

# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

360

GENERAL

**HISTORIC NAME:**  
Hopper-Goetschius House

**COMMON NAME:**

**LOCATION:** 363 East Saddle River Road  
~~(Block 811, Lot 2)~~

**MUNICIPALITY:** Upper Saddle River

**OWNERSHIP:**  Public  Private

**OWNER/ADDRESS:** Mrs. Stephen Goetschius

REFERENCE

**MAP REFERENCES:**

- Erskine (1778-80) Jno. Hopper
- Hopkins-Corey (1851) J. Goetschius
- Walker's Atlas (1876) S.J. Goetschius
- Bromley (1912) G. Goetschius
- Other (1739 Surv Notes-Abraham Hopper)

**RECOGNITION:**

- National Register  BCHS Marker
- HABS  Bailey
- Other N.J. Inventory

ENVIRONMENT

**HOUSE ORIENTATION:** Due South

**IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:**  
Frame outkitchen w/ jambless fireplace

Privy, 2 acres

**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:**

- Residential
- Commercial
- Agricultural
- Open Space
- Other

**COMMENTS:**

USE

**ORIGINAL:** Residence

**PRESENT:** Residence

THREATS

**THREATS TO STRUCTURE:**

- Roads
- Development
- Zoning
- Deterioration
- Other
- No Threat

**COMMENTS:**  
Busy intersection.

CONDITION

**CONDITION:**

- Excellent  Good
- Fair  Deteriorated

**STATUS:**

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Work in Progress

**ACCESSIBLE:**

- Yes, Restricted
- Yes, Unrestricted
- No

The interior has been modernized and somewhat altered. The back-to-back fireplaces were removed and a stairway was inserted in their place. There are Victorian dormers on the front and rear.

PHOTO



MAP



**DESCRIPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**

Wing: 1739/Survey notes of Charles Clinton

**NUMBER OF STORIES:**

CELLAR:  Yes (Main & Frt part of wing)  
 No

**BUILDER:** Original - Abraham Hopper

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:**

- Stone Arch
- Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
- Other Stone w/ wood lintel. (Back to back fireplace)

**FORM/PLAN TYPE:**

Main: 3 bay, side hall w/ 2 rooms w/ interior back-to-back fireplaces (30'0" x 34'0"). Wing: "B", 1 room (15'6" x 16'0") w/ addition to rear (16'0"±).

**FLOOR JOISTS:** Main: 8"x8" & 9"x7" deep w/ 24-28" between. Wing: 5"x6" deep @ 20-24" apart.

**FRAMING SYSTEM:**

- Intermediate Summer Beam
- Intermediate Bearing Wall
- Clear Span
- Other

**FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:** 8'0"

**FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:** 20"

**GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:**

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:** Main: Front is stucco on sandstone, painted to look like s/s ashlar w/ real s/s quoins. East & rear are rubble w/ s/s quoins. Wing: Rubble on west & clapboard (frame) on front & rear.

**GARRET:**

- Unfinished Space
- Finished Space

**FENESTRATION:**

Main: 37-1/2" x 62-1/2" (2/2) sash (frt)  
31" x 51" (12/8) sash (rear)  
Wing: 25" x 54" sash (front)  
38" x 53±" sash on east.

**ROOF:**

- Gable (Wing)
- Gambrel (Main)
- Curb
- Other

**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**

East end bay of south front. Victorian in style and 38" wide.

