

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes
other names/site number Cathedral of the Woods

2. Location

street & number 100 Stokes Road not for publication
city or town Medford Lakes Borough vicinity
state New Jersey code NJ county Burlington code 005 zip code 08055

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
		sites
	1	structures
	22	objects
1	26	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER; Log Cabin

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: logs

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1931

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes is a rectangular, one-story, three-bay log cabin building with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles, a square log cupola, a log narthex, and a log rear staircase enclosure (Photographs 10, 11, 12, and 15). Details include notched cedar log construction over conventional floor framing and a concrete block foundation, an open-truss configuration in the sanctuary, wood flooring, exposed log walls on the interior, cedar log posts, and stained-glass memorial windows, as well as a few original casement and six-over-six double-hung windows on the rear elevation (Photographs 18 and 22). The building is located on a wooded and garden-landscaped, trapezoidal site sloping down from east to west. The property is typical of lots throughout the Medford Lakes community, featuring mature evergreen trees, including cedars, mature bushes, and split-rail fences, as well as a memorial garden (Photographs 1, 6, 9, 11, and 12). The church is surrounded by other log and half-log structures and recreational features, including a public park with a log structure across a driveway to the east, the log-cabin Memorial Hall (built as St. Mary of the Lakes Catholic Church, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, now owned by the Protestant Church) to the south across Mohawk Trail, two-half-log buildings on either side of a garden courtyard on the church property to the west, and the log cabin municipal building located to the north across Minnetonka Trail. Together the properties create a wooded setting of rustic buildings, a characteristic of the community of Medford Lakes.

Description

In keeping with the naturalistic resort aesthetic of Medford Lakes, the church was originally constructed on a lot with minimal alterations to the landscape. The log church was nestled in among mature trees on a site near the commercial and administrative center of the resort (Historic photograph #1). Bushes planted around the church over time included yews, rhododendrons, and other various evergreens (Photographs 1, 6, 10, 11, and 12). Near the end of the 20th century, a memorial garden featuring smaller plants and bushes, a fountain, along brick paths, stone benches and other small decorative stone statues, was developed on the north side of the building and bounded by a split-rail fence along the road (Photograph 11). The area to the south was left as a natural wooded area and also bounded by a split-rail fence (Photograph 12). Two additional half-log church buildings were constructed to the west of the church building in 1956 with an area later developed into a garden courtyard in between (Photographs 2, 6, 7, and 8). The overall aesthetic of the property is a restful, rustic retreat. A brick and vertical-sided church education building is located across a wide driveway on the western side of the church property (Photographs 3, 4, and 5).

The church has an unusual appearance for a church due to its log construction (Photographs 10, 11, 12, and 15). The main block, which contains the sanctuary, has one-story log walls with a steeply-pitched, gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The ridge of the roof runs east-west. The east gable end of the main block rises above the one-story, log-construction narthex (Photographs 1 and 10). The gable end is pierced by a round stained-glass window with plain trim and has round log bargeboards at the roofline. The round window replaced an earlier square window before 1952 (Historic Photograph #1). The narthex attached to the east gable end (Photograph 10) is comprised of an original center entrance section, modified by the removal of a small original porch in 1975, flanked by newer spaces to the north and south. It has a shed roof with a cross gable, covered with asphalt shingles. The entrance to the building is in the center bay, beneath the cross gable. The paneled double-leaf doors, which likely date to the enlargement of the narthex, are flanked by two stained-glass windows in the outer bays. Two additional stained-glass windows are located in the north and south walls. Two windows were

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moved from the east gable end wall of the main block when the narthex was expanded, while the other two may have been relocated from the north and south walls of the original section of narthex.

The north and south walls of the main block each have open-rafter eaves and four evenly-spaced, stained-glass windows with split-log trim (Photographs 11, 12, and 14). Each also has a replacement, c.1980s, six-panel wood door between the first and second bays from the western end. The door in the south wall has an exterior set of wood steps; that in the north has a set of brick and concrete steps under an added shed roof. A bulkhead entrance to a crawlspace is located along the south wall between the second and third bays. The ground falls away from a high point at the eastern end, a painted concrete block foundation is exposed. A pair of six-over-one windows is located in the west bay on the north side at the exposed basement level (Photograph 18). A cupola constructed of smaller logs, used as posts, braces, and half-walls, with a wood shingle roof, is set near the eastern end. The cupola was rebuilt in 2006 to match the original, after the deterioration of a previous replacement cupola, based on the historic photograph (Photograph 13).

The west gable end wall of the main block contains a large, rectangular stained-glass window, as well as two small casement windows at the northern end of the first floor level and a six-over-six, double-hung sash window at the basement level near the northern end (Photographs 15 and 17). The wall is concrete block to four feet above grade and then log-construction above. An enclosed staircase, also of log wall construction, is asymmetrically placed toward the southern end of the elevation (Photograph 16). The roof of this staircase enclosure is asymmetrical as well, with the north slope extending down from above the first floor to four feet above grade. The enclosure has two, six-light casement sash and a paneled sash door similar to those on the east elevation.

On the interior, the sanctuary is one large room with a carpeted floor, exposed log walls, and an open-truss ceiling with exposed log purlins and cut rafters (Photographs 19 and 21). The scissor trusses bear on log posts (Photograph 22 and 23). Fiberboard, painted white, has been installed between the rafters. Four stained-glass windows with split-log trim are located on both the north and south walls (Photographs 22 and 23). The east wall contains a center set of double-leaf, fifteen-panel doors, and two additional openings with accordion doors that were cut into the wall to connect the added narthex sections, with their additional seating, to the sanctuary (Photograph 21). These doors also appear to be replacements and likely date to the 1975 narthex enlargement.

The chancel is located along the west wall and is set three steps up from the main floor with a metal railing along the east edge (Photograph 19). The communion table is centered on the chancel with an organ behind it. The organ pipes were designed to flank and crown the stained glass window centered above the chancel. Four additional shallow risers to the south of center hold the choir chairs. The west wall is finished at the first floor level with vertical beaded-board wainscoting. The exposed logs continue above the wainscoting, which may be a later addition.

The narthex is finished in the same fashion as the sanctuary, but without trusses (Photographs 24 and 25). Double-leaf, replacement doors, each nine panels with a center sash, are set in the east wall, opposite the doors to the sanctuary. There are four stained-glass windows, one each in the north and south walls and two in the east.

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The enclosed stair to the basement at the western end of the building was added c.1945 and is wood down to a landing at grade and concrete down to the basement level partially below grade (Photograph 26). The walls are concrete block and log. A brick chimney runs through this space along the west gable end wall of the sanctuary.

The basement consists of a finished room with composition tile floors, wood-paneled walls, and a suspended-tile ceiling (Photograph 27). Several closets open into the room. A door in the south wall leads to an unfinished section of basement with a lower floor level that serves as a boiler room. This space has a concrete floor, concrete block walls, and an open ceiling (Photograph 28). Another door in the east wall of this space opens to the crawlspace under the remainder of the building.

