

BROOKRACE ESTATE, LIFEGUARD TOWER
Located 0.1 miles north of Pleasant
Valley Road and .0.5 miles east of
Union School House Road
Morristown vicinity
Morris County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1216-F

HABS
NJ
14-MORTO, V,
3F

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

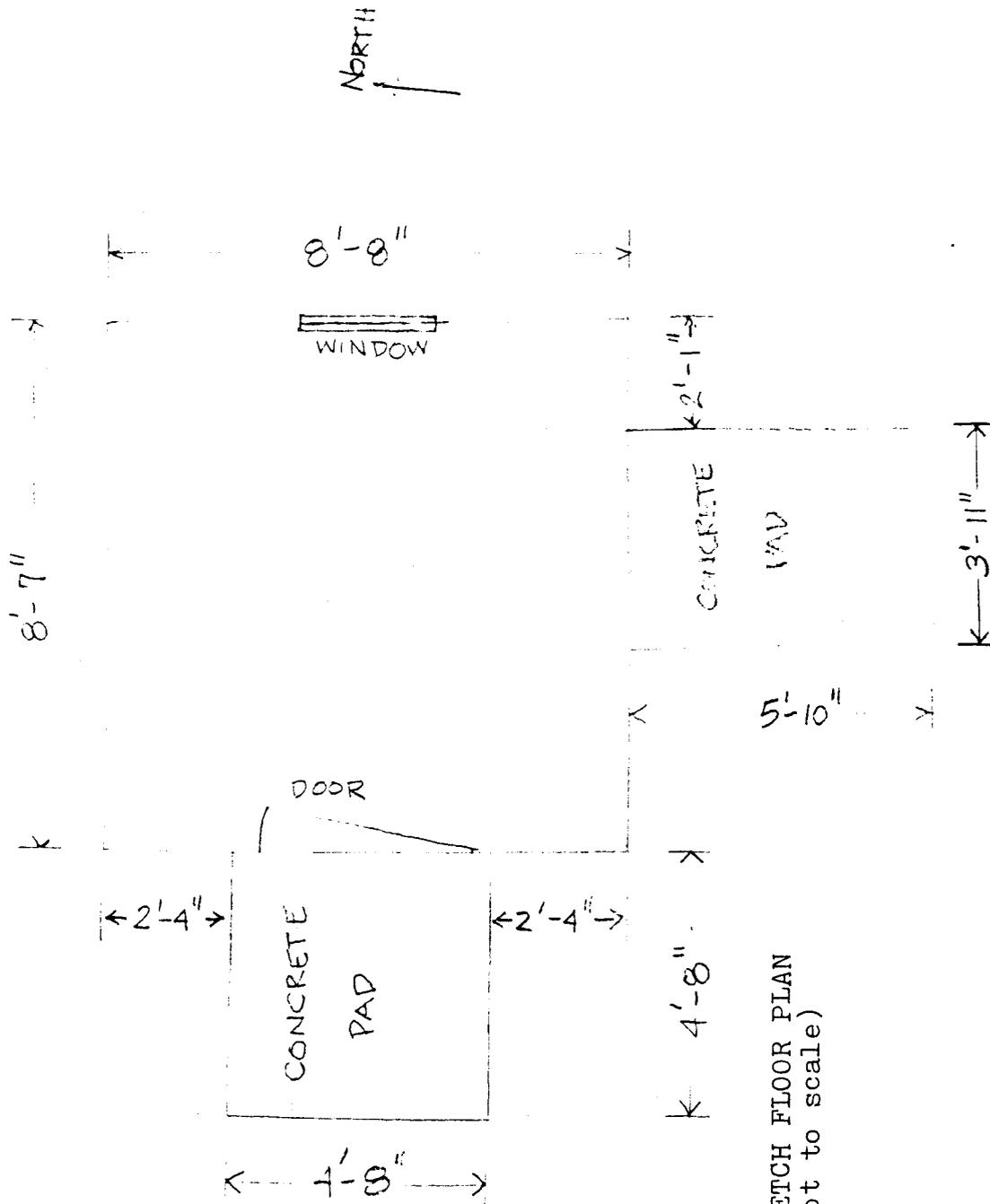
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
BROOKRACE ESTATE, LIFEGUARD TOWER

