

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY #
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC NAME:	Capt. Amos Birdsall House	COMMON NAME:	Birdsall House
LOCATION:	234 Washington Street	BLOCK/LOT:	653/1
MUNICIPALITY:	Dover Township		.75 acres
OWNER/ADDRESS:	Tompkins, Jayne	COUNTY:	Ocean
	236 Washington St., Toms River, N.J.	UTM Reference:	18/569060/4422565
ORIGINAL USE:	Residence	PRESENT USE:	Professional offices
USGS QUAD:			

DESCRIPTION	Deed records, bk 44,
Construction Date: 1868	Source of Date: p. 373., Misc. records
Architect:	bk 1, p. 218, NJ Courier 1/6/1917
Style: Vernacular Colonial Revival	Builder: Joseph A. Pharo
Foundation: Brick	Number of Stories: 2
Structural System: Wood frame	Form/Plan Type: Rectangular
Exterior Wall Fabric: Clapboard	
Fenestration: 5 bays wide, symmetrically placed 4/4 DHS with louvered shutters; 3 gable dormers with arch windows 4/4 DHS.	
Entrance Location: South, centrally located single door with side lights and transom within recessed portico which is supported by two Ionic columns.	
Roof/Chimneys: Pitched gable of pattern slate material/ 2 interior	
Additional Architectural Description:	

The front Classical portico with iron railing along with the west wing were added to the house between 1895 and 1897.

PHOTO



MAP (Indicate North) See map

(9) Capt. Amos Birdsall House
Old Village of Toms River
Multiple Resource Nomination
Photographer: Charles Gaertner
Date of photo: Spring 1978
Negative: Ocean County Museum
View: North

SITING AND RELATED STRUCTURES: The Birdsall House is centrally located on a three quarter acre lot on the corner of Hadley and Washington Streets. The house is 40 feet long and 31 feet wide. While most of the tree shaded landscape around the building has been maintained, a parking lot for office employees has been recently paved and is located at the rear of the house. Also at the rear, is a one story, wood frame carriage house.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Space Woodland Scattered Buildings
Suburban Urban Residential Agricultural Industrial
Downtown Commercial Highway Commercial Other

The location of the Captain Amos Birdsall House is in an older residential area of large homes. Many of these structures have experienced conversion to professional offices while preserving their architectural integrity and their landscapes.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The primary significance of the structure is its historical association as the residence of Captain Amos Birdsall. Coming from a prominent seafaring family, Capt. Birdsall was regarded as one of the most successful sea captains and master ship builders along the Atlantic Coast. From Waretown, Birdsall built and captained numerous schooners that traded along the coast and later sailed to the West Indies and Gulf of Mexico.

After his retirement from sailing, Capt. Birdsall concentrated on ship building and managing his fleet of fourmaster schooners which included the Agnes Manning, one of the earliest fourmasters on the coast.

In 1868, Capt. Birdsall moved his family from Waretown to Toms River in order that he could commute by rail to his shipping offices in New York City. Birdsall also had financial interest in local banking and was the second president of the First National Bank of Toms River.

PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Poor
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No As part of district
THREATS TO STRUCTURE: Roads Development Zoning Deterioration
No Threat Other
COMMENTS:

Possible subdivision of property

REFERENCES:

Heston, Alfred M. South Jersey A History 1664 - 1924. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1924
New Jersey Courier, (Toms River), 1/6/1917
Ocean County Courthouse, Deed records, Misc. records, Toms River, N.J.
Tompkins, William. Interview by K. McGorty, 4/7/1978, Toms River, N.J.

RECORDED BY: Kevin McGorty
ORGANIZATION: Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission
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