

## 📌 Dennisville Historic Home Owners Association

2008 Historic Dennisville Christmas House Tour  
 December 20, 2008 - 5:00pm to 9:00pm



DHHOA  
 P.O. Box 311, Dennisville, N.J. 08214-0311  
 609-861-1338

The Dennisville Historic Home Owners Association is a non profit corporation organized to study the history of Dennisville and the surrounding area and to encourage the preservation of the historic homes in the village and in the township so that future generations will be able to view them and learn about the history of the area. Originally accounting for 69 structures, the village of Dennisville is included as an historic district on both the national and state registers of historic places.

The association meets quarterly throughout the year at the Dennis Township Senior Center in Dennisville or on field trips to sites of historical interest. Each meeting consists of a brief business meeting followed by a guest speaker or the tour of the site being visited. Recent fieldtrips have included: historic barn presentation at the Joseph Falkinburge House, the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage, the restored Whalers Cottages south of the Cape May Canal, and a tour of the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church and cemetery.

## NEW JERSEY - Cape May County - Historic Districts

Information taken from:

<http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/NJ/Cape+May/state.html>



### Dennisville Historic District

(added 1987 - Cape May County - #87000848)

Petersburg Rd., Main St., Church Rd., Hall Ave., Fidler and Academy Rds., and NH 47, Dennisville

(600 acres, 58 buildings, 1 structure)

Historic Significance:	Information Potential, Event, Architecture/Engineering
Architect, builder, or engineer:	Et al., Wentzell, Frank
Architectural Style:	Queen Anne, Late Gothic Revival, Greek Revival
Area of Significance:	Architecture, Maritime History, Historic - Non-Aboriginal, Industry
Cultural Affiliation:	American, industry
Period of Significance:	1750-1799, 1800-1824, 1825-1849, 1850-1874, 1875-1899
Owner:	<b>Private , Local Gov't</b>
Historic Function:	Domestic, Education, Religion
Historic Sub-function:	Religious Structure, School, Single Dwelling
Current Function:	Domestic
Current Sub-function:	Single Dwelling

### **Dennisville/North Dennis/South Dennis**

The areas that today consist of Dennisville, North Dennis, and South Dennis were collectively known as Dennis Creek until the second half of the nineteenth century . Dennisville/Dennis Creek was deeded to John Dennis after he purchased the land from an Indian named Panktoe in 1687. Sometime between the 1690s and 1726, Jacob Spicer owned the land; in 1726 he sold it to Joseph Ludlam. Ludlam's sons, Anthony and Joseph, settled on both sides of the creek, and the foundations of the town were in place.

Industrially, Dennisville is known for two things: lumber and ship building. Many residents mined cedar trees out of the local swamps. The trees were cut for siding and shingles—much of which was exported via schooner. Among the lumber mills that existed in the early twentieth century were those of Ogden Gandy, Jesse D. Ludlam, and Derien & Campbell. Associated with the cedar lumbering, Dennisville boasted several talented shipwrights. Two important shipyards were the Leaming Yards and the Isaac Gandy and Jesse Diverty shipbuilding operation. Ships were built lengthwise along the narrow creek and launched sideways into the water, moving farther out with each high tide.

Several prominent captains acquired great wealth from shipping lumber and produce. These men, in turn, built elegant frame homes that date to the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Today, sixty-nine sites are included in the Dennisville Historic District; fifty-eight are historically significant. In addition to its houses, Dennisville is known for being the first Cape May County town to have a post office, established in 1802.

This information was taken from on-line books site:

[http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/nj2/chap2e.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/nj2/chap2e.htm)