

71001475

GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: Achenbach House

COMMON NAME:

LOCATION: 184 Chestnut Ridge Road
(East side)

MUNICIPALITY: Saddle River

OWNERSHIP: Public Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: Mario Paul Perillo
2 Apple Ridge Road
Saddle River, NJ

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:

Erskine (1778-80)

Hopkins-Corey (1861) T. Achenbach

Walker's Atlas (1876) Mrs. Achenbach

Bromley (1912) E.P. Smith

Other

RECOGNITION:

National Register BCHS Marker

HABS Bailey

Other N.J. Inventory

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 30° E

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:
Victorian barn to north
Small sandstone structure to east

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Residential

Commercial

Agricultural

Open Space

Other

COMMENTS:

THREATS TO USE

ORIGINAL: Residence

PRESENT: Same

THREATS TO STRUCTURE:

Roads

Development

Zoning

Deterioration

Other

No Threat

COMMENTS:

CONDITION

CONDITION:

Excellent Good

Fair Deteriorated

STATUS:

Occupied

Unoccupied

Work in Progress

ACCESSIBLE:

Yes, Restricted

Yes, Unrestricted

No

The house is now entered from the north side and there is a 1921 stone extension to the east.

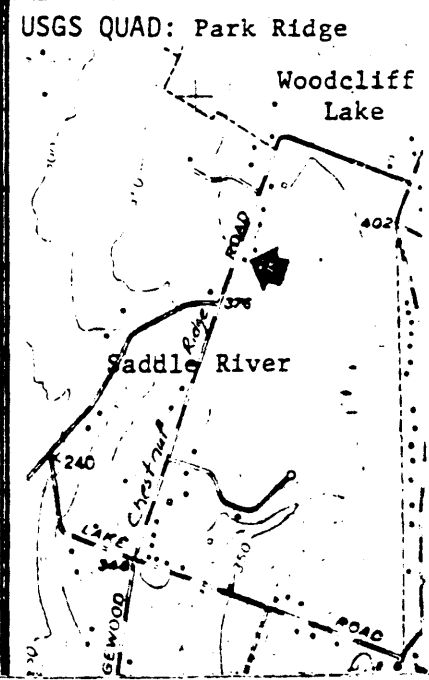
There are shed dormers on the north and south.

The living room partition has been removed and the stair case has been reversed.

PHOTO



MAP



CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:

Main: after 1802
 Wing: pre-Revolutionary/Bailey;
 @architectural evidence

BUILDER: Member of Achenbach Family

FORM/PLAN TYPE:

Wing: 2 bay (B) 16'0"x18'7"
 Main: 3 bay (H) 30'0"x31'-1"

FRAMING SYSTEM:

- Intermediate Summer Beam (Main)
 Intermediate Bearing Wall
 Clear Span (Wing)
 Other

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:

Coursed and cut red sandstone
 Clapboarded gable ends

FENESTRATION:

Main: 3'0"x5'3-1/2" M.O. 12/12 sash (S)
 2'7"x4'2" M.O. 12/8 sash (N)
 Wing: 2'8"x4'2" M.O. 6/6 sash

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:

Main: West end bay w/ transom
 3'2"x6'10" M.O., pair of doors
 Wing: East end bay 2'11"x6'9"

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1-1/2, both section

CELLAR: Yes
 No

CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:

- Stone Arch (Wing)
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
 Other

FLOOR JOISTS:

6"x8" @ 22"-23" bet: Wing

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:

9'8": Main

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:

1'8": Main

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:

GARRET:

