

177

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

RECEIVED 2280
JAN 29 2008
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RECEIVED
MAR 13 2007
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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 Octagonal Poultry House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 720 Route 9 not for publication

city or town Lower Township vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ 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 of certifying official/Title

Date

Amy Cradic, 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

3.14.08

Octagonal Poultry 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
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	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)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/speciality store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Octagon Mode

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls WOOD/clapboard

roof METAL/tin

other

Narrative Description

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

see attached continuation sheets

Octagonal Poultry House
Name of Property

Cape May County, NJ
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

C: architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1900

Significant Dates

ca. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Historic Cold Spring Village,
Lower Twp., Cape May County, NJ

Octagonal Poultry House
Name of Property

Cape May County, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

see attached continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Berkey, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization _____ date March 12, 2007

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

city or town Linwood state NJ zip code 08221-1137

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name Historic Cold Spring Village Foundation, Inc.

street & number 720 Route 9 telephone 609/898-2300

city or town 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

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, NJ

Summary Description: The Octagonal Poultry House is a one-story wood frame structure built about 1900 in an octagonal shape with a 20' diameter. It originally stood on a 300+ acre farm on the east side of Seashore Road, a few hundred feet south of the Cape May Canal overpass in Lower Township, Cape May County, New Jersey. The building retains many original features including paired 6/6 windows and exposed interior ceiling framing.

In the mid-1970s, the poultry house was moved to Historic Cold Spring Village, an Early American outdoor living history museum in Lower Township, Cape May County that is composed of twenty-six restored historic buildings which range in date from the late 1600s to the early 1900s. The Village occupies a 22-acre site located between U.S. Route 9 and Seashore Road. The poultry house is located toward the western end of the Village; it faces east onto a clamshell path and stands on a grassy plot shaded by deciduous and evergreen trees. [photo #1]

Exterior Description: This one-story building has an octagonal-shaped footprint with a 20' diameter. The roof consists of 7 triangular-shaped segments that rise to meet in the center and a gable roof segment that marks the entrance to the building. [photos #2, #3, and #4] All are covered with standing seam metal and have projecting eaves with exposed rafter ends. The entrance, in the easternmost wall of the building has a board and batten door (replication) in the doorway. Two wooden steps, flanked by a modern wood handrail and square wood balusters, are located in front of the door. [photos #2 and #3]

The building is covered with wood clapboard laid 4½" to the weather; most of it appears to be original and is held with round head nails. Four of the structure's eight sides have double windows of 6/6 double-hung wood sash that appear to be original. The windows have brackets and a shelf for window boxes (not original) and are flanked by wood shutters that do not appear to be original because they are too small for the window openings. [photos #2, #3, and #4]

The building stands on a modern parged cinderblock foundation.

Interior Description: The interior is comprised of a single room with walls that are 5'8" tall and are covered with horizontal flushboarding, most of which appears to be original. [photos #5 and #6] Windows and the doorway are trimmed with 4" wide plain molding and the floor boards are 2½" wide, laid east to west and painted. A large round wood column in the center of the building supports the roof framing; the ceiling/roof is framed with exposed circular-sawn rafters and those in the small gable roof are joined to a ridge board at the apex. Round head nails are used throughout the building. At its tallest, the ceiling is 9'3" high.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, NJ

Original Appearance and Subsequent Alterations: The poultry house originally had pairs of 6/6 double hung wood windows on seven of its eight sides; these were removed from three of the sides after the building was moved to the Village around 1975. The gabled entry was also added to provide easier access into the interior when the building was adaptively re-used as a museum gift shop. The standing seam metal roof is a modern replacement of that which the building had when it was first brought to the Village. [see fig. 3 in *Supplemental and Historic Images*]

Setting: The poultry house is part of Historic Cold Spring Village, an Early American living history museum comprised of twenty-six historic buildings that range in date from the late 1600s to the early 20th century. All but one has been moved to the 22-acre wooded site which is located in Lower Township, Cape May County. Several modern buildings—including ticket booths, rest rooms, and a gazebo—are also part of the Village. The poultry house faces east and stands on the west side of a clamshell footpath that runs from north to south near the west end of the Village. The Village is shaded by mature oak (*Quercus alba*), holly (*Ilex opaca*), sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and white pine trees (*Pinus strobus*), all indigenous. The only landscaping around the building consists of 2' tall yews (*Taxus baccata*) which front the entrance and a single privet bush (*Ligustrum*) on the southwest side of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, New Jersey

Summary Statement of Significance:

Although the building has been moved twice from its original location, it derives its significance under criterion C from its architecture rather than from the local and historical associations it possessed before being moved to its present location. Thus, the fact that the poultry house no longer stands on its original site, nor retains its original setting, does not diminish its greater significance under this criterion.

The octagon shape has long been a part of the world's architectural history, but it was not until its introduction in a mid-19th century pattern book by phrenologist Orson Squire Fowler that it became a popular building form in the United States. Through architectural treatises and books, Fowler promoted the use of octagonal shapes not only for houses, but for barns and outbuildings as well, claiming that the contour offered a more economical use of the space it enclosed. New Jersey holds several examples of octagonal-shaped houses, most of them inspired by Fowler's building plans, but few examples of octagonal shaped barns and farm related outbuildings have survived. Within these contexts, the Octagonal Poultry House built ca.1900 in Cape May County, New Jersey is of statewide significance under criterion C/architecture.

Historical Background:

This one-story structure, built around 1900, originally stood on the east side of Seashore Road, a few hundred feet south of the Cape May Canal overpass in Lower Township, Cape May County, New Jersey. At its original location, it was part of the Nelson Z. Graves farm and may possibly have been built by Graves. In 1909, Graves (1849-1930) purchased a 338-acre farm on the east side of Seashore Road from Peter and Cora Shields.¹ [see figs. 1 and 2 in *Supplemental and Historic Images*]

In the 1880s, almost 30 years earlier, this farm was one of several in the area bought up and operated by the Rio Grande Sugar Company, a venture that provides an interesting footnote to Cape May County's late 19th-century "lost" industries. The sugar company had been established in the early 1880s by a group of Philadelphia promoters who planted 2,000 acres of sugar cane in the area, spurred by state bounties of \$1 per ton for all cane grown, and a penny a pound for all sugar refined. In 1884, the sugar company produced 76,000 pounds of sugar and 87,000 gallons of syrup. When the state ended the bounty in 1885, the industry collapsed in the county.²

¹ Deed Book 239, p. 21.

² John T. Cunningham, "Cavalcade of Counties: The Watering Place," *Newark Sunday News*, 11-2-1952, p. 18.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, New Jersey

In 1906, the farm was one of 20 tracts (all of which comprised the former Rio Grande Sugar Company plantation) sold to the Cape May County Land Improvement Company;³ it passed quickly through two owners and was purchased in 1909 by Graves.⁴ Graves was a wealthy paint and varnish manufacturer based in Philadelphia who became very active in developing nearby Cape May City and its environs in the early 1900s, investing almost \$3 million in various projects. He was instrumental in having the government build a harbor at the resort, headed a syndicate which built the Hotel Cape May, and controlled a number of public utilities.⁵ Graves went bankrupt, however, in 1915 and the farmstead was one of dozens of properties he owned that were placed under receivership that year.

It was eventually sold at a sheriff's sale in 1922 to Garfield W. Danenhower, a wholesale grocer from Haddonfield.⁶ One year later, Garfield sold it to John C. Danenhower⁷, his father who was also a wholesale grocer.⁸

According to Betty Weldon Saunderlin, who lived on the farm between 1925 and 1945, the farm was owned by William Danenhower from 1925 until 1945.⁹ There are no deeds for the property into William Danenhower and it is possible that the "W" in Garfield W. Danenhower stands for William, and that he operated the property for his father. Saunderlin also noted "the octagon shape building found in the Cold Spring Village actually came from the Cape May Farmstead. It was originally used for cock fights. Was moved out along the road in the early 30's [fig. 1] and was used for a road stand then sold to Walter Taylor for a play house for his children."¹⁰ While it is possible that the building was originally built for cock fights, it would have been more likely built as a poultry house.

Walter Taylor lived on a large farm (known as "No Frills Farm") across the street from the Graves farm. His daughter, Nancy McPherson, remembers the octagon poultry house being on the Taylor farm since 1932.¹¹ The octagon-shaped building was acquired by Historic Cold Spring Village from the Taylor family in the mid-1970s and was moved to its present site in the

³ Deed book 212, p. 259.

