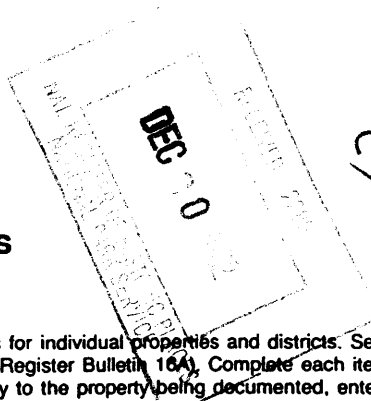
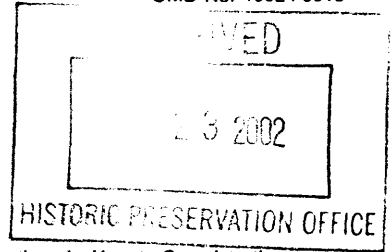


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



61



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Whilldin-Miller House

other names/site number Fow House/Daniel's on Broadway Restaurant

2. Location

street & number 416 South Broadway not for publication

city or town Borough of West Cape May vicinity

state New Jersey code 034 county Cape May code 009 zip code 08204

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] [Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Marc A. Matsil, Assistant Commissioner, Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

2/12/03
Date of Action

Whilldin-Miller House
Name of Property

Cape May County, NJ
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Postmedieval English

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD, weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

see attached continuation sheets

Whilldin-Miller House
Name of Property

Cape May County, NJ
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

C: Architecture

Period of Significance

C: ca. 1860

Significant Dates

ca. 1860

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

see attached continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography see attached continuation sheets

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Whilldin-Miller House
Name of Property

Cape May County, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .41 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Berkey, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date August 19, 2002
street & number 1003 Bartlett Avenue telephone 609-927-7950
city or town Linwood state New Jersey zip code 08221-1137

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gleason
street & number 416 South Broadway telephone 609-898-8770
city or town West Cape May state NJ zip code 08204

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 7 Page 1

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, NJ

Narrative Description

Summary Description

The Whilldin-Miller House is a wood frame residence consisting of three sections: (1) the main block, which is a vernacular Victorian building with Gothic and Italianate details built ca. 1860, (2) a heavy timber frame section, 1 ½ stories tall, built in the early 18th century and located in the southwest corner behind the main block, and (3) a modern one-story addition containing a commercial/restaurant kitchen, located in the northwest corner behind the main block. Set back about 50' from the curb, the house stands at the northeast corner of South Broadway and Congress Streets, facing east onto South Broadway, in the borough of West Cape May, Cape May County, New Jersey. The house, now an up-scale restaurant, is part of an historic neighborhood of primarily houses which date from the early 19th to the early 20th century, and which line South Broadway, a street that terminates at the Atlantic Ocean three blocks to the south. Those buildings standing on the opposite side of the street are within the City of Cape May's National Landmark District. The house's main block has a rectangular footprint and features original wood clapboards, original windows, and original exterior and interior Victorian details. The heavy timber frame section to the rear also has a rectangular footprint and features exposed framing members (some of them molded), random width pine floors, many original doors, and a large, walk-in fireplace. Adjacent to the fireplace is a cooking/warming oven, a feature rarely seen in Cape May County. Standing on a slight rise, the house is surrounded by mature trees to the south and east, has formal landscaped gardens in the front (east) yard, and a gravel parking lot to the north and west.

Current Exterior Appearance: ca. 1860 main block

Rectangular in plan with a 38' wide x 20' deep footprint, the main block of the house is vernacular Victorian Italianate in style, five bays wide and two bays deep. [photo #2] Two stories tall, the house has a gable roof with a ridge that runs parallel to the façade (east elevation) and is broken by a cross gable with an original 4/4 double hung point-arched window. All eaves have a deep, projecting cornice decorated with brackets, and two original interior end wall brick chimneys (both modestly corbelled) pierce the roof at the each end. The tall windows are 4/4 double hung wood sash with counterweights; the muntins are of a heavier dimension than the mullions, and the windows on the first story are much taller than those on the second floor. Most are flanked by original louvered blinds with original "clamshell" holdbacks. The roof is sheathed in modern "tilo" asphalt shingles, and the exterior is sheathed in original wood

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 7 Page 2

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, NJ
(Section 7 continued)

clapboards. This part of the house stands on a brick foundation and has a partial basement under its northwestern corner.

The façade (east elevation) has a centrally placed doorway topped by an original, single-light transom. To the north of the doorway is a modern "carriage" light. A one-story Victorian-style porch, one-bay wide, shelters the doorway. Its modestly-sloping roof is supported by pairs of square wood columns with applied moldings. The lower third of the columns' bases appears to have been replaced within the last ten years. The porch has a roof line consisting of a modestly-molded cornice with dentils and a floor of modern brick pavers. [photo #2] The porch floor has been extended to the north and to the south with a concrete floor outlined in brick; modern canvas awnings shelter these areas for restaurant patrons. Both gable ends have small, original 2/2 double hung wood sash on each side of the chimney stack. Most of the first floor of the rear (west) elevation is covered by the rear additions. [photo #3]

Current Exterior Appearance: ca. 1711-1718 rear portion

This, the oldest section of the building, occupies the southwest corner and only its south and west elevations are exposed. With a south-facing orientation and a rectangular footprint 26' wide x 18' deep, this part is four bays wide, one bay deep, and 1 ½ stories tall. [photos #3 and #4] The gable roof runs parallel to the south elevation (façade) and is pierced by a large interior end wall brick chimney at the west end. This chimney is very tall, corbelled, and has been parged; the roof is covered with modern asphalt shingle. This part of the house has no foundation, and its sills stand on stone piers in each corner.

The exterior is clad in a combination of original wood clapboard, late-19th/early 20th century clapboard, and late 20th century replacement wood clapboard. The original clapboard is found on part of the west elevation only: it is crudely fashioned with uneven edges, has varying heights, is 1" thick, is placed with varying exposures to the weather. Because the clapboard has been heavily painted over, it was not possible to determine what kind of nails were used for clinching. Evidence of what appears to be an infilled window opening is plainly visible in the center of the west elevation. In contrast, clapboard on the first floor of the south elevation is uniformly made, placed 5" to the weather, and clinched with round nails, while that on the second floor of this elevation is beaded, clinched with square headed nails, and likely dates from ca. 1850 to 1900.

A porch wraps around the south and west elevations: that portion which fronts the west (side) elevation is open-air and has square columns with decorative, scrolled Victorian-era brackets [photo #3] while the portion that fronts the south elevation (façade) has recently been enclosed

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 7 Page 3

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, NJ
(Section 7 continued)

with modern vinyl 6/6 replacement double hung sash [photo #4]. The roof line features a wide cornice with returns, and two small 4/4 double hung wood sash windows are located on the second floor of the south elevation. The first floor of the façade (south elevation) has two replacement 6/6 windows to the west, an 18th century door, and a 6/6 window to the east that appears to date to ca. 1800. The west (side) elevation has one window each at the first and second floors, the latter in the gable end; both are located south of the chimney stack and are 6/6 double hung wood sash that appears to date to ca. 1800.

Current Exterior Appearance: one-story addition

Clad in modern wood clapboard, this one-story addition occupies the northwest corner of the building and has an irregular footprint of 28' wide x 36' deep. [photo #3] It has a modestly-gabled roof that runs parallel with the north elevation and it stands on a raised foundation of parged concrete block. Attached to the easternmost half of the north elevation is a one-story, walk-in freezer. The only window is a 1/1 modern vinyl window on the west elevation; there is door—to the kitchen—on the north elevation, and one to the freezer on the freezer's west wall. Large ventilation hoods stand on the roof, which is rolled asphalt composition.

Current Interior Appearance: ca. 1860 main block

The interior of the main block consists almost entirely of original historic fabric, including pine floors, plaster walls, molded trim, baseboards, ceiling medallions, and most doors. Of the four original fireplaces, however, only one (in the south parlor) remains open and retains its original surround; the other three have been closed off, but the chimneys and chimney closets are extant.

In plan, the main block has a center hall flanked by two parlors on the first floor, and a center hall flanked by two bedrooms on the second floor. The attic is also finished into two rooms.

The south parlor is the more formal of the two rooms on the first floor and has a 9' high plaster ceiling. [photo #6] The windows and doorways are trimmed with 4 1/2" wide molding having an ogee with bead profile. Baseboards are 7" high and include 1 1/2" high ogee molding on top. A 6" wide cove molding around the ceiling incorporates a picture rail on all walls. All walls also have original 4" wide molded chair rails. A chamfered longitudinal summer beam divides the room in two and runs from north to south. There are two plaster ceiling medallions, both of which appear to be original, that have an acanthus leaf design. Crystal electric chandeliers, which appear to date to ca. 1920, are suspended from each medallion. The fireplace stands against the south wall and has closets on each side that are fronted with tall, raised panel doors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 7 Page 4

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, NJ
(Section 7 continued)

The fireplace surround consists of brass frame embossed with a rose and bow garland, surrounded by 6" wide wood ogee molding. [fig. 13] Inside the fireplace is a cast iron fire back marked "Sharpless & Watts, Philadelphia."¹ The original coal grate is extant, but the fireplace is now filled with modern gas logs. The original wood floors are now covered with modern wall-to-wall carpet.

The north parlor, likely used as a dining room, has no summer beam and its fireplace opening is covered over. Fireplace closets, identical to those along the fireplace in the south parlor, are extant. This room also has the same chair rail, cove molding, door and window trim, and baseboards as the south parlor. An original plaster medallion, identical to those in the south parlor, is placed in the center of the ceiling, and a ca. 1920 crystal chandelier (also electric) is suspended from it. The original wood floors are also covered with modern wall-to-wall carpets.

The entrance hall has an open string stair along the south wall: the stair has a turned walnut newell on a square base, while balusters are round in section and decoratively turned. [photo #5] Door and window trim, and baseboards are identical to those in the south parlor and the hall floor consists of modern parquet wood flooring laid over the original wood flooring. The north and south walls have two doorway openings into each parlor, but the original doors have been removed. The front door, located on the east wall, is a modern 6-panel (2/2/2) replacement wood door with modern locks, knobs, and door knocker.

At the head of the second floor stair landing is a bathroom with late 20th century fixtures and fittings. There is no bathtub; the floor is ceramic tile and a vanity with double sinks covers the lower third of the window on the east wall. Parts of the north wall and the walls surrounding the toilet in the southwest corner have what appears to be original beaded board wainscot, 1" wide, while the remainder of the walls has modern beaded board wainscot. The door (original) on the north wall, which leads to the north bedroom and can be seen in that room, has been covered over. [photo #7, door to the left] The door on the west wall, off the hallway, is original and consists of 4 sunk panels (2/2) with applied moldings; it is topped with a transom of operable, louvered blinds.

Both second floor bedrooms have identical, original finishes including window and door trim that is the same as that found on the first floor. [photo #7, showing north bedroom] Both doorways are topped with operable, louvered blind transoms [photo #7], and the original doors

¹ Sharpless & Watts first appear in Gopsill's 1875 Philadelphia directory (p. 1353) as manufacturers of "encaustic tiles." According to an undated sales catalogue at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the firm furnished the bronze doors used in the 1872 Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, and advertised themselves as "artisans in all metals...bronze, brass, and iron."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 7 Page 5

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, NJ
(Section 7 continued)

have been removed. Both fireplaces are covered over, and the original wood floors are covered with modern wall-to-wall carpeting. Original baseboards are 5" high and topped with a 1" chamfered edge. In the north bedroom, the original fireplace closet doors have been removed and replaced with modern ones; in the south bedroom, both fireplace closet doors have been removed, and the closets are now open and infilled with modern shelving. Part of the ceiling on the north and east walls of the north bedroom has been dropped 7" creating a border to accommodate recessed lighting and HVAC ducts, and the ceiling is decorated with a painted floral mural that has stenciled gold leaf trim. There is no cove molding and no ceiling medallion in either room, and both have modern light fixtures hanging in the center of the room.

The attic is divided into two finished rooms, one at the north end and the other at the south end, both of which are accessed from a small hallway at the head of the stairs. Both have plaster walls and ceilings, a 6-panel entry door (2 louvered panels/2 sunk panels/2 sunk panels), original 2/2 windows in the gable ends, and simple 2 3/4" wide wood trim around the doors and windows. The southernmost room is used as an office and also incorporates the pointed arch window in the cross gable on the east wall. The northernmost room is used for storage and contains modern HVAC units. Floors are random width pine, most with a painted finish.

Current Interior Appearance: ca. 1711-1718 rear portion

This portion of the house features heavy timber framing that is exposed on the first floor and is visible to a much lesser extent on the second floor. In plan, the first floor of this section has a wide side hall to the east, with a parlor to the west.

The parlor is approximately 16' wide and 18' deep [photo #8]. Both the hall and parlor are floored with random width boards running north to south and fastened with predominantly square head nails, although a few hand-wrought nails were observed. Walls on both floors are either plaster or sheetrock. Window and door trim on the first floor appears to date from the 20th century and is unmolded, except for the trim on the west and north wall windows and on the door on the north wall, which is original 3" wide trim with a 1/2" bead on the interior edge.

The parlor has an exposed corner post in the southwest corner that is encased in either wallboard or plaster. [photo #8] The corner post in the northwest corner is not exposed. Ceiling joists are exposed, but the original joists have been covered with a second, decorative/non-functioning joist to give an illusion of depth because plaster has been infilled between the joists for a plaster ceiling. End tie beams and girts have been faced with modern boards, so their original finish (planed, adzed, or vertical sawn; beaded or chamfered) could not be determined. To the south of the fireplace on the west wall is a ca. 1750-1800 6/6 double-hung sash window and the two

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 7 Page 6

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, NJ
(Section 7 continued)

windows on the parlor's south wall are replacement 6/6 double hung wood sash. The window on the north wall, east of the door, also appears to date ca. 1750-1800 and is 6/6 double hung wood sash. The door on the north wall of the parlor also appears to date to the 18th century and is board and batten. The board and batten door on the south wall appears to be original and has an early, wrought-iron latch. [fig. 10] Baseboards, which appear to date from the late 18th-early 19th century, are 4 1/2" tall with 1/2" rounded edge on all walls.

The fireplace, located on the west wall, is notable for its size: 4'6" tall, 6'3" wide, and 30" deep. [photo #8] The surround consists of unmolded wood trim and a simple, unmolded mantel shelf supported by curved wooden brackets, all of which appear to date to ca. 1750-1800. The overmantel consists of a plaster wall that has been painted with a mural (featuring sail boats and houses in a 19th century setting) in the late 20th century. Inside the fireplace is a 3-piece, cast-iron fire back with a fleur-de-lis pattern; no maker's mark was observed on the front, and the back was not examined. A long crane, which appears to be original, hangs from a pintle on the south cheek, and the fireplace has a damper system. There is a brick hearth, and removal of a loose floorboard in front of the hearth shows that the fireplace stands on a granite rock foundation.

Abutting the north wall of the fireplace is a warming or baking "oven," rectangular in plan with a 21" x 26 1/2" footprint. [fig. 9] It is fed by a 7" x 9" opening in the lower part of the north cheek of the fireplace wall; this opening leads diagonally up to a trough that likely had a grate over it originally. This warming oven does not appear to have had a door, although there is a metal plate that spans the front face of the trough. It also has a damper, and a flue that ties into the main chimney stack. The oven has been heavily painted over the years, so determining the presence of early hardware, doors, etc. has not been possible.

The east wall of the parlor has an original board and batten door to the north, which opens into a closet located under the stairs. To the south is a 20th century French door with 15 lights (3/3/3/3/3) that closes the parlor off from the hall.

East of the parlor is a large hallway, 10' wide. [photo #10] Of particular note in the hallway is a large, molded corner post in the southeast corner; it is 9 1/2" wide and 6" deep, with an ogee profile. [photo #11] There are three other posts in the hall: those in the northwest and southwest corners appear to have never been molded, while the one in the northeast corner looks as though it was originally molded, but was cut back at a later date. In fact, this post has been so cut back that the bottom of the tenon in the girt it supports has been exposed. [fig. 12] These oak posts support two girts, which were probably originally an end tie beam (to the west) and a chimney girt (to the east), that run north to south.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 7 Page 7

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, NJ
(Section 7 continued)

Also notable is the decoration on the easternmost girt supported by the northeast and southeast chimney posts—it is chamfered and has lamb's tongue stops on both bottom edges. [fig. 11] It also has open mortise pockets on the eastern face, suggesting the earlier existence of another room to the east, whose floor joists would have tied into this beam. To the west of the molded chimney post is a 6/6 double hung sash window that appears to date ca. 1750-1800.

The other girt, supported by the northwest and southwest posts, is adzed and has no chamfer or lamb's tongue stops. An 8'3" long section of this girt, located on the western face 17" north of the south wall, has been crudely cut back at an angle, probably to accommodate a fireplace at one time. Two open mortise pockets, spaced 30" apart, are placed over the doorway at the north end of the girt, but their purpose has not yet been determined. Both girts and all four corner posts are of oak, and the girts are 8" wide by 9 1/4" high. No corner braces were observed.

A straight flight of stairs leading to the second floor is located in the westernmost section of the chimney bay. Placed along the east wall of the stairwell is a countertop, below which are storage cabinets. [photo #10] The walls at the north and south end of the counter are curved and covered with plaster.

The porch, now partially enclosed, has a new plywood subfloor and new modern double hung wood sash windows placed in groups of three; the exposed porch roof serves as the ceiling. Trim around the windows and the doors is modern, 2" wide unmolded wood.

The second floor of this section consists of a bedroom to the west and a hallway with storage closets to the east. The bedroom walls and ceiling have been enclosed with wallboard, so the rafters and purlins could not be examined for joint construction or saw marks. [photo #12] The only beams exposed are collar beams between the rafters in the bedroom; because most are circular sawn, they were likely added after ca. 1860. The roof has a 55° pitch, and according to nail patterns in the wallboard, rafters are irregularly spaced from 21" to 26" on center. The east partition wall is composed of vertically-laid, beaded flushboards which appear to date ca. 1750-1800. Some of them show marks of hand-planing, and all are 1" thick.

Although the flooring (which runs north to south) is random width, it is not as old as that in the hallway on this story because it does not show as much wear. Posts in the northwest, southwest, and northeast corners of the bedroom are not exposed, but because the wall thickness is 10", they are probably hidden within the wall. A small portion of the post in the southeast corner is visible. The eyebrow window on the north wall has been removed and covered with a piece of painted plywood. The chimney stack is exposed on the west wall and is wider at the base where the flue for the warmer/baking oven joins the main flue; it also has a hole, now covered over, where a stove pipe once entered the chimney. Baseboards are 2 3/4" high, unmolded, and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 7 Page 8

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, NJ
(Section 7 continued)

probably date to the 20th century. Modern light fixtures (3) hang from the collar beams to provide light.

The hallway has random width pine floors that appear to date from the early to mid-18th century by their greater wear and greater width. They alternate male (tongue) and female (groove) and the walls here are also covered with plaster and wallboard. There are three closets: one between the stair and the south wall (accessed by a ca. 1800 board and batten door), one along the east wall of the stair (fronted by a 4-panel door that matches those in the Victorian main block), and one in the northeast corner (also fronted by a 4-panel door that matches those in the Victorian main block). The wall creating the closet adjacent to the stair is also curved, like the wall in the hallway below. The corner post in the southeast corner is exposed, as is the post in the northeast corner closet; both are painted and adzed, and appear to have the same dimensions as those on the first floor. The only original baseboards, of 3" high wood with a beaded upper edge, are found along the south wall of the hallway (including the closet) and along a portion of that closet's north wall. As in the bedroom to the west, the eyebrow window on the north wall has been removed and covered with a piece of painted plywood.

