

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only  
received MAR 29 1982  
date entered MAY 13 1982

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

**1. Name**

historic Old Village of Toms River Multiple Resource <sup>Area</sup> Nomination (partial inventory)

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number East Water Street and Washington Street N/A not for publication

city, town Toms River  
Dover Township (Toms River) N/A vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state New Jersey code 34 county Ocean code 029

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ocean County Courthouse

street & number Washington Street

city, town Toms River state New Jersey

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N.J. Historic Sites Inventory - Ocean  
County Historic Site Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978-79  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Office of Cultural and Environmental Services

city, town Trenton state New Jersey

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Village of Toms River Multiple Resource nomination is comprised of eleven historically and/or architecturally significant buildings located in the oldest section of the village along the north bank of the Toms River. Dating from 1824 to 1868, these buildings visually reflect Toms River's development from a small seafaring hamlet to a prominent county seat and Victorian summer resort. While most buildings in the nomination have experienced some alterations, their architectural integrity remains intact in an area that has undergone rapid development.

As the seat of government in the fastest growing county in New Jersey, Toms River's architectural heritage has been adversely affected by the impact of its growth. With the pressure of rising land value along the river bluff and the expansion of government and professional service-oriented facilities, many of the town's historic buildings have been destroyed by demolition, fire, and urban renewal projects.

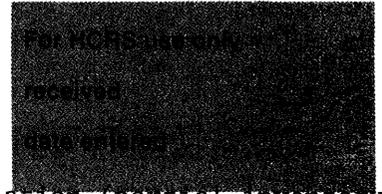
In the spring of 1978, an historic sites survey was conducted in an eleven block area from Robbins Street to Dock Street and north to School Street. The purpose of the survey was to identify historic properties that reflect Toms River's maritime heritage. The survey, sponsored by the Ocean County Historical Society, was conducted by Pauline S. Miller, County Historian, and Kevin McGorty, Architectural Historian, and assisted by an architect and photographer through a Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) grant. Over ninety (90) buildings were surveyed. Twenty-nine (29) buildings have local significance, eleven (11) of which meet the National Register criteria. While only 15.5% of the surveyed area contains incompatible modern intrusions, their location, along with vacant tracts between historic buildings, prevents architectural continuity that is necessary for a traditional historic district.

The eleven buildings that form the multiple resource nomination are located along East Water Street and Washington Street, in an older residential area which has experienced conversion to a professional office and government complex zone.

East Water Street begins at an intersection with Main Street (Route 166) and proceeds a half mile east, parallel with the river to its intersection with Dock Street. The Toms River is a twenty-eight (28) mile long meandering body of water flowing southeasterly to its confluence with the Barnegat Bay. Because sea captains and baymen built their homes close to where their sloops and schooners were docked, East Water Street was called "Captains Row" in the 1800's. Today, four sea captains' homes remain even though a 1967 urban renewal project demolished a number of 19th century dwellings and stores along the shorefront street.

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Old Village of Toms River Multiple Resource Nomination (partial inventory)

Continuation sheet Dover Township, Ocean County Item number Description Page 1

Description (continued)

The four buildings, (1) Horner House, c. 1824, (2) Crawford House, c. 1827, (3) Giberson House, c. 1850-1853, (4) Stewart House, c. 1849, form a cohesive 19th century vernacular architectural unit on their small acreage fronting East Water Street. The two-story wood frame clapboard buildings visually stand out from their modern design neighbors, a three story municipal parking garage to the west and a 26 foot high, 23 unit brick condominium complex located southeast on Riverview Point.

A narrow stretch of undeveloped land lies east of Riverview Point and provides an unobstructed vista of the river and Barnegat Bay. This area was the site of the former charcoal shipping docks.

The north side of East Water Street from Hooper Avenue to Dock Street consists of a number of single family residential dwellings and older homes adapted to professional offices. The buildings in this segment of the street occupy larger lots than the dwellings to the west and also command a wide view of the river from their lofty location on the river bluff. The most prominent building is the Stoutenburgh-Minturn House, (7) a two and one-half story, three bay wide vernacular Gothic cottage constructed in 1868. The vacant Victorian house stands alone as a testament to a more flamboyant period when the area was adorned by large scale resort cottages, especially of the Italianate vintage (Joseph Francis House, 1867; Mott Estate, 1867.)

With the erection in 1851 of the two story brick Greek Revival courthouse (11) and county jail (10), the small village expanded northward, with Washington Street becoming the direct route to the farms lying east toward Barnegat Bay. Today, Washington Street is a heavy traffic artery with adjacent properties developed as either small businesses, professional offices or government facilities. The few remaining Victorian dwellings have been successfully adapted to professional offices. The most visually impressive is the two and one-half story Captain Amos Birdsall House (9) constructed in 1868.

The predominant physical character of the buildings on Main Street is their brick facade and Neo-Colonial architectural style. Some important buildings, such as the town hall, c. 1905 and the Presbyterian Church, c. 1853-1857, were wooden structures later bricked over to conform to the courthouse. The county courts and administrative buildings occupy the 15.5 acre "superblock" between Hooper, Hadley, Washington and Madison Streets.

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Old Village of Toms River Multiple Resource  
Nomination (partial inventory), Dover Township

Continuation sheet Ocean County

Item number 7

Page 2

The Old Village of Toms River Multiple Resource nomination follows the lot boundary lines of the eleven buildings it encompasses. The enclosed survey forms will give a closer examination of individual site descriptions.

