

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000609 Date Listed:5/31/91

Jeremiah II or Edward Risley House Atlantic NJ
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews 6/6/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

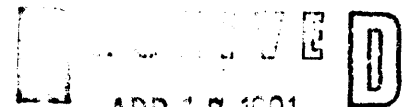
Sue Pringle with the NJ SHPO clarified that the nominated building has one Period of Significance, ca. 1795 - 1940, and that this period is defined to include both the Architectural and Maritime significance of the property. The form is now officially amended to include this information.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jeremiah II or Edward Risley House
other names/site number Risley Homestead

2. Location

street & number 8 Virginia Avenue not for publication
city, town Northfield vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Atlantic code 001 zip code 08225

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 4/27/91
Acting Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPD
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

Patricia Andrews 5/31/91

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: vernacular, 2-room single pile

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Other: aluminum

roof Asphaltother Wood: board and battenoutbuildings

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Jeremiah II or Edward Risley House is a small late 18th-century dwelling, with 20th-century additions, located on a well-landscaped lot. The property, a about 4/10 acre in size, is about 135 feet west of Shore Road, the main thoroughfare linking bayfront communities between Absecon and Somers Point. Because the property, once part of a 100-acre "plantation" originally extended to Shore Road, the house faces southeast. (For purposes of simplification, the building will be described below as if it faced east.) Although the Risley House has been altered in its adaptation to 20th-century living conditions, it retains integrity of location, design, and workmanship. The additions were planned so that they retained the form and plan of the 18th-century house, as well as the construction and decorative workmanship of this simple vernacular dwelling. Together these elements provide a sense of feeling and association with the lives of the building's occupants, several generations of South Jersey baymen. In addition, the alterations themselves, now between approximately 45 and 60 years old, are of significance and possess a high degree of integrity.

At first glance, the house presently appears to be a conventional suburban "Cape Cod" cottage. Closer examination, however, combined with old photographs and documentation of the building's history, reveal that it is a small 18th-century dwelling, expanded by wings that have not altered its historic core. The house originally was a 1 and 1/2 story structure measuring approximately 25' by 15'. (Photo 1) Erected on a shallow limonite foundation, with the first floor joists resting directly on the ground, the building is of heavy timber construction. Still visible in the attic crawl space are the slightly tapered corner posts and the original rafters. Also visible are the original rough clapboards, with the upper edges unfinished, and the plank nailing boards to which the original shingles were attached. (Photos 4 and 5)

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Maritime History
Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1795 - c. 1900
c. 1795 - 1940

Significant Dates

1851

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown
Howard A. Stout, Jr.

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

The Jeremiah II or Edward Risley House is significant under Criterion A as reflecting the lives of the baymen of Atlantic County. In addition, it has significance under Criterion C as an example of the design, construction and workmanship of small vernacular dwellings erected in Southwestern New Jersey by families with New England cultural affiliations. Its additions are also significant under Criterion C as representative of the application of sophisticated building materials and design of the 1930s and 1940s to a small dwelling.

The lives of New Jersey baymen, an important component of the state's maritime history in the 18th and 19th centuries, are an underrepresented category in New Jersey's entries on the State and National Registers. The first exploitation of New Jersey's fisheries appears to have been the taking of whales.¹ This was soon superseded by the harvesting of shellfish. The first statute to regulate the taking of oysters was passed by the colonial Assembly on March 27, 1719. The act limited the taking of oysters to the residents of the colony and prohibited their harvesting between May 10 and September 1. Oyster inspectors were appointed for Cape May County and what became Atlantic and Ocean Counties, to monitor the regulations.² Oysters were important not only as food, but for a variety of other uses. The

¹ Harold F Wilson, The Jersey Shore, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company (1953), I, 157 ff.

² Ibid., pp. 154-155.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA
 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Atlantic County Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.39 Pleasantville, NJ Quad

UTM References

A

1	8	5	3	9	6	6	0	4	3	5	8	3	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary comprises the property constituting Block 148, Lots 16 and 17 in Northfield Township.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the remaining portion of the property historically associated with the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Constance M. Greiff/Director
organization Heritage Studies, Inc. date September 15, 1990
street & number 20 Seminary Avenue telephone 609-466-9606
city or town Hopewell state New Jersey zip code 08525

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The roof is a gable, originally with two interior gable-end chimneys. The interior plan, still largely intact, consisted of two rooms on the first floor, the south room being about four feet wider than the north room. The loft above was accessed by a stair adjacent to the south chimney. The plan was reflected in the front (east) facade, which had two roughly centered doors, with a 6\6 window to each side. A remaining window and door in the west wall of the south room (now an interior partition) suggest that the fenestration of the rear facade was similar. A shed-roofed addition at the rear served as a utility room and covered the well head.

The present appearance of the house is largely the result of alterations made during the 1930s and 1940s. These are primarily at the rear. (Photos 2 and 3) Because there is no basement or crawl space, little of the building's foundation is visible on the exterior; where it can be seen, the stone has been parged with concrete. Presently the house is sheathed in aluminum siding, with aluminum covering the corner boards and window and door trim. The roof is asphalt shingle; the appearance of its pitch has been altered at the rear, although the original configuration and construction are still visible on the interior. The northern chimney has been removed.