The three other buildings and a gazebo standing on the church property are noncontributing resources. The earlier two buildings, the office and the library, are identical, mirrored log-sided frame structures built in 1956 (Photographs 2, 5, 7, and 8). Each is a single-story, rectangular building with an asphalt shingle gable roof and a rear section under a lower gable roof. Each has a center entrance consisting of a nine-light-over-two-vertical-panels sash door on its facade flanked by two six-over-six windows. Both have five windows on each of the long eaves elevations, except for the east side of the library, which has a typical door and a small wood ramp. Both have a porch incorporated into the rear section. The porches have concrete and flagstone floors. Three six-over-six windows are located on the rear elevation, and one is on the side of the smaller section opposite the porch. The trim on the windows, doors, and cornices is plain.

The third building is a large, two-story L-shaped building with untooled brick on much of the first floor and vertical board siding on the second (Photographs 3 and 4). The building is characterized by deep overhanging eaves on the west, north and east sides to cover a two-story porch. The brick was given a rough finish by not pointing the mortar. The second floor vertical siding is painted rusty red on the north, south, and east sides, while the west side and ell are brown. The porch posts and rails are unmolded lumber. The north wall is punctuated by a series of doors and windows at both levels. The doors are nine-light-over-two-panel sash doors. The windows are one-over-one aluminum windows on much of the north elevation; there are no windows on the east and west elevations. Each gable end elevation has a sash door at the west end of the second floor level, and there are vinyl tripartite windows on the south elevation.

The gazebo, while sympathetic to the rustic aesthetic, is of recent construction. The gazebo is located in the memorial garden, along with a variety of statuary, including eight decorative stone benches, three bird baths, three baby angels, one adult angel, a saint, a lamb, a lectern, two birds, a Mobius strip, and a fountain (Photograph 9). The lectern is marked Massarelli's, which is a garden accent company. The stone elements, which number 22, are all of recent origin and are noncontributing objects.

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Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, also known as the Cathedral of the Woods, possesses local significance under Criterion C, Criterion Consideration A, in the area of architecture, as an individually noteworthy example of the use of the type of log construction, adapted to the needs of church, that was popularized in the 1920s and 1930s, especially in lake resort communities. The church was constructed in 1931 as one of the earliest public buildings in Medford Lakes, a summertime lake resort community founded in 1927 that required that all buildings be of log construction. The church, which is typical of early development in the community, was constructed using full cedar logs with the bark still in place and mortar chinking. The logs are lapped and notched at the comers the full height of the walls and are also used in the gable ends, framing into end rafters. In keeping with the log cabin design, the details are simple, employing small logs for smaller elements, unmolded trim, and exposed rafter tails on the eaves. Exposed log walls and an open-truss ceiling with heavy beam scissor trusses and reinforced iron connections create a rustic appearance on the interior.

These construction details, common to log construction in the rustic style popularized in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for resort communities, give the church building architectural significance that qualifies it for Criterion Consideration A. The building is significant at the local level for its contribution to the development of the rustic aesthetic in the new summer resort community. Its period of significance, based on its period of construction, is 1931. Known alterations have been minimal. They include the expansion of the narthex and removal of the original porch, door replacement, and the replacement of the original rectangular window in the east elevation with a round, stained-glass window. Memorial stained glass windows replaced the original windows early on, which was likely a planned process. A small rear addition with stairs, built c. 1945, connects the main floor with the basement. Finally, the original cupola has been rebuilt twice, most recently based on photographs of the original. The building is maintained in good condition.

Statement of Significance

The Cathedral of the Woods is a noteworthy example of early 20th-century log construction in the context of the planned nature resort community as an outgrowth of the Romantic Movement, the rustic style, and their expression in recreation architecture. The design was both practical, in employing modern floor framing and a concrete block foundation, and evocative of the history of the country, recreation, and resort communities in New Jersey, through the use of the most romanticized version of log cabin construction: round logs with the bark still attached and saddle-notched comers with crowns, as well as exposed logs on both the exterior and the interior. It embodies the history of log cabin construction, New Jersey resort development, and rustic architecture through its architectural details and its intact context.

Medford Lakes was founded as a summer resort community in 1927 along the northern edge of the area known as the Pine Barrens, in Medford Township in Burlington County, New Jersey. The Pine Barrens, or Pinelands, is a heavily forested area of outer coastal plain with sandy, acidic, nutrient-poor soil. Underlying

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the Pinelands is the Cohansey Aquifer, the water of which lies at or near the surface, creating bogs, marshes, and swamps, as well as streams fed by the aquifer. Although the soil was not well adapted to growing European crops, the land had seen use since the mid-18th century due to its natural resources springing from its geology, including the streams and deposits of bog iron. The first owner, Charles Read, founded the Aetna Furnace and Mills on the site in 1766. While the furnace only operated until 1773, the mills continued in use into the 19th century, first under Read and later under the Ballinger family, who purchased the property in 1821.¹ That family continued to own the property until 1926, when it was sold to water transportation magnate Captain Clyde A. Barbour. The land was also well suited, due to the bogs, for growing cranberries. By the time Barbour purchased the land that would become Medford Lakes, it had been used for its bog iron, its water, and its native cranberry plants, but not heavily settled, still presenting large areas of natural forested wilderness.²

Barbour partnered with Leon E. Todd in the development of the property. Barbour, born in Indiana, worked as a steamboat captain and built a business in river trade and the development of large-scale water transportation, including a shipping channel in Houston, Texas. Barbour's businesses and residences were located in the South (Texas and Louisiana). He soon sold his investment to Todd and died in 1931.³ While Barbour was an investor, Camden realtor Leon Todd was the moving force behind the transformation of the Pinelands into a summer resort community of log cabins.⁴

Leon Todd was born in Camden, NJ in 1893. Todd was an entrepreneur who worked his way through school by selling newspapers and working at a local grocery. After graduating from Pierce Business College, he worked in a commission house, later going on the road as a salesman. Todd later became the office manager and house secretary of the Camden Young Men's Christian Association before moving on to a Camden real estate firm. He opened his own real estate agency in Camden in 1918 and operated it for many years, developing several neighborhoods of brick row houses and a number of commercial buildings.⁵

Todd's interest in the Medford Lakes development project began when Barbour asked him to find a development project in which he could invest. The aesthetic for the resort as envisioned by Todd was one of log cabins set on rustic, fir-tree-covered lots with plenty of open space, a golf course, almost two dozen lakes, recreation areas (baseball fields, tennis courts, athletic fields, playgrounds, bathing beaches, a children's camp, and a community center), and all the modern conveniences, such as transportation, sewers, water, electricity, and telephone.⁶ The former mill ponds, cranberry bogs, and cedar swamps on the property were transformed into lakes that often appeared a clear brown, like tea, colored by dissolved

¹ Janet W. Foster and Margaret Westfield, "Medford Lakes" in *Down Jersey: From Bayshore to Seashore, A Guidebook for the Annual Conference of the Vernacular Architecture Forum*, May 7-10, 2014, p. 312.

² "Pinelands National Reserve: Location, Geology, Climate." State of New Jersey Pinelands Commission, 2015. <http://www.nj.gov/pinelands/reserve/loca>. Accessed 6 December 2016.

