

# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

244

GENERAL

**HISTORIC NAME:** Demarest House

**COMMON NAME:**

**LOCATION:** 268 Grove Street  
(Block 30, lot 34)

**MUNICIPALITY:** Oradell

**OWNERSHIP:**  Public  Private

**OWNER/ADDRESS:** St. Joseph's Church  
Educational Center  
305 Elm Street, Oradell

REFERENCE

**MAP REFERENCES:**

Erskine (1778-80)

Hopkins-Corey (1861) G.D. Demarest

Walker's Atlas (1876) G.D. Demarest

Bromley (1912) Hugh J. Grant

Other

**RECOGNITION:**

National Register  BCHS Marker

HABS  Bailey

Other

ENVIRONMENT

**HOUSE ORIENTATION:** S 5° W

**IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:**

**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:**

- Residential
- Commercial
- Agricultural
- Open Space
- Other

**COMMENTS:**

USE

**ORIGINAL:** Residence

**PRESENT:** Residence for sisters

THREATS

**THREATS TO STRUCTURE:**

- Roads
- Development
- Zoning
- Deterioration
- Other undecided as to use
- No Threat

**COMMENTS:**

CONDITION

**CONDITION:**

Excellent  Good

Fair  Deteriorated

**STATUS:**

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Work in Progress

**ACCESSIBLE:**

- Yes, Restricted
- Yes, Unrestricted
- No

Although this house was moved by having been disassembled and rebuilt (the main section is an exact duplicate), the wing seems to have been made wider. A large sun porch was added to the east end. The second floor has been made more spacious with the addition of dormers - full on the main. The veranda on the old house was not reproduced. A porte cochere was added on the north.

PHOTO



MAP

**USGS QUAD:** Hackensack



**DESCRIPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**

1819/Crump  
Wing may be earlier

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 1-1/2

**CELLAR:**  Yes  
 No

**BUILDER:**

a (probably Peter P.) Demarest  
**FORM/PLAN TYPE:**

"J" 5 bay, 2 rooms deep  
(48'0" x 35'9")

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:** rebuilt

Stone Arch  
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation  
 Other

**FRAMING SYSTEM:**

Intermediate Summer Beam  
 Intermediate Bearing Wall  
 Clear Span  
 Other

**FLOOR JOISTS:**

6" x 9" vert. sawn & hewn,  
24-32" apart.

**FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:**

8'11"

**FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:**

20"

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:**

Flemish bond brick facade w/ flush  
quoins, evenly cut sandstone other  
walls.

**GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:**

not visible

**GARRET:**

Unfinished Space  
 Finished Space

**FENESTRATION:**

32-1/2" x 61" (6/6), trapezoidal board  
lintels w/ keystone motif.

**ROOF:**

Gable  
 Gambrel  
 Curb  
 Other

**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**

Now on the rear facade has been closed up  
w/ a projecting niche. Old 6 panel front  
door moved to new entrance 37-1/2" x 6'8".  
Had semi-circle fanlight in original  
location.

**EAVE TREATMENT:**

Sweeping Overhang (now)  
 Supported Overhang  
 No Overhang  
 Boxed Gutter  
 Other

