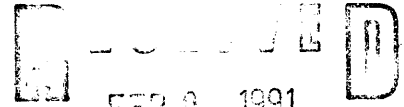


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Neutral Water Health Resort Sanitarium
other names/site number Dr. Smith's Sanitarium Site

2. Location

street & number Corner of Claudius Street & London Avenue not for publication
city, town Egg Harbor City vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Atlantic code 001 zip code 08215

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

James Hill 1/29/91
Signature of certifying official Date
Acting Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

Patricia Andrus 3/20/91

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health Care/
Sanitarium
resort/baths/spa

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreational/outdoor recreation
playing field, Government/Township
Parking lot. Vacant, not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Shingle Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood
roof composition
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Charles Smith Sanitarium Historic Site is located in Egg Harbor City, Atlantic County, New Jersey (Figures 1 & 2). The site is on both sides of London Avenue at the corner of Claudius Street and London Avenue. The site is next to the city municipal building, and the parking lot and possibly the building are located on the site of the sanitarium dormitory building.

Originally, there was a complex of buildings and facilities which made up the Sanitarium complex. There was a large sanitarium surrounded by a glass porch, a sun house, several bath houses, serpentine canal, a windmill and a pumping station. The Sanitarium was built by Dr. Charles Smith during the early twentieth century. Smith's Neutral Water Health Resort was incorporated in 1905, operated for about fifteen years by Dr. Smith, and was sold in 1921 to Henry Winberg, who owned it until 1926. Dr. Smith was an elderly gentleman who was reported to have been an eccentric, as he claimed to be several hundred years old.

The complex was designed by Smith to treat patients with muscle problems. Patients at Dr. Smith's Sanitarium came to the spa to be treated with the benefits of cedar water by soaking and walking through the serpentine canal. An early nineteenth century AERO-VIEW advertisement for Egg Harbor City (Figure 3) shows a complete view of the Sanitarium complex. The 1908, 1917 and 1923 Sanborn Maps (Figures 4, 5, & 6) record the rise and fall of this Health Spa in Egg Harbor.

The main building of the complex was used as offices, and a dormitory was located to the south of this main building. Next to the main building at the corner of London Avenue and Claudius Street were the serpentine canals. The patients would wade through these canals to receive the benefits of the cedar waters. Next to the canals were several bath houses. Across London Avenue was a sun house for drying patients during summer months. Behind this was a building with a windmill on top, with radiators inside for drying patients during the winter months.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Dr. Smith's Sanitarium Site, Egg Harbor City,
Atlantic County, NJ

The sun house and the serpentine canal are the only extant remains of Dr. Smith's Sanitarium. The canal area is presently enclosed by a cyclone fence, and except for the canal and a few piles of rubble from the bath houses, this area is a vacant lot. Across the street, the sun house stands on part of a recreational area. To the south of the building is a playing field and behind and to the north are open spaces. This building appears intact (Plate 1) and consists of a 12-sided first story with a window or set of windows and a door on each section. There is an eight-sided smaller second story with a window in each section.

As a result of the supposed value of these waters, a commercial exploitation began. In Hammonton, the Dryden Mineral Springs Water Company was established in 1899 to make and bottle mineral water. Dr. Smith, while supervising the physical treatments of his patients, also made a herbal medicine in large vats located in his office. He sold the medicine at \$1.00 a bottle. He also prescribed a special diet to his patients, including teas, cocoa, and fruits, especially prunes.

Dr. Smith operated the health resort until 1921, when he sold it to Henry Winberg. Dr. Smith died some time shortly thereafter. In around 1923, the main sanitarium building was destroyed by fire, and Winberg sold the site in 1926. The Atlantic County Detention Home For Juveniles was located on the property, possibly in the sanitarium dormitory, shortly thereafter.

The contributing features to the site are listed as follows:

1. The Main Building was located just west of the canals. This was a large 2 1/2 story frame building surrounded by a glass-roofed porch. This building housed Dr. Smith's office, and also contained vats in which he prepared his patent medicines. This building was destroyed in a fire, ca. 1923. The site has not been archaeological evaluated.
2. The Dormitory was located to the west of the office. The building was converted to the Atlantic County Detention Home. This location is presently covered with a parking lot for the municipal complex.
3. The polygonal sun house (Plates 1, 2, & 3) is the only remaining building on the site. This building has 12 sides on the first floor and eight sides on the second story. The first floor has three entries: a main entry facing London Avenue had double doors and a small portico with a gable roofs. Each section flanking this entry has two windows. There are two single doors facing southwest and there is a section with two windows between them. Most sections on the first story have two windows, but several north have only one window. On the northeast, there is a small addition, but its function is not apparent. The second story is eight-sided with a single window in each section. The roof is a low eight-sided cap on top and a shed slope 12 sections roof radiating out this from the base of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Dr. Smith's Sanitarium Site, Egg Harbor City,
Atlantic County, NJ

eight sides of the second story. Called the round house, or sun house, it was used in the warm weather as a sunning and drying room. It was prescribed for people with aching joints, and was used exclusively during the summer months. The land where the structure is located is now city park land and the building is boarded up, but remains intact.