³ Lucille Barbour Holmes, "Captain Barbour's Dream is Coming True—50 Years Later," *Port of Houston Magazine* (May 1972), 6, <http://www.portarchive.com/1972/05-May%20Page%201%20to%2018.pdf>, accessed 6 December 2016

⁴ Medford Lakes Colony Club, "The Medford Lakes Story: 1927-1977, 50th Anniversary" (Medford Lakes, N.J.: The Club, 1977).

⁵ "Leon E. Todd-Realtor," The Delaware Valley Rhythm and Blues Society, Inc., <http://www.dvrbs.com/people/CamdenNJ-LeonTodd-Realtor.htm>, April 17, 2006, accessed 22 July 2016; Foster, 312

⁶ Medford Lakes Colony Club.

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organic materials and remnants of bog iron in the ground. The beaches around the lakes were natural white sand, often called sugar sand by the locals. One of the largest lakes reclaimed during the development was named Aetna Lake after the original blast furnace built by Charles Read, while another was named for the Ballinger family.⁷

The Medford Lakes Colony Club, which was formed in November 1927, functioned in a similar manner to a homeowners' association, but specifically intended to manage the extensive recreational facilities and other infrastructure in the community, as well as to foster a social community. The development was designed with small house lots, but plenty of recreational open space and a commercial and administrative center. Charles W. Darling, an urban planner from Haddonfield, NJ, designed the curvilinear layout. Many of the buildings were constructed by a contractor named Mancill Gager, who was the pioneer builder of log cabins in the resort. Starting with the Administration Building, he erected cabins on contract, buying up cedar groves within a radius of 15 miles, hauling and cutting and fashioning the wood into the log cabins that dot the resort. Gager was the likely builder of the Protestant Community Church.⁸

The first cabins were built in 1927 on Lower Aetna Lake. In 1928, the original Colony Club Pavilion, the first public building, was constructed. Soon after, religious services became a regular part of the weekly program at the Pavilion and a Sunday School was organized. The roof of the Pavilion collapsed during a snowstorm in the winter of 1929-30. By the end of the summer of 1930, members of the community decided that a permanent log church structure was needed and could be supported by the summer residents. Land was donated by the Medford Lakes Corporation, a Board of Trustees was formed, and the Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes was constructed and was dedicated on June 21, 1931.⁹ The church provided summer services until 1946-47, when it expanded to a year-round congregation.¹⁰ The building was air-conditioned in 1940. In 1945, the Memorial Window was introduced, the roof was insulated, and a heating system was installed, in preparation for year-round use.

After 1945, Communion services were held on a quarterly basis and more Sunday school rooms were added. A Reed organ and electronic carillon were installed in the latter part of 1947. The 1949 Thanksgiving service marked that of a formal congregation; charter membership was established, a Church Register founded, membership solicited, and a Cathedral Guild was organized. The next decades marked a period of steady, measured growth of the church complex. In 1950, the Church joined the Advisory Council of Medford Lakes. In 1951, lavatory facilities were installed in the church basement (later removed), and the next year night-time lighting was introduced. In 1953, a Hammond organ was installed. Two half-log buildings were constructed in 1956 on adjacent lots to the northwest and

⁷ Arthur Dudley Pierce, *Iron in the Pines: The Story of New Jersey's Ghost Towns and Bog Iron* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1957, eleventh printing, 1990), p. 171.

⁸ Medford Lakes Colony Club; and Foster, p. 313.

⁹ Foster, p. 316; Medford Lakes Colony Club; and "Borough History", Medford Lakes, 2016, <http://medfordlakes.com/index.php/borough-history>, accessed 25 July 2016.

¹⁰ The community had begun to transition from a summer resort into a permanent community as early as the 1930s, with houses being built for winter residences rather than just as summer cabins and with the introduction of a sewer system and treatment plant in 1936. The Borough of Medford Lakes was incorporated in 1939.

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southwest to provide meeting and office space. In November 1961, two Sunday services were inaugurated. The two-story brick and wood-sided Christian Education Building, built to the west of the office and library, was dedicated in 1964. In 1966, the church purchased the adjacent Vaughan/Lewis/Oaks cabin for a parsonage and, in 1969, the church purchased the former St. Mary of the Lakes Church, located across Mohawk Trail, for use as a social and community center. The church cupola was replaced and the narthex was expanded in 1975 and a third organ, a Moeller, was installed in 1977. The cupola was rebuilt again in 2006 in accordance with its original appearance.¹¹

The log construction mandate at Medford Lakes and the subsequent construction of the Cathedral of the Woods in the style of a log cabin were representative of a movement in early 20th-century lakeside resort architecture in New Jersey that was the result of several broad historic trends stretching back to the settlement of the country and ending with accelerating industrialization of the environment and the daily lives of people after World War I. Medford Lakes and other resorts developed around lakes in New Jersey were born of a desire for the simplicity of the past and a closeness with nature, meant to be enjoyed on vacation in simple cabins, rustic in appearance and built in a natural setting that lent itself to recreation. In most cases, the advances of the 20th century, in architecture and building materials, as well as in community infrastructure, were necessary to the enjoyment of the inhabitants and the success of the commercial real estate resort venture.

The first building block in the lake resort community phenomenon was the history of log construction as a very pragmatic form of building that utilized only a single tool and took advantage of the abundant forest. Its iconic appearance and close connection in the public mind with nature made it the ideal romantic, decorative form for those trying to reconnect with simpler times. The second element was the Romantic Movement, which glorified the past and nature as a reaction against rationalism and later the Industrial Revolution, which grew in the early 19th century. Interest in and nostalgia for nature increased in the latter part of the 19th century as people began to perceive the end of the age of the pioneer and at the same time became aware of the damage that was being inflicted on the land by common pioneering practices and the development of new communities, along with threat that such damage posed to the people in these communities. It was in this environment that the first national parks were created and rustic camps and resorts began to develop, notably in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, where rustic architecture achieved some of its earliest expression. Service and recreation buildings in the national parks soon began to follow the same rustic trend.¹²

The third element was the rise of the middle class and the associated rise of leisure time in the 19th century. The middle class, composed of businessmen and other professionals in an increasingly industrialized society, could afford the time and cost of leisure pursuits as incomes rose and paid vacation time became more common. People began to seek out new, more individual recreational opportunities than those represented by the grand old hotels of the earlier nineteenth century that

¹¹ Foster, pp. 316-17.

¹² Douglas K. Fowler, "America's Rustic Architecture: A Cultural Narrative in Harmony with Nature," Master's thesis, University of Colorado, 2016, pp. 41-78.

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catered to the wealthy. This trend was supported by magazine publications of the time, which touted the benefits of a period of rest outside of the modern urban environment, advocating for the fresh air and benefits of country life and nature.¹³ In New Jersey, summer resort communities began to emerge along the coast in the 19th century to meet this new need, spurred by the construction of the railroads and fueled by entrepreneurs who took full advantage by planning towns and drawing tourists to the coast with entertainments and enticing them to purchase properties.¹⁴

By the early 20th century, the railroads began to expand into areas of the state with lakes ideal for recreational communities as well, capitalizing on the abundant natural resources within reasonable distances from New York and Philadelphia to generate new ridership and revenue. The advent of the automobile opened further areas for recreation. The details of the development of individual lake resort communities vary, but most focused on nature and recreation and, building on the rustic themes of the Adirondacks camps, played on the appreciation of and nostalgia for the past by offering rustic accommodations in the form of log cabins, English cottages, and simple bungalows. The new communities over time found, however, that they could not rely on rusticity alone to draw new clientele, so it was necessary to offer amenities that not only included beaches and recreational facilities for activities such as swimming, canoeing, golf, tennis, horseback riding, trapshooting, sailing, hiking, ice skating, and sleigh-riding, but also infrastructure in the form of dams to create the lakes from ponds, bogs, and streams, public sewer systems, public water, telephone, community buildings, etc. Thus the summer lake resort was a modern community serving a modern societal need that built on the architectural history of the area, earlier cultural movements, technological and industrial advances, and nostalgia.

