

# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

169

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

341

**GENERAL**

HISTORIC NAME: Brinkerhoff-Demarest House  
 COMMON NAME: Old Homestead  
 LOCATION: 493 Teaneck Road  
 (Block 3705, Lot 5)  
 MUNICIPALITY: Teaneck  
 OWNERSHIP:  Public  Private  
 OWNER/ADDRESS: Edna M. Schuh

**REFERENCE**

MAP REFERENCES:  
 Erskine (1778-80)  
 Hopkins-Corey (1861) G. Demarest  
 Walker's Atlas (1876) G. Demarest  
 Bronley (1912) James Demarest  
 Other  
 RECOGNITION:  
 National Register  BCHS Marker  
 HABS #6-110  Bailey  
 Other N.J. Inventory

**ENVIRONMENT**

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 30° W  
 IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:

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
- N-

The west kitchen has suffered amputation due to road widening in 1941. The only major "alteration" to the house has been the addition of shed dormers on the front and rear.

**PHOTO**



**MAP**

USGS QUAD: Hackensack



**DESCRIPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**

Wing: 1728-48/History; HABS; Bailey  
Main: 1775-1800/Architectural evidence

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1-1/2

CELLAR:  Yes (Main)  
 No

BUILDER: a Brinkerhoff

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:**

Stone Arch  
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation  
 Other

FORM/PLAN TYPE: "G" 5 bay, center hall, 2 rooms to each side w/ 2 interior chimneys (3 fireplaces)(46'2" x 34'0").  
Wing (before change) "C" 3 bay, 1 room center door, 1 gable end fireplace (23'8" x 20'4").

FLOOR JOISTS: 5 1/2" x 8-10" deep w/ 22-40" between.

**FRAMING SYSTEM:**

Intermediate Summer Beam (Main)  
 Intermediate Bearing Wall  
 Clear Span (Wing)  
 Other

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT: 8'4"

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS: 20"

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:**

Well coursed red sandstone on all sides except rear which is rougher.

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS: Not exposed.

**GARRET:**

Unfinished Space  
 Finished Space

**FENESTRATION:**

37" x 66-1/2" (12/12) sash with 8" x 10" panes and splayed casings.

**ROOF:**

Gable (Wing)  
 Gambrel (Main)  
 Curb  
 Other

**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**

Main: center bay of south front. Dutch style split leaf door (3'2" x 6'10") w/ a transom above. Wing is 36" x 6'1" paneled door.

**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.

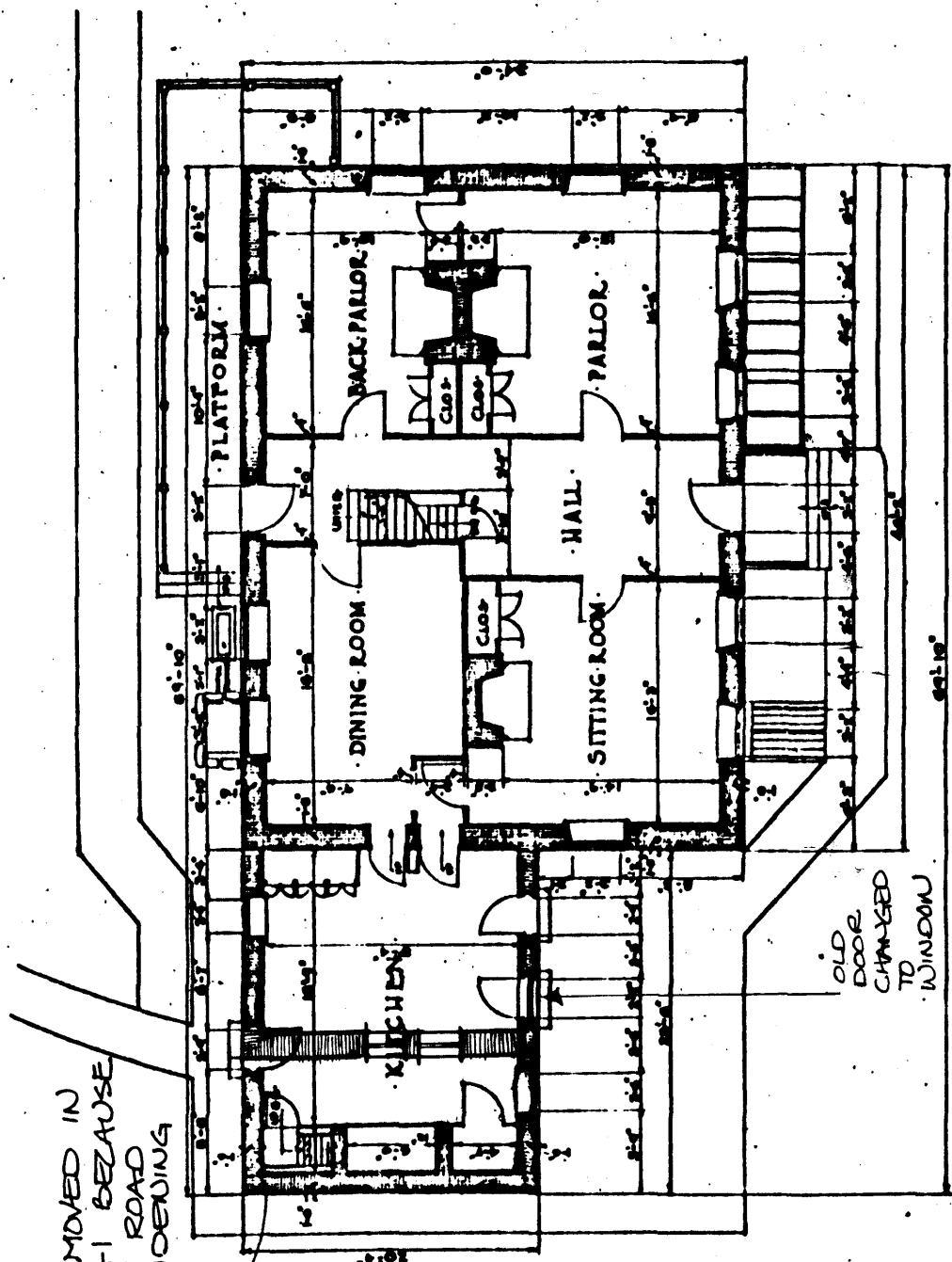
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Block 3705, Lot 5 - Teaneck Tax Map

