

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0675211

FOR NPS USE ONLY
APR 11 1979
RECEIVED
JUN 12 1979
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

John Holmes House

HPH

AND/OR COMMON

Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society Museum

**2 LOCATION**

U.S. 9

STREET & NUMBER

Shore Road (Route #9), Swanton

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

R.D. #1, Cape May Court House

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Jersey

Cape May

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society Museum

STREET & NUMBER

Shore Road (Route #9), Swanton

CITY, TOWN

R.D. #1, Cape May Court House

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Building, County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Cape May Court House

STATE

New Jersey 08210

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey, New Jersey, Page 220

DATE

1937

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress - Photos and Blueprints

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1755 Robert Cresse built a two-story structure, one room down and one room up, on a 20'4" by 17'9" foundation. The first floor is presently the kitchen in the John Holmes House.

This portion of the L-shape house has a cedar shingled gable roof with boxed cornices with plain return. The siding is clapboard with dormer-boards and the foundation is brick. There is one inside end-chimney, facing the East. There are four double-hung windows with six over six lights with frames of plain trim and louvered shutters. The two doors are board-and-batten with plain trim with iron box locks, brass knobs and iron strap hinges. The fireplace has mantel shelf and plain frieze. There is vertical paneling above the fireplace. There are exposed beams on the first and second floors and random width wooden flooring. There is a small narrow curved stairway leading to the second floor bedroom.

Construction of the main house commenced in 1778. The 2 1/2 story main house foundation is 43'3" by 22'3" and principal facade faces the west. It has a gable roof with boxed cornices with plain return. Roof is covered with cedar shingles. All the siding is clapboard with corner-boards and wooden chimneys, nine double hung windows with six over six lights with frames of plain trim and louvered shutters, and two gabled dormers. The classical doorway has a recessed fan-shaped light now filled with wood louvers.

The first floor is a center hall plan. In the main hall there is a stairway with three flights and three landings. The stair has a graceful hand rail, plain balusters, fan-shape carving on side of every tread close to top of risers.

The fireplaces in living room and dining room have a stone, architrave surround, frieze below the mantel shelf. There is a brick hearth. The fireplaces in the house are Adam inspired. The fireplace in living room is adorned with fluted pilasters and a cartouche.

There are chair rails at window sill level throughout the house.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## ARCHEOLOGY - HISTORIC - ARCHITECTURE

Architecturally, the John Holmes House is a fine example of the vernacular Georgian style from Cape May County. Its fine proportions and woodwork detailing make it an important local example.

The first portion of the house was constructed in 1755 by Robert Cresse, who purchased a 392 acre tract from the West Jersey Society on June 12, 1751. In 1777 Cresse's son, Jonathan, sold the property to John Holmes, who had come from Ireland in 1733 at the age of 14.

William Armstrong from Delaware is known to have carved the mantel-pieces in this house and probably the fan-light and stairway detail as well. Construction of the Holmes House was finished in 1795.

The house remained in the possession of the Holmes family until 1935 when it was purchased by the late Judge Palmer M. Way. It then passed to Dr. Ulric Laquer in the fall of 1955. The Cape May County Historical Society purchased the house on June 12, 1976.

The old barn building was moved to the property, from Shore Road, Marmora, Upper Township, by Dr. Laquer about five years before the house was sold to the Historical Society (1971). The barn has a gable roof with cedar shingles, boxed cornice and plain return. The exterior is sheathed with vertical board and batten.

There is a burial plot across the road from the property which contains the graves of David Cresse, buried there in 1767 and John, Thomas, and William Holmes.

The house is now a museum.

Because of its fine detailing in the vernacular Georgian/Federal style, the John Holmes House warrants listing in the National Register.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Bldg. Survey, 1937, Page 220, Library of Congress

Helena Way Fitzpatrick, Some Old Houses of Cape May County N. J.  
The Leader, Wildwood 1951

William Kitchell & Dr. Maurice Beesley, Geological Survey of N. J. &  
Sketch of Early History of Co. Cape May - Trenton 1857

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 1/2 Block #127 - Lot 13 & 12A

QUADRANGLE NAME Stone Harbor QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1, 8</u>	<u>5, 1, 6, 1, 5, 0</u>	<u>4, 3, 2, 7, 2, 5, 0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION North 86 degrees & 2 min. East, 292.66 ft. to an iron bar; 3 degrees & 58 min. East 300 ft. to iron pipe; South 86 deg. & 02 minutes West; 300.0 ft. to an iron pipe; North 3 degrees and 58 min. West 183.90 ft. to a point of curve; along Easterly line of Highway by a curve to the right or East having a radius

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Jane Dixon, Research Coordinator March 22, 1978

ORGANIZATION Cape May County Historical & Genealogical Society DATE 609-465-3535

STREET & NUMBER Shore Road TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN R.D. #1, Cape May Court House, New Jersey 08210 STATE

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [Signature] DATE 3-29-79

TITLE Dep. Comm. - DEP DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

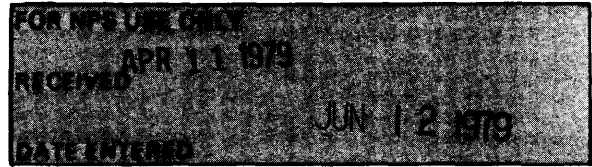
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Sarah V. Bridges for DATE 6/12/79  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Ann A. Beesley DATE June 11, 1979  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Description (continued)

Three bedrooms and bath are on the second floor. The fireplace in the North side has a marble architrave surround, paneled central tablet with garland in low relief to each side with paneled end blocks above round colonettes. The fireplace in the bedroom on the South side of house is quite similar. It also has marble architrave surround. Both fireplaces have a brick hearth.

A cellar runs the full length and width of the foundation of the house. On the enclosed porch is a bulkhead cellar entrance. There are brick arch supports across a portion of the width of the basement. The floor is cement.

Upon completion of the Main house a one story building was built on to the South side of the Main house. This one room building has a gable roof with cedar shingles, with boxed cornices with plain return. All the siding is clapboard with corner boards and has a brick foundation. There are four windows with six over six lights, with frames of plain trim and louvered shutters. This portion of the house is recessed back from the front of the Main house 6'7". Size of this portion is 17'4" by 15'8". There are wood chair rails, random width wood flooring, and vertical paneling in this room.

The house remained in possession of the Holmes heirs until 1935, when it was purchased by the late Judge Palmer M. Way. Dr. Ulric Laquer purchased the John Holmes House in the fall of 1955. He added on a garage on the side of the one story building. This building is now the Historical Society's Library and Office.

There is an enclosed porch 20'4" by 12'7" on west side of kitchen, with thermopane doors. The entrance to basement is from this porch. There is a slate set in cement flooring. The porch is now the Society's Gift Shop.

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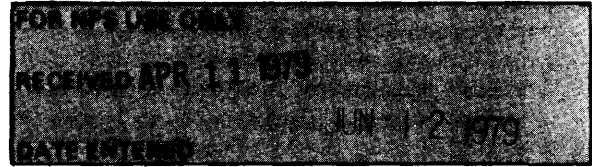
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Description (continued)

Also on the property is a 19th century one and one half story barn covered in board and batten with a wooden shingle roof, a wooden outhouse, and a stone ice house with a modern greenhouse attached.

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Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

of 922.37 ft. through an arc of 7 deg. 13 min and 52 seconds, a distance of 116.41 ft. to the place of beginning. 2.06 acres