

Benjamin Stites House
400 Shore Road (U.S. Route 9),
opposite Colonial Avenue
Cape May Courthouse
Cape May County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-750

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE New Jersey	COUNTY Cape May	TOWN OR VICINITY Cape May Courthouse
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Benjamin Stites House		HABS NO. NJ-750
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 400 Shore Road (U. S. 9), opposite Colonial Avenue		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ca. 1776	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Interesting example of 18th-century vernacular house. Built by Benjamin Stites II, whose ancestors had lived in the area since 1680, the house has been continuously owned by Stites descendants.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Vernacular		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Frame, sheathed in weather-boards. Brick pier foundation.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 2-1/2-story, T-shaped central section with 5-bay front. 2-bay, 1-1/2-story addition on north. 1-1/2-story porch on south. 1-bay entrance porch. Gable roofs.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Three gabled dormers on east facade; large central chimney stack (modern brick); deep cornice with returns.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) H-plan stair rises behind central chimney; central downstairs rooms have back-to-back over-sized fireplaces; exposed beams, cornerposts and bracing; panelled fireplace walls; some original hardware; some original floor boards.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES In 1932: Present central entrance and porch added (originally house had two front entrances) dormers added; north addition and south porch added; vestibule between the two ground floor rooms created.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Bassett, William B. <u>Historic American Buildings Survey of New Jersey</u> , 1977.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null, Historian	DATE 6/20/84	