

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #64-7 Building Date: 1933

Building Name: Holst Cabin (Building #001)

Location: Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland, Laurel Bowie Rd.
(MD 197)

Public/Science/Unoccupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Holst Cabin (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Building #001) is a two-and-one-half-story side-gabled cabin built with whole logs chinked with white mortar. Logs are joined by saddle notch at the corners, with approximately one foot overhang. The building is three bays by two bays, with entrance in the central bay of the three-bay south facade. The second story on the south is cantilevered over a one-story screen-enclosed porch, supported by four upright logs. Windows are of the casement type, with six lights in each leaf. Lighting the westerly two bays of the north facade is a four-part full-length window. On the west gable end, an exterior brick chimney with weatherings rises just north of the ridge. The gable roof is covered with brown asphalt shingle. The cabin rests on a concrete foundation which encloses a full basement. On the interior, a two-run closed string stair rises along the east wall of the living room to a second-story gallery along the south. The log walls are unfinished on the interior, so that the wall surface consists of polished logs and white concrete mortar. Roughly centered in the west hall of the living room space is a large fireplace constructed of fieldstones in mortar, with a heavy wooden shelf.

Significance

The Holst Cabin is a unique example in Prince George's County of a twentieth century log chalet. It was built in 1933 as a summer retreat, but for the last half century has been part of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. The cabin was built by William and Ione Holst of Washington, D.C. In 1926, the Holsts had purchased 380 acres of land bounded by the Patuxent River. In 1933, they had this log chalet erected on the property, and used it as a vacation retreat for only a few years. In 1936 the U.S. Government began buying up large tracts of land for the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. The Holsts sold their 380-acre parcel of land, which was developed into the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. The Holst Cabin was occupied within a month by the refuge Superintendent. In 1939, the Superintendent vacated the Holst Cabin, and extensive repairs were begun, including excavation of a concrete basement under the structure, and installation of a modern heating system. The cabin has since that time been used as an office/meeting/and storage building for the center. In the 1980's, the offices were moved out of the cabin into newer buildings, and plans are being made for renovation of the cabin, for possible use as a Visitors center. The cabin is a noticeable landmark, and a unique and fine example of a log chalet in Prince George's County.

Acreage: 380.5 acres

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Holst Cabin

and/or common PWRC Building #001

2. Location

street & number Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (on Laurel Bowie Rd, MD 187) not for publicationcity, town Laurel vicinity of congressional district 5state Maryland (20708) county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name United States of America

street & number 18th & F Streets, N.W. telephone no.:city, town Washington, D.C. state and zip code 20405

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #444street & number Main Street folio 107city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Holst Cabin (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Building #001) is a two-and-one-half-story side-gabled cabin built with whole logs chinked with white mortar. It stands on wooded land, now devoted to wildlife research, one-half mile southwest of the Patuxent River. It is distinguished by its chalet characteristics which make it probably unique in Prince George's County.

The cabin is constructed of whole logs, chinked with white mortar. Logs are joined by saddle notch at the corners, with approximately one foot overhang.

The building is three bays by two bays, with entrance in the central bay of the three-bay south facade. On this south elevation, the second story is cantilevered over a one-story screen-enclosed porch, supported by four upright logs. The batten door in the central bay is fitted with ornate metal strap hinges and spade-head lock.

Windows on the south facade are of the casement type, with six lights in each leaf. There is a hollowed-log flower box under each of the three second-story windows. Windows are similar in the east gable end, although there are no flower boxes.

Lighting the westerly two bays of the north facade is a four-part full-length window. Each section of this window is four lights over eight. In the first (easterly) bay of the north facade is a rear entrance; it is sheltered by a small shed-roof canopy supported by two upright logs. Descending in a westerly direction from this rear entrance are steps which lead to a basement door under the four-part window.

On the west gable end, an exterior brick chimney with weatherings rises just north of the ridge. Above the second story, the gable ends are sided with sawn horizontal board; there is a small four-light single-sash window at loft level in each gable end.

The gable roof is covered with brown asphalt shingle. There is a considerable overhang at the eaves, and there is a row of ceramic tiles covering the ridge. The cabin rests on a concrete foundation which encloses a full basement.

The interior of the cabin consists of two spaces on the first story: a one-bay-wide kitchen spaces on the east, and a larger two-story living room area on the west. There is a two-run closed-string stair in the northeast corner of this living room area, rising eastward along the north wall to a landing, then turning 90° and rising along the east wall to a second-story gallery. This gallery runs along the south wall of the living room space, and opens into two small rooms in the space over the screen-enclosed porch. The balustrade of both staircase and gallery consists of flat jigsaw balusters interspersed with molded newels. The gallery leads also into two small easterly rooms over the kitchen space. Beneath the staircase is a small enclosed stair which leads into the basement.