⁴ Deed book 216, p. 17; deed book 209, p. 86; deed book 239, p. 21.

⁵ "Nelson Graves, Developer of Cape May, Dies," *Cape May County Gazette*, 12-12-1930.

⁶ Deed book 313, p. 135; deed book 366, p. 366.

⁷ Deed book 382, p. 356; the relationship between the two has not been established.

⁸ 1920 census, Camden County, Haddonfield Twp., p. 14B and 3B.

⁹ Betty Sanderlin, "The Cape May Farmstead as I Remember It from 1925 to 1945," *Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy*, 1998, p. 210

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 214.

¹¹ Interview, Nancy McPherson, June 2004.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, New Jersey

Village where it is used to display fresh produce, cut flowers, and dried flowers that can be purchased at the Village's country store.

It was likely erected around 1900; even though the octagon style was most popular during the 1850s and 1860s, this structure was probably built after ca. 1885 since it is held together with round head nails which came into general use around 1885.

Octagonal Buildings

When Orson Squire Fowler (1809-1887) published A Home For All or the Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building in 1848, octagonal and other polygonal building forms had architectural precedents. The ancient Romans used them, medieval churches (like the 4th-century St. John of the Font in Milan) often included round or octagonal baptisteries, and, later, architects of the European Renaissance designed buildings in non-rectilinear forms as well. Thomas Jefferson's *Poplar Forest*, his country retreat built in 1809 near Lynchburg, Virginia, is thought to be the first complete octagonal house in America. Eighteenth and nineteenth-century saw and grist mills were often polygonal (hexagonal, octagonal, or pentagonal) and the first known round barn was built by the Shakers in 1826 in western Massachusetts; this was followed by engine round-houses before 1850. It was not until the mid-1800s, however, that the octagonal shape reached its highest popularity as a building form and its best known proponent was Orson Squire Fowler.¹²

Fowler, a phrenologist, believed that the octagon shape was the perfect building form and promoted it as such for houses in his 1848 book, A Home for All. In the book's later editions (there were at least seven), Fowler also introduced a type of concrete or "gravel wall" construction.¹³ His books were tremendously popular and led to the erection of octagon-shaped houses throughout the country. Fowler's ideas of applying the octagonal shape to a residence, and of using a concrete mixture of gravel and lime made on-site as a building material, were a distinct, almost radical departure from the American tradition of building rectangular houses from wood, stone, or brick.

Architecture was just one of Orson Fowler's many pursuits. Born in Cohocton, New York in 1809, he worked on his father's farm before entering Amhurst College to train for the ministry.

¹² James Massey and Shirley Maxwell, "Anything But a Rectangle: The Cyclical History of Octagonal and Round Houses," *Old House Journal*, March-April 1994, p. 35-39; email correspondence, Robert Craig to Joan Berkey, 12-28-2006 and 1-2-2007.

¹³ Walter Creese, "Fowler and the Domestic Octagon," *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 28, No. 2 (June, 1946), p. 89.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, New Jersey

While there, though, he found himself captivated by the phrenological doctrine recently introduced to the United States by Johann Spurzheim, a Viennese doctor who believed that a person's character could be analyzed by examining his or her cranium. With his brother, Lorenzo, Fowler established a practice as a phrenologist and began publishing the *American Phrenological Journal & Miscellany* which survived well into the 20th century. Under his imprint a host of phrenological, health, and sex manuals were published and, in time, Fowler advocated most of the reforms introduced in the 19th century—anti-lacing dress reform, vegetarianism, water cures, and teetotalism.¹⁴

It was as an amateur architect, however, that Fowler made his “lasting contribution.”¹⁵ Not only did he introduce plans for an octagonal house in his 1848 A Home for All, or a New, Cheap, Convenient and Superior Mode of Building, but he espoused several revolutionary building ideas that were designed to “bring comfortable dwellings within the reach of the poorer classes.”¹⁶ Fowler advocated hot air and hot water furnaces, speaking tubes, and dumbwaiters. He dictated that every room should have ventilators and the “indoor water closet” was a necessity best placed under the stairs.¹⁷ Most medium-sized towns from the time period had at least one octagon house and it is estimated that about 150 octagon-shaped houses remain in the country.¹⁸

Fowler devoted a chapter to octagonal-shaped barns and outbuildings in his 1859 The House: A Pocket Manual of Rural Architecture: Or, How to Building Country Houses and Out-Buildings. Floor plans for two octagonal barns were included [fig. 4], as were plans for an octagon poultry house [figs. 6 and 7] and an octagon piggery [fig. 5], in addition to plans for a circular barn and more traditionally-shaped barns and farm structures.

Fowler claimed that octagonal barns were advantageous because they were “best adapted to inclose [sic] the desired plan,” a plan which featured a labor-saving arrangement of stalls radiating from a central manger. He conceded that the plan was “peculiarly adapted to those gentlemen who wish to keep horses and cows and be able to feed them without too much labor or time and exposure to dirt.”¹⁹ The 30' diameter piggery [fig. 5] was divided into three 7' x 10' feeding rooms arranged around a centrally-placed boiler room, and Fowler directed that it

¹⁴ Orson Fowler, A Home for All, or the Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building (New York: 1973) (with introduction by Madeleine B. Stern) reprint of original published in 1853, p. v-xii.

¹⁵ Clay Lancaster, Architectural Follies in America, as cited in Stern's introduction, see above.

¹⁶ Fowler, A Home for All (1853), p. 3.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. v-vi.

¹⁸ James Massey and Shirley Maxwell, p.39.

¹⁹ Fowler and Wells, pubs., The House: A Pocket Manual of Rural Architecture (New York, 1859), p. 135-136.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

Octagonal Poultry House

Cape May County, New Jersey

“should have sufficient height to furnish a good upper room for storing corn, etc. for the swine.”²⁰

Ten feet in diameter and 6½ feet high, the poultry house illustrated by Fowler in 1859 shows a board and batten exterior with one exterior man door, a small ladder leading to a chicken door opening, and circular windows; the building was topped with an octagonal cupola that provided ventilation. [fig. 6] On the interior, roosts were created by attaching one end of a pole to the center post and the other to an end wall; they were placed 18” apart and rose in a spiral to the top of the poultry house. A tilted wood floor caught the droppings and provided a nesting area underneath.²¹ [fig. 7]

Fowler’s books circulated as far abroad as France, England, China, and the Sandwich Islands. In the United States, especially in the East, at least a thousand buildings sprang up, and included not only octagonal shaped houses, but also churches, schools, barns, windmills, smokehouses, and even séance chambers.²² Shortly after embracing the gravel wall method of construction, Fowler built his own octagonal-shaped, gravel wall house, a monstrous 3-story dwelling that overlooked the Hudson River in New York. Although Fowler’s octagon house was razed with dynamite in 1897, not even fifty years after it was built, “Fowler’s Folly” as it came to be known incorporated every one of the architect’s revolutionary ideas.²³

Fowler was not the only architect to show polygonal-shaped farm buildings in pattern books. Byron Halstead’s 1881 *Barns, Sheds and Outbuildings* illustrates circular and semi-circular sheep shelters in addition to a circular spring house, while Sears mail-order house catalogues included designs and kits for octagonal barns and hexagonal windmills well into the 1920s.²⁴ While the octagonal shape is most common, round barns were also built in substantial numbers as agricultural colleges and experiment stations taught progressive farming methods based on models of industrial efficiency. Barns (and the occasional outbuilding) were also built with

²⁰ Fowler and Wells, *The House: A Pocket Manual*, p. 145.

²¹ Fowler and Wells, *The House: A Pocket Manual*, p. 143-144.

²² *Ibid.*, p. vi.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. v-xii.