Current Interior Appearance: one-story addition

The commercial kitchen features entirely modern finishes including wallboard walls and a tile floor. It is filled with commercial baking and food preparation equipment. This part of the building has a full basement used for storage.

Landscaping

The area in front of the main block consists of formal landscaping added when the current owners bought the building in 1997. Irregularly-shaped flower beds border the grassy areas on each side of the walkway leading to the front door. This walkway is made of brick and aggregate pavers and is lined with 24" high modern lights; halfway between the house and the street, the walkway expands into a circle, then reverts to its original configuration. [see site plan] Two cast iron posts, for a wrought iron gate and fence no longer extant, stand on each side of the walkway near the street and are 4'5" tall. [fig. 14] Adjacent to the posts are two weeping Japanese maple trees (*Acer palmatum*) and two sycamore trees (*Platanus occidentalis*). The northeast corner of the front lawn consists of yuccas (*Yucca*) and spreading junipers (*Juniperus communis*), and has vinca (*Vinca minor*) for a groundcover. The flower beds contain a variety of annuals and perennials, including hostas (*Hosta*), day lilies (*Hemerocallis*), and black-eyed susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*). A line of boxwoods (*Buxus*) form a border across the front porch and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 7 Page 9

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, NJ
(Section 7 continued)

are accented with two cast iron urns placed on each side of the porch. A line of old yews (*Taxus baccata*) creates a screen along the southern edge of the front lawn, while the northern edge of the property is planted with roses (*Rosa*).

The front (east) and north side of the kitchen addition are planted with small holly trees (*Ilex opaca*), a fir (*Abies balsamea*), a red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), and several ornamental junipers (*Juniperus communis*). Red cedars and junipers also shade the porch along the south elevation, while privets (*Ligustrum*) and an older walnut tree (*Juglans nigra*) join with yews to line the southernmost perimeter of the lot.

A decorative concrete block retaining wall separates the north front lawn from the north side parking lot as well as the rear of the ca. 1711-1718 portion from the rear (west) parking lot. The parking lot wraps around the north and west sides of the building and is outlined on the perimeter with Eastern redcedar trees (*Juniperus virginiana*). The southwest corner of the lot has one fruit-bearing pear tree (*Pyrus communis*) that appears to date to the early 1900s, and several maple (*Acer*) trees.

Original Appearance and Subsequent Alterations

Deeds, wills, and physical evidence suggest that the earliest portion of the house, built with heavy timber frame construction, was erected between 1711 and 1718 by Joseph Whilldin, Jr. (ca. 1690 – 1747/48). In those years, he bought property from his father, Joseph Whilldin, Sr. (ca. 1656- ca. 1728) who had come to Cape May County from Yarmouth, Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts before 1687.

Heavy timber frame construction is a method of building that uses large, adzed framing members (6"-8" wide or larger) which are joined and held together with pegged mortise and tenon joints. This type of construction was brought to the New England colonies by English settlers in the early seventeenth century. As Massachusetts Bay area colonists migrated to other parts of the eastern seaboard, they took their building traditions with them. In the 1640s and 1650s, they settled on Long Island, New York, many lured by the thriving whaling industry there. From Long Island, these New Englanders (and/or their descendants) moved to New Jersey in the last third of the 17th century, settling not only in East Jersey (including Essex, Union and Middlesex counties), but in West Jersey as well, particularly in Salem (now Cumberland), Gloucester (now Atlantic), and Cape May counties. Those coming to Cape May County were attracted to a whaling industry established there, as well.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 7 Page 10

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, NJ
(Section 7 continued)

The large size of the framing members used in the Whilldin-Miller House, as well as the molded post and molded girt, are characteristics common to first period construction in Cape May County, a period that lasted from roughly 1695 to about 1730 or 1740.

Open mortise pockets along the east face of the easternmost chimney girt in the first floor hallway, combined with the fact that both sides of the girt are decorated with a chamfer and lamb's tongue stops, suggest that there was another room originally to the east of the hallway. It is not clear if the house was originally built with a center chimney and a parlor on each side, or was first built with a side hall and parlor to the east, and then the west parlor was added later. Either scenario followed earlier precedents found on Long Island and in the Massachusetts Bay area.

Because only the easternmost girt is decorated, it is more likely that the house originally consisted of the hall to the west, and a large parlor to the east, since removed. Regardless of original floor plan, the 10' wide hallway (more correctly called a chimney bay) would have contained a large cooking fireplace, and the stairs would have been placed either in front of or behind the chimney stack. [see fig. 18 for a typical Massachusetts Bay area floor plan]

After Joseph Whilldin's death in 1747/48, the property was inherited by his son, James Whilldin, Esq. (1714-1780). It is possible that the house was expanded to a center hall, center chimney, double parlor configuration during James Whillden's occupation: he was granted a tavern license in the years 1764, 1765, 1767, and 1768, and may have added onto the house to accommodate travelers visiting nearby Cape Island (now the city of Cape May). It should be noted that the house was oriented to the south, facing the Atlantic Ocean, which was much further to the south than the present 2,000' it is today.

The house and 140 acres were willed in 1780 by James Whilldin, Esq. to his son, James Whilldin Jr. (1742-1824), who sold it in 1798 to Jeremiah Bennett (ca. 1775-1834), a sea captain. Bennet's heirs sold the property in 1841 to Jonas Miller (ca. 1785-1869) who settled in Cape May and who had purchased the popular Congress Hall hotel, located just four blocks to the southeast, in 1835.² The 1850 map of Cape May [fig. 2] shows the house as one of two residences, located on the former Bennett farm, owned by Jonas Miller at the time.

It is likely that Jonas Miller built the Italianate main block sometime shortly before selling the property and four acres in 1862 to his daughter, Sarah Newkirk, wife of Philadelphia hotelier Thompson Newkirk. The purchase price in that transaction was \$3,000, suggesting that the

² Cape May County Deeds, Book Q, p. 544.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 7 Page 11

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, NJ
(Section 7 continued)

substantial house had been erected.³ What appears to be a sill from the original east wing of the house was re-used under the new Victorian house, and suggests that there was, indeed, a parlor to the east of the present hall in the old section. (fig. 15) The house appears in its current configuration with two end chimneys and a center entrance in an 1865 road return which straightened South Broadway to the south of the house. (fig. 4) The 1872 Woolman & Rose map shows the Newkirks as the owners of the property, and the house is seen with an L-shaped footprint (fig. 5).

The Newkirks lost the property in a sheriff's sale in 1879; it was purchased by another Philadelphian, Spencer Fullerton who sold the property four years later to yet another Philadelphian, Charles C. Moore. Moore held the property for only two years, selling it in 1885 to Oscar Fow, a butcher and victualler from Philadelphia. Fow, and his heirs, owned the property until 1931.

In the 1890 Sanborn Map, the house appears with the Victorian main block and the portion of the early building to the rear (fig. 6). The early section is surrounded on three sides (north, south, and west) by a porch, likely identical to the portions of the porch that are extant. The front porch also appears as extending the full width of the house, and there are two buildings in the rear, one of which is shown as two stories tall and was probably a carriage house. The other, a smaller building one-story tall, was probably a chicken coop. What appears to be an alleyway located along the south lot line was likely a right-of-way, established in the 1880s, providing access to property behind the house. It is now part of Congress Street.

Under the Fow family ownership around the turn of the last century, a one-story addition in the northwest corner of the building was added, and the house appears with this configuration in the 1919 Sanborn Map. (fig. 7) According to the 1919 Sanborn, the addition ran the full length of the oldest section, but in a photograph from 1954, the addition is barely visible. Also shown on that map is a 1 ½ story "auto & storage" garage (no longer extant), and a one-story gas station (extant) at the southwest corner of Perry and South Broadway streets. It is possible that the Fows closed up the three of the four fireplaces, as fireplaces had become out-dated for heating purposes by then, and the Fows likely added the crystal chandeliers extant in the first floor parlors. Fow also purchased extensive property surrounding the house, especially to the rear (west).

Fow's executors sold the house in 1931 to C. Henry and Olivia Regar, who kept the property until 1971, when Olivia (as a widow), transferred ownership to her son, Jason. Jason Regar sold the house in 1981 to Daniel Ness and Robert Guldin, who converted it into a restaurant.

³ Cape May County Deeds, book 28, p. 412.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 12

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, NJ

(Section 7 continued)

In 1997, Ness and Guldin sold to the present owners, who doubled the size of the ca. 1900 kitchen addition, creating a modern commercial kitchen. The current owners have done little to the interiors of the Victorian and heavy timber frame sections of the house, making only cosmetic changes. Among these was the painting of a mural on the ceiling of the north bedroom and over the mantel in the oldest section of the house.⁴ They recently enclosed a portion of the open air porch (about 20' located along the south wall) and are in the process of converting it into additional table space. The current owners also re-graded the lot, adding a retaining wall along the west and north elevations and creating a much-needed gravel parking lot along those elevations. They also added the extensive flowerbeds and foundation and perimeter plantings seen today. The building continues to serve as a popular restaurant.

Integrity

Because evidence suggests that the oldest portion of the house originally had a parlor to the east, which was likely demolished when the ca. 1860 main block was built, this part of the Whilldin-Miller House has had a large portion of its original historic appearance altered. However, the main block of the dwelling, built ca. 1860, retains a high degree of integrity in terms of plan and in the high amount of original historic fabric that remains: its fenestration, massing, building materials, and interior details and finishes clearly represent the sophisticated Victorian appearance its mid-19th century builder intended.

⁴ This work was done by a local firm called "Room Service."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 8 Page 1

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, New Jersey

Statement of Significance

Summary Statement of Significance

The main block of the Whilldin-Miller House is architecturally significant under criterion C as a well-preserved example of vernacular domestic architecture executed in a kind of Gothic-Italianate hybrid style that came to be typical of the New Jersey architectural landscape in the mid- to late 19th century. It is also significantly represents the increasingly sophisticated cottage styles that were appearing in the resort city of Cape May, its immediate vicinity, and in other seaside resort areas after 1850. Within a local context, the house is significant as one of the most stylish Victorian dwellings built in West Cape May just before the Civil War.¹

Chronological History of the Property

Joseph Whilldin, yeoman, purchased 150 acres of land in Cape May County from the West New Jersey Society in 1695.² Several years earlier, Whilldin (ca. 1656-ca. 1725) had come to Cape May from Yarmouth, Plymouth Plantation and his tract, located at the southernmost tip of the Cape May peninsula was strategically located at the junction of the Delaware River with the Atlantic Ocean. Whilldin's wife, Hannah Gorham (1663-ca. 1728), was the grand-daughter of John Howland, a Mayflower passenger, and it is through her that so many of Cape May County's descendants claim the much-revered connection to Mayflower ancestry.

Little is known of Joseph Whilldin's private life, but he was active in the county's earliest public affairs. He was in the county as early as 1687 when he was one of several area residents who purchased the lower part of the peninsula from the native sachem, Panktoe, before the land came under the control of the West New Jersey Society in 1692.³ He registered his earmark in 1693⁴, and through later colonial and post-colonial deeds⁵ it is known that he purchased other land in

¹ This researcher wishes to acknowledge the contributions made by George Thomas, who suggested this area of significance, with supporting documentation, in his preliminary research (1997) on the nominated building.

² Colonial Deeds, Book B, p. 455. The name has appeared as Whilldin (the most common), Whillden, and Weldon in various colonial and post-colonial documents.

³ Jeffery Dorwart, Cape May County, New Jersey: The Making of an American Resort Community (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992), p. 14.

⁴ Lewis Townsend Stevens, The History of Cape May County, New Jersey (Cape May, NJ: Lewis Townsend Stevens, 1897), p. 84.

⁵ Cape May County Deeds, Book C, p. 403).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 8 Page 2

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, New Jersey
(criterion C continued)

Cape May County. In 1699, he was appointed county coroner,⁶ in 1705 was sheriff,⁷ in 1710 was appointed tax collector,⁸ and in 1713 was named a commissioner of the pleas.⁹ No will or estate was probated for him, and family histories state (without citation) that he died about 1725.¹⁰

Joseph and Hannah Gorham Whilldin had three daughters and two sons. Their eldest daughter, Hannah (1683-1728), married Thomas Leaming (1674-1723), whose house is also listed in the State and National Registers for its significance as a heavy timber frame structure.¹¹ The Whilldin's two sons, Isaac (no dates) and Joseph Jr. (ca. 1690-1748), seem to have each received half of their father's estate, either by purchase or inheritance. Through a 1798 deed involving Joseph's grandson, James, it is known that Joseph Sr. purchased land "in the lower precinct" from Jeremiah Basse (one of the commissioners for the West New Jersey Society) and that he conveyed part of it to his son, Joseph Jr., through two different deeds, one dated 1711 and one dated 1718.¹²

It is likely that the original portion of the house was constructed between these dates of 1711 and 1718 by Joseph, Jr., who would have been an adult at the time, and may possibly have been married by then. He and his first wife, Mary Wilmon (1689-1743), lived on the property, then comprised of more than 200 acres located at the southernmost tip of the Jersey cape. Joseph Jr., through his will written in 1748 and proved the same year, gave his son James "the plantation whereon I now live," while other sons received tracts of cedar swamp or other tracts of "land and marsh."¹³ An inventory taken of his estate later that year sheds no light on the configuration of the house, as it is regrettably a mere summary of his moveable estate and not a detailed one. Like other Cape May county settlers, the majority of his worth lay in cattle, horses, and sheep; he also owned three "Negroes," books, and "wheat in the ground."

⁶ Stevens, p. 58.

⁷ Stevens, p. 463.

⁸ Stevens, p. 67.

⁹ Stevens, p. 72.

¹⁰ Rev. Paul Sturtevant Howe, Mayflower Descendants in Cape May County (Cape May, NJ: The Albert Hand Company, 1921), p. 98.

¹¹ Thomas Leaming's house was built, according to his diary, in 1706, and is located in Middle Township, about four miles north of Cape May Court House, and about twenty miles north of the Whilldin-Miller House.

¹² Cape May County Deeds, Book C, p. 403.

¹³ New Jersey Colonial Wills #140E.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places**Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, New Jersey

(criterion C continued)

James Whilldin, Sr. (1714-1780), Joseph Jr.'s son, was also active in the county's public affairs. In 1767, he was commissioned a judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas,¹⁴ was a commissioner of the peace in 1771,¹⁵ and was made a justice of the county Court of Oyer and Terminer in 1773.¹⁶ Because of these positions, he was referred to as "Esquire" in public documents. As the Revolutionary War loomed, he was named a member of the County Committee of Safety,¹⁷ and signed a petition to Governor William Livingston asking him to exempt the Cape May county militiamen from serving a tour abroad because they were needed at home to defend the coastline and river.¹⁸ Curiously, he did not sign the oath of allegiance to the newly established state of New Jersey in 1778.

James Whilldin, Sr. married Jane Hand (1719-1760) and they had four sons, James, Matthew, Jonathan, and Seth; after Jane's death he married Jane Izard in 1761, and after her death married Susannah Hand in 1766.

James was also a tavern keeper, receiving a license in the years 1764, 1765, 1767, and 1768.¹⁹ He died in 1780 and divided his numerous land holdings amongst his children in his will.²⁰ Interestingly, it appears he owned two houses: his son, Jonathan, was willed one-third of his lands "with the western house and its rooms where Captain Warsdale now lives," and his son James Jr. received the remainder of his lands, which included the house being nominated. Captain Warsdale was also listed as having a tavern license for the year 1775, but it appears that this house is no longer extant. Because James owned two houses, it is not known if the Whilldin-Miller house or the "western house," or both, were used as a tavern. James Whilldin, Jr. (1742-1825) held onto the property for thirteen years after inheriting it, likely farming the land and its acreage. Prior to moving to Ohio where he died in 1825,²¹ he sold the homestead and its acreage in 1806 to Jeremiah Bennett, a "pilot" from Lower Township.²² Eight years earlier, he had sold one acre of land and meadow to Bennett for \$30, and that smaller lot appears to have been located to the south of the present house.

¹⁴ Stevens, p. 141.

¹⁵ Stevens, p. 171.

¹⁶ Stevens, p. 175.

¹⁷ Stevens, p. 180.

¹⁸ Stevens, p. 205.

¹⁹ Robert Alexander, Cape May County Tavern Licenses: 1741-1806 (handwritten manuscript on file at the Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society)

²⁰ New Jersey Colonial Wills, Cape May County, #415E.

²¹ Clermont Co., OH wills, Book D, p. 11.

²² Cape May County Deeds, Book E, p. 51.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 8 Page 4

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, New Jersey
(criterion C continued)

Jeremiah Bennett (ca. 1775-1834), in partnership with Wilmon Whilldin, Sr. (1773-1852, also from Cape May and James Jr.'s nephew), established in 1816 a steamboat and packet line that brought visitors from Philadelphia to Cape May during the summer months. Whilldin would take passengers from Philadelphia to New Castle, Delaware on board his steam boat *Delaware* every Friday, and from there the passengers would transfer to Bennett's packet *Morning Star* which would proceed to Cape May, thus completing the voyage in one day.²³

Bennett appears in the 1807 tax list and was taxed on 137 acres, one horse, three cattle, and a riding chair. Although he called himself "a pilot of the Bay and River Delaware" in his will, and owned 1/6 share of the pilot boat *General Pike* at his death in 1834, he appears to have farmed the land as well, because his inventory included farming utensils, geese, corn, Indian meal, sheep, lambs, cattle (15) and two horses. Interestingly, he also owned one share, valued at \$6, in a whale boat.²⁴

Rather than divide the farm among his children, he willed it to them equally, and in two separate deeds, the property was sold by them to Jonas Miller in 1841 for \$3,666.66.²⁵

Miller (ca. 1785-1869) was a merchant from Wrangleboro, Gloucester County, who had purchased the popular Cape May hotel, Congress Hall, in 1835.²⁶ Miller played an important part in developing Cape May City (then known as Cape Island), laying out Congress and Lafayette Streets and selling cottage lots bordering those streets beginning in 1850.²⁷ He also served as the postmaster of Cape Island from 1835 to 1845, amassed large land holdings in the greater Cape May City area, and was one of the founders of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the city.²⁸ Active in local politics, Miller led Lower Township in defeating an 1848 proposal to move the county's court house from Cape May Court House to Dennisville, and in 1845 ardently supported the construction of a new bridge over Cape Island Creek near Congress Hall.²⁹ In the 1850 census, he appears as the wealthiest resident in the entire county, claiming real estate valued at \$60,000.³⁰

²³ *Philadelphia Daily Advertiser*, 6-18-1816, as quoted in Alexander, p. 27.

²⁴ Cape May County Wills, file 1138E.

²⁵ Cape May County Deeds, Book S, p. 285 and Book S, p. 364.

²⁶ Cape May County Deeds, Book Q, p. 544.

