

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED DEC 29 1976  
DATE ENTERED AUG 24 1977

## 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

Log Cabin and Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Black Cabin *Rutan Farm*

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*N of Branchville on*  
Mattison Avenue

CITY, TOWN

*Branchville*  
~~Frankford~~ Township

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

*15th*

— VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Sussex

CODE

035-37

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER: Vacant

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bernard Lawler and wife

STREET & NUMBER

Dingmens Ferry, Pa 18328

CITY, TOWN

Hall of Records (County)

STATE

— VICINITY OF

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records (County)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newton

STATE

New Jersey

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#1166.1)

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Office, Department of  
Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Estimated to be a late 18th century dwelling, (at the latest) the Rutan log cabin is a 1½ story hewn log structure with closely fitted logs flush at the corners, and notched with half dovetailing. The narrow spaces between the logs are filled with mud and concrete chinking. There are frame construction methods employed above the eaves.

The cabin is actually two separate buildings. The dimensions of the larger unit are 22 feet 6 inches by 16 feet and is a single pen divided into two rooms (16' x 14' 6" and 6' 9" x 16') by a wood plank partition. There is a chimney on the interior wall at the gable end to which the smaller unit is appended. Alongside the fireplace is a narrow winding staircase.

The smaller unit is also one pen and measures 11 feet 6 inches by 16 feet. This unit has no chimney, but, because of the four log walls appears to have been built as a totally independent unit.

Both structures have a second floor loft.

Because of the similarity in cornering techniques and materials used it has not yet been determined as to which structure was erected first. Whatever, both were probably done by the same person within a close time span.

On what is apparently the front facade, but presently opposite the road behind the cabin, is a deteriorating porch which extends along the entire length of the larger unit and over the entrance to the smaller unit. This porch is supported by rafters projecting out from the building.

The building has been covered by modern vertical planking and asphalt roofing paper for at least thirty years. This explains the the excellent condition of the logs which are about 6" x 8" in section. Coupled with the isolation of the farm, the camouflaging kept the log cabin from being "discovered" by scholars until quite recently.

The roofing of both units is asphalt and tar paper over planking.

Currently the building is vacant, open to vandalism, exposed to the elements and deteriorating.

The Rutan property has a number of outbuildings, the most important of which is a three bay English-form barn. This barn is estimated to be at least early 19th century based on the method of construction and historical data. A sliding door opens to the center threshing bay. To the right is an animal crib which is divided into two floors by a swing beam. The upper loft provides storage space. Left of the threshing crib is an open storage crib. The basic framing is all hewn while some of the secondary supports are both sawn and hewn. The

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DESCRIPTION (Continued)

exterior of the barn is covered with vertical plank siding with several boards missing. The gable roof is covered with standing seam tin sheathing and deteriorating in a number of sections. Banked into an incline the basement floor of the barn is all modern construction; being converted into a dairy barn in the 20th century. The basement has concrete flooring, and metal dairy stantions, indicating the extensive recent modifications of this portion of the barn.

Both gable ends of the barn have low pitched one story additions. One of these wings is a modern concrete milk house on the west facade of the barn. The east facade has two one story low pitched frame wings attached linearly (both late 19 century). The wing attached to the barn is frame with wooden shingles. The second wing is also frame, with novelty siding, but has a standing seam tin roof. The overall condition of the barn is poor with numerous structural problems.

Several other outbuildings are on the property, including a shed and a corn crib, estimated to be late 19th century.

The 99 acre site is gently sloping open farmland. It borders on Stokes State Forest to the Northwest. The integrity of the site has been well preserved to date. A campground, out of sight to the west of the farm buildings, is the only recent development nearby. Being situated on the southerly slope of Kittating Mountain makes the site particularly aesthetic and typical of Sussex County farms.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## Architecture

Over the course of the 18th Century and into the early years of the 19th Century log construction was a commonly used building method in Northwest New Jersey.

The Rutan log cabin is one of only a handful of known extant log houses in Sussex County. The others, however, do not have the half-dovetailed corner notching making this the sole survivor of its type of this once common technique of building.

The log house is a product of cultural tradition and natural conditions created by a specific population to satisfy their needs for an efficient shelter. The log cabin is a simple and direct expression of a fundamental need developed and transmitted from one generation to another by means of oral tradition rather than via formal methods.

