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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUL 6 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Ocean Avenue and Lake Drive NA not for publication

city or town Borough of Cape May Point vicinity

034

state New Jersey code NJ county Cape May code 009 zip code 08212

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

Assistant Commissioner for 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

Patrick Andrews

8/3/95

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)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Stick/Eastlake

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

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)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1880-1903

Significant Dates

1880, 1881, 1896, 1903

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

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): N/A

- 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: Church records are kept in a safe deposit box [First Fidelity Bank, Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204]

Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Cape May County, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre Cape May NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	8	5	0	2	8	8	0	4	3	0	9	2	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4

Zone	Easting				Northing									

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 Michael Calafati, AIA
organization Michael Calafati, Architect date March 9, 1995
street & number 513 Broad Street, PO Box 2363 telephone 609-884-4922
city or town Cape May state NJ zip code 08204

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 Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
street & number 808 West State Street telephone 609-394-5281
city or town Trenton state NJ zip code 08618

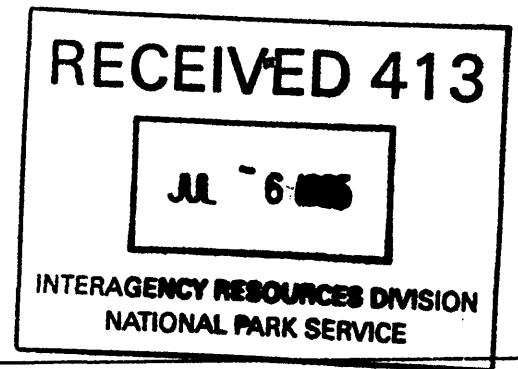
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain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

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

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National Park Service

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
Cape May County, NJ

Narrative Description

Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church, located on a triangular lot bounded by Ocean Avenue, Lake Drive and Lincoln Avenue in the Borough of Cape May Point, is a one story wooden frame structure with high central clerestory. The church stands alone on its present lot. [Photo #1]. A fine example of Stick Style architecture, the church's wooden frame is clearly expressed on its exterior and is further articulated by chamfered corners, expressed connection points and contrasting colors. Additional embellishment is achieved by extensive applied wooden trim and ornamentation.

Setting

Saint Peter's is located near the existing shoreline in this community where the Atlantic Ocean and the Delaware Bay meet. The church's clear view of the water is obscured only by sand dunes which serve to protect it and the community from high seas caused by storms. [Photo #6]. The prevailing building type in the immediate vicinity and in this community is wooden frame single family dwellings ranging in height from one to three stories. These dwellings are fairly evenly divided between those dating from the late 19th/early 20th century and those from the mid and late 20th century. Cape May Point's summer or vacation population greatly outnumbers the year round population.

Exterior

The explicit structural nature of the church's stick architecture is its most apparent feature. Banding the building vertically and horizontally, the stick components are painted white and stand in contrast to the adjacent siding which is painted blue. [Photos #17 & 18]. Individual structural members are chamfered. Single bolt heads are visible where members cross; pairs of bolt heads are visible where two ends meet and are joined. [Photo #2]. The sticking defines structural and interior spacial components and their locations as well as door locations, window sills and window heads. [Photo #5]. Subsequent rear additions carry the

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
Cape May County, NJ

Exterior (continued)

horizontal lines. [Photo #19]. The non load-bearing portions of the exterior wall, occurring between the stick components, is made of plain, flat vertical tongue and groove boards. [Photo #21]. Fitted tightly together, well recessed behind the stick components and painted a uniform color, they provide an suitable and undifferentiated backdrop.

The main entrance door consists of two panels. [Photo #13]. The lower windows and main entrance doors of the sanctuary slide into pockets when in the opened position. This feature permits maximum ventilation from these openings, an important concern in a building which sees only warm weather use. There is tell-tale evidence of earlier pocket doors opposite the main entrance where the north elevation of the original 1880 structure and the chancel join. The main entrance is shielded by a large porch roof and the lower windows are protected from the sun by top hinged louvered shutters. [Photos #7 & 12]. The shutters were altered in 1937. Pairs of side-hinged shutters at each windows were fastened together and rehung at the top above each window. This gave greater ability to control glare and provided shade while permitting cooling breezes to enter.

The architectural trim is exclusively wooden. The roof line below the clerestory is made prominent by a high running "skirt" which resembles a tightly spaced Victorian-era balustrade supported only from the top. [Photo #3]. The dangling pointed ends create an icicle-like image. This element hangs from the frame of the building and conceals the actual sloping roof behind it. Its only noticeable interruption occurs in the middle of the front elevation above the main entrance. This interruption not only permits the gable of the porch roof to engage the building but, more importantly, allows the stick structure of main body and clerestory to visually join, having the effect of emphasizing verticality in this modestly sized building. Above the clerestory, a belfry built in 1882, well after the building began serving as a church in Cape May Point, rises to hold a donated bell. [Photos #2 & 4]. Decorative brackets, supporting only the high skirt, occur at corners and where the skirt is interrupted and frames the door.

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
Cape May County, NJ

Exterior (continued)

The lower portion of each structural column at the perimeter of the church is encased in beveled boards stacked to create the impression of a quoined or rusticated base. [Photo #20]. These bases roughly define the lower portion of the wall, the line of window sills and ennoble the columns by visually shortening their proportion and by providing a pedestal on which to sit.

The exposed brick foundation piers raise the building up on an elevated base approximately 3-1/2 feet high. The openings between piers are spanned by flat horizontal boards with decorative cut-outs in the shape of hexagonals and six-pointed stars which provide ventilation. [Photo #21]. These motifs are not found elsewhere. According to photographic evidence, these shapes (or those very similar) were cut into the boards which spanned the piers at least as far back as 1896. [Photo #22].

Over the years, the needs of the church have necessitated incremental additions, namely a chancel, sacristy, vesting room, lavatory and additional storage. All of these functions are housed with an addition attached to the north wall of the original 1880 structure. [Photo #19]. Altogether the addition measures 520 square feet. The original 1880 structure measures 1000 square feet. The addition, placed at the rear, is narrower and shorter than the original 1880 structure. The addition's wood siding is vertical but is narrower and has rounded edges which create shadow-lines. The wood structural frame is not visible on the exterior but wood trim is painted white to continue the banding effect of the sticking on the original 1880 structure. The addition is not easily confused with the original 1880 structure.