4. The Windmill Structure was located on top of a building which contained radiators that dried out patients, and was used during the winter months. The location has not been evaluated but is a potential archaeological site.

5. The Water Wheel House was located over the canals and contained a water wheel operated by the windmill across the street. It apparently was designed to move the water through the canals. The location has not been evaluated but is a potential archaeological site.

6. The Bath Houses (Plate 8) were one story frame bath houses located on the property not far from the canal. Two foundations are still evident, but they have not been evaluated as potential archaeological resources.

7. The Serpentine Canal (Plates 6 & 7) is still present on the corner lot of London Avenue and Claudius Street. These were filled with cedar water and used as baths. The windmill turned the water wheel which churned the water to create a current. Dr. Smith believed that the cedar water had curative properties. The patients were instructed to wade against the current, while eating bananas and rolls.

8. The bridge (Plate 5) on London Avenue which crosses the water flowing into the canals was erected by the county in 1900. The engineer was Joseph C. Brown. This cut stone bridge is still in situ (Plate 4).

9. A wood pedestrian bridge (Plate 6) connects the pavement running the west side of London Avenue. The date that this bridge was constructed or whether it is at all associated with the Sanitarium is not evident.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Health/Medicine

Archeology

Period of Significance

1905-1926

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Dr. Smith's Sanitarium Historic Site is significant under criterion A because the complex retains distinctive features of the early twentieth century health spa. The surviving structures - the serpentine canal and the polygonal sun house - are very unique and represent an unusual facet of early twentieth century health consciousness and treatment, as it changed following the exposure of patent medicine men during the first decade of the twentieth century. Under criterion D, the site is significant because it is likely to yield information important to our understanding of early twentieth century medical ideas and practices.

The Dr. Smith's Sanitarium was located on the corner of Claudius Street and London Avenue during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Dr. Charles Smith built the sanitarium, sun house, windmill, water wheel, bath houses, and serpentine canal on the site in ca. 1905.

America enjoyed a fascination with health and medical treatments during the nineteenth century. Bottled patent medicines were a part of the popular American culture during the period 1850-1910, their manufacturers often claiming to cure a variety of deadly and not-so-deadly diseases, including kidney and liver ailments, cancer, acne and baldness. However, these "medicines" were mostly composed of alcohol or narcotic drugs (Munsey 1970:67). As a result of the public acceptance of these drugs, they became marketed through traveling medicine shows, with an air of supernatural fakery supplied by mystics or Indian medicine men. These shows were most popular during the 1870s (Cook 1976:27).

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Dr. Smith's Sanitarium Site, Egg Harbor City,
Atlantic County, NJ

A more formal approach to selling the patent medicines was the construction of sanitariums or hospitals for treatment. Dr. Andrew Stone opened his Lung and Hygienic Institute in Troy, NY in 1860, and sold his "Dr. Stone's Oxford Drops" there (Wilson and Wilson 1971:139). A Dr. Smith in San Francisco opened the "Hygeian Home Water-cure and Phrenological Institute" in the 1870s and sold his "Dr. Smith's Vita Oil" there (Wilson and Wilson 1971:139).

The supposed medicinal benefits of mineral waters was being propounded as early as the mid-eighteenth century, when Dr. John De Normandie found the waters near Bristol, PA, to be "a useful diuretic" (Weiss and Kemble 1962:11). Noted Philadelphian physician Dr. Benjamin Rush also recommended the use of chalybeate waters in the treatment of hysteria, palsy, epilepsy, gout, diarrhea, and other ailments. By the 1850s, there were numerous locations that advertised themselves as medically beneficial.

The first American health spa was founded in 1791, with the springs at Bath (now Berkeley Springs), West Virginia. In New Jersey, an early spa was at Schooley's Mountain, Morris County (Weiss and Kemble 1962:12); and the city of Hammonton, in Atlantic County, was a haven for people with pulmonary diseases. They came to use the chalybeate springs there. The Dryden Mineral Springs Water Company was established in 1899 to make and bottle mineral water. As late as 1901, Hammonton was advertising itself as having medically valuable springs.