Medford Lakes, as a planned community with a recreational focus based on natural resources, a rustic aesthetic, and dependent on vehicular transportation, encompasses the history of lake resort development in New Jersey and embodies all of the major characteristics of this type of development at its peak in the late 1920s and 1930s. While lake resort communities arose in several areas of New Jersey, those in Morris County were some of the earliest and illustrate the development of the resorts into the type represented by Medford Lakes. As in Burlington County, early development of the area focused on iron ore and water sources, leading to the construction of blast furnaces and mills, both of which often relied on dammed water sources. Railroads extended into the area in the early 19th century. Ice harvesting led to the further damming of streams, creating more lakes and ponds. Recreational use was limited in the area, however, until the railroad began running excursion trains to the lakes, which in turn led to hotel, camp, and cottage construction.¹⁵ The Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad Company and the Wharton and Northern Railroad even produced

¹³ Nancy Elaine Strathearn, "Lake-side Communities in Morris County, New Jersey," Master's thesis, University of Pennsylvania, 1989, pp. 33-34.

¹⁴ "Resorts & Recreation, an Historic Theme Study of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route: The Atlantic Shore—Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, Atlantic, and Cape May Counties," National Park Service, Sarah Allaback, editor, and Charles C. Milliken, contributing editor, January 10, 2005, https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/nj1/chap1.htm, accessed 6 October 2016.

¹⁵ Strathearn, pp. 18-20.

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Burlington County, NJSection number 8 Page 6

brochures (with as many as 128 pages) advertising the lake and mountain resorts along their routes.¹⁶

Early development around the lakes was not subject to any overall planning, as individuals and companies simply purchased land and built for their own purposes. Lake Hopatcong, the largest lake, illustrates this type of early, haphazard development. Some early land speculators bought a property, divided it into lots, and sold them, leaving the buyer to build his or her own cottage. These types of developments did not offer anything in the way of recreational amenities as part of the package. By the early twentieth century, developers began to envision planned communities complete with amenities that espoused a back to nature theme, but a few early attempts, including developments at Cedar Lake and Rock Ridge failed to flourish, becoming in effect very similar to the earlier speculators by selling lots for owners to build on. Magazines, like Ladies Home Journal, meanwhile, began to offer plans for simple cottages, while ready-cut house suppliers published their own catalogs, offering prefabricated structures that could be built by the homeowners. Log cabins were a very popular choice, but many were really constructed with log siding and otherwise modern construction techniques.¹⁷

By the 1920s, real estate developers began to create new summer communities around man-made lakes, created by damming, and made accessible by the exploding popularity of the automobile and concomitant improvements made to the state's road system. These developments were more intensively managed to deliver a back-to-nature experience without all of the hardships of true rugged living. They still represented a spectrum in terms of requirements, amenities, and level of developer involvement with the construction on individual lots.

Most offered at least swimming, tennis, and boating recreational facilities and had a club, which often functioned like a modern homeowners' association in terms of maintaining and policing the development recreational facilities, as well as providing a social center for the community. Some did not control construction of the individual lots in terms of aesthetics, while others maintained control through the developer's architect and building crew, offering a selection of log cabins, English cottages, and bungalows. A few even attempted to incorporate business districts. In Morris County, Indian Lake, Rainbow Lakes, Lake Arrowhead, Fayson Lakes, Lake Valhalla, and Mount Kemble are some examples of this type of 1920s development by developers like Arthur D. Crane and Frank Fay, Jr. Early development at West Lake, part of Fayson Lakes, was restricted to log or stone structures only for the purpose of harmonizing with each other and the rural setting, but the log structures were pinned together with steel dowels instead of notching and stacking the logs.¹⁸ Outside of Morris County, Pinecliff Lake in Passaic County was another planned development with a heavy emphasis on log

¹⁶ Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, "Mountain and Lake Resorts on the Lackawanna Railroad (New York: Passenger Department, 1913); Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, "Mountain and Lake Resort [on the Lackawanna Railroad], 1900, 1905, 1908, 1912, 1913 editions; Wharton and Northern Railroad, "The Garden Spot of New Jersey, for Rest and Recreation" (Wharton, N.J.: Wharton and Northern Railroad, 1906).

¹⁷ Strathearn, pp. 36-38, 58, 59.

¹⁸ Ibid., 59-60, 85, 93, 95.

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construction in its early years. Advertisements from the 1930s promise: "The Key to Lower Vacation Cost/Pinecliff Lake/1 Hour from Washington Bridge/At lower-than-ever-cost you can provide your family with a life-time of vacations in this restricted mountain community surrounding the 3-mile shoreline of Pinecliff Lake. Cabin Sites \$200 up./\$2175 buys solid log cabin, beautiful plot, 4 rooms, complete bath, open porch, stone fireplace, all improvements"

The improvement of roads and automobile access opened up new areas for resort development in the state in the 1920s. Medford Lakes was one of two early planned developments around Medford, which could be reached from Philadelphia by car in 45 minutes. The development was typical in some ways and unusual in others.

Characteristics that it shared with other lake resort communities of the 1920s included the man-made lakes created by damming streams and bogs, the rustic aesthetic of the houses, the establishment of the Colony Club, and extensive recreational facilities. Also, like some communities, the developer did not provide architectural and construction services. However, Medford Lakes appears to have had much stricter requirements than other lake resorts in requiring that the houses be built with true log construction, rather than either not monitoring designs or providing a limited selection of acceptable style options, as well as in not permitting log siding construction. Four other unusual features of Medford Lakes are the inclusion of a town center with commercial, religious, and administrative buildings, the curvilinear street layout, the inclusion of a golf course, and the street names. While the provision of a business district has been noted in at least one other community, it does not appear to have been a common feature, as the focus was usually on the lake and individual vacation retreats. In addition, Medford Lakes went well beyond a small business district in providing for the construction of an administrative building, a log cabin hotel with a general store, and two churches. This level of community infrastructure appears to be unmatched in the general area and possibly in the state. The curvilinear layout of Medford Lakes, made possible by the relatively flat open topography of the Pinelands, introduced a suburban note to the resort aesthetic and accommodated the automobiles that were necessary to the existence of the resort in a way that they were not in resorts that were accessible by train. The streets were named after Native American Tribes and a few individual Native Americans. This appears to have simply been another touch to associate the resort with the past.

