

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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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 Falkinburg Farmstead other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 28 Westcott Avenue NA not for publication city, town Ocean Township vicinity state New Jersey code 034 county Ocean code 029 zip code 08758

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories. Totals: 6 contributing, 1 noncontributing resources.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO Date 7/7/93 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. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:) Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 8/12/93

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
FUNERARY/grave

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
FUNERARY/grave

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Postmedieval English
EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
GREEK REVIVAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Wood shingle
roof Asphalt shingle
other Wood windows, porches
and trim

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

General:

The Falkinburg Farm contains four contributing buildings, the house, an ice house, a small storage building, and a privy. There also is a child's gravesite with a small marble marker. The character of the surrounding acreage is contributory to the significance and integrity of the site. There is one non-contributing building, a modern garage.

House:

Most prominent of the several buildings on the site, the farmhouse displays an additive quality and a complex geometry of irregular roof lines that is typical of early buildings in the vicinity. According to a published account¹ it was built in two early stages, the original house of 1732 having been significantly expanded and altered in 1786, dates that seem plausible in terms of architectural evidence. Some further additions and alterations were made in the early-to-mid 19th century and since.

As seen from the front (north), the house has three distinct volumes. The main block, to the right (west), is two and one half stories high, two bays wide, with a gable roof. The left bay contains a door within a small, added, hip-roofed porch. The right and upper bays contain windows with 6/6 light sash and wooden shutters. The entire block is sheathed with wooden shingles applied over earlier weatherboarding, which is said to remain. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The windows retain some early glass.

The middle block of the house, immediately to the left (east), is set back approximately five feet from the taller main block. It is two stories high and has a gable roof. There are a door and two windows in the first story and a shed dormer penetrating the roof in the second. These windows are without shutters. The siding and roof covering match the main block.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Exploration/Settlement

Significant Person

N/A

Period of Significance

ca 1730-1850

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Dates

1732

1786

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Falkinburg Farmhouse is an example of an early housing type in the Barnegat/Pine Barrens region. As well, it is an artifact that has remained remarkably intact since its building, although containing high-quality interior alterations that in themselves reflect the historic patterns of American architecture.

The property now is located on the edge of the small town of Waretown. The community, according to published sources¹, was founded around the mill of Abraham Waier, a member of the Rogerines, a religious group that settled the area in 1739. The reported date of construction of the Falkinburg Farm was 1732², predating by seven years the reported formation of an organized settlement. Although the construction date of the house cannot be stated with certainty, it may well have been the home of a pioneering settler rather than an immigrant to an established community.

Early ownership history of the property is difficult to ascertain. Early deeds described metes and bounds by ephemeral landmarks. A complicated subdivision in 1792, and an equally complicated genealogy involving intermarriages among a small number of local families make it virtually impossible to trace precisely the early ownership. It is clear that the land was part of a large tract originally patented to Peter Sommer on May 24, 1690³. The first known settler in the area, Henry Jacobs Falkinburg, arrived in 1696⁴. Other prominent local families who at times owned the property, included those of William Birdsall, who arrived prior to 1716, and William Cramer, who arrived in 1704⁵. As the small gravestone extant on the property bears a Falkinburg name, and was placed during the Cramer ownership, it is reputed that the house was built by the Falkinburgs, an attribution strengthened by the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beattie, John O. and Lillian Lopez. Compiled by Ocean The Centennial Township. Toms River: Ocean Township, 1976.

Woolman and Rose. Historical and Biographical Atlas of New Jersey Coast. Philadelphia: Woolman and Rose, 1879.

Salter, Edwin. A History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Bayonne, New Jersey, 1890.