By the turn of the century, the use of medicinal spas, waters, and pharmaceuticals were on a decline, probably due to the realized ineffectiveness of the treatments. In 1898, the National Food and Drug Congress was established, and began testing the products for their benefits. A series of expose's appeared in Collier's Magazine in 1905 and 1906, exposing the fraudulent medical operations for what they were. The heightened public awareness resulted in the passing of the National Food and Drug Act of 1907, which prohibited the sale of mislabeled alcohol as medicine (Weiss and Kemble 1962:217). A pamphlet issued by the American Medical Association in 1918 stated that "mineral waters possess no mysterious or occult values in the treatment of disease. No mineral water will be accepted by the medical profession for alleged medicinal properties supported only by testimonials from bucolic statesmen and romantic old ladies" (Weiss and Kemble 1962:217).

Located on the edge of the developing Egg Harbor City, Dr. Smith's Sanitarium was in an area that still enjoyed a somewhat rural ambience. It did, however, benefit from the convenient accessibility of railroad

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Dr. Smith's Sanitarium Site, Egg Harbor City,
Atlantic County, NJ

transportation. The rail lines to the shore pass directly through Egg Harbor City, and Dr. Smith's establishment was located only two blocks from Philadelphia Avenue, the main street of the city.

Dr. Smith's Sanitarium Complex appears as a late example of the American health movement. Built during the time that patent medicines were being exposed as fraudulent, the use of healthy water was simply a repackaging of the same idea, that for little expense or personal involvement, incredible results could be had. It was an effective approach until the exposure of the fakery by the AMA in 1918, soon after which the sanitarium was sold.

The archaeological resources are important for understanding the significance of the property as a health resort. It is likely that the site contains depositional and waste remains that would illuminate the daily treatment of the patients on the site, including dietary practices, and the use/nonuse of medicines at the facility. Buried building footprints and other architectural features are necessary to understand the physical operations of the site, especially the operation of the windmill and water wheel.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cook, James
1976 Remedies and Rackets. Arno Press, New York.

Peterson, Robert A.
N.D. "Dr. Smith's Health Resort Cured Many Illnesses." Egg Harbor News.

Weiss, Harry B. and Howard R. Kemble
1962 They took the Waters. Past Times Press, Trenton, NJ.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data: N/A
 State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 3.7 acres Egg Harbor City, NJ Quad

UTM References 30

A

1,8	5,0	8,0,0	4,3	7,6	1,2,0
Zone	Easting		Northing		

C

1,8	5,3,0	8,1,0	4,3	7,6	0,3,0
Zone	Easting		Northing		

B

1,8	5,3,0	8,5,0	4,3	6,6	0,8,0
Zone	Easting		Northing		

D

1,8	5,3,0	7,5,0	4,3	7,6	0,8,0
Zone	Easting		Northing		

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The site is located on both sides of London Avenue. The site is bounded on the southwest by the fence line that begins on Liverpool Avenue and from Liverpool Avenue to the northeast edge of the Municipal Building parking lot

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary encloses all extant and archaeological components of the Smith Sanitarium Site. The extant resources including a standing structure, serpentine canals and other features. Archaeological resources are not assessed.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title MaryAnna Ralph
organization MAAR Associates, Inc. date March 1989
street & number P.O. Box 655; 9 Liberty Plaza telephone (302) 368-5777
city or town Newark state DE zip code 19715-0655

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

Dr. Smith's Sanitarium Site, Egg Harbor City,
Atlantic County, NJ

Verbal Boundary Description continued:

and continues across London Avenue and along the northeast fence line of the playing field. The northwest boundary follows north to Claudius Street along the tree line of the open space behind the sun house. The northeast boundary runs along Claudius Street to Liverpool Avenue. The southeast boundary runs along Liverpool Avenue, from Claudius Street south along the fence line to the beginning point, where the fence turns toward the Municipal Building parking lot (see also Figure 7).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

