

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club
other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number Route 45, Spruce Creek
city, town Franklin Township
state Pennsylvania code PA county Huntingdon code 061 zip code

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 4, Noncontributing buildings 0, Total 4
Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Dr. Brent D. Glass
Date: 1/23/91
State or Federal agency and bureau: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation/sports facility

Social/club house

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation/sports facility

Social/club house

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stone

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club is located south of Route 45, Franklin Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. The nominated property consists of the Club's original ten acre parcel with Spruce Creek crossing the eastern end of this parcel. The clubhouse and three stone outbuildings occupy a hillock overlooking Spruce Creek Valley. The buildings were constructed between 1905 and 1930 and retain a high degree of integrity.

The clubhouse is a Colonial Revival Style building, constructed of local field stone and lumber. It consists of a two-and-one-half story main section connected to a two story rear wing and ell. Both sections have gambrel roofs with shed-roofed dormers. Rough-coursed masonry of the building's stone walls, porch and chimnies lend the building a distinctly rustic appearance appropriate for its location, overlooking Spruce Creek and surrounding farms.

The appearance of the three-bay, front (northeast) elevation of the clubhouse includes the sloping planes of a gambrel roof which covers the front section of the building and recessed porch. There is a chimney near each end of the roof ridge and a gabled ventilator to the left of the midpoint of the ridge. There are three dormers on the lower plane of the roof. The flanking dormers are shed-roofed, contain paired 6/1 sash and have shingled sides. The central dormer is nearly twice as wide, containing a row of four 1/1 sash windows, and is taller, capped by a pediment with pent cornice, lunette, and finial. Above the windows of the central dormer is a sign, "Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club". Below the windows, and intersecting the eaves of the roof, is the rough stonework of a large archway leading onto the porch and to the clubhouse's entrance. In addition to the arch, the recessed porch rests on a stone pillar at either end of the facade. Another stone pillar supports a corner of the extended roof of a one story, enclosed side porch, which runs along the east side of the building. Doors and windows of the stone first story are organized into three bays with a central entrance with transom and sidelights and flanking pairs of 6/1 sash windows. The side porch also has a door with transom flanked by single 6/6 sash.

The southeast (side) elevation of the clubhouse shows one end of the main section of the house, two-and-one-half stories in height at the front connected with one side of the two-story gambreled wing at the rear. The gambreled end of the main section of the house has a pair of 1/1 sash windows at the third floor level and three, equally space 6/1 sash windows at the second story. There is also a small gambreled ell intersecting the rear wing and lit, on the second story, by a pair of 6/1 sash windows. The roof of the wing contains a shed-roofed dormer with three sash windows and a single 6/1 sash window to the right of this. The first floor of this elevation features the enclosed side porch and recessed porch of the front section of the clubhouse and an

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The clubhouse has a basement under the rear ell and wing and under part of the front section of the building. The attic has two large bedrooms with a total of nineteen beds and has a bathroom.

The clubhouse was a well-equipped building for its time. It had central hot air heating, indoor plumbing, gas and; later, electric lighting, and a closed septic system on the grounds. The gas system, consisting of an acetylene generating system was replaced by a 32 volt, direct current generator battery system developed for rural use by General Motors in the 1920's and 1930's. The generator was replaced in 1935-36 by the Rural Electric Administrations. In 1912, the Club also had one of few telephones in the valley.

The outbuildings are located to the rear of the clubhouse and include a generator building, 1906-08, and an ice house from about the same time. There is also a garage/carriage man's house dating to 1908-09 with a long, carriage/automobile shed added to one end about 1920.

The generator building is stone, measures 11 by 12 feet in plan and has a gable roof. The building is used today as a garden shed but formerly held the club's electrical generator and gas systems.

The ice house is 23 feet square in plan and has stone walls and a hipped roof. It was constructed with one floor above ground and one floor below ground. The Club originally used ice from Spruce Creek to store vegetables. Today the building has a garage door in one side and is used by the caretaker as a garage.

The garage/carriage man's house is a two story stone building, measuring 16 feet square. It was built to house a vehicle for early transportation to the Pennsylvania Railroad at the village of Spruce Creek. A 16 by 110 feet, one story carriage/automobile shed was attached to one end of this building about 1920. A bracketed, shed-roof overhang joins to two buildings. The carriage/automobile shed has several vehicle bays.

The Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club has operated continuously since its inception. There have been a few changes to its buildings and setting. Therefore the Club retains a high degree of integrity.

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enclosed and an open porch on the rear wing, just to the front of the ell. Between the rear wing porches and the front section of the house there is a door leading to the basement and also a single 6/1 sash window.

Beneath this window is a basement window and two more basement windows appear at the base of the ell.

