OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

### **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG | 2 | 1987 date entereSEP 1 0 1987

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

1. Nam				
I. Hall	ie .			
historic Th	ackara House			
and or common	Thackara House			
	ation			
street & number	912 Eldridge Avenu	e	N	/A not for publication
city, town	West Collingswood	vicinity of		
state	New Jersey code	034 county	Camden	code 007
3. Clas	sification			
Category  district _x_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered NA	Status _x_ occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _x_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park x private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper	tv		
name Mr. an	d Mrs. Glendin A. Kos	ster		
street & number	912 Eldridge Avenue			
city, town We	st Collingswood	${ m ^{N/A}}$ vicinity of	state	New Jersey 08107
5. Loca	ation of Lega		n	
	Pagist	ter of Deeds	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.			
street & number	Camden County Courth	10use 		
city, town	Camden		state	New Jersey 08101
6. Rep	resentation i	n Existina S	urvevs	
1. Camden title 2. Collin 1. 1980,	n County Inventory of ngswood Historic Site revised edition	Historic Places		$(\frac{1}{3})$ $(\frac{2}{3})$
date 2. 1985		County Cultural an	d Heritage Commiss	
	Free records 2. Office 50 South Park Drive,			
••	N-404 Trenton	maddon township, h	state	New Jersey 08625

#### 7. Description

fair unexposed moved date	Condition           excellent            x good            fair	deteriorated ruins	Check one unalteredx_ altered	Check one original si moved	site date	_
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the south side of Eldridge Avenue and fronting Newton Creek, the Joseph Thackara House is a five-bay, two and one-half story mid-eighteenth century brick dwelling with an early one and one-half story lean-to frame wing on the east gable end and an unkeyed modern brick two car garage addition on the west gable end. The main brick section is well preserved.

Executed in Flemish bond, the symmetrical front or south, facade features: central raised three-over-two entrance door with flat-arched brick head above pegged wood lintel; six-over-six sash windows with integral projecting wood sills and cyma reversa brick molds; segmentally arched-head basement window openings (one altered) punctuating a molded brick watertable above a coursed fieldstone foundation: brick belt course and flush wood joist ends at previous full-front first-story pent roof; and, simple wood box cornice with unmolded crown and bed.

The Eldridge Avenue facade, originally the rear elevation, is laid in a variation of English bond with a header course every fourth course. Six-over-six sash windows, evidence of an original pent roof, wood box cornice, and segmentally arched-head basement window openings are features shared with the front facade. It should be noted that there is no water table, the first floor east window opening holds an eight-over-eight sash window, and the raised panel door dates to the Victorian period. The box cornice, which features a cyma recta crown and a quarter round cove bed, is more elaborate than that of the south elevation suggesting that the vernacular south cornice "moldings" are not original.

That the cornice moldings would have originally matched is certain, as a brick ledger course and projecting (in the addition on east gable end) or flush (exposed west gable end) joist ends indicate an original pent roof below the third floor on both gable ends. A contemporary extant detail where the eaves are connected with a pent roof can be observed at the Peter Wentz House in Skippack, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania (1758). At Thackara House, the date, 1754, and the initials, T.J.M, set with glazed headers in the west gable establish the date of construction and the identity of the builders, Joseph and Mary Thackara. The roof is punctuated by two single-flue chimneys at the east, and a single chimney with two flues on the south face at the west. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles; however, an early wood shingle roof installed with hand-cut nails is extant underneath.

Minor alterations have not compromised the integrity of the original room interiors. Fine panelled fireplace walls with floor-to-ceiling closets flanking generous center fireplaces are at both ends of the living room, which was originally divided by a beaded board partition. Three fireplace walls feature beautifully articulated wood cornices consisting of cyma recta, fillet, cyma reversa, facia, soffit, quarter-round, and cove moldings. Similar fireplace walls exist at Hope Lodge in Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania (1743-8).