Hester, Alfred M. South Jersey A History 1664-1924.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 4.3 Forked River Quad

UTM References

A 18 569090 4403895
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is defined as Block 221, Lot 10, Ocean Township, Ocean County, New Jersey

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes all of the currently-owned land parcel. It includes all of the identified resources that contribute to the historical significance of the property as well as sufficient surrounding area to protect its historic rural context.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Craig Morrison, AIA
organization Alvin Holm, Architect date September 9, 1992
street & number 2014 Sansom Street telephone 215/963-0747
city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19103

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National Register of Historic Places
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Falkinburg Farmstead, Ocean Township,
Ocean County, New Jersey

(description continued)

Still to the left is a single story block, coplanar with the middle block but with a shed roof sloping downward toward the end of the building. Its front facade has a single window, without shutters, and is clad to match the rest of the building.

The west facade, to the right as one approaches the building, is the gable end of the main block. It is marked by two vertical rows of windows, those in the first story are 9/6 light double-hung sash, the second story 6/6, and the attic 6-light vertical single-hung sash. Two brick chimneys rise above the gable. Immediately to the right of the south parlor window the siding is penetrated by the rectangular brick back of the fireplace. Examination of the basement framing indicates that this facade may have had extensive early alteration--there seems to have been a pair of corner fireplaces in the location of the present windows.

The south facade, facing toward Barnegat Bay, is the most geometrically complex of the ensemble. Finishes match those described above. The facade of the main block is the logical opposite of its counterpart to the north, but displays significant variations. The door and porch are to the right, at the opposite end of an interior hallway. The windows are arranged in three bays rather than two, and lack shutters. The first story windows are of 9/6 light configuration.

The middle block facade is a mirror image of its north front. It is set back approximately six feet from the main facade, but has its first story concealed by an added glass-enclosed porch that continues the line of the main block. The original windows and door are intact within.

The right (east) block shows the opposite side of the single sloping roof. Once, apparently, coplanar with the middle block, its first story has been extended outward under a single-sloping roof. Immediately to the right is a small shed addition with a plank door on the south side and a 4-light window in each of the other faces.

The east end of the building most clearly reveals the complex geometry. Rising in the distance is the gable end of the main block, with a 6-light attic window. Nearer is the gable end of the middle block, with two small windows. The roof of the east block slopes down from their sills to its single-story facade with two shuttered windows. The shed extends still closer, offset to the left.

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(description continued)

Interior evidence gives credence to the published construction dates, and reveals a complex history of alterations and the possibility of varied uses. The middle and east blocks are so configured that they might have been semi-independent of the main house, perhaps housing servants or farmhands, with some of the present interconnections made later. They apparently were built later than the 1732 west (main) block, perhaps in 1785, and may have replaced an original, smaller, kitchen wing.

The main block of the house contains two parlors, interconnected by wide pocketed sliding doors, and a stair hall running from north to south. Each parlor has a projecting chimney breast and a stone mantel of simple Greek Revival design. The mantel in the main (south) parlor is of heavily veined black marble, reputed to have been imported. The north parlor has an early chimney breast closet to the right of the fireplace. Added partitions in its east end form a closet and a small toilet room opening from the stairhall. All woodwork, excepting the somewhat later sliding doors, is characteristic of the Greek Revival period, with wide, angular moldings and geometrical corner blocks. Seams in the wood floors and framing members in the basement indicate that between the two present chimneys, to either side of the central partition, there once (probably from 1732 to 1785) were back-to-back corner fireplaces. There now are windows in their locations. Trimwork in the stair hall, including the turned newel post, matches the Greek Revival woodwork in the parlors.

The second floor of the main block is laid out identically to the first, with very simple panelled mantels that may remain from the 1785 period.

The first floor of the middle block is now used as a dining room. It connects with the stairhall of the main block, but is two risers lower. It has a generously-sized fireplace with very simple Greek Revival trimwork. Immediately to the left (north) is a built-in display cabinet of uncertain date. The basement under this room seems to predate the above-ground structure and may date from the 1732 period of construction. It is considerably smaller than the room above and has a ceiling framed only by three very widely spaced joists made of small unpeeled logs. From the south end of the east wall there extends an unusual curved bulkhead corridor with stone walls. Exiting eastward, it curves south and terminates in what originally probably were wooden bulkhead steps. The entire corridor is under the present enclosed porch. The overall form of this space suggests that in its earliest period the

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(description continued)

corridor was located to the south of a massive chimney foundation whose upperwork was removed when the present first floor was built, possibly either in 1785 or in the Greek Revival period.

