

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 91001934 Date Listed: 1/17/92

Davenport Demarest House Morris NJ  
Property Name: County: State:

Dutch Stone Houses in Montville MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Ardus  
Signature of the Keeper

4/6/92  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

The SHPO agrees with the following amendments to the documentation: the Period of Significance is c.1730 to c. 1788, and 1788 is deleted as a Significant Date (change of ownership of the building does not qualify as a Significant Date).

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

RECEIVED  
NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Davenport-Demarest House  
other names/site number Demarest Farmhouse

2. Location

street & number 140 Changebridge Road  not for publication  
city, town Montville  vicinity  
state New Jersey code 034 county Morris code 027 zip code 07045

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Dutch Stone Houses of Montville

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Patrick Andrews

1-17-92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/ Dutch Colonial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Sandstone

roof Asphalt

other Wood addition &amp; porch

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

A stone house of uncertain origins and unusual interior arrangement, the Demarest House is, however, an excellent example of the region's vernacular architecture. It is sited with its gable end to the old Changebridge Road, an important early roadway between the village center now known as Montville and the 18th century river crossing at Rockaway Bridge. The house commands a low knoll, which would have been surrounded by the relatively flat and well-tended fields of the Uylekill valley in the 18th and 19th centuries. The house was recorded by HABS in 1938 as the Lawrence Demarest House, and noted by Rosalie Fellows Bailey in Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses. The interior has been substantially altered since that date, so the drawings provide an important record of early work, and allow distinctions between it and newer alterations.

The stone dwelling, approximately 21 feet by 30 feet, has walls of roughly squared and shaped stones. The facade stonework in particular is the most refined of all the Dutch stone houses in Montville, with dimensioned sandstone quoins and evenly cut and dressed blocks of sandstone used as lintels. The steep gable roof extends beyond the stone walls with kicked eaves of equal height on both the front and rear of the building. Brick chimneys mark each gable end. The gable end walls are clapboard, and contain two narrow, six-light casement windows.

The south-facing facade contains four bays - three rather large sized eight-over-eight sash windows, and a paneled "Dutch" or split door. The sandstone lintels point to changes, however, for there are only three lintels, and a block which must have been a cut and dressed sill now below infill masonry. Originally, the house had only three openings; an off-center door, and two windows, which contained twelve-over-eight sash at the time of the HABS recording. The windows have molded enframements; if the center window is indeed a later addition, its moldings and sash were carefully matched.

 See continuation sheet

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The north or rear side of the house has only one small window, and no windows exist in the gable end. Shed dormers were added to the house only in the 1950s; until that time the original unfinished attic loft remained.

Inside, the stone house is now one large room, dominated by a cooking fireplace on the eastern wall. The present molded mantel shelf is not original, but the single slab stone hearth and the wrought iron crane inside are. The HABS drawings indicate the simple molding which finished the top of the plain wooden fireplace surround. The room retains an original wide plank floor. The ceiling beams, so prominent in so many other Dutch houses, are not exposed in this house, but rather covered with plaster. The ceiling height of 6'9" is rather low, but without selective demolition it is impossible to determine whether the plaster is original.

According to the HABS drawings, the interior was divided into a large "east parlor"; a narrow "west parlor"; and a hall containing stairs in 1938. None of the other local Dutch houses of the 18th century had a formal entrance/stair hall like this; as it is reached by the added door, it is likely that the original plan was of a two-room house. The stairs must have been relocated from their original position, although that evidence is also gone with the covering of the ceiling.

The stairs are now located on the western gable wall, in a new construction of enclosed, winding attic stairs, basement stairs, and closet, all hidden behind partitions of vertical boards. The narrow chimney along this wall is thus also hidden; recorded by HABS as "new", it is a modern addition to serve the furnace.

Upstairs, the once open loft has been divided into a bedroom and bathroom under the eaves, with finished walls, and vertical board doors with reproduction colonial hardware.

To the east of the stone portion of the house, a frame addition contains the dining room. This room is down two well-worn stone steps from the main part of the house. It is marked on the HABS drawings as the original kitchen, although no fireplace stood in the room even in 1938. The frame wing is

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dated to ca. 1790 by the present owner; it was extensively rebuilt in the 1950s. A winding, partly open stair in the northwest corner of the dining room was added at the same time; it leads to a bedroom and a small hallway which connects with the rooms above the stone section of the house.