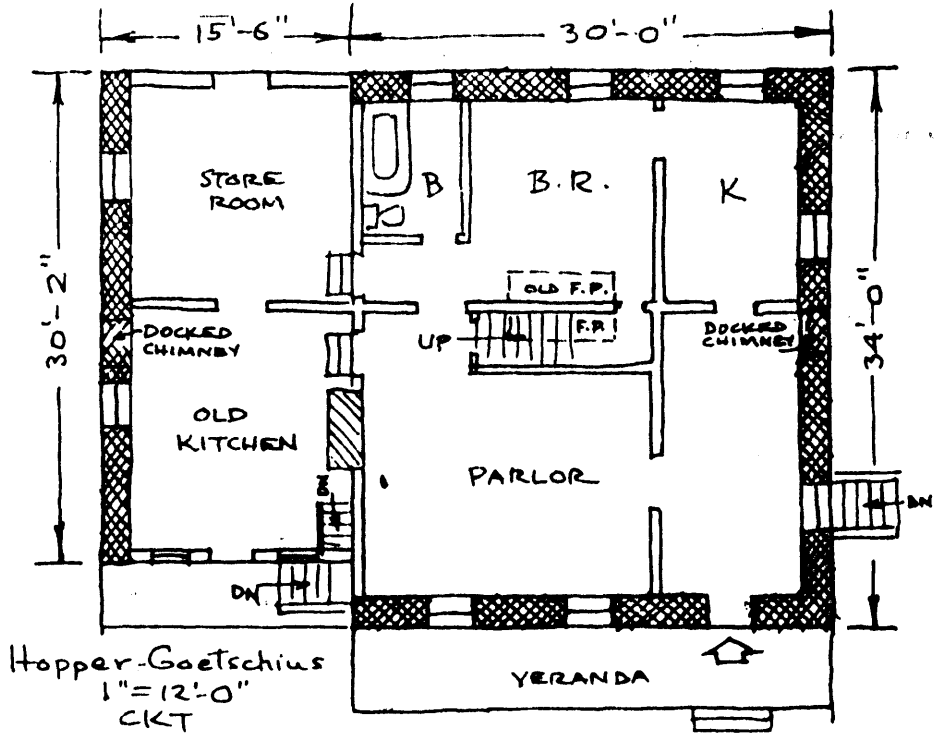
**EAVE TREATMENT:**

- Sweeping Overhang
  - Supported Overhang
  - No Overhang
  - Boxed Gutter
  - Other
- Overhang @ gable end..

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.

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FLOOR PLANS



This house is of an early type of construction and was undoubtedly built in the beginning of the eighteenth century, but its early history is lost in obscurity. [According to the notes of Charles Clinton, when he surveyed the area in 1739 for the New York Cheescocks Patent, Abraham Hopper "this year built a stone house" and] on Erskine's Revolutionary map it is marked John Hopper. So it is safe to presume that it was built and owned by members of the Hopper family for about one hundred years. There are several distinct Hopper families whose histories are not clear. The only Gerrit Hopper known at such an early date lived at Polify near Hackensack, and did not die until 1786 (see infra). It is possible that he built on the Upper Saddle River as a young man before settling at Polify; the names of his children are not known, but he may have had a son John and given the northerly farm to him during his own lifetime; this is pure conjecture. There was also a John Hoppe, born and living at Paramus, married at Hackensack 1736 Elizabeth Kip, who was a widow by 1799, but this John appears to be the son of Andries, a brother of the above Gerrit...

The house has been in the possession of the Goetschius family for the last hundred years. Dominie Stephanus Goetschius, bap. Nov. 5, 1752 at Schraalenburg, d. 1837, came of a family of powerful preachers: his father Hendricus was a minister on Long Island and later at Hackensack and Schraalenburg; his grandfather Maurice Goetschi was a pastor in Switzerland, from which country he brought four hundred followers to America (see plate 68). Dominie Stephanus Goetschius was a strong Calvinist and the organizer of no less than nine churches in Ulster Co.; he was a powerful preacher, sharp and fearless in his denunciation of sin. He preached at New Paltz and New Hurley and at Marbletown and Skokan, all in Ulster County; it was not until he was 62 years of age that he was appointed to the Saddle River and Pascack Churches, which he served from 1814 until he retired in 1835. He doubtless bought the Hopper house when he came to this region. By his wife Elizabeth Du Bois, he had six children baptized at New Paltz. One son John Henry Goetschius, b. March 18, 1795, was probably the father of the Dominie's grandson Stephen J. Goetschius, who was the father of the [then] present owner, George E. Goetschius.

(The above, except for our additions [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.)

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Block 811, Lot 2 - Upper Saddle River Tax Map

2.59 acres

U.T.M.

18 576 240 4545 460

Park Ridge, New Jersey, -New York