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(Thackara House, West Collingswood, Camden County, NJ)

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The present dining room originally featured a whitewashed exposed beam ceiling (extant above existing plastered ceiling) and is thought to have served as the kitchen prior to the addition of the frame lean-to wing. This conclusion is reinforced by the room's eight-over-eight sash window (kitchens often had a larger window), and the size of the brick vault for this fireplace in the cellar. The dining room mantle is early, but not original, and dates to the fireplace alterations at the time of the addition. A fourth fireplace, in the southwest bedroom chamber, is set in a panelled wall with molded cornice and flanking closets. The south closet features peg boards with extant vernacular whittled pegs.

All original room partitions, other than masonry walls, are of vertical random width, hand-planed, tongued-and-grooved boards, some of which are more than sixteen inches wide. All ceilings are plaster on lath; all floors are of random width boards fastened with hand forged nails. (Some floors have been covered with hardboard and linoleum tile.) Baseboards are beaded, windows feature molded projecting heads above plastered jambs, and much of the original wrought iron hardware, such as H-L hinges and thumb latches, has survived.

A cellar with brick floor extends under the main structure which is built on an uncoursed fieldstone foundation. A central load bearing masonry wall runs east-west; brick vaults support the chimneys. Both cellar and garrett framing is of mortised, tennoned, and pegged hand-squared timbers. The garrett is unfinished but floored, with over ten feet of head room at the ridge and a flat arched window opening in each gable end. Of note in the west gable end is the casement window sash which, with its wider central horizontal muntin, was detailed to look like a double-hung window.

#### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agricultureX architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1754	Builder/Architect Jose	eph and Mary Thackar	a, builders

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Joseph Thackara House is the only mid-eighteenth century brick dwelling in West Collingswood and is associated directly with the third generation of one of the six earliest families in the area. The house is the best preserved and one of the few extant Eighteenth Century farmhouses on Newton Creek, one of the earliest areas of settlement in what is now Camden County. A map drawn by First Settler Thomas Sharp in 1700 shows a structure on this site at that time.

Mark Newbie, William Bates, George Goldsmith, Thomas Thackara, Robert Zane and Thomas Sharp, all Irish Quakers, settled on a 1750 acre community tract between Newton Creek and Coopers Creek in March 1682. This settlement, known as Newton Colony, was the first permanent English settlement in Old Gloucester County. The community tract was subdivided in 1683 and Thomas Thackara took as his share 250 acres facing Newton Creek and adjoining the tract of Mark Newbie. A small plot which Thackara gave that same year as a burial ground for his friend Newbie was extended in 1684 by additional land which Thackara conveyed to the Newton Meeting to provide land for the Old Newton Burial Grounds and a site for the first Meeting House. Thomas gave 60 acres to his son-in-law, John Whitall, in 1696 and willed the remainder to his son, Benjamin, in 1702. Benjamin gave 50 acres to his brother-in-law, John Eastlack, in 1706 and died leaving the remainder of his estate to his son, Joseph, in 1727.

Joseph Thackara, grandson of First Settler Thomas Thackara, and the builder of Joseph Thackara House, married Hanna Albertson, widow of John Albertson and granddaughter of Mark Newbie, in 1731. Thus, in the third generation, these two first families were joined. Joseph Thackara and his second wife, Mary Young, (married 1752) are known as the builders of the present brick house and it is their initials with the date, 1754, which are set in glazed brick in the west gable of the house.

The present house is near the site of the first cabin of Thomas Thackara as shown on Thomas Sharp's map in 1700 (see attached). The inventory of Thomas Thackara's estate at his death in 1702 describes the cabin's rooms as kitchen, the little room and the new room. The inventory of Benjamin Thackara's estate at his death in 1727 shows the cabin expanded to included a kitchen, a chamber (the little room), an inner room (the previous new room), a new room and a cellar. The inventory of Benjamin Thackara's estate also includes 47,500 bricks, which represents almost exactly the number of bricks used in the building of Thackara House, suggesting that the house, completed by Joseph in 1754, was a project begun by his father before his death.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