A prominent feature of the rear (southwest) elevation of the building is the repetition of the general configuration of dormers as found on the front elevation, including a large, pedimented central dormer. The gambrel end of the rear wing is also visible and is lit by a 6/1 sash window flanked by a smaller 6/1 window on either side. There is also a shed-roofed dormer on the ell, to the right of the gambrel end, which contains one 6/1 sash window. There are a total of five 6/1 windows on the stone first story, three basement windows on the rear wing, and no doors appearing on this elevation.

Perhaps the most prominent feature of the northwest (side) elevation is a large, tall stone chimney rising from the roof of the rear wing. Three shed-roofed dormers also appear on the roof of the wing. The first story of the wing has two pairs of 6/1 sash windows and a single, smaller sash window at the rear. There are also single 6/1 sash windows on the first and second story of the small section which joins the front section and rear wing. The front section of the clubhouse shows a pair of 1/1 sash windows at the third story, three 6/1 sash windows on the second story and two 1/1 windows on the first story. There are also a total of six basement windows on this elevation and no doors.

Entering the clubhouse from the main porch, one steps into the entrance/stair hall and reception area. To the right of the reception area is the living room. The focus of this room is a stone fireplace on the northwest wall. The living room ceiling has exposed floor joists, running northeast and southwest crossing a beam, running perpendicular to the joists. The joists and beams are painted white. Colonial Revival Style lighting figures hang from the ceiling. To the left of the reception area is the main dining room with entrance to the side porch dining area. The dining room ceiling has exposed beams with dark finish. Interior moldings are simple. A small fireplace is located on the inner wall of the side porch. Original furnishings, including several pieces of Mission Style furniture, remain in use in these rooms and in other rooms of the Clubhouse.

The rear wing contains a pantry and large kitchen on the first floor. Stairs in one corner of the kitchen lead to the second floor. The second floor is chiefly occupied by a large activity room. There are also servants' quarters in the ell to the rear of the kitchen and activity room.

The second floor of the clubhouse contains seven bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a locker room for club members. Most of these rooms are entered from a corridor which runs in an southeast-northwest direction. The bedrooms are named for eastern states - Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, etc. The bathrooms have porcelain fixtures.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G NA

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1905-1940

Significant Dates

1905

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Schollar, Frederic James
Hersh, Frank A.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club is a significant collection of four buildings reflecting the recreational pursuits of prominent Altoona businessmen. These businessmen leaders established the club in 1904 as part of their efforts to secure exclusive fishing privileges on several farms in the Spruce Creek Valley. The Spruce Creek has long been known as a trout fisherman's paradise, because of the waters supporting local native brook trout. The club secured land in 1905, to construct a clubhouse and establish fish hatcheries. The club's goal was one of conservation by the stocking of Spruce Creek with trout. The club is accomplishing its original goal after 80 years of continuous activity. The club is also architecturally significant, designed by the Altoona firm of Schollar and Hersch, the club illustrates an interesting combination of Colonial Revival Style and rustic architecture design, suitable to the club's location, membership, and purpose.

The formation, in 1904, of the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club was an outgrowth of efforts of Altoona businessmen to secure a ten-year lease to the exclusive fishing privileges on several farms throughout the choicest part of Spruce Creek. The first meeting of the club, under the leadership of J.G. Davis, was held at the Logan House in Altoona. The club charter states the purpose of the club is the stocking and propagation of trout in the creek. The club's first activity was the construction of a hatchery near a spring adjacent to land the club was to purchase in 1905. The club has worked very closely with the Pennsylvania State Fish Hatchery in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania in securing fingerlings to stock the club hatchery. The cooperation between the Rod and Gun Club and the State Hatchery has lead to the introduction of German Brown Trout to the Spruce Creek.

Members of the club were avid outdoors men, who wanted to spend time pursuing their hobby of fishing or hunting, away from the noise and grime found in the City of Altoona during the height of the Pennsylvania Railroad. (Altoona at one time was the home of the Pennsylvania Railroad Shops, possibly the largest railroad shops in the United States).

The Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club, unlike the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club in Cambria County, made no major changes to the environment. The club constructed a large clubhouse with necessary outbuildings, and hatcheries to stock the nearby stream. The Altoona businessmen did not have to rely on a manmade dam for recreation, but used a natural flowing stream as the focus of the club's activities.

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The businessmen from Altoona created the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club as their own exclusive hunting and fishing club. The club restricted membership to men only, although members could bring wives and family members. The original club included 112 members including such prominent Altoona leaders as Jay G. Davis, Oliver Rothert, H.C. Wilson, W.C. Westfall, R.J. Fay, Jay P. McWilliams, W.L. Hicks, C. Wendtroth, M.H. Canan, W.W. Blake, and W.L. Nicholson.