The basic 4-bay configuration of the front facade has been maintained, although the northern door has been converted to a window and the present door and sash windows are modern replacements. (Photo 6) A large shed dormer has been added to the roof. There is a plain shed-roofed portico. This has a cement pad. Its roof is supported at the front corners by three square wooden posts, arranged in triangular fashion. There are single attached posts at the rear corners. Shallow segmental arches span between the posts. There is a simple box cornice at the eaves.

On the south side, the appearance reveals the original gable-roofed main block of the house and the sloping shed roof covering the added 1-story rear wing. (Photo 7) The main block is without openings, except for two small 6-paned windows in the gable. Although the openings may be original, the glazing is not. There is a single door in the addition. Built against this side is a greenhouse, which replaced an earlier, smaller greenhouse added in the mid-1930s. The lower wall of the greenhouse is of a

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heavily aggregated local "ironstone" coursed rubble; the upper wall and shed roof are of glass set in aluminum bars. The west side of the building is dominated by the additions that served to make the small 2-room original house suitable for modern living in the first half of the 20th century. At the south end is the shed-roofed addition that contains the dining room. (Although the pitch of this roof was changed in the 20th century, the original shed roof remains intact beneath it.) Much of this facade is occupied by a bay window. Between it and the projecting gable-roofed addition to the north is a recessed rear entrance. The gable-roofed 1-story addition contains a kitchen, utility room, and bath. There is a single window in its south face and a window and door on the west facade.

The north facade again reveals the form of the original house, although in this case the gable-roofed addition overlaps the original building by about two feet, and is also wider. (Photo 6) Fenestration in the original building consists of an added, triple ranch window and two small windows in the gable. There is a modern 6/6 window in the east wall of the addition and a pair of similar windows toward the west end of its north face.

The interior of the original building consists, as previously noted, of two rooms, with their axes running east-west. These are divided by a beaded board partition, part original, part replacement boards. The narrowness of the beads, along with the detailing of other woodwork, suggest that the house was built after the acquisition of the property by Edward Risley in 1796, rather than after its acquisition by Jeremiah Risley II in 1767.

The more southerly room, presently a living room, is the wider of the two by about four feet. Although the plaster walls have been replaced by sheetrock, probably because of their poor condition, most of the woodwork is intact. In addition to the beaded north wall, the southern wall, which contains the fireplace, is beaded. Much of the wall, however, is occupied by openings with paneled doors. (Photo 8) At the east end is a 4-paneled door, which gives access to the winding stair adjacent to the chimney. Next to this and in the same plane is a cupboard with a 2-panel door. The fireplace is centered in the room. It has a simple surround of planks with beaded edges. The shelf is a 19th-century addition. There is a paneled breast closet in the upper portion of the west face of the chimney breast. Between the fireplace

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and the west wall is a recessed cupboard made of vertical beaded boards. There is a paneled door in its lower half. The upper half, recessed still further, has original double, glazed doors, with typical late-18th century or early 19th-century muntins. All the doors have replacement glass knobs and original carved wooden latches. The paneling is consistent throughout. The panels are raised and chamfered, but are fairly shallow. Each panel has an applied molded surround. The west wall contains an original window and doorway, both with plain timber surrounds. The 6/6 sash is original, with a muntin profile like that of the cupboard's glazed doors. There is an original molded chair rail on this wall, which is integral with the window sill. The chair rail on the east wall is a replacement.

In the north room, presently a bedroom, the south wall is again the beaded board partition. On other walls, modern vertical boarding has been applied over the original plaster. The rather small fireplace that once was centered on the north wall has been removed. Its dimensions can be inferred from the modern boards filling in the rectangular space in the ceiling, through which the chimney originally rose, although this opening may have been enlarged so that furniture could be moved up to the loft. Both rooms have replacement floors of relatively wide tongue-and-grooved boards. The building's construction, with first floor joists resting directly on the ground, caused these members and the boards they supported to rot, thus requiring the replacement. Ceilings in both rooms consist of hewn and sawn rafters and the floorboards of the loft. (Photo 9) These have never been painted or plastered, and show considerable evidence of smoke staining from the fireplaces.

The 1-story shed addition behind the south room, now serving as a dining room, has only one distinguishing feature, a Colonial Revival corner cupboard in the southwest corner. To the north of this room is the kitchen. (Photo 10) With an asphalt tile floor in mottled black and white, it is fitted with "old colonial" pine paneled cupboards with simulated wrought-iron hardware. Adjacent to it is a laundry room. To the east of a laundry room is a bathroom, the fittings of which reflect state-of-the-art technology of the 1930s and 1940s. The walls up to a height of about 4' are sheathed with dusty pink structural glass (sometimes known after its most popular trade name as Carrara glass), with a bright navy top border, topped with an aluminum or Monel metal

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molding. (Photo 11) The glass extends to ceiling height above the door of the built-in shower, with the navy forming a continuous border around the door. The floor is dusty pink unglazed mosaic tile, except under the commode, where it is glazed bright navy 2 1/4" tile. The baseboard heating is enameled bright navy, with a Monel metal cap. Fixtures are typical of the period, with a rectangular sink with cross-handled faucets, and a glass shower door in a chromium frame, with a transom filled by chromium spindles.

