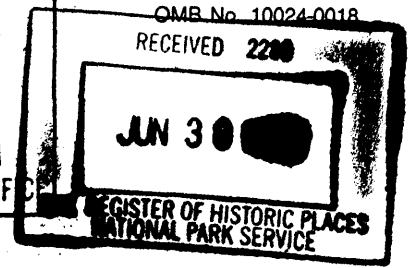
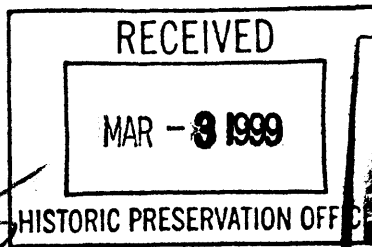


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



905

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 George Hildreth House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 731 Seashore Road N/A not for publication

city or town Lower Township vicinity

state New Jersey code 034 county Cape May code 009 zip code 08204

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] 5/27/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
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] 7/28/99
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

George Hildreth House

Cape May County, New Jersey
County and State

Name of Property

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 1 | Noncontributing 2 | |
| _____ | _____ | buildings |
| _____ | _____ | sites |
| _____ | _____ | structures |
| _____ | _____ | objects |
| 1 | 2 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th-Century

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
wood: weatherboard

walls _____
roof asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations 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

ca. 1850-1897

Significant Dates

1850

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.)

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:

George Hildreth House

Name of Property

Cape May County, New Jersey

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3

Cape May Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 Easting 507610 Northing 4314180

3 Zone Easting Northing
4 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy L. Zerbe, Architectural Historian

organization Nancy L. Zerbe Historic Preservation Consulting, Inc. date March, 1999

street & number 81 Rector Street telephone (732) 906-8203

city or town Metuchen, state NJ zip code 08840-1540

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 Joseph and Anne Salvatore

street & number 731 Seashore Road telephone (609) 884-3881

city or town Lower Township state NJ zip code 08204

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**

Section number 7 Page 1

George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

DESCRIPTION

The George Hildreth House property consists of 3 acres located along Seashore Road in the Village of Cold Spring, Lower Township, Cape May County. The nominated property includes that portion of Block 505, Lot 13.01 which is on the northwest side of the woods line dividing the house from the approximately 8 acres of farm field. There are three structures on the site: the mid-nineteenth century George Hildreth House (Photograph #1) and two modern outbuildings (Photographs #2 and #3).

The entrance to the property is off Seashore Road with a clamshell driveway which curves in front of the house, and proceeds along each side of the house to the rear outbuildings. The house sits back approximately 100 feet from the road and is surrounded by a significant amount of landscaping (Photograph #4): a row of shrubbery and trees along the Seashore Road property line; rows of neatly trimmed bushes bordering the house on all four sides; numerous large deciduous trees; a row of evergreen trees to the south of the house near the in-ground pool; and arbors to the north and south of the house, each surrounded by flowering shrubs.

The George Hildreth House is a two-story five bay center hall frame house with clapboard siding. The main portion of the house consists of a rectangular block with two front rooms flanking the central stairway, and a two-story one-room rear extension on the northeast side of the house. This main block has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles, two large interior end brick chimneys, and a large rear chimney. At the rear of the one-room extension is a two-story one-room addition with an asphalt shingle shed roof. There are two rear additions to the southeast side of the house: a small one-story shed roof addition at the end of the porch, and a modern one-story gable roof enclosed porch (Photograph #5).

All windows on the main block of the house are six-over-six double hung wood frame windows with wood shutters and shutter dogs. The predominant architectural feature of the house is the two-story high veranda on the front and two side facades of the main block. The veranda is supported with paired thin wood posts with decorative trim. Between the pairs of posts is cornice level latticework with a pointed arch (Photograph #6).

The front facade consists of a center doorway (Photograph #7) flanked by windows on each side. The doorway includes double wooden paneled doors, an ornate Victorian screen door, and a Classical door surround with fluted pilasters, and a five light transom. Above the doorway

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Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

hangs a large iron lantern. The second story of the front facade consists of five evenly spaced windows.

The first floor of the main block's northeast side facade (Photograph #8) consists of four windows with a side entrance door located between the last two bays to the rear. The second floor of the northeast side facade consists of four evenly spaced windows. The southwest facade (Photograph #9) of the main block is a plain facade with no fenestration.

On the interior, the front doorway opens up into a small entryway (Photograph #10) which has a paneled wood door leading into the central hallway. The hallway consists of a straight passage back to a rear door leading onto the back portion of the porch, a doorway into each of the front parlors, and the main staircase leading up to the second floor.

Each front parlor has a prominent fireplace which is centered on the side facade and which is flanked by built-in wooden cabinets. Each parlor also has built-in cabinets adjacent to the door to the center hallway. The fireplace mantel pieces are of a simple Classical design with fluted pilasters. Behind the northeast parlor (Photograph #11) is the dining room (Photograph #12), which has five entrance doors: a doorway from the front parlor; a door to the porch on the northeast facade; a door to the porch on the southwest facade; a doorway to the kitchen; and a door in the south corner (which originally led to the second floor, but is now closed off). A prominent feature of the dining room is the fireplace centered on the southeast wall. The mantel piece has a simple Classical design, similar to the ones in the front parlors.

A small passageway leads from the dining room to the current kitchen (Photograph #13). Located off the passageway is a small half bathroom which was added post-1946 by putting a small shed roof enclosure at the end of the side porch. The kitchen has a large brick fireplace and many modern features, including replacement windows and rear door. To the side of the fireplace is a curving staircase to the second floor. Although this staircase has an old appearance, it was added in the late 1980s by the current owners. To the southwest of the kitchen is a modern one-story addition containing an enclosed porch or sunroom, now used as a family room.

The main access to the second floor is the front staircase (Photograph #14). The staircase has a wooden railing with a curved handrail and turned balusters. At the top of the staircase, there is a landing and two steps straight ahead which lead through an arched doorway with a two-paneled wooden arched door into the rear hallway. The stairway also wraps around to the front

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Section number 7 Page 3

George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

of the house to provide access to a front hallway (See Photograph #10). Per the current property owners, this hallway was enclosed in the 1940s for use as a bathroom. The current owners removed the walls, restored the area to a hallway, and added built-in bookshelves. This hallway has an entrance into the two front bedrooms located above the front parlors.

The current owners made several alterations to the southwest bedroom (Photograph #15): a partition wall was removed to combine two small rooms into one bedroom, and built-in drawers and closets were added to the front wall in order to match the built-ins in the northeast front bedroom. In addition, at some point the original fireplace in this room was closed in. The fireplace in the northeast bedroom (Photograph #16) was also enclosed; however, it retains its simple wood Classical mantel piece.