W.C. Westfall was the owner of one of Altoona's finest haberdashery, established 1881, and was a local philanthropist. J.P. McWilliams was manager of Logan House. Logan House was Altoona's finest and best known nineteenth century hotel.

The Clubhouse was designed by the Altoona firm of Schollar and Hersch. Frederick James Schollar (1874-1960) and Frank A. Hersch (1874-1949) started their practice in 1900. The firm is the first to introduce Classic Revival style architecture to Altoona. The firm designed the Altoona Trust Building, the Rothert Building in the first part of the twentieth century. In 1925 the firm designed City Hall and by 1930 the two men designed the Jaffa Temple. The firm designed the Rothert Residence, the Oswald Residence, and the Kazmaier and Nicholson Residences.

The above buildings still survive today and still play an important role in Altoona's architectural heritage. The Rothert Residence is now the home of the Bishop of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. The Oswald Residence is occupied by the Carn Funeral Home. The Kazmaier Residence is now part of the Garvey Manor Nursing Home complex, and the Nicholson Residence is a private home.

Throughout its 80 years, the Clubhouse has been visited by such personalities as sports writer Joe Brooks and photographer Dr. George Kesel. Both Presidents Eisenhower and Carter came to the Clubhouse for trout fishing along the Spruce Creek.

The Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club has weathered many changes in both the state and nation. The club has remained solvent through the Great Depression, two world wars and social change.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Spruce Creek Rod & Gun Club Minute Books, unpublished, 1904-1990
2. Daily News, December 14, 1908, new wing added, fishing and hunting club on Spruce Creek
3. Daily News, May 7, 1906, new hunting and fishing club built Spruce Creek
4. Huntingdon County Register & Recorder's Office, Tax Office
5. Polk's Altoona & Hollidaysburg Directory, 1908-1980, R.L. Polk & Co., Pittsburgh, PA
6. Interview John Hemphill, April 11, 1986, club president in 1930's
7. Hayes, Large, Suckling, Fruth & Wedge, architects, Altoona, plans of present day building

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 10

UTM References

A 117 749340 4506540
 Zone Easting Northing

C 117 749750 4506700

B 117 749670 4506700
 Zone Easting Northing

D 117 749360 4506450

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for this Spruce Creek Rod & Gun Club comprises the tax parcels 14-09-05 and 06 in Franklin Township, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. The two tax parcels are recorded in the Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office and listed on the Huntingdon County tax rolls for Franklin Township. The Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club Clubhouse is located on a tract of land southeast

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property encompasses the original property purchased in 1904 and since maintained by the Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title George John Drobnock
 organization NA date 24 August 1990
 street & number 213 S. Jefferson Street telephone (814) 542-9350
 city or town Mount Union state PA zip code 17066

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National Park Service**

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8. Clifford Hayes, notes on firm of Hersch & Schollar, April 1989
9. Kim Hoagland, National Park Service, field notes on Altoona architects, September 1988
10. Report of the Department of Fisheries, Pennsylvania, 1906, William F. Haas, Superintendent, Report of the Spruce Creek Hatchery Station #8, pp. 171-175
11. Report of the Department of Fisheries, Pennsylvania, 1907, William F. Haas, Superintendent, Report of Spruce Creek Hatchery Station #8, pp. 164-169
12. Report of the Department of Fisheries, Pennsylvania, 1908, William F. Haas, Superintendent, Report of Spruce Creek Hatchery Station #8, pp. 101-105

