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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Henry Ludlam House

other names/site number Henry Ludlam Inn

2. Location

street & number 1336 <sup>NJ</sup> Route 47  Not for publication

city or town Dennis Township  vicinity

state New Jersey code 034 county Cape May code 009 zip code 08270

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title *[Signature]* Date 7/2/93  
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

*[Signature]*

Entered in the National Register

Date of Action

8/12/93

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
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick and Stone

walls Weatherboarding

roof Wood/Shingle and Tin

other Brick Chimneys

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheet.

**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**

N/A

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

c. 1750-1820

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Name of repository:**

New Jersey Archives

Cape May County Historical Society

Henry Ludlam House  
Name of Property

Cape May, New Jersey  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** .71 acres

Woodbine, NJ Quad

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

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

3 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Michael J. Chiarappa, Ph.D., Architectural Historian

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date October 12, 1992

street & number 605 Maple Avenue telephone 609-546-8083

city or town Audubon state NJ zip code 08106

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name C. Martin and Annette M. Thurlow

street & number 1336 Route 47 telephone 609-861-5847  
Cape May County RD #3, Box 298

city or town Woodbine state NJ zip code 08270

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

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

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township,  
Cape May County, New Jersey

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Henry Ludlam House  
Cape May County, New Jersey

## Description

The Henry Ludlam House, currently used as bed and breakfast accommodations, is located in North Dennis, Dennis Township, Cape May County. This dwelling is two-and-one-half stories and was constructed in two principal building stages between the middle/late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. These two building phases are conspicuously revealed in the dwelling's overall L-shape. Gable roofs cover both the main house block and its ell wing (photographs 1-3). The house sits approximately 170' west of Ludlam's Mill Pond, and 22' north of Delsea Drive (Route 47).

The Ludlam House's original unit, constructed sometime between the middle and late eighteenth century, was a one-room or hall plan dwelling with a westward-facing three bay front facade (photograph 3). The single room plan of the original unit's first floor is replicated on the second floor, and above this chamber is the garret or attic space. Although two-and-one-half stories, this house has the stout appearance that characterizes most of Cape May County's early dwellings. This portion of the Ludlam House, measuring 16'10" x 15'3", is constructed with a joined braced frame—four principal corner posts that support, and connect, the girts, wall plates, and plates. These structural members are further supported and connected by corner braces. This unit rests on a stone foundation that rises approximately 1'10" above grade, and the original chimney base can be observed from within this crawl space. During the nineteenth century this cooking hearth was re-built, made smaller, and ultimately was enclosed. The original chimney's larger scale can be observed in the attic where cut purlins show the outline of an opening much larger than that needed by the later flue. While the original chimney foundation was constructed with stone, the remainder of structure was most likely brick. Brick was also used in all later alterations to this hearth and chimney system. The chimney is situated just inside the north gable, and like most houses of this type, a boxed-in winder stairway is placed between the hearth and the northwest corner of the room.

Unlike many oversized corner posts, which project into the rooms, this building's main vertical members are roughly chamfered or beveled, giving a more uniform appearance to the interior walls. This original finish treatment has remained unaltered in the boxed-in winder stairway, and in the second floor chamber. The builder's intention clearly lessened the surface disjunction between the oversized corner posts and the structure's original interior horizontal beaded-edge cedar paneling—paneling that is visible in the winder stairway. The application of horizontal cedar paneling, or, in the words of well-known eighteenth century Cape May County resident Aaron Leaming, "... to seil our ... room with cedar," is one of the most noteworthy features of this region's vernacular architecture. Although this

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original interior wall finish is visible in the winder stairway (photograph 5), it is also possible that it is still extant under the building's subsequent plaster and wallpaper finishes. At a later date, one of the Ludlam House's subsequent owners tried to give the first floor room an even more square appearance by removing those parts of the corner posts and wall plates that did not sit at a right angle with the walls and ceiling. An even later owner sought to rectify these alterations, and, in a restorative effort, filled in the post and wall plate portions that had been earlier removed.

These features are further supplemented by finish details on the dwelling's other major structural members. The exposed floor joists supporting the second and attic floors have beaded-edges, as do the front and rear plates and the south attic girt. Beaded-edge boards are inserted into those portions of the front and rear wall plates that were earlier removed. The pine floor boards on the first and second stories are original (the first floor boards ranging in width from 10" to 15-1/2") as are those used for the attic floor. The attic floor boards have beaded-edges on the underside which can be viewed from the second floor chamber.

The front facade of this original house unit has three openings on the first story—a window-door-window arrangement—and two windows on the second story. The rear facade has window-door arrangement on the first story, and a single small rectangular window on the second story. All of these windows, with the exception of the small rectangular window, are double-hung, two-over-two sash, which, in all likelihood, replaced this structure's original six-over-six windows (the norm for eighteenth century Cape May County houses of this type) sometime in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The north gable contains a square attic window.

The exterior of this dwelling is covered with clapboards, some being originals and some replacements. The early clapboards have a beaded-edge, as does the cornerboard. The cornerboard is original, and is one continuous piece running from the foundation to the eaves. The clapboards vary in their exposure to the weather, some showing 5-1/4" to 5-1/2" and others showing 6-3/4" to 8-1/4". A raised seam tin roof replaced the original cedar shingle roof sometime in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. The time frame for this house's construction is attributable not only to its framing system and floor plan (directly comparable to other Cape May County houses known to have been built at this time), but also to the use of hand wrought nails.

Sometime between the very late eighteenth century and the first quarter of the nineteenth century, Henry Ludlam added a large, five-bay, neo-classically inspired frame house to this site's original dwelling (photographs 1-2). By adding a room to the south end of the original house, he connected the old and new units. The overall integration of these dwelling spaces resulted in the L-shape plan which exists today.

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Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township,  
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The unit which connects Ludlam's old and new dwellings was simply constructed using four posts, and was covered with clapboards.

This addition, which was originally comprised of one room on both the first and second stories, has received a number of interior alterations making it difficult to determine the original fenestration scheme. There are four windows on this section (one on each floor on both sides), and the two on the second floor appear to be in their original locations. As with the original unit, there are both original and replacement clapboards on this section.