Studies indicate that features employed in the log house have precedents in Old World building forms. (Further research needs be done to carefully delineate origins of regional topographic patterns). Nevertheless, as developed in America the log house was not completely European because particular architectural features were often meshed in a new combination forming something as unique as the American log cabin.

The construction of log houses in America appears to have lacked an orderly development (or one yet to be discerned) and instead of an early prototype undergoing gradual evolution over a period of centuries, the time span was telescoped making the definition and interpretation of forms difficult. In addition, builders of differing backgrounds were meshed together in a new environment which further accelerated what would have been a slow process of change. The different methods of corner notching, for instance, while representing Old World importations, became, in time, a coalescence of many influences.

While the Swedes and Finns of the Delaware Valley were most likely responsible for the first log housing in America they were by no means the most persistent nor the strongest influence. The German log house tradition was heavily superimposed on the early Swedish-Finnish log building and advanced generally westward, but also crept across the Delaware River into Northwest New Jersey.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Snell, James P. History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey 1881  
 Shurtleff, Harold R. The Log Cabin Myth 1939  
 Weslager, Clinton A. The Log Cabin in America 1969

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	5	2	1	6	5	0	4	5	6	0	0	0	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Office, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

July, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1420

TELEPHONE

(609) 292-2023

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

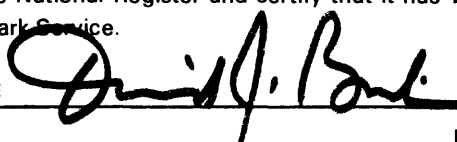
NATIONAL

STATE  **XXX**

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE **November 23, 1976**

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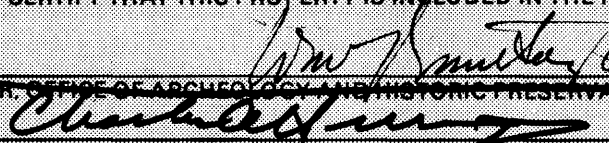
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

8/24/77

ATTEST:



KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-22-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Generally, the Germans built these temporary log houses in the hope that they would be eventually replaced by larger more stylistic dwellings. Undoubtably, many were. Often, however, these plans did not materialize and several generations were raised in the log house. Consequently, a few of these sturdy log dwelling are still standing today. Because of their relatively crude exterior appearance log houses were frequently disguised by later clapboarding and as a result numerous similar camouflaged log dwellings most likely still exist in the northwest portion of the state. (A brief field survey in Sussex County in June, 1976, for instance pinpointed one formerly unknown log house - ca. 1820 - and manifested the possibility of another.)

The Rutan Farm was constructed at least prior to the end of the 18th century and while it cannot be specifically pinpointed as to when the two major buildings (log house and barn) were constructed, they present an interesting problem of interpretation since the 1½ story log dwelling has half-dovetailing corner notching characteristic of German building traditions as developed in Pennsylvania, but the gable end chimney and certainly the English - form barn are more Anglo oriented, possibly indicating a crossover of cultures as the Rutan name is of English derivation.

The log building and English-form barn as well as the history of the farm merit further exploration and study.

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

Webb, Edward A. Historical Directory, Sussex County, New Jersey  
1872

Wacker, Peter O. "The Log House in New Jersey: Origins and  
Diffusion", Keystone Folklore Quarterly, 13 (Winter, 1958) p. 248-268

Kniffen, Fred and Henry Glassie. "Building in Wood in the Eastern  
United States". Geographical Review January, 1966, Vol. 56,  
pp. 40-66

Information supplied by Edgar R. Wengenroth, Culver Brook Restoration  
Foundation

*011 1979*

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LOG CABIN AND FARM  
FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP  
SUSSEX COUNTY  
NEW JERSEY

ERRATA

10. The Log Cabin and Farm should have encompassed 99 acres as stated in the nomination under description instead of the 2.5 acres noted under Item Ten.

*98.62, see letter*

Corrected mapwork attached.

