

Gateway to the History of the Pinelands



Today, Cedar Bridge Tavern is a gateway to the post-industrial forests of the New Jersey Pinelands. The original section of Cedar Bridge Tavern retains an early 19th-century bar, a feature not known to survive in any other early New Jersey tavern. It also retains most of the original interior floor plan, along with most of the original doors, windows, and fireplaces. Information on 19th-century taverns, Revolutionary War history, and daily life at the time is provided through displays and dozens of artifacts. Each year, hundreds of students and adults tour this marvelous example of historic preservation.



An annual ceremony is held in December commemorating the skirmish at Cedar Bridge. (See our website/social media for details)



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Cedar Bridge Tavern Ocean County Historic Site

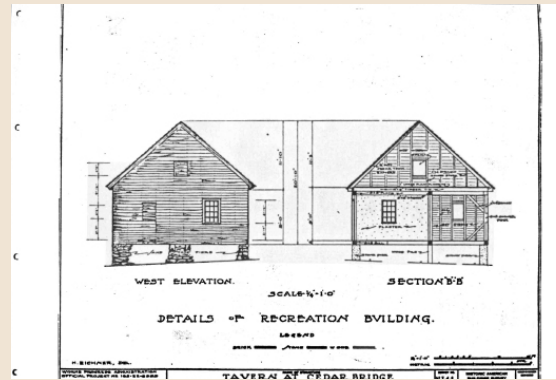
Historic Cedar Bridge Tavern dates from about 1816, and is in the Pinelands of Barnegat Township about a mile south of Route 72 near Route 539. The tavern sits at the important 18th century intersection of a major east/west thoroughfare and a southern route to reach Egg Harbor and Tuckerton. Due in part to the tavern's 200 year history as a hub for locals and a crossroads for travelers, the tavern is listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places



The Last Documented Land Engagement of the American Revolution

On December 27, 1782, after searching for the notorious Captain John Bacon, Captain Richard Shreve of Burlington County Light Horse and Captain Edward Thomas of the Mansfield militia stopped with their men to refresh themselves at nearby Cedar Bridge Tavern. Bacon and his band of Loyalists surprised the Burlington militia and blocked their escape. As the militia gained the advantage in the ensuing battle, they were fired upon unexpectedly by a party of locals. Coming to the aid of Bacon, they provided a diversion that allowed him to escape. Among the Patriots, one was killed and four wounded. Four Loyalists were also wounded, including Captain Bacon. This is arguably the last documented land engagement of the American Revolution. Historians have speculated that the skirmish may have occurred near the site of the current tavern.

Ocean County purchased the tavern on December 27, 2007 from the owner Rudolf Koenig. He owned the property from 1959 and is credited with saving the historic integrity of the structure.



The Cedar Bridge Tavern grounds have been the site of two digs by the Monmouth University Archeology Field School directed by Dr. Richard Veit.



Ocean County has received three grants to fund and restore the tavern through the NJ Historic Trust. Under contract, Historic Buildings Architects (HBA) of Trenton completed a successful nomination to the historic register of places and a comprehensive preservation plan for Cedar Bridge Tavern. Under a separate contract, HBA completed construction documents and permitting for the renovation of the structure. The photographs below are from the 1938 showing the exterior and the tavern bar area.