The single-story east block, the present kitchen, also has a large fireplace. A door high in the west wall gives access to a winding stair that leads up to the second level of the middle block. This feature would enable this section of the house to operate independently of the main block, perhaps as a servants' wing, although no such use has been demonstrated by documentary research.

Ice House:

The ice house is located on a rise in the ground approximately 35 feet south-southwest of the house. It is approximately 13 feet square and has a high foundation of rubble stone set in lime mortar. The upper walls in the gable ends are of horizontal weatherboarding. On the sides the roof extends down to the upper line of the foundation walls. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles applied over earlier cedar shakes. The door, in the north gable and penetrating the upper foundation wall, is sheathed with vertical planks and hung on strap hinges.

Storage Building:

Approximately 20 feet southeast of the house is a one-room wooden outbuilding of undetermined, but early, date. It is 13 by 18 feet in dimension, sided with horizontal clapboarding, and roofed with asphalt shingles. It has 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows in the north, south and east walls and a single door in the west wall.

Privy:

Directly from the south main door of the house an allee of trees extends southward toward Barnegat Bay. At the end of this allee, so long unused that its door has become embedded in the earth, is an early privy. The building is sheathed with horizontal boarding and has a wood-shingled gable roof. There is a wood plank door in its front (west) side and windows high in the gable ends. Interior provisions were made for two seats.

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Falkinburg Farmstead, Ocean Township,
Ocean County, New Jersey

(description continued)

Site:

Although it is no longer in active agricultural use, the acreage surrounding the buildings and extending to Barnegat Bay retains an unspoiled rural coastal character. Any significant change in these surroundings would severely diminish the early farmstead character of the buildings. Certain of the landscape features, including the now overgrown allee of trees mentioned above, reveal a partially controlled landscaping effort early in the building's history.

Gravesite:

Set flat in the ground at the southwest corner of the outbuilding is the small marble gravestone, dated 1815, of Caleb Falkinburg, the infant son of Job (great-grandson of Henry Jacob Falkinburg) and Mary Ann. Although the Falkinburg family did not own the property at this time, the marker firmly establishes the property's early connection with the prominent family and is an interesting artifact, in its own right. The inscription is as follows:

IN MEMORY OF
OF
CALEB
Infant son of
JOB & MARY ANN
FALKENBURGH
who departed this life
Nov. 19, 1815
age 4 months and 11 days

*There in the bosom of thy God
From sin and sorrow free
We would not wish thee back again
But we would go to thee*

1. Beattie, John O. and Lillian Lopez. Compiled by Ocean The Centennial Township. Toms River: Ocean Township, 1976. p. [21]

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Ocean County, New Jersey

(Statement of Significance continued)

fact that Captain Samuel Falkinburg married Mary Cramer. While the particulars may be uncertain, the early date of the farmstead, as evidenced by its construction, indicates that it was built by one of the early settlers, prior to the establishment of Waretown.

An especially notable and lengthy later ownership was that of Samuel Birdsall, who purchased the property early in 1833⁶ and owned it until 1900.⁷ It was during his years that the interior was brought to its present state.

The original property extended to Barnegat Bay, the shore of which is approximately 2,200 feet from the nominated buildings. The bay's rich yield of clams, oysters, scallops and fin fish suggests that an important component of the lives of the farm's early occupants was their relationship to the bay. The property may be an important source of information regarding the water-related settlement life of the farmstead's earliest days, prior to the formation of the present village of Waretown, nearby.

Architecturally, the house is representative of the two-cell type with back-to-back corner fireplaces, a form typical of early 18th century construction. In this case the house had a separate entry hall with a kitchen opposite the hall and parlor. In a typical sequence of development the house was enlarged late in the 18th century (a bit of the woodwork of this period remains in the upper story) and reworked in the 1830s. The interior reworking, probably accomplished by Samuel Birdsall, included a notable parlor mantel, simple in its Greek Revival form, but fabricated of a type of exotic imported marble rarely seen until the 20th century.

