

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

291

GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: Demarest House

COMMON NAME:

LOCATION: Main Street
875, E-6A, C, E (Moved from New Milford)

MUNICIPALITY: River Edge

OWNERSHIP: Public Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: Blauvelt-Demarest FID, Inc.
c/o Brickman
355 Maple Ave.
Oradell, NJ 07649

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:

Erskine (1778-80)

Hopkins-Corey (1861)

Walker's Atlas (1876)

Bromley (1912)

Other

RECOGNITION:

National Register BCHS Marker

HABS #6-16 Bailey

Other N.J. Inventory

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: South

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:
Steuben House
The Campbell-Christie House

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Residential

Commercial

Agricultural

Open Space

Other

COMMENTS: Moved onto B.C.H.S. property
and is with two other restored houses.
Near commercial and apartments.

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

This house was moved here in the 1950's and rebuilt
as a museum. The house was moved stone-by-stone
to this site and reassembled.

It is a good example of a typical mid-18th century
dwelling.

*Bergen County Historical Society owns the land on
which the house stands.

PHOTO



MAP



DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:

Pre-Revolutionary; architectural evidence (may be late-18th century; exact date is controversial)

BUILDER:

a Demarest

FORM/PLAN TYPE:

"A" 2 door, 2 rooms, each w/ gable end fireplace. (34'0" x 21'2")

FRAMING SYSTEM:

- Intermediate Summer Beam
- Intermediate Bearing Wall
- Clear Span
- Other

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:

Roughly coursed red sandstone. Rear is shingled on frame.

FENESTRATION:

2'11" x 4'4" M.O. (6/6) and 3'5" x 5'0" M.O. (12/8).

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:

2 doors on south front, opening enlarged at later date. Originally had Dutch doors w/ transoms.

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1-1/2

CELLAR: Yes
 No

CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:

- Stone Arch
- Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
- Other

FLOOR JOISTS: 5-6" x 9-11" deep, 30-36" apart.

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT: 7'8"

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS: 22"

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS: 6" x 10", 36-40" apart.

GARRET:

- Unfinished Space
- Finished Space

ROOF:

- Gable
- Gambrel
- Curb
- Other

EAVE TREATMENT:

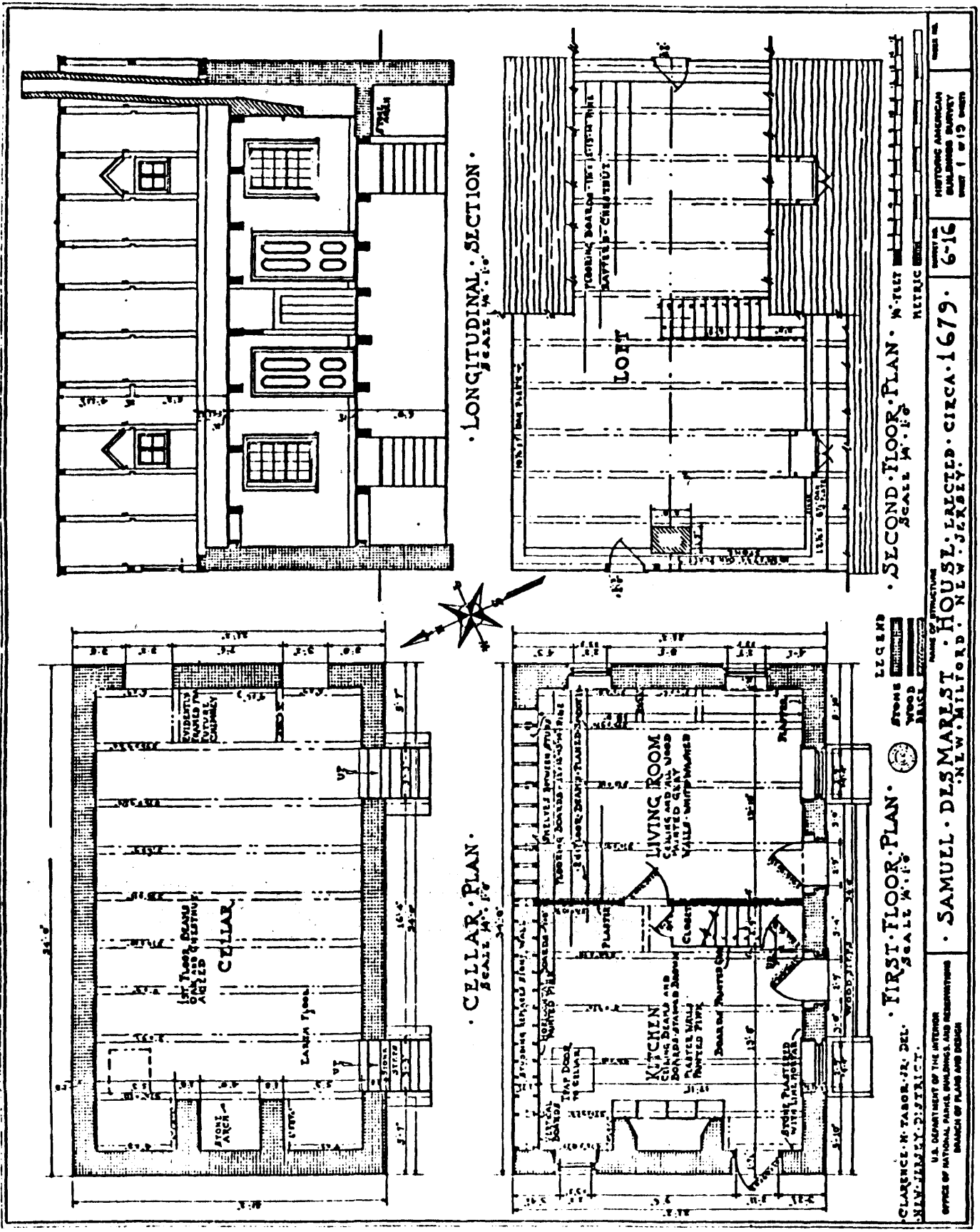
- Sweeping Overhang (Front)
- Supported Overhang
- No Overhang (Rear)
- Boxed Gutter
- Other