The other early planned lake resort near Medford was Taunton Lakes, established in the early 1920s by Edward Murray in hopes that the opening of the Ben Franklin Bridge (originally named the Delaware River Bridge) between Philadelphia and Camden would make the area attractive for development. Although a beach was created, other recreation amenities were limited, possibly because development was slower than Murray had hoped, despite a catchy flyer Murray designed that proclaimed "When Civilization Frets You/Mankind Gets You/and Ennui Besets You/Take a Trip to Taunton Lakes." The flyer advertised "incomparable bungalow and home sites, overlooking the largest chain of lakes in Southern New Jersey ...BATHING, FISHING, GUNNING." Taunton appears to have developed more slowly than Medford Lakes, however, and Edward Murray sold the property to the Taunton Lakes Company, formed by the residents, in 1947. It was not until 1950 that

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The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes
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Taunton Lakes developed a Colony Club.¹⁹

Many of the lakes in Burlington County were also later developed for recreation to some degree, most in the 1950s or later; two exceptions were Camp Ockanick/Camp Matollionequay, a YMCA camp developed around several lakes beginning in 1906 and Pine Lake, developed in 1939. Pine Lake architecture still includes early 20th century log cabin buildings, as well as English cottages, and bungalows. Other lake communities, all developed later, include Oakwood Lakes, Mimosa Lakes, Centennial Lake, Tamarac Lakes, and Birchwood Lake. Medford Lakes appears to have been unusual in its success as a planned lake resort developed from the 1920s in the area as well as in the extent of its amenities and organization.

One other earlier example of a planned resort community in southern New Jersey was Kirkwood Lake in Voorhees, Camden. The Camden and Atlantic Railroad bought 60 acres of land along the lake adjacent to its Kirkwood Station in 1854 and built picnic areas and summer cottages along the lake, creating a recreation destination and boosting ridership on its lines. By the mid 20th century, six more lakes on the east side of Voorhees had also become accessible with the increased use of the automobile and were used for recreational purposes, developing into resort areas.²⁰

The architectural significance of the Cathedral of the Woods rests on its context within the history of lake resort development in New Jersey. It was constructed in a resort that epitomized the apex of lake resort development in New Jersey, embodying all of the main characteristics such resorts share and going one step beyond by providing additional elements, like the Cathedral, that enhanced the rustic retreat experience and supported the development of a true community. The true log construction of the church is representative of the developer's commitment to the rustic retreat philosophy. While early log construction was simply a practical means of providing shelter, 20th-century log buildings like the Cathedral of the Woods were designed to evoke an aesthetic of a simpler, more romantic time in a recreational setting. To achieve that effect, the Cathedral of the Woods employs some major historic log construction techniques, including the use of unhewn logs and saddle-notched comers and lime and Portland cement daubing in lieu of true chinking and daubing, along with modern conveniences, such as modern floor framing, concrete block foundations, and multiple windows. The construction of the gable ends with logs rather than the framing and clapboard seen on some early area log structures was in keeping with the romantic rustic aesthetic of the early 20th-century resort development.

The church building retains its integrity to its period of significance, 1931. The building exhibits all of its original rustic characteristics, including its whole log construction with notched and lapped comers, an Adirondack-inspired log cupola, simple details, exposed log interior walls, and an open-truss ceiling with

¹⁹ "Taunton Lake: History and Background Information," <http://www.tauntonlake.org/history.htm>, accessed 9 June 2016 and 6 December 2016.

²⁰ Margo Harvey, "A History of Voorhees," South Jersey.com, 2016, <http://sjol.com/articles/?articleID=13451>. Accessed 6 October 2016

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The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes
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heavy beam scissor trusses and iron connections. Other than the replacement of doors, which were likely vertically paneled (based on a remaining original door at nearby Memorial Hall) with paneled wood doors, the main alteration to the building was the modest expansion of the original front vestibule into a nearly full width narthex to provide additional seating and the introduction of an enclosed stairway on the rear wall. These additions, however, were constructed in keeping with the original materials and detailing of the building. The other notable change was the replacement two times of the cupola which, being natural wood, is vulnerable to deterioration. The current cupola is based on historic photographs showing the original. In addition, the original square east gable end window was replaced with a circular stained glass window and while the remaining sanctuary windows retained their original shape, they were also replaced with stained glass, which was likely a planned early alteration. On the interior, fiberboard has been added on the ceiling and the floor has been carpeted.

The building has been maintained by the Protestant Community Church and is in good condition. The property also maintains its integrity with regard to the site, which is still largely covered with local trees and vegetation. A memorial garden on the north side of the church, which appears to have been mostly developed in the past thirty years, has introduced some new, reversible elements, including a small amount of paved paths, a concrete fountain, a few small concrete statues, including a lamb and a lectern, and some small modern plantings. The memorial garden is nestled in among the tall trees common to the Pine Barrens, however, and does not detract from the overall integrity of the site.

The log construction of the Cathedral of the Woods in the style of a log cabin is representative of a movement in lakeside resort architecture in New Jersey that was the result of several broad historic trends coming together: a history of log construction in New Jersey; a history of lake resort development in New Jersey, encouraged by the rise of the railroads and continued with the advent of the automobile; an on-going interest in harmony between the built environment and the wilderness, dating from the early 19th-century Romantic movement, and encouraged by the Great Camp movement in the 1870s and the development of Rustic Architecture in the National Parks beginning in the 1880s; and, the rise of the middle class and leisure time in the industrial age.

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Burlington County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 1

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 39.862402 | Longitude: -74.805192 |
| 2. Latitude: 39.861738 | Longitude: -74.805484 |
| 3. Latitude: 39.861912 | Longitude: -74.806260 |
| 4. Latitude: 39.862609 | Longitude: -74.805670 |

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 30002, Lots 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, and 104 in Medford Lakes.

Boundary Justification

Block 30002, lots 64 through 76, and 99 through 104 form the property currently owned by the Protestant Community Church of Medford on which the church stands.

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The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes
Burlington County, NJ