²⁷ George Thomas and Carl Doebley, *Cape May: Queen of the Seaside Resorts* (United States: The Knossus Project and the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, 1998), p. 24.

²⁸ Stevens, p. 465.

²⁹ Dorwart, p. 86-91.

³⁰ 1850 census, Cape May County, Lower Township, p. 72.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, New Jersey
(criterion C continued)

It is doubtful that Miller ever lived in the house. Isaac Mickle, a Camden lawyer and newspaperman, commented the following about a visit he made to Cape May in 1843:

We arrived at the Island about four o'clock, and found it so crowded that [Jonas] Miller could do no better for us than give us a room to sleep in out in the country two miles.³¹

Because Jonas Miller appears on the 1850 map as owning two houses (one of them the subject property) located on the farm he had purchased in 1841 from Bennett's heirs, he may have used these buildings to house overflow visitors, like Isaac Mickle. Similarly, Miller's 1869 estate file noted his homestead property was located on Perry Street (#204, extant, one block from Congress Hall), which appears to have been built close to the time he purchased Congress Hall in 1835,³² and which also appears as his residence on Nunan's map of 1850.

It is likely that Jonas Miller built the Italianate main block sometime shortly before selling the property and four acres in 1862 to his daughter, Sarah Cordelia Newkirk (ca. 1815-aft. 1880), wife of Philadelphia hotelier Thompson Newkirk (ca. 1809-ca. 1879). The purchase price in that transaction was \$3,000, suggesting that the Italianate portion of the house had been erected.³³ In the 1850s, Thompson Newkirk operated the Arch Street House, a hotel in Philadelphia³⁴ and by 1860 appears in the Federal census of that year, residing in Philadelphia as a liquor dealer.³⁵

The Newkirk's purchase of the house, located near the site of the recently (1856) destroyed Mt. Vernon Hotel at the southern terminus of Broadway, might suggest that they were interested in a similar hotel venture in the neighborhood. The turnpike leading from Steamboat Landing, to the west, into the city of Cape May, to the east, had been laid out in 1852,³⁶ so the house was now conveniently located on a major route into the city. The construction of the railroad into Lower Township on the western side of Cape May in 1863 also prompted some new development and was undoubtedly predicated on the idea that a new hotel would eventually replace the Mount Vernon. Whatever Newkirk's intentions, it appears that he resided in the house only during the summer months: he was not enumerated in the 1865 or 1875 New Jersey state censuses, but he does appear in the 1872 City of Cape May Directory as residing in a "cottage" on Broadway.³⁷

³¹ As quoted in Dowart, p. 71.

³² Cape May County Surrogate's Records, Drawer M, file #77.

³³ Cape May County Deeds, book 28, p. 412.

³⁴ McElroy's Directory, Philadelphia 1853, p. 307.

³⁵ 1860 census, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 15th ward, p. 74.

³⁶ Cape May County Deeds, book Y, p. 60.

³⁷ Directory and Map of the City of Cape May, New Jersey & Vicinity (1872), p. 14.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 8 Page 6

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, New Jersey
(criterion C continued)

The Newkirks lost the property, and an adjoining 5.5 acre tract they had purchased in 1865, in a sheriff's sale in 1879. Although no obituary was found in the Philadelphia newspapers for Thompson Newkirk, his wife appears as a widow working as a confectioner in the 1880 Philadelphia directory.³⁸ The sheriff's sale was for non-payment of a \$5,070 mortgage they took out in 1869,³⁹ and was possibly triggered by her husband's death.

The property was purchased for \$4,000 at the sheriff's sale by another Philadelphian, Spencer Fullerton, who had held the mortgage the Newkirks could not repay.⁴⁰ Fullerton sold it four years later to yet another Philadelphian, Charles C. Moore, who paid only \$100 more for the property.⁴¹ Moore held the property for just two years, selling it in 1885 to Oscar Fow (1850-1901), a butcher and victualler from Philadelphia.⁴²

Fow, and his heirs, owned the property and used it as a summer residence until 1931. Fow's death in 1901 was noted by the local paper, the *Star of the Cape*, which commented that he was a "man well and favorably known in this city and county for many years" and cited that he was a "member in high standing" in several Masonic organizations.⁴³

The trustee of Fow's estate sold the house in 1931 to Olivia and C. Henry Regar in 1931.⁴⁴ The Regars conducted an antique shop in the house during the summer months, and established formal flower gardens around the house.⁴⁵ A 1954 newspaper article about the building stated that a stone with the date "1713" had been dug up in the garden, and claimed that the grave of a French soldier had also been found on the property. The article included the tale, so far unproven, that the house had "probably been used to care for the ill during the Revolution."⁴⁶ The Regars sold the house to their son, Jason, in 1971⁴⁷ and he sold it ten years later to Daniel Ness and Robert Guldin, who established a restaurant in the building.⁴⁸ In 1997, Guldin and Ness sold the house to Daniel and Donna Cashman,⁴⁹ who recently sold the house (and its ongoing restaurant business) to the present owners.

³⁸ Gopsill's Philadelphia Directory, 1880, p. 1245.

³⁹ Cape May County Deeds, book 45, p. 493.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Cape May County Deeds, book 60, p. 442.

⁴² Cape May County Deeds, book 70, p. 203.

⁴³ *Star of the Cape*, 11-23-1901, p. 3.

⁴⁴ Cape May County Deeds, book 523, p. 71.

⁴⁵ *Cape May Star & Wave*, 100th Anniversary Brochure, 1954.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Cape May County Deeds, book 1256, p. 91.

⁴⁸ Cape May County Deeds, book 1480, p. 766.

⁴⁹ Cape May County Deeds, book 2735, p. 701.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 8 Page 7

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, New Jersey
(criterion C continued)

Historical Background:

While not within the city limits of Cape May, the ca. 1860 main block of the Whilldin-Miller House is, by its proximity to both that city's boundary (across the street) and to the former site of the palatial Mount Vernon Hotel built in 1853 a few blocks to the south, more closely allied with the 19th century social history of that resort, than that of the rural Lower Township of which it was a part until the Borough of West Cape May was incorporated in 1884.

As early as the 1760s, Cape May had been a designation for city dwellers seeking relief from summer's oppressive heat. In 1766, Robert Parsons placed the following advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*:

TO BE SOLD: A Valuable Plantation, containing 254 Acres of Land, Marsh and Swamp...with a large good two Story House and Kitchen, a very good Barn and Stable and fine Garden; pleasantly situated, open to the Sea, in the Lower Precinct of the county of Cape May, and within One Mile and a Half of the Sea Shore; where a Number resort for Health, and bathing in the Water; and this Place would be very convenient for taking in such People...⁵⁰

Thirty-five years later, Cape May city resident Ellis Hughes advertised rooms for "entertaining company who use sea bathing" in 1801. Hughes also lauded the beaches on which carriages could be driven and gave directions to his establishment for those traveling by stage or private carriage. By 1823, Watson's *Annals* reported there were two hotels in Cape May,⁵¹ and by 1834 Gordon noted in his *Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey* that there were six boarding houses, three of which were very large.⁵²

In 1844, Barber & Howe offered this description of the resort:

⁵⁰ Robert Crozer Alexander, *Ho! For Cape Island!* (Privately published, Cape May, NJ, 1956), p. 10.

⁵¹ Thomas and Doebley, p. 21-22.

⁵² Thomas F. Gordon, *Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey* (United States: Family Line Publications, 1995 reprint of 1834 edition), p. 28.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 8 Page 8

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, New Jersey
(criterion C continued)

It now contains two large hotels, three stories high and 150 feet long, and a third one, lately erected, four stores high and 100 feet long, besides numerous other houses for the entertainment of visitors. The whole number of dwellings is about fifty.⁵³

Late 18th and early 19th century visitors to Cape May arrived by stagecoach, following a route that began in Camden, meandered through Gloucester County, and finally followed a part of what is now known as Delsea Drive (Route 47) along the bay shore, from Tuckahoe at the northern border of the county, through Goshen. The final leg, from Cold Spring to Cape May, had been established as early as 1783⁵⁴ and carried passengers along a seaside route dotted with farmsteads. This road took a sharp turn east, crossed over Cape Island Creek then entered the city from the west (now Perry Street), and the turn is seen as being close to the Whilldin-Miller House in the 1842, 1850, and 1856 maps (figs. 1, 2, 3).

With the advent of packet, schooner, and steamboat transportation to the resort in the first quarter of the 19th century, two landings on the bayside of the lower part of the peninsula were created. The first was located at the site of present day Higbee's Beach (located 5 miles to the northwest of the nominated property), and the second near present day Sunset Beach at the western terminus of Sunset Boulevard (about 2 miles west of the property). Both of these spawned a variety of boarding houses and taverns along the roads that ushered passengers from the boats into the city. While the city of Cape May was the primary resort attraction, these passenger routes importantly offered visitors a variety of other accommodations and entertainment, usually at a lower cost.

As the town grew, so did the need for more public streets, and in 1850, six new streets that had formerly been private roads were laid out. It was about this time that the subdivision of large tracts into building lots for summer "cottagers" began, and Jonas Miller was among the earliest of the local landholders to do so, subdividing pieces of his Congress Hall tract nearest the hotel into 50' x 100' lots in 1850.⁵⁵

Also in the early 1850s, several new hotels were constructed, mostly with outside capital. Philadelphian Lilburn Harwood bought the Columbia House in 1850 and enlarged it the following year, while Philadelphian Ayers Tompkins built the United States Hotel in 1851. Reflective of this growth, the town was incorporated as the City of Cape Island by an act of the

⁵³ Stevens, p. 265.

⁵⁴ Dorwart, p. 63.

⁵⁵ Cape May County Deeds, Book 10, p. 313-315.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 8 Page 9

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, New Jersey
(criterion C continued)

New Jersey legislature in 1851⁵⁶ and in that same year, the Cape Island Turnpike was opened. This toll road, which ran from Steamboat Landing at the westernmost end of the present day Sunset Boulevard into Cape May, almost cut in half the distance between the two points, which had previously been traversed over a long, winding road. [fig. 3, Cook's 1856 Map of Cape May County]

In 1852, construction of the palatial Mount Vernon, projected to be the largest hotel in the world, was begun. (fig. 17) The Mount Vernon, located several long blocks south of the nominated property, was significant not only for its size, but for its handsome architecture. Each of its four floors had a wooden balcony lavishly decorated with gingerbread, while the uppermost floors of its two 5-story towers were topped with flags, shields, acroterions, and gracefully carved American eagles. The space between its two wings was devoted to a large garden, accented by a fountain and planted with shrubs and flowers. As one reporter commented in 1853, "the architecture is Italian; and the effect produced is that of magnificence and elegance combined."⁵⁷

The opening of one wing of the Mount Vernon in 1853 was an extraordinary event, which marked the transition of Cape May from a moderately well known New Jersey resort to a nationally known watering place, drawing vacationers from Philadelphia, Baltimore, and even cities from the Deep South.⁵⁸ With steamboats running daily between Philadelphia and Cape May, Cape May was no longer the remote destination of decades past, and with the resort just a half-day's trip away, Philadelphians earnestly began purchasing building lots and erecting summer cottages to escape to during the summer season.

Baldwin's New and Complete Gazetteer of the United States, written in 1854, described the town as thus:

Cape Island or Cape Island City, a celebrated watering place of Cape May County, New Jersey, on Cape Island about 100 miles by water S.S.E. from Philadelphia. During the summer months it is one of the most fashionable places of resort in the United States. It contains 5 or 6 churches, 1 bank, and a number of very large hotels...in summer Cape Island has daily communication with Philadelphia and is thronged with the wealthy and the fashionable, principally from that City. Permanent population about 600.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ Stevens, p. 265.

⁵⁷ *The Illustrated London News*, 9-17-1853, as quoted in Alexander, p. 122.

⁵⁸ Stevens, p. 265.

⁵⁹ As quoted in Thomas and Doebley, p. 24.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 8 Page 10

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, New Jersey
(criterion C continued)

Cape May was at its peak, and was the summer destination of choice by Presidents Pierce and Buchanan. However, a fire in 1856 destroyed the Mount Vernon (which had never been completed) and another blaze a year later ruined the Mansion House, effectively reducing the town's tourist capacity by nearly one half in the space of a year. Capital that might have gone to rebuilding their vacant sites went instead to the recently-established Atlantic City, located at the terminus of a new railroad line out of Camden.

Although development slowed toward the end of the 1850s, cottages continued to be built (albeit in lesser numbers) and the decade witnessed the introduction of such "modern" amenities as piped water, the telegraph in 1854⁶⁰ and illuminating gas in 1859.⁶¹

With the beginning of train service to the resort in 1863, Cape May re-entered boom times. Capitalizing on the increased number of visitors the train would bring, several Philadelphians actively began acquiring land solely for the purpose of subdividing it into cottage lots. Among the most well-known of these was Philadelphia lawyer John Bullit, who filled in the marshland east of the city and built the magnificent Stockton Hotel (no longer extant) in 1868. The remaining land around the Stockton was subdivided into building lots that today contain some of the city's finest cottage architecture—Jackson's Clubhouse (1872), the Moses Simon cottage (ca. 1870), and several cottages along Stockton Place.

The rise in Cape May's cottage developments mirrored the economic transition seen in other resort areas, as going from one dependent on hotels to one of speculatively buying land for subdivision and resale to cottagers. In Cape May, development spread east and west along the beach, with most of the resort's growth and speculative ventures occurring on the east side around the Stockton Hotel. Had the Mount Vernon Hotel been rebuilt, the development of West Cape May might have paralleled that of Cape May, but despite attempts to develop the Mount Vernon Tract in 1884 and again in 1890, neither project succeeded because of a lack of cheap public transportation into Cape May and the lack of a town center in West Cape May.⁶² Consequently, West Cape May only gradually accumulated a housing stock as the result of its being a service area to Cape May next door.

Thus, instead of being one of many Victorian style cottages in West Cape May, the Whilldin-Miller House today is one of the largest and most handsome among a handful from that era, sited

⁶⁰ Alexander, p. 124.

⁶¹ *Cape May Ocean Wave*, 6-9-1859, p. 2.

⁶² Thomas and Doebley, p. 35.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 8 Page 11

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, New Jersey
(criterion C continued)

in an area that never experienced the same popularity among Philadelphia cottagers as its sister resort in the last quarter of the 19th century.

Historical Background and Context, Criterion C:

The main block of the Whilldin-Miller House, built ca. 1860, reflects the kind of Gothic-Italianate hybrid that was becoming a common and affordable alternative to the more historically correct versions of either style. Its gable, not really steep enough to be typically Gothic, nevertheless recalls the design of several of the simpler “rural gothic” cottages published by A.J. Downing in his 1850 The Architecture of Country Houses. Similarly, the house’s deeply bracketed eaves and tall windows are key features of the Italianate style, yet the dwelling lacks the tower, wings, and multiple verandas that characterized the Italianate villa style, and the square footprint of the less pretentious cubicle Italianate house, both of which were popular in the mid-1800s.

Guter and Foster note in Building by the Book: Pattern Book Architecture in New Jersey, that as Gothic decorative elements grew increasingly spare towards the late 1850s, they were assimilated into the increasingly generic mainstream of pattern book styles.⁶³ This resulted in buildings that freely incorporated elements of both styles, yet bore only tenuous connections to historical precedent. For example, John Riddell’s 1861 book, Architectural Designs, shows a modest house with a Gothic gable and an Italianate striped roof, and his design would be copied in endless variations across New Jersey. (fig. 16) Concurrent with the popularity of this hybrid design was the emergence of steam-powered woodworking tools, which, as Gothic Revival gave way to the lavishly ornamented “Carpenter’s Gothic,” made this architectural style more affordable and easier to acquire by the growing middle class.

In Cape May, before the boom period brought by the coming of the railroad in the 1860s, there had been few projects of architectural significance in the resort and its environs until approximately 1850. Most of these non-descript buildings, the hotels particularly, were the result of several building campaigns that combined additions of varying footprints and irregular rooflines into a cacophony of styles lacking any architectural cohesiveness. The houses represented the same vernacular style as those found elsewhere in the county, a style comprised of a wood framed structure with a gable roof, a rectangular plan usually one room deep, and a

⁶³ Robert Guter and Janet Foster, Building by the Book: Pattern Book Architecture in New Jersey (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992), p. 97.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 8 Page 12

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, New Jersey
(criterion C continued)

clapboard exterior; like the hotels and boarding houses, most were almost devoid of ornament. Similarly, most, like the earliest section of the Whilldin-Miller House, had exposed framing members, often with walls of flush boards. As one visitor commented in 1823:

The town [the City of Cape May, then known as Cape Island] contains not more than twenty good frame houses, some of them built with shingles. There being no lime here, plastered walls are seldom met with and one does not think of objecting to the exposed rafters or plain boards which form the ceilings until he contrasts them with what he is used to, and then they seem gloomy enough.⁶⁴

In fact, it was not until 1832, when the Mansion House was built, that plastered walls were first used in a Cape May hotel.⁶⁵

Only after 1850, as seashore resorts became more popular for recreation than for health, did Cape May and the nation's other spas warrant significant architectural projects. Accordingly, the Mount Vernon Hotel, begun in 1852 on Cape May's outskirts several blocks south of the nominated property, was designed with an H-plan, nicely scaled porches and balconies, and pleasingly proportioned pavilions. [fig. 17] Similarly, cottagers from Philadelphia began to build summer homes that also reflected this new sense of style, hiring Philadelphia architects to design their cottages in what would become the hallmark of Cape May Victoriana with clapboard exteriors, bracketed cornices, and lacy front porches.

In the renewed growth that occurred after the arrival of the railroad to Cape May in 1863, three basic house types emerged in the resort: (1) flat-roofed, bracketed houses, (2) side-hall, pitched-roof houses, and (3) L-shaped, center hall "Gothic" cottages. The latter, on which the plan of the Whilldin-Miller house is based, traces its roots to the pitched-roof Federal era houses with a rear ell, and typically features a side parlor, a center hall, and a dining room in the main front block of the house, with a rear kitchen ell attached, usually to the dining room.⁶⁶ The center gable received most of the house's embellishment—such as brackets and gingerbread vergeboards—and like the Whilldin-Miller House, was often given a point-arched window reminiscent of those espoused by Downing a decade earlier. As Thomas and Doebly commented, "it is a compact yet functional plan with all of the rooms arranged in logical sequence, open to breezes and appropriate to a temperate climate."⁶⁷

⁶⁴ Robert Crozier Alexander, *Ho! For Cape Island!* (Cape May, NJ: privately published, 1956), p. 39.

⁶⁵ Alexander, p. 60.

⁶⁶ Thomas and Doebly, p. 55-56.

⁶⁷ Thomas and Doebly, p. 55.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 8 Page 13

Whilldin-Miller House

Cape May County, New Jersey
(criterion C continued)

To screen the lower façade, all three housing types had porches that were usually decorated with brackets or pierced wooden spandrels in seemingly endless configurations. While the L-shaped “Gothic” cottages commanded more of a presence on the streetscape by virtue of their larger size, the smaller side-hall, pitched-roof houses more closely resembled a workingman’s country home and have come to represent the traditional seashore cottage.⁶⁸

Like those erected by the county’s earliest settlers, the resort’s buildings were overwhelmingly constructed in wood, with stone and brick appearing only in foundations and chimneys. With the advent of balloon-frame wood construction in the early 1850s, extremely flexible interior spaces became possible, but Cape May’s builders continued to prefer the center hall plan for moderate size houses, and the side-hall plan for more modest cottages.

