

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Bergen</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>JUL 24 1973</b>

HB 2n18 E 564460  
 N 4542130

**1. NAME**

COMMON: **Van Allen House**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Hendrick Van Aulen House**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **at the NE Northeast corner of Route 202 and Franklin Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oakland**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Also the Oakland Historical Society HQ's</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: **Borough of Oakland**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Municipal Plaza**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oakland**      STATE: **New Jersey**      CODE: **34**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Administration Building**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Hackensack**      STATE: **New Jersey**      CODE: **34**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

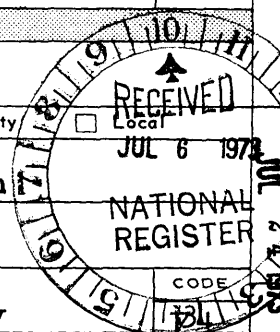
TITLE OF SURVEY: **New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (2278.3)**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1968, 1972**       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Dept. of Environmental Protection, Historic Sites Section**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Post Office Box 1420**

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton**      STATE: **New Jersey**      CODE: **34**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New Jersey**  
 COUNTY: **Bergen**  
 ENTRY NUMBER: **2130**  
 DATE: **JUL 24 1973**  
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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

Exterior.

The Van Allen House, a Dutch random fieldstone structure, is built in two sections.

The main, or largest, wing is a 1½ story structure with an overhanging gambrel roof with pent. The roof has two modern shed dormers and gable end chimneys. The south end has a modern outside cinder block chimney. There are three bays and a side hall. The windows are 6/6 sash. The doorway, possibly original, is inset about nine inches, and is protected by a modern portico. The door itself may also be original. It has six panels and two small transom lights.

The smaller stone section, now with a gambrel roof, originally had a gable roof. The lower profile of this section indicates that it may have been somewhat older than the main section, although extensively altered. A thorough examination should be done by a professional architectural historian to determine the date of construction more precisely.

Surrounding the south and east facades of the smaller section are two additions, the front being flush with the main building.

Interior.

The stone rubble walls of the Van Allen House are 18 to 24 inches thick.

The side hall of the house is nearly 8 feet wide by 22½ feet deep with the stairway to the second floor to the right. The living room (Parlour) is to the west, 14½ feet by 15½ feet, and has recessed window seats, a fireplace, and a mantel. A smaller room extends out of this room and this is the burning room, which is 14½ feet by 7 feet. The keeping room, in the older section is 14½ feet by 16½ feet, and originally had a brick fireplace.

The upstairs was finished over in the late 19th, early 20th century. All upstairs room partitions appear to be modern. The original random width floor boards are covered over by narrow flooring in the upstairs.

The main framing of the Van Allen House is hand hewn with wooden pegging.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. Significance

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1777

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginat     | <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/Phi-            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry            | Tosophy   | _____                                    |
| <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            | Architecture                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | itarian   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Social/ Humanitarian.

Hendrick Van Allen, born in 1707, was the odlest son of Peter Garretse Van Allen. Sometime prior to 1739 he married Elizabeth Doremus and moved to Pompton Plains.

Early in 1748 Van Allen and his family moved to the head of the Yawpaw Valley into the area then called "The Ponds". (Oakland). He soon became an Elder of Ponds Church, one mile west of Van Allens land. By the time of the American Revolution Van Allen had established his home and a grist mill in Oakland.

Members of the Dutch Church at this time were being pulled two directions: those who looked to the old country for religious policy and also supported the crown, and those who beleived that America should have a share in determining the religious doctrine, and supported the rebels.

The Yawpaw Valley (Oakland) church members stood solidly with the rebels.

Military.

With the outbreak of war, the Van Allen House occupied a highly strategic position. Valley Road (now Route 202) was a segment of the most important supply arteries in the colonies, a highway protected on its eastern flank by mountains, which slipped along the valley basin and bridged mountain streams to join New England with the south. Whole armies, countless troops, detachments, wagon trains, and post riders continually trekked the valley throughout the war.

At the house and mill, forming a T with Valley Road, was the Paramus Road (Franklin Avenue). At the time of the Revolution it was one of the six passes which breached the Watchung Mountain chain.

In the summer of 1777, General Burgoyne's Britons and Germans captured Fort Ticonderoga and the survival of the American Northern Army was in doubt. Washington quickly left Morristown and headed north on Valley Road; destination Suffern, to guard against a move by General Howe toward the American capitol, then in Philadelphia, or a thrust northward to join Burgoyne.

By Monday afternoon, July 14, the Americans had reached The Ponds where Washington called a halt to the days march due to the muddy conditions of the roads. Washington established his temporary head-

(cont.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ponds Church Records.  
Worksheet for the Restoration of the Van Allen House. Oakland Historical Society, 1971.  
Life of Timothy Pickering. Octavius Pickering, Boston, 1867.  
Revolutionary War Map. Robert Erskine, 1779.  
Washington's Expense Account.  
Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses. Rosalie Bailey, New York, 1936.  
Wills. New Jersey State Archives.