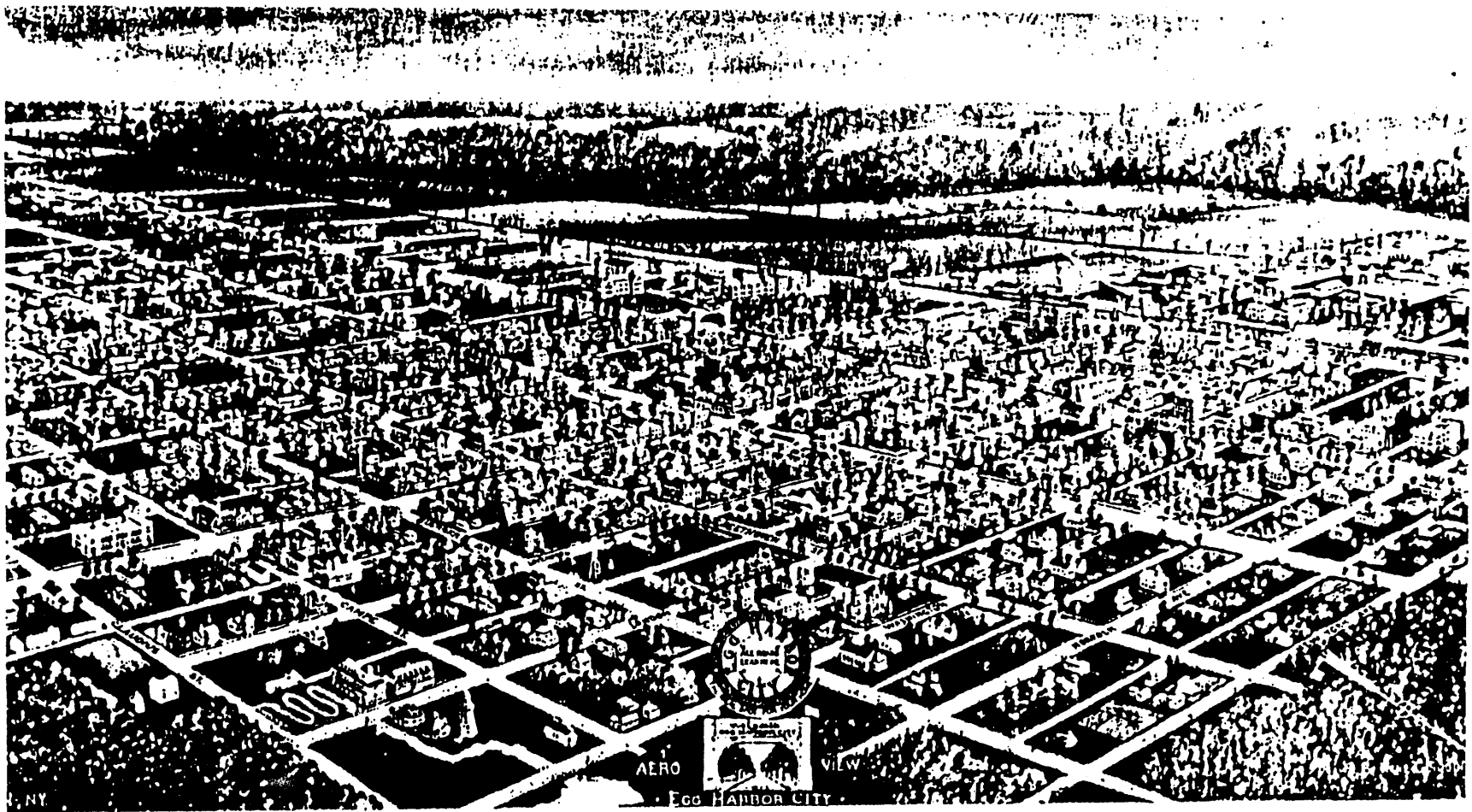
Section number P Page 1 Dr. Smith's Sanitarium Site
Egg Harbor City, Atlantic County, NJ

Figures

1. Site Location Map
2. Site Map; USGS Egg Harbor NJ Quad.
3. Aero-View of Egg Harbor City; ca. 1920s; Showing Dr. Smith's Sanitarium
4. Sanborn Map 1908
5. Sanborn Map 1917
6. Sanborn Map 1923
7. Site Boundaries

Photographs

1. Front view of Sun House
2. Side view of Sun House
3. Rear view of Sun House
4. Bridge Date Stone
5. Bridge
6. Serpentine Canal and foot bridge
7. Serpentine Canal from site of Sanitarium
8. Serpentine Canal from possible bath house foundation
9. Serpentine Canal from 4th Terrace
10. Canal and Sun House from northeast side of the site
11. A view of the parking lot and Sanitarium site from London Avenue
12. A view of the area from the corner of Claudius Street and Liverpool Avenue
13. Houses along Liverpool Avenue from the canal site
14. The Serpentine Canal and general view of the site from Liverpool Avenue



AERO-VIEW OF EGG HARBOR CITY, NEW JERSEY (FOUNDED 1854)

