

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic CAMP-WOODS

and or common CAMP-WOODS

2. Location

street & number 745 Newtown Road N/A not for publication

city, town Villanova N/A vicinity of N/A

state PA code 42 county Delaware code 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Martin Avery Snyder and Ann C. Snyder

street & number 745 Newtown Road

city, town Villanova N/A vicinity of N/A state PA

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds Delaware County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Media, Delaware County state PA 19063

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (NONE COMPLETED) has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town N/A state N/A

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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	date <u>  N/A  </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Camp-Woods is located to the west of Philadelphia in the exclusive Main Line suburb of Ithaca. The house is approached from Newtown Road by a long private drive to a deeply-cut front courtyard where the drive forms an oval. The walls of the courtyard are black granite with concrete panels and a concrete coping. The house consists of two stories with an attic and measures 160 feet in length. It is constructed in the shape of an F and measures 32 feet across the "waist". The main living quarters form a U opening toward the south around a reflection pool (25 x 13 ft) decorated with fountains and putti at each end. The tail of the F is composed of service and utility rooms on both floors.

The exterior of the Italianate-Georgian house is faced with tan wire-cut brick, ornamented beneath a Doric limestone cornice with "brick ommas". The foundation is of black granite and the roof is Bangor slate. The fenestration is all original, consisting largely of pairs of French doors with fixed transom panels on the first floor, double hung windows on the second floor, and dormers with casement windows in the attic. There are open loggia porches on the two "points" of the F. Above these porches on both sides of the central terrace are sleeping porches. Below the residence on the south is a formal garden (144 x 60 ft) which is surrounded by buttressed black granite stone walls 15 to 18 feet tall.

The house is entered through a covered porch supported by Roman Doric columns cut from Indiana limestone. This front porch is decorated with fountains. The 10 foot high front doors, made of birch, are decorated with bronze ornaments. The central gallery hall (60 x 11 ft) runs east and west and communicates with the other rooms on the first floor. It is lit by three original ceiling fixtures. The 15 foot high ceiling is vaulted and ornamentally plastered. The gallery opens to the courtyard on the south through three pairs of French doors. To the west of the front entry is the stairwell (12 x 17 ft). The staircase itself is a curved set doubling back on itself with 26 unused birch steps. Beneath the stairs is a bath with a marble stall shower. On the stair landing is a north-facing pair of French doors. Past the stairs is the library (28 x 17 ft). This room has a limestone fireplace, is paneled in quarter-sawn oak, and has a three-section ornamental plaster vaulted ceiling. Three sets of French doors face the north and west. At the west end of the gallery hall is the living room or salon (35 x 22 ft) which has a large limestone fireplace and 5 pairs of French doors opening on three sides. This room has a painted beam ceiling and a birch wainscot. The interior door and window casings here are all Indiana limestone.

To the east of the front doors is the reception or morning room (16 x 17 ft) which has an Italian marble fireplace with a mirror above, and one north-facing pair of French doors. There is an adjoining powder room. Next to this room is the modern kitchen, remodeled from several service rooms in 1975. At the east end of the gallery hall is the dining room (25 x 21 ft) which has a huge limestone fireplace with a 9 foot high mantel shelf, four sets of French doors opening on three sides, and birch paneling 10 feet up the walls. The balance of the walls are ornamented plaster as is the beamed ceiling. To the east of these areas there is a service area measuring approximately 80 x 25 feet.

(see Continuation Sheet)

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The second floor of the house is characteristic of Shaw's country houses in that it easily divides into three sections. The master suite on the west end of the house has two bathrooms, a lady's dressing room (12 x 15 ft), a gentleman's dressing room (20 x 17 ft), and a bedroom (20 x 19 ft) opening onto a sleeping porch above the living room loggia (20 x 9 ft). The fireplace in the gentleman's dressing room is limestone while that in the master bedroom is Italian white marble. There is a vaulted gallery hall (60 x 9 ft) which leads past two children's rooms (both 18 x 18 ft), both with baths and limestone fireplaces. At the end of the gallery is the guest suite, symmetrical to the master suite, with a dressing room (11 x 11 ft) and a bedroom (20 x 19 ft) with adjoining bath. This bedroom has a marble fireplace and opens onto a sleeping porch (20 x 9 ft) above the dining room loggia. To the west of this area is a service area measuring approximately 80 x 25 feet.

