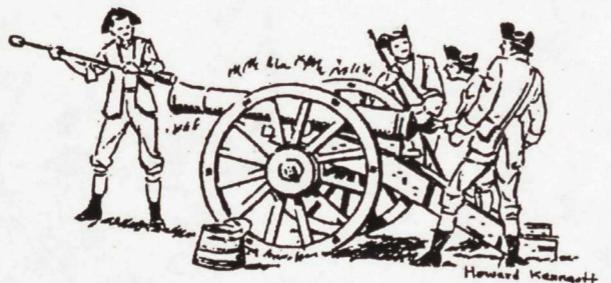


COASTAL DEFENSE

During the Revolutionary War, the inlets and harbors of the coast were the sites of skirmishes between British and American ships. In Port Republic, a marker commemorates the town of Chestnut Neck, burned in retaliation for the many privateers who used the harbor to dart out, surprise and then capture British ships. In another example, the American brig Nancy, carrying arms and powder near Cape May, was boarded by the British, but exploded before they could confiscate her valuable cargo. The strategic importance

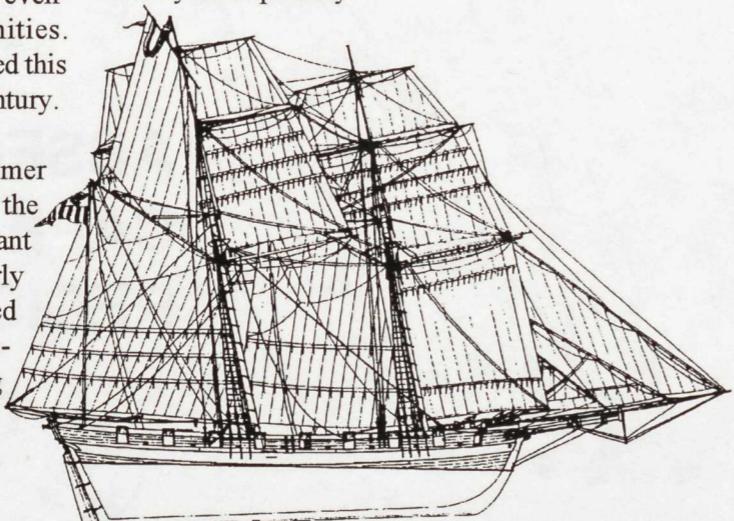
of the Cape was underlined again during WWII by a gun battery built by the army to guard against attack. The Cape May Canal was built to give Navy ships safe passage from the bay to the ocean without having to face possible danger from enemy submarines.



INDUSTRY AND TRADE

During the seventeenth century, the Cape May area had a thriving whaling industry. At first, whalers used the area seasonally, but they eventually settled into year-round communities. Overhunting of cow whales effectively ended this profitable venture by the mid-eighteenth century.

The Lenni Lenape used the coast as summer fishing grounds. Tradition holds that on the island of Brigantine they used the abundant clam shells to make wampum. By the early nineteenth century, coastal settlements relied on fishing and the related industry of shipbuilding. As far inland as Mays Landing and Tuckahoe, boats were built along tidal streams and floated down to the bay and ocean. A large supply of good lumber supported this widespread industry.



New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail

ABSECON & CAPE MAY REGIONS MARITIME HISTORY

The maritime heritage of the New Jersey coast is rooted in the interdependent stories of trade, navigation and defense. The resources of the ocean, bays, adjacent rivers and tributaries supported the fishing trades, which in turn sustained boat building and related industries. Navigable waterways and protected harbors encouraged inter-city commerce. Lighthouses were built to warn mariners of hazards to their ships and prevent loss of crew and cargo. Defense of port cities ensured that maritime trade would continue.

As you explore the CAPE MAY and ABSECON REGIONS of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, you will discover reminders of the past and contemporary examples of our maritime heritage.



AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Lighthouses on the Atlantic coast guided ships along the busy, but dangerous, shoreline. Absecon and Cape May Lighthouses directed ships north to New York City and south to the Delaware Bay for the journey to Philadelphia. Smaller lighthouses, such as Hereford Lighthouse, warned of shoals and marked openings to safe harbors.

Sometimes lighthouses were unsuccessful in warning ships. By the 1890's the United States Life Saving Service had constructed stations all along the Atlantic seaboard, with one every 3½ miles along

the New Jersey coast. Stations contained crews and equipment to rescue shipwreck victims. Today, the Coast Guard performs this function, and in many places has replaced Life Saving Service buildings with modern structures. As you drive along coastal roads, the distinctive shape of nineteenth century Life Saving Service Stations can still be seen; now often private homes or offices.



List of Sites, Points of Interest and Welcome Centers - Maritime Theme - New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail

★ Regional Welcome Centers are full service sites offering trail and regional orientation, NJCHT exhibits, video and brochures and are open at least 5 days a week, including weekends.

◆ Sites have staff, exhibits, restrooms and are open at least 5 hours per day, 5 days per week including one weekend day. Open regular hours with full services.

□ Sites are open less frequently and/or have limited services.

○ A Point of Interest is a scenic view or site with an interpretive wayside exhibit explaining its relevance to the Maritime History Theme. These areas are generally not staffed and have no services. Interpretive exhibits for most will be developed sometime during the winter and spring of 1993-94.

Absecon and Cape May Regions

Atlantic County:

- 1. U.S. Coast Guard Station, Atlantic City
- 2. Farley State Marina, Atlantic City

Cape May County:

- ★ 3. Ocean View Service Area, Garden State Parkway (Interim Welcome Center)
- 4. Cape May Point Lighthouse
- 5. Hereford Inlet Lighthouse
- 6. Hereford Inlet, New Jersey Marine Police Building

KEY:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| | Regional Welcome Center |
| | State Road |
| | County Road |
| | NJCHT Regional Border |
| | Maritime Site |

The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail is being developed cooperatively by the National Park Service, the State of New Jersey, and many organizations working to preserve the State's natural and cultural heritage. The trail is still growing - as new sites are added, they will be identified by the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail logo.

For further information contact: New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism, CN 826, Trenton, New Jersey 08625 or National Park Service, New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, P.O. Box 118, Mauritius, New Jersey 08329.



New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail REGIONS