

### 37 Lincoln Avenue - Richard and Marjorie Saari

Richard and Marjorie Saari have exemplified what individual homeowners can do to preserve the history and the environment of CMP on their individual properties. The male American holly tree located at 37 Lincoln is believed to date from C. 1874, making it one of the oldest living trees at Cape May Point. Over the years the tree has been the home to migrating nesting birds, countless tree frogs, bees, and other pollinating insects. Since it is a male, it provides pollen for other female holly trees throughout Cape May Point.



### Specific Challenges Faced:

The holly tree that was originally planted beside the Victorian boarding house in the late 1800's can be seen in the historical photograph at approximately 15 years of age. The final owners of the boarding house subdivided the property into three parcels, commissioned the demolition of the boarding house and had three new houses erected. In 1990 the Saaris purchased the portion of the property having the holly tree, now deeded as 37 Lincoln Avenue. Subsequently, they realized that the tree needed some care to recover from the disruption caused by the prior construction activities.



Holly tree to right of historic boarding house



Mature tree to right of present house

### **Specific Actions Taken:**

Respecting the legacy and on-going environmental importance of this male American holly, they have taken care to have the tree trimmed regularly. Deep root fertilization has also helped to keep it healthy. With care and concern, the Saaris hope the tree will continue to be a sentinel reminder of Cape May Point's historic past. The current photograph shows the holly tree in all its splendor.