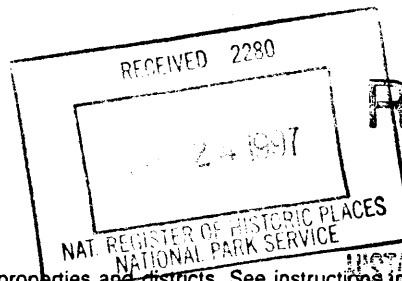


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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APR 30 1997

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Woodlynne Log Cabin

other names/site number Scout Cabin

2. Location

street & number 200 block of Cooper Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Borough of Woodlynne vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Camden code 007 zip code 08107

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date 7/7/97

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Ball

Date of Action

8/21/97

Woodlynne Log Cabin
Name of Property

Camden County, New Jersey
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: civic

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: civic

EDUCATION: library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Log Cabin

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls log

roof wood shingle (historic), asphalt (current)

other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history:
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Entertainment / Recreation

Architecture

Period of Significance

1939

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

W.P.A.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Borough of Woodlynne Archives

Woodlynne Log Cabin
Name of Property

Camden County, New Jersey
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre Camden NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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4	9	1	8	0	0
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4	4	1	8	2	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

2

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4

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna Sink, Staff Architect

organization Atkin, Olshin, Lawson-Bell and Associates date 29 April 1997

street & number 125 South Ninth Street #900 telephone (215) 925-7812

city or town Philadelphia state PA zip code 19107

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Borough of Woodlynne

street & number 200 Cooper Avenue telephone (609) 923-3001

city or town Woodlynne state NJ zip code 08107

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 of 3Woodlynne Log Cabin
Camden County, New Jersey

General

The Woodlynne Scout Cabin is a one-story log cabin building, constructed in 1938-39. The Cabin is rectangular in plan, approximately 40' x 50', with a covered porch, a stone fireplace and chimney, and a pitched roof (photo # 1). It is located in the Borough of Woodlynne, New Jersey, a suburb of Camden. Although the roofing material is new and mechanical equipment has been installed in the interior, the Cabin remains largely unaltered from its original state.

Site

Woodlynne boomed in the first decade of this century as a bedroom community of Camden. The borough grew up around Cooper Mansion, the estate home of Joseph M. Cooper. Cooper Mansion was later used as the municipal hall, while its grounds were maintained for public recreation. The Scout Cabin was built behind the mansion, in an open field used for baseball games and bordered by rowhouses to the west and east. The field to the south was later developed with rowhouses. Cooper Mansion was demolished in the 1970's and replaced by a modern Borough Hall containing borough offices and the firehouse. The two buildings and the parking lot between comprise the municipal core, or town center, of Woodlynne.

The Scout Cabin and Municipal Hall are on a single block, the 200 block of Cooper Avenue, which is atypical to the grid of blocks which makes up the rest of the town. This central block, roughly 60' x 250', is bounded on both sides by East and West Cooper Avenue. The Cabin is located at the extreme south end of the block; the Municipal Hall is at the extreme north (photo # 2). The main door of the Cabin faces the Hall across an open area formerly used as the town park, but now occupied by a parking lot. The only other significant site feature is the "Cedar of Lebanon" tree, northwest of the Cabin, purportedly brought from the Holy Land and planted by Joseph M. Cooper behind his mansion¹.

Building

The cabin is rectangular in plan and is a single pen form with a second, smaller pen housing service functions. The service area contains two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a storage room. The service area has a loft storage space above it. The main entry on the north side is covered by an open porch. The walls are full cedar logs, most likely harvested from south New Jersey, joined with saddle notching². The logs were originally installed with their bark on, although some of the bark has since separated from the log

¹"50 Years" booklet, Borough of Woodlynne Archives, 1951, page 39.

²Grubel, Matthew, "Woodlynne Scout Cabin General Physical Condition" Report, 2 October 1995, page 1.