²⁴ Byron Halsted, ed., *Barns, Sheds & Outbuildings* (1881, reprint, Chambersburg, PA: Alan C. Hood & Co, Inc., 1994), p. 84-85, 174; Catherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl, *A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck, and Company* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1986), p. 34; Joy Sears, *Barns by Mail: Pre-Cut Kit Barns by Mail-Order Catalogue in the Mid-West from 1900 to 1930* (graduate school thesis, University of Oregon, 2001) as found at <http://sandcreekpostandbeam.com/pdf/History-of-Kit-Barns.pdf>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, New Jersey

various numbers of sides ranging from six to fourteen, and there are a handful of oval-plan and "doughnut"-plan barns in Minnesota and Illinois, as well.²⁵

In New Jersey, there are several historic octagonal houses, among them two (the Nathaniel Myers House and the Rickards House) in the Ironworks National Register Historic District in Boonton, Morris County; one at #650 Washington Street in Hackettstown, Warren County; and two in Bergen County--the J.J. Blauvelt House in Montvale [supplemental photo #3], and the Hasbrouck-VanWinkle House ("Belmont") in Weehauken. Another octagon house in Johnsonburg (Warren County) was originally thought to be gravel wall construction because of its stuccoed exterior; however, the stucco has since been removed by new owners, exposing walls of coursed rubble stone.²⁶ In South Jersey, there is only one octagon house, erected in 1875 in Cape May City, and it is built of frame with a clapboard exterior.²⁷ There is one extant octagonal-shaped poultry house, which also appears to date to ca.1900, located in Rosemont, Hunterdon County, New Jersey.²⁸

According to the National Register of Historic Places database, there are 73 octagonal structures listed in the Register, including 39 houses, 21 barns, four schools, and nine other structures including one pig house (Stark County, ND), one lodge (Clearfield Co., PA), one combination house and store, and one barber shop.²⁹

Significance

Within these contexts, the Octagonal Poultry House is significant as a rare survivor of a type of polygonal-shaped building form that was popular from the mid-19th century into the first quarter of the 20th century. Used in houses, barns, and agricultural buildings, the octagon shape was part of the larger national experiment with non-rectilinear building forms to increase efficiency and the use of space. However, polygonal forms never became standard as their proponents had hoped and were abandoned during the Great Depression in the 1930s. Today, historic hexagonal

²⁵ Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns & Other Farm Structures (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995), p. 120-121; Michael J. Auer, "The Preservation of Historic Barns," Preservation Brief #20, National Park Service, October 1989.

²⁶ Telephone interview with Dennis Bertland, April 4, 2001; Robert P. Guter and Janet W. Foster, Building by the Book: Pattern Book Architecture in New Jersey (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992), p. 114-118.

²⁷ The Josiah Schellinger House, 1286-1288 Lafayette Street; it is 2-stories tall, with a wide front porch on all elevations.

²⁸ Robert Craig, New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office.

²⁹ <http://www.nr.nps.gov/>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, New Jersey

and round barns remain in larger numbers than do their smaller outbuilding counterparts, the latter of which were more easily lost to demolition, natural disaster, or demolition by neglect.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, NJ

Bibliography

Books and Periodicals

Auer, Michael J. "The Preservation of Historic Barns." Preservation Brief #20, National Park Service, October 1989.

Creese, Walter. "Fowler and the Domestic Octagon." *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 28, No. 2 (June, 1946).

Fowler, Orson. A Home for All, or the Gravel Wall and Octagon Mode of Building. New York: 1973 (with introduction by Madeleine B. Stern) reprint of original published in 1853.

Fowler, Orson and Wells. The House: A Pocket Manual of Rural Architecture: or How to Build Country Houses and Out-Buildings. New York: Fowler and Wells, 1859, reprint Merrymeeting Archives, 2000.

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

Halsted, Byron, ed. Barns, Sheds & Outbuildings. 1881, reprint, Chambersburg, PA: Alan C. Hood & Co, Inc., 1994.

Massey, James and Shirley Maxwell. "Anything But a Rectangle: The Cyclical History of Octagonal and Round Houses." *Old House Journal*, March-April 1994.

Noble, Allen G. and Richard K. Cleek. The Old Barn Book A Field guide to North American Barns & Other Farm Structures. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995.

Sanderlin, Betty. "The Cape May Farmstead as I Remember It from 1925 to 1945." *Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy*, 1998.

Sears, Joy. Barns by Mail: Pre-Cut Kit Barns by Mail-Order Catalogue in the Mid-West from 1900 to 1930. Graduate school thesis, University of Oregon, 2001. [as found at <http://sandcreekpostandbeam.com/pdf/History-of-Kit-Barns.pdf>]

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, NJ

Stevenson, Catherine Cole and H. Ward Jandl. A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck, and Company. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1986.

Newspapers

Cunningham, John T. "Cavalcade of Counties: The Watering Place," *Newark Sunday News*, 11-2-1952.

"Nelson Graves, Developer of Cape May, Dies." *Cape May County Gazette*, 12-12-1930.

Interviews

Dennis Bertland, April 4, 2001.

Nancy McPherson, June 2004.

Public Documents and Archives

Federal census, 1920. Camden County, Haddonfield Twp.

National Register of Historic Places database. [<http://www.nr.nps.gov/>]

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, New Jersey

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary comprises the dimensions of the building's octagonal footprint that has a 20' wide diameter as shown on the annotated first floor plan.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The intention of the octagonal-shaped boundary is to enclose and incorporate the building's footprint. The boundary excludes the small front stoop which is modern and not original to the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
photographs**

Octagonal Poultry House
Cape May County, NJ

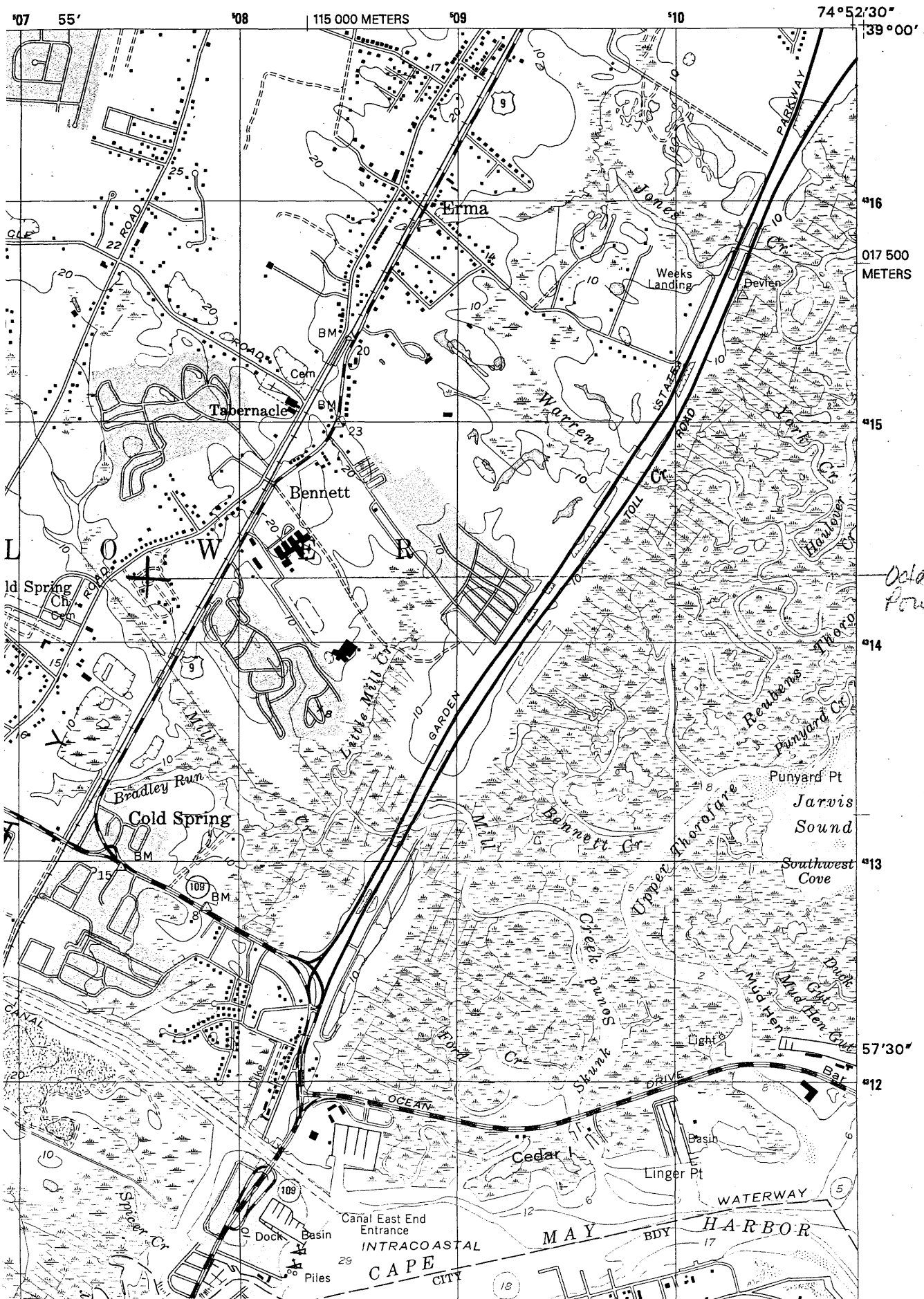
Typical Information for All Photographs

1. Name of Property	Octagonal Poultry House
2. County and State	Cape May County, New Jersey
3. Photographer	Joan Berkey
4. Date of Photograph	Fall 2006
5. Location of Negatives	Joan Berkey 1003 Bartlett Avenue Linwood, NJ 08221
6. Location of Digital Copies	Joan Berkey NJ State Historic Preservation Office