Henry Ludlam's addition to his pre-existing house redefined the property's dwelling space. While considered an addition, it was, like many house expansions, a complete dwelling unit unto itself. Facing the road, it measures 40' x 20', and, in plan, is one-room deep with a large center-passage. The center-passage contains an open stairway (photograph 4), and this entry space was originally flanked on each side by one room—both rooms being of equal size (the bathroom in the east room is recent installation that was needed for the building's current bed and breakfast function). The second story practically mirrors the first story. The width of the second story center-passage is slightly larger, and the southern portion of this space was, in the original plan, partitioned to create an unheated chamber. Above the second story is the garret. This space has been recently partitioned into three rooms—a centrally placed bathroom flanked on both sides by a single bedroom. This house is constructed on a stone and brick foundation that rises 7' from the basement floor. The stone portion rises 4'4" from the basement floor with the brick portion comprising the remaining 2'8" of the foundation. Vaulted relieving arches are built into the east and west ends of the foundation providing necessary support for the chimney base. The brick portion of the foundation rises 1'7" to 1'9" above grade, and there are two original basement windows on the front facade, and one on the east gable end. The original basement door opening is still used, and is situated on the rear facade.

The framing system of Ludlam's large addition is essentially an amplified version of those methods used in the original dwelling. The eight posts which constitute the dwelling's principal vertical structural members are each assembled in two pieces. The posts which span the first story height are not as massive as those which establish the second story elevation. The heavier second story posts (photographs 9, 14), which protrude into the second story rooms, are joined into the more slender first story posts. The method used by Ludlam's builders was not unusual, but it does contrast with the majority of the region's eighteenth and nineteenth century two-story/braced-frame dwellings which contain singularly constructed posts. There are two possible explanations for this two-part assembly, particularly since the house was not a one-story dwelling enlarged to two-stories. The most plausible explanation is that Ludlam's builders did not have single heavy timbers lengthy enough to extend from sill to plate, and thus used this two-part post system. It is also possible that

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Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township,  
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these builders, potentially circumscribed by their timber supply and perceptions of the building's structural integrity, opted to use heavier post members for the second story to reinforce the large garret space and truss system. As in the original dwelling, this framing system is completed by girts, plates, wall plates, corner braces, and wall studding. The attic or garret joists extend beyond the front and rear facades, and support false plates that provide the base for nineteen pairs of rafters. Eighteen of the original first floor joists are still in place, and are lapped into the sills. The first floor joists run from the front to rear elevations under the east and west rooms, and under the center-passage they run lengthwise, in the direction of the gable ends of the dwelling. Most of the original sills are intact, although there are a few replacement pieces. Chimneys on the east and west ends of the dwelling provide hearths for each of the principal rooms, and, for purposes of centering, the flues are corbelled as they pass through the attic.

Influenced by Federal-style architectural conventions, the Henry Ludlam House has a symmetrical five-opening front facade, and balanced fenestration (two windows per floor) on the gable ends (photographs 1-2). The exterior of the house is covered with clapboards which range in width from 7-1/4" to 8-1/4", and the amount exposed to the weather is gradually lessened on the second story. This practice of grading the clapboards (wider exposure at the bottom and narrower at the top) is particularly noticeable on the gable ends. The original clapboards and cornerboards have a beaded-edge. There is small dentil cornice on the facade, and this same scale dentilation is used on the bargeboard. The exterior molding around the windows and doors is original, although the front door's original gable pediment has been removed. As in the rear ell, the original windows were replaced with two-over-two sash windows sometime in the late nineteenth or very early twentieth century. The front facade and gable end windows retain their nineteenth century shutters—paneled on the first floor, louvered on the second floor—along with the hardware that secures them. This section of Ludlam House has a cedar shingle roof.

The four principal rooms of Henry Ludlam's addition—the east and west rooms on the first floor, and the bed chambers that are situated directly above them on the second floor—along with the first and second story center-passages, were all plastered. Close examination of these walls reveals that horsehair was used as a bonding agent in this plaster. Throughout the Ludlam House plaster was applied to riven lath—lath which was attached to horizontal and vertical boards that were nailed to the building's wall studs. Today, the original plaster wall is only revealed in the first floor west room. The remaining rooms still retain this material, but it is covered by wallpaper. In addition to their plastered walls, each of these rooms have a number of noteworthy finish details. The original interior window and door moldings in all the rooms are intact. The same raised beaded paneling—the type that dates the dwelling's construction in the last two decades of the eighteenth century or in the first quarter of the nineteenth century—exists throughout the house. These raised panels are used on both the doors opening into the first floor's east and west



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rooms (photograph 7), as they are on the doors opening into the second floor bed chambers (photographs 10, 15). This same style of beaded paneling is applied to the staircase (photograph 16), and is used on the chimney closet doors (photographs 8, 13). There are original chair rails in the first floor west room, both second floor bed chambers, and in the first and second story center-passages. The stairway has slightly cut square balusters which have three grooves carved into each of their four sides (photograph 11). Decorative wood brackets also exist below the balusters on the outside of the stair risers (photograph 16). As mentioned earlier, all of the second story posts project into their respective rooms, and, with the exception of one (covered by a later added closet), all are encased in cedar boards, some which have a beaded-edge (photographs 9, 14). Each of the four fireplaces retain a high degree of their original structural integrity (photographs 6, 12). The fireplaces in the first floor east and west rooms still have their nineteenth century iron firebacks, as does the hearth in the second floor east room. The first floor hearths have their original marble bases, and the mantelpiece in the first floor east room has noteworthy detailed carving of the Federal era.

This site contains one non-contributing structure. This building, constructed in 1991, is a 26' x 36', two-story frame workshop. Situated on a slab floor, this building has one room on each floor. It has a gambrel roof, and its exterior covering is cedar clapboards that are beaded and beveled.

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Cape May County, New JerseyHenry Ludlam House  
Cape May County, New JerseySignificance

The Henry Ludlam House is an intact dwelling that encapsulates much of the history, and distinguishing features, of frame house construction in Cape May County from the late seventeenth through early nineteenth century. These features, and the historical issues they reflect, merit the listing of the Henry Ludlam House on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance. The original unit of this house, a one-room/hall plan dwelling, was built in the middle or late eighteenth century, and is typical of the small scale domestic arrangements used by Cape May County's first, second, and third generation whaler/yeoman families. This portion of the Ludlam House is one of the relative few frame dwellings of its scale, age, finish, and construction method surviving, not only in Cape May County, but also in the larger context of southern New Jersey. These finish details—beaded-edge timbers, floor joists, and horizontal cedar paneling—show that the house's occupant, while preferring a traditional floor plan similar to that used by the lower social orders, was of greater social and economic means than that which was indicated in the dwelling's formal dimensions. This becomes more apparent considering the costly, labor-intensive nature of applying interior cedar paneling. In 1761, Cape May County resident Aaron Leaming aptly summarized, in economic terms, the distinctive quality of horizontal cedar paneling stating that "... to seil our front room with cedar" took "... 23-1/2 days work."

