

# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

2

GENERAL 15

HISTORIC NAME: Peter Huyler *Home*

COMMON NAME: Old Huyler Homestead

LOCATION: 50 County Road  
(Block 92R, Lot 1A)

MUNICIPALITY: Cresskill

OWNERSHIP:  Public  Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: Milton & Anne O'Conner  
(same)

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:

- Erskine (1778-80)
- Hopkins-Corey (1861) P. Huyler
- Walker's Atlas (1876) Geo. Huyler
- Bromley (1912) Geo. Huyler Est.
- Other

RECOGNITION:

- National Register
- HABS #6-168
- Other
- BCHS Marker
- Bailey

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: 85°W

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:  
Large stone out kitchen, large gable-roofed frame Victorian barn

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Agricultural
- Open Space
- Other

COMMENTS:

THREATS TO STRUCTURE

ORIGINAL: residence  
PRESENT: residence

THREATS TO STRUCTURE:

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

COMMENTS:

CONDITION

CONDITION:

- Excellent
- Fair
- Good
- Deteriorated

STATUS:

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Work in Progress

ACCESSIBLE:

- Yes, Restricted
- Yes, Unrestricted
- No

Numerous Victorian changes in West parlor and the detailing. Dormer windows have been added on front and back. Bay window added to dining room in back. Frame shed added early to East wall of East wing (probably to enclose bee-hive oven, now gone). Some of finest stonework in Bergen County.

PHOTO



MAP



**DESCRIPTION****CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**

1770-1805/HABS, but no evidence found  
1836 datestone

**BUILDER:** Peter Huyler

**FORM/PLAN TYPE:** "F", 5 bay center hall with  
2 front rooms with fireplaces, 2 back  
rooms. 48'3"x34'-3". Wing to East is  
3 bay, 1-1/2 rooms deep. 24'-3"x26'-0"

**FRAMING SYSTEM:**

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

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:**

Dressed ashlar sandstone on front,  
coursed sandstone on other walls.

**FENESTRATION:**

3'-4"x5'-10" (6/6) sash with  
stone lintels

**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**

center bay of South front. Panelled  
door with side lights and transom.  
Heavy mouldings and fluted columns.

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 1-1/2

**CELLAR:**  Yes  
 No

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:**

- Stone Arch
- Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
- Other basement fireplace