GPO 911-399

10. Geograph	ical Data		
Acreage of nominated property  Quadrangle nameCamde  UTM References			Quadrangle scale 1:24000
	4   4   1   7   3   4   0   Northing	B Zone D J F J	Easting Northing
The nominated prop Borough Tax Map an	erty includes Bl		lA and llC of the Collingswood ze.
List all states and counties	for properties over	lapping state or co	ounty boundaries N/A
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code ret Westfield, 402 Bellmawr Avenue
organization street & number 912 Eldri	dge Avenue		lephone (609) 858-3432
city or town West Colling	swood	st	ate New Jersey 08107
12. State His	toric Pres	ervation	Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of the	state	X local	
As the designated State Histori 665), I hereby nominate this pro according to the criteria and pro Deputy State Historic Preservation Offi	perty for inclusion in to ocedures set forth by	be National Register	oric Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– and certify that it has been evaluated vice.
title Assistant Commissio	ner for Natural	Resources	date July 27, 1987
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this p	Byen	the National Register Entered in the National Regis	6.407
<b>V</b> Keeper of the National Reg	ister		
Attest:			date

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

(Thackara House, West Collingswood, Camden County, NJ)

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Thomas Thackara was an Assemblyman from the Third, or Irish, Tenth at the first session of the General Free Assembly of the Province of West Jersey held in Burlington November 21-27, 1681. He was later chosen as a first Justice from the Third Tenth and became a first Justice of Old Gloucester County when it was incorporated. He also served as a Land Commissioner. His son, Benjamin Thackara, was a Freeholder for Old Gloucester County.

Joseph Thackara held several positions of great responsibility in his community. The Minute Book of Newton Township, 1723-1821, shows that he was elected Overseer of the Poor, 1744-45; Constable, 1746-47; Surveyor of Highways, 1749-53; and, Surveyor of Roads, 1756. Most of the tax monies collected were dispensed by the Overseer of the Poor and by the Surveyor of Roads and Highways. This would suggest that Joseph Thackara was a man of integrity and trust, a characteristic further upheld by the number of times his name appears as appraiser, bondsman, executor, and witness to the wills of his neighbors. Joseph died December 4, 1761 and willed to his son, Stephen, "the plantation where I live." Stephan's will at his death August 4, 1767, left to his son, James, "the improved part of the land where I live."

In 1790, James Thackara sold to James Sloan a small strip of land adjoining the Old Newton Burial Grounds for the Newton Union Burial Grounds to provide a burial place for non-Quakers and 22 Revolutionary War soldiers who had been disowned by the Meeting for bearing arms. His brother, Joseph Sloan, purchased the balance of the Thackara Plantation from James Thackara in 1799 thereby ending 118 years of ownership by the Thackara Family.

Through successive owners, the plantation was prosperously farmed through the nineteenth century as the surrounding area developed and the railroad, located two hundred yards west of Thackara House, provided access between Philadelphia and Atlantic City. In 1887 the plantation was purchased by Edward C. Knight who, through his agent Richard T. Collings, had already acquired most of the Robert Zane survey to the east. The land was then sold in tracts to the Collingswood Land Company who subdivided it into city blocks and lots.

Architecturally, the Thackara House is significant as a straight-forward example of a mid-eighteenth century brick colonial Quaker farmhouse executed with the detailing and construction methodology distinctive of its period. Remarkably intact in comparison to other private homes of its age, the house has been "modernized" with great sensitivity and contextual response. Additions were planned to be reversible without damage to the historic fabric; required replacement elements (such as window sash) have been in-kind, with original

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

(Thackara House, West Collingswood, Camden County, NJ)

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fabric salvaged and stored on site. Although the pent roofs have been removed, the brick ledger course and roof joist ends remain, illustrative of the structural support technique. Unlike the Stokes-Lee House, Collingswood's other surviving eighteenth-century home on Newton Creek, the Thackara House has not been stylistically remodelled over the years. Variable-width beaded board partitions and board-and-batten doors, raised panel doorways with over panels, fine panelled fireplace walls with integral closets and double-ogee crown cornice moldings, exposed hewn construction and joinery details in both garrett and cellar, original stairways, and definitive dating are all factors which contribute to the building's architectural significance and usefulness as a rare surviving example of its period in history.

