

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or 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 listed in 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 Arbutus Cottage

other names/site number Stephen Crane House, Florence Hotel

2. Location

street & number 508 Fourth Avenue not for publication

city or town Asbury Park City vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Monmouth code 025 zip code 07712

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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] Assistant Commissioner 12/16/14
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NJ DEP
State or 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 this property is:
- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:) _____

[Signature] 8/18/15
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls Weatherboard
Shingle
roof Asphalt
other

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.
[X] 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.

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

LITERATURE
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1883-1892

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Stephen Crane (1871-1900)
Mary Helen Peck Crane (1827-1891)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
[X] Other

Name of repository:

Asbury Park Historical Society

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Name of Property

Monmouth, New Jersey
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .17 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 584490.79 4453040.76
Zone Easting Northing

2 3 Zone Easting Northing

4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Sobotka, Thomas Chesek,, Susan Rosenberg [revised by Douglas McVarish, NJHPO]

organization Asbury Park Historical Society date 4/16/2014 [rev. 6/2015]

street & number 508 Fourth Avenue telephone (732) 774-4575

city or town Asbury Park state NJ zip code 07712

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJSection number 7 Page 1

Summary Paragraph

Arbutus Cottage, also known as the Stephen Crane house, is composed of three wood-framed sections: (1) a two-and-one-half-story main block built circa 1878 as a seaside cottage, subsequently enlarged circa 1888 (during the Crane ownership) and again about 1950, and rehabilitated between 1995 and 2002; (2) a three-story tower on east elevation, built between 1905 and 1930 (hereafter referred to as "1905-30"); (3) a two-story addition to the rear (south elevation), built in the 1930s and remodeled circa 2002. The two-and-one-half-story main block stands on a brick foundation; its walls are clapboarded and covered with mineral fiber shingles on the lower level and wooden "fish-scale" shingles on the upper level. The original slate roof was replaced with "slate-look" asphalt shingles circa 2002, and the chimney was capped around that time. The front porch (originally a U-shaped wraparound) extends for the length of the north face, with the main entrance to Arbutus Cottage relocated from the west side of the house to the north elevation upon completion of the tower addition [Photo #01]. The north elevation features two of original four floor-to-ceiling, double-hung, French jib windows [Photo #08], each designed to be raised into an upper cavity beneath the second-floor window. The east face of the tower addition features an oriel window. The tower roof is steeply hipped and features a decorative finial. The east elevation also features a beveled window wall toward the rear of the original main block; all other window frames and glass throughout the house are original to the 1878, 1905-30 and 1930s components of the structure. Two rear entrances exist at opposite ends of the 1930s addition (originally a sun porch; now an enclosed kitchen), and an additional entrance to the second-story apartment is accessed via a wrought iron fire escape staircase installed circa 1920 [Photo #56]. Sections of the south and west exterior walls of the original main block are preserved as interior walls of the 1905-30 and 1950 additions [Photos #16,17,27,39]. The house, located at 508 Fourth Avenue in the city of Asbury Park, Monmouth County, N.J. (originally designated as Lot no. 977; re-designated in 1995 as Block no. 172, Lot No. 14), stands at the front of a (50' x 150') lot. Behind the house stands a former carriage house/barn that has been renovated as a separate private residence. The two buildings share a 75 ft. long driveway.

An unfinished, raised basement with cement floor underlies the rear portion of the original main block, accessed via steps [Photo #60] located off a small patio area on the west side of the house [Photo #06]. A crawlspace [Photo #59] extends for the remainder of the original main block, and a former coal chute has been sealed off from outside access, as has the original basement access steps on the south side of the main block [Photo #57]. Visible in the basement are examples of circular sawn beams and balloon framing, both in use throughout New Jersey during the years in which the cottage was under construction.

First Floor

The 1905-30 tower entrance [Photo #08] opens into a foyer [Photos #09-10] that leads to an L-shaped hallway, a stairway to the second floor, and the original parlor of the house [Photo #11]. The parlor and the foyer feature plaster/lath walls with plaster cove moldings. Restored in 1995, the parlor features the original wood floor, and original floor to ceiling double hung windows with molded trim [Photo #12] and a non-functioning decorative fireplace mantel indicating the location of the original working fireplace [Photo #14], further explained under Original Appearance and Subsequent Alterations.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 2

Doors at the west end of the parlor [Photo #15] enclose two small (storage/ supply) rooms that were added circa 1950 when the west wraparound of the porch was shortened. An original exterior wall of the 1878 main block became an interior wall in each of these small rooms [Photo #16]. Walls are plaster and wood flooring has been covered over with a recently installed “wood-look” fabricated floor covering. The smaller of the two rooms off the parlor [Photo #17] marks the location of the original entrance to Arbutus Cottage, and was for a time an extension of an adjoining bathroom.

The south-facing end of the parlor features glazed doors [Photo #18] that open onto the L-shaped hallway leading into [Photo #20], a half-bath featuring wood floor and plumbing fixtures installed in the 1920s [Photo #19], and a closet in the space beneath the stairway to the second floor. A phone booth built during the years in which Arbutus Cottage served as a summer hotel (The Florence) occupies this closet space.

Behind this space, a large (12' x 25') room, now used as a lecture room/theater space [Photos #21-23], was created from two smaller adjoining rooms of the original main block. Two additional doors, located in the L-shaped hallway and the smaller hall area, indicate where separate entrances to the original rooms were located, and arched moldings in the lecture room ceiling [Photo #23] indicate the position of the old dividing wall. The two rooms — believed to be a sewing room and dining room — featured plaster/lath walls and plaster cove moldings; the present theater, which was renovated to its current use in 2002, retains the original wood floor, and a small freestanding stage has been positioned in an alcove beside the east-side oriel window. A pair of old closets with solid wood doors have been retained on the south wall of the theater space.

Two open doorways on the south wall of the lecture room (the easternmost of them showing evidence of its having formerly been a window) access an expanded “old kitchen” that was enlarged circa 1888 from the house’s original kitchen [Photo #25]. Formerly the southernmost room of Arbutus Cottage, it features a partially original wood floor, plaster cove moldings and plaster/lath walls in which have been retained a pair of (now sealed) chimney exhaust ports for a coal stove. A circa 1896 antique cast iron stove (not original to the house) stands beneath one of the exhaust ports in the oldest section of the room [Photo #24].

A window on the south wall of the old kitchen [Photo #26] was sealed off in the earlier half of the 20th century, and is visible now as part of the north-facing interior wall of a room that was enclosed at that same time [Photo #27]. Now used as a functioning “new kitchen,” the room is part of the circa 1930s addition and was originally a semi-enclosed sun porch. Present fixtures were installed in 2002, as were the fixtures in an adjoining half-bath [Photo #28]. The new kitchen and bath feature linoleum floor coverings and plaster walls.

Also accessible from the “old” kitchen is a rear entrance that was created in 2002; it opens onto a raised concrete pad that was installed at that time [Photo #03]. An additional entrance at the west end of the new kitchen opens onto the concrete patio, and offers access to the basement steps, and to the iron fire escape leading to the second floor apartment [Photo #56].

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 3

Second Floor

A carved wood banister [Photo #29] runs along the stairwell leading to a second floor hallway. A full bathroom that features fixtures installed in the 1920s, including a claw-foot tub [Photo #35] is located at the west end of the hallway at the top of the stairs.

Several bedrooms, all of which feature their original wood floors, plaster/lath walls and plaster cove moldings, occupy the south facing side of the original main block's second floor are. The westernmost of those bedrooms [Photos #30-31] now utilized as a museum display room, retains its original double-hung windows and features a shallow closet built into the south wall.

A smaller second floor bedroom with a single window offers a view of the fire escape and patio area below, and is now used as a library and museum display room [Photos #32-34]. The original ceiling was replaced circa 1995 with a wood/stucco covering. The room features a shallow closet built into the west wall.

Opposite the library bedroom, a larger master bedroom [Photos #36-37] with two double-hung windows faces the street. The room (now used as a conference room) features wood floor and plaster/lath walls; the original chimney runs through the room's south-facing wall, and a section of the chimney brick remains visible behind the plaster [Photo #37]. A half glass panel door on the west wall opens to a storage room [Photo #38] with large janitor's sink, washer hookup, linoleum floor and double hung windows. Part of the circa 1950 addition, the room features an exterior wall of the original main block as its east interior wall.

Adjoining this storage room is an additional half-bath with fixtures installed in 2002, linoleum flooring, plaster walls, and an exterior wall of the original main block as its south interior wall [Photo #39]. Additional access to this bathroom was formerly via a doorway in the master bedroom/ conference room; that doorway was converted to a bookshelf in 2002.

Another old bedroom at the east end of the second floor features wood floor, walls with a stucco style textured finish covering the original plaster, double hung windows on the north and east walls, and a closet built into the west wall [Photos #40-41]. Two narrow doors open to the kitchen and the bedroom of the house's residential apartment.

The bedroom of the residential apartment [Photo #42] features plaster walls, carpeting over wood floor, a small closet built into the north wall, and windows on the north, east and south walls. A door leads to the apartment kitchen; an additional glass panel door opens to an adjoining old bedroom, and a steel roof beam runs east-west across the ceiling. All rooms in the residential apartment date to either the 1888 or 1930s additions, and feature a flat roof.

The kitchen of the residential apartment [Photo #43] features linoleum floor, half-plaster/ half-wood, plaster ceiling and windows on west side. A door opens to an adjoining second floor bedroom; additional doorways lead to the bedroom and living room, and a half glass door offers access to the fire escape platform and staircase [Photo #56].

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 4

The living room of the residential apartment [Photos #44, 45] features plaster walls, carpeting over wood floor, a dropped ceiling, and a casement window with two hinged sash on the south side, overlooking the back yard and the renovated cottage at the rear of the property. A door on the east wall opens to a full bath [Photo #46] with fixtures installed circa 1995.

On the north side of the second floor, situated directly above the first-floor foyer, is a narrow former bedroom now purposed as an office [Photo #47]. It features wood floor, plaster walls/ceiling, storage shelves built into the west wall, and double hung windows on the north and east sides. The room overlooks a pitched roof over the front entrance to the house [Photo #01]; a paneled glass door opens to the second floor master bedroom/conference room [Photo #36].

Third (Attic) Floor

A carpeted set of stairs [Photo #48] leads to the third story of the house; a carved wooden banister runs to the left of the steps, and two doors at the top of the stairs offer access to separate north and south wings of the attic. A wood-framed screen door at the top of the stairs [Photo #50] opens to three south-side attic rooms, the middle one of which [Photo #49] features a linoleum floor, and access via window to the roof of the residential apartment area of the house. A door on the west side of the center room opens to a storage area [Photo #51] with window on west wall; a door on the east side of the center room opens to another area [Photo #52] with wood floor and a shallow storage area with wooden half door built into the east wall.

Another solid wood door at the top of the third-story stairs [Photo #53] opens to two north-side attic rooms, the larger of which [Photo #54] was one of several attic spaces partitioned for occupancy during the house's days as a residential hotel and boarding house. A small room at the top of the tower [Photo #55] features an unfinished wood floor and hinged swing windows overlooking the street and the rear roof of the house.

Original Appearance and Subsequent Alterations

Arbutus Cottage originally consisted of a two-and-one-half-story main block with partial basement, built circa 1878, under the ownership of Andrew and Helen Robeno, on a 50x150 lot purchased in 1873 from Asbury Park founder James Bradley. A front porch originally wrapped around the east and west elevations, with the original main entrance located on the west side of the house. A 12' x 15' kitchen (later doubled in size) featured a rear door on its east wall, and access to the basement steps on its south side. A chimney atop the original slate roof connected to a fireplace in the front parlor.

From the Robenos, Arbutus Cottage passed briefly to other owners (in May 1882 and December 1882) before being purchased by Mary Helen Peck Crane in June of 1883. Mrs. Crane was likely the first owner of the cottage to maintain year round residence there, and according to a local newspaper account in 1888, she "so enlarged and beautified Arbutus Cottage on Fourth Avenue that it is now one of the finest cottages in the Park" — a set of unspecified renovations that apparently included the enlargement of the original kitchen and extension of the house's main block into the back yard, according to a Sanborn fire insurance map from 1890. The original kitchen at the rear of the house was doubled in size about this time, with a new rear entrance created.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 5

The removal of the east wraparound section of the porch, and the addition of a 3-story tower to the northeast corner of the house, occurred at an indeterminate time between the publications of the Sanborn maps from 1905 and 1930, possibly under the tenure of the Lee family, who owned the property from 1904 to 1913, and again briefly in 1915 and 1916). The tower addition featured a foyer, a new second-floor bedroom, and a possible small bedroom on the third floor. A new entry for the staircase to the second floor was built during this time (the original stairway entrance at the southeast corner of the parlor was walled up), and a new main entrance was created on the first floor of the tower addition.

A sun porch addition at the southwest corner of the house (with a second-story component that is now the living room of the residential apartment) was added by 1930, according to available maps. With the creation of the sun porch, the former access to the basement on the house's south side was sealed off (another access was created on the west side); the sun porch was enclosed and reconfigured as a kitchen at an unknown date, with the former kitchen becoming a dining room off the new kitchen.

Upon the cottage's repurposing as the Hotel Florence post WWII, the west wraparound of the original porch was removed, with the old entrance sealed up and that portion of the house remodeled into two new rooms, which featured two original exterior walls of the house as part of their interior walls. That motif was continued with the creation of two additional second floor rooms directly above the two new ones on the first floor. The house's original four bedrooms were now augmented by two or three additional accommodations on the second and third floors, with three or possibly four bathrooms (replacing the water closet facilities of the original construction) located throughout the first and second floors.

During the Florence's years of operation (approximately 1946 until the 1980s), the parlor fireplace was dismantled and replaced with a decorative mantel, and a phone booth was installed beneath the stairs. The purposing of the cottage as a hotel or apartment house featured as many as a dozen possible bedrooms or guest rooms, on all two-and-one-half floors, at the height of its activity in the middle of the 20th century (the carriage house/barn was eventually subdivided into two apartments as well).

In 1995, Asbury Park resident Thomas Hayes, upon learning of the house's connection to Stephen Crane, purchased Arbutus Cottage with the aim of opening to the public as a museum and space for arts/civic events. Hayes maintained a regular residence elsewhere in the city, and opened the entire second floor of Arbutus Cottage for residential rental use. All second floor rooms were repainted, with replacement ceilings, floor coverings or moldings installed in some places, and new bath fixtures installed within the 1930s addition. The parlor was restored, and a kitchenette area created in one of the adjoining 1950 rooms; this was the first area of the renamed Stephen Crane House to open to the public in 1996.

With the 2001 sale of the Stephen Crane House to its current private owner, Frank D'Alessandro, an extensive renovation project began at that time, with significant replacement of the house's electrical wiring, radiators and plumbing fixtures as well as new copper flashing, gutters and downspouts. The original slate roof was replaced with shingles, and new separate heating systems were installed in the 1930s addition (electric on the first floor; gas on the second floor).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 6

In 2002, the 40-seat lecture room/ theater was created by consolidating two adjoining small rooms, and the floor of this area was brought up to code for public use with the installation of several floor jacks in the basement. A door that led originally to the back yard was sealed off in the new theater space. The old kitchen was repurposed as a reception area for events, and new supports were put in place in that room, because the expansion of the kitchen in 1888 had removed a load-bearing wall, and some bowing had occurred on the second floor above. New kitchen/bathroom fixtures were installed inside the 1930s addition (former sun porch), as part of the house's public-use areas. The front porch of Arbutus Cottage was rebuilt in 2011, using much of the existing wood.

By 2002, the current configuration of the house was established as a public resource/ museum on the first floor, with the second floor residential component scaled back to four rooms in the southeast corner of the house, featuring their own self-contained heating system. The older bedrooms on the second floor were repurposed as a library, conference area and display room, with the third floor serving as attic storage space.

The carriage house/barn at the rear of the property was completely renovated circa 2010, becoming the new primary residence of owner D'Alessandro. It is a non-contributing resource. The Carriage House was originally two buildings per a sewer inspection circa 1897 and a 1905 Sanborn map, with the carriage house to the east and the barn to the west. A new self-standing lawn sign was installed the same year the carriage house was renovated.

In 2013, a capital campaign was announced by the not-for-profit Asbury Park Historical Society to purchase the house and continue a program of restoration to the Crane House structure. At the time of this application, Frank D'Alessandro remains the current owner of the Arbutus Cottage property.

Integrity

Details of changes in the building footprint may be gathered by comparison of 1905 and 1950 fire insurance maps produced by the Sanborn Map Company. In 1905, the street side of the house featured a wood-framed single-story porch that wrapped around a narrow front block. By 1950, the east side of the wraparound had been enclosed by a corner addition. The bulk of the house footprint is the same in 1905 and 1950. The major changes include the replacement of a single-story rear ell with two smaller rear porches, the western, two stories in height.

Documenting the precise physical changes to the interior of the house poses challenges due to lack of both written and photograph documentation. The front parlor, the public face of the house, in which Mrs. Crane received her guests has been little altered. Windows are original. The present meeting room probably more closely reflects its original appearance after the current owner removed a later partitioning wall. Little change has been made to the second story bedrooms. Most visible changes consist of a series of additions to the original core of the house rather than major alterations to the original portions of the house.

The house originally known as Arbutus Cottage retains its basic layout dating from the post WWII modification (the repurposing of the cottage as the Hotel Florence), with most of its rooms having preserved their same dimensions...with the exception of the first floor lecture room/theater (consolidated from two smaller adjoining

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 7

rooms). All of the windows and two of the doors (first floor front entrance; second floor fire escape access) are original to their initial installation; the two rear entrance doors were installed circa 2002. All windows, with the exception of one that sustained hurricane damage in 2012, retain their original 19th century glass panes. Floors and walls (with the exception of one removed from the lecture room/theater) remain intact as of the post WWII configuration; the original wood floors remain exposed in most instances, although carpeting and/or linoleum have been installed in the residential apartment and practically purposed public areas. Ceilings remain original in most rooms; several have been replastered, and some of the rooms with particular wear and damage have drop ceilings installed.

The first floor fireplace was dismantled, and the kitchen stove exhaust ports were sealed off, at an unknown date in the mid-twentieth century; a nonfunctioning mantel and display antique stove indicate their former locations. A coal chute in the basement of the house was sealed off at an unknown date in the mid-twentieth century, and is still visible.

Bath fixtures dating back to about the 1920s remain functional in the old bathrooms on the first and second floors; one additional full bath (in the residential apartment) and two half baths saw new fixtures installed during renovations in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Updated kitchen fixtures/appliances/cabinets were installed in the new kitchen (former sun porch) and residential apartment kitchen in 2002 (an early 1950s stove is still functional in the residential apartment kitchen).

Setting

The Stephen Crane House/Arbutus Cottage stands on the 500 block of Fourth Avenue in the city of Asbury Park, 200 feet west of the intersection of Fourth and Grand avenues, five blocks west of Ocean Avenue and the Asbury Park Boardwalk, 2.5 blocks east of Main Street (NJ Route 71), and one block south of Sunset Park/Sunset Lake. The house is in a residentially zoned neighborhood, and shares its 50' x 150' lot and a common driveway with the 2-story residential carriage house at the rear of the property. In 1996, the Asbury Park Zoning Board created a spot zone to allow the property to operate as a museum with two residential units (the second floor apartment, and the separate structure at the rear of the property). A freestanding oval sign on the front lawn, mounted on timber posts and topped by solar light fixtures, identifies 508 Fourth Avenue as "The Stephen Crane House, 'Arbutus Cottage,' ca.1878."

The Property

The fifty foot by 150 foot lot includes two buildings and a shared, common 75' driveway. The land is flat except for approximately a one-foot rise in elevation between the sidewalk and the house. The house faces to the north.

The building behind the Crane House in the rear of the lot is a former carriage house/barn. It was renovated in the 1960's to comprise two apartments, then in 2010 to become one domicile, and is a non-contributing resource. A large oak tree towers over the rear of the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 1

Significance Statement

Summary Paragraph

Arbutus Cottage, also known as The Stephen Crane House, is the sole standing residence in the United States of American author, poet and journalist Stephen Crane (1871-1900), who lived in the house from 1883, during his time as a student in the Asbury Park public school system, until 1892, during summer stints as a reporter for his older brother Townley Crane's news service. As the year-round residence of Crane's mother Mary Helen Peck Crane (1827-1891), it also played an important role in the regional profile of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of which Mrs. Crane actively served as an orator and writer, and as a local chapter president from 1883 until her death in 1891. For its association with Stephen Crane during the years in which he began his professional writing career and created his first works of fiction, the nominated property meets National Register Criterion B with local, and statewide significance in the area of literary history. For its association with Mary Helen Peck Crane and the WCTU, the property also meets Criterion B with local significance in social history.

Young Stephen Crane and Asbury Park

Stephen Crane was born on the first day of November 1871, in the parsonage of the Methodist church at 14 Mulberry Place in Newark, NJ. He was the fourteenth and youngest child born to Reverend Doctor Jonathan Townley Crane and Mary Helen Peck Crane, only nine of whose children survived past infancy. Best known for his classic novel of the Civil War, *The Red Badge of Courage*, the prolific young writer also produced such major works as the early novel *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*, the poetry volume *The Black Riders*, the short stories "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky" and "The Monster," and "The Open Boat" (inspired by his experience as a shipwreck survivor), as well as several historically significant newspaper reports. A friend and contemporary of many major American and European authors of the late nineteenth century, yet a man who called himself "about as much a Jerseyman as you could find,"¹ Crane has been cited as a trailblazer for the modernist movement, and a major influence on such later figures as Ernest Hemingway, who famously rated him one of "the good American writers" alongside Henry James and Mark Twain.

At the time of Stephen's birth, Reverend Crane was presiding elder of the Methodist churches in the greater Newark and Elizabeth districts, in addition to being the author of several tracts on religious subjects and the temptations of worldly diversions ("The Arts of Intoxication," "An Essay on Dancing"). As the daughter of Reverend George C. Peck (editor of the Methodist Quarterly Review) and niece of Bishop Jesse T. Peck (a co-founder of Syracuse University), "Helen" Peck Crane was herself part of a prominent family in the Methodist community; an

¹ R.W. Stallman, *Stephen Crane: A Biography* (George Braziller, 1968), 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 2

active member within the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and a sought-after lecturer on such topics as "The Effects of Alcohol on the Organs and Tissues of the Body."

In the middle years of the 1870s, the Crane family moved to Paterson, New Jersey, and then to Port Jervis, New York, where oldest son William Crane would establish himself as a successful attorney and jurist, and Helen would supplement her activity with the founding of a trade school focusing on "instruction in the use of the needle...(to) colored women and children."²

Another Crane brother, Jonathan Jr. (known professionally and colloquially as "Townley") had already become a full-time resident of the Jersey Shore, settling with his wife Fannie in the city of Long Branch a few miles from Asbury Park ("the best news centre on the entire New Jersey coast"), where Crane's New Jersey Coast News Bureau made a specialty of covering the seasonal scene from "Sandy Hook to Barnegat Light," for clients that included such major dailies as the *New York Tribune*. Townley became editor of the *Asbury Park Shore Press*, a daily that has survived into the twenty-first century, in June of 1883, and brother Wilbur Crane, a medical student around this time, was among the correspondents who spent summer seasons gathering local news items for Townley's reports from the shore resorts.

Reverend Crane died from a heart attack in February 1880, after which Helen and several of her children moved back to the Newark, New Jersey area, and made the trip to the Jersey Shore each summer for visits with Townley and his wife. As the result they became familiar with the pace of life in the Methodist encampment of Ocean Grove, as well as with the popular pursuits to be found in the burgeoning resort city next door. Helen, attracted by the strong presence of the WCTU within the Shore communities, eventually made the decision to settle in Asbury Park, moving with son Stephen and daughter Agnes to Arbutus Cottage in June 1883. Also purchased was a (then--undeveloped) lot next door to the cottage; that property (which is not included in this nomination) was sold by William, acting as executor of his late mother's estate, in 1893.

Stephen, 11 years old at the time of his arrival in Asbury Park, attended the city's Grammar School for two years, being ranked seventh in his class for the 1883-1884 academic year.³ To the city-bred boy at large on the beaches and boardwalks of a seaside resort, "Asbury Park was freedom...he roamed the beaches, loitered around Townley's agency and the resort hotels, and played baseball and football."⁴ With his mother's increasing focus upon her responsibilities as an officer in the WCTU, Stephen's day-to-day upbringing fell primarily upon then 27 year-old Agnes, who had performed much of these duties from the time the Cranes settled in Port Jervis

² Stanley Wertheim and Paul Sorrentino, *The Crane Log: A Documentary Life of Stephen Crane, 1871-1900* (G.K. Hall & Company, 1994), 19.

³ Catalogue of the Public Schools of Asbury Park and Ocean Grove, 1883--1884. p10

⁴ James Colvert, *Stephen Crane* (Harcourt, 1984), p.9.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 3

— and who, herself, worked for the Asbury Park public school system as a teacher at the intermediate school, before her death just one year later in 1884.

That year, financial difficulties forced Mrs. Crane (who had been sustained in part by inherited stock holdings in a mining company, following her husband's death) to begin renting rooms at Arbutus Cottage to summer tourists.⁵ Among her boarders was an unidentified local girl who, in Stephen's words, "had an accidental baby," prompting the author's later observation that "inopportune babies are not part of Methodist ritual, but mother was always more of a Christian than a Methodist and she kept this girl at our house in Asbury until she found a home elsewhere."⁶

At some point in 1885, the teenaged Stephen, left largely to his own devices amid an uncertain home life, sat down at Arbutus Cottage and tried his hand at sketching out a work of fiction for the first time — producing "Uncle Jake and the Bell-Handle," a folksy tale (eventually published in posthumous volumes of his short works) that appears to owe a debt to his mother's own colorful stabs at fiction under the nom de plume "Jerusha Ann Stubbs." No evidence has been uncovered as to where Stephen wrote while he was living at Arbutus College. Some of the work he wrote in the house has been praised for its early evidence of a mature and confident talent, with one biographer noting that "the printer's symbols in Stephen's hand on the 'Uncle Jake' manuscript further show that he was aiming at publication."⁷

With the death of Agnes, Stephen was sent away for the next two school years to board as a student at the Methodist Pennington School in Pennington, NJ, near Trenton. On his first summer spent home from school, the aspiring writer took his first job in the journalism field, collecting information for Townley's news service on the comings and goings of prominent hotel guests during the busy summer season in the bustling boomtown. The 15 year-old was not yet an official employee (he was paid out-of-pocket by his older brother), and opinions vary as to whether Stephen wrote any of these un-bylined reports outright or simply contributed to them. Several noted Crane scholars, prominent among them archivist Melvin Schoberlin, recognized elements of his style in such anonymous dispatches as "Asbury's New Move," a short piece with a mildly satirical tone that appeared in the Asbury Park Daily Spray in 1887.⁸ "Obviously written by someone who knew the ways of Asbury Park, understood its contradictions, and regarded it all with detached amusement, the piece radiated wit, humor and talent," echoed biographer Linda H. Davis in a discussion of the 1887 item. "Seemingly the work of a mature person, it was probably written by fifteen year old Stephen Crane."⁹

⁵ Wertheim and Sorrentino, *The Crane Log*, 32

⁶ Stallman, *Stephen Crane*, 9

⁷ Colvert, *Stephen Crane* (Harcourt, 1984), 9.

⁸ Stanley Wertheim, ed., *The Stephen Crane Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Press, 1997).

⁹ Linda H. Davis, *Badge of Courage: The Life of Stephen Crane* (Houghton Mifflin, 1998), 22.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 4

Another piece thought to bear the hand of Stephen Crane (and regarded by some as his first published article) was a brief sketch of two young lovers on the beach of a town not unlike Asbury Park — and a patrolling censor who bore more than a passing resemblance to Asbury Park’s founding father James Bradley — that appeared in the *Philadelphia Press* that same summer. “The sixteen year-old Crane sides with the ‘tender young doves’ and against the old and narrow minded,” wrote historian Daniel Wolff, finding in the un-credited piece an early example of Crane’s recurring theme of “morality versus sensuality...and Bradley’s promised land offered a perfect battlefield.”¹⁰

The next two academic years found Stephen attending the Claverack College and Hudson River Institute military academy in upstate New York, an interlude distinguished mostly by the fervent baseball fan’s joining the school’s ball team as catcher. A portrait of Stephen in full dress uniform was taken at the Stauffer photography studio in downtown Asbury Park during one of his hometown visits circa 1889,¹¹ and is probably the only surviving image of him from the city that he named as his primary residence into the early 1890s.

