

# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: Debaun-Demarest *house*

COMMON NAME: Christie-Cooper

LOCATION: 56 Spring Valley Road.  
(Block 23, Lots 24-27)

MUNICIPALITY: River Edge

OWNERSHIP:  Public  Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: M/M Donald Stertzler

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:

Erskine (1778-80)

Hopkins-Corey (1861) D. W. Christie

Walker's Atlas (1876) D. W. Christie

Bronley (1912) River Edge Hotel

Other

RECOGNITION:

National Register  BCHS Marker

HABS  Bailey

Other

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 30° W

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:  
125' x 125'  
Working well

## SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Agricultural
- Open Space
- Other

COMMENTS: Kinderkamack Road was realigned in 1848. The house was closer to it before this.

THREATS USE

ORIGINAL: Residence (Hobel @ 1 time)

PRESENT: Residence

## 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

The main house is in very good condition and is being thoughtfully restored by the Stertzlers. The first floor remains "untouched" by modernizations (except electricity). The western wing, although old in appearance, was built by the owners with salvaged stone over the foundation of an original unit. The roof lines are not broken by dormers and the whole composition is a fine example of this style.

PHOTO



MAP

USGS QUAD: Hackensack



**DESCRIPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**  
1780-1830/Architectural evidence

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 1-1/2  
**CELLAR:**  Yes  
 No

**BUILDER:** Unknown.

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:**  
 Stone Arch  
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation  
 Other

**FORM/PLAN TYPE:** Main "I", 3 bay, side hall,  
2 rooms deep, each with a gable end fire-  
place (30'5" x 35'6"). West wing not  
original.

**FLOOR JOISTS:** 16-17", random fl.  
boards. 4 1/2" x 10", hewn @  
22-25" apart.

**FRAMING SYSTEM:**  
 Intermediate Summer Beam  
 Intermediate Bearing Wall  
 Clear Span  
 Other

**FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:**  
8'4"±

**FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:**  
25" sides, 13" front.

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:**  
Front: brick, sandstone quoins & flush  
water table. West: sandstone ashlar.  
East & Rear: sandstone rubble, roughly  
coursed, some gravel.

**GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:**  
Not visible.

**FENESTRATION:**  
Wood trapezoidal lintels on front.  
Front: 34" x 63" sash (6/6).  
Side: 2'1" x 4'3" (9/6).

**GARRET:**  
 Unfinished Space  
 Finished Space

**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**  
South front, east end bay. Fan light and  
side lights. Dutch paneled door, paneled  
surround; door is 33-1/2" x 6'2".

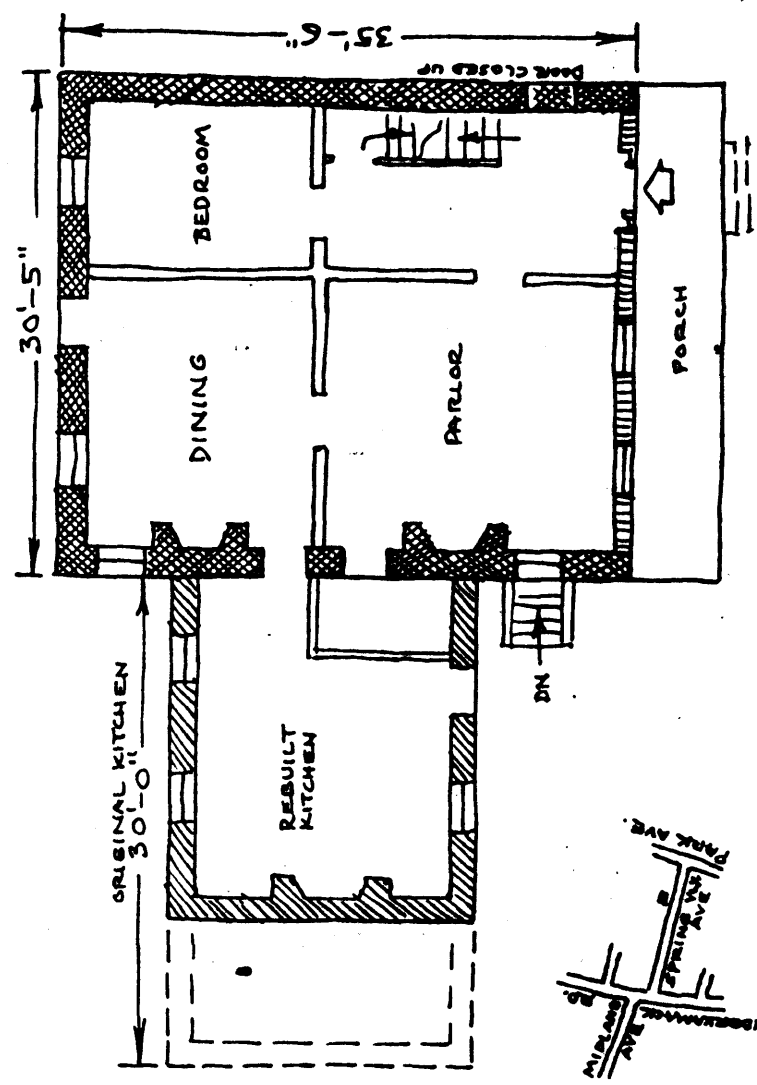
**ROOF:**  
 Gable  
 Gambrel  
 Curb  
 Other

**EAVE TREATMENT:**  
 Sweeping Overhang (Rear)  
 Supported Overhang (Front)  
 No Overhang  
 Boxed Gutter  
 Other

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.

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY  
HISTORIC NAME: Debaun-Demarest  
LOCATION: 56 Spring Valley Road, River Edge

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Debaun-Demarest-Christie  
1"=12'-0" CKT

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Jacob Debaun and Maria Cooper were married on September\*21, 1783 and it is presumed that they lived here (although the house was owned by Maria's father Aert Cooper until she inherited it when Aert died November 5, 1814) until she died on May 30, 1819. Their daughter Catherine probably lived here after her marriage to David D. Demarest on October 26, 1806. Their son John G. Demarest sold the house with 37 acres, on April 17, 1838, to James W., John W. and David W. Christie of Dumont who turned it over to David on April 26, 1839. David died on December 29, 1887 and his executors sold the property on July 6, 1892 to Gustav Peetz, a developer. The house became a hotel and tavern (the River Edge Hotel) for a short time and passed through several owners until Donald H. and Betty Stertzler bought it from Marcus G. Messing on April 5, 1966.

(Source: Howard I. Durie)

Note: The original wing (now gone) may have been built by Aert Cooper prior to 1783 and the main house may have been built after Maria's death in 1819

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Block 23, Lots 24-27 - River Edge Tax Map

Less than 1 acre

U.T.M.

18 581 740 4532 250  
Hackensack, New Jersey