

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received **MAR 9 1984**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic William S. Townsend House
and/or common "Five Chimney"

2. Location

street & number 96 Delsea Drive (corner of Route 47 & Taylor Road) NA not for publication
city, town Dennis Township vicinity of _____ congressional district _____
state New Jersey code 34 county Cape May code 009

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | <u>VA</u> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Gustaf Evan Engstrom, Jr.
street & number 401 49th Street
city, town Ocean City, NJ 08226 vicinity of _____ state New Jersey

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cape May County Building (County Clerk's Office)
street & number Main Street
city, town Cape May Court House state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1961, 1971 federal state county local

depository for survey records _____
city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION

Located in a rural setting just west of the village of Dennisville, the William S. Townsend property is a well preserved 19th century house with Federal detailing and several associated outbuildings. The house faces the main road while the outbuildings are in the rear of the property.

Built in at least three stages, the William S. Townsend House is a clapboarded two and one half story, "T" shape, five bay dwelling constructed of native cedar. The property on which this plantation house is built is less than one mile northwest of the historic town of Dennisville, located at U.T.M. reference: Zone 18, Easting 514490, Northing 4338020. It has a white wooden picket fence on two sides, and five nineteenth century outbuildings in the rear. The house itself is an example of late Federal Architecture with several distinctive early to mid nineteenth century sections. The house and outbuildings represent a nineteenth century farm complex.

The house has white clapboard siding, a brick foundation, and five chimneys - one inside end chimney on either end of the front wing, one interior and inside end chimney in the rear wing, and one outside chimney on the north side of the summer kitchen addition. All of the chimneys are of brick construction.

The rear section of the structure was built circa 1820 by the Ludlam family. The front section was built in two phases, the first phase circa 1835, and an addition circa 1845. These additions were completed by William Townsend. The east porch, fifty feet in length, was added during the circa 1835 construction, with the west porch being added during the 1845 construction. On the northeastern corner of the east porch are two buildings with brick exteriors. One building is a summer kitchen with overhead living quarters for servants, and the other building is a root cellar, currently used as a bathroom.

The house has a cedar shingled gable roof with a boxed cornice on the east and west flanks and plain cornice below the gables. There are two gabled dormers with 6/6 lights on the front roof with dentil trim at the top of the sash, two small 2/2 lights under the roof ends, 6/6 lights on south side of back wing and front paneled shutters on back wing and first floor front and louvered shutters on second floor front (original hardward on shutter).

The front entrance has a broken pediment with a fan light below. There is a keystone above the fan light with cornice over fluted pilasters on the base, and a six panel front door. Porches on the rear are on the east and west flanks. The east porch is a five bay screened,

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DESCRIPTION

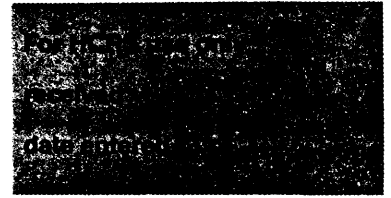
and the west porch is a four bay opened. The posts on each porch have scroll trim at top.

The interior of the first floor consists of the Center Hall Entrance, 17' x 3" x 9' - random width plank floors, chair rail, two tier staircase and storage cupboards built in the doorway leading to the dining room. The southwest parlor, a 15' x 7" x 17' 1" room, with random width plank floors, chair rail, and woodstove chimney. The south east living room, 17' x 3" x 18", with random width plank floors, wall paper, chair rail, fireplace, and four fireplace cupboards. The dining room, a 17' x 6" x 16' room, a fireplace, chair rail, random width plank floors, and five doors (one to the kitchen, one to the east porch, one to the west porch, one to the entrance foyer and one to the living room). The kitchen, 17' x 6" x 14", a walk in fireplace with a baking area, original beam and plank ceiling, chair rail, random width plank floor, staircase to north bedroom, door to basement, door to west porch, door to east porch and summer kitchen. The basement is 15' x 10" x 17' 6", has stone foundation walls, and brick floor. The east porch, 50' x 10', is fully screened in, partial brick floor in front of summer kitchen, and has a hand pump and water trough. The summer kitchen 11' 6" x 11' 6" has a walk in fireplace, sink and counter area, cabinets, original beam and plank ceiling, random width plank floors, and a staircase to the maids quarters 11' x 6" x 11' 6". The bathroom, 7' x 9" x 7' 5", is off the east porch and next to the summer kitchen. The west porch is 32' x 5" x 7' 10".

The interior of the second floor consists of the southwest bedroom, a 15' x 7" x 17' room with 7' ceiling. It contains a chair rail, random width plank floors, chimney for woodstove, and a plastered ceiling. The center-south bedroom, 17' x 9' x 7", contains a chair rail, random width plank floor, and a plastered ceiling. The south east bedroom, a 17' x 4" x 9' 9" room, consists of exposed beams, chair rail, random width plank floor, and a fireplace with two cupboards. The center middle bedroom, 17' x 5" x 15' 8", contains random width plank floor, a 9" x 3" x 1' 2" two door cupboard, and two closets. The bathroom is 7' x 9" x 4'. The north bedroom, a 15' 10" x 17' 4" room, random width plank floors, chair rail, original beam and plank ceiling, an exposed brickwall dividing this room from the middle bedroom, a staircase to attic, a staircase to kitchen, and a door to the center bedroom. The top center hallway, 12' x 2" x 10', a chair rail, random width plank floor, and a door to the south attic. The north attic, 17' x 6" x 10' consists of two rooms, the first room plastered, and the second room measuring 19' x 7" x 8' 6". The final room, the south attic consists of two rooms, the first room, 10' x 3" x 13' is plastered, and the second room, 30' x 10' x 3" is also

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DESCRIPTION

plastered.