The Old Village of Toms River Multiple Resource Nomination does not identify archeological resources within the survey area, but there is a possibility that subsurface and underwater historical resources are extant. Of particular concern are potential maritime related archeological sites along the Toms River, a major 18th and 19th century transport route.

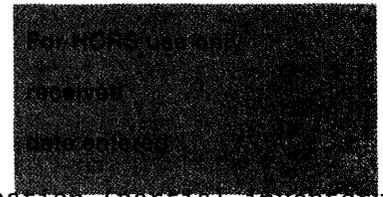
Within the surveyed multiple resource area, along Toms River, are the sites of several former docks. At the foot (south) of Dock Street is the site of docks for a lime kiln operation. Immediately west is the site of charcoal wharfs. South of the intersection of Serpentine Road and Water Street are the sites of multiple commercial and recreational wharfs. The waterfront further west along the surveyed area, Riverview Point, was originally swampland. A small inlet, Robbins Cove, does not appear to have had any landings because of the shallowness of the water. There are no visible remains of the historical wharfs, and portions of the waterfront area have modern bulkheading for private docks.

An area located southeast of the Multiple Resource Survey region contained active boat building docks in the 19th century. Although not part of the multiple resource area, future development of the site by New Jersey's Green Acres park program assures that careful consideration will be given to the documentation and preservation of this waterfront area.



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Old Village of Toms River Multiple Resource Nomination (partial inventory)

Continuation sheet Dover Township, Ocean County Item number Significance Page 1

Significance (continued)

By using Barnegat Inlet, however, local sea captins continued to prosper with the ever increasing coastal trade. By 1820, the pig iron industry was at its peak. The region's saw mills were producing cedar siding and shingles, and the owners of charcoal pits in the area were depositing their product at Toms River's docks, ready for export to the New York market. On the return trip, the schooners carried merchandise to the local storekeepers, who frequently owned both the lumber mills and the schooners.

Shipping and shipbuilding were the economic backbone for the coastal villages along the Barnegat Bay. Almost every man in Toms River was involved in some aspect of the maritime trade. The dock master, Colonel Samuel C. Dunham (4), was the busiest man in the village as he was responsible for the numerous schooners and barkentine ships arriving on the tide with cargo, and leaving on the outgoing tide with a heavy load of lumber and charcoal.

Toms River was a small village of fifty houses when Ocean County was set off from Monmouth County in 1850. With the building of the Court-house (10) and Jail (11) in 1851, the village began to experience a boom as lawyers, doctors and merchants settled in the new county seat. Streets were cut through undeveloped lands as the demand for more houses grew. Unlike the small vernacular wood frame dwellings, along Captains Row, the new houses took on Victorian proportions and styles of Italia-nate and Gothic design soon appeared along Main and Washington Streets.

In the 1860's the village began to attract wealthy New York busi-nessmen who traveled by stage with their families to enjoy the area's pleasant summer climate. The New Yorkers brought small yachts and began to race with some local sea captains who had been forced ashore into the mercantile trade or farming when the coastal trade was cut off by the blockades of the Civil War. By 1864, regatta were formed on Barnegat Bay, with hundreds of spectators watching from the shore. These races led to the formation of the Toms River Yacht Club in 1871, at the Stewart House (4). The club is considered to be the second oldest yacht club in America.

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Old Village of Toms River Multiple Resource Nomination (partial inventory)

Continuation sheet Dover Township, Ocean County Item number Significance Page 2

Significance (continued)

The arrival of the railroad in 1866 brought more merchants and summer visitors to the village. Pretentious summer cottages, like the Stoutenburgh - Minturn House (7), were built along the river's bluff reflecting the Victorian taste of the town's seasonal residents. The railroad also brought urban real estate speculators who invested in both the resort trade and swamp lands that were being successfully cultivated into cranberry plantations.

The railroads did not immediately curtail the shipping industry. In some cases, shipping was more economical by coastal schooner than by rail. Those sea captains, like Captain Amos Birdsall (9), who had risked the Confederate battery and made fortunes during the war, now engaged in building bigger four masted vessels for longer deep sea voyages. But for Toms River, its economic dependence on commercial shipping was drawing to a close by the last quarter of the nineteenth century. As the Barnegat Bay waters got shallower, pleasure crafts replaced the proud fleet of commercial schooners. Ocean County's new industry, the resort trade, began to emerge during this period and continues today as the major source of income in the area.

While demolition and decay have taken their toll, those few remaining sea captains' houses and early county buildings form a physical image of Toms River's heritage as an historic maritime village.

Efforts to stabilize the waterfront area have been initiated by the Toms River Seaport Society and the Dover Township Municipal Government. The Toms River Seaport Society has fought, since 1976, for the preservation of the waterfront area and is in the process of raising funds to purchase open spaces along the river bank for dockage of their collection of historic Barnegat Bay boats.