It was during the summer of 1888 that Stephen Crane began his professional journalism career in earnest; working in and around Asbury Park as a still-uncredited correspondent for Townley’s news bureau, an operation to which other Crane family members also contributed.¹² Bicycling to points around his beat, and jotting his reports “in a cheap penny tablet while lying in the sand or sitting propped against the side of a building,”¹³ the cub reporter worked in a milieu that encompassed “the free-spending life of the family vacationers in the resort hotels, the devoted worship of the religious conferees at Ocean Grove, and the earnest pursuit of culture and self-improvement at Avon-by-the-Sea” — an environment of contrasts and contradictions that “comprised a neat microcosm of American life, concentrating tendencies, often violently antithetical, in the nation’s religious, cultural, and social life.” Crane’s friend and fellow local reporter Ralph Paine later remarked that Stephen, a “youth with the soul of a poet and a psychologist,” should find “that futile, inconsequential environment of Asbury Park in midsummer” a fertile source of inspiration for his nascent literary ambitions.

While the authorship of many of the unsigned newspaper items issuing from Townley’s news service in those summers remains a topic for debate among Crane scholars, what remains clear is that a new and satirically minded voice was beginning to make its presence felt within the pages of papers like the *Tribune*, where an 1890 column hinted at Founder Bradley’s pious community

¹⁰ Daniel Wolff, *Fourth of July Asbury Park* (Bloomsbury USA, 2005), 53.

¹¹ Reproduced in Colvert, *Stephen Crane*.

¹² Bernard Weinstein, “Stephen Crane, Journalist;” published in *Stephen Crane in Transition: Centenary Essays*, Joseph Katz, ed.; Northern Illinois University Press, 1972.

¹³ Ruth Franchere, *Stephen Crane: The Story of an American Writer* (Thomas Y. Crowell, 1961), 24.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 5

as a place where clergymen and Christian workers come “to get away from the responsibility of conducting meetings to be in a place where they need not preach or even attend.”¹⁴

Following one semester at Lafayette College in Easton, PA, and one semester at Syracuse University (where Stephen’s papers and personal library are today archived), Stephen concluded his pursuit of higher education, and began to live the life of a dedicated and struggling young writer; dividing his time between New York City (where he worked briefly for a mercantile company) and stays with his brother William’s family in New York’s Orange County, when he was not occupied with his newspaper work back home in Asbury Park. It was during those stays in upstate New York that Stephen became enamored of camping, particularly his excursions in Sullivan County, where the snippets of local folklore he picked up formed the basis for his early stories collected as “Sullivan County Sketches” in 1892.

Described by a girlfriend as a chain-smoking, poorly dressed figure who “was abjectly poor and undernourished — ate little and seemed to resent others eating heartily,”¹⁵ the Stephen Crane of the early 1890s began to haunt the Bowery neighborhood of New York City, where James Bradley continued to own and operate a brush factory, observing the lives of the working poor (a class of people about whom his mother had few charitable things to say) and gathering material for what eventually became a groundbreaking calling card into the world of serious American letters.

Crane worked on what became his first novel, and the “Sullivan County” stories, in 1891 and 1892...primarily in New York locales and relatives’ homes, although he had manuscripts in his possession in Asbury Park during his summer stints, and almost certainly did some substantial revisions on them while continuing to reside at Arbutus Cottage. According to an “intermittently reliable”¹⁶ 1926 memoir by New York Tribune day editor (and Asbury Park vacationer, at the West End Hotel “where the Asbury Park reporters hung out”)¹⁷ Willis Fletcher Johnson, Townley Crane mentioned in 1891 that his younger brother “had written several stories based on his camping and hunting adventures in Sullivan County, Johnson asked to see them, and Crane brought him two, probably ‘Four Men in a Cave’ and ‘The Octopush.’ The editor bought them for the Sunday feature page of the *Tribune*, where they, and three more he bought later, appeared in July.”¹⁸

“Four Men in a Cave,” in fact, represented Stephen Crane’s debut as a published author of fiction when it saw print in the *Tribune* (“A Tent in Agony” marked his first appearance in a

¹⁴ Wolff, *Fourth of July Asbury Park*, 54.

¹⁵ Wertheim and Sorrentino, *The Crane Log*, 74.

¹⁶ Michael Robertson, *Stephen Crane, Journalism and the Making of Modern American Literature* (Columbia University Press, 1997).

¹⁷ Stallman, *Stephen Crane*, 33.

¹⁸ Colvert, *Stephen Crane*, 9.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 6

national magazine when it was published in *Cosmopolitan* later in 1891), an encouraging sign for a writer whose reporting work was still running without a byline. He made another significant connection during that summer of 1891. On the day that Crane met Hamlin Garland — a rising star literary figure, magazine writer and lecturer — when Garland delivered a talk on William Dean Howells in the intellectually inclined nearby community of Avon-by-the-Sea. Crane said that Garland “was the first to overwhelm me with all manner of extraordinary language,” and to Helen Trent (whom he met in Asbury Park, and with whom had a brief romantic fling) he described the older writer as being “like a nice Jesus Christ.” The two men continued to maintain an acquaintance centered around two shared affinities — contemporary American writing and baseball.¹⁹

Garland also impressed Crane with his lecture on Jacob Riis — author of *How the Other Half Lives*, and a kindred spirit to the aspiring novelist who had come to empathize with the denizens of New York’s crowded tenement landscape. In Riis, Crane had discovered an activist voice who advocated for the poor against Bradley and other exemplars of “the ‘system’ that was the evil offspring of public neglect and greed.” Crane also took heart in the fact that Garland’s lecture on Riis drew a large audience of middle class vacationers who “are not entirely forgetful of the unfortunates.”²⁰

Crane showed Garland an early draft of his first attempt at a novel — “A Girl of the Streets,” a gritty portrait (later titled “Maggie,” and self-published in 1893 under the pen name Johnston Smith), based on his observations of life in and around the Bowery tenements and sweatshops, that Willis Fletcher Johnson recalled as “crude, but powerful and impressive.”²¹ Garland, for his part, “gave him a letter of introduction to Richard Watson Gilder, the editor of *Century Illustrated Magazine*. ‘I want you to read a great [manuscript] of Stephen Crane’s making,’ Garland wrote. ‘I think him an astonishing fellow.’”²²

Meanwhile, Stephen was deriving little professional satisfaction from his unsigned reporting work, much of which remains a topic for debate among Crane scholars. In the eighth installment of his multi-volume *Stephen Crane: Tales, Sketches and Reports*, Fredson Bowers collected 42 “News from Asbury Park” items from 1891–92 as including 14 attributable to Crane, with 28 “possibles.”²³

“It is unclear as to how much he published in the *Tribune* and elsewhere that summer,” wrote Linda Davis of Crane’s output in 1891. “Two items were certainly his. Eleven others, judging by

¹⁹ Davis, *Badge of Courage*, 40-41.

²⁰ Wolff, *Fourth of July Asbury Park*, 57.

²¹ Stallman, *Stephen Crane*, 33.

²² Bonnie L. Lukes, *Soldier’s Courage: The Story of Stephen Crane* (Morgan Reynolds, 2002), 38.

²³ Fredson Bowers, ed., *Stephen Crane: Tales, Sketches and Reports*, vol. 8, (University Press of Virginia 1973).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 7

their style, themes and imagery, were probably his. Two of the possibilities appeared in the *New York Herald* and the *New York Times*. What is certain is that he was always writing.”²⁴

1892, Stephen Crane’s final summer as a reporter in Asbury Park, marked a time of significant changes for the 20 year old writer, whose mother had passed away in December 1891 — leaving Stephen, still legally a minor, officially in the guardianship of his brother Edmund (it has been conjectured that Townley, while close to Stephen, had become too “eccentric” by that point to be placed in charge of his brother).²⁵ Arbutus Cottage, and some coal mining stocks, were left to the seven surviving Crane children (William would buy out the interests of a few of the other siblings, with Stephen using his share to self-publish the first edition of his debut novel).

It was a season in which he scandalized locals through an affair with a married woman, Lily Brandon Munroe, but at the same time he also earned his first bylined reports in major newspapers. Yet it would be a seemingly innocuous unsigned item that spelled the termination of his affiliation with the *Tribune*, and cause him to move from Arbutus Cottage.

Several of the summer 1892 dispatches credited to Crane are held up today as examples of an emergent literary voice; one that was often at odds with the mundane nature of his seasonal assignment, as well as with the divisions and dichotomies inherent in Asbury Park itself — its founding as a pious Methodist enclave versus its development as a place of popular entertainments and diversions; its east-west division along racial lines, and its juxtaposition of upper middle class playground and lower class poverty.

“In his earliest writings, Asbury Park represented a world of comic, phony and absurd human behavior, as opposed to the world of folklore, imagery and adventure found in less tame Sullivan County,” a team of Crane scholars wrote a century after his passing,²⁶ and in those final dispatches from Asbury Park can be detected a distinctive and sharply opinionated voice that was continuing to evolve.

“Meetings Begun at Ocean Grove” is an otherwise straightforward piece that begins with a reference to “somber-hued gentlemen...with black valises in their hands and rebukes to frivolity in their eyes.” The brief item “Crowding into Asbury Park” describes a bustling place that “is rapidly acquiring a collection of machines,” and references the presence of the famed prizefighter “Gentleman” Jim Corbett.

²⁴ Davis, *Badge of Courage*, 40.

²⁵ Wolff, *Fourth of July Asbury Park*, 56.

²⁶ Michael Robertson, David Holmes and Roxana Paz, “An Ironist at the Seashore: Possible Additions to the Crane Canon”; in *Stephen Crane Studies*, 9, 2 (Fall 2000).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 8

“Joys of Seaside Life” is a longer, more colorful article that captures the sensations of resort life with vivid language, making mention of “the Hindoos,” “the frankfurter man,” a “sleight of hand Italian,” the “transient fakirs,” as well as tintype galleries, the observation wheel at Wesley Lake and the nearby camera obscura attraction at Ocean Grove. The aforementioned wheel is the subject of local controversy in “Summer Dwellers,” in which it is reported that Ocean Grove residents and city hoteliers have lodged complaints against its ashes, parks and steam organ. “On the Boardwalk” is notable for its detailed description of the 19th-century promenade and its frequenters, as well as some playful paragraphs on Founder Bradley — then still very much a presence throughout the city’s daily life — and his penchant for hand-lettered signs regulating public behavior (“His work has an air of philosophic thought about it which is very taking to anyone with a literary turn of mind...he is an artist.”).²⁷

The most notorious item penned by Crane during that summer of 1892 was an anonymous lead to an otherwise mundane social column that was often composed by Stephen as an assist to his brother. An account of an American Day parade by the Junior Order of United American Mechanics [JOUAM, an officially apolitical but largely arch-conservative working-class organization with a nationwide presence at the turn of the century], the brief piece was infused with Crane’s ironic perspective on the sight of “bronzed, slope-shouldered, uncouth” yet “dignified” men marching for the politely detached appreciation of the wealthy leisure class in their “summer gowns, lace parasols, tennis trousers, straw hats and indifferent smiles.”

The author of the brief “Parades and Entertainments” item went on to cite Asbury Park as a place that “creates nothing...it does not make; it merely amuses,” and to contrast the “men who have principles” of the JOUAM with “the bona fide Asbury Parker...a man to whom a dollar, when held close to his eye, often shuts out any impression he may have that other people possess rights.”

“William K. Devereaux, whom Townley had asked to check Stephen’s copy in his absence, was amused by it but thought the *Tribune* too humorless to print it. He was wrong,” wrote Linda Davis. “The article was published, unsigned, on August 21 and, as Devereaux said later, ‘raised hob all over the country.’”²⁸ The appearance of the article in early editions of the *Tribune* was called “un-American” by the Mechanics, apologized for by the *Tribune*, and cost Stephen (and, temporarily, Townley) his association with the news bureau’s most prestigious client.

Since the *Tribune*’s publisher Whitelaw Reid was then on the Republican presidential ticket as Benjamin Harrison’s running mate, some observers went so far as to suggest that Crane and his “bit of random correspondence” were responsible for the election of Grover Cleveland that year, although this view has been dismissed as hyperbole. Ralph Paine, while regretful that his talented

²⁷ Collected in *Stephen Crane: Tales, Sketches and Reports*, Vol. VIII

²⁸ Davis, *Badge of Courage*, 50.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 9

friend had “toyed with a boomerang,” expressed the opinion that Stephen’s dismissal from the Asbury Park beat “might be the making of him” regarding his aspirations as a promising novelist and short story writer.²⁹

While “Stevie and his parade story continued to be a subject of gossip all the rest of the season down Asbury Park way,”³⁰ the young writer and his hometown were no longer on speaking terms by the time Crane headed back to New York City in advance of the summering crowds. Still, with Crane renewing his attempts to persuade Lily Munroe to leave her husband, his years in Asbury Park and on the Jersey Shore continued to exert an influence on his work. His relationship with Mary would manifest itself in the circa-1896 novel “George’s Mother” and its subdued study of a pious, ailing woman and the dissolute, somewhat disreputable son who cares for her — and the Asbury Park connection made its most immediate impact upon the 1893 story “The Pace of Youth.”

According to the memoirs of his friend C.K. Linson, Crane penned “The Pace of Youth” under the direct inspiration of his Asbury Park summers (it is partly set at a thinly veiled version of the old wooden Carousel house), his affair with Lily (“Lizzie” in the story), and Founder Bradley (fictionalized as Mr. Stimson, owner-operator of the Mammoth Merry-Go-Round). Regarded as one of Crane’s finest short works, the story is rich in atmosphere, as the expanse of the boardwalk, with its blazing lights, colorful paper lanterns and “intermingling, intertwining, sometimes colliding” crowds, represents escape and the promise of freedom for a pair of young lovers on the run from the disapproving old man.

“Linson wondered how Crane could keep the feel of those Asbury Park people months after he had last seen them,” wrote Crane biographer R.W. Stallman. “Steve smiled. ‘Can’t you make sketches from memory? Of course. Well, haven’t I known those types since I was a kid? Certainly.”³¹

Another comic tale placed in a seashore town setting, “The Reluctant Voyagers” (circa 1893), was eventually serialized in the New York Press Sunday Magazine in 1900 — and the year 1894 would see the publication in the Press of “Ghosts on the Jersey Shore,” a breezy collection of eerie folkloric vignettes (datelined “Asbury Park, NJ, Nov. 9”) drawn from coastal locales ranging from Deal to Long Beach Island (a follow-up article in a similar vein, “The Ghostly Sphinx of Metedeconk,” appeared on December 28 of that same year).

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Arthur Oliver, “Jersey Memories: Stephen Crane,” in *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*; October 1931.

³¹ Stallman, *Stephen Crane*, 60.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 10

Crane was the internationally famous author of the best-selling *Red Badge of Courage* when he returned to his old hometown one last time in 1896, and filed a brief article for the *New York Journal* entitled “Asbury Park, as Seen Through the Eyes of Stephen Crane.” A characteristically cheeky and slightly melancholy portrait in what would be the final years of the Crane clan’s connection to the city, the story included some irresistible jabs at Founder Bradley (“the one star in the sky over Asbury Park...”), and the assertion that “if a man should be goaded into defining Asbury Park he might state that the distinguishing feature of the town is its singular and elementary sanity.”³²

In discussing this parting shot by the author who would go on to travel extensively through North America, become the subject of scandal in New York, get shipwrecked off the coast of Florida, cover conflicts in Cuba and Greece, and eventually settle with his common-law wife in England, Crane scholar Stanley Wertheim wrote, “From the perspective of a newspaperman in search of unusual and entertaining topics, Crane laments the fact that Asbury Park is so conventional a town that it offers no opportunity for sensational journalism.”³³

Plagued in his final years by poor health and shaky finances, Stephen Crane succumbed to pulmonary tuberculosis at the age of 28, inside a sanatorium in Germany’s Black Forest on June 5, 1900. His body was brought back to America and interred at Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside, NJ, a few miles from the Newark parsonage where he was born. The parsonage building itself was razed in the 1930s, and its bricks used to construct a wall that featured a plaque commemorating Crane’s birthplace. Having fallen victim to neglect and repeated vandalizing, the wall and its Crane memorial were torn down by city of Newark in 1995 — one year prior to the former Arbutus Cottage’s rechristening as The Stephen Crane House.

Mary Helen Peck Crane, the WCTU, and Arbutus Cottage

The widowed Mary Helen Peck Crane was the fourth owner of Arbutus Cottage, which had been built for the property’s previous owner, Andrew and Helen Robeno, who bought an empty lot from Bradley in September 1875. The Robenos named the house for the arbutus (mayflower) ground cover that once decorated the property’s front yard, and remained as owners until May 1882, when they sold to Patrick M. Mahoney, who sold in turn to Margaret and Bernard Collins only seven months later. The Collins couple, themselves, only held the property until June 1883, when they sold to Mrs. Crane.

As mentioned above, the widow Crane had been a frequent summer visitor to Asbury Park and Ocean Grove when she decided to make a year-round home for herself, her unmarried 27 year-old daughter Agnes, and her 11 year-old son Stephen, in a neighborhood that “Stevie” described

³² Collected in *Stephen Crane: Tales, Sketches and Reports*, Vol. VIII.

³³ Stanley Wertheim, ed., *The Stephen Crane Encyclopedia*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 11

as “square after square of cottages, trees and little terraces, little terraces, trees and cottages, while the wide avenues funnel toward a distant grey sky.”³⁴ Purchasing the cottage for \$4,000, Mrs. Crane became the owner of a “proper two-story house in the good part of town” that was quite possibly the first one on its block of Fourth Avenue, in addition to an adjoining lot that remained undeveloped during her lifetime.

As the widow of a clergyman who wrote extensively on the evils of drink — and the sister of a man who died of alcohol-related causes — “Helen” was active within the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, the organization founded in Cleveland, Ohio in 1874 by a group of women that included Frances E. Willard and the Union’s first president, Mrs. Annie Turner Wittenmyer. Growing out of the Woman’s Crusade of 1873–1874 (a non-violent protest against the dangers of alcohol carried out in several communities in Ohio and New York), the WCTU had by the end of the 1870s established largely independent local chapters in towns and cities throughout the United States — adopting the slogan “Agitate, Educate, Legislate,” and backing up its core mission of abstinence from alcohol with early and significant work in advocating civil rights for women, who at the time were not allowed to vote, or in most cases, to retain property or legal custody of their children.³⁵

Mrs. Crane’s roles with the local Asbury Park, state, and national organizations extended well-beyond serving as an officer and a state and national convention delegate. For much of her time in the temperance movement, Mrs. Crane became the regional “voice” of the movement, both in her writings and in her speeches. The late Thomas Gullason, a University of Rhode Island professor and Crane scholar wrote of her WCTU contributions in his compilation of writings of the Crane family:

Helen Crane proved she was no fanatic but a practical, hardworking, effective organizer and campaigner, keenly aware of the many details involved in the preparation of a meeting, and trying to woo others to join the WCTU. She recognized her sensitive role: to be as “wise as a serpent and as harmless as a dove.”³⁶

A prolific temperance writer, she served as the State Superintendent of the Press Committee of the State branch of the WCTU for ten years, wrote the WCTU column in the *Matawan Journal*. During three months of 1887, she wrote approximately 150 dispatches for the print media including twelve columns for the *New York Tribune*, several others for New York dailies as well as others for the Associated Press national news wire. In these dispatches she publicized the breadth of area temperance work including conventions and meetings at Ocean Grove, Key East

³⁴ Wolff, *Fourth of July Asbury Park*, 51.

³⁵ “Early History” page, WCTU.org website.

³⁶ Thoma A. Gulleeson, ed., *A Garland of Writing: Stephen Crane’s Literary Family* (Syracuse University Press, 2002).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 12

[present Keyport] and Asbury Park. In the fall of 1887, she reported for the *New York World* at the WCTU's national convention in Nashville, Tennessee.³⁷

Despite speaking in a "very high key," Mrs. Crane also became well-known in New Jersey as a temperance orator. She spoke before the members of the New Jersey State Legislature on several occasions when temperance bills were pending. Her advocacy role was centered in Monmouth County where, her obituary noted, "It was largely through her influence that the Monmouth County Court denied an application to see liquor at the State Military encampment in Sea Girt.

The anonymous writer of her Newark Methodist Conference obituary characterized her speaking style: "her manner was gentle, dignified, and pathetic, and when she closed, there was not an unmolested eye in the assemblage." She regularly spoke at Monmouth County meetings in which liquor licenses were at the agenda including one such occasion in which she "asked God to bless the court and put it in the hearts of the judges to refuse the applications for licenses."³⁸

On another occasion, described by the press in depth, she spoke at a discussion of a proposed New Jersey law to repeal local option for alcoholic beverages. The anonymous Red Bank (New Jersey) report indicated that she gave a "very long" speech and described the appearance of the diminutive activist:

Mrs. Crane is a slightly built woman about fifty years old . She was dressed in black, wearing a black velvet coat and a black velvet hat with a black ostrich feather. Amid this array of black and shining with remarkable vividness by the contrast, was a bow of white satin ribbon, the emblem of the Women's temperance union.

The reporter, possibly jaundiced by the long speech, concluded his account of her by remarking "she also said a good deal about snakes and about killing them off."³⁹

A fast-rising star on the lecture circuit and a skilled communicator, both on the printed page and at the speaker's podium, Helen would augment her presentations on "The Effects of Alcohol on the Organs and Tissues of the Body" with creative touches that included dropping the white of an egg into a glass of liquor, and explaining to her audience how the alcohol hardened the egg into a state that resembled "being cooked."⁴⁰ Upon taking up residence at Arbutus Cottage in the summer of 1883, Helen soon joined the WCTU chapter of Ocean Grove and Asbury Park — where her energy, her family connections, and her support for Bradley's old-school Methodist ideals would see her quickly rise to the presidency of the chapter in November of that year.

³⁷Gullason, *A Garland of Writings*, 152-153; [Nashville, Nov. 16], *Tyrone Daily Herald*, November 17, 1887.

³⁸O.P. Opdyke, *Minutes of the Thirty-Fifth Session of the Newark Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church* (New York: Hunter & Eaton, 1892), 90.

³⁹"Now for Local Option", *Red Bank Register*, November 28, 1888.

⁴⁰Wertheim and Sorrentino, *The Crane Log*, 14.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 13

Throwing herself into her work with the Union, Mrs. Crane opened her home to its members; inviting small audiences to the cottage, where she would deliver temperance lectures in the front parlor. She became involved in other civic endeavors (such as a campaign to allow women voting rights in Board of Education elections, and an initiative to establish a separate state prison for women), and would also put her skills as a writer to work in WCTU journals and Methodist periodicals, and in guest pieces for newspapers like the *Ocean Grove Record*, where she inveighed against “the growing taste for worldly amusements which keeps the young from the house of God.”⁴¹

In published pieces such as “How to Conduct a Weekly Meeting of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union” (1883), Helen “proved she was no fanatic but a practical, hardworking, effective organizer and campaigner, keenly aware of the many details involved in the preparation of a meeting, and trying to woo others to join the WCTU.”⁴² Thanks to her son Townley’s connections in the newspaper business, Helen also became a regular contributor of reports to the *New York Tribune*, the *Philadelphia Press*, and the *Monmouth Tribune*.⁴³ While most of the surviving Crane children had married and started families and careers of their own by 1884, there was school-age Stephen to look after — as well as spinster daughter Agnes and, on occasion, the comings and goings of Luther Crane and other offspring during times of need and reversals. When the coal stocks lost a considerable amount of their value during the “Panic of 1884,” Mrs. Crane made the decision to rent out rooms in her home to summer tourists — something that she continued to do throughout the remainder of her days at Arbutus Cottage.

Given Helen’s frequent absence from the house and the degree of her involvement in WCTU matters, Agnes Crane had been charged with the actual rearing of her youngest brother since the family’s arrival in Asbury Park. The quiet educator, recognizing both the creative and the rebellious streaks in Stephen, encouraged him to embrace life and avoid the unhappy tendencies of his repressed and “oyster-like family.”⁴⁴ During her own brief time at Arbutus Cottage, Agnes also quietly indulged her own passions for creative writing and art. She withdrew early from her job at the city’s public school in May 1884, and lived to see the publication of one short story, “The Result of an Experiment,” in *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Weekly*, prior to her passing from cerebrospinal meningitis the next month — becoming in the process the first of her family members to stake a claim as a published writer of fiction.

In the days following her death, Agnes was honored by the Asbury Park Board of Education with a resolution that gave “public expression to our high appreciation of her amiable character and

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Gulleason, ed., *A Garland of Writings: Stephen Crane’s Literary Family*, 142.

⁴³ Ibid., 143.

⁴⁴ Wertheim and Sorrentino, *The Crane Log*, 24.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 14

her invaluable services as a teacher.” The proclamation, which remains on display beneath a portrait of Agnes in the front parlor at Arbutus Cottage, commends her “many rare graces of character,” and recognizes her as “a faithful and efficient teacher” of “tireless industry, skill and tact.”⁴⁵ A short poem by Agnes entitled “Content” was published immediately after her passing, in the *Asbury Park Journal*⁴⁶ — and, upon going through her late daughter’s papers, Mrs. Crane shortly thereafter discovered the manuscripts of three more completed stories inside Agnes’s writing desk at Arbutus Cottage.⁴⁷ The stories — “A Victorious Defeat,” “How It Happened,” and “Laurel Camp, and What Became of It” — also saw print in *Leslie’s* in the coming months, with “Laurel Camp” going on to be regarded by some scholars as having influenced her brother’s later novel “The Third Violet.”⁴⁸

What Agnes may or may have not known is that her mother — whose numerous publication credits had by that point been largely confined to short editorial pieces that argued for Temperance and Prohibition, and for dry reports concerning minutes of WCTU business and the conducting of meetings — harbored a playful and artistic streak of her own that manifested itself in a facility with pen-and-ink drawings, pastels and wax sculptures, as well as a handful of brief prose sketches that saw print in such local papers as the *Monmouth Tribune*. Written in a folksy vernacular under the comical persona of Jerusha Ann Stubbs of the “Skrub Oak Skule Deestrick” (and, in the case of “How Jonathan Saved the Ash Barrel,” credited to Jerusha Ann), these lighthearted pieces show a much different side of Mrs. Crane — and, although some of them were not published until 1889, the stories are thought to have inspired teenaged Stephen’s 1885 story, “Uncle Jake and the Bell Handle.”⁴⁹

Despite the family tree full of budding fiction writers, seasoned journalists and steadfast moralists, not everyone who occupied Arbutus Cottage was a wordsmith by nature. Brother Luther occupied a second-floor bedroom while recovering from an overdose of Laudanum in 1884 — and thereafter found employment on the Erie Railroad, where he would be killed in an on-job accident a few years later. Another Crane brother, Wilbur (who, as mentioned previously, also worked briefly for Townley’s news service) reportedly lived for a time in the house. Various unsubstantiated reports have the widowed Townley — the so-called “Shore fiend” and “physical derelict” who adopted an increasingly eccentric aspect, dressing in heavy overcoats and mufflers on the hottest of summer days⁵⁰ — residing at Arbutus Cottage, or at the Hotel Vendome in downtown Asbury Park, in the years following the death of his wife Fanny, and his two children

⁴⁵ Asbury Park Board of Education, preamble and resolution document, 28 June 1884.

⁴⁶ Collected in Gulleason, ed., *A Garland of Writings*.

⁴⁷ 43 Paul Sorrentino, “Newly Discovered Writings of Mary Helen Peck Crane and Agnes Crane,” published in *Syracuse University Library Associates COURIER*, 21, 1 (Spring 1986)

⁴⁸ Donna Campbell, “More Than a Family Resemblance,” in *Stephen Crane Studies*, 16, 1 (Spring 2007).

⁴⁹ Collected in Gulleason, *A Garland of Writings*.

⁵⁰ Wertheim and Sorrentino, *The Crane Log*, 44.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 15

from that marriage (his second wife passed away shortly before Helen in 1891).⁵¹ In 1887, Stephen's recently widowed oldest sister Nellie Van Nortwick (formerly Mary Helen Peck Crane Jr.) set up what is considered to be the first art school in Asbury Park, at Arbutus Cottage (it move to larger quarters on Cookman Avenue two years later). And, in 1890, Helen explored another facet of her writing when she produced a leaflet that detailed the history of the oldest cottage in Ocean Grove.⁵²

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union, however, would remain the primary conduit for the energies of Mrs. Crane, who according to a March 11, 1886 report in the *Asbury Park Shore Press* was "suffering from a temporary aberration of the mind...and is now in critical condition." Another source, the *Asbury Park Journal*, reported on March 13 that "Mrs. Crane has been extremely ill for some time, and although her mind is yet feeble it is hoped with returning strength her mental troubles will disappear."⁵³ She apparently recovered enough to be elected as the first president of the WCTU in Asbury Park, newly split off that year from the Ocean Grove chapter, and to undertake a renovation of Arbutus Cottage circa 1888 — an expansion that the *Press* reported "has so enlarged and beautified Arbutus Cottage on Fourth Avenue that it is now one of the finest cottages in the Park."