The facade and rear walls of this frame wing are aligned with the stone section, and it has its own front and rear entrances leading directly into the room. In plan, then, but not materials, the frame addition is similar to the lateral additions of stone found on many other Dutch houses in Montville. It had a shed roof at the time of the HABS recording; it has since been rebuilt with a gable roof to permit a usable second floor.

A simple shed roofed porch was constructed off the front of the frame wing in the 19th century. It was enlarged in 1988 as a covered deck, non-historical in appearance, but in keeping with the functional nature of the previous porch, and independent of the historic building. To the east of the old frame section, a newer frame wing was built in the 1920s to house a kitchen and bathroom. This portion of the house has been completely remodeled in the past decade, although the gable roof, novelty siding, and overall single story form remain.

The oldest part of the Demarest House is still clearly visible from the road; its later additions extend in a line from the eastern end of the building. The most recent addition, an in-ground pool, sits in the front yard of the house, off the southeast corner of the building. A single story, gable-roofed garage with neo-colonial detailing is located farther east on the property. It is built around the remains of an earlier barn. It is in fair condition, and is the only remaining outbuilding associated with the property. It is not a contributing structure for the purposes of National Register recording.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance  
18th century

Significant Dates  
1730/ 1788

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Demarest Farmhouse is significant under National Register Criterion C, architectural merit. The stone house, is of a type distinctive to the 18th century Dutch settlers of Montville and northern New Jersey. This is one of the oldest houses to survive in Montville, and was home not only to the Davenports, one of the earliest families to settle in the area of Montville, but also home to Judge Robert Gould, an important local figure in the establishment of Pequannock Township in the 18th century. The house maintains its historic integrity, and meets the criteria for inclusion in the Dutch Stone Houses of Montville Multiple Property Nomination.

This stone farmhouse is positively traced only to Lawrence Demarest, who owned the property at the end of the 18th century. Lawrence Demarest may have gotten it from his father, Samuel, who seems to have purchased the property about 1788. But the Demarests did not stay to establish a multi-generational homestead - rather, the property was sold before 1809. The house changed hands more than any other of the stone houses in Montville, and its title is confused in a tangle of mortgages, sheriffs' sales, and subdivisions. Few of the many owners or tenants of the place improved it much during the 19th century; only after World War II were modern "improvements" made which altered somewhat the original character of the building.

The importance of the house lies in its uncertain history before 1788. It may have been built as late as 1780, or as early as 1720; the traditional architecture offers no firm disposition to one date or another.

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The property is known to have been part of the 1100 acre land holdings of Humphrey Davenport (1656-1735), who moved to New Jersey in 1711 from Kingston, New York. Although Davenport was English, born to colonists in Barbadoes, he moved to the predominantly Dutch Hudson Valley as a young man, where he met his wife, Anna Rosenkrans. Humphrey seems to have prospered in interpreting English law and bureaucracy to his Dutch friends and family as the County Clerk of Dutchess and Ulster Counties at the turn of the 18th century. Perhaps he decided to strike out to the open lands west of the New Jersey Dutch settlements in his middle age to better provide for his ten children.

Davenport purchased lands along the east side of the Rockaway River beginning in 1714. The tracts were surveyed and sold by the Proprietors in Burlington, although local historians report that Davenport purchased the land from the Indian inhabitants as well. In 1727, Humphrey Davenport made his will, dividing equally all his estate and land in Montville as well as property in Ulster County, New York among his five surviving children. Humphrey Davenport's residence in Montville is unknown; he may have moved farther north and west along the Rockaway River Valley before his death, for his gravestone is in Marcella, Rockaway Township, Morris County.

Humphrey Davenport, Jr. (1697-1770) had come to Montville as a child, and grew up in the area as it was transformed from rough wilderness to cultivated farms. In 1731, he married Elizabeth Heyle (Hyler), a member of another family which settled the Uylekill or Montville area early in the 18th century. It is quite plausible that Humphrey Davenport Jr. and his wife Elizabeth Heyle built the house now known as the Demarest House.

