

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

HISTORIC NAME: Ocean County Courthouse
 LOCATION: Washington Street
 COMMON NAME: Courthouse
 BLOCK/LOT: 661/ 3 & 4 less than 1 acre
 (original Courthouse building only)
 MUNICIPALITY: Dover Township
 COUNTY: Ocean
 OWNER/ADDRESS: Ocean County
 101 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, N.J.
 UTM reference: 18/568780/4422620
 ORIGINAL USE: Courthouse
 PRESENT USE: Courthouse
 USGS QUAD:

DESCRIPTION
 Construction Date: 1850 - 1851
 Source of Date: Minute Book I, 1851,
 Board of Chosen Freeholders
 Architect: Builder: "Mr. Aitken"
 Style: Greek Revival
 Number of Stories: 2
 Foundation: brick
 Form/Plan Type: rectangular
 Structural System:

Exterior Wall Fabric: brick, common bond painted red

Fenestration: 1st story - 3 bays wide, 6/6 DHS, formerly three doors
 2nd story - 9/9 DHS

Entrance Location: south; centrally located double doors with rectangular transom

Roof/Chimneys: pitched gable with projected pediment supported by six fluted Doric columns

Additional Architectural Description: On a more modest scale, the Ocean County Courthouse was modeled after the Greek Revival style of the Hudson County Courthouse. Originally, the building contained a large courtroom on the second floor with auxiliary offices on the first floor. The walls and ceiling of the courtroom were decorated with intricate plaster carvings of ribbons, birds, and cupids. A fire in 1927 destroyed these features and the room was remodeled. The exterior of the original Courthouse has not been altered. Due to the increased volume of county business, however, two adjoining wings were added in the 1950's and 1960's.
How are the wings attached? If by breezeway, then I might

PHOTO *be possible to include them from map (Indicate North) See map 2*
count down. I probably
attached, then include them.



(10) Ocean County Courthouse
 Old Village of Toms River
 Multiple Resource Nomination
 Photographer: Charles Gaertner
 Date of photo: Spring 1978
 Negative: Ocean County Museum
 View: North

SETTING AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

Centrally located on a 3.6 acre plot, the Ocean County Courthouse is 81 feet long by 52 feet wide. The county courts occupy three buildings within the Courthouse complex. Additional buildings include an 1851 jailhouse, new county jail, and sheriff offices.

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

The area around the Courthouse complex is developed as additional county owned buildings, municipal buildings, professional offices, and parking lots. Along the south side of Washington Street, some historic buildings such as the Presbyterian Church (1852-1857), and the Town Hall (c. 1905), had their wood exterior fabric bricked over in the 1940's, disguising their unique period details. This alteration became the trend for other sites in the immediate area.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Ocean County Courthouse is a significant building both in architectural design and historical association. The Courthouse, with its formal and elegant appearance, reflects the mid-nineteenth century interest in Classical architecture. With its tall Doric columns supporting a massive pedimented portico, the Courthouse is an excellent example of the temple form that was the most distinguishing feature of the Greek Revival style.

Historically, the building has served continuously for over 128 years as the county "hall of justice" and place of county government business.

The building has also served as a meeting place for political and social gatherings. In the nineteenth century, Republicans and Democrats held their county conventions in the building. During the Civil War, the Courthouse was the scene of Union recruiting rallies. Company F, Fourteenth N.J. Volunteers, under the command of Captain Ralph Gowdy, organized and were drilled in front of the Courthouse steps. Locally, being the most important and impressive building in the community, civic and religious social events were held in the building's auditorium.

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:

REFERENCES:

Brown, Alfred W. "Historical Ocean County", May, 1945.
New Jersey Courier (Toms River), March 17, 1869.
Ocean County Courthouse. Deed records. Minute Book I Board of Chosen Freeholders. Toms River, N.J.