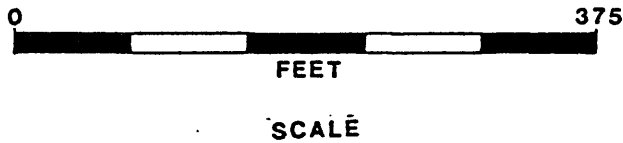
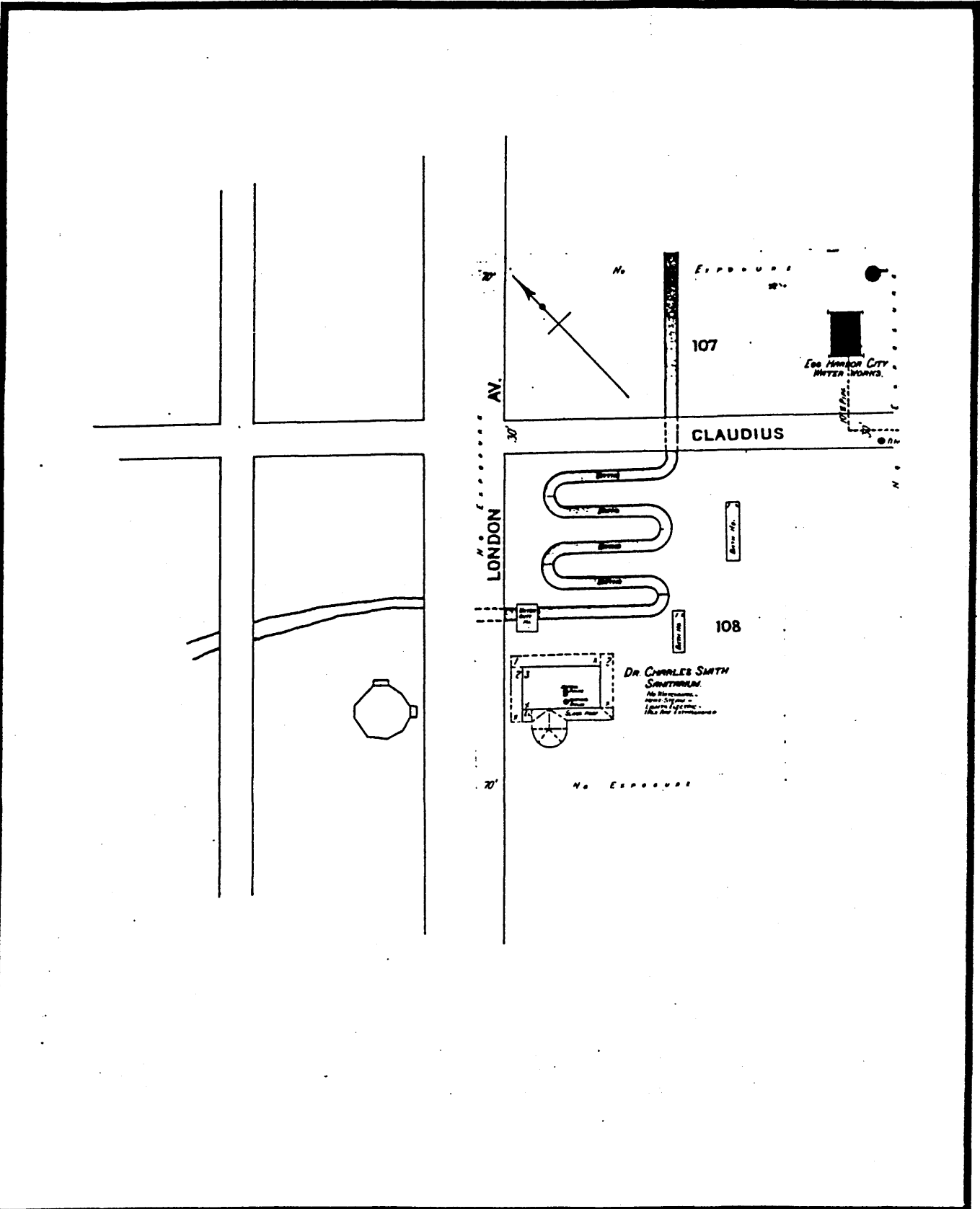
(Published by Hughes & Cinquin, 557-4th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.)

