

HISTORIC NAME: Garret & Maria Ackerman House
LOCATION: 150 East Saddle River Rd.

COMMON NAME:
BLOCK/LOT 1701/43

MUNICIPALITY: Saddle River
USGS QUAD: Park Ridge
OWNER/ADDRESS: Alberto Aroldi

COUNTY: Bergen
UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

DESCRIPTION

Construction Date: 1824; c.1830

Source of Date: HABS & Ackerman Homesteads;
Inskeep Map, Jr. League
Inventory

Architect:
Style: vernacular Greek Revival

Builder:
Form/Plan Type: see p.3

Number of Stories: 1½

Foundation: east wing: low, not visible; west wing: south facade: field stone, west side: brick

Exterior Wall Fabric: clapboard

Fenestration: 3 bay west wing with 2 bay east wing; 6/6 belly windows in frieze of both wings

Roof/Chimneys: gables, wood shingles; int. chimney at east end of west wing, added ext. chim.

Additional Architectural Description: ney on east wing.

This house was altered about 1937 when west door of south facade of west wing was changed into a window, internal walls of west wing were removed, late 19th c. porch on west wing removed. 3 bay porch added to south facade of east wing, south door of east wing replaced. House retains wide door flooring and much interior trim. North wings added since 1936.

PHOTO Negative File No. 3-R-2146



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2.91 Acre property. House faces south and end faces road. Setback about 50' from road. On sloping site. Property has a number of stone retaining walls. North of house about 3' is a 3 bay shed, 1 story, gable roof, shiplap siding, which may date to late 19th century. To east is barn, 1½ story, shiplap siding, gable roof. On property is also a recent garage building and an inground swimming pool (south of house).

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Urban Suburban Scattered Buildings
 Open Space Woodland Residential Agricultural Village
 Industrial Downtown Commercial Highway Commercial Other

East of the house are woods, Houses are to the north and south.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Garret and Maria Ackerman House is an interesting example of early frame domestic architecture. Its 1½ story massing of two attached blocks and its regular fenestration with belly windows in friezes is characteristic of local vernacular architecture in the early 19th century. The house is an unpretentious house of small size with few decorative features. While remodelled and enlarged since recorded by the Historic American Building Survey in 1936, the house's main facade maintains the massing, roofline, and many other features evident then. Modifications, while not archeologically correct, are understated and compatible. While the Historic American Building Survey calls this house the Van Buskirk-Ackerman House, its first residents were probably Thomas and Maria Ackerman. According to one source, Thomas Van Buskirk gave the house to his daughter Maria when she married Garret A. Ackerman in 1824 (Ackerman Homesteads, p. 89). A circa 1838 date is given for the building by Helen Ester Inskip and Mark M. Inskip on their 1964 map. The building appears to be at this site on the 1840 U.S. Coast survey map. Its vernacular style with belly windows is typical for Bergen County houses in the early 19th century. So either the 1824 or 1838 date is plausible. The house remained in the Ackerman family into the 20th century. It was remodeled and enlarged about 1937. In 1956 it was the

ORIGINAL USE: Residence
 PHYSICAL CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Poor same (see cont. sheet)
 REGISTER ELIGIBILITY: Yes Possible No Part of District
 THREATS TO SITE: Roads Development Zoning Deterioration
 No Threat Other

COMMENTS:

REFERENCES: NJHSI 2714.2 ; 0258-12.

HABS NJ-331, copy in possession of Aroldi.
 Junior League Inventory
 CKT List
 1861 Hopkins Map: G Ackerman
 1876 Walker Atlas, pp. 112-113, 120-121: GA Ackerman
 1887 Driving Map: Mrs. Ackerman or A.H. Ackerman
 1902 Robinson Map: J.L. Ackerman

RECORDED BY: SRHC/TRB
 ORGANIZATION: SRHC/BCOC & HA

DATE: 4-1984

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

county home of A.C. Minton, retired secretary of Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. Today it is a good example of a modest farmhouse which has evolved into a comfortable exurban home.

REFERENCES (continued)

1913 Bromley, Atlas: A.L. Ackerman (also associated with the house to the south).
 1964 Inskip Map: "c. 1838, G.A. Ackerman (1847) married Marie Van Buskirk, G.Z. Ackerman (1876)".
 Ackerman Homesteads, p. 89
 The Sunday News, March 4, 1956.
 SRHC files.



Shed, looking west, house at left.
 neg. file #1-9

FORM/PLAN TYPE:

