

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: 409727179

Property Name: Chalfonte Hotel
Address: 301-309 Howard AVE

Ownership: Private
Apartment #: ZIP: 08204

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
CAPE_MAY	Cape May		Cape May	1071	7
CAPE_MAY	Cape May		Cape May	1071	8
CAPE_MAY	Cape May		Cape May	1071	9

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number: NJ-743

Description:

This hotel complex is made up of several buildings including the main hotel building, a Foursquare at 309 Howard Street, a two-story, late 19th-century dwelling at 480 Franklin Street, and a 2 1/2-story Gothic Revival staff house on Sewell Avenue. This old-fashioned hotel constructed with simplicity and style is the last remaining large hotel of this type in Cape May. Full descriptions of each major building can be found on the Building Attachments, and the building's history is located on the Eligibility Worksheet.

Setting:

301 Howard Street: The main hotel building is located on the northeast corner of Howard Street and Sewell Avenue. It is setback approximately fifteen feet off Howard Street and six feet off Sewell Avenue. There are bluestone curbs and sidewalks, poured concrete walkways, two telephone poles, and three 1959 gas street lamps. A freestanding sign indicates this is the Chalfonte Hotel.

309 Howard Street: The house with the address 309 Howard Street is set back approximately 15 feet off the street. There is a bluestone curb and sidewalk and a garden in front of this cottage. There is a hedge around the backyard. Footpaths lead to the Chalfonte Hotel, which is located on the neighboring property to the south.

480 Franklin Street: This house is set back approximately 6 feet off the street. There are a poured concrete curb and sidewalk, a mature street tree, and a telephone pole in front of the house. The south side of the porch is approximately 2 feet from the converted garage on the property to the south. A low wood stockade fence of the neighbor to the north delineates the north property boundary.

Survey Name: Cape May Local Historic District Survey

Principal Investigator: Jeanne M. Kolva

Organization: McCabe & Associates, Inc.

☒ (Primary Contact)

Property ID:

409727179

Page 1

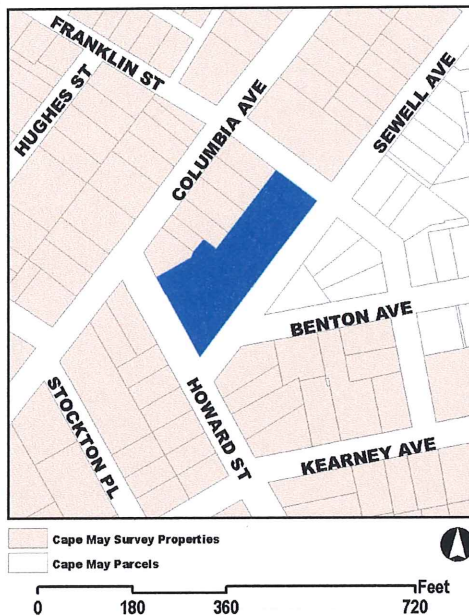
Registration
and Status
Dates:

National Historic Landmark?: ☒
National Register: 12/29/1970
New Jersey Register: 12/10/1970
Determination of Eligibility:
Certification of Eligibility: 8/26/2005

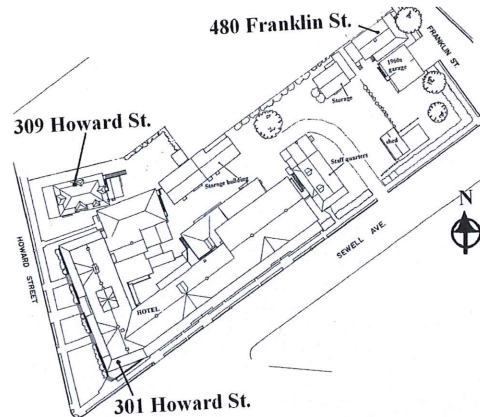
SHPO Opinion:
Local Designation: 1/1/1972
Other Designation: Latest local designation
Other Designation Date: 12/18/2007

☒ Eligibility Worksheet included in present survey? ☐ Is this Property an identifiable farm or former farm?

