

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

RECEIVED

1. Name

historic Drake Log Cabin

and/or common Same

MAR 21 1982

PH & MC

Historic Preservation

2. Location

street & number Williams Alley (Between South Warren & Kiski Avenues) *N/A* not for publication

city, town Apollo Borough *N/A* vicinity of congressional district 12

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Armstrong code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private (Nonprofit)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<i>N/A</i> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<i>N/A</i> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Apollo Area Historical Society c/o Mr. Laird S. Boarts

street & number R. D. #4 Lancer Park

city, town Apollo *N/A* vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Armstrong County Courthouse

street & number Market Street

city, town Kittanning state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places;
Armstrong County Historic Sites Survey this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 8/13/81 (PI); 8/25/80 (ACHSS) federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

And Armstrong County Department of Economic and Community Development, Kittanning, PA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

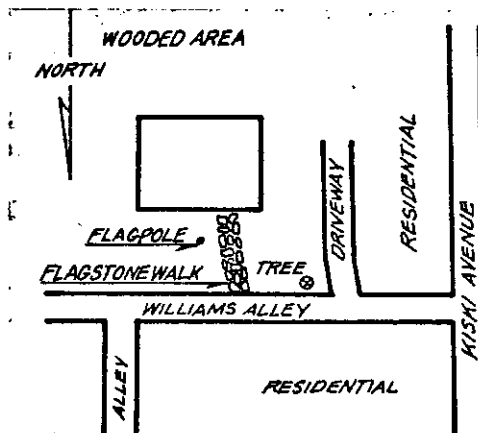
Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Drake Log Cabin is an 18' x 22' rectangular-shaped, one-room log cabin. Its hand-hewn shaped logs alternate with layers of mud mortar. A split-shingle-covered, gable roof with an interior end stone chimney tops the 1 1/2 story cabin. The gable ends have board and batten siding and small 4/4 windows. A 4/4 window also appears on the 2-bay facade. Original hardware on the rough-sawn vertical board door includes iron strap hinges. The appearance of the rear of the cabin is identical to the facade. A flagstone walk leads to the entranceway. An upturned horseshoe nailed above the doorway is the single decorative feature on this simple folk structure. The cabin has recently been restored and exhibits excellent integrity. It is located in an area of Apollo zoned R-1, Residential, and it is presently utilized as a museum. Restoration was accomplished in 1971.

Site Plan With North Arrow



Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places
title Anniscown County Historic Sites Survey, THIS SYSTEM

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1810

Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Drake Log Cabin is significant in the present built environment and in the historical development of Apollo Borough. The building is the only remaining remnant of the original permanent settlement which grew from five log cabins to the eventual establishment of the Borough of Apollo. The building's log construction is today unprecedented in the urban landscape of the Apollo area. The Drake Log Cabin provides a unique contribution to the architectural quality and variety of Apollo Borough.

The original owner of the land the Drake Log Cabin occupies was William Penn who received it as a grant in 1681. This particular section was known as "Warren's Sleeping Place" in 1773 when it was sold to John Montgomery by Thomas Penn, son of Wm. Penn, and John Penn, grandson of Wm. Penn. The land went through numerous ownership transfers during the subsequent decades.

The exact date when the log cabin was constructed is uncertain. County tax records estimate the year 1800. Other records set its construction date as 1816, the same year that the town of Warren, currently Apollo Borough, Pennsylvania was laid out in lots. The promoters of the town offered free timber for construction of housing to the first four men to build on their lots. According to local legend this cabin was one of five log cabins built in the vicinity at this time. Three of these were reportedly burned during early Indian raids and the fourth was destroyed during a flood on March 17, 1936.

