



News Release

Cape May County, New Jersey

www.thejerseycap.com

STAINED GLASS, DOORS & PORCHES

Although some of the most beautiful dowagers in this seaside resort are starting to show their age, they still have the power to turn heads and make people stop to admire their exquisite images.

Cape May has literally hundreds of stained glass windows in expected, and some unexpected, places around town including a Louis Comfort Tiffany window in a private home on Washington Street. Especially beautiful are stained glass windows in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church on the Washington Street Mall and the First Presbyterian Church at Hughes and Decatur streets. Both are about a hundred years old – a bit more at the Presbyterian church – but the beauty of the Biblical depictions in the huge panels of stained glass are still magnificent.

Indeed, around town in private homes, bed and breakfast inns and even businesses, the royal blues, the ruby reds and deep greens of stained glass - most of them old but with a few reproductions – continue to intrigue anyone who enjoys strolling the streets of America’s first seaside resort.

Walk around town just after dark and marvel how these windows and transoms filter and reflect the light, casting kaleidoscope-style shadows that offer just a hint of how much history those windows have witnessed.

While you’re enjoying the ambiance of Victorian resort, have you ever wondered about the phrase “in the red” or “in the black” – and what the connection might be to Cape May?

(more)

One story that might be true says that years ago when families had a red front door it meant they had a mortgage on their home so they were in the red. Those with a black front door owned their property and were in the black. Sounds pretty good.

But that was then and this is now. Today, the color of a home's front door says more about the decorating choices of the owners than it does about their financial status.

Walk along Hughes Street in Cape May – or most streets in the Historic District of America's First Seaside Resort - and marvel at the plethora of entranceways that complement magnificent homes, cottages and mansions. Although a few red or black doors - the Memucan Hughes house for example - can still be found in town, most of the doors, frames and other exterior details are vibrant and eye-catching, adding the perfect architectural touch with hardware and woodworking as ornate and intricate as what awaits inside.

Then there are the porches – or the verandahs. Call them what you like, a sprawling home in this National Historic Landmark City just has to have a porch, with a rocking chair or a hammock to provide that quintessential feel of welcome that bids guests sit a spell, sip an iced tea or catch up on the latest gossip.

Colorful brackets, carpenter's lace and gingerbread trim cast their intricate afternoon shadows across the porch floor while above, some owners have continued a Victorian tradition of painting the porch ceiling blue to simulate the sky. Leafy ferns and wicker planters filled with colorful summer flowers complement the peaceful beauty of the porches that spread across the fronts and sides of these seaside homes.

The wraparound porch at the historic Chalfonte Hotel – just a block from the ocean - is the perfect place to rock, read or relax with the cool ocean breezes providing companionship.

Many bed and breakfast inns, with their welcoming porches, participate in East Lynne Theater Company's *Tales of the Victorians*, a delightful pastime for a summer or fall afternoon. Listen to the *Tales of the Victorians*, short stories read by professional actors, sip your ice tea and let your imagination take flight.