

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 14 1980  
DATE ENTERED MAR 11 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Cooper Library in Johnson Park

AND/OR COMMON  
Walt Whitman International Poetry Center

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Second and Cooper Streets

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Camden

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
1st

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
New Jersey

CODE  
034

COUNTY  
Camden

CODE  
007

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
City of Camden

STREET & NUMBER  
City Hall, Fifth and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN  
Camden

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
New Jersey

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds, Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Fifth and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN  
Camden

STATE  
New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Camden County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE  
1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Gail Greenberg, County Historian  
Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN  
South Park Drive and Shady Lane  
Haddon Township

STATE  
New Jersey 08108

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The property occupied by the Walt Whitman Poetry Center is a museum-type structure, unequalled in South Jersey. Formerly the Cooper Library, the property is also referred to as Johnson Park - as it was a gift from Eldridge Reeves Johnson, former president of the Victor Talking Machine Company (now RCA). The property area, 2.5 acres, encompasses an entire city block between Cooper, Penn, Second and Front Streets in center city Camden.

The neighborhood is mixed industrial/commercial, residential and educational. Two industrial giants, RCA and Campbell Soup Company are immediate neighbors. Within a 5 block radius are the new YMCA, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Bennett Lumber Company, Van Sciver's Furniture Showroom, the South Jersey Port Corporation, Rutgers University (including its Law School Division), the Camden Campuses of Glassboro State College and the Camden County College, the City Hall-County Courthouse complex and new County Administration Building. The Benjamin Franklin Bridge connecting with Philadelphia across the Delaware River, lies within view of the property. Along the nearby waterfront are new high rise towers and garden-type apartments. A ten million dollar waterfront marina-park complex is being built with a combination of federal and local funds and will be Camden's counterpart to Philadelphia's Penn's Landing. Public improvements completed or now under construction in the area include modern Fire and Police Administration Buildings, a county Hall of Justice, the Cooper Medical Center/Veterans Administration Hospital (a \$113 million combination). Construction is expected to begin soon on Camden City's \$19 million Transportation Terminal.

The Johnson Park/Poetry Center also lies within an historical hub. The Edward Sharp House, a significant, circa 1810, Federal mansion is directly across the street. Less than two blocks away is the Dr. Henry Genet Taylor House, a state and national historic site. The Walt Whitman House, a National Historic Landmark, is a short walk away, as is the Newton Friends Meetinghouse, also on the State and National Historic Registers.

The Classical-Revival building and the Park were designed by architects Walter Karcher and Livingston Smith and built between 1916 and 1918; formal dedication was May 22, 1919. The structure is rectangular in form and approximately 37 feet high surmounted by a five foot parapet on all sides. The magnificent front facade is dominated by six, 30-foot high uncoupled Greek Ionic columns of masonry construction. They are approximately four feet in diameter and typically voluted with fluted shafts; the pedestals are octagonal. Four similar columns are on the rear wall.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Cooper Library in Johnson Park  
Camden, New Jersey

CONTINUATION SHEET

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### 7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

A simple architrave supports a plain frieze. There are dentils under the cornice on all sides. A pedimented and decorated window with single-light sashes is on each side of the front entryway. Granite and limestone walls average two feet in thickness and are pilastered on all sides.

Access to the front of the structure is by a 62-foot long exterior staircase which ends in a porticoed entryway. The upper section of the portico is decorated with a 70 foot long mosaic frieze. It was also the gift of Eldridge Johnson. Made of over 100,000 pieces of American opalescent glass, the richly colored glass was carefully selected with reference to their particular place in the design. Extending across the entire front of the building, this magnificent work of art entitled "America Receiving the Gifts of the Nations" was executed by the Nicola D'Ascenzo studios of Philadelphia and took two years to complete. There are 36 figures in the composition. Of this number, 29 advance from the left and right, presenting their gifts to America, in the center. On her left stands her son, Opportunity and on her right is her daughter, Equality. Two native Indians kneel at America's feet. Also included are Christopher Columbus; Greece holding the model of a temple in her right hand; Rome carrying the standard and fasces; Moses carrying the Ten Commandments; Arabia, with an abacus to symbolize higher mathematics; Raphael carrying his famous "Sistine Madonna" is followed by Michaelangelo. In the right wing of the frieze are Shakespeare, Longfellow, and Palestrina who developed church music. William Penn and a group of Quakers stand beside Equality and typify religious freedom. George Washington stands in the rear. On America's right are bearers of gifts from the Orient including Japan, Persia, Babylonia and India. England is represented by Tyndale with a copy of his translation of the Bible. Johannes Gutenberg represents Germany. Three literary figures are in the left wing of the frieze. They are Moliere, Walt Whitman and Dante.

