustani adjective Bangla which means belonging to Bengal."²⁸ The British brought the word and the idea of a low house with a verandah from India. Its various versions in the Bay Front district generally feature sloping gable roofs and porches. The coziness of the bungalow appealed to the vacationer and its porch was a place to enjoy the view and sea air. The large stone and shingle bungalow at 825 Bay Avenue was built before 1910 for Louis Steuber.²⁹ Other bungalows are at 18 and 30 Gibbs Avenue.

27. Gatchell and Manning. *Somers Point*. (Philadelphia, no date)

28. Marcus Whiffen. *American Architecture since 1780* (Cambridge, 1969) p. 218

29. Gatchell and Manning. *Somers Point*. (Philadelphia, no date)

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The American adaptation of the Queen Anne style that had started in England became popular near the turn of the century. Its irregular shape with a variety of surface finishes, window sizes, porches, and roof types was first used for large suburban or resort houses. The style frequently featured a tower with either an open porch or windows from which the occupants had a view of the surrounding land. Urban rowhouses often used Queen Anne features to dress up what might have been monotonous facades; towers and bay windows frequently appeared on smaller houses in the country. Although large Queen Anne houses were fairly popular in the New Jersey oceanfront resorts, the style appears in the Bay Front district only in the form of bay windows and in a single example of a tower at 57 New Jersey Avenue.

There are also several houses in the district in the Foursquare mode. Houses in this basically square shape with hipped roof and hip-roofed dormers were a design that was a part of the rectilinear movement, a stylistic revolt against Queen Anne and other ornate Victorian styles. By 1895 there were many published plans available for Foursquare houses, and several companies also sold prefabricated houses of this type.³⁰ Most popular in American suburbs and small towns, good examples of the Foursquare in the Bay Front Historic District are at 17-19 Somers Avenue, 14 and 47 Gibbs Avenue, and 811 Bay Avenue.

A mixture of styles blend together in the Bay Front Historic District to show the development of the area. One feature that appears on nearly every house regardless of style is the porch. The porch was a prominent feature in late-nineteenth-century American architecture, but it was most important in the resort or vacation retreat. Just as the porch was a part of hotel life, it was also a part of cottage life.

The intrusions within the district are mainly in the form of large new commercial marinas on the east side of Bay Street. Although they are out of scale with the older buildings, they must be considered a natural development along a modern recreational waterfront. The Bay Front Historic District is a distinct entity within Somers Point, bordered by the busy commercial area along Shore Road on the west, the heavily travelled route to Ocean City on the south, and a new hospital complex on the north. The district is unique in Atlantic County in that there is no other similar community of modest sized houses in excellent

30. Thomas W. Hanchett. "The Foursquare House type in the United States" *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*. (Annapolis, 1982) p. 51-52

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condition remaining from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. Maintenance within the district is generally very good, and some of residents are now working to establish a local historical society and to preserve the historic aspect of the area.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

As shown on the accompanying map the boundaries for the Bay Front Historic District are: Starting at the south curblin of George Street where it meets the north property line of 22 George Street then in an easterly direction to the rear boundary line of 22 George Street and then in a southerly direction along the rear property lines of 22 and 24 George Street to the south property line of 24 George Street, then in a westerly direction along that property line to the south curblin of George Street, then in a westerly direction along that curblin crossing Bay Avenue and following the south property line of the property known as Dick's Dock to the high tide line of Egg Harbor Bay, then in an easterly direction along the high tide line in Egg Harbor Bay to the point where this line meets an extension of the south curblin of Decatur Avenue, then in a northwesterly direction along that curblin to Bay Avenue, then crossing Bay Avenue and continuing in a northwesterly direction along the west property line of 715 Bay Avenue and the rear property lines along the northwest side of Gibbs Avenue to the north property line of 15 Gibbs Avenue, then continuing in a southwesterly direction along the north property lines of 15 Gibbs Avenue, 14 Gibbs Avenue, and 9 Higbee Avenue to the north curblin of Higbee Avenue, then in a southerly direction along that curblin to a point opposite the north property line of 12 Higbee Avenue, then in a southwesterly direction along the north property lines of 12 Higbee Avenue, 9 New Jersey Avenue, 18 New Jersey Avenue, 11 Delaware Avenue, 14 Delaware Avenue, 17 Somers Avenue, 2 Somers Avenue, then in a southerly direction along the rear property lines of 2, 20, and 24 Somers Avenue to the north property line of 23 Anna Avenue, then in a southwesterly direction along that property line and crossing Anna Avenue to the south curblin of Anna Avenue, then in a northwesterly direction along that curblin to the north property line of 14 Anna Avenue, then in a southwesterly direction along the north property lines of 14 Anna Avenue and 7 George Street to the north curblin of George Street, then in a southerly direction to the place of beginning.