Interior

The simply detailed and dark quality of the naturally finished wood interior is its most noticeable feature. The church is completely lined with yellow pine boards which were installed during the winter of 1885-1886. They have been stained a dark brown. The boards are nominally 2 inches wide, run horizontally,

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
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Interior (continued)

vertically and at a 45° diagonal, and have tightly beaded edges which create rows of fine shadow-lines. [Photo #9]. Prior to 1885, before the installation of the pine boards, portions of the structural frame, the reverse face of the siding and the pocket windows and doors in the opened position would have been visible from the interior of the church.

The basic volume of the sanctuary is a rectangular solid with an exposed ceiling revealing the incline of the roof's slope. In addition, there is an upper clerestory volume running the length of the main aisle and centered over the sanctuary. [Photo #10]. The clerestory is nearly 10 feet wide and creates a double-high space. Immediately after the first season in 1880, the chancel was added. [Photo #8]. The chancel is as wide as the clerestory and approximately 12 feet deep. The ceiling is exposed and its ridge runs parallel to the ridge of the clerestory. The top of the ridge is as high as the lowest point of the clerestory wall. The sanctuary is interrupted by four slender wood columns which help support the roof and clerestory. [Photo #11]. These columns are chamfered with a so-called lamb's tongue design and has applied trim on all four sides which serves to soften and round the columns.

There are several rooms surrounding the chancel which are not visible from the sanctuary. As need demanded, these rooms were added over time. The sacristy was built in 1899 (presently north and east of the chancel). A vesting room was added for the choir in 1953. Built on the west side of the adjoining chancel, it provided balance with the sacristy on the east side. The most recent addition contains a lavatory and additional storage was added to the rear of the church in 1965.

Interior furnishings include the pews which were installed prior to the 1888 season. A pulpit and lectern were installed in 1891. The front pews were altered to create choir stalls in 1948 and choir screens were manufactured during the winter of 1949-1950. A new altar was installed in 1966. [Photos #14 & #15].

Twenty windows provide the principal means of illumination for

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
Cape May County, NJ

Interior (continued)

the sanctuary and chancel. The clerestory contains nine windows, four facing west, four facing east, and one facing south. Each window consists of a single fixed sash with 12 lights. Clerestory windows were changed from clear glass coated with amber paint to amber colored glass in 1958. The single clerestory window facing south was replaced in 1985 by a fixed stained glass sash depicting Christ. The lower portion of the sanctuary contains ten windows, four facing west, four facing east and two facing south and flanking the main entrance. Each window consists of a single sliding sash with 12 lites. The lower windows facing west and east vertically align with the clerestory windows above. The only window facing north is a fixed stained glass sash located at the upper portion of the rear wall of the chancel in a triangular area defined by the slopes of the roof. It is a contemporary geometric design depicting a cross and Saint Peter's keys in a circle. This window replaced a simpler design which had broken in 1994.

Current State of Repair/Deterioration

Saint Peter's has been in continuous summer use as a church since 1880. Accordingly, it has been maintained regularly. Today the church is in very good to excellent condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

Site

Saint Peter's now stands on a triangular lot with an area of approximately 9,000 square feet, about 0.21 acres. The building's coverage, calculated as the area of enclosed building plus area of open porches and steps, measures approximately 2,000 square feet. Accordingly the site coverage is approximately 23%. The site is essentially flat and level. The mean grade elevation is no higher or lower than the other nearby building lots.

The lot's perimeter is delineated by a white wooden picket fence. It was installed around the property in 1969 to replace the hedge

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
Cape May County, NJ

Site (continued)

which was badly damaged in the great storm of March, 1962. Its four points of entry are without gates. The design of the pickets recall the shape and feeling of the high skirt at the church's lower roof line. The fence surrounds the parcel in a manner like the high skirt surrounds the building- interruptions are discrete and permit access. In contrast to the high skirt, however, the fence pickets point up.

Most vegetation is in the form of native evergreens, namely cedar and pine, and a few ornamental shrubs. The vast majority of this vegetation is found north of the original 1880 structure. The grouping of vegetation to the north somewhat shrouds the later addition and helps to place visual emphasis on the original 1880 structure.

Statement of Significance

Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development (Criterion A) for its association with Cape May Point at a time when it was also known as Sea Grove, a planned religious community, and for its ability to survive the perils of an eroding shoreline as an true object building, one which could be transported with relative ease to safety and be conserved in its original condition. Saint Peter's is also significant in the area of Architecture (Criterion C) as an unusual example of Stick Style architecture dating from the late 19th century in the southern Jersey Cape region, as Cape May County is often called. It is unique as a complete wooden building exhibiting an actual load bearing stick structure with considerable applied ornamentation and vertical siding in a region which includes neighboring Cape May City, a National Historic Landmark designated for its extensive collection of late 19th century wooden architecture. Its period of significance is bracketed by 1880, the year Saint Peter's was erected in Cape May Point, and by 1903, the year of its most recent relocation and in which the open front porch was constructed. The front porch is the last visually significant addition to the structure.

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
Cape May County, NJ

Cape May Point's Beginning as Sea Grove

The area now known as Cape May Point was conveyed to Henry Stites by the West Jersey Society in 1712. Stites' Beach, as it was then known, was passed down to his descendants to Jane G. Stites and eventually through marriage to Alexander Whilldin, who became a successful wool merchant in Philadelphia. Whilldin transferred 266 acres of Stites' Beach in 1875 to the Sea Grove Association for five dollars for the purpose of establishing a religious community (Dowart: 122). The area to become Sea Grove was a pleasant undeveloped tract at the southernmost tip of the state, lying between the popular resort of Cape May City on the Atlantic Ocean and the all-important steamboat landing on the Delaware Bay. Whilldin served as the President of the Board of Directors of the Sea Grove Association which included a notable group of Philadelphia merchants and other prominent men including Dr. V. M. D. Marcy, Downs Edmunds, J. Newton Walker, and John Wanamaker as its members. Presumably, his prominence brought him in contact with other leading businessmen of Philadelphia.