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(Thackara House, West Collingswood, Camden County, NJ)

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Thackara House Record of Title (Sheet 1)

			,
Date	Book	Page	
12 Apr 1677	Lib.B	50	West Jersey Deeds 1677-1693: Indenture 12 April 1677 between Wm Penn, Gawin Lawrie, Nicholas Lutas and Edw Byllinge and Robt. Turner, Joseph Sleigh, Robt. Zane and Thomas Thackery and Wm Bate a grant to land in West Jersey, America. N.J.A., 1st Series, Vol. XXI, N.J. Records 1664-1705, describes as "one undivided 90th share of the 90 equal hundreds of the Province."
10 Mar 1681-2		351	N.J. Archives (as above) p. 351 for Mark Newbie, Wm Bate, Geo Goldsmith, Thos Thackery, Robt Zane and Thomas Sharp, 1600 a. between two branches of a creek at ARWAWMOSSE bounded by Wm Coopers Creek (Revels Bk, p.25).
16 Sep 1681	A	98	Gloucester County Deeds: Thos Sharp recorded the deed to the above 1600 a. on 12 Feb 1718.
1 Mar 1683		358	N.J. Archives as above: for Thomas Thackery, 250 a. on Newton Creek adjoining Robt. Zane. (Revels Bk, p. 59)
11 Jan 1688	G3	423	Gloucester County Deeds: Thomas Thackery recorded this survey as $264\frac{1}{2}$ a.
1 Mar 1696	G3	334	Thomas Thackara to son-in-law, John Whitall, 60 a.
1702			N.J.A. Index of Wills. Thos Thackara, by last will and testament, to his son, Benjamin, a minor, in trust, estate less 60 a. conveyed to John Whitall.

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(Thackara House, West Collingswood, Camden County, NJ)

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170	06 A	106½ 107	Benjamin Thackera to brother-in-law, John Eastlack, 50 a. Gloucester County Deeds.
172	27		N.J.A. Index of Wills, Vol. 2, p. 462, Benjamin Thackara, by last will and testament, to his son, Joseph (except for 50 a. conveyed to John Eastlack.)
4 Dec 176	51 LibII	106	Calendar of Wills, N.J.A. Vol XXXIII, p. 425, Joseph Thackera to son, Stephen, the plantation where I live.
4 Aug 176	67 D	165	Gloucester County Deeds: Stephen Thackera, to son James, the improved part of the land where I live; to son Joseph, 50 a. of unimproved land surveyed from head of my lands; to son, Thomas, 50 a. of unimproved land adjoining Joseph. (Abstract of Wills, Vol IV, N.J.A. Vol XXXIII, p. 426.) Thomas died in minority and lands descended to James. Joseph conveyed his lands by Indenture to James.
24 Oct 17	799 D	165	Gloucester County Deeds: James Thackery and Jane, his wife, to Joseph Sloan and Elizabeth, his wife, lands of Stephen Thackery by will registered in the perogative office at Trenton, 170 a.
27 Jan 18	314 T	383	Gloucester County Deeds, Joseph Sloan and Elizabeth, his wife, to Joseph Jones.
10 Aug 18	333 I3	485	Gloucester County Deeds: James W. Caldwell, High Sheriff of Gloucester County to Isaac Jones and his heirs. (This is sheriff's sale of the property of Aquila Jones and Joseph Jones to settle debts. Property seized 25 Apr 1833).

