

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 673 871

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 1 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 3 1979

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

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC

Van Buskirk/Oakley House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

467 Kinderamack Road

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Oradell

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Bergen

CODE

003

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
___DISTRICT	___PUBLIC	___OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE ___MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL ___PARK
___STRUCTURE	___BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL ___PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ENTERTAINMENT ___RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	___GOVERNMENT ___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL ___TRANSPORTATION
		___NO	___MILITARY ___OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Louis Esler

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 171

CITY, TOWN

Oradell

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey 07649

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Hudson Streets

CITY, TOWN

Hackensack

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#2316.2)

DATE

1977

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built around 1834 the Van Buskirk/Oakley House is a virtually complete transitional Federal/Greek Revival farmhouse. The main unit is a one and one half story, 5 bay, center hall, rectangular frame and clapboard dwelling. The roof is gable with a return and dentil coursing beneath the molded eaves. There are gable end brick chimneys at the roof peak. The windows are all 6/6 sash with paneled shutters. On the front and open side facades the windows all have a decorative cornice. The center entrance has a six-panel Dutch door flanked by sidelights and topped by a transom; all with leaded glass. Covering this center entrance is a gable roofed one story portico with pent and delicate round columns. Original to the main unit this portico has flush board underneath and in the pent while the eave continues the dental coursing of the main unit. The foundation is coursed sandstone. The interior plan has a center hall with a major room (18' x 17') and fireplace to either side. The hall does not continue through to the other side, but opens to four much smaller rooms in the rear. There were apparently only three rooms in the rear originally. The second floor is an open loft with two small bedrooms. The dimensions of this main unit are 41' x 31'. The framing is queen-post with vertical sawn mortise and tenon.

Attached to this main unit at the south is an earlier 1 1/2 story kitchen - the framing of which indicates late 18th or early 19th century construction. While the framing and wide plank floor beneath a later one is still intact, this kitchen was extensively altered shortly before 1900. The alterations included changing the moldings, raising the floor and ceiling, and changing the configuration of the fireplace, and removing most visible signs of the 18th-19th century construction. The kitchen is 18' x 18' with a loft above.

Interior

Details of particular note in the main unit are the fireplace mantels, wide plank floors, paneled windows, and several doors with curly maple wood grain painting.

The original building had a summer kitchen attached to the rear of the kitchen. This was removed sometime before 1900.

Located in an area zoned "limited business", the 2/3 acre lot with tree and shrubbery screening provides an aesthetic setting for the Van Buskirk/Oakley House.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Ca. 1834

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Van Buskirk/Oakley House is an unusually fine example of transitional vernacular Federal/Greek Revival style architecture in Bergen County. It is certainly the best building of its period in Oradel. Built around 1834 the house projects a feeling of massive formality, but without pretense. The Van Buskirk/Oakley House was probably constructed by a highly skilled, (but unidentified) carpenter/master builder. The paneled entablatures over the windows, the dentil molding beneath the eaves, the front two column portico covering the entranceway, the sidelights and transom with leaded glass creating circles and ellipses, the detailed moldings, semi-circular leaded windows just beneath the roof peak, and the fireplace mantels and window easements in the interior are almost perfectly intact making this building a pristine example of pattern book architecture of the second quarter of the 19th century.

While Bergen County is noted for its 18th century stone houses built by the Dutch settlers and their ancestors there is also an architectural heritage of substantially detailed and elegant frame dwellings from the late 18th-mid-19th centuries. This is not unexpected considering the fine craftsmanship emanating from the Hackensack area in this period.

At least two other extant buildings in Bergen County exhibit features similar, although not identical, to the Van Buskirk/Oakley House. The Jacob Zabriskie House (HABS-NJ-157), ca. 1824, in Paramus has similar massing and fenestration but a gambrel roof while the Parsonage of the Paramus Reformed Church (National Register 2/25/75), said to have been built by John C. Bogert in 1833, has similar details and a gable roof, but is only one room deep.

While the elegance of the Van Buskirk/Oakley House indicates that its owners were of some prominence in the area, they held no political or social offices. The house, therefore, is one of the last tangible remnants of the family in Oradel.

