

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 6 1979  
DATE ENTERED NOV 1 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 Abram Demaree House

AND/OR COMMON

"Abram Demaree", "Demarest", and "Curtis House"

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Northwest corner of Schraalenburgh & Old Hooks Roads

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Closter

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Bergen

CODE

003

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Estate of Dorothy Curtiss c/o John M. Conant, Esq.

STREET & NUMBER

33 Hudson Street

CITY, TOWN

Hackensack

— VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Administrative Building

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Hackensack

STATE

New Jersey

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#731.1)

DATE

1962

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Representing architectural changes through three centuries and the social progress of America's earliest settlers, the Abram Demaree House in Closter, built in two stages, one in the 18th and one in the 19th century, lies at the junction of Old Hook and Schraalenburgh Roads, on the south bank of the Hackensack River Reservoir in the Borough of Closter, New Jersey.

The site and grounds in addition to the main building includes a large red-painted, clapboard barn of unusual size, a servant's house (at one time possibly a slave homestead) and a low, rambling work-shed building, possibly a horsedrawn sleigh and/or carriage repository.

Its oldest structure is gable-roofed, sandstone block, pre-Revolutionary, one room and loft, single door entrance, an example of "Dutch Colonial". Its south (front) view displays a later added one window dormer; a similar dormer was also added on the north side. The south side has two windows left of the entrance door with its old sunburst headpiece. Windows comprise 16 panes throughout the old and main house constructions. A twelve foot chimney at the west end of the wing adds to the beautiful lines and the wide overhang on the house's south side. The home's west end shows the outlines of an old attachment, possibly a bake oven. The wing's actual date of construction is not known, but is estimated to be about 1760 to 1769. The sandstone blocks are of various degrees of roughness and contrast strongly with the main wing to which the old wing is attached. The main house, affixed to the east end of the homestead, was constructed in 1809, and takes on the appearance of a mansion in contrast with the small west wing structure.

The main house is a two story, seven room home with attic space. All rooms, including the wing, have been remodeled, probably within the first quarter of the 20th century. All fireplaces have been covered over to accommodate wood stoves at one time. Under the low cellar space the true age of the home with its hand-hewn beams is apparent. The modernization of the interior reflects early 20th century domestic decoration influences. The exterior reflects the sturdiness of construction.

The sandstone of the main house, for the most part is very finished, smooth and well bonded -- not, probably with the mud, pig's hair and straw binding presumably used with the wing's stone construction. An unusual feature of the house is that an overhang was constructed on three sides. A wide front porch, covered by a continuation of the 20th century asphalt shingling, indicates the extensive use of the home by travelers when it was a stopping place at the junction of the two ancient roads. Through the porch entrance one steps into a beautiful center hall under a sunburst door frame, and then under double doors to the dining room and the living room on either side. A winding stairway leads up to the second floor, also reached by a set of rear or servants' stairs.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 6 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 1 1979

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

Abram Demaree House  
Closter  
Bergen County  
New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Three sandstone solid platforms once existed for entrances on the south, north and east. The east platform with beautifully finished curved stone and the rear entrance platform are unaltered. The south platform appears covered by the closed porch, added probably in the late 19th century, leaving only two circular driveways.

Topping the graceful, ornately trimmed (an uncommon embellishment at this time) gambrel roof's lines are the four brick chimneys, two at the east and two at the west ends of the home. In front of the east end, the Borough of Closter's Historic Sites Committee has erected its marker, identifying it as Number 16 on the borough's list of historic sites.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

1760-69 , 1809

### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 18th century section of the Demaree House is a good example of early Dutch colonial architecture while the gambrel roofed main section, built in 1809, is of the Federal style. Taken as a whole the main section attached to the smaller original wing projects the characteristic form of the stone Dutch farmstead, a unique style found along the Hudson River Valley.

The close association of the Abram Demaree House of Closter with early French Huguenot settlement in America gives it a distinct place in American history. The pioneer builder of this homestead's west wing, circa 1760-69, was the grandson of the original David Des Marest who, on June 8, 1677, purchased a large tract from the Tappan Indians. On it he began his French Huguenot settlement.