- Unfinished Space
 Finished Space

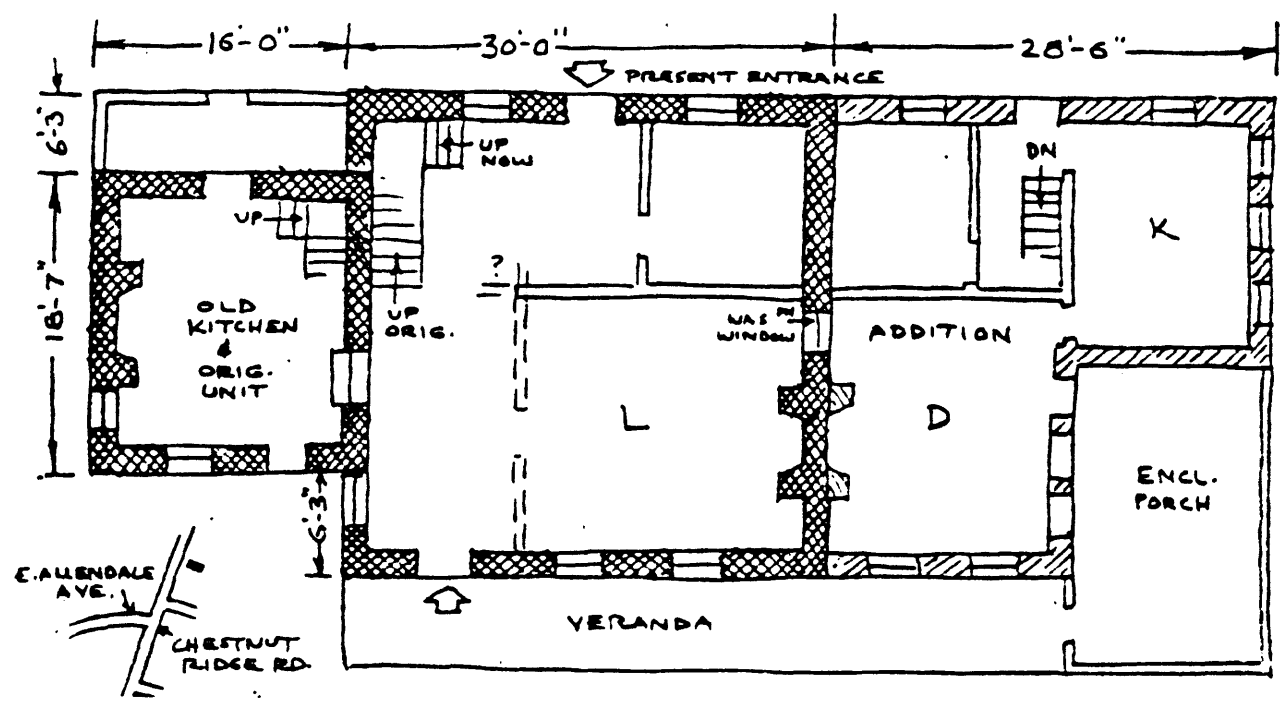
ROOF:

- Gable (Wing)
 Gambrel (Main)
 Curb
 Other

EAVE TREATMENT:

- Sweeping Overhang (Mn rr & wing)
 Supported Overhang (Frt main)
 No Overhang
 Boxed Gutter
 Other

This house is significant for its architecture and its association with the exploration and settlement of the Bergen County, New Jersey area. It is a reasonably well preserved example of the Form/Plan Type as shown and more fully described herein. As such, it is included in the Thematic Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Early Stone Houses of Bergen County, New Jersey.



Hans Georg Achenbach emigrated from Saxony and settled on Zabriskie's New Paramus patent, locating on the eastern hill overlooking the Saddle River valley. Romance is connected with his name, for tradition states that he was a shepherd boy who eloped with his employer's daughter, and was therefore compelled to leave Germany. They are buried on a promontory on their hill farm overlooking the river. He was elected an elder of the Lutheran Church of Ramapo in 1770 and retired as senior elder in 1774. He or his son probably built the house; the high ceilings and carved woodwork of the main house testify to a date around 1790, but the wing may be older and pre-revolutionary. In 1876 the house was owned by a Mrs. Achenbach, and the property adjoining on the north side was owned by Thomas Achenbach, undoubtedly descendants of the builder. About 1835 Mary Ann Achenbach married Thomas Terhune. They later inherited the house, which came to be known as the Terhune house. [In 1913], E. Percy Smith, bought the property... from a land company. [He enlarged it by adding a wing built of stones from the ruins of the Michael Ryer house in Woodcliff Lake. About 1962, the theater people, Carol Haney and Larry Blyden, bought it with ten acres, and a few years ago the Wahles bought it from the former's heirs.]

Although the Achenbachs were of German origin, they settled in a Dutch locality and adopted their neighbors' style of building. The stones of the house are dressed and well cut and laid. The house has a neat and methodical feeling, a slightly different atmosphere from other similar houses, which may be attributed to the builder's German origin.

The house stands on the east side of Chestnut Ridge Road, north of the road which climbs the hill from Saddle River village.

(The above, except for our comment, which is bracketed [], is quoted from Rosalie Fellows Bailey's Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York. New York: Dover Publications, Inc. 1968.)

Mrs. Wahle, the owner, has updated the Bailey history in her National Register nomination.