The second floor loft has been subdivided to form a large bedroom, with bathroom and spare room at the north end. All finishes date from the 1930s or 1940s. The old floor, left intact to form the ceilings of the two rooms below, was no longer load-bearing and was covered over at this level with new joists and flooring. A hatch in the west kneewall gives access to an attic space, in which the construction of the original south and west walls, as well as the roof framing, can be seen. (Figures 4 and 5)

Also on the property are two outbuildings. The more prominent of these is the garage, which is located southwest of the house. (Photo 12) Accessed from Virginia Avenue by a concrete driveway, it is a rectangular structure about 12' wide and 22' deep. There is a small shed-roofed extension in the southeast corner. The walls are sheathed in board and batten vertical siding; the gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A birdhouse in the center of the ridge serves as a small cupola and is surmounted with a ship weathervane. A molded cornice defines the eaves and gables. The most distinctive feature of the garage is the entrance in the north wall. This is filled with double batten doors on iron strap hinges. The doors are ornamented with a wooden relief sculpture of the rear of a horse-drawn "one-horse shay". The sculpture is constructed of carved members applied to the door, with the rear windows of the buggy acting as functioning windows for the garage, and a real horseshoe applied to the horse's upturned hoof.

In the southeast corner of the property is a small workshop, also used by Howard Stout as a drafting room. On a concrete pad, it is constructed of fiberboard, with applied wooden battens to give the effect of board and batten. The roof is gabled, with the same molded cornice used on the garage. There is a reused 19th-

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century door in the north wall, with two flat raised panels in the lower half and a glazed upper half. A small pedimental hood is over the door. There are reused 4-light windows in the south and west walls.

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shells were employed as building material in roads and as a source of lime for buildings. In the South Jersey bog iron industry, shells were employed as flux in the smelting process.³ Shellfish harvesting grew in importance during the 19th century. Oystering, increasingly became more regulated. In 1846 New Jersey passed the "Act for the Preservation of Clams and Oysters." Thereafter the state appointed Oyster Commissioners, who issued licenses giving "oyster farmers" the rights to certain beds. By the 1880s, the earliest records of oyster harvests show that 400 boats harvested 1.6 million bushels from the Delaware bay, a figure that excludes those taken along the Atlantic Coast.⁴ Even as late as the 1930s, shellfishing was a \$3.5 million industry in New Jersey.⁵ By the late 1970s, the value of the catch was \$44 million.⁶ Lake's Bay, a few hundred feet east of the Risley House, was one of the major oystering sites in Atlantic County.⁷

Oysters grow naturally in saltwater bays. By the 18th century some baymen were "farming" oysters. That is, they were removing young oysters from their natural beds and planting them in beds of greater salinity, such as Lake's Bay, where they were convenient for harvesting. Such beds were considered the property of the oysterman who had done the planting. Although the practice began in the 18th century, it had become more common

³ Koedel, R. Craig, "Following the Water: The Shellfish Industry in South Jersey," Atlantic County Historical Society Yearbook, 10, 2 (October 1985), 50.

⁴ Susan Ford and Jean Jones, "MSX and the Oysters of Delaware Bay," New Jersey Outdoors, 14, 1, (January/February 1987), 7.

⁵ Federal Writers' Project, The WPA Guide to 1930s New Jersey, (reprint of New Jersey, A Guide to its Present and Past), New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press (1989, p. 25.

⁶ Koedel, "Shellfish Industry," p. 49.

⁷ Ibid., pp. 51, 52.

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by the mid-19th century. These farmed oysters were established as the property of the oysterman who had planted them.⁸

Raising oysters in this manner was well described as farming. The oysterman created the bed by piling up shells on hard bottom. He either allowed for natural seeding through the drift of fertilized oyster seed, or else planted small seed oysters in the bed. He then cultivated the bed by going over it with tongs to remove debris and to separate the clusters of oyster, so that they would grow large and well formed. Finally the mollusks were harvested, usually by dredging.⁹ This was hard work, occupying eight to nine months a year.

A dredger's life is very hard. The boats are small, and when they are loaded with wet, cold, muddy oysters there is not much room left for the crew. The work is done in the most stormy months of the year. The dredgers are exposed to all the hardships and dangers of a sailor's life and some which are peculiar to oystermen.¹⁰

From its construction until it was left to the Atlantic County Historical Society in 1988, the Risley House was in the possession of baymen and their descendants. Like the majority of the first settlers who came to exploit the maritime resources of the South Jersey seacoast, the Risleys emigrated from New England. According to a descendant, Virginia Risley Stout, the last owner of the house, the Risley family originally settled in

⁸ Wilson, pp. 156-157.

⁹ John R. Brice, A Manual of Fish-Culture. U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries, Washington: Government Printing Office (1897), pp. 292-312.

¹⁰ William K. Brooks, The Oyster, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press (1905), pp. 150-151.

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Hartford, Connecticut, in 1636. Jeremiah Risley I married a member of the Gale family in 1721.¹¹ In 1724 he purchased 100 acres fronting on Lake's Bay, which included the property on which the Risley House stands.¹² According to Mrs. Stout, Jeremiah Risley I built a house on Catherine Place. (Catherine Place was previously known as Risley Lane, as it is shown on the Beers, Comstock and Cline map of 1872. It was probably opened up by the Risleys to give access to the Lake's Bay oyster grounds.) Mrs. Stout gave the location of the older house as to the southeast of the house that is the subject of this nomination, which she believed to be the second house on the property, built c. 1750.