A recently completed "Toms River Waterfront Plan", sponsored by the local government, Green Acres of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, outlines a series of proposals for the preservation of both the historic and environmental resources in the village of Toms River. Specifically, the plan calls for the designation of three local historic districts (see map 3), architectural controls, acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands, and promotion of a historic seaport theme for the waterfront area. The plan awaits approval, and implementation by the township committee.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See individual site survey forms

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property See individual site survey forms and continuation sheet

Quadrangle name Toms River

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References See individual site survey forms and continuation sheet

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual site survey forms

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Pauline S. Miller, Chairman  
Kevin McGorty, Executive Director

organization Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission date 3/28/79—updated 8/6/80

street & number 38 Hadley Avenue telephone (201) 244-2121, ext. 2200

city or town Toms River state New Jersey 08753

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

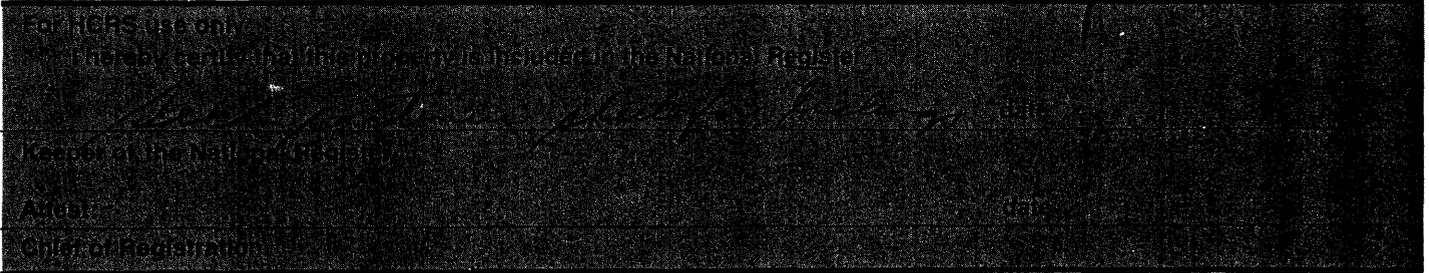
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

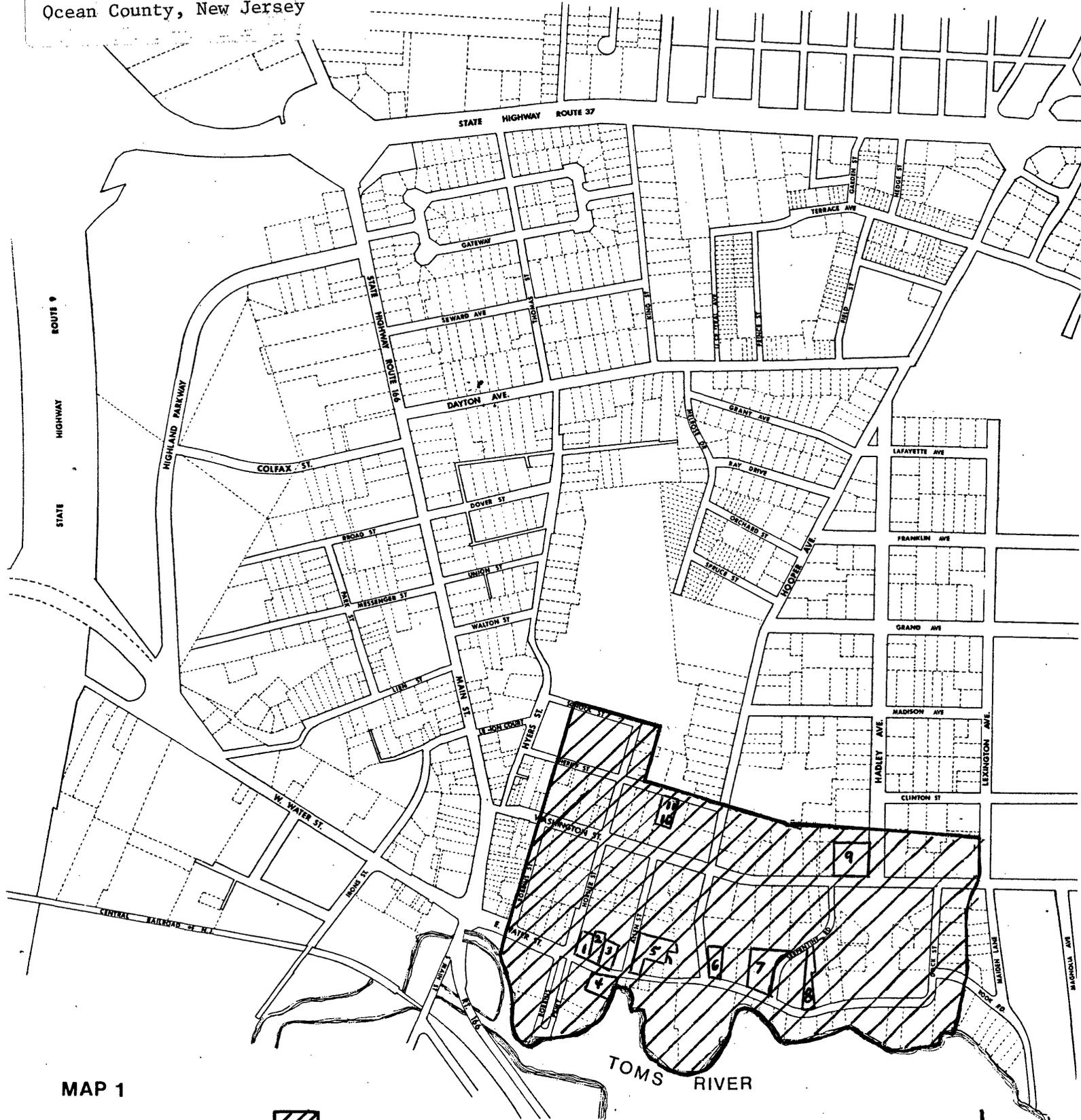
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Laurie Kimmel

title date June 17, 1981



Old Village of Toms River  
 Multiple Resource Nomination  
 (partial inventory)  
 Dover Township (Toms River)  
 Ocean County, New Jersey



