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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Augustine Beach Hotel AMENDED – Additional Documentation
Other names/site number: DE CRS# N00150, Augustine Inn, The Piers - NR ID# 73000537
Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1919 Augustine Beach Road
City or town: Port Penn State: Delaware County: New Castle
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

	
DE State Historic Preservation Officer	12/17/2015
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	
Date	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) Accept Additional Documentation

Patricia Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

2/8/2016
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public -- Local
- Public -- State
- Public -- Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant: Tavern

DOMESTIC: Hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant: Bar

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, WOOD: Shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Augustine Beach Hotel is an imposing Federal six-bay brick commercial structure, located south of Port Penn, in St. Georges Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware, on a one-acre parcel. Built circa 1816, and expanded in at least three subsequent building phases, the building still functions as a bar today. The hotel was built oriented towards the Delaware Bay, and St. Augustine Road (Route 9), now a Delaware Scenic Byway. The property is bounded to the southeast by Route 9, to the northwest and southwest by land held by the Delaware Department of Transportation, and to the northeast by a single-family bungalow built in the mid-twentieth century. The Augustine Beach Hotel's setting remains largely undisturbed. The property possesses a high level of integrity for location, setting, feeling, design, materials, and workmanship dating to its early/late-nineteenth century period of significance.

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Narrative Description

The Augustine Beach Hotel is located just south of Port Penn, in St. Georges Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. St. Georges Hundred is bounded by the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal to the north, the Delaware River to the east, the Appoquinimink River to the south, Pencader Hundred, and the state of Maryland to the west. The primary façade of the Augustine Beach Hotel faces the Delaware River, reflecting its early-nineteenth-century relationship to water traffic. The 1971 Delaware Coastal Zone Act, designed to protect the natural environment from industrial use, indirectly preserves the Augustine Beach and the hotel's viewshed due to the current recreational use of the riverfront, which is now used for boating and fishing. The Augustine Beach Hotel retains its historic feeling as a coastal recreational space.

Southeast Elevation

The southeast elevation is the historic and current front of the building. It is comprised of two distinct building phases, including the Period I, two-and-a-half-story, six-bay, brick section (c. 1816) and the Period III, one-story, four-bay shingle-sheathed, frame dance hall addition (c. 1870). The first floor of the entire building stands 5 feet 10 inches off the ground. A full-length porch, one story with a hipped-roof, span, the entire Period I brick structure. Seven chamfered columns, with simple scrollwork upbraces, support the porch. Built-in wooden benches run between the porch posts in place of balusters. The porch sits on cement blocks, a change since the 1948 photograph of the hotel, where frame posts supported the porch. In 1948, the porch also wrapped around to the southwest elevation. There is only one door on the southeast elevation, located in the fourth bay from the south on the brick section. The door is a large, 6-light-over-3-wooden-panel door. There is no point of entry to the frame addition dance hall on the southeast elevation, but a door located on the porch, facing southwest provides entry into that space. The Period I brick structure, in addition to the one bay for a doorway, has five windows at the first story, while the Period III frame addition has four windows. The windows in the brick section are all new vinyl replacement windows, 12-over-12, double hung sash windows—all are shutterless, and have simple beveled blue-painted wooden trim. A circa 1948 photo shows a perspective view of the southeast and southwest elevations, and present at that time on the entire front elevation of the building were three-paneled wooden shutters. The frame addition has four, 6-over-6, double hung sash windows, with green-painted squared wooden trim. The window in the northernmost bay, is now 1-over-6, as the original top sash has been replaced. The roof of the frame addition is corrugated metal, and a stovepipe projects above the roofline.

The second floor of the brick structure is six bays. The fenestration pattern of the six openings aligns with that on the first story. Five of the six windows match the windows on the first floor, and are vinyl, 12-over-12, double-hung sash replacement windows, with beveled, blue-painted

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wooden trim. The window above the door has been reworked. A brick seam evident on the exterior shows that the window opening was once enclosed. The size of the window opening would have originally been the same as the other five windows. The current window is a smaller, vinyl, 9-over-9, double-hung sash replacement window. The roof is side gabled and clad in new asphalt shingles, and features two gabled dormers. They are placed between the second and third bays and the fourth and fifth bays from the south, and both have paired, side-sliding windows, totaling 20 lights each.

Northeast Elevation

The northeast elevation is comprised of the Period I, II, III and IV building phases. The triple gabled rooflines of the Period III frame dance hall addition dominate this façade, while the Period I brick dwelling rises two stories above it. To the northwest is the Period II and IV two-story, brick flounder service ell.

The frame dance hall addition, with three gables, lends the appearance of three separate structures attached side-to-side to form one continuous building. This is further punctuated by two downspouts between the sections. The first floor of the dance hall addition is raised over six feet. One door is present at the ground-level basement, in the center section of the triple gabled dance hall. It is a metal utility door, with metal trim. At the basement level, the center section is supported by brick piers, filled in by a cement block foundation, while the two flanking frame gable sections feature board and batten siding that skirts the basement level. The flounder service ell sits on a brick foundation.

The northeast elevation has six irregular bays across the frame dance hall, which is clad in cedar shakes, and the service ell has three irregularly spaced bays, all of which are currently boarded up. The gable ends of the one-story frame dance hall are also irregular in size, the first gable from the northeast is 22 feet 1 inch across, the center gable is 18 feet 5 inches, and the last gable end is 20 feet 5 inches across. Each section of the dance hall addition has two six-over-six, double-hung sash windows, of varying widths, heights, and configurations. All are framed with simple, squared wooden trim, and projecting wooden sills. Two wall mounted air conditioners project between the windows in the first and third sections. The first and second sections, the most northeasterly, feature square, louvered vents in the gable peaks. The flounder ell is comprised of two building phases. The Period II and Period IV brick additions now form a long, single ell to the northwest of the main block. At the ground level, three irregularly spaced (now enclosed) bays span the face of the flounder addition. Now filled and parged over in cement, the ghosts of these openings reveal (from southeast to northwest) a former window, a door, and an arched window. The seam between Period II and Period IV is evident between the first window and the door.

While the frame dance hall only reaches one story in height, the Period I brick structure is visible behind it. At the second story, across the Period I, III and IV building phases, are a total of six bays. Two recent nine-over-nine, vinyl, double hung sash windows are clustered together toward the middle of the Period I structure, both lighting interior bathroom spaces. Four windows are

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present across the rear service ell. The Period II addition features two, one-over-six, double hung sash windows, with the top sash replaced. The Period IV addition retains its original six-over-six, double hung sash windows, but they are damaged and in need of repair or replacement.

Only the Period I brick structure has an attic story. There are three modern, symmetrically placed six-over-six, vinyl double-hung sash windows, with simple wood frames, adorned with a more prominent lintel. Centrally placed above the three windows, in the peak of the gable, is a four-pane fanlight at the garret level.

Northwest Elevation

Visible on the northwest elevation are the Period III frame dance hall, the Period IV addition to the flounder service ell, and the Period I brick building. Across all three building phases, the elevation totals nine bays. The dance hall addition, which is clad in cedar shakes, is four bays at the first story. It features three windows, two of which are boarded up. The northeasternmost window is visible and is a six-over-six, double-hung sash. At the very southwesternmost end of the dance hall addition, abutting the brick rear ell, is a wooden, vertical plank door, with a wooden screen door. This doorway is accessed by a modern, plain wood stairway with rails. Like the other elevations of the dancehall addition, the first story is raised several feet and the basement level is covered in vertical board and batten skirting. The roof of the frame addition is of corrugated metal. The brick flounder addition is two stories, and features a sloping roofline from northeast to southwest. There is one bay on the flounder addition, likely a door, now filled and parged. Remnants of a wooden stairway leading up to the second floor are visible. The stairway is missing most of its treads, rendering the second floor space completely inaccessible. Nestled between and connecting the flounder ell to the Period I block, is a one-story Period V frame addition, clad in white painted plywood. The slope of the Period V addition follows the flounder ell, from the northeast to the southwest. At the time of documentation this space functioned as a kitchen for the restaurant. The first floor of the Period I building, like the other elevations, is raised almost 6 feet. Three windows are visible lighting the cellar, all of which have fixed 12-light windows. On the first floor are four bays. The northeastern most bay, closest to the Period V addition, has been enclosed with cement blocks. Now present is a much smaller single light window, providing light into an interior hallway. The following three bays are all nine-over-nine double hung sash vinyl replacement windows, with simple wooden trim.