In the rear portion of the second floor, there are three rooms which are accessed via the rear hallway: a bathroom immediately adjacent to the northeast front bedroom; a small room used as a dressing room; and a bedroom at the very back of the house. The back winding stairs from the kitchen now lead into the back bedroom, although the original back stairs from the dining room led to the back of the rear hallway.

The rear bedroom (Photograph #17) has several wood paneled doors leading to the rear hallway, built-in storage areas, and the rear stairway. In addition, there is a modern bathroom to the northeast side of this bedroom.

The George Hildreth House and property retain an excellent degree of integrity. Twentieth century changes to the house and property appear to fall into three categories, none of which has a significant impact on the property's historic integrity. First, the property itself has changed through a sale of a portion of the land associated with the house, an increase in the amount of shrubbery in close proximity to the house, and removal of a picket fence in front of the house. These last two items are indicated by two early 20th century photographs. Second, as described above, there have been some interior changes, none of which affects the house's overall historic integrity of design, form, or materials. Finally, per the current property owner, the carriage house (See Photograph #2) was built in 1942 and the garage (See Photograph #3) was built in 1993. These structures are outside of the period of significance for the resource and are considered non-contributing.

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Section number 8 Page 1

George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George Hildreth House is significant under National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance. Built in 1850 for George Hildreth, the house is one of the most ornate mid-nineteenth century houses in rural Lower Township. Architecturally, it reflects a blend of the area's traditional form of building construction, the period's growing interest in the romantic Gothic Revival style of architecture, and the mid-nineteenth century hotel architecture of Cape May City.

George E. Thomas' and Carl E. Doebley's book, Cape May: Queen of the Seaside Resorts: Its History and Architecture, contrasts a community's popular history from its scholarly history, stating that a popular history is often "fragmentary, episodic," and seek answers to architectural oddities on an individual basis versus looking at events in "an overall totality." Thomas and Doebley conclude that popular history "is of considerable value, for it defines the issues of the town's past that the community has found to be of interest and that make the town unique and therefore important."ⁱ

This discussion is relevant to the Hildreth House which has been heralded by local historians due to its unusual architectural style, often credited with imitating southern plantations. The fact that the house is unique within Lower Township is undisputed; however, the similarity to southern plantations needs to be re-examined in light of the known facts concerning George Hildreth's life as well as the history and architecture of mid-nineteenth century Cape May City, an adjacent community influential in the life of George Hildreth.

The most extensive bibliographic information on George Hildreth's early life comes from H. C. Woolman & J. E. Rose's 1878 Historical and Biographical Atlas of the New Jersey Coast. According to that source, Hildreth was born on May 28, 1822 in Rio Grande, a community located within Middle Township four miles north of the Hildreth House. His father, Ephraim Hildreth, was a merchant in Rio Grande; his grandfather, Ephraim Hildreth, was "well known in his day throughout the county of Cape May, as a public man"; and his great-grandfather, the Rev. David Hildreth, was "one of the earliest Methodist Episcopal ministers in Cape May County, and frequently visited Salem and Cumberland counties to preach the gospel."ⁱⁱ

Hildreth is described in his youth as having "pursued farming to some extent, but the great bent of his mind was to follow the water." In 1838, at age 16, he "went aboard of a schooner in the coasting trade, carrying coal to the Eastern ports" from Philadelphia. In 1839, he was aboard the

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George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

Cape May vessel, the Reaper, when it sprang a leak, issued a distress warning, and sank after its crew was saved by a passing brig from Charleston.ⁱⁱⁱ This is the first mention of the South in George Hildreth's life, a connection which was to become prominent as a posthumous explanation for his house's architectural style.

In the spring of 1840, George Hildreth "engaged in the southern trade" by sailing for North Carolina in the schooner Vesta. He returned home in October, 1840, when he became ill with swamp fever. Woolman and Rose proceed to describe the next few years of Hildreth's life as primarily a combination of time on the farm and at sea:

"The next season (1841?) he remained at home on the farm, except when vessels were wrecked, when he always made one of the surf crew of Captain Richard C. Holmes, the noted surfman. About that time he took one of ten shares to build the first surfboat that was ever built in Cape May County.

When twenty-two years of age (1844) he bought one-half of a small schooner, and followed trading for several years, except in the winter months, when he made one of Captain Holmes's crew in the wrecking business, in which occupation he witnessed some very thrilling scenes."^{iv}

The farm referred to in this reference would presumably have been his family's farm in Rio Grande.

Stevens' 1897 book, The History of Cape May County, New Jersey, credits Hildreth as spending time in the 1840s buying and selling lumber.^v In 1846-1847, Hildreth built the Columbia House, an "elegant and commodious summer resort" on Ocean Street, Cape May City.^{vi} This step is significant as his first documented activity in a city which was to play an important part in Hildreth's life, including influencing the architectural style of his Cold Spring farm house.

In 1850-1851, George Hildreth built his home in Cold Spring. A diary of a local Cold Spring resident contains the following listing for October 5, 1850: "George Hildreth raised his new house."^{vii} According to Woolman and Rose, in 1851, "he sold the Columbia House to a good advantage, and built a very fine residence on Cold Spring Farm, where he lived for a number of years. While there he got the place in a fine state of cultivation, and put all the out-buildings in a good state of repair, during which time he purchased other farms, and built the popular house in Cape May City, known as the "West End Hotel," and bought and sold a large amount of property

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Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

in the latter place.^{viii} The 1850 federal census for Lower Township does not mention George Hildreth. However, by 1860, he is listed as owning a farm with a cash value of \$3000, including 60 acres improved, 10 acres unimproved, 2 horses, 4 mulch cows, 2 other cattle, 60 sheep, 12 swine, 200 bushels of wheat, 250 bushels of Indian Corn, 60 bushels of oats, and 100 pounds of wool.^{ix}

George Hildreth continued to own the Cold Spring house until his death in 1897 when he willed it to his son, Lewis.^x During most of that time, however, he maintained a residence in Cape May City and remained actively involved in the City. From 1864 until 1876, he owned a flour and feed business in Cape May.^{xi} A March 9, 1870 advertisement for his business in the Cape May Ocean Wave promoted his mill on Jackson Street and his sale of flour, corn, oats, lime and hair for plastering, Lehigh coal, floor oil cloths and mattings, and "numerous other articles unnecessary to mention."^{xii} On April 12, 1870, he was appointed keeper of Life-saving Station No. 39 which was located in Cape May. His additional construction activities in the City included: the 1873 Chester Cottage on South La Fayette Street, a boarding house able to accommodate 50 guests; and the 1874-1875 Wyoming Cottage on Jackson Street, a boarding house accommodating about 50 guests and serving as Hildreth's residence.^{xiii} His obituary in the Star of the Cape, a local Cape May newspaper, described him as "a prominent and successful citizen of Cape May for many years" who "probably erected as many fine buildings within (Cape May's) limits as any other man." It also indicated that Mr. Hildreth's funeral took place at his residence on Jackson Street.^{xiv} His obituary in the Ocean Wave newspaper credited him as having served as "one of the commissioners which at one time in local history controlled public improvements."^{xv}

