

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
New Jersey

COUNTY:  
Bergen

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE  
NOV 19 1974

1. NAME

COMMON NAME:  
Peter, Garretson, House

AND/OR HISTORIC NAME:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
4-02 River Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Fair Lawn

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
7th district-William B. Widnall

STATE:  
New Jersey

CODE:  
34

COUNTY:  
Bergen

CODE:  
003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments on the market.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. Feenix Brocker

STREET AND NUMBER:  
7-17 Hickory Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Wyckoff

STATE:  
New Jersey

CODE:  
34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hackensack

STATE:  
New Jersey

CODE:  
34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#1073.2)

DATE OF SURVEY:  
1962

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection

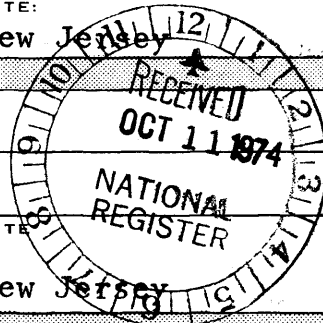
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN:  
Trenton

STATE:  
New Jersey

CODE:  
34

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: New Jersey

COUNTY: Bergen

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 19 1974

DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Garretson House appears to have been build in two sections. On the original building, the wing section of local sandstone was build in 1720-25, while the main section, built of the same stone, was built in 1800. The original gable roof over the main section was changed to a gambrel roof in 1900, the dormer windows were also added at this time.

The buildings were built by Peter Garretson, a farmer. The main building is a 1 1/2 story gambrel roof sandstone structure. The original roof was gable. The windows were 6/6 sash but were changed to 1/1. The entrance of this section is somewhat obscured by the open front porch and modern windows. Other exterior alterations include dormers on each side of the roof, wood siding on the gable end. The stone wing is rectangular, and by size 55 feet by 18 feet. The stone walls are approximately 1'10" thick. There are three rooms and a kitchen on the first floor. The smallest room (16 by 10) was originally the kitchen. This has been altered to 20th century conveniences. Adjacent to the kitchen is the dining room approximately 16' by 12' these comprise the original section, a clapboard vestibule and greenhouse were probably added at the same time as the gambrel roof was installed. The main section is divided in two large rooms of approximate size of 16' by 16' each with large brick fireplaces at each end.

The original upstairs was probably just a high loft for storage and sleeping, perhaps crudely finished into rooms for that use. Presently there are 4 rooms and one bath. Indications are that the rooms were completed in the beginning of the 20th century.

The cellar under the original section has low headroom approximately 5'6" with a new concrete floor. This area supports a 20th century heating system. The original beam in this section was destroyed by fire and replaced approximately 1900. The cellar under the main section has two large vaulted brick arches with a dirt floor. The beams in this area are the original hand-hewn, mortice and tenon beams, approximate size 12" by 12".

The property on which the house stands originally extended from the Passaic River to the Saddle River. Broadway (Route 4) was known as Garretson Lane. The land was acquired from 12 Quaker proprietors by Daniel Danielson. It was purchased from him either in 1719 or 1720, by "Peter Garretson of Slooterdam". The original sheepskin proprietary deed dates from 1708 to Daniel Danielson in the early English language.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **circa. 1720**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		<b>Community History</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Community History:**

This land was acquired by Daniel Danielson from 12 Quaker proprietors including William Penn. There is also an Indian Deed to the land. This is signed by "Spotted Tail" and is still in the hands of the present owner. The indenture paper (copy enclosed) on sheepskin shows this property was granted to Danielson and two other men in 1687. In 1719-20 it was purchased by Peter Garritse (Garrison, Garretson). Peter was the son of Gerrit Garritse, a Bergen judge. Several of the judge's papers and ledgers were among those found in the house. Peter bought the "land on the Passaic River at Slooterdam", a portion of which was still in the hands of his descendents until the 1950's. He built the first wing of the house. Some of the family took the name VanWagoner but Peter's descendents kept the Garretson name. He had four sons and six daughters. One of the sons, Johnnes or John P. married Geertje Ryerse, and lived and died on the homestead. It is believed to be his uniform of the Revolution that was found on the property. Each piece bears the initials J. G. There are also many ledgers, accounts and notes of the time which seem to indicate a store was run during the Revolution. There are clear accounts of purchases and sales of staples such as sugar, nails, shellfish and rum. The recorded currency changes from time to time indicating trade with both Loyalist British troops and American Armies.