Only the Period IV flounder ell, and the Period I structures have a second floor. A single wooden door is present on the flounder ell. The main brick block of the building has six irregularly spaced bays. Two windows are located at the northeastern end of the building, with a large space between the next four. The large space in the bays reflects the interior function. The staircase for the Hotel is located between these bays. All six bays are of the same height and width, and are all nine-over-nine double hung sash vinyl replacement windows. Like the front façade the rear elevation has two gabled-dormer windows located at the attic story. They are placed above the large space between the second and third bays and the third and fourth bays from the south, and both have paired, side-sliding windows, totaling 20 lights each.

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A large chimney pierces the roofline. It has a corbeled cap, and is now parged. It is located to the south of the second dormer window, between the fourth and fifth bay of the main brick building. This chimney is the only surviving chimney in the structure, interior evidence shows that there were at least four other chimneys, now removed. Two other stovepipe holes pierce the roofline as well.

Southwest Elevation

The southwest elevation is comprised of the Period I, II, IV, and V building phases. Across the entire façade there is a total of eight bays. The Period IV addition, the farthest to the west, has two bays, a window and a door, both filled and parged with cement. On the Period II addition, are three bays, reading window, door, and window from the west. Both windows are boarded with plywood. The door is functional, and is a replacement vinyl paneled door. The Period V frame and plywood kitchen addition has no bays. The main brick structure has three bays, reading window, door, window from the west. A new cement block stairway provides access to the doorway. The stairs are oriented to the front elevation facing northwest. Under this cement stairway are two bays. A metal utility door, located under the cement block stair, provides direct access to the basement. To the west of the door is a window now closed and parged in cement. On the first floor, the two windows flanking the central door are twelve-over-twelve double hung sash vinyl replacement windows. The width and height of these windows matches the windows on the front elevation. The less visible windows on the rear elevation are smaller than these two façades. The door is identical to the doorway on the front elevation, and is six-lights over three panels. Above the doorway is a five-light transom.

The Period II and IV flounder ell has five irregularly spaced bays. All five are windows, and are six-over-six double hung sash windows. The only exception is the window in the second bay from the west, it is now one-over-six, the top sash was replaced. On the Period I brick section there are three-symmetrically placed 12-over-12 windows double hung sash vinyl replacement windows, aligning with the bays below. In the attic story are three six-over-six double hung sash vinyl replacement windows, lighting two interior guest rooms, and the hallway. Centered above these three windows is a four-pane fanlight, lighting the garret space above the third floor.

Interior

First floor

The historic floor plan of the Hotel was as large and impressive as the exterior. A front to back hallway spans the entire width of the building, connecting the front entryway to the stairway. A long central hallway that runs longitudinally northeast to southwest bisects the entryway hallway, creating a capital T plan. The hallway configuration is the same as it was in 1816. The first floor boasted four private parlors, two on either side of the hallway, and two drinking and dining spaces to the northeast of the parlors. Each of these six rooms contained a fireplace providing heat to the space. An off-centered stairway, aligned with the front entryway, provides access to the second floor. This stairway is the only known stairway in the Period I block, and

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runs from the first floor all the way up to the third floor. Today, three of the parlors survive, while the fourth been divided into modern bathrooms. The two separate eating and drinking spaces have now been combined into one large barroom.

To the northeast of the now enlarged barroom, is the frame dance hall addition. The interior is one large open space, with a bar to the northwest, and a stage centered along the northeast wall. The two gabled ridges are supported by four posts running northeast to southwest. The posts are squared, and have pegged upbraces connecting to the longitudinal plate. Also pegged into the same posts are girts that run the opposite direction. A drop ceiling has been added, but the original roof material still remains. The dance hall retains its original hardwood floor.

Behind the current barroom, to the rear of the main block, is the brick service ell, connected by a one-story piazza or passageway. The brick service ell was once divided into two rooms, separated by a brick dividing wall with a chimney stack, all of which was removed sometime in the twentieth century. Today, this space is used as kitchen-prep space, and it was most likely the historic function as well, with accompanying service space.

Second floor

The second floor plan mirrored the first in some respects, with the same T-plan hallways and large private rooms above each of the parlors. Above the parlors on the northwest side of the hotel there are two private chambers, each with their own source of heat. However on the northeast side the space was divided into three smaller rooms, instead of two larger chambers. Two of the three rooms had their own source of heat, while the northern most room that abuts the stair hall way was unheated. Above the barroom on the northeast side of the stair hall are two sets of four rooms, eight rooms in total. Six of these rooms served as chambers, while the remaining two rooms served as antechambers. All eight rooms are of varying sizes. Today, three bathrooms are located contiguously along the northeast exterior wall, running from the northeast corner to the northwest, which replaced early chamber rooms.

There is no interior access between the rear service ell, and the main block of the building on the second floor. At the time of documentation no access point existed to the second floor of the service ell, so the interior of the space is unknown. But most likely this space historically functioned as servant's quarters.

Third floor

The third floor of the Period I block provided additional lodging space for guests of more limited means or for servants traveling with other guests. The rooms on the third floor were smaller, and less elaborate than the guest accommodations on the second floor, with no heat source and light coming only from shared dormer windows. The staircase opened into central hall running the length of the building, with windows at each end of the hall. Seven rooms open off the east side of the hall, and four off the west side. The rooms were finished with lath and plaster. Several of

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the partition walls have been removed during the recent construction work, but the plan remains clear. There are no bathrooms located on the third floor.

Above the third floor is a garret space, lit by the exterior fanlights in the gabled ends. The only access to this space is a hatch in the ceiling of the third floor hallway.

Cellar

An exterior door in the southwest elevation of the Period I block opens into a full cellar, with a connecting passage to the cellar under the Period II addition. There are no interior staircases in the Period I, II or IV blocks that access the cellar. An exterior staircase, now removed, lead down from the exterior work yard down into the indoor springhouse in the Period I section. A separate cellar lies below the Period III frame dance hall, but there is no access between that cellar and the two earlier blocks. Instead the later cellar is accessed either through a stair on the southwest wall leading down from the dance hall or by an exterior door in the northeast elevation of the dance hall.

The Period I cellar is divided into three distinct sections of varying sizes. A brick wall with large arches supports the fireplaces of the private parlors, while a second brick load-bearing wall supports the wall along the north side of the entry hall and stair passage. At the time of documentation, the northwest end of the central room contained a sunken brick-lined floor, which allowed the space to serve as an internal springhouse. A shallow drain ran from the brick-lined floor along the west wall from the cellar of the service ell, allowing the water to cool the sunken floor. This feature has now been removed. The walls of the main block of the cellar are all white-washed, and large windows on the east and west exterior walls allowed plenty of light into the cellar to support domestic activities. Today all of the exterior windows have been covered and parged with concrete.

A door in the north end of the west wall opens into a small brick-lined cellar under the Period V piazza or passageway. The present configuration on the first floor is a recent adaptation, but the cellar underneath it is much older and provides access to the full cellar under the service wing. A large brick relieving arch supports the northwestern wall, and a stack likely would have been present on the floors above, but has since been removed.

There is no interior access between the main brick structure cellar and that of the dance hall. The cellar under the dance hall is mostly one large space, with two smaller rooms subdivided from the main space, in the northwest corner of the building. The space is large and open. Joists supporting the first floor are reinforced by large wooden posts on brick piers and two interior brick walls that run northwest to southeast. Besides the brick support walls, the rest of the walls are finished in lath and plaster.