According to History of Apollo, PA 1816-1916 written by T. J. Henry, M.D., a local historian, the cabin was constructed by George Hunter in 1841. However, an 1882 deed for the property indicates that Hunter did not purchase the lot until 1848. Unfortunately, the majority of the early land transfer records were lost when the Armstrong County Courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1858. The name "Drake" Log Cabin was coined in Henry's history when he refers to it as the cabin "on the rear of Mrs. Sarah Drake's lot". An early deed indicates that she had purchased the adjacent lot in 1862 but reportedly lived in this cabin for approximately fifty years. Despite these conflicting dates, the structure is the oldest building in Apollo Borough and one of the oldest in Armstrong County.

The Drake Log Cabin exemplifies an early form of folk construction in the mid-Atlantic region. This one-room type dwelling developed into the New England Colonial style after it was brought to the New World by British settlers in the 1600s. Westward-moving pioneers utilized this design as they migrated westward through Pennsylvania in the late 18th and early-to-mid 19th Centuries. The Drake Log Cabin is the finest example of this dwelling type remaining in Armstrong County. A well-executed and accurate restoration of the cabin was accomplished by the current owner, the Apollo Area Historical Society, in 1971.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Henry, T. J. 1816-1916 History of Apollo, Pennsylvania. Apollo, PA: The News-Record Publishing Co., 1966.

Smith, Robert Walker, Esq. History of Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. Chicago: Waterman, Watkins and Company, 1883.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .2146

Quadrangle name Vandergrift

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A			B														
1	7	6	2	1	3	2	5	4	4	9	2	7	3	0			
Zone			Easting			Northing			Zone			Easting			Northing		
C			D			E			F			G			H		

Verbal boundary description and justification

* See Attachments for Verbal Boundary Description and USGS Map.

The original owner of the land was Drake and later...

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lorraine Dennis Allen, Project Planner

Armstrong County Department of

organization Economic and Community Development

date March 10, 1982

street & number 402 East Market Street

telephone (412) 543-2500 Ext. 223, 224

city or town Kittanning

state Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date
Keeper of the National Register
Attest:
date
Chief of Registration