This mosaic frieze is undoubtedly a notable work of art.

A large covered foyer entry affords three separate entrances to the first floor. The east entrance leads to a hallway where there is a ladies' rest room and spacious open hall with painted plaster walls and ceiling. The west entrance has a foyer, 2 men's restrooms and a spacious, open hall identical to that in the east wing area.

The center doors in the foyer entry lead through a small lobby into the main lecture hall. This is a clerestory area with a very elaborate ceiling of raised scroll and grid pattern design.

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Cooper Library in Johnson Park  
Camden, New Jersey

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### 7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Under construction in the main lecture hall is a proscenium stage and fixed seating on risers with a balcony to be installed on the second floor.

There are fourteen artistic plaster wall plaques representing the following hallmarks of printers of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries:

1. BAPTISTA FARFENGUS (Brescai) in books printed 1489-1499
2. J. WEISSENBURGER (Nuremburg) 1503-1531
3. ALDUS MANUTIUS ROMANUS (Venice) 1494-1514
4. SER PIERO PACINI da PESCIA (Florence) 1496-1514
5. SEBASTIENI NILVELLE (PARIS) 1599-1603
6. THE UNKNOWN PRINTER OF ST. ALBANS (England) 1480
7. GIOVANNI GREGORIO (Venice) 1487-1498
8. VALENTIN SCHUMANN (Leipzig) 1502-1524
9. HERCULES de NANIS (Bologna) 1492-1494
10. ERHAND OGLIN (Augsburg, Germany) 1505-1516
11. WILLIAM CAXTON (Westminster, England) 1477-1491
12. CORNELIUS BENIGNUS VITERBENSIS (Rome) 1515-1516
13. ISAAC JOGGART (London) latter part of 16th century
14. ROBERT COPLAND (London) 1515-1548

The lecture hall is separated on either side from the east and west wings via specially designed canopies supported by marble columns. The wall facing north is small pane glass, displaying the exterior columns. Interior and exterior doors are of excellent quality. There is a plaster cornice running at length to the walls and ceilings in the lecture hall area. The entry has a quality glass ceiling. The west wing has a large, marble tread staircase, with wrought iron railing. The east wing also has a staircase to the second floor.

On the second floor, east and west wing areas are serviced via a spacious wrap-around hallway to the south end of the clerestory lecture hall, located directly above the central lobby and rest room areas below. The hallway has painted plaster walls and ceiling with a hardwood floor.

The east wing is divided into 2 spacious conference rooms and Administrator's office. All walls and ceilings in this area are painted plaster. Wood trim is chestnut.

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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The west wing is one large meeting room with fluted, raised, wood panelling on walls. The window sash on the floor is excellent quality metal, bronze treated.

In addition to the architectural craftsmanship and art exhibited in the building there were various art objects in the park area:

1. Peter Pan Sculpture made by Sir George Frampton, one of 2 replicas made by Frampton. The original, also by Frampton, stands in Kensington Gardens, London, England. The entire sculpture is cast bronze and measures 11' high by 4' wide excluding the base. The base is a granite, circular structure measuring 16" by 5" wide; base circumference is 20'.

The fence surrounding the sculpture is cast bronze, done by Otto Schwetzer, a Philadelphia sculptor. It is an irregular, complex, open design of birds, fish and flowers, 28" high with a circumference of 45'.

2. "Billy", A Standing Ram Sculpture in cast bronze, 26 1/4" high by 32" wide, excluding base, was made by Albert Lassele in 1914, in Germantown, Philadelphia.
3. A "Dancing Goat" Sculpture of cast bronze, 48" high by 33" wide, excluding base, was made by Albert Laessle in 1928. It stands in a small patio area surrounded by 5'-4"X4" mosaic ceramic tiles depicting children's storybook figures in a circular design.
4. "Pan", a standing figure of cast bronze, 50" high by 32" wide, excluding base, was made by Albert Laessle in 1928. It stands in a small patio area surrounded by 5'-4"X4" mosaic ceramic tiles depicting children's storybook figures in a circular design.
5. A Duck-Turtle Combat sculpture of cast bronze, 44" long by 18 1/2" wide, made by Albert Laessle in 1926.
6. A Christopher Columbus sculpture of cast bronze, 12' high made by Frank F. Stella and unveiled in 1976.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
__1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
__1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1916-1918 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Walter Karcher & Livingston Smith

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cooper Library is probably Camden's finest example of Neo-Classical architecture and was designed by the Philadelphia firm of Karcher and Smith. The sculpture within the complex was done by several of America's most important sculptors of the first third of the 20th century. This was the foremost cultural facility in Southern New Jersey when it was completed in 1918.