MAP 1

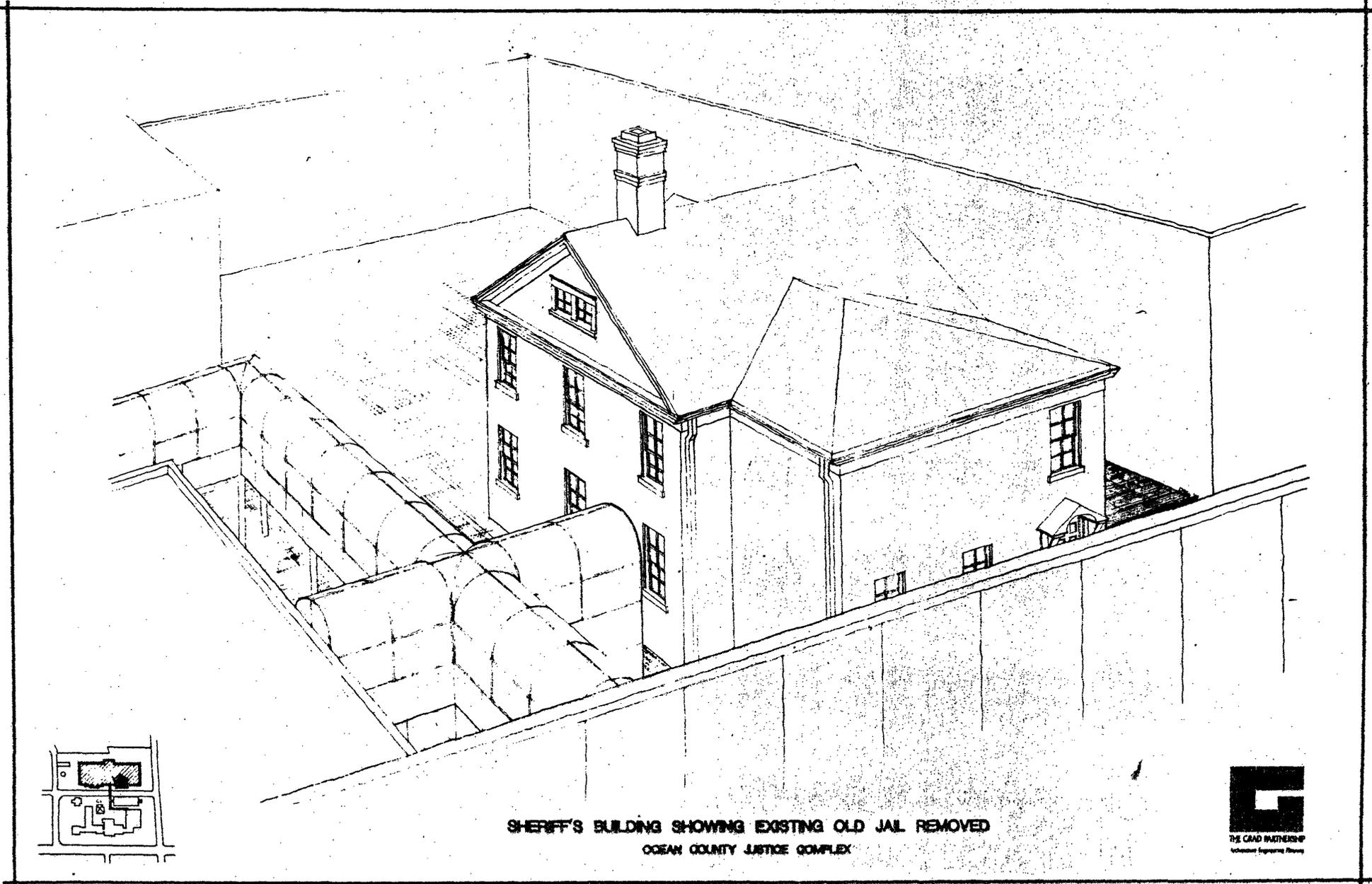
AREA SURVEYED — 

Old Village of Toms River  
 Multiple Resource Nomination

 — architecturally and  
 historically significant  
 buildings within the surveyed  
 area



SCALE 1"=800'