Photo # and Description of View

1. Exterior view showing setting; view south [digital]
2. Exterior view showing entrance; view south-southwest [digital]
3. Exterior: view northwest [digital]
4. Exterior: view southeast [digital]
5. Interior: view southwest [photo negative]
6. Interior: view north showing the entrance [photo negative]

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



*Octagonal
 Poultry House*

'07 55' '08 115 000 METERS '09 '10 74°52'30"

39°00'

'16
 017 500
 METERS

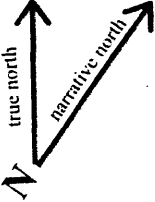
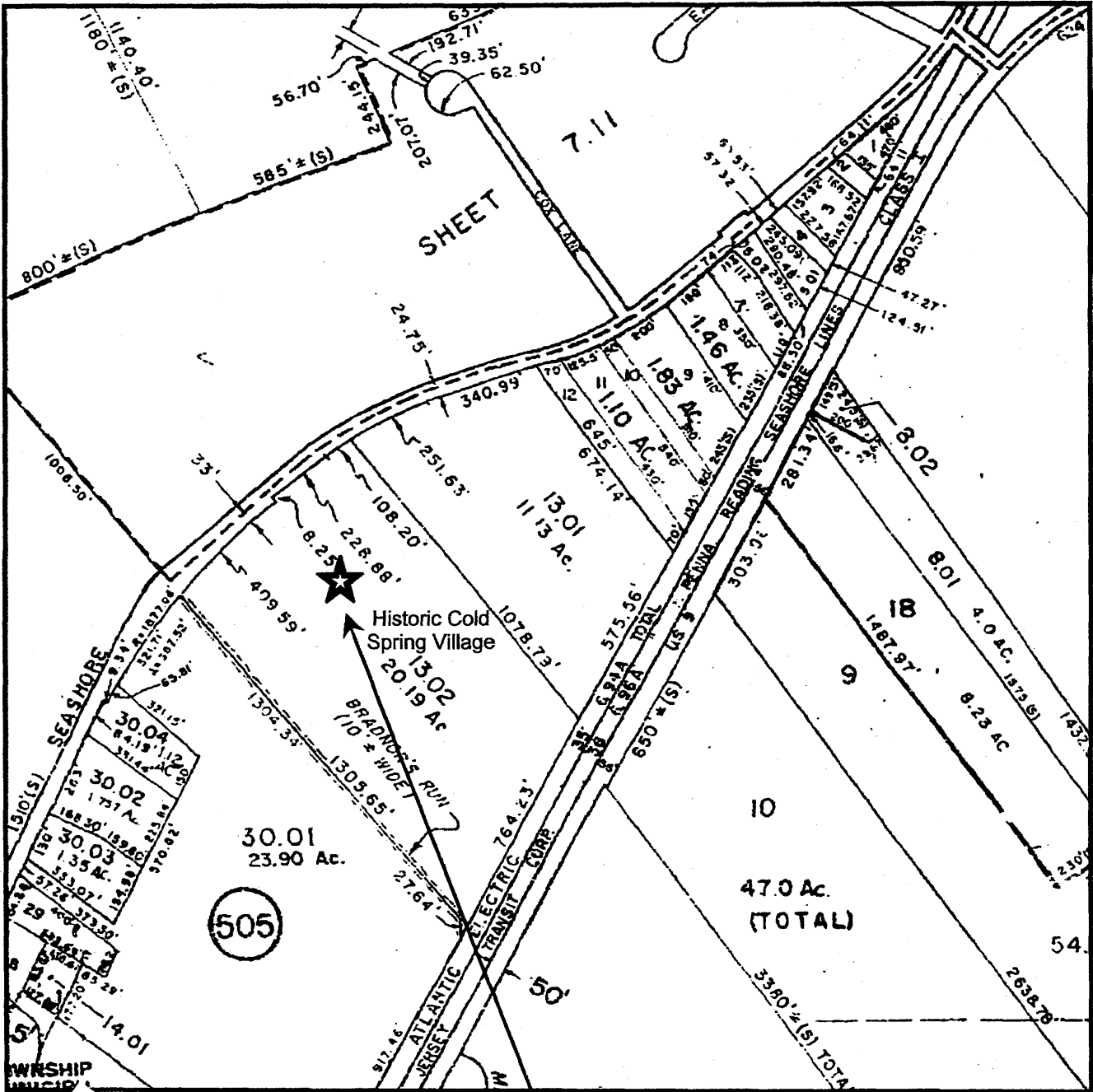
'15

'14

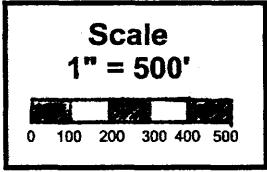
'13

57'30"

'12



Octagonal Poultry House
 Lower Township,
 Cape May County, NJ

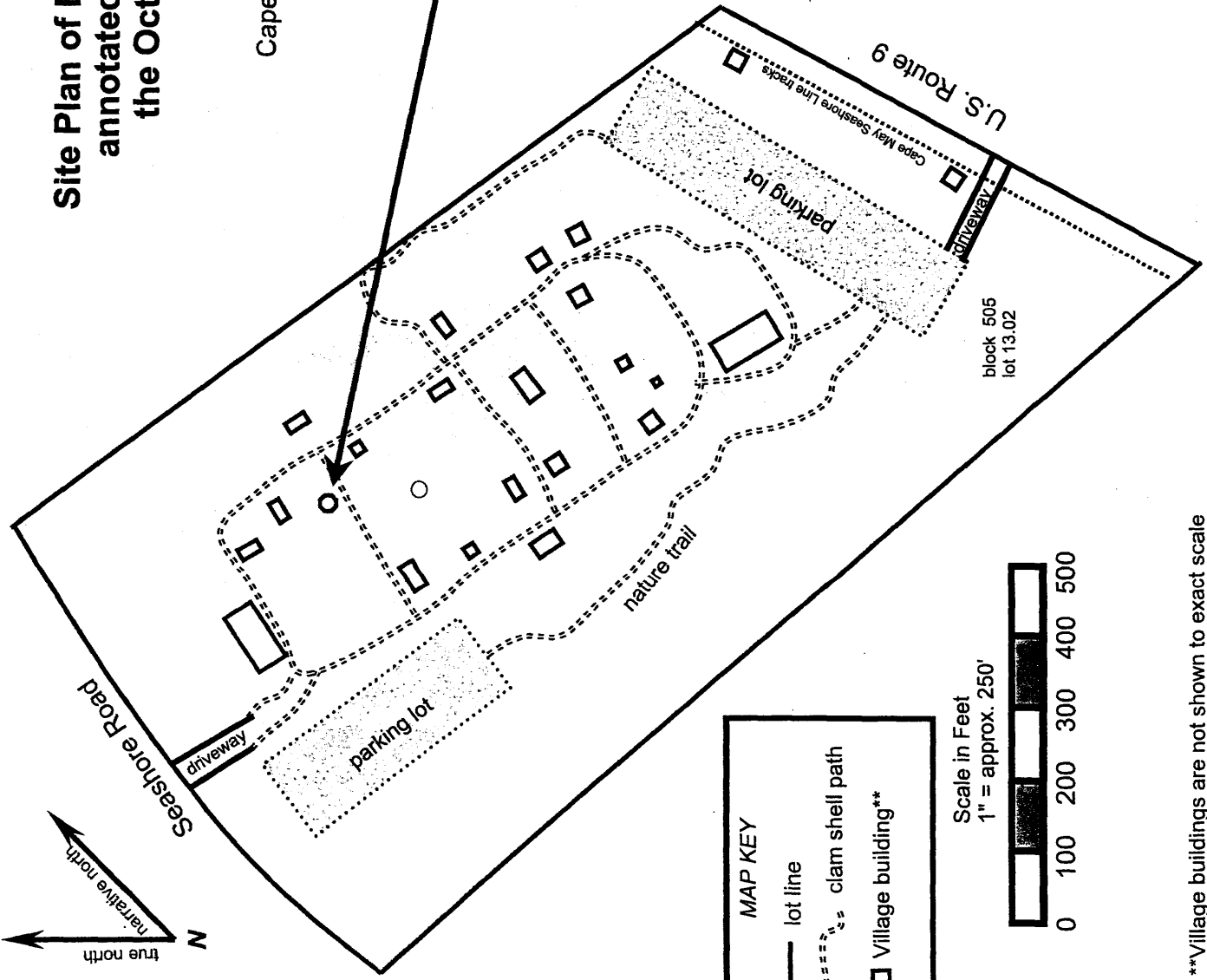


*tax map of Lower Township annotated to show
 the approximate location of the Octagonal Poultry House
 on block 505, lot 13.02*