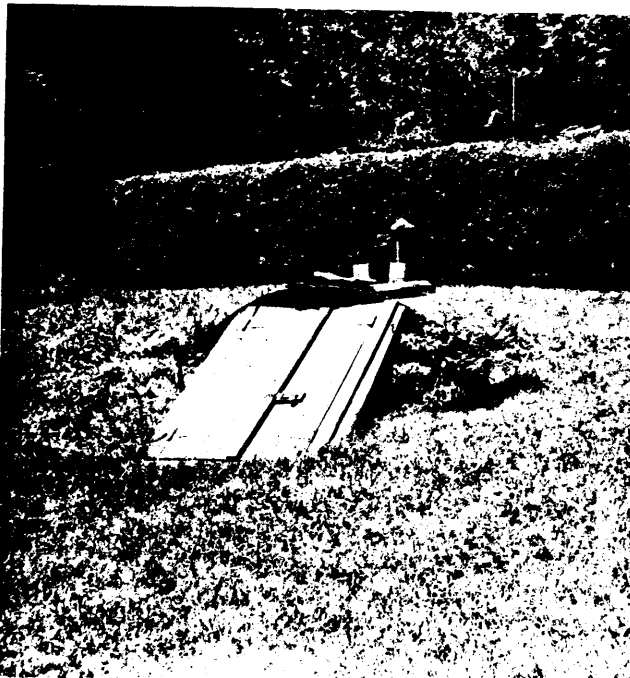
ACHENBACH HOUSE - Saddle River

BACKGROUND - from Maria Hopper, Reginald McMahon and Howard I. Duffe.

John (Hans) Geroge Achenbach's sons Rinehart and George (born January 23, 1739) leased the BOKS SWAMP TRACT (Lot No. 122) about 1757 but did not get a deed for it until 1792. George probably built the wing of the house in this period. His sons Thomas, Richard, and Lawrence along with six daughters lived here until George's death in 1802 and after that the main unit was constructed. The wing and 50 acres was left to Thomas with the instructions that he and Rinard were to "help Lawrence build his house" on the divided land. Rinard and Lawrence founded the Saddle River Lutheran Church.



To left, photograph of barn's east side, 1984 neg. file #6-12. To bottom left, photograph of root cellar, 1984, neg. file #6-2. To bottom right, photograph of ash house or dairy sheds? 1984, neg. file # 6-11.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

ACHENBACH HOUSE

AND OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

184 Chestnut Ridge Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Saddle River

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th

STATE

New Jersey

VICINITY OF

CODE

34

COUNTY

Bergen

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES RESTRICTED

YES UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

HERBERT G. WAHLE

STREET & NUMBER

184 Chestnut Ridge Road

CITY, TOWN

Saddle River

STATE

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Administrative Building

STREET & NUMBER

355 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Hackensack

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#2714.7)

DATE

1961, 1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Achenbach House is located on the east side of Chestnut Ridge, Borough of Saddle River, Bergen County, New Jersey. The area is rural in nature, as is the township and, generally, this section of the county. Saddle River is a community of beautiful homes of all ages, and is undergoing the pressures of growth, although the rural quality will be reasonably retained through a zoning policy of two acre minimum lots. Originally a farming community, the maintenance of a rural atmosphere is possible.

This house is located on the lot on an east-west axis and built close to the road; both features typical to homes of this era. The south facing front, with its open porch, overlooks a beautiful terrace garden. The quality of the grounds adds greatly to the beauty of the house. Stone walls and garden paths meander through the property. There is also a barn connected to the driveway to the north. A small sandstone structure to the east of the house was purportedly used as an ash depository. However, its age and use have not been confirmed.

The house is an excellent example of the 18th century Dutch (Flemish) Colonial homesteads found in the northern New Jersey - southern New York area, possessing all of the classic features, including the sweeping overhang. Built in three sections, the earliest (and presumed original) is the west wing.

This west wing is of early to mid-18th century design and construction, and from all appearances, would support a construction date of 1757 or earlier. Oriented on a north-south axis, typical of the period, the wing is approximately 16' by 24', one level, with a loft and no basement or crawlspace. Exterior walls are cut local sandstone, with a frame section to the north. Trapezoidal sandstone lintels support window and door openings. A recent photo of the frame section shows heavy hand hewn wall studs resting on a plate directly on the ground. This photo, about ten years old, indicates brick fill between the joists. If not original, the frame section appears to be quite early, probably 18th century. The wing is a typical one room plan, with Dutch doors in the north and south facades. A rather steeply pitched gable roof has a single dormer facing south. The original exposed first floor ceiling beams, finely finished and beaded, and the wide plank pine floor boards have survived. The present fireplace is not original, and the exposed ceiling framing, with a heavy summer beam and surround beams indicate a much larger original fireplace, perhaps jambless, which would have been common for the period. This room served as the kitchen for the enlarged house. It has survived in remarkably unadulterated condition. The original second story loft has been finished and is reached by an added staircase.