There was a forge at one time, the exact location of which is not known. The Garretson Forge is listed in the Major General Robert Erskine maps of 1771-1780. These were made under the direction of General George Washington and commissioned by the Continental Congress.

Also found on the property were Indian arrowheads and other Indian relics. It is believed this was an Indian camp-site before the early purchase. Only archeological diggings could provide more information on the forge and Indian theories.

In the work sheds many 17th century tools and forgings were found. Some of these were buried in the dirt floors.

Johnnes was succeeded by his youngest son Gerrit Garretson, born February 18, 1780. Gerrit and his wife Mary Romaine had

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(cont.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families by R. Fellows Bailey  
Revolutionary War in the Hackensack Valley by Adrian C. Leiby

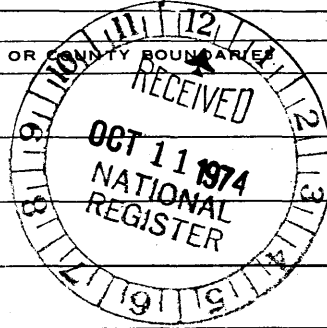
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 55' 26"	74° 07' 51"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.8

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
New Jersey		Bergen	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



9573000/4530460 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Louis A. Di Geronimo, A.I.A., S.A.H. Karschner, Historic Sites Section, DEP (minor revisions by T. DATE 7/20/74)

ORGANIZATION: Garretson Forge and Farm Restoration, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER: 17 Beekman Place

CITY OR TOWN: Fair Lawn STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: David J. Bardin  
 Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection  
 Date: October 4, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AR Mortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/19/74

ATTEST:  
Charles A. ...  
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.15.74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

Peter Garretson  
Bergen County, 003  
New Jersey, 34

(Continuation Sheet) 1.

STATE	New Jersey	
COUNTY	Bergen	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		NOV 19 1974

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont.)

3 sons, of whom Ralph and Abram remained with the house. R. Garretson is the recorded owner in 1876. In 1925 the house was in the possession of Mamie Garretson Bocker, a descendent in the sixth generation from Peter Garritse, the builder. Mrs. Bocker died in the 1950's leaving no direct descendents. She willed the home and land to her husband Feenix who had been a farm hand there before their marriage.

Feenix Bocker remarried and remained in the house until February, 1974 when his second wife died and her family took him in and put the house on the market.





Form No. 10-301  
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

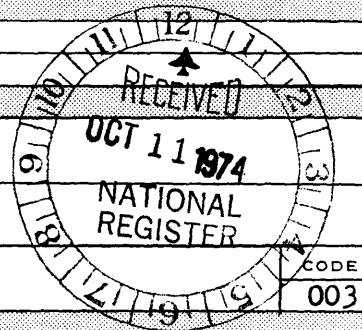
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE <b>New Jersey</b>	
COUNTY <b>Bergen</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>NOV 19 1974</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		<b>Peter Garretson House</b>	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
<b>4-02 River Road</b>			
CITY OR TOWN:			
<b>Fair Lawn</b>			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>Bergen</b>	<b>003</b>
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
<b>U.S.G.S. Map: 7.5 Series: Paterson Quadrangle</b>			
SCALE:			
<b>1:24,000</b>			
DATE:			
<b>1955, photorevised 1970</b>			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.		Latitude: 40-55-26	
2. North arrow.		Longitude: 74-07-51	
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

## INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

88

GENERAL

**HISTORIC NAME:** Garretson House

**COMMON NAME:** Garretson Forge and Farm

**LOCATION:** 4-02 River Road  
(Block 5432, Lot 1)

**MUNICIPALITY:** Fair Lawn

**OWNERSHIP:**  Public  Private

**OWNER/ADDRESS:** County of Bergen  
Administrative Building  
Hackensack, New Jersey

REFERENCE

**MAP REFERENCES:**

Erskine (1778-80)

Hopkins-Corey (1861) R.G. Garrison

Walker's Atlas (1876) R. Garrison

Bromley (1912) Garrison Smith

Other

**RECOGNITION:**

National Register  BCHS Marker

HABS  Bailey

Other N.J. Inventory

ENVIRONMENT

**HOUSE ORIENTATION:** S 50° E

**IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:**  
1.84 acres  
Barn, carriage shed and assorted out buildings.

