

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Book about Cumberland County's Historic Architecture Available

Greenwich, New Jersey--August 27, 2015—The Cumberland County Historical Society announced today that its newly- published book, *Early Wood Architecture of Cumberland County, New Jersey*, is now available for purchase.

Written by architectural historian, Joan Berkey, the heavily illustrated book examines the forces that shaped the earliest wooden buildings erected in Cumberland County. Dating as early as the late 1600s, these heavy timber frame (also known as post and beam) structures are strikingly similar to those built by the Pilgrims in Massachusetts. Years of research and examination of more than 40 extant buildings reveal important differences, however, and suggest a direct-from-England influence as well.

While the book focuses on those built before 1750, it also includes others dated as late as ca. 1840 to demonstrate how timber framing evolved over a century and a half.

Berkey also encountered several log and Dutch-American frame buildings during her research and devotes a chapter to each in the 208-page volume. More than 230 photographs (many in color), drawings, and maps enrich the text.

Berkey spent more than five years conducting the research leading up to the book. All phases of the project were assisted by grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission of the New Jersey Department of State.

“The Cumberland County Historical Society is extremely proud to have sponsored this first in-depth study of the county’s earliest wood buildings,” Linda Hruza-Jones, president of the Society’s board, commented. “Berkey’s work presents an exceptional portrait of our architectural and cultural heritage.”

Copies can be purchased for \$39.99 at the Historical Society’s Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Library at 981 Ye Greate Street in Greenwich. The library is open on Wednesdays from 9 until 4, and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 until 4. Mail orders are fulfilled by the author: send your mailing information with a check or money order for \$44.74 (cost of the book at 39.99 plus \$4.75 postage and packaging) to Joan Berkey, 707 N. Delsea Drive, Cape May Court House, New Jersey 08210. The book can also be purchased on Amazon.com.

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