The first addition to the original wing was added to the east and is also of classic 18th century Dutch (Flemish) Colonial design. Of two stories approximately 22' by 29', with a full cellar, this section has a gambrel roof with dormers facing north and south. Typically north-south oriented, this section has a continuous

Form No. 10-380a
MAY 1974UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMAchenbach House
Saddle River
Bergen County
New Jersey, 07634

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE RECEIVED

DESCRIPTION (continued)

open porch (piazza) facing south with wood columns. Exterior walls are cut local sandstone, with handsome Dutch doors in the north and south elevations. The foundation is of rubble stone including a classic arched fireplace foundation. Windows in this section are 12/12 on the south wall, 9/6 on the west wall, and 12/8 on the north wall.

The interior of the main floor retains wide pine floor boards, exposed ceiling beams (some beaded which are probably the original) with additional (probably non-structural) beams added. A handsome wood chair rail of a simple but elegant design remains. The fireplace mantle is worthy of special note, being an excellent example of a finely carved "Adamesque" style, using the sunburst design extensively. A built-in wood cupboard is adjacent to the fireplace and is also very finely detailed and constructed. The first floor ceiling is unusually high for the period, supposedly attributed to the German background of the original family. This section originally contained two rooms to the south, a smaller room and hall on the north, with a staircase to the upstairs hall and four rooms. Reportedly, when this section was added, the original west wing was used as the kitchen.

The second and last addition is to the east of the first addition. This second addition utilized the original sandstone (and perhaps rubble stone for the cellar foundation) from an 18th century house in Woodcliff Lake, known as the Michael Ryer house. This addition was added in 1921. The ceiling of the second addition apparently was raised. A subtle, but definite difference in mortar joints is visible on the exterior wall, supporting this conclusion. The care and workmanship in this addition is of such high quality that the result is harmonious and pleasing. The open porch was continued over the latest addition, and Victorian trim was removed and woodwork more similar to the original design installed. Windows on the south are 12/12, three 6/6 face east, and two 12/8 windows face north, with an oval window at the connecting point. This section has wide pine plank floors. The exposed ceiling beams, however, are "boxed" but are very carefully detailed and constructed so as to compliment the effect. The fireplace mantel, backing onto the living room fireplace in the first addition, is a handsome, though simpler detailed piece, reportedly from New York State, and of a local design. This section is also of two stories with a full cellar. At the time of the second addition, the roof dormers to the north were changed to a continuous shed type, and a large shed type dormer installed at the center of the south side of the roof. Also, at the time of the addition, the entrance hall staircase was reversed, and the room off the hall was closed to the hall and opened to the kitchen area. A portion of the original open porch, at the south east,

Form No. 10-300a
Rev. 10-74UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**Saddle River
Achenbach House
Bergen CountyNew Jersey 03L
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

3

DESCRIPTION (continued)

has been enclosed. A full attic is over both additions. The main level of this section contains dining room, kitchen, hall, laundry room and bath. The second level contains two bedrooms, a study and a bath.

The condition of the house is excellent, and reflects the owners' commitment to its preservation.

Remaining outbuildings are: barn, chicken coop, root cellar (housing water pump) and ash house (now used as bathhouse for swimming pool which replaced the old tennis court built by Mr. Smith).

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

ADDENDUM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Achenbach House
Saddle River
Bergen County, New Jersey

7. Description of Outbuildings

Well 5' x 5' - was clapboard, covered with red sandstone at time of third addition to house in 1923 - peaked shingle roof on frame. Still in use. (See photo X)

Two attached outbuildings (see photo IX)

- 1) 9' x 11' red sandstone with slanted roof - 2 small windows on west side, batten door on east.
Use: 1912-1940's "ash house"
now used as bath house
for pool
- 2) 8' x 12' three-quarter underground room attached to 1) - flat roof with vent, cemented exterior and interior with slanting batten doors - now used for pool storage (possible dairy use for both of these buildings pre-1900)

Underground root cellar converted to pump house in 1923. 6' x 8' - cemented interior with slanted batten doors. (photo #VIII)

Chicken Coup - 8' x 21' - clapboard with sharply slanted roof - 3 windows with windowed batten door on south side. (photo #VII)

Barn - 24' x 32' - clapboard with peaked shingled roof containing hay-loft and two box stalls - garage for 1 car. Cupola is 1963 addition not in keeping with barn.

East side - one window in gable, dove-cote underneath, two lower small windows over stalls, manure chute on left, large batten door to right.

South side - one window in gable, large garage doors, one regular batten door and one sliding batten door.

West side - upper "hay" door in gable and two full sized windows below. (photo #VI)

Ferry Karschner 3/ 1979

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
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 ca. 1757, 1764

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Johan (Hans) George Achenbach

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Achenbach house with its sweeping overhang, is one of the finest examples of old Dutch Colonial (Flemish) architecture in this area and the second oldest in the town of Saddle River. The owner and builder, Johan (Hans) George Achenbach, married a member of the Van Buskirk family, who were among Bergen County's first landowners and was himself unusual in that he was reputed to be a school-teacher and "had the largest collection of books and an excellent handwriting" (THE LANDSCAPE - Alfred P. Smith. May, 1887).