Moving beyond the original unit, the Ludlam house's Federal-style portion displays the sweeping transformations that consumed the early building site and those who inhabited it. At one time the main domestic sphere, the original house block now became the kitchen (listed as such in Henry Ludlam's probate inventory and containing contents worth \$86.30 3/4, see attached sheet)—a room with much more specific functions that served Ludlam's elegantly finished first floor east and west rooms in the new house block. Henry Ludlam's Federal-style house block retains numerous original architectural features that merit its listing on the National Register. Except for a few minor alterations, the original floor plan is remarkably intact. The building is particularly noteworthy for its retention of original fabric—from floor boards to beaded-edge weatherboards to plaster walls to floor joists. The structural integrity of the foundation walls displays some of the most meticulous masonry techniques of the period, and the sound vertical relieving arches have certainly contributed to the long-term preservation of the entire chimney system.

The Ludlam House's fine Federal-style details, both interior and exterior, make this structure a significant example among Cape May County's surviving late eighteenth/early nineteenth century architecture. On the exterior, these details

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include the broad, symmetrical fenestration scheme that consumes the front facade and gable ends, the window moldings, and the small denticulation on the cornice and bargeboard—all contributing to the light appearance that is characteristic of the Federal-style. The interior contains similar Federal-style conventions, namely, an open staircase with finely carved balusters, raised panels, and decorative brackets. This stylistic treatment remains consistent throughout the dwelling with raised panel doors on room openings and chimney closets, appropriate moldings on doors and windows, and smaller hearths—three of which retain original firebacks. The framing systems of both the original unit, and Federal-style addition (particularly this portion's two-part system containing more massive structural members on the second story), will be important comparative items in future work examining the transference to, and transformation of, New England framing systems in Cape May and Cumberland Counties. Overall, this dwelling shows Henry Ludlam stepping out of Cape May County's local building mode and into an architectural scheme of greater regional and national scope.

Henry Ludlam was born on May 13, 1752, the youngest son of Joseph Ludlam, Jr. (1706-1753) and the grandson of Joseph Ludlam, Sr. (1675-1761). Joseph Ludlam, Sr. emigrated from Southhampton, Long Island, and was among the thirty-five original whaler/yeoman who settled Cape May County in the 1690's. Having acquired title to 500 acres, Joseph Sr.'s landholdings encompassed parts of the then designated Upper-Middle and seaside precincts; his seaside land was actually labelled "Ludlam's Beach." His acquisition of Dennis Neck, land lying between Dennis Creek and Sluice Creek, contained a vast expanse of cedar swamp—a resource that was to significantly define the wealth of the Ludlam family, and the subsequent economic structure of northern Cape May County. Joseph Sr.'s landholdings stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Delaware Bay (areas that would later be designated Upper and Dennis Township, and Sea Isle City), and his proprietary power ultimately situated his son, Joseph Jr. and grandson, Henry, in Cape May County's thirty-five family whaler/yeoman oligarchy—an inter-married ruling elite that controlled 70-80% of the county's land, livestock, slaves, shipping, and political offices from the time of initial settlement until the nineteenth century.

Sometime between 1726 and 1730, Joseph Ludlam, Jr. settled just north of Dennis Creek. When he died in 1753 he left Henry, just one year old, "... all that Tract of Land and Marsh and Cedar Swamp lying and being on the East Side Jarrels Gut in the Upper Precinct of the County of Cape May." It was on this land that Henry Ludlam would construct his house. Judging by the amount of cedar (clapboards and shingles) mentioned in Joseph Ludlam, Jr.'s probate inventory, the resource was occupying an important position in the family's economic identity. This is not surprising considering the Ludlam family owned a large amount of land both within, and on the boundaries of, Cape May County's "Great Cedar Swamp." Henry Ludlam's personal wealth, along with his family's collective social standing, had earned him the title "gentleman" by the time he was in his early twenties. Following

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Cape May County tradition, he married Hannah Smith on June 30, 1772—herself a member of one of the region's influential landed families. On June 7, 1777, Henry Ludlam became a First Lieutenant in the Fourth Company of the Cape May Battalion serving directly under Captain Townsend. According to Jeffrey Dorwart, Ludlam and battalion commander Colonel John McKay marched Cape May militiamen to Woodbury, crossed the Delaware River on September 22, 1777, and participated in the famous Battle of Germantown on October 4, 1777. After the Battle of Germantown, Ludlam and the Cape May militiamen assumed garrison duty at Woodbury, and on October 21, 1777 fought Hessian Jaegers in the Cooper's Ferry vicinity.

As with his military service, Ludlam's post-war pursuits continued to reflect his personal wealth, and the paternalistic vision that accompanied his, and his family's established presence in the county. In 1789, Ludlam was one of a group of five Cape May county residents empowered by the New Jersey Legislature to construct a bridge over the north and south branches of Dennis Creek. Ludlam's participation in this project stemmed from his social and economic entrenchment in northern Cape May County, and he became more visible on May 23, 1801 when he deeded, for one dollar, "... a certain lot of ground situated on the Main Road (Delsea Drive/Route 47) between the said Ludlam House and the House of Daniel Ludlam for a school house." After the death of his first wife, Henry Ludlam married Patience Stites Cresse; again, like his first spouse, a woman directly connected to the county's original thirty-five whaler/yeoman family network. Ludlam's marriage practices remained bound by Cape May County tradition, but in other spheres he was helping usher in a period of significant transformation. In 1815 Ludlam or his son Henry II became a board member of the South Branch of the Dennis Creek Meadow Company—a meadow banking company whose land reclamation efforts would eventually be duplicated by other companies throughout nineteenth century southern New Jersey. Meadow banking was carried out to keep marshland from flooding during high tide. Southern New Jersey farmers would either plant upland crops on this reclaimed land or they would harvest salt hay from it. The seriousness of this endeavor was reflected in meadow banking companies where resources were pooled to maintain the banks. Economic transformations such as this (the more efficient organization of meadow banking), along with improvements in land and water transportation, gradually effected Cape May County's social, cultural, and economic insularity. Henry Ludlam recognized these transformations—indeed, his dwelling embodied the transitional time period of which he was so much a part. This house expressed Ludlam's, and, by extension, the county's participation in a larger regional and national culture. At the same time, the dwelling's traditional and Federal-style conventions acknowledged Cape May County's own history and culture by symbolizing the gentry status that Ludlam held during his lifetime and which his family held for over one hundred years. Henry Ludlam died on November 20, 1837. His house offers a compelling vision of this region's social and cultural history, particularly when viewed in conjunction with his probate