Helen, whose WCTU activities included attending the organization's national conventions in Nashville (1887) and Boston (1891), continued to conduct WCTU business at the Cottage, and to receive visitors there. The enlargement and beautification of the cottage may have been completed in time for her most prominent visitor, the WCTU co-founder Frances Willard, a renowned suffragist and temperance advocate who become the president of the National Council for Women in 1888. Willard was one of the most famous women of her day, and was later honored with a statue in the National Statuary Hall of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.⁵⁴

In declining physical health, beset by numerous losses and family tragedies, and possibly plagued by mental health issues that continue to be debated by Crane scholars, Mary Helen Peck Crane passed away in December of 1891, leaving her independent 20 year-old son Stephen nominally in the charge of brother Edmund Crane. The surviving Crane offspring (William, Townley, Edmund, George, Nellie, Wilbur and Stephen) were bequeathed equal shares of Arbutus Cottage and the coal mining stocks; Stephen and several of the other siblings (listed as Edmund et. al. on the deed) sold their shares to William, who would become the sole listed owner in March 1893 upon purchasing Townley's share for \$400. The last Crane family

⁵¹ 47 "A Notable Career Begins in Asbury Park," published in the *Asbury Park Sunday Press*; 31 May 1931.

⁵² David, *Badge of Courage*, 29.

⁵³ Wertheim and Sorrentino, *The Crane Log*, 39.

⁵⁴ Davis, *Badge of Courage*, 25.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 16

members listed as owners of Arbutus Cottage were George P. and Elizabeth A. Crane, who sold to Mr. Theodore Cougar for \$3,000 in October of 1899.⁵⁵

Arbutus Cottage Since 1900

Following the departure of the Crane family, Arbutus Cottage went through several changes of ownership in rapid succession, with Theodore and Mary Cougar selling to Joseph Davis in June 1900, and the house purchased in turn by Walter Armitage (November 1900), John L. Armitage (August 1901), Frank B. Allen (unknown date circa 1902), Francis M. Tichenor (November 1903), and John L. Lee (November 1904). The Lees became the longest running owners of the property since the Cranes, and were possibly the owners who oversaw the tower addition to the cottage. John L. Lee's widow Lillie D. Lee sold the improved Arbutus Cottage to Catherine Dietz for \$7,500 in June 1913, but later regained ownership. Mrs. Lee again sold the cottage, to Thomas A. Pullen in October 1916, beginning a chaotic interlude in which Arbutus Cottage changed hands five times in less than two years, finally to Anna F. Newkirk in July 1918.

The house stayed with Newkirk until September 1923, when she sold (again for the sum of \$1.00) to the NJ-based real estate company Rellum, Inc. The company sold it to George M. Kimble in October 1928 for the price tag of \$18,000, then the highest sale value to date for the Arbutus Cottage property, and Kimble held the property until 1946, when he lost the property to foreclosure. A public auction was conducted by court-appointed Special Master of the Court of Chancery Haydn Proctor in November 1946, and the winning bid of \$15,500 was submitted by Florence McCorkendale of Newark, NJ. She and her husband Archie rebranded the house as "The Florence," and operated it until the mid-1970s as one of many summer hotels or boarding houses in Asbury Park.

During their long ownership, the McCorkendales removed the west wraparound porch (creating first and second story rooms on its footprint); they also added extra bathrooms on the first and second floors, dismantled the old fireplace, and installed a phone booth within a first-floor space that ran beneath the stairwell. As the summer tourism business declined in the city toward the latter half of the 20th century, however, they divided the house into five apartments (with the carriage house at the rear of the property reworked into two additional units), with portions of the attic also reconfigured as occupancy space (borne out by room numbers still visible on doors).

Asbury Park itself experienced a marked decline throughout the 1970s, and Florence McCorkendale died in 1978, with title to 508 Fourth Avenue passing to her widower/executor Archie. The years of decline in Asbury Park continued unabated through the 1980s and 90s, and

⁵⁵ See deeds in the Monmouth County Clerk's Office, Freehold, New Jersey.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 17

when Archie McCorkendale died intestate in April 1990, the sole occupant of the house was the McCorkendale's daughter Lois. Based in just one or two rooms of the second floor, Lois lived without utility hookups in her final months there; covering the walls of her room with hand-scrawled political diatribes, addresses and phone numbers of politicians (a portion of her writings remain visible to visitors today) and, according to county records, eventually being removed from the premises upon having been "adjudicated a mental incompetent on July 14, 1992."

Ownership of the property at 508 Fourth Avenue consequently was transferred to the city, which boarded up the cottage and the carriage house (abandoned circa 1985), and scheduled the structures for demolition in 1995. It was at that point that New Jersey Natural Gas executive and Asbury Park resident Thomas F. Hayes, learning of the house's past association with Stephen Crane, offered to take it off the city's hands. In the late spring of 1995, Hayes purchased 508 Fourth Avenue for \$7,500, the same price that the property had fetched in the year 1913.

Working with city historian Werner Baumgartner and a team of community volunteers — and with the aim of restoring and maintaining the house as a museum devoted to Crane's life, work and family⁵⁶ — the Hayes family undertook a "rescue" and restoration of the house. The City of Asbury Park approved the plan to operate the first floor of the house as a small museum and venue for presentations of cultural/historical interest, with the second floor approved as a residence for rental tenants. The nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation Stephen Crane House, Inc. was established, and, following extensive "stabilizing" work to floors, ceilings and infrastructure, the newly branded Stephen Crane House opened its doors to the public in the spring of 1996.

At first, little more than the restored front parlor and two or three additional rooms were ready for public use. Two original plays were commissioned by the Stephen Crane House in its first year of operation, one of which ("The Crane Chronicles") was performed in various rooms of the house by actors portraying members of the Crane family.

The Hayes family moved out of Asbury Park in 2001, and sold the property to their neighbor, retired schoolteacher and local Board of Education member Frank D'Alessandro; donating funds toward the installation of a new roof to replace the badly deteriorating slate covering installed more than a century before. Over the course of more than a decade, D'Alessandro oversaw extensive renovations that included painting, roofing and ceiling work; bracing of sagging floors; repairs to furnace/ radiators and electrical systems; and the installation of new doors, bath fixtures and kitchen appliances. D'Alessandro has continued to maintain The Stephen Crane House as a venue for arts events, including regular film screenings with literary themes, original theatrical works, author appearances and writer's workshops.

In December 2001, a \$10,000 donation from Bruce Springsteen (a benefaction from one of a series of concerts at Asbury Park's Convention Hall) provided assistance in the restoration of the

⁵⁶ Alvin Klein, "Celebrity May Be Fleeting, but the House Is Still Standing," *The New York Times*; 19 April 1998.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 18

house's roof and first-floor Lecture Room performance space⁵⁷ — and in 2010, the former carriage house/barn was extensively renovated, and became the primary residence of Frank D'Alessandro.

Today, The Stephen Crane House features several exhibit rooms, including a parlor/foyer with Civil War memorabilia and portraits of Crane and Peck family members, as well as a second floor library with a collection of works by and about Stephen Crane and his contemporaries. The Lecture Room theater, reception and conference rooms are also made available to arts groups, civic organizations and local nonprofits, while the second floor features a residential apartment and office.

Having received numerous visitors that have ranged from local primary school children to famous actors, The Stephen Crane House has been featured in several periodicals and on a national television show. As one of the oldest surviving homes in Asbury Park, it continues to serve as the regular meeting venue of the Asbury Park Historical Society, which in 2013 announced a capital campaign to purchase The Stephen Crane House, with the object of maintaining it as the city's first official museum.

⁵⁷ Frank D'Alessandro, "The Preservation of Asbury Park.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 1

[Anon.]. "A Notable Career Begins in Asbury Park." Asbury Park Sunday Press. May 31, 1931.

Bowers, Fredson ed., Stephen Crane: Tales, Sketches and Reports, Vol. VIII, University Press of Virginia 1973.

Campbell, Donna, "More Than a Family Resemblance," published in Stephen Crane Studies Vol. 16 No. 1; Stephen Crane Society, Spring 2007.

Colvert, James, Stephen Crane. Harcourt 1984.

D'Alessandro, Frank, "The Preservation of Asbury Park's Arbutus Cottage," published in Stephen Crane Studies; Stephen Crane Society, Spring 2002.

Davis, Linda H., Badge of Courage: The Life of Stephen Crane. Houghton Mifflin, 1998.

Franchere, Ruth, Stephen Crane: The Story of an American Writer. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1961.

Gulleston, Thomas A, ed., A Garland of Writings: Stephen Crane's Literary Family; Syracuse University Press, 2002.

Klein, Alvin, "Celebrity May Be Fleeting, but the House Is Still Standing," published in the New York Times; 19 April 1998.

Lukes, Bonnie L., Soldier's Courage: The Story of Stephen Crane; Morgan Reynolds, 2002.

"Nashville: November 16th", Tyrone [PA] Daily Herald. November 17, 1887.

"Now for Local Option." Red Bank Register. November 28, 1888.

Oliver, Arthur, "Jersey Memories: Stephen Crane," published in Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society; October 1931.

Opdyke, O.P. Minutes of the Thirty-fifth Session of the Newark Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. New York: Hunter & Eaton, 1892.

Robertson, Michael, Stephen Crane, Journalism and the Making of Modern American Literature; Columbia University Press, 1997.

Robertson, Michael, David Holmes and Roxana Paz, "An Ironist at the Seashore: Possible Additions to the Crane Canon"; published in Stephen Crane Studies Vol. 9 No. 2; Fall 2000.

Sorrentino, Paul, "Newly Discovered Writings of Mary Helen Peck Crane and Agnes Crane," published in Syracuse University Library Associates COURIER Vol. XXI No. 1; Spring 1986

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 2

Stallman, R.W., *Stephen Crane: A Biography*; George Braziller, 1968.

Weinstein, Bernard, "Stephen Crane, Journalist;" published in *Stephen Crane in Transition: Centenary Essays*, Joseph Katz, ed.; Northern Illinois University Press, 1972

Wertheim, Stanley, ed., *The Stephen Crane Encyclopedia*; Greenwood Press, 1997.

Wertheim, Stanley and Paul Sorrentino, *The Crane Log: A Documentary Life of Stephen Crane, 1871-1900*; G.K. Hall & Co., 1994.

Williams, Crane, Freneau: Papers and Poems Celebrating New Jersey's Literary Heritage, New Jersey Historical Commission, Department of State, W. John Bauer, ed., 1989.

Wolff, Daniel, *Fourth of July Asbury Park*, Bloomsbury USA, 2005.

Other sources:

Asbury Park Board of Education, preamble and resolution document, 28 June 1884

Asbury Park Sunday Press; 31 May 1931: "A Notable Career Begins in Asbury Park," unbylined feature

Catalogue of the Public Schools of Asbury Park and Ocean Grove, 1883-1884

Deeds and records pertaining to 508 Fourth Ave., Asbury Park, archived at Hall of Records, County of Monmouth, NJ; chart/table prepared by Tara Christiansen and Susan Rosenberg from this information

Website of wctu.org (formerly Woman's Christian Temperance Union)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The following metes-and-bounds description is taken from the deed that transferred the property from Tom Hayes to Francis D'Alessandro in 2001:

Beginning at a point in the southerly line of Fourth Avenue said point being distant 200.00 feet westerly from the intersection formed by the southerly line of Fourth Avenue and the westerly line of Grand Avenue and from there thence

1. South 24 degrees zero minutes 00 seconds west, 150.00 feet to a point; thence
2. North 66 degrees 00 minutes West, 50.00 feet to a point; thence
3. North 24 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, 150 feet to a point in the southerly line of Fourth Avenue; thence
4. South 66 degrees zero minutes 00 seconds East along said southerly line of Fourth Avenue, 50 feet to the point and place of the beginning

Boundary Justification

The nominated property constitutes the entirety of the lot historically associated with Arbutus Cottage. (Please reference Site Map and Property Map)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage Stephen Crane house
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number Photos Page 1

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Arbutus Cottage / Stephen Crane House
Name of Photographer: Susan Rosenberg / David Sobotka
Date of Photographs: October 2013 int./ February 2014 ext.
Location of Original Digital Files: 508 Fourth Ave., Asbury Park NJ 07712

Photo#:

- 01 north façade, camera facing south
- 02 east elevation [left] and north façade [right], camera facing southwest
- 03 south elevation [left] and east elevation [right], camera facing northwest
- 04 south elevation, camera facing north
- 05 west elevation [left] and south elevation [right], camera facing northeast
- 06 west elevation showing cellar access, camera facing east
- 07 front porch showing windows, camera facing west
- 08 front porch, camera facing east
- 09 interior view of foyer showing front door, camera facing north
- 10 interior view of foyer showing bay window, camera facing east
- 11 interior view of foyer showing hallway door and stairwell, camera facing south
- 12 interior view of parlor, camera facing northwest
- 13 interior detail of parlor, camera facing south
- 14 interior detail of parlor, camera facing southwest
- 15 interior detail of parlor showing supply room and movie room, camera facing west
- 16 interior detail of movie room showing old exterior wall, camera facing east
- 17 interior view of supply room showing old exterior wall, camera facing southwest
- 18 interior detail showing French doors in parlor, camera facing south
- 19 interior view of old 1st floor bathroom, camera facing west
- 21 interior view of lecture room, camera facing east
- 22 interior view of lecture room, camera facing west
- 23 interior detail of lecture room showing old wallpaper, camera facing northwest
- 24 interior detail of reception room showing stove, camera facing north
- 25 interior view of reception room showing addition, camera facing east
- 26 interior view of reception room showing old window, facing south
- 27 interior detail of rear kitchen showing old exterior wall and window, facing northeast
- 28 interior view of rear kitchen and entrance to new 1st floor bathroom, camera facing east
- 29 interior view of stairs showing hallway and banister, camera facing east
- 30 interior view of "sewing room" display, camera facing south
- 31 interior view of "sewing room" display, camera facing north
- 32 interior view of library, camera facing southwest
- 33 interior view of library, camera facing northwest
- 34 interior detail of library, camera facing east
- 35 interior detail of 2nd floor old bathroom, camera facing west

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

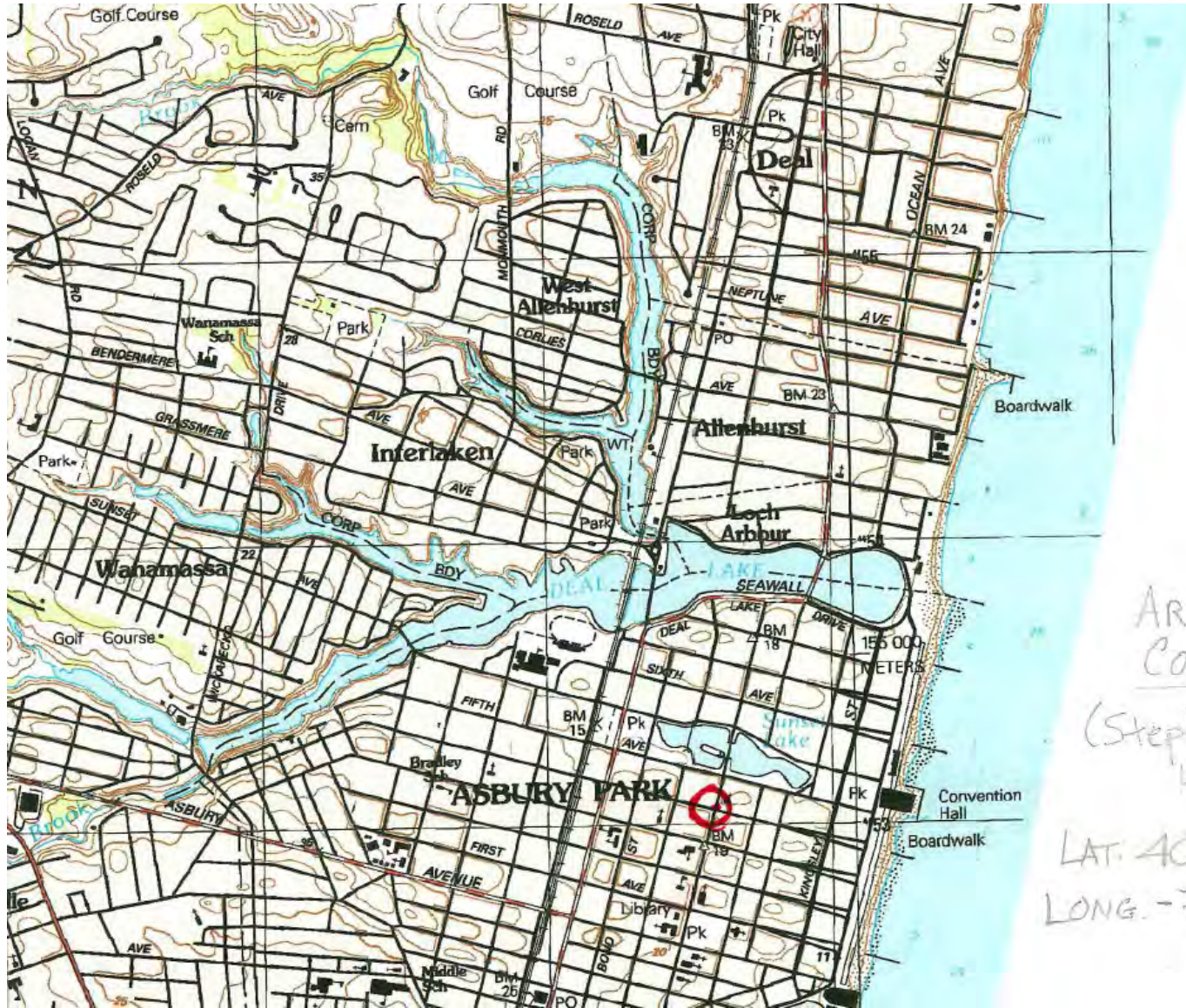
Arbutus Cottage Stephen Crane house
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number Photos Page 2

- 36 interior view of master bedroom/conference room, camera facing east
- 37 interior view of master bedroom/conference room, camera facing south
- 38 interior view of 2nd floor utility room, camera facing west
- 39 interior detail of 2nd floor new bathroom, showing old exterior wall, facing southwest
- 40 interior view of 2nd floor old bedroom, camera facing east
- 41 interior detail of 2nd floor old bedroom, camera facing south
- 42 interior view of apartment bedroom, camera facing east
- 43 interior view of apartment kitchen, camera facing south
- 44 interior view of apartment living room, camera facing southwest
- 45 interior view of apartment living room and bathroom, camera facing east
- 46 interior detail of apartment bathroom, camera facing southeast
- 47 interior detail of office, facing northwest
- 48 interior view of stairs to 3rd floor, facing east
- 49 interior view of south side of attic, middle room, camera facing south
- 50 interior view of south side of attic, middle room, camera facing north
- 51 interior detail of south side of attic, west room, camera facing south
- 52 interior detail of south side of attic, east room, camera facing east
- 53 interior detail of north side of attic, camera facing south
- 54 interior view of north side of attic, camera facing north
- 55 interior view of north side of attic, tower room, camera facing east
- 56 exterior view of fire escape, camera facing east
- 57 interior view of old cellar staircase, camera facing south
- 58 interior view of cellar, showing old coal bin, camera facing east
- 59 interior view of cellar, showing crawlspace, camera facing north
- 60 interior view of cellar staircase, camera facing west

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)

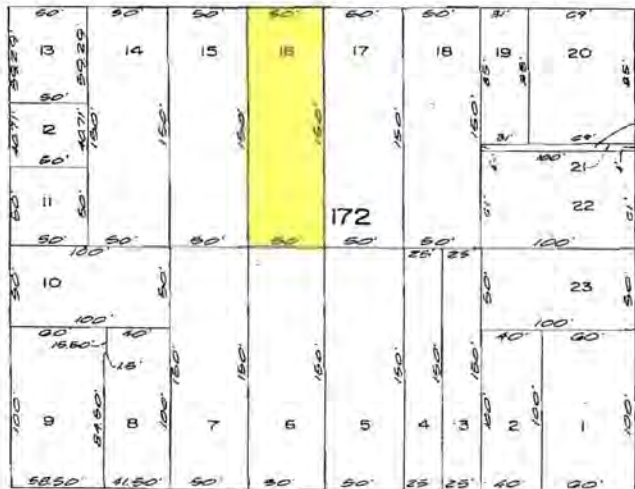
Monmouth County, New Jersey



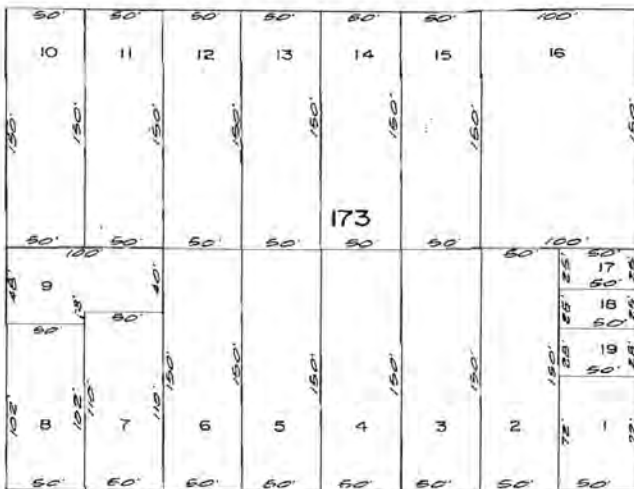
ARBUTUS
COTTAGE
(Stephen Crane
Hse)
LAT: 40.223535
LONG: -74.006942

Asbury Park Quadrangle
New Jersey
7.5-Minutes Series (Topographic)

STREET



AVENUE



STREET



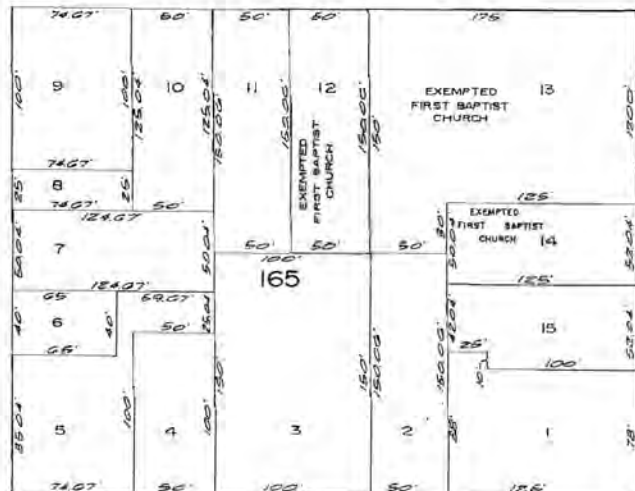
STREET

FOURTH

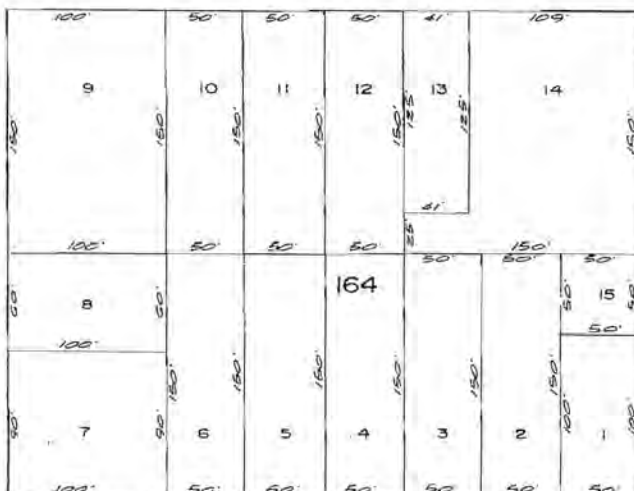
THIRD

AVENUE

EMORY



GRAND



HECK



BERGH

SECOND

AVENUE





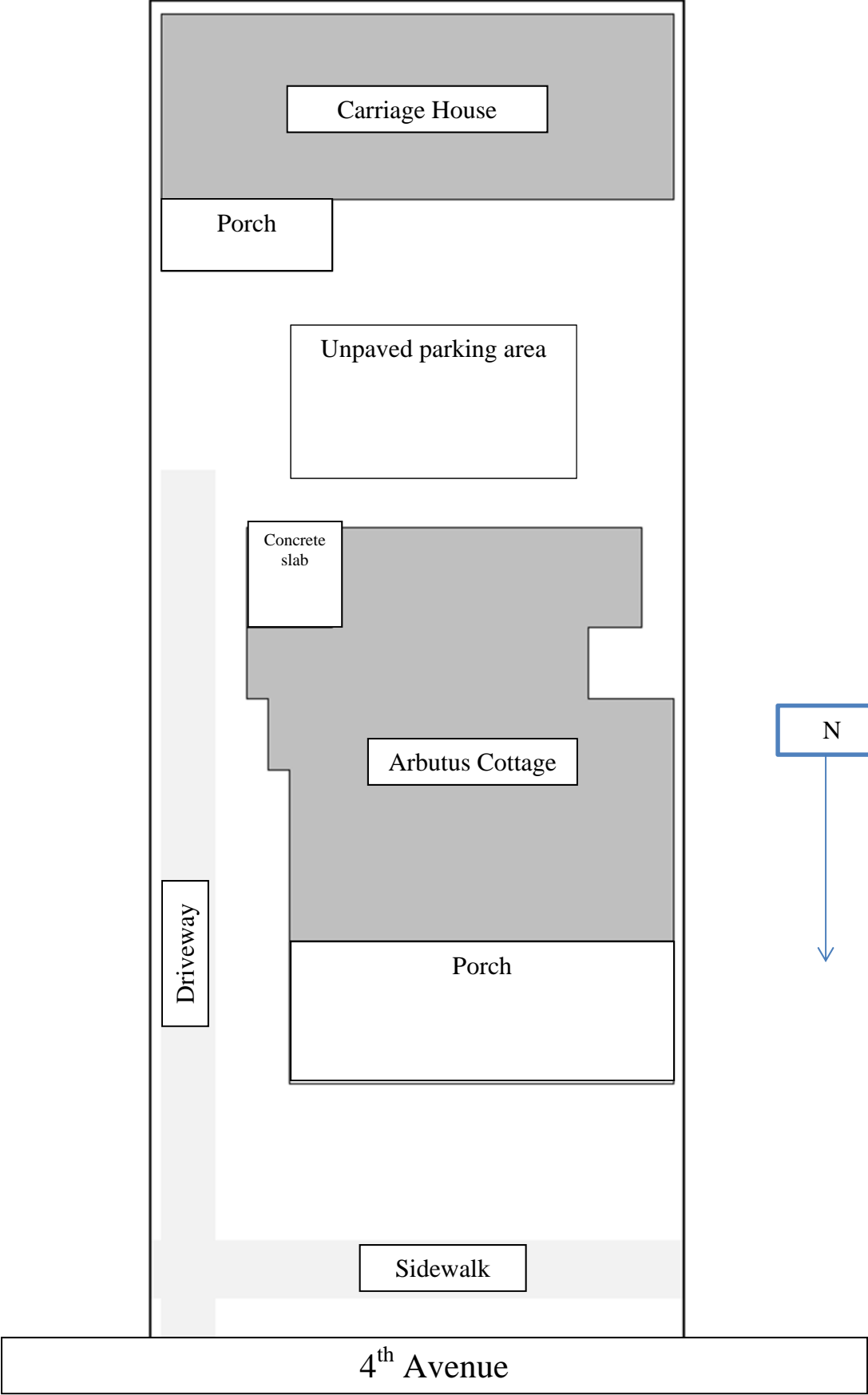
Site Map

for

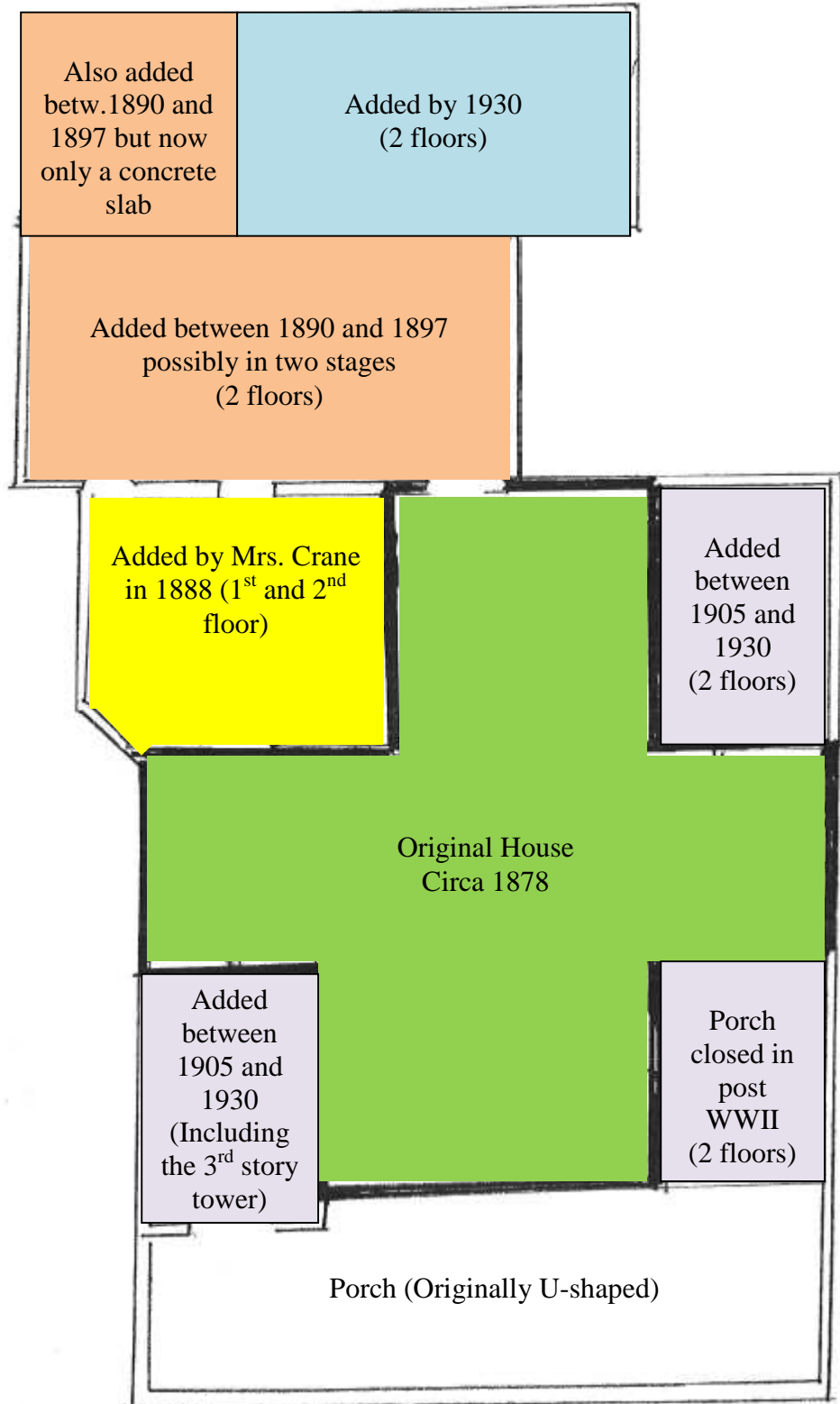
Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)