The Falkinburg farm is a property which may truly be characterized by the statement that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. The survival of its four buildings and early 19th century grave provides an unbroken link with the earliest days of settlement in the pinelands on the western shore of Barnegat Bay. The survival of the unspoiled marshland and countryside surrounding this ensemble on the outskirts of Waretown provides a rarely intact visual contact with an early environment that has almost entirely disappeared from the land.

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Falkinburg Farmstead, Ocean Township,
Ocean County, New Jersey

(Statement of Significance continued)

NOTES

1. John O. Beattie and Lillian Lopez. Compiled by Ocean The Centennial Township. Toms River: Ocean Township, 1976. p. [3]
2. Ibid., p. [21]
3. Ocean County Deeds, Book K page 177
4. Alfred M. Hester, South Jersey A History 1664-1924, v. 1, p. 206.
5. Ibid., pp. 207-211.
6. Ocean County Deeds, Book C3, Page 181.
7. Ibid., Book 257, Page 14.

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Falkinburg Farmstead, Ocean Township,
Ocean County, New Jersey

KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Farmhouse, view upon approach showing setting
2. Farmhouse, north (front) elevation
3. Farmhouse, view from northeast
4. Farmhouse, view from southeast
5. Farmhouse, south front
6. Farmhouse, west elevation
7. Farmhouse, northwest corner showing ice house in distance
8. Ice House--view from north
9. Farmhouse, general view from south showing wooden outbuilding and gravesite (at corner of outbuilding)
10. Farmhouse, basement--parlor fireplace foundation showing tie bars of native iron
11. Farmhouse, basement--curved bulkhead passage
12. Farmhouse, first floor--General view of parlor showing marble mantel and Victorian sliding doors. There originally was a corner fireplace in the location of the present window.
13. Farmhouse, first floor--Detail of door trimwork in front parlor
14. Farmhouse, first floor--Mantel and cabinet in rear parlor
15. Farmhouse, first floor--Newel post in stair hall
16. Farmhouse, first floor--1785(?) kitchen, now used as a dining room
17. Farmhouse--Detail of stair landing, balustrade, newels and handrail
18. Farmhouse, second floor--Chamber mantel

