

# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

## INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

124

GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: De Gray House

COMMON NAME:

LOCATION: 650 Bring Avenue  
(Block-2309, Lot-2)

MUNICIPALITY: Franklin Lakes

OWNERSHIP:  Public  Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: Gerald & Barbara Cramer  
(same)

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:

Erskine (1778-80) Road not surveyed

Hopkins-Corey (1861) D. DeGray

Walker's Atlas (1876) Daniel DeGray

Bromley (1912) C.H. Gay

Other

RECOGNITION:

National Register  BCHS Marker

HABS  Bailey

Other

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 25° W

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:  
Dutch barn with attached sheds  
Outbuildings

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Agricultural
- Open Space
- Other

COMMENTS:

USE

ORIGINAL: Residence

PRESENT: Residence

THREATS

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 house underwent enlargement and renovation about 1910, but it retains its charm. The Dutch barn is in good condition and is in use, but has been eclipsed by additions.

PHOTO



MAP



**DESCRIPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**

1785/Braun

**BUILDER:**

Probably a De Gray

**FORM/PLAN TYPE:**

"E" 5 bay, 1 room deep (38'0" x 19'6")

**FRAMING SYSTEM:**

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

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:**

Coursed mixed color broken fieldstone

**FENESTRATION:**

Original 12/8 sash, 31½" x 50"

**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**

4th bay from left, was in center, had transom. Door is 34" x 6'0".

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

- CELLAR:**  Yes  
 No

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:**

- Stone Arch
- Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
- Other

**FLOOR JOISTS:**

**FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:**

**FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:**

**GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:**

**GARRET:**

- Unfinished Space
- Finished Space

**ROOF:**

- Gable
- Gambrel (20th century)
- Curb
- Other

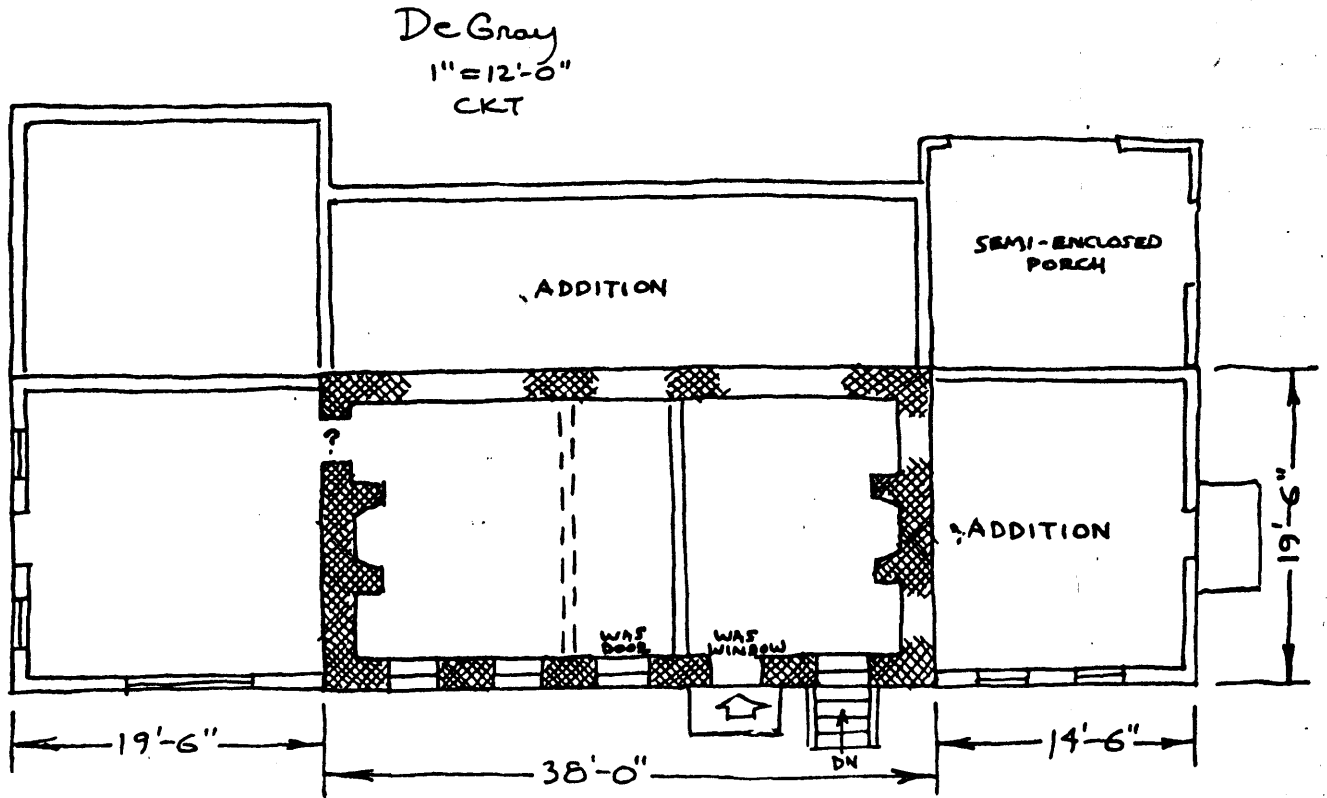
**EAVE TREATMENT:**

- Sweeping Overhang (20th cent)
- 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 219



The oldest part of the house [at time of Braun's writing] owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Putnam was built about the time of the Revolution, by either the De Gray or related Geroe families. The family Bible confirms the birth of Daniel De Gray in this house, in 1789. He married Mary Watson and their daughter, Hannah born 1811, married John Snyder. A son, William J. Snyder, was born to them in 1834. After the death of his mother he was raised by his grandparents, living in this house until his death in 1904. The 1876 Bergen County Atlas lists William J. Snyder as the owner of the property. There was a total of 123 acres.

In 1906 the house was sold to a Philadelphia architect, Charles Merric Gay. He enlarged the house, and in 1910 built a stone cottage in the back for Mr. Pennington, who was the gardner and general caretaker of the estate. To make the estate more self sufficient, and to provide for his family as well as the four maids and other hired help, Mr. Gay purchased four dairy cows and built a creamery. Mrs. Gamberton, granddaughter of William and Elizabeth Winters Snyder, recalls that the skim milk was fed to the chickens.

The hugh walnut tree planted near the house by an old lady was only a sapling when Elizabeth Snyder was a bride. From this tree came the name of the estate, "Juglans Farm" (juglans is latin for walnut). Mr. Gray [sic... "Gay"?] thought so much of this tree that he not only named the farm after it but hired tree experts from New York to properly cut and feed it.

After World War I, the Gay children were grown, and as the family no longer needed a country home, Juglans Farm was sold to McCutcheon who figured prominently in county government. After a few years it reverted back to the Gays who then sold it to Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Delario.

(The above is quoted from Maria Braun's Franklin Lakes: Its History and Heritage. The house is listed in this book to be located at 660 Ewing Avenue, not 650.)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Block Block 2309, Lot 2

2.72 acres

U.T.M.

18 567 500 4539 060  
Ramsey, New Jersey