### Architecture

Walter Karcher (1881-1953) was an important Philadelphia architect for nearly fifty years. An architecture graduate of the University of Pennsylvania in 1901 he further studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 1905. Briefly employed by the noted architectural firm of Carrere and Hastings, in 1910 Karcher formed the firm of Walter T. Karcher and Livingston Smith, Architects, of Philadelphia. Principal works of the firm included the United States Army Hospital in Puerto Rico; several buildings for Swarthmore College; the Lawrenceville (NJ) School Fieldhouse; the RCA Victor Office building and the Cooper Library, both in Camden, New Jersey.

Livingston Smith (1880-1961) was a classmate of Karcher at the University of Pennsylvania. Karcher and Smith remained partners for nearly fifty years until 1953 when Karcher died. Livingston Smith then established the company of Livingston Smith and Walter F. Thaele.

### Education

On December 31, 1915 Camden City Council announced it would accept the proposal made by Eldridge Reeves Johnson to give the city a building for Free Library purposes. It was to be located in Cooper Park, as the property was known, to cost not less than \$130,000 and Johnson's own architects would be permitted to design and supervise erection of the building. The plans called for a structure in keeping with the, then, "general style of architecture that marks the many beautiful buildings of the County of the vicinity of Cooper Park."\* City Council then instructed its legislative committee to prepare a bill to be presented to the State Legislature to give second class cities the right to erect public libraries on park grounds.

\*Camden Post Telegram. December 31, 1915.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Cooper, Howard M. Historical Sketch of Camden, N.J. Camden: Horace B. Ketler, 1909.
- Johnson, Mrs. E.R. (comp.) Eldridge Reeves Johnson (1867-1945) Industrial Pioneer. Privately printed, 1951.
- Johnson, E.R. Fenimore. His Master's Voice Was Eldridge R. Johnson. Delaware State Media, Inc., 1974.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED** (continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.5 **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** QUADRANGLE NAME Philadelphia QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES			UTM REFERENCES		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 18	489250	4421880	B 18	489220	4421760
C 18	489330	4421730	D 18	489370	4421840
E			F		
G			H		

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

An entire city block between Cooper, Penn, Second and Front Streets in Camden center city.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
Gail Greenberg, County Historian

ORGANIZATION  
Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission

STREET & NUMBER  
South Park Drive and Shady Lane

CITY OR TOWN  
Haddon Township

DATE  
June 8, 1979

TELEPHONE  
858-0040

STATE  
New Jersey 08108

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy *[Signature]* 10-26-79  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>[Signature]</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE 3/11/80
ATTEST: <i>[Signature]</i> CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE 3/3/80

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### 8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The grounds were landscaped and the sculptures provided through Johnson's generosity; he also donated a fund of \$45,500, the income from which was to be used for the upkeep of the park. On May 27, 1920 City Council changed the name of Cooper Park to Johnson Park.

Eldridge Reeves Johnson, once an obscure Camden machine shop operator and inventor, was at his death a noted philanthropist, traveler, bibliophile, and explorer. A trustee of the University of Pennsylvania, he contributed one million dollars to establish the Eldridge R. Johnson Foundation for Research in Medical Physics.

Johnson was an active Republican and a presidential elector from New Jersey in 1924. Johnson's many memberships testify to his diverse interests: the Academy of Natural Sciences, Camden Chamber of Commerce, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the City Athletic Club of Camden, the Union League, the Pen and Pencil Club.

Johnson created a unique setting for the library building he donated to the City of Camden.

#### Art

The mosaic frieze, "America Receiving the Gift of the Nations" (described in section 7), recently evaluated at \$150,000, represents an ancient method of decoration dating back to that early period of civilization in the "Fertile Crescent" when Egypt and Mesopotamia dominated the Eastern World. It was not until the Hellenistic era that this type of decoration became common. No doubt, the idea was carried though travel, trade and conquest. Those most often seen today are the mosaics of St. Paul's and St. Mark's Churches in Venice and St. Peter's and the Vatican in Rome.

