

Floating Cabin ~~Hancock's Bridge~~ Salem
Vicinity
Salem County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-993

HABS
NJ
17-SAL.V,
8-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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8.

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE New Jersey	COUNTY Salem	TOWN OR VICINITY Hancock's Bridge vicinity
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Floating Cabin		HABS NO. NJ-993
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Currently inside a potato cellar on the farm of Mr. & Mrs. Preston Carpenter, located on King's Highway approximately one mile north of the intersection of Rt. 540, outside Salem. The potato cellar is approximately 150 feet		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) CA. 1900 (Walter Hutchinson, personal communication)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) off the road on the / _____ west side.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Around the turn of the century, during shad season, these buildings were lashed together on the Delaware River and lived in by the fishermen; they fished from small skiffs.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) The hull is white cedar; siding is machine-cut, beaded tongue-and-groove.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Overall dimensions approximately 16'x8' (see plan)		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE A large iron ring exists on each corner of hull, used to tie the cabin to a dock or another cabin while on the water. The hull itself is unusual, making the cabin stand out while on land.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) There is a hinged step with removable boards behind it for illegal cargo, sliding windows, an original storage cabinet and beaded roof purlins.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES The original tongue-and-groove roof was covered with painted canvas and eventually with modern asphalt shingles. Dates unknown.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE In remarkably good condition, the cabin was removed from its former location in Hancock's Bridge. There are plans to replace the hull and roof beginning in autumn, 1991.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE During the fall and winter, those cabins were dragged onto the riverbanks, used by trappers and also used as male social gathering places.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Oral history recorded by Natalie Peters, University of Delaware, 1990-91.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Cynthia Adams, Center for Historic Architecture & Engineering, University of Delaware		DATE 09/17/91