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Pennsylvania

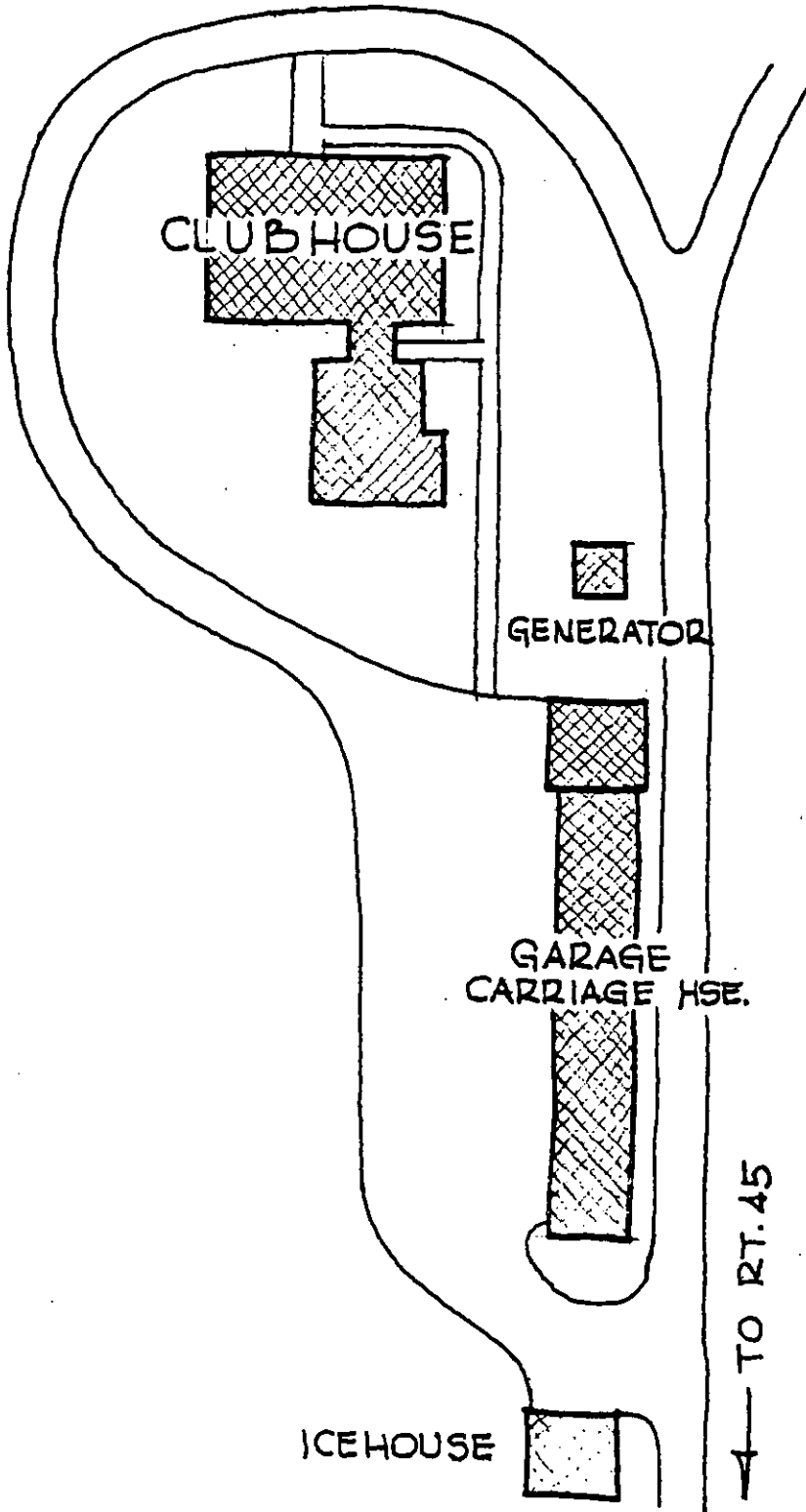
of Route 45 north to State College, Pennsylvania in Franklin Township, Huntingdon County. The property is bounded on the north, east, and west by tax parcel number 14-09-02 and on the south by tax parcel number 14-09-07. The property comprises ten acres of land divided into a three acre parcel to the east by the Spruce Creek and seven acres to the west of the Spruce Creek. The two parcels listed as tax parcel numbers 14-09-05 and 14-09-06. The tax parcels are recorded in the Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office and listed on the Huntingdon County tax rolls for Franklin Township.

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Pennsylvania



NORTH

SPRUCE CREEK
ROD & GUN CLUB

FRANKLIN TWP.
PENNSYLVANIA

PLOT PLAN
SCALE 1" = 50.0'

