

The Hon. Eugene D. Serpentelli
Assignment Judge of the Superior Court, Ocean County



The Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders

James F. Lacey, Director

John P. Kelly, Deputy Director

John C. Bartlett Jr.

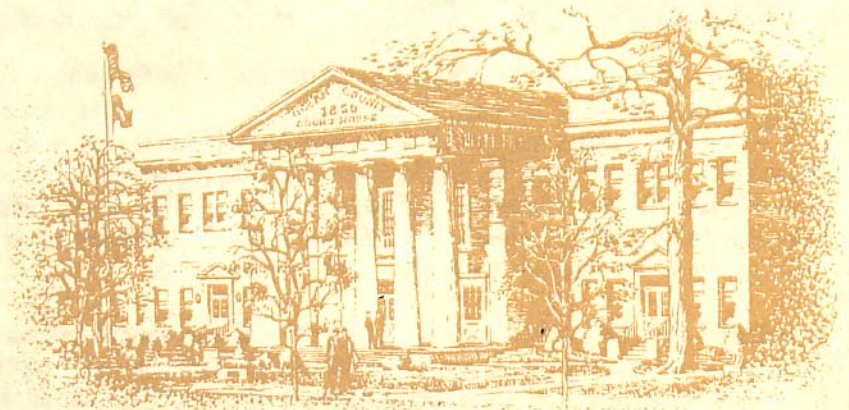
Gerry P. Little

Joseph H. Vicari

Steven L. Pollock, Ocean County Administrator

Richard D. Prifold, Ocean County Court Administrator

The Grand Re-Opening of Historic Courtroom 1



December 2, 2004 2:30 p.m.

*Ocean County Courthouse
118 Washington Street, Toms River, N.J.*



When the Board of Chosen Freeholders selected the site for the Ocean County Courthouse in 1850, many citizens regarded its location to the corner of Washington Street and Hooper Avenue as too far - 300 yards - from the center of Toms River and its waterfront. The exterior of the building closely matched the borrowed plans of Hudson County's courthouse, which reflected a Greek-Revival style of architecture. However, the interior remained a plain and simple facility meant to match the people of Ocean County who were not interested in fripperies and adornments.

Completed in 1851, the Courthouse soon became the hub of the new county's government. Contained on the first floor were offices for the County Clerk, Surrogate and Prosecutor. It's only courtroom, now known as Historic Courtroom 1, was located on the second floor. At the time the room had straight-backed benches with a capacity for seating 250 persons. It served not only as a courtroom for trials but also as the Freeholder Board's meeting room.

For many years, the courtroom was also a meeting place for the local political conventions of both the Republican and Democratic parties. During the Civil War the courtroom was used for rallies to recruit volunteers for the Union Army. Again, in 1917, local men, who had been drafted for service in World War I, were assembled in the historic room before shipping out overseas. In 1870, the County undertook the construction of a formal courtroom befitting the Victorian period. However, on Oct. 26, 1929, a disastrous fire swept through the courtroom nearly destroying it. Today, the courtroom has been restored to its original form and design, a tribute to Ocean County's heritage and forbearers.

GRAND RE-OPENING CEREMONY HISTORIC COURTROOM 1 DECEMBER 2, 2004

MASTER OF CEREMONIESTHE HONORABLE EUGENE D. SERPENTELLI
ASSIGNMENT JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT

POSTING OF THE COLORSOCEAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT COLOR GUARD

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOMEFREEHOLDER JOHN C. BARTLETT JR.

GUEST SPEAKERSEDWARD B. KASSELMAN
PRESIDENT, OCEAN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

PAULINE S. MILLER
OCEAN COUNTY HISTORIAN

JUSTICE JAYNEE LAVECCHIA
NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT

FREEHOLDER JOHN P. KELLY
DIRECTOR, LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONSFREEHOLDER JOHN C. BARTLETT JR.
.....OCEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REMARKSASSIGNMENT JUDGE SERPENTELLI

BLESSING OF THE COURTROOMTHE REV. DAVID JOYNT
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOMS RIVER

The Hon. Eugene D. Serpentelli,
Assignment Judge of the Superior Court
Joins with
The Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders
in cordially inviting you to attend
The Grand Re-Opening Celebration of
Historic Courtroom 1

Date: December 2, 2004 *Time: 2:30 p.m.*

Location: Ocean County Courthouse
118 Washington Street
Toms River, N.J.

Refreshments to follow

RSVP: By November 29, 2004
(732) 929-2000



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