Two early maps, the 1828 Gordon Map^{xvi} and the 1834 Gordon's Gazetteer^{xvii}, which do not show structures, both indicate the community of Cold Spring. An 1850 map of "The Borough of Cape Island and its Vicinity" by P. Nunan, Surveyor, which does indicate structures, shows the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church (simply listed as "Presbyterian Church"), but does not show the Hildreth House.^{xviii} The 1856 Cook's Geological Map and the 1861 Hopkins Map, both of which show unlabeled structures, depict the community of Cold Spring containing a cluster of structures concentrated along the north-south Seashore Road.^{xix} The 1872 Beers map, on display at the Cape May County Historical Society, depicts the house as the home of George Hildreth.^{xx}

Twentieth century popular histories of the house have noted its unusual architectural style, attributing it to Hildreth's connection with southern United States. Mrs. Helena Way Fitzpatrick's 1951 booklet, "Some Old Houses of Cape May County, New Jersey," described the house as "stately, and with a design as foreign to the County as an adobe hacienda" ... as well as

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George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

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“Southern Colonial, misplaced though it may be... Captain Hildreth operated his own vessels between distant ports, thus he spent several winters in Charleston, South Carolina. When he built his Cold Spring home it was said that the architecture was inspired by that of the girlhood home of his bride, to whom he presented the house as a wedding gift.”^{xxxi} A ca. 1970 description of the house by Dr. Karl A. Dickinson, Curator of the Cape May County Historical Society, supports the earlier history that Hildreth built the house as a wedding gift for his bride and that its “architecture was inspired by the old plantation houses of the South.”^{xxiii}

Several historical facts point against the accuracy of these twentieth century evaluations. First, on a minor note, there does not appear to be historic documentation to support that Hildreth took his own vessels to southern ports or that he spent several winters in Charleston. Woolman and Rose, the most extensive historic resource describing Hildreth’s early life, only credit him with having spent approximately six months in North Carolina, and this was as a result of his sailing on the schooner Vesta, not his own ship.^{xxiii} On a more important note, there appears to be some confusion as to Hildreth’s marriage. Although he was married on January 16, 1850, his bride came from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, not Charleston, South Carolina. Therefore, it is unlikely that the house was inspired by the girlhood home of his bride, Sarah M. Worrell, daughter of Lewis Worrell, of Wilkes-Barre.^{xxiv} A final possible twentieth century misinterpretation of historic facts is Mrs. Fitzpatrick’s statement that “material for the construction of the house was brought from Albany by boat by Capt. Hildreth.”^{xxv} Although we do not know for sure if this is accurate, it is possible that this fact came from Woolman and Rose’s statement that in 1845, “Hildreth took his vessel to Albany where he is credited with purchasing “a load of lumber and shingles, paying for the best pine boards, by the pile, nine dollars per thousand.”^{xxvi} However, as Hildreth built the Columbia House in 1846-1847, and his Cold Spring farmhouse in 1850-1851, it is more likely that any lumber brought from Albany in 1845 was utilized in the Columbia House construction rather than in the Cold Spring farmhouse.

Two more likely sources of inspiration for the architectural style of the Hildreth House were the Cape May City hotel architecture contemporary with the house’s construction, and the growing interest in romantic Gothic Revival detailing. By 1846, four years before the Hildreth House was built, George Hildreth had initiated his first building construction in Cape May. By the time he built his home in Cold Spring, he was clearly involved in Cape May City and would have been aware of the prevalent architectural styles.

Cape May City, originally known as Cape Island, developed as a resort area in the early nineteenth century. This development is well outlined in George E. Thomas’ and Carl E.

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Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

Doebley's book, Cape May, Queen of the Seaside Resorts: Its History and Architecture.

Thomas and Doebley cite a June 30, 1801 advertisement in the Philadelphia Daily Aurora as one of the earliest advertisements of Cape May as a resort. The 1823 Watson's Annals of Philadelphia "reported that there were two hotels and a number of cottages at Cape May." Thomas Gordon's 1834 Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey credit the city with having "six boarding houses, three of which are very large." According to Thomas and Doebley, "there were at least four major rooming establishments" by the early 1840s and nearly two dozen hotels by 1850. These hotels "had grown in number in almost direct proportion to the ease of transport. By the 1830s steamboats had replaced the sailing ships, and established regular schedules to the Cape, and a permanent bridge had replaced the ferry, making it easier to enter Cape May by land as well."^{xxvii} Maurice Beesley's 1857 Sketch of the Early History of Cape May County describes Cape May City as containing 24 public boarding houses.^{xxviii}

Architecturally, Thomas and Doebley describe these early hotels as "perhaps as ugly a group of buildings as have ever been erected... the earlier buildings had all the grace of tobacco sheds... The only ingratiating feature of the exteriors was usually a tall veranda supported by slender wood posts. Generally there was not so much as a bracket or a spandrel ornament to relieve the stark, almost wild-west quality of the buildings."^{xxix} This description is supported by the 1850 Nunan map which depicts numerous hotels, including the Mansion House, White Hall, and Columbia House.^{xxx}

By the mid 19th century, however, hotels were losing their stark quality. Examples of hotels which retain the characteristic veranda, but with more ornate trim, include the Ocean House (1832)^{xxxi}, United States Hotel (1849)^{xxxii}, the Mount Vernon Hotel (1853)^{xxxiii}, and Congress Hall (1879)^{xxxiv}. The trim which appears on these mid-nineteenth century hotels is reflective of the romantic Gothic Revival style of architecture made popular in the 1840s and 1850s by books such as those of Andrew Jackson Downing, and greatly resembles the veranda trim on the George Hildreth House.

The Hildreth House has had only two owners other than the Hildreth family: Mr. and Mrs. J. Blake Lowe who purchased the house in 1942 and the current owners, Joseph and Anne Salvatore who purchased the home in 1969.

Based on a review of George Hildreth's life, as well as the history and architecture of Cape May City, it appears that Hildreth's Cold Spring house was more likely influenced by the architecture prevalent in Cape May at the time than by southern plantations. The house reflects the traditional

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Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

frame construction prevalent in Cape May County, early 19th century Greek Revival styling seen in the Classical door surround and fireplace trim, and the contemporary architectural trends of adjacent Cape May City. It is significant as an unusually high style structure for rural Lower Township. In addition, it is unique as a Cape May businessman's adaptation of Cape May City architecture for his country home. This significance is made all the more important as many of the structures on which the house was based were subsequently destroyed by late nineteenth century fires in Cape May City. As a house which retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the George Hildreth House is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance.