Less than 1 acre

U.T.M.

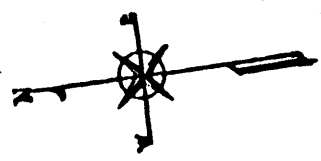
18 583 260 4525 260  
Hackensack, New Jersey



REMOVED IN 1941 BECAUSE OF ROAD WIDENING

OLD DOOR CHANGED TO WINDOW

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



G. H. TORP  
& C. MULLIGAN } ARCHT.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER

THE BRINKERHOFF-DEMAREST-OLD-HOMESTEAD-1728  
SARALTA-DEMAREST-HOUSE-493-TEANECK-ROAD-TEANECK-NEW-JERSEY

6110

PLANNING AND DESIGN  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

DATE 4-6-68

The oldest house now standing in Teaneck is the Brinkerhoff-Demarest homestead, built between 1728 and 1735 [HABS says 1748] by Hendrick Brinkerhoff [Brinkerhof\*] [son of Jaconus, born Nov. 1, 1710], grandson of Henrik Jorisse Brinkerhoff, on a portion of the Kiersted Patent purchased in 1686 [or 1682\*]. ["Hendrick married Elizabeth Kipp on Nov. 19, 1731 and had five children between 1733 and 1755. It would appear more likely, judging from the architectural evidence, that the house was built by these children, the last surviving child being Henry H. Brinkerhoff. The farm was divided among the heirs in 1827 and James H. Brinkerhoff acquired the house."\*] Brinkerhoffs lived there until 1829, when Jasper [Casparus of the Jacobus Demarest house in New Milford\*] Demarest bought it [from James on Feb. 18\*] for his son George [George C. or Joost\*] on his marriage to Sarah Brinkerhoff [on April 18, 1830\*]. [Their son James Brinkerhoff Demarest (1834-1913) married, on Dec. 21, 1865, Mary Elizabeth Vreeland who remained the owner until 1931. Daughters Saretta and Mary E. Demarest owned it in 1936 when the HABS drawings were made.\*] Members of the two families have occupied it exclusively for nearly 250 years. Today it is the home of Mrs. Edna DeGraw Schuh, a Demarest.

The house, of red sandstone and clapboard with gambrel roof is a gem of construction. It faces south, in true Dutch tradition. A Dutch door at front (there is also one at the back) opens into a hall nine and a half feet wide. On the right are the front and back parlors. The Franklin stove in the back parlor is of such interest that a blueprint was made of it during the Historic Buildings Survey. To the left of the hall is the dining room, lighted by windows set in walls which are two feet thick. Beyond is a spacious kitchen. The kitchen was even more spacious until thirty-five years ago [sic] when ten feet was taken off the property for the widening of Teaneck Road. This was not done without a struggle on the part of Miss Saretta Demarest, Mrs. Schuh's aunt, Miss Demarest fought the project tooth and nail, but the old fireplace with a Dutch oven in its wall had to go.

Dormer windows were added in about 1900. Once there were stairs in the kitchen, used by servants going to their quarters. Today there are four bedrooms, bath, linen and storage rooms on the second floor. Electricity and plumbing were installed in 1913. Interesting details include bull's-eye glass set in doors opening off the hall, the fanlight grill that was sawn from one piece of solid wood, the L and H hinges, the eagle and side decorations on the parlor mantel and the latches and locks. Two wooden locks once in the house were given to the Bergen County Historical Society. Students of architecture found this house of particular interest because the roof overhang extends around the gable ends, which were usually left unprotected. The varying colors of the sandstone blocks and the occasional use of small stones add life and variety to the building. The main house and the small wing were built at the same time.

Behind the house lay farm land and the fyke where many an Indian relic of Oratam's day has been found. The homestead which has stood serenely through years amid the traffic on Teaneck Road, has been a subject for artists and photographers. On special occasions it is opened for visitors. It was photographed in 1912 in a movie concerning Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton, made by the old Biograph Studio in Fort Lee.

(The above is quoted from Mildred Taylor's The History of Teaneck, American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, 1977. \* From Rosalie Fellows Bailey's Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1968.)