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Camden County, New Jersey

and is missing. Between the logs is chinking material of cement-based mortar, with a lime wash present on the interior chinking³. In an unusual detail, the corners of the log notches have been chinked vertically. This is not common in log cabin construction⁴. Interior partition walls are also logs, with the main logs protruding through the exterior walls as a decorative detail.

The Cabin has a total of nine (9) windows, arranged in the following way: (3) in the east wall, (3) in the west wall, (2) in the north wall, on either side of the porch, and (1) in the south wall, to the east of the chimney. The windows are wood, double hung, six over six, divided lite, with wood sills. The original wood shutters and iron hardware are still intact, however, very few of the original shutter dogs remain. The doors, one in the center of the main room on the north wall and the other west of the chimney in the south wall, are currently metal but are assumed to have been wood originally.

The fireplace is in the center of the main room in the south wall of the cabin. It is built of stone in a random ashlar pattern at the interior with unshaped stones at the exterior (photo # 3). The chimney bears a date marker with the date "1938" in a Boy Scout shield shape. The mantel is a half log on wood brackets.

The Cabin floor was originally half logs set in concrete. The wood was later covered in concrete and carpet, however, the original floor still exists in the closets. Evidence suggests the original ceiling was beaded board. The existing ceilings, both at the interior and at the porch, are a gypsum board-type panel in a metal grid. Interior doors are wood-batten with iron hardware. An interesting interior feature is a painting on the west wall of the cabin, showing three Scout youths saluting, with the caption "Building for a Better Woodlynne" (photo # 6). The painting has been attributed to an artist named Burke in the early 1940's, but this has not been verified⁵

The roof structure is two pitched trusses supported by log columns inside the north and south log walls. In 1988, the Borough received a \$16,000 federal Community Development Block Grant for structural repairs⁶. This construction included the insertion of two additional log columns at the west wall interior which support cross braces bearing on the main interior partition wall. These cross braces tie to the original trusses with metal straps. The original trusses were also upgraded with metal tie rods. The original roofing material is undocumented but most likely was cedar shake shingles. The Cabin was

³ibid., page 1.

⁴ibid., page 1.

⁵Interview, Wilma J. Marsdan, at the Woodlynne Log Cabin, 4 June 1996.

⁶"Log cabin is at center of dispute", *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 25 September 1988, page 3-CA.

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Woodlynne Log Cabin
Camden County, New Jersey

reroofed in 1977 with asphalt shingles, installed by a volunteer group from the Navy Seabees⁷.

The front porch of the cabin, on the north side of the building, is rectangular, approximately 8' deep x 16' long (photo # 4). It continues the main roof pitch although at a slightly different angle. The porch roof is carried on two log columns that rest directly on the concrete slab of the porch floor. The structural upgrades of 1988 brought a new center column to support the sagging main beam of the porch roof.

The Cabin is uninsulated. An oil heating system was installed in 1951 and upgraded in 1960⁸. Air conditioning was installed in 1987⁹. The mechanical units and ductwork for these systems are the most disruptive elements in the otherwise rustic interior (photo # 5). The original light fixtures, still extant, are incandescent light bulbs mounted on suspended wagon wheels. New suspended fluorescent fixtures have been added recently.

⁷Letter from Alvin P. Brown, "Woodlynne Borough Report", Borough of Woodlynne Archives, May 1977, page 5.

⁸Woodlynne "Perspective on our Community" booklet, Borough of Woodlynne Archives, 1964, page 4.

⁹"Residents protest cabin takeover plan", Camden Courier-Post, 15 September 1988, page. 8B.

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Camden County, New Jersey

The Woodlynne Log Cabin derives its historic significance under National Register Criteria A and C, as an example of a popular method of construction associated with the social consciousness of the period. Constructed in 1938-9, the Cabin was built for use by the youth groups of Woodlynne, in particular the Boy Scouts. The Cabin exemplifies a period characterized by a national belief that healthful outdoor activities and participation in community service organizations were essential aspects of the growth and strength of the nation.