This form of decoration is no longer popular. This artwork represents a notable art form, is a masterpiece of work, and it also represents what was a national view of America's foundations and her world position. In addition, such figures as Walt Whitman and William Penn give further insight into regional historical events.



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## 8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The "Peter Pan" statue, recently evaluated at \$85,000, was the creation of Sir George Frampton and is perhaps his most famous work; it should be noted that very few monuments have been erected to literary figures. This "Peter Pan" is one of only three executed by Frampton. The original is in Kensington Gardens, London, England and was dedicated in 1910; a replica was presented by Frampton to the children of Belgium in 1924. This replica of the original was purchased by Johnson for Cooper Park.

Frampton, born in 1840, first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1894. He was awarded the Grand Medal of Honor at the 1900 Paris Exhibition, elected to the Royal Academy in 1902 and knighted in 1908. In the 1900's he was the leader of a "movement to emphasize the structural and decorative aspects of sculpture and bring into it new polychromatic effects."<sup>+</sup>

Frampton and Sir James Barrie, author of "Peter Pan", sent congratulatory messages on the occasion of the dedication of the sculpture, September 24, 1926; a Peter Pan pageant committee organized over 3,000 schoolchildren from Camden, Merchantville and nearby towns into a pageant which depict scenes from Barrie's story. Camden school children were given a half-holiday for the occasion.

The bronze fence work around the statue was done by Otto Schwetzer and is valued at \$40,000.

Albert Laessle, the Philadelphia sculptor who did the animal sculptures in Johnson Park, was a member of the teaching staff of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), 1921-1939, where he studied as a young man. In 1904 young Laessle won the coveted Cresson Traveling Scholarship offered by PAFA; he spent three years working and studying in Paris. Johnson may have known of Laessle through his own connection with the Academy.

The major force that established Laessle's early reputation was the technical dexterity and realism of his animal sculpture. So accurate were the artists's depictions that he was falsely accused of casting his subjects from life. These works show an acute understanding of animals and the strong influence of nature.

<sup>+</sup>Evening Courier. September 23, 1926.

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### 8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The twenty years following Laessle's return from Paris are said to have been his most successful. He produced more sculpture and won more awards, met with more recognition than at any other time in his career. A bronze medal awarded in Buenos Aires in 1910 probably established his international reputation.

Robert McCracken Peck, author and art historian, has commented on Laessle in American Art Review, that his sculpture took on an expressionistic quality; peculiarities of structure and irregularities of surface are noticeable in "Billy" and "Dancing Goat". Stylized muscle forms, bristling feathers and stiff tufts of hair are exaggerated almost to grotesqueness, according to Peck.

"Billy" (valued at \$35,000) is a life-size billy-goat which won Laessle the 1915 Fellowship Medal from PAFA; it was purchased for the City of Philadelphia and placed in Rittenhouse Square. The figure in Johnson Park is a later cast. It is probably Laessle's best-known public work, according to Peck, and was one of the artist's favorites. A third cast is in the Smithsonian Institution's National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C.

It is at Johnson Park that the most complete group of outdoor sculpture by Laessle, purchased for public use, can be found. "Billy" and "Turtle and Duck" (\$9,000) flank what was once a central wading pool installed by Eldridge Johnson for the delight of little children. "Dancing Goat" (\$38,000 including patio) faces "Pan" (\$43,000 including patio) across the width of the pool, the latter seeming to provide the music for the rearing figure's motion. A snake and lizard are at "Pan's" feet; a cavorting turtle at "Dancing Goat's" base reflect Laessle's early interest in, and renderings of reptiles.

Three bronze casts were made of "Turtle and Duck". The other extant pieces are in Brookgreen Gardens, S.C. and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Bronze casts of "Dancing Goat" are also in the latter institutions. No other casts of "Pan" were made.

Laessle also executed the "Memorial to Major General Galusha Pennypacker" (bronze, 1929-1934) in Logan Circle, Philadelphia. Other sculptured works by him can be found in private collections; PAFA; Philadelphia Zoological Gardens; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Corcoran Gallery of Art; the Peabody Institute, Baltimore.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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### 8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Laessle also created a series of distinguished medals during his career; the George D. Widener Memorial Medal (1913) commissioned by PAFA and struck by the U.S. Mint, Philadelphia; Sesquicentennial Medal of Award (1926) commissioned by the International Exposition and struck by Bailey, Banks and Biddle, Philadelphia.