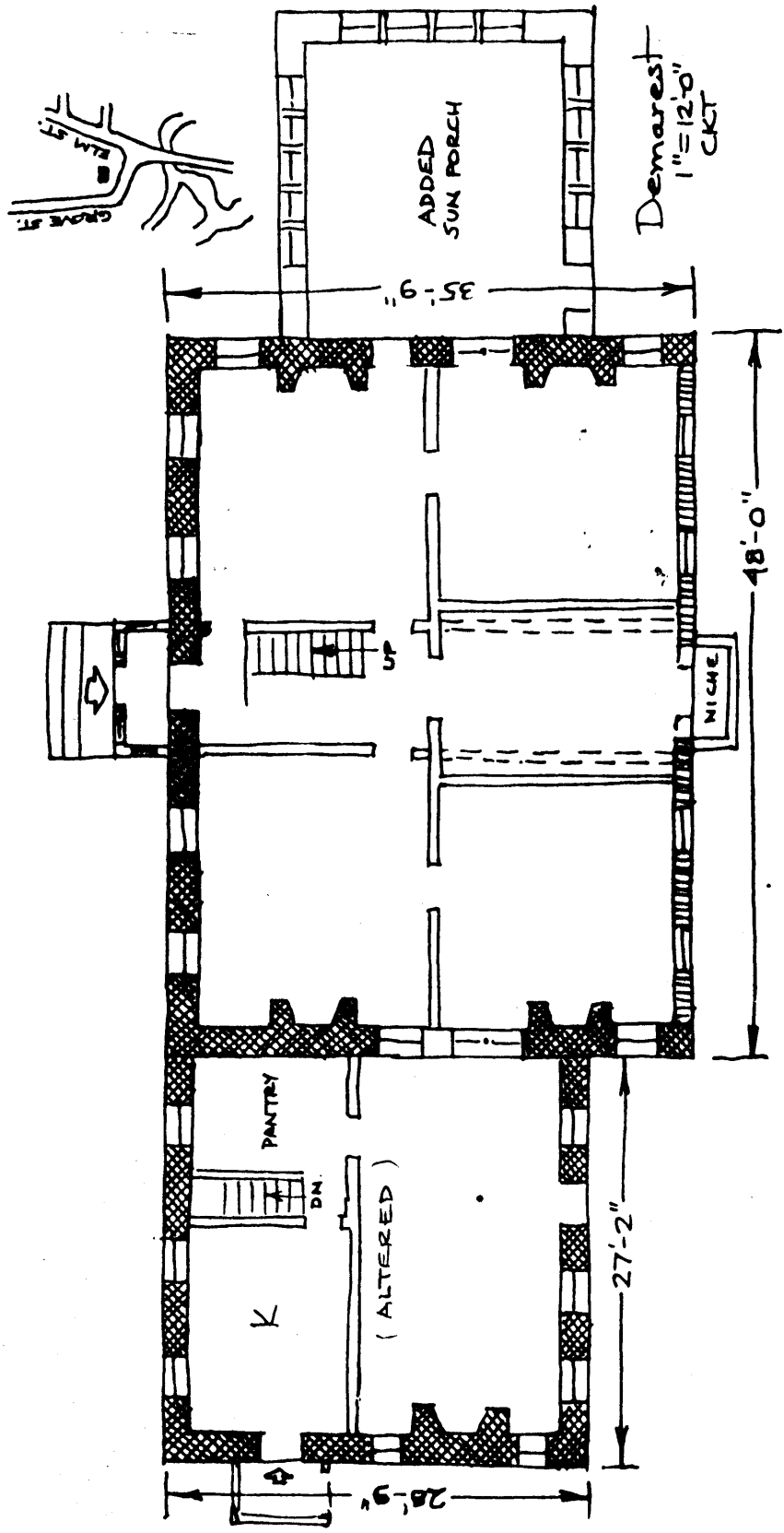
This house is significant for its architecture and its association with the exploration and settlement of the Bergen County, New Jersey area. It is a reasonably well preserved example of the Form/Plan Type as shown and more fully described herein. As such, it is included in the Thematic Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Early Stone Houses of Bergen County, New Jersey.



FLOOR PLANS 119

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY  
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This house was located on a 300 acre tract of Daniel Demarest (1685-1767) and Rebecca De Groot, who built a house in the Dumont area in 1724. In 1763 he divided the land in two parts, the north 130 acres going to Peter Daniel Demarest who already occupied that part. His farm was called "The Flatts".

(Source: "The Demarest Family")

There had been two houses on the site before this one was erected in 1819, probably by Peter P. Demarest who inherited the property. He married Lea Demarest and died in 1847. The house remained in the family until about 1900 when it was sold to Hugh J. Grant, the Mayor of New York City, for his use as a summer home. He built his own house and the Demarest House was used by a caretaker for the estate until he built his own house and left this one empty. Grant gave the house to Peter's grandson John G. Demarest who was the fourth generation to have been born here. He meticulously measured and supervised the rebuilding of the house himself (he was Oradell's Building Inspector) in 1913. The house remained in the family until 1955 when it was sold to the Catholic Church.

(Source: Crump, "Biography of a Borough")

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Block 30, Lot 34 - Oradell Tax Map

2.5 acres

U.T.M.

18 581 940 4533 440  
Hackensack, New Jersey