The property was owned by the East Jersey Proprietors until April 23, 1752 at which times Andries T. Van Buskirk bought it. It was known as the "Second Homestead Tract, Lot #122 # Boks Swamp" tract which was leased by Rinehart Achenbach in 1757 and by George Achenbach in 1760 with a known homestead on it. This house might have been a tenant farm house (Regionald McMahon, "Wierimus", Bergen County History. 1974).

The Burke Manuscript Collection, (Vol. 80 dated 8/21/1752), in the New York Public Library shows a lease on March 21, 1760 by Jurie Hagaback (Achenbach) for one year rent of 100 acres for 10 shillings.

The published minutes of the East Jersey Proprietors, (Vol. 3 1745-1764, page 403), refers to a meeting August 19, 1763 at which time 123 leases were executed with tenants at "Romapock". Among them, Lot No. 122 containing 306 acres was leased August 9, 1763 to Lawrence Buskirk, Ryndert Achenbach, Abraham Vanderbeck and Adam Snyder at a rental per year of 60 shillings; each having a share of land. Ryndert Achenbach was Johan George's father and Lawrence Van Buskirk was Johan George's father-in-law.

The second part of the house, or center section, was built in 1764 (manuscript records of Mrs. Mark Inskeep, descendant of builder, Johan George Achenbach).

(Johan) George Achenbach was taxed for property in Harington Township, September 1779 as holding 80 acres of improved land and cattle and designated "householder". (Tax Ratables. Harington Township. 1779)

A copy of the deed transferring title to northern 103.46 acres of Lot 122 conveyed to (Johan) George Achenbach on August 22, 1795 from John Neafie for 124 pounds, 3 shillings. (Bergen County Deeds. Book 714, page 103.)

"The homestead and 50 acres of property through the farm East and West was inherited by the youngest son, Thomas Achenbach in 1802 (George Achenbach will. Proved Sept. 1802 Lib. 40 pl 38 file 3219).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**Achenbach House
Saddle River
Bergen County
New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The property later was inherited in 1867 by Thomas' son, George Achenbach. (Bergen County Docket 3 page 63 #4 -250). The will is interesting in that it lists the rooms and outbuildings: 2 bedrooms, parlor, hall, garret, 2 bedrooms in garret, kitchen, cellar, outkitchen, blacksmith shop, wagonhouse, workshop and barn. George died on June 17, 1874 leaving the house to his wife, Leah "Margaret" Quackenbush Achenbach. After six years she died in 1880 leaving the property to her children, Thomas, David, George, Jr. They sold it to their aunt (George's sister), Mary Ann Achenbach Terhune, the widow of John Richard Terhune (Bergen County Book 10 - page 520).

When Mary Ann Terhune died on March 23, 1898, her children, Peter Orlando and Thomas, lost the mortgaged estate to the Holland Land & Improvement Co. who sold 5 acres with the house and outbuildings to Mr. and Mrs. Percy Smith in 1912. In 1920 Smith bought the stones and remains of the Michael Ryer house in Woodcliff Lake to build the east wing of the house in keeping with the original two sections. (Hosey Storms supervised and Scafuro was the mason). At this time the gardens were developed and stone walls built by Mr. Smith himself from old walls of the original farm. The stone on the wellhouse was added then.

In 1960 the house was sold by Mrs. Percy Smith to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Blyden, and, in 1965, was again sold with 3 acres to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wahle, who are the present owners.

The Achenbach House is an important example of that group of houses, located in the northern New Jersey-southern New York area commonly referred to as Dutch Colonial design, constructed in the 18th Century. Having the classic, Flemish influenced, design elements, all of the sections of the house are of historic architectural importance resulting in one of the most attractive, well-cared for examples extant in Bergen County, also representing one of the original Colonial farmsteads of an important Bergen County family. The original wing, dating to at least 1757, and perhaps somewhat earlier, is one of the oldest houses in Bergen County and may be the oldest in Saddle River.

The great care and concern exhibited by the present and previous owners reflects in the high quality of preservation work through the years. The present appearance and condition show dramatically how the heritage of an historic house can be respected, while incorporating all of the modern conveniences required by today's living standards.