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

(Thackara House, West Collingswood, Camden County, NJ)

Section number		. Page <u> </u>	
25 Mar 1839	В4	272	Gloucester County Deeds: Isaac Jones and Amy, his wife, to John Campbell. (Description as in Tract #5).
17 Mar 1883	108	196	Camden County Deeds: Heirs of John Campbell (Sr) to John Campbell (Jr) (John Campbell, Sr. died intestate on or about 6 Jul 1882)
25 Mar 1887	129	122	John Campbell and Elizabeth M, his wife, to Edw C. Knight.
30 Apr 1887	129	578	E.C. Knight to Collingswood Land Co. (Tract #5)
2 Jan 1907	314	630	Collingswood Land Co. to Collingswood Building Co. (Lots 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101 and 102) (This is 175' deep strip south of Eldridge Ave. between Taylor and Comly).
26 Mar 1907	316	169	Collingswood Building Co. to A. Gertrude Evans (Lots 99 & 100).
20 Aug 1907	320	472	David Evans and Gertrude to Wm. A. S. Cook.
4 Dec 1923	547	310	Ella M. Cook to Kate Courtney and John Henry Lanctot (Lots 93, 95, 99 and 100 and parts of lots 96, 97, 98, 101 and 102) (Ella M. Cook) (Wm A. S. Cook died 3/31/23 - left to widow Ella M. by name of Ella S. Cook).
15 Apr 1924	562	92	Kate Courtney Lanctot & Vir. to Gertrude F. Howell (transfer of title to husband and wife).
15 Apr 1924	562	93	Gertrude F. Howell to John Henry Lanctot and Kate Courtney (wife) (Lots 93, 95, 99, and 100 and parts of Lots 96, 97, 98, 101 and 102, Sec B sup Ground Plan, Collingswood Land Co.)
7 Jan 1935	829	490	John Henry Lanctot and Kate Courtney (wife) to John Hancock MLI Co (present property plus lot north of Kraflow)

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

(Thackara House, West Collingswood, Camden County, NJ)

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20 Oct 1942	962	72	John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. to James McKeeman and Esther F.
24 Dec 1944	1002	500	James McKeeman and Esther F. to Ruth Thompson.
24 Nov 1953	1786	110	Ruth Thompson to Jack L. Lyons and Marion E. Lyons.
30 June 1955	1930	259	Jack L. Lyons and Marion E. Lyons to Glendin A. and Elizabeth D. Koster. (present owners)

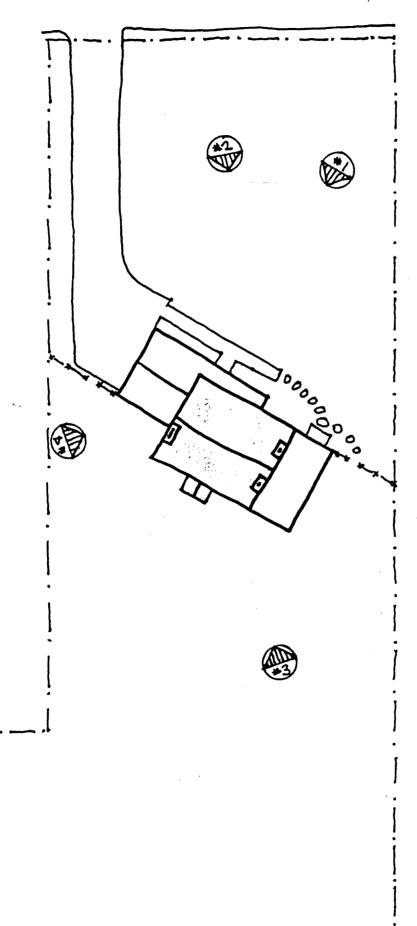
## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

(Thackara House, West Collingswood, Camden County, NJ)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_9 Page \_\_\_\_1

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Clement, John. "Sketches of the First Emigrant Settlers in Newton Township, Old Gloucester County, West New Jersey." Camden, New Jersey: Sinnickson Chew, 1877.
- Stewart, Frank H. "Gloucester County Under the Proprietors." Reprinted from "The Constitution", 1941 by Gloucester Historical Society, 1976.
- Camden County Deeds, Courthouse, Camden, N.J. Books and pages as shown on title trace herewith.
- Gloucester County Deeds, Courthouse, Woodbury, N.J. Book A, pp. 98, 106, 107, Book D, p. 165, Book G3, pp. 334, 423.
- New Jersey Archives, First Series, vol. XXI, New Jersey Records, 664-1705, pp. 351, 358.
- New Jersey Archives, vol. XXX, Abstract of Wills, vol. 11, 1730-1750, pp. 198, 208, 238, 334, 354.
- New Jersey Archives, vol. XXXII, Abstract of Wills, vol. III, 1751-1760, pp. 168, 426.
- New Jersey Archives, vol. XXXIII, Calendar of Wills, p. 425.