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Cape May County, New Jersey

inventory (see attached sheets). This dwelling's substantive and interpretive value make it an important historical resource—one deserving of listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

After Henry Ludlam's death, the property ultimately passed to his son Henry II. Following Henry II's death in 1857, the property passed to his daughter, Ellen H. Ludlam. Various deed sources list the property as the "Ellen Ludlam Homestead Plantation," and during her ownership the site remained relatively intact containing "Woodland 30 3/4 acres, Farm 38 1/4, Swamp 13 1/2, and Meadow 27..." for a total of 109 1/2 acres. During Ellen Ludlam's tenure, the site was distinguished by the mill pond adjacent to the house and property. Albert H. Ludlam (1821-1888)—Henry I's grandson and Ellen Ludlam's brother—owned the mill site on Ludlam Mill Pond, and operated a well-known grist mill and lumber business. Following Ellen Ludlam's death in 1884, the property was transferred to members of the Townsend family (related to the Ludlam's through marriage). At this time, all of Ellen Ludlam's heirs, except Henry O. Townsend and Hannah S. Townsend, conveyed their shares of the "homestead plantation" to Mary C. Townsend on June 15, 1885. Hannah S. Townsend died on April 30, 1885, and Mary C. Townsend acquired her share on January 12, 1886. By the late 1880's, the original Henry Ludlam House, and the remaining portions of its adjacent lands, were owned in their entirety by Mary C. Townsend and William O. Townsend. They mortgaged the property with Henry T. Corson, and not being able to meet their payments, the property was sold at sheriff's sale on April 18, 1892 to Isaac G. Van Artsdalen of Philadelphia. After passing from its longtime Ludlam/Townsend ownership, the property, like many in the region, experienced sub-divisions. This started as early as 1896 when Van Artsdalen conveyed a portion of this property to Gandy S. Robinson of Dennis Township. Today, the house and its adjoining land occupy .71 acres of the original Henry Ludlam estate.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township,  
Dape May County, New Jersey

Henry Ludlam House  
Cape May County, New Jersey

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township,  
Cape May County, New Jersey

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 1Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township,  
Cape May County, New JerseyHenry Ludlam House  
Cape May County, New JerseyVerbal Boundary Description

The most recent tax map shows the Henry Ludlam House site on Block 62, Lot 7. In 1992 the portion of the road designated "Lake Drive" that bisects Block 62, Lot 7 and Block 63, Lots 1 and 2 was conveyed to the Ludlam House owners. The owners of the Ludlam property also own, as indicated on the most recent tax map, Block 63, Lots 1 and 2, and Block 62, Lot 6. The conveyance of the vacated road to the Ludlam property owners resulted in the consolidation of the previously designated Block 62, Lots 6 and 7, and Block 63, Lots 1 and 2 into Block 62, Lot 14 as of the 1993 tax year. The Henry Ludlam House now sits on Block 62, Lot 14 of Dennis Township.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the house and .71 acres historically associated with the Henry Ludlam estate.



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

Photos 1

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Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township,  
Cape May County, New JerseyHenry Ludlam House  
Cape May County, New JerseyPhotographs

The following is the same for all photographs:

- 1) Henry Ludlam House
- 2) Dennis Township, Cape May County, New Jersey
- 3) Michael J. Chiarappa, Photographer
- 4) October 1992

List of Photographs

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Photograph 1 of 16.  | Front facade of Henry Ludlam House.  |
| Photograph 2 of 16.  | Front facade of Henry Ludlam House.  |
| Photograph 3 of 16.  | Westward facing facade of the original house unit, and west gable of Federal-style addition. |
| Photograph 4 of 16.  | Staircase with raised panels in the Henry Ludlam House's center passageway.                  |
| Photograph 5 of 16.  | Winder stairway with beaded-edge horizontal cedar paneling.                                  |
| Photograph 6 of 16.  | Hearth and mantelpiece in the first floor east room of the Henry Ludlam House.               |
| Photograph 7 of 16.  | Raised panel door, first floor east room.  |
| Photograph 8 of 16.  | Raised panel chimney closet door in the first floor east room.                               |
| Photograph 9 of 16.  | Encased corner post, second floor west room.   |
| Photograph 10 of 16. | Raised panel door, second floor west room.   |
| Photograph 11 of 16. | Carved balusters.  |

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photos 2

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township,  
Cape May County, New Jersey

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- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Photograph 12 of 16. | Hearth and mantelpiece in the second floor east room of the Henry Ludlam House. |
| Photograph 13 of 16. | Raised panel chimney closets in the second floor east room.                     |
| Photograph 14 of 16. | Encased corner post, second floor east room.                                    |
| Photograph 15 of 16. | Raised panel door, second floor east room.                                      |
| Photograph 16 of 16. | Raised panels on staircase.   |

Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township, Cape May County, NJ

Dennisville December 16th 1837

Inventory of the Personal Estate of Henry Ludlam, Decd. as appraised by  
Eleazer Crawford and Amos C. Moore

East Room Down Stairs

_____ Scails (Scales)	.50
Managoney Baleel	1.50
1 lot of Sundreys	.12 1/2
1 lot of Sundry in drawer	.25
6 cups and saucers _____	1.00
7 plaits (plates) _____	.70
1 Bole (bowl ?)	.10
1 Ditto	.20
1 Ditto	.20
1 Cake Dish	.50
1 Shugar (Sugar) Bole	.10
1 large _____ Bole	.50
2 Coffey Pots	.12 1/2
2 Bed (Tea ?)Pots	.12 1/2
3 glass decanters	.37 1/2 or .27 1/2
1 large Bumbler	.25
2 mugs	.12 1/2
1 black cup	.12 1/2
	<hr/>
	6 80

7 wine glasses and server	.50
a lot of sundreys _____	.50
Shugar Bongs Silver	1.25
1 Drawing Knife	.6 1/4
1 large waiter	.25
1 large glass	1.50
1 Bead Stand	.25
1 Bead and Beading and Stand	16.00
1 Cover Let	3.00
1 Bead Trunk	.25
a lot of Beading and Stand (sheets ?)	5.50
a lot of Carpet on floor	.50
a Carpet bags	2.50
a lot of books _____	.50
And Irons	1.50

Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township, Cape May County, NJ

