

PH0356654

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 24 1977
DATE ENTERED AUG 10 1977

**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

Demarest House

AND/OR COMMON

Demarest House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

542 George Street, Corner of George Street & Seminary Place NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

New Brunswick

VICINITY OF

15

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Jersey

34

Middlesex

023

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of Rutgers College

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New Brunswick

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

John F. Kennedy Square

CITY, TOWN

New Brunswick

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS-NJ-714)

DATE

1960, 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

Dept. of Environ. Prot.
P.O. Box 1420

CITY, TOWN

Trenton
Washington

STATE

New Jersey
D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

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 Demarest House is a 2½ story brownstone structure built in the form of an irregular H possessing Gothic Revival characteristics typical of the third quarter of the 19th century.

The front portion of the house is a rectangular 3 bay elevation with an intersecting center gable and bay which projects two feet beyond the main facade. A one story glassed-in porch with heavy wooden corner piers, circa 1910, further extends this center projecting bay.

The rectangular rear section is parallel with the front section and joined by a connecting portion whose roof is at right angles to and ridge level with those of the other two. A recess on the left side of the building is filled in with a one-story wooden porch, possibly original to the house.

The walls of the Demarest House are brownstone, ashlar, seam-faced, with dressed brownstone quoins at all of the corners. The foundation, about two feet high is also brownstone ashlar with a beveled water table of dressed brownstone, flush with the ashlar walls. All window and door sills are dressed brownstone.

The front entrance porch has an arch within the gable, a stone floor, foundation and steps of dressed brownstone. The corner wood piers are right angles, chamfered at the edges, and the glass enclosure is undoubtedly later than the house. The side porch is three narrow bays in width, with two slender, chamfered wood posts, wood railing with straight balusters, and railings flanking the steps at the center bay, leading to grade. Porch and steps are wood.

There are five husky, rectangular shaped brick chimneys, two each on the main ridges and one on the connecting ridge. All are interior chimneys and have a stepped-back shaft between a high base member and a corbelled brick capping.

The main cornice is entirely of wood, strongly projected and supported by evenly-spaced band-sawed brackets which are received by a large board with moulded bottom, against the stone wall. All exterior woodwork is painted dark brown.

Most of the windows on the front and side elevations are narrow and coupled within their own stone trim. The first floor has flat lintels and one over two double hung sash. All sash are wood. The second floor has semi-circular lintels over each of the twin, one over one double-hung sash windows. However, on the front elevation, flanking the center break, and axed over the pair of sash on the first floor is a single, two over two sash dormer, breaking through the main cornice, with its own gabled roof and supported on a shallow stone shelf with stone brackets. At the rear, two single windows with two over four double hung sash flank the kitchen entry. The second floor windows across the rear and one over the side porch have two over two double-hung sash.

The roof is slate with intermittent double rows of rectangular and scalloped slating. Indications are that the slate roof was added when the small one-story front porch was completed, circa 1910.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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	1850-1870	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The Demarest House is a good example of a Gothic Victorian house built in the third quarter of the 19th century; probably from a pattern housing book which was typical of the period. The house, which not spectacular and was probably done by a master builder and not by an architect, nonetheless, embodies the character of a well-crafted suburban mid-19th century upper-middle class residence.

While there are other similar Victorian structures in New Brunswick, this is one of the few which is constructed of ashlar stone. In addition, the building has retained most of its original exterior appearance and still exhibits some of its landscaped setting. The building's interior also possesses numerous decorative motifs representative of the third quarter of the 19th century.

Education

The Demarest House was the home of the much-beloved President of Rutgers College (1906-24) and Rutgers Theological Seminary (1924-34) William H. S. Demarest (1863-1956) from about 1906 until his death.