Section number PHOTOS Page _____

Name of Property: The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes

City or Vicinity: Medford Lakes

County: Burlington

State: NJ

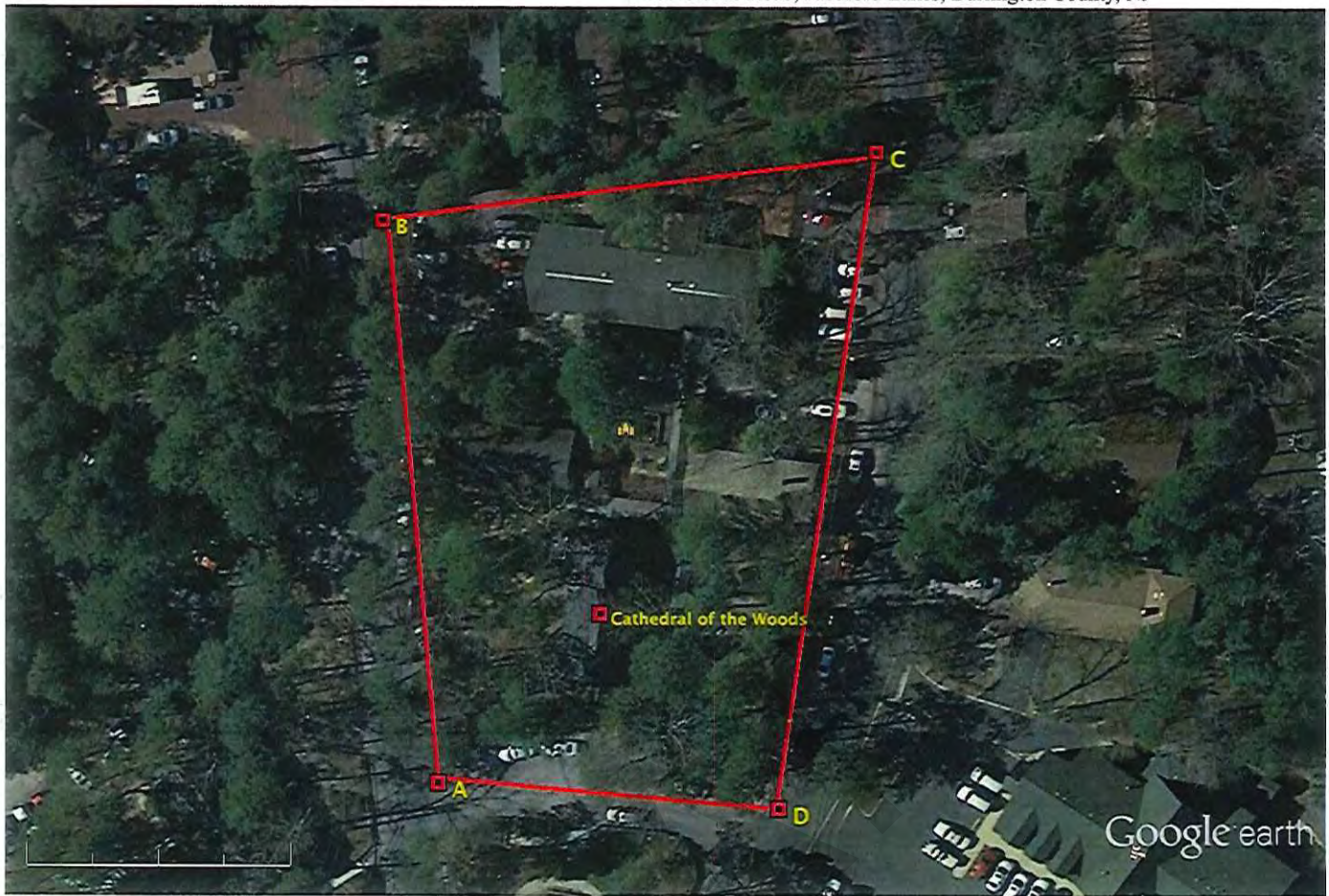
Photographers : Sheila K. Koehler and Margaret Westfield

Date Photographed: August 2, 2016 and December 9, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 28 Overall view facing northwest showing the south and east elevations of the church.
- 2 of 28 Overall view facing north showing the rear of the library and the south elevation of church.
- 3 of 28 Overall view facing north showing the south elevation of the Education Building, the office in the center distance, and the west side of the library at right with the west elevation of the church rising behind it.
- 4 of 28 Overall view facing east showing the north elevation of the Education Building and the west elevation of the office.
- 5 of 28 Overall view facing south showing the north elevation of the office at left and the education building at right.
- 6 of 28 Overall view of the courtyard showing the south elevation of the office at left, the west elevation of the church at center, and the north elevation of the library at right.
- 7 of 28 View of the south and west elevations of the office with the courtyard in the foreground.
- 8 of 28 View of the courtyard facing southwest showing the north elevation of the office.
- 9 of 28 View of the main focal point in the memorial garden, facing north.
- 10 of 28 View of the east church elevation, facing west.
- 11 of 28 View of the north elevation and memorial garden, facing south.
- 12 of 28 View of the south elevation and south lawn, facing north.
- 13 of 28 View of the cupola, facing south.
- 14 of 28 Detail showing window trim and stained glass, facing south.
- 15 of 28 View of the west elevation, facing east.
- 16 of 28 View of the staircase on the west elevation, facing southeast.
- 17 of 28 View of west elevation, corner detail and raking cornice detail, facing northeast.
- 18 of 28 View of the northwest corner and corner detail, facing southeast.
- 19 of 28 Interior view of the sanctuary looking west toward the chancel.
- 20 of 28 Interior view of the chancel looking west.
- 21 of 28 Interior view of the sanctuary looking east toward the narthex.
- 22 of 28 Interior view of the sanctuary north wall, facing northwest.
- 23 of 28 Interior view of the sanctuary south wall, facing southwest.
- 24 of 28 Interior view of north side of the narthex facing east.
- 25 of 28 Interior view of the south of the side of the narthex facing southeast.
- 26 of 28 Interior view of the rear staircase facing north.
- 27 of 28 Interior of the basement facing south.
- 28 of 28 Interior of the basement's boiler room facing the finished basement space, showing the change in floor level.

The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes/Cathedral of the Woods
100 Stokes Road, Medford Lakes, Burlington County, NJ



Google earth

feet 300
meters 90

The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes
The Cathedral of the Woods
100 Stokes Road
Medford Lakes, Burlington County, New Jersey

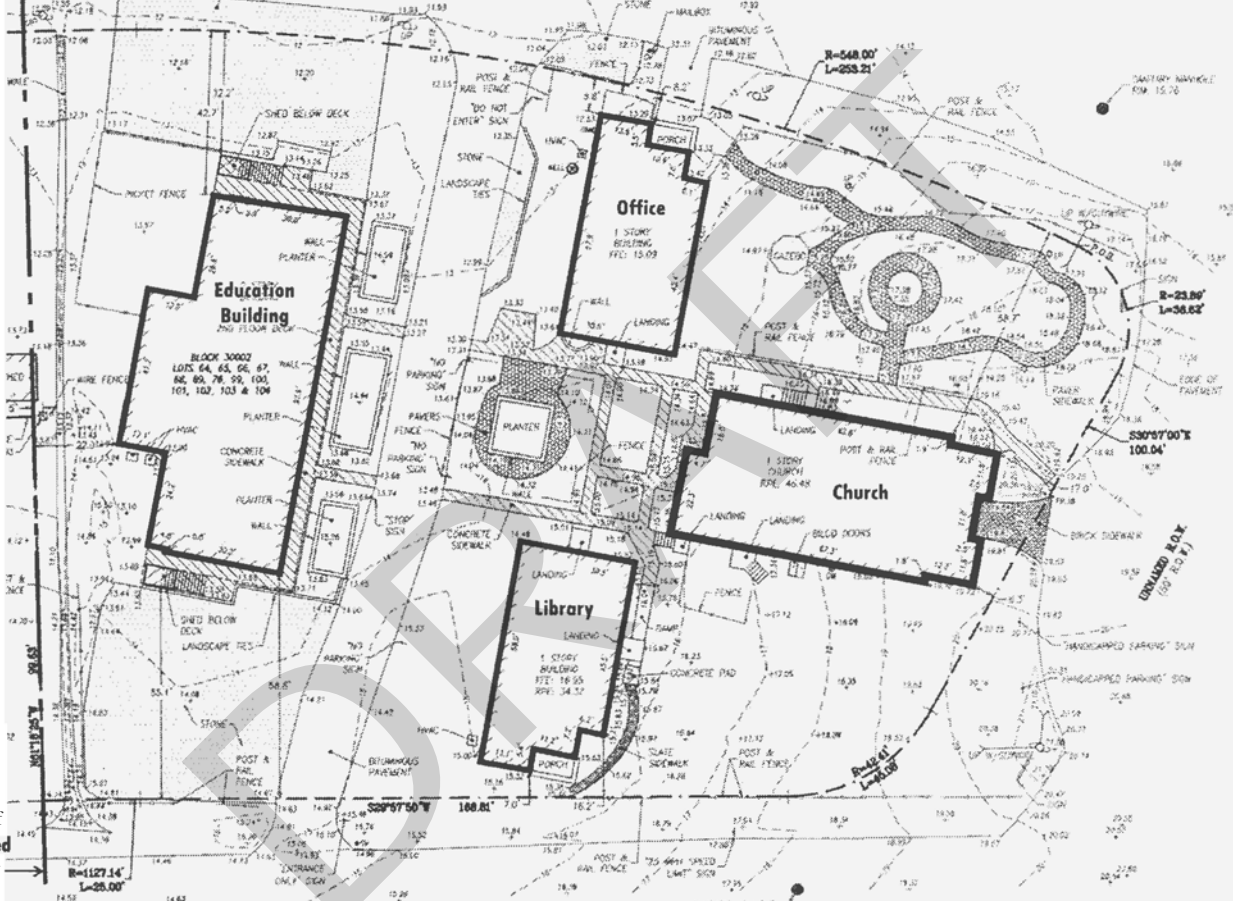
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Longitude: -74.805192