Camp-Woods sits on a lot of more than four acres, and most of the original gardens are intact, now with large mature plantings. There are numerous granite walls, limestone garden benches, steps, limestone and concrete fountains, and other original accessory constructions around the grounds. A portion of the basement once used as a mushroom-growing cellar is accessed by a tunnel cut thru the buttressed stone terrace wall from the out-of-doors. The house is in original condition, except that the kitchen has been renovated and relocated, the baths have all been updated, and a three-car garage has been added on the rear of the residence in a style in keeping with the basic construction.

## 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 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 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** 1910-1912      **Builder/Architect** John S. Cornell & Sons/Howard van Doren Shaw

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Camp-Woods was built in 1910-1912 as the residence of James M. Willcox, an aristocratic banker who some 15 years later commissioned Howe and Lescaze to do the famous Philadelphia Savings Fund Society building in Philadelphia. It provides a still largely intact example of the sort of country home favored by Philadelphia's affluent class in the early twentieth century. Of the various Main Line estates built at this time, Camp-Woods stands out because of its superior architecture, and further because it is an excellent and typical example of a master architect's work. Although Howard Van Doren Shaw did few Italianate style houses, Camp-Woods was one of three well-known houses built in this style, the others being the Ryerson and Mark houses in Lake Forest, Illinois. Many of the architectural details of Camp-Woods are shared with the Clayton Mark residence, as is clear from consulting the photographs in Wight's 1917 article on Shaw's work. The Mark house is listed in the Historic Register application for the Lake Forest Historic District as one of the structures having "special significance" for the District (Item No. 50). The principle exterior material is brick, as is typical with Mr. Shaw's country houses. The front entry is comprised of Roman Doric columns and the surrounding cornice is Doric in style, this being Shaw's favorite style. The residence is exquisitely detailed, one of Shaw's great talents. Camp-Woods displays the typical Shaw openness and sense of relationship with the out-of-doors. As with many of Mr. Shaw's country houses, a central gallery communicates with all parts of the building, both upstairs and downstairs. Nearly every room has windows on more than one side, also a typical Shaw design feature. Writing in the Dictionary of American Biography, Thomas Talmadge said of Shaw, "He became probably the most highly regarded architect in the sphere of domestic, ecclesiastical and non-commercial architecture in the middle west." He was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1907 at the age of 38. Just before he died, he was awarded the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects. This medal is awarded by the Board of Directors in recognition of most distinguished service to the architectural profession or the Institute, and from 1907 to 1983, the medal has been awarded just 44 times. Most of the country houses Shaw built were located in the Lake Forest area, and of the 60 buildings cited in the Lake Forest Historic District as having "special significance", almost one quarter were designed by Shaw. Shaw's own house, Ragdale (in Lake Forest), is also on the National Historic Register. Not only is Camp-Woods the only Eastern example of the work of this master architect, but, as noted by Leonard Eaton in his book Two Chicago Architects and Their Clients - Frank Lloyd Wright and Howard Van Doren Shaw, among Shaw's country homes Camp-Woods (see Continuation Sheet)

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is "one of the finest". Camp-Woods, a superb example of the country house work of a master architect, is the only example of Shaw's work in Pennsylvania. It is in an excellent state of preservation at this time, being original throughout with the exceptions of some of the service and utility areas. Camp-Woods retains over four acres of the original ground and gardens. The balance of the original ground has now been developed with expensive single-family homes, each on approximately two acres of ground. Camp-Woods is an integral part of its neighborhood, and maintains a relative sense of privacy. Camp-Woods is built on a local high spot of ground on which a 200-man outpost of Washington's army encamped during the Valley Forge winter of 1777-1778. This fact is commemorated by an historical monument commissioned by James M. Willcox and designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw and erected a few years after the residence was complete. This monument originally contained a flag pole which is no longer present, but otherwise the monument is as it was originally built.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Eaton, L.K. Two Chicago Architects, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass. (1969)  
 Talmadge, T.E. "Howard Van Doren Shaw" in Dict. of American Biography 17, p.40 (1935)  
 Talmadge, T.E. "Howard Van Doren Shaw May 7, 1869-May 7, 1926" Arch. Rec. LX, 71-73 (1926)  
 Wight, P.B. "Recent Country House Work of Howard Shaw", Arch. Rec. XLII, 499-527 (1917)  
 ----- Architectural Forum, 26, no. 2, plates 34-36 (1917)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.174

Quadrangle name Norristown, PA

Quadrangle scale 7.5 USGS

### UTM References

A 

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4	6	7	8	8	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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4	6	8	1	6	0
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4	4	2	9	9	7	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	8
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4	6	8	0	6	0
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4	4	2	9	8	4	0
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martin Avery Snyder

organization N/A

date 4/25/83

street & number 745 Newtown Road

telephone 215-688-4825

city or town Villanova

state PA

## 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Comp Woods / Del Co.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Eaton, L.K. Two Chicago Architects, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass. (1969)  
 Talmadge, T.E. "Howard Van Doren Shaw" in Dict. of American Biography 17, p.40 (1935)  
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UTM References