ⁱ George E. Thomas & Carl E. Doebley. Cape May, Queen of the Seaside Resorts: Its History and Architecture, p. 44-45.

ⁱⁱ Woolman and Rose. History of the New Jersey Cape, p. 99.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid., pp. 99-100.

^{iv} Ibid., p. 100.

^v Stevens, Lewis Townsend. The History of Cape May County, New Jersey From the Aboriginal Times to the Present Day, p. 427.

^{vi} Ibid.

^{vii} T. T. Price Diary, listing for Saturday, October 5, 1850.

^{viii} Woolman & Rose, p. 100.

^{ix} 1850 and 1860 Census of the U.S., Agricultural Products.

^x Last Will and Testament of George Hildreth.

^{xi} Woolman & Rose, p. 100.

^{xii} Advertisement, Ocean Wave, March 9, 1870.

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George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

- xiii Woolman & Rose, p. 100.
- xiv "Obituary of Capt. George Hildreth", Star of the Cape, November 27, 1897.
- xv "George Hildreth Obituary", Cape May Wave, November 27, 1897.
- xvi 1828 Gordon Map, Richards, p. 23.
- xvii Ibid.
- xviii "Map of the Borough of Cape Island and its Vicinity, Cape May County, New Jersey" by P. Nunan, Surveyor, 1850.
- xix Richards, pp. 24-25.
- xx "Topographical Map of Cape May County, New Jersey From Recent and Actual Surveys Under the Direction of F.W. Beers", 1872.
- xxi Helena Way Fitzpatrick. "Some Old Houses of Cape May County", Cape May County, New Jersey Magazine of History and Genealogy, June, 1950, p. 115.
- xxii Karl A. Dickenson. "The George Hildreth House", article #17, 1970.
- xxiii Woolman & Rose, pp. 99-100.
- xxiv Ibid., p. 100.
- xxv Fitzpatrick, p. 115.
- xxvi Woolman & Rose, p. 100.
- xxvii Thomas & Doebly, pp. 21-22.
- xxviii Maurice Beesley, M.D. "Sketch of the Early History of Cape May County", p. 134.
- xxix Ibid., p. 22.
- xxx 1850 Nunan Map.

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National Park Service

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George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

^{xxxi} Dorwart, p. 127.

^{xxxii} Cape Island Historical Review", Cape May Star and Wave, October 11, 1962.

^{xxxiii} Thomas & Doebley, pp. 19 & 81.

^{xxxiv} "Cape Island Historical Review", Cape May Star and Wave, March 29, 1962.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

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1828 Gordon Map.

1834 Map From Gordon's Gazetteer.

1850 "Map of the Borough of Cape Island and Its Vicinity, Cape May County, New Jersey". P. Nunan, Surveyor.

1861 Hopkins Map.

1872. "Topographical Map of Cape May County, New Jersey From Recent and Actual Surveys Under the Direction of F. W. Beers", (Original on display at the Cape May County Historical Society; copy available at the Cape May County Public Library).

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George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

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Section number 10 Page 1

George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 3 acre George Hildreth House property consists of that portion of Block 505, Lot 13.01 which is to the northwest of the woods line dividing the house from the approximately 8 acres of farm field. The property is bordered by Seashore Road to the northwest, private property to the northeast, the farm field to the southeast, and Historic Cold Spring Village to the southwest.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes all of the land which is currently associated with the George Hildreth House. The woods line, as shown on the property's tax map, provides a natural boundary between the land associated with the house and the land used as a farm field.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Section number _____ Photographs Page 1

George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

PHOTOGRAPHS

For all photographs:

Property Name: George Hildreth House
Property Location: Lower Township, Cape May County
New Jersey
Location of original negatives: Offices of Nancy L. Zerbe Historic Preservation Consulting, Inc.
81 Rector Street
Metuchen, NJ 08840-1540

Photograph No. 1 of 17:

View: Front (northwest) façade of house, looking east.
Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe
Date: July, 1998

Photograph No. 2 of 17:

View: Front (northwest) and side (southwest) facades of two-story outbuilding, looking east.
Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe
Date: July, 1998

Photograph No. 3 of 17:

View: Front (northeast) and side (northwest) facades of garage, looking south.
Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe
Date: July, 1998

Photograph No. 4 of 17:

View: Side (northeast) façade of house and landscaping, looking southwest.
Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe
Date: July, 1998

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 2

George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

Photograph No. 5 of 17:

View: Rear (southeast) façade of house, looking north.

Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe

Date: July, 1998

Photograph No. 6 of 17:

View: Porch, detail of front (northwest) façade, looking east.

Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe

Date: July, 1998

Photograph No. 7 of 17:

View: Detail of front (northwest) doorway, looking southeast.

Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe

Date: July, 1998

Photograph No. 8 of 17:

View: Front (northwest) and side (northeast) facades of house, looking south.

Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe

Date: July, 1998

Photograph No. 9 of 17:

View: Side (southwest) façade of house, looking northeast.

Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe

Date: July, 1998

Photograph No. 10 of 17:

View: Front stairway, first floor entryway, and second floor hallway, looking northwest.

Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe

Date: July, 1998

Photograph No. 11 of 17:

View: Northeast parlor, looking north

Photographer: Joseph E. Salvatore, M.D.

Date: December, 1998

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Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 3

George Hildreth House
Lower Township, Cape May County, NJ

Photograph No. 12 of 17:

View: Dining room, looking east.

Photographer: Joseph E. Salvatore, M.D.

Date: December, 1998

Photograph No. 13 of 17:

View: Kitchen fireplace, looking northwest

Photographer: Joseph E. Salvatore, M.D.

Date: December, 1998

Photograph No. 14 of 17:

View: Front stairway, looking southeast.

Photographer: Joseph E. Salvatore, M. D.

Date: December, 1998

Photograph No. 15 of 17:

View: Front (southwest) second floor bedroom, looking west.

Photographer: Joseph E. Salvatore, M.D.

Date: December, 1998

Photograph No. 16 of 17:

View: Front (north) bedroom, looking north.

Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe

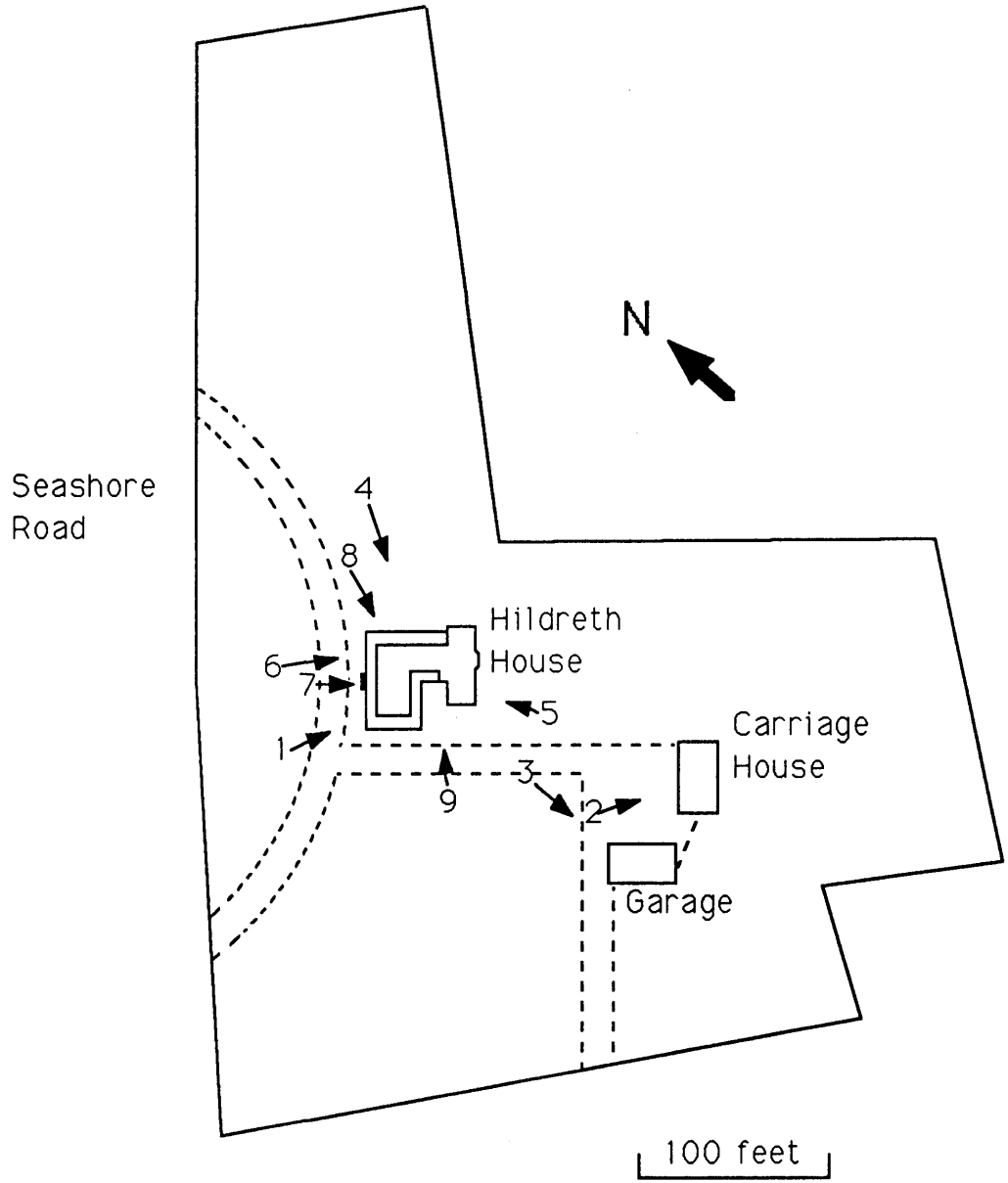
Date: July, 1998

Photograph No. 17 of 17:

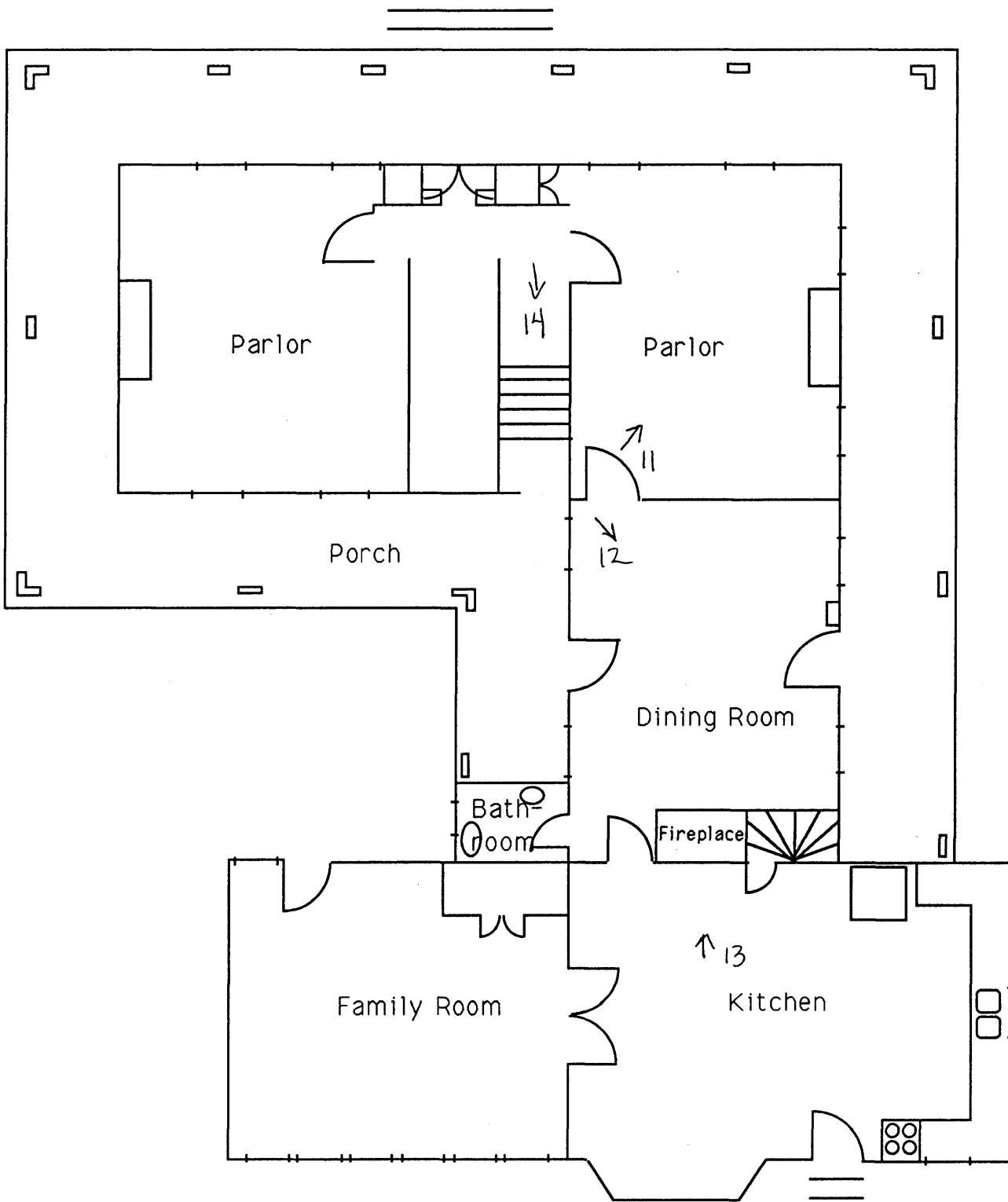
View: Rear (southeast) bedroom, looking northwest.