N.J. Proprietors, Vol 3
 N.J. Archives
 Budke Mss. Collection, N.Y.
 Public Library

Mrs. Mark Inskeep, N. Carolina
 Mr. Howard Durie, 26 Quaker Rd.
 Pomona, N.Y.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Park Ridge NJ-NY

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

FORM REFERENCES

A 18 577210 4543040

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 9, Lot 7 of Saddle River Tax Maps. The property is approximately 350 feet (on Chestnut Ridge Road) by 325 feet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME TITLE Mrs. Herbert Wahle, Owner
184 Chestnut Ridge Road, Saddle River, N.J. 07458 Tel: (201) 327-5480

ORGANIZATION Mr. Albin H. Rothe, A.I.A. DATE
60 East Main Street
 STREET & NUMBER Ramsey, New Jersey 07446 TELEPHONE (201) 327-1580

CITY OR TOWN STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL XX

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 National Park Service.

Deputy [Signature]
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection DATE 10-13-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: **KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Achenbach House

Saddle River

1 Bergen County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

THE LANDSCAPE - Alfred P. Smith 1882-1902

PRE-REVOLUTIONARY DUTCH HOUSES (etc.) - Rosalie F. Bailey 1936, p.269

Bergen Historical Society Annual 1974 - WIERIMUS by Reg. McMahon Plate 70



South side of barn, 1984.
Neg. file #7-6



Chicken house in 1984
Neg. file #7-7

Research undertaken in order to apply for National Register listing which was granted in 1979 has proven that Johan George Achenbach could not possibly have been the "shepherd boy" of Rosalie Bailey's "Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses of Northern New Jersey".

He was the first school teacher in Saddle River, had the best hand-writing (wrote up deeds and wills for people) and had the most books of any resident (see "The Landscape" - May 1887). He also did not "elope with his employer's daughter" from Germany but married Antje Van Buskirk, daughter of Laurens Van Buskirk of Saddle River in 1763.

The INSkeep map states that the house was built in 1764. (The addition to the first tenant farmhouse). Mrs. Inskeep was a descendant of the Achenbachs and allowed me to copy Johan George's list of children and will written in his own handwriting in Dutch. Since he married in 1763 it is logical that he would have added to the little house which is marked as an existing house on Ronald McMahon's map (see p. 50 - "Wearimus" - Bergen County Historical Society Annual of 1974) in 1764 - not in 1790 when his children were already grown and he was 51 years old. His son could not have built the house because he inherited it in his father's will in 1802.

Johan George Achenbach is not buried on his farm, but in the Van Buskirk cemetery in the valley alongside the Saddle River on the present Gildea property (47 East Saddle River Rd.) The 1911 survey of this cemetery shows another Achenbach (dates illegible) by name of Reinhard (note German spelling with inscription in German). Since Johan George's eldest son was also named Rynhard (Dutch spelling) and the custom was for the eldest son to be named after the paternal grandfather, I believe this Reinhard was Johan George's father who was probably the immigrant from Saxony about whom the tale is told.

Reyn McMahon, on his map (p. 50 - "Wearimus" article, Bergen Cy. Historical Society 1974) shows that the property was rented in 1757 to Rinehart (?) Achenbach when Johan George would have been 18 - and then in 1762 to Johan George, a year before he married. I believe these were father and son and that the father died before 1762 at which time the son took over the land.

Information supplied by Ilse Wahle, May 1985.

3
page
18

"The first of the name of Achenbach in this part of the county came from Düsseldorf, settling at Chestnut Ridge sometime during the last century. He was the possessor of a good collection of books and specimens of his handwriting show that he was a man of excellent education."



PLATE 70

Achenbach House
Chestnut Ridge Road, Saddle River

The wing of this house may have been built a few years before the Revolution by Hans George Achenbach, a Saxon shepherd boy. The main house is definitely post-revolutionary. The house is Dutch in style, but a different atmosphere, a neat and methodical feeling which pervades, may be due to the builder's German origin.

Ackermans, Ackenbachs, Conklins and Baldwins. John George Achenbach located on the Eastern hill overlooking the Valley. He was a German Shepherd boy who ran away with his employer's daughter, and the eloping pair never communicated their whereabouts to their relatives in the Fatherland. The graves of these early settlers are located on a promontory, overlooking the Saddle River Brook a few rods south of the land of Thomas Eckerson. A flat stone gathered from their farms, marks their resting place, but the winds and storms of a century and a half have effaced the rude inscriptions that denoted their individual graves.

"HISTORY OF BERGEN COUNTY
Published in 1900

James Van Valen
page 228

3
page 19

Other early settlers were the Ackermans, Ackenbachs, Conklins and Baldwins. John G. Ackenbach located on the eastern hill overlooking the valley. He was a German shepherd boy who ran away with his employer's daughter, and the eloping pair never communicated their whereabouts to their relatives in the Fatherland. The graves of these pioneer settlers are located on a promontory overlooking the Saddle River brook. A flat stone gathered from their farm marks their last resting place, but the winds and storms of more than a century and a half have effaced the rude inscriptions that indicated their individual graves.