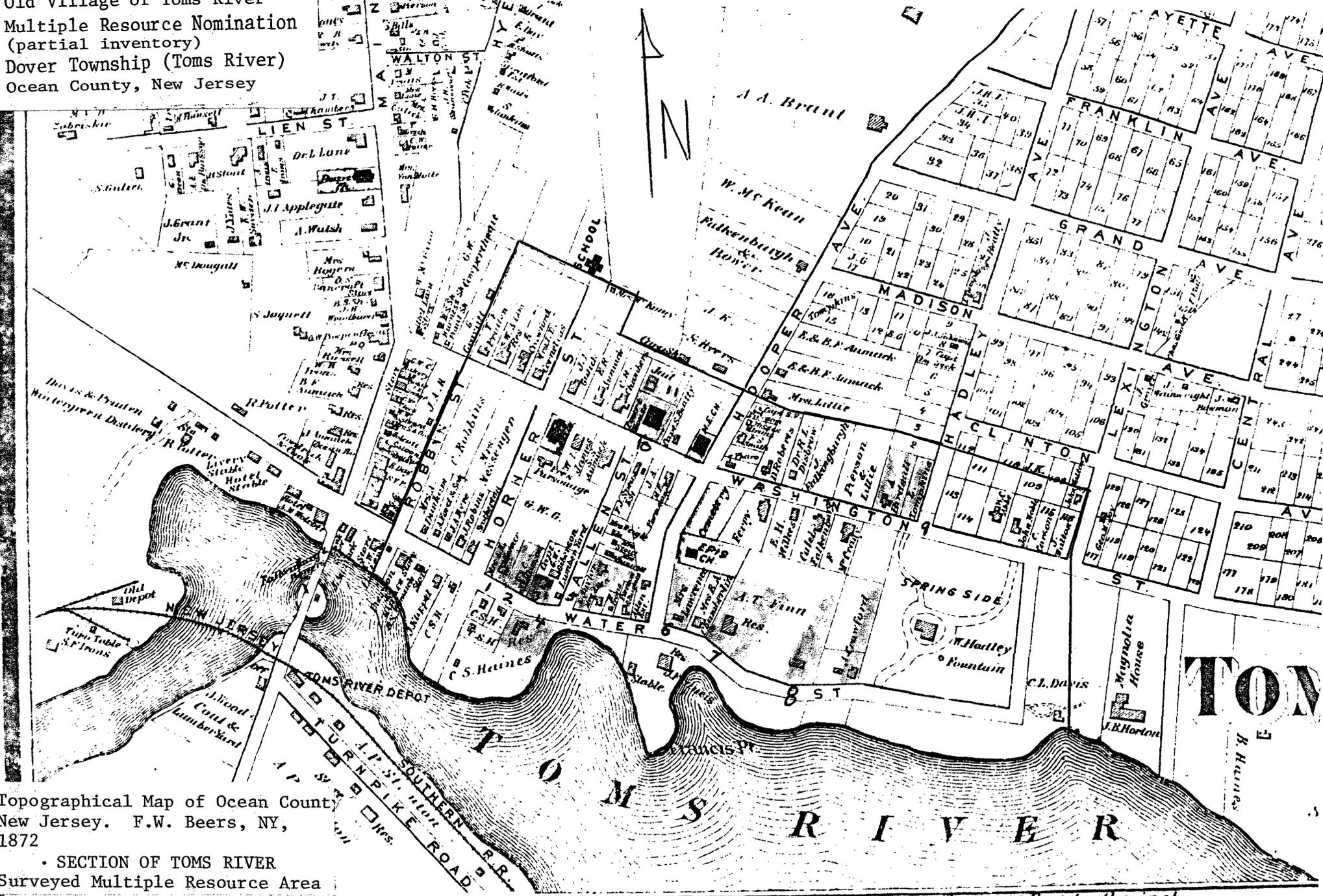
SHERIFF'S BUILDING SHOWING EXISTING OLD JAIL REMOVED  
OCEAN COUNTY JUSTICE COMPLEX



Old Village of Toms River MRA  
Dover Township  
Ocean County  
New Jersey

67-1000 Jail Removal 10/04

Old Village of Toms River  
 Multiple Resource Nomination  
 (partial inventory)  
 Dover Township (Toms River)  
 Ocean County, New Jersey