On February 18, 1875 the New Jersey state legislature chartered the Sea Grove Association. According to Whilldin, Sea Grove was established to "furnish a moral and religious seaside home for the glory of God and the welfare of man, where he may be refreshed and invigorated body and soul, and better fitted for the highest and noblest duties of life." Although Sea Grove was founded by a group of Presbyterians, religious observance was open to other faiths. Tolerance was not extended, however, to such matters concerning alcohol and amusements, Drinking and card playing were prohibited. Sea Grove, a merger of speculative real estate development and a religious community, was to destined to become a refuge from the deplorable watering-place extravagances found at such places as Cape May or Long Branch (Wheeler: 91).

Planned from its very beginning, the Sea Grove Association retained the services of James C. Sidney, secretary of the Sea Grove Association and a Philadelphia architect and engineer, to lay out the streets, block and lots of the new community (Thomas: 31). Worship began in the octagonal Pavilion designed by Sidney in 1875. Fittingly, it was the first building to be built in Sea

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
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Cape May Point's Beginning as Sea Grove (continued)

Grove. It was an immense structure open on all sides, capped by an imposing cupola, able to accommodate approximately 2000 people. It was the centerpiece of the community in thought and in fact as it stood in the center of the Circle. Shortly thereafter, numerous other structures sprang up the community, several large hotels and many summer cottages. Of these, the Sea Grove House, the Cape House, and the Centennial House were the most notable hotels and the cottage for John Wanamaker was among the most notable houses. The Sea Grove Post Office was established in 1876.

The popularity of Sea Grove was short lived, however. The name of the Post Office was changed in 1878 to Cape May Point, the same year the Borough of Cape May Point was incorporated. As early as 1879, it was reported in the Cape May Wave, a local newspaper, that the Sea Grove Association was planning to sell its holdings. During the winter of 1879-1880 John Wanamaker and several wealthy associates built a cottage for President and Mrs. Benjamin Harrison with the hopes that the notoriety of its presence would reverse the community's destiny and attract new interest (Dowart: 160). This and other efforts were of little help, however, and an auction was held in 1881 at which the association disposed of many of its holdings at a great loss. The sale included the Pavilion and Sea Grove House. The Pavilion was dismantled, sold-off, and removed in the same year.

During the summer of 1879, despite the climate of dwindling fortunes, the possibility of establishing an Episcopal church was discussed. Indeed, during the first few seasons of Sea Grove very few Sundays pass without Episcopal services, sometimes occurring in the parlors of hotels or in Stockton Cottage (Mather: 9). It was at this time that several Episcopal clerics purchased cottages, namely Rev. William R. Stockton of Phoenixville, PA, and Rev. H. P. Hay and Rev. Dr. Enoch H. Supplee, both of Philadelphia. Rev. William H. Graff of St. Jude's Protestant Episcopal Church of Philadelphia vacationed there. Rev. Graff would hold Sunday services at the Sea Grove House Hotel.

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
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Cape May Point's Beginning as Sea Grove (continued)

Unfortunately the precise origin of the building which now serves as Saint Peter's is unclear. In 1880, the first year of his handwritten records, Rev. Graff wrote, "During the summer of 1879, the possibility of building a chapel was talked of, and it was suggested that a fine yellow pine frame for sale at the Centennial Buildings might be made available for the purpose." An article on the cover of August 21, 1880 edition of the Cape May Wave states that Saint Peter's was one of the Centennial buildings. Unfortunately, extensive research of photographic archives has not yielded any conclusive information. Important buildings such as state pavilions have been ruled out. If the frame which is now Saint Peter's stood on the 1876 fairgrounds, it would have been a comparatively small building of secondary importance such as a ticket booth or pop-corn stand. Evidence indicates that the building originally had a pair of pocket doors at opposite ends of the building's long axis. Perhaps one set of doors permitted entry and the other pair permitted egress.

No published account of the transport of the "frame" from Philadelphia to Cape May Point exists. Church records, however, indicate that in 1960, on the occasion of the church's eightieth anniversary, an elderly parishioner recalled that Rev. Stockton had purchased the frame at the Centennial, it had been taken apart in sections, numbered and then shipped by rail to Cape May Point and reassembled on the lot next to Stockton Cottage (Mather: 67).

This skeletal information is contradicted, however, by the August 28, 1875 edition of the Cape May Wave which states that J. C. Sidney was designing an Episcopal church for Sea Grove. If the church Sidney was designing was another and if the church frame could be traced back to Fairmont Park, Criterion A would be expanded to include significance for its origins at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, for its subsequent transport and, for its re-erection in Cape May Point as a church.

It is known that during the winter of 1879-1880 the Rev. Graff secured a parcel measuring 50 x 100 feet (Block E/Lot 17) from the Sea Grove Association next to Stockton Cottage. A portion of

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Cape May Point's Beginning as Sea Grove (continued)

this lot was deeded back to him and the rest of the lot was held in trust for the church by Mr. Stockton. A meeting was held on June 26, 1880 at which Rev. Stockton, Rev. H. P. Hay and Rev. Supplee, Mr. John A. Hicks (mayor, the church's first organist, and proprietor of the Sea Grove House) and Mr. John Wildrin decided to proceed as funds permitted with recognition and blessing of the Bishop Scarborough of New Jersey (Mather: 10).

Successive Moves

In its current position and on its current site since 1903, Saint Peter's has occupied five other positions on three other lots since it was erected in Cape May Point in 1880. Despite many successive moves, the building has not been substantially altered. The modest scale of the building has in fact aided the building's survival as it could be readily relocated and kept a safe distance away from the advancing sea. The passing years have witnessed only incremental changes which have been readily accommodated and perfectly suited to its use.

Even before the outfitting of the frame as a church was complete, doubts arose as to the suitability of the chosen site as it was relatively remote to hotels and cut off from ocean breezes. In June of 1880 another lot on Cape Avenue (Block A/Lot 2) was secured and the frame was removed to that site. Saint Peter's was formally opened on Sunday, July 25, 1880 even though it was not thoroughly complete in its details (Cape May Wave: 24 July 1880). By the of the 1880 season, however, the church was complete with the exception of the painting of the interior.