Unfortunately, very few names of the architects responsible for designing the post-Civil War cottages are known. But, the considerable sophistication of these dwellings suggests the work of those from a metropolitan area. As the local newspaper commented in 1869, “One of the most observable features in the appearance of the houses which have been erected on the island this winter is the improved taste displayed in their architectural style and elegant interior arrangements.”⁶⁹

Within these contexts, then, the Whilldin-Miller House significantly illustrates the more stylish and sophisticated Victorian summer cottage erected for Philadelphians who escaped to the Jersey cape during the summer months. From its construction ca. 1860 until 1981, the house was owned and occupied by out-of-state summer vacationers, and its architecture reflects not only the more urbane approach to seaside architecture these cottagers brought to the resort, but the transition of the resort community from one based on hotels and rooming houses, to one that profited from the sale of land and services to private homeowners.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ *Cape May Ocean Wave*, 1-24-1867, p. 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 9 Page 1

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, NJ

Bibliography

Books, Manuscripts, and Periodicals

Alexander, Robert Crozer. Cape May County Tavern Licenses: 1741-1806. [*undated handwritten manuscript on file at the Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society*]

Alexander, Robert Crozer. Ho! For Cape Island! Privately published, Cape May, NJ, 1956.

Barber, John W. and Henry Howe. Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey. New York: 1845.

Cummings, Abbott Lowell. The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press, 1979.

_____. Directory and Map of the City of Cape May, New Jersey & Vicinity. N.p., 1872. [*Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society*]

Dorwart, Jeffery. Cape May County, New Jersey: The Making of an American Resort Community. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992.

Gopsill's Philadelphia Directory. (various years) [*on microfilm at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA*]

Gordon, Thomas F. Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey. United States: Family Line Publications, 1995 reprint of 1834 edition.

Guter, Robert and Janet Foster. Building by the Book: Pattern Book Architecture in New Jersey. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992.

Howe, Rev. Paul Sturtevant. Mayflower Descendants in Cape May County. Cape May, NJ: The Albert Hand Company, 1921.

McElroy's 1853 Directory of Philadelphia. [*on microfilm at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA*]

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 9 Page 2

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, NJ
(bibliography, continued)

Stevens, Lewis Townsend. The History of Cape May County, New Jersey. Cape May, NJ: Lewis Townsend Stevens, 1897.

Thomas, George and Carl Doebley. Cape May: Queen of the Seaside Resorts. United States: The Knossus Project and the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, 1998.

Newspapers

Cape May Ocean Wave (Cape May, NJ), 6-9-1859; 1-24-1867. [on microfilm at the Cape May County Public Library, Cape May Court House, NJ]

Daily Advertiser (Philadelphia), 6-18-1816.

Star of the Cape (Cape May, New Jersey), 11-23-1901. [on microfilm at the Cape May County Public Library, Cape May Court House, NJ]

Maps

Beers 1872 Map of Cape May County. [Cape May County Public Library, Cape May Court House, NJ]

Nunan 1850 Map of Lower Cape May County and Cape Island. [as found in Alexander's Ho! For Cape Island!]

Sanborn Maps of West Cape May, 1890 and 1919. [Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society]

United States Government. Topographic Survey of the New Jersey Coast (1842). [Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society]

Rose, T. F. & H.C. Woolman. Historical and Biographical Atlas of the Jersey Coast. Woolman & Rose, 1878. [Cape May County Public Library, Cape May Court House, NJ]

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section number 9 Page 3

Whilddin-Miller House
Cape May County, NJ
(bibliography, continued)

Public Documents and Archives

Cape May County Deeds and Road Returns (various) [*Cape May County Recorder's Office, Cape May Court House, NJ*]

Cape May County Surrogate's Records (various) [*Cape May County Surrogate's Office, Cape May Court House, NJ*]

Federal census records for 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880, Cape May County, NJ, Lower Township and the City of Cape May, and Philadelphia, PA.

New Jersey Colonial Deeds (various) [*New Jersey State Archives*]

New Jersey Colonial Wills [*New Jersey State Archives*]

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**
Section number 10 Page 1

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, New Jersey

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary comprises block 30, lot 1, as shown on the Borough of West Cape May tax map.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is the one with which it has been associated since 1971, and to extend the boundary would include buildings which have no known historical association with the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
photographs**

Whilldin-Miller House
Cape May County, NJ

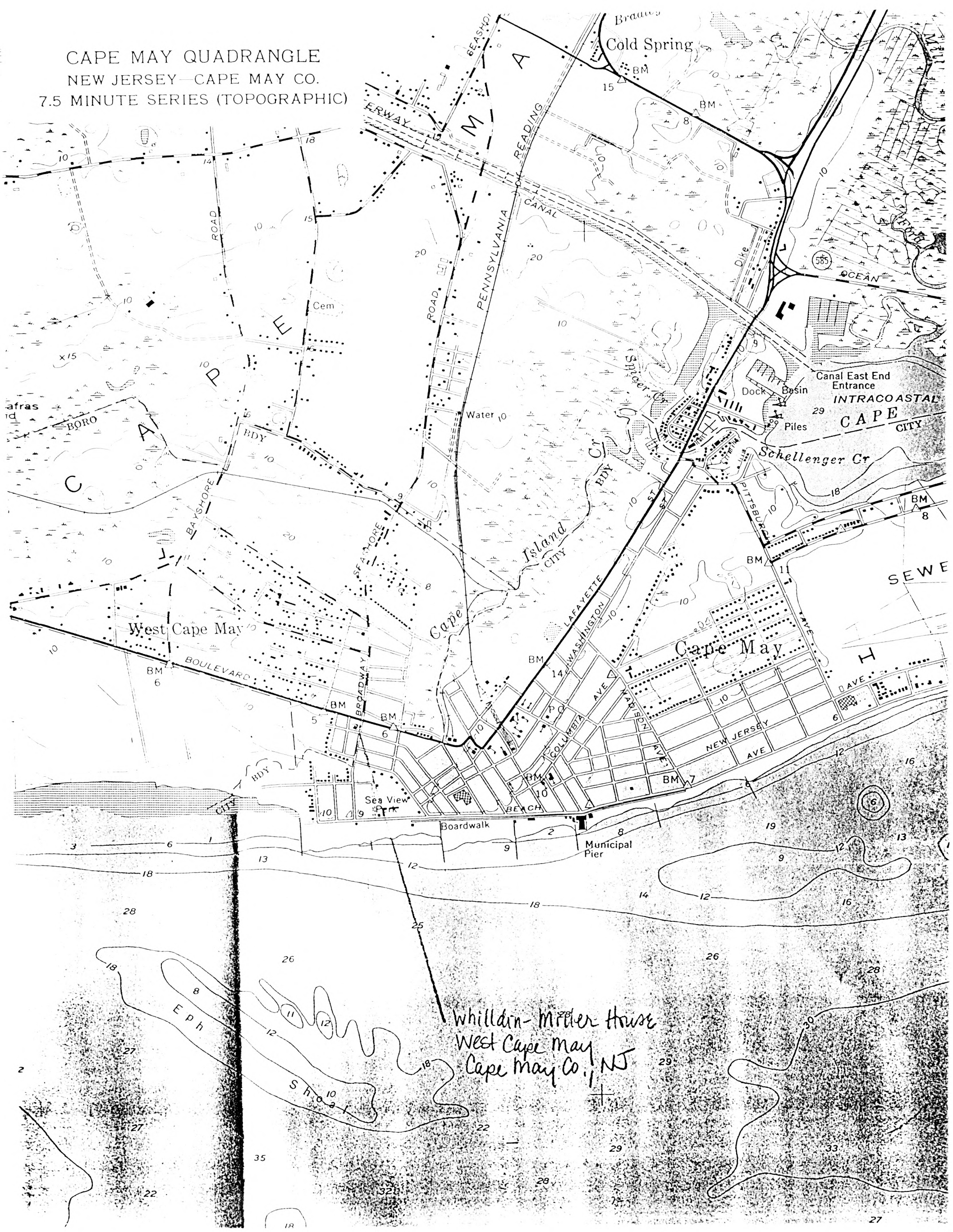
Typical Information for All Photographs

1. Name of Property	Whilldin-Miller House
2. County and State	Cape May County, New Jersey
3. Photographer	Joan Berkey
4. Date of Photograph	Summer 2002
5. Location of Negatives	Joan Berkey 1003 Bartlett Avenue Linwood, NJ 08221

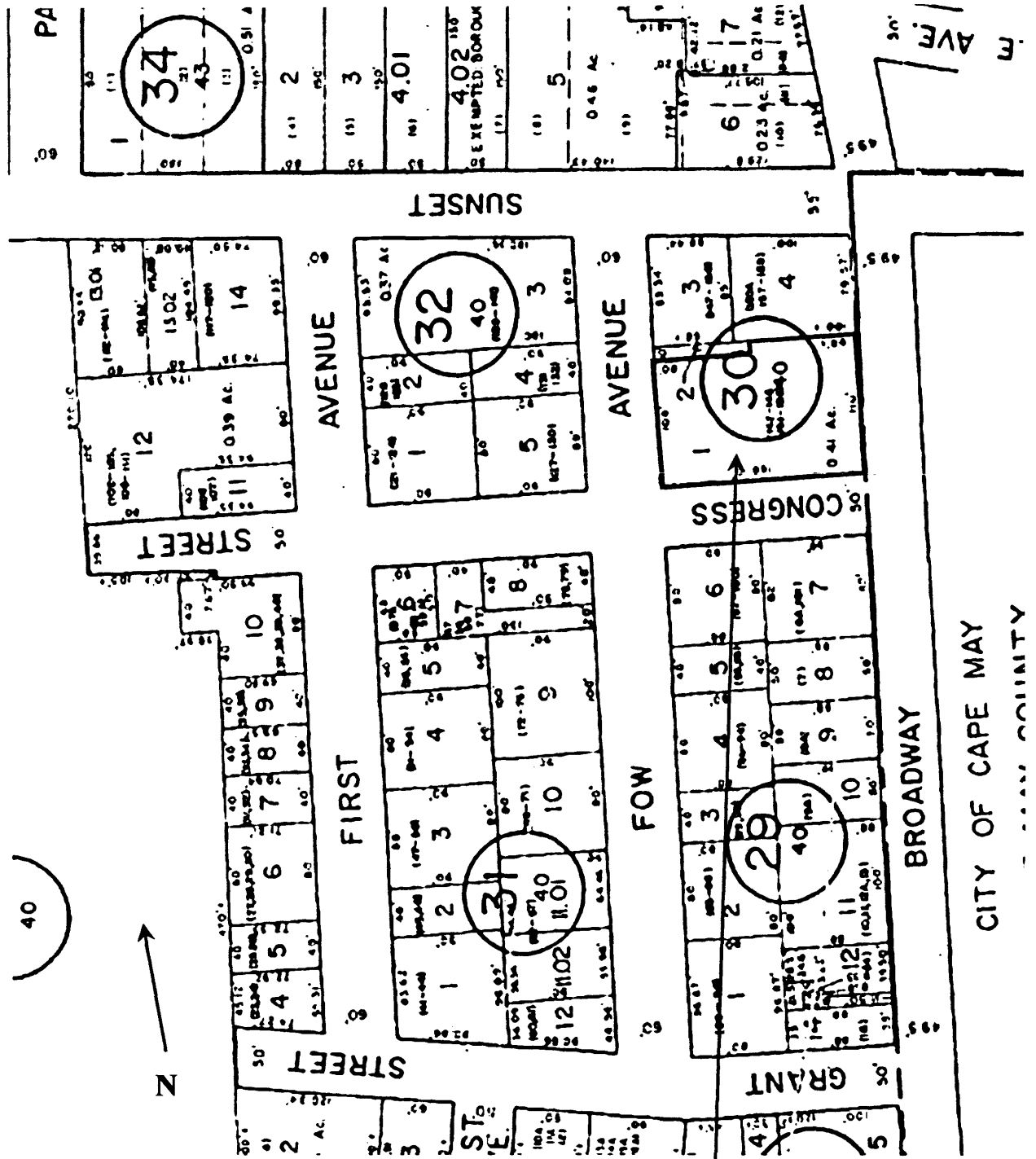
Photo # and Description of View

1. Exterior view showing setting and streetscape; looking southwest along South Broadway
2. Exterior: east (façade) and north elevations; looking southwest
3. Exterior: rear (west) elevation, and north elevation of kitchen addition; looking southeast
4. Exterior: south elevation of ca. 1711-1718 section; looking almost north
5. Interior: first floor hall of ca. 1860 main block; looking southwest
6. Interior: south parlor in main block; looking southwest
7. Interior: north bedroom; looking southwest
8. Interior: parlor of ca. 1711-1718 section; looking southwest
9. Interior: parlor of ca. 1711-1718 section; looking northeast
10. Interior: hall in former chimney bay of ca. 1711-1718 section; looking south
11. Interior: molded chimney post in southeast corner of ca. 1711-1718 section; looking southeast
12. Interior: second floor bedroom of ca. 1711-1718 section; looking southwest

CAPE MAY QUADRANGLE
NEW JERSEY—CAPE MAY CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

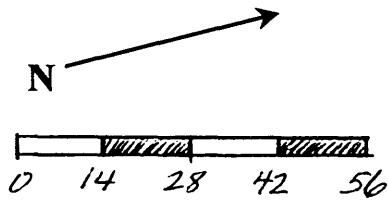
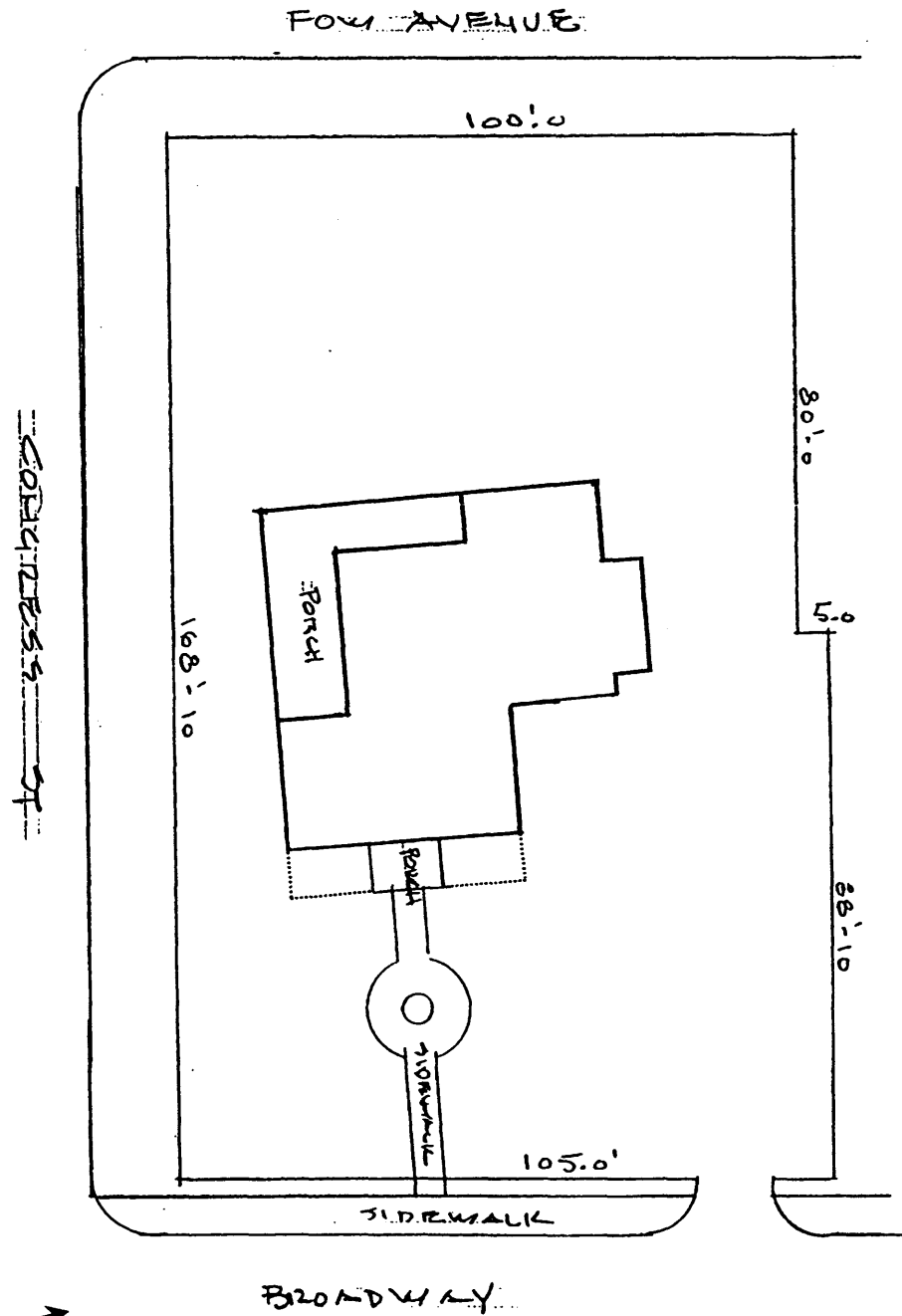