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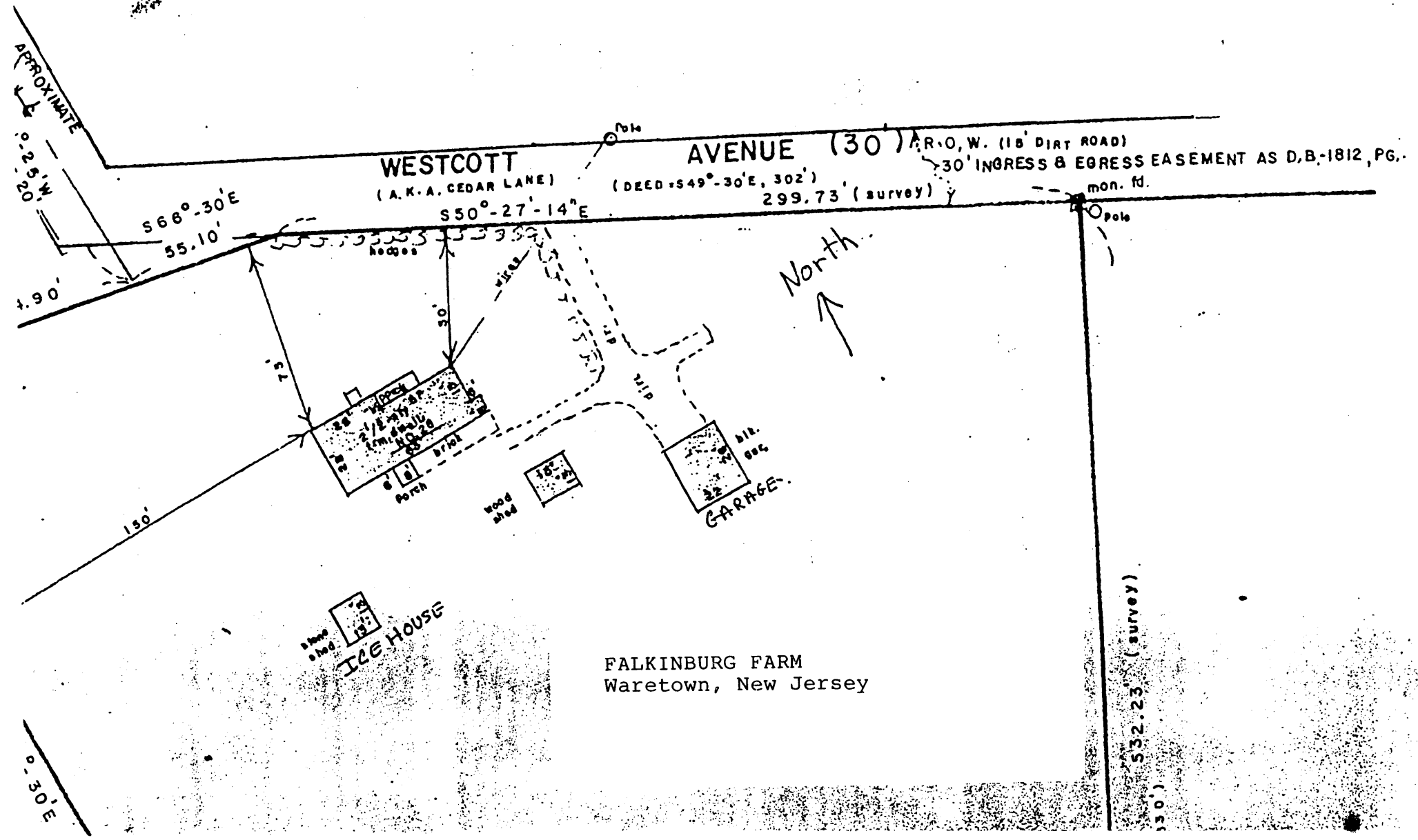
Falkinburg Farmstead, Ocean Township,
Ocean County, New Jersey

(Key to photographs continued)

19. Farmhouse, attic--View looking east showing recess for upward-sliding sash
20. Farmhouse, attic--General view looking west showing recesses for upward-sliding sash

SURVEY OF LOT-10 BLOCK-221 (T.M.) OCEAN TOWNSHIP OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

OF 1st COURSE OF
TRACT IN D.B.-732, PG.-320



WESTCOTT
(A.K.A. CEDAR LANE)

AVENUE (30) A.R.O.W. (18' DIRT ROAD)
30' INGRESS & EGRESS EASEMENT AS D.B.-1812, PG. mon. fd.

(DEED S49°-30'E, 302')
299.73' (survey)