Typically, the stone houses were constructed by the second generation of settlers. In the inheritance pattern typical of the Dutch, Humphrey Davenport Jr. was assured by his father's will of receiving a substantial portion of land which he was no doubt already farming. The son was thus able to concentrate resources on construction of a fine house. Davenport's cultural identity, if not his name, was Dutch, through both his mother and his wife. The young couple are likely to have drawn upon that building tradition for their own house. The

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fine stonework suggests that a very knowledgeable mason had a hand in the construction - a mason who may have been brought to Montville from one of the more established communities in Bergen County or the Hudson Valley.

Humphrey and Elizabeth Davenport did not end their days in a homestead in Montville, however. They moved on to Rockaway Township with Humphrey Davenport, Senior. Young Davenport sold his share of his father's land to Robert Gould, Sr. in 1734, the year before Humphrey Davenport Sr. actually died. There must have been a release from the Senior Davenport to Humphrey Davenport Junior to allow for the sale of the not-yet-inherited property, but it is not in the public record.

Gould, sometimes referred to in local historical records as "Judge Gould" was the first Town Clerk of Pequannock, appointed in 1740 when the township was formed. He became a County Judge in 1749 and served as Justice of the Peace into the 1770s. He became one of the wealthiest citizens of Pequannock, and thus must have had a house befitting his status.

In Gould's will of 1775, he left land to each of his five sons and to two grandsons, describing the land as that already occupied by them. Son Robert, Jr. was bequeathed "all the old place where I lived." Robert Gould Sr. died in 1779, releasing the properties enumerated in his will. The house built in the 1730s might well be described as "old" by the 1770s, as it was certainly one of the early houses in the neighborhood. Although small by modern standards, the stone house was well-built and carefully detailed, and would probably be considered an appropriate dwelling for a person of means like Judge Gould. The nearby Henry Doremus House, a two-room stone dwelling selected for overnight accommodations by General Washington in 1780, was no larger.

There is some suggestion that Robert Gould Jr. built the so-called Demarest House about 1780 on land inherited from his father, abandoning the "old" house to tenants or even demolition. In 1782, Robert Gould mortgaged property to John Salter, and referred the beginning point to his new dwelling house. However, it is unclear just where the Salter property was, and it may not have coincided with the property now containing the Demarest House. A 19th century deed for the



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house lot cited by Bailey describes the property in question as "Beginning at a ... corner of the land sold by John Salter to Lawrence Demarest, also a corner of land sold by Robert Gould to said Demarest", suggesting that the Salter property adjoined the tract containing this stone house. Demarest consolidated portions of several tracts in his purchase of the house and land which were later re-subdivided as the land changed hands through the 19th century. The "new" house referred to in the mortgage may be the Cornelius Doremus House, north of the Demarest House on Changebridge Road.

The house changed hands frequently during the 19th century, unlike most of the other stone houses which were occupied by generations of the same family. It was a residence and antique shop in the 1930s when studied and recorded by both Rosalie Bailey and HABS. Many interior modifications have taken place since the 1940s, but the original exterior remains very well preserved, and some outstanding interior features remain as well. It remains a clear landmark of 18th century architecture in Montville.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bailey, Rosalie Fellows. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families. New York: The Holland Society, 1936, pp. 536-538.

Fowler, Alex D. Splinters From the Past. Morristown, N.J.: Morris County Historical Society, 1984, pp. 63-64.

Historic American Buildings Survey, N.J. 309 "Demarest Farmhouse", 1938.

Sashenosky, John E. The Demarest House and Property. Private research report for Andrew and Ruth Egert, owners of the property in 1989.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # NJ-309
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Morristown & Morris Township Library  
1 Miller Road, Morristown, N.J. 07960

**10. Geographical Data**

Acree of property 0.62 acres Pompton Plains, NJ Quad

UTM References

A 18 553340 4526960  
Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The entire property known as Block 124, Lot 10.04 in the Township of Montville, New Jersey, containing 0.62 acres.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The present property is all that remains of the original land upon which the house was built; it provides an appropriate residential setting for the house.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Janet W. Foster / Associate Director  
organization ACROTERTON date September 15, 1990  
street & number 71 Maple Avenue telephone 201 984 9660  
city or town Morristown state N.J. zip code 07960

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Davenport-Demarest House  
Dutch Stone Houses of Montville