The homestead's two stage, two century growth is illustrated by its expansion from a simple stone house to, in contrast, an 1809 "mansion" farm homestead. Spanning 200 years, the two distinctly different sandstone constructions with their comparative architectural improvements in techniques and design, emphasize each period's progress from the rough life of the pioneer settler to the far easier existence of the opulent farmer and land owner. Preference shifted from gable to gambrel roof construction; lintels advanced from two piece, rectangular wood, to trapezoidal single headpieces; sunburst headpieces, portray, along with guoin corners on the main house, growth in workmanship and design from the 18th to the 19th century. Victorian fretwork touches were added to the house after 1868.

The Demarests, though of French Huguenot extraction, built in conformance with the prevailing "Dutch Colonial" architectural style. Sandstone quarried from the premises were incorporated into the structure. Each block cut varied in roughness of finish as evidenced in the structure. The sandstone, indigenous to the valley area of northern New Jersey and Rockland County, New York was commonly used by the Dutch.

### Commerce

Located at the intersection of two old roads, Old Hook and Schraalenburgh, once the home was a store and wayside tavern. It likely was an important coach stop between the Pascack settlements to the west, the Kinkachemeck above Hackensack, and Tappan, Closter, and the King's Highway to the Closter Dock, Liberty Pole, English Neighborhood, Hobuck and Communipaw. Once on the Hackensack River's bank, it now lies similarly on the Hackensack River Reservoir's east bank.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, R.F., Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses & Families, 1936, Morrow & Company  
 Demarest Family Association, The Demarest Family, The Association, 1964, Voorhis  
 D. Demarest, President, Hackensack, New Jersey  
 Hall of Records, Book of Deeds, County of Bergen, NJ Hackensack, NJ .  
 The Tappan Indian Deed of lands along the east bank of the Hackensack River to David  
 Des Marest, 1677  
~~Durie, Howard I. The Kakiat Patent in Bergen County, NJ 1970, Pearl River, NY.~~

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5

QUADRANGLE NAME Yonkers-N.J.-N.Y.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 585 200 4536410  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B              
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C            

D            

E            

F            

G            

H            

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded on the North by the Hackensack River Reservoir; on the East by Schraalenburgh Road; on the South by Old Hook Road; and on the West by the New York Central Railroad's West Shore Division tracks.

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 Mary Crain, President of Friends of the House of Abram Demaree

ORGANIZATION

DATE

1/29/79

STREET & NUMBER

252 Schraalenburgh Road

TELEPHONE

(201) 385-7309

CITY OR TOWN

Haworth

STATE

New Jersey

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL x

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

*Betty Wilson*

7-21-79

TITLE

Active Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*acting Carol Skelton*

DATE

11-1-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Myra A. Beebe*

DATE

Oct 31, 1979

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

## INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

23

**GENERAL**

**HISTORIC NAME:** (Abram & David A., Demaree) House

**COMMON NAME:**

**LOCATION:** 110 Schraalenburgh Road.  
(R. 256, L. 5) (45-Old Hook Road)\*

**MUNICIPALITY:** Closter

**OWNERSHIP:**  Public  Private

**OWNER/ADDRESS:** Curtis Family Heirs  
Executors: Richard & John Constant  
33 Hudson Street  
Hackensack, NJ 07602

**REFERENCE**

**MAP REFERENCES:**

- Erskine (1778-80) Abram Demaree
- Hopkins-Corey (1861) D. Demarest
- Walker's Atlas (1876) J.H. Stephens
- Bromley (1912) S.M. Stephens
- Other

**RECOGNITION:**

- National Register
- HABS
- Other N.J. Inventory

BCHS Marker  Balley

**ENVIRONMENT**

**HOUSE ORIENTATION:** S 35° W

**IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:**  
Victorian barn and small frame tenant house undated

**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:**

- Residential
- Commercial
- Agricultural
- Open Space
- Other

**COMMENTS:**  
Open area in residential zone.

**USE**

**ORIGINAL:** Residence

**PRESENT:** Unoccupied

**THREATS TO STRUCTURE:**

- Roads
- Development
- Zoning
- Deterioration
- Other
- No Threat

**COMMENTS:** Busy intersection w/ current controversy over re-use. Unoccupied.

**CONDITION**

**CONDITION:**

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated

**STATUS:**

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Work in Progress

**ACCESSIBLE:**

- Yes, Restricted
- Yes, Unrestricted
- No

This house is in good, sound condition despite neglect. A number of interior Victorian changes have been made, though not greatly compromising the building. The hall has been partitioned at the arch for multiple occupancy. The southeast parlor fireplace has been removed. The northeast parlor fireplace is original including the iron fireframe. Dormers pierce both sides of both roofs. There is a stone porch on the front. Its purchase for use as a museum or a restaurant is being negotiated and the house has been nominated to the National Register.