**Site Plan of Historic Cold Spring Village
annotated to show the location of
the Octagonal Poultry House**

Lower Township
Cape May County, New Jersey

Octagonal Poultry House



MAP KEY

- lot line
- - - clam shell path
- Village building**

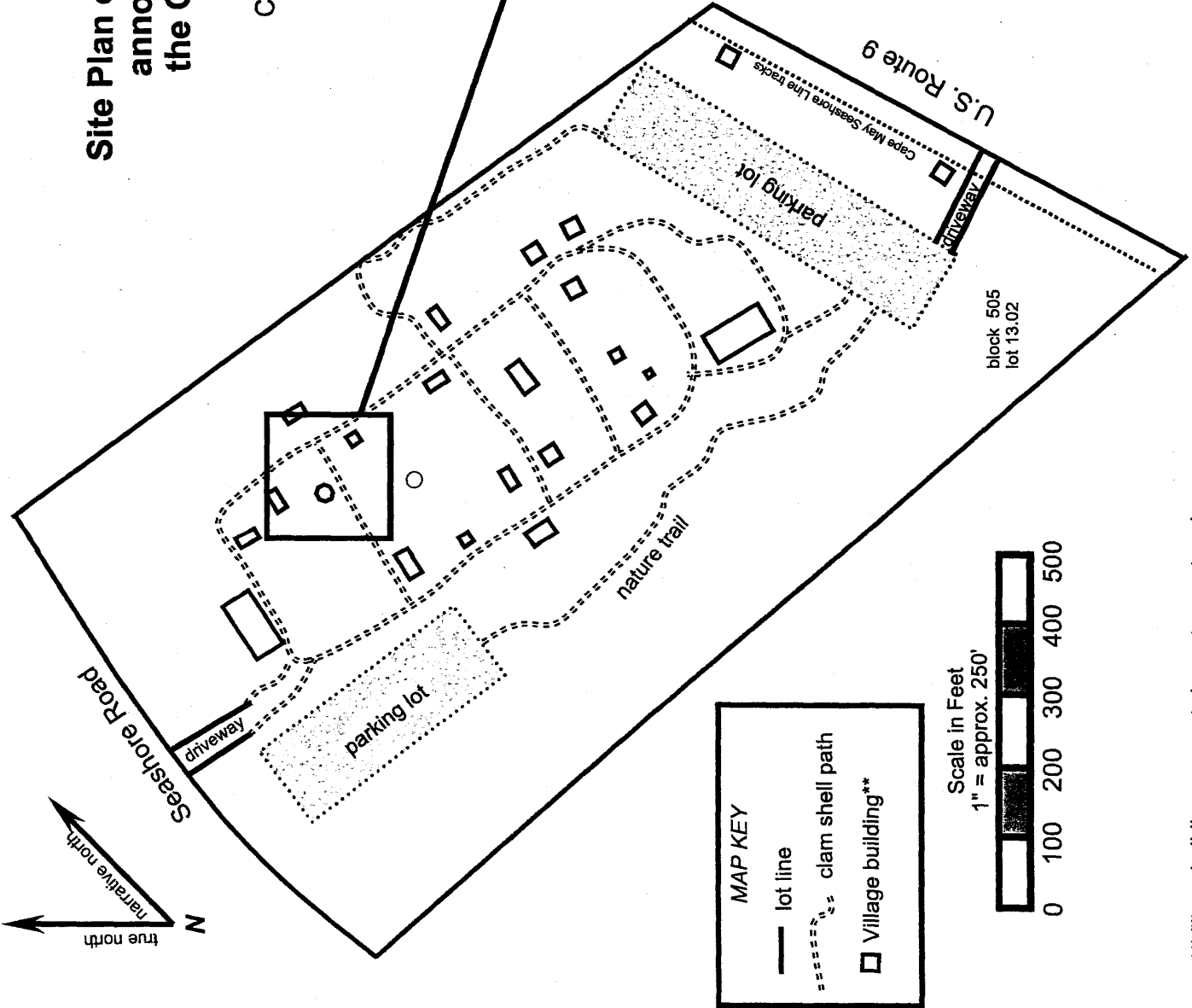
Scale in Feet
1" = approx. 250'



**Village buildings are not shown to exact scale and only major buildings are shown

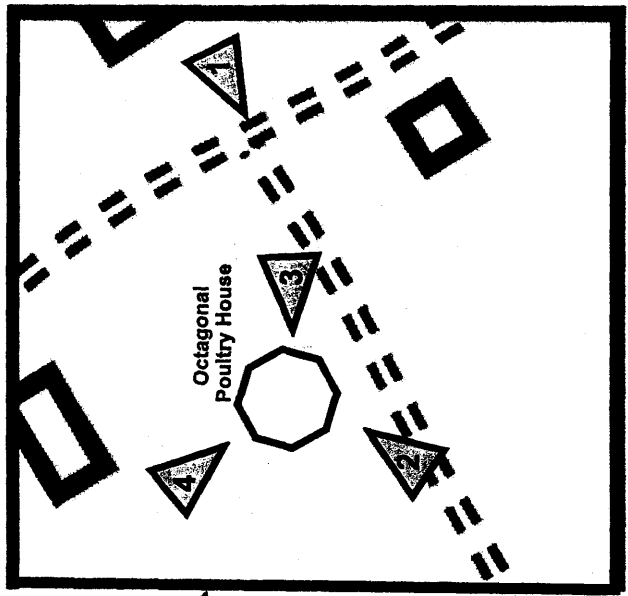
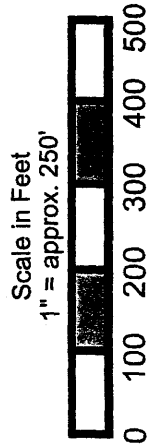
**Site Plan of Historic Cold Spring Village
annotated for photographs of
the Octagonal Poultry House**