Log cabins were initially built in this country as basic and often temporary structures for settlers in the new American frontier. After balloon frame construction became a popular and efficient building method, log construction dropped in popularity. In the 1870's, however, with the growing interest in the benefits of outdoor recreation, log construction found a new popularity. Log cabins were seen as a rustic, authentic, and appropriate building type for the Great Camp Movement¹. In the northeastern United States, in particular the Adirondack Mountains, many camps were built to allow city visitors to enjoy the restorative powers and healthfulness of outdoor activities.

Through the turn of the century, log structures maintained their popularity as wilderness recreational buildings. In the 1930's and 40's, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built many log structures in State and Federal parks in the American west². These structures included cabins for overnight stays, visitor centers, and maintenance and support buildings. In some cases, log buildings were built close to urban areas as recreational structures for swimming holes, parks, etc. This was particularly true in the more-developed eastern United States.

In New Jersey, as in the American west, recreational log cabins were built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the CCC. An additional WPA project in this region was the documentation of existing historic cabins in New Jersey and neighboring states. These historic cabins were considered an important link to a traditional American past. During the 1930's, they also became a symbol for continuing the strength of the American spirit into the future. The use of log cabins for Boy Scout structures was considered especially appropriate for healthful outdoor group activities that would train a youngster to be a valuable member of the community. In addition, log structures were quickly and inexpensively built, making them ideal structures for small municipalities such as Woodlynne.

The cabin in Woodlynne was dedicated on 22 September 1939³. The project was initiated through a Works Progress Administration Project Proposal signed by Earl Armstrong, Woodlynne Council

¹Bomberger, Bruce D., "The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings", Preservation Briefs #26, U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service Cultural Resources, page 3.

²ibid., page 4.

³"Woodlynne Plans Cabin Dedication," Camden Courier-Post, 22 September 1939, page 19.

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Woodlynne Log Cabin
Camden County, New Jersey

Member⁴. The New Jersey WPA provided much of the funding and the construction labor, with the balance of the funding raised by the Woodlynne Service Club and the Scout Mothers Club⁵. No architect is known.

Woodlynne's cabin is unique within the genre because of its location within the town center. The majority of log recreational structures built before and during the WPA era were located in rural or far suburban locations. For example, the Lansdale, PA cabin of 1913 was built on a donated site of "natural wooded charm . . . to train (the Scouts) in outdoor life⁶." The few of these cabins that remain have since been surrounded by modern suburbs. Woodlynne's cabin is unique in that it was originally sited in the center of the borough, where it still stands today. It was built behind the Borough Hall, in an open field used by local youth as an after-school playing field. From the beginning, the Cabin was intended as a focal point for community-based activities among the borough residents. It provided a physical reminder of the importance of civic involvement.

Although popularly known as the "Scout" Cabin, signifying an exclusive use by the Boy Scouts, the WPA Project Proposal specifically states that the Cabin was to be "available for any Youth Organization provided the majority of its members are residents of the Borough of Woodlynne and providing that its membership is open to all of the boys or girls of Woodlynne"⁷ In practice, though intended as a meeting place for the youth of the borough, it has served veritably all members of the community throughout its history. In 1973-74, the Cabin was used as the temporary Police Headquarters while the new Borough Hall was under construction⁸. Currently, the Cabin is still in daily use as the public meeting place for most local groups and civic organizations. In addition, the Cabin has been home to Woodlynne's Borough Library collection since 1989.

The Woodlynne Scout Cabin should be preserved as a marker of the past on both local and national levels. As the work of the WPA it expresses the period's national interest in healthful, upright community-building activities. Locally, it is a much-loved and much-utilized central feature in the collective memory of all the citizens of the Borough.

⁴Works Progress Administration Project Proposal, serial number 6-4-490, National Archives, page 2.

⁵"Woodlynne Plans Cabin Dedication," Camden Courier-Post, 22 September 1939, page 19.

⁶"Local Memories", Bicentennial Catalogue, 3 July 1976

⁷Works Progress Administration Project Proposal, serial number 6-4-490, National Archives, page 2.