Photographer: Nancy L. Zerbe

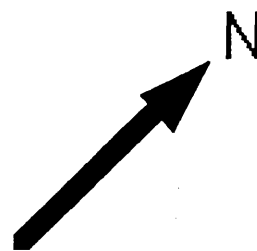
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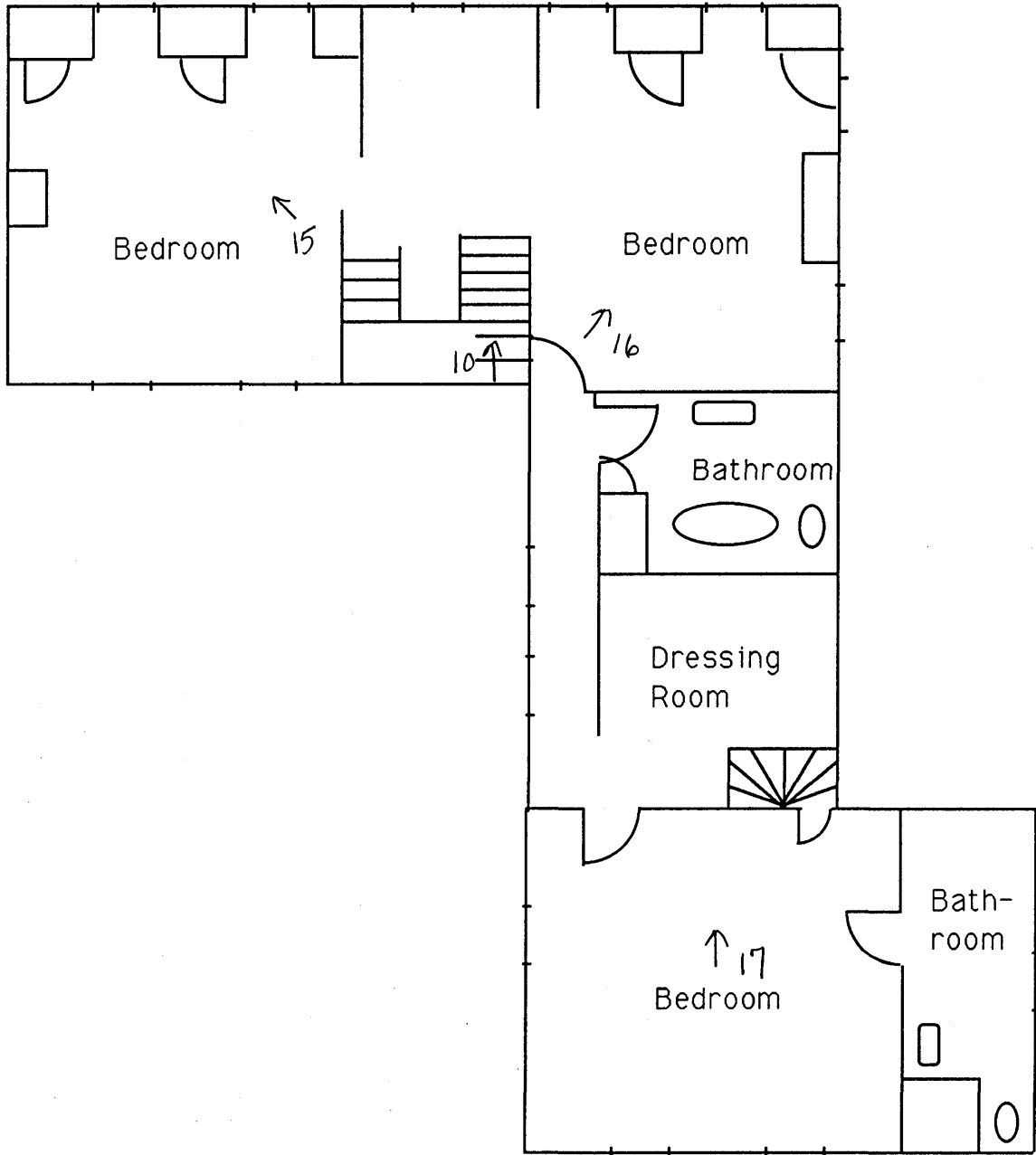


