156

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

317

GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: Yereance-Berry House

COMMON NAME: Rutherford Museum

LOCATION: 91 Crane Avenue (Block 163A, Lots 18 & 19)

MUNICIPALITY: Rutherford

OWNERSHIP: ■ Public ☐ Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: Borough of Rutherford
176 Park Avenue

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:
- ☐ Erskine (1778-80)
- ■ Hopkins-Corey (1861) GarretVanRiper
- ■ Walker's Atlas (1876) W.S. Berry
- ■ Bromley (1912) Charles Noller
- ☐ Other

RECOGNITION:
- ☐ National Register
- ☐ BCHS Marker
- ■ HABS # 6-468
- ☐ Bailey
- ☐ Other

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 45° E

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
- ■ Residential
- ☐ Commercial
- ☐ Agricultural
- ☐ Open Space
- ☐ Other

COMMENTS: Faces off-ramp of N. J. Route #17.

USE

ORIGINAL: Residence

PRESENT: Museum

THREATS

THREATS TO STRUCTURE:
- ☐ Roads
- ☐ Development
- ☐ Zoning
- ☐ Deterioration
- ☐ Other
- ■ No Threat

COMMENTS:

CONDITION

CONDITION:
- ☐ Excellent
- ■ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Deteriorated

STATUS:
- ■ Occupied
- ☐ Unoccupied
- ☐ Work in Progress

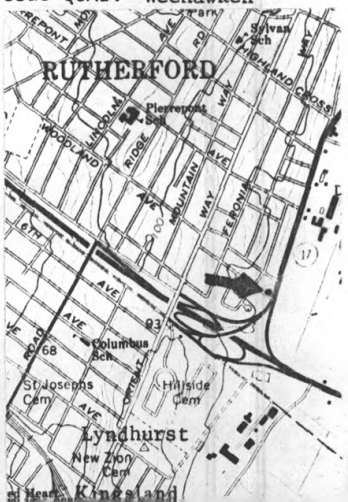
ACCESSIBLE:
- ☐ Yes, Restricted
- ■ Yes, Unrestricted
- ☐ No

Two gable roofed dormers have been recently added. The entrance has been somewhat simplified since the HABS Survey. A wing has been added to the rear, probably to replace the kitchen to the south which was lost when Crane Avenue was put through.

PHOTO

MAP

USGS QUAD: Weehawken



DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:
1804/HABS
Early 19th century/architectural evidence

BUILDER:
Hessel Yearance

FORM/PLAN TYPE: "I" 3 bay, side hall, 2 rooms deep each w/ gable end fireplace (30'2" x 32'1"). Remains of old frame wing to south.

FRAMING SYSTEM:
- [x] Intermediate Summer Beam
- [ ] Intermediate Bearing Wall
- [ ] Clear Span
- [ ] Other

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:
Brownstone up to water table, brick above (Flemish bond) painted white.

FENESTRATION:
3'10" x 6'3" M.O. (now 1/1, were 6/6) with stone lintels.

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:
South end bay of southeast front. 6'4" x 8'3" M.O. w/ 3'0" x 6'8" panelled door w/ side lights, large transom and heavy molding.

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1-1/2

CELLAR:
- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:
- [ ] Stone Arch
- [x] Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
- [ ] ~~Other~~

FLOOR JOISTS:
4½-5" x 9½" deep, 23" between

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:
9'11"

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:
14-15"

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:
Not exposed.

GARRET:
- [ ] Unfinished Space
- [x] Finished Space

ROOF:
- [ ] Gable
- [x] Gambrel
  - [x] Curb
- [ ] Other

EAVE TREATMENT:
- [ ] Sweeping Overhang
- [ ] Supported Overhang
- [x] No Overhang (Rear)
- [x] Boxed Gutter (Front)
- [ ] 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This house was built by John W. Berry, a direct descendant of Major John Berry. Major Berry purchased the strip of land upon which it stands in 1670 and built his dwelling. The present structure was attached to the north end of the old Berry homestead which was torn down in 1929 to make way for a new street. It remained in the Berry family until 1890 when it was sold for taxes. The [then] present owner, Mr. Smithson, bought the house with ten acres of ground in 1928 for a consideration of ten thousand dollars. The following year he decided to cut the property up in building lots, and at this time the older house was torn down.

