

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 01 1979
DATE ENTERED *Boundary Increase approved 12-9-80*

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 STEUBEN ESTATE COMPLEX

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER New Bridge Road, Main Street and Hackensack River

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
9th

River Edge

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE 34

COUNTY Bergen

CODE 003

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of New Jersey, County of Bergen, and Bergen County Historical Society
 STREET & NUMBER *FRANK GUIDOTTI, CLERK, CARL HARTMAN, DIVISION OF PARKS + FORESTRY, P.O. BOX 1420, TRENTON, NJ 08625* | *HACKENSACK, NJ 07601* | *1209 MAIN ST RIVER EDGE, NJ. 07661*
 CITY, TOWN TRENTON, NJ | HACKENSACK, NJ | STATE NJ

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Administrative Building

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Hackensack

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey NJ-47; NJ-16; and NJ-733
National Register of Historic Places

DATE

HABS 1935; 1934 & 1963

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

NRHP 12-18-1970

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE 1955(2)
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		1977(1)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The ACKERMAN-ZABRISKIE-STEUBEN House has been described in the original nomination. It is a large sandstone structure, 35'-19" by 67'-00", with front-to-back split-level plan having a 1 1/2 story facade and 2 story rear elevation. Most of the stone work is of a neatly cut blocks with interspersed coursed rubble and fieldstone on rear and north sides. The earliest unit may be the east mid-portion which has a gable roof and was extended to the south and then along the rear with a shed roof. The last portion to be added, but still before the Revolution, was the northwest corner area and the whole covered with a gambrel roof. Further structural investigation is needed; however, this may be the oldest extant building in the county.

The DEMAREST HOUSE is an excellent example of early Dutch-style building in this area. It is a 1 1/2 story gable roofed house measuring 21' 0" x 34' - 2" and is built of coursed cut sandstone and rubble with a double entry 2-room plan. On the left end is a handsome fireplace and panelling, and open beams run throughout. It was moved to this site from New Milford in 1955.

The WESTERVELT BARN is a mortise and tenon frame structure measuring 24 1/2' x 52 1/2' which includes a shed section across the east end. The main section has a gable roof and the whole is covered with Novelty siding. The wagon doors open onto a wood floored section which has horse stalls on the right side. The barn is said to have been built about 1855. Moved to present site in 1955.

The CAMPBELL-CHRISTIE HOUSE is a 1 1/2 story sandstone house measuring 30' x 40' with neatly dressed blocks all around with the best work on the front. It has a five-bay center hall plan, two rooms deep on both sides. The front parlours have large fireplaces connected to separate internal stack. On its original 3/4 acre site the house had early 19th C. frame wings on its south and rear sides and in its present location the rear wing will be rebuilt to house utilities. The gambrel roof, removed for the move, has had its 19th C. dormers and second floor partitions removed to recreate the original loft area. Interesting features of construction are the wood trapezoidal lintels over the openings on the front, plastered wattle and daub interior walls and hand-split lath ceilings over beaded beams. When restoration is complete, the building will be used as the home and exhibit area of the Bergen County Historical Society, but is owned by the county. Moved in 1977.

The TRACT itself is rather low and marshy except for the areas where the buildings stand and parking facilities are off Main Street.

The nominated land is part of the Ackerman-Zabriskie-Von Steuben tract, originally a 400 acre farmstead, created in 1695. David Ackerman built the first house around 1700 and shortly after erected a gristmill. Around mid century the tract was sold to John Zabriskie, a colonial magistrate. His heir, John J., became a loyalist during the Revolution and the tract was confiscated in 1780, which then included the house, mill and 286 acres. In 1783 the New Jersey State

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Zabriskie-Von Steuben House, already on the National Register, is a fine example of Dutch Colonial architecture originally built around 1720 and expanded to its present size by 1752. Typical of the sandstone building unique to the Hudson River Valley the brick gables of the Von Steuben House are a rare feature of Dutch architecture.