In 1920 Laessle was commissioned, probably by Eldridge Johnson, to do his first sculptured bronze- "Dog and Gramophone"- the trademark of the Victor Talking Machine Company, Camden.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

Peck, Robert McCracken. "Albert Laessle, American 'Animalier'", in American Art Review, Jan./Feb. 1976.

Prowell, George R. The History of Camden County, New Jersey, Phila.: L. J. Richards, 1886.

PERIODICALS, MS, ETC.

Camden First. September 1924. "Impressions of a Visit to Camden's Public Library".

Letter of Harold C. Many, Librarian of Cooper Branch Camden Free Library to Mrs. N. C. Roop, Chico, California. February 2, 1937. (Mrs. Roop probably visited the building on a trip to Camden and wrote the librarian for more information on the art work.)

Program of the "Presentation of the Cooper Branch Camden Free Public Library in the City of Camden, N.J."

RCA Family. August 1971. "History of Johnson Park Dates from 17th Century."

Report of John D. Milner AIA to D'Anastasio, Lisiewski and Tarquini re: WWIPC, Historical Documentary Research and Archaeological Testing, April 1977.

Camden Courier. May 23, 1919

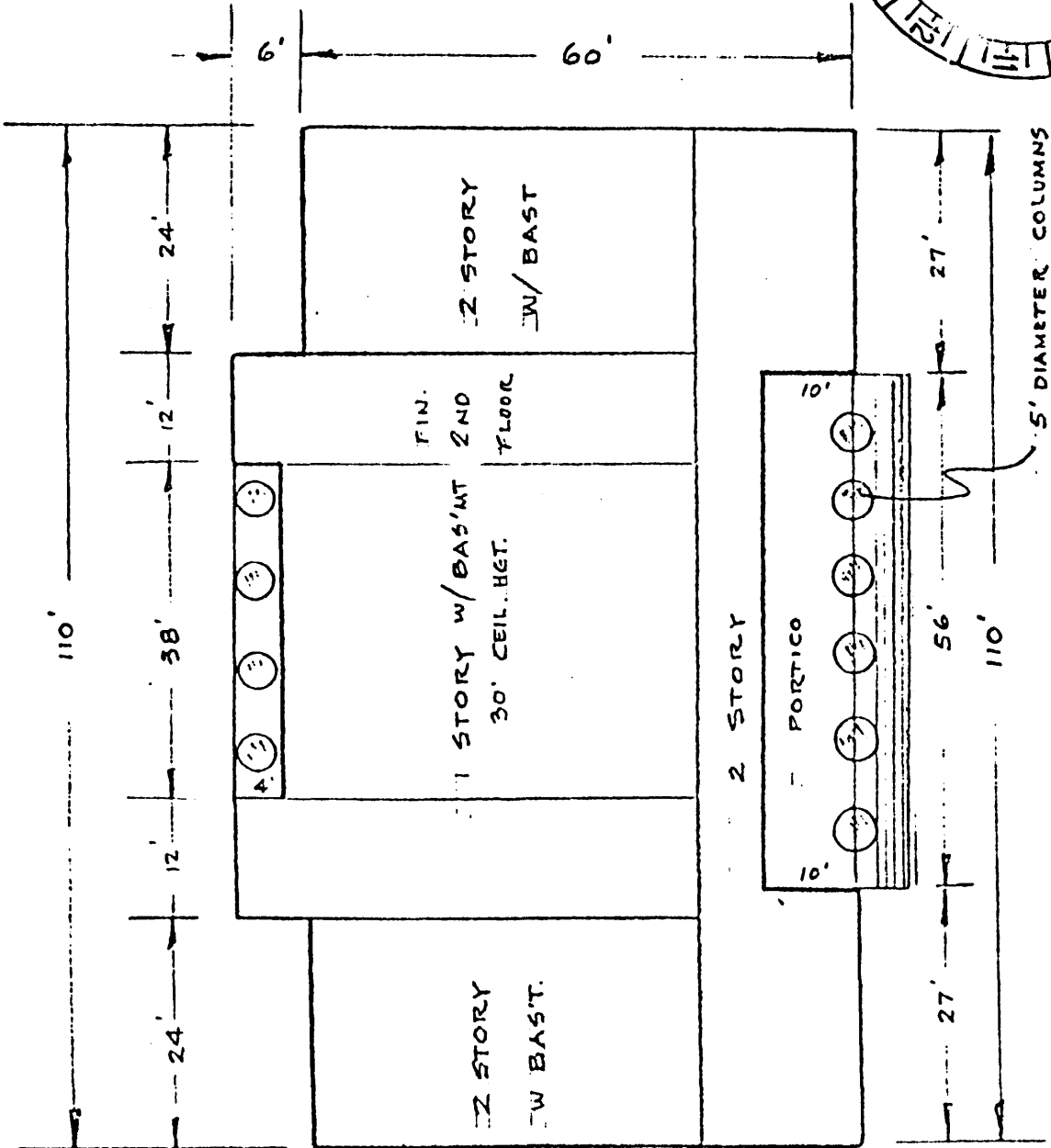
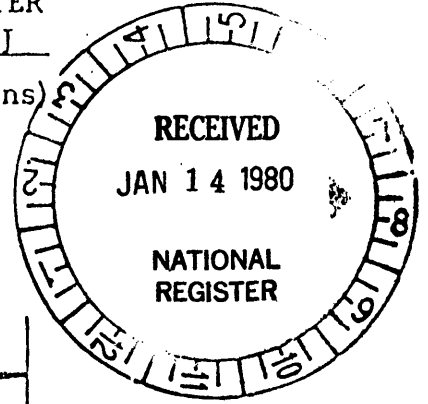
Evening Courier. September 23, 1926.