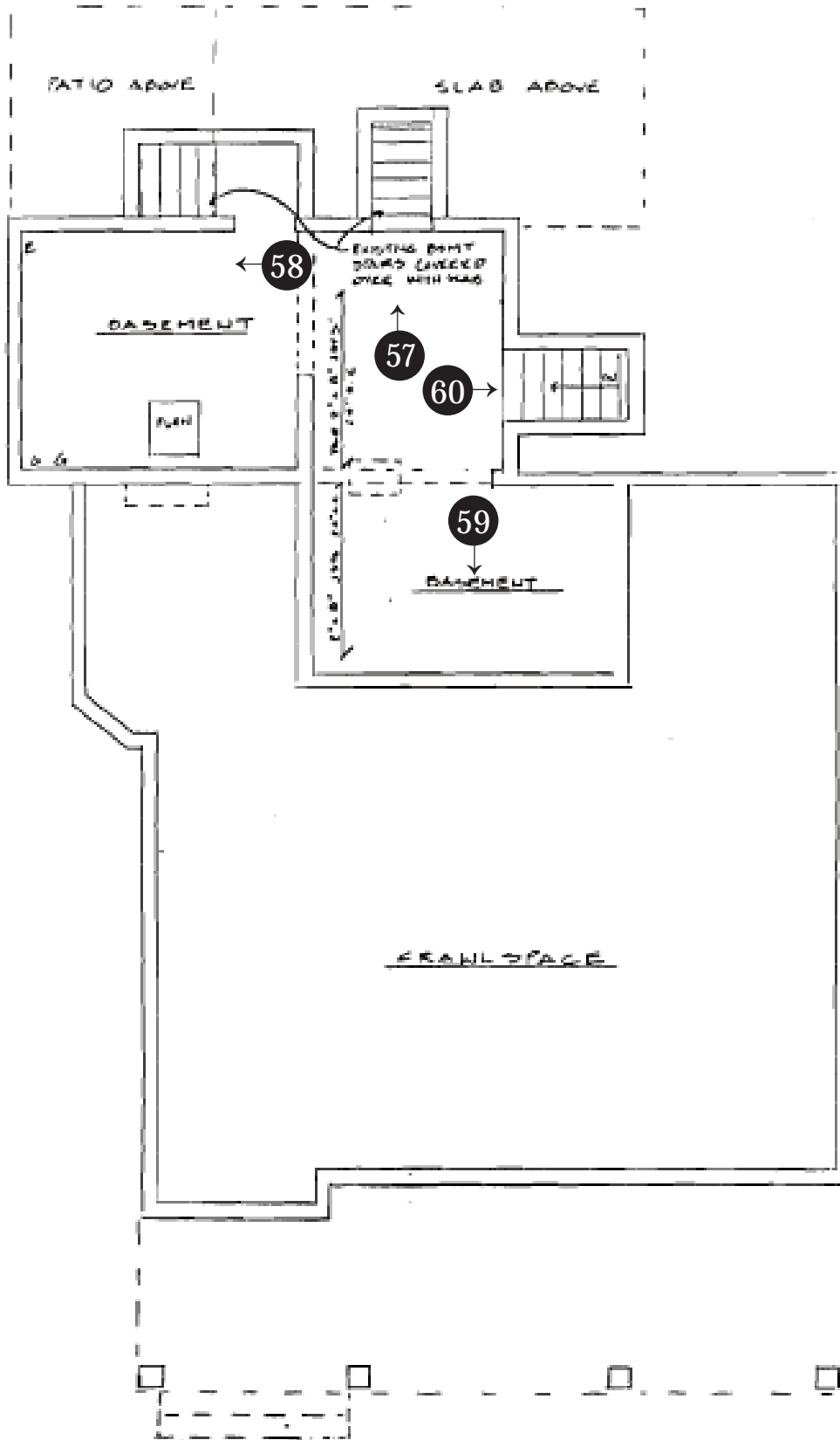
508 Fourth Avenue

Asbury Park, Monmouth County, NJ



Arbutus Cottage – Changes Over Time

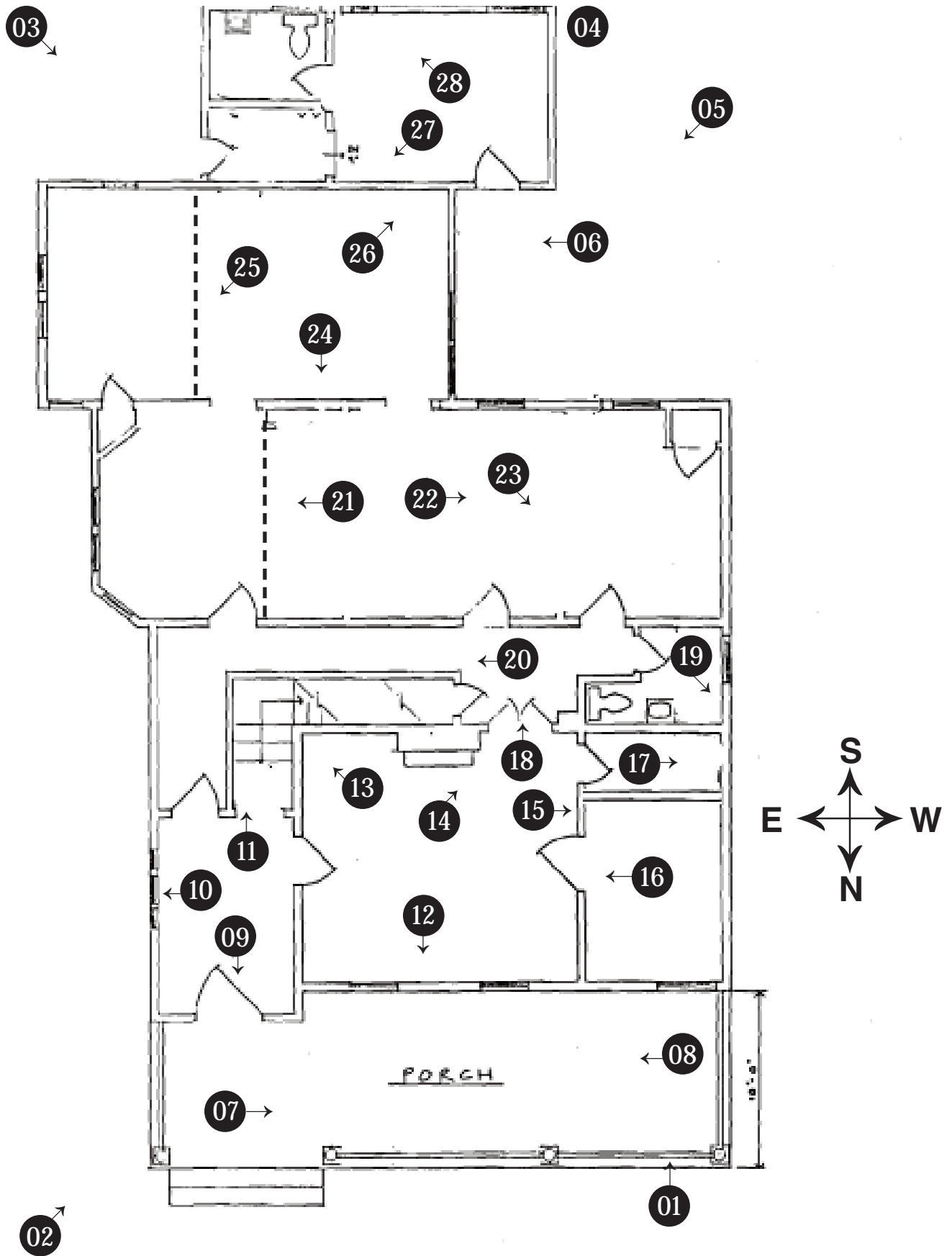




NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage

BASEMENT PLAN
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

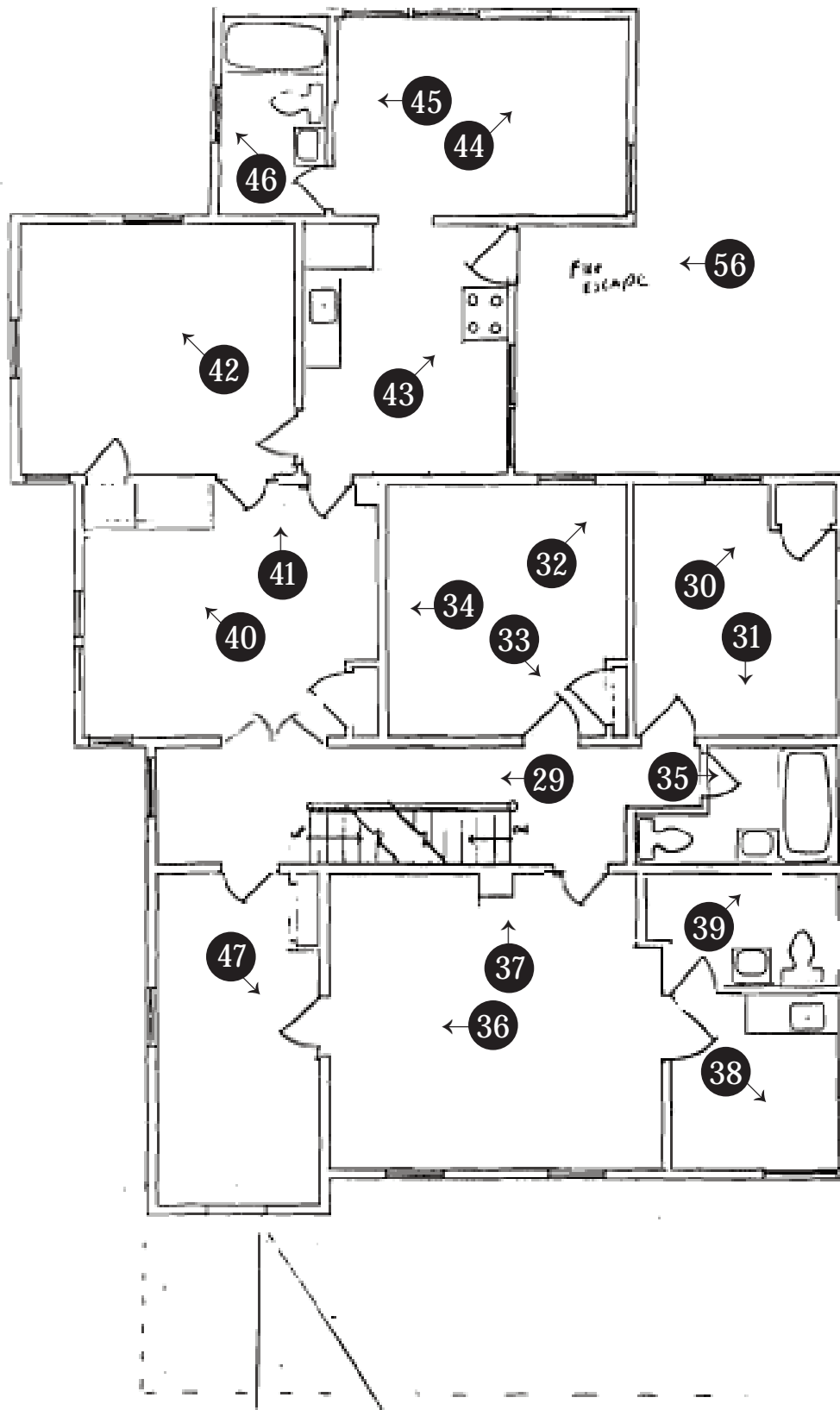
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6

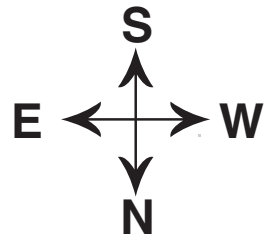
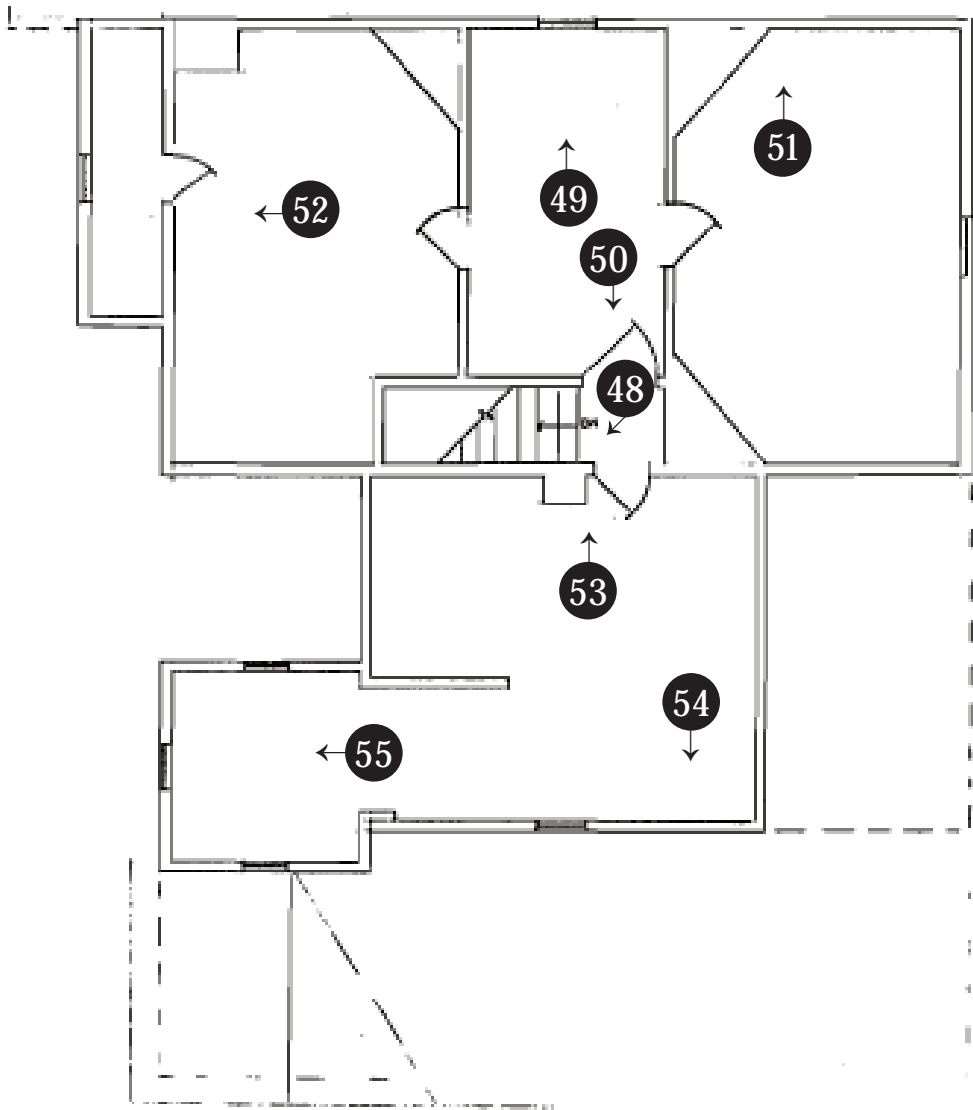


NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"





NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



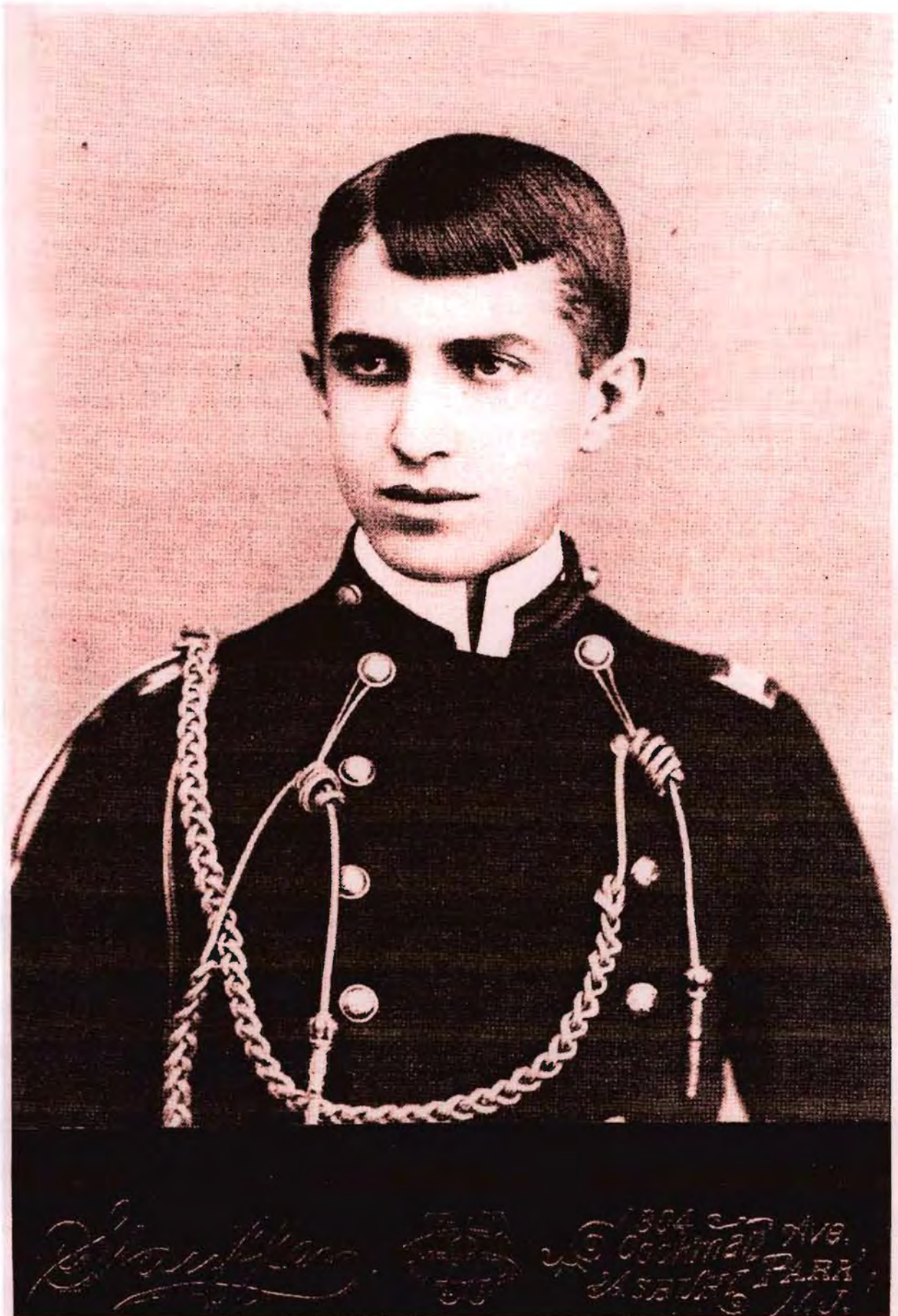


**Carriage House
Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
508 Fourth Avenue
Asbury Park, Monmouth County, NJ**



Shared Driveway

**Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
508 Fourth Avenue
Asbury Park, Monmouth County, NJ**



Crane as a lieutenant in the Hudson River Institute cadet corps,
1889 or 1890 (courtesy Barrett Collection, University of Virginia)



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0001



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0002



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0003



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0004



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0005



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0006



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0007



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0008



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0009



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0010



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0011



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0012



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0013



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0014



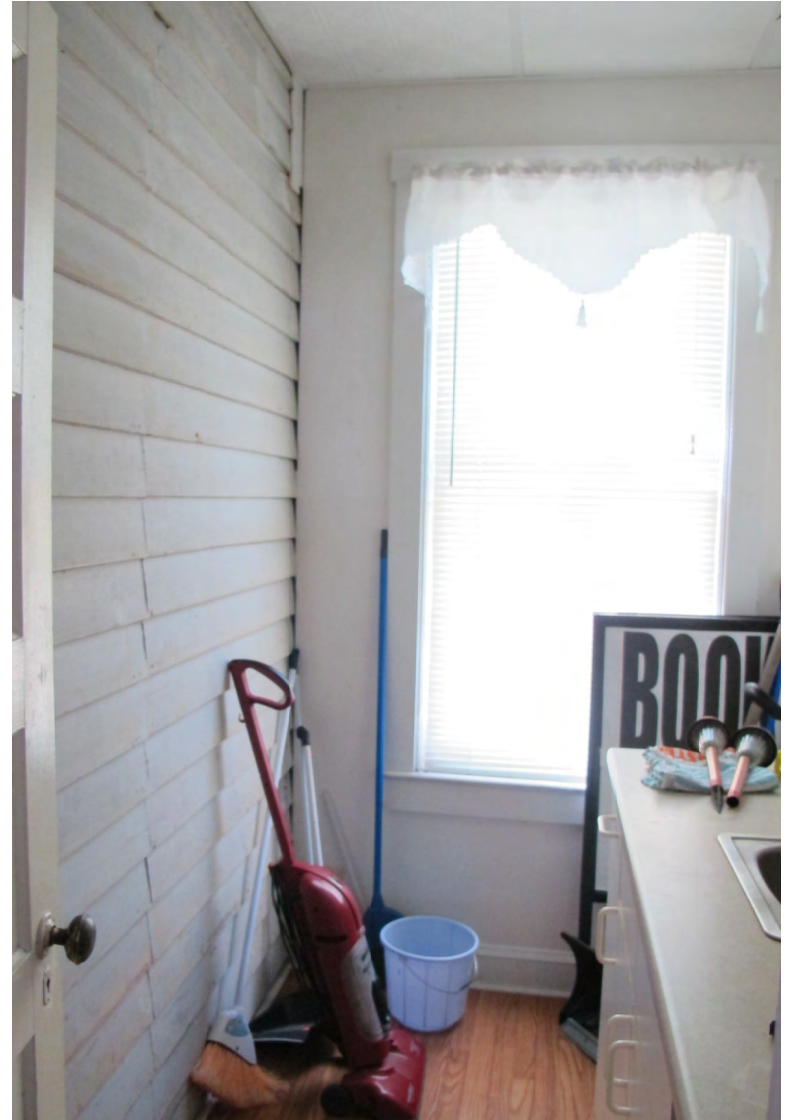
NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0015



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0016



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0018



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0017



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0020



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0019



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0021



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0022



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0023



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0024



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0026



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0025



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0028



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0027



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0029



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0030



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0031



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0032



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0033



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0034



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0035



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0036



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0037



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0038



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0040



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0039



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0041



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0042



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0043



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0044



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0045



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0046

NJ_Monmouth County_Arbtus Cottage_0048



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbtus Cottage_0047





NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0049



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0050



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0051



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0052



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0054



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0053



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0055



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0056



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0057



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0058



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0059



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage_0060



508
The
Stephen Crane
House
"Arbutus Cottage"
c. 1878













800 470
GRATE HOUSE



FLORENCE

EXIT

Asbury Park
Historical Society



NCE

EXIT

Asbury Park
Historical Society





Stephen Cross



THIS WAY TO EVENT

BOOKS CENTURY





Small rectangular notice or card pinned to the wall.

Small rectangular notice or card pinned to the wall.



Golden Toned

Beethoven Piano & Organ Co. Valerston, N.J.

Golden Toned





Mary Ellen Peck Crane
1818 - 1885



[Blank white card]



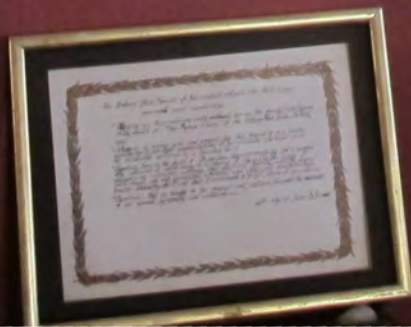
[Blank white card]



SUPPLY
ROOM



Agnes Elizabeth Cross
August 18, 1881 - 1961





GREAT COMEDIES
Book Rick
W.C. Fields Festival
HERE COME THE CO-EDS
THE NAUGHTY NINETIES
MR. BILLY'S HOLIDAY
LITTLE RASCALS
MACK SENNETT COMEDIES

TV
COMEDY CLASSICS
LAUREL AND HARDY
MARCH WOODEN SOLDIERS
NOOK'S TOUR

MUSIC COMEDY
LET'S GO TO DEATH
HEAD ON HEELS
FATBO
ERFNO
C.O. PROFESSIONALS
CARD SHARPS

MURDER BY DEATH
MRS DOUBTFIRE
SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE
The Perils of Pauline
The Other
MURDER BY DEATH
MRS DOUBTFIRE

MOVIE SCIFI
VALENTINE
THE WIZARD OF ID
TODDERS
TOMMY BOY











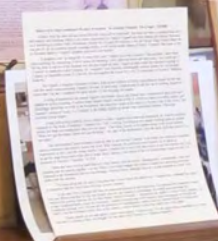
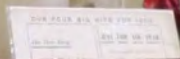
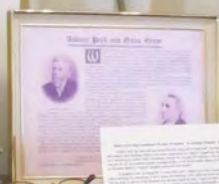




















ASBURY PARK



19th Century
Ironing Board









Suggest
Donat
\$5















NOT ENO
609-299-16
GW
FLAND
TWIN
1987-
LATERAL
THREAT



Fland...
908-775-
PK 2100
Call Hall ↑
PTE
2315-514-
4700
CALL Becker
609-600-
61775-2100
(12/6/90)
11/10/91
Jonathan
Johnson
Div of
Security
Operativ









































National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Arbutus College *Cottage*

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Monmouth

DATE RECEIVED: 07/03/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16th DAY: DATE OF 45th DAY: 08/18/15

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000003

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8/18/15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

AOS: Social History - Mary Helen Crane
local significance WCTU activities
Literature - Stephen Crane
local + state level associated w/ formative
years
POS. 1883-1892

RECOM./CRITERIA B
REVIEWER Amelore DISCIPLINE Historic
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 8/18/15

DOCUMENTATION see attsched comments Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Proj. #13-1703
Chrono #:L2014-255

State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

Office of the Assistant Commissioner
MAIL CODE 501-03A
PO Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
609-292-3541 / FAX: 609-984-0836



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

December 17, 2014

Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House), City of Asbury Park, Monmouth County, New Jersey.