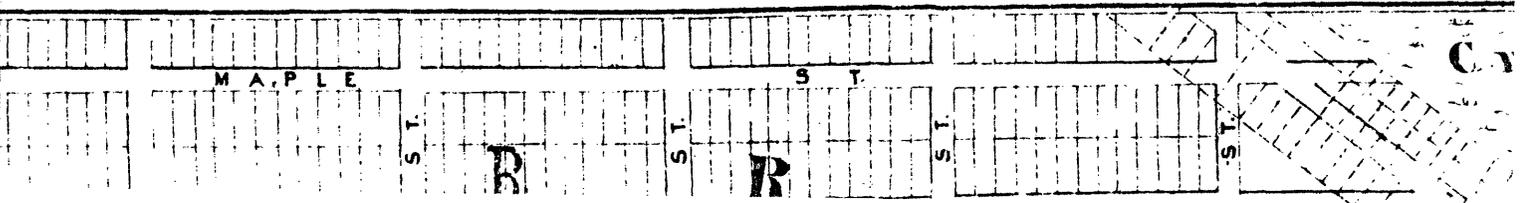


Topographical Map of Ocean County, New Jersey. F.W. Beers, NY, 1872

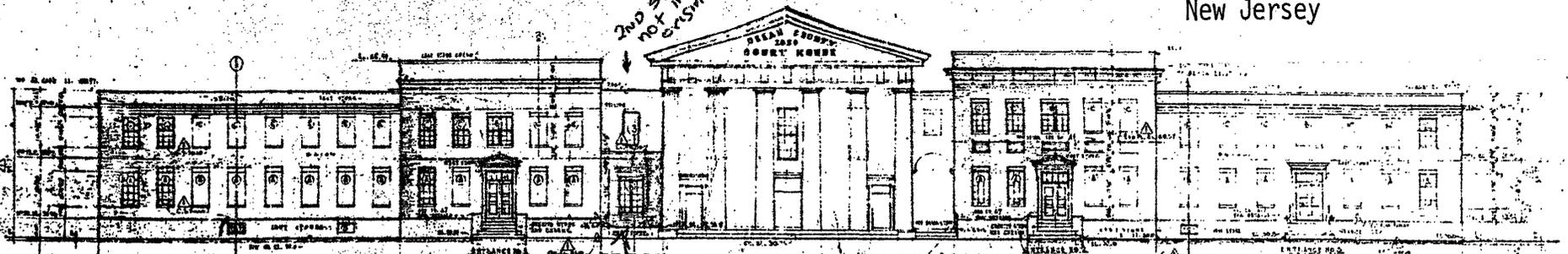
SECTION OF TOMS RIVER  
 Surveyed Multiple Resource Area  
 superimposed on atlas. Present  
 surviving buildings and their  
 current boundaries highlighted.

T. Karschner 2/1981

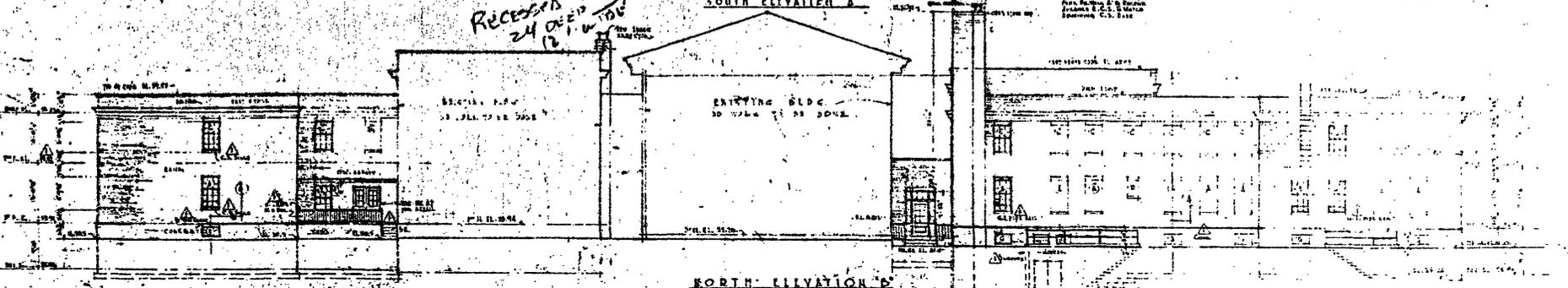
Scale 400 Feet to the inch



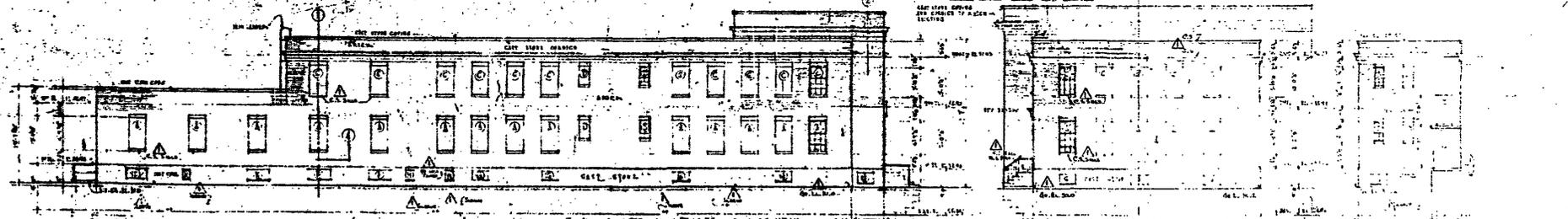
2nd story walkway  
not included on  
external plans



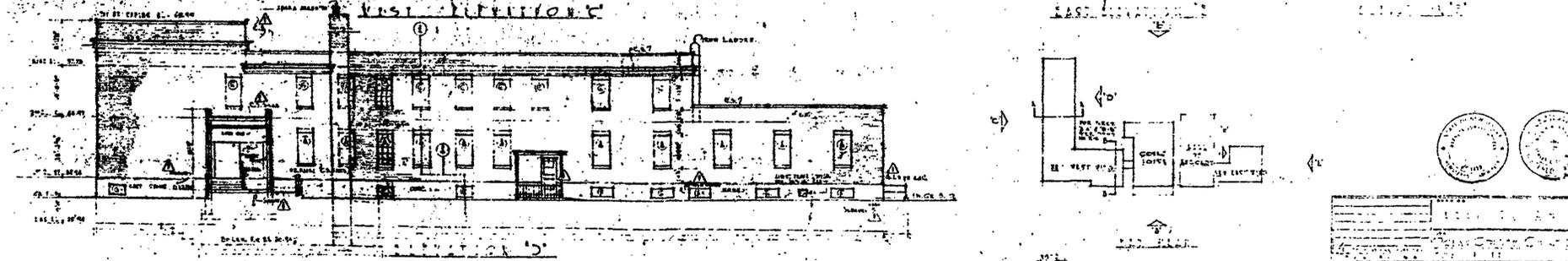
SOUTH ELEVATION 'A'



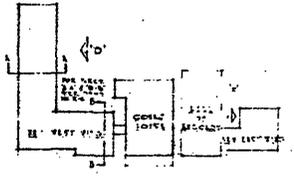
NORTH ELEVATION 'B'



