

# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

83001447 14

GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: Abram Ackerman House

COMMON NAME:

LOCATION: 199 East Saddle River Road  
(Block 2, Lot 16)

MUNICIPALITY: Saddle River

OWNERSHIP:  Public  Private

OWNER/ADDRESS:

Ralph & Judith Van Riper

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:

- Erskine (1778-80)
- Hopkins-Corey (1861) Mrs. Achenbach
- Walker's Atlas (1876) Mrs. Achenbach
- Bromley (1912) no name
- Other

RECOGNITION:

- National Register  BCHS Marker
- HABS #6-156  Bailey
- Other NJ Register

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 18° E

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:

Grist Mill: possibly 1770-75, Alter. c. 1857; located west of house by river, 24 x 30', frame, 1½ to 2½ stories

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: gable roof, rubble

- Residential foundation, sect. of lower east wall of brownstone
- Commercial
- Agricultural ashlar; shaft & some gears intact; adapted in 1929-30 as recreation room, garage, & apartment; 9 millstones on property, HABS NJ-486.
- Other

COMMENTS:

Late 19th c. brownstone hitching post & wellhouse, mule barn,

THREATS USE

ORIGINAL: Residence

PRESENT: Residence

THREATS TO STRUCTURE:

- Roads
- Development
- Zoning
- Deterioration
- Other
- No Threat

COMMENTS:

moved from Morris Canal.

CONDITION

CONDITION:

- Excellent  Good
- Fair  Deteriorated

STATUS:

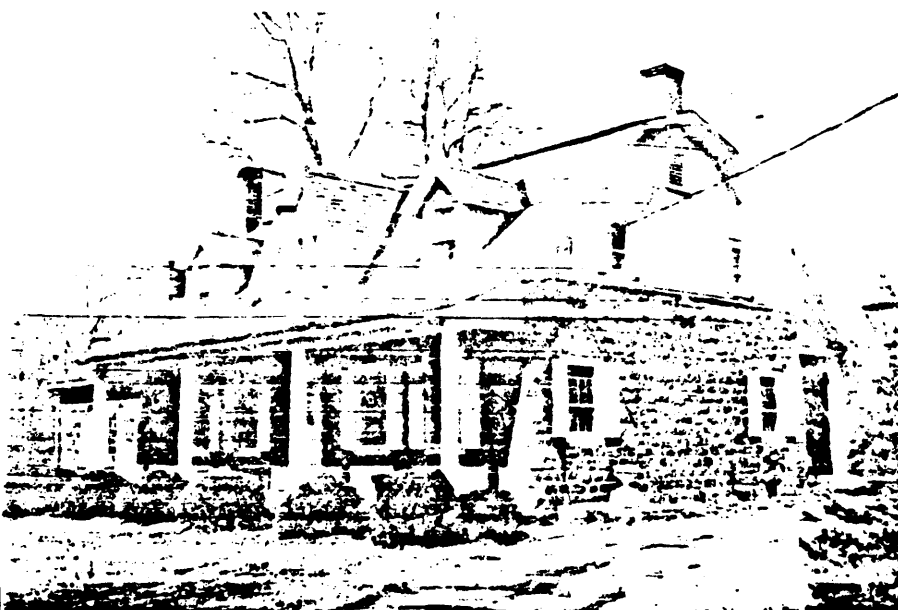
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Work in Progress

ACCESSIBLE:

- Yes, Restricted
- Yes, Unrestricted
- No

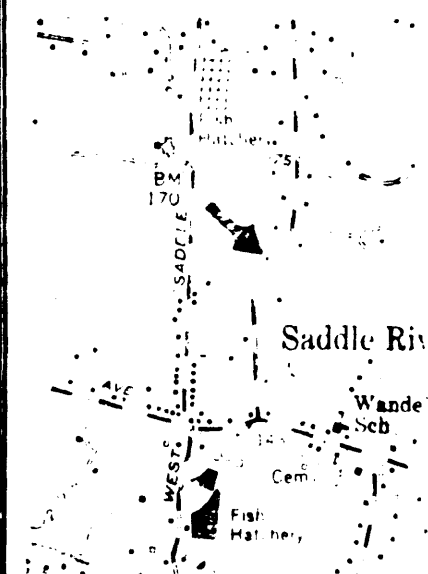
This is a fine home - a museum quality restoration with original mantels, etc. and compatible furnishings. The ceilings in the parlors have been removed, exposing unfinished joists, apparently not originally meant to be seen.

