

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO. 13

HISTORIC NAME: Ackerman-Dowman House
LOCATION: 176 East Saddle River Road

COMMON NAME: Bishop House
BLOCK/LOT 1402/32

MUNICIPALITY: Saddle River
USGS QUAD: Park Ridge
OWNER/ADDRESS: Borough of Saddle River
100 East Allendale Road
Saddle River, NJ 07458

COUNTY: Bergen
UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Northing/Easting

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: A + B: c. 1835-40
C: c. 1870
Architect: D: post-WW II

Source of Date: visual

Style: vernacular

Builder: -
Form/Plan Type: see page 3

Number of Stories: A: 1½, B: 2, C: 1½, D: 1
A: coursed ashlar except E side is rubble, B: rubble,
Foundation: C: coursed roughly squared ashlar, D: cinder block

Exterior Wall Fabric: Clapboard except N+E walls of A have composition shingles

Fenestration: A: south side: 3 bays, N side: 2 bays, 6/6; B + C: 6/6

Roof/Chimneys: gables; A: interior end chimney at East, B: interior chimney at south

Additional Architectural Description:

L-shaped porch, 3 bays on south side of A and 2 bays on west side of B and C, brick floor on ground, shed roof extending from main roofs, simple posts.
A: boxed overhang with molded frieze; corner boards; entrance door changed to window c. 1870; c. 1870 1st bay window at west with double window on 2nd-story with triangular pediment; circular lowered opening in attic; 6 panel shutters; c. 1870 gable dormers with shaped side boards. Interior remodeled.
B: c. 1870 staircase, north side has Queen Anne style window with colored glass.
C: c. 1870 double entrance doors on west side with doors with round-headed glazed upper panels, elliptically-arched surround with fanlight; 4 panel shutters; bay window on S side; gable dormers.

PHOTO Negative File No. 6-9, view looking NE, slides

Map (Indicate North)



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION, 100 WEST STATE STREET, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08602 (609) 292-2021

Property has 5.187 acres. The house has a generous setback from the road. The gable end of section A faces the road. Along the road is a c. 1900 boulder wall with gate posts. SW of the house is a boulder well, filled-in swimming pool is at the SE. To E about 100' in recent woods is a small frame English barn with appears to date from the 1830's. It has a gable roof with central hip-roofed ventilator and is covered predominately with shiplap siding. The eastern part of the property is wooded. The house (cont.)

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Urban Suburban Scattered Buildings
Open Space Woodland Residential Agricultural Village
Industrial Downtown Commercial Highway Commercial Other

Across East Saddle River Road to west is a recent 1-story shopping center in Colonial Revival style. To north are residences, to south is Borough police offices in an old house (0258-14).

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Ackerman-Dewsnap House is a pleasing example of local vernacular architecture. It represents the evolution of a 3 bay wide, 1½ story frame farm house built about 1835 into a picturesque, L-shaped late 19th century country home. On the exterior, the building largely retains its late 19th century appearance enhanced by circa 1900 landscape features such as boulder walls, gates, and well, as well as an early 19th century English barn. The house is associated with the Ackerman family, one of Bergen County's oldest families, and with the Dewsnap family, a locally interesting one.

The property was part of Garret A. Ackerman's farm. The homestead of this farm is located at 199 East Saddle River Road (BCSHS #160, 0258-16). A building appears at this site on an 1840 U.S. Coast Survey map and the 1861 Hopkin's map associates it with A. G. Ackerman.

In 1864 Ackerman sold the property to James Dewsnap who appears on 1876, 1902, and 1913 maps as its owner. According to the 1876 Atlas Dewsnap was a plumber and gas fitter. It is likely he remodelled the house and added section C (see plan) and the plan of the building on the 1876 map suggests section C had been built. It is likely James Dewsnap was the father of Walter and John P. Dewsnap, mentioned in local newspapers as New York City realtors in the 1880's and 90's specializing in selling country houses and farms (cont.)

ORIGINAL USE: Residential PRESENT USE: Vacant/storage
PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Poor
REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No Part of District
THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development Zoning Deterioration
No Threat Other

COMMENTS:

The house was recently purchased by the municipality. Its future function is unclear. To the north and east its property abuts that owned by the borough and the school board. Selective clearing of trees near house is needed. The barn is in need of maintenance and the area around it needs to be cleared of vegetation.

REFERENCES:

NJHSI 0258-15
1840: U.S. Coast Survey map #132 on.
1861: Hopkins map: A. G. Ackerman.
1876 Walker Atlas: Jas. Dewsnap. 1887 Driving Map: Dewsnap
1902: Robinson map: Jas. Dewsnap.
1913: Bromley Atlas: J. Dewsnap.
1861: Inskeep map: A. G. Ackerman, 1852; Jas. Dewsnap 1864.
Walker Atlas, p. 164.
SRHC files: old photograph, notes of CK Tholl, The Landscape. (cont.)

RECORDED BY: CK Tholl/TRB
ORGANIZATION: BCHSAB/BCOC&HA

DATE: 1981-83

SIGNIFICANCE: (continued)

in Bergen County. James was possibly also the father of William Dewsnap, an architect who began practicing in New York City about 1899. William Dewsnap designed the H. F. Durbar House in Saddle River at 3 West Church Road (0258-54).

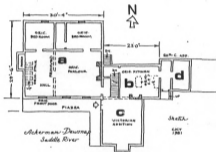
REFERENCES: (continued)

CKT List,

C. K. Tholl, "Bergen County Historic Sites Advisory Board Register of Important Structures and Sites" Survey form, April 1981.

SITING: (continued)

is surrounded by trees and shrubs.



The English barn
Looking SW
Neg. file #
1-2
slide



View looking north
showing section A
and part of C.
neg. file #6-5



View looking SE
showing section A
neg. file # 6-6



View looking N
showing sections
C,B,D neg file #6-8