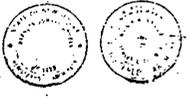
WEST ELEVATION 'C'



EAST ELEVATION 'D'

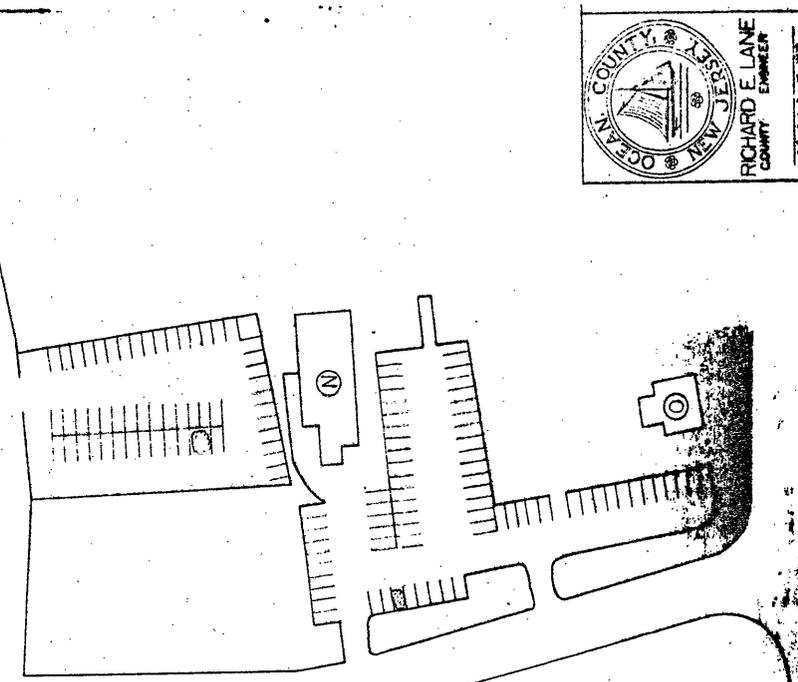
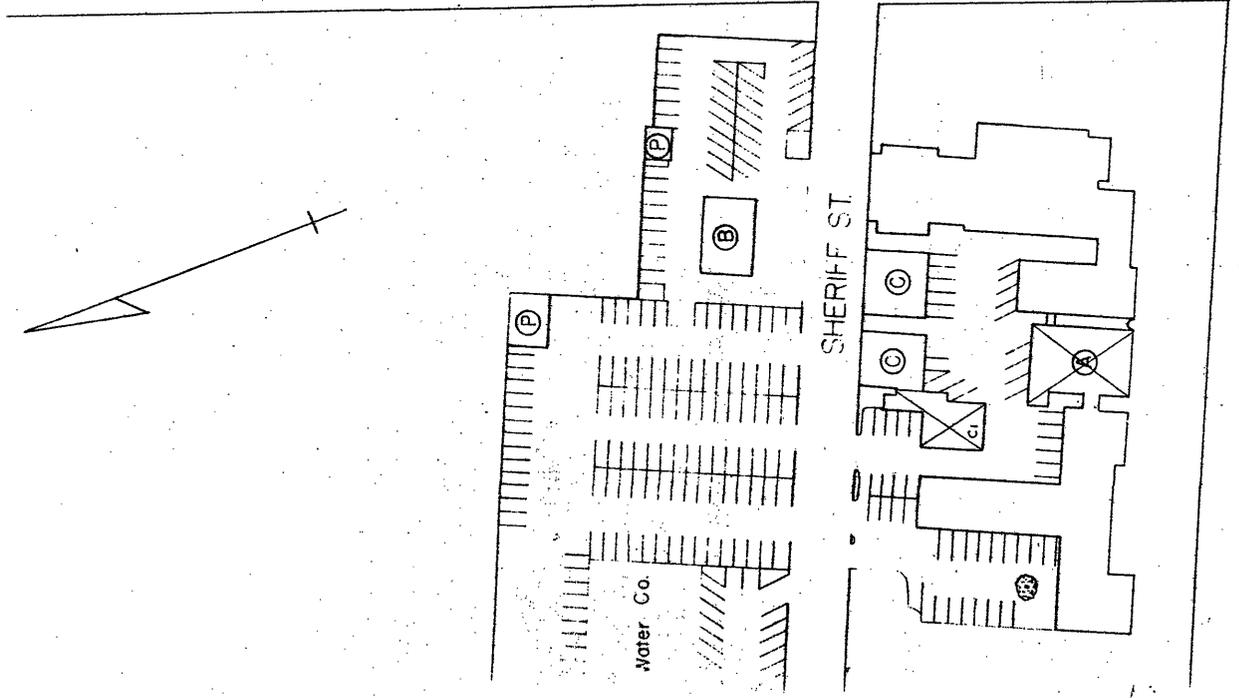
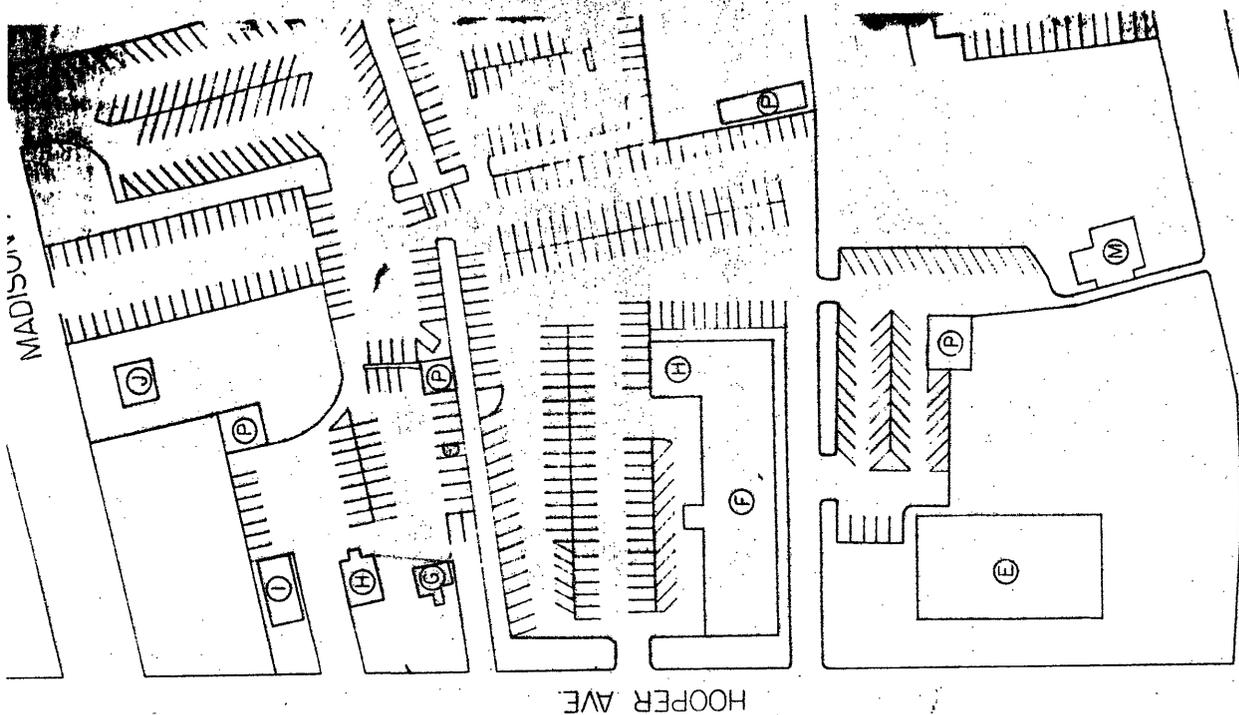