Shovel and Tongs	1.00
a lot of books	.25
1 Arm Chair	.25
12 common chairs	3.00
1 table	.25
	<hr/>
	39.01

setel (settle) and bead	3.00
1/2 barrel flour	4.00
a wine sifter	.25
1 large pot	2.00
lot of cracky	.60
scails flat irons	1.25
1 large glass	1.50
1 stand	.50
a set of drawers ?	5.00
1 bed bable	.75
1 bead stead	.75
1 tin kitchen	.25
1 bead and beading up stairs	14.00
1 stand	1.00
1 glass	.50
bead and beading in east room	10.00
	<hr/>
	45.35

1 _____	.12 1/2
1 clothes basket	.12 1/2
1 spinning wheel	1.00
1 bead	.12 1/2
1 bead stead (in garret?)	1.00
1 case of bottles	.50
1 cover let	4.00
2 blankets	2.00
2 Ditto	2.00
2 lining sheets	2.00
2 Ditto	2.00

Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township, Cape May County, NJ

2 Ditto	2.00
2 Ditto	2.00
2 Ditto	2.00
2 Ditto	2.00
2 Ditto	2.00
2 Ditto	2.00
1 Ditto	.75
2 Nusting Sheets	1.50
2 blankets	3.00
2 Ditto	3.00
1 Ditto	1.00
1 Ditto	1.25
	<hr/>
	37.37 1/2

1 bead quilt	1.20
1 _____ Pin	3.00
1 Ditto ? lining	1.50
1 table coverlet	8.00
1 beading chest	1.00
1 set of curtains	.50
1 Ditto	2.00
6 diaper bowels	1.50
4 plain Ditto	.50
2 table cloths	3.00
2 Ditto	3.00
2 _____	.25

kitchen \_\_\_\_\_

1 table	1.50
1 ditto	.25
5 chairs	1.00
a lot of dishes	1.00
2 pewter plates	.50
1 copper tea kettle	.12 1/2
6 silver spoons	15.00
dishes in cupboard	1.00
	<hr/>
	47.87 1/2

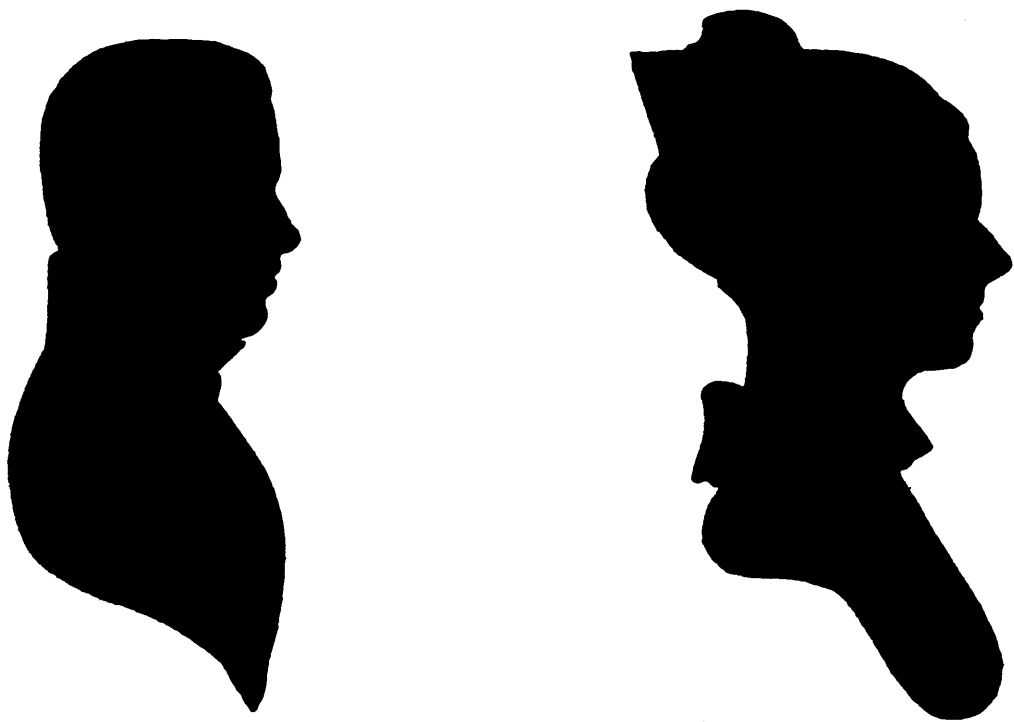
5 small silver spoons	1.00
2 pots over fire	1.00

Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township, Cape May County, NJ

1 duck kettle	.25
tin bake oven	1.00
and irons	1.00
shovel bong	.75
knives and forks	.25
1 bench	.12 1/2
3 candle sticks	.25
1 ax	.50
1 hatchet	.25
1 small hatchet	.05
_____ cut saws	1.50
1 pitch fork	.25
a lot of tools	1.00
_____ bushel	.50
a lot of old hair	.12 1/2
fine salt	.50
old iron	.50
_____ wheat	.25
shot	12 1/2
2 bags	.37 1/2
	<hr/>
	11.55
stilyards	.50
1 corn basket	.25
2 _____ tools	2.00
2 bowels and salt	.50
tub and soke	2.00
1 stone jar ?	.50
1 _____ john	1.00
3 _____ pots	.10
1 Ditto	.05
1 brass kettle	1.00
1 pot	.50
	.25
1 ham or pan	.25
sundreys	.05
spotted hog	7.00
white hog	7.00
1 cow	10.00
1 Ditto	10.00
1 shovel	.25
	.25

Henry Ludlam House, Dennis Township, Cape May County, NJ

2 wash tubs	.50
1 briar hook	.12 1/2
	<hr/>
	44.07 1/2
1 pair of andirons	.50
3 bushels of oats 40	1.20
5 _____ pots	.25
	<hr/>
	.25
2 jars ?	.25
1 pail	.12 1/2
1 churn	.12 1/2
1 plow	.50
1 Ditto	.12 1/2
a lot of hay	6.00
_____shingles	2.50
	<hr/>
	2.00
	<hr/>
	2.00
1 pitch fork	.50
	<hr/>
	16.31 1/2
Total inventory value	\$ 2, 009.46