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Integrity

The Augustine Beach Hotel retains a high level of historic integrity for location, setting, feeling, design, materials, and workmanship. Since its construction in the early nineteenth century, few material changes have occurred. Some interior alterations have been carried out to keep the structure functional as a modern-day bar and restaurant. Additionally large alterations, like that of the circa 1870 dance hall addition, occurred during the period of significance, and only bolstered the hotel's popularity. Thus the Hotel retains integrity for design, materials, and workmanship to its period of significance. Due to the protection of Delaware's bayshore coastline, the location, feeling and setting of the Augustine Beach Hotel have been altered only minimally.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

Period of Significance
1867-1963

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Augustine Beach Hotel is eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places under criterion A at the local level as a highly significant and rare surviving example of a nineteenth century beachfront recreational and commercial site in eastern Delaware. Initially constructed in 1816 as a hotel, by the late 1800s the Augustine Beach Hotel was the centerpiece of a large, bustling resort complex that included a hotel, dance hall, bathhouses, a beach, wharf, and piers. While the resort at Augustine was popular with locals, this water-oriented tourist destination also attracted droves of vacationers from Philadelphia via steamboat. The Augustine Beach Hotel represents an era when the Delaware River functioned as a commercial and recreational waterway, and when northern Delaware coastal communities looked to the water and its associated leisure activities for economic sustenance. After two centuries, the Augustine Beach Hotel (today called the Augustine Inn) continues its nearly uninterrupted association with recreation and hospitality, functioning as bar and restaurant along the Bayshore Byway. The period of significance for the Augustine Beach Hotel ranges from 1867 (the year Simeon Lord purchased the property) to 1963 (the year when the hotel building was separated from the waterfront portion of the property across the road).

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Property History

The builder of the Augustine Beach Hotel, Adam Diehl, arrived in the Port Penn vicinity in the late 1790s. In partnership with William Guier, a merchant in Philadelphia, Diehl first rented and then purchased land from the heirs of Peter Alrichs, located along the Delaware River, just south of Port Penn near Augustine Creek. Through the first decade of the 1800s, Diehl operated a highly successful large-scale beef cattle farm, grazing his cattle on the marsh meadows of his 140-acre farm and then shipping them to Philadelphia for Guier to sell at market. In 1804, the two men owned an astounding \$14,000 of livestock, demonstrating the scale of their operation.¹ By 1816, however, the partnership seems to have dissolved and Guier sold his share of the land

¹ New Castle County Tax Assessment (hereafter NCCTA), St. Georges Hundred, 1803- 1804, Adam Diehl and William Guier; NCCTA, St. Georges Hundred, 1816, for Adam Diehl; New Castle County Recorder of Deeds (hereafter NCCRD), James Jameson to William Guier and Adam Diehl, I-3-392, 1810; NCCRD, John Alrichs to Adam Diehl, I-3-506, 1811; NCCRD, William Guier to Adam Diehl, R-3-249; Scharf, J. Thomas, *History of Delaware: 1609-1888*, L. J. Richards & Co.: Philadelphia, 1888, p. 993.

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to Diehl. By this time, Diehl had constructed the “large brick house” that would serve as a hotel, restaurant, and bar to customers for the next two centuries.²

Diehl owned the hotel until 1837, when he sold it to Samuel Pedrick. Pedrick operated the hotel for about twenty years, until his debts forced a sheriff’s sale to Woodward Warrick, a resident of Gloucester County, New Jersey, just across the Delaware River from the hotel. Warrick never occupied the property, but likely hired a manager or rented it out. In 1864, he sold it to Jonathan Draper, who held on to it for only three years before selling to Simeon Lord, a hotelkeeper from Philadelphia who envisioned a grander future for the Augustine Beach Hotel.³

Simeon Lord invested significantly in the Augustine Beach Hotel. According to Thomas Scharf’s 1888 *History of Delaware*, Lord built 100 bath houses on the beach to entice tourists, as well as adding a dance pavilion (the one-story frame addition on the north end of the hotel) and renovating the dining room. He may have been the one to remove the walls of the entry hall and those between the two northern rooms, to create the current large open space on the first floor. All of Lord’s efforts were tied to a plan to bring city-dwellers out to the resort by steamboat from Philadelphia and Wilmington. Lord, and later his son, also Simeon Lord, ran the hotel until 1893, when he sold it to James H. Gam.⁴

From the late nineteenth century through the twentieth century, the property passed through several owners, all of whom tried, with varying levels of success, to operate the hotel and resort. By the 1940s, the establishment was described as a “taproom,” and from that point forward the various owners limited their services to food and alcohol, rather than renting rooms.⁵

In late 2011, following the death of the most recent owner, a local resident, Albert Rossi, purchased the property and renovated the structure. The Augustine Beach Hotel has reopened again, as a bar and restaurant, under the name Augustine Inn, serving locals as well as travelers patronizing the Delaware Bay’s coastal roadways.

Entertainment and Recreation along the Delaware River

During the mid-19th century the Augustine Beach Hotel emerged as a tourist and recreational destination. This development reflects much broader trend of increased tourism and leisure

² NCCTA, St. Georges Hundred, 1816, Adam Diehl.

³ NCCRD, Adam Diehl to Samuel Pedrick, X-4-390, 1837; NCCRD, Woodward Warrick to Jonathan Draper, Z-7-195; NCCRD, Jonathan Draper to Simeon Lord Jr., M-8-465, 1864.

⁴ NCCRD, Simeon Lord to James H.S. Gam, R-16-20, 1894.

⁵ From 1929 to 1945 the Augustine Beach Hotel was owned by the Augustine Beach Land Company (NCCRD X-36-542, and L-45-543. Tommy Taxis purchased the property from the Augustine Beach Hotel, and he and his widow, Viola, operated the hotel until 1957 (NCCRD Q-59-569). The Augustine Beach Hotel, Inc. purchased the property in 1957. They operated the hotel for almost 6 years, when it went to Sheriff Sale in 1963 (NCCRD X-71-420).

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activities in the United States during the mid-1800s. Facilitated by a new market oriented economy, an increase in wage-labor, and widespread improvements in transportation, even the working class joined the growing ranks of Americans who traveled by improved roads, canals, railroads, and steamboats to pursue recreational activities.

The urban inhabitants of Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), Camden (New Jersey), and Wilmington (Delaware) capitalized on the water oriented economy of the Delaware River, and added recreation as a maritime activity. With boats leaving these urban centers daily, steamships sailed up and down the Delaware to destination resorts like Pennsgrove, (New Jersey), Augustine Beach (Delaware), and Woodland Beach (Delaware). Other destinations of interest developed further south of Woodland Beach as well, Rehoboth Beach (Delaware), and Bethany Beach (Delaware). These southern coastal destinations become popular later in the Victorian era.

In 1888, Thomas Scharf described the “St. Augustine Piers” as a “famous summer resort and picnic-grounds.”⁶ At the time, the business was “conducted as a hotel” and enjoyed a “good summer patronage.”⁷ This was written at perhaps the peak of the Augustine Hotel’s success as a recreational destination and “a social center” of the region.⁸ Though the hotel was first built in 1816, it was not until after the Civil War, in 1868, that Simeon Lord purchased the property and significantly expanded and enhanced its leisure amenities. After twenty years of owning the property, Lord could boast of some major improvements to the St. Augustine operation. These included a new dining room and a barroom in the hotel, the addition of a large dancing pavilion as a wing to the hotel, the building of a new wharf, and the erection of 100 beachside bath houses. As a result, the Augustine Hotel was the centerpiece of a “pleasuring ground” that was “crowded on summer week-ends” by local “farm families” as well as “excursionists” from Philadelphia.⁹

While local traffic arrived via “buggies, double-carriages, and dearborns,” many waterborne travelers arrived to the Augustine piers via the *Thomas Clyde*, a side-paddle steamship from Philadelphia.¹⁰ Though it is unclear when the *Thomas Clyde* began its passenger service to the Augustine resort, it may have been just after it was built in 1878.¹¹ A late-nineteenth-century advertising trade card for the *Thomas Clyde*, which proclaimed it “Philadelphia’s Favorite Excursion Steamer,” advertised its service to “the people’s favorite excursion grounds,” which included Pennsgrove (New Jersey), Augustine Pier, and Woodland Beach (east of Smyrna)—a total of “120 miles for 50 cents.”¹²

⁶ Scharf, 993.