Captain John Berry, later Major, was the first of his family in this country. He came from the Island of Barbadoes and obtained a grant of land in 1638 from Governor Carteret. This grant included all the land between the Hackensack and Saddle Rivers extending from the Sandford Patent to Cherry Hill in Bergen County. He bought other tracts of land including the one upon which this house is built. This tract, purchased in 1670, lay between the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers. Berry applied the name New Barbadoes to the district, which name it still bears. This tract of land remained in the Berry family from its purchase in 1670 intil 1890. In his day he was one of the most important men in the Colony. He served on the Governor's Council for several years and was acting Governor for a time; besides this, he was a member of the Colonial Assembly, Justice for Bergen County, and a Captain and later Major in the Militia.

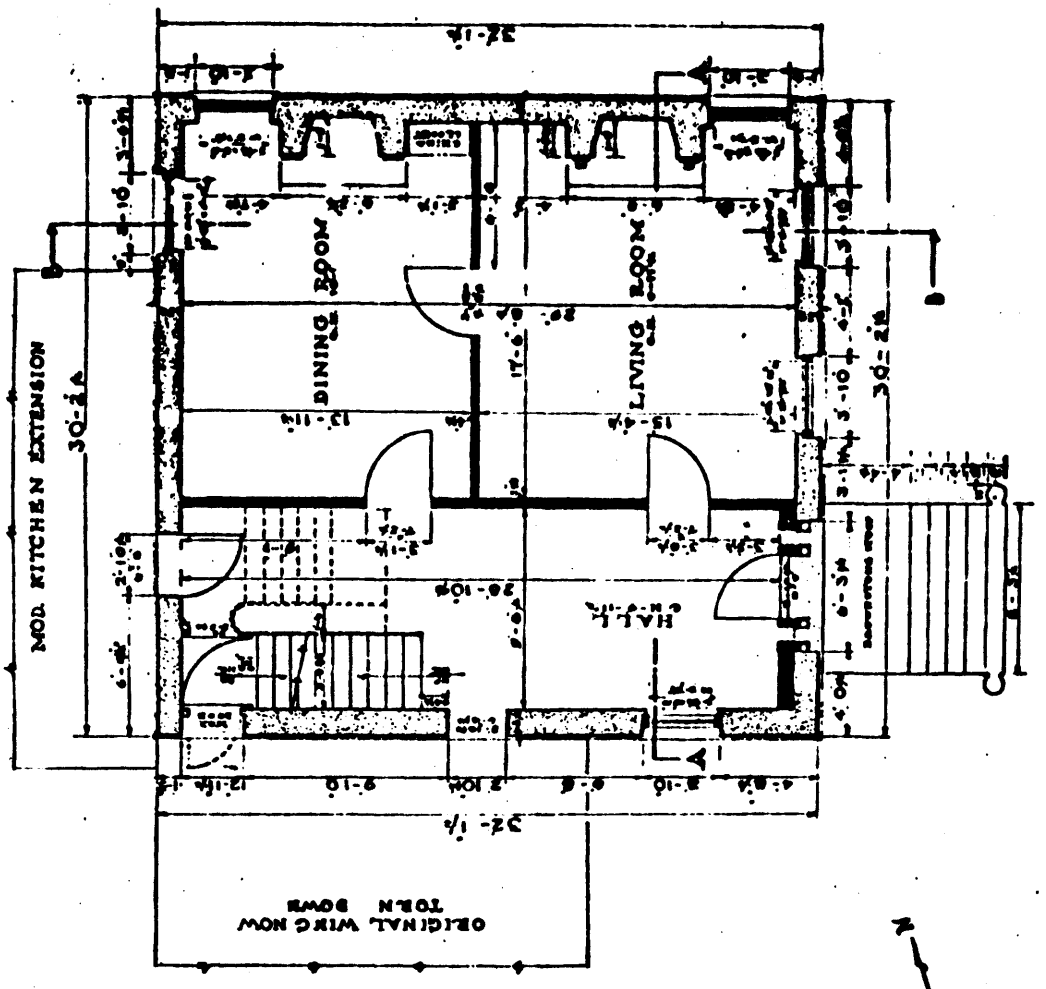
(The above is quoted from the HABS report # 6-468.)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Block 163A, Lots 18 and 19 - Rutherford Tax Map

Less than 1 acre

U.T.M.

18 575 520 4518 460
Weehawkin, New Jersey-New York

FLOOR PLANS 156