⁸Woodlynne "Diamond Jubilee" booklet, Borough of Woodlynne Archives, page 28.

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Woodlynne Log Cabin
Camden County, New Jersey

Bibliography

Books:

Wicks, William S., *Log Cabins and Cottages*, New York: Forest and Stream Publishing Company, 1900.

Bruette, William A., *Log Camps and Cabins*, New York: The Nessmuk Library, 1934.

Bomberger, Bruce D., "The Preservation and Repair of Historic Log Buildings," *Preservation Briefs #26*, U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service Cultural Resources.

Newspaper Articles:

"Woodlynne Plans Cabin Dedication," *Camden Courier-Post*, 22 September 1939.

"Log cabin is at center of dispute," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Philadelphia, PA, 25 September 1988.

"Residents protest cabin takeover plan," *Camden Courier-Post*, Camden, NJ, 15 September 1988.

Miscellaneous Publications:

Letter, Alvin P. Brown, "Woodlynne Borough Report," Borough of Woodlynne Archives, May 1977.

"Perspective on our Community" booklet, Borough of Woodlynne Archives, 1964.

"50 Years" booklet, Borough of Woodlynne Archives, 1951.

"Local Memories," Bicentennial Catalogue, Borough of Woodlynne Archives, 3 July 1976.

"Diamond Jubilee" booklet, Borough of Woodlynne Archives, 1976.

Documents:

Grubel, Matthew, "Woodlynne Scout Cabin General Physical Condition" Report, 2 October 1995.

Works Progress Administration Project Proposal, serial number 6-4-490, National Archives, Washington D.C. 1938.

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Woodlynne Log Cabin
Camden County, New Jersey

Verbal Boundary Description:

The area of Block 19B bounded by Third Avenue to the south and the municipal parking lot to the north, tax map Borough of Woodlynne, Camden County, New Jersey.

Verbal Boundary justification:

The nominated property includes only the log cabin itself; other site features are non-contributing.