Location Map:



Site Map:



BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Author:	Title:	Year:	HPO Accession #:	(if applicable)
(None Listed)	Owner's web site www.chalfonte.com	2008		
Thomas, George E. and Carl E. Doebley	Cape May Queen of the Seaside Resorts: Its History and Architecture, Second Edition	1998		
Bassett, William B.	Historic American Buildings Survey of New Jersey	1977		

Additional Information:

National Historic Landmark designation date: 5/11/1976

1970s HABS documentation includes: 6 sheets of elevations, plans, and site plan; ten black & white photographs; 13 data pages; and five color transparencies. The Howard Street and Franklin Street cottages (NJ-743A) are recorded with one sheet of plans.

More Research Needed? ☐ (checked=Yes)

INTENSIVE-LEVEL USE ONLY:

Attachments Included: 6 Building 0 Bridge
0 Structure 0 Landscape
0 Object 0 Industry

Historic District ? ☒

District Name: Cape May Historic District

Status: Key Contributing

Associated Archeological Site/Deposits? ☐

(known or potential sites. If Yes, please describe briefly)

Conversion Problem? ☐ ConversionNote:

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Property ID:

409727179

Page 2

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Property ID:

409727179

Page 3

BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: Chalfonte storage

Historic Name: Laundry

Present Use: Residential, transient, non-family

Historic Use: Commercial, personal service

ConstructionDate: 1885 **Source:** Sanborn-Perris map of 1890

**Construction
Start Date:**

**Construction
End Date:**

Style:

☐ Vernacular Style?

Form:

Physical Condition: Good

Type:

Remaining Historic Fabric: High

Roof Finish Materials: Standing Seam Metal

Stories: 2

Exterior Finish Materials: Wood, Clapboard

Bays: 3

Exterior Description:

This is a two-story out-building with a side gable form, a one-story wing on the east face, and new, six over six, wood sash windows set into additional framing in the old window openings. There is a solid wood door and the west side has vertical board siding on the first floor.

The building is first depicted on the 1890 Sanborn-Perris map labeled as a Laundry. On the 1909 Sanborn map, the building is labeled "Help." There are no changes noted on the subsequent Sanborn map updates.

Interior Description:

Not surveyed.

Alteration Dates:

Architect/Designer::

Date form completed: 10/30/2008

Survey Name: Cape May Local Historic District Survey

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Property ID:

409727179

Page 4

BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: Chalfonte storage building

Historic Name: Chalfonte Stable

Present Use: Mass storage, inactive

Historic Use: Agriculture, livestock related activities

ConstructionDate: 1880 **Source:** J.D. Scott map of 1886

**Construction
Start Date:**

**Construction
End Date:**

Style: ☐ Vernacular Style?

Form:

Physical Condition: Good

Type: Dutch Barn

Remaining Historic Fabric: High

Roof Finish Materials: Standing Seam Metal

Stories: 2

Exterior Finish Materials: Wood, Shiplap

Bays: 9

Exterior Description:

This is a two-story, side gabled, out-building now used for storage. It was built over two time periods. The west half has a large sliding door indicating that this was originally a stable. This half has three windows across the top floor and a casement window, a door, and a six over six, wood sash window next to the sliding door. The sliding door is vertical boards with cross braces.

The east half has four replacement one over one wood sash windows across the top floor and two adjacent doors, one leading to a set of stairs, indicating that this half of the building was once two separate apartments. The second door leads to the first floor rooms. There are two more one over one wood sash windows next to the second door.

The first map evidence of this building is on the 1886 Scott map of Cape May. There is a large stable situated across the rear lot line. The 1890 D=Sanborn-Perris map shows the building in greater detail. By this time, it is labeled "Storehouse." This footprint only shows the west half of the building. There was a one-story wing on the east end. By 1909, the building is labeled "Help" showing it had been converted for residency. This remained the case into the 1950s. The 1970s HABS drawings shows that by this decade, the building had been extended with the east half.

Interior Description:

Not surveyed.

Alteration Dates:

Architect/Designer::

Date form completed: 10/30/2008

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Property ID:

409727179

Page 5

BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: Chalfonte Hotel staff quarters

Historic Name: Chalfonte Hotel staff quarters

Present Use: Residential, institutional

Historic Use: Residential, institutional

ConstructionDate: 1880

Source: 1886 Scott Atlas map of Cape May City

Construction

Start Date:

Construction

End Date:

Style: Gothic Revival

☒ Vernacular Style?

