

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

33

80

GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: John G. Benson House
 (~~Benson, Northern Valley~~)
 COMMON NAME: Chapter, American Red Cross
 LOCATION: 60 Grand Avenue
 (Block 2408, Lot 6)
 MUNICIPALITY: Englewood
 OWNERSHIP: Public Private
 OWNER/ADDRESS: Red Cross

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:
 Erskine (1778-80)
 Hopkins-Corey (1861) G. Bloomer
 Walker's Atlas (1876) Terry
 Bromley (1912) No name
 Other
 RECOGNITION:
 National Register BCNS Marker
 HABS Bailey
 Other

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 45° E
 IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:
 SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 Residential
 Commercial
 Agricultural
 Open Space
 Other
 COMMENTS:

THREATS USE

ORIGINAL: Residence
 PRESENT: Offices
 THREATS TO STRUCTURE:
 Roads
 Development
 Zoning
 Deterioration
 Other
 No Threat
 COMMENTS: Seems secure under present ownership.

CONDITION

CONDITION:
 Excellent Good
 Fair Deteriorated
 STATUS:
 Occupied as offices
 Unoccupied
 Work in Progress
 ACCESSIBLE:
 Yes, Restricted
 Yes, Unrestricted
 No

This is a fine house, amazingly unaffected by its office use. One partition had been removed and the cellar is finished. Even wide boards have been restored. It has Versailles-type fancy work inside: arches, transoms, decorative surrounds, etc. Over-large shed and gambrel dormer on front, three gable type dormers on rear.

PHOTO



MAP



DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:

Occupants say 1784, BCHS says c. 1800, architectural evidence indicates c. 1810-20.

BUILDER:

John G. Benson

FORM/PLAN TYPE:

Modified "F" 5 bay, center hall, 4 rooms w/ internal fireplaces, 47'0" x 36'4" deep

FRAMING SYSTEM:

- Intermediate Summer Beam
- Intermediate Bearing Wall
- Clear Span
- Other

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:

Evenly cut sandstone on north, east & south. West is random rubble.

FENESTRATION:

6/6, 36" x 67", sandstone trapezoidal lintels.

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:

Center, has Victorian double doors now, but probably had sidelights. Large fan-light with sandstone arch, but no decorative casing.

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1-1/2

CELLAR: Yes
 No

CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:

- Stone Arch
- Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
- Other

FLOOR JOISTS:

Not exposed.

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:

9'3"

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:

22"

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:

GARRET:

- Unfinished Space
- Finished Space

ROOF:

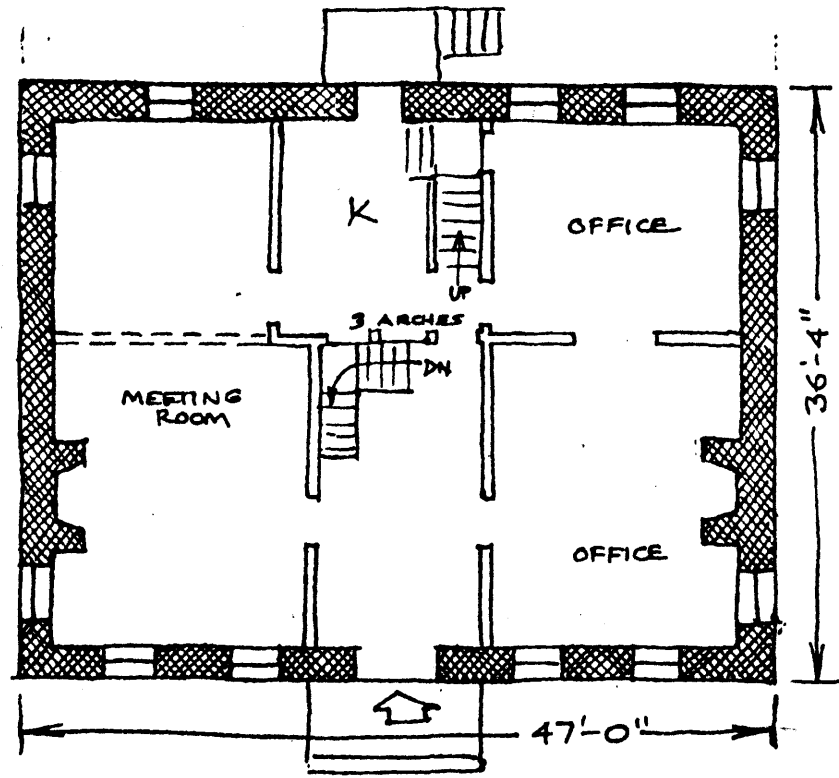
- Gable
- Gambrel
- Curb
- Other

EAVE TREATMENT:

- Sweeping Overhang
- 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



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This land belonged to the Lydecker family in the 18th century and was bought by John G. Benson in 1784. His purchase consisted on 379 acres. Benson was a captian in the militia from 1794 to 1797. He died May 8, 1828 and his wife Maria died on August 16, 1835. Their only son Garret inherited the property. His brother-in-law Teunis Banta acquired the property and sold the house and 103.52 acres to George Bloomer and Anderson Bloomer n May 20, 1849. They sold it with nineteen acres to J. Smith Homans, who sold in 1869 to Cornelius Lydecker. In 1870 he sold 1.87 acres to Stephen Lane. The Ferreira family sold to Mabrey in 1921 and they sold to the American Red Cross on April 20, 1936.

(Source: Howard I. Durie)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Block 2408, Lot 6 - Englewood Tax Map

Less than 1 acre

U.T.M.

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Yonkers, New Jersey-New York