The history of property ownership as well as the detailing of the house suggests that the date may have been somewhat later. In 1767 Jeremiah Risley I sold his entire 100-acre holding to his son Jeremiah Risley II.¹³ In turn Jeremiah Risley II by a noncupative or verbal will left this property to Edward Risley in 1796.¹⁴ Edward Risley sold the 3 1/2 acres, which would continue to be the size of the property through most of the 19th century, to his son Jonathan Risley in 1836.¹⁵

¹¹ An account of the family history and house by Virginia Risley Stout appears in "The Risley Homestead - Circa 1750," Atlantic County Historical Society Yearbook 11, 2 (October 1989), pp. 59-60.

¹² Deed, Samuel Gaile to Jeremiah Risley, September 5, 1724, Atlantic County Historical Society.

¹³ Printed in "Risley Genealogy," Atlantic County Historical Society Yearbook, 5, 4, p. 189 ff.

¹⁴ A copy, presumably transcribed, is at the Atlantic County Historical Society. Jeremiah Risley II died June 24, 1796.

¹⁵ Atlantic County Clerk's Office, Book C, pp. 307-308, recorded October 19, 1841.

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This sequence of ownership unfortunately casts little light on the date of the house, since, except for the last transfer, it covers the entire 100 acres. The construction and decorative detail of the house, however, strongly suggest that it was built late in the ownership of Jeremiah Risley II or early in the tenure of Edward Risley. The construction, influenced by that of New England, employs heavy timbers mortised and tenoned. The rafters, however, are thinner than would be expected in a mid-18th century house. The beading on the board partition and fireplace wall is also of a thinness usually characteristic of late 18th or 19th century work. Other elements suggesting a date of c.1795 to c.1800 are the relatively small size of the fireplace, and the shallowness of the paneling and the use of applied moldings to define it.

With the tenure of Jonathan Risley, who occupied the house until 1881, its association with the life of a bayman can be documented. It is probable, however, that the earlier Risleys were also baymen. Certainly in the mid-19th century, the majority of Risley males were baymen, most of them designated as oysterman, to separate them from those baymen whose primary activity was clamming. In the period from 1850 to 1880, members of the Risley family were living in three villages clustered around a body of water named Lakes Bay. The villages, none of which is still extant under the same name were Bakersville, Risleyville, and Smith's Landing. (See Figure 1) From 1860 to 1870, Risleys formed between 10% and 15% of the population of these villages.¹⁶ Although in 1860 six of the 22 adult male Risleys were listed as farmers, two of these held oyster leases. Together with the nine listed as oystermen or baymen, and the two who gave no occupation, but owned oyster licenses, they accounted for 59% of the adult male Risleys. Although the censuses use somewhat different categories and the 1860 sample was larger, so

¹⁶ United States Censuses, 1860, 1870, 1880. Information on these, as well as other primary source material related to the Risley family and the house, was researched by Elizabeth Ehrhardt, Fred Ehrhardt, and Dorothy Sapienzo of the Atlantic County Historical Society.

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that comparisons are not really valid, by 1880 the population had evidently shrunk. Only eight male Risleys could be accounted for; seven were baymen.

The Risley family virtually controlled oyster beds, presumably farmed, in Lake's Bay. Jonathan Risley was licensed for half shares in approximately 23 acres.¹⁷ His house stood, strategically placed, opposite the head of Risley Lane, now (Catherine Place), which led to the bay from Shore Road. In 1860, Jonathan Risley, then 53 years old, was listed in the census as an oysterman. Two of his sons, aged 15 and 17 were oysterman. One, 24, was a sailor. There were also six other children occupying the house. By 1870, a year in which Jonathan Risley listed himself as a laborer, there were only two children at home; by 1880, when he again described himself as an oysterman, there was only one grown son living with the parents.

Obviously shellfishing was not a lucrative profession. The small house must have been extremely uncomfortable in the years when it was occupied by ten or more people. Statistics also show that baymen were in the lower half of the population economically. Jonathan Risley had a combined worth, in real and personal property of about \$600 in 1860 and 1870. This was about the average valuation (\$558) for baymen in the three towns. Those who listed themselves as farmers on average had almost double the value in property (\$1180).

Jonathan Risley evidently helped support his family by subsistence farming. He owned a horse, a hog, and ten poultry. The amounts he produced in 1879 -- 40 bushels of Indian corn and 40 dozen eggs -- suggest that the 3 1/2 acres helped feed his family, but probably did not supplement his income. (He also owned 31 acres of woodland.)¹⁸

¹⁷ Survey attached to Survey and Division Approval by Commissioners, October 21, 1851, Atlantic County Miscellaneous Records, Book A, pp. 78-81.

¹⁸ Agricultural Census, 1880.