George Hildreth House
Lower Township
Cape May County, NJ
Site View

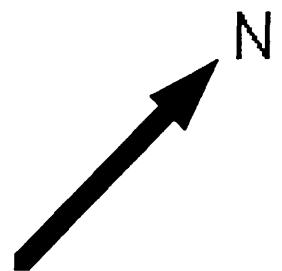


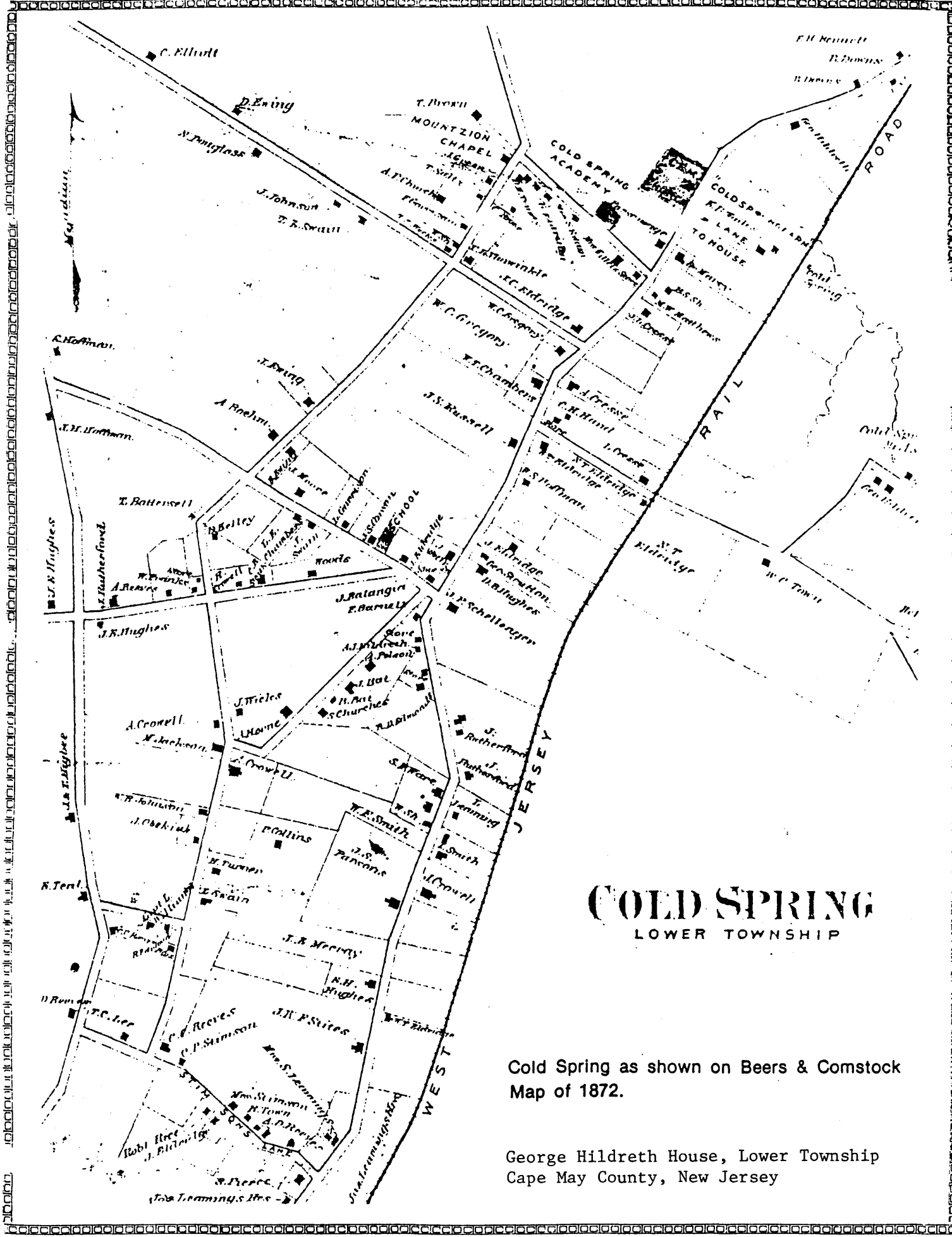
George Hildreth House
 Lower Township
 Cape May County, NJ
 First Floor





George Hildreth House
Lower Township
Cape May County, NJ
Second Floor



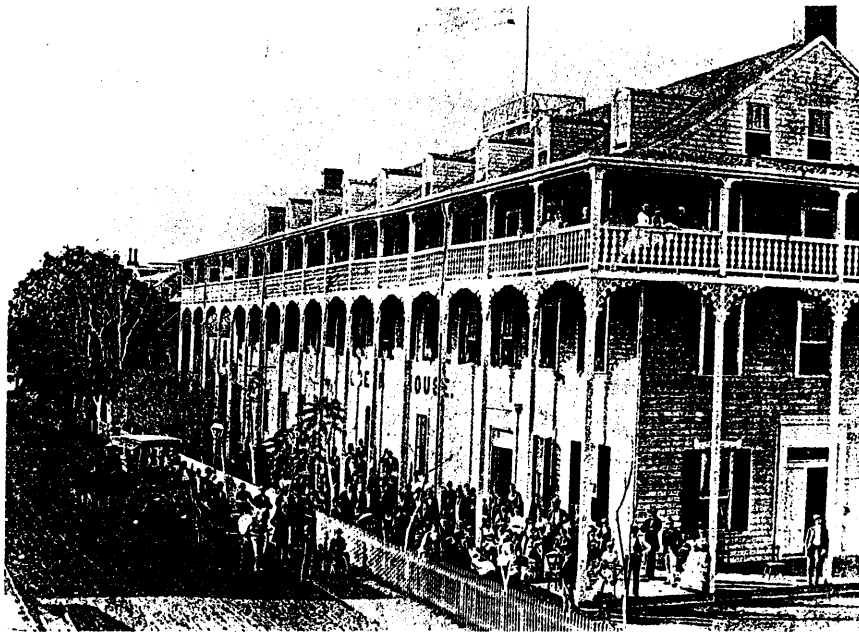


COLD SPRING

LOWER TOWNSHIP

Cold Spring as shown on Beers & Comstock Map of 1872.

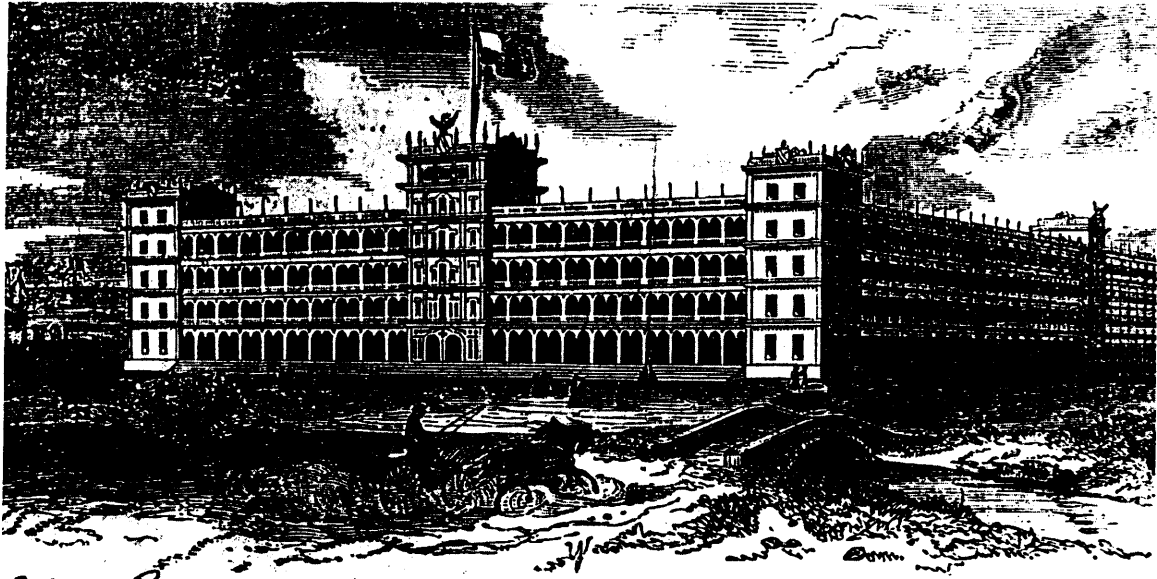
George Hildreth House, Lower Township
Cape May County, New Jersey



5. The Ocean House hotel in Cape May City, origin of the fire that burned down most of the resort in 1878. Photograph from the Cape May Historical Museum.