This nomination has received unanimous approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Daniel D. Saunders, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420, or call him at (609) 633-2397.

Sincerely,

Rich Boornazian
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or 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 listed in 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 Arbutus Cottage

other names/site number Stephen Crane House, Florence Hotel

2. Location

street & number 508 Fourth Avenue not for publication

city or town Asbury Park City vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Monmouth code 025 zip code 07712

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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] Assistant Commissioner Date 12/16/14

Signature of certifying official/Title
NJ DEP
State or 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 this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

Returned

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane hse.)
Name of Property

Monmouth 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	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION + CULTURE / museum
DOMESTIC / multiple dwelling

Returned

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Clapboard, shingles
roof Asphalt
other

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)

Literature
Social History

Period of Significance

1883-1892

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Stephen Crane (1871-1900)
Mary Helen Peck Crane (? -1891)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Returned

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:

Asbury Park Historical Society

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane hse)
Name of Property

Monmouth County, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.17 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum: WGS84

(Enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 Latitude: 40.223535 Longitude: -74.006942

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 David Sobotka, Thomas Chesek, Susan Rosenberg
organization Asbury Park Historical Society date April 16, 2014
street & number 508 Fourth Avenue telephone (732) 774-4575
city or town Asbury Park state NJ zip code 07712

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

Returned

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 1

Description Narrative

Summary Paragraph

Arbutus Cottage, also known as the Stephen Crane house, is composed of three wood frame sections: (1) a 2.5story main block built circa 1878 as a seaside cottage, subsequently enlarged circa 1888 (during the Crane ownership) and again about 1950, and rehabilitated between 1995 and 2002; (2) a 3story tower on east elevation, built between 1905 and 1930 (hereafter referred to as "190530"); (3) a 2story addition to the rear (south elevation), built in the 1930s and remodeled circa 2002. The 2.5story main block stands on a brick foundation; its walls are clapboarded and covered with mineral fiber shingles on the lower level and wooden "fish-scale" shingles on the upper level. The original slate roof was replaced with "slate look" asphalt shingles circa 2002, and the chimney was capped around that time. The front porch (originally a U-shaped wraparound) extends for the length of the north face, with the main entrance to Arbutus Cottage relocated from the west side of the house to the north elevation upon completion of the tower addition [Photo #01]. The north elevation features two of original four floor to ceiling, double hung, French jib windows [Photo #08], each designed to be raised into an upper cavity beneath the second floor window. The east face of the tower addition features an oriel window. The tower roof is steeply hipped and features a decorative finial. The east elevation also features a beveled window wall toward the rear of the original main block; all other window frames and glass throughout the house are original to the 1878, 190530 and 1930s components of the structure. Two rear entrances exist at opposite ends of the 1930s addition (originally a sun porch; now an enclosed kitchen), and an additional entrance to the second story apartment is accessed via a wrought iron fire escape staircase installed circa 1920 [Photo #56]. Sections of the south and west exterior walls of the original main block are preserved as interior walls of the 190530 and 1950 additions [Photos #16,17,27,39]. The house, located at 508 Fourth Avenue in the city of Asbury Park, Monmouth County, N.J. (originally designated as Lot no. 977; redesignated in 1995 as Block no. 172, Lot No. 14), stands at the front of a (50' x 150') lot. Behind the house stands a former carriage house/barn, that has been renovated as a separate private residence. The two buildings share a 75 ft long driveway.

An unfinished raised basement with cement floor underlies the rear portion of the original main block, accessed via steps [Photo #60] located off a small patio area on the west side of the house [Photo #06]. A crawlspace [Photo #59] extends for the remainder of the original main block, and a former coal chute has been sealed off from outside access, as has the original basement access steps on the south side of the main block [Photo #57]. Visible in the basement are examples of circular sawn beams and balloon framing, both in use throughout New Jersey during the years in which the cottage was under construction.

First Floor

The 190530 tower entrance [Photo #08] opens into a foyer [Photos #0910] that leads to an L-shaped hallway, a stairway to the second floor, and the original parlor of the house [Photo #11]. The parlor and the foyer feature plaster/lath walls with plaster cove moldings. Restored in 1995, the parlor features the original wood floor, and original floor to ceiling double hung windows with molded trim [Photo #12] and a nonfunctioning decorative fireplace mantel indicating the location of the original working fireplace [Photo #14], further explained under Original Appearance and Subsequent Alterations.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 2

Doors at the west end of the parlor [Photo #15] enclose two small (storage/ supply) rooms that were added circa 1950 when the west wraparound of the porch was shortened. An original exterior wall of the 1878 main block became an interior wall in each of these small rooms [Photo #16]. Walls are plaster and wood flooring has been covered over with a recently installed “wood look” fabricated floor covering. The smaller of the two rooms off the parlor [Photo #17] marks the location of the original entrance to Arbutus Cottage, and was for a time an extension of an adjoining bathroom.

The south-facing end of the parlor features glazed doors [Photo #18] that open onto the L-shaped hallway leading into [Photo #20], a half-bath featuring wood floor and plumbing fixtures installed in the 1920s [Photo #19], and a closet in the space beneath the stairway to the second floor. A phone booth built during the years in which Arbutus Cottage served as a summer hotel (The Florence) occupies this closet space.

Behind this space, a large (12' x 25') room, now utilized as a lecture room/theater space [Photos #21-23], was created from two smaller adjoining rooms of the original main block. Two additional doors, located in the L-shaped hallway and the smaller hall area, indicate where separate entrances to the original rooms were located, and arched moldings in the lecture room ceiling [Photo #23] indicate the position of the old dividing wall. The two rooms — believed to be a sewing room and dining room — featured plaster/lath walls and plaster cove moldings; the present theater, which was renovated to its current use in 2002, retains the original wood floor, and a small freestanding stage has been positioned in an alcove beside the east-side oriel window. A pair of old closets with solid wood doors have been retained on the south wall of the theater space.

Two open doorways on the south wall of the lecture room (the easternmost of them showing evidence of its having formerly been a window) access an expanded “old kitchen” that was enlarged circa 1888 from the house’s original kitchen [Photo #25]. Formerly the southernmost room of Arbutus Cottage, it features a partially original wood floor, plaster cove moldings and plaster/lath walls in which have been retained a pair of (now sealed) chimney exhaust ports for a coal stove. A circa 1896 antique cast iron stove (not original to the house) stands beneath one of the exhaust ports in the oldest section of the room [Photo #24].

A window on the south wall of the old kitchen [Photo #26] was sealed off in the earlier half of the 20th century, and is visible now as part of the north-facing interior wall of a room that was enclosed at that same time [Photo #27]. Now purposed as a functioning “new kitchen,” the room is part of the circa 1930s addition and was originally a semi-enclosed sun porch. Present fixtures were installed in 2002, as were the fixtures in an adjoining half-bath [Photo #28]. The new kitchen and bath feature linoleum floor coverings and plaster walls.

Also accessible from the “old” kitchen is a rear entrance that was created in 2002; it opens onto a raised concrete pad that was installed at that time [Photo #03]. An additional entrance at the west end of the new kitchen opens onto the concrete patio, and offers access to the basement steps, and to the iron fire escape leading to the second floor apartment [Photo #56].

Second Floor

A carved wood banister [Photo #29] runs along the stairwell leading to a second floor hallway. A full bathroom that features fixtures installed in the 1920s, including a claw-foot tub [Photo #35] is located at the west end of the hallway at the top of the stairs.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 3

. Several bedrooms, all of which feature their original wood floors, plaster/lath walls and plaster cove moldings, occupy the south facing side of the original main block's second floor are. The westernmost of those bedrooms [Photos #3031] now utilized as a museum display room, retains its original double-hung windows and features a shallow closet built into the south wall.

A smaller second floor bedroom with a single window offers a view of the fire escape and patio area below, and is utilized now as a library and museum display room [Photos #3234]. The original ceiling was replaced circa 1995 with a wood/stucco covering. The room features a shallow closet built into the west wall.

Opposite the library bedroom, a larger master bedroom [Photos #3637] with two double-hung windows faces the street. The room (now used as a conference room) features wood floor and plaster/lath walls; the original chimney runs through the room's south-facing wall, and a section of the chimney brick remains visible behind the plaster [Photo #37]. A half glass panel door on the west wall opens to a storage room [Photo #38] with large janitor's sink, washer hookup, linoleum floor and double hung windows. Part of the circa 1950 addition, the room features an exterior wall of the original main block as its east interior wall.

Adjoining this storage room is an additional half-bath with fixtures installed in 2002, linoleum flooring, plaster walls, and an exterior wall of the original main block as its south interior wall [Photo #39]. Additional access to this bathroom was formerly via a doorway in the master bedroom/ conference room; that doorway was converted to a bookshelf in 2002.

Another old bedroom at the east end of the second floor features wood floor, walls with a stucco style textured finish covering the original plaster, double hung windows on the north and east walls, and a closet built into the west wall [Photos #4041]. Two narrow doors open to the kitchen and the bedroom of the house's residential apartment.

The bedroom of the residential apartment [Photo #42] features plaster walls, carpeting over wood floor, a small closet built into the north wall, and windows on the north, east and south walls. A door leads to the apartment kitchen; an additional glass panel door opens to an adjoining old bedroom, and a steel roof beam runs east-west across the ceiling. All rooms in the residential apartment date to either the 1888 or 1930s additions, and feature a flat roof.

The kitchen of the residential apartment [Photo #43] features linoleum floor, half plaster/ half wood, plaster ceiling and windows on west side. A door opens to an adjoining second floor bedroom; additional doorways lead to the bedroom and living room, and a half glass door offers access to the fire escape platform and staircase [Photo #56].

The living room of the residential apartment [Photos #44, 45] features plaster walls, carpeting over wood floor, a dropped ceiling, and a casement window with two hinged sash on the south side, overlooking the back yard and the renovated cottage at the rear of the property. A door on the east wall opens to a full bath [Photo #46] with fixtures installed circa 1995.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 4

On the north side of the second floor, situated directly above the first floor foyer, is a narrow former bedroom now purposed as an office [Photo #47]. It features wood floor, plaster walls/ceiling, storage shelves built into the west wall, and double hung windows on the north and east sides. The room overlooks a pitched roof over the front entrance to the house [Photo #01]; a paneled glass door opens to the second floor master bedroom/ conference room [Photo #36].

Third (Attic) Floor

A carpeted set of stairs [Photo #48] leads to the third story of the house; a carved wooden banister runs to the left of the steps, and two doors at the top of the stairs offer access to separate north and south wings of the attic.

A wood frame screen door at the top of the stairs [Photo #50] opens to three south side attic rooms, the middle one of which [Photo #49] features a linoleum floor, and access via window to the roof of the residential apartment area of the house. A door on the west side of the center room opens to a storage area [Photo #51] with window on west wall; a door on the east side of the center room opens to another area [Photo #52] with wood floor and a shallow storage area with wooden half door built into the east wall.

Another solid wood door at the top of the third story stairs [Photo #53] opens to two north side attic rooms, the larger of which [Photo #54] was one of several attic spaces partitioned for occupancy during the house's days as a residential hotel and boarding house. A small room at the top of the tower [Photo #55] features an unfinished wood floor and hinged swing windows overlooking the street and the rear roof of the house.

Original Appearance and Subsequent Alterations

Arbutus Cottage originally consisted of a 2.5story main block with partial basement, built circa 1878, under the ownership of Andrew and Helen Robeno, on a 50x150 lot purchased in 1873 from Asbury Park founder James Bradley. A front porch originally wrapped around the east and west elevations, with the original main entrance located on the west side of the house. A 12' x 15' kitchen (later doubled in size) featured a rear door on its east wall, and access to the basement steps on its south side. A chimney atop the original slate roof connected to a fireplace in the front parlor.

From the Robenos, Arbutus Cottage passed briefly to other owners (in May 1882 and December 1882) before being purchased by Mary Helen Peck Crane in June of 1883. Mrs. Crane was likely the first owner of the cottage to maintain year round residence there, and according to a local newspaper account in 1888, she "so enlarged and beautified Arbutus Cottage on Fourth Avenue that it is now one of the finest cottages in the Park" — a set of unspecified renovations that apparently included the enlargement of the original kitchen and extension of the house's main block into the back yard, according to a Sanborn fire insurance map from 1890. The original kitchen at the rear of the house was doubled in size about this time, with a new rear entrance created.

The removal of the east wraparound section of the porch, and the addition of a 3story tower to the northeast corner of the house, occurred at an indeterminate time between the publications of the Sanborn maps from 1905 and 1930, possibly under the tenure of the Lee family, who owned the property from 1904 to 1913, and again briefly in 1915 and 1916). The tower addition featured a foyer, a new second floor bedroom, and a possible

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 5

small bedroom on the third floor. A new entry for the staircase to the second floor was built during this time (the original stairway entrance at the southeast corner of the parlor was walled up), and a new main entrance was created on the first floor of the tower addition.

A sun porch addition at the southwest corner of the house (with a second story component that is now the living room of the residential apartment) was added by 1930, according to available maps. With the creation of the sun porch, the former access to the basement on the house's south side was sealed off (another access was created on the west side); the sun porch was enclosed and reconfigured as a kitchen at an unknown date, with the former kitchen becoming a dining room off the new kitchen.

Upon the cottage's repurposing as the Hotel Florence post WWII, the west wraparound of the original porch was removed, with the old entrance sealed up and that portion of the house remodeled into two new rooms, which featured two original exterior walls of the house as part of their interior walls. That motif was continued with the creation of two additional second floor rooms directly above the two new ones on the first floor. The house's original four bedrooms were now augmented by two or three additional accommodations on the second and third floors, with three or possibly four bathrooms (replacing the water closet facilities of the original construction) located throughout the first and second floors.

During the Florence's years of operation (approximately 1946 until the 1980s), the parlor fireplace was dismantled and replaced with a decorative mantel, and a phone booth was installed beneath the stairs. The purposing of the cottage as a hotel or apartment house featured as many as a dozen possible bedrooms or guest rooms, on all 2.5 floors, at the height of its activity in the middle of the 20th century (the carriage house/barn was eventually subdivided into two apartments as well).

In 1995, Asbury Park resident Thomas Hayes, upon learning of the house's connection to Stephen Crane, purchased Arbutus Cottage with the aim of opening to the public as a museum and space for arts/civic events. Hayes maintained a regular residence elsewhere in the city, and opened the entire second floor of Arbutus Cottage for residential rental use. All second floor rooms were repainted, with replacement ceilings, floor coverings or moldings installed in some places, and new bath fixtures installed within the 1930s addition. The parlor was restored and a kitchenette area created in one of the adjoining 1950 rooms; this was the first area of the renamed Stephen Crane House to open to the public in 1996.

With the 2001 sale of the Stephen Crane House to its current private owner, Frank D'Alessandro, an extensive renovation project began at that time, with significant replacement of the house's electrical wiring, radiators and plumbing fixtures as well as new copper flashing, gutters and downspouts. The original slate roof was replaced with shingles, and new separate heating systems were installed in the 1930s addition (electric on the first floor; gas on the second floor).

In 2002, the 40seat lecture room/ theater was created by consolidating two adjoining small rooms, and the floor of this area was brought up to code for public use with the installation of several floor jacks in the basement. A door that led originally to the back yard was sealed off in the new theater space. The old kitchen was repurposed as a reception area for events, and new supports were put in place in that room, owing to the fact

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 6

that the expansion of the kitchen in 1888 had removed a loadbearing wall, and some bowing had occurred on the second floor above. New kitchen/bathroom fixtures were installed inside the 1930s addition (former sun porch), as part of the house's public use areas. The front porch of Arbutus Cottage was rebuilt in 2011, using much of the existing wood.

By 2002, the current configuration of the house was established as a public resource/ museum on the first floor, with the second floor residential component scaled back to four rooms in the southeast corner of the house, featuring their own self-contained heating system. The older bedrooms on the second floor were repurposed as a library, conference area and display room, with the third floor serving as attic storage space.

The carriage house/barn at the rear of the property was completely renovated circa 2010, becoming the new primary residence of owner D' Alessandro. It is a non-contributing resource. The Carriage House was originally two buildings per a sewer inspection circa 1897 and a 1905 Sanborn map, with the carriage house to the east and the barn to the west. A new self-standing lawn sign was installed the same year the carriage house was renovated.

In 2013, a capital campaign was announced by the not-for-profit Asbury Park Historical Society to purchase the house and continue a program of restoration to the Crane House structure. At the time of this application, Frank D' Alessandro remains the current owner of the Arbutus Cottage property.

Integrity

The house originally known as Arbutus Cottage retains its basic layout dating from the post WWII modification (the repurposing of the cottage as the Hotel Florence), with most of its rooms having preserved their same dimensions...with the exception of the first floor lecture room/theater (consolidated from two smaller adjoining rooms). All of the windows and two of the doors (first floor front entrance; second floor fire escape access) are original to their initial installation; the two rear entrance doors were installed circa 2002. All windows, with the exception of one that sustained hurricane damage in 2012, retain their original 19th century glass panes.

Floors and walls (with the exception of one removed from the lecture room/theater) remain intact as of the post WWII configuration; the original wood floors remain exposed in most instances, although carpeting and/or linoleum have been installed in the residential apartment and practically purposed public areas. Ceilings remain original in most rooms; several have been replastered, and some of the rooms with particular wear and damage have drop ceilings installed.

The first floor fireplace was dismantled, and the kitchen stove exhaust ports were sealed off, at an unknown date in the mid 20th century; a nonfunctioning mantel and display antique stove indicate their former locations. A coal chute in the basement of the house was sealed off at an unknown date in the mid 20th century, and is still visible.

Bath fixtures dating back to about the 1920s remain functional in the old bathrooms on the first and second floors; one additional full bath (in the residential apartment) and two half baths saw new fixtures installed during renovations in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Updated kitchen fixtures/appliances/cabinets were installed in the new kitchen (former sun porch) and residential apartment kitchen in 2002 (an early 1950s stove is still functional in the residential apartment kitchen).

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 7

Setting

The Stephen Crane House/Arbutus Cottage stands on the 500 block of Fourth Avenue in the city of Asbury Park, 200 feet west of the intersection of Fourth and Grand avenues, five blocks west of Ocean Avenue and the Asbury Park Boardwalk, 2.5 blocks east of Main Street (NJ Route 71), and one block south of Sunset Park/Sunset Lake. The house is in a residentially zoned neighborhood, and shares its 50' x 150' lot and a common driveway with the 2story residential carriage house at the rear of the property. In 1996, the Asbury Park Zoning Board created a spot zone to allow the property to operate as a museum with two residential units (the second floor apartment, and the separate structure at the rear of the property). A freestanding oval sign on the front lawn, mounted on timber posts and topped by solar light fixtures, identifies 508 Fourth Avenue as "The Stephen Crane House, 'Arbutus Cottage,' ca.1878."

The Property

The 50' X 150' lot includes two buildings and a shared, common 75' driveway. The land is flat except for approximately a 1' rise in elevation between the sidewalk and the house. The house faces to the north.

The building behind the Crane House in the rear of the lot is a former carriage house/barn. It was renovated in the 1960's to comprise two apartments, then in 2010 to become one domicile, and is a non-contributing resource. A large oak tree towers over the rear of the property.

Returned

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 1

Significance Statement

Summary Paragraph

Arbutus Cottage, also known as The Stephen Crane House, is the sole standing residence in the United States of American author, poet and journalist Stephen Crane (1871-1900), who lived in the house from 1883, during his time as a student in the Asbury Park public school system, until 1892, during summer stints as a reporter for his older brother Townley Crane's news service. As the year round residence of Crane's mother Mary Helen Peck Crane (?-1891), it also played an important role in the regional profile of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, of which Mrs. Crane served as a local chapter president from 1883 until her death in 1891. For its association with Stephen Crane during the years in which he began his professional writing career and created his first works of fiction, the nominated property meets National Register Criterion B with local, and statewide significance in the area of literary history. For its association with Mary Helen Peck Crane and the WCTU, the property also meets Criterion B with local significance in social history.

Young Stephen Crane and Asbury Park

Stephen Crane was born on the first day of November 1871, in the parsonage of the Methodist church at 14 Mulberry Place in Newark, NJ. He was the fourteenth and youngest child born to Reverend Doctor Jonathan Townley Crane and Mary Helen Peck Crane, only nine of whose children survived past infancy. Best known for his classic novel of the Civil War, *The Red Badge of Courage*, the prolific young writer also produced such major works as the early novel *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*, the poetry volume *The Black Riders*, the short stories "The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky" and "The Monster," and "The Open Boat" (inspired by his experience as a shipwreck survivor), as well as several historically significant newspaper reports. A friend and contemporary of many major American and European authors of the late 19th century, yet a man who called himself "about as much a Jerseyman as you could find,"¹ Crane has been cited as a trailblazer for the modernist movement, and a major influence on such later figures as Ernest Hemingway, who famously rated him one of "the good American writers" alongside Henry James and Mark Twain.

At the time of Stephen's birth, Reverend Crane was presiding elder of the Methodist churches in the greater Newark and Elizabeth districts, in addition to being the author of several tracts on religious subjects and the temptations of worldly diversions ("The Arts of Intoxication," "An Essay on Dancing"). As the daughter of Reverend George C. Peck (editor of the *Methodist Quarterly Review*) and niece of Bishop Jesse T. Peck (a cofounder of Syracuse University), "Helen" Peck Crane was herself part of a prominent family in the Methodist community; an active member within the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and a sought-after lecturer on such topics as "The Effects of Alcohol on the Organs and Tissues of the Body."

In the middle years of the 1870s, the Crane family moved to Paterson, NJ, and then to Port Jervis, NY, where oldest son William Crane would establish himself as a successful attorney and jurist, and Helen would supplement her activity with the founding of a trade school focusing on "instruction in the use of the needle...(to) colored women and children."²

¹R.W. Stallman, *Stephen Crane: A Biography* (George Braziller, 1968), 1. ²Stanley Wertheim and Paul Sorrentino, *The Crane Log: A Documentary Life of Stephen Crane, 1871-1900*; (G.K. Hall & Co., 1994), 19.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 2

Another Crane brother, Jonathan Jr. (known professionally and colloquially as “Townley”) had already become a fulltime resident of the Jersey Shore, settling with his wife Fannie in the city of Long Branch a few miles from Asbury Park (“the best news centre on the entire New Jersey coast”), where Crane’s New Jersey Coast News Bureau made a specialty of covering the seasonal scene from “Sandy Hook to Barnegat Light,” for clients that included such major dailies as the New York Tribune. Townley became editor of the Asbury Park Shore Press, a daily that has survived into the 21st century, in June of 1883, and brother Wilbur Crane, a medical student around this time, was among the correspondents who spent summer seasons gathering local news items for Townley’s reports from the shore resorts.

Reverend Crane died by heart attack in February 1880, after which Helen and several of her children moved back to the Newark, NJ area, and made the trip to the Jersey Shore each summer for visits with Townley and his wife, becoming familiar with the pace of life in the Methodist encampment of Ocean Grove, as well as with the popular pursuits to be found in the burgeoning resort city next door. Helen, attracted by the strong presence of the WCTU within the Shore communities, eventually made the decision to settle in Asbury Park, moving with son Stephen and daughter Agnes to Arbutus Cottage in June 1883. Also purchased was a (then-undeveloped) lot next door to the cottage; that property (which is not included in this nomination) was sold by William, acting as executor of his late mother’s estate, in 1893.

Stephen, 11 years old at the time of his arrival in Asbury Park, attended the city’s Grammar School for two years, being ranked seventh in his class for the 1883-1884 academic year.³ To the city-bred boy at large on the beaches and boardwalks of a seaside resort, “Asbury Park was freedom...he roamed the beaches, loitered around Townley’s agency and the resort hotels, and played baseball and football.”⁴ With his mother’s increasing focus upon her responsibilities as an officer in the WCTU, Stephen’s day-to-day upbringing fell primarily upon then 27 year-old Agnes, who had performed much of these duties from the time the Cranes settled in Port Jervis and who, herself, worked for the Asbury Park public school system as a teacher at the intermediate school, before her death just one year later in 1884.

That year, financial difficulties forced Mrs. Crane (who had been sustained in part by inherited stock holdings in a mining company, following her husband’s death) to begin renting rooms in Arbutus Cottage to summer tourists.⁵ Among her boarders was an unidentified local girl who, in Stephen’s words, “had an accidental baby,” prompting the author’s later observation that “inopportune babies are not part of Methodist ritual, but mother was always more of a Christian than a Methodist and she kept this girl at our house in Asbury until she found a home elsewhere.”⁶

At some point in 1885, the teenaged Stephen, left largely to his own devices amid an uncertain home life, sat down at Arbutus Cottage and tried his hand at sketching out a work of fiction for the first time — producing “Uncle Jake and the Bell-Handle,” a folksy tale (eventually published in posthumous volumes of his short

³ Catalogue of the Public Schools of Asbury Park and Ocean Grove, 1883-1884. p10. ⁴ James Colvert, Stephen Crane (Harcourt, 1984), p.9. ⁵ Wertheim and Sorrentino, The Crane Log, 32. ⁶ Stallman, Stephen Crane, 9.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 3

works) that appears to owe a debt to his mother's own colorful stabs at fiction under the nom de plume "Jerusha Ann Stubbs." It has been praised for its early evidence of a mature and confident talent, with one biographer noting that "the printer's symbols in Stephen's hand on the 'Uncle Jake' manuscript further show that he was aiming at publication."⁷

With the passing of Agnes, Stephen was sent away for the next two school years to board as a student at the Methodist Pennington School in Pennington, NJ, near Trenton. On his first summer spent home from school, the aspiring writer took his first job in the journalism field, collecting information for Townley's news service on the comings and goings of prominent hotel guests during the busy summer season in the bustling boomtown. The 15 year-old was not yet an official employee (he was paid out-of-pocket by his older brother), and opinions vary as to whether Stephen wrote any of these un-bylined reports outright or simply contributed to them. Several noted Crane scholars, prominent among them archivist Melvin Schoberlin, recognized elements of his style in such anonymous dispatches as "Asbury's New Move," a short piece with a mildly satirical tone that appeared in the Asbury Park Daily Spray in 1887.⁸ "Obviously written by someone who knew the ways of Asbury Park, understood its contradictions, and regarded it all with detached amusement, the piece radiated wit, humor and talent," echoed biographer Linda H. Davis in a discussion of the 1887 item. "Seemingly the work of a mature person, it was probably written by fifteen year old Stephen Crane."⁹

Another piece thought to bear the hand of Stephen Crane (and regarded by some as his first published article) was a brief sketch of two young lovers on the beach of a town not unlike Asbury Park — and a patrolling censor who bore more than a passing resemblance to Asbury Park's founding father James Bradley — that appeared in the Philadelphia Press that same summer. "The sixteen year-old Crane sides with the 'tender young doves' and against the old and narrow minded," wrote historian Daniel Wolff, finding in the un-credited piece an early example of Crane's recurring theme of "morality versus sensuality...and Bradley's promised land offered a perfect battlefield."¹⁰

The next two academic years found Stephen attending the Cooperack Hudson River Institute military academy in upstate New York, an interlude distinguished mostly by the fervent baseball fan's joining the school's ball team as catcher. A portrait of Stephen in full dress uniform was taken at the Stauffer Photography studio in downtown Asbury Park during one of his hometown visits circa 1889,¹¹ and is probably the only surviving image of him from the city that he named as his primary residence into the early 1890s.

