

# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

110

GENERAL 49

**HISTORIC NAME:** Van Houten House

**COMMON NAME:**

**LOCATION:** 778 Yee Drive  
(Block 3207, Lot 3-A)

**MUNICIPALITY:** Franklin Lakes

**OWNERSHIP:**  Public  Private

**OWNER/ADDRESS:** Barbara & Margaret  
Van Houten  
(same)

REFERENCE

**MAP REFERENCES:**

Erskine (1778-80)

Hopkins-Corey (1861) J. Van Houten

Walker's Atlas (1876) Mrs. A. Van Houten

Bromley (1912) Van Houten

Other

**RECOGNITION:**

National Register  BCHS Marker

HABS  Bailey

Other

ENVIRONMENT

**HOUSE ORIENTATION:** 8 70° E

**IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:**  
Large frame gable roofed barn, wagon house and miscellaneous smaller buildings

**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:**

Residential

Commercial

Agricultural

Open Space

Other

**COMMENTS:**

THREATS TO STRUCTURE

**ORIGINAL:** Residence

**PRESENT:** Residence

**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

This house has the general appearance of the Federal period but it has a primitive look in that its stonework is crude and the walls bow here and there. The stone wing seems to have been added at an early date and raised in the late nineteenth century.

PHOTO



MAP



**DESCRIPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**

1779-1800/Architectural evidence  
1738/Braun, tradition

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1½ main; 2½ wing

CELLAR:  Yes  
 No

**BUILDER:**

probably a Van Houten

**FORM/PLAN TYPE:**

"D" 4 bay, 2 rooms deep (33'0" x 31'0").  
Stone wing (14'6" x 22'8")

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:**

Stone Arch  
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation  
 Other

**FLOOR JOISTS:**

**FRAMING SYSTEM:**

Intermediate Summer Beam  
 Intermediate Bearing Wall  
 Clear Span  
 Other

**FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:**

**FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:**

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:**

Random and irregular sandstone mixed  
with local stone, barely coursed on  
sides and rear.

**GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:**  
not visible

**GARRET:**

Unfinished Space  
 Finished Space

**FENESTRATION:**

32" x 63" (2/2) on front. No lintels.

**ROOF:**

Gable  
 Gambrel  
 Curb (very small)  
 Other

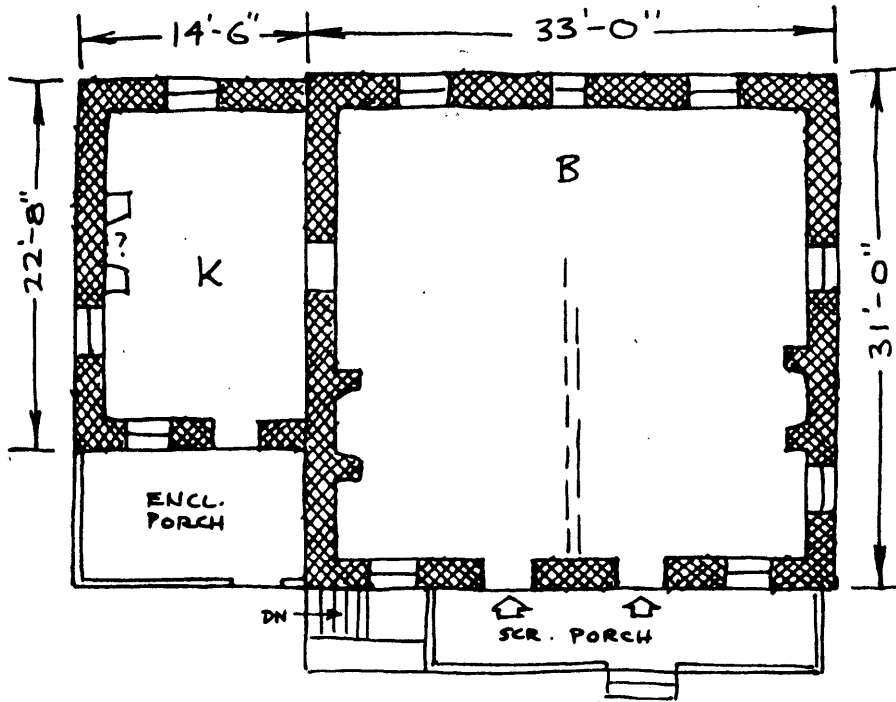
**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**

2 center bays are twin doors, plain  
33-1/2" x 6'9".

**EAVE TREATMENT:**

Sweeping Overhang (had on front)  
 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.



Van Houten  
1"=12'-0"  
CKT

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

This is one of the few house which still remains in the original family. It is said that six generations of Van Houtens have been born here. Lying just outside the southern boundary of the Ramapo Tract, it is difficult to say who the earliest settler of the land was. Probably the original Van Houten house was at 1150 Franklin Lake Road and by 1810 the family owned various parcels along the south side of this road. Bailey believes that John Van Houten built the house since he was living here when he helped build the Wyckoff Church in 1806. He was born in 1761 in Rockland County, married Antje Blauvelt on October 13, 1785 and had eleven children (one born there in 1789- they hadn't moved yet). He died on April 29, 1832 and son James (1794-1877) remained. He married Cornelia Ackerman on November 19, 1814 and had one son and two daughters. The son was John Ryerson Van Houten (1822-1872), who inherited the house and married twice. He and Ann Youmans (Yeomen) had four sons who survived - Daniel, Jesse, Isaac and James. Isaac, born September 14, 1857, married Eliza Ellen Courter on November 8, 1879 and made changes in the house. In 1883 he had the roof overhang removed, built the porch, and added the second story on the wing. In 1901 he had the beams enclosed, the walls and ceilings plasterd, and the mantels removed. His son John Ryerson Van Houten, born 1880, inherited the house and his daughters remain. -  
CKT

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Block 3207, Lot 3-A - Franklin Lakes Tax Map

3.90 acres

U.T.M.

18 567 760 4538 040  
Paterson, New Jersey