RECORDED BY: Kevin McGorty
ORGANIZATION: Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission
DATE: Summer 1978

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY # **11** 1507-37
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Ocean County Jail
LOCATION: Sheriff Street
MUNICIPALITY: Dover Township
OWNER/ADDRESS: Ocean County
101 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, N.J.
ORIGINAL USE: Jail and Sheriff residence
USGS QUAD:

COMMON NAME: Jail house
BLOCK/LOT: 661/4
less than 1 acre
COUNTY: Ocean
UTM Reference: 18/568780/4422665
PRESENT USE: County government offices

DESCRIPTION
Construction Date: 1851

Source of Date: Minute Book I, 1851
Board of Chosen Freeholder:

Architect:

Builder:

Style: Vernacular Federal/Greek Revival

Number of Stories: 2½

Foundation: Brick

Form/Plan Type: Rectangular

Structural System:

Exterior Wall Fabric: Brick, common bond painted red.

Fenestration: Main facade - 5 bays wide, 6/6 DHS with louvered shutters, gable roof dormer.

Entrance Location: South, centrally located single door.

Roof/Chimneys: Pitched gable/ 2 interior.

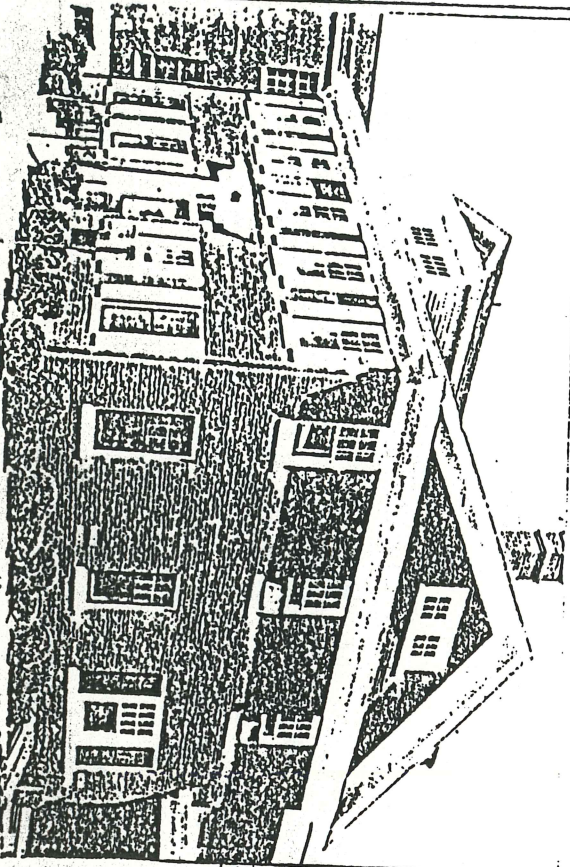
Additional Architectural Description: Originally, the sheriffs residence was located in the front section of the building with the jail cells in the north wing attached to the rear of the house. The first floor contained a central hall with parlor, dining room, and kitchen. On the second floor there were 3 bedrooms.

In the north wing, there were five cells on each floor. The cells were nine feet long and five feet wide with a cot in each.

Today, the interior has been converted into offices and the cell area has been remodeled. A porch on the main facade has since been removed.

PHOTO 1507-37

MAP (Indicate North) See map



(11) Ocean County Jail
Old Village of Toms River
Multiple Resource Nomination
Photographer: Charles Gaertner
Date of photo: Spring 1978
Negative: Ocean County Museum
View: Northwest



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF NEW JERSEY HERITAGE

CN 402
TRENTON, N.J. 08625
(609) 292-2028

October 13, 1983

Mr. Harold J. Kyne, Jr., Clerk
Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Administration Building
Toms River, New Jersey 08753

Dear Mr. Kyne:

I am pleased to inform you that the Ocean County Courthouse, Washington Street, and the Ocean County Jail, Sheriff Street, Dover Township, Ocean County were entered onto the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Old Village of Toms River Multiple Resource Area on August 16, 1983. The National Register is the official list of cultural resources significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering or culture. Listing in the National Register insures that properties affected by undertakings that are federally executed, licensed, or financially assisted will be subject to review and comment in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

The applications for the Ocean County Courthouse and Jail were favorably received by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. and were subsequently signed onto the National Register by the Keeper of the National Register.

Congratulations.