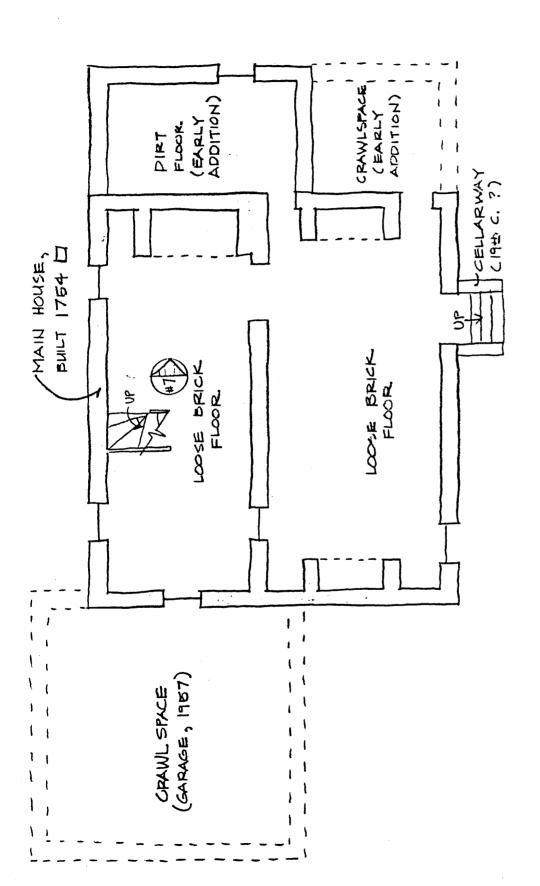
### THACKARA

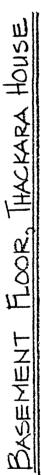
### HOUSE

912 ELDRIDGE AVENUE COLLINGSWOOD, N.J. 08107 BUILT 1754

SITE PLAN . NOT TO SCALE MARGARET WEST FIELD 9.25.86

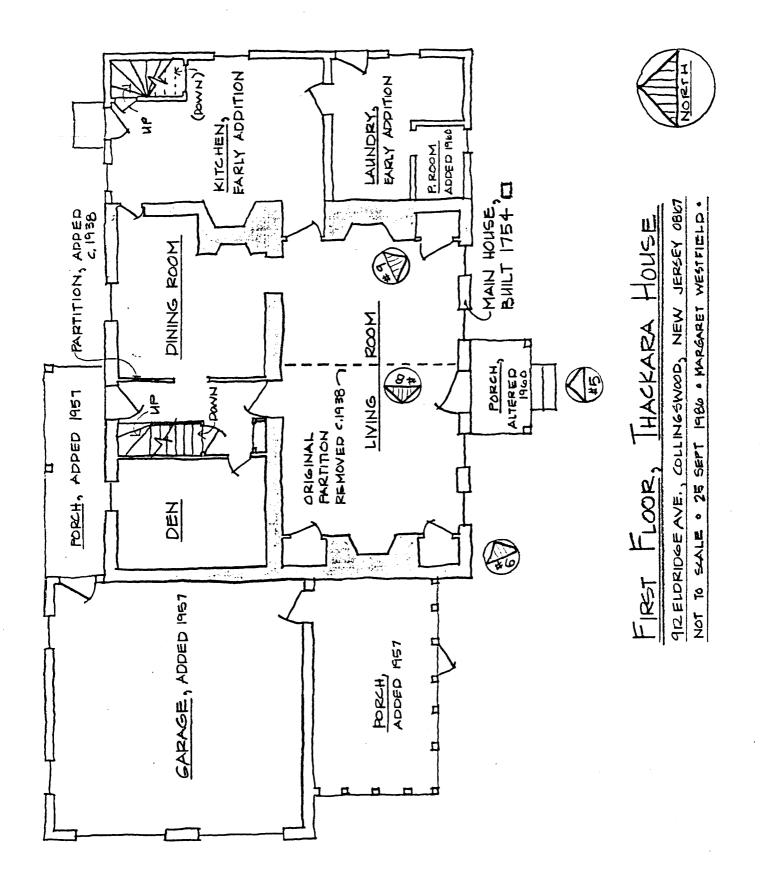


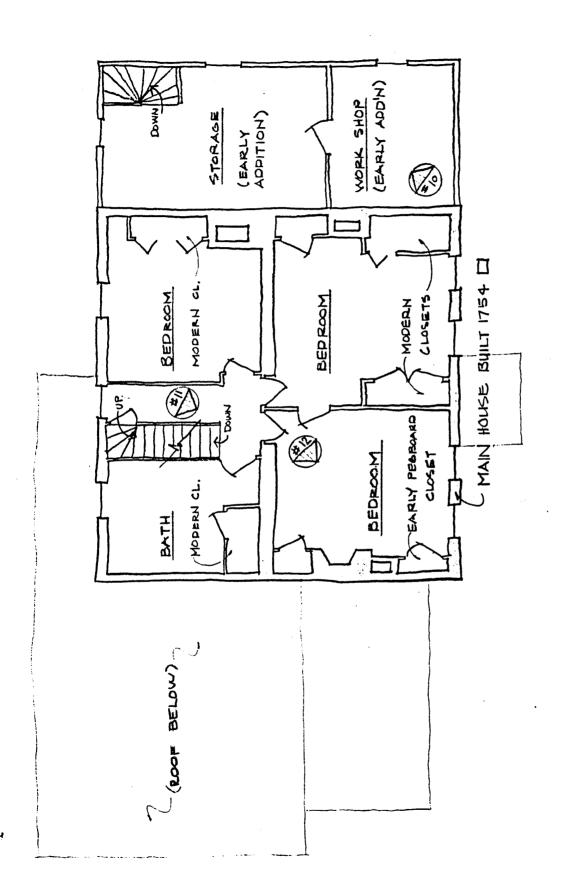




912 ELDRIDGE AVE, COLLINGSWOOD, NEW JERSEY CENOT NOT TO SCALE . 25 SEPT 1986 . MARGARET WESTFIELD