Form: Side Hall

Physical Condition: Excellent

Type:

Remaining Historic Fabric: High

Roof Finish Materials: Asphalt Shingle

Stories: 2.5

Exterior Finish Materials: Wood, Clapboard

Bays: 2

Exterior Description:

This is a 2 1/2-story, 2-bay, front gabled dwelling with a full-width front porch. The front gable has a round-headed window and acroteria. The house is clad with wood clapboard butting up against cornerboards. The second and first floor windows are four over four wood sash windows and there are functional wood louvered shutters. The front porch has a standing seam metal roof, chamfered posts, impost blocks and small jigsaw brackets. There are canvas awnings shielding the porch bays.

Interior Description:

Not surveyed in 2008.

Alteration Dates:

Architect/Designer::

Date form completed:

9/29/2008

Survey Name: Cape May Local Historic District Survey

Property ID:

Page 6

Principal Investigator: Jeanne M. Kolva

☒ (Primary Contact)

409727179

Organization: McCabe & Associates, Inc.

BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: Cottage of the Chalfonte Hotel

Historic Name: 480 Franklin Street

Present Use: Residential, transient, non-family

Historic Use: Residential, permanent

ConstructionDate: 1900 **Source:** Not on 1890 Sanborn-Perris map; On 1909 Sanborn map

Construction

Start Date:

Construction

End Date:

Style: None

☐ Vernacular Style?

Form: Side Hall

Physical Condition: Good

Type:

Remaining Historic Fabric: High

Roof Finish Materials: Standing Seam Metal

Stories: 2

Exterior Finish Materials: Wood, Clapboard

Bays: 2

Exterior Description:

This is a two story, two-bay house with a low pitched gable roof that has been incorporated into the Chalfonte Hotel complex. The roof is sheathed with standing seam metal and there are half round gutters with round fluted downspouts. The house is clad with wood clapboard butting up against cornerboards. There are two, four over four, wood sash windows on the second story. The first floor has the door on the left and one, four over four, wood sash window with a wood frame screen window and functional louvered shutters on the right. The door is a wood frame door with four frame panels. It has an old wood screen door. The porch roof has standing seam metal and is supported by the original turn posts with new jigsaw brackets. It has a molded top rail and plain stick balusters supported with a plain bottom rail. The porch has brick piers and there are framed lattice panels between the piers. The porch wraps to the south side elevation.

The south side elevation on the second floor has three, four over four, wood sash windows with functional shutters; however, some panels are missing. The first floor has a side door and two, four over four, wood sash windows with wood frame screens and functional shutters.

The north side elevation has two, widely-spaced, four over four, wood sash windows on both floors. A rear two-story ell with a shed roof has 6/6 wood sash windows on the second story and a backdoor on the first floor. The back door has one raised panel in the bottom and 12 lights in the upper section.

Interior Description:

Not surveyed in 2008.

Alteration Dates:

Architect/Designer::

Date form completed: 9/29/2008

Survey Name: Cape May Local Historic District Survey

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☒ (Primary Contact)

Property ID:

409727179

Page 7

BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: 309 Howard Street

Historic Name: 309 Howard Street

Present Use: Residential, transient, non-family

Historic Use: Residential, permanent

ConstructionDate: 1900 **Source:** Not on 1890 Sanborn-Perris map; On 1909 Sanborn map.

**Construction
Start Date:**

**Construction
End Date:**

Style: None

☐ Vernacular Style?

Form: Four Square

Physical Condition: Good

Type:

Remaining Historic Fabric: High

Roof Finish Materials: Asbestos Shingle

Stories: 2.5

Exterior Finish Materials: Wood, Clapboard

Bays: 2

Exterior Description:

This is an early-20th-century, 2½-story, Foursquare with a modified hipped roof that resembles a mansard. The roof is sheathed with three tab asphalt shingles. The front slope has a hip dormer with a pair of four over four, wood sash windows. Wood screens covered the lower sashes. The upper floor exterior is wood shingles and the first floor has wood clapboard butting up against cornerboards. This dwelling has a two-story full-width front porch. The second story has eight over one, wood sash windows with wood screens over the lower sashes on the left and a door to the second story of the porch on the right. The first floor has its porch screen set within the original square posts with carved corner brackets, a molded and incised top rail holding plain balusters atop an incised bottom rail. The front door is in the recessed side portion and it has a wood frame with three horizontal panels in the lower section and a large beveled glass in the upper section. This has an aluminum frame storm door.