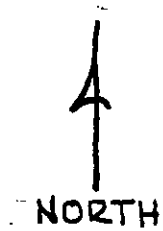
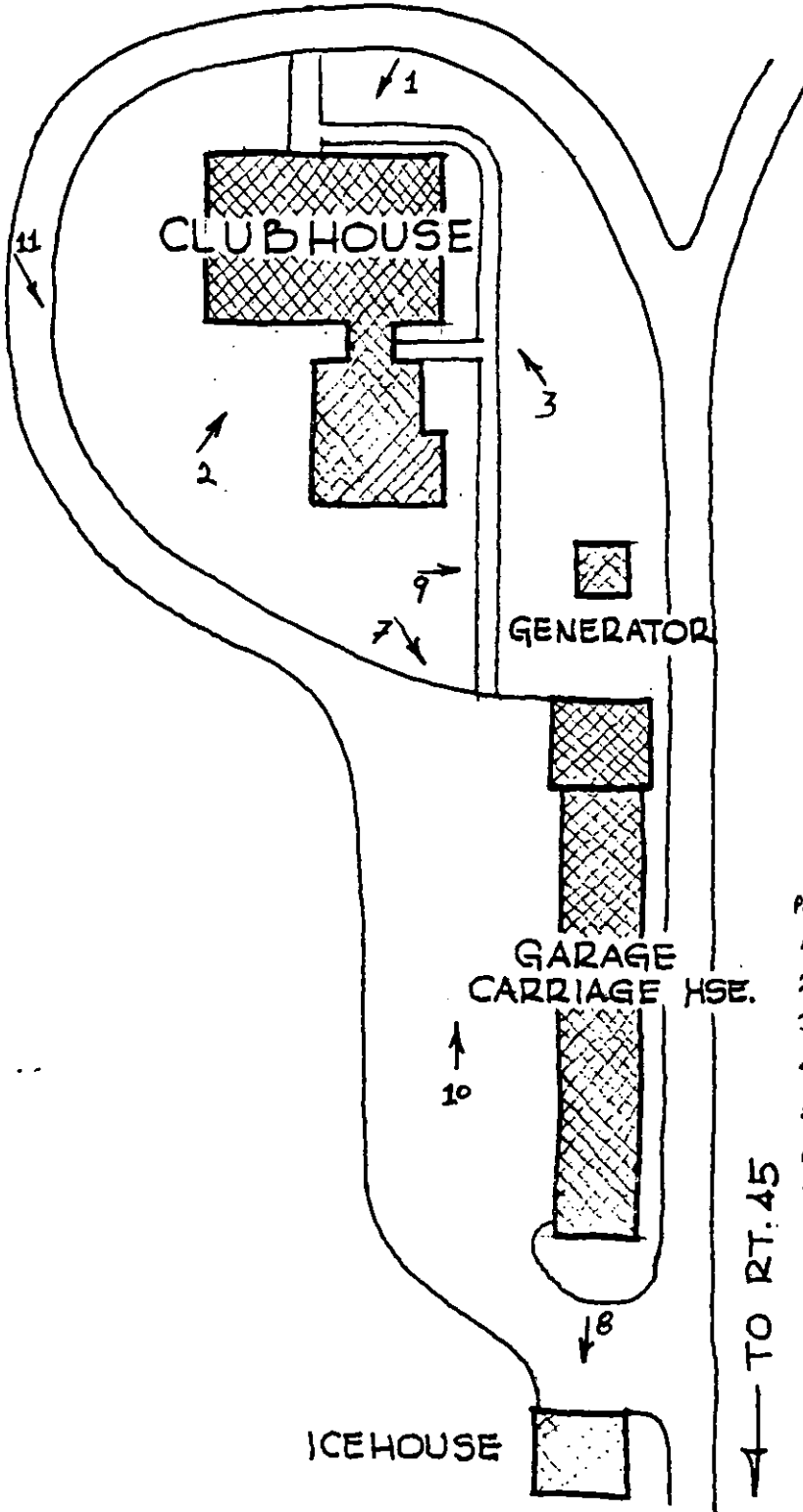
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Photograph Location and Site Plan

Spruce Creek Rod and Gun Club
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SPRUCE CREEK
ROD & GUN CLUB

FRANKLIN TWP.
PENNSYLVANIA

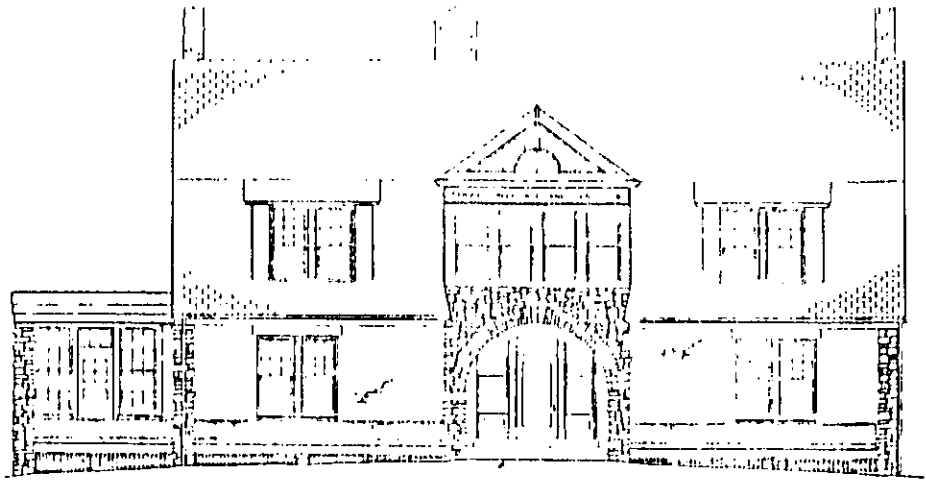
PLOT PLAN

SCALE 1" = 50.0'