"HISTOPV OF BERGEN COUNTY, N.
Published in 1923 1620-19.

Frances A. Westervelt
page 409 Volume I

PRE-REVOLUTIONARY DUTCH HOUSES AND FAMILIES
IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY AND SOUTHERN NEW YORK

by Rosalie Fellows Bailey Photographs: Margaret De M. Brown
PUBLISHED 1936

Page 269 Plate 70

HOUSES IN BERGEN (INCLUDING HUDSON)
COUNTY

Achenbach House
Chestnut Ridge Road, Saddle River
PLATE 70

Hans Georg Achenbach emigrated from Saxony and settled on Zabriskie's New Paramus patent, locating on the eastern hill overlooking the Saddle River valley. Romance is connected with his name, for tradition states that he was a shepherd boy who eloped with his employer's daughter, and was therefore compelled to leave Germany. They are buried on a promontory on their hill farm overlooking the river. He was elected an elder of the Lutheran Church of Ramapo in 1770 and retired as senior elder in 1774. He or his son probably built the house; the high ceilings and carved woodwork of the main house testify to a date around 1790, but the wing may be older and pre-revolutionary. In 1876 the house was owned by a Mrs. Achenbach, and the property adjoining on the north was owned by Thomas Achenbach, undoubtedly descendants of the builder. About 1835 Mary Ann Achenbach married Thomas Terhune. They later inherited the house, which came to be known as the Terhune house. The present owner, E. Percy Smith, bought the property about twenty years ago from a land company.

Although the Achenbachs were of German origin, they settled in a Dutch locality and adopted their neighbors' style of building. The stones of the house are dressed and well cut and laid. The house has a neat and methodical feeling, a slightly different atmosphere from other similar houses, which may be attributed to the builder's German origin.

The house stands on the east side of the Chestnut Ridge Road north of the

G.O.Z. Worksheet #1739
 Will dated 14 June 1802
 proved 11 Sep 1802
 Harrington Twp. N.J. Ar.
 V39 pg 7 & 8/ Pre Rev.D.
 Houses plate 70./Berg.
 Cnty. Sur. Ct. Case #
 175 Docket Bk. 1 Inven-
 tory/ Gen. Mag. of N.J

Birth 23 Jan 1739
 Chr'nd
 Mar. 24 Mar 1763 (Fam. Rec.)
 Death 6 Aug 1802 Chestnut Ridge Saddle River, N.J.
 Burial 63-6-14 Van Buskirk Cem. Budke 5634- GMNJ24 pg 65

Places of Residence 184 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Saddle River, N.J.
 Occupation farmer Church Military
 name also Johan Jurgen (G.O.Z.) Jurry Aghenbagh, Ackenback + Hackint
 His Father Mother

vol. 24 pg. 65-67
 Copy of Bible? records
 of George Achenbach
 N.J. in 1793 Norton
 pg 350 Harrington Twp.
 "George Haconboe"

Wife's Full Maiden Name Antye (Ann) VAN BUSKIRK

Wife's Data
 Birth 27 Feb 1748
 Chr'nd 11 Mar 1748 N.Y.C. Lutheran Ch.
 Death 11 Feb 1801 pr. Chestnut Ridge Saddle River, N.J.
 Burial 52-11-12 Van Buskirk Cem. Budke 5636 GMNJ pg 65
 Places of Residence
 Occupation Church
 Other husbands
 Her Father Laurens T. Van Buskirk Mother Eva Wanamaker

Compiler Maria P. Hopper
 Address 81 Magnolia Ave.
 City, State Montvale, N.J.
 Date Oct 10, 1977