**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:**

Residential

Commercial

Agricultural

Open Space

Other

**COMMENTS:**

THREATS USE

**ORIGINAL:** Residence

**PRESENT:** Museum

**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 and outbuildings were saved from destruction in 1974, and are currently being "restored" and rehabilitated. The house has seen many alterations, mostly occurring in the early 20th century. The roofs were changed from gables to the existing "New England" style gambrel. The floor and ceiling in the wing were raised and the fireplace removed. The interior partition in the main was moved and one of the front doors was blocked up. Five dormers pierce the 20th century gambrel roof.

PHOTO



MAP

USGS QUAD: Paterson





**DESCRIPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**

Original wing: prior to 1708/deed of that year; Main: probably mid-late-18th century/ Architectural evidence

**BUILDER:**

Member of Garretson Family.

**FORM/PLAN TYPE:**

Main: "A", 2 door, 2 room w/ fireplace on each gable end wall (36'11" x 21'6").  
Wing: "C", 3 bay, 1 room, center door, w/ 1 gable end fireplace (28'11" x 21'6").

**FRAMING SYSTEM:**

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

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:**

Main: front - well coursed sandstone.  
Wing: front - roughly coursed sandstone.  
Other sides are rubble.

**FENESTRATION:**

42" x 69" (1/1); all were modernized, but those in wing were 6/6 before 1900.

**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**

Altered, but originally all 3 front doors were simple with transoms.

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

**CELLAR:**  Yes  
 No

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:**

- Stone Arch
- Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
- Other

**FLOOR JOISTS:**

Replaced in wing. 11" x 8"-11" deep @ 32"-34" apart.

**FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:**  
7'9"±

**FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:**  
18-22"

**GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:**

Not exposed.

**GARRET:**

- Unfinished Space
- Finished Space

**ROOF:**

- Gable
- Gambrel (originally, both were gables)
- Curb
- Other

**EAVE TREATMENT:**

- Sweeping Overhang
- Supported Overhang (frt. main)
- 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 5412, Lot 1 - Fair Lawn Tax Map

