

PH0504386

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 21 1977
DATE ENTERED	FEB 17 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
~~X~~ AND/OR COMMON
 David or Jacobus DesMarest House
 DesMarest - Gurd - Casey House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
618 River Road

CITY, TOWN
New Milford

STATE
New Jersey

VICINITY OF
34

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
39th

COUNTY
Bergen

CODE
003

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Alice Gurd Casey

STREET & NUMBER
618 River Road

CITY, TOWN
New Milford

STATE
New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Bergen County Court House

STREET & NUMBER
Main and Essex Sts.

CITY, TOWN
Hackensack

STATE
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey - U.S. Dept. of Interior

DATE
1933 - 35

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A traditional gambrel roof form Dutch style red sandstone farmstead built in the 18th century, the actual date of the construction of the earliest part of the David Des Marest House is still a matter of hypothesis despite extensive research into the history of the property.

As it stands today, the house appears to have been built in four sections. The earliest unit is the small 1 1/2 story west portion. Constructed of rough coursed and random red sandstone, this section originally had a two bay sandstone front, but was opened up and extended about two feet with a red brick bay in 1920. The roof is gable with a slight sweeping overhang. The gable end above the eave is modern cedar shingles. The first floor interior has one single room (11'7" x 13'7") with a large end fireplace which originally had a bee-hive bake oven that has subsequently been removed. There is no basement, and the attic or garret is unfinished. Originally a kitchen wing, the physical evidence does not concretely support the claims of a late 17th century date of construction. While the historical documentation has established a building on the property in the 1680's, this is not necessarily the present kitchen wing.

Attached to the kitchen wing is a 1 1/2 story 18th century gambrel roofed unit. The exterior has superficial uniform characteristics suggesting a single erection date, but close inspection refutes this idea. The cellar foundation establishes that the easternmost two bays of this gambrel roofed section were built separate of the final three bays. It is not unreasonable to conjecture that the two bays were constructed by Jacobus Des Marest sometime after his second marriage in 1720.

The final 18th century portion completes the front facade and was the result of a substantial enlarging by John Demarest. The date of this addition is clearly documented by a stone initialed JDMR ANO 1765.

Overall, however, the gambrel roofed portion projects a uniform appearance-five bays with a center entrance. The windows are all 12/8 sash with paneled shutters and S-shaped shutter dogs.

Constructed of roughly coursed red sandstone, the building measures 43 feet by 30 feet. The stone walls are about 1'8" thick.

The center entrance has a six panel Dutch door. The upper portion has two elliptical bullseye window lights in the panels. Under the easternmost window is an outside cellar entrance. The roof is gambrel with a swept (3'8") overhang at the front. The gable ends are modern cedar shingles above the eaves. There is a chimney on each gable end at the roof peak.

On the interior there is a through center hall with a side stairway. The hall is ten feet wide. The stairs have a simple newel post, round handrail, and square baluster. The door above the stairs has vertical paneling with a Norfolk door latch and Dutch strap hinges. There are two rooms, front and back, on either side of the hall. The front rooms have fireplaces. The west front room is 18'8" x 14'9", while the east front room is 17'11" x 11'5". In the east front is an 18th century side

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Davit or Jacobus DesMarest House

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New Jersey 034

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

cupboard. The chestnut beams are exposed in the front rooms and are planed, and beaded (their girth measures 8" x 11"). The beams in the basement are hewn chestnut and oak and measure 14" x 11". The rear rooms are much smaller, the east room being 13'10" x 8'8", and the west 14'4" x 8'9".

The second floor has a half-hall, three bedrooms, a bath, and a storage room. In the storage room the original twelve to eighteen inches wide flooring is exposed. Elsewhere the floors are covered with narrow hardwood boards.

Around 1920 a large unit was added to the rear of the 1 1/2 story kitch unit, and the gambrel roofed section at the rear was opened up with a large shed dormer.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1765

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

As the oldest extant house in the township, the Des Marest-Gurd-Casey House is an excellent 18th century example of the Gambrel roofed buildings unique to the Hudson River Valley.

Constructed of red sandstone, the austere gambrel roof line of the Des Marest House is still unbroken by dormers at the front facade. This is one of only a handful of Dutch houses in New Jersey which still retains its full graceful gambrel roofline. Noted architectural features, beyond the overall appearance, are the front and rear Dutch doors, the front door having one of the few extant bullseye oval windows in the upper panels. Other features are, of course, the stonework and woodwork, the interior details including the open ceiling beaded and planed beams, the paneled hallway and stairs, and various original hardware.