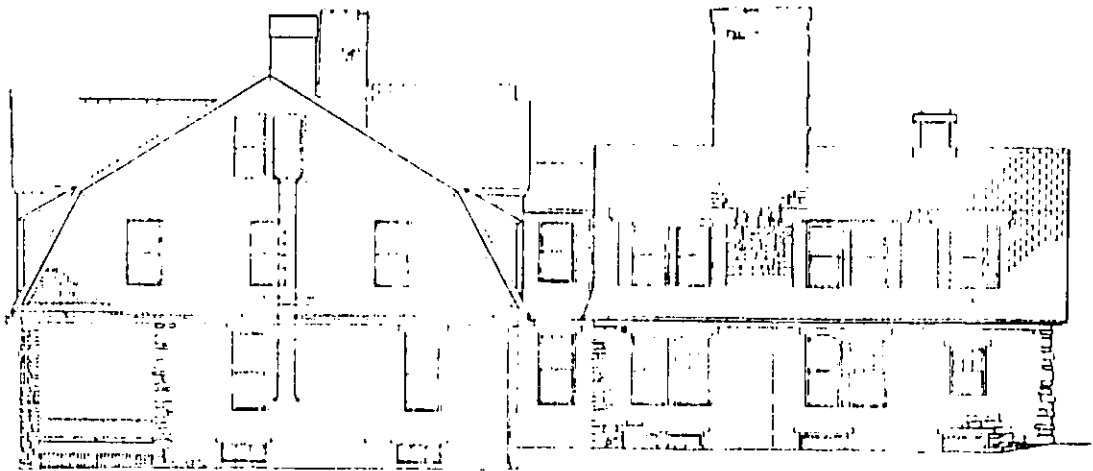
Photograph Key

- 1) Main building - NE Entrance
- 2) Main building - ^{South west} West view
- 3) Main building - South East North West
- 4) Main building - interior - Living Room - first floor
- 5) Main building - interior - Dining Room - first floor
- 6) Main building - interior - Activity Room - second floor
- 7) Carriage House / Car Shed
- 8) Ice House
- 9) Generator House
- 10) Court yard
- 11) View - Looking **SE**, Main building + out buildings

13 NOV. 1990 C.R.H



FRONT ELEVATION

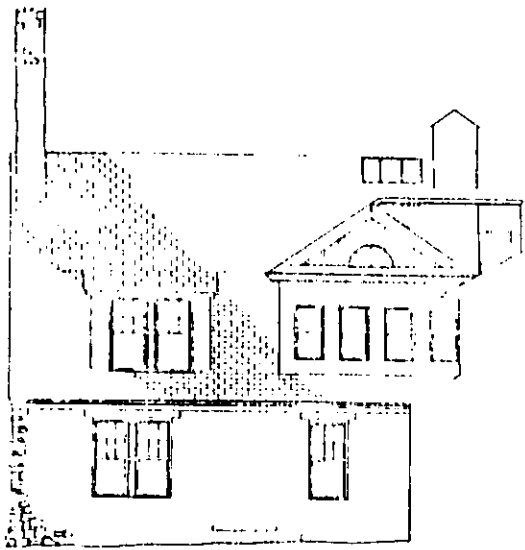


REAR ELEVATION

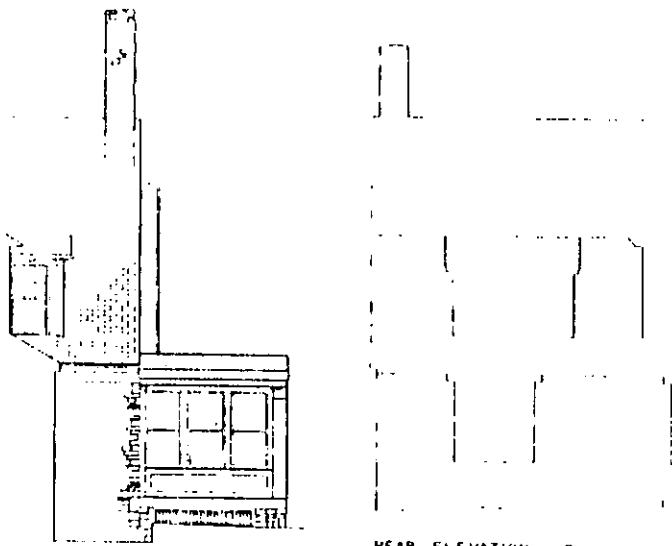
SPRUCE CREEK ROD AND GUN CLUB
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, HUNTINGDON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA



