THE CREES- QUAY HOUSE

The Quay House was built in 1825 by John Turner. The house was constructed in the typical manner of the time, with handmade nails made by a local blacksmith and using wooden pegs to join beams. It was built originally for Thomas Cocks Crees, his wife Catherine and their children. Cress came to the township in 1822 to start a charcoal burning business on Egg Harbor Road. The house was eventually sold to

Charles Quay, Sr and his wife, Ella Richards Quay. The family lived in this house until the 1920s. Charles Quay Jr. was born in the house in 1897. He was one of the founders of the Township Historic Society and was influential in the development of the village.

The house has four small fireplaces used for heating in most rooms and for cooking in the kitchen. As the present fireplace is small, it is possible a larger cooking hearth may have been built on the outside of the building. The fireplaces in the bedrooms had built-in box seats on each side to store logs and kindling. Some of the siding on the house is original, though much has been replaced. The upstairs floors are now stripped to the framing.

Construction of the house is with wooden mortise and tennon construction and nails handmade in a local blacksmith shop. Stairs are connected through the tongue and groove method.

In the living room of the Quay House are artifacts from the first residents of Washington Township, the Lenni Lenape natives. These first residents had encampments around many of our township lakes and farmers often found arrow heads, axe heads and the like as the plowed their fields. Those here are from Charles Quay’s collection.

While the Quay house does include many of its original clapboards, other areas of the home have either been stripped, as in the upper stories, or replaced, such as the floors and windows. The future for this house will need to include extensive historic research and replacement with materials and methods suitable to its times.