Chronological History of the Van Buskirk/Oakley Farmstead

- Colonial
- Van Buskirks owned large tracts of land in the region before 1770.
 - Kinderkamack Road appears to date considerably before the Revolution.
 - Robert Erskine's Revolutionary War maps indicate the road and several buildings, but there is no building shown at this location.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Attached)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .67

QUADRANGLE NAME Hackensack

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 18 | 5181480 | 4534170 |

B | | | | | | | | | |

C | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 208, Lot 39

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

H. Louis Esler, Jr. (revised by Terry Karschner, Office of Historic

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Preservation

STREET & NUMBER

746 Amaryllis Avenue

TELEPHONE

609-292-2028

CITY OR TOWN

Oradell

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

3/29/79

DATE

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-3-79

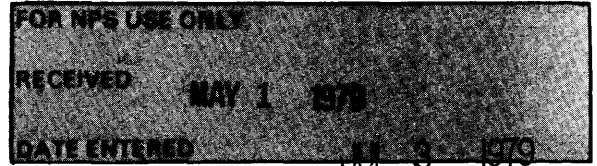
ATTEST:

W. A. Rube

DATE July 2, 1979

CLERK OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



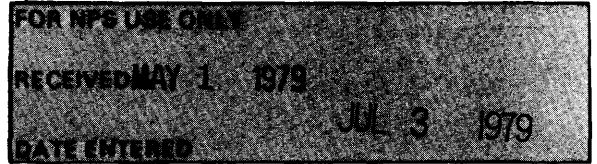
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Van Buskirk/Oakley House
Oradell
Bergen County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEETS SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

- 1795 - Abraham Van Buskirk's landholdings are divided; John J. Van Buskirk acquiring 180 acres on which this house was to be eventually built (Bergen County Deeds, 3/10/1795, Book M, p. 430).
- As John J. Van Buskirk already had a home further to the north it is unlikely that he built the earlier wing at this time (R. McMahon interview 11/24/78).
- 1806 - Children of John given an equal, but undivided share in the farm (Bergen County Deeds, 9/29/1806, Book 4, p. 358-65).
- Oldest son Abraham is heir apparent, but he died around 1822, still a young man. This complicates ownership later.
- 1820 - Earlier wing perhaps built for Abraham.
- Hetty Van Buskirk, the eldest, married Fanning Tucker Oakley; lived to the north.
- 1823-24 - Abraham's death creates legal ownership for next decade.
- Property up for auction, no mention of a house. (Bergen County Deeds, 1823, Book V2, p. 1 and Hackensack Star and Bergen Farmer 7/21/1824). Possibly a sheriff's sale.
- Land divided up by Orphans Court because of two underage children in claims. (Bergen County Orphans Court, 3/20/1824, Book D, p. 21).
- Fanning and Hetty Oakley mortgage property. No mention of buildings (Bergen County Mortgages, 7/10/1824, Book F, p. 258).
- As the result of a subsequent sheriff's sale the family loses possession of the property for a time.
- 1831 - Somehow reacquiring the farm Lucietta Van Buskirk, wife of John Van Buskirk and mother of Hetty prepares a will which gives property to Hetty and her husband.

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Van Buskirk/Oakley House
Oradell
Bergen County

New Jersey 031

CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

- 1831-36 - With the future legal title of the property confirmed Hetty and Fanning build the main house; oral family histories say 1834 or 1835. (R. McMahon, 11/24/1978).
- In the last years of her life Lucrietta lived in the house in question with Hetty and Fanning.
- 1836 - Lucrietta Van Buskirk dies. Property given to Hetty and Fanning (Bergen County Wills, 11/3/1836, Book E, p. 74).
- 1877 - Fanning Tucker Oakely (born 1797) dies.
- 1881 - Hester (Hetty) Van Buskirk Oakley dies (born 1799).
- Abraham Oakley (1829-1900) inherits property, but probably was managing the farm years before.
- 1900 - Abraham dies intestate. Fanning T. Oakley II (1859-1943) ran the farm as his father aged. Two children divide the farm; daughter Margaretta Oakley (1862-1958), married to John Hoyt in 1885, receiving the lot on which the house stands. (R. McMahon letter, 3/13/1978).
- 1938 - John Hoyt dies.
- 1958 - Margaretta Oakley Hoyt dies.
- Cornelia Hoyt (1896-1977) inherits house.
- 1977 - Cornelia Hoyt dies.
- Property purchased from estate by Louis Esler, the current owner.

Building is presently (11/1978) being sensitively rehabilitated for a real estate office.

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Van Buskirk/Oakley House

Grade 1

Bergen County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Bibliographical References

Bergen County Deeds - Abraham Van Buskirk to John Van Buskirk
3/10/1795 Book M, p. 430; John Van Buskirk to children (equal
share, undivided, of farm) 9/29/1806 Book 4, p. 358, 361,
365.

Bergen County Wills - Lucrietta Van Buskirk, wife of John, made
1831, proved 11/3/1836, Book E, p. 74.

Bergen County Mortgages - Fanning and Hetty Van Buskirk Oakley,
7/10/1824, Book F, p. 258.

Bergen County Orphans Court - Book D, p. 21, 3/20/1824.

McMahon, Reg. Considerable data was supplied by McMahon, whose
wife is a descendent of the Van Buskirk/Oakley family.