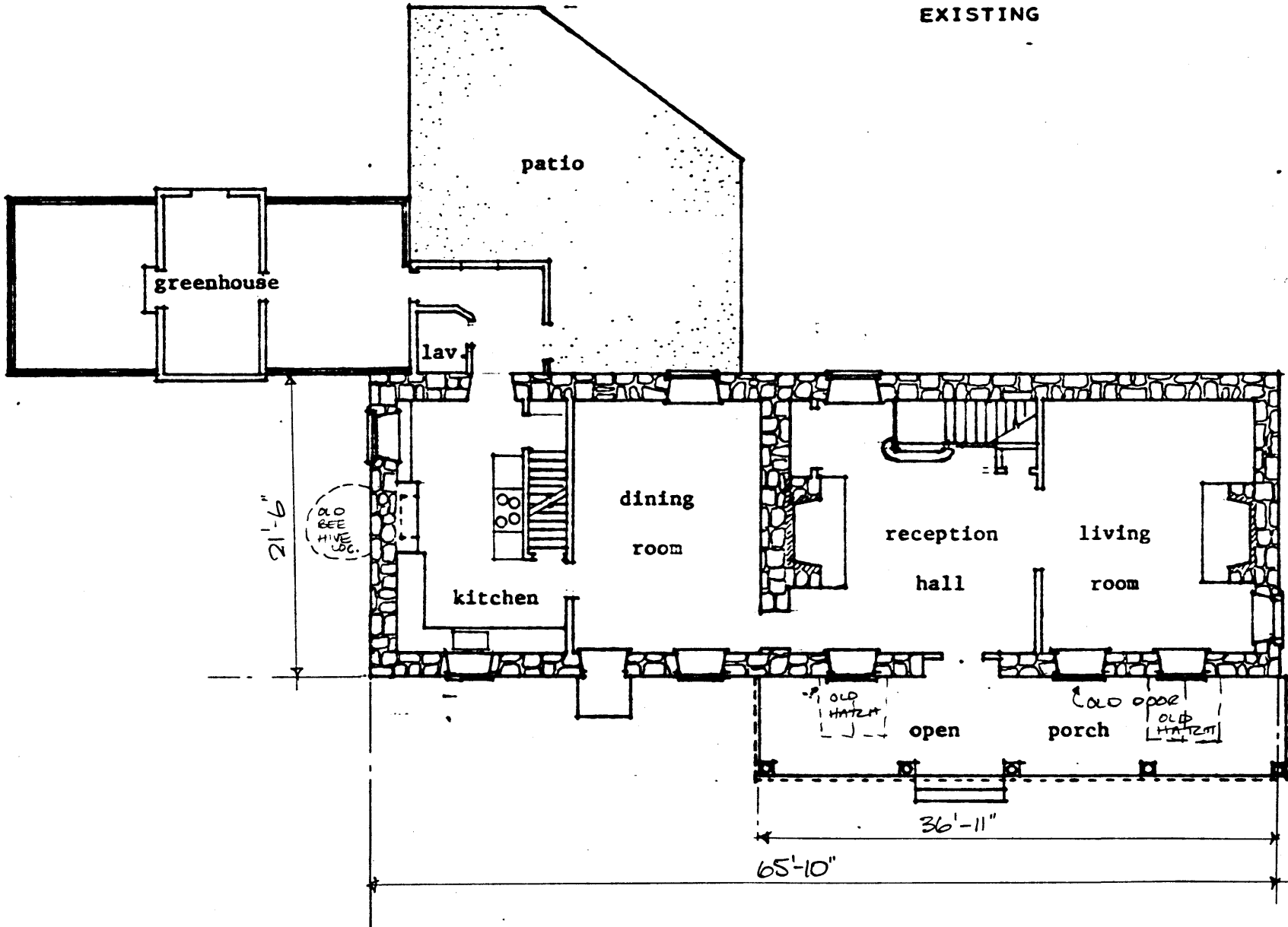
1.84 acres

U.T.M.

18 573 200 4530 440  
Paterson, New Jersey

GARRETSON FORGE AND FARM

PLANS OF MAIN HOUSE  
EXISTING



FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
3/32" = 1'-0"

BERGEN COUNTY HISTORIC NAME: Garretson House  
LOCATION: 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn

89

Legal title to the land can be traced back to March, 1664, when Charles II of England granted to his brother James, Duke of York, the lands between the Connecticut and Delaware Rivers. In late June of the same year, the Duke in turn granted to two powerful and devoted friends, Sir George Carteret and John, Lord Berkeley, that portion of his new domain which lay between the Hudson and the Delaware. The land was called New Jersey after the Isle of Jersey, one of the Channel Islands and the ancestral home of Carteret...

In 1673 or 1674, Berkeley sold his half interest to a Quaker, Edward Byllynge. Byllynge, together with William Penn and ten other prominent members of the Society of Friends, divided the land into twenty-four grants. One of these grants, the Sloopsterdam Patent, was sold to Daniel Danielson in 1708. Preceding this, however, the twelve proprietors were forced to surrender their power of government to the crown, and in 1702 New Jersey had become a royal colony. For this reason the original sheepskin proprietary deed is signed in the name of King George. A second deed, granted by the Indians, was signed by one Spotted Tail. Both deeds are still in existence, in the possession of Mary R. Broucker, formerly Mary R. Garretson... These deeds are indicative of the Dutch custom of the period to secure two deeds -- one from the King, and one from the Indians.

Although the north and south boundaries of the Sloopsterdam Patent are vague, the original property was bounded on the west by the Passaic River and on the east by the Saddle River. In 1719 or 1720, a major portion of the property was purchased by the "Peter Garretsons of Sloopsterdam". There are indications that Gerrit Garretson, Peter's father, was a co-purchaser of the Sloopsterdam Patent with Daniel Danielson in 1708, and that Peter had been living on the property ever since.

The original house, the south wing of the present structure, was built sometime prior to 1708 and is mentioned in a deed of that year. It was constructed of rubble and undressed sandstone of varying shapes and sizes...

The first member of the family to settle in the New World was Gerrit Gerritsen (Gerritse, Garretson, Garrison). With his wife and family, he emigrated from Wageningen on the Rhine aboard the Faith in 1660. The family settled at Communipaw on New York Bay, where he became a minor official. The date of his death is April 6, 1703.

Little information has come to light concerning the children of Gerrit Gerritsen and Annetje Hermansse. In fact, all that is known of the second generation American Garretson is that a son, Gerrit of Pembrepogh was a Judge of Bergen Court. Knowledge of his marriage, family and death is limited to the name and date of the birth of a son, named Peter.

Peter was born on October 4, 1684; a third generation American Garretson... In any event, this was the "Peter Garretson of Sloopsterdam" who in 1719 or 1720 purchased a large tract of land on the Passaic River, at Sloopsterdam, which was part of the 1708 Sloopsterdam Patent. In all probability, it was also Peter who built the original wing of the existing house.

(The above is quoted from Michael Steven Lazovick's The Garretson Broucker Homestead. William Paterson College, 1975.)