For many years this house was thought to be the earliest surviving in Bergen County. It is worthy of additional research.

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: Demarest House
LOCATION: Main Street, River Edge

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LEGEND

- STONE
- WOOD
- BRICK

NAME OF STRUCTURE

HOUSE

6-16

6-16

6-16

6-16

6-16

6-16

6-16

6-16

6-16

CLARENCE N. TABOR, JR., DEL.
NEW JERSEY DISTRICT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, MONUMENTS AND RECREATION
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

SAMUEL DLS MARLETT
NEW MILFORD, NEW JERSEY

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
MAY 1919

This house, formerly of New Milford and now on Bergen County Historical Society property, was located on one of the original patents in Bergen County acquired by David Demarest (born c. 1620) by an Indian deed dated June 8, 1677 and from the Proprietors in July, 1681. This is also the same grant that the Campbell-Christie house was later built on. Since David, Sr. first located his home and built a mill at Old Bridge (now River Edge) a mile and a half north of this house's former site, and then moved to the west side of the river between 1686 and 1689 and died there in 1693, this house can have no connection with him and the previously ascribed pre-1700 dates for its construction must be erroneous. Since his three sons' home locations seem to be accounted for, the best speculation as to a builder of this house comes from a boundary agreement of 1738 indicating that Simon Demarest already owned this portion of the land. He was the son of Samuel des Marest and Maria Dreuns, was baptized in Hackensack on May 21, 1699 and married Vrouwtie Cornelise Herring on December 1, 1721, about the architectural period of the house. An earlier part of the house did exist but it may have been a temporary unit built while the stone section was being constructed. This house has a double plan and may have been used by two families. A daughter of Benjamin Demarest, Beletje (born 1718), married Nicholas (Claes) Romeyn and is said to have lived in "the house by the French Cemetery". However there was a house marked "Romeyn" that was a bit southeast of this one during the Revolution and which may have been the one meant. Regardless, this Demarest house was owned in 1861 by a Siccoman, in 1876 by C.G.F. Heina, in 1912 by Mrs. E. Reiman and then Henry Reiman who rented it to the Pochard Club, an art group. Mrs. Margaret Demarest Blauvelt purchased the property and the French Cemetery in July, 1939 and turned it over on August 8, 1940 to the Demarest Memorial Foundation, Inc. (now the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation, Inc.). The Pochard Club continued to use it for a few years until vandalism became a serious problem and it was decided to move the building. An agreement was made on May 12, 1954 with the Bergen County Historical Society to use their property in River Edge. A 28,000 square foot section of the tract was leased for 99 years and the house moved stone by stone to the new site and completed in 1956. It is now open in mild weather, on special occasions and by appointment.

(Source: National Register Nomination Form)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Block 75, Lot 6A, C, F - River Edge Tax Map

3.92 acres
(Campbell-Christie House also on property)

U.T.M.

18 581 540 4529 340
Hackensack, New Jersey