Another move seemed advisable during the very next season as the threat of the erection of an extensive building between the church and beach on the corner of Beach Drive and Cape Avenue was proposed. During the summer a switch of lots was approved and church was moved onto the corner lot (Block A/Lot 1) during the fall. Initially the church was placed too close to the Beach Avenue line and had to moved once again, although this time by only several feet.

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
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Successive Moves (continued)

During 1893 and 1894 progressing beach erosion became evident. Anticipating another move, the original lot on Cape Avenue (Block A/Lot 2) was repurchased in 1895. By the end of the 1896 season the beach dune was so eroded that the church was moved to back the second lot from Beach Drive on Cape Avenue.

High seas during the fall of 1901 and subsequent winter breach the seawall foretold of yet another move. The committee of management decided to move the church to a safer position in 1903. The church was moved to its present triangular site (Block D/Lot 19, now Block 29/Lot 1). Beach Drive no longer existed at the time of the move. Presently lots 1 and 2 of block A are now approximately three blocks in the water.

Lessons of the past prompted the acquisition of another lot in 1958 on the Circle in the middle of Cape May Point in the event that erosion would require another relocation.

Along with the radial layout of streets in this community, Saint Peter's remains an important and unique artifact of Cape May's beginnings as Sea Grove. Other important structures from this period are now gone through demolition, as in the case of the Pavilion, or through beach erosion, as in the case of the many large and important houses and hotels. Fortunately, Saint Peter's was portable enough to keep ahead of the advancing sea.

Stick Style Church

Saint Peter's is an unusual late 19th century Cape May Point example of Stick Style architecture exhibiting a stick structure and extensive wooden ornamentation. As a Stick Style specimen it departs from the expected norm. Rather than a mere impression or feeling of structure created by an overlay of stick components which are applique, which is most typical, the major components which create the Stick Style effect are load bearing.

Although the building has been altered and additions to the building have been constructed, the church retains its

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Cape May County, NJ

Stick Style Church (continued)

architectural integrity. The belfry, an essential ecclesiastical feature, is an important appendage in that it appears to be a rational extension of two central vertical stick components seen on the front of the church. The result is one in which the belfry appears to have been seamlessly part and parcel of the church's original architectural concept. In a manner similar to the belfry, the rusticated bases of the perimeter structural stick columns provided a visual cue for the enlarged porch added after the church's most recent relocation in 1903. The porch deck and steps seem to have been part of the church's original architectural concept thanks largely to replicated rusticated bases.

The sticking has provided logical cues for the church's incremental growth. The overall massing of the church and the placement of additions built over time have not de-emphasized the building's original 1880 structure. The massing and presentation of the original 1880 structure is left undisturbed along three of the four elevations. The fourth elevation, along which the addition is attached, faces away from the water and towards the rear of the property. The most recent addition in 1965 had the effect of unifying the roof line north of the original 1880 structure. Furthermore, the use of materials in the addition complements the original 1880 structure without obscuring the distinction between it and the earlier structure.

Distinctive wood components include the high skirt surrounding the lower roof line. It is a feature unique in this town and neighboring Cape May. The shutters impart a feeling associated with Southern architecture as they are hinged at the top. Along the base of the building, hexagonal and star shaped cut openings where simple lattice is usually found provide some whimsy. These components provide the added dimension given by the play of shadow and enliven an otherwise common building elements.

The interior of Saint Peter's stands in stark contrast to the exterior. It is monochromatic and uniform. It is as comely and soothing as the exterior is exuberant. Like the exterior, the interior is absent any noticeable twentieth century intrusions.

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
Cape May County, NJ

Bibliography

Books

Herbert M. Beitel and Vance C. Enck, Cape May County: a pictorial history (Norfolk, VA: The Downing Company/Publishers, 1988).

Jeffery M. Dowart, Cape May County, New Jersey: the making of an American resort community (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1992).

Edith B. D. Mather, The Gingerbread Church (Lititz, PA: Sutter House, 1985).

Horace G. Richards, A Book of Maps of Cape May 1610-1878 (Cape May, NJ: Cape May Geographic Society, 1954). Available at the Cape May City Library.

George E. Thomas and Carl Doebley, Cape May: queen of the seaside resorts (Philadelphia: The Art Alliance Press, 1976).

Edward S. Wheeler, Scheyichbi and the Strand (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Company, 1876). Available at the Cape May City Library.

Newspapers

Cape May Wave. July 24, 1880 (notice of the church's opening) and August 21, 1880 (a letter dated August 12, 1880 was published which stated that Saint Peter's was one on the Centennial buildings). Available in microfilm form at the Cape May County Library, Cape May Court House. Forerunner of the present-day Cape May Star and Wave.

Unpublished Manuscripts

Church records. A single volume containing Rev. Graff's handwritten notes from 1880 to 1914. A separate volume contains these same notes which Meredith Leach transcribed by hand during the winter of 1941-42. These volumes are kept in the church's safe deposit box located at First Fidelity Bank, Washington Street Mall, Cape May, NJ 08204.

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
Cape May County, NJ

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 29, Lot 1 as noted on the Tax Map for the Borough of Cape May Point, County of Cape May, New Jersey.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary for the nominated property is the entire parcel which has been associated with the church structure since 1903, the year of its most recent relocation.

Additional Documentation in Sequential Order

- USGS Map, Cape May Quadrangle (original) - Scale=1:24,000
- USGS Map, Cape May Quadrangle (partial photocopy)
- Plan of Sea Grove dated 1876 - not to scale
- Borough of Cape May Point Tax Map Key Map - not to scale
- Borough of Cape May Point Tax Map Title Block - not to scale
- Borough of Cape May Point Tax Map for Block 29 - Scale: 1"=50'-0"
- Plan of First Floor - Scale: 1/8"=1'-0"
- Photographs, 25 black and white images - measuring 5 by 7 inches.