Interior trim consists of plain stained board surrounds of doors and windows. Wallboard with applied half-timber detail divides the principal two-story living room space from the easterly kitchen space and the southerly bedrooms. The exterior log walls are unfinished on the interior, so that the wall surface consists of polished logs and white concrete mortar. Roughly centered in the west hall of the living room space is a large fireplace constructed of fieldstones in mortar, with a heavy wooden shelf.

Two outbuildings stand on the immediate grounds of the Holst Cabin. Circa 25 feet northeast of the cabin is a one-story side-gabled garage structure (PWRC Building #280). It has board-and-batten siding, and three double doors of plain wide vertical boards with strap hinges. The gable roof is covered with rectangular asbestos shingles, and the foundation is of concrete. There is a six-light single-sash window in each of the east and west gable ends, and two similar windows light the north (rear) elevation.

Circa 10 feet north of the garage is a small gable-roof utility building (#01) of stuccoed concrete block. Entrance is into the north facade, and there is a window next to that door. Each of the east and west gable ends has a single window. The gable roof is covered with green asphalt shingle, and the eaves are punctuated by exposed rafter ends.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1933 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Holst Cabin is a unique example in Prince George's County of a twentieth century log chalet. It was built in 1933 as a summer retreat, but for the last half century has been part of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

The cabin was built by William and Ione Holst of Washington, D.C. In 1926, the Holsts had purchased 380 acres of land bounded by the Patuxent River and by the large farm (Snowden Hall) which belonged to John Snowden.¹ In 1933, they had this log chalet erected on the property, fronting on the old road which ran between Bowie and Laurel; two years later a board-and-batten garage was constructed behind the cabin.² The Holst family used the cabin as a vacation retreat for only a few years. In 1936 the U.S. Government began buying up large tracts of land for the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. The Holsts sold their 380-acre parcel of land to the U.S. Government, and together with Snowden Hall and 19 adjoining tracts of land, it was developed into the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge (now the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center).³ Snowden Hall, itself, was renovated to serve as headquarters for the Refuge, and the Holst Cabin was occupied within a month by the refuge Superintendent.⁴

By 1939, Snowden Hall had been fully renovated, and the Superintendent vacated the Holst Cabin. Extensive repairs were begun, 1939/40, on the cabin, including excavation of a basement under the structure, finishing the basement with concrete, and installation of a modern heating system.⁴ The cabin has since that time been used as an office/meeting/and storage building for the center.

In the 1980's, the offices were moved out of the cabin into newer buildings, and plans are being made for renovation of the cabin, for possible use as a Visitors center. The building stands in good condition, in unspoiled wooded grounds, a noticeable landmark visible from the Laurel-Bowie Road. It is a unique and fine example of a log chalet in Prince George's County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#64-7
Section 8 Page 2

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Deed #276:169.
- 2 Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1928-32, 1932-36.
- 3 Prince George's County Deed #444:107.
- 4 "Snowden Hall and Patuxent Wildlife Refuge", March 1968; "Classified Structure Inventory Report" P.W.R.C., from files of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

Chain of Title
Holst Cabin
P.G. #64-7

444:107 9 March 1936 Deed	William H. C. and Ione Holst of Prince George's County to USA, 380.51 acres on Patuxent River, same which Holst acquired by #338:74 from Strobel.
#338:74 28 Sept. 1929 Deed	John Strobel of D.C. to William and Ione Holst of D.C., 380.51 acres, the same land conveyed to J. Ridley Shields by Samuel and Rose Rappaport in 1922, by #175:112.
#338:52 26 Sept. 1929 Deed	William and Ione Holst to John Strobel, 380.51 acres, same land which Rappaport conveyed to Shields in 1922.
#264:559 15 July 1926 Deed of Trust	William and Ione Holst of D.C., indebted to Joseph E. Evans, conveys by Deed of Trust to N.C. Lassiter of D.C. and J.R. Shields of P.G., 380.51 acres on Patuxent River, same which Holst acquired by #175:112.
#276:169 3 June 1926 Deed	Joseph and Blanche Evans of D.C. to William Holst of D.C. 380.51 acres on the Patuxent River.

R-R

PG: 64-7

LAUREL - BOWIE RD.