Source: Jeffery M. Dorwart, Cape May County, New Jersey,
p. 127.

George Hildreth House, Lower Township
Cape May County, New Jersey



3000 Rooms
Holdin' 2500 Guests
Dinin' Room seats 2000

CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY.

Verandas
Ranched Sept

Fig. 1. Mount Vernon Hotel. Courtesy Cape May Historical Society

Source: George E. Thomas & Carl E. Doebley, Cape May, Queen of the Seaside Resorts: Its History and Architecture, p. 81.

George Hildreth House, Lower Township, Cape May County, New Jersey

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1962

U.S. Hotel

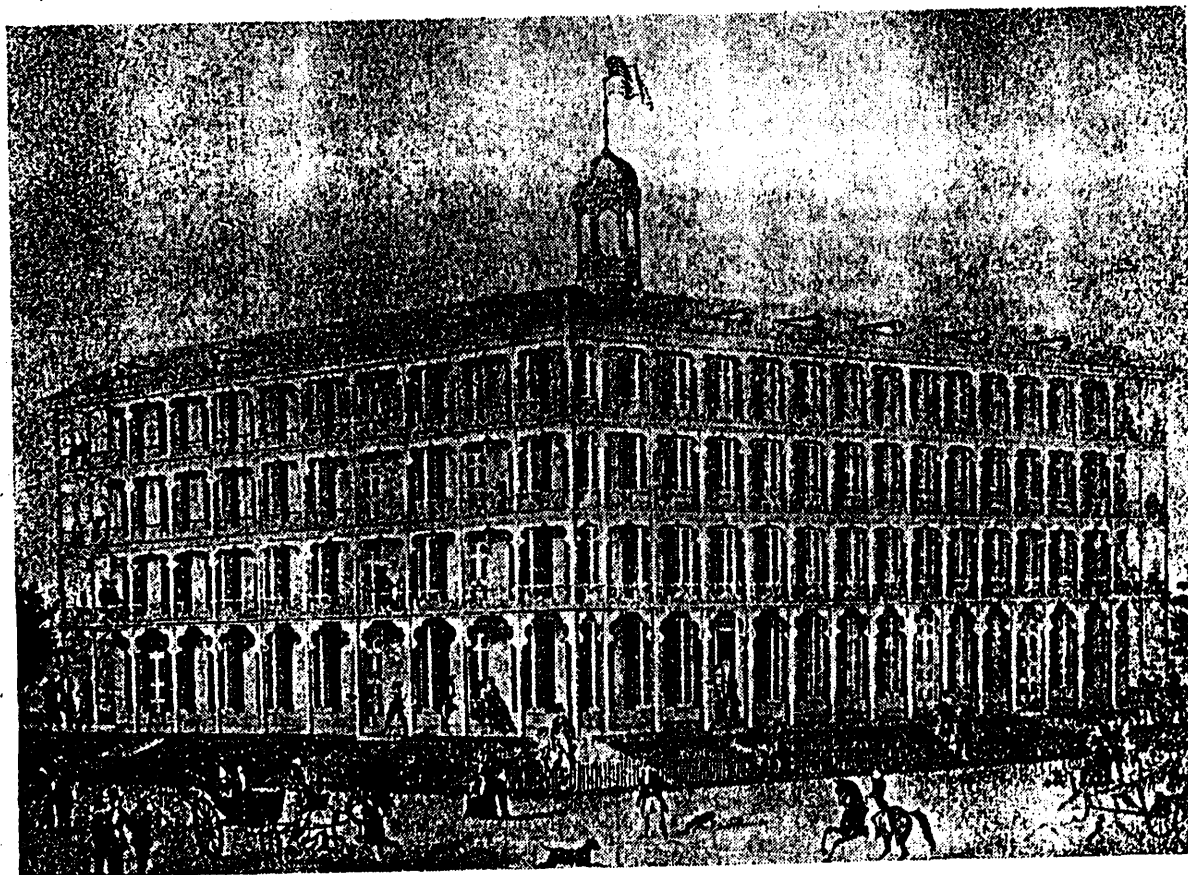
Cape May

CAPE ISLAND HISTORICAL REVIEW

CAPE MAY NEW JERSEY

The Nation's

WEST BEACH SHORE RESORT



UNITED STATES HOTEL

Source: Cape May Star and Wave.

George Hildreth House, Lower Township, Cape May County, New Jersey

CAPE ISLAND HISTORICAL REVIEW

CAPE MAY NEW JERSEY

The Nation's

BEST SEASHORE RESORT

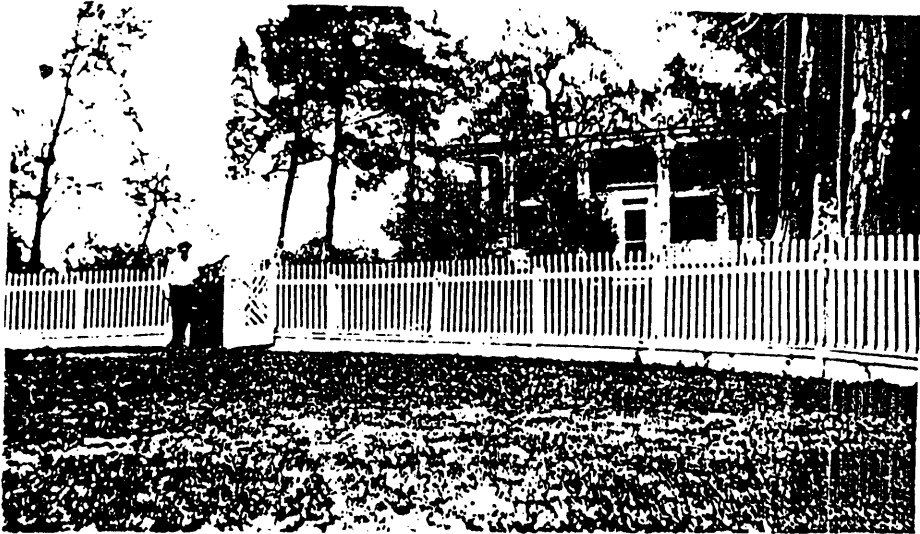


CONGRESS HALL

Source: Cape May Star and Wave.

George Hildreth House, Lower Township, Cape May County, New Jersey

George Hildreth House, Lower Township, Cape May County, New Jersey



Early 20th century photographs.

Source: Current property owners.



LEW HILDRETH