

BROOKRACE ESTATE, SHEEP BARN

HABS No. NJ-1216-A

(Brookrace Estate, Hillcourt House)

Located 0.3 miles North of Pleasant Valley

Road, and 0.5 miles East of Union School House Road.

Morristown vicinity

Morris County

New Jersey

HABS

NJ

14-MORRISTOWN

3A-

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, SHEEP BARN  
(Brookrace Estate, Hillcourt House)

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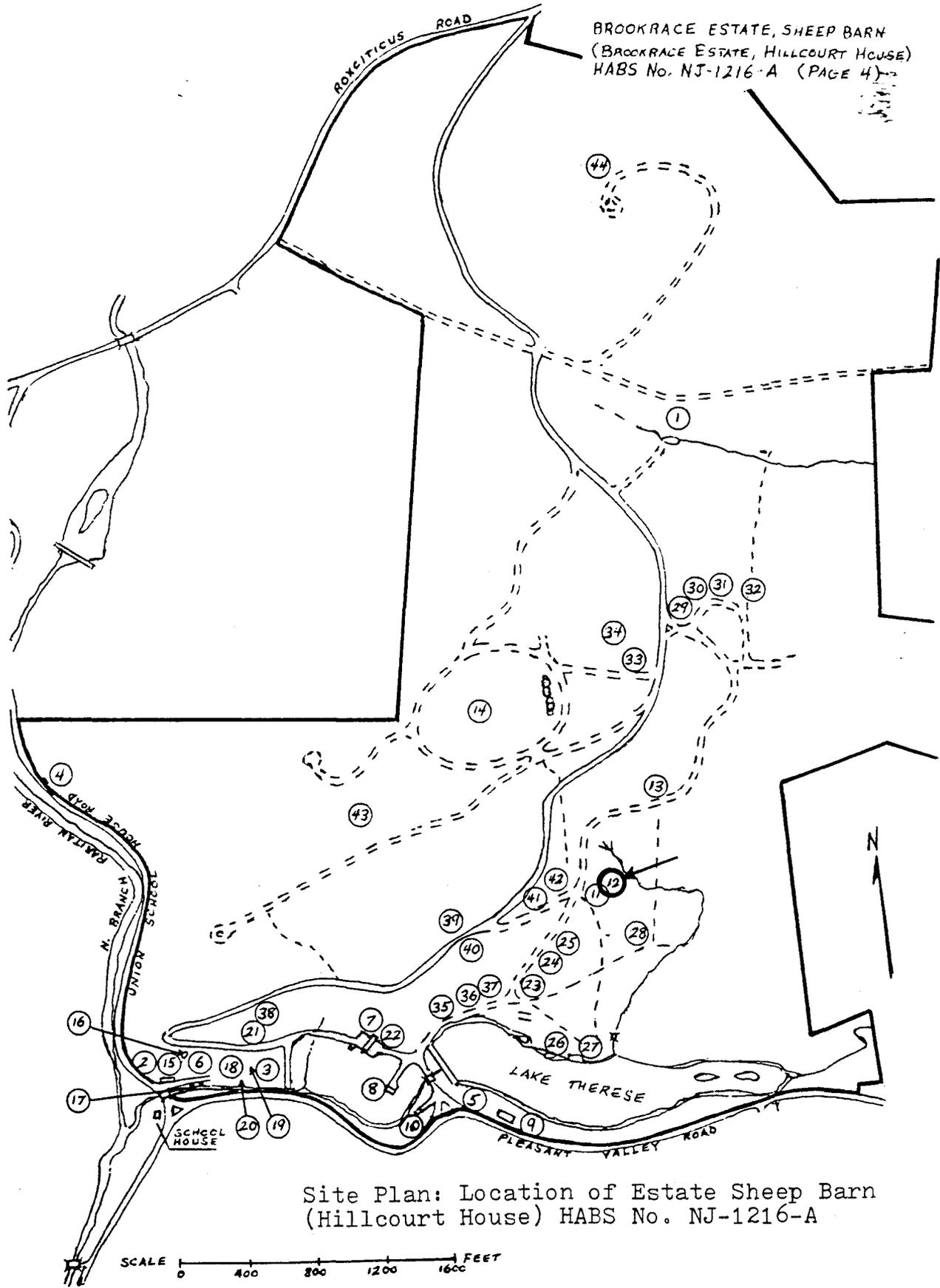
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- Location:** Located 0.3 miles North of Pleasant Valley Road, and 0.5 miles east of Union School House Road, Morristown vicinity, Morris County, New Jersey  
USGS Chester Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
17.531350.4511000
- Significance:** Originally the sheep barn (c. 1914) for Brookrace Estate, this barn was adaptively reused and remodeled as a residence for Boy Scouts of America publication director, William Hillcourt. Its evolution is unclear; some portion of this building was residential during the estate era.
- Description:** The Sheep Barn is a one-story, wood frame building. Some of its exterior features are typical of the early-twentieth century Arts and Crafts and Colonial Revival styles. The roof has intersecting gables of varied heights and synthetic shingle roofing. The exterior cladding is square-cut wood shingles. Windows are double-hung wood sash, arranged singly or in pairs. There is a Dutch door in the west wall and glazed French doors in the south facade. Hand-hewn timbers exposed in some interior ceilings appear to have been reused from another building. The raised-masonry foundation in some rooms resembles early twentieth century barn construction. Two large interior stone fireplaces, in the north and in the west walls, are similar to stone fireplaces in Hillcourt Barn to the west. The building has two foundation types: rubblestone, with or without cement surfacing, and concrete.
- 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. Seminal in this endeavor was William Hillcourt, editor of the Boy Scout Handbook, Boy's Life magazine, the series of Merit Badge guides and training films on a variety of topics. During his career with Boy Scouts of America, he lived in this building, the former sheep barn for the Williams estate. After his death this building was named after him.
- 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.

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Sheffield Archaeological Consultants, Butler, NJ  
May 10, 1995





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 (BROOKRACE ESTATE, HILLCOURT HOUSE)  
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Site Plan: Location of Estate Sheep Barn  
 (Hillcourt House) HABS No. NJ-1216-A

SCALE 0 400 800 1200 1600 FEET