Not to Scale

DR. SMITH'S SANITARIUM
EGG HARBOR CITY, NJ (Atlantic County)

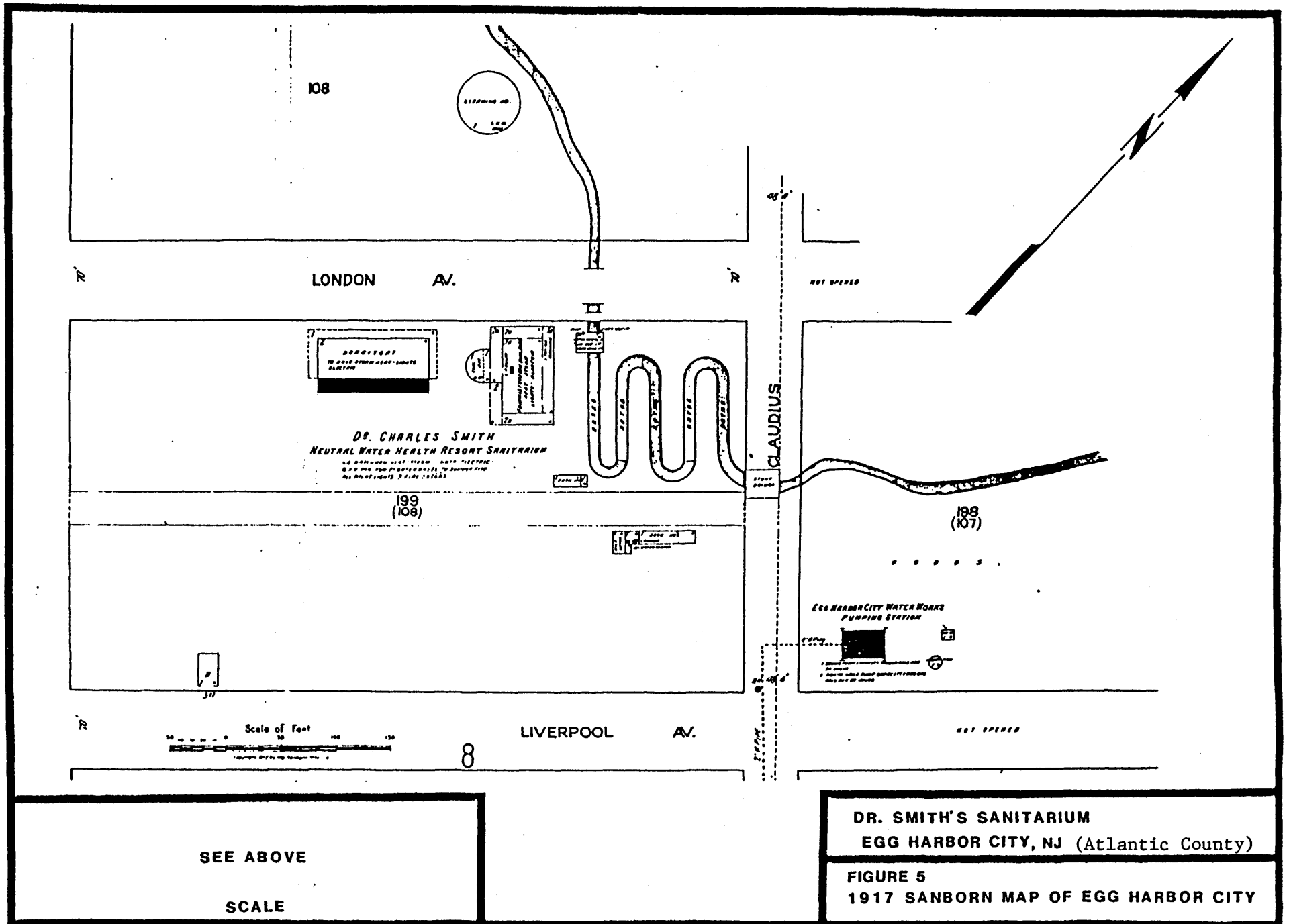
FIGURE 3