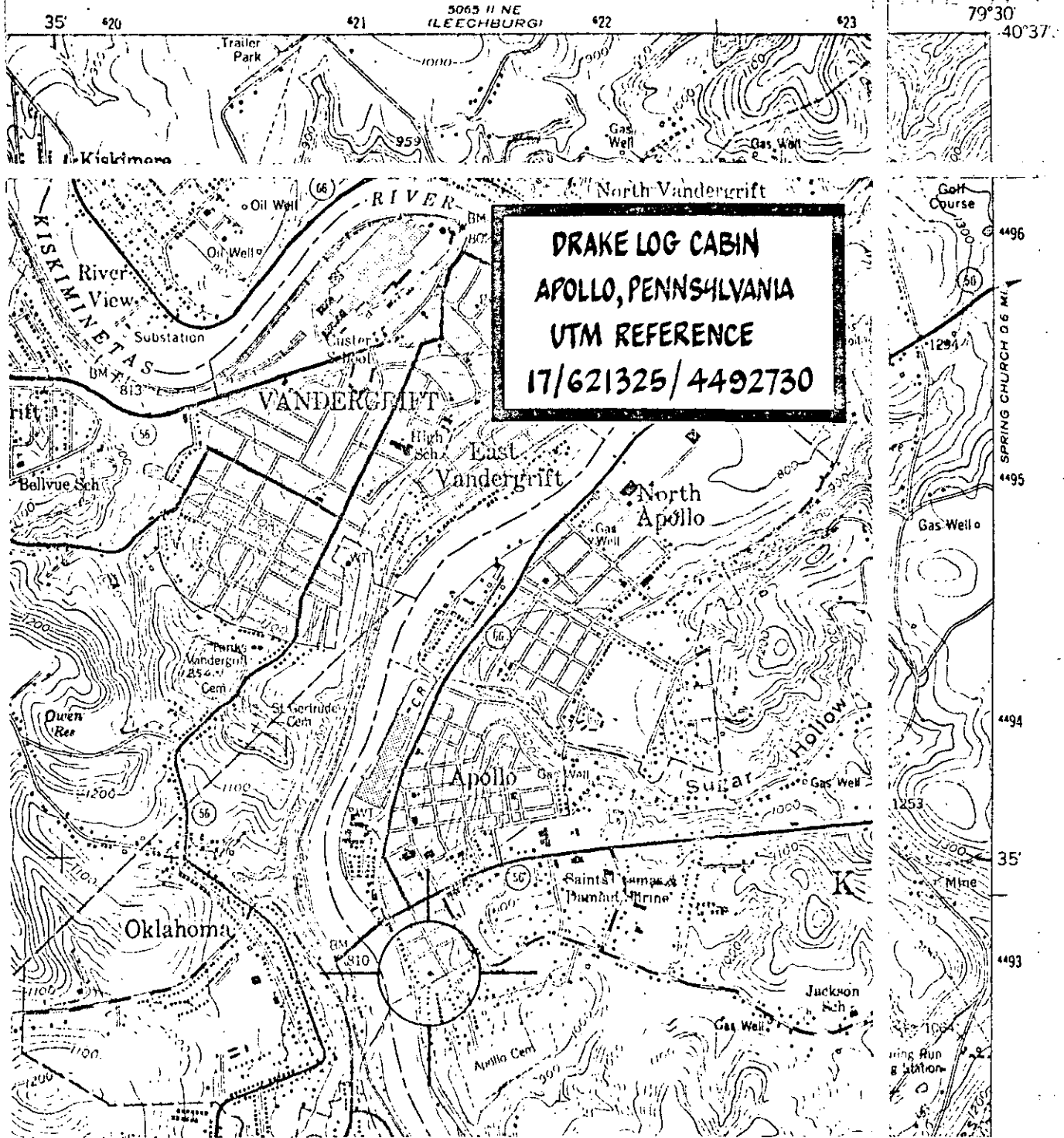
10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
OF
DRAKE LOG CABIN SITE

UNIT Reference: ALL that certain lot and parcel of land, situated in the Borough
of Apollo, County of Armstrong, and State of Pennsylvania,
A bounded and described as follows:

Zone Easings

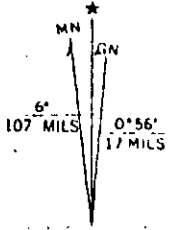
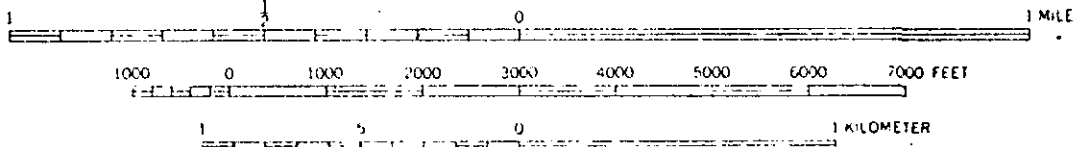
C BEGINNING on Williams Alley, at a point eighty (80) feet east
E of the intersection of said alley with Kiskiminetas Avenue;
G thence in a southerly direction, on a line parallel with the
line of Kiskiminetas Avenue, one hundred seventy (170) feet,
Verbal bound more or less, to a supposed sixty-foot street; thence in an
easterly direction along said supposed street, fifty-five (55)
feet to Jones Alley; thence in a northerly direction along said
Jones Alley, one hundred seventy (170) feet, more or less, to
Williams Alley; and thence in a westerly direction along said
Williams Alley, fifty-five (55) feet to the place of beginning.

VANDERGRIFT QUADRANGLE
 PENNSYLVANIA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



DRAKE LOG CABIN
APOLLO, PENNSYLVANIA
UTM REFERENCE
17/621325/4492730

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

1953
 PHOTOREVISED 1979
 DMA 5065 II SE-SERIES V831