BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: Van Winkle + Fox House

COMMON NAME: Fox Hall

LOCATION: 669 Ramapo Valley Road ~~(Block 2503, Lot 3)~~

MUNICIPALITY: Oakland

OWNERSHIP: ☐ Public ■ Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: Edward & Helen Hirsch

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:

- ☐ Erskine (1778-80)
- ■ Hopkins-Corey (1861) J. Fox
- ■ Walker's Atlas (1876) J.J. Fox
- ■ Bromley (1912) T. Fox
- ☐ Other

RECOGNITION:

- ☐ National Register
- ☐ BCHS Marker
- ☐ HABS
- ☐ Bailey
- ☐ Other

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 50° W

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:

Carriage house
Horse barn
4 acres of property

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- ■ Residential
- ☐ Commercial
- ☐ Agricultural
- ☐ Open Space
- ☐ Other

COMMENTS: Situated in a built up residential area close to Ramapo Valley Road.

USE

ORIGINAL: Residence

PRESENT: Residence

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:

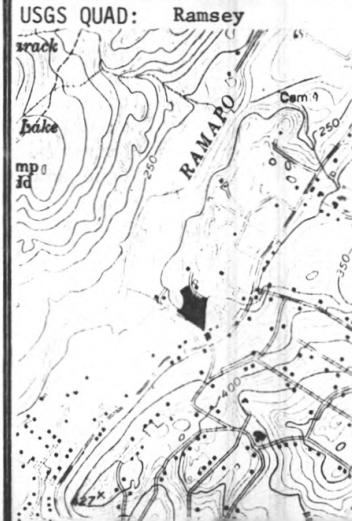
- ☐ Yes, Restricted
- ■ Yes, Unrestricted
- ☐ No

The stone section has very few modern alterations. The old frame wing to the east (evident in early photographs) has been altered and added to substantially. A modern kitchen has been built on the cellar level. Dormers have been added, as well as modern sash replacements throughout.

PHOTO

MAP

USGS QUAD: Ramsey



DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:
1740-1800, probably pre-Revolutionary/ Architectural evidence

BUILDER:

FORM/PLAN TYPE: "C" 3 bay, side hall, 1 room w/ 1 gable end fireplace (30'6" x 20'3"). Also has 1924 alterations and additions to early frame east wing.

FRAMING SYSTEM:
- ☐ Intermediate Summer Beam
- ☐ Intermediate Bearing Wall
- ■ Clear Span
- ☐ Other

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:
All walls are rubble stone with no coursing.

FENESTRATION: Level 1: 4'2"x5'0" M.O. (6/6) Cellar level: 3'7"x4'5" M.O. (6/6) and 3'2"x4'2" M.O. (6/6. All have splayed casings, original frames (front) and new sash.

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:
Both are on south front. Level 1 is in east end bay, 3'0"x 6'7" modern door, no transom. Cellar level is center bay, 3'4" x6'0" Dutch style, no transom.

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1½ (see desc.)

CELLAR:
- ■ Yes
- ☐ No

Inhabited at grade on south.

CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:
- ☐ Stone Arch
- ☐ Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
- ■ Other (Half barrel vault supporting hearth above.)

FLOOR JOISTS: 7½-8" deep x 5-5½", hand hewn, but now sanded and polished.

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT: 6'8"-10"

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS: 19-20"

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS: 7-1/2"d x 5", 24-31" apart.

GARRET:
- ☐ Unfinished Space
- ■ Finished Space

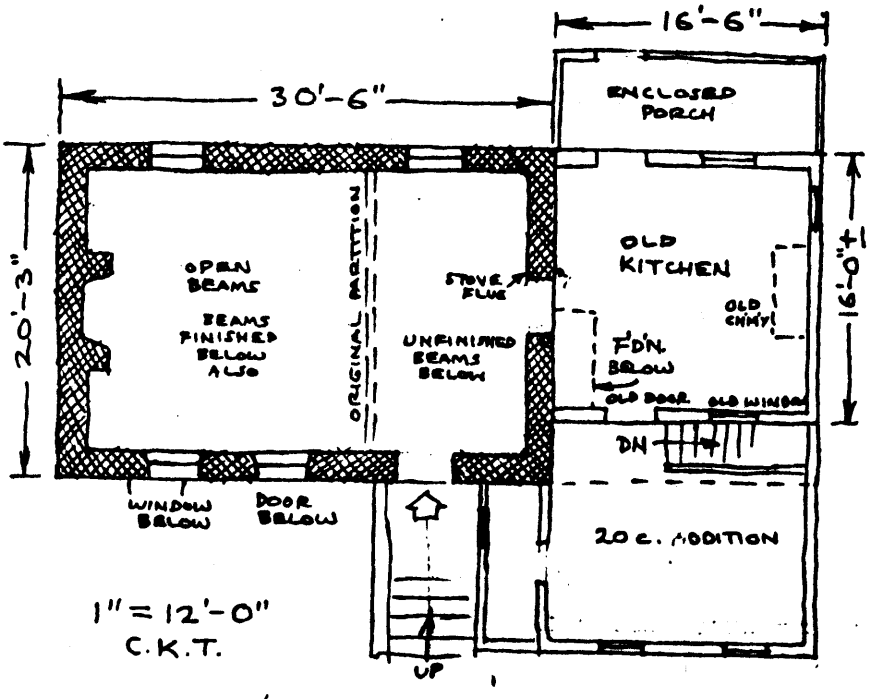
ROOF:
- ■ Gable (Note: has overhang at gable ends.)
- ☐ Gambrel
  - ☐ Curb
- ☐ Other

EAVE TREATMENT:
- ■ Sweeping Overhang (Slight)
- ☐ Supported Overhang
- ☐ No Overhang
- ☐ Boxed Gutter
- ☐ Other

This house differs from the typical one-room dwelling in that both levels are "finished". The grade slopes down to the "cellar" floor level on the south side, making it a two-story house on this side. It should, however, be considered a 1-1/2 story house. This house is very similar to the Jacob Vanderbeck, Sr. House in Fairlawn. Both have two levels of useable space, each level with a fireplace. It differs in that the front is two story, rather than the gable ends or rear, which would be more typical.

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.

FLOOR PLANS 111



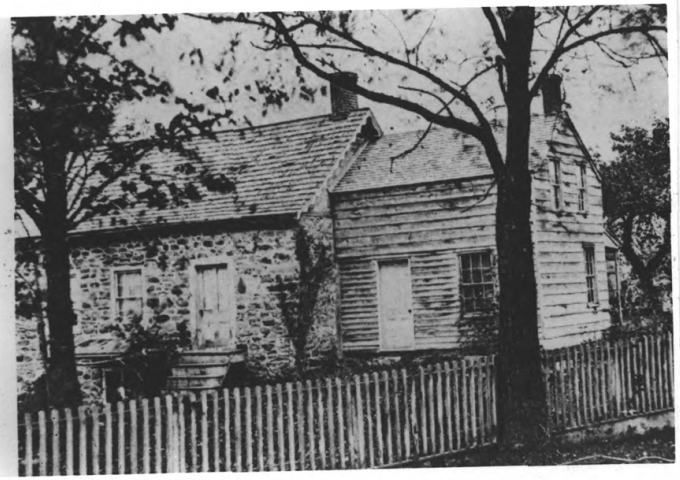
Van Winkle-Fox

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Block 2503, Lot 3 - Oakland Tax Map

3.81 acres

U.T.M.

18 564 175 4543 320
Ramsey, New Jersey-New York