North
↑

ICE HOUSE

FALKINBURG FARM
Waretown, New Jersey

GARAGE

WOOD SHED

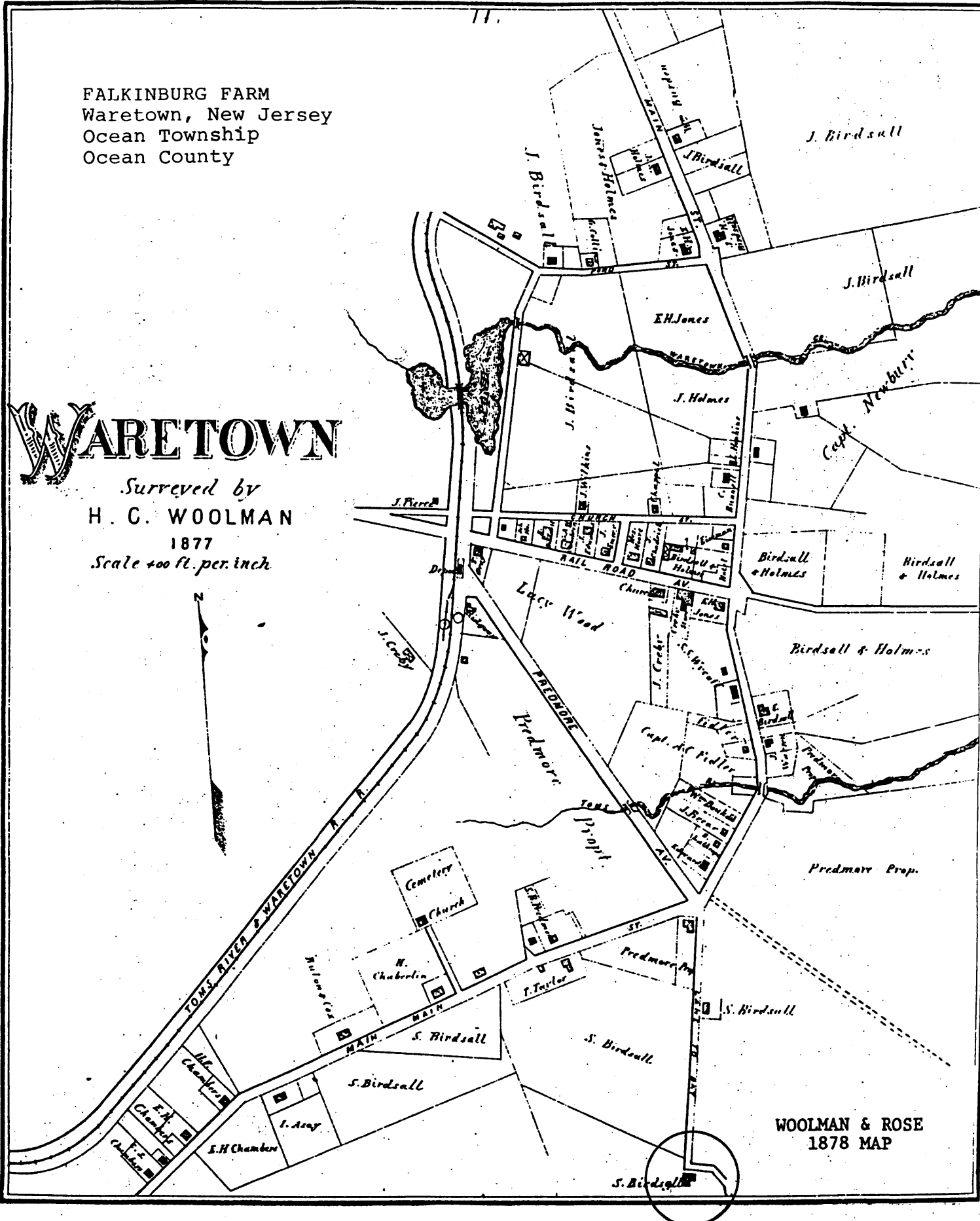
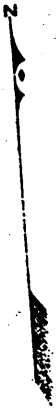
POURCH

S32.23' (survey)
130'