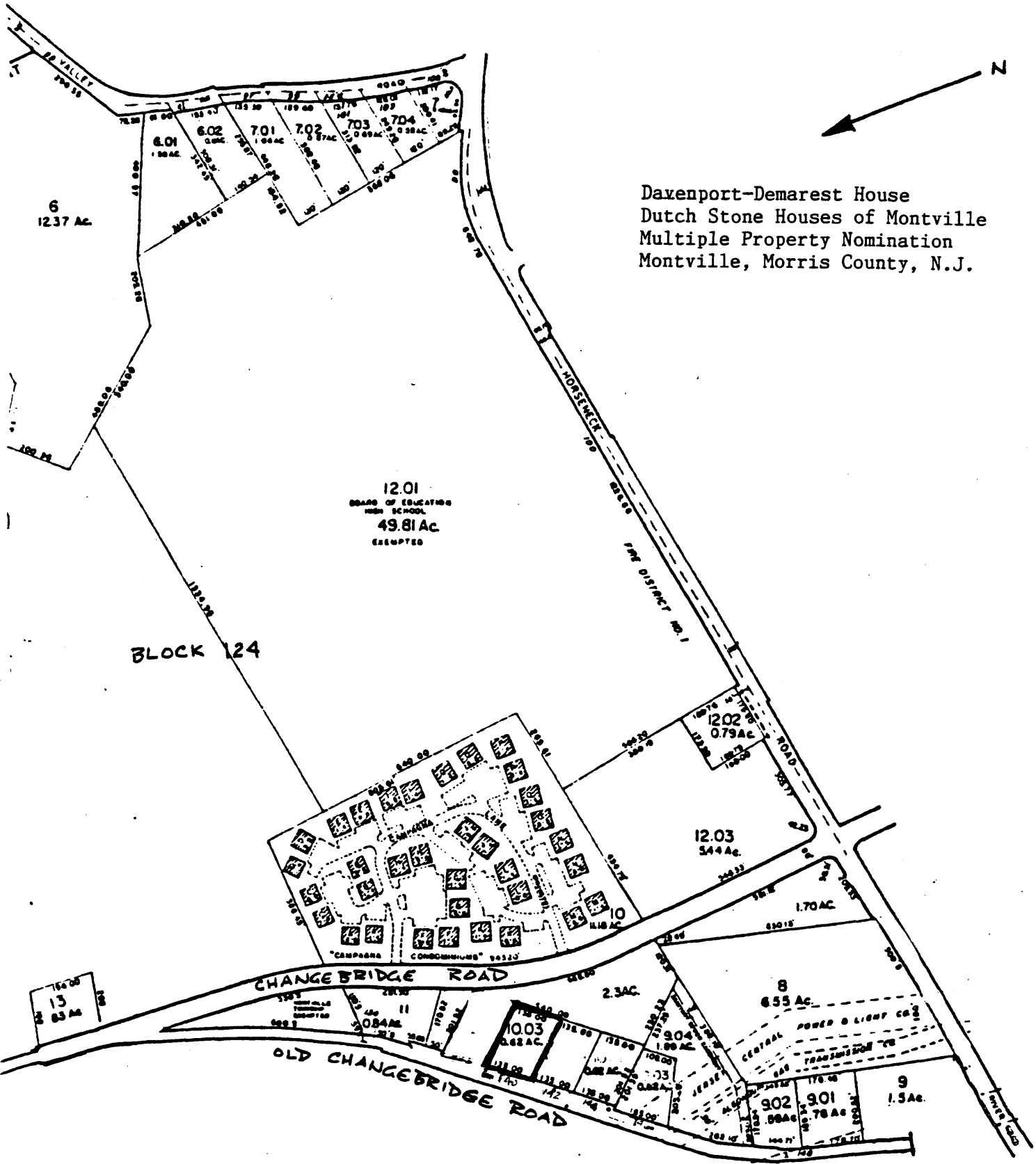
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Davenport-Demarest House  
140 Changebridge Road  
Montville Township, Morris County, New Jersey

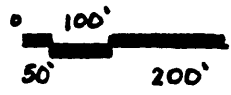
Photographs by Janet W. Foster  
Acroterion Historic Preservation Consultants  
August 1990  
Original negatives held by Acroterion, 71 Maple Avenue,  
Morristown, N.J.