NOT TO SCALE  
SEE PLAN FOR ALL WALLS  
AND DOORS  
SEE PLAN FOR ALL WALLS  
AND DOORS  
SEE PLAN FOR ALL WALLS  
AND DOORS



DATE	11/11/11
PROJECT	DEAN COUNTY COURT HOUSE
OWNER	DEAN COUNTY
DESIGNER	KELLY A. GUNDEL
SCALE	AS SHOWN
PROJECT NO.	111111
DATE	11/11/11

30X

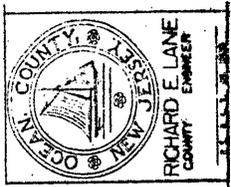


**LEGEND**

- National Register Historic Buildings
- A-Courthouse - 1850-51
- B-Building B Grounds
- C-Jail - C1 also Sh. + Sheriff's House 1351
- D-Vacant
- E-Administration Building
- F-Courthouse Annex
- G-Energy Council
- H-Probation Dept.
- I-Handicapped Elderly Transportation Ser.
- J-Water Quality (208 Project)
- K-Red Cross
- L-Historical Society Museum
- M-Supt. of Schools
- N-Library
- O-Library Processing Building
- P-Garages

SCALE: 1" = 50'

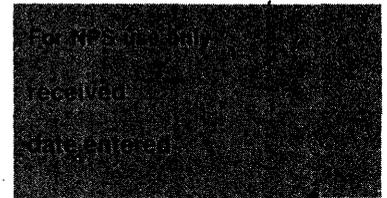
Old Village of Toms River MRA  
 Dover Township  
 Ocean County  
 New Jersey





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Old Village of Toms River Multiple Resource Area  
State New Jersey

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |     |                                   |   |                             |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 11. | Gilberson, Capt. George W., House | <del>Substantive Review</del><br>Keeper | <u>W.H. Brannon 8.12.82</u> |
|     |                                   | Attest                                  | _____                       |
| 12. |                                   | Keeper                                  | _____                       |
|     |                                   | Attest                                  | _____                       |
| 13. |                                   | Keeper                                  | _____                       |
|     |                                   | Attest                                  | _____                       |
| 14. |                                   | Keeper                                  | _____                       |
|     |                                   | Attest                                  | _____                       |
| 15. |                                   | Keeper                                  | _____                       |
|     |                                   | Attest                                  | _____                       |
| 16. |                                   | Keeper                                  | _____                       |
|     |                                   | Attest                                  | _____                       |
| 17. |                                   | Keeper                                  | _____                       |
|     |                                   | Attest                                  | _____                       |
| 18. |                                   | Keeper                                  | _____                       |
|     |                                   | Attest                                  | _____                       |
| 19. |                                   | Keeper                                  | _____                       |
|     |                                   | Attest                                  | _____                       |
| 20. |                                   | Keeper                                  | _____                       |
|     |                                   | Attest                                  | _____                       |