Dr. Demarest was a member of the Rutgers College Class of 1883 and was the only graduate of the College to ever have served as its President, serving in that post from 1906 until 1924. He has been described as being the "personification of the old Rutgers" by University Historian, Richard P. McCormick. Four generations of his ancestors had been Trustees; his father was a member of the Class of 1837. It was Demarest's belief that the College had to build on the historic foundation of its colonial heritage. At the same time, he expected the State of New Jersey to support the college in its contractual relation with its land-grant college. Nevertheless, it was Demarest's belief that this relationship should in no way interfere with the College's primary emphasis on classical studies.

During Demarest's administration, the College's admissions system was overhauled. Beginning in 1908, admission requirements began to be defined in terms of "units" rather than in terms of detailed bodies of subject matter.

Likewise, the curriculum was extensively revised. A general science course was introduced which permitted students to pursue a liberal education without a background in either Latin or Greek. In 1916, the elective system was modified to permit a major in the junior and senior years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Demarest, William H.S., A History of Rutgers College, Princeton University Press, (1924)
 McCormick, Richard P., Rutgers: A Bicentennial History, Rutgers University Press, 1966
 Schmidt, George P., Princeton and Rutgers -- The Two Colonial Colleges of New Jersey,
 Vol. 5, The New Jersey Historical Service, 1964, Van Nostrand
Insurance Maps of New Brunswick, Sanborn Map Company, New York, 1912, revised periodically
 to 1936, (plate 7), Demarest House is noted as the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity House

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 52' x 140' - less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 546850 4483400
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Michael C. Barr (revisions by T. Karschner, Historic Sites, DEP)

ORGANIZATION

Rutgers Alumni Association

DATE

July, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

172 College Avenue

TELEPHONE

(609) 292-2023

CITY OR TOWN

New Brunswick

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Denis J. Bond

TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

February 14, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Wm. Muntz
Charles Obermayer

DATE

8/10/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-18-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Demarest House
New Brunswick, New Jersey

CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#2155.24)
1960 - State
Historic Sites Office, Department of Environmental Protection
Trenton, New Jersey

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The front section of the building has a central hall and a stairway with a heavy balustrade starting from a turned newel post, with turned balusters and heavy molded railing running to the second floor. The rear of the hall opens to the side porch of the perpendicular connecting wing. The east room is the library; the west room the living room. A door in the living room opens to the dining room which is the connecting link of the house. In the rear section of the house is the kitchen, pantry, and stairway to the cellar. The rooms on the second floor are primarily bedrooms; for the owners in the front and the servants in the rear.

The floors are narrow stripped hard-wood throughout. Walls are all plastered and papered and the trim is heavy with stepped back facets and molded back-band. The baseboard is also heavy with one step back and a heavy molding. Beneath the window sills are wood panels. The principal rooms have run-plaster cornices. Most of the major fireplaces are still evident having white marble mantelpieces with circle-headed opening and iron frames, shape marble shelves, central molded key blocks, and marble hearths.

The Demarest House is currently the Graduate Women's Residence of Rutgers University and is well maintained.

Flanked on the north by George Street on the west by Seminary Place and on the South and east by modern educational facilities, the property has retained enough acreage to still project the sense of a 19th century suburban house setting.

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There was a great deal of construction during his tenure. The new buildings included Engineering, Chemistry, Ceramics and the Ford Dormitory at the old College. At the Agricultural School, there were Agricultural, Horticultural, Poultry, Husbandry and the Short Course Buildings. Also acquired was the old college field where the first inter-collegiate football game had been played between Rutgers and Princeton in 1869.

The New Jersey College for Women (present-day Douglass College) was founded during his presidency. As part of the general women's suffrage movement in New Jersey, there was a drive for the establishment of a woman's college. Demarest was not in favor of coeducation at Rutgers College, but he did support the establishment of the separate women's college in 1918.

Demarest retired from the presidency of Rutgers in 1924. He authored "A History of Rutgers College" in that year. For the next ten years, he served as president of the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Demarest died in 1956. Throughout those years, he was a familiar figure on campus, affectionately referred to as "Demy".