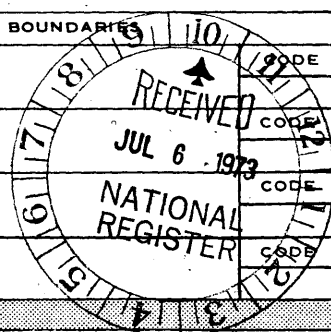
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	0 . . "	0 . . "		41 0 01 . 47 .	74 0 14 . 11 .	
NE	0 . . "	0 . . "				
SE	0 . . "	0 . . "				
SW	0 . . "	0 . . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: nearly 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Historic Sites Section Staff (Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator)

ORGANIZATION: Dept. of Environmental Protection DATE: April 4, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Post Office Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton 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: Richard J. Sullivan  
 Title: Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection  
 Date: June 13, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/24/73

ATTEST:  
For [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: 7/23/73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Bergen	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 24 1973

(Number all entries)

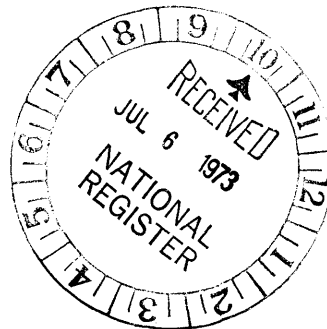
Van Allen House  
Oakland  
Bergen County, Code:003  
New Jersey, Code:34

8. Significance (cont.)

quarters that afternoon at the Van Allen House and soon received the joyous word that the American Northern Army had escaped Ticonderoga and were still in the field. Washington, now no longer in such a rush to reach Suffern, remained at Van Allens' another day.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Senator Clifford P. Case  
Senator Harrison A. Williams  
Representative William B. Widnal (7th District)



# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

110

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

*204*

**GENERAL**

**HISTORIC NAME:** Henry Van Allen House

**COMMON NAME:**

**LOCATION:** NE corner Ramapo Valley

(R 3424, L 13) Road & Franklin Avenue

**MUNICIPALITY:** Oakland

**OWNERSHIP:**  Public  Private

**OWNER/ADDRESS:** Borough of Oakland

Municipal Plaza

**REFERENCE**

**MAP REFERENCES:**

Erskine (1778-80) Henry Van Allen

Hopkins-Corey (1861) H. Van Bouten

Walker's Atlas (1876) A. Garrison

Bromley (1912) J.G. Muller

Other Vygeberg Farm

**RECOGNITION:**

National Register  BCHS Marker

HABS

Bailey

Other N.J. Inventory

**ENVIRONMENT**

**HOUSE ORIENTATION:** S 32° W

**IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:**

Several 20th century structures  
in various states of disrepair.

**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:**

Residential

Commercial

Agricultural

Open Space

Other

**COMMENTS:** Commercial strip to the south,  
residential to north and east.

**THREATS USE**

**ORIGINAL:** Residence

**PRESENT:** Museum

**THREATS TO STRUCTURE:**

Roads

Development

Zoning

Deterioration

Other

No Threat

**COMMENTS:** Improvement of the busy  
intersection could encroach on property.

**CONDITION**

**CONDITION:**

Excellent

Good

Fair

Deteriorated

**STATUS:**

Occupied

Unoccupied

Work in Progress

**ACCESSIBLE:**

Yes, Restricted

Yes, Unrestricted

No

The house, now owned by the Borough and managed by the Oakland Historical Society, is planned for restoration. The front entryway is 20th century, but does not detract from the whole composition. An exterior flue was added for the mechanicals. Victorian dormers, a concrete wall addition (wash house) and a wing porch have all been added.

**PHOTO**



**MAP**



**DESCRIPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**

pre-Revolutionary;  
1790-1830/Architectural evidence

**NUMBER OF STORIES:**

CELLAR:  Yes (Main only)  
 No

**BUILDER:**

Henry Van Allen

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:**

Stone Arch  
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation  
 Other

**FORM/PLAN TYPE:** Main "H" 3 bay, side hall,  
1 room w/ gable end fireplace and small  
narrow room to rear (27'6" x 26'6").  
Wing: 2 bay, 1 room w/ gable end fire-  
place (19'0" x 20'0").

**FLOOR JOISTS:** 8"x8" @ 22-27"  
apart (evidently re-used)

**FRAMING SYSTEM:**

Intermediate Summer Beam (Main)  
 Intermediate Bearing Wall  
 Clear Span (Wing)  
 Other

**FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:**  
Main 7'10", wing 6'7"

**FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:**  
19"

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:**

Mixed rubble with little coursing  
and cornering.

**GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:** Main: re-used  
6 1/2'-8'x9"d. Wing 3'x7-7 1/2'd @ 30" apart (sawn)

**GARRET:**

Unfinished Space  
 Finished Space

**FENESTRATION:**

Main: 32" x 53-1/2" sash (6/6).  
Wing: 29" x 42-1/2" (6/6).  
28" x 34-1/2" (6/6) in rear.

**ROOF:**

Gable  
 Gambrel (Note: Wing changed  
from gable.)  
 Curb  
 Other

**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**

Main: east end bay of south front.  
35" x 7'4" door w/ simple recessed  
panelled casing. Wing: 40" x 6'7"  
casing (modern door) in west end bay.