The Demarest house was built in the first half of the 18th century and is one of the few steep pitched gable-roofed sandstone Dutch houses in New Jersey.

The Campbell/Christie House, circa 1774, is an example of the more formal Dutch buildings form. One of its owners J. Walter Christie was a noted American inventor in the early 20th century.

The Westervelt Barn is an example of a mid-19th century frame barn, now a relative rarity in Bergen County.

The first owner of the Von Steuben property was Matthew Corneliusen who sold 420 acres to David Ackerman in 1695. Ackerman built a dwelling around 1700 which is believed to be still part of the Steuben House. Ackerman also built a gristmill. Johannes Ackerman inherited the house and mill in 1713, but died shortly after and the property was equally divided among his four sons. The homestead tract was sold to John Zabriskie in 1745. Zabriskie added to the house around this time. His son, John J. Zabriskie, inherited the property during the American Revolution. As a loyalist his property was confiscated in 1777. On December 23, 1783 the New Jersey State Legislature gave the part of the estate located at New Bridge to Mayor General Frederick William Augustus Baron de Steuben for his services during the Revolutionary War. Full title was not transferred to Steuben until 1788 whereupon he sold the property to John Zabriskie, Jr. (nephew or son of Loyalist John J.). In about 1800 the property was transferred from Dirck and John Banta to Lucas Van Buskirk. Several people owned the house from 1808 to 1839 when David Anderson Zabriskie acquired the tract. In 1909, his daughter sold the property. The new owner, Charles Bell transferred the land to the American Ink Company, who in turn sold out to David D. and Blanche Bellis. In 1928 the house and one acre was bought by the state of New Jersey while the rest of the nominated property was given to the Bergen County Historical Society in 1945.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howard I. Durie Mss and original research, also some by Louise Burnett, on Ackerman and Demarest families, incl. Christie property.
 Numerous newspaper items re: John Walter Christie, and magazine articles
 BCHS verticle file in Johnson Public Library, Hackensack. C.H. deeds.
 Erskine map #113, Walker's 1876, Atlas, Bromley 1912 Atlas. HABS m.c. film
 Roosalie F. Bailey "Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses-"
 D. D. Demarest "The Huguenots on the Hackensack"

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.01

QUADRANGLE NAME Hackensack, N.J.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	5	8	1	4	0	1	0	4	5	2	9	3	0	1	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING								

B

1	8	5	8	1	4	0	1	0	4	5	2	9	5	0	1	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING								

C

1	8	5	8	1	6	4	1	0	4	5	2	9	5	4	1	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING								

D

1	8	5	8	1	6	7	1	0	4	5	2	9	3	2	1	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING								

E

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING								

F

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING								

G

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING								

H

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies city Block 75, Lots 6, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 6E of River Edge

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(revisions by T. ^{erry}Karschner
OHP, Trenton)

NAME / TITLE Claire K. Tholl, vice-president

ORGANIZATION Bergen County Historical Society

DATE 1/20/1978

STREET & NUMBER 1209 Main Street

TELEPHONE (609) 292-2023

CITY OR TOWN River Edge

STATE New Jersey

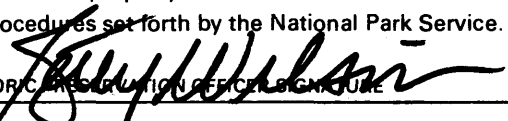
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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



1-23-79

TITLE Acting Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Steuben Estate Complex
Bergen County, New Jersey

7 1

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Legislature gave part of the estate to Major. General Frederick William Augustus Baron de Steuben for his services to the county during the Revolution. Von Steuben sold the property in 1788 to a John Zabriskie Jr. (possibly John J.'s son). By 1800 the property had decreased in size to 60 acres. Today, most of the land surrounding the Von Steuben House has been developed and this is the last segment of the original tract which remains relatively undisturbed. Immediately north of the Von Steuben House, in the Hackensack River, is a small inlet which may have been the location of a tidal mill in the 18th Century.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Steuben Estate Complex
Bergen County, New Jersey

