

# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

83001560

## GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: Laurance Thomas Van  
(Louranse) Buskirk

COMMON NAME:

LOCATION: 116 East Saddle River Rd

MUNICIPALITY: Saddle River

OWNERSHIP:  Public  Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: Charter  
(same)

## REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:

- Erskine (1778-80) Road not surveyed
- Hopkins-Corey (1861) A. Buskirk
- Walker's Atlas (1876) Thos. S. Van
- Bromley (1912) T. VanBuskirk / Buskirk
- Other

RECOGNITION:

- National Register  BCHS Marker
- HABS  Bailey
- Other

## ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 20° E

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:

## USE

ORIGINAL: Residence

PRESENT: Residence

### SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Agricultural
- Open Space
- Other

COMMENTS:

## THREATS

### THREATS TO STRUCTURE:

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

COMMENTS:

## CONDITION

### CONDITION:

- Excellent  Good
- Fair  Deteriorated

### STATUS:

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Work in Progress

### ACCESSIBLE:

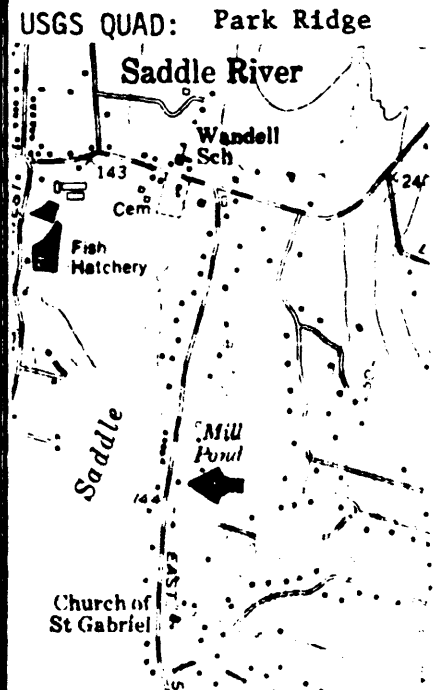
- Yes, Restricted
- Yes, Unrestricted
- No

This house has recently been renovated and modernized. New fireplaces have been built. The kitchen wing was gutted and redone including a new spiral staircase. A new stairway in the main house replaces the steeper one shown in the sketch. The beaded beams are hidden in the ceiling.

## PHOTO



## MAP



## CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:

1740/Tradition

1780-1800/Architectural evidence

BUILDER: a Van Buskirk, probably a son  
of Laurens

## FORM/PLAN TYPE:

"D" 4 bay, twin door, 2 rooms deep  
(36'4" x 30'5") early 19th century  
frame wing to east.

## FRAMING SYSTEM:

- Intermediate Summer Beam  
 Intermediate Bearing Wall  
 Clear Span  
 Other

## EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:

Evenly cut red sandstone on front,  
coursed rubble on rear.

## FENESTRATION:

2/2 and 6/6 on rear, trapezoidal  
lintels on front.

## ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:

Both center and glass paned.

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2-1/2

CELLAR:  Yes  
 No

## CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:

- Stone Arch cemented  
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation  
 Other

FLOOR JOISTS: Hewn

## FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:

7'7-1/2"

## FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:

22"

## GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:

Beaded, but not exposed.

## GARRET:

- Unfinished Space  
 Finished Space 2nd floor

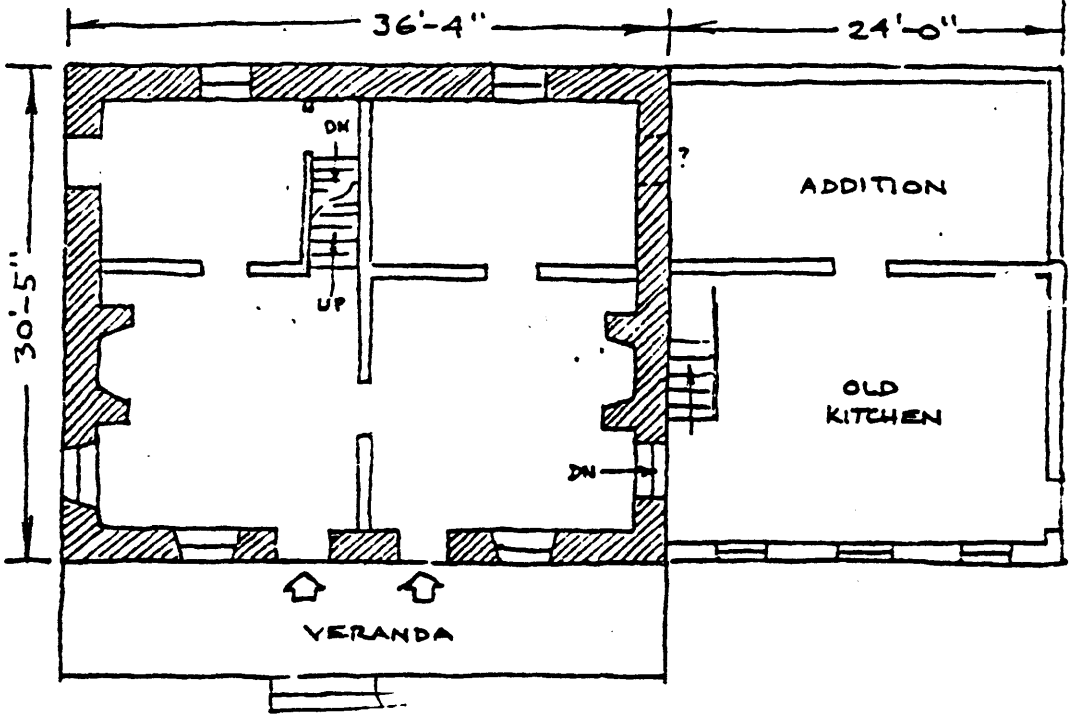
## ROOF:

- Gable Not orig.  
 Gambrel  
 Curb  
 Other

## EAVE TREATMENT:

- Sweeping Overhang  
 Supported Overhang  
 No Overhang  
 Boxed Gutter  
 Other

This house, while having been altered through the years, still retains a sufficient amount of its original fabric that it should be recognized and retained. We are therefore including it for its architectural significance, for its association with the exploration and settlement of the Bergen County area, and for its remaining historic fabric. 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.



GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

1701/ 36 - Saddle River Tax Map

2.00 Acres . addition: less than an acre.

U.T.M.

18 575 920 4540 460

Park ridge, New Jersey - New York

ADDITION:

The Laurance Thomas Van Buskirk<sup>House</sup> is now the guest house for a large, recently-constructed mansion. This larger house and its related swimming pool and stable are excluded from the nomination. The nominated property of the Van Buskirk House, which is only 15 to 20 feet from East Saddle River Road, is less than an acre.

Laurence T. Van Buskirk, whose will is dated 1774, purchased about 200 acres in Saddle River. A mill pond is located southeast of the house and Charity Ackerman's diary records the raising of John Van Buskirk's grist mill on August 27, 1836. The house and mill were subsequently owned by Thomas Van Buskirk, who also had a saw mill.

In 1919 Wilhelm Muller bought the house which had a farm, saw mill, bark mill, and tannery (only the house is extant). The Muller family, before World War II and then again after 1954, farmed the property until about 1970.

TRB from information in Saddle River Historical  
Committee file, October, 1983.