⁷ Scharf 993.

⁸ Delaware; A Guide to the First State, 1938.

⁹ Delaware; A Guide to the First State, 1938.

¹⁰ Delaware; A Guide to the First State, 1938.

¹¹ DelDOT Report.

¹² Advertising Trade Card, “Philadelphia’s Favorite Excursion Steamer, Thos. Clyde.”

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By the late 1930s, the Augustine Beach, locally called “The Piers” at the time, had declined significantly. The *Thomas Clyde* stopped running in the 1920s, which precipitated or exacerbated the waning of the Augustine Beach as a favorite regional destination. In 1938, a travel guide noted that “the pier is wrecked” and that “empty amusement buildings stand in the shade of the large grove of trees.”¹³

However, if the Augustine complex had ceased to be a popular regional attraction, the hotel was clearly still an important local institution. The Augustine resort was still in business and serving as a popular daytime hangout for local youth, who came “to bathe at high tide in the shallow brackish water, using the bath houses for hire at the water’s edge.”¹⁴ The hotel was also a local center of nightlife entertainment, as locals came to attend “impromptu dances in the old dance hall and drink beer in the large brick hotel.”¹⁵ The site hosted an annual Farmer’s Day Picnic in the late summer, which attracted politicians who were campaigning during election years.¹⁶

Conclusion

The decline of the Augustine Beach Hotel’s associated resort complex seems to have been very gradual, but by the time of the hotel’s sale in 1963, the parcel no longer included its important beachfront property across the street. This change marks a definitive severance of the hotel building from its long association with the recreational waterfront of the Delaware River. However, for a century and a half, the owners of the Augustine Beach Hotel capitalized on its strategic location along the Delaware Bay, relying primarily on water transportation for its source of patronage and business.

Along Delaware’s coast, other early hotels associated with the Delaware River came and went. Locally, in 1822, there were five hotels in Port Penn, alone, but by 1888, the number had dwindled to just one.¹⁷ In historic Odessa, south of Port Penn an 1822 brick hotel known as Cantwell’s Tavern (listed in the NRHP – Odessa Historic District in 1984) survives and in nearby Delaware City, two nineteenth-century hotels survive, but these post-date the construction of the Augustine Beach Hotel. In short, few historic resources survive from Delaware’s thriving, nineteenth century, maritime tourist industry. The Augustine Beach Hotel stands as a rare surviving centerpiece of a popular beach resort, representing a formerly bustling, vibrant, recreational institution of regional significance.

¹³ Delaware; A Guide to the First State, 1938.

¹⁴ Delaware; A Guide to the First State, 1938.

¹⁵ Delaware; A Guide to the First State, 1938.

¹⁶ Delaware; A Guide to the First State, 1938.

¹⁷ Scharf 1011.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Beers' Atlas of Delaware, 1868. Pomeroy and Beers, Philadelphia, 1868.

Delaware Historical Society, Photo Collections.

New Castle County Probate Records, Delaware Public Archives.

New Castle County Orphans Court Records, 1740-1900; Delaware Public Archives.

New Castle County Recorder of Deeds, Delaware Public Archives.

New Castle County Tax Assessments, Delaware Public Archives.

Scharf, J. Thomas., History of Delaware: 1609-1888, L. J. Richards & Co.: Philadelphia, 1888.

United States Population Census, manuscript returns, 1800-1930.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DE CRS# N00150

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.0

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 39.51656 | Longitude: -75.609322 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The proposed boundary for the Augustine Beach Hotel contains 1.0 acres, bounded to the southeast by St. Augustine Road, to the northeast by a residential parcel (NCC Tax Parcel # 1301500002), to the northwest, and southwest by a 22.1 acre parcel of state owned undeveloped land (NCC Tax Parcel #1301500001).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries describe the current tax parcel associated with the Augustine Beach Hotel.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Catherine Morrissey, Michael J. Emmons, Jr., & Rebecca Sheppard
organization: Center for Historic Architecture and Design-University of Delaware
street & number: 331 Alison Hall, Academy Street
city or town: Newark state: Delaware zip code: 19702
e-mail cmorriss@udel.edu, rjshep@udel.edu
telephone: (302) 831-8097
date: June 15, 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

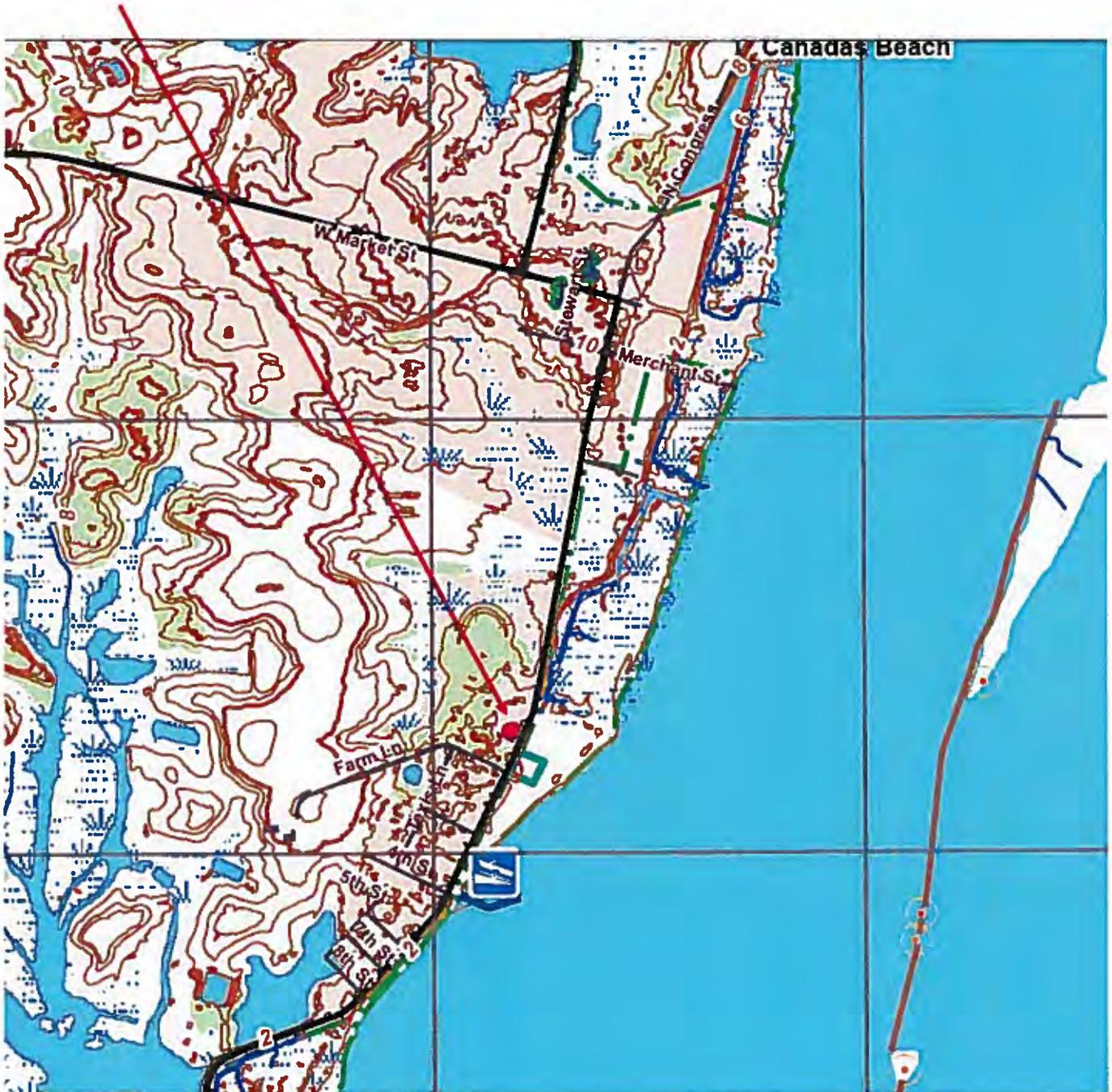
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USGS Quad Map 7.5 Minute Series "Delaware City"

