

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

HISTORIC NAME: Capt. George W. Giberson COMMON NAME: Giberson House  
 LOCATION: 54 East Water Street BLOCK/LOT: 664/11  
 DOVER TOWNSHIP .27 acres  
 MUNICIPALITY: Stephen E. Smith COUNTY: Ocean  
 OWNER/ADDRESS: 71 Kettle Creek Road UTM Reference: 18/568680/4422405  
 Toms River, NJ 08753  
 ORIGINAL USE: Residence PRESENT USE: Being restored for  
 USGS QUAD: professional office.

DESCRIPTION Dead records, bk 1, p.377  
 Construction Date: c. 1850 - 1853 Source of Date: Road Book 1, p. 14.

Architect: Builder:  
 Style: Vernacular Victorian "plan book" with Gothic proportions Number of Stories: 2½  
 Foundation: Brick Form/Plan Type: Rectangular

Structural System: Wood frame

Exterior Wall Fabric: Cedar clapboard  
 Main facade - 5 bays wide, 6/6 DHS. Aluminum storm windows  
 Fenestration: and frames added. Attic window, 4/4 DHS.  
 Entrance Location: South, single door under pedimented entry attached  
 to extending porch.

Roof/Chimneys: Pitched gable with prominent cross gable at end  
 1 interior, centrally located  
 Additional Architectural Description:

The Giberson House was saved from demolition when it was purchased by the Toms River Seaport Society and later sold in 1979 to Mr. Smith who is restoring the house for use as professional offices. The asbestos shingles have been removed and the original clapboard stripped of old paint. In 1894 a porch was added to the house and later enclosed.

MAP (Indicate North) See map 2

{3} Capt. Geo. W. Giberson House  
 Old Village of Toms River  
 Multiple Resource Nomination  
 Photographer: Kevin McGorty  
 Date of Photo: Spring 1980  
 Negative: Ocean County Museum  
 View: North



SITING AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

Located on a half acre lot, the Giberson House is 47 feet long by 33 feet wide.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Space [ ] Woodland [ ] Scattered Buildings [ ]  
Suburban [ ] Urban [ ] Residential [X] Agricultural [ ] Industrial [ ]  
Downtown Commercial [ ] Highway Commercial [ ] Other [X] Professional offices

Same as sites 1 and 2.

SIGNIFICANCE: The house was the residence of Captain George W. Giberson who was a prominent citizen of Ocean County because of his various roles as a sea captain, large saw mill and cranberry bog owner, bank director, and politician.

Capt. Giberson sailed the schooner, North America, from Toms River to the port of New York. In the early 1850's, he sold the schooner upon inheriting his father's saw mill and cranberry bogs at Double Trouble, (National Register historic site). Being a successful businessman, Giberson served as a charter director of the First National Bank of Toms River. A measure of Giberson's influence and popularity is reflected in the fact that he was re-elected four times to the position of county freeholder during the 1880's.

Based on evidence currently available, it appears that the Captain Giberson House was built in the early 1850's. Capt. Giberson purchased the property from Ebenezer Applegate in 1850. In the county surveyor's records, the house is mentioned in 1853 when East Water Street was surveyed for construction. Another local sea captain, John Beatty who commanded the brig, Keyston, lived in the Giberson House after marrying Captain Giberson's daughter. Capt. Beatty sailed to the Gulf ports and West Indies in his three masted schooner.

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

Same as sites 1 and 2.

REFERENCES:

Fischer, William H. Editor, Biographical Cyclopaedia of Ocean County, New Jersey. Philadelphia: A.D. Smith & Co., 1899.

New Jersey Courier, (Toms River), 8/16/1877 and 3/25/1893.

Ocean County Courthouse, Deed records, Road Book 1, Surrogate records. Toms River, N.J.

Ocean Emblem, (Toms River), 12/1/1853 and 2/27/1856.

RECORDED BY: Kevin McGorty  
ORGANIZATION: Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission  
DATE: Summer 1978, Revised July 1980