B Latitude: 39.861738
Longitude: -74.805484

C Latitude: 39.861912
Longitude: -74.806260

D Latitude: 39.862609
Longitude: -74.805670

The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes "The Cathedral of the Woods"
100 Stokes Road, Medford Lakes, Burlington County, NJ



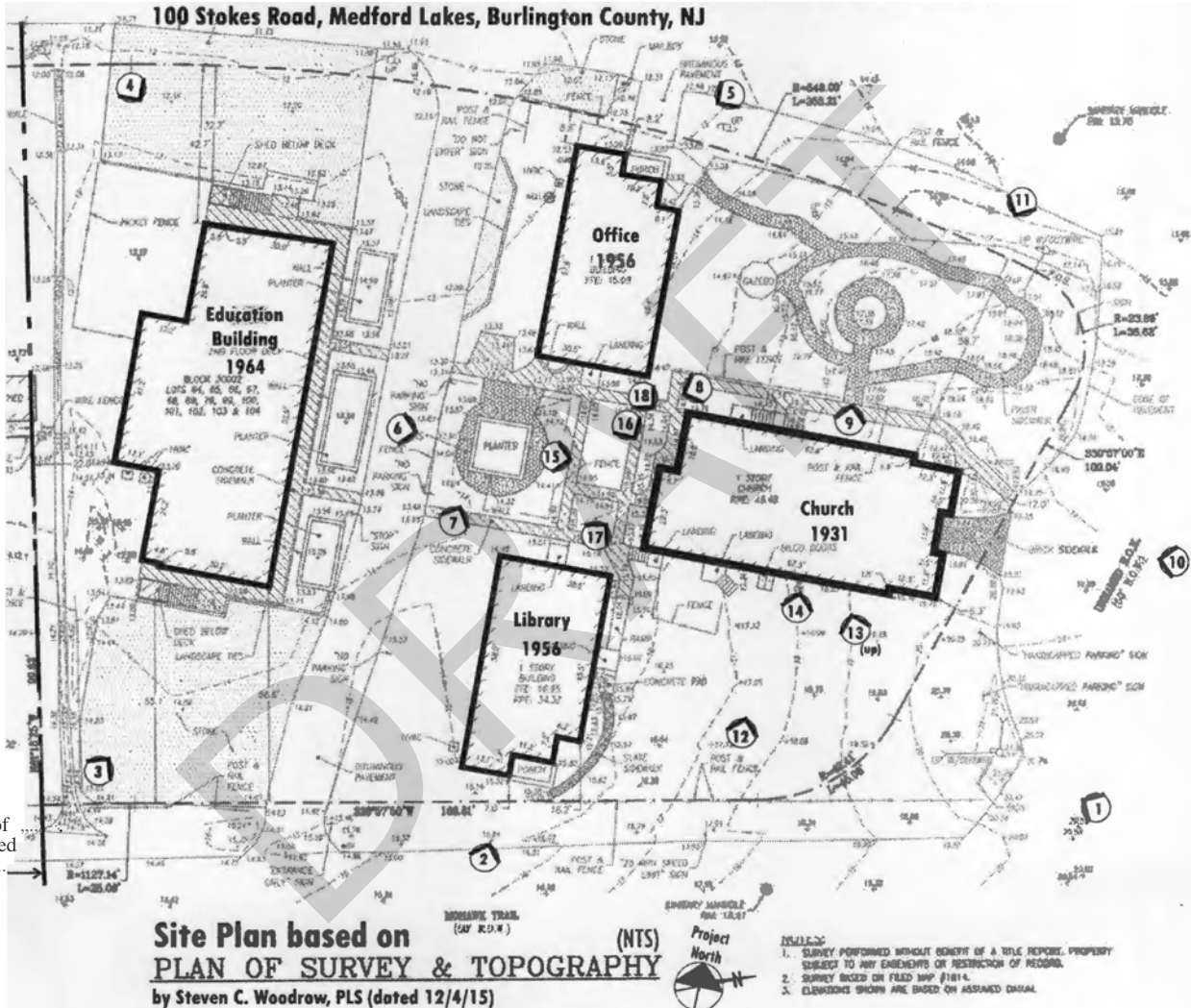
Extent of Nominated Property

Site Plan based on PLAN OF SURVEY & TOPOGRAPHY (NTS)
 by Steven C. Woodrow, PLS (dated 12/4/15)