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The DEMAREST HOUSE, formerly of New Milford and now on BCHS property, was located on one of the original patents in Bergen County acquired by David Demarest (born c. 1620) by Indian deed of June 8, 1677 and from the Proprietors in July 1681. Since David, Sr. first located his home at Old Bridge (now River Edge) a mile and a half north of this house's former site, and then moved to the west side of the river between 1686 and 1689 and died there in 1693, this house can have no connection with him and the previously ascribed pre-1700 dates for its construction must be erroneous. Since his three son's home location seem to be accounted for, the best speculation as to the builder of this house comes from a boundary agreement of 1738 indicating that Simon Demarest already owned this portion of the land. He was the son of Samuel Des Marest and Maria Dreuns, was baptized in Hackensack on May 21, 1699 and married Vrouwtie Cornelise Herring in 1721, about the architectural period of the house. An earlier part of the house did exist but may have been a temporary unit built while the stone section was being constructed. This house was a double plan and may have been used by two families. A daughter of Benjamin Demarest, Beletje (born 1718) married Nicholas (Claes) Romeyn and is said to have lived in "the house by the French Cemetary". However there was house marked "Romeyn" that was a bit SE of this one in the Revolution that may have been the one meant. This Demarest house was owned in 1861 by a Siccoman, in 1876 by C.G.F. Heina, in 1912 by Mrs. E. Reiman, and then by Henry Reiman who rented it to the Pochard Club, an art group. Mrs. Margaret Demarest Blauvelt purchased the property and the French Cemetery in July 1939 and turned it over on August 8, 1940 to the Demarest Memorial Foundation, Inc. (now Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation, Inc.). The Pochard Club continued to use it for a few years until vandalism became a serious problem and it was decided to move the building. An agreement was made on May 12, 1954 with the BCHS to use their property in River Edge. A 28,000 square feet section of the tract was leased for 99 years and the house moved stone by stone to the new site and completed in 1956. It is now open in mild weather on special occasions and by appointment.

THE WESTERVELT BARN is another structure saved from demolition. It had been an out-building on the old Peter Westervelt property off Pascack Road in Washington Township. The stone house was destroyed to make way for the Westwood High School. John Henry Thomas who owned the property offered the barn to BCHS in August 1954 and by September of 1955 it had been transferred and re-erected. It now houses carriages, sleighs and farm equipment since its opening on Washington's Birthday 1956.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Steuben Estate Complex
Bergen County, New Jersey

8 2

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

approved 12-9-80

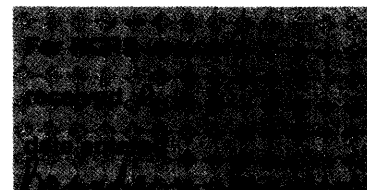
8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

