

GEORGE NAKASHIMA WOODWORKER, CHAIR DEPARTMENT
1847 Aquetong Road
New Hope
Bucks County
Pennsylvania

HABS PA-6783-H
HABS PA-6783-H

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

ADDENDUM TO:
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HABS No. PA-6783-H

- Location: 1847 Aquetong Road, Solebury Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 18938.
- Owner: The property is owned by Mira Nakashima Yarnall, and Kevin Nakashima the daughter and son of the original owners, George and Marion Nakashima.
- Present Use: This structure is used for the manufacture and assembly of Nakashima chairs.
- Significance: In experimenting with the conoid shell roof type, Nakashima first designed and built this structure as a clubhouse or lounge for his workers in 1956, which was soon converted for use as a chair assembly shop, or the chair department as it is now known. The building's roof was made of a layered plywood shell.
- Description: Overall the building measures approximately 25' x 20' and is nearly two stories high at the south side. Since the building is cantilevered into the hillside, it is one story on the north side. Materials of the walls include stucco, concrete block, wood and glass.
- History: The building, the same form as the conoid studio, has a conoidal shell roof made of plywood. The chair department was built in 1956 as a smaller prototype for the larger conoid studio built the following year. The chair department, however, does not have the sinusoidal waves in the roof.
- Sources: James A. Michener Art Museum, *George Nakashima and the Modernist Movement* (essays by Steven Beyer and Matilda McQuaid). Doylestown, Pennsylvania: James A. Michener Art Museum, 2001.
- Mira Nakashima. *Nature, Form & Spirit: the Life and Legacy of George Nakashima*. New York: Abrams, 2003.
- Historian: Catherine C. Lavoie, HABS, 2012