RT. 197

BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH CENTER

R-R

A.R.C. FARM
T.M. 21
P.2

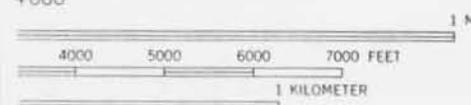
DEPT OF THE INTERIOR
 PATUXENT WILDLIFE
 RESEARCH CENTER

64-7
 PG# 64-7

LAUREL



MJ VE 1000 5 MI. TO INTERSTATE 95 47°30' 345 346 347 2.1 MI. TO MD. 450 3480000 E 76°45' 39



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	—————
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----
U.S. Route	⊕	State Route	⊙

AL 20 FEET
 DATUM OF 1929



P.G. #64-7
Holst Cabin
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1987
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #64-7

Holst Cabin

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

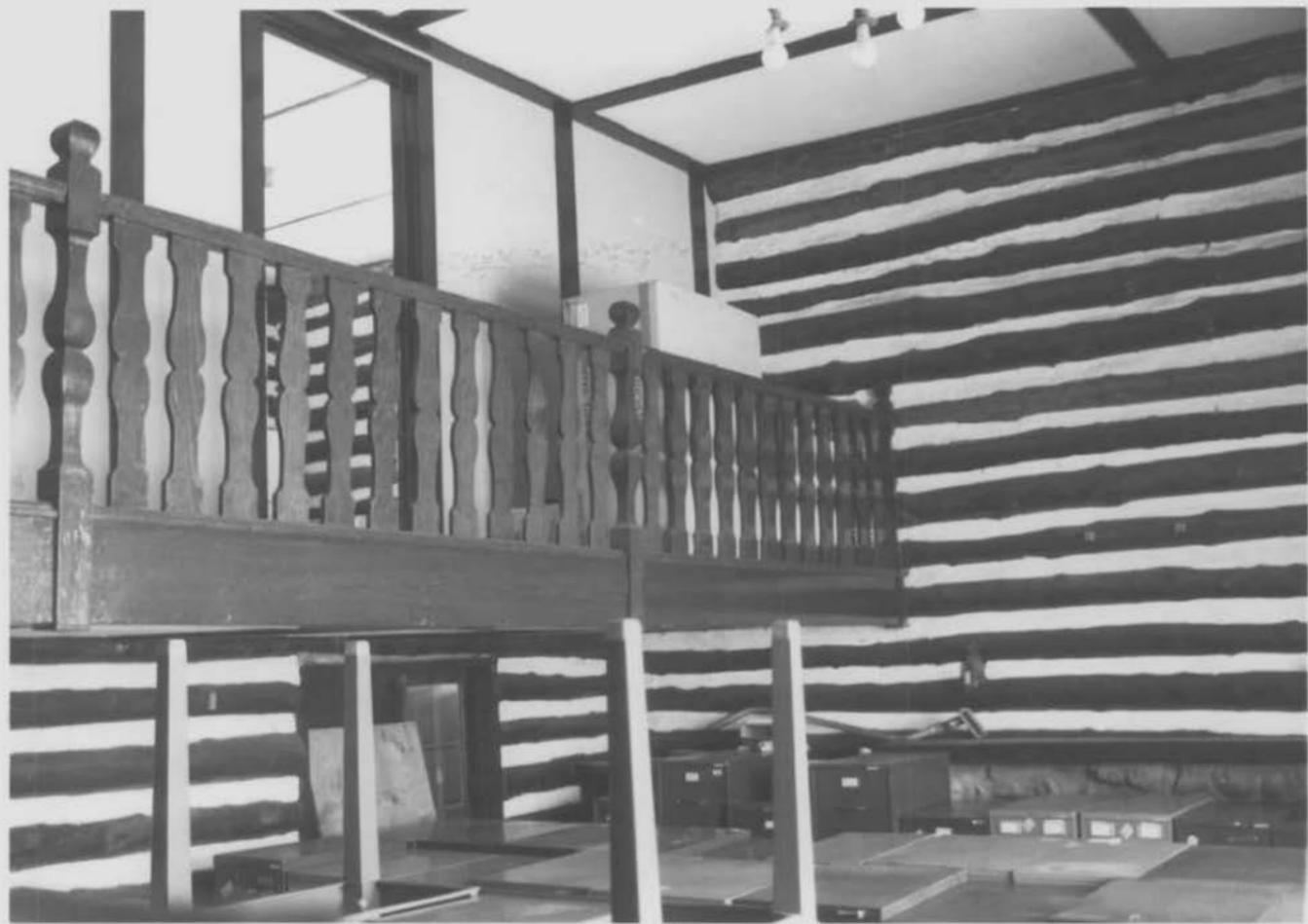
March 1987

Southeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #64-7
Holst Cabin
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1987
South detail
Neg: Md. Hist Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #64-7
Holst Cabin
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1987
Interior
Neg: Md. Hist Trust, Annapolis, Md.