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Additional Documentation

Woodlynne Log Cabin
Camden County, New Jersey

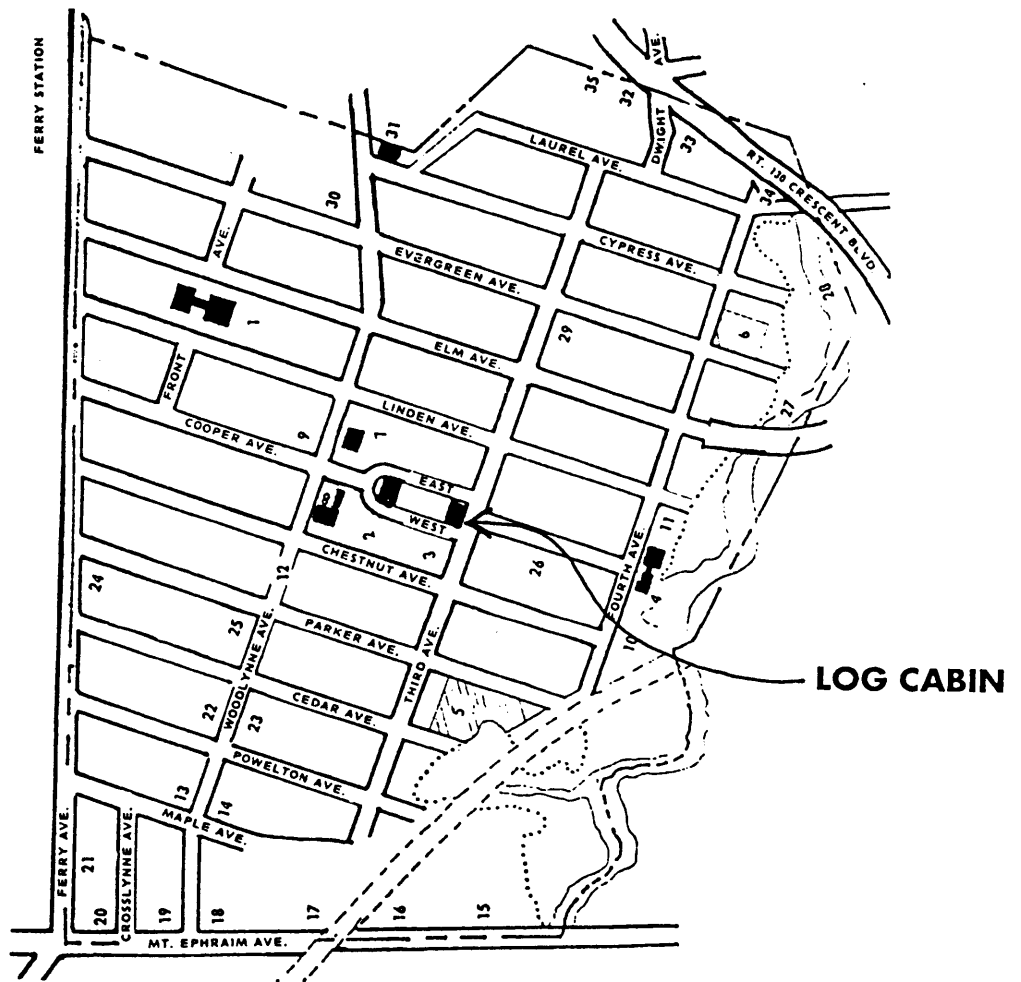
List of Photographs

1. View from northeast - main facade of cabin showing front porch.
2. View from southeast - rear of cabin, Municipal Hall beyond with parking lot in between.
3. View from southwest - rear of cabin showing chimney.
4. View from west - front porch.
5. Interior view showing new ductwork and water heater.
6. Interior view - painting attributed to Burke, circa 1940, modern view.

The following information is true for all of the photographs listed above:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Name of Property | Woodlynne Log Cabin |
| 2. City, County, State: | Borough of Woodlynne, Camden County, New Jersey |
| 3. Name of Photographer | Donna Sink |
| 4. Date of Photographs | June 1996 |
| 5. Location of Original Negatives | Atkin, Olshin, Lawson-Bell and Associates Architects
125 S. 9th Street #900
Philadelphia PA 19107 |