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In 1881 Jonathan Risley sold the 3 1/2-acre lot to his son Ephraim for the sum of \$250.00.¹⁹ Jonathan and his wife evidently continued to occupy the house, and she lived there during her widowhood, dying in 1913 at the age of 97. Thereafter the building was used as a barn.²⁰ In 1920, Ephraim Risley sold the approximately 1/3 acre surrounding the house to his granddaughter Helen Virginia Risley (later Virginia Risley Stout).²¹ Some years earlier, the front part of the larger lot, facing Shore Road, had been sold to Ephraim's son, Robert E. Risley, who had built on it a house larger than the homestead.²² Also in about 1920, the 3 1/2-acre property was further subdivided when Virginia Avenue was cut through it and house lots laid out.

In 1931 Virginia Risley Stout and her husband Howard A. Stout, Jr., a second-generation Atlantic County architect, moved into the house, living in it as what she termed their "Depression headquarters". The Stouts made necessary repairs, and plans for additions that would adapt the house for modern living. They began carrying these out in the 1930s, but could not complete some of the work until after World War II.²³

In addition to its significance for illuminating the lives of baymen, the property is also significant in illustrating two periods of architecture. The original core of the house is an example of simple vernacular architecture in southern coastal New Jersey in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The timber framing, with heavy tapered corner posts and board-sheathed rafters shows some New England influence. The plan, however, with gable end chimneys and lacking hall or entry, is a type commonly found in the Middle Colonies, and may reflect some influence from the Delaware River basin, the prime market for South Jersey's

¹⁹ Atlantic County Deed, Book 84, pp. 513-515.

²⁰ Stout, in "The Risley Homestead."

²¹ Atlantic County Deed, Book 663, pp. 243-244.

²² Atlantic County Deed, Book 191, p. 211.

²³ Stout account in "The Risley Homestead".

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maritime resources. The present living room, in particular, survives as a good example of a vernacular interior of the late 18th or early 19th century.

The additions and outbuildings are a blend of 1930s and 1940s vernacular and high style, as well as containing individualistic workmanship reflecting the design ideas and skills of Virginia Risley and Howard A. Stout. Modest in scale, in keeping with the original house, the additions combine the vernacular "cozy colonial" that was popular in the 1930s with the modernistic. The former is seen in the design of the outbuildings, the Colonial Revival corner cupboard in the dining room, and the kitchen cabinets. High style Art Moderne influence appears in the structural glass bathroom with its shiny chrome and Monel metal trim. The outbuildings, which made extensive use of recycled materials, such as the windows in the workshop and garage, reflect the thriftiness of the Depression era.

Virginia Risley Stout willed the house to the Atlantic County Historical Society. She wished it preserved as a museum, but not overly restored. "It was my intention in leaving the house and contents to the Atlantic County Historical Society to preserve a home that had housed at least 5 generations and shows at the same time the changes in life style thru 200 years. I do not want it mutilated as was Somers Mansion."²⁴ In accordance with her wishes, the society intends to preserve the building as a museum. Restoration will be confined to removal of the aluminum siding and asphalt roofing, replacing them respectively with wooden clapboard and wood shingle. The society will operate the property as a museum interpreting the continuum of history in the county, but stressing within the house domestic life during the era of the Depression and World War II.

²⁴ Stout, in "The Risley Homestead".

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 1Risley Homestead, Northfield Township,
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Risley Homestead, Northfield Township,
Atlantic county, New Jersey

PHOTOGRAPHS

Jeremiah II or Edward Risley House
Northfield Township, Atlantic County, New Jersey

Photos:

All negatives are filed with the Atlantic County Historical Society, P.O. Box 301, Somers Point, NJ 08244

1. View from South-Southeast
Photographer: Unknown
Date: c. 1900
2. View from South
Photographer: Unknown
Date: c.1933
3. View from West
Photographer: Unknown
Date: c. 1937
4. Southwest corner of attic, showing corner post, stud, plate,
and clapboards of original house
Photographer: Loretta M. King
Date: July 1990
5. Northwest side of attic of original house, showing studs,
plate, rafters, roof sheathing, and clapboards
Photographer: Loretta M. King
Date: July 1990
6. View from East-Southeast
Photographer:
Date: July 1989 Loretta M. King