**FLOOR JOISTS:** 3-1/2"x8" @ 27" o.c.  
in Main. Wing: 4-1/2"-6"x8"-10"

**FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:** 9'-6"  
in Main. 7'-8" in Wing.

**FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:**

**GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:** concealed

**GARRET:**

- Unfinished Space
- Finished Space

**ROOF:**

- Gable wing
- Gambrel main
- Curb
- Other

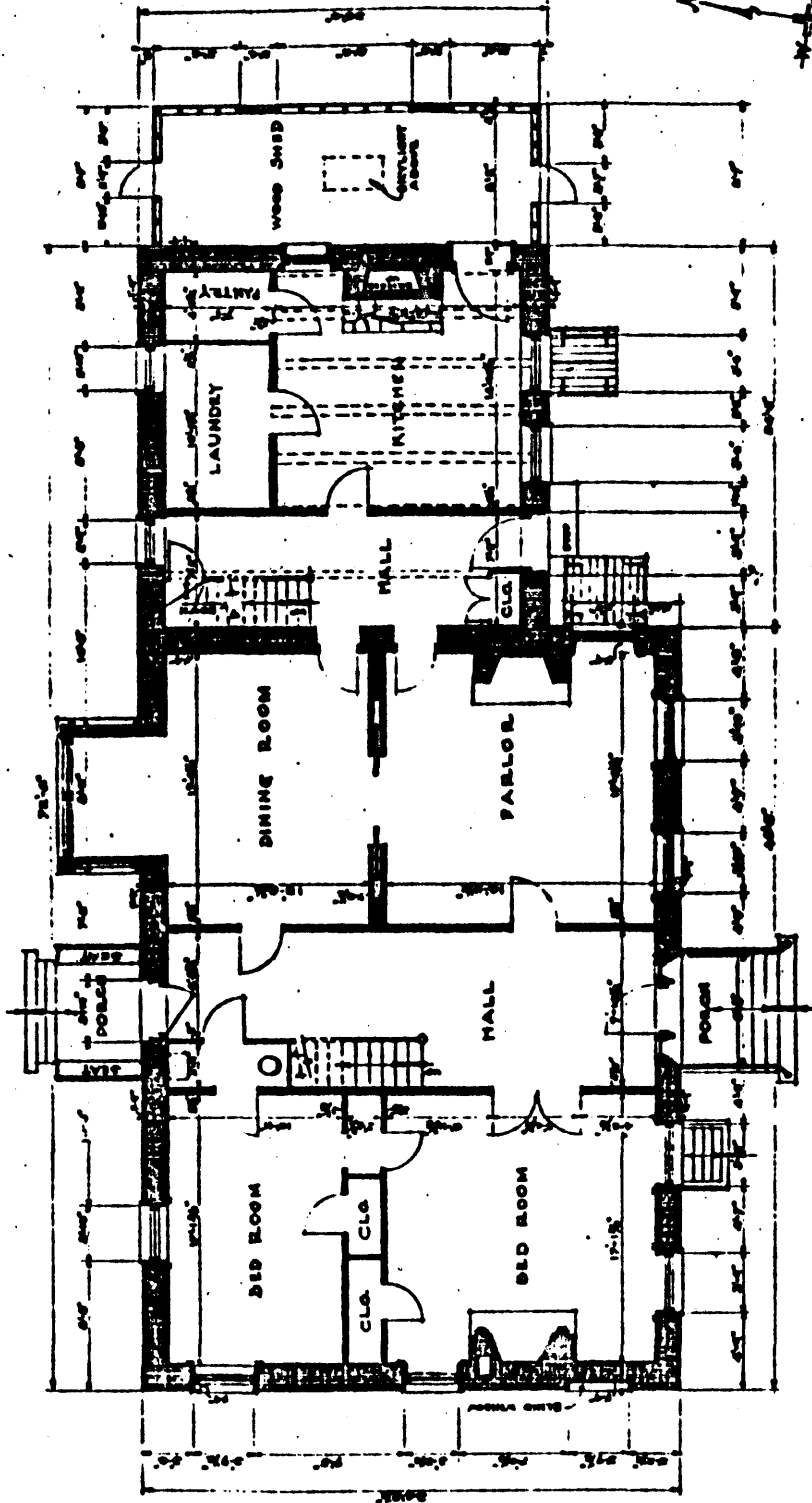
**EAVE TREATMENT:**

- Sweeping Overhang main
- Supported Overhang
- No Overhang
- Boxed Gutter wing
- 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.

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY  
HISTORIC NAME: Peter Huyler  
LOCATION: 50 County Road, Cresskill

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FIRST FLOOR PLAN

W. W. STAUTMEISTER, DEL.  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 OFFICE OF MINERAL, FOREST, AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 DIVISION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

THE OLD HUYLER - HOMESTEAD  
 COUNTY ROAD - BOROUGH OF CRESSKILL - NEW JERSEY

6-160

BERGEN COUNTY  
 HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY  
 MAP 7 OF 25 SHEETS

This house has a very obscure history and it should be title searched. The property is said to have belonged to a John Eckerson in 1770. It was confiscated in 1779 and sold to Captain John Huyler in March of 1784 (he lived elsewhere). No house is shown at this location on Watkins 1778 map. The Cresskill booklet of 1964 says Peter Huyler, son of John, built the house in 1836, which date agrees with the date stone over the door (therefore, this house is called the "Peter Huyler House").

The house is extremely important to this survey, since it is dated (date stone) and seems to be the epitome of the style that has been dubbed "Dutch Colonial". There is no finer stonework on any other house; it is finely cut with narrow mortar joints, set in a perfect Flemish bond pattern on the facade, with every block tooled in a vertical reeded design. Even the sills and lintels are treated in this manner. Otherwise, the decorations are restrained; there are no fanciful leaded patterns in the glass around the entrance door, no scroll work on the stair stringer nor carving in the trim, except the acanthus leaved corner blocks on the window frames (where they haven't been changed). The remaining original mantel is the simple 1830's style (center panel with columns type). The house is very spacious and has been Victorianized in the west end parlor area. There have been some other minor changes, including a bay window added to the rear. The second floor rooms appear to have been completed about the middle of the nineteenth century but there is still a full garret, with a bedroom under the windbeams, above them. The wing, although believed to predate the main house, appears to be an addition; measurements show it has no wall of its own and the cellar opening to it from the main house was broken through later. Also, there were found no remains of a foundation wall having been there and its joists and rafters are framed alongside the main wall. In the southwest corner of the cellar are a roughed fireplace and a nailer in the wall (probably for panelling). Because of these two features, it is believed that a cellar kitchen had been planned but these plans were changed (possibly due to Abolition?) to a kitchen addition on the east instead. A stair hole was cut through under the main but never completed. The outkitchen is of the same vintage as the house, but the original fireplace has been rebuilt. Tradition says the stone mason was Scotch. A heart is inscribed in the riser of the door sill at the entrance. This could be the mason's mark or a blessing on a marriage. A beehive arch remains in the east wall of the main kitchen and another in the south wall of the outkitchen. - CKT.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Block 92H, Lot 1A - Cresskill Tax Map

2.19<sup>+</sup> acres

U.T.M.

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Yonkers, New Jersey-New York