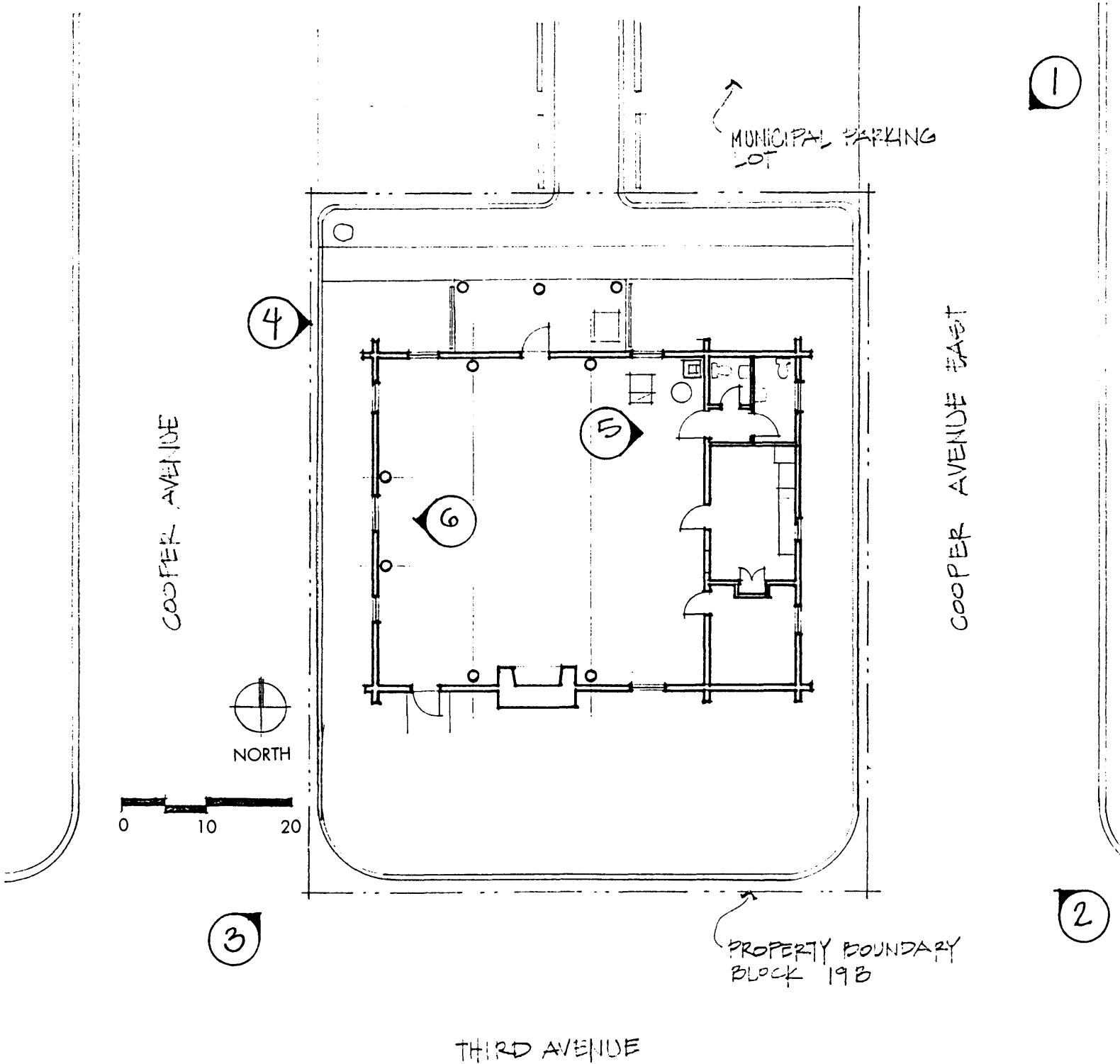
BOROUGH of WOODLYNNE MAP and STREET GUIDE

