

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

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GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: Van Blarcom House

COMMON NAME:

LOCATION: 834 Franklin Lake Road
(Block 2009, Lot 1-A)

MUNICIPALITY: Franklin Lakes

OWNERSHIP: Public Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: McBride Agency
810 High Mountain Road
Franklin Lakes

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:

- Erskine (1778-80)
- Hopkins-Corey (1861) J. Van Blarcom
- Walker's Atlas (1876) Peter Van Blarcom
- Bromley (1912) D.E. McKenzie
- Other

RECOGNITION:

- National Register BCHS Marker
- HABS Bailey
- Other Bergen County Panorama

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 80° E

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Agricultural
- Open Space
- Other

COMMENTS:
On Country Club entrance road, shop next door, gas station across street

USE

ORIGINAL: Residence

PRESENT: Residence (rental)

THREATS

THREATS TO STRUCTURE:

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

COMMENTS:

CONDITION

CONDITION:

- Excellent Good
- Fair Deteriorated

STATUS:

- Occupied
- Unoccupied Tenant moving out
- Work in Progress

ACCESSIBLE:

- Yes, Restricted
- Yes, Unrestricted
- No

This is a good looking house despite its neglect. A fire destroyed and gutted it about 1900 and it is believed Mr. McKenzie rebuilt it. No original wood seems to remain.

PHOTO



MAP



DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:

1770-90/Bergen County Panorama
c. 1800, architectural evidence

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1-1/2

CELLAR: Yes
 No

BUILDER:

Probably a Van Blarcom

CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:

Stone Arch
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
 Other

FORM/PLAN TYPE:

"H" side hall, 2 rooms deep
(modified) (29'9" x 29'4")

FLOOR JOISTS: 20th century

FRAMING SYSTEM:

Intermediate Summer Beam
 Intermediate Bearing Wall
 Clear Span
 Other All new

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:

Evenly cut sandstone blocks on north,
sandstone rubble on south, stucco
on front and rear.

GARRET:

Unfinished Space
 Finished Space

FENESTRATION:

2/2, 36" x 57". No lintels can be seen.

ROOF:

Gable
 Gambrel 20th century
 Curb
 Other

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:

Southern most bay, plain, 36" x 6'4"

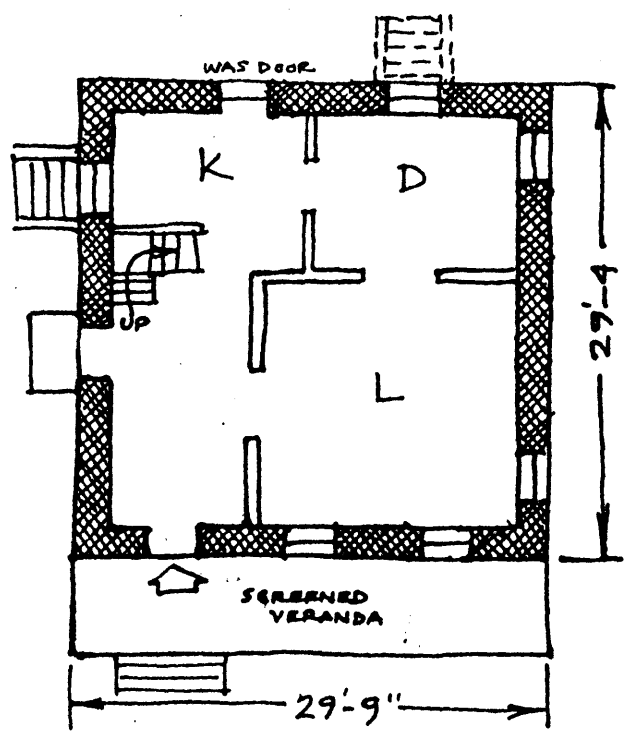
EAVE TREATMENT:

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.

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FLOOR PLANS 51



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The now vacated road which forms part of the driveway to the Indian Trail Club House dates back to 1771 and started at the Abraham Ackerman dwelling.¹ This may very well be the house shown in 1861 to be owned by Peter Van Blarcom. Not very much is known about the family in the nineteenth century. When John Storms taught at the school on the shore of Franklin Lake, there were no children in the family to attend the school. In later years it was the Van Blarcom summer home of two sisters and a brother who lived in Jersey City.

The stones were bound by mortar mixed with straw. A fire burned in the building for four days and burned into its mortar causing it to crumble. All of the original woodwork burned. Apparently it was restored when Mr. McKenzie bought it, although the attic was left as a loft which his farm workers used in the summer time.

The "Bergen County Panorama" lists this house as an outstanding example of architecture in Franklin Lakes, having been built between 1770-1790.

¹Abraham Ackerman married Christina Mead in 1769, and inherited the house at 1095 Franklin Lakes Rd. and a portion of the land purchased by his father Jacobus Louwerense and Uncle Johannes Louwerense Ackerman in 1727. The total acreage was 444. The father, Jacobus, died in 1784.

(The above is quoted from Maria Braun's Franklin Lakes: Its History and Heritage.)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Block 2203, Lot 1A - Franklin Lakes Tax Map

8.6 acres

U.T.M.

18 566 000 4538 000
Paterson, New Jersey