The south side elevation has a hipped, through-cornice, wall dormer with one, eight over one, wood sash window. There is a hip dormer further back. The second story has an eight over one, wood sash window with aluminum frame storm window and then there is a smaller replacement casement window lower down indicating an interior stairwell. Further back is an additional window. The first floor has three, eight over one, wood sash windows.

The north side elevation has one hip dormer and a sidewall chimney. There is one, two over two, wood sash window on the second floor and a six over one, wood sash window further back. The first floor has an eight over one, wood sash window toward the front then three more further back.

Interior Description:

Not surveyed in 2008.

Alteration Dates:

Architect/Designer::

Date form completed: 9/29/2008

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☒ (Primary Contact)

Property ID:

409727179

Page 8

BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: Chalfonte Hotel

Historic Name: Chalfonte Hotel

Present Use: Residential, transient, non-family

Historic Use: Residential, transient, non-family

ConstructionDate: 1875 **Source:** Cape May Queen of the Seaside Resorts, 2nd edition, p. 113

Construction

Start Date:

Construction

End Date:

Style: Italianate

☒ Vernacular Style?

Form: Center Hall

Physical Condition: Excellent

Type:

Remaining Historic Fabric: High

Roof Finish Materials: Standing Seam Metal

Stories: 3

Exterior Finish Materials: Wood, Shiplap

Bays: 7

Exterior Description:

This is a three-story, Italianate building that forms a large J-shape with wings off Howard Street, and along both Howard Street and Newell Avenue. The main façade on Howard Street has a central belvedere and a two-level arcaded porch. This consists of two gabled blocks each with three bays flanking the central bay with main entryway on the first floor, paired windows on the second and third stories, and belvedere above.

The rectangular belvedere has flat seam metal roofing, centered intersecting gables on each side, and bracketed eaves with plain board friezes. The front and rear faces have a Palladian window that consists of a tall, round-headed, four over four, wood sash window in the center flanked by shorter, rectangular, four over four, wood sash windows. The north and south faces have only one round-headed, four over four, wood sash window.

The roof is sheathed with standing seam metal. The façade has two blocks with centered gables that have broad overhanging eaves with paired, large brackets alternating with two, individual smaller brackets. The building is clad with clapboard butting up against cornerboards. There are round-headed, two over two, wood sash windows centered under the gable peaks and rectangular two over two, wood sash windows flanking them. All of the windows have functional louvered wood shutters. There is a pair of small two over two wood sash windows on the third floor beneath the belvedere.

The second story of each block has the top level of the arcaded porch with centered doors opening onto the porch. The deck and balustrade continue across the façade and there is a double leaf veranda door under a shallow hood in the center beneath the belvedere. Both leaves are wood frame with large rectangular lights in the upper sections. The doors have wood frame screen doors and operable, full-height, louvered shutters. The arcaded porch includes a bracketed and dentilled cornice, jigsawn spandrel brackets springing from impost blocks, and jigsawn balusters between a molded top and bottom rail.

The first floor has the same pattern of fenestration with centered doors flanked by two over two wood sash windows. The doors are surmounted by single-light transoms. The main entryway consists of a double leaf, wood frame door with each leaf having two round-headed, framed lights in the upper section and two frame panels in the lower section. This is surmounted with a stained glass transom that has the numbers 301. The front porch at this level has a balustrade with squared and capped newel posts supporting jigsawn balusters. Chamfered posts with jigsawn corner brackets support the upper level of the porch. Canvas awnings shield each bay of the porch.

