

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

AUG 29 1986

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY NO. 9

HISTORIC NAME: Alonzo Foringer House & Studio
 LOCATION: 107 and 107B East Saddle River Road

COMMON NAME:
 BLOCK/LOT 107: 1801/2, 107B: 1801/3

MUNICIPALITY: Saddle River
 USGS QUAD: Park Ridge

COUNTY: Bergen
 UTM REFERENCES:

OWNER/ADDRESS:
 107 and 107 B: Albert Zecher, 107 East Saddle River Road, Saddle River
 Zone (North/South/Easting)

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: A: between 1687-1902, 1897, remodelled 1922
 B & D: 1922, Source of Date: maps, The Landscape:

Architect: 1922: C: 1966, Palisades

Builder: 1897: Rev. E. Hughes

Style: 20thc. period house/Colonial Revival/
 French County House

Form/Plan Type: *single house*

Number of Stories: A: 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, B: 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, C: 1, D: 1-2

Foundation: not visible, appears part of wall

Exterior Wall Fabric: stucco

Fenestration: A: 3 bays, B: 4 bays; 6/6, 8/8, other

Roof/Chimneys: gables, copper roofing; A: interior chimney

Additional Architectural Description:

- A: farmhouse extensively remodelled in 1922, 1 story enclosed entrance porch in NE corner ell, colossal 3 bay portico with Doric pilaster, oculus in pediment, French windows on 1st story front.
- B: balcony on S. end
- C: new wing containing one large room. Colonial Revival styling, shiplap siding, paneled frieze, of compatible design.
- D: Separate building which housed studio, elliptically-arched bridge supports part of building over stream, large glazed window with round-arched head and central broken pediment, completely glazed at north end, 1 story 1922 wings to south with gable roof, to west are additions with flat roofs.

PHOTO

Negative File No. 1984-22, slides



Map (Indicate North) ↑



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SITING, BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, AND RELATED STRUCTURES:

107: 2.50 area property,

107B: 2.43 acre property. Appears to be a single parcel and historically were. Stream meanders through front (E) yard and there is a private bridge over it. At rear (W) is 1 1/2 story carriage house, gable roof with front side gable, cupola, 1st story: ship-lap siding, upper: wood shingles, wood shingle roofing, stone foundation. To its SW is corn crib with flush vertical board siding, stone foundation.

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

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Alonzo Foringer House and Studio are important in cultural history due to their association with Foringer, an important early 20th century artist. They were the home and workplace for Foringer from 1922 until his death in 1948. The house, which took its current appearance in 1922 when remodelled and enlarged for the Foringer family, is also of architectural significance as it is among Saddle River's best examples of early 20th century eclectic period domestic architecture. It displays the fine workmanship and materials, such as the copper roofing, found of building of this type. The associated studio building, erected in 1922, is built over a stream and it helps to make the property one of the most picturesque residences in the Borough of Saddle River.

An article in The Landscape of Feb. 1897 probably documents the construction of the earlier part (section A on plan) of the house. It states "Rev. E. Hughes completed a picturesque cottage on his place opposite Tommy Van Buskirk's. The Domine is skillful in the use of carpenter's tools and much of the work on the building was done by his own hands." Maps of 1902 and 1913 associate the building on this site with S. Sutton. In 1922 the property was purchased by the Foringer family, who transformed the cottage into a picturesque country home with artist studio.

Alonzo Foringer (1877-1948) was an artist well known as muralist and illustrator. In his early career he worked with artists H. Siddons Mowbray and Edwin H. Blashfield. (cont.)

ORIGINAL USE: 107: residence, 107B: artist studio PRESENT USE: both residences

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 property used to extend westward to the Saddle River but has been subdivided so that house and studio are on separate legal parcels and a separate parcel is located above the river. A recent house, hidden behind a large hedge, is located on the river front lot.

REFERENCES: Interview with Albert Zecher, 11-18-83.

1876 Walker Atlas: not on, a building appears on property to south of stream close to road. NJHSI 0258-9

1902 Robinson Map: S. Sutton.

1913 Bromley Atlas: S. Sutton.

1964 Inskeep Map: not on.

SRHC files: The Landscape, Feb. 1897; poster with informatin on Foringer, etc.

"Foringer, Alonzo Earl" The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, (cont.)

RECORDED BY: TRB
ORGANIZATION: BCOC & HA

DATE: 11-18-83

SIGNIFICANCE: (Cont.)

works include
Foringer's individual/eleven murals in the council chamber of the Yonkers (NY) City Hall, murals for baptistry and organ walls of the Church of the Savior in Philadelphia, and Panels in Mercer County (PA) Courthouse, Utah State Capital, and Kenosha County (Wisconsin) Courthouse. His best known work was a poster titled "The Greatest Mother in the World" designed for the American Red Cross during World War I. This poster was widely distributed as it was enlarged on billboards and reproduced in newspapers and magazines. It is said to have brought in \$150,000,000 for the Red Cross' 1918 drive (NY Times Dec. 10, 1948). After the war Foringer designed a second Red Cross poster, "Still the Greatest Mother in the World". He also did illustrations for magazines and designed currency. His currency designs include work for the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Bank of Canada, and American Bank Note Company.

Foringer did not marry and his Saddle River household included his brother, T. Milton, and three sisters, Lilian, Ire, and Edith. Milton Foringer is an important figure in local history since he served on the Saddle River borough council for thirty-one years (McNeill). In the 1930's he designed display areas in the William Tricker greenhouses (See 0258-D#7).

REFERENCES: (continued)

- vol. 37, (NY: James T. White, 1951) p. 495.
Mantle Fielding, Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors and Engravers, 1945, reprint
Flushing, NY: Paul A. Stroock, 1900, p. 124.
Alonzo Foringer obituary, New York Times, Dec. 10, 1948, 26:3.
McNeill, "Government", 1977, p. 9.



Studio building, looking
W.
neg. file # 19844-23
slide



Carriage house and corn
crib, looking NW
neg. file # 19844-24