- 1 of 5: Camera facing northeast; view of facade from  
Old Changebridge Road.
- 2 of 5: Camera facing northwest: view of facade and additions.
- 3 of 5: Camera facing north: view of facade entry; stone sill  
below right door indicates original door location.
- 4 of 5: Camera facing southeast: view of rear and gable end  
of house.
- 5 of 5: Interior. Camera facing east: view of old east wall  
fireplace, including original crane.

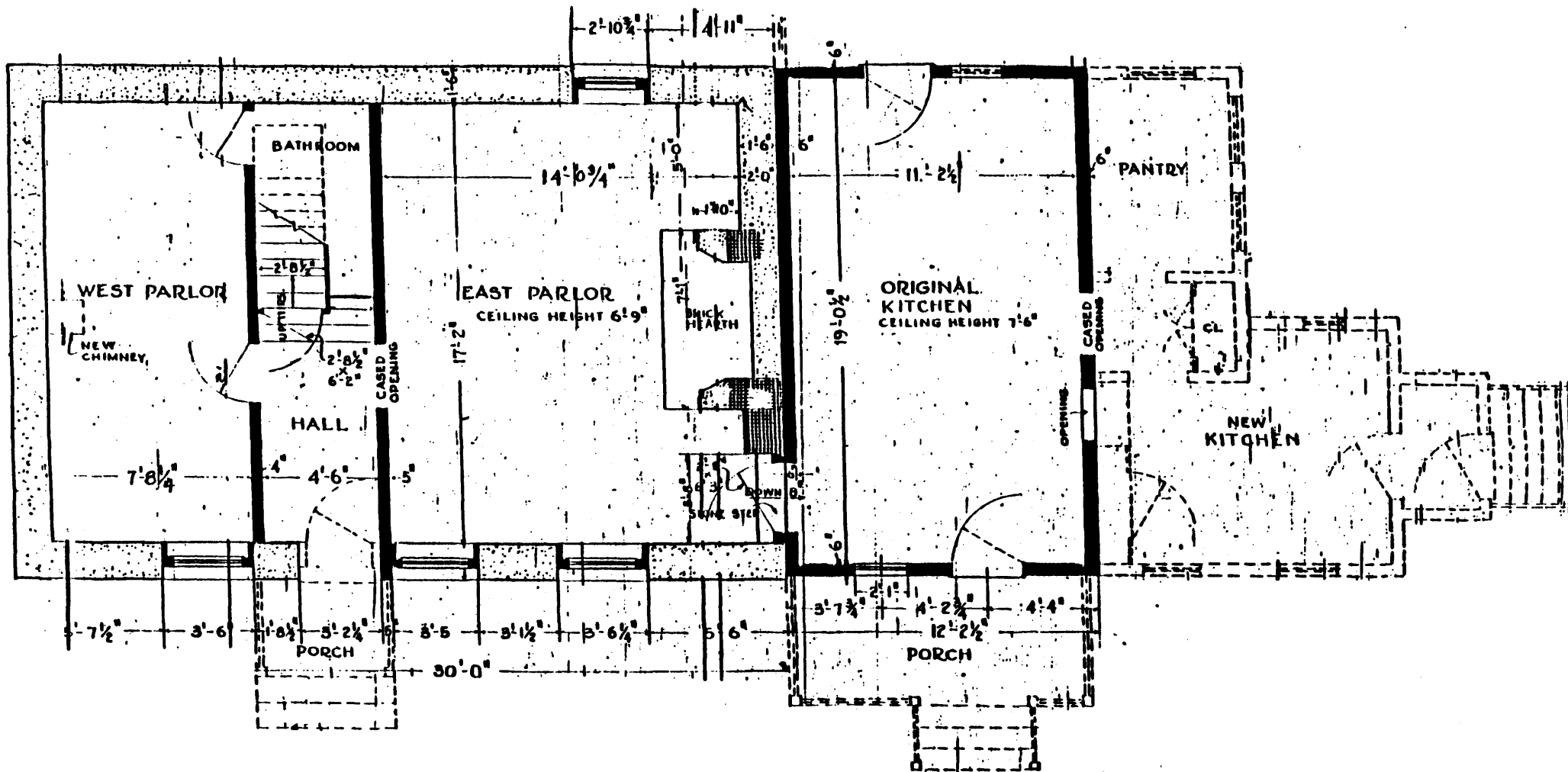


Davenport-Demarest House  
 Dutch Stone Houses of Montville  
 Multiple Property Nomination  
 Montville, Morris County, N.J.