The 200-foot long south face traverses along Sewell Avenue. It has taller columns supporting a gabled porch roof above the second story windows. There are four inner balconies with jigsawn balustrades. The first floor has several doorways interspersed along the length of the wall. The first doorway on the left consists of an enclosure within jigsawn brackets that has floor to ceiling divided windows, transoms, and an eight-light, divided light door. There are three windows and then the next set of doors. This set consists of wood frame double doors with two roundheaded framed inset panels in the top sections and rectangular framed panels in the lower sections. The doors are surmounted by a two-light transom and a large cornice with a centered pediment. There are six window bays and then a third doorway that consists of a set of double doors. Each leaf has a wood frame, a single roundheaded inset panel in the top section and a rectangular inset panel in the lower section. There are three more window bays on the far right.

Interior Description:

The HABS floor plans by J. Bartlett show that the Howard Street side interior has a central lobby, flanking parlors, and a series of rooms including a playroom and solarium off the parlors. There is a large dining area that fills most of the Sewell Avenue wing. A few guest rooms are located at the end of the Sewell Avenue wing. The kitchen is located along the rear of the Sewell Avenue wing parallel to the dining hall. There is a combination of painted and varnished wood trim, columns, and flooring.

Survey Name: Cape May Local Historic District Survey

Property ID:

Page 9

Principal Investigator: Jeanne M. Kolva

☒ (Primary Contact)

409727179

Organization: McCabe & Associates, Inc.

The second and third floors have single loaded corridors that run along the rear of the building. The guest rooms and bathrooms are located along the street sides.

Alteration Dates:

Alteration(s):	Circa Date:	Date Range:	Source:
Physical alteration	1879	to	Sewell Avenue wing
Physical alteration	1888	to	Extension of Sewell Avenue wing

Architect/Designer::

Type:	Name:	Person/Firm Description:
Builder	Charles Shaw	
Builder	D.D. Moore & Son	

Date form completed: 9/29/2008

Survey Name: Cape May Local Historic District Survey

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☒ (Primary Contact)

Property ID:

409727179

Page 10

ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET - Properties

Property ID **409727179**

History:

The following history is taken from the owner's website at www.chalfonte.com:

"As the Chalfonte celebrates its 132nd anniversary, co-owners Anne LeDuc and Judy Bartella are proud to have succeeded in preserving the Hotel's authenticity, and retaining the 19th century hotel experience along the way. The owners have met the demands imposed by evolving customer needs and increased competition, but while making necessary improvements, they have been stalwart in their stewardship of the Chalfonte. They have resisted modernizations such as air-conditioning, televisions, and telephones in the rooms. They have resisted adding so many private bathrooms as to rob guests of the unique privilege of making barefoot nighttime forays down 130-foot hallways.

Built in the nineteenth century, the Chalfonte offers "the view from yesterday," genteel Southern-style hospitality, ornate gingerbread verandas lined with comfortable rocking chairs and a constant sea breeze to rejuvenate and refresh. The Chalfonte's distinctive ship-like profile, crowned by her Italianate cupola, now occupies nearly an entire city block.

A BIT OF BACKGROUND...

The Hotel was built in 1876 by Colonel Henry Sawyer and was originally planned as a boarding house. Sawyer's Chalfonte underwent most of its expansion between 1876 and 1909, and the present footprint is much as it was in 1909. This venerable grande dame by the sea still retains its Victorian charm; louvered doors to let the breeze through, Southern cuisine in The Magnolia Room, and original antiques and fixtures throughout.

COLONEL HENRY SAWYER, Carpenter & Builder

Henry Sawyer arrived in Cape May in 1848 at the age of eighteen, a supporter of the Union side in the Civil War. He enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment since a New Jersey one hadn't yet formed. After three months service and rising to the rank of captain, he returned home only to re-enlist in a New Jersey regiment. In June 1863, after being captured during a bloody exchange at the Battle of Brandy in Virginia, Sawyer was incarcerated at Libby Prison in Richmond. Thus began the episode that was to make him both a national and local hero. In retaliation for the shooting of two Confederate Cavalry prisoners of war, the Confederacy proposed to execute two Union prisoners, drawn by lottery. Sawyer was one of the two selected in the lottery of death. Secretary of War Stanton, in consultation with President Lincoln, warned the South they would execute two Confederates if they executed two Union prisoners. Upping the stakes, one of the Confederate prisoners selected was the son of General Robert E. Lee. The situation ended with Sawyer being released unharmed in a swap. He resumed active duty, and returned to Cape May in 1875 as a recognized war hero.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHALFONTE

