**Form 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

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

*(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Garretson House</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STREET AND NUMBER:</strong> 4-02 River Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CITY OR TOWN:</strong> Fair Lawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STATE CODE:</strong> New Jersey 34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. CLASSIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CATEGORY (Check One):</strong> Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STATUS:</strong> Being Considered</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OWNER'S NAME:</strong> Mr. Feenix Brocker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STREET AND NUMBER:</strong> 7-17 Hickory Hill Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CITY OR TOWN:</strong> Wyckoff</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:</strong> Bergen County Court House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STREET AND NUMBER:</strong> Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CITY OR TOWN:</strong> Hackensack</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TITLE OF SURVEY:</strong> New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#1073.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DATE OF SURVEY:</strong> 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:</strong> Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*State: New Jersey 34  County: Bergen  Code: 003*
The Garretson House appears to have been built in two sections. On the original building, the wing section of local sandstone was built 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.
8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Aboriginal  ☐ Prehistoric  ☐ Historic  ☐ Agriculture  ☐ Art  ☐ Commerce  ☐ Conservation
☐ Education  ☐ Engineering  ☐ Industry  ☐ Invention  ☐ Literature  ☐ Military  ☐ Music
☐ Engineering  ☐ History  ☐ Invention  ☐ Architecture  ☐ Literature  ☐ Military  ☐ Music
☐ Industry  ☐ Landscape  ☐ Architecture  ☐ Mathematics  ☐ Science  ☐ Sculpture  ☐ Social/Humanitarian
☐ Invention  ☐ Conservation  ☐ Art  ☐ Theater  ☐ Transportation
☐ Science  ☐ Conservation  ☐ Art  ☐ Theater  ☐ Transportation
☐ Conservation  ☐ Art  ☐ Theater  ☐ Transportation
☐ Social/Humanitarian  ☐ Science  ☐ Conservation  ☐ Art  ☐ Theater  ☐ Transportation
☐ Theater  ☐ Conservation  ☐ Art  ☐ Theater  ☐ Transportation
☐ Transportation

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 descendants until the 1950's. He built the first wing of the house. Some of the family took the name VanWagoner but Peter's descendants 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 campsite 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

(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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
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<td>NE</td>
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<td>SE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40° 55' 26&quot;</td>
<td>74° 07' 51&quot;</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.8

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bergen</td>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Louis A. Di Geronimo, A.I.A., S.A.H., Karschner, Historic Sites Section, DEP

ORGANIZATION: Garretson Forge and Farm Restoration, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER: 17 Beekman Place

CITY OR TOWN: Fair Lawn

STATE: New Jersey

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 [X]

Name: David J. Bardin

Title: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date: October 4, 1974

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/19/74

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11/15/74
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 Brocker, a descendent in the sixth generation from Peter Garritse, the builder. Mrs. Brocker 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 Brocker 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  UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Rev. 7-72  NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME
COMMON: Peter Garretson House
AND/OR HISTORIC:  

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: U-02 River Road
CITY OR TOWN: Fair Lawn
STATE: New Jersey

3. MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Map: 7.5 Series: Paterson Quadrangle
SCALE: 1:24,000
DATE: 1955, photorevised 1970

4. REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

Latitude: 40-55-26
Longitude: 74-07-51

HISTORIC NAME: Garretson House

COMMUNITY NAME: Garretson Forge and Farm

LOCATION: 4-02 River Road
(Block 5412, Lot 1)

MUNICIPALITY: Fair Lawn

OWNERSHIP: Public

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

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:

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.

USGS QUAD: Paterson
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.

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"

Patio
Greenhouse
Dining Room
Kitchen
Reception Room
Living Room
Hall
Open Porch

LOCATION:
Garretson House
4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn

HISTORIC NAME:
Garretson House
4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn
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 Slooterdam 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. Brocker, 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 Slooterdam 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 or the property was purchased by the "Peter Garretsons of Slooterdam". There are indications that Gerrit Garretson, Peter's father, was a co-purchaser of the Slooterdam 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 Hermanisse. 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 Slooterdam" who in 1719 or 1720 purchased a large tract of land on the Passaic River, at Slooterdam, which was part of the 1708 Slooterdam 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 Brocker Homestead. William Paterson College, 1975.)