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1868 Beers Atlas Map- Saint Georges Hundred

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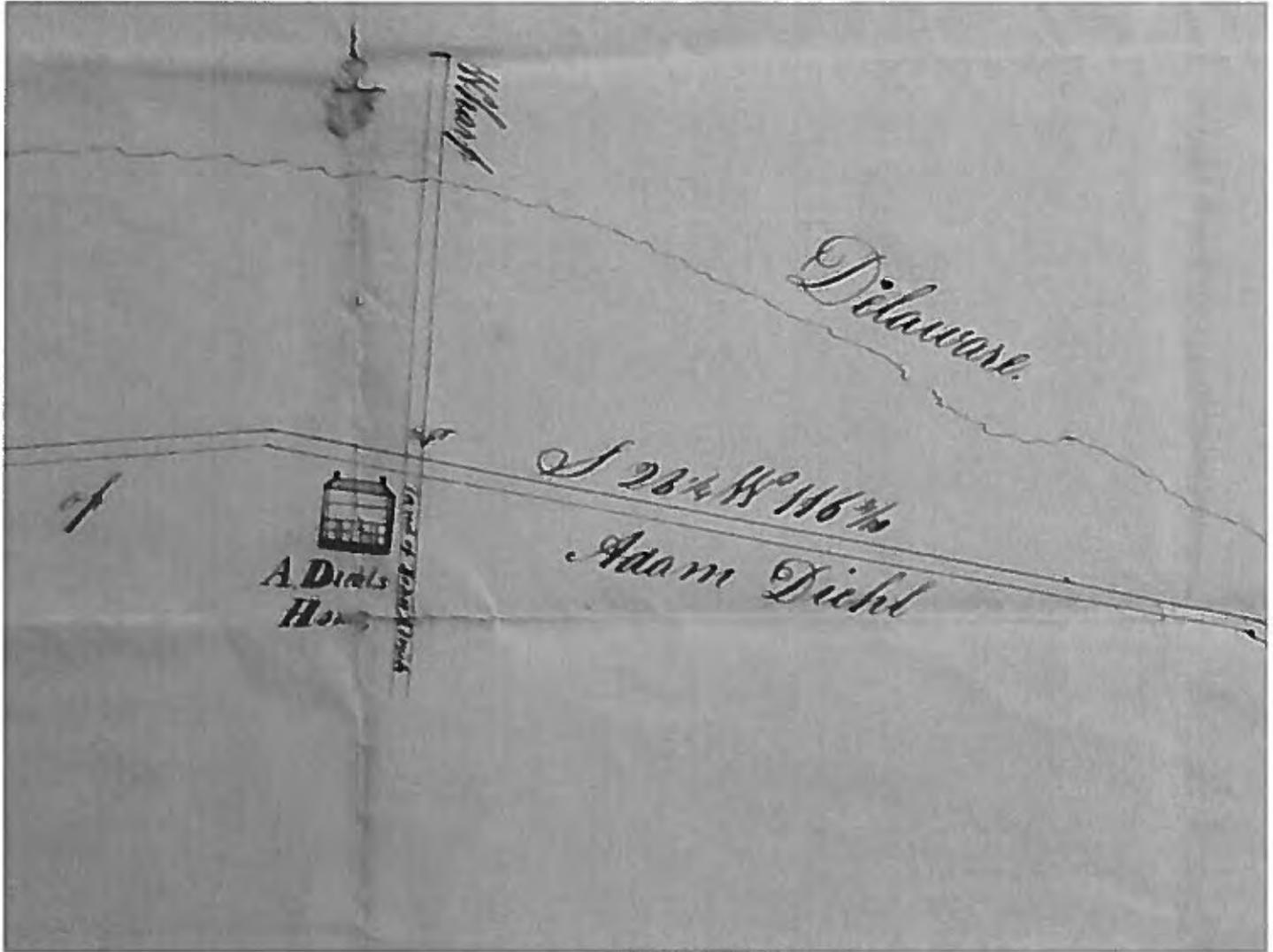
Modern Tax Parcel Map- Augustine Beach Hotel Parcel # 1301500003 Highlighted in Red



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1826 Road Paper "Road from Port Penn South to Augustine Causeway," Augustine Beach Hotel depicted
"A. Deihls House"



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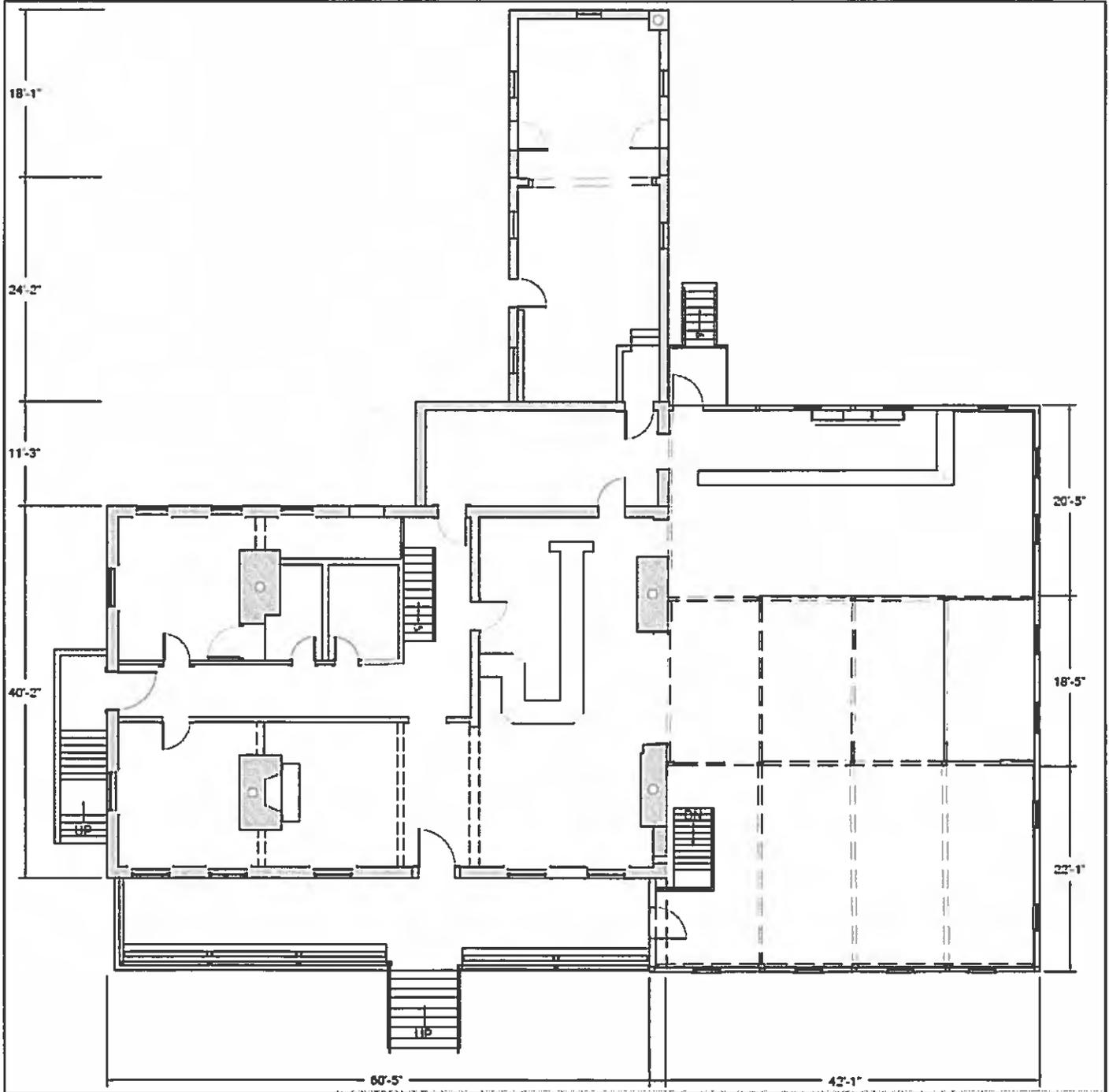
Historic Photo of the Augustine Beach Hotel circa 1940 (Courtesy of Delaware Historical Society)