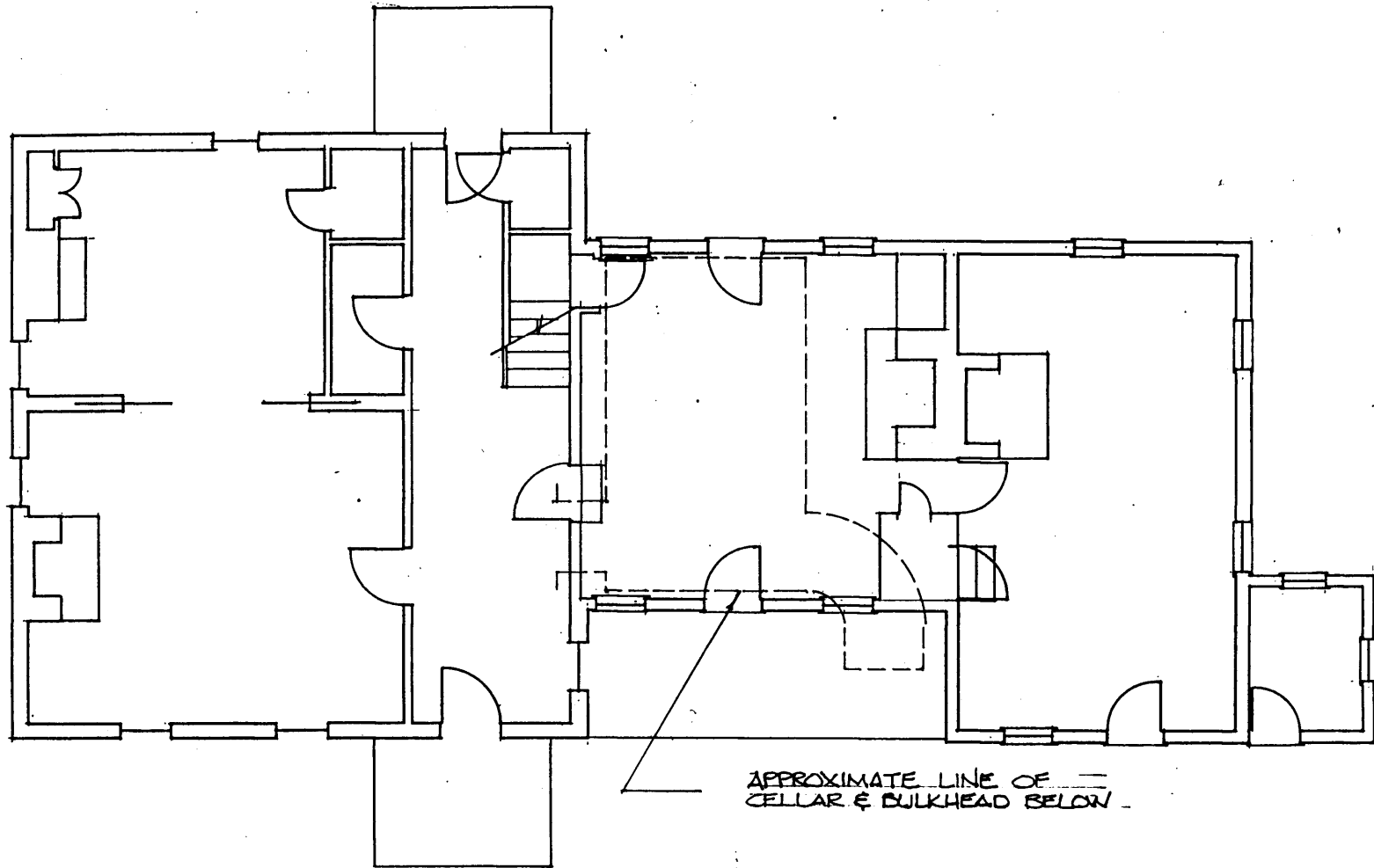
FALKINBURG FARM
Waretown, New Jersey
Ocean Township
Ocean County

WARETOWN

Surveyed by
H. C. WOOLMAN
1877
Scale 400 ft. per inch



WOOLMAN & ROSE
1878 MAP



APPROXIMATE LINE OF
CELLAR & BULKHEAD BELOW

FALKINBURG FARM

WARETOWN, NEW JERSEY
Ocean Township, Ocean County

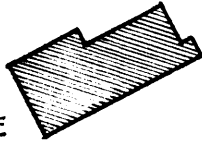
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
1/8" = 1'-0"

WESTCOTT AVENUE

299.73 FT

124.90 FT

HOUSE



STORAGE
BUILDING



MODERN GARAGE



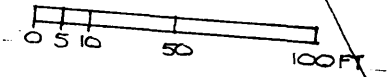
ICE HOUSE



FRNY



525 FT



532.23 FT

230.5 FT

FALKINBURG FARM
WARETOWN, NEW JERSEY
Ocean Township, Ocean County
SITE PLAN