The outbuildings (except for the garage) all appear to be 19th century.

2. Barn (26' x 17') - Cedar roof with clapboard cedar siding and a second floor loft.
3. Two Coach Garage (20'3" x 16'6") - Cedar roof and cedar clapboard siding.
4. Outhouse (6' x 5'6") - Cedar roof and clapboard cedar siding, contains five toilets.
5. Shed (12' x 14') - Cedar roof and clapboard siding.
6. Root Cellar (6'10" x 5'6") - Cedar roof and clapboard siding.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|
| Specific dates | 1810-80 | Builder/Architect | Unknown |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

William S. Townsend (1811 - ca. 1880), a prominent merchant/farmer and Cape May County Freeholder was one of the wealthiest men in the area in the mid-19th century. This well preserved complex of 19th century buildings is associated primarily with Townsend, who owned and developed the property from 1835 until his death circa 1880. The main house is a fine local expression of late Federal style architecture and represents the work of a master builder and craftsman familiar with the popular motifs of the period.

Around 1820 the original portion (the rear) of the House was built by a member of the Ludlam family. It is unclear precisely which member of the Ludlam family owned the house because they were a large family and subsequent division of the large tract was complicated. The Ludlams were a very influential family in the history of Cape May County.

The front section of the building, and the east porch were constructed by William Townsend, circa 1835. The addition to the front of the building, and the west porch were constructed circa 1845. The two structures on the northeastern corner of the east porch was constructed sometime after the 1835 addition, but before the 1845 addition.

William S. Townsend, for whom the house is named, was very active in Cape May politics and government. He was a prominent figure in his day and played an important role in the history and development of Dennisville. Townsend served as Director of the Board of Freeholders of Cape May County from 1851-55 and represented Dennis Township as a Freeholder 1840, 1850-54, 1856-59, 1861, 1864-68 (a William H. Townsend served in 1860 and 63, and a William Townsend served as Councilman for Cape May City in 1853, 57, 75, and 76). Also during his career, with the onset of the Civil War:

"...the Board of Freeholders prepared for the relief of the families of those who went to save the Union on August 28, 1861, a committee consisting of one person from each Township and Cape Island, were appointed to look after the wants of the soldiers families... William S. Townsend, Dennis, ... These

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 6.96

Quadrangle name Woodbine

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached sheet

List all states and counties for properties overliapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patrick W. O'Connor & Michael W. Timpanaro, Cultural Resource Specialists

organization New Jersey Pinelands Commission date June 13, 1983

street & number P.O. Box 7 telephone (609) 894-9342

city or town New Lisbon state New Jersey

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature R.W. Myers

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 3-1-84

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Meloree Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 4/5/84

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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SIGNIFICANCE

committeemen each had his own territory to look after; and was authorized to give each soldier's family six dollars per month as long as the head of the family was in service. This committee served until May, 1862, when a new one was appointed..." (Stevens: 1897, pp. 328).

It has been reported that in 1847, the renowned statesman, Henry Clay, spent a night at the Townsend house, while visiting and touring in Cape May County. (An oil painting of Clay in the museum at Cape May County House honors the memory of the famous visitor.)

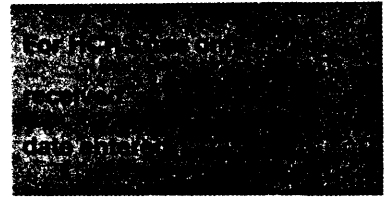
In addition to his numerous political and appointed positions, Townsend was also one of Dennis Township's most prosperous businessmen. The Seventh United States Census 1850 records William S. Townsend as having a large household of twelve persons (wife, 8 children, and two servants). The value of his real estate holdings was nearly twenty thousand dollars, the fourth largest in the township. Townsend retained this stature for some twenty more years but, by 1870, with advancing age much of his landings were transferred to his children.

Townsend died around 1880. Hannah, his wife, took possession of the homestead property and mansion. In her will, dated 1885, she gave the real estate to her daughters, Mary S., Ellen L., Maria L., Hannah L, Mira and Alida Townsend.

The house remained in the Townsend family until 1950 when it was sold to the Rev. and Mrs. Albert Baner. The Baner's lived in New York City, but spent every summer for thirty years at the Townsend House. Reverend Baner donated valuable paintings he collected to the Cape May County museum prior to selling the house in 1980 to Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brown. According to Helena Way Fitzpatrick, in her book Some Old Houses of Cape May County: "The house has been named 'Five Chimneys' by Rev. and Mrs. Albert Baner."

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Fitzpatrick, Helena Way, Some Old Court Houses of Cape May County, Cape May Court House, New Jersey 1951.

Stevens, Lewis T., The History of Cape May County, New Jersey, Cape May City, New Jersey, 1897.

Cape May County Deed Book Volume V., 1845.

WILLIAM S. TOWNSEND HOUSE
DENNIS TOWNSHIP
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