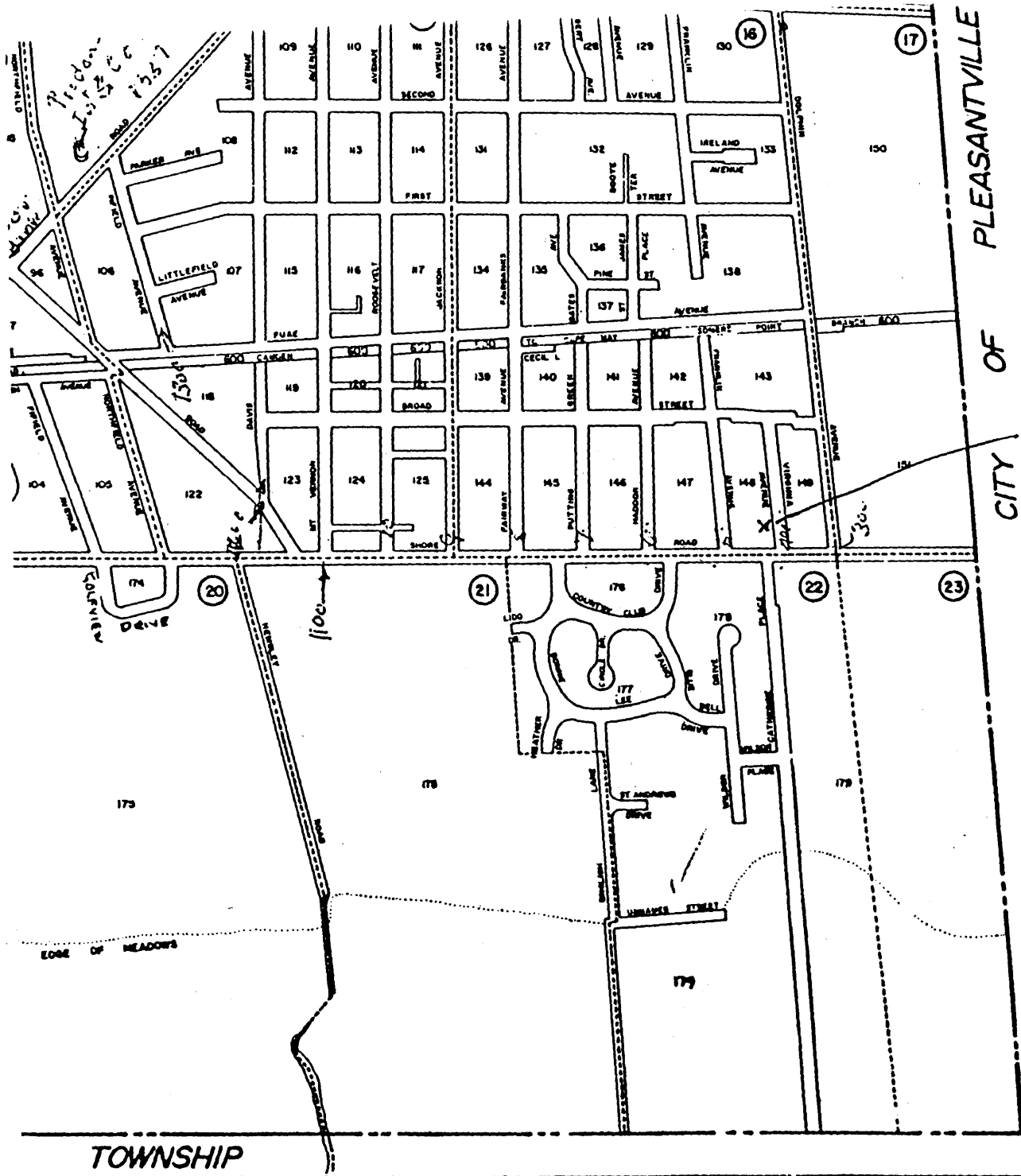
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number P Page 2

Risley Homestead, Northfield Township,
Atlantic County, New Jersey

7. View from West
Photographer: Loretta M. King
Date: July 1989
8. South wall of living room (south room, first floor)
Photographer: Loretta M. King
Date: July 1990
9. Living room ceiling, showing original beams and floorboards
of loft
Photographer: Loretta M. King
Date: July 1989
10. Kitchen from Southeast
Photographer: Loretta M. King
Date: July 1989
11. Bathroom, first floor
Photographer: Loretta M. King
Date: July 1989
12. Garage from North
Photographer: Loretta M. King
Date: July 1989
13. 18th-century partition, shown in bedroom
Photographer: Loretta M. King
Date: May 1989
14. Workshop, from Northeast
Photographer: Loretta M. King
Date: April 1990



NOTE:
THIS TAX MAP SUPERSEDES THE TAX
MAP APPROVED JANUARY 8, 1932

NOTE:
ALL AREAS SHOWN REFER TO UPLAND
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

NOTE:
ALL FORMER BLOCK AND LOT NUMBERS
ARE SUPERSEDED BY THIS MAP FOR OLD
NUMBERS SEE REVISED TAX MAP DATED
OCTOBER 1, 1966.

NOTE:
(S) REFERS TO SCALED DISTANCES

NOTE:
TO SHOW CONDITIONS AS OF JANUARY 1, 1968

NOTE:
THE AREA, BOUNDARIES AND DIMENSIONS
SHOWN ON THIS TAX MAP ARE DERIVED
FROM GROUND SURVEYS, AERIAL SURVEYS,
AND RECORDED PLANS, MAPS, DEEDS, AND
WILLS AND ARE TO BE USED FOR ASSESS-
MENT PURPOSES ONLY

AN ACT OF THE BOARD OF TAXATION
OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
APPROVED JULY 22, 1968
BY THE BOARD OF TAXATION
DATE JUL 22 1968

INDEX TO
TAX ASSESSMENT MAPS
CITY OF NORTHFIELD
ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
SCALE: 1" = 500' JANUARY 1, 1969

RONALD J. PRICE
NORTHFIELD, NEW JERSEY
N.J. LICENSE NO. 1800

With Annual Revisions 1973 thru 1979

CERTIFICATION:

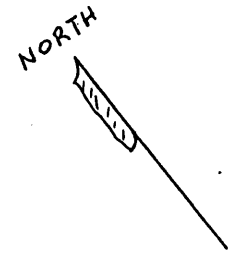
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS MAP AND THE SURVEY HAS
BEEN MADE UNDER MY IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION AND COMPLIES
WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