Having bought a parcel of land in 1872 at the corner of Howard Street and Sewell Avenue, in 1875, Sawyer began construction of "Sawyer's Chalfonte." (Chalfonte means "cool fountain" in French; Sawyer's reason for using the name is unknown). In 1876, Colonel Sawyer bought all the rest of the square bounded by Columbia, Franklin, Sewell, and Howard except for the lot at the corner of Columbia and Howard. Cape May's inclination away from resort hotels in favor of the intimacy of cottages had already begun. This trend was sealed in the fall of 1878 when the city suffered yet another disastrous fire. Previous fires had seen the total destruction of the Mt. Vernon Hotel in 1858, and of more properties in 1869. While the fire of 1878 reduced Cape May's count of hotel rooms from 2200 to 200 in a single night, and marked the demise of large hotel construction in the rest of Cape May, the Chalfonte, standing unscathed beyond the fire's reach, was about to experience an unprecedented expansion. That year, (1878) Henry Sawyer extended his then two-year-old boarding house down Sewell Avenue, adding nineteen rooms to his existing eighteen. The original residence and addition were a significant improvement in architectural refinement over the pre-Civil-War hotels. While in no way extravagant, the building had a simple dignified Italian form (some-times known as "Cube Italian" in Cape May) with a balanced plan and facade. In spite of suffering the ravages of time and storm, with minimal foundations, the first three phases of the building are soundly built with an eye to graceful resolution of any geometrical anomalies. Sawyer owned the hotel for another ten years, selling it in 1888 after just thirteen years of ownership. He died in 1893.

LATER OWNERSHIP...

Between 1888 and 1911 when it was bought by the Satterfield family of Richmond, Virginia, the hotel had had six owners, and was sold at sheriffs' sales twice. In this period from 1888 to 1911, one of the various owners extended the Chalfonte to its current size, adding another twenty-three rooms along Sewell Avenue, enlarging the dining room, and providing delightful architectural riddles for future preservationists to solve. Where the two phases of construction join, one cannot discern a serious effort to marry the disparate architectural and building styles. This is seen in the change of hotel room size and configuration with the addition of some private baths, and in the randomness of the construction in the last addition, which contrasts directly with the carefully orchestrated details of Sawyer's construction. Changes in roof and ceiling, variations in flooring type in the dining room, abrupt cessation of crown molding in dining room, change in board wainscot in the dining room, all support the conclusion that Sawyer was not the builder of this addition.

The Hotel has had three owners: Henry Sawyer, the Satterfield family of Richmond, Virginia, and present and current stewards, Anne LeDuc and Judy Bartella, who have owned and operated the hotel for 30 years. Anne LeDuc first came to the hotel as a two-year-old guest and eventually worked at the Hotel in her teens and twenties. In 1973 when Meenie Satterfield made plans to sell the Hotel, LeDuc and colleague Judy Bartella proposed to Meenie that they be given the opportunity to manage the Hotel. She assented. With no intention then of purchasing the property, they did so in 1983. While managing the Hotel and prior to its purchase, LeDuc and Bartella realized they would need guidance and assistance in preserving and restoring the steadily deteriorating façade and its aging

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☒ (Primary Contact)

Property ID:

409727179

Page 11

infrastructure. The Hotel was suffering the results of fifty years of deferred maintenance. Little had been done to ensure its structural health. In August 1973, Bartella arranged for students in the University of Pennsylvania Historic Preservation program to visit the Hotel. They prepared graphic documentation of the principal facade, floor plans of the hotel and its cottages, and a site plan. These drawings are now in the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) collection housed in the Library of Congress. Though this was an enormous help to the preservation process, it was not going to be enough.

PRESERVING OUR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE. . .

In 1979, Dr. David Fogle, Professor of Urban Planning and Historic Preservation at the University of Maryland (UMD) School of Architecture, happened to be visiting Cape May, dining one evening in The Chalfonte's Magnolia Dining Room. Fogle and his friends retired for drinks to the Hotel's bar, where they (unflatteringly) critiqued the Chalfonte's condition within earshot of owner Judy Bartella. She joined the group, and eventually suggested (perhaps challenged) Fogle that he and some of his students "might like to have a go at the old place," or words to that effect. The result of this encounter began a remarkable partnership in reclamation. After many planning meetings with the owners, Fogle returned the following Spring with graduate architectural students, and launched the now 21-year-old preservation program for the Chalfonte. It is virtually unique in the United States, offering students a three-week, hands-on summer preservation course at a property located in the National Historic Landmark City of Cape May, for which they receive three academic credits.