*Whilldin-Miller House
West Cape May
Cape May Co., NJ*



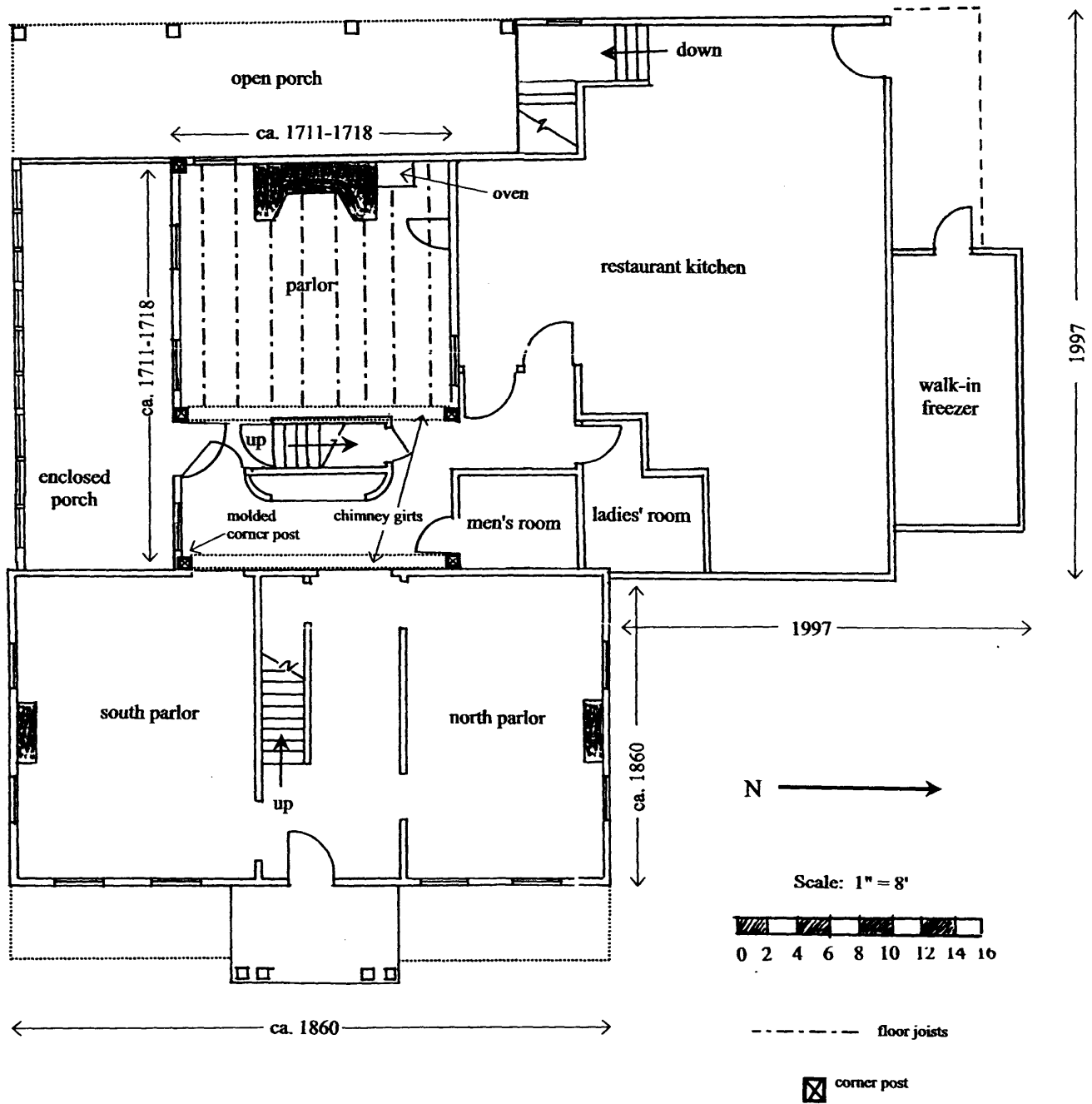
Tax Map, Borough of West Cape May
 Showing Location of the Whilldin-Miller House
 Block 30, lot 1
 416 South Broadway
 Borough of West Cape May,
 Cape May County, NJ

scale 1" = 125'



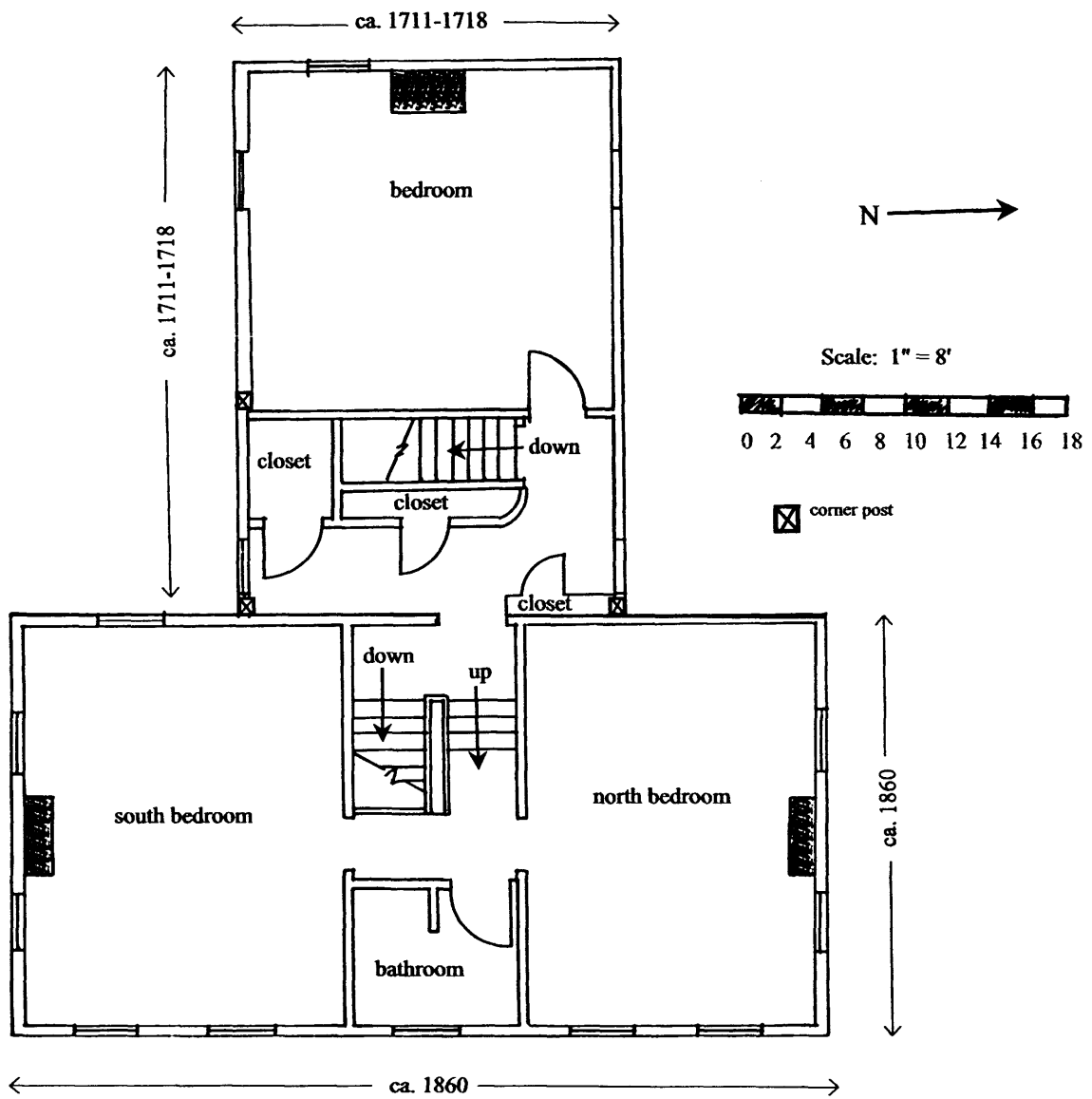
Whildin-Miller House
 Borough of West Cape May
 Cape May County, NJ

SITE PLAN
 scale 1" = 28'



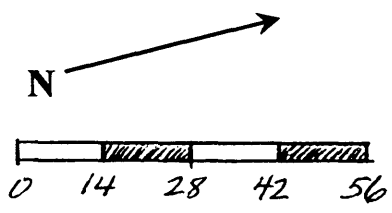
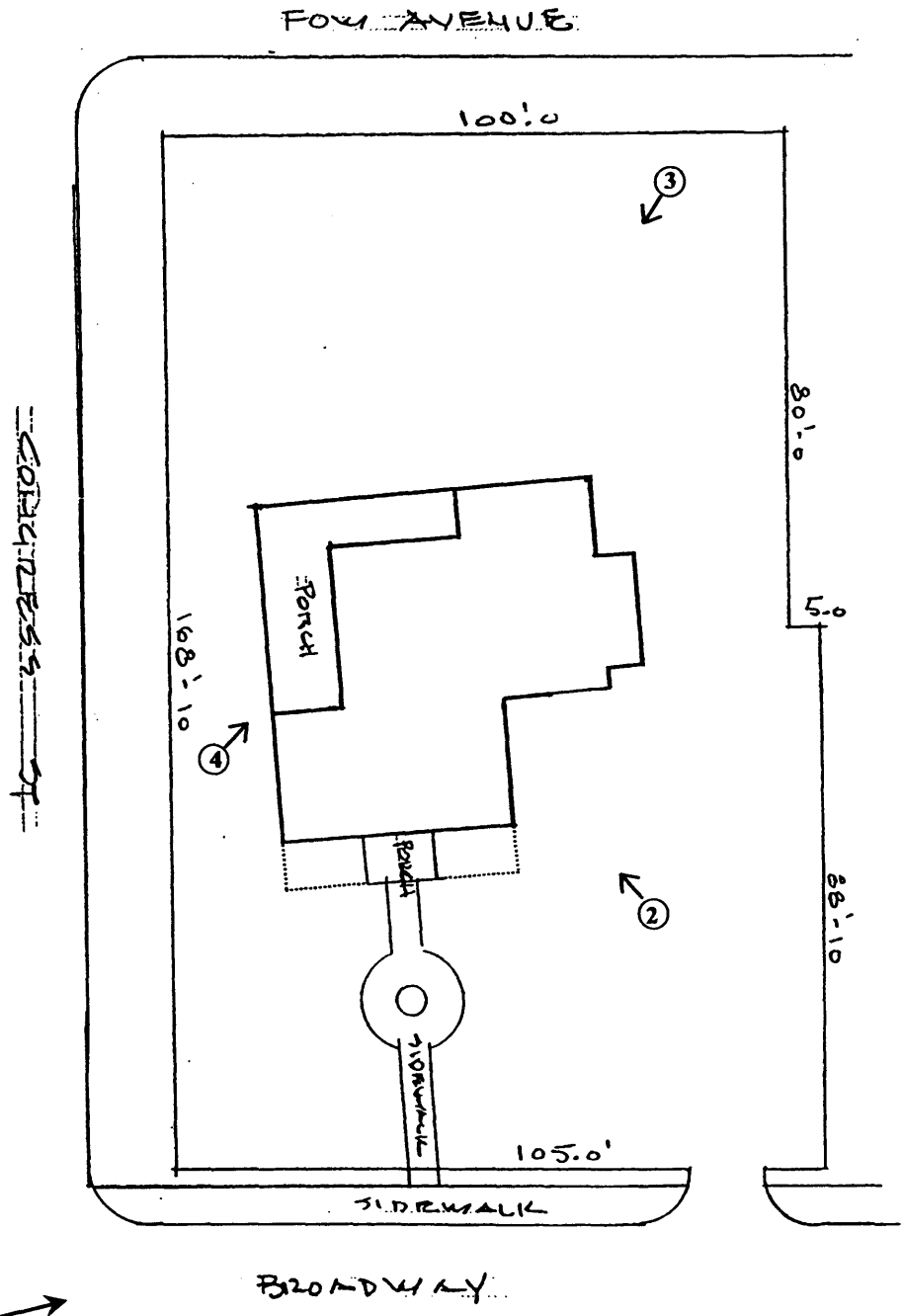
Whildin-Miller House
 Borough of West Cape May, Cape May County, NJ

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



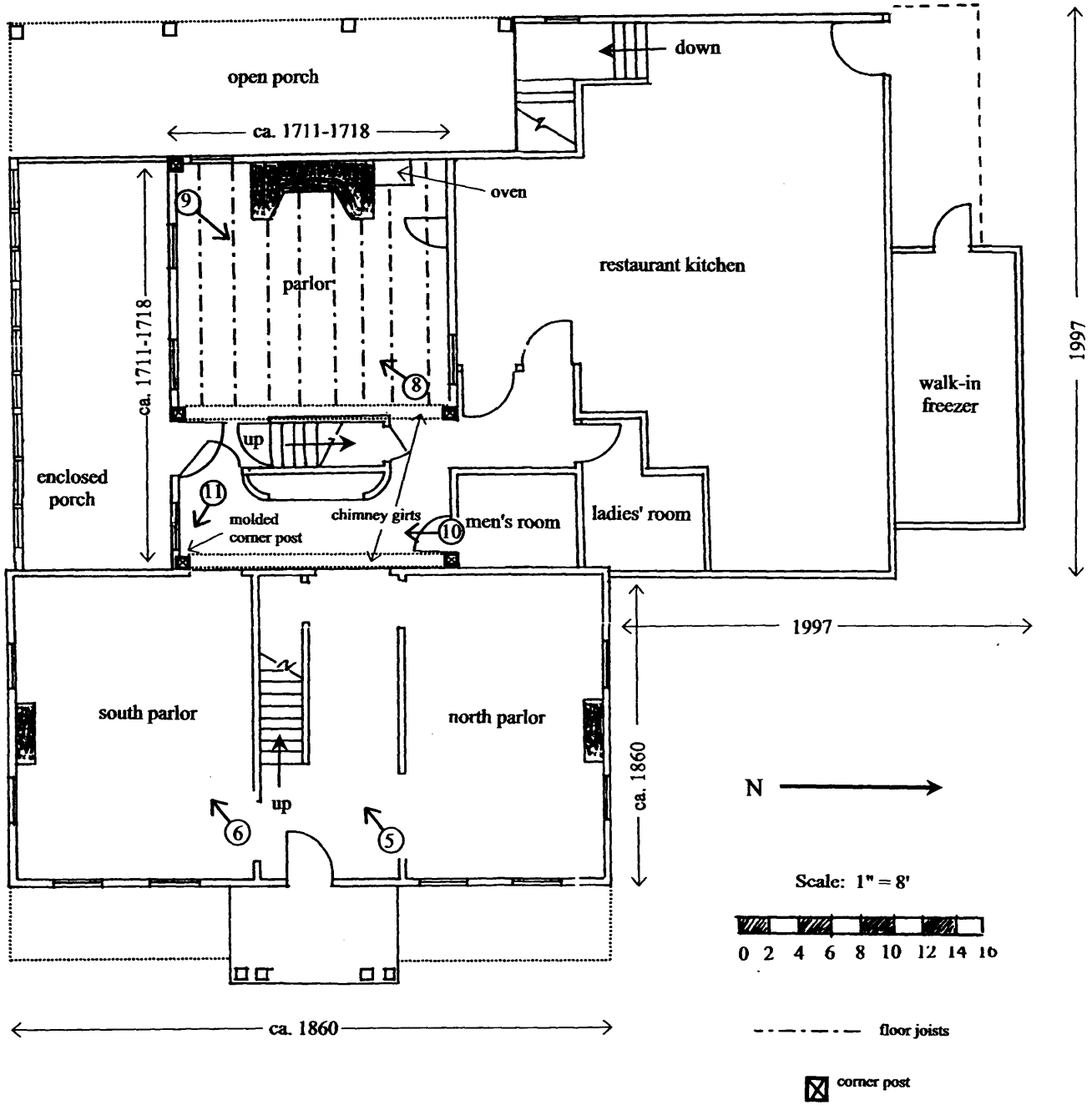
Whildin-Miller House
 Borough of West Cape May, Cape May County, NJ

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



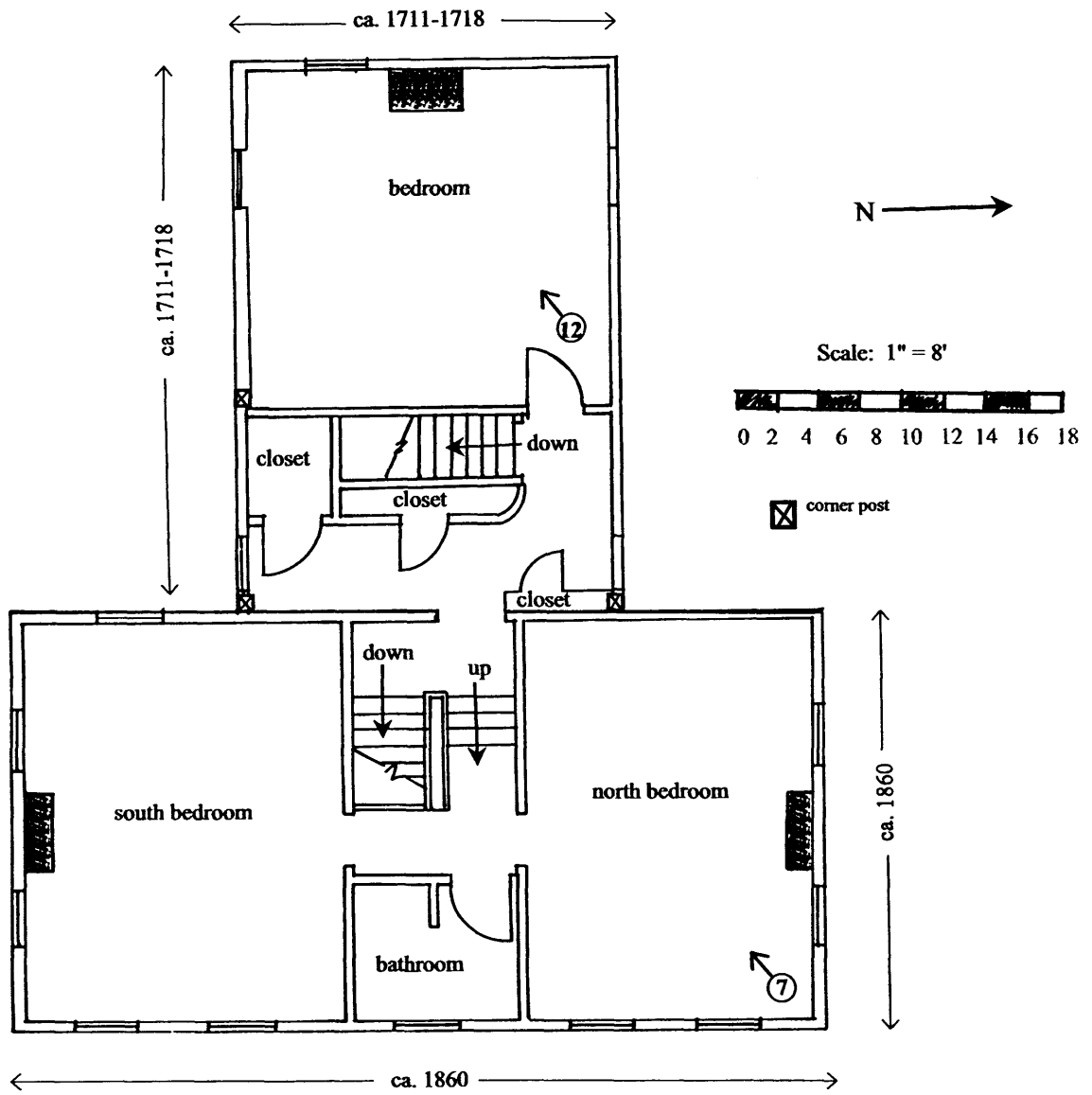
Whildin-Miller House
 Borough of West Cape May
 Cape May County, NJ

SITE PLAN
 annotated for photographs
 scale 1" = 28'