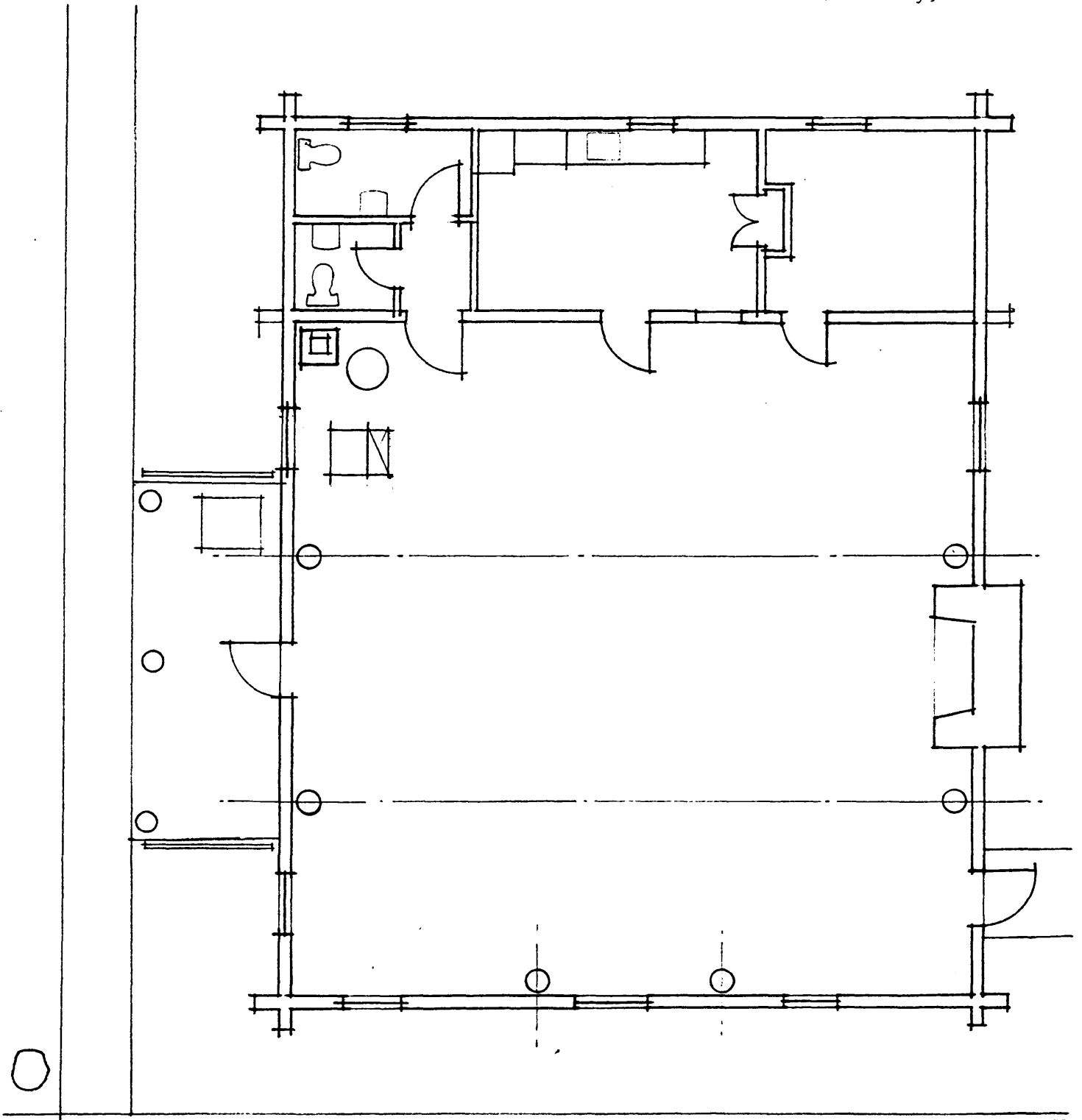


SITE PLAN & PHOTOGRAPH ORIENTATION

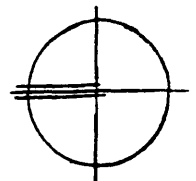
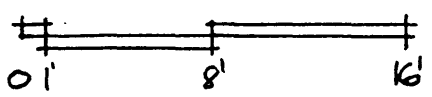
29 APRIL 1997