**PHOTO**



**MAP**



## CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:

Wing is later addition  
Main: 1809/Bailey; 1810-1830/  
architectural evidence

BUILD R: David Demaree, Main.

FORM/PLAN TYPE: Main "J", 5 bay, center hall,  
2 rooms deep each side w/ gable end fire-  
place (49'0" x 37'0"). Wing "C", 3 bay, 1  
room, side door, (29'0" x  
20'2"). Frame extension to rear.

## FRAMING SYSTEM:

- Intermediate Summer Beam  
 Intermediate Bearing Wall (Main)  
 Clear Span (Wing)  
 Other

## EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:

Wing: front, dressed sandstone; sides,  
sandstone rubble (rough coursed).  
Main: front, sandstone ashlar all sides.  
Variations in sandstone color.

## FENESTRATION:

Main: 37" x 62" sash (12/12).  
Wing: 32" x 52" sash (6/6).  
Trapezoidal lintels in main, no lintels  
in wing.

## ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:

Center bay of south front. Arched lintel  
w/ keystone, sidelights and fanlight.  
33" x 6'5 1/2" door w/ recessed panel  
casing. Wing: modern door w/ transom  
above in east end bay of south front.

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1-1/2

CELLAR:  Yes  
 No

## CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:

- Stone Arch  
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation Main  
 Other Wing has brick arch and  
brick foundation.

FLOOR JOISTS: Main not visible.

Wing: 8" x 9-10" deep w/  
16-17" floor boards.

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:

Wing: 7'6". Main 9'8".

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:

21"

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS: Not visible  
in main, boxed in wing.

## GARRET:

- Unfinished Space  
 Finished Space

## ROOF:

- Gable (Wing)  
 Gambrel (Main)  
 Curb  
 Other

## EAVE TREATMENT:

- Sweeping Overhang (Wing)  
 Supported Overhang  
 No Overhang  
 Boxed Gutter  
 Other

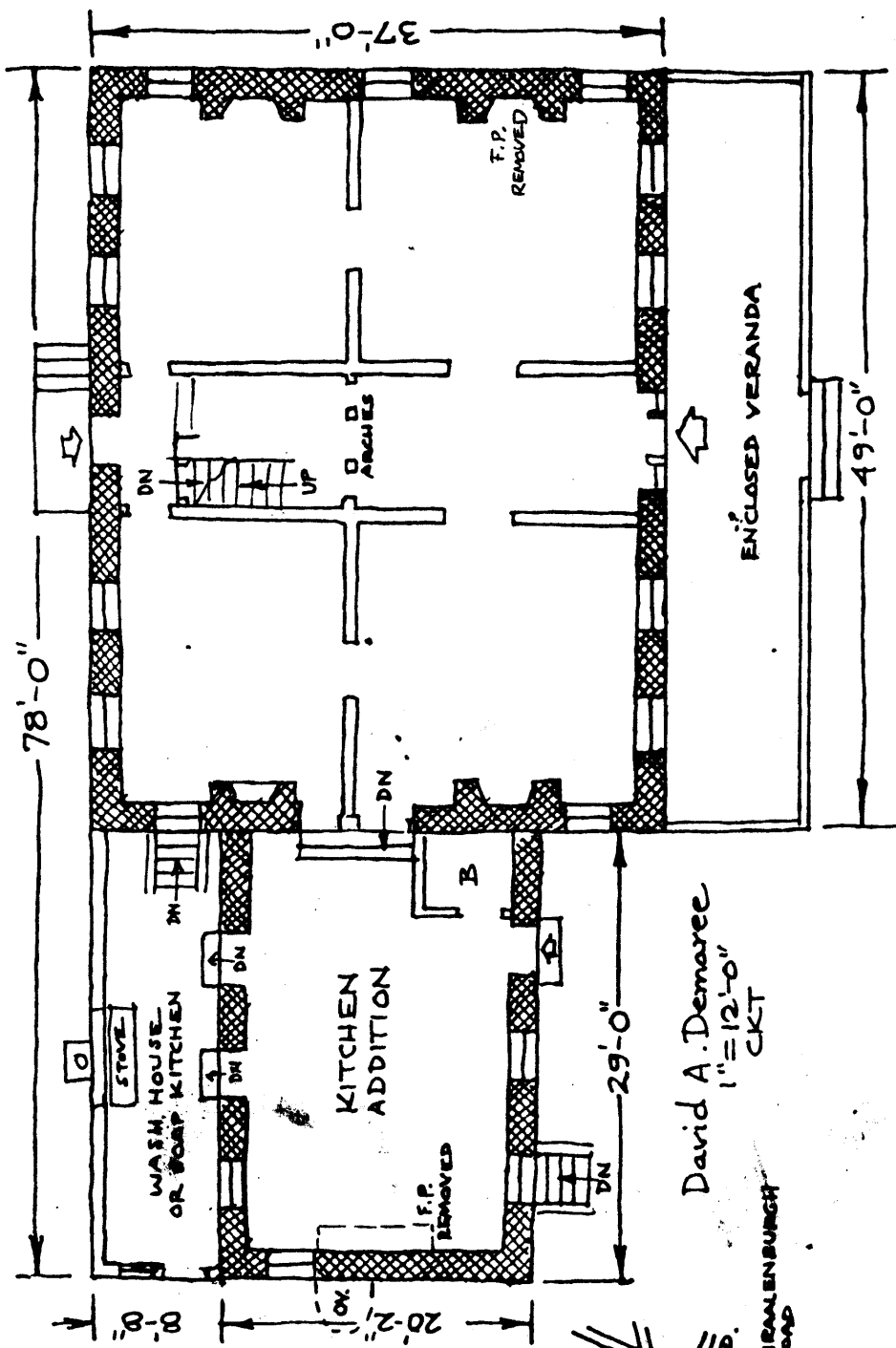
This house is significant for its architecture and its association with the exploration and settlement of the Bergen County, New Jersey area. It is a reasonably well preserved example of the Form/Plan Type as shown and more fully described herein. As such, it is included in the Thematic Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Early Stone Houses of Bergen County, New Jersey.