PHOTO



MAP

USGS QUAD: Park Ridge



DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:  
1781, wing added later

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1-1/2  
CELLAR:  Yes (main)  
 No (wing)

BUILDER:  
Abram or Gerrit Ackerman  
FORM/PLAN TYPE:  
Main: "F", 2 front rooms, each w/  
gable end fireplace and 2 small rooms  
behind (33'8" x 32'5"). Wing: "B" 2 bay,  
1 room w/ 1 gable end fireplace  
(19'0" x 22'7").

CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:  
 Stone Arch  
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation  
 Other

FRAMING SYSTEM:  
 Intermediate Beam (Main)  
 Intermediate Bearing Wall  
 Clear Span (Wing)  
 Other

FLOOR JOISTS:  
4" x 9" deep

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:  
Approximately 8'8"

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:  
22"

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:  
Main: coursed red sandstone on all walls,  
north (rear) has stucco w/ sandstone  
quoins. Wing: roughly coursed sandstone  
w/ frame rear (north) wall.

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:  
7-1/2 to 8-1/2" x 9" deep

FENESTRATION:  
Front: 3'8" x 5'9" M.O. (12/8). Sides:  
2'8" x 3'9" sash (12/8). Wing: 2'11" x  
4'9" M.O. (12/8).

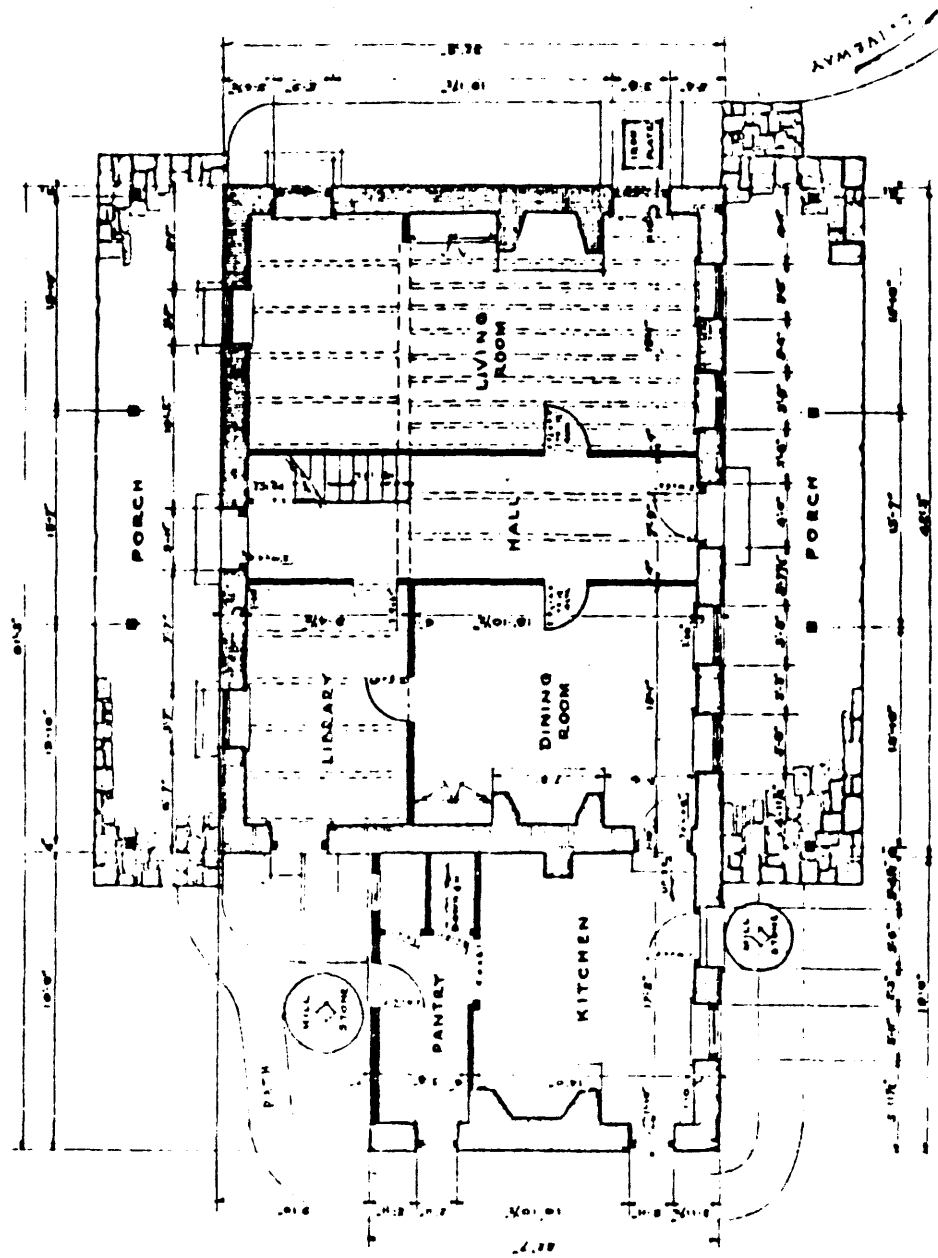
GARRET:  
 Unfinished Space  
 Finished Space