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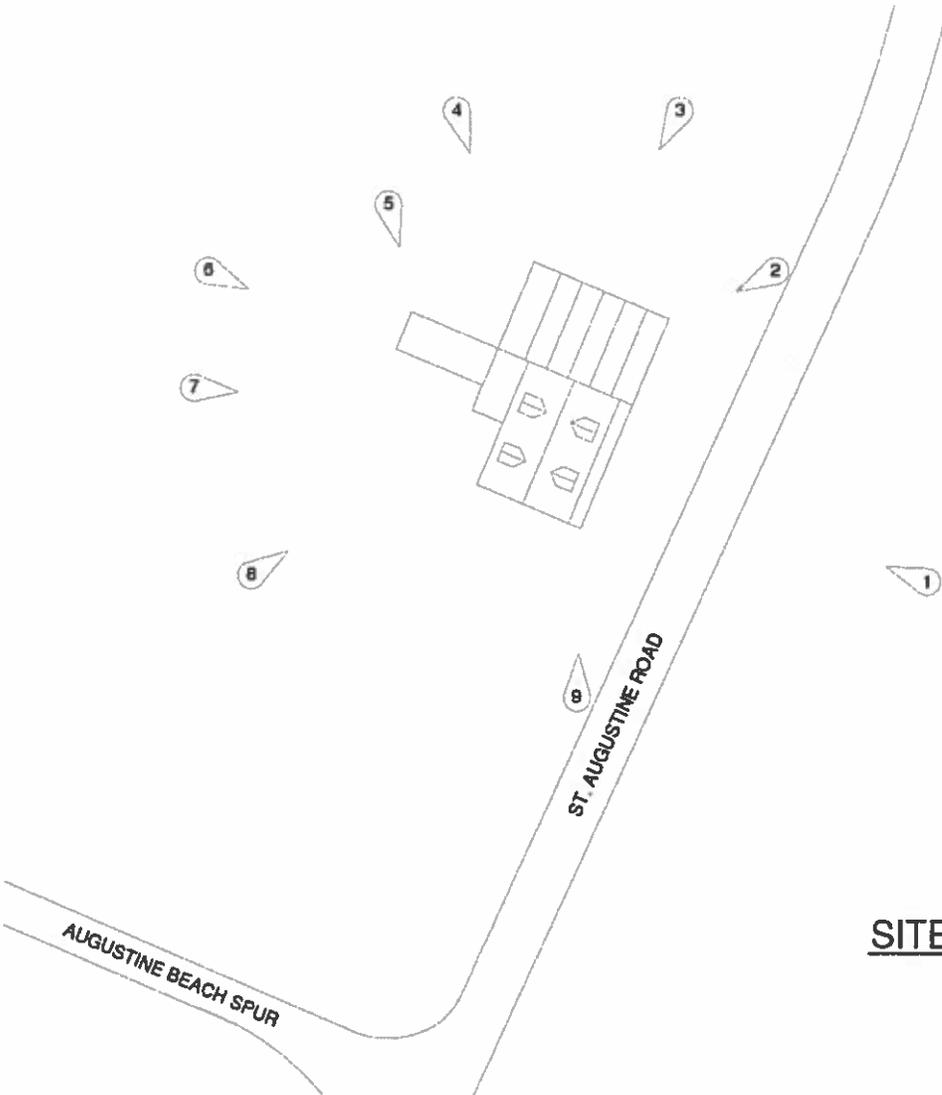
First Floor Plan (Drawn by: Laura Keeley)



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Sketch Map, Exterior Photo Key