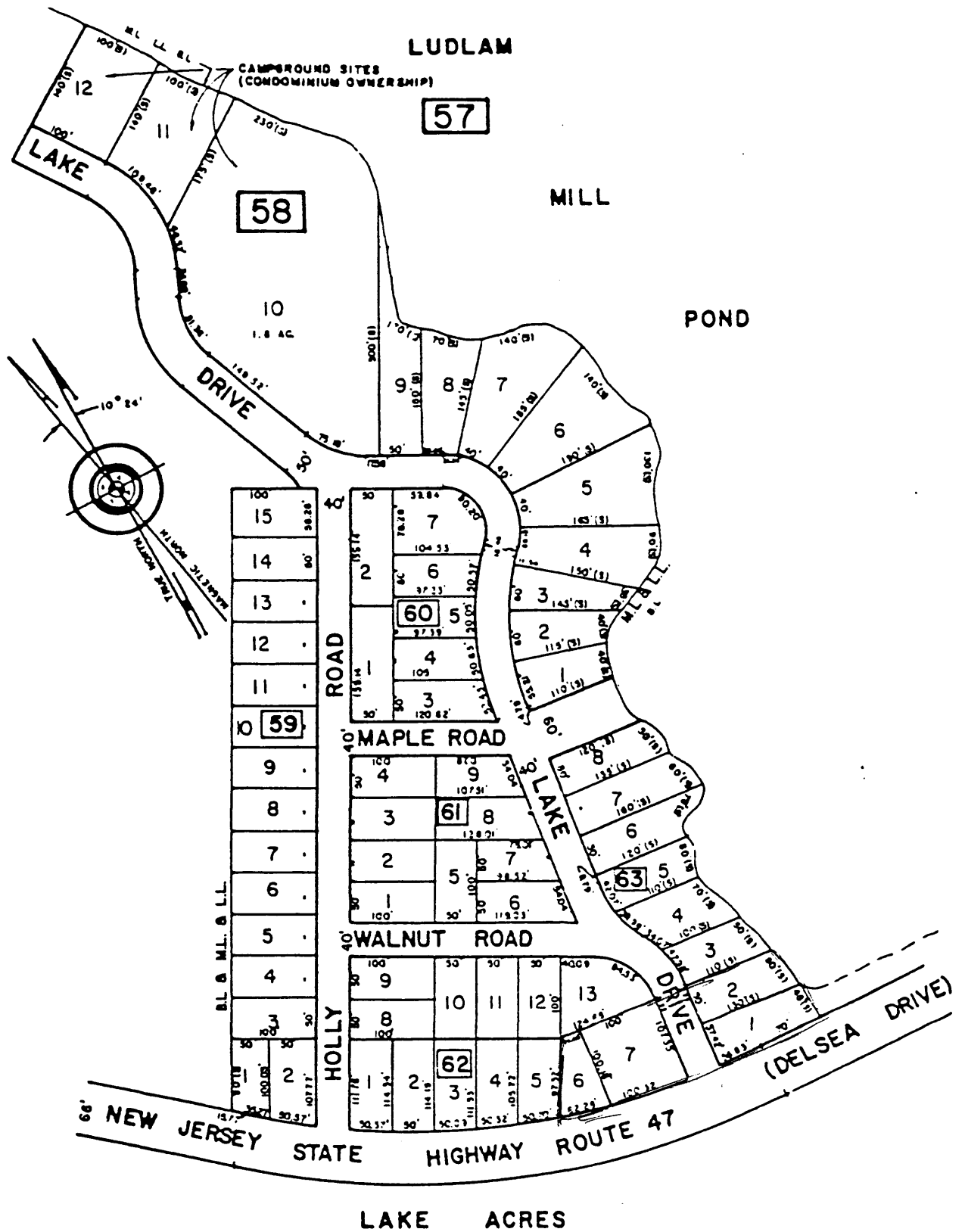
**Henry Ludlam and Hannah Smith Ludlam**

**Married June 30, 1774, by Reverend Peter Peterson Vanhorn of the First Cape May Baptist Church. (The marriage license was signed by William Franklin, the last Provincial Governor of New Jersey Colony)**

Silhouettes from the Collections of the Cape May County Historical Society

Henry Ludlam House  
Dennis Township  
Cape May County, NJ





REV. SEC. 12-22 89 A74

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
 DIVISION OF TAXATION  
 LOCAL PROPERTY AND PUBLIC UTILITY TAXES  
 APPROVED AS A TAX MAP PURSUANT TO THE  
 PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 173, LAWS OF 1975  
 FOR THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF TAXATION  
*J. H. Dennis*  
 DEC 9 1980

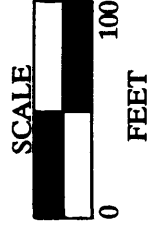
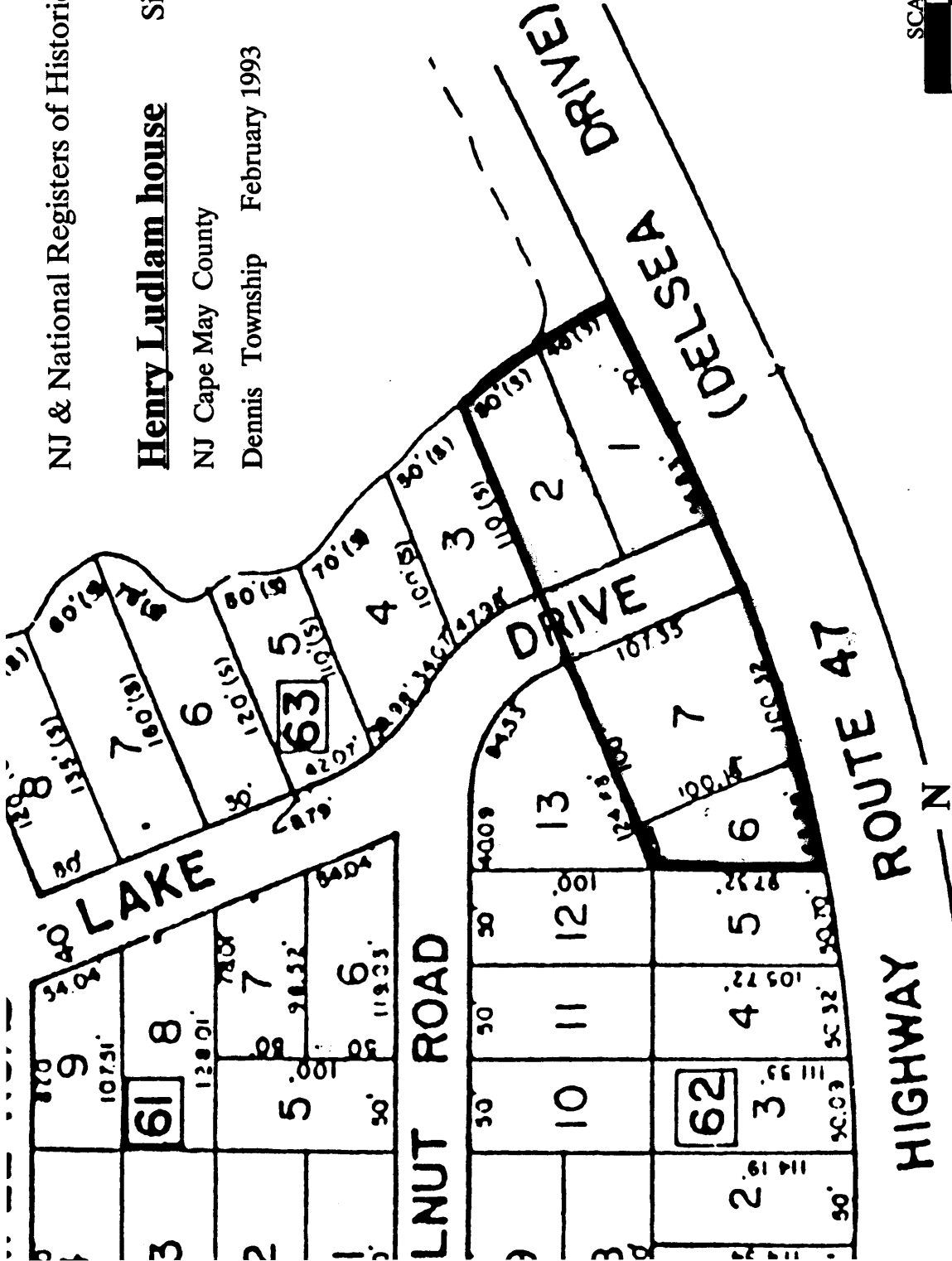
Henry Ludlam House  
**TAX MAP 161**  
 TOWNSHIP OF DENNIS  
 CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
 SCALE: 1" = 100' APRIL 1, 1980  
 ALVIN C. HERMAN  
 NJ LIC. PE & LS. NO. 12284  
 ALVIN C. HERMAN ASSOC. INC.  
 7 MECHANIC STREET  
 CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, NJ 08210