Lower Township
Cape May County, New Jersey



MAP KEY

- lot line
- - - clam shell path
- Village building**

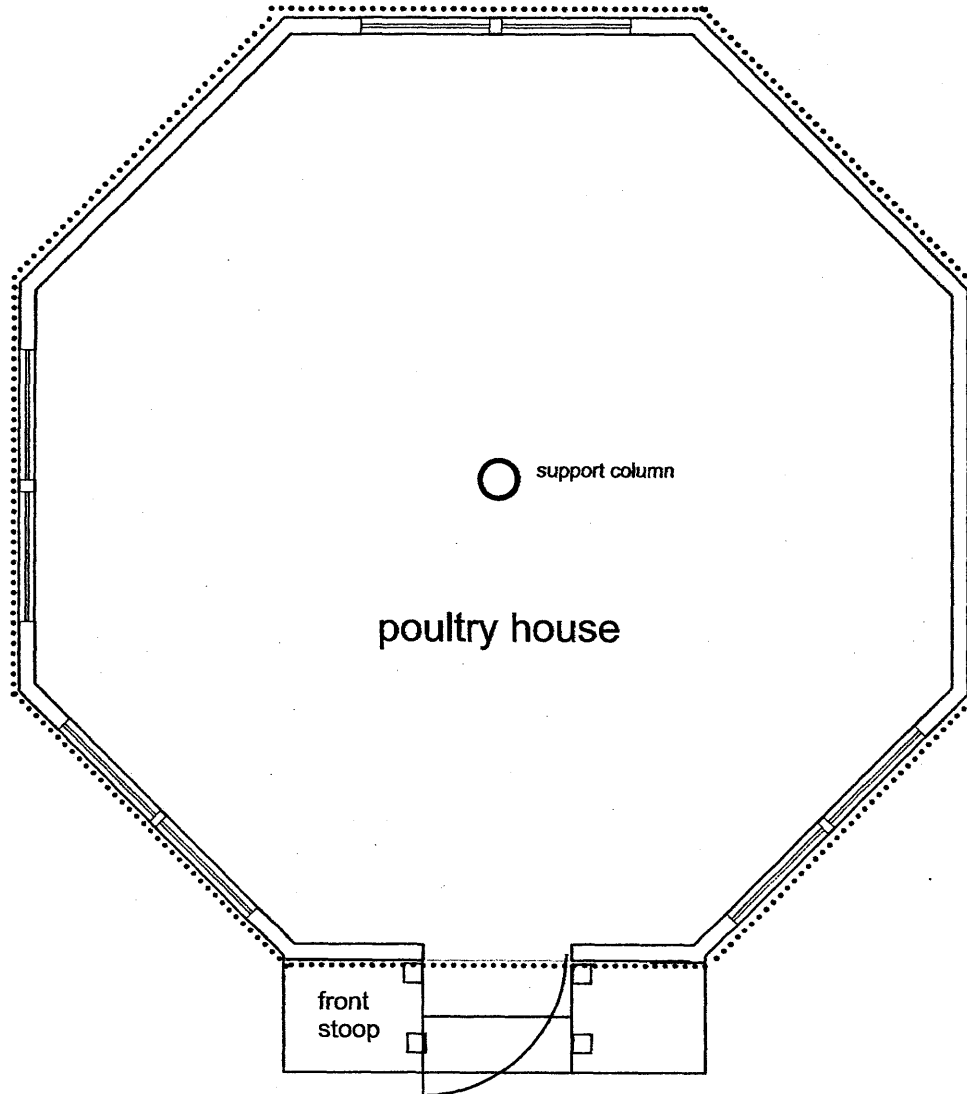
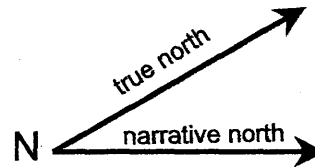
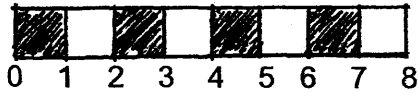


**enlargement annotated for
photographs of the Octagonal Poultry House**

Joan Berkeley
1-2007

**Village buildings are not shown to exact scale and only major buildings are shown

SCALE in FEET
1/4" = 1'

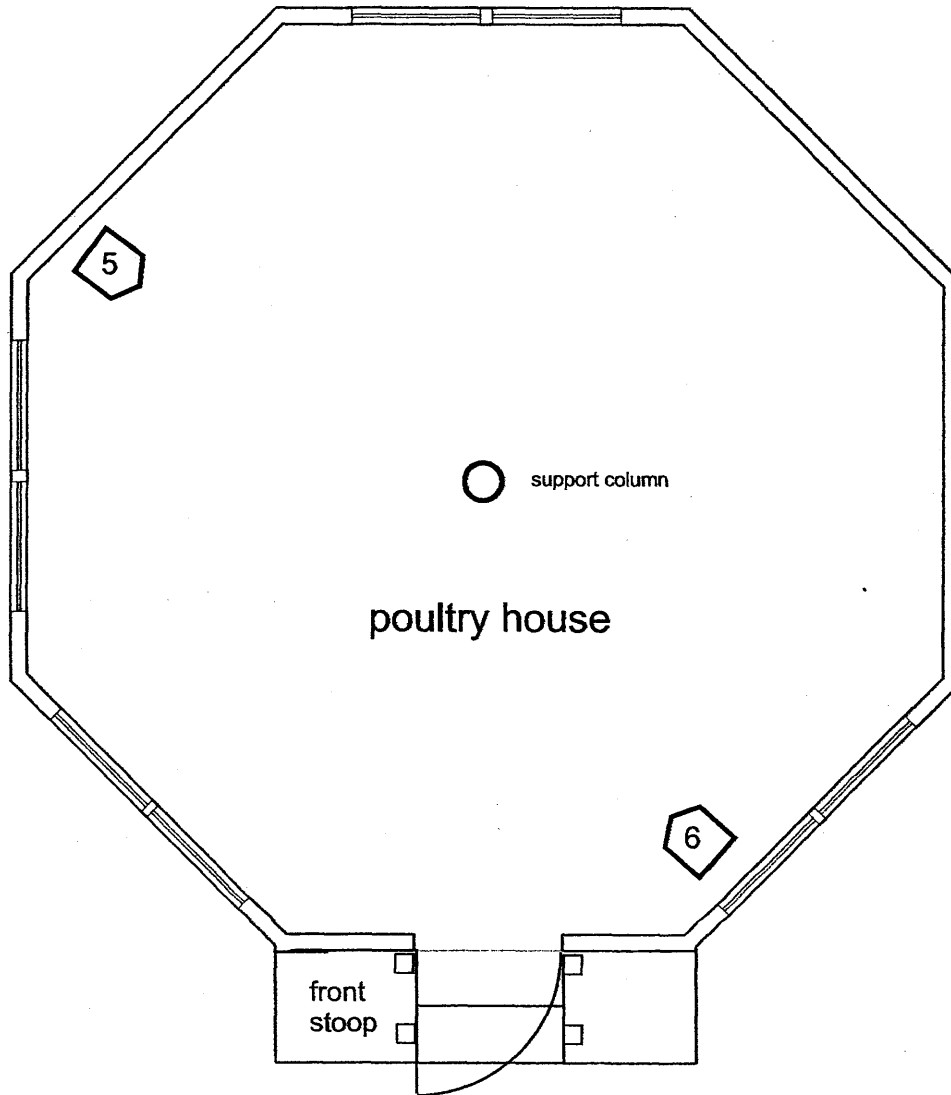
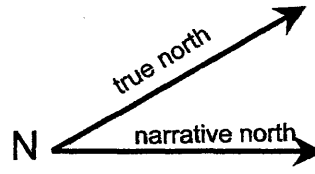
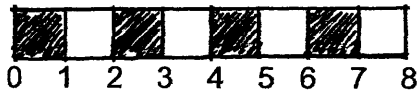


Octagonal Poultry House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

first floor plan annotated to show boundary

..... boundary

SCALE in FEET
1/4" = 1'