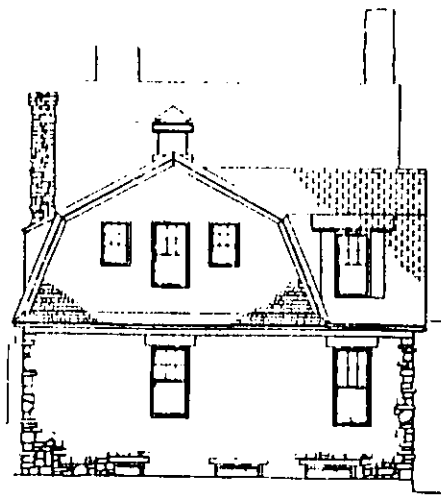
SIDE ELEVATION

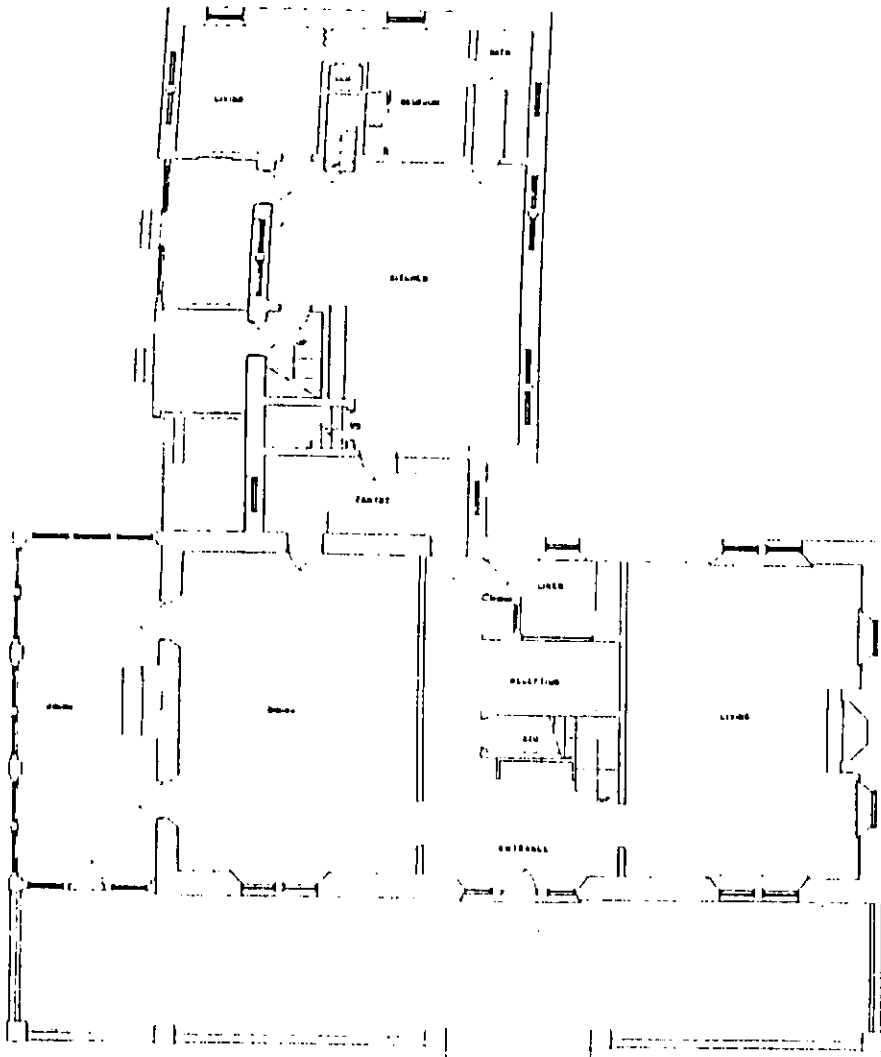


REAR ELEVATION - 1

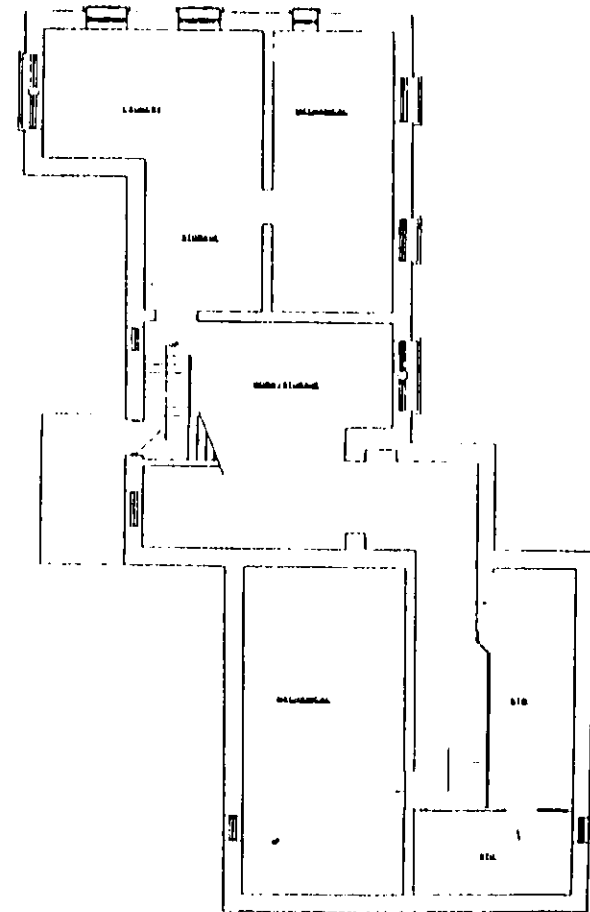


REAR ELEVATION - 2

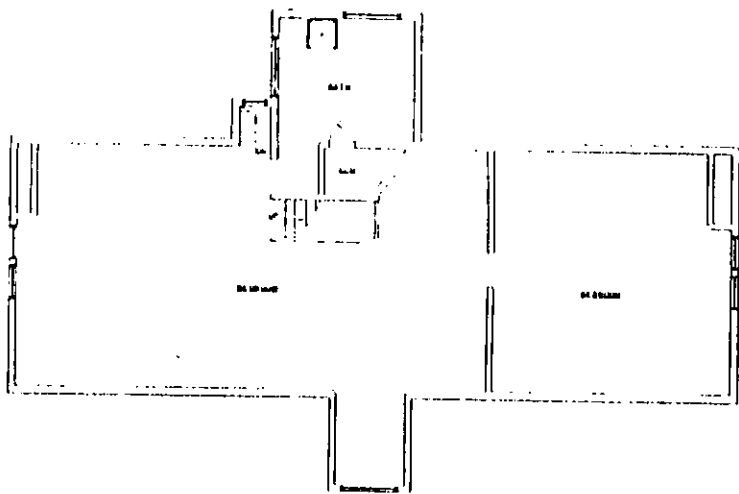




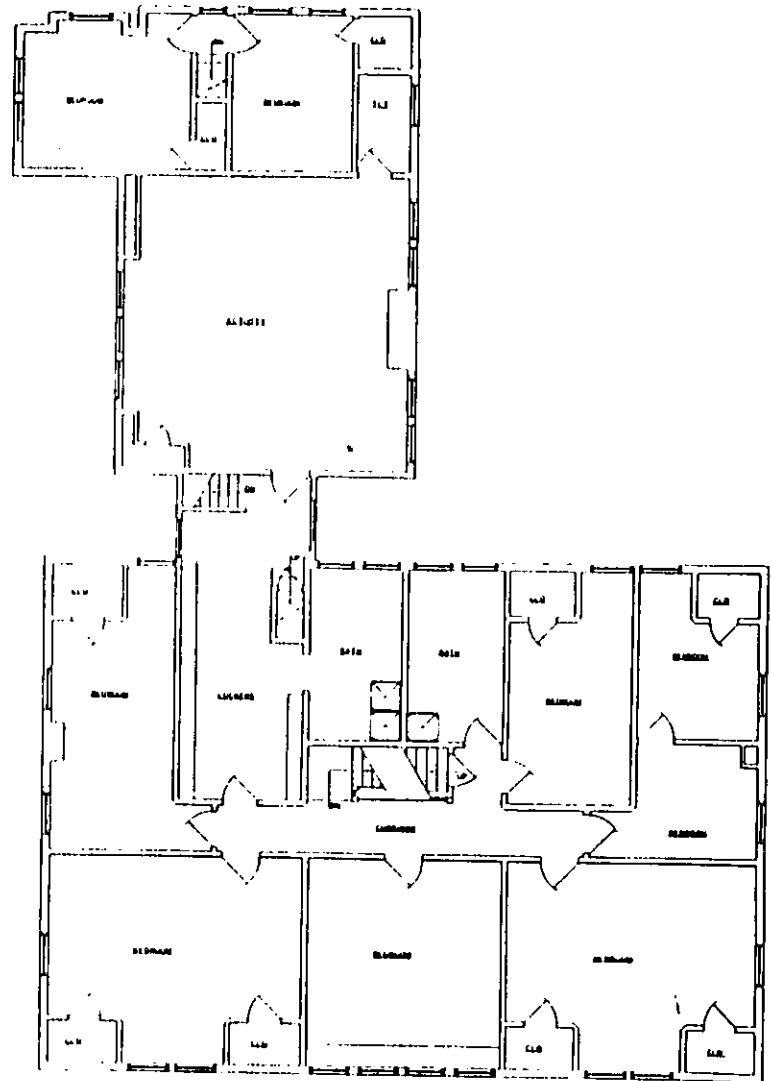
FIRST FLOOR PLAN (1)



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN (2)



THIRD FLOOR PLAN (A)



SECOND FLOOR PLAN (A)



Spruce Creek
Road + Gun Club
Huntingdon Co
Franklinville
Quad
Zone 17

A E 749340
N 4506540

B E 749670
N 4506760

C E 749750
N 4506700

D E 749360
N 4506450