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1	8	4	6	9	0	4	1	0
Zone		Easting			Northing			

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martin Avery Snyder

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State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/18/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground, with the buildings thereon erected, situate in the Township of Radnor, County of Delaware and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania according to a plan made for the Grantor herein by Henry S. Conrey, Inc., dated January 27, 1983, as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at a point in the center line of Newtown Road (Thirty three feet wide), at the distance of Eighty and six one-hundredths feet measured North sixty seven degrees, twenty two minutes East, along the center line thereof from a railroad spike, a corner of land now or late of H. B. T. Montgomery; thence along the center line of Newtown Road, North sixty seven degrees, twenty two minutes East, Twenty and nineteen one-hundredths feet to a railroad spike; thence crossing an iron pin, Twenty three and ten one-hundredths feet from the beginning of this line, South twenty degrees, twenty seven minutes, ten seconds East, One thousand five hundred seventy seven and seventy one one-hundredths feet to an iron pin, a corner of lot #35; thence along lot #35, South twenty degrees, twenty seven minutes, ten seconds East, One hundred and forty three one-hundredths feet to a point, a corner of lot #37 in the bed of a Twenty feet wide utility easement; thence along lot #37, the three following courses and distances: (1) South sixty nine degrees, fifty six minutes, fifty seconds West, Sixty one and twenty five one-hundredths feet to a point; (2) South nineteen degrees, thirty three minutes, thirty seconds East, Two hundred seventy feet to a point; (3) South nine degrees, seventeen minutes, twenty eight seconds West, Eighty five and fifty one-hundredths feet to a point, a corner of lot #20; thence along lots #20 and 19, South thirty six degrees, thirteen minutes, forty eight seconds West, one hundred eighty eight and eighty one one-hundredths feet to a point, being a corner of lot #19; thence extending South twenty four degrees, thirty nine minutes East along the boundary line of lot #19 the distance of forty feet to a point; and thence extending along lots #18 and 17 South seventy one degrees, forty one minutes, three seconds West, Two hundred sixty one and fifty nine one-hundredths feet to a point being the common juncture of lots #16, 17 and 41; thence along lot #16 South sixty five degrees, twenty one minutes West, Fifty nine and forty seven one-hundredths feet to a point, a corner of lot #46; thence along lot #46, North thirty six degrees, thirty five minutes, thirty nine seconds West, Two hundred sixty five and seventy five one-hundredths feet to a point being the common juncture of lots #41, 43 and 46; thence along lot #43, North twenty degrees, three minutes, ten seconds West, One hundred fourteen and thirteen one-hundredths feet to a point; thence along lot #42 on said plan, the five following courses and distances: (1) North sixty nine degrees, fifty six minutes, fifty seconds East, Forty six feet to a point; (2) South twenty degrees, three minutes, ten seconds East, Eleven feet to a point; (3) South eighty degrees, two minutes, forty seconds East, One hundred nine and forty three one-hundredths feet to a point; (4) North forty two degrees, fifty minutes, twenty four seconds East, Seventy two and sixteen one-hundredths feet to a point; (5) North twenty degrees, three minutes, ten seconds West, Twenty one and thirty one one-hundredths feet to a point; thence along lot #40 on said plan, the two following courses and distances: (1) South seventy nine degrees, nineteen minutes, two seconds East, One hundred twenty five feet to a point; (2) South seventy four degrees, thirty minutes, five seconds East,



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Ninety five and thirty two one-hundredths feet to a point; thence along lot #39 the six following courses and distances (1) South twenty degrees, three minutes, ten seconds East, Twelve feet; (2) North sixty nine degrees, fifty six minutes, fifty seconds East, One hundred sixty feet to a point; (3) North five degrees, forty nine minutes, fifty nine seconds West, Fifty one and fifty nine one-hundredths feet to a point; (4) North nineteen degrees, thirty three minutes, thirty seconds West, Two hundred thirty feet to a point; (5) North sixty nine degrees, fifty six minutes, fifty seconds East, Seventy one feet to a point in the bed of said Twenty feet wide utility easement; (6) North twenty degrees, twenty seven minutes, forty seconds West, One thousand six hundred fifty seven and twenty three one-hundredths feet to the first mentioned point and place of beginning.

Camp-Woods  
 DC 129840  
 County 17  
 E 29928