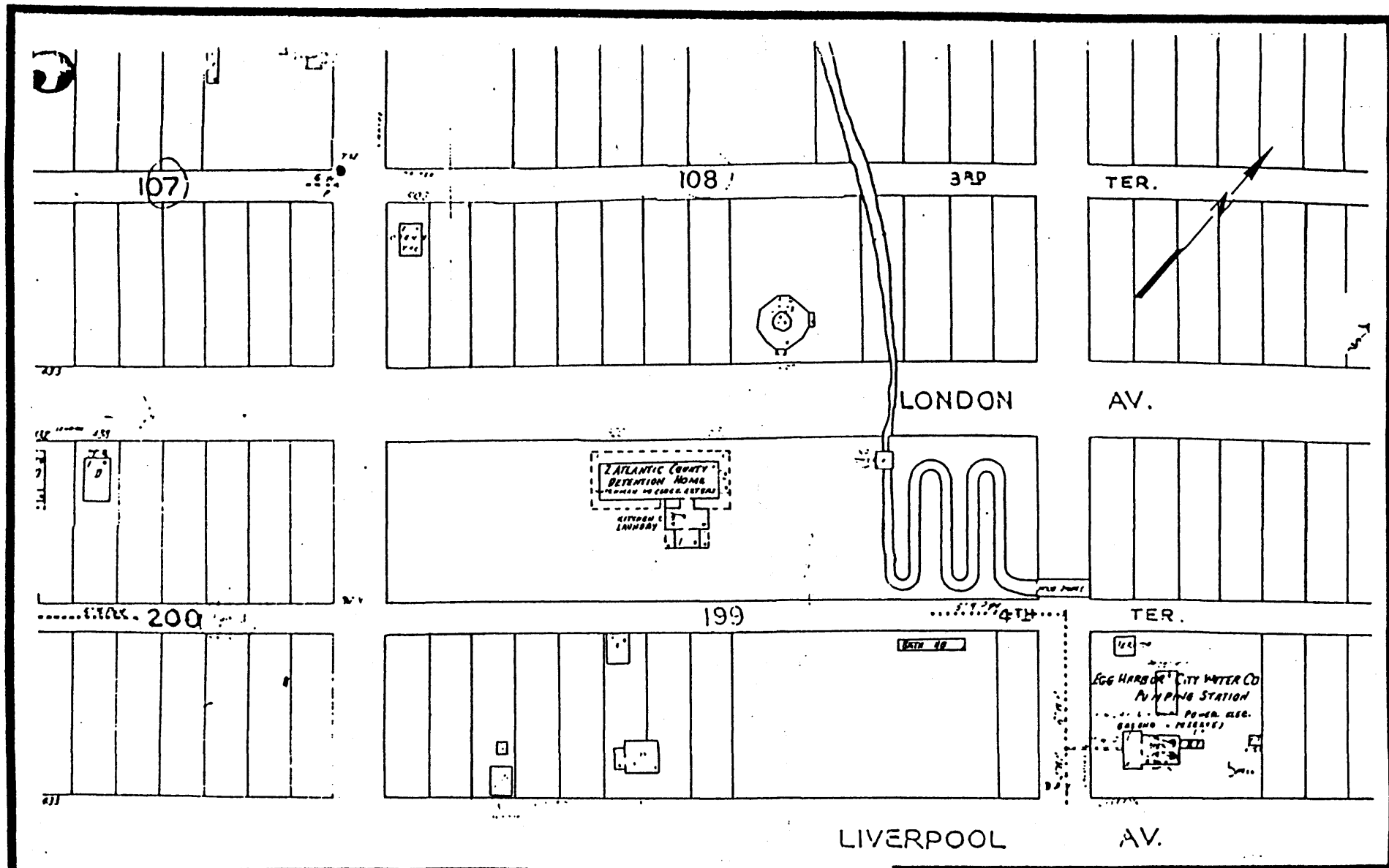
AERO-VIEW OF EGG HARBOR CITY, NJ



DR. SMITH'S SANITARIUM
EGG HARBOR CITY, NJ (Atlantic County)