Octagonal Poultry House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

first floor plan annotated for photographs

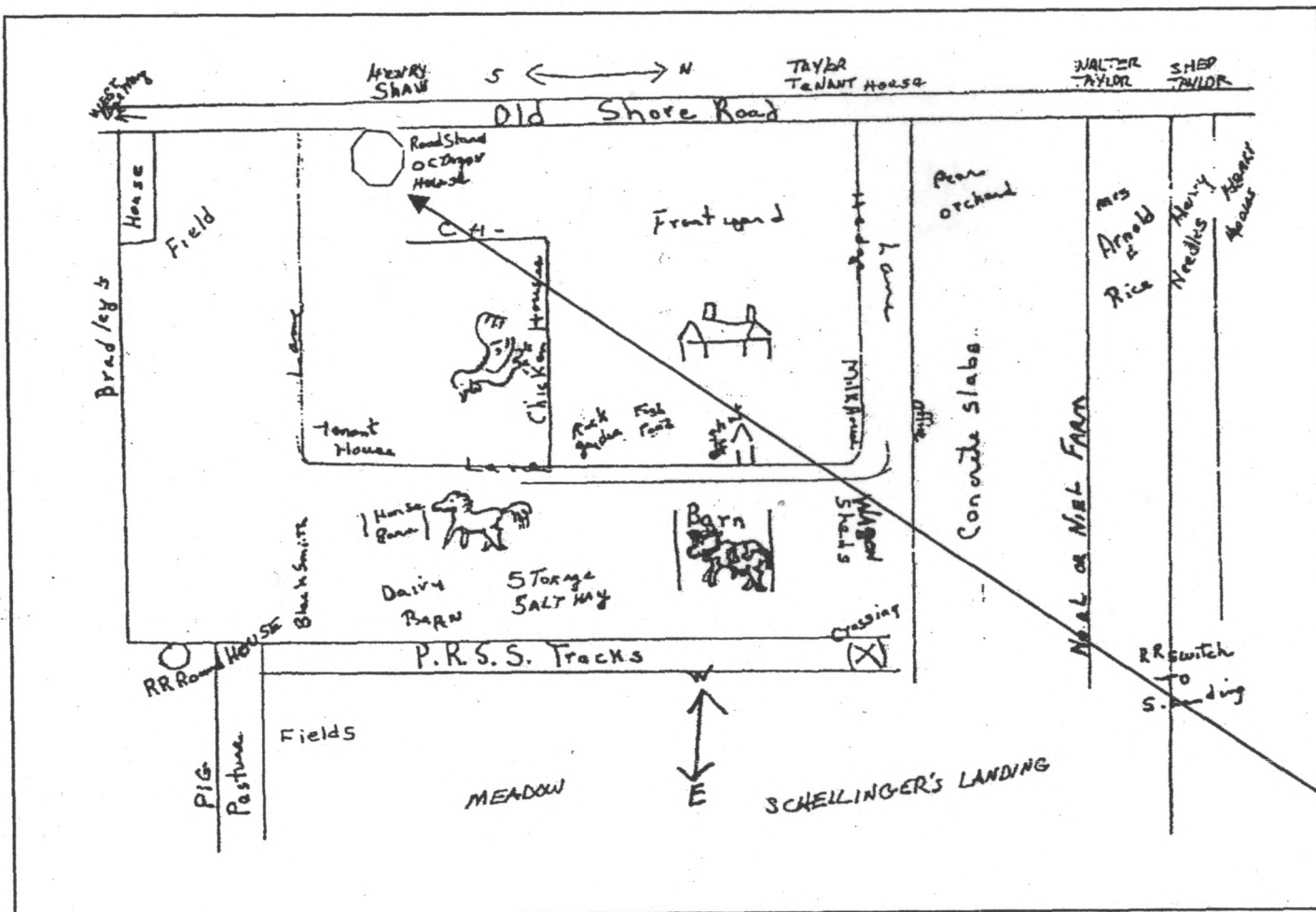


Figure 1
 Left: hand-drawn map of the farm as it appeared between 1925 and 1945. The arrow points to the location of the poultry house. [Betty Sanderlin, *Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy*, 1998, p. 210]

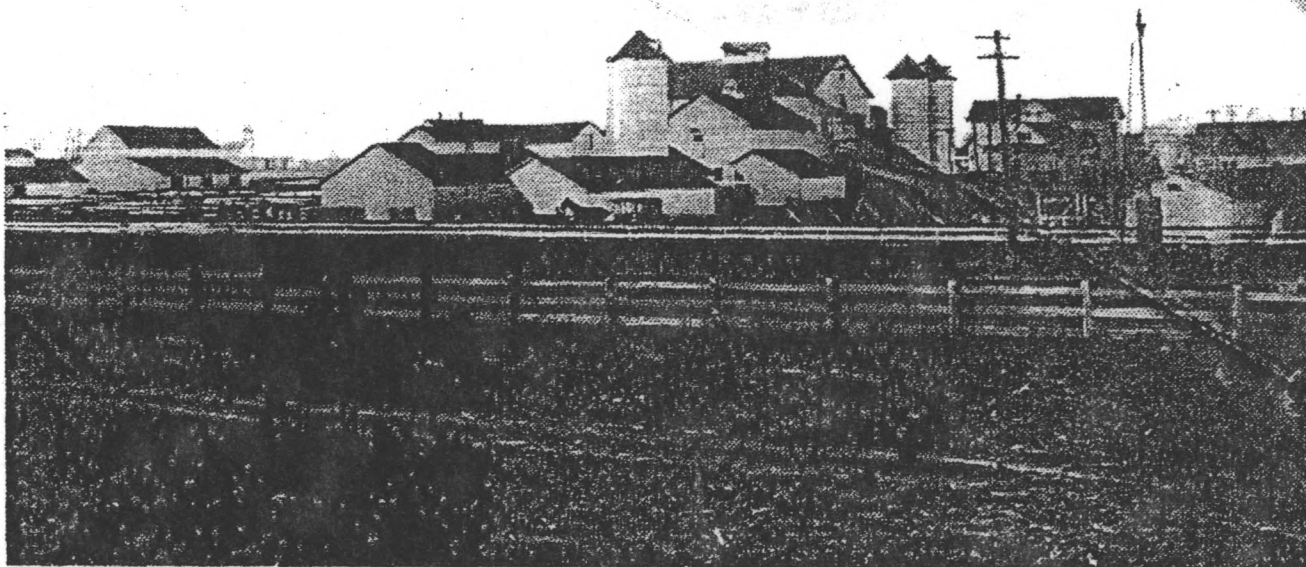


Figure 2

Photo from collection of H. Gerald McDonald, 124 E. Wisteria Rd., Wildwood Crest, NJ

Looking west at the Lower Township Farm of N.Z. Grave, who invested heavily in the development of Cape May after the turn of the century. The rail lines for both the Atlantic City and the West Jersey railroads ran parallel between the fences at the front of the photo.

Above: Undated photo of the N.Z. Grave farm from the rear, looking southwest. Since the octagon building stood on the road, it is not seen in this view. [Betty Sanderlin, *Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy*, 1998, p. 211]

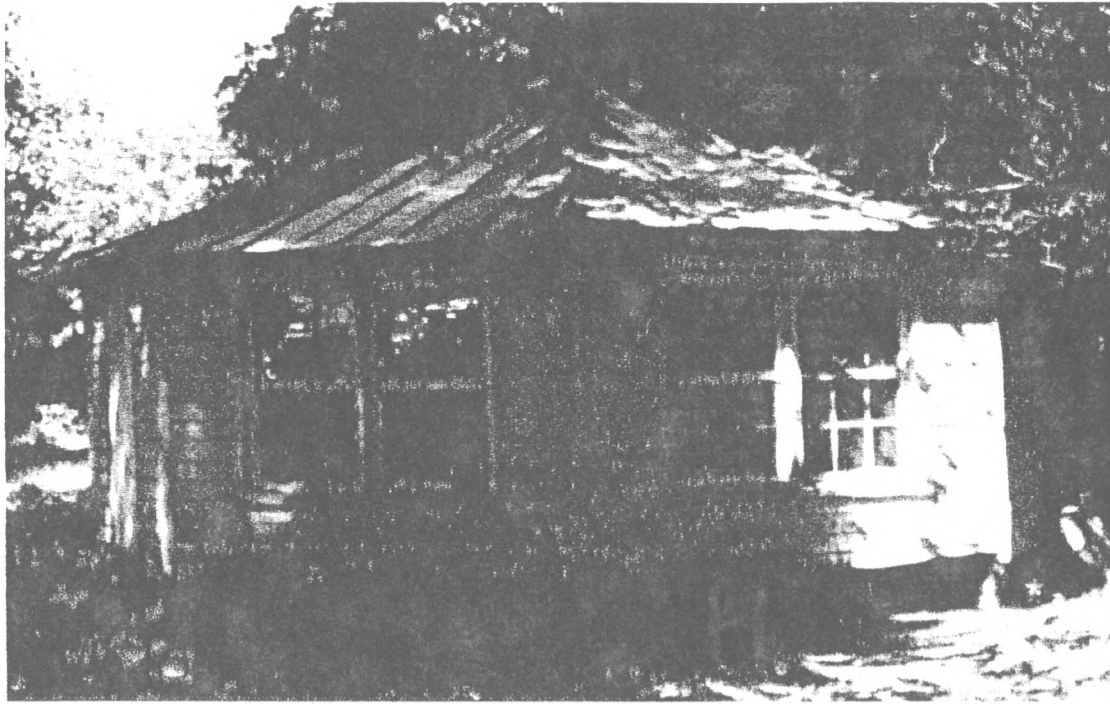


Figure 3

Left: ca. 1975 photograph showing the building at its present location before it was restored.

[Historic Cold Spring Village files]

Figure 4

Right: Fowler's 1859 plan for an octagonal barn. [Fowler & Wells, *The House: A Pocket Manual of Rural Architecture*, p. 134.]

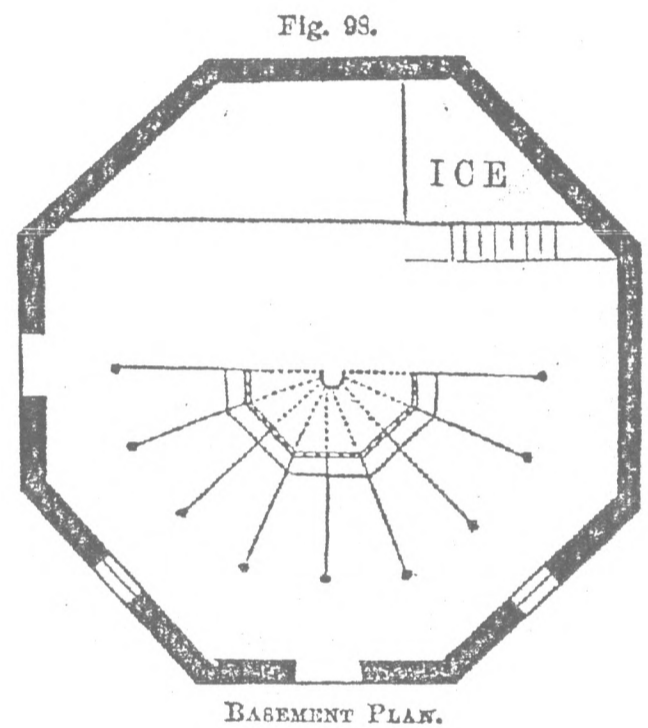


Fig. 109.