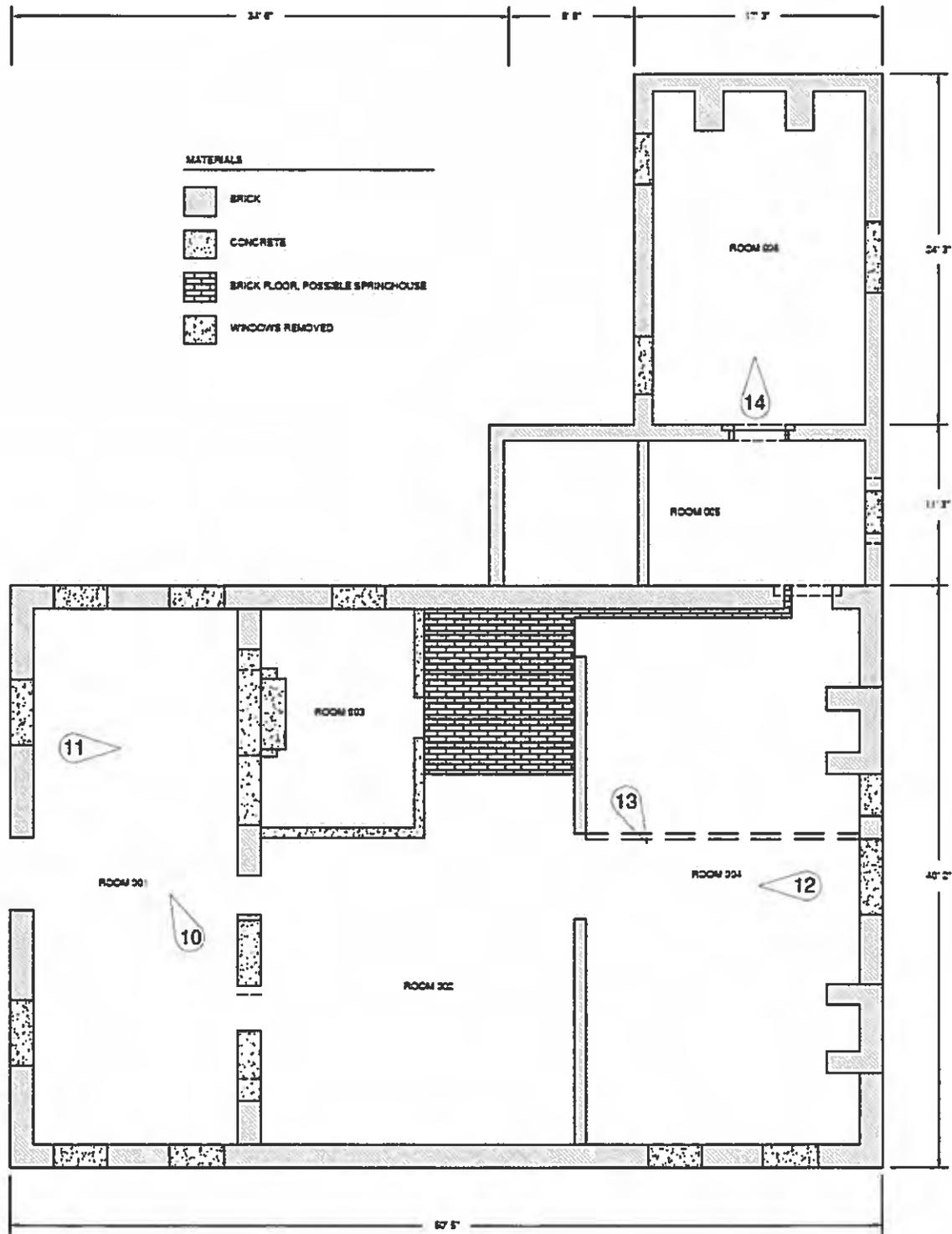
SITE PLAN PHOTO KEY



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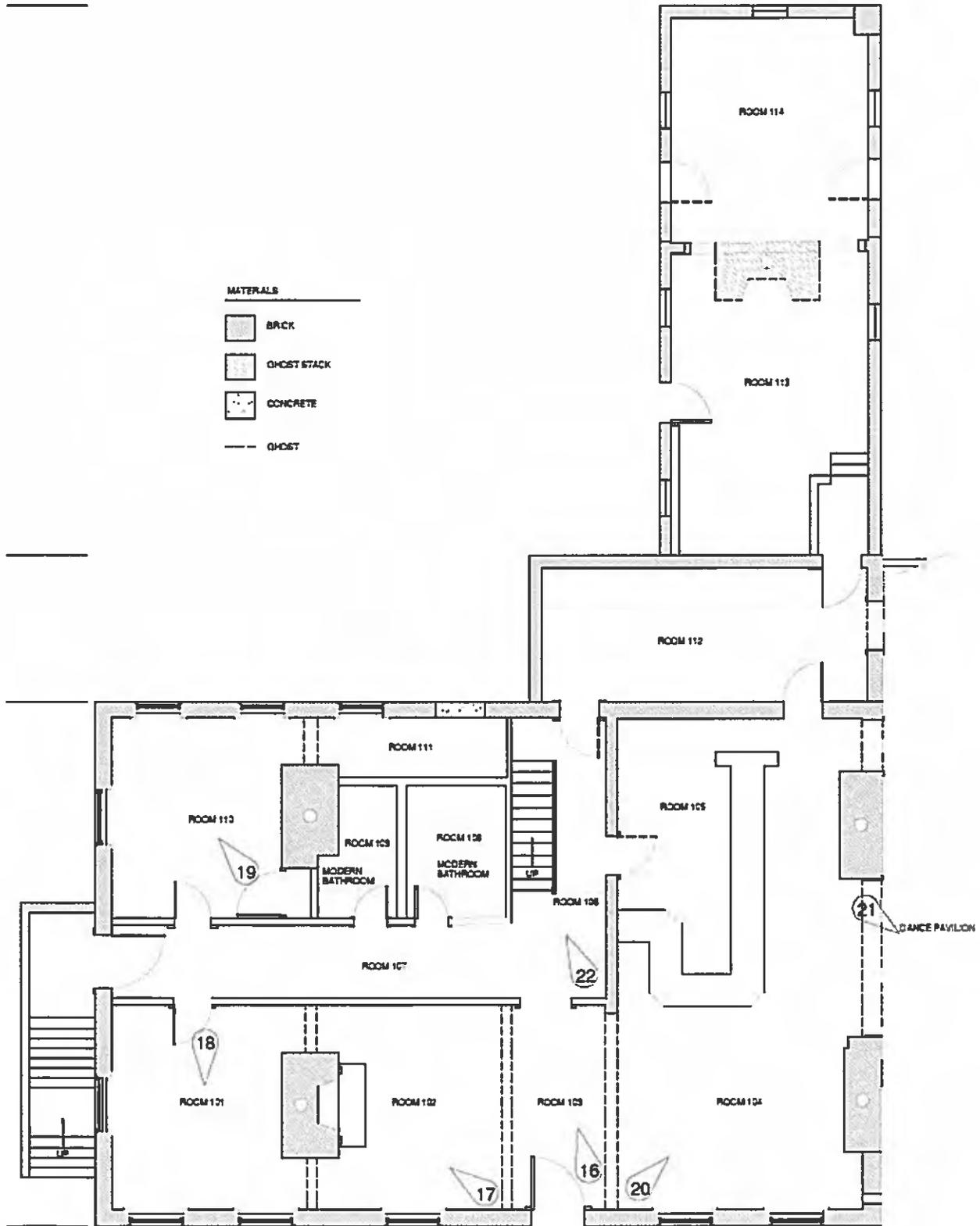
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Cellar Photo Key



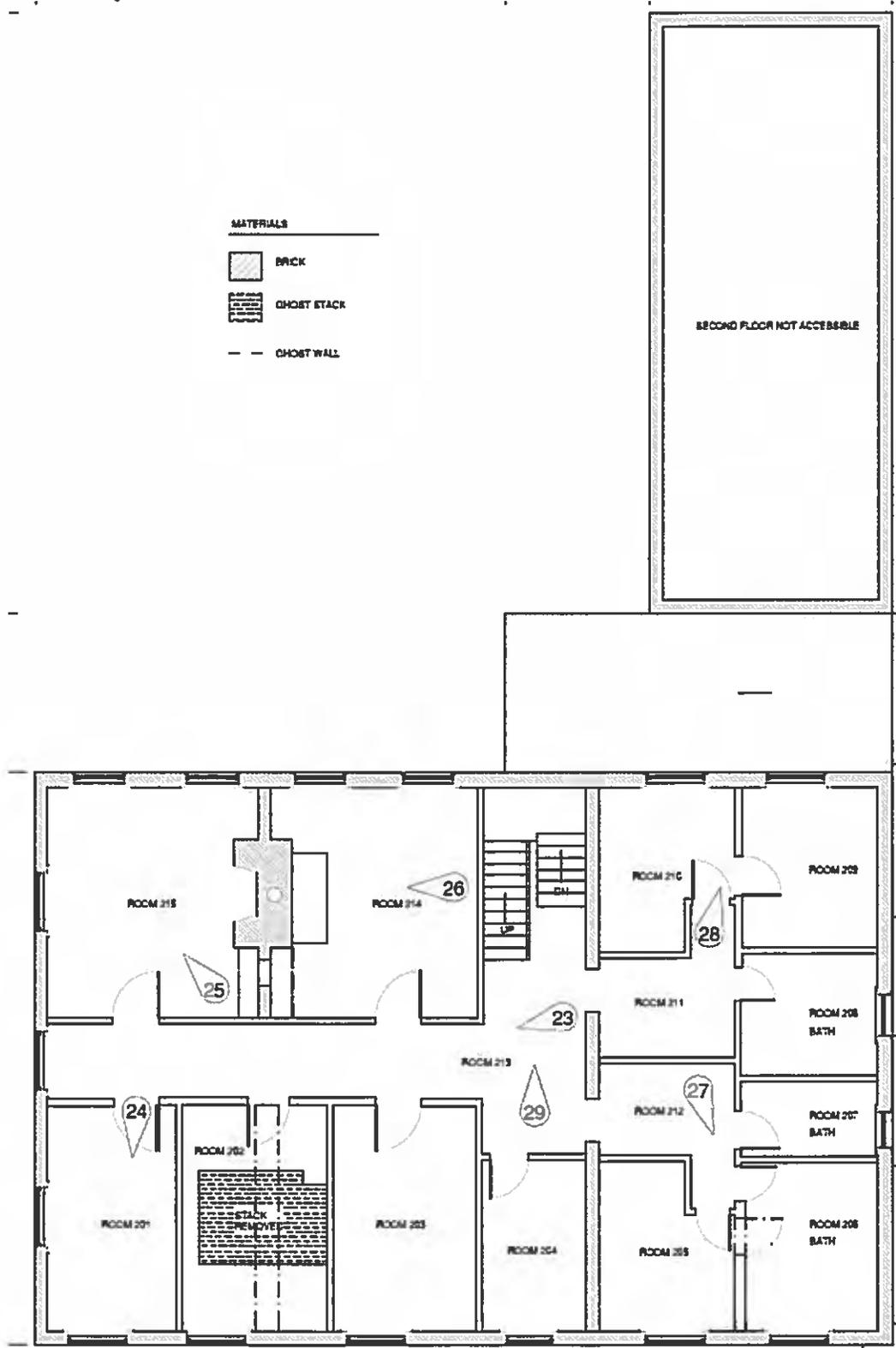
Augustine Beach Hotel
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First Floor Photo Key