HABS No. NJ-1216-F

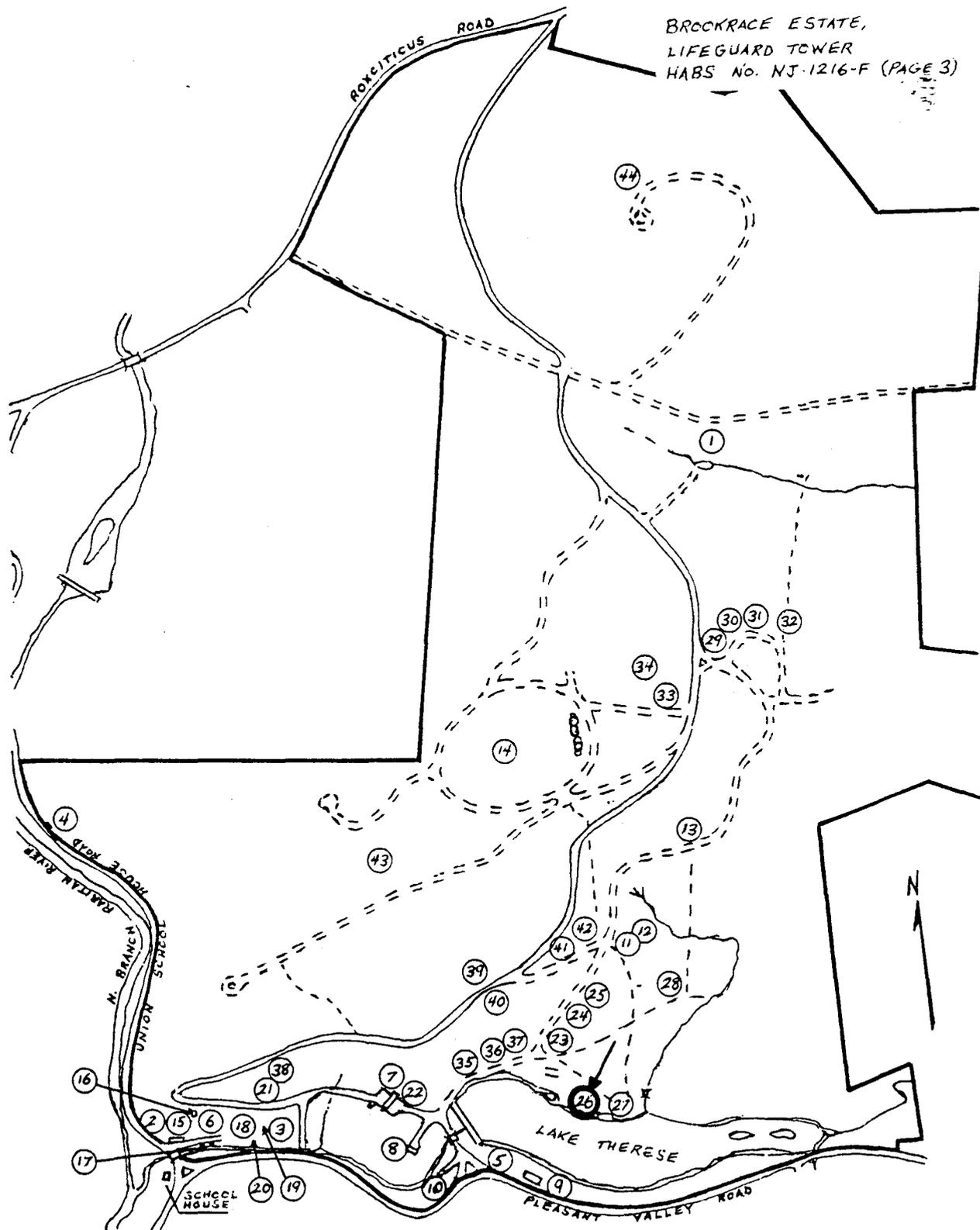
HABS
NJ
14-MORTO.V,
3F-

- Location: Located 0.1 miles North of Pleasant Valley Road, and 0.5 miles east of Union School House Road, Morristown vicinity, Morris County, New Jersey
USGS Chester Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.531350.4511000
- Significance: Built in 1933 as part of the waterfront safety area, this tower was part of the first effort to adapt the former Brookrace Estate to the National Training Center for the Boy Scouts of America.
- Description: The Lifeguard Tower is a wood-frame structure. The four-sided base, twelve feet high, has battered walls with clapboard siding, which encloses a storage space. The base has a door in the west wall and a window in the east wall. The base top is a floor sheltered by an open gable, which is supported by four braced corner posts. These posts show markings at mid-height of horizontal rails that ran along the east, south and west sides. A bench with rail back stands on the north side of the floor. Access to the deck was probably by ladder on the south wall, but no ladder remains. The tower is on a concrete foundation.
- History: Mortimer L. Schiff Scout Reservation was donated by Mrs. Jacob (Therese) Schiff to the Boy Scouts of America in 1932 as a memorial to her son, their past president. Here the movement developed a national leadership training program which shaped the growing organization. Thousands of men and boys, drawn from all parts of the country, met here and participated in fellowship and training activities, forging a strong national identity. The Lifeguard Tower is part of the Waterfront Activities area built in 1933 for teaching water activities and safety.
- Sources: L. Halpenny, The Story of Schiff (Mendham, NJ: Boy Scouts of America. 1948), 1-13. Ernest Schmidt, Guide to Schiff Scout Reservation (Mendham, NJ: Boy Scouts of America, 1962) 29-35. Edward J. Lenik, Nancy L. Gibbs, Elise Baranowski, Kathleen L. Ehrhardt, and Thomas Fitzpatrick, Cultural Resources Investigation of the Jackson Homes at Schiff Development Property, Township of Mendham, Morris County, New Jersey (Butler, NJ: Sheffield Archaeological Consultants, 1994) 52-57.
- Historians: Nancy L. Gibbs and Elise Baranowski
Sheffield Archaeological Consultants, Butler, NJ
May 10, 1995



SKETCH FLOOR PLAN
(Not to scale)

BROCKRACE ESTATE,
LIFEGUARD TOWER
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Site Plan: Location of Lifeguard Tower
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