Whildin-Miller House
 Borough of West Cape May, Cape May County, NJ

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 annotated for photographs



Whildin-Miller House
 Borough of West Cape May, Cape May County, NJ

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 annotated for photographs

SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGES

Whilldin-Miller House West Cape May, Cape May County, New Jersey

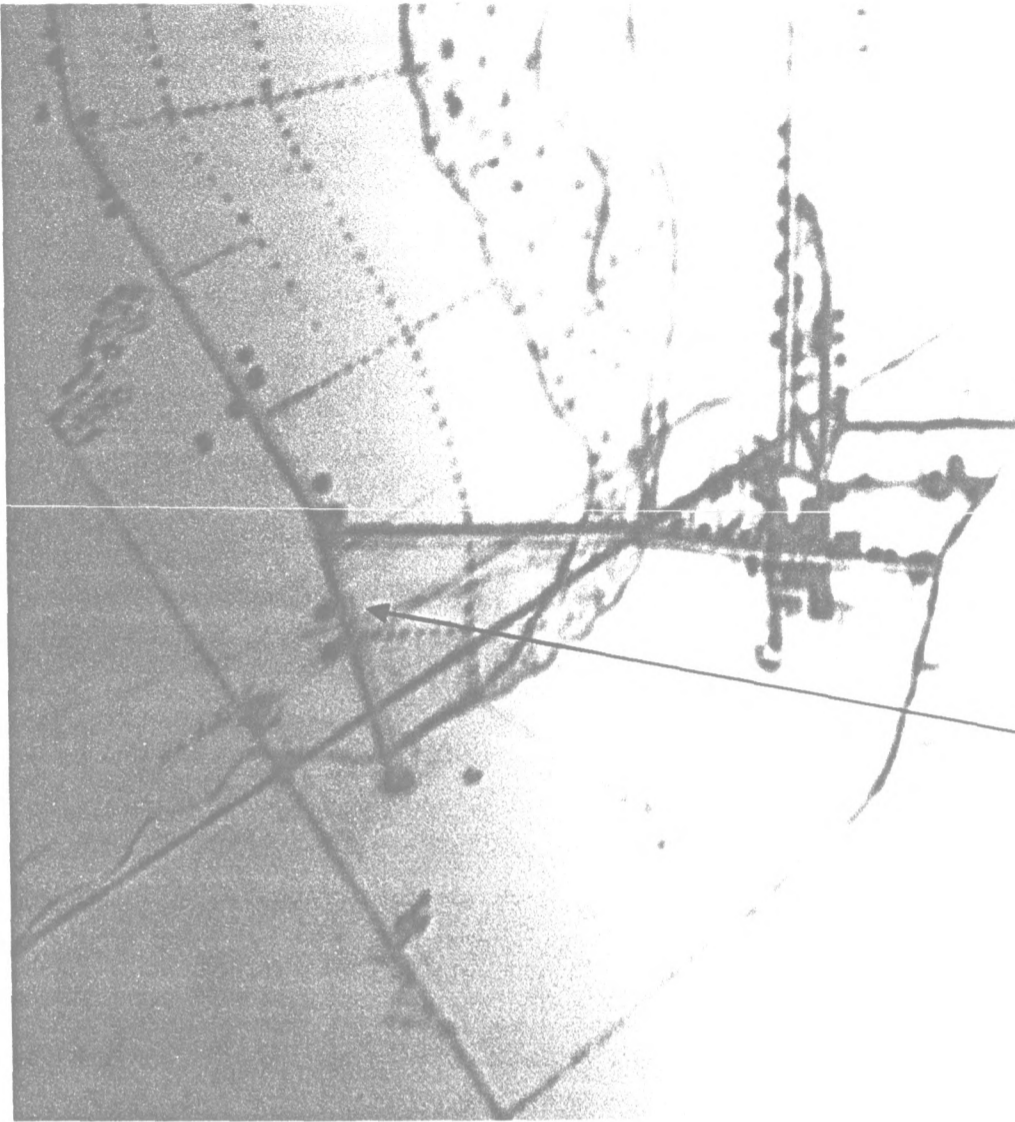


Fig. 1: 1842 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey

This map shows the location of the house before the turnpike (now known as Sunset Boulevard) was created in 1852 between Steamboat Landing, located to the west at the Delaware Bay, and Cape Island (now the City of Cape May) to the east.

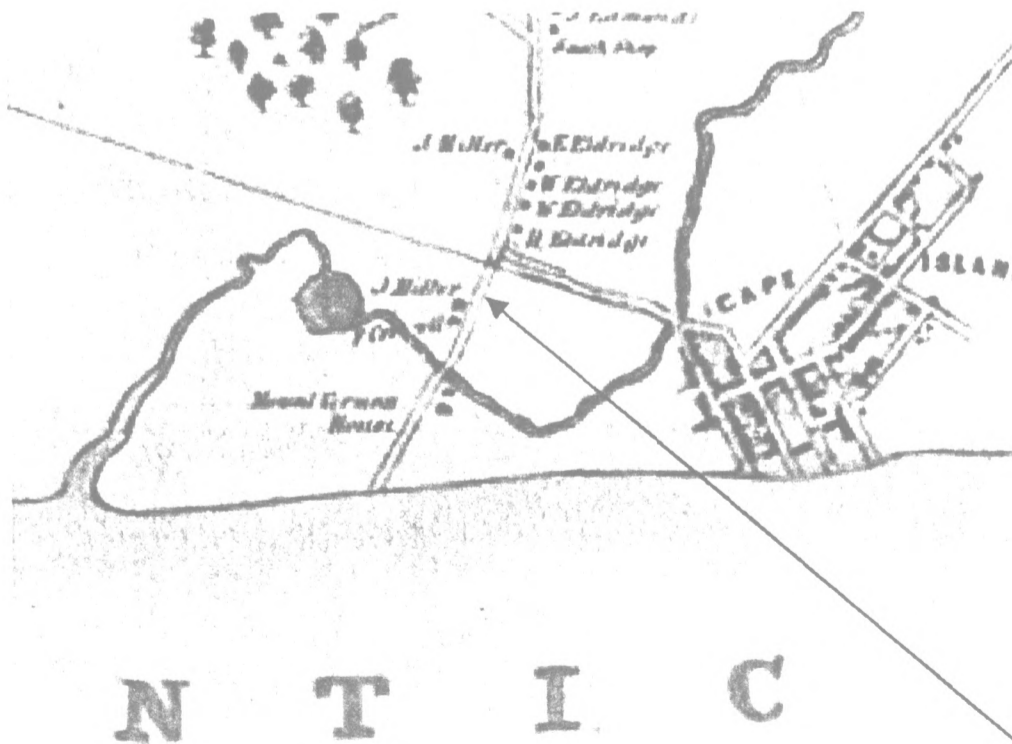


Fig. 2: 1850 Map of Lower Cape May County

This map, enlarged to show detail, shows the house as one of two owned by Jonas Miller, proprietor and owner of Congress Hall (not shown) in Cape May City. The other house is seen to the north on what is now North Broadway. The site of the Mount Vernon Hotel, begun in 1852 and burned in 1856, is seen to the south.



Fig. 3: 1856 Cook Geology Map of Cape May County

By this time, a straight road (known as Cape Island Turnpike) leading from the landing into Cape Island City had been established and the Whilldin-Miller house is easily identified at the southwest corner of what are now know as Broadway and Perry Streets.

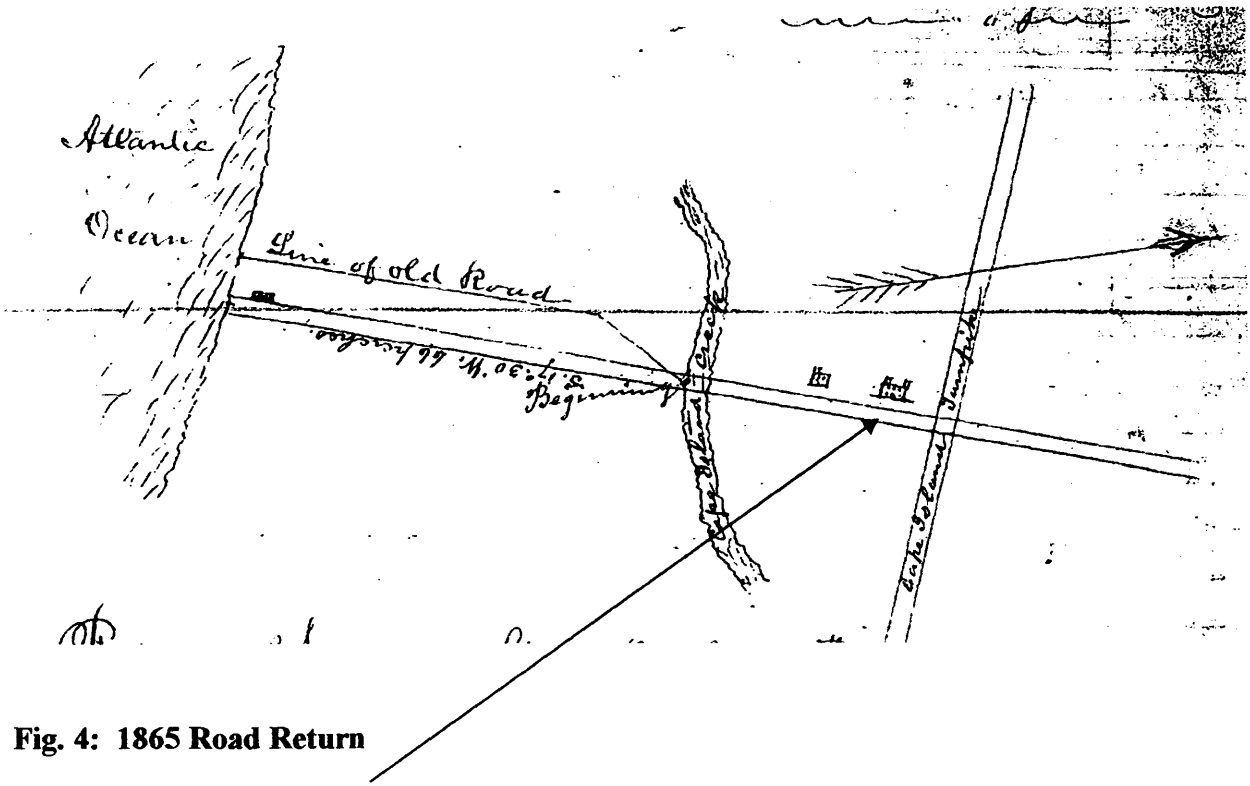


Fig. 4: 1865 Road Return

The Whilldin-Miller House is accurately shown with its Victorian style façade in this road return survey that straightened the road, now known as Broadway, leading to the Mount Vernon Hotel site seen at the terminus at the Atlantic Ocean. [Roads Book C, p. 65]

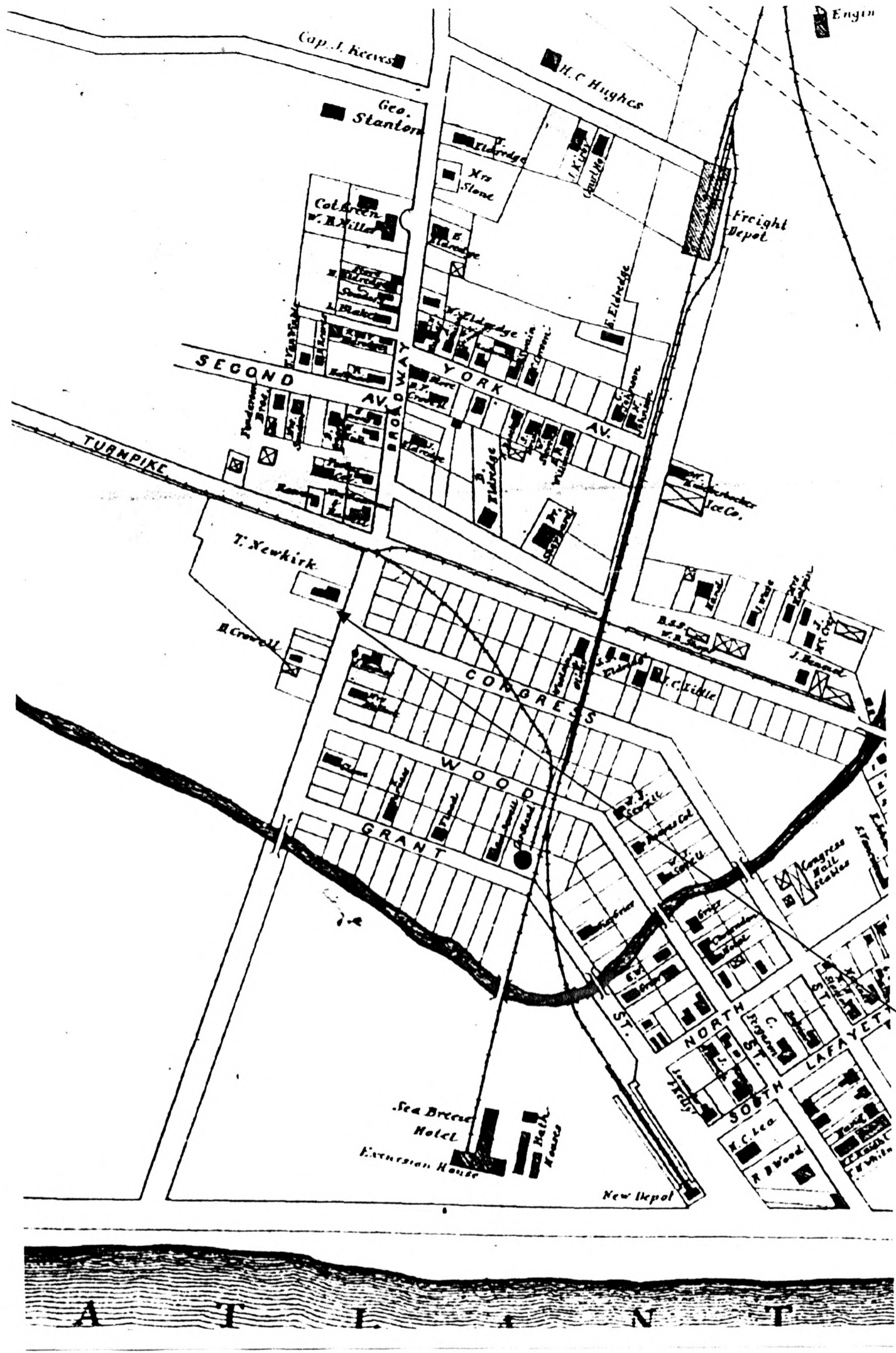


Fig. 5: 1878 Woolman & Rose Map of Cape May County

This map shows the house with its Victorian front and the earlier, rear ell. Newkirk, a hotelier from Philadelphia who purchased the house in 1862, would be forced to sell the property one year later at a sheriff's sale.

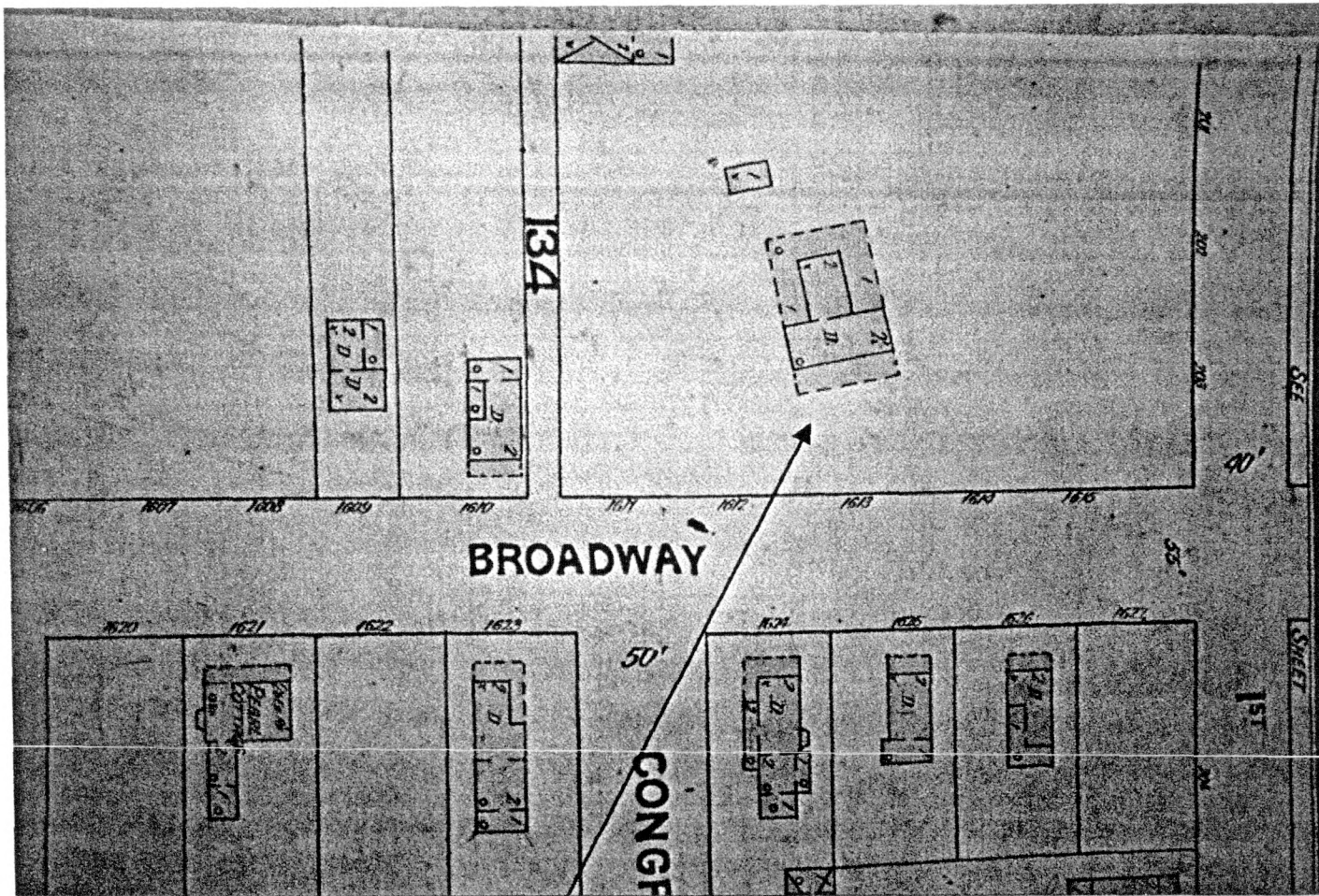


Fig. 6: 1890 Sanborn Map

In 1890, the house appears with a wrap-around porch around the oldest section to the rear, and has a full-width front porch. Seen to the rear are two service buildings: the smaller is likely a chicken coop, while the larger was possibly a carriage house.