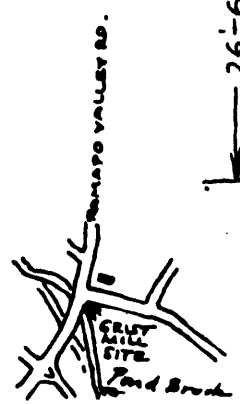
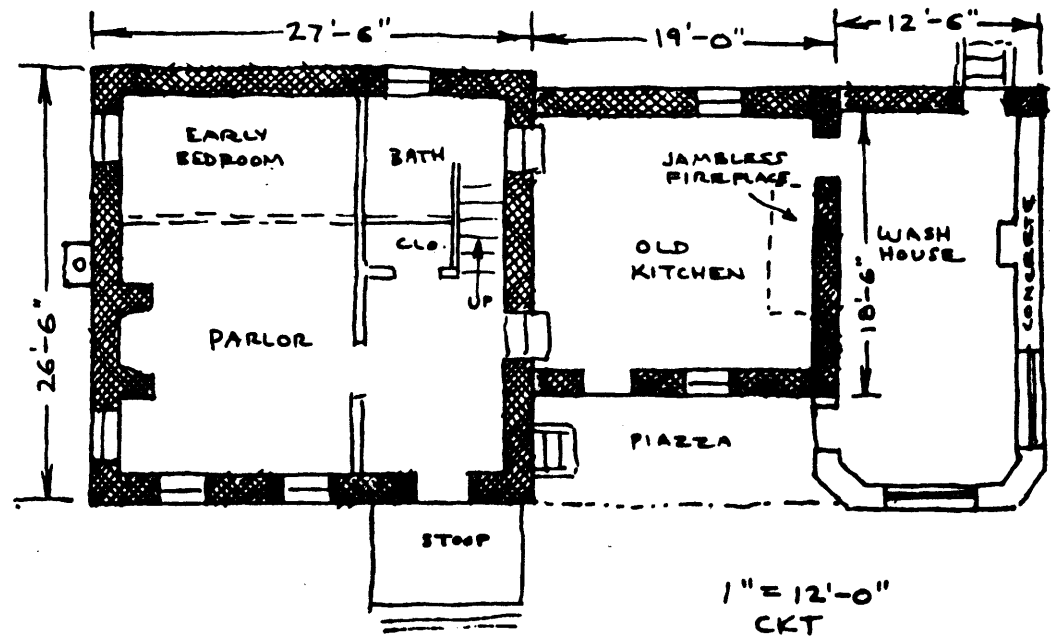
**EAVE TREATMENT:**

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.

HISTORIC NAME: Henry Van Allen House  
LOCATION: Ramapo Valley Road & Franklin Avenue (NE corner), Oakland

227





At Yaw-pough (now Oakland) a stream flows into the Ramapo River. The house and grist mill of Henry Vanalen are shown on Erskine's Revolutionary map at the point where the Ramapo Valley Road (here called Oakland Avenue) crosses the stream. His father Pieter Gerritse Van Alen emigrated from Rotterdam and settled along the Saddle River in New Jersey; on Aug. 11, 1706 at Hackensack he married Trintje, daughter of Hendrick Hoppe and Maria Janse, had twelve children and died in 1759. The eldest child was Henry Van Alen (or Hendrick Van Ale), bap. June 2, 1707 at Hackensack, died shortly before July, 1783. He married Elizabeth Doremus, b. Feb. 3, 1717, daughter of Henry Doremus, and had ten children, some of whom were baptized between 1739-48 at Pompton Plains Church, of which he had become a member in 1738. It is probable that he first settled in that region, and removed to the neighborhood of Yaw-pough in 1748, for in this year he became deacon of the nearby Ponds Church. On Jan. 20, 1761 he married secondly Thomasina Earle, widow of Gerrit Hallenbeck. In his will of 1778 he mentioned his wife, stated that his eldest son Peter and another son William had already received their portions, mentioned three other sons Hessel, Gerret and John, and his deceased son Doctor Andrew Van Alen. On Aug. 2, 1783 John H., Garret and Hessel Van Allen and the heirs of Doctor Andrew Van Allen, deceased, deeded property to Cornelius Vanderhoof, the instrument commencing as follows: "Whereas Henry Van Allen, late of Yapough, by his last will did direct the sale and division of his property among the said John H., Gerret, Hassel, Elizabeth Mead, now wife of said Cornelius Vanderhoof, and the heirs of Doctor Van Allen deceased..."

It has not been determined who next owned Henry Van Alen's house and mill. In 1876 it was in the possession of Aaron G. Garrison. In 1932 Mr. Waldron sold it to the Sherwood Forest Friar Tuck Club...

[The house is now owned by the Borough of Oakland and managed by the Oakland Historical Society.]

(The above, except for the last paragraph [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 3424, Lot 13 - Oakland Tax Map

Less than 1 acre

#### U.T.M.

18 564 190 4542 110  
Ramsey, New Jersey-New York