SIGNATURE *Ronald J. Price*

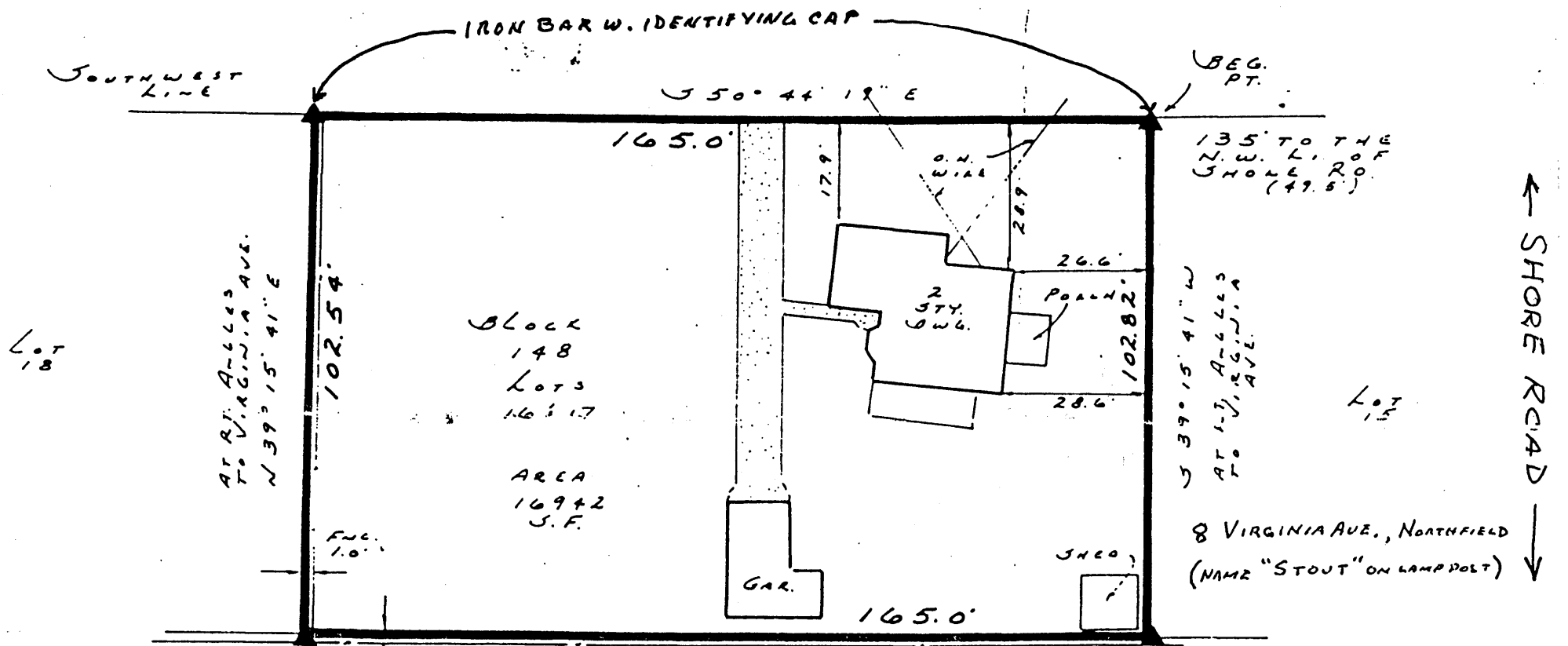
KE

Jeremiah II or Edward Risley House
Northfield Township, Atlantic County, N.J.

110



VIRGINIA (50) AVE.