The Des Marest House is still situated on its original site after over two hundred years, a rather unusual accomplishment in view of the surrounding congested suburban development. Built on the first high land along the Hackensack River east of the Old Bridge, this is the last extant settlement property in the area.

Settlement

The Des Marests were French Huguenots who migrated to Amsterdam around 1650 to avoid religious persecution. Later, with other Frenchmen, they moved to German Palatinate, but when their religious freedom was threatened there, the family decided on seeking refuge in America.

David Des Marest settled at Staten Island in 1663. By this time the Dutch had occupied the Hudson River Valley for some fifty years scattering settlements along the valley, primarily in New York but also venturing into New Jersey.

From Staten Island Des Marest went to New Harlem where the family encountered multiple legal difficulties forcing them to announce plans for establishing a colony of French Huguenots in New Jersey.

David Des Marest and his family settled along the Hackensack River in the present-day New Milford area, buying their land from the Lenni Lenape Indians. Shortly thereafter, Des Marest and his sons requested warrants from the Proprietors

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, Rosalie Fellows. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families. 1936.
(pp. 286-7, plate 83)

Historic American Buildings Survey. (NJ-6-11) "David DesMarest House" 1936
Ellis, R.C. Colonial Dutch House in New Jersey. (p. 36)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one
UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>582000</u>	<u>4531720</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies City block #30 lot#48 and is approximately 100' X 230' in size

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Terry Karschner, Curator

June, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

109 West State Street

TELEPHONE

(609) 292-2028

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

8-26-77

TITLE

Deputy
Assistant Commissioner

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rettig

DATE 2/17/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles Coffey

DATE 2-9-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

of East Jersey to establish legal claim to the land. By this process, in 1681 Des Marest received three tracts of land totaling nearly four hundred tillable acres. (As originally claimed, Des Marest Land extended well up into New York state).

The earliest extant house on the patent is the David Des Marest-Casey-Gurd House in New Milford at the intersection of River and River Edge Roads. Perhaps built as early as 1678, this was one of the first, if not the first, permanent settlements in Bergen County.

David Des Marest died in 1693 and stipulated in his will that the property be divided equally among his three sons. The division provided "that ye little mill, house, barn, with all ye land which are on ye side of said mill shall belong to John Des Marest." (Wills. Bergen County. David Des Marest, Senior. 1693).

John Demarest sold the mill sometime during the first or second decade of the 18th century, but maintained possession of the homestead, which after John's death in 1719 came into the possession of another Jacobus Des Marest, apparently the nephew of John.

Jacobus Demarest (1691-1763) was born at Long Island and married Lea DeGroot in 1707 and Margrietje Haring in 1719 acquiring the Des Marest Homestead at about this time, probably constructing the center portion of the building.

Jacobus' will divided the farm equally among his two sons, Daniel and Peter, but the house was eventually occupied by another son, John Demarest (1720-1783), first-born of the second marriage. That John did not receive any land by his father's will suggests that a land transaction was conducted earlier.

John Demarest was a prominent public figure in the area holding the responsible positions of Offices of the Commissioner to the Loan Office of Bergen County, Manager of the Courthouse, Justice and Freeholder, and Assessor and Collector for the Township of Hackensack.

In 1765 John enlarged the homestead (almost doubling its original size) to its present configuration. A stone bearing his initials and the date - JDMR ANO 1765 - marks the structural change.

John Demarest was taxed in Hackensack Township in 1779 for 27 acres, two horses, two horned cattle, and two hogs.

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SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

He died in 1783 and left the estate to his wife Rachel who remained in possession of the homestead until her remarriage in 1788. Rachel was taxed for 30 acres, cattle, and a slave from 1784-1787.

As a result of Rachel's remarriage, her son Casparus acquired the homestead. He was taxed similarly until 1794 when there was 36 acres and 1802 when he owned a saw mill. Casparus Demarest died in 1844 granting the farm to son Albert.

After nearly 150 yrs. of Des Marest ownership, Albert, in 1850, sold the homestead to Henry J. Zabriskie.

After holding on the house for nearly fifty years, the Zabriskie Family sold to the Brookchester Land Company in 1908.

John A. Gurd, an architect, also acquired the property in 1908. When Gurd died, the DesMarest House came into the possession of his daughter, Alice Gurd Casey, who is the current owner.

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Bergen Evening Record. 10/19/1933.

Durie, Howard I. Genealogical and Historical Records Pertaining to the Demarest-Casey House. 1964.