FLOOR PLANS 12

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY  
HISTORIC NAME: Abram Demarest  
LOCATION: 110 Schraalenburg Road (45 Old Hook Road), Closter

24



VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 256, Lot 5 - Closter Tax Map

1.50 acres

U.T.M.  
18 585 690 4536 410 Yonkers, NJ-NY



Abram Demaree resided here at the time of the Revolution (Erskine's map), and probably built the house (now gone) only a few years before. A son of David J. Demarest, and grandson of Jacobus Demarest, the builder of the house at Old Bridge (plate 83), Abram was born Sept. 21, 1738 and baptized at Tappan; about 1763 he married Margrietje Demarest, probably his cousin, b. Dec. 9, 1744,\* d. June 13, 1834,\* daughter of Johannes Demarest and Rachel Zabriskie, of Old Bridge (plate 83). Abram lived at Old Bridge for many years, and later at Hackensack. Shortly before the Revolution he bought a large farm on the Schraalenburg Road, on both sides of the Old Hook Road. Here, until his death July 9, 1824, he kept a general store of groceries, hardware and miscellaneous wares for farmers, and until 1809 he also kept a tavern. He was a man of note and held many town offices. Most of his five children may have died in infancy as he left all his property to his son David. David A. Demaree, b. Aug. 28, 1764 at Old Bridge, d. Feb. 1, 1860 at the home of his daughter in Nyack, married in 1787 Charity Haring, and had an only child Margrietje who married John Perry. In 1809 David superintended the building of his father's new stone house, after demolishing the old one.

Old

Fordie Demaree (in the country districts all old men were called Fordie and old women Otie -- spelling approximate) owned all the land in the vicinity, including the farm opposite (bought by his father) on which a stone house still stands, which has been altered since it was owned by Cornelius Van Horn during the Revolution. In 1868 James Henry Stephens, from Colt's Neck in Monmouth Co., bought the house from David Demarest's estate, and commenced remodeling but died the same year. The Victorian fretwork was undoubtedly added by him. It descended to his two children. The [then] present owner, F. M. Curtis, bought the property about 1922 and [ran] an antique shop here.

[It is now the property of the Curtis Family heirs.]

\* Taken from family Bible.

(The above, except for our comments and additions [bracketed] is quoted from Rosalie Fellows Bailey's Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1968.)