The Demarest House has served as home of the Partisan Review, the Graduate Women's Residence, and the Rutgers Religious Ministry in the intervening years since Demarest's death.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 4 ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

History of Middlesex County, New Jersey 1664-1920, Lewis Historical Publishing Company,
New York, 1921 (pp. 5-6)
Chronicles of New Brunswick, New Jersey: 1667-1931, John P. Wall, New Brunswick, 1931,
(p. 166)
Combination Atlas Map of Middlesex County, New Jersey, Everts and Stewart, Philadelphia,
c. 1870, (p. 68)

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Addendum

DEMAREST HOUSE
Middlesex County
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Further documentation of the Demarest House has disclosed a letter written to a C. Graham of Jersey City in 1866 by George Hammel Cook making queries into the feasibility of erecting a new residence. As the letter clearly establishes Cook as the original owner and also clarifies other matters of construction it is herein appended:

"C. Graham, Esquire
Dear Sir,

Are you still in Jersey City and engaged in your profession? I could not find you last night. I have sold out my place and am trying to get a design for another house, which I want to build. It may be of Trenton or Connecticut stone, - undressed: if within my means - The plan I propose is like this:

(lot-120 X 200)

and to have the house only high enough to get the full size of chambers in the second story which perhaps can be done with a slate roof, and a height of a story and a half.

I want the house to be entirely plain, on account of cheapness, - and to depend for its character on the projecting eaves, - and bold feature.

The front is open to the river and the bridge and the other side is towards the street, looks towards the Theological Seminary.

What is your charge for a design for this, without any details or working drawing - which of course can only

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Demarest House
New Brunswick
Middlesex County
New Jersey 074
CONTINUATION SHEET

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be needed if [?] the design is approved? - An early answer is desired, - and possibly you would like to see the location.

Yours truly,

George Hammel Cook"

It has not been yet determined as to whether Graham, apparently an architect, designed the building as Cook stipulated, but the present edifice does closely follow Cook's proposals.

Agriculture

The letter documents the Demarest House as being originally the home of George Hammel Cook. Although he apparently lived here only a few years, this is his only known extant dwelling.

Born on a Morris County farm in 1818, Dr. Cook was graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and became professor of chemistry and natural science of Rutgers College in 1853. He was appointed assistant state geologist in 1854, but he kept his college job. As a geologist, he focused attention on the state's huge stores of natural clay; New Jersey's noted ceramics industry owes much to him.

When federal funds became available under the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, Dr. Cook helped secure a portion of those funds for Rutgers, changing forever the course of the school's history. He was by then vice president of Rutgers, a full-time professor and the state geologist, but the State Legislature chose him to head the new college program. He gave agriculture lectures and heard farmers' problems in all 21 counties from High Point to Cape May, thus inaugurating the extension program now vital in all agricultural colleges.

His delight was the college farm, purchased in 1864. Run-down acres gave him a chance to prove his theories. Within 10 years, the once-worthless land was blooming. Dr. Cook urged in 1874 that the farm become "an agricultural experiment station." At the time there was no such thing in the world, and legislators "fairly laughed at the idea." It was not until six years later, in 1880, that a sum, "not to exceed \$5,000", was voted for his program. By then both Connecticut and North Carolina had adopted Dr. Cook's idea.

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Demarest House
New Brunswick
Middlesex County
New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

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State legislators, as might be expected, selected Dr. Cook to direct the station. He agreed, but only if his director's salary was deducted from his pay as state geologist! Dr. Cook led the experiment station into soil research, making Rutgers a continuing leader in that field. The soil studies also led directly to the discovery of streptomycin years later.

Shortly before his death, Dr. Cook completed a series of 20 topographical, geological and relief maps of New Jersey. They were adopted as models by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Dr. Cook never retired, and his works continued after his death in 1889. His college of Agriculture, his Experiment Station and the state geological department went on as before under men he had carefully selected and trained to carry on the tasks he had once performed.