Typical Information for all photographs:

1. Name of property: Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
2. County and State: Cape May County, New Jersey

Typical Information for photographs 1 through 16:

3. Photographer: Anita van Heeswyk
4. Date of Photograph: September, 1993
5. Location of negatives: Church's safe deposit box at First Fidelity Bank
Washington Street Mall
Cape May, NJ 08204

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National Park Service

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Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
Cape May County, NJ

Photographs (continued)

Typical Information for photographs 17 through 25:

3. Photographer: Michael Calafati
4. Date of Photograph: September, 1994
5. Location of negatives: Michael Calafati, AIA
513 Broad Street, PO Box 2363
Cape May, NJ 08204

Additional Information for photographs 22 through 25:

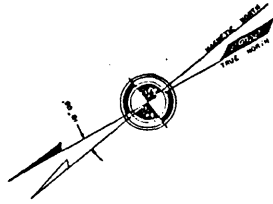
Original postcard or photograph is kept in the church's safe deposit box located at First Fidelity Bank, Washington Street Mall, Cape May, NJ 08204. Negative of the reproduced image taken September, 1994 is in the possession of Michael Calafati, 513 Broad Street, PO Box 2363, Cape May, NJ 08204.

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description of View</u>
01 of 25	Overall exterior view: looking north-west
02 of 25	Exterior view of south elevation: detail of clerestory and belfry
03 of 25	Exterior view of south-east corner: brackets and trim
04 of 25	Exterior view looking north-west: detail of belfry
05 of 25	Exterior view looking south-west: partial east elevation
06 of 25	Overall view looking south: towards sand dunes from front porch
07 of 25	Straight-ahead view looking south: towards sand dunes from interior of church
08 of 25	Interior view looking north: altar
09 of 25	Interior view looking south-east: pews
10 of 25	Interior view looking up: clerestory
11 of 25	Interior detail view: typical chamfered column
12 of 25	Interior detail view: central windows along west wall
13 of 25	Interior view looking south: main entrance pocket doors
14 of 25	Interior view looking north: altar
15 of 25	Interior detail view: altar
16 of 25	Interior detail view: baptismal font
17 of 25	Exterior view looking north: south elevation

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number -- Page 16 Saint Peter's-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
Cape May County, NJ

Photographs (continued)

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description of View</u>
18 of 25	Exterior view looking west: east elevation
19 of 25	Exterior view looking south: north elevation
20 of 25	Exterior view of south-east corner: quoined base
21 of 25	Exterior view looking west: central bay of east elevation
22 of 25	Overall exterior view looking north-west: 1882-1896. Reproduced from a 5.5" x 3.5" matte B/W postcard with no reverse information. The corrected dates are determined by the known dates for the construction of the belfry and the date the church was moved one lot further from the water.
23 of 25	Overall exterior view looking north: 1949. Reproduced from a 5.5" x 3.5" matte B/W postcard with "1949" handwritten in pencil on the reverse. The post card was printed by the Artvue Post Card Co., 225 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY.
24 of 25	Overall exterior view looking north: 1950. Reproduced from a 4.25" x 2.5" (image size) glossy B/W photo with the handwritten inscription in blue ink on the reverse which reads, "Church is closed for the winter, 1950. Expert hedge trimming was done by David Willard, Cape May Point."
25 of 25	Overall exterior view looking north-east: 1952. Reproduced from a 6.5" x 4.5" (image size) matte B/W photo with many ink and pencil marks on the reverse including "taken in 1952".



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS MAP AND THE SURVEY HAS BEEN MADE UNDER MY IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY:

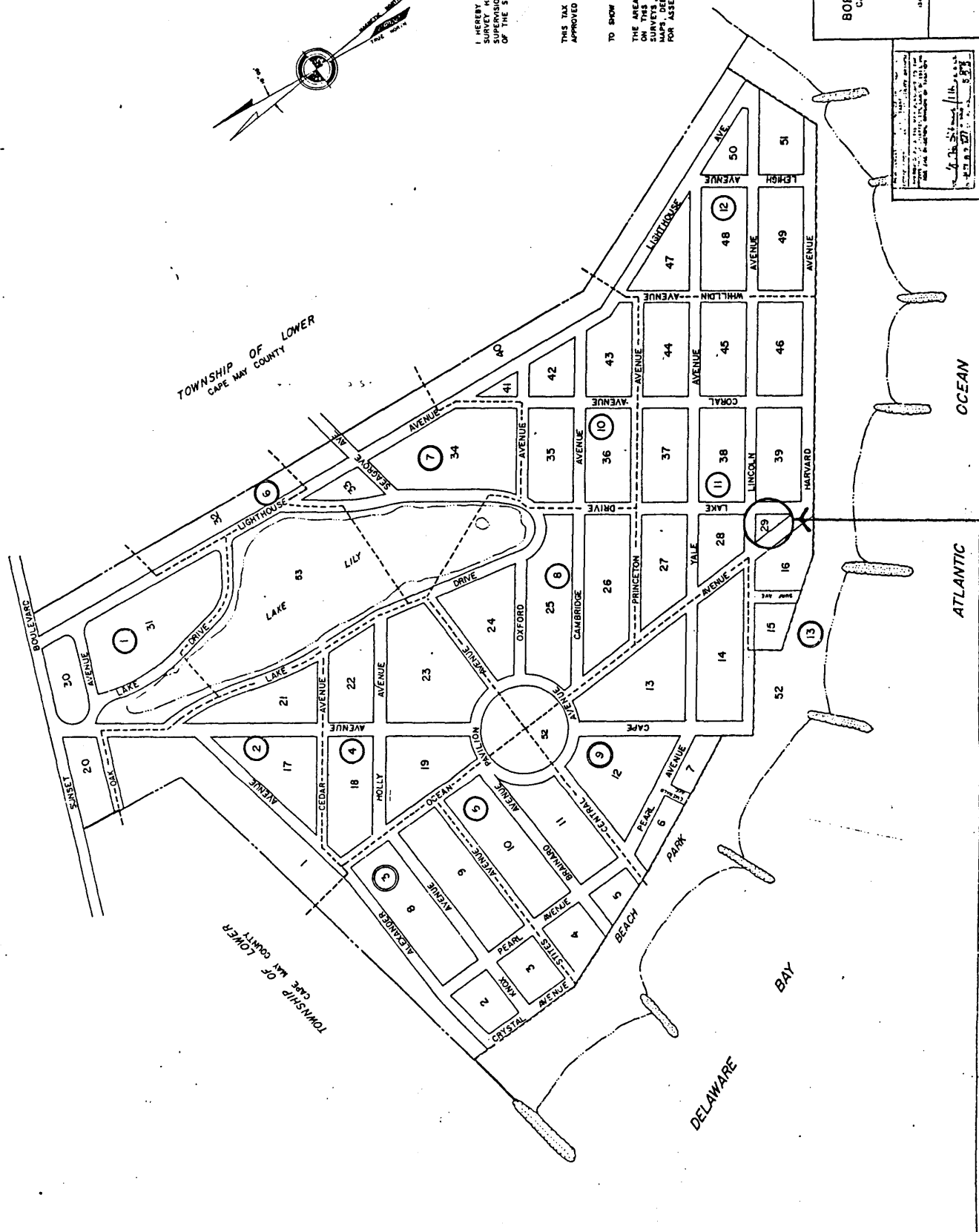
[Signature]
 J. VAN NOTE
 CONSULTING ENGINEER