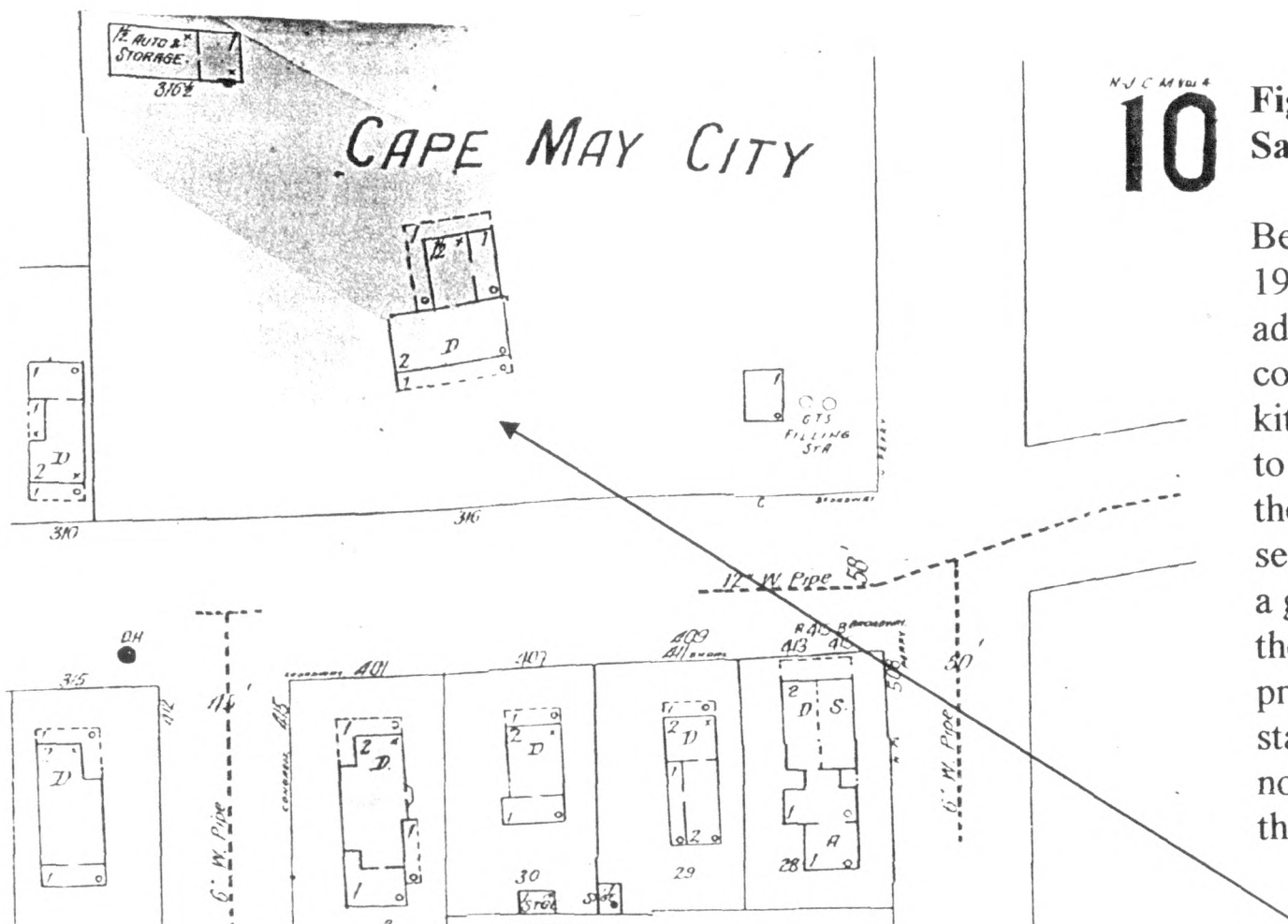
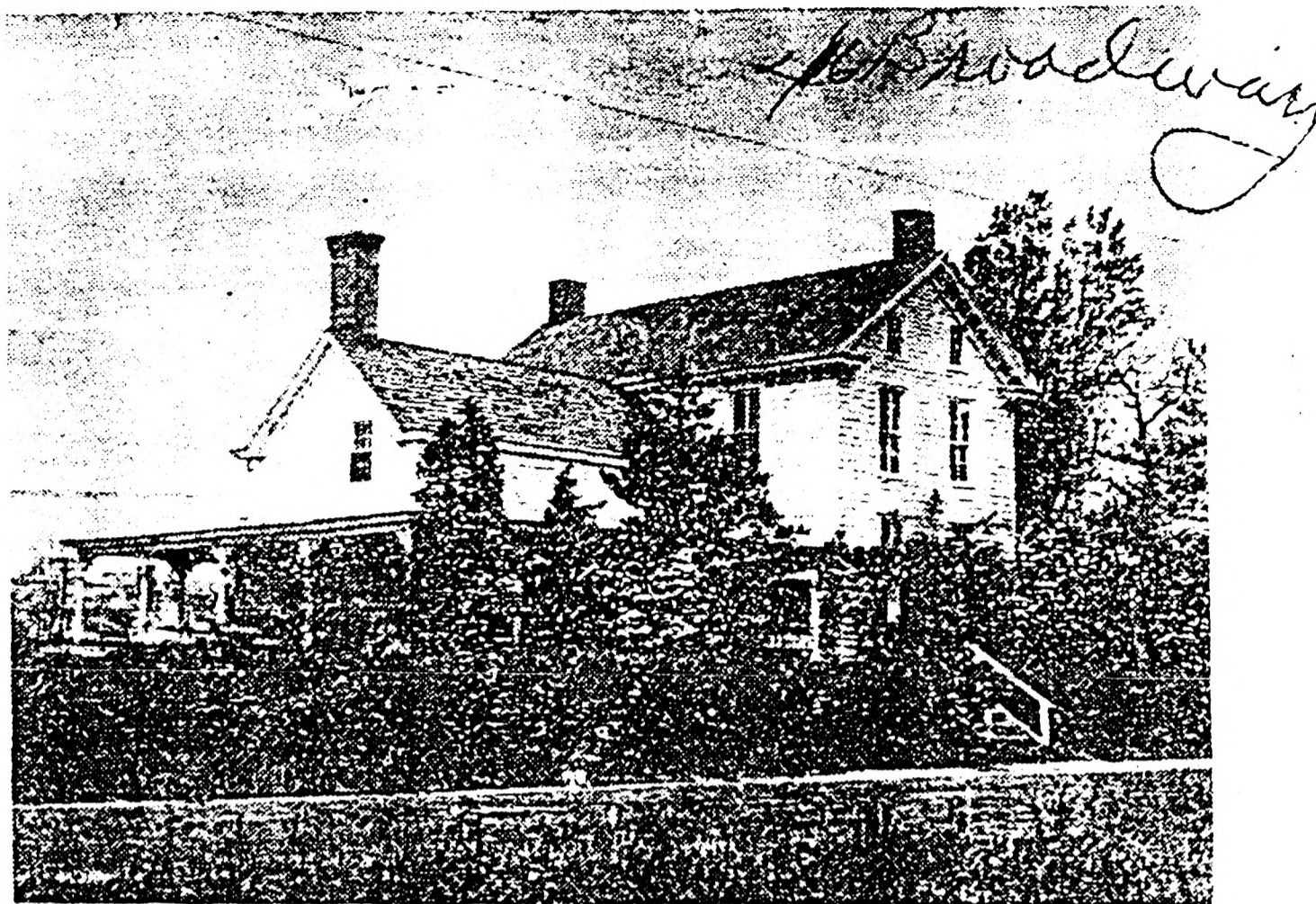


Fig. 7: 1919 Sanborn Map

Between 1890 and 1919, a one-story addition (likely containing a kitchen) was added to the north wall of the rear ell. Also seen on this map is a garage (extant) to the rear of the property and a gas station at the northeast corner of the property.



THE FOW HOUSE

Fig. 8: The House as it Appeared in 1954

In 1954, the house (then known as the Fow House for the Fow family who lived there from 1885 to 1931) was written about in the local newspaper. This view, from the rear looking northeast, clearly shows how the rear porch wrapped around the rear ell. Also seen is a trellis at the southwest corner of the house and stairs leading to Fow Street to the south. Neither the trellis nor the stairs are extant, and the northernmost portion of the porch on the ell's west elevation has been considerably shortened.

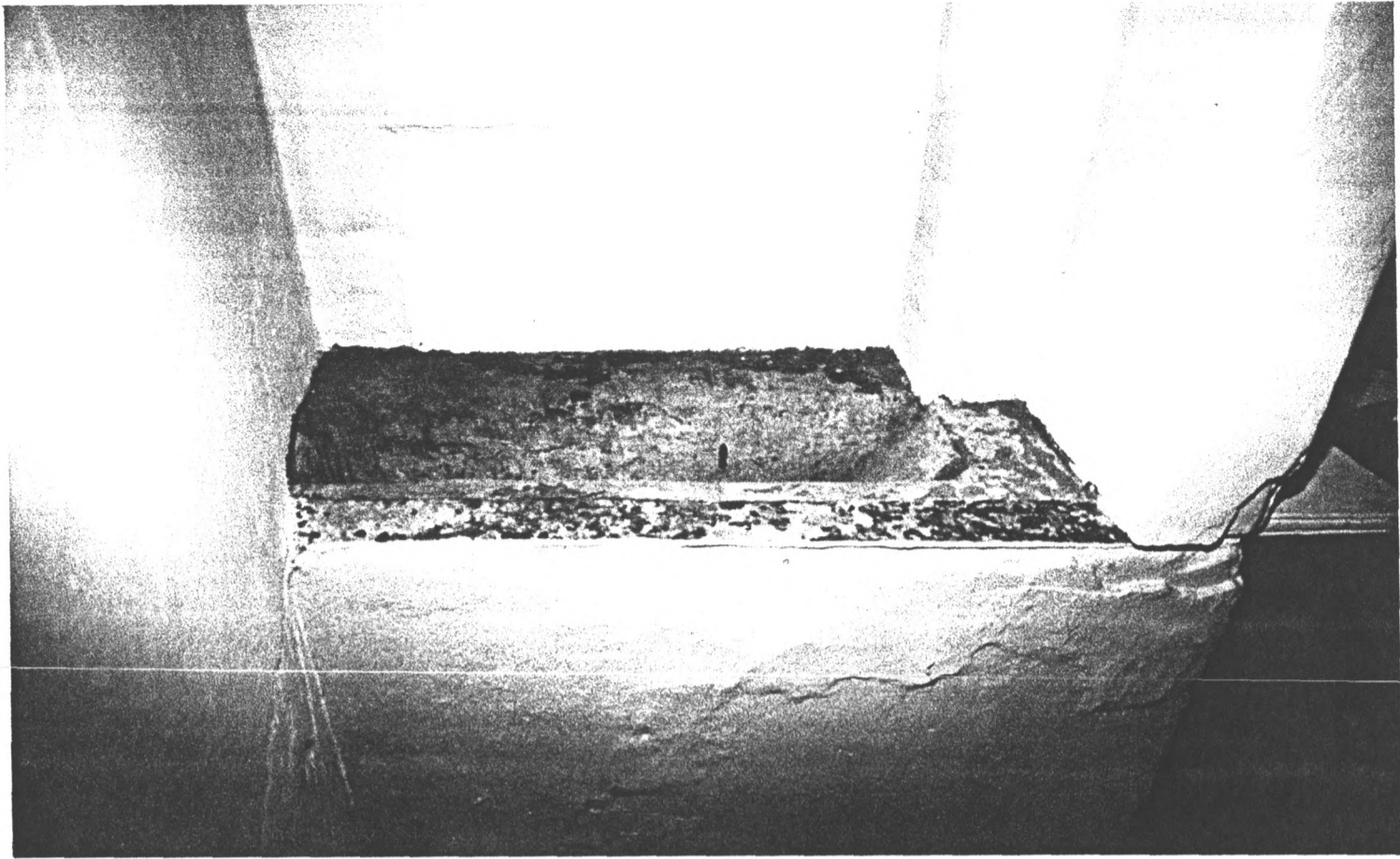


Fig. 9: Close-up of Warming/Baking Oven

Note the channel, or trough, which leads directly to an opening in the fireplace wall; also seen is a metal plate fronting the top edge. (view west)

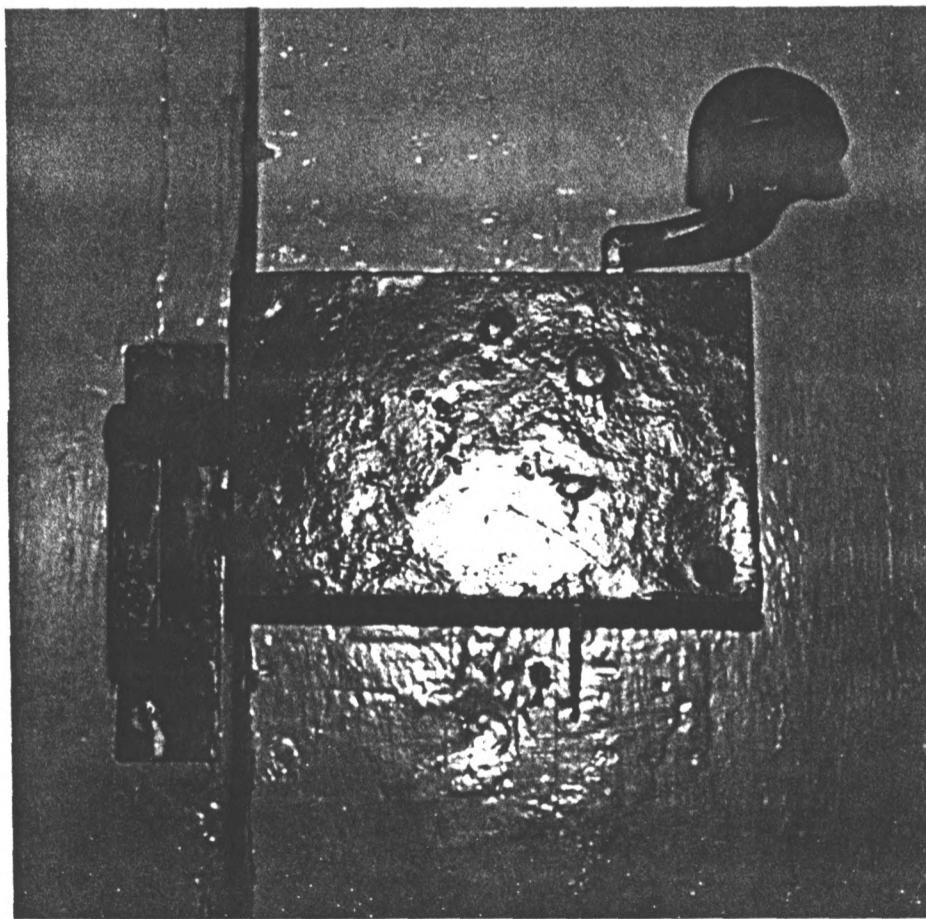


Fig. 10: Hand-wrought Door Latch

This door latch, made of wrought iron, is found on the interior of the door on the south wall of the rear ell, leading to the south porch.

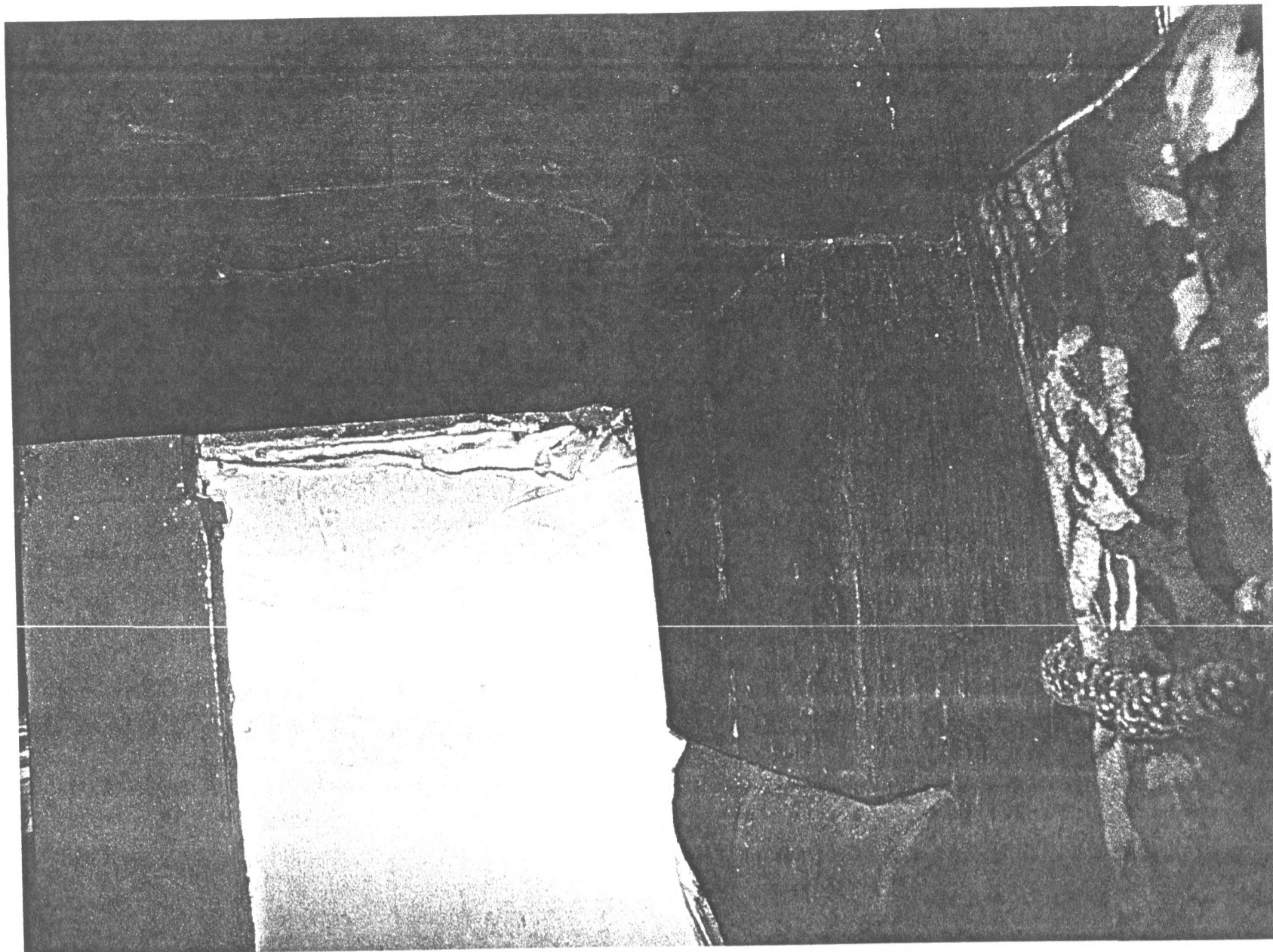


Figure 11: Close-up of Lamb's Tongue Stop

This close-up of the chimney girt in the rear ell shows the detail of the lamb's tongue stop near the junction of the girt and the post.

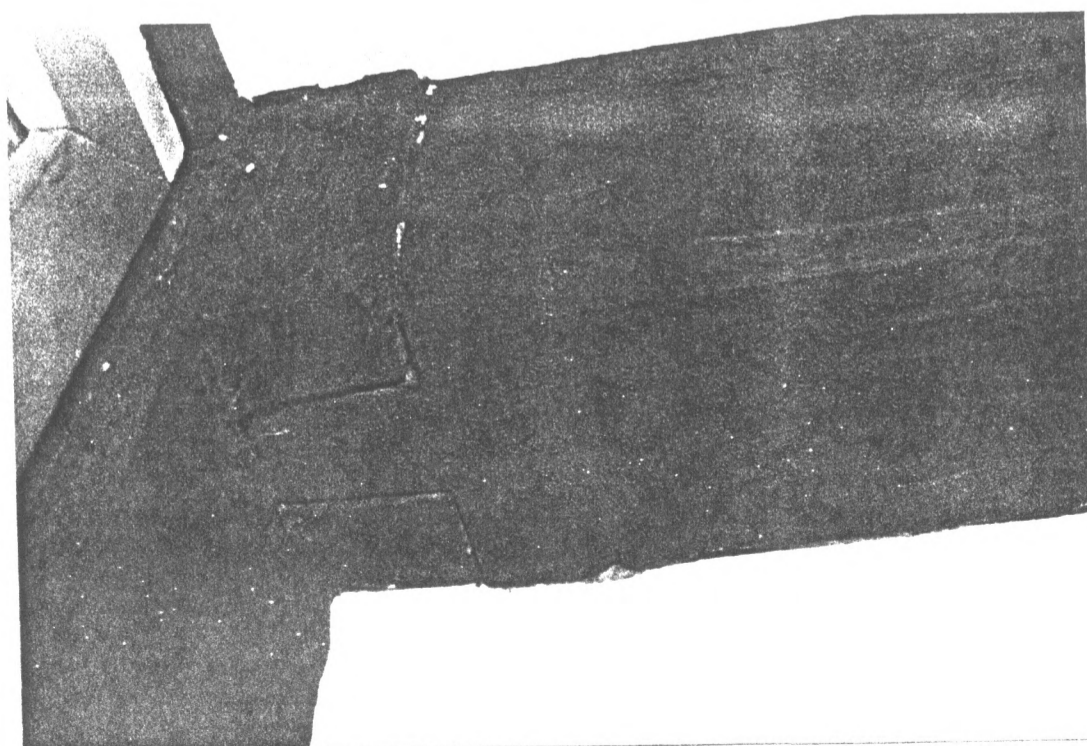


Fig. 12: Cut-away Corner Post

This corner post, located in the northeast corner of the hall of the rear ell, has been so deeply cut back that the tenon of the girt tied into it is exposed. Note the lamb's tongue stop on the girt. (view northeast).