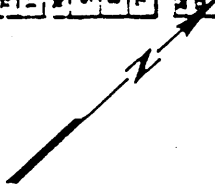
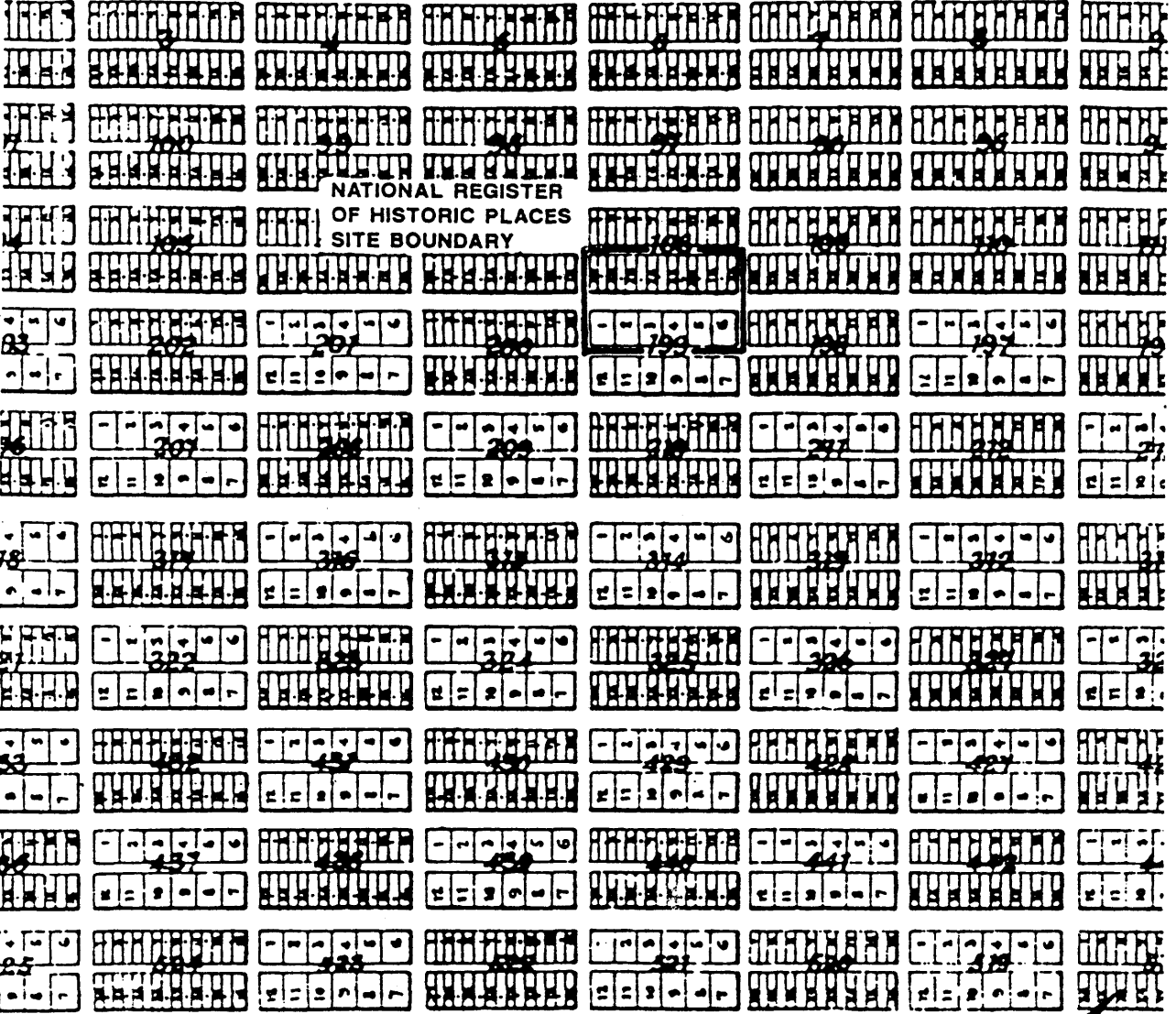
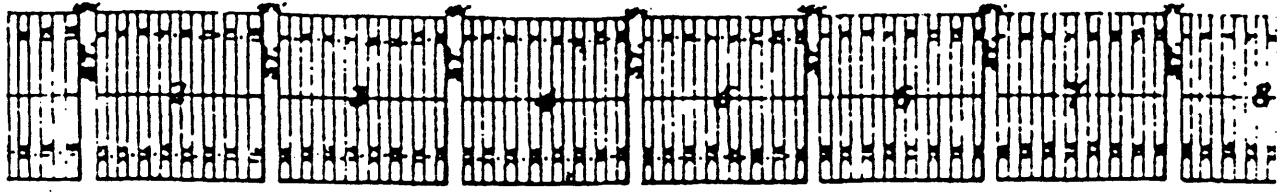
FIGURE 4
1908 SANBORN MAP OF EGG HARBOR CITY





DR. SMITH'S SANITARIUM
 EGG HARBOR CITY, NJ (Atlantic County)

FIGURE 6
 1923 SANBORN MAP OF EGG HARBOR CITY



SOURCE: TAX MAP OF EGG HARBOR CITY, NJ

SCALE NOT AVAILABLE

SCALE

DR. SMITH'S SANITARIUM
EGG HARBOR CITY, NJ (Atlantic County)

FIGURE 7
SITE BOUNDARIES

27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

CAMPE

STREET

150
12
11
10
9
8
7
150

150
1
2
3
4
5
6
150

150
30
29
28
27
26
25
24
23
22
21
20
19
18
17
16
150

150
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
150

AVENUE

199

AVENUE

108

AVENUE

CLAUDIUS

STREET

Dr. Smith's Sanitarium Site
 Egg Harbor City
 Atlantic County, NJ

Adrian's Sheet No 30

4/19/5