THIS TAX MAP SUPERSEDES THE TAX MAP APPROVED JULY 3, 1928

TO SHOW CONDITIONS AS OF DECEMBER 1, 1927
 THE AREAS, BOUNDARIES, AND DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THIS MAP ARE DERIVED FROM GROUND SURVEYS, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, RECORDED PLANS, AND OTHER SOURCES. THIS MAP IS INTENDED TO BE USED FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY.

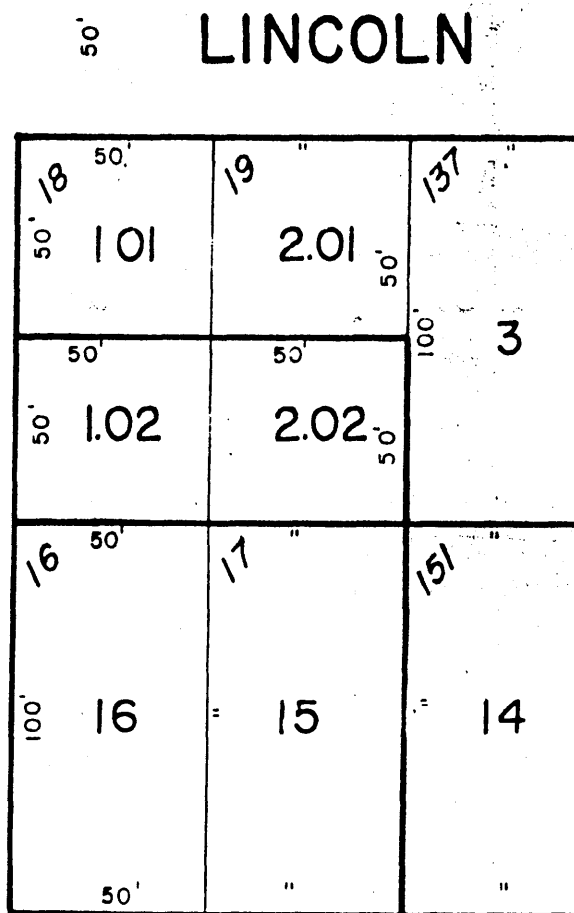
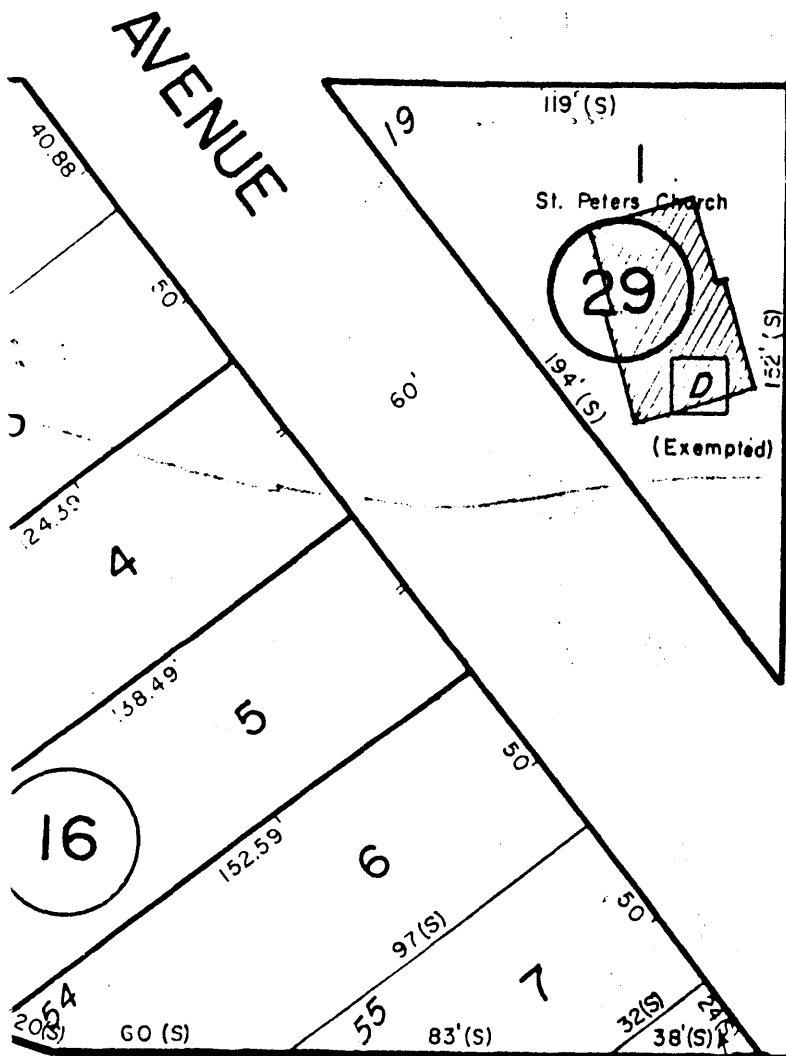
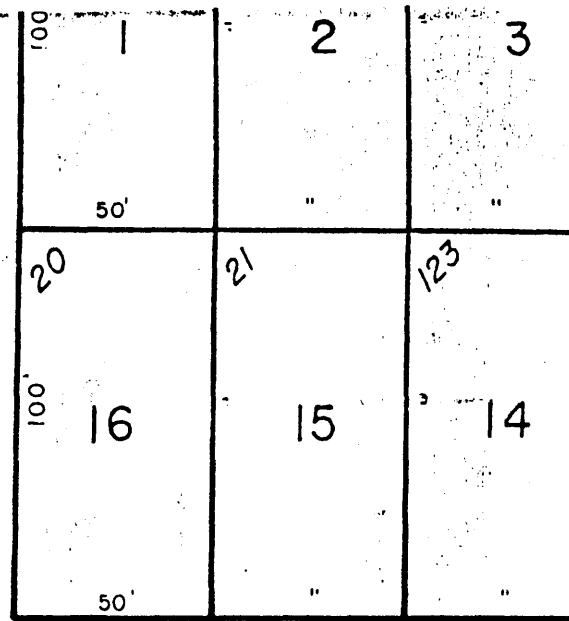
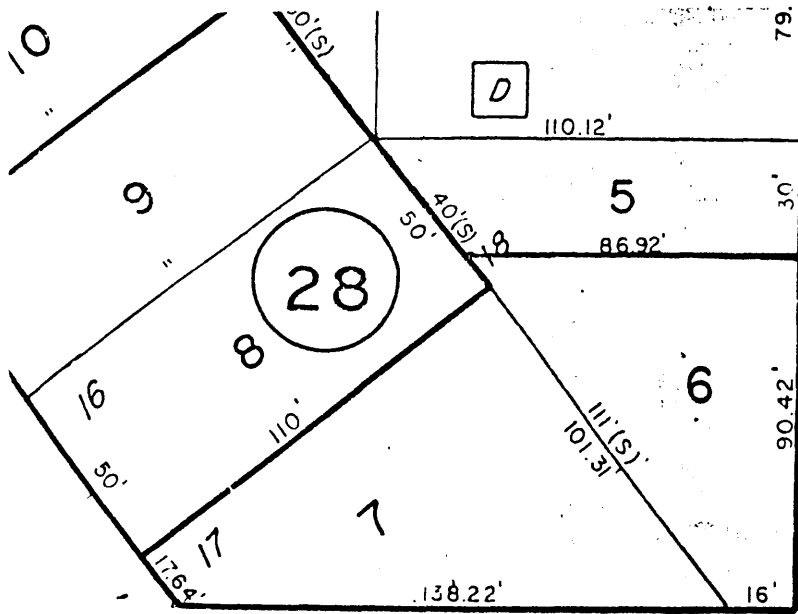
KEY MAP
 BOROUGH OF CAPE MAY POINT
 CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
 SCALE 1"=200'
 PREPARED BY
 VAN NOTE - HARVEY ASSOCIATES
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS
 PLANNERS AND LAND SURVEYORS
 101 E. HOLLISTERS LANE
 CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY 08204
 1928

[Small rectangular stamp or note with illegible text]



DOMINATED PROPERTY:
 ST. PETER'S-BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

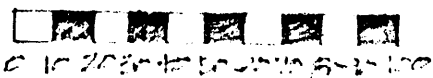
ST. PETER'S-BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ
 Borough of Cape May Point Key Map - not to scale



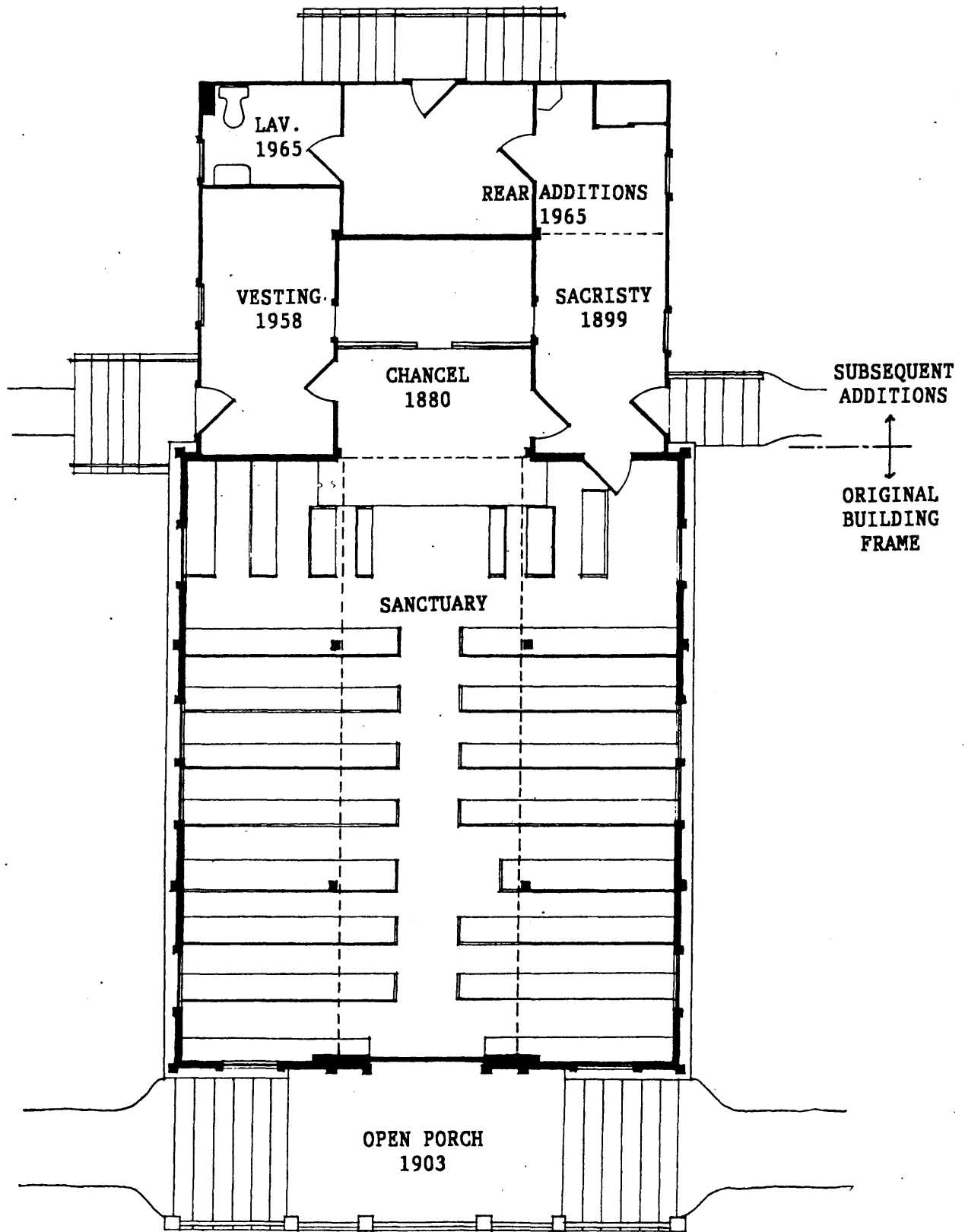
HARVARD

LIMIT

NOTE: CROSSED-HATCHED AREA INDICATES THE POSITION OF THE BUILDING [EXCLUDING PORCHES AND STEPS]. THIS INFORMATION ADDED TO TAX MAP BY MICHAEL CALAFATI, REGISTERED ARCHITECT.

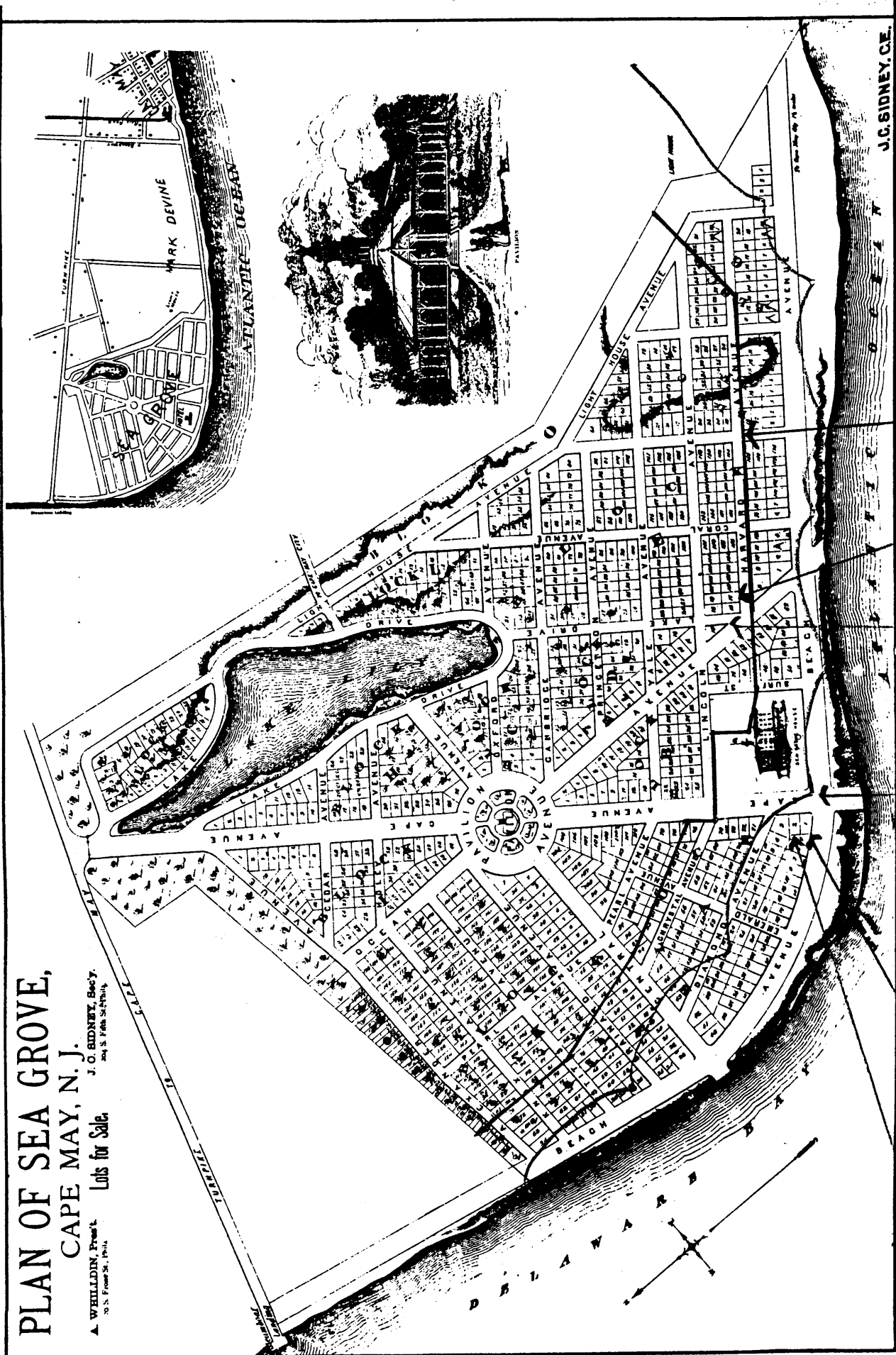


ST. PETER'S-BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ
 Borough of Cape May Point Tax Map for Block 29 Scale: 1"=50'-0"



ST. PETER'S-BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ
 First Floor Plan - Scale: 1/8"=1'-0"

**PLAN OF SEA GROVE,
CAPE MAY, N. J.**
 J. C. SIDNEY, Esq.
 and S. F. S. Smith
 Lots for Sale
 A. WHILLDIN, Printer
 30 S. Front St., Phila.



J.C. SIDNEY, C.E.

APPROX.
LINE OF
DUHES
1895.

POSITION
#1

POSITION
#0

APPROX.
ALIGNMENT
OF SHORE
IN 1895.

POSITION
#3 + 4

POSITIONS
#2 + 5

ST. PETER'S-BY-THE-SEA EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CAPE MAY COUNTY, NJ
 Plan of Sea Grove dated 1876 - not to scale
 Horace G. Richards. A Book of Maps of Cape May 1610-1878. 1954.