NJ & National Registers of Historic Places

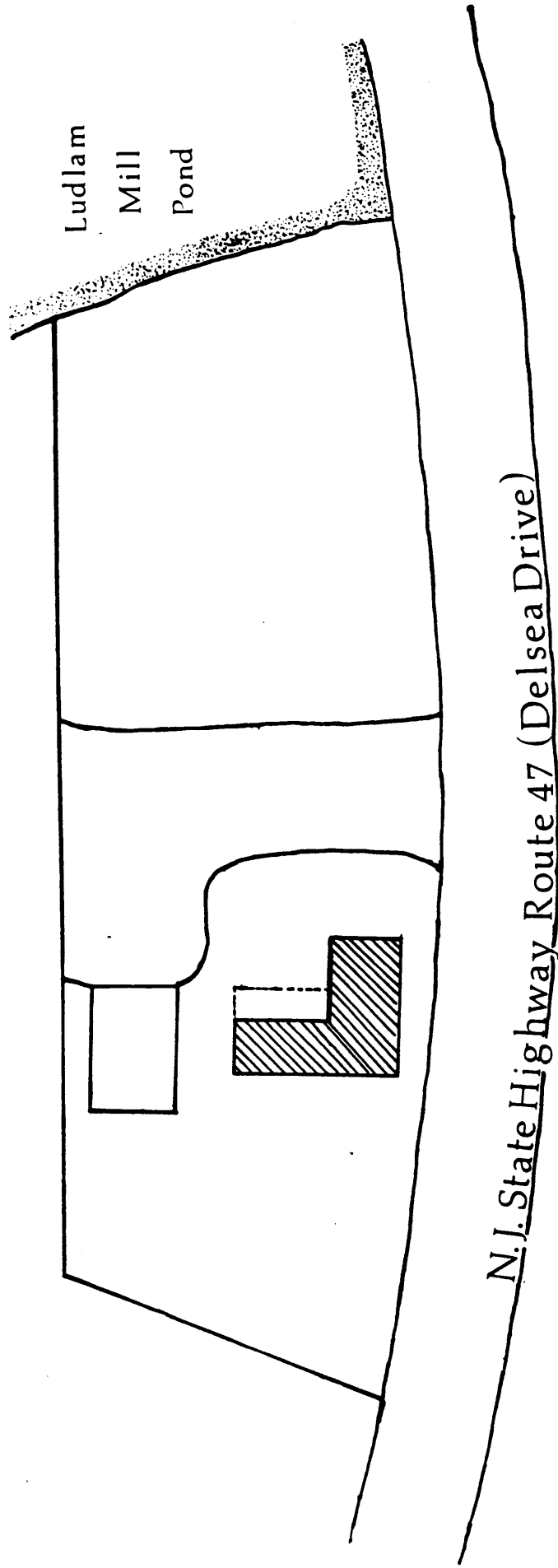
**Henry Ludlam house** Site Map

NJ Cape May County

Dennis Township February 1993

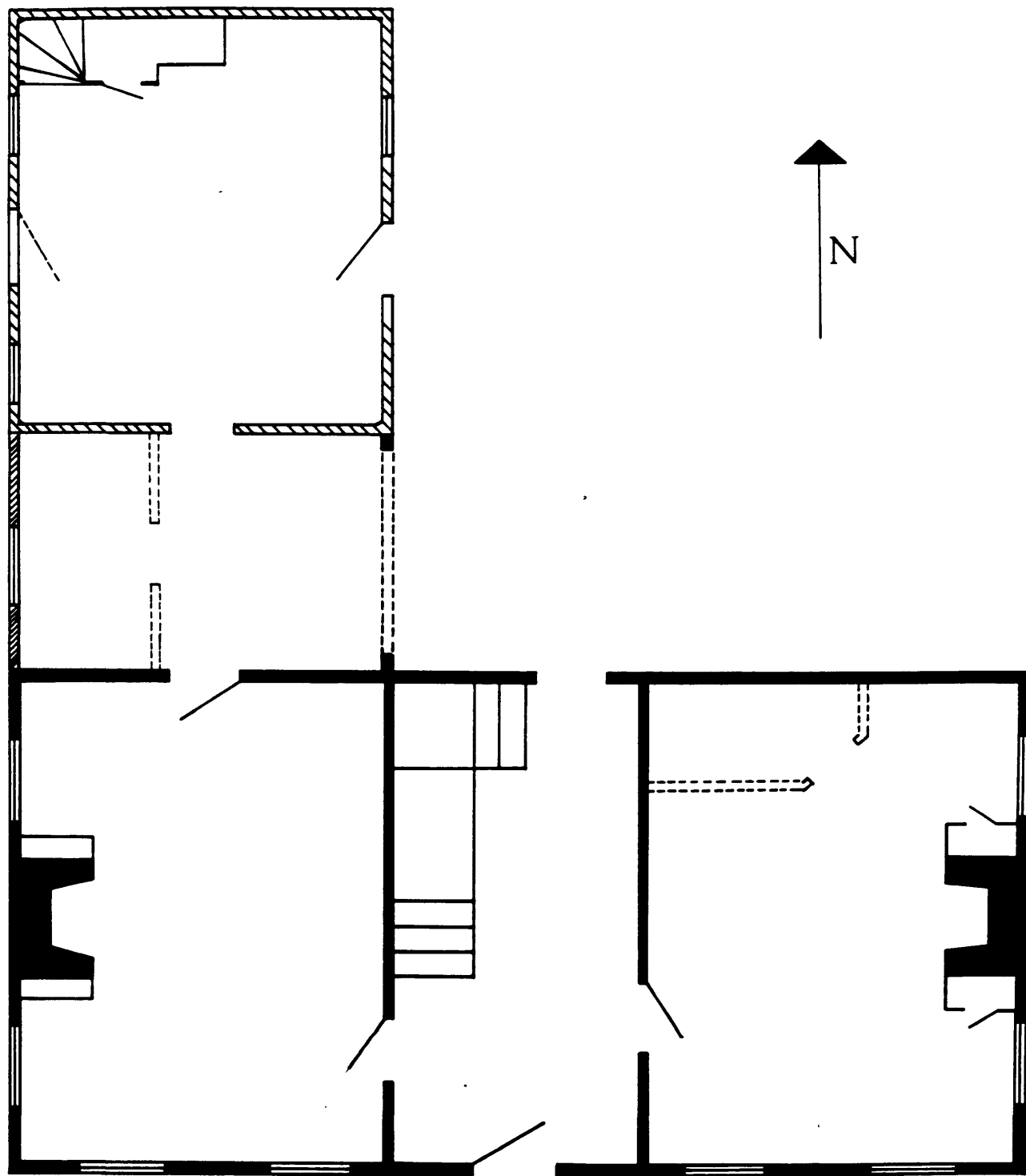


LAKE ACRES



site plan

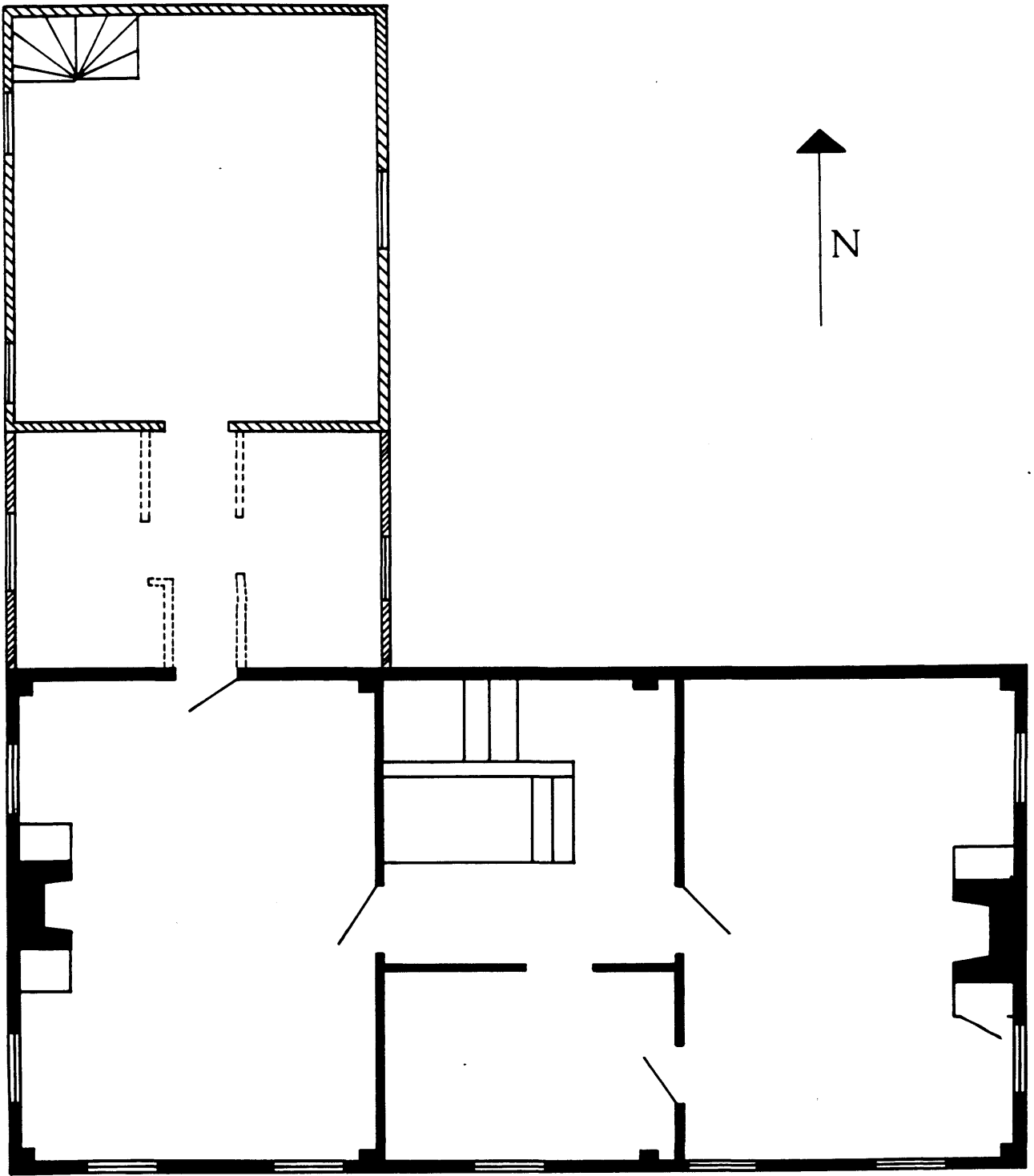
Henry Ludlam House  
Dennis Township  
Cape May County



Henry Ludlam House  
 North Dennis/Woodbine vicinity  
 Dennis Township  
 Cape May County

0 5

first story



Henry Ludlam House  
North Dennis/Woodbine vicinity  
Dennis Township  
Cape May County

second story