THE CAMPBELL-CHRISTIE HOUSE is the newest addition to the complex and like the Demarest house was also brought from New Milford. The history of its original site (#715 River Road, SE corner of Henley Avenue) goes back to William Campbell (1718-1793), a Scotsman who came to this Old Bridge area quite early. His sons Jacob, Thomas, and Samuel were masons and it is felt from architectural evidence that the house was built by Jacob about the time of his marriage in 1774. His name appears on Robert Erskine's map #113 of 1780 but not on tax records until 1784. He served in the Bergen County Militia Regiment of Colonel Teunis Dey as a private during the Revolution and ran a store and tavern at his house. He sold the property to Abraham Brower and moved to New York City before 1803 and died in 1816. Brower sold the estate to John D. Christie, a blacksmith, in 1795. His son John J. Christie inherited it and apparently leased it to his brother Jacob Brinkerhoff Christie whose name appears there on the 1876 Atlas. John J.'s heirs sold it with 25 acres in 1891 to Isaac Zabriskie. In 1912 it was owned by the Taylor family and later by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Walter. They sold it in 1973 to the Midlantic Bank who planned to incorporate it into a branch bank. When their plans fell through it was bought by a developer who planned to demolish the house. Rescued by funds from the Freeholders, it was moved bodily, minus the roof, to the Steuben house grounds on September 27, 1977. The most important occupant of the house seems to be John Walter Christie, the son of Jacob Brinkerhoff Christie, who was born there in 1865. At 16 he left for N.Y.C. and launched his career by working on pioneer submarines, developing turret track and gun mounts for battleships. From 1904 to 1907 he built and raced cars and held the world's speed record for a time. He successfully developed front wheel drive for cars and trucks, many units of front drive being produced in 1913 and 1914 for fire trucks and some of which are still used in parades, etc. Christie is best known as "father of the modern tank" as about 1930 he developed a design basically used today. These were high speed vehicles in various sizes and weights - some amphibious and other that could be lifted by aircraft. Some designs were copied by Germany and Russia [BT series (Bystronodnii) tank] and used in World War II. Christie died in 1944 in Falls Church, Virginia.

Even without the important buildings on the site the New Bridge land is an historic area. One of the first mills in the county was here and it was an important shipping point for more than a century, particularly for the Ringwood Ironworks. It was the scene of many events of the Revolution: the retreat of Washington and his army in 1776, the encampment following of General Vaughan and again in 1777 when the general is said to have stayed in the Steuben House, several skirmishes occurred at the bridge, Major Andre is said to have stayed here as well as "Light Horse" Harry Lee, Anthony Wayne and above all, General George Washington himself in 1780 when he sent letters headed "New Bridge". In 1915 the site was used as the setting of the silent film "Mill on the Floss" by the Mutual Company.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

Approved Page 12-9-80

Von Steuben Estate Complex
Bergen County, New Jersey

The purpose of nominating the Von Steuben Estate Complex to the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places was twofold.