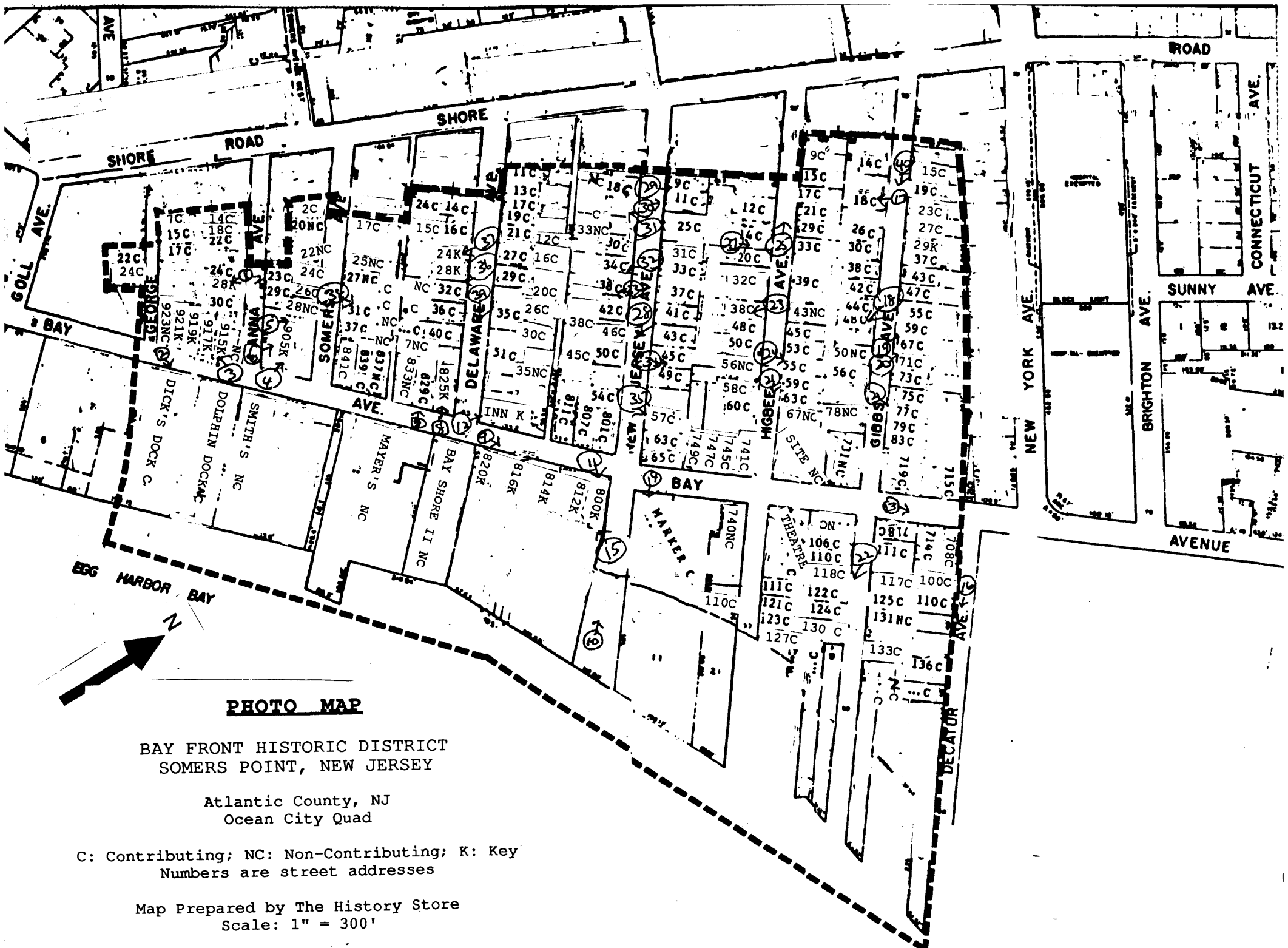


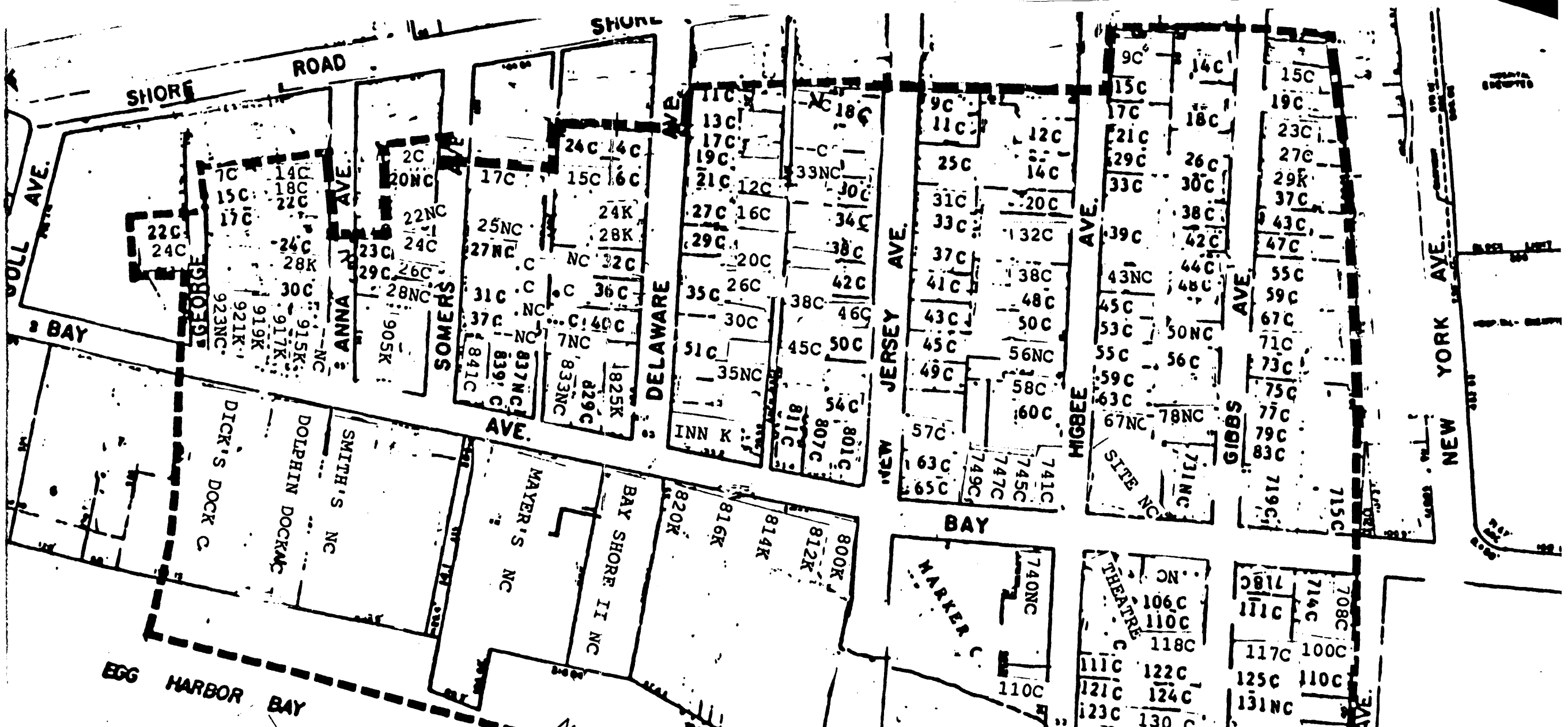
PHOTO MAP

BAY FRONT HISTORIC DISTRICT
SOMERS POINT, NEW JERSEY

Atlantic County, NJ
Ocean City Quad

C: Contributing; NC: Non-Contributing; K: Key
Numbers are street addresses

Map Prepared by The History Store
Scale: 1" = 300'



**BAY FRONT HISTORIC DISTRICT
SOMERS POINT, NEW JERSEY**

Atlantic County, NJ
Ocean City Quad

C: Contributing; NC: Non-Contributing; K: Key
Numbers are street addresses

Map Prepared by The History Store
Scale: 1" = 200'