The factual foundation for the program had to be drawn from both written and graphic historic materials. Looking at old maps, photographs and engravings of the Chalfonte building yielded a great deal of conflicting evidence. It emerged that many of the engravings and drawing were artist's renderings before the fact: images of the building began appearing even before it was built. It also appeared that while Sawyer wanted a cupola, it was not built until sometime after the 1876 extension of the building. Archival sources and evidence led instructors to the task of compiling testimony from the building itself. This effort produced many instances that illustrated the dialogue or differences between archival and physical evidence. For example, some early engravings of the building suggest that the first floor porches did not have balusters. Examination of sawn balusters reinforces this. All the first floor balusters are of the same design, and different from the baluster design of the second floor porches and the balconies. Because the first-floor porches were extended several times, one would expect to see evidence of various balusters, but there is no such evidence.

The first project undertaken by UMD in May 1980 was the restoration and preservation of the Hotel's Magnolia Room, 120 feet in length, and in need of scraping, plastering and painting. The project required the full three weeks of work, and 600 pounds of spackle to prepare walls and repair ceiling details. The restoration and preservation program has taken place every year (with the exception of two) since 1979, directed and supervised over the years by UMD staff members David Fogle, Judith Capen, and Michael Arnold. Students and professors arrive in late May and stay for three weeks. The program has given an academic institution an educational clinic at its original source while performing a service to the Hotel and the City of Cape May. This "Service Learning" approach has produced a tangible body of archival materials, field drawings and restorative architectural projects and also provided the Hotel with intangible benefits.

Through the work of the UMD staff and students, the Chalfonte staff and guests reap the benefit of renewed interest in and responsibility for the preservation of this gem in Cape May's crown. The UMD's mining of the lode of archival data and artifacts has enabled the Hotel to create new materials promoting the Hotel's unique architectural history.

The Chalfonte received the 2001 New Jersey Historic Preservation Award, in recognition of our efforts in innovative historic preservation educational programs. The Chalfonte gratefully acknowledges the University School of Maryland School of Architecture, the dedication of Mike Arnold and Judith Capen who have provided the Hotel and this website with a huge breadth of historical text and archival materials and volumes of drawings, and amazing insight into this architectural marvel."

Statement of Significance:

This is the oldest and largest surviving hotel of frame construction in Cape May. The building is a great example of an Italianate style building designed by Charles Shaw and there is added interest as the various later additions are distinguishable from the original sections. Used as a teaching model, the hotel offers an unadulterated source of 19th century building materials and techniques.

Eligibility for New Jersey and National Registers: ☒ Yes ☐ No

National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Level of Significance: ☐ Local ☐ State ☒ National

Justification of Eligibility/Ineligibility:

It has retained a high level of architectural integrity and it is used as a teaching model for preservationists in training.

Total Number of Attachments: 6

List of Element Names: Main Hotel building at 301-307 Howard Street
Cottage at 480 Franklin Street
Cottage at 309 Howard Street
Staff quarters on Sewell Avenue
Storage Building--former Stable
Storage Building--former Laundry

Survey Name: Cape May Local Historic District Survey

Property ID:

Page 12

Principal Investigator: Jeanne M. Kolva

☒ (Primary Contact)

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Organization: McCabe & Associates, Inc.

Narrative Boundary Description:

This complex is located on three contiguous lots known as Lots 7, 8, and 9 of Block 1071 on the Cape May tax maps. The lots are bounded on the west by Howard Street, on the south by Sewell Avenue, on the east by Franklin Street, and on the north by Lots 1 through 6.

Date Form Completed: 9/29/2008

Survey Name: Cape May Local Historic District Survey

Principal Investigator: Jeanne M. Kolva

Organization: McCabe & Associates, Inc.

☒ (Primary Contact)

Property ID:

409727179

Page 13