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:  
Main: south front, center bay. Dutch  
style split-leaf door (2'10" x 6'2")  
w/ transom above. Wing: modern 2'10"  
x 6'8" door in east end bay.

ROOF:  
 Gable (Wing)  
 Gambrel (Main)  
 Curb  
 Other

EAVE TREATMENT:  
 Sweeping Overhang  
 Supported Overhang (Main)  
 No Overhang  
 Boxed Gutter (Wing)  
 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.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



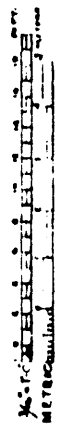
W.M. STAUTMANN, STEN. DEL.  
LAURENCE MOON

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS BUILDINGS AND RESTORATIONS  
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DRAWINGS

NAME OF STRUCTURE  
**THE ABRAM ACKERMAN HOUSE**  
EAST SADDLE RIVER ROAD - SADDLE RIVER - NEW JERSEY

NO. OF SURVEY  
NJ-136

NATIONAL AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
PART 4 OF 10 SHEETS



This house was built by Abraham Ackerman, in 1781, according to descendants. Gerrit Ackerman, born in Bergen and baptized May 3, 1685 in New York City, was the second son of Abraham Ackerman, builder of the house at Hackensack in 1704 (plate 71). On Oct. 4, 1712 at Hackensack he married Jannetje Alberts Van Voorhis, and had six children all baptized at Hackensack. He later removed to Saddle River, where he died in 1758. He willed the farm on which he lived to his son Albert (their house has been torn down within the memory of people [then] living), and 100 acres on the east side of the Saddle River to his elder son Abram.

Abram Ackerman, bap. Jan. 22, 1716 at Hackensack, was a bachelor of 40 odd at the time of his father's death, and probably built [a] small house for himself at about this date (1758). On Oct. 26, 1764\* he rather unexpectedly married. His wife Marytye Hopper\* had first married Nov. 23, 1755\* Andries Hopper, who died Aug. 22, 1760\* after they had had three children.\* (A family record, quoted in Viele's "Ackerman Genealogy MS", states her maiden name to have been Zabriskie, but she is called Marytye Hopper in the Bible records from which the above [\*] dates are taken). By her second marriage to Abram Ackerman, she also had three children, Antye (1765-1788\*), Weentje (1773-1799\*), and Gerrit. Marytye died March 5, 1781,\* and was followed by her husband Oct. 25, 1789.\* Having married, and acquired a family of his wife's as well as one of his own, the house became too small, so Abram built the main part of the house in 1781 as soon as war disturbances were over.

During the Revolution the patriot army encamped on the grounds by the river, and bread for the soldiers was baked in the old Dutch [sic] oven connected with a detached building, which was the servants' (slaves?) quarters. The house... [probably the original house] held six children.... Abram was a miller as well as a farmer (Erskine's map marks the place Abram Ackerman and Watkin's map Ackerman's Mills). The mill was operated until recently.

Abram's only son Gerrit A. Ackerman, b. May 25, 1769\* in the old house, d. Nov. 1, 1855,\* married June 27, 1790\* Charity Hopper, b. April 1, 1763.\* Of their five sons and four daughters, all born in the home-stead, Charity Ann Ackerman, b. Jan. 12, 1819, inherited the house. She married Henry Achenbach and died in the 1890's. The house was sold in 1921 by the Achenbach estate to Charles Scott, whose family owned it until about 1935.

\* Taken from family Bible.

(The above is quoted from Rosalie Fellows Baileys's Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1968.)

ADDITIONS



View of grist mill,  
Neg. file #8-11



View of mule barn,  
moved from Morris  
Canal, and wood shed  
Neg. file #8-10