New Castle County,
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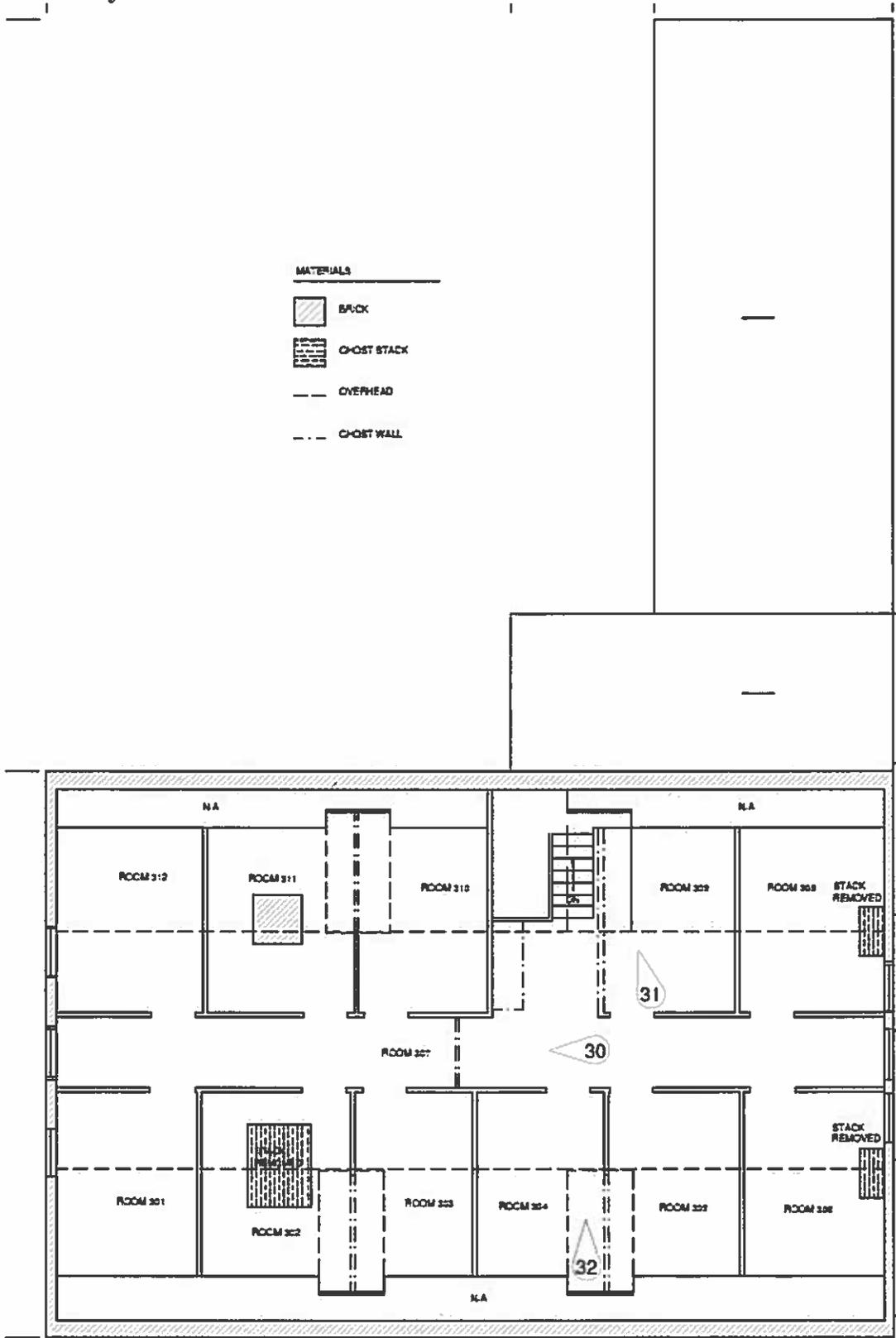
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Augustine Beach Hotel
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Second Floor Photo Key



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Augustine Beach Hotel
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Third Floor Photo Key



Augustine Beach Hotel
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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Augustine Beach Hotel

City or Vicinity: Port Penn

County: New Castle

State: Delaware

Photographer: Tim Pouch, Laura Keeley, and Catherine Morrissey

Date Photographed: January-March 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
View of Southeast (Front) Elevation of Building; Dance Pavilion Appears to the Right of the Image;
Facing Northwest

Photo 2 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
View of East Perspective of Building; Showing Southeast and Northeast Elevations; Facing West

Photo 3 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
View of Northeast Elevation of Building; Facing Southwest

Photo 4 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
View of Northeast Façade of Building; Facing South

Photo 5 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
View of North Perspective of Northwest Wing; Facing South

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Photo 6 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
View of Northeast Elevation of Building; Facing Southwest

Photo 7 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
View of Northeast Façades of Both the Northwest Ell and the Main Wing of Hotel, as well as Southeast façade of Northwest Ell; Facing East.

Photo 8 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
View of West Perspective of Building; Facing East.

Photo 9 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
View of South Perspective of Building; Facing North.

Photo 10 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Cellar; View of Room 001, Showing Bulkhead Entrance and Basement Windows;
Facing Northwest.

Photo 11 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Cellar; View of Room 001, Showing Evidence of Partially-Filled Brick Archway;
Facing Northeast.

Photo 12 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Cellar; View of Room 004, Showing Brick Archway; Facing Southwest.

Photo 13 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Cellar; View of Room 004, Showing Stack Arch and Filled Basement Lights; Facing East.

Photo 14 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Cellar; View of Room 006, Showing Stack Arch; Facing Northwest.

Photo 15 of 33:

DE_New Castle County_Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Cellar of Dance Pavilion, Showing Structural System; Facing North.

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Photo 16 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; First Floor; View of Room 103, Showing Evidence of Foyer and Stairwell; Facing Northwest

Photo 17 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; First Floor; View of Room 102, Showing 19th Century Mantle, Wainscoting and Chair Rail; Facing West.

Photo 18 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; First Floor; View of Room 101; Facing Southeast.

Photo 19 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; First Floor; View of Room 102; Facing West.

Photo 20 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; First Floor; View of Room 104, Showing 19th Century Bar Room and Entrance to Dance Pavilion; Facing North.

Photo 21 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; First Floor; View of Dance Pavilion; Facing East.

Photo 22 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; First Floor; View of Room 106, Showing Stairwell; Facing West.

Photo 23 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Second Floor; View of Room 213, Showing Stair Landing and Passage; Facing Southwest.

Photo 24 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Second Floor; View of Room 201; Facing Southeast.

Photo 25 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Second Floor; View of Room 215; Facing West.

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Photo 26 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Second Floor; View of Room 101, Showing Stack; Facing Southwest.

Photo 27 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Second Floor; Standing in Room 212, Looking Into Rooms 205, 206 and 207; Facing East.

Photo 28 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Second Floor; Standing in Room 211, Looking Into Rooms 210 and 109; Facing Northwest.

Photo 29 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior, Second Floor, View of Room 213, Showing Stairwell; Facing Northwest.

Photo 30 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Third Floor; View of Room 307, Showing Passage to Guest Rooms, Facing Southwest.

Photo 31 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Third Floor; View of Room 309, Showing Stair Landing, Dormer, and Evidence of Partition Wall; Facing Northwest.

Photo 32 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Third Floor; Standing in Dormer between Rooms 304 and 305, Showing Partition Walls and Lighting Systems, Facing Northwest.

Photo 33 of 33:

DE New Castle County Augustine Beach Hotel
Building Interior; Attic of Main Hotel Wing; Showing Roof Framing and Attic Fan Light; Facing Northeast.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



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