Smith, Leon A., editor. The Story of New Milford, New Jersey. New Milford, 1964.

Deed. Bergen County. Albert Demarest to Henry J. Zabriskie. Book E-5, p. 154, January 30, 1850.

Road Returns. Bergen County. Book A, p. 3, November, 1717.

Road Returns. Bergen County. Book F, p. 100, 1848.

Black, William. "Colonial Buildings in New Jersey." Architectural Record. January, 1894.

Boyd, John T., Sr. "Some Early Dutch Houses in New Jersey." Architectural Record. July, August, September, 1914.

Will. Casparus Demarest. Bergen County, Book F, p. 164, July, 1844.

Des Marest, Mary and William. The Demarest Family. New Brunswick, 1938.

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

24

GENERAL 102

HISTORIC NAME: Jacobus Demarest
 COMMON NAME:
 LOCATION: 618 River Road
 (Block 30, Lot 18)
 MUNICIPALITY: New Milford
 OWNERSHIP: Public Private
 OWNER/ADDRESS: Alice & Tim Casey

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:
 Erskine (1778-80)
 Hopkins-Corey (1861) H. Zabriskie
 Walker's Atlas (1876) Jno. Zabriskie
 Bromley (1912)
 Other
 RECOGNITION:
 National Register BCHS Marker
 HABS #6-11 Bailey
 Other N.J. Inventory

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: Due South
 IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 Residential
 Commercial
 Agricultural
 Open Space
 Other

COMMENTS:

THREATS USE

ORIGINAL: Residential
 PRESENT: Residential

THREATS TO STRUCTURE:
 Roads
 Development
 Zoning
 Deterioration
 Other
 No Threat

COMMENTS:
 At sharp bend of busy road.

CONDITION

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

This house is important to Bergen County since it is one of the oldest and displays an interesting growth pattern. The two fireplaces have been altered.

PHOTO



MAP

USGS QUAD: Hackensack



CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:

Original: before 1820/HABS, Bailey
 Middle: 1765/Datestone
 Main:

BUILDER: Orig: Jacobus Demarest; enlarged
 by John Demarest.

FORM/PLAN TYPE:

2 bay, 1 room w/ 1 gable end fireplace
 (18' x 16'). Middle (before west addition):
 2 bay, 1 room w/ 1 gable end fireplace
 (17' x 19').

FRAMING SYSTEM:

- Intermediate Summer Beam
 Intermediate Bearing Wall
 Clear Span
 Other

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:

FENESTRATION:

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:

NUMBER OF STORIES:

- 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
 Curb
 Other

EAVE TREATMENT:

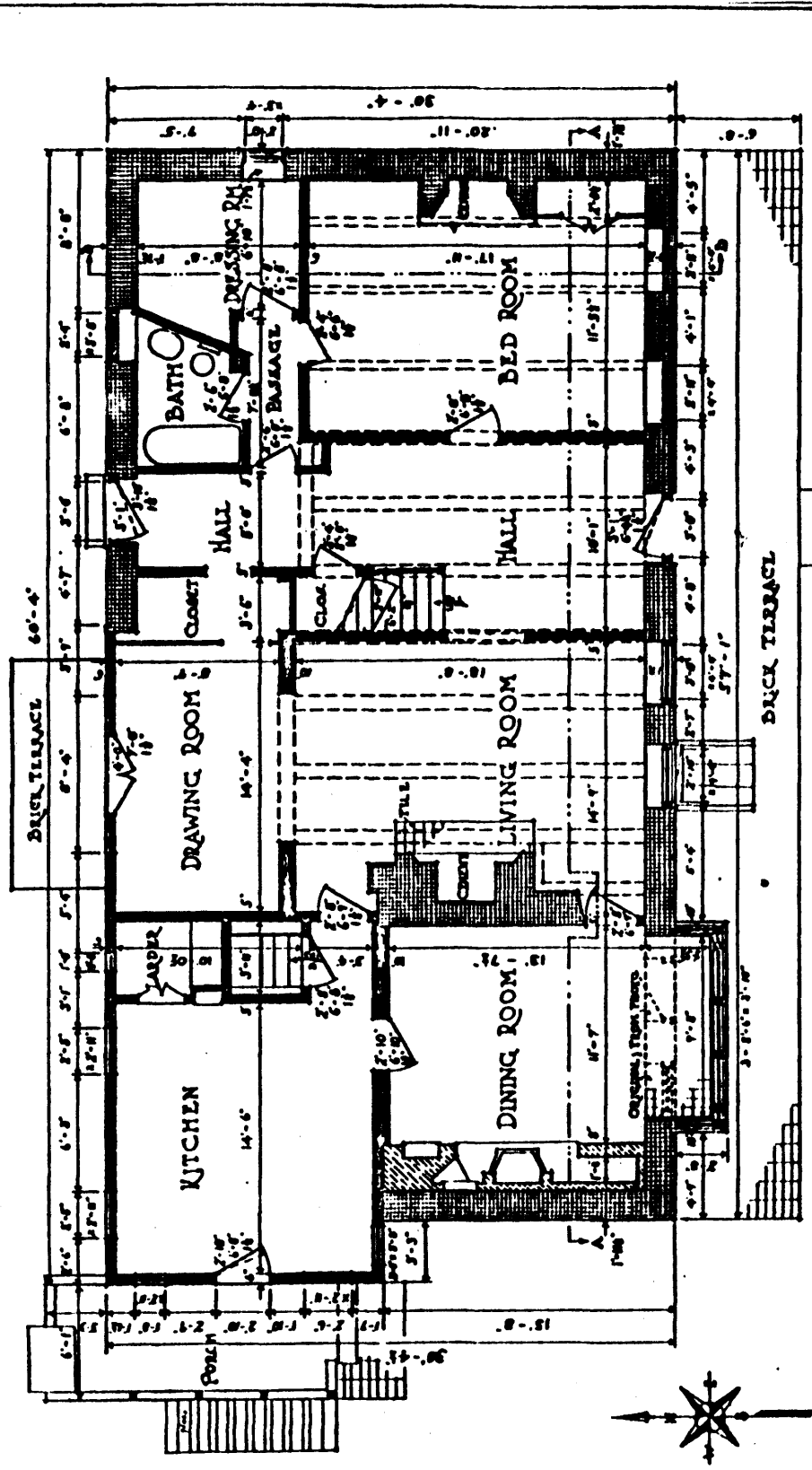
- Sweeping Overhang
 Supported Overhang
 No Overhang
 Boxed Gutter
 Other

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.



BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY
 HISTORIC NAME: Jacobus Demarest House
 LOCATION: 618 River Road, New Milford

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FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

LEGEND

STONE	BRICK	WOOD	GLASS
WOOD	GLASS	BRICK	GLASS
BRICK	GLASS	WOOD	GLASS

FEET
 METRIC

WALLACE DUNLOP, BELL
 NEW JERSEY DISTRICT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC AND RESTORATION
 BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

DAVID DLS MARLEST, JR. HOUSE, NEW MILFORD, NEW JERSEY, CIRCA 1681

6-11

HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 1963-68

Jacobus Demarest is the first known inhabitant of this house. A son of David des Marest, Jr. (see plate 82), he was born at Hackensack, bap. Oct. 30, 1681 at Flatbush, died 1763. He married first March 8, 1707 Leah, born at the Bowery on the Bay, a daughter of Peter De Groot, and had six children: David, Pieter, Rachel, Beletie, Maria and Benjamin. He married secondly Sept. 26, 1719 Margrietje Haring, bap. April 17, 1700, daughter of Cosine Haring of Old Tappan (plate 89), and had by her four children: Johannes, Lea, Gerret and Samuel. His eldest son by his second matrimonial venture was Johannes or John Demarest, b. Aug. 2, 1720,* d. Feb. 5, 1783, married March 7, 1744 Rachel Zabriskie, who married secondly Aug. 1, 1788 Arent Schuyler; she died April 16, 1812. John and Rachel lived in this house and had four sons and one daughter, all of whom lived to great age, dying between the ages of 78 and 96 years.* The youngest child Casparus or Jasper Demarest, b. April 6, 1766,* d. July 6, 1844,* married April 12, 1798* Rachel Vorhase, b. April 7, 1766,* d. Nov. 14, 1860.* They lived in this house, in which all their eight children were born. The property was bought about 1850 by John H. Zabriskie (who lived in the frame house opposite), and inhabited for a while by his father Henry Zabriskie. It was sold by the Zabriskie family about 1908. John A. Gurd bought the property about 1910 from a land company, and it is now [at the time of Bailey's writing] owned by his widow.

* Taken from family Bible

(The above [except for our comments, bracketed] is quoted 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.)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Block 30, Lot 18 - New Milford Tax Map

Less than 1 acre

U.T.M.

18 582 000 4531 720
Hackensack, New Jersey