Fig 13: South Parlor Fireplace

The nicely-detailed brass insert surrounding the fireplace is seen in this close-up. (view southwest)

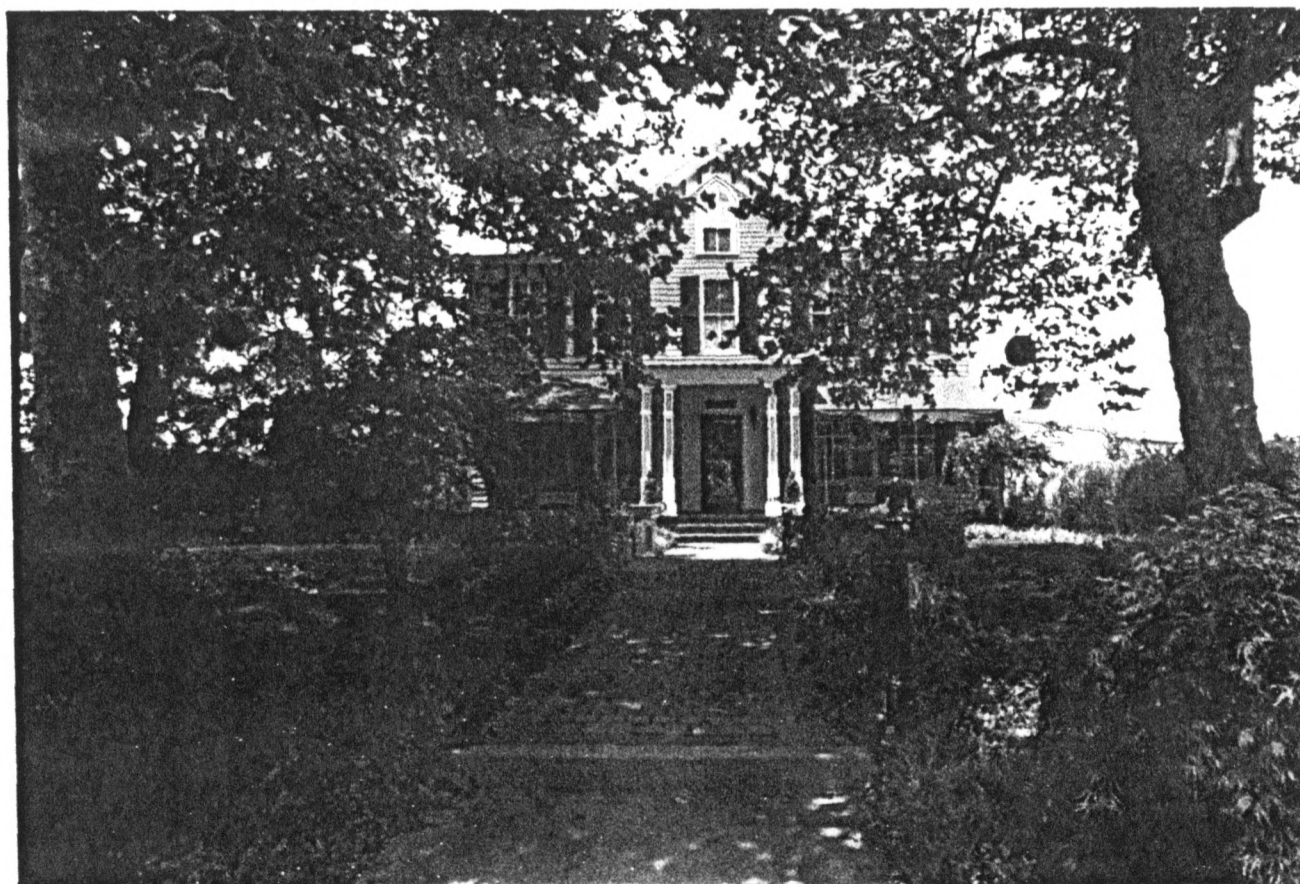


Fig. 14: Paved Walkway Leading to the House

This view, looking west, shows the two cast iron fence or gate posts on either side of the paved walk. (view west)

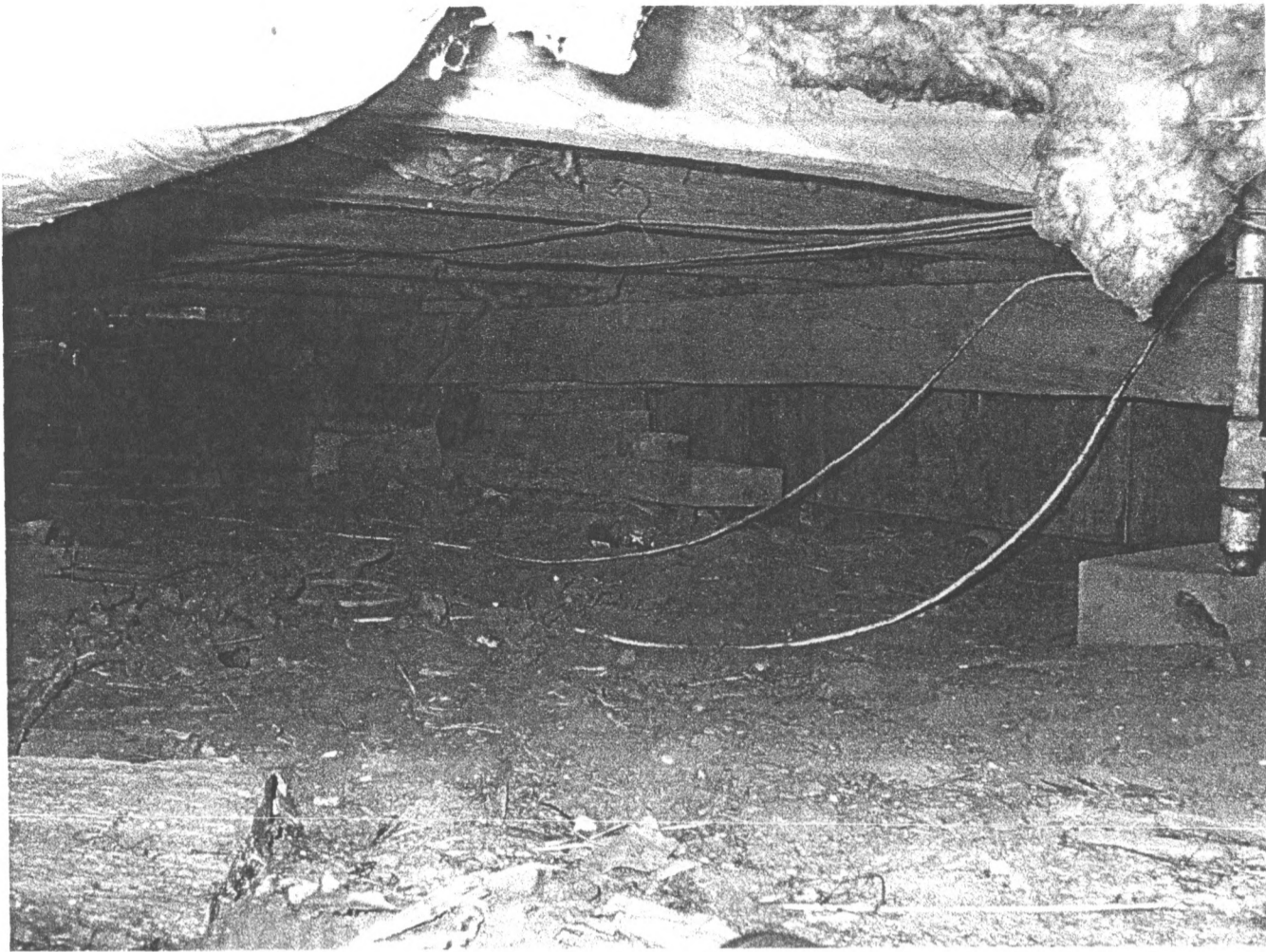


Fig. 15: Re-used Adzed Framing Member

Now used as to support the floor joists of the Victorian section, this adzed framing member, possibly a sill from the original parlor located east of the existing early section, contains open joist pockets.

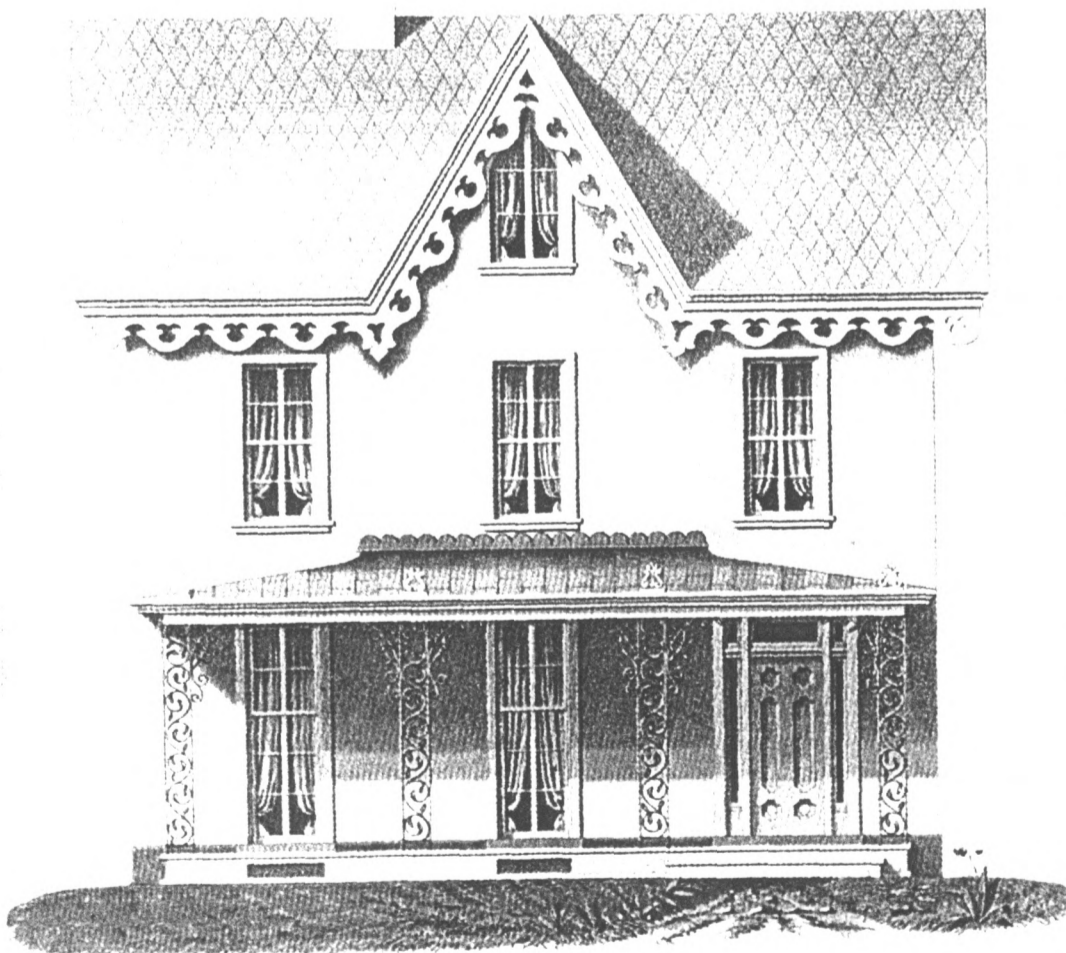
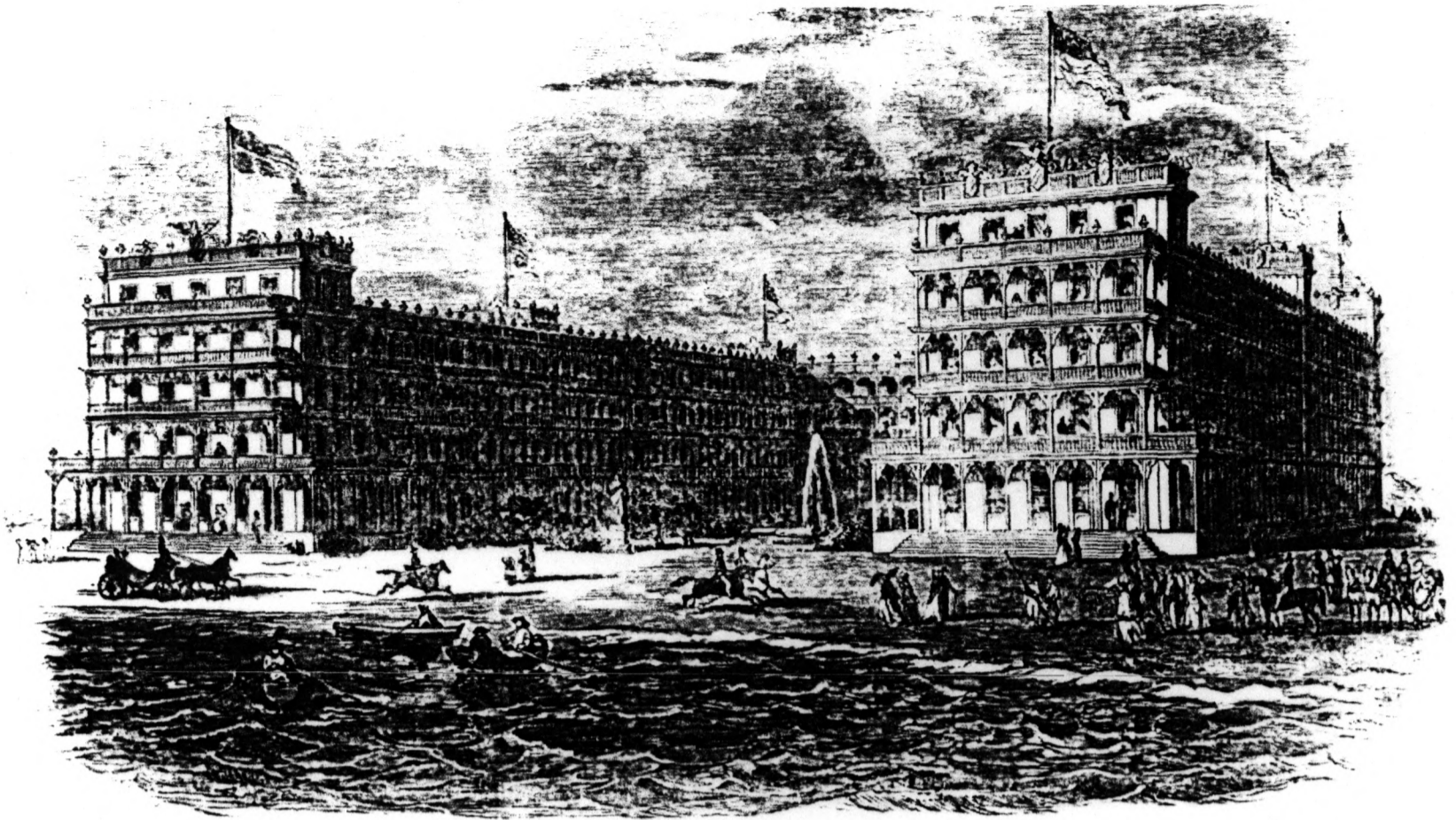


Fig. 16: John Riddell's 1861 Plan for a Modest Cottage

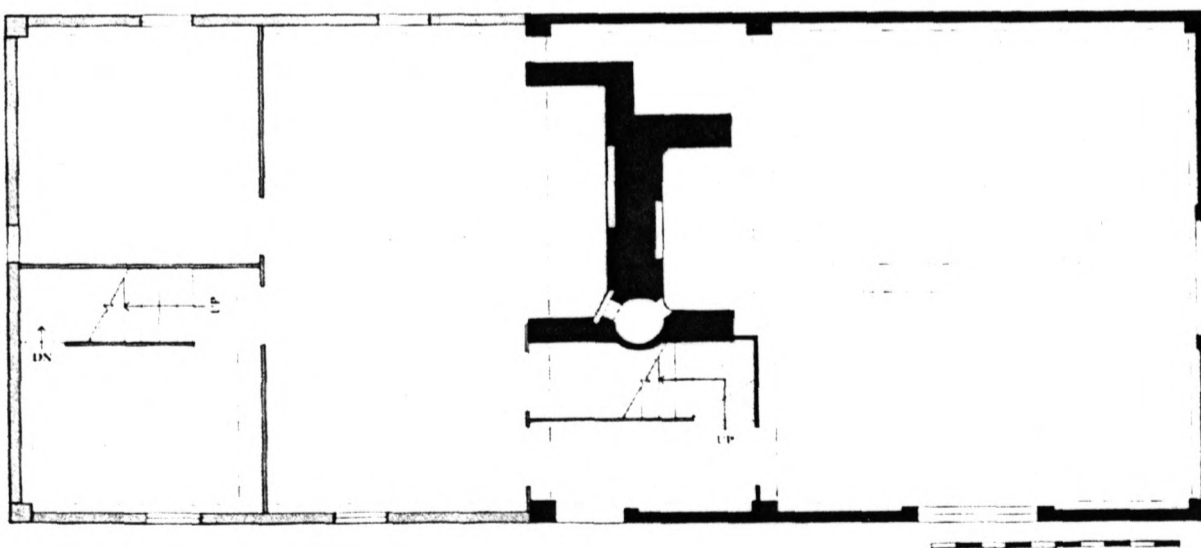
This house plan, which combines both Gothic and Italianate elements, appeared in Riddell's Architectural Designs, published in 1861.

(as found in Guter and Foster, Building by the Book: Pattern Book Architecture in New Jersey, p. 99)



*Mount Vernon Hotel—1853
(Sketched as it would appear when completed)*

Fig. 17: The Mount Vernon Hotel, artist's rendering of what the completed hotel would look like. Unfortunately, it was never completed (only one wing was built), and it burned three years after construction was begun. It was located about .5 miles south of the Whilldin-Miller House, at the southern terminus the present street (Broadway).



**Fig. 18: Typical
Massachusetts
Bay Area Floor
Plan**

The original portion of the house, shown with solid black walls, dates to ca. 1684; around 1725 the

house was expanded to nearly double the original size. The chimney bay, which incorporates two chimneys, is 10' wide. [floor plan as found in Cumming's The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, p. 27]



Whildin-Miller House
416 South Broadway
Borough of West Cape May, NJ

*Partial Photocopy of USGS Map
Cape May, NJ Quad*