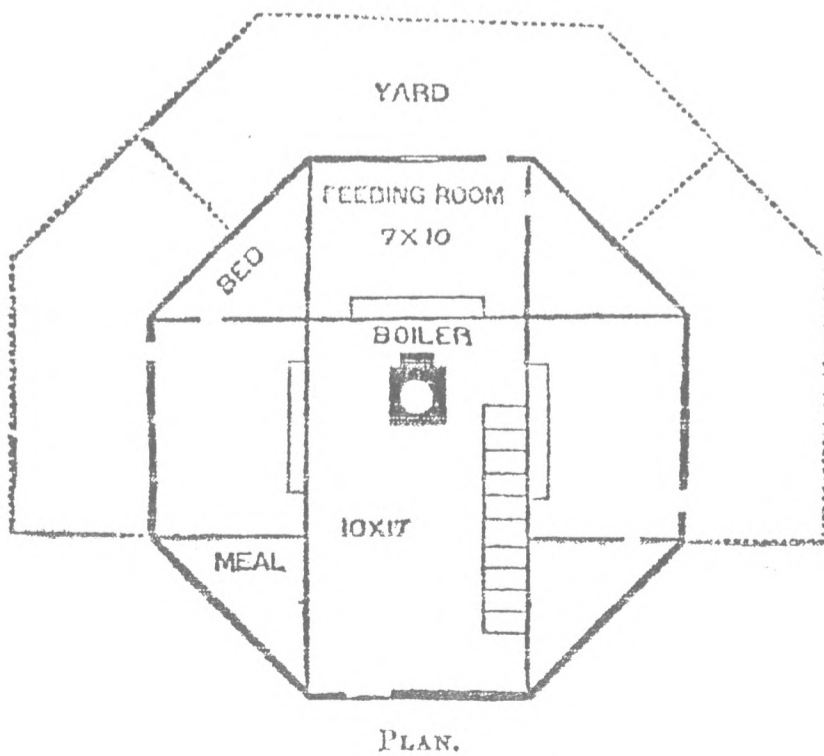
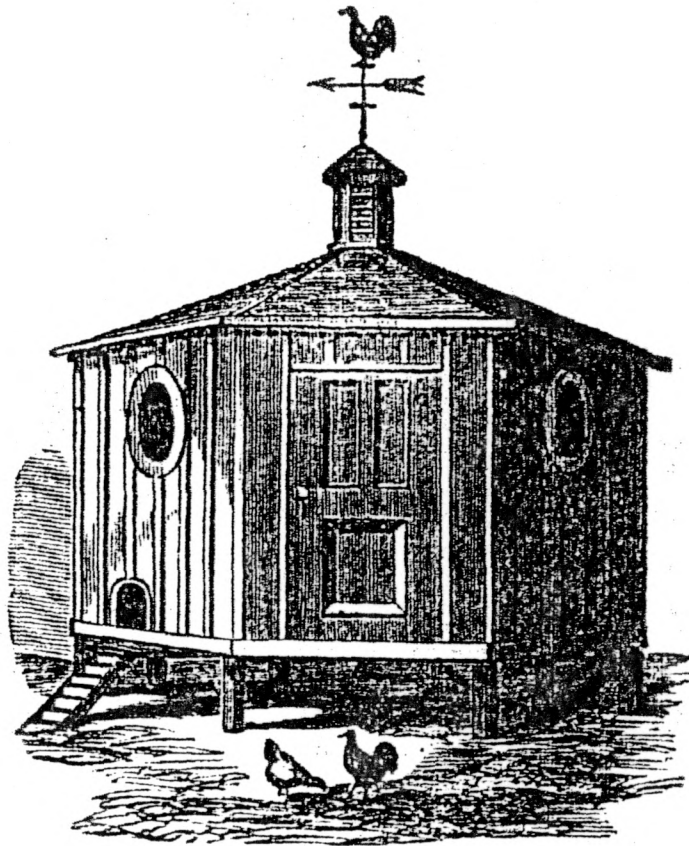


Figure 5

Left: Fowler's plan for an octagonal piggery. [Fowler & Wells, p. 145]

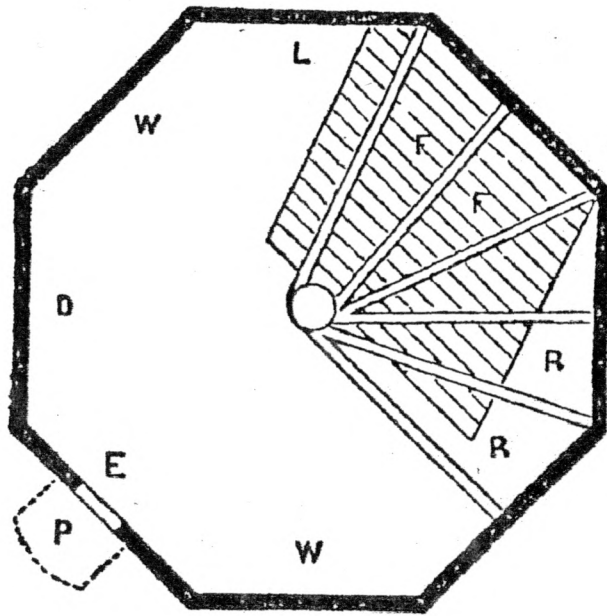


PERSPECTIVE VIEW

Figure 6

Left: An octagonal shaped poultry house, published in Bement's "Poulterer's Companion," and re-published in Fowler & Wells The House: A Pocket Manual of Rural Architecture in 1859. [p. 143]

Fig. 108.



PLAN.

Figure 7

Left: the floor plan for Fowler's poultry house.

- D=door
- W=window
- L=lattice window to admit air
- E=entrance door for fowls
- P=platform for the fowls
- R=roosts placed spirally
- F=board floor

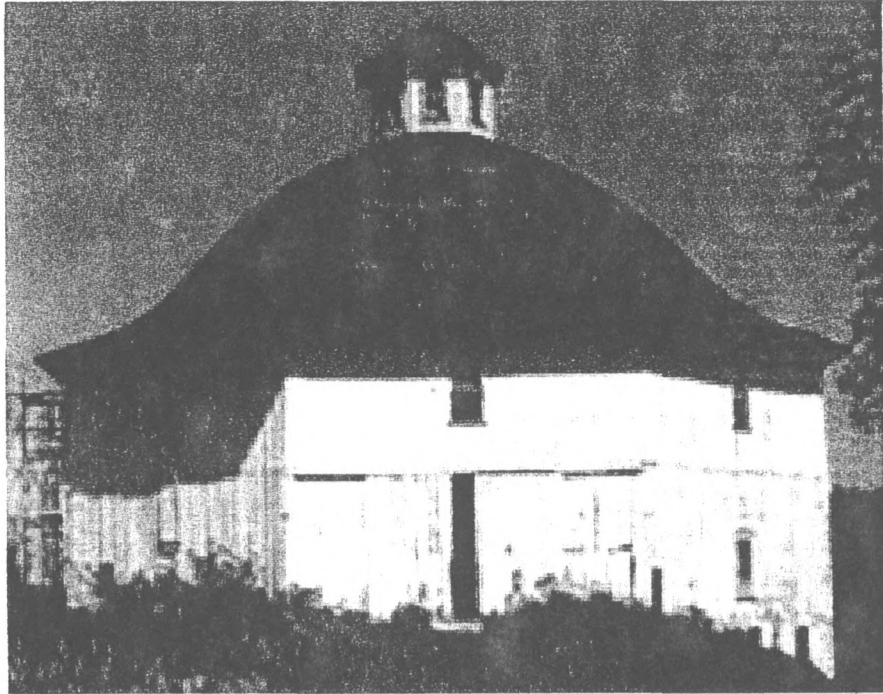


Figure 8

Left: the Joshua Secrest octagonal barn, built about 1880 in Johnson County, Iowa.

<http://www.maxheimphoto.com/barns2.htm>