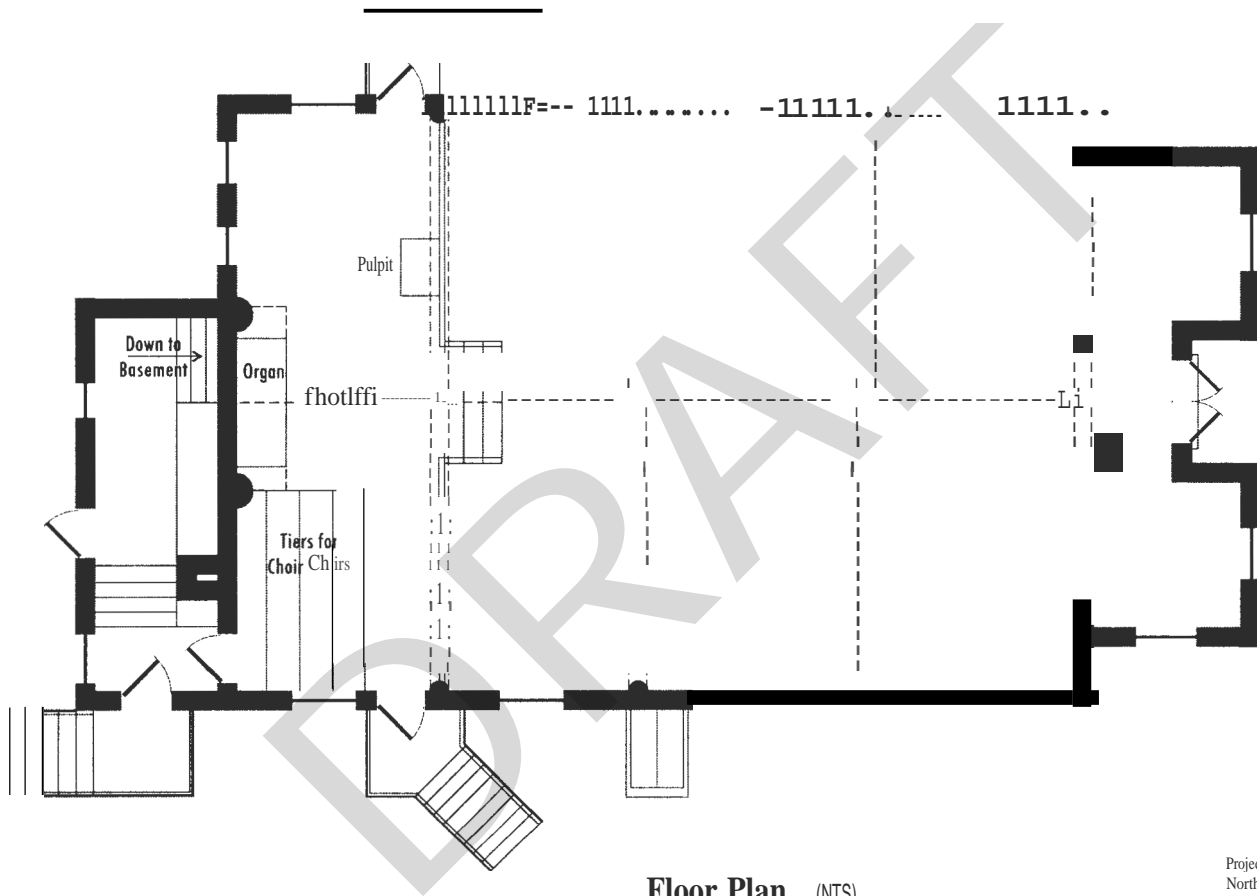
1. THE PROTESTANT COMMUNITY CHURCH OF MEDFORD LAKES, NJ
 2. WESTFIELD ARCHITECTS & PRESERVATION CONSULTANTS
 3. 100 STOKES ROAD, MEDFORD LAKES, NJ 08058
 4. 100 STOKES ROAD, MEDFORD LAKES, NJ 08058

The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes "The Cathedral of the Woods"
 100 Stokes Road, Medford Lakes, Burlington County, NJ



Extent of Nominated Property ...

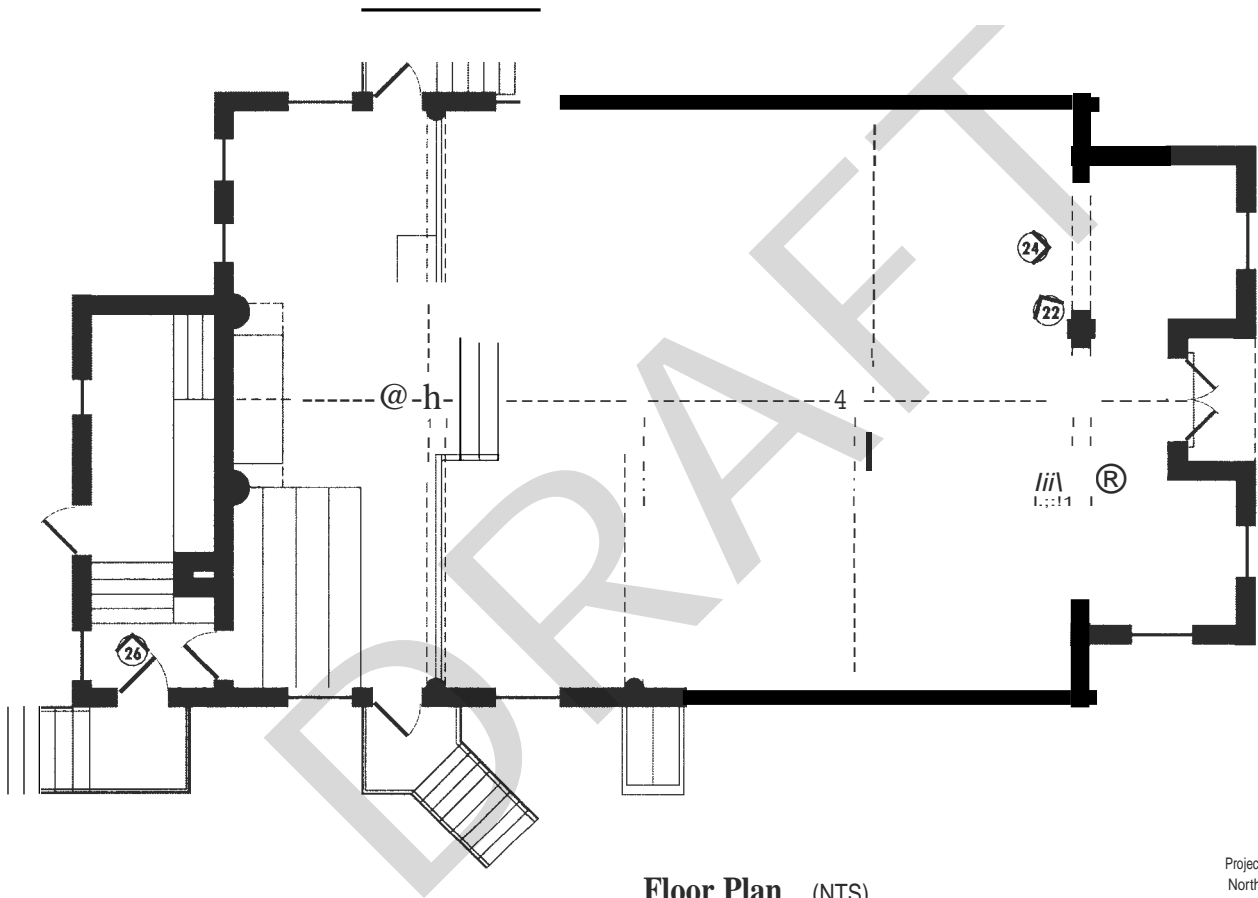
The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes "The Cathedral of the Woods"
Burlington County, NJ



Floor Plan (NTS)

Projed
North

The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes "The Cathedral of the Woods"
Burlington County, NJ



Floor Plan (NTS)

Project
North

Annotated with Photograph Locations



Westfield Architects & Preservation Consultants 12/6/16

The Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes
The Cathedral of the Woods
100 Stokes Road
Medford Lakes, Burlington County, New Jersey
Historic Photograph #1





Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #1



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #2



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #3



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #4



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #5



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #6



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #7



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #8



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #9



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #10



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #11



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #12



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #13



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #14



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #15



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #16



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #17



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #18



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #19



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #20



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #21



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #22



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #23



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #24



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #25



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #26



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #27



Protestant Community Church of Medford Lakes, Medford Lakes Boro, Burlington County
Photo #28