ATHIN, OLATHIN, LAWSON-BELL
ARCHITECTS

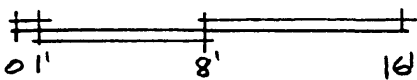
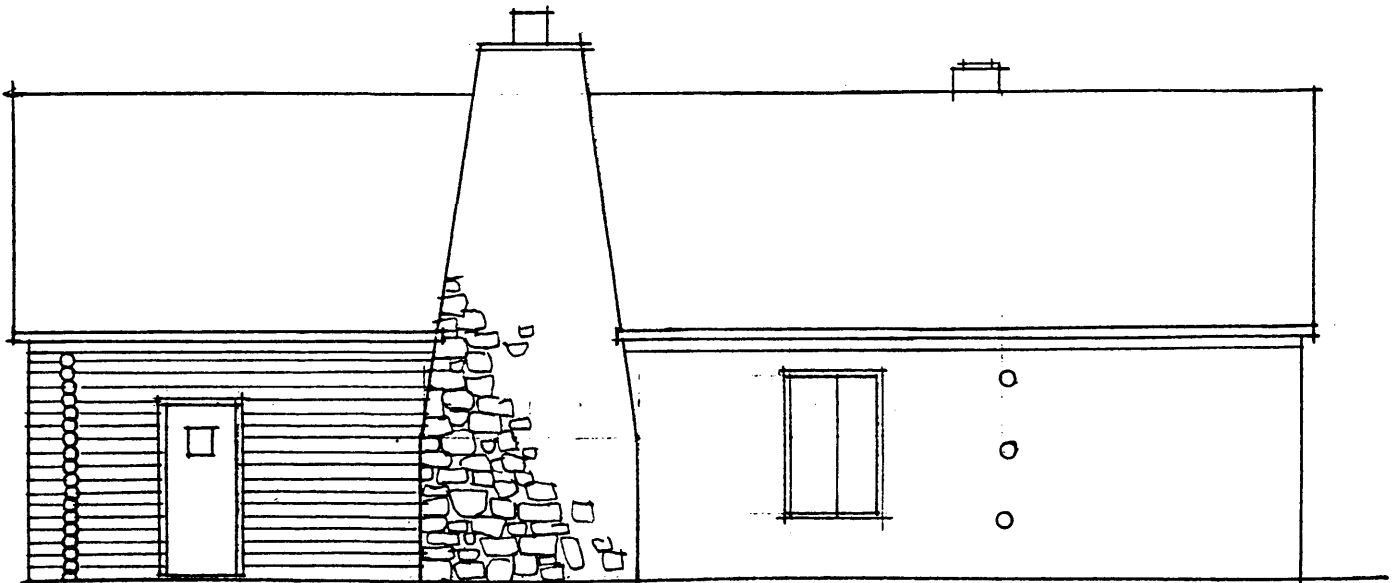
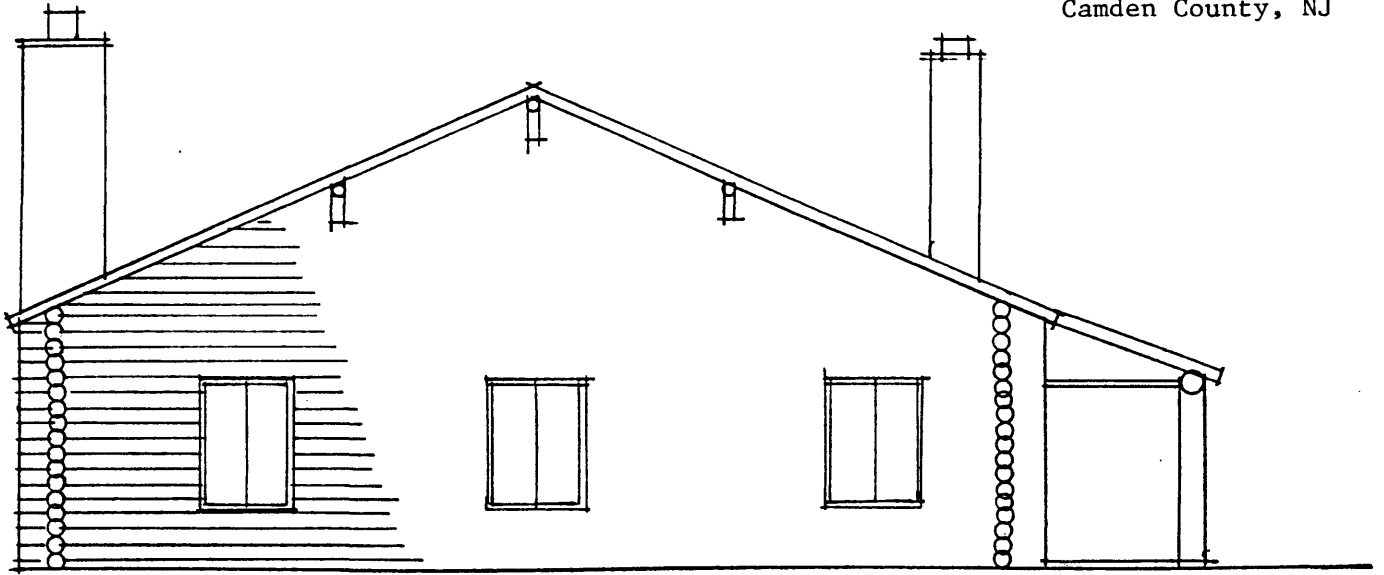




PLAN



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