Sincerely,

William Forwood
Acting Administrator

WF/jf

cc: Mrs. Pauline Miller
Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission

SWB
6/17/81

STING AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

Located directly behind the Courthouse, the county jail is 48 feet long by 37 feet wide. Attached to the northeast section of the house is a brick building, built in the 1920's as a replacement for the old jail.

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

The building is located in a courtyard behind the Courthouse. The north (rear) facade faces Sheriff Street with a parking lot located across the street.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Along with the Courthouse, the Ocean County Jail visually reflects the early development of the county government. From 1851 to 1926 this building served as both the jail house and sheriff's residence. While the sheriff was in constant proximity to his prisoners, this arrangement did not prevent escapes. According to an 1869 state report, several criminals made their escape from the jail via the sheriff's residence two by loosening the stones in the wall under the window in the night. Another took up a flag stone near the wall, under which he dug his way out with a wash basin."

The report also reveals that between 1852 and 1868 the annual average number of prisoners incarcerated was twelve. Cost to the county averaged around \$1,000.00 yearly.

Prisoners performed no labor but were furnished with books to read. The sheriff was required to feed prisoners from his own table but was paid fifty cents per meal by the county for this service. In 1926 a new jail was built adjacent to the old structure.

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

Threatened by demolition if new jail facilities are expanded on this site.

REFERENCES:

New Jersey Courier, (Toms River), March 17, 1869

Ocean County Courthouse, Minute Book I Board of Chosen Freeholders, Toms River, N.J.

RECORDED BY: Pauline S. Miller and Kevin McGorty
ORGANIZATION: Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission
DATE: Summer 1978

TOMS RIVER,
COUNTY SEAT OF OCEAN COUNTY



Ocean County Court House 1850

Ocean County, created by an act of Legislature on February 15, 1850, was set off from Monmouth County primarily to create a greater representation of the Whig party in the New Jersey Legislature. By the formation of this new county, Monmouth County was cut almost in half, the southern portion becoming Ocean County.

Twelve men representing the six townships of the county were chosen as the first Board of Chosen Freeholders. Samuel Dunham and Aaron Irons were the Dover Township representatives. Aaron Irons was the son of Revolutionary War General Garret Irons.

Colonel Dunham, chosen the first director, conducted the organization meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders on May 8th, 1850. The meeting started at 8 o'clock in the morning at the hotel of Thomas P. Barkalow, later the Ocean House. The afternoon session was conducted in the room across the street operated by James Hyers, later the Hyers Hotel, and adjourned by five in the afternoon. The next meetings were held monthly and lasted for two or three days. The first County Courts were held in the Morristown Church on the south side of the river.

The three seals used by county officials were selected at the first meeting. The Freeholders' seal was a sloop, the County Clerk's seal was a schooner; the Surrogate's seal was a steamboat. Each seal was encircled with a double ring inscribing the words "Ocean County, N. J."

One of the principal acts of business at the first meeting was the selection of a site for the Court House. Sealed proposals were opened on May 9th, 1850. Elijah Robbins offered a lot for one hundred fifty dollars on the new road leading to the Methodist Church.

T. W. and Anthony Ivans agreed to give a lot on the south side of the river or sell one "opposite the barns on Main Road, near Dr. Lanes", near Lein Street, or one just north of Thomas Barkalow's hotel.

Joseph Coward offered to deed "a lot in the center of the lands on the north side of the road from the meeting house to the Schenck's Mill road." Mr. Coward's offer was accepted. His sense of civic pride was so strong that, after the land was accepted, he presented the Board with 6000 bricks to start the construction of the building. The business men of Tom's River were greatly agitated when they learned that the Coward site had been chosen. They protested that the site was "too far from the business center of the town, that the town would never grow to it".

The bricks for the new court house were brought from Haverstraw, New York by schooners and unloaded at the docks on Water Street. Teams of horses then carted the bricks to the new building site. The building was finished in September of 1851.

Governor Daniel Haines appointed the first county officials. They were James Gulick, Judge; Joseph Parker, Sheriff; John J. Irons, County Clerk; David I. C. Rogers, Surrogate.

By Pauline Miller