[•] UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

1 NAME

HISTORIC (Captain John Jeffries Burial Marker

AND/OR COMMON

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Captain John Jeffries Burial Marker is a marble gravestone standing approximately twelve feet tall. Resting on a base measuring about 4' x 4' is the central block which features a shallow bas-relief of the ship "21 FRIENDS" and is inscribed: "Captain John Jeffries/Born Nov. 15, 1829/Died March 17, 1887/A member of the K. of P.". Above this block is a smaller square element in which the initials "J.J." are carved, surrounded by olive/ivy branches. The finial of the burial marker is a three-dimensional draped urn. The gravestone is located in the cemetery of the Palestine Bible Church, in which it is the most prominent burial marker. Nearby are other members of the Jeffries family.

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PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW __PREHISTORIC __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ___COMMUNITY PLANNING __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ___RELIGION __CONSERVATION ___1400-1499 ___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __LAW ___SCIENCE __AGRICULTURE __ECONOMICS __LITERATURESCULPTURE __1600-1699 __ARCHITECTURE __EDUCATION __MILITARY __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIANART ___ENGINEERING ___MUSIC ____THEATER **_X**1800-1899 ___PHILOSOPHY ___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT ___TRANSPORTATION __INDUSTRY ___1900-__COMMUNICATIONS ___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT ___OTHER (SPECIFY) 1997 - Exclosed 1 _INVENTION SPECIFIC DATES **BUILDER/ARCHITECT** 1887

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Captain John Jeffries Burial Marker is one of the few tangible remnants of the once-thriving shipping and shipbuilding industries in the Great Egg Harbor basin. Because of the paucity of other artifacts relating to this era, the marker represents not just the grave of one man; rather, it addresses two related industries, the people who caused them to prosper, and the calamities which could alter their intertwined lives.

Shipbuilding and shipping in and from the Great Egg Harbor area were facilitated by the area's natural resources: several tributaries of the Great Egg Harbor Bay provide numerous sheltered landing sites adequate to the launching and landing of ships of moderate size, and nearby pine forests and furnaces and forges produced bog iron and forest products. These were useful both as shipbuilding materials and as goods to be transported to coastal markets.

Mays Landing, farther upstream on the Great Egg Harbor River, was the site of shipbuilding activity as early as 1767. About half of the 200 wooden ships built in Atlantic County came from its many yards, one of which was run by Captain Samuel Gaskill. He was in business by 1868, and in 1872 built the three-masted schooner "21 FRIENDS". In 1885 he built the last wooden ship to come out of Mays Landing.

John Jeffries, of English Creek, was born in 1829. His family was undoubtedly related to those who gave their name to Jeffers (or Jeffries') Landing, in existence as Great Egg Harbor Landing by 1775. In 1819 a John Jeffreys was named wharfmaster.

The "21 FRIENDS" was built for John Jeffries (whose stone is the subject of this nomination), and later became well known on both sides of the Atlantic. On a voyage from the south, loaded with lumber, it collided with the schooner "JOHN D. MAY", and was damaged seriously enough to warrant its abandonment. However, it did not sink, and, left to the caprices of wind and current, drifted across the ocean twice. It was sighted and its location noted several times, finally coming ashore in Ireland two years after the supposedly fatal collision. It is a testament to Samuel Gaskill's talents as a shipbuilder that after this period of abuse by the elements, the cargo was salvaged and the "21 FRIENDS" put into service as a fishing vessel.

The story of the ship's travels was of sufficient local significance that it was referenced on Jeffrie's tombstone, erected after his death in 1887 at the age of 57.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anon. <u>Historical Sketch of Mays Landing, New Jersey</u>, 250th Anniversary Celebration 1710-1960. No publisher, not paged.

Gordinier, Glenn S. "Maritime Enterprise in New Jersey: Great Egg Harbor During the Nineteenth Century." <u>New Jersey History</u> XCVIII (2): 104-117 .

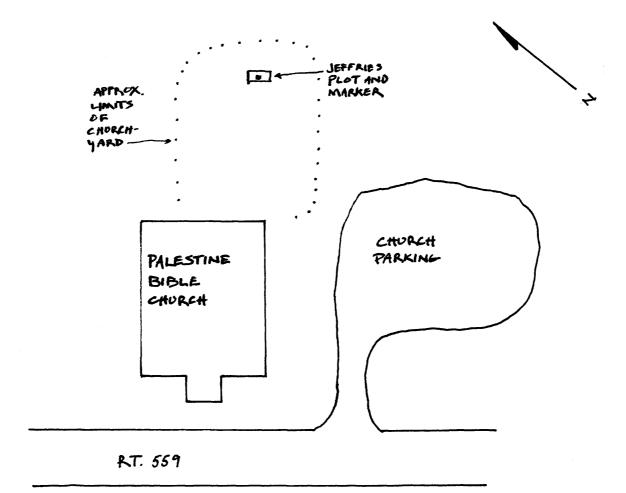
Enrollment Record, National Archives

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SKETCH PLAN OF CAPTAIN JOHN JEFFRIES BURIAL MARKER EGG HARBOR TWP, ATLANTIC CO., NJ

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