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info.
2-1	Elizabeth Achenbach	Birth	3	June	1764				
		Mar.	big	June	1802				
		Death							
		Burial							
2-2	Eva Achenbach	Birth	26	Dec	1765				
		Mar.	big	June	1802				
		Death							
		Burial							
2-3	Rynier-Rynart-Rynhart Achenbach Maria Hopper	Birth	27	Oct	1767				"N.J." no V.R. Trenton
		Mar.	8	May	1796	Kakiat (Rev. G.C. Brink. 60)			
		Death	30	Mar	1857				
		Burial	89-5--			S.R. Luth Ch. Budke 86-5481			
2-4	Jane - Jenny Jannitye Achenbach	Birth	25	July	1769				
		Mar.	-----			737/806 Wash. T. 1850 Census 81 W.F.b.N.J. res. with brother			
		Death	11	Apr	1860	90 yrs S.R. Luth Ch Funerals pg 74			
		Burial	90-8-16			S.R. Luth Chyd. (83-Budke#5481)			Thomas
2-5	Caty - Catharine Catharina Achenbach George Smith	Birth	14	May	1771				pg Mar. 2nd Geertje Van Buskirk -
		Mar.							
		Death	15	Feb	1797				pg 65 "Catrina Smet" Buskirk -
		Burial	25-9-1			Van Buskirk Cem. 164 Budke 564?			13 May 1798
2-6	Lawrence Laurens Achenbach Magdalena Rensen	Birth	12	Mar	1773				"N.J."
		Mar.							
		Death	24	May	1855				
		Burial	82-2-12			S. R. Luth. Chyd. (85-Budke#5592)			
2-7	Margaret Margritye Achenbach	Birth	7	Feb	1775				pg. 65 4 May 1793 Margritie (old stone)
		Mar.	-----						
		Death	3	May	1793				
		Burial	18-2-12			Van Buskirk Cem. 164 Budke 5644 pg 65			
2-8	John Johannis Achenbach	Birth	12	Jun	1777				
		Mar.	-----						
		Death	28	Feb	1793				
		Burial	15-8-16			Van Buskirk Cem. 164-Budke 5643) pg 65			
2-9	Mary Marya Achenbach	Birth	24	Mar	1779				bap. 27 Sept 1779 Scharl (273) father Jurry at bap.
		Mar.	-----						
		Death	2	Feb	1793				
		Burial	13-10-8			Van Buskirk Cem. 164 Budke 5642			
2-10	Thomas Achenbach	Birth	9	Apr	1781				"N.J."
		Mar.	8	Dec	1804	Paramus Ref. Ch.			
		Death	17	Aug	1871				

CHILDREN CONTINUATION SHEET for FAMILY GROUP No. ___ page 21

Husband's full name John George ACHENBACH

Wife's full maiden name Antye VAN BUSKIRK

Form All Copyright 1953 by The Everton Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 806, Logan, Utah. Publishers of THE GENERAL GENEALOGICAL HILLIEM Standard for a free catalogue with lists and full descriptions of many genealogical aids.

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Date	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
2-11	No. 11 <u>Antye Achenbach</u> Full Name of Spouse <u>John Cole</u>	Birth	20 Feb 1783				
		Mar.					
		Death	21 July 1856				
		Burial	73-5---	Van Buskirk Cem. Budke	5640	Not in HSA	GMU pg 66
2-12	No. ___ <u>Rachel Achenbach</u> Full Name of Spouse <u>Andrew Esler</u>	Birth	8 Mar 1785				"N.J." her parents
		Mar.					John and Anna
		Death	6 July 1870				Achenbach fr.
		Burial	85-4---	S.B. Luth Chyd	84-5620	Budke	Death Rec. Tren
	No. ___ Full Name of Spouse	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial	The abstract of the will of George Achenbach appears on pg 7&8				
	No. ___ Full Name of Spouse	Birth	of Vol 39 of the New Jersey Archives				
		Mar.					
		Death	"1802- June 14, Achenbach, George of Herrington Township,				
		Burial	Bergen County, yeoman, will of: Sons Lawrence and Thomas each on				
	No. ___ Full Name of Spouse	Birth	riding horse, saddle and bridle and a gun. Daughters Jenny				
		Mar.	Anna and Rachel an out set as my daughters have had. Also daug				
		Death	ter Rachel, one heifer. To the heirs of daughter Caty, an out				
		Burial	set. Son Thomas the homestead and fifty acres of land through				
	No. ___ Full Name of Spouse	Birth	the farm east and west.* Sons, Rynard and Laurence remainder				
		Mar.	of land on the north and south side of farm divided between				
		Death	them. Sons, Rynard, my large Dutch Bible, for his birthright.				
		Burial	To my six daughters Elizabeth, Eve, Jenny the heris of Caty,				
	No. ___ Full Name of Spouse	Birth	Ann and Rachel each 1/20 to be paid by my three sons also re-				
		Mar.	mainder of household furniture divided between them.*(Sons				
		Death	Rynard and Thomas to help Lawrence build a house.) Executors				
		Burial	sons Rynard, Lawrence and Thomas. Witnesses Garret & Zabriskie				
	No. ___ Full Name of Spouse	Birth	Thomas Van Buskirk and George Smith. Proved 11 Sep 1802 Lib.				
		Mar.	40 pl38 file 3219				
		Death					
		Burial					
	No. ___ Full Name of Spouse	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	No. ___ Full Name of Spouse	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	No. ___ Full Name of Spouse	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	No. ___ Full Name of Spouse	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					