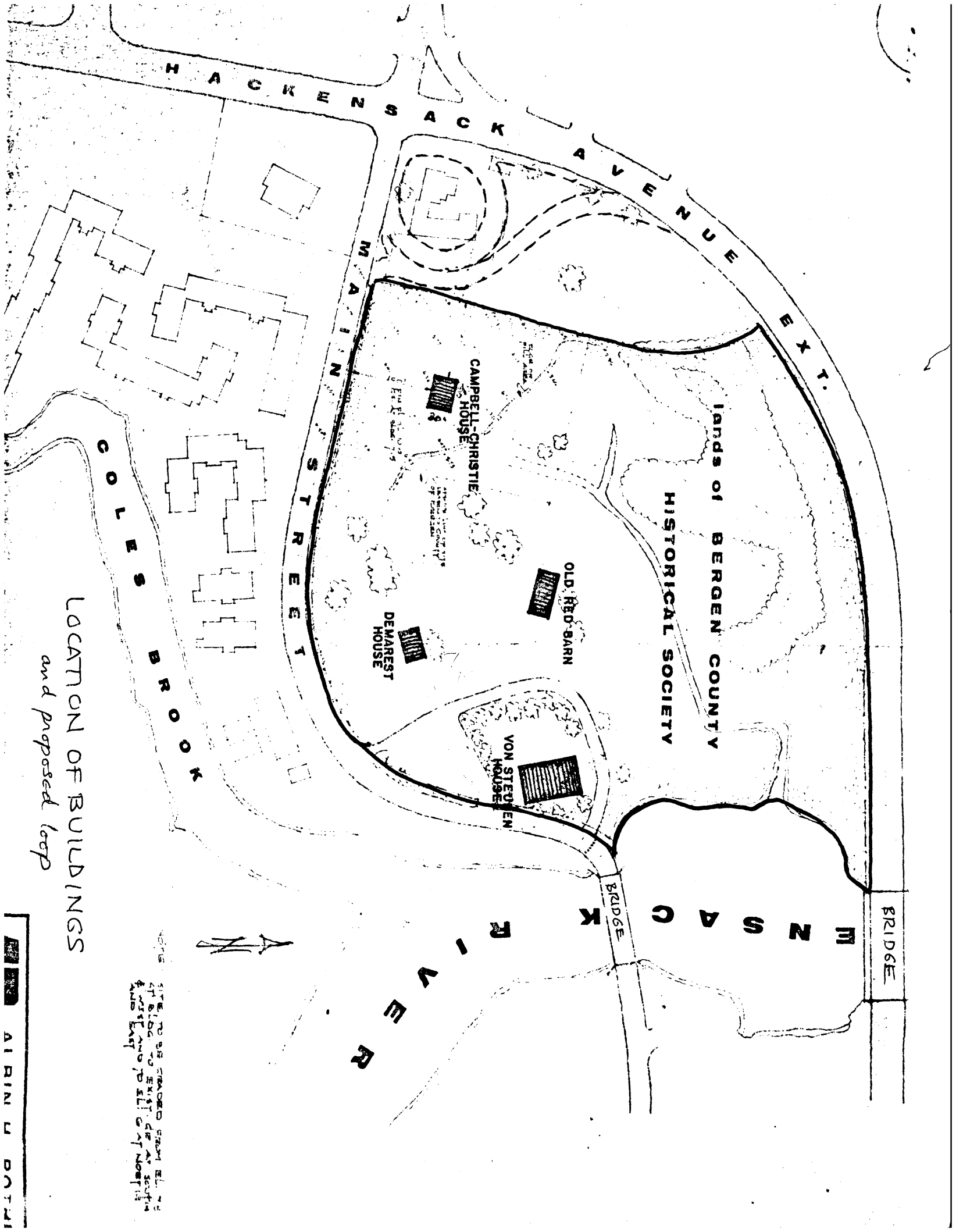
First, the additional buildings within the boundaries of the nominated property appear eligible for the Registers in their own right architecturally. Their siting near the Von Steuben House was not an attempt to create an artificial village of Dutch stone houses, but rather successful efforts to save important Bergen County cultural resources and site them at an available location.

It is not known whether the 1955 moving of the Demarest House was subject to a careful archeological investigation and monitoring of its new location, but there was no official National or State Preservation program, per se, then either. The moving of the Campbell Christie House, however, was accompanied by an evaluation of the site in which the building was eventually situated. No significant resources were found in the archeological testing and subsequent monitoring.

The second rationale for registration was to expand the boundaries of the original Von Steuben property to include additional land which was originally part of the plantation. This boundary expansion was calculated to incorporate the remaining Von Steuben land which has yet to be developed and provide protection from any future plans which might involve the five additional acres surrounding the Von Steuben House.

Under the New Jersey Register Law, for instance, any further relocations of historical buildings would have to be authorized by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The land is subject to flood plain restrictions and registration would provide additional security to archeological potential of the land surrounding the Von Steuben House.

9/1980



HACKENSACK AVENUE EXT.

MAIN STREET

COLEBROOK

LANDS OF BERGEN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CAMPBELL-CHRISTIE HOUSE

OLD RED BARN

DEMAREST HOUSE

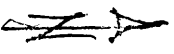
VON STEUBEN HOUSE

BRIDGE

BRIDGE

MUNSON

RIVER



LOCATION OF BUILDINGS
and proposed loop

NOTE: SITE TO BE GRADED FROM EL. 75 4ft Side to exist. dir. at south and east and to fill 6 ft north.

AIR IN POTENTIAL

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1948)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Bergen	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

*Boundary Increase
approved 12-9-80*

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1. NAME			
COMMON:		Steuben Estate Complex	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Main Street at Hackensack River			
CITY OR TOWN:			
River Edge			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
New Jersey		Bergen	
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
Planning map by Albin Rothe, architect			
SCALE:			
reduction - appx. 3/4" to 100'			
DATE:			
1977			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			