Public Ledger (Phila.) November 28, 1898.

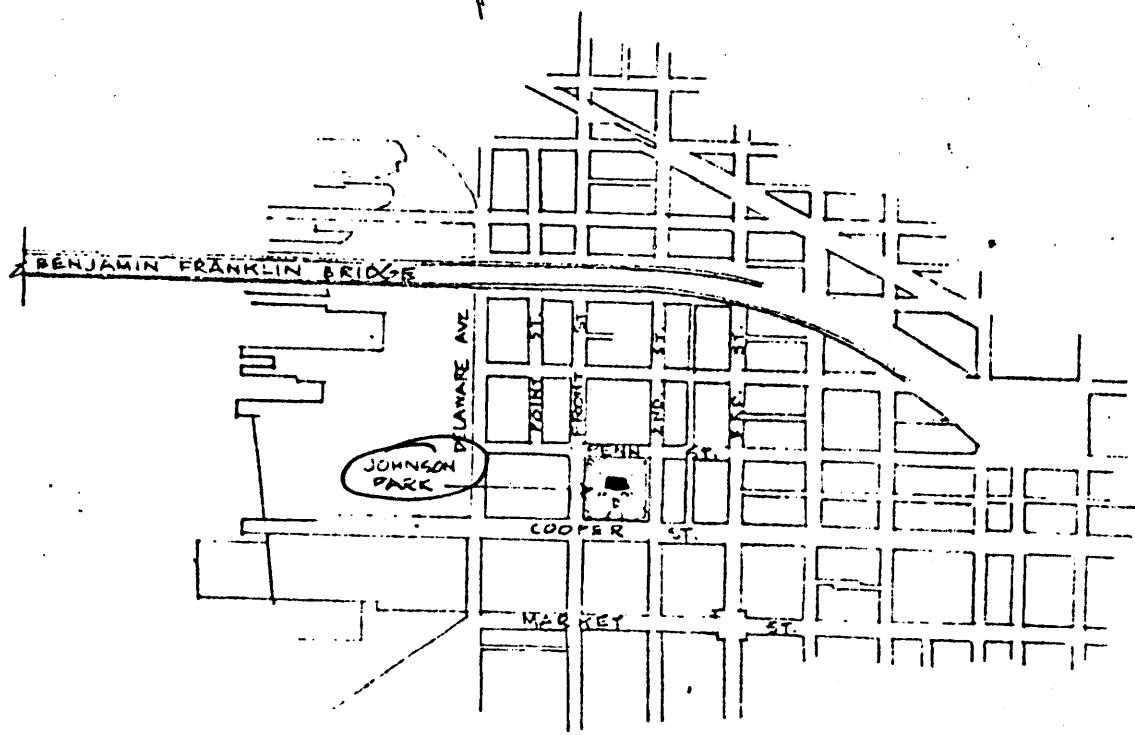
Camden Post Telegram. December 31, 1915.

WALT WHITMAN POETRY CENTER  
2nd @ Cooper St, Camden, NJ

(Approximate Exterior Dimensions)



Cooper Library in Johnson Park  
Camden, New Jersey



SITE LOCATION PLAN

Cooper Library in Johnson Park  
Camden, New Jersey