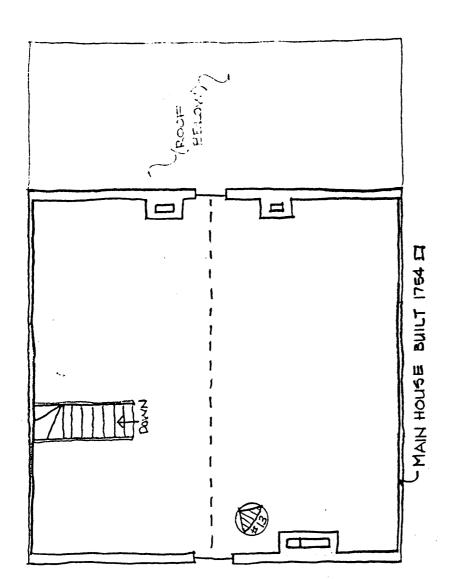


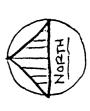




SECOND FLOOR, THACKARA HOUSE

912 ELDRIDGE AVE, COLLINGSWOOD, NEW JERSEY 08107 NOT TO SCALE & 25 SEPT. 1986 . MARSARET WASTFIELD





FLOOR, THACKARA HOUSE GARRETT

912 ELDRIDSE AVE, COLLINGSWOOD, NEW JERSEY OBIOT NOT TO SCALE . 25 SEPT. 1980 . MARGARET WESTRIELD