SCALE





Davenport-Demarest House, Dutch Stone Houses of Montville MPN, Morris County, NJ



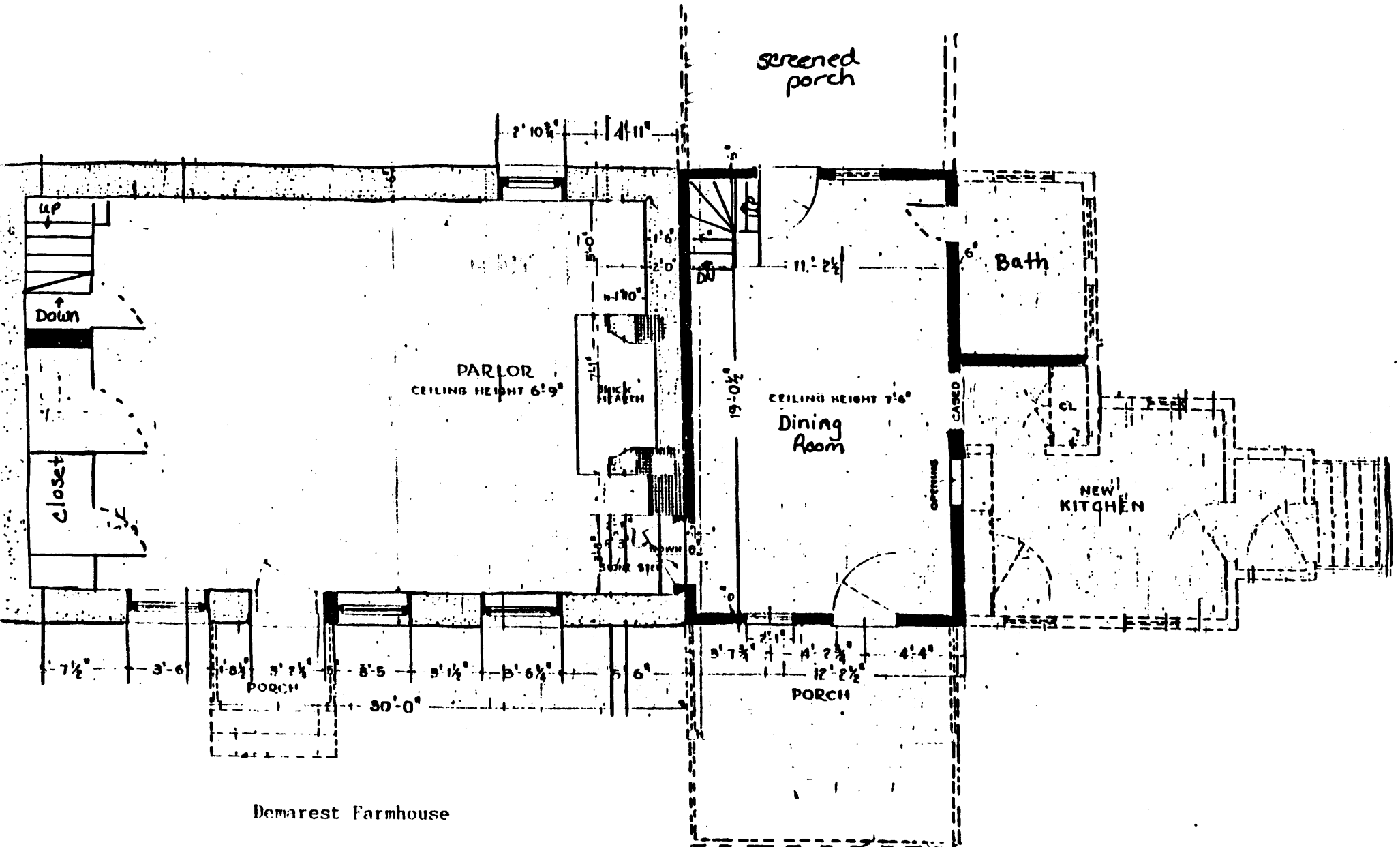
Demarest Farmhouse

As drawn by HABS 1938

Legend



- Stone 
- Frame 





Demarest Farmhouse

Legend

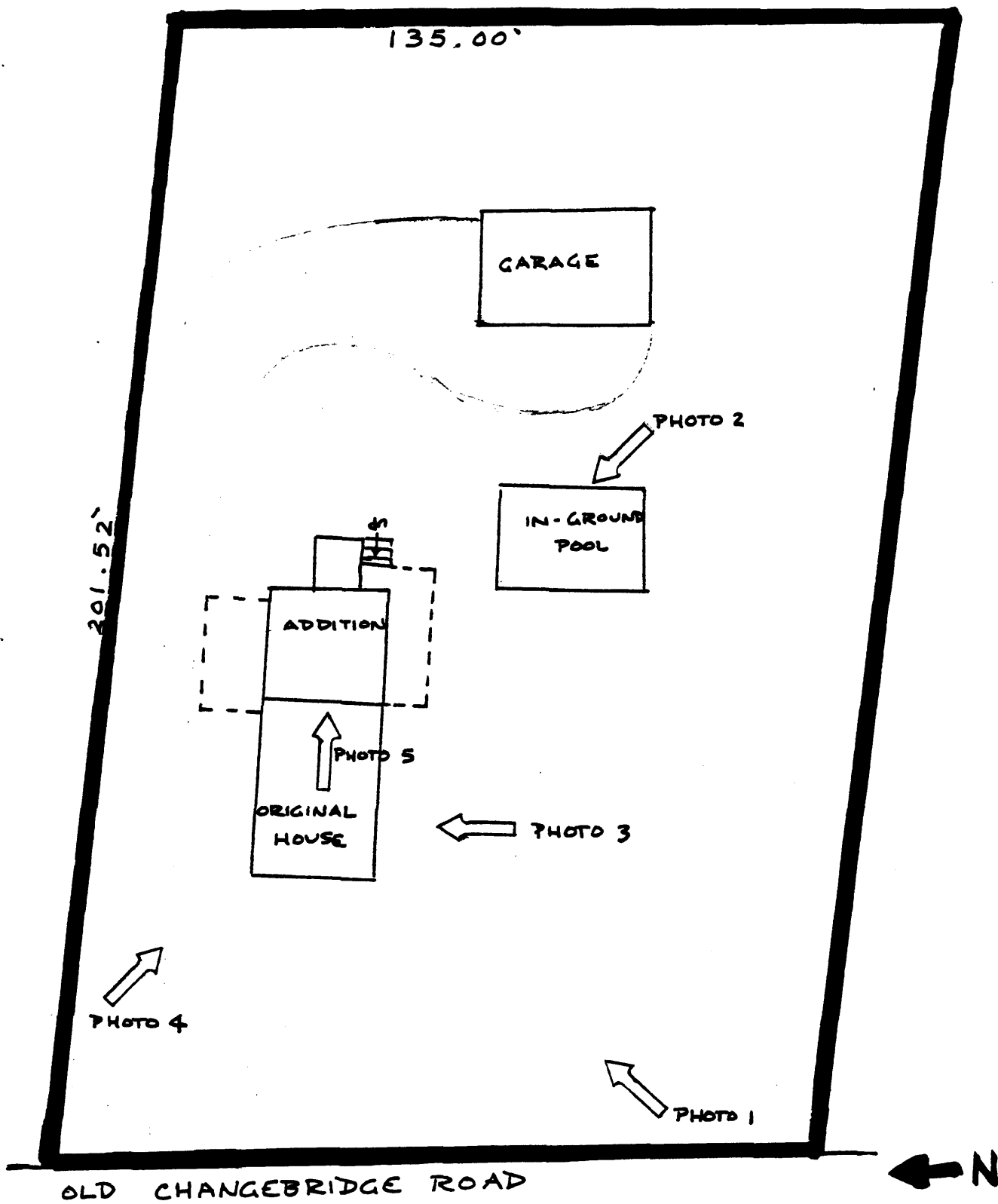
- Stone 
- Frame 

Overlay: House in 1990

Davenport-Demarest House  
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Davenport-Demarest House

Dutch Stone Houses of Montville Multiple Property Nomination  
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1 CM. = 10 FEET