It was during the summer of 1888 that Stephen Crane began his professional journalism career in earnest; working in and around Asbury Park as a still-uncredited correspondent for Townley's news bureau, an operation to which other Crane family members also contributed.¹² Bicycling to points around his beat, and

⁷ Colvert, Stephen Crane; (Harcourt, 1984), 9. ⁸ Stanley Wertheim, ed., The Stephen Crane Encyclopedia (Greenwood Press, 1997). ⁹ Linda H. Davis, Badge of Courage: The Life of Stephen Crane (Houghton Mifflin, 1998), 22. ¹⁰ Daniel Wolff, Fourth of July Asbury Park (Bloomsbury USA, 2005), 53. ¹¹ Reproduced in Colvert, Stephen Crane. ¹² Bernard Weinstein, "Stephen Crane, Journalist;" published in Stephen Crane in Transition: Centenary Essays, Joseph Katz, ed.; Northern Illinois University Press, 1972.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 4

jotting his reports “in a cheap penny tablet while lying in the sand or sitting propped against the side of a building,”¹³ the cub reporter worked in a milieu that encompassed “the free-spending life of the family vacationers in the resort hotels, the devoted worship of the religious conferees at Ocean Grove, and the earnest pursuit of culture and self-improvement at Avon-by-the-Sea” — an environment of contrasts and contradictions that “comprised a neat microcosm of American life, concentrating tendencies, often violently antithetical, in the nation’s religious, cultural, and social life.” Crane’s friend and fellow local reporter Ralph Paine later remarked that Stephen, a “youth with the soul of a poet and a psychologist,” should find “that futile, inconsequential environment of Asbury Park in midsummer” a fertile source of inspiration for his nascent literary ambitions.

While the authorship of many of the unsigned newspaper items issuing from Townley’s news service in those summers remains a topic for debate among Crane scholars, what remains clear is that a new and satirically minded voice was beginning to make its presence felt within the pages of papers like the Tribune, where an 1890 column hinted at Founder Bradley’s pious community as a place where clergymen and Christian workers come “to get away from the responsibility of conducting meetings to be in a place where they need not preach or even attend.”¹⁴

Following one semester at Lafayette College in Easton, PA, and one semester at Syracuse University (where Stephen’s papers and personal library are today archived), Stephen concluded his pursuit of higher education, and began to live the life of a dedicated and struggling young writer; dividing his time between New York City (where he worked briefly for a mercantile company) and stays with his brother William’s family in New York’s Orange County, when he was not occupied with his newspaper work back home in Asbury Park. It was during those stays in upstate New York that Stephen became enamored of camping, particularly his excursions in Sullivan County, where the snippets of local folklore he picked up formed the basis for his early stories collected as “Sullivan County Sketches” in 1892.

Described by a girlfriend as a chain-smoking, poorly dressed figure who “was abjectly poor and undernourished — ate little and seemed to resent others eating heartily,”¹⁵ the Stephen Crane of the early 1890s began to haunt the Bowery neighborhood of New York City, where James Bradley continued to own and operate a brush factory, observing the lives of the working poor (a class of people about whom his mother had few charitable things to say) and gathering material for what eventually became a groundbreaking calling card into the world of serious American letters.

Crane worked on what became his first novel, and the “Sullivan County” stories, in 1891 and 1892...primarily in New York locales and relatives’ homes, although he had manuscripts in his possession in Asbury Park during his summer stints, and almost certainly did some substantial revisions on them while continuing to reside at Arbutus Cottage. According to an “intermittently reliable”¹⁶ 1926 memoir by New York Tribune day editor (and Asbury Park vacationer, at the West End Hotel “where the Asbury Park reporters hung out”¹⁷) Willis

¹³ Ruth Franchere, *Stephen Crane: The Story of an American Writer* (Thomas Y. Crowell, 1961), 24.) ¹⁴ Wolff, *Fourth of July Asbury Park*, 54.) ¹⁵ Wertheim and Sorrentino, *The Crane Log*, 74. ¹⁶ Michael Robertson, *Stephen Crane, Journalism and the Making of Modern American Literature* (Columbia University Press, 1997). ¹⁷ Stallman, *Stephen Crane*, 33.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 5

Fletcher Johnson, Townley Crane mentioned in 1891 that his younger brother “had written several stories based on his camping and hunting adventures in Sullivan County, Johnson asked to see them, and Crane brought him two, probably ‘Four Men in a Cave’ and ‘The Octopush.’ The editor bought them for the Sunday feature page of the Tribune, where they, and three more he bought later, appeared in July.”¹⁸

“Four Men in a Cave” in fact represented Stephen Crane’s debut as a published author of fiction when it saw print in the Tribune (“A Tent in Agony” marked his first appearance in a national magazine when it was published in *Cosmopolitan* later in 1891), an encouraging sign for a writer whose reporting work was still running without a byline. He made another significant connection during that summer of 1891. On the day that Crane met Hamlin Garland — a rising star literary figure, magazine writer and lecturer — when Garland delivered a talk on William Dean Howells in the intellectually inclined nearby community of Avon-by-the-Sea. Crane said that Garland “was the first to overwhelm me with all manner of extraordinary language,” and to Helen Trent (whom he met in Asbury Park, and with whom had a brief romantic fling) he described the older writer as being “like a nice Jesus Christ.” The two men continued to maintain an acquaintance centered around two shared affinities — contemporary American writing and baseball.¹⁹

Garland also impressed Crane with his lecture on Jacob Riis — author of *How the Other Half Lives*, and a kindred spirit to the aspiring novelist who had come to empathize with the denizens of New York’s crowded tenement landscape. In Riis, Crane had discovered an activist voice who advocated for the poor against Bradley and other exemplars of “the ‘system’ that was the evil offspring of public neglect and greed.” Crane also took heart in the fact that Garland’s lecture on Riis drew a large audience of middle class vacationers who “are not entirely forgetful of the unfortunates.”²⁰

Crane showed Garland an early draft of his first attempt at a novel — “A Girl of the Streets,” a gritty portrait (later titled “Maggie,” and self-published in 1893 under the pen name Johnston Smith), based on his observations of life in and around the Bowery tenements and sweatshops, that Willis Fletcher Johnson recalled as “crude, but powerful and impressive.”²¹ Garland, for his part, “gave him a letter of introduction to Richard Watson Gilder, the editor of *Century Illustrated Magazine*. ‘I want you to read a great [manuscript] of Stephen Crane’s making,’ Garland wrote. ‘I think him an astonishing fellow.’”²²

Meanwhile, Stephen was deriving little professional satisfaction from his unsigned reporting work, much of which remains a topic for debate among Crane scholars. In the eighth installment of his multivolume *Stephen Crane: Tales, Sketches and Reports*, Fredson Bowers collected 42 “News from Asbury Park” items from 1891-92 as including 14 attributable to Crane, with 28 “possibles.”²³

¹⁸ Colvert, *Stephen Crane*, 9. ¹⁹ Davis, *Badge of Courage*, 4041. ²⁰ Daniel Wolff, *Fourth of July Asbury Park*, 57. ²¹ Stallman, *Stephen Crane*, 33. ²² Bonnie L. Lukes, *Soldier’s Courage: The Story of Stephen Crane* (Morgan Reynolds, 2002), 38. ²³ Fredson Bowers, ed., *Stephen Crane: Tales, Sketches and Reports*, vol. 8, (University Press of Virginia 1973).

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 6

“It is unclear as to how much he published in the Tribune and elsewhere that summer,” wrote Linda Davis of Crane’s output in 1891. “Two items were certainly his. Eleven others, judging by their style, themes and imagery, were probably his. Two of the possibilities appeared in the New York Herald and the New York Times. What is certain is that he was always writing.”²⁴

1892, Stephen Crane’s final summer as a reporter in Asbury Park, marked a time of significant changes for the 20 year old writer, whose mother had passed away in December 1891 — leaving Stephen, still legally a minor, officially in the guardianship of his brother Edmund (it has been conjectured that Townley, while close to Stephen, had become too “eccentric” by that point to be placed in charge of his brother).²⁵ Arbutus Cottage, and some coal mining stocks, were left to the seven surviving Crane children (William would buy out the interests of a few of the other siblings, with Stephen using his share to self-publish the first edition of his debut novel).

It was a season in which he scandalized locals through an affair with a married woman, Lily Brandon Munroe, but at the same time he also earned his first bylined reports in major newspapers. Yet it would be a seemingly innocuous unsigned item that spelled the termination of his affiliation with the Tribune, and cause him to move from Arbutus Cottage.

Several of the summer 1892 dispatches credited to Crane are held up today as examples of an emergent literary voice; one that was often at odds with the mundane nature of his seasonal assignment, as well as with the divisions and dichotomies inherent in Asbury Park itself — its founding as a pious Methodist enclave versus its development as a place of popular entertainments and diversions; its east-west division along racial lines, and its juxtaposition of upper middle class playground and lower class poverty.

“In his earliest writings, Asbury Park represented a world of comic, phony and absurd human behavior, as opposed to the world of folklore, imagery and adventure found in less tame Sullivan County,” a team of Crane scholars wrote a century after his passing,²⁶ and in those final dispatches from Asbury Park can be detected a distinctive and sharply opinionated voice that was continuing to evolve.

“Meetings Begun at Ocean Grove” is an otherwise straightforward piece that begins with a reference to “somber-hued gentlemen...with black valises in their hands and rebukes to frivolity in their eyes.” The brief item “Crowding into Asbury Park” describes a bustling place that “is rapidly acquiring a collection of machines,” and references the presence of the famed prizefighter “Gentleman” Jim Corbett.

“Joys of Seaside Life” is a longer, more colorful article that captures the sensations of resort life with vivid language, making mention of “the Hindoos,” “the frankfurter man,” a “sleight of hand Italian,” the “transient fakirs,” as well as tintype galleries, the observation wheel at Wesley Lake and the nearby camera obscura attraction at Ocean Grove. The aforementioned wheel is the subject of local controversy in “Summer Dwellers,” in which it is reported that Ocean Grove residents and city hoteliers have lodged complaints against its ashes,

²⁴ Davis, Badge of Courage, 40. ²⁵ Wolff, Fourth of July Asbury Park, 56. ²⁶ Michael Robertson, David Holmes and Roxana Paz, “An Ironist at the Seashore: Possible Additions to the Crane Canon”; in Stephen Crane Studies, 9, 2 (Fall 2000).

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 7

sparks and steam organ. “On the Boardwalk” is notable for its detailed description of the 19th century promenade and its frequenters, as well as some playful paragraphs on Founder Bradley — then still very much a presence throughout the city’s daily life — and his penchant for hand-lettered signs regulating public behavior (“His work has an air of philosophic thought about it which is very taking to anyone with a literary turn of mind...he is an artist.”).²⁷

The most notorious item penned by Crane during that summer of 1892 was an anonymous lead to an otherwise mundane social column that was often composed by Stephen as an assist to his brother. An account of an American Day parade by the Junior Order of United American Mechanics [JOUAM, an officially apolitical but largely archconservative working-class organization with a nationwide presence at the turn of the century], the brief piece was infused with Crane’s ironic perspective on the sight of “bronzed, slope-shouldered, uncouth” yet “dignified” men marching for the politely detached appreciation of the wealthy leisure class in their “summer gowns, lace parasols, tennis trousers, straw hats and indifferent smiles.”

The author of the brief “Parades and Entertainments” item went on to cite Asbury Park as a place that “creates nothing...it does not make; it merely amuses,” and to contrast the “men who have principles” of the JOUAM with “the bona fide Asbury Parker...a man to whom a dollar, when held close to his eye, often shuts out any impression he may have that other people possess rights.”

“William K. Devereaux, whom Townley had asked to check Stephen’s copy in his absence, was amused by it but thought the Tribune too humorless to print it. He was wrong,” wrote Linda Davis. “The article was published, unsigned, on August 21 and, as Devereaux said later, ‘raised hob all over the country.’”²⁸ The appearance of the article in early editions of the Tribune was called “un-American” by the Mechanics, apologized for by the Tribune, and cost Stephen (and, temporarily, Townley) his association with the news bureau’s most prestigious client.

Since the Tribune’s publisher Whitelaw Reid was then on the Republican presidential ticket as Benjamin Harrison’s running mate, some observers went so far as to suggest that Crane and his “bit of random correspondence” were responsible for the election of Grover Cleveland that year, although this view has been dismissed as hyperbole. Ralph Paine, while regretful that his talented friend had “toyed with a boomerang,” expressed the opinion that Stephen’s dismissal from the Asbury Park beat “might be the making of him” regarding his aspirations as a promising novelist and short story writer.²⁹

While “Stevie and his parade story continued to be a subject of gossip all the rest of the season down Asbury Park way,”³⁰ the young writer and his hometown were no longer on speaking terms by the time Crane headed back to New York City in advance of the summering crowds. Still, with Crane renewing his attempts to persuade Lily Munroe to leave her husband, his years in Asbury Park and on the Jersey Shore continued to exert

²⁷ Collected in Stephen Crane: Tales, Sketches and Reports, Vol. VIII. ²⁸ Davis, Badge of Courage, 50. ²⁹ Ibid., 51. ³⁰ Arthur Oliver, “Jersey Memories: Stephen Crane,” in Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society; October 1931.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 8

an influence on his work. His relationship with Mary would manifest itself in the circa 1896 novel “George’s Mother” and its subdued study of a pious, ailing woman and the dissolute, somewhat disreputable son who cares for her — and the Asbury Park connection made its most immediate impact upon the 1893 story “The Pace of Youth.”

According to the memoirs of his friend C.K. Linson, Crane penned “The Pace of Youth” under the direct inspiration of his Asbury Park summers (it is partly set at a thinly veiled version of the old wooden Carousel house), his affair with Lily (“Lizzie” in the story), and Founder Bradley (fictionalized as Mr. Stimson, owner-operator of the Mammoth Merry-Go-Round). Regarded as one of Crane’s finest short works, the story is rich in atmosphere, as the expanse of the boardwalk, with its blazing lights, colorful paper lanterns and “intermingling, intertwining, sometimes colliding” crowds, represents escape and the promise of freedom for a pair of young lovers on the run from the disapproving old man.

“Linson wondered how Crane could keep the feel of those Asbury Park people months after he had last seen them,” wrote Crane biographer R.W. Stallman. “Steve smiled. ‘Can’t you make sketches from memory? Of course. Well, haven’t I known those types since I was a kid? Certainly.’”³¹

Another comic tale placed in a seashore town setting, “The Reluctant Voyagers” (circa 1893), was eventually serialized in the New York Press Sunday Magazine in 1900 — and the year 1894 would see the publication in the Press of “Ghosts on the Jersey Shore,” a breezy collection of eerie folkloric vignettes (datelined “Asbury Park, NJ, Nov. 9”) drawn from coastal locales ranging from Deal to Long Beach Island (a follow-up article in a similar vein, “The Ghostly Sphinx of Metedeconk,” appeared on December 28 of that same year).

Crane was the internationally famous author of the best-selling Red Badge of Courage when he returned to his old hometown one last time in 1896, and filed a brief article for the New York Journal entitled “Asbury Park, as Seen Through the Eyes of Stephen Crane.” A characteristically cheeky and slightly melancholy portrait in what would be the final years of the Crane clan’s connection to the city, the story included some irresistible jabs at Founder Bradley (“the one star in the sky over Asbury Park...”), and the assertion that “if a man should be goaded into defining Asbury Park he might state that the distinguishing feature of the town is its singular and elementary sanity.”³²

In discussing this parting shot by the author who would go on to travel extensively through North America, become the subject of scandal in New York, get shipwrecked off the coast of Florida, cover conflicts in Cuba and Greece, and eventually settle with his common-law wife in England, Crane scholar Stanley Wertheim wrote, “From the perspective of a newspaperman in search of unusual and entertaining topics, Crane laments the fact that Asbury Park is so conventional a town that it offers no opportunity for sensational journalism.”³³

³¹ Stallman, Stephen Crane, 60. ³² Collected in Stephen Crane: Tales, Sketches and Reports, Vol. VIII. ³³ Stanley Wertheim, ed., The Stephen Crane Encyclopedia.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 9

Plagued in his final years by poor health and shaky finances, Stephen Crane succumbed to pulmonary tuberculosis at the age of 28, inside a sanatorium in Germany's Black Forest on June 5, 1900. His body was brought back to America and interred at Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside, NJ, a few miles from the Newark parsonage where he was born. The parsonage building itself was razed in the 1930s, and its bricks used to construct a wall that featured a plaque commemorating Crane's birthplace. Having fallen victim to neglect and repeated vandalizing, the wall and its Crane memorial were torn down by city of Newark in 1995 — one year prior to the former Arbutus Cottage's rechristening as The Stephen Crane House.

Mary Helen Peck Crane, the WCTU, and Arbutus Cottage

The widowed Mary Helen Peck Crane was the fourth owner of Arbutus Cottage, which had been built for the property's previous owner, Andrew and Helen Robeno, who bought an empty lot from Bradley in September 1875. The Robenos named the house for the arbutus (mayflower) ground cover that once decorated the property's front yard, and remained as owners until May 1882, when they sold to Patrick M. Mahoney, who sold in turn to Margaret and Bernard Collins only seven months later. The Collins couple, themselves, only held the property until June 1883, when they sold to Mrs. Crane.

As mentioned above, the widow Crane had been a frequent summer visitor to Asbury Park and Ocean Grove when she decided to make a year-round home for herself, her unmarried 27 year-old daughter Agnes, and her 11 year-old son Stephen, in a neighborhood that "Stevie" described as "square after square of cottages, trees and little terraces, little terraces, trees and cottages, while the wide avenues funnel toward a distant grey sky."³⁴ Purchasing the cottage for \$4,000, Mrs. Crane became the owner of a "proper two-story house in the good part of town" that was quite possibly the first one on its block of Fourth Avenue, in addition to an adjoining lot that remained undeveloped during her lifetime.

As the widow of a clergyman who wrote extensively of the evils of drink — and the sister of a man who died of alcohol-related causes — "Helen" was active within the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the organization founded in Cleveland, Ohio in 1874 by a group of women that included Frances E. Willard and the Union's first president, Mrs. Annie Turner Wittenmyer. Growing out of the Woman's Crusade of 1873-1874 (a nonviolent protest against the dangers of alcohol carried out in several communities in Ohio and New York), the WCTU had by the end of the 1870s established largely independent local chapters in towns and cities throughout the United States — adopting the slogan "Agitate, Educate, Legislate," and backing up its core mission of abstinence from alcohol with early and significant work in advocating civil rights for women, who at the time were not allowed to vote, or in most cases, to retain property or legal custody of their children.³⁵

A fast-rising star on the lecture circuit and a skilled communicator, both on the printed page and at the speaker's podium, Helen would augment her presentations on "The Effects of Alcohol on the Organs and Tissues of the Body" with creative touches that included dropping the white of an egg into a glass of liquor, and explaining to her audience how the alcohol hardened the egg into a state that resembled "being cooked."³⁶ Upon taking up

³⁴ Wolff, Fourth of July Asbury Park, 51. ³⁵ "Early History" page, WCTU.org website. ³⁶ Wertheim and Sorrentino, The Crane Log, 14.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 10

residence at Arbutus Cottage in the summer of 1883, Helen soon joined the WCTU chapter of Ocean Grove and Asbury Park — where her energy, her family connections, and her support for Bradley's oldschool Methodist ideals would see her quickly rise to the presidency of the chapter in November of that year.

Throwing herself into her work with the Union, Mrs. Crane opened her home to its members; inviting small audiences to the cottage, where she would deliver temperance lectures in the front parlor. She became involved in other civic endeavors (such as a campaign to allow women voting rights in Board of Education elections, and an initiative to establish a separate state prison for women), and would also put her skills as a writer to work in WCTU journals and Methodist periodicals, and in guest pieces for newspapers like the Ocean Grove Record, where she inveighed against “the growing taste for worldly amusements which keeps the young from the house of God.”³⁷

In published pieces such as “How to Conduct a Weekly Meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union” (1883), Helen “proved she was no fanatic but a practical, hardworking, effective organizer and campaigner, keenly aware of the many details involved in the preparation of a meeting, and trying to woo others to join the WCTU.”³⁸ Thanks to her son Townley's connections in the newspaper business, Helen also became a regular contributor of reports to the New York Tribune, the Philadelphia Press, and the Monmouth Tribune.³⁹ While most of the surviving Crane children had married and started families and careers of their own by 1884, there was schoolage Stephen to look after — as well as spinster daughter Agnes and, on occasion, the comings and goings of Luther Crane and other offspring during times of need and reversals. When the coal stocks lost a considerable amount of their value during the “Panic of 1884,” Mrs. Crane made the decision to rent out rooms in her home to summer tourists — something that she continued to do throughout the remainder of her days at Arbutus Cottage.

Given Helen's frequent absence from the house and the degree of her involvement in WCTU matters, Agnes Crane had been charged with the actual rearing of her youngest brother since the family's arrival in Asbury Park. The quiet educator, recognizing both the creative and the rebellious streaks in Stephen, encouraged him to embrace life and avoid the unhappy tendencies of his repressed and “oysterlike family.”⁴⁰ During her own brief time at Arbutus Cottage, Agnes also quietly indulged her own passions for creative writing and art. She withdrew early from her job at the city's public school in May 1884, and lived to see the publication of one short story, “The Result of an Experiment,” in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly, prior to her passing from cerebrospinal meningitis the next month — becoming in the process the first of her family members to stake a claim as a published writer of fiction.

In the days following her death, Agnes was honored by the Asbury Park Board of Education with a resolution that gave “public expression to our high appreciation of her amiable character and her invaluable services as a teacher.” The proclamation, which remains on display beneath a portrait of Agnes in the front parlor at Arbutus

³⁷ Ibid., 32. ³⁸ Gulleason, ed., *A Garland of Writings: Stephen Crane's Literary Family*, 142. ³⁹ Ibid., 143.

⁴⁰ Wertheim and Sorrentino, *The Crane Log*, 24.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 11

Cottage, commends her “many rare graces of character,” and recognizes her as “a faithful and efficient teacher” of “tireless industry, skill and tact.”⁴¹ A short poem by Agnes entitled “Content” was published immediately after her passing, in the *Asbury Park Journal*⁴² — and, upon going through her late daughter’s papers, Mrs. Crane shortly thereafter discovered the manuscripts of three more completed stories inside Agnes’s writing desk at Arbutus Cottage.⁴³ The stories — “A Victorious Defeat,” “How It Happened,” and “Laurel Camp, and What Became of It” — also saw print in *Leslie’s* in the coming months, with “Laurel Camp” going on to be regarded by some scholars as having influenced her brother’s later novel “The Third Violet.”⁴⁴

What Agnes may or may have not known is that her mother — whose numerous publication credits had by that point been largely confined to short editorial pieces that argued for Temperance and Prohibition, and for dry reports concerning minutes of WCTU business and the conducting of meetings — harbored a playful and artistic streak of her own that manifested itself in a facility with pen-and-ink drawings, pastels and wax sculptures, as well as a handful of brief prose sketches that saw print in such local papers as the *Monmouth Tribune*. Written in a folksy vernacular under the comical persona of Jerusha Ann Stubbs of the “Skrub Oak Skule Deestrick” (and, in the case of “How Jonathan Saved the Ash Barrel,” credited to Jerusha Ann), these lighthearted pieces show a much different side of Mrs. Crane — and, although some of them were not published until 1889, the stories are thought to have inspired teenaged Stephen’s 1885 story, “Uncle Jake and the Bell Handle.”⁴⁵

Despite the family tree full of budding fiction writers, seasoned journalists and steadfast moralists, not everyone who occupied Arbutus Cottage was a wordsmith by nature. Brother Luther occupied a second-floor bedroom while recovering from an overdose of Laudanum in 1884 — and thereafter found employment on the Erie Railroad, where he would be killed in an on-job accident a few years later. Another Crane brother, Wilbur (who, as mentioned previously, also worked briefly for Townley’s news service) reportedly lived for a time in the house. Various unsubstantiated reports have the widowed Townley — the so-called “Shore fiend” and “physical derelict” who adopted an increasingly eccentric aspect, dressing in heavy overcoats and mufflers on the hottest of summer days — residing at Arbutus Cottage, or at the Hotel Vendome in downtown Asbury Park, in the years following the death of his wife Fanny, and his two children from that marriage (his second wife passed away shortly before Helen in 1891).⁴⁷ In 1887, Stephen’s recently widowed oldest sister Nellie Van Nortwick (formerly Mary Helen Peck Crane Jr.) set up what is considered to be the first art school in Asbury Park, at Arbutus Cottage (it move to larger quarters on Cookman Avenue two years later). And, in 1890,

⁴¹ Asbury Park Board of Education, preamble and resolution document, 28 June 1884. ⁴² Collected in Gulleason, ed., *A Garland of Writings*. ⁴³ Paul Sorrentino, “Newly Discovered Writings of Mary Helen Peck Crane and Agnes Crane,” published in *Syracuse University Library Associates COURIER*, 21, 1 (Spring 1986) ⁴⁴ Donna Campbell, “More Than a Family Resemblance,” in *Stephen Crane Studies*, 16, 1 (Spring 2007). ⁴⁵ Collected in Gulleason, ed., *A Garland of Writings*. ⁴⁶ Wertheim and Sorrentino, *The Crane Log*, 44. ⁴⁷ “A Notable Career Begins in Asbury Park,” published in the *Asbury Park Sunday Press*; 31 May 1931.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 12

Helen explored another facet of her writing when she produced a leaflet that detailed the history of the oldest cottage in Ocean Grove.⁴⁸

The Women's Christian Temperance Union, however, would remain the primary conduit for the energies of Mrs. Crane, who according to a March 11, 1886 report in the Asbury Park Shore Press was "suffering from a temporary aberration of the mind...and is now in critical condition." Another source, the Asbury Park Journal, reported on March 13 that "Mrs. Crane has been extremely ill for some time, and although her mind is yet feeble it is hoped with returning strength her mental troubles will disappear."⁴⁹ She apparently recovered enough to be elected as the first president of the WCTU in Asbury Park, newly split off that year from the Ocean Grove chapter, and to undertake a renovation of Arbutus Cottage circa 1888 — an expansion that the Press reported "has so enlarged and beautified Arbutus Cottage on Fourth Avenue that it is now one of the finest cottages in the Park."

Helen, whose WCTU activities included attending the organization's national conventions in Nashville (1887) and Boston (1891), continued to conduct WCTU business at the Cottage, and to receive visitors there. The enlargement and beautification of the cottage may have been completed in time for her most prominent visitor, the WCTU cofounder Frances Willard, a renowned suffragist and temperance advocate who become the president of the National Council for Women in 1888. Willard was one of the most famous women of her day, and was later honored with a statue in the National Statuary Hall of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.⁵⁰

In declining physical health, beset by numerous losses and family tragedies, and possibly plagued by mental health issues that continue to be debated by Crane scholars, Mary Helen Beck Crane passed away in December of 1891, leaving her independent 20 year-old son Stephen nominally in the charge of brother Edmund Crane. The surviving Crane offspring (William, Townley, Edmund, George, Nellie, Wilbur and Stephen) were bequeathed equal shares of Arbutus Cottage and the coal mining stocks; Stephen and several of the other siblings (listed as Edmund et al. on the deed) sold their shares to William, who would become the sole listed owner in March 1893 upon purchasing Townley's share for \$400. The last Crane family members listed as owners of Arbutus Cottage were George P. and Elizabeth A. Crane, who sold to Mr. Theodore Cougar for \$3,000 in October of 1899.⁵¹

Arbutus Cottage Since 1900

Following the departure of the Crane family, Arbutus Cottage went through several changes of ownership in rapid succession, with Theodore and Mary Cougar selling to Joseph Davis in June 1900, and the house purchased in turn by Walter Armitage (November 1900), John L. Armitage (August 1901), Frank B. Allen (unknown date circa 1902), Francis M. Tichenor (November 1903), and John L. Lee (November 1904). The Lees became the longest running owners of the property since the Cranes, and were possibly the owners who oversaw the tower addition to the cottage. John L. Lee's widow Lillie D. Lee sold the improved Arbutus

⁴⁸ Davis, Badge of Courage, 29. ⁴⁹ Wertheim and Sorrentino, The Crane Log, 34. ⁵⁰ Davis, Badge of Courage, 25. ⁵¹ see Deeds on file in County Clerk's Office, Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 13

Cottage to Catherine Dietz for \$7,500 in June 1913, but later regained ownership. Mrs. Lee again sold the cottage, to Thomas A. Pullen in October 1916, beginning a chaotic interlude in which Arbutus Cottage changed hands five times in less than two years, finally to Anna F. Newkirk in July 1918.