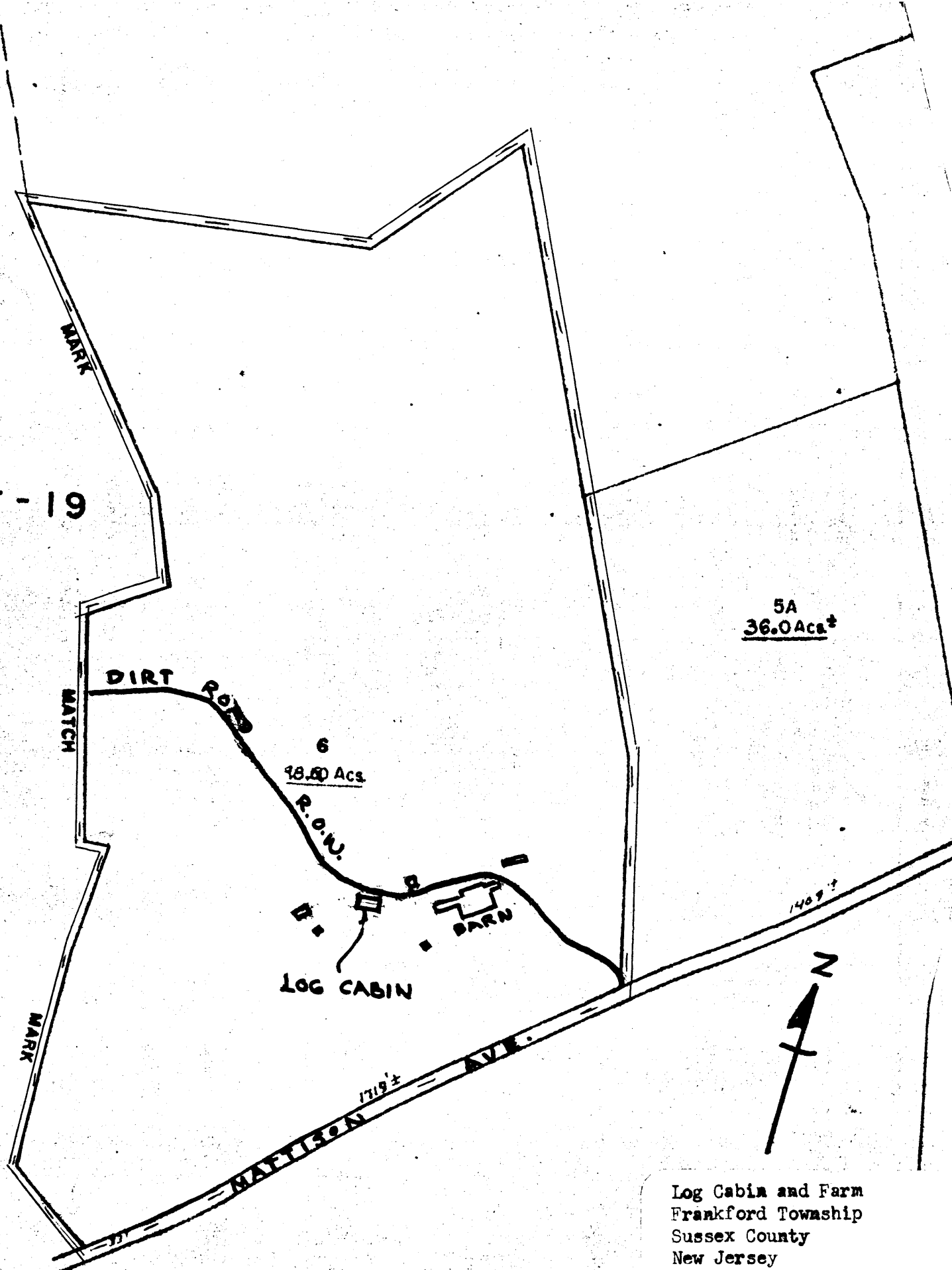
UTM References:

- A - 18-5-21-~~630~~<sup>590</sup>  
45-60-750
- B - 18-5-21-920  
45-60-310
- C - 18-5-21-920  
45-59-980
- D - 18-5-21-540  
45-59-500
- E - 18-5-21-190  
45-60-410

Property as delineated in Sheet 19, Block 68, Lot 6 of Frankford Township Tax Map.



SHEET - 19



Log Cabin and Farm  
 Frankford Township  
 Sussex County  
 New Jersey

FROM: FRANKFORD TWP.  
 TAX MAP  
 (SHOWING APPROX. LOCATION OF  
 LOG CABIN & BARN WESTERLY DRAINAGE)

Ref: Township Tax Map  
 Sheet 19, Block 68,  
 Lot 6