LOT 18

LOT 15

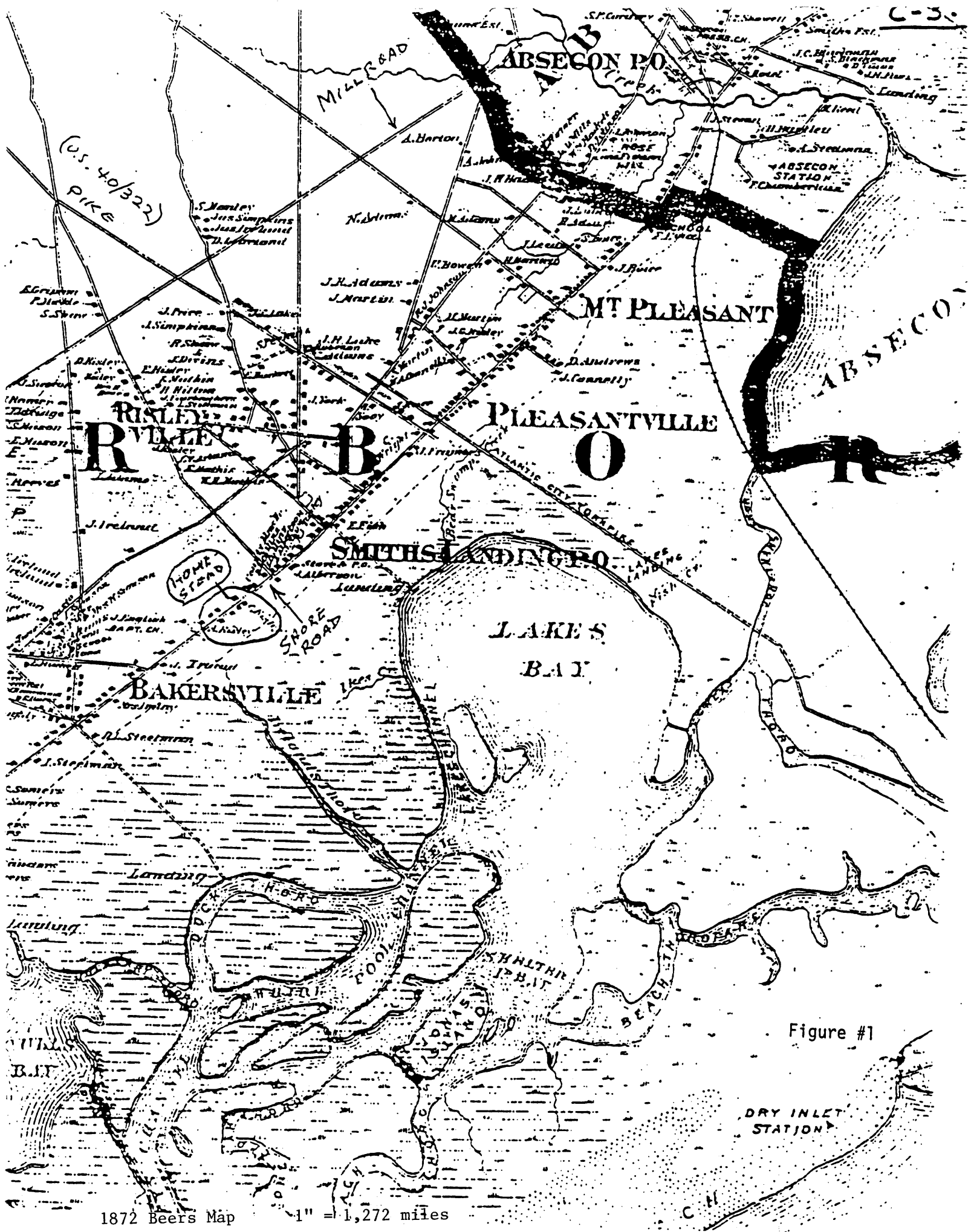
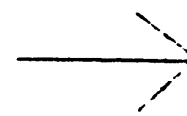
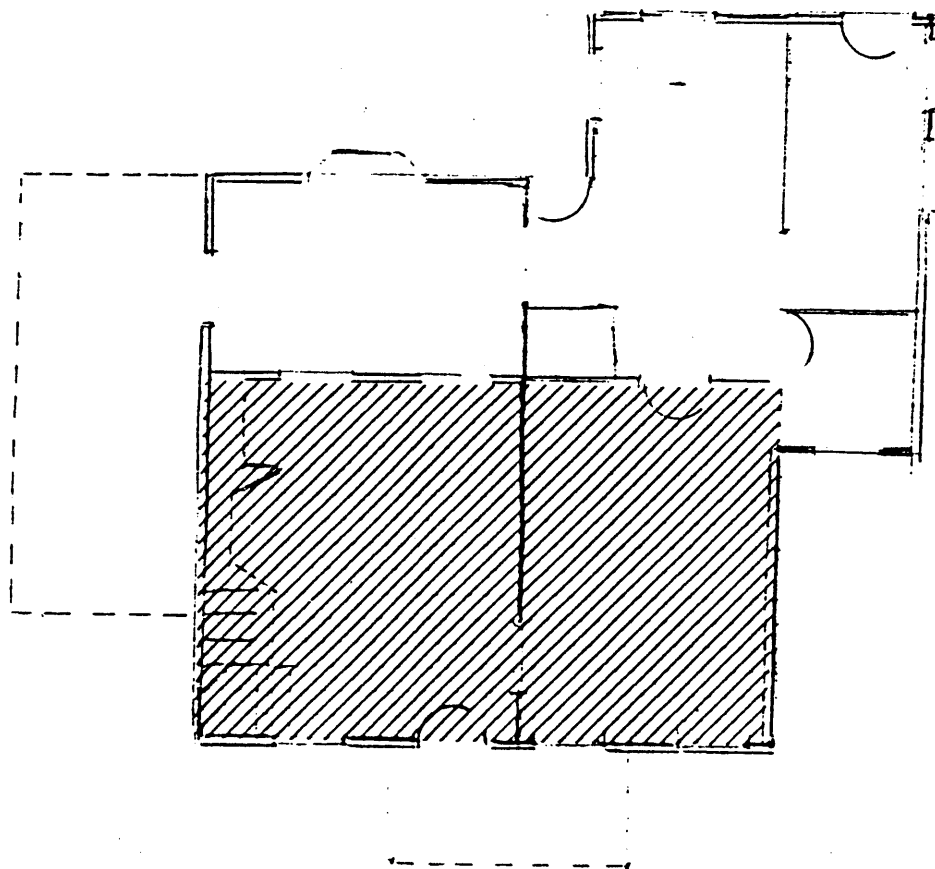


Figure #1



Plan of First Floor, Jeremiah II or Edward Risley House, Northfield, Atlantic County, NJ
No scale provided.