The house stayed with Newkirk until September 1923, when she sold (again for the sum of \$1.00) to the NJ-based realty company Rellum, Inc. The realtor sold to George M. Kimble in October 1928 for the price tag of \$18,000, then the highest sale value to date for the Arbutus Cottage property, and Kimble held the property until 1946, when he lost the property to foreclosure. A public auction was conducted by court appointed Special Master of the Court of Chancery Haydn Proctor in November 1946, and the winning bid of \$15,500 was submitted by Florence McCorkendale of Newark, NJ. She and her husband Archie rebranded the house as “The Florence,” and operated it until the mid1970s as one of many summer hotels or boarding houses in Asbury Park.

During their long ownership, the McCorkendales removed the west wraparound porch (creating first and second story rooms on its footprint); they also added extra bathrooms on the first and second floors, dismantled the old fireplace, and installed a phone booth within a first-floor space that ran beneath the stairwell. As the summer tourism business declined in the city toward the latter half of the 20th century, however, they divided the house into five apartments (with the carriage house at the rear of the property reworked into two additional units), with portions of the attic also reconfigured as occupancy space (borne out by room numbers still visible on doors).

Asbury Park itself experienced a marked decline throughout the 1970s, and Florence McCorkendale died in 1978, with title to 508 Fourth Avenue passing to her widower/executor Archie. The years of decline in Asbury Park continued unabated through the 1980s and 90s, and when Archie McCorkendale died intestate in April 1990, the sole occupant of the house was the McCorkendale’s daughter Lois. Based in just one of two rooms of the second floor, Lois lived without utility hookups in her final months there; covering the walls of her room with hand-scrawled political diatribes, addresses and phone numbers of politicians (a portion of her writings remain visible to visitors today) and, according to county records, eventually being removed from the premises upon having been “adjudicated a mental incompetent on July 14, 1992.”

Ownership of the property at 508 Fourth Avenue consequently was transferred to the city, which boarded up the cottage and the carriage house (abandoned circa 1985), and scheduled the structures for demolition in 1995. It was at that point that New Jersey Natural Gas executive and Asbury Park resident Thomas F. Hayes, learning of the house’s past association with Stephen Crane, offered to take it off the city’s hands. In the late spring of 1995, Hayes purchased 508 Fourth Avenue for \$7,500, the same price that the property had fetched in the year 1913.

Working with city historian Werner Baumgartner and a team of community volunteers — and with the aim of restoring and maintaining the house as a museum devoted to Crane’s life, work and family⁵² — the Hayes family undertook a “rescue” and restoration of the house. The City of Asbury Park approved the plan to operate

⁵² Alvin Klein, “Celebrity May Be Fleeting, but the House Is Still Standing,” New York Times; 19 April 1998

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)

Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 14

the first floor of the house as a small museum and venue for presentations of cultural/historical interest, with the second floor approved as a residence for rental tenants. The nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation Stephen Crane House, Inc. was established, and, following extensive “stabilizing” work to floors, ceilings and infrastructure, the newly branded Stephen Crane House opened its doors to the public in the spring of 1996.

At first, little more than the restored front parlor and two or three additional rooms were ready for public use. Two original plays were commissioned by the Stephen Crane House in its first year of operation, one of which (“The Crane Chronicles”) was performed in various rooms of the house by actors portraying members of the Crane family.

The Hayes family moved out of Asbury Park in 2001, and sold the property to their neighbor, retired schoolteacher and local Board of Education member Frank D’Alessandro; donating funds toward the installation of a new roof to replace the badly deteriorating slate covering installed more than a century before. Over the course of more than a decade, D’Alessandro oversaw extensive renovations that included painting, roofing and ceiling work; bracing of sagging floors; repairs to furnace/radiators and electrical systems; and the installation of new doors, bath fixtures and kitchen appliances. D’Alessandro has continued to maintain The Stephen Crane House as a venue for arts events, including regular film screenings with literary themes, original theatrical works, author appearances and writer’s workshops.

In December 2001, a \$10,000 donation from Bruce Springsteen (a benefaction from one of a series of concerts at Asbury Park’s Convention Hall) provided assistance in the restoration of the house’s roof and first-floor Lecture Room performance space⁵³ — and in 2010, the former carriage house/barn was extensively renovated, and became the primary residence of Frank D’Alessandro.

Today, The Stephen Crane House features several exhibit rooms, including a parlor/foyer with Civil War memorabilia and portraits of Crane and Peck family members, as well as a second floor library with a collection of works by and about Stephen Crane and his contemporaries. The Lecture Room theater, reception and conference rooms are also made available to arts groups, civic organizations and local nonprofits, while the second floor features a residential apartment and office.

Having received numerous visitors that have ranged from local primary school children to famous actors, The Stephen Crane House has been featured in several periodicals and on a national television show. As one of the oldest surviving homes in Asbury Park, it continues to serve as the regular meeting venue of the Asbury Park Historical Society, which in 2013 announced a capital campaign to purchase The Stephen Crane House, with the object of maintaining it as the city’s first official museum.

⁵³ Frank D’Alessandro, “The Preservation of Asbury Park’s Arbutus Cottage,” in *Stephen Crane Studies* (Spring 2002).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

- [Anon.], "A Notable Career Begins in Asbury Park," *Asbury Park Sunday Press*; 31 May 1931.
- Asbury Park Board of Education, preamble and resolution document, 28 June 1884.
- Bowers, Fredson ed., *Stephen Crane: Tales, Sketches and Reports, Vol. VIII*, University Press of Virginia 1973.
- Campbell, Donna, "More Than a Family Resemblance," published in *Stephen Crane Studies Vol. 16 No. 1*; Stephen Crane Society, Spring 2007.
- Catalogue of the Public Schools of Asbury Park and Ocean Grove, 1883-1884.
- Colvert, James, *Stephen Crane*; Harcourt 1984.
- D'Alessandro, Frank, "The Preservation of Asbury Park's Arbutus Cottage," published in *Stephen Crane Studies*; Stephen Crane Society, Spring 2002.
- Davis, Linda H., *Badge of Courage: The Life of Stephen Crane*; Houghton Mifflin, 1998 .
- Franchere, Ruth, *Stephen Crane: The Story of an American Writer*; Thomas Y. Crowell, 1961.
- Gulleston, Thomas A, ed., *A Garland of Writings: Stephen Crane's Literary Family*; Syracuse University Press, 2002.
- Klein, Alvin, "Celebrity May Be Fleeting, but the House Is Still Standing," published in the *New York Times*; 19 April 1998.
- Lukes, Bonnie L., *Soldier's Courage: The Story of Stephen Crane*; Morgan Reynolds, 2002.
- Oliver, Arthur, "Jersey Memories: Stephen Crane," published in *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*; October 1931.
- Robertson, Michael, *Stephen Crane, Journalism and the Making of Modern American Literature*; Columbia University Press, 1997.
- Robertson, Michael, David Holmes and Roxana Paz, "An Ironist at the Seashore: Possible Additions to the Crane Canon"; published in *Stephen Crane Studies Vol. 9 No. 2*; Fall 2000.
- Sorrentino, Paul, "Newly Discovered Writings of Mary Helen Peck Crane and Agnes Crane," published in *Syracuse University Library Associates COURIER Vol. XXI No. 1*; Spring 1986.
- Stallman, R.W., *Stephen Crane: A Biography*; George Braziller, 1968.
- Weinstein, Bernard, "Stephen Crane, Journalist;" published in *Stephen Crane in Transition: Centenary Essays*, Joseph Katz, ed.; Northern Illinois University Press, 1972.
- Wertheim, Stanley, ed., *The Stephen Crane Encyclopedia*; Greenwood Press, 1997.
- Wertheim, Stanley and Paul Sorrentino, *The Crane Log: A Documentary Life of Stephen Crane, 1871-1900*; G.K. Hall & Co., 1994.
- Wolff, Daniel, *Fourth of July Asbury Park*, Bloomsbury USA, 2005.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane house)
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The following metes-and-bounds description is taken from the deed that transferred the property from Tom Hayes to Francis D'Alessandro in 2001:

Beginning at a point in the southerly line of Fourth Avenue said point being distant 200.00 feet westerly from the intersection formed by the southerly line of Fourth Avenue and the westerly line of Grand Avenue and from there thence

1. South 24 degrees zero minutes 00 seconds west, 150.00 feet to a point; thence
2. North 66 degrees 00 minutes West, 50.00 feet to a point; thence
3. North 24 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, 150 feet to a point in the southerly line of Fourth Avenue; thence
4. South 66 degrees zero minutes 00 seconds East along said southerly line of Fourth Avenue, 50 feet to the point and place of the beginning

Boundary Justification

The nominated property constitutes the entirety of the lot historically associated with Arbutus Cottage. (Please reference Site Map and Property Map)

Returned

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Arbutus Cottage Stephen Crane house
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number Photos Page 1

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Arbutus Cottage / Stephen Crane House
Name of Photographer: Susan Rosenberg / David Sobotka
Date of Photographs: October 2013 int./ February 2014 ext.
Location of Original Digital Files: 508 Fourth Ave., Asbury Park NJ 07712

Photo#:

- 01 north façade, camera facing south
- 02 east elevation [left] and north façade [right], camera facing southwest
- 03 south elevation [left] and east elevation [right], camera facing northwest
- 04 south elevation, camera facing north
- 05 west elevation [left] and south elevation [right], camera facing northeast
- 06 west elevation showing cellar access, camera facing east
- 07 front porch showing windows, camera facing west
- 08 front porch, camera facing east
- 09 interior view of foyer showing front door, camera facing north
- 10 interior view of foyer showing bay window, camera facing east
- 11 interior view of foyer showing hallway door and stairwell, camera facing south
- 12 interior view of parlor, camera facing northwest
- 13 interior detail of parlor, camera facing south
- 14 interior detail of parlor, camera facing southwest
- 15 interior detail of parlor showing supply room and movie room, camera facing west
- 16 interior detail of movie room showing old exterior wall, camera facing east
- 17 interior view of supply room showing old exterior wall, camera facing southwest
- 18 interior detail showing French doors in parlor, camera facing south
- 19 interior view of old 1st floor bathroom, camera facing west
- 21 interior view of lecture room, camera facing east
- 22 interior view of lecture room, camera facing west
- 23 interior detail of lecture room showing old wallpaper, camera facing northwest
- 24 interior detail of reception room showing stove, camera facing north
- 25 interior view of reception room showing addition, camera facing east
- 26 interior view of reception room showing old window, facing south
- 27 interior detail of rear kitchen showing old exterior wall and window, facing northeast
- 28 interior view of rear kitchen and entrance to new 1st floor bathroom, camera facing east
- 29 interior view of stairs showing hallway and banister, camera facing east
- 30 interior view of "sewing room" display, camera facing south
- 31 interior view of "sewing room" display, camera facing north
- 32 interior view of library, camera facing southwest
- 33 interior view of library, camera facing northwest
- 34 interior detail of library, camera facing east
- 35 interior detail of 2nd floor old bathroom, camera facing west

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

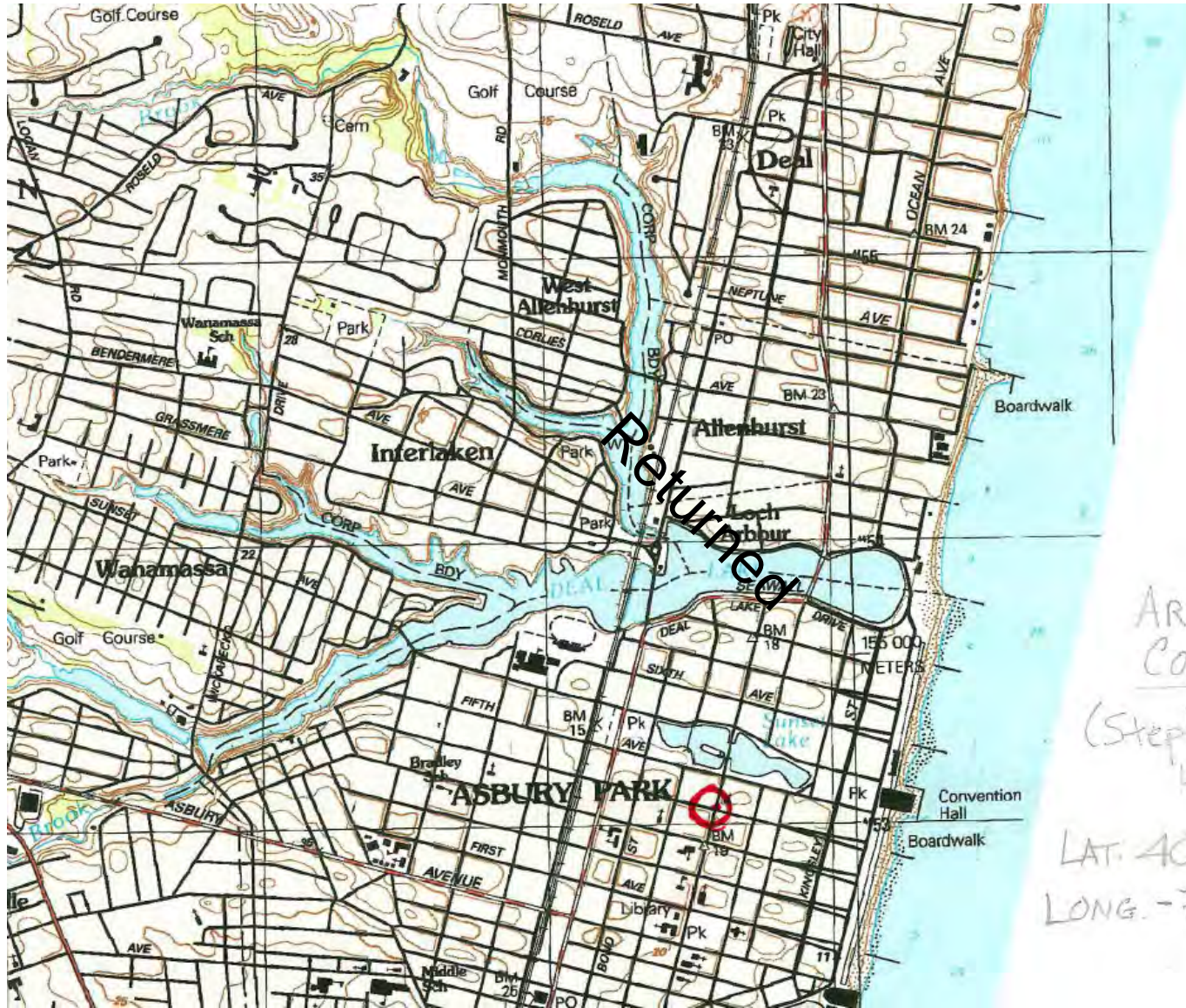
Arbutus Cottage Stephen Crane house
Monmouth County, NJ

Section number Photos Page 2

- 36 interior view of master bedroom/conference room, camera facing east
- 37 interior view of master bedroom/conference room, camera facing south
- 38 interior view of 2nd floor utility room, camera facing west
- 39 interior detail of 2nd floor new bathroom, showing old exterior wall, facing southwest
- 40 interior view of 2nd floor old bedroom, camera facing east
- 41 interior detail of 2nd floor old bedroom, camera facing south
- 42 interior view of apartment bedroom, camera facing east
- 43 interior view of apartment kitchen, camera facing south
- 44 interior view of apartment living room, camera facing southwest
- 45 interior view of apartment living room and bathroom, camera facing east
- 46 interior detail of apartment bathroom, camera facing southeast
- 47 interior detail of office, facing northwest
- 48 interior view of stairs to 3rd floor, facing east
- 49 interior view of south side of attic, middle room, camera facing south
- 50 interior view of south side of attic, middle room, camera facing north
- 51 interior detail of south side of attic, west room, camera facing south
- 52 interior detail of south side of attic, east room, camera facing east
- 53 interior detail of north side of attic, camera facing south
- 54 interior view of north side of attic, camera facing north
- 55 interior view of north side of attic, tower room, camera facing east
- 56 exterior view of fire escape, camera facing east
- 57 interior view of old cellar staircase, camera facing south
- 58 interior view of cellar, showing old coal bin, camera facing east
- 59 interior view of cellar, showing crawlspace, camera facing north
- 60 interior view of cellar staircase, camera facing west

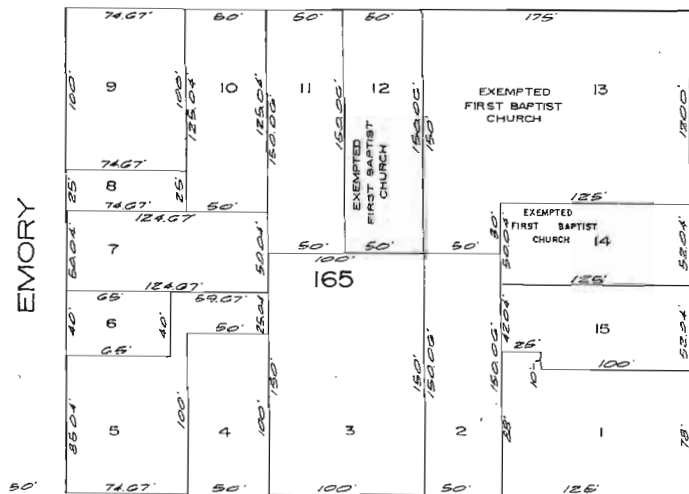
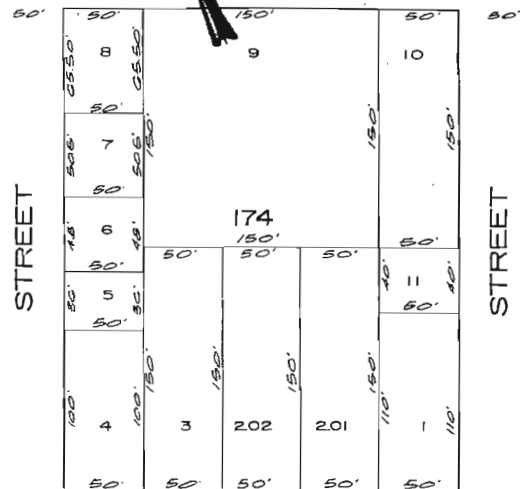
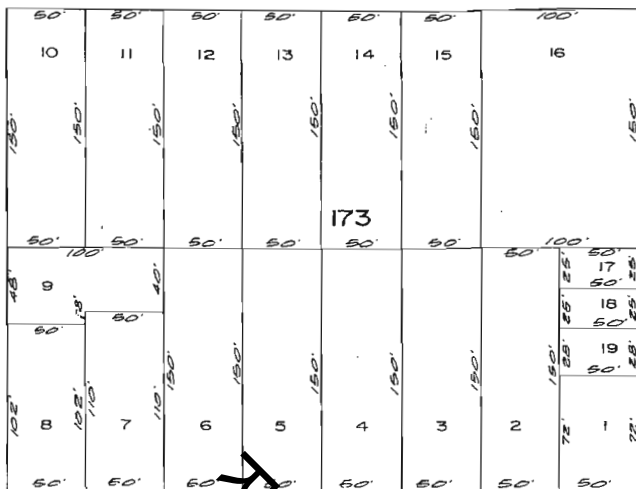
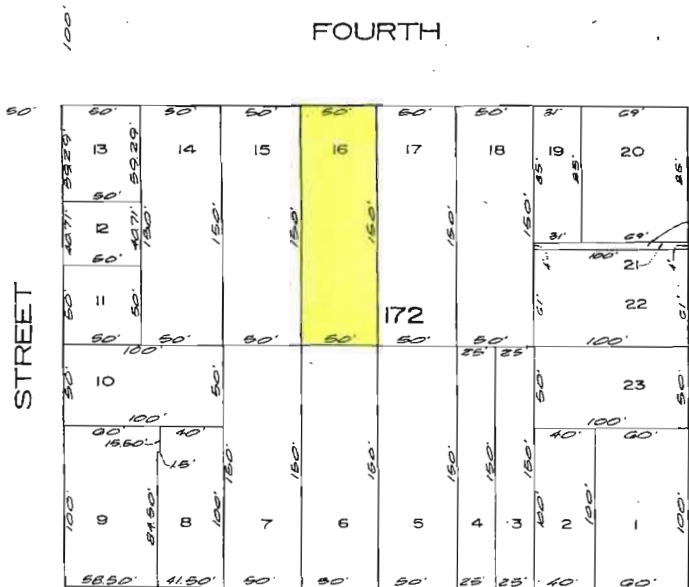
Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)

Monmouth County, New Jersey

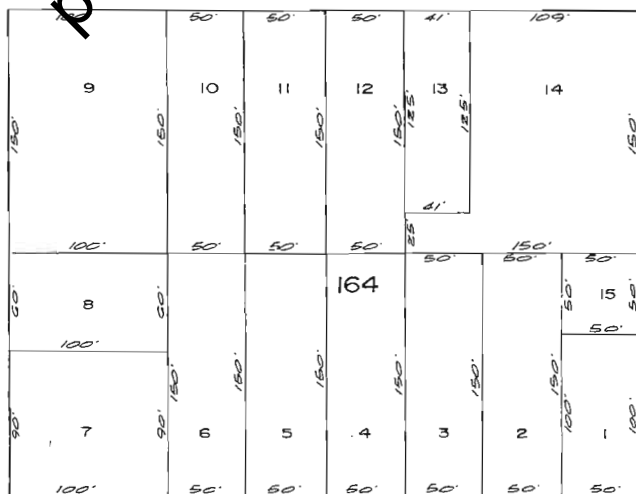


ARBUTUS
COTTAGE
(Stephen Crane
Hse)
LAT: 40.223535
LONG: -74.006942

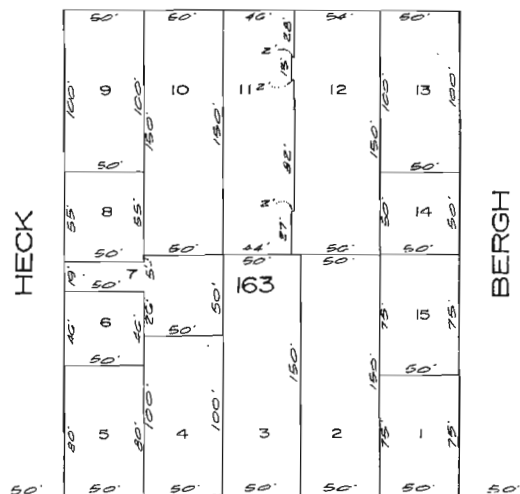
Asbury Park Quadrangle
New Jersey
7.5-Minutes Series (Topographic)



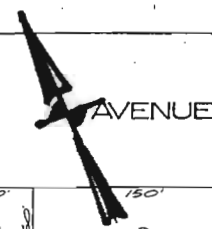
GRAND



HECK



BERGH



Returned



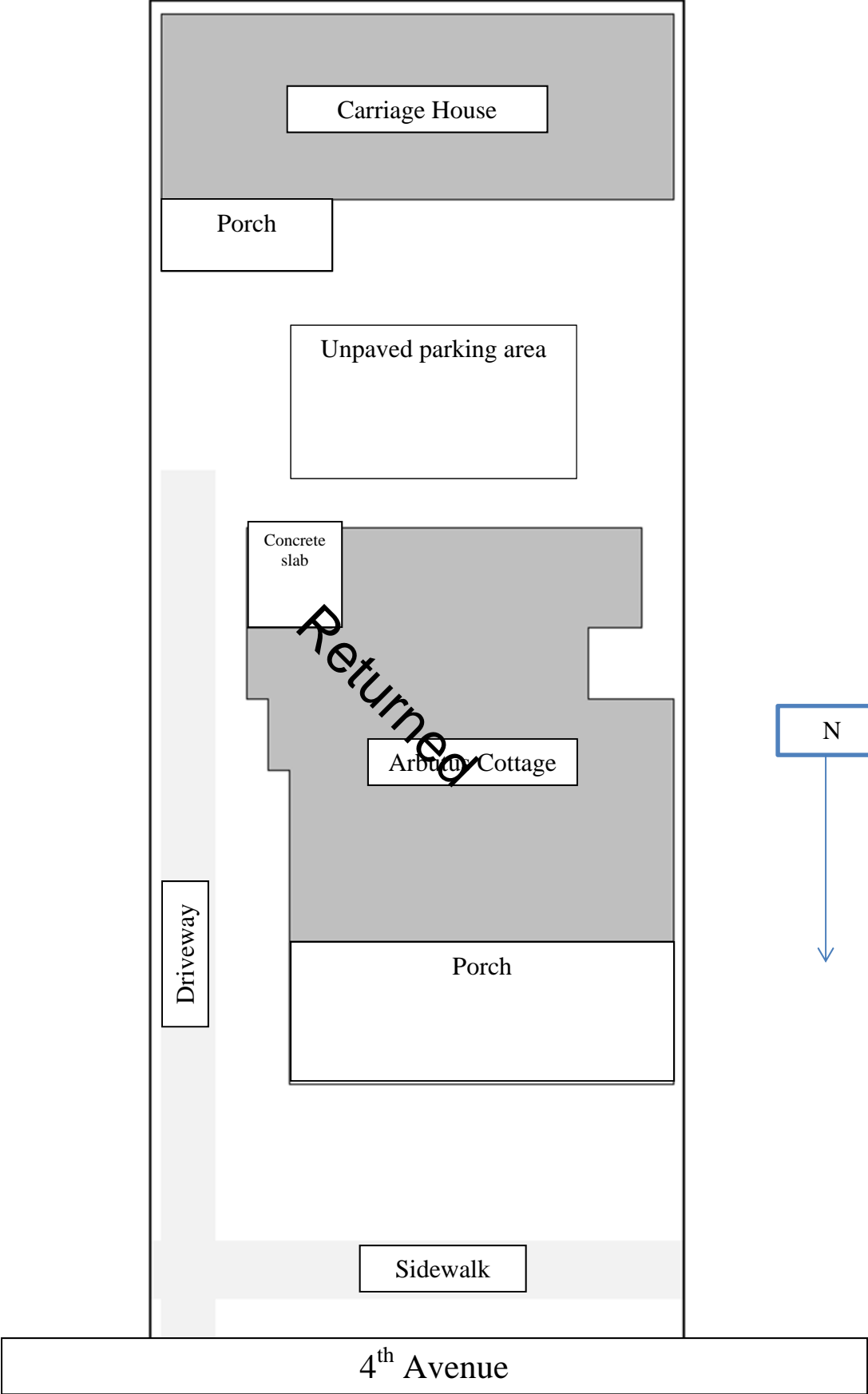
Site Map

for

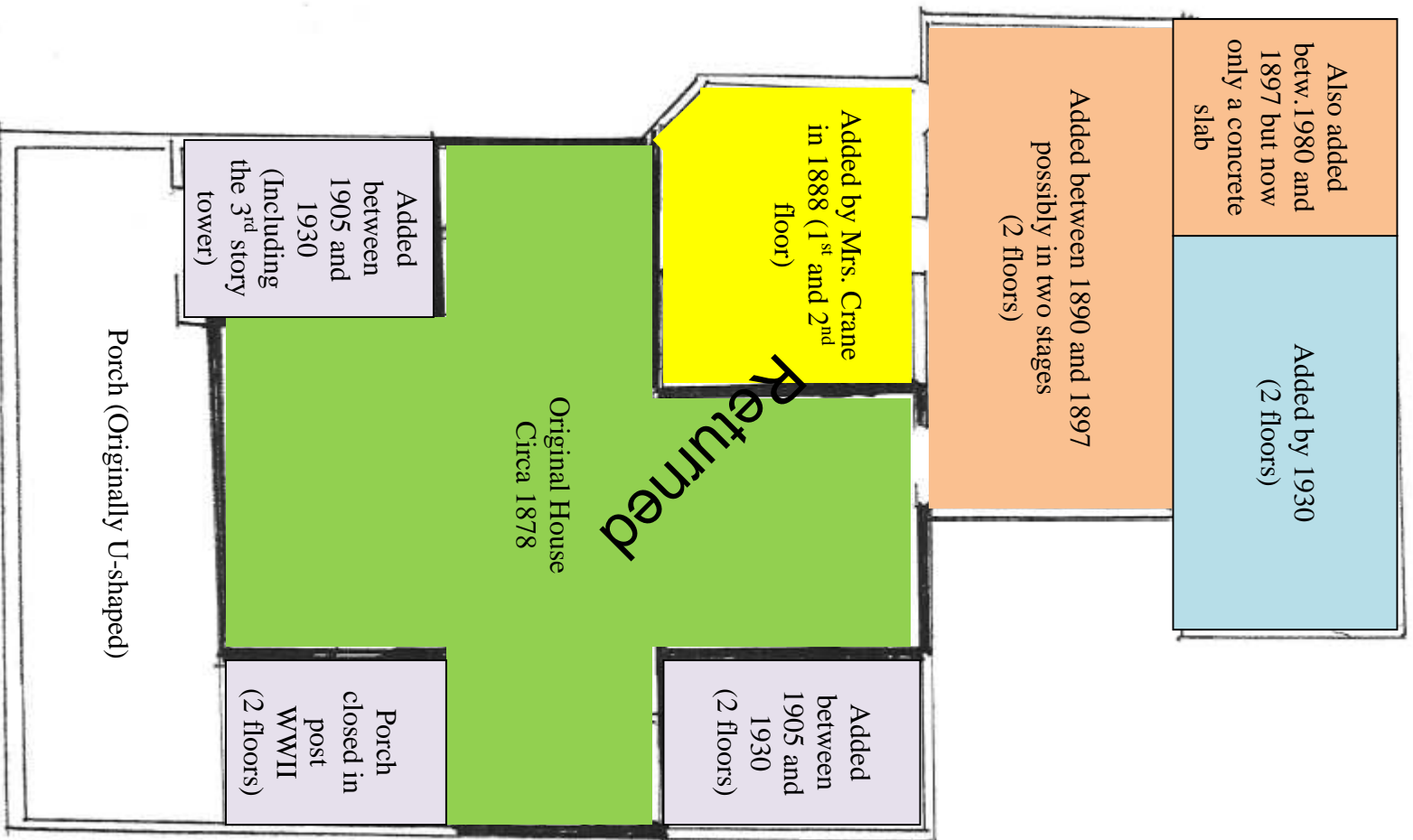
Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)

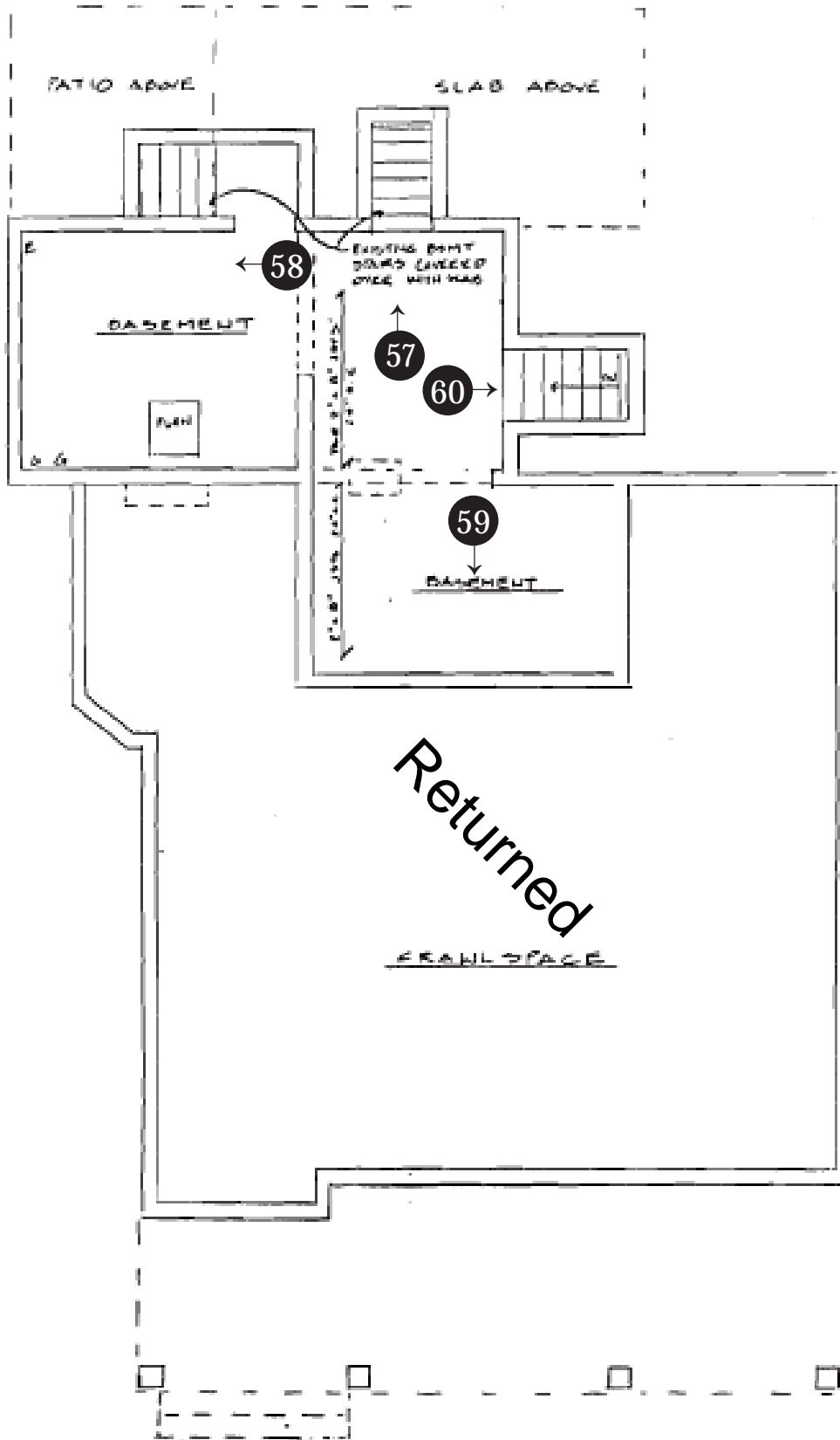
508 Fourth Avenue

Asbury Park, Monmouth County, NJ



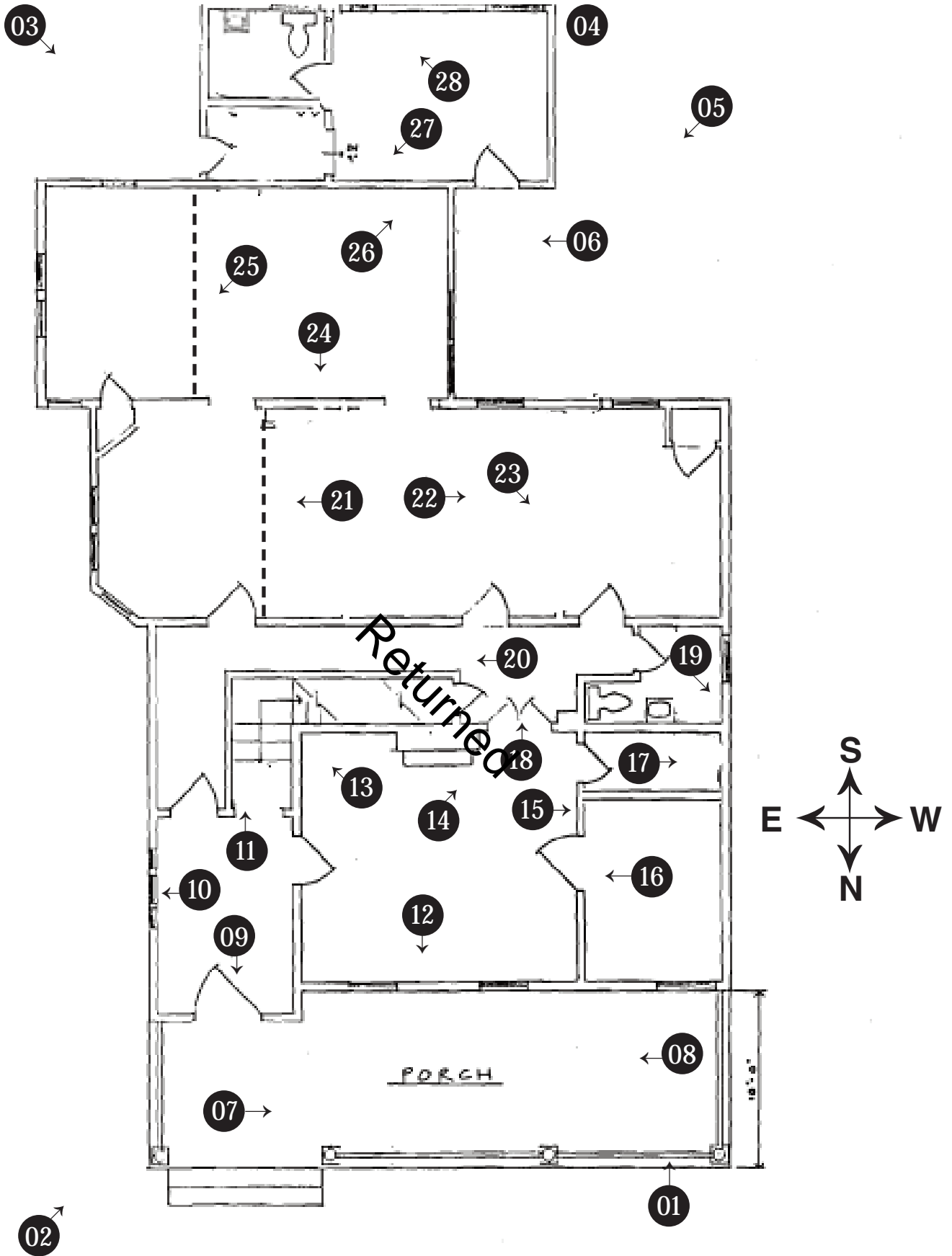
Arbutus Cottage – Changes Over Time





NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage

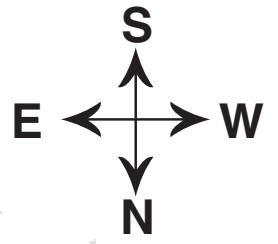
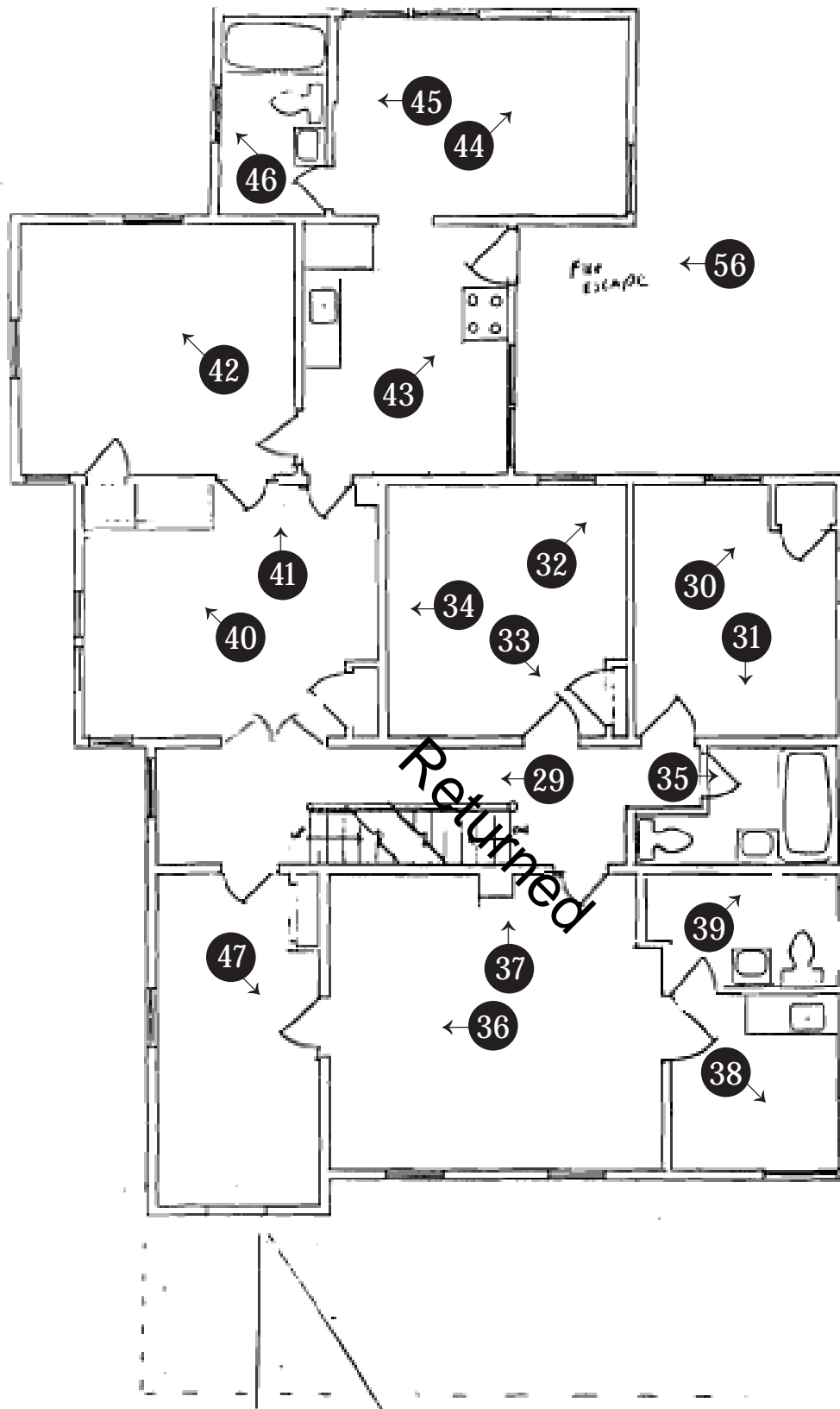
BASEMENT PLAN
 SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



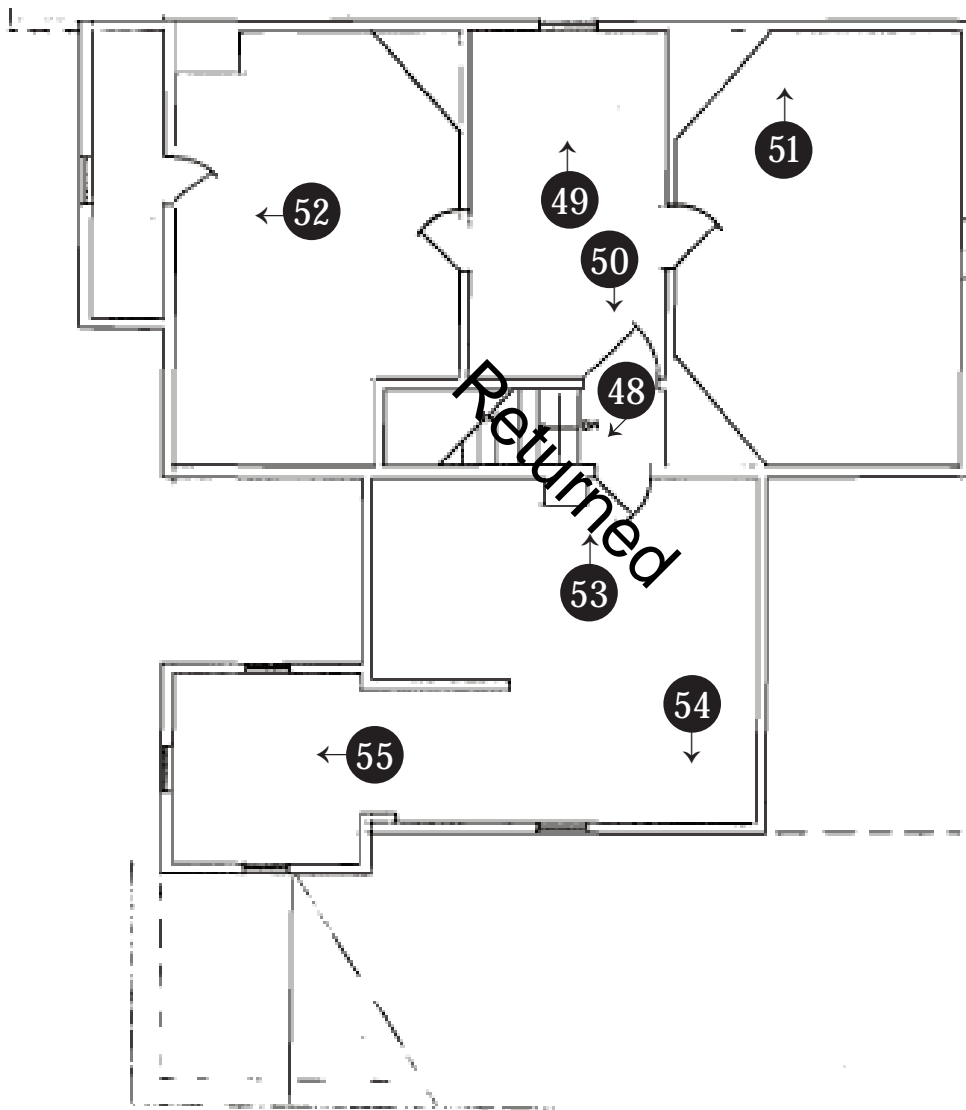


NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"





NJ_Monmouth County_Arbutus Cottage

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



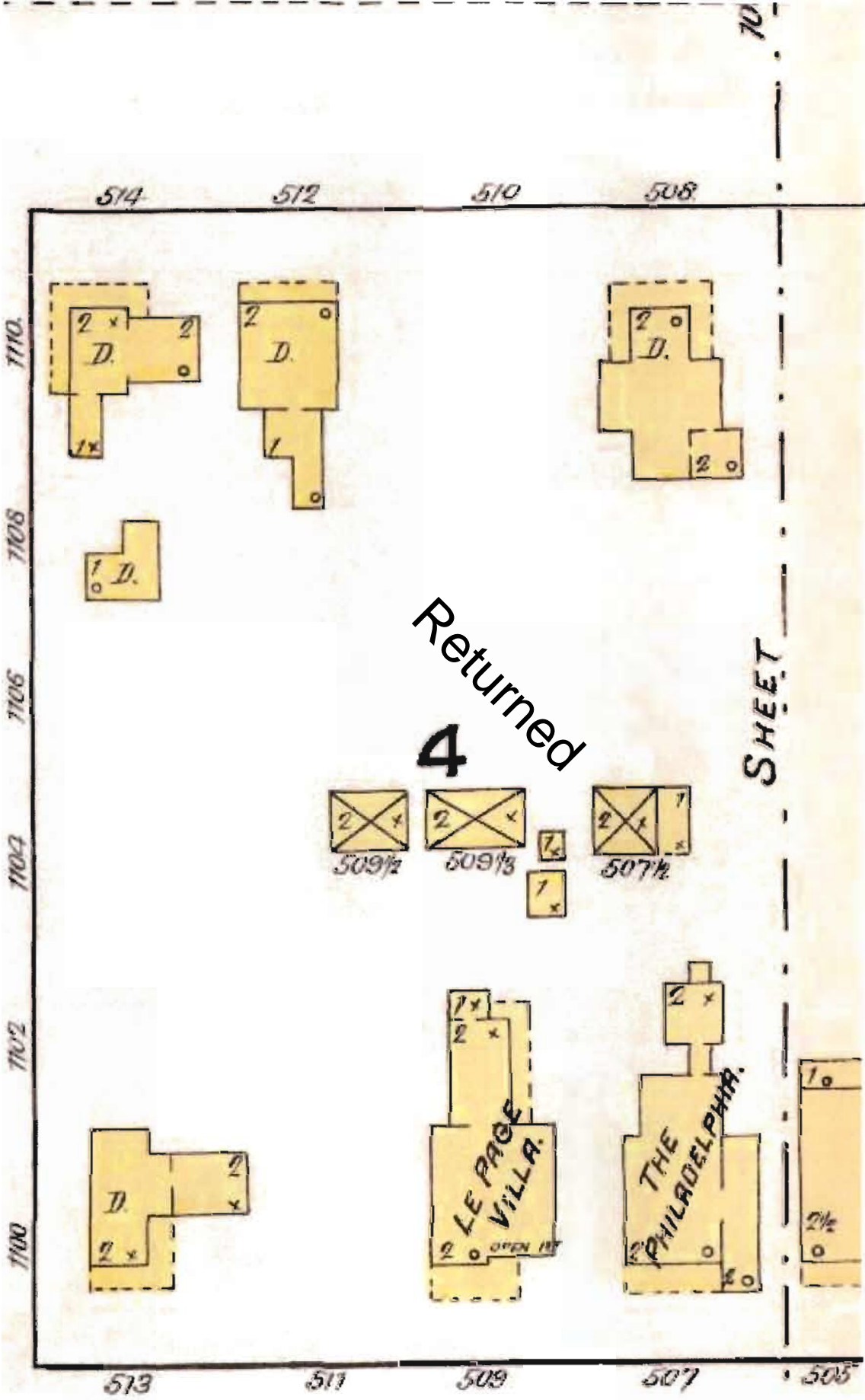


**Carriage House
Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
508 Fourth Avenue
Asbury Park, Monmouth County, NJ**



Shared Driveway

**Arbutus Cottage (Stephen Crane House)
508 Fourth Avenue
Asbury Park, Monmouth County, NJ**



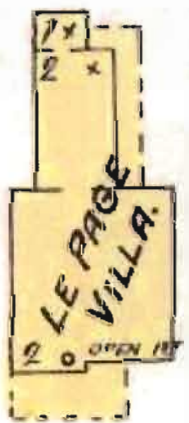
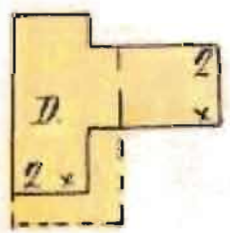
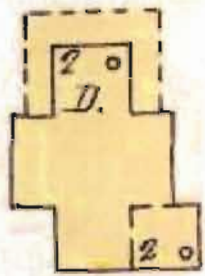
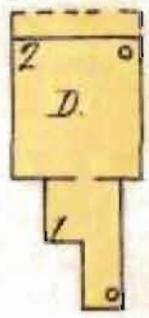
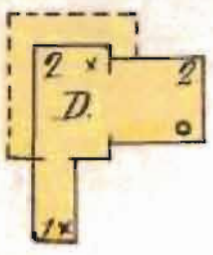
Returned
4

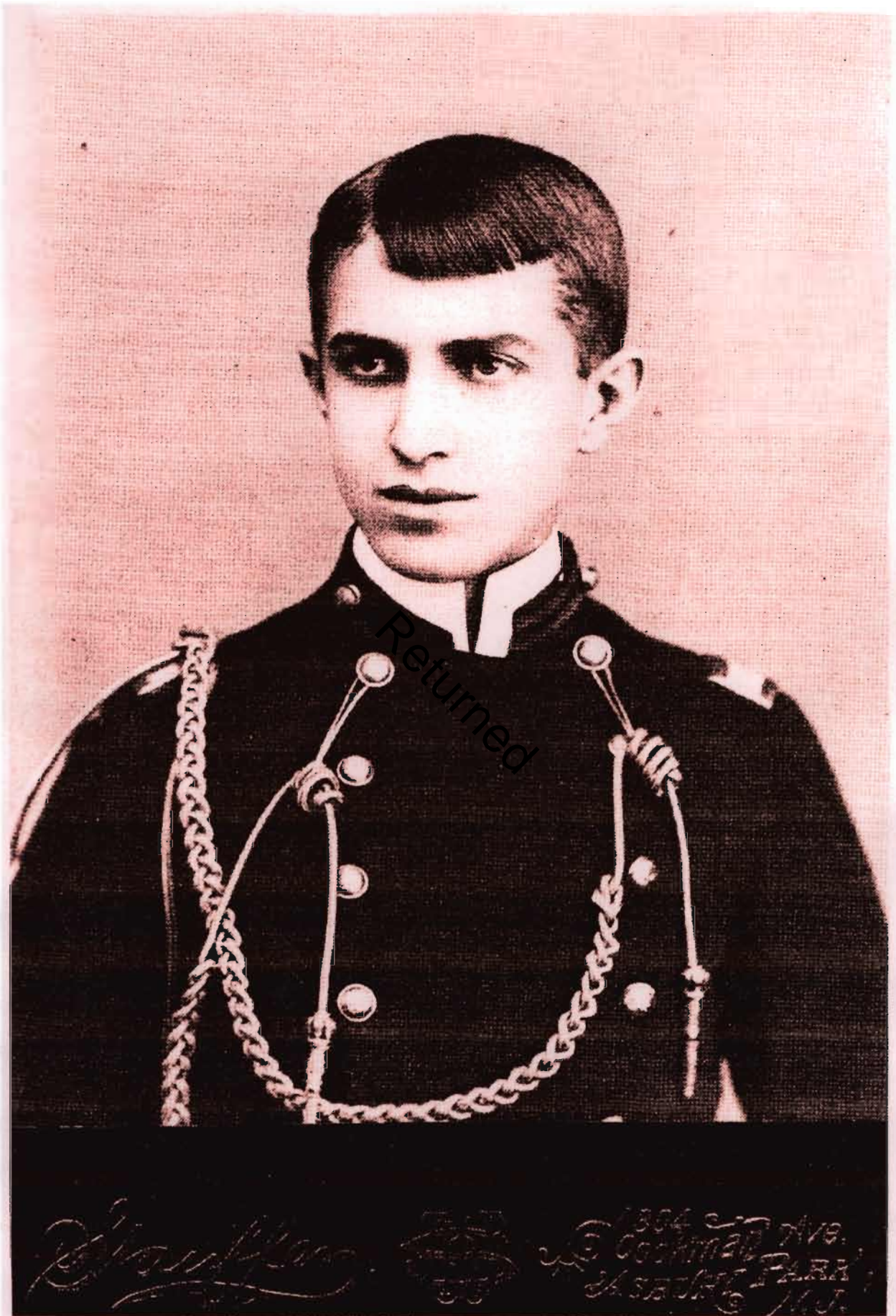
SHEET

1110
1108
1106
1104
1102
1100

514 512 510 508

513 511 509 507 505





*Crane as a lieutenant in the Hudson River Institute cadet corps,
1889 or 1890 (courtesy Barrett Collection, University of Virginia)*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Arburtus College Cottage

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Monmouth

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/17/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000003

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/17/15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA [Signature]

REVIEWER [Signature]

DISCIPLINE [Signature]

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 2/17/15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places**

**Comments
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

Property Name: Arbutus Cottage
Property Location: Monmouth County
Reference Number: 15000003
Date of Return: February 17, 2015

The Arbutus Cottage is being return for technical and substantive corrections. The property is being nominated under Criterion B as the only remaining residence in the United States associated with author, Stephen Crane and for Crane's mother, Mary Helen Peck Crane. The c. 1878 property is being nominated under the areas of significance of literature and social history, at the state and local level. The period of significance is 1883-1892.

To be eligible under Criterion B, the nomination must clearly demonstrate that the property retains enough historic integrity from the period of significance. The narrative description describes various property alterations, additions, and remodels experienced over the years, however, it does not present a clear demonstration of what historic fabric and floor plans remain from the period of 1883-1892 and whether there is enough to sufficiently convey the feeling, association, workmanship, materials, and design from when the house was used by the Cranes. It would be useful to illustrate the floor plans of the cottage during this time period and where was the original entrance? It is also unclear whether, for example, the remodel of the parlor was based on any historical documentation. Are there any historic exterior photographs of this building?

In Section 8, please clarify what is meant by, "At some point in 1885, the teenaged Stephen...sat down at Arbutus Cottage and tried his hand at sketching out a work of fiction..." was this simply a casual reference to him actually being there and not away at military/boarding school or did he have perhaps a specific room he used at the house for his writing?

Further contextual information is needed supporting the significance of Mary Helen Crane's work in

social history with the WCTU. Additional information is needed to understand the extent of the WCTU activities in Asbury Park. What were her contributions (besides being an officer) and why are they significant?

Technical Issues.

Please submit a revised nomination using a larger font size. The text also appears in draft form and Section 7, page 7 still indicates a track change. Photo references need to be separated by commas for clarity.

Lisa Deline
National Register of Historic Places
Lisa_Deline@nps.gov



HPO Project # 13-1703
HPO-F2015-404

State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-04B

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

TEL. (609) 984-0176 FAX (609) 984-0578

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

RECEIVED 2280

JUL - 3 2015

BOB MARTIN

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

June 30, 2015

Patrick Andrus
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Andrus:

The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office is re-submitting the National Register nomination for the Arbutus Cottage – Stephen Crane House, in Monmouth County, New Jersey—National Register reference number 15000003, for National Register consideration. The nomination was returned for substantive and technical corrections; specifically to clarify what historic fabric and floor plans remain from the period of significance, an illustration of the evolving floorplan, a better understanding of the house and its relationship to Stephen Crane's writing habits, further information supporting the significance and extent of Mary Helen Crane's work with the WCTU, and various technical issues dealing with the text and photos. All changes have been made in compliance with your recommendations.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Bob Craig of the Historic Preservation Office staff by email at bob.craig@dep.nj.gov or by phone at (609) 984-0541.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Saunders
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer