

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **OCT 11 1985**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Demarest - Bloomer House

and/or common Bloomer - Hart House

2. Location

street & number 147 River Edge Avenue NA not for publication

city, town New Milford N/A vicinity of

state New Jersey code Q34 county Bergen code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Thomas S. and Valerie Maxwell

street & number 147 River Edge Avenue

city, town New Milford _____ vicinity of state New Jersey

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Deeds & Records

street & number Bergen County Administrative Building

city, town Hackensack state New Jersey

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

N.J. Historic Sites Inventory - Bergen County Survey
title Nos. 0238-3 & 02520D2 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 5/31/81, Revised 3/30/82 8-1-79 federal state county local

depository for survey records Bergen County Office of Cultural & Historic Affairs

Office of NJ Heritage, D.E.P.

Hackensack

city, town Trenton state New Jersey

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Demarest-Bloomer House is a large, stylish and formal Greek Revival vernacular house, Federal in composition. Both the 2½ story, 5-bay main block and the 1½ story west kitchen wing are gable roofed, and have front facades of brick laid in Flemish bond, with side and rear walls of frame construction. Interiors of the main block display richly panelled Greek Revival woodwork with a repeated motif of recessed panels and planes and decorative plasterwork, both of very high quality.

The building, a 2 story carriage house, 1 story garage, and carport are located on a ½ acre site on the east bank of the Hackensack River at historic Demarest Landing (or Old Bridge Crossing) in the Borough of New Milford, New Jersey. The property is bounded to the south by River Edge Avenue, and this well travelled street, set at a slightly higher elevation than the property, leads directly to the bridge spanning the river and providing access between the Boroughs of New Milford and River Edge.

Visible from the site to the southwest in River Edge is the 2½ story building with its east foundation in the river bank, constructed supposedly around 1800, as a general store, now much modified. And directly across the river is the small 1902 River Edge railroad station, a vernacular design. To the south are 20th century residences. The site and surrounding property to the north and east provide an abundance of trees and shrubbery which offer partial screening to the house. The house is within an area which "in terms of spaces and buildings still presents the image of a small town center before the turn of the century. . ." (as described by the River Edge Historic Sites Survey).

During a full century following its construction it is likely that the house stood without alteration except for the addition of a front porch to the wing, perhaps during the mid-19th century, and of a veranda to the main block after 1910. However, during the late 1930's this veranda was removed, and interior modifications were made to permit use of the main block for four small rental units and the wing as a separate residence. These modifications included the installation of hot water heating systems in the main block and wing, conversion of a room on each floor of the main block to a kitchen, addition of minimal kitchen facilities within two other rooms, and the addition of three bathrooms to the main block. A rear extension, added to the main block, housed one of these bathrooms and an enclosed porch. The cellar was also finished during this period. The interior layout of the wing was completely altered, and rooms were constructed on both floors, including a kitchen and bathroom.

During the late 1940's the two minimal kitchen facilities were removed, and the enclosed porch was enlarged when the main block reverted to single family occupancy.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford
Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 7

Page 1

Main Block

The main block, built between 1830 and 1840, is a 2½ story, gable roofed, 44' x 33' structure, 5 bays wide and 3 bays deep. Red, coursed sandstone foundations topped by a water table painted black, support the exterior walls. The principal facade, oriented to the south, is of 8 1/4" x 3 7/8" x 2 1/4" brick, laid in Flemish bond, while the remaining sides are clapboard, covered during the 1950's, with the same width aluminum siding.

The principal facade has a centrally located recessed entrance with narrow pane, half-height side lights set within pairs of Doric pilasters with very flat, concentric, double-stepped panelling. The pilasters are topped by an entablature spanning the full entrance width, surmounted by a transom, and returning to the brick face. The 3-panel motif of the original door is repeated in the articulation of entrance side-panelling and soffit panelling. The entrance is flanked by fluted Doric columns resting on narrow stone block bases and supporting a shallow depth pediment bearing Federal Revival Style design elements. Addition of the pediment appears to have occurred during the late-1930's. A veranda had been added after 1910, but it was removed in the late 1930's. The first story windows have 6/6 sash with rectangular stone lintels and sills now painted black. Second story windows have 6/3 sash. Six small rectangular iron anchor-plates, evenly spaced across the facade below second story level, mark the ends of tie-rods probably placed during construction for structural reinforcement. A cornice with boxed gutter and wide frieze caps the principal and rear facades, and terminates in short returns at the gable ends.

The gable ends of the main block are formally similar, with the exception of differences related to placement of the wing at the west end. At each end of the main block a pair of interior brick chimneys, straddling the ridge line and serving fireplaces located against the exterior walls at both floor levels, rise from the roof which is covered with asphalt composition shingle. An arrangement of opposed half-lunette windows, tangent to the roof slope, with a central lunette above, all having fan designs, light the attic in each gable. Windows at the east end have original panelled wood shutters.

Major differences in formal arrangement of the rear facade, as compared with the front, relate to the 1 story enclosed shed roofed central porch and bathroom added to the rear in 1936, and extended to the west in 1947. There is, in addition, a small exit stair enclosure serving the main block in the corner formed by the intersection of its west wall with the wing wall. Also, the large central second story window lighting the interior stairway landing has no

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford
Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 7

Page 2

counterpart in the front. The rear facade presents an informal appearance appropriate to its location and functions.

At first floor level, the main block's interior has a center hall plan with two large adjoining rooms on each side. The 10' ceiling height of the hall and of all the first floor rooms lends a gracious feeling to these spaces, further reflected in an abundance of decorative details.

The spacious hall has door trim with pilasters with recessing panels carrying an entablature. Carved forms or hand-shaped elements do not appear in the house, and the dominant motif is of flat moldings creating recessing planes or panels. Molded baseboards run through each room of the house. Flooring in the house is 9"-10" wide pine board with the exception of first and second floor halls which have been covered with narrow width planking.

At mid-distance through the hall, a stairway to the west, rises in a long flight to a landing, lighted by a large window at the rear wall, and returns in a short flight to the second floor. The stringer is embellished with an applied running vine pattern, and panelled wainscoting encloses space below the stair.

The interior decorative woodwork of the front entrance mirrors in detail the exterior, and carries into the house the simple, elegant decorative motifs initially encountered at the recessed entrance. These motifs are repeated with consistence in the ornamental trim of door and window openings.

The dining room, to the west of the hall, features the most elaborate mantle in the house. Double tiered Doric pilasters with deeply recessed panels resting on bases, frame the fireplace opening and embrace a boldly reeded frieze with richly panelled central tablet. All are topped by a grooved projecting shelf. The frieze reeding and central tablet are produced by an artful arrangement of carefully joined molded wood sections. There is a chimney cupboard beside the fireplace.

All first floor windows have Doric pilastered enframements with full entablature and underpanelling. Front windows have deep splayed and panelled casings. Side window casings are plain. Door trim similar to front window trim surround all door openings within which 6-panel doors are hung. In this and other first floor rooms there are ornamental plaster cornices of complex classical shape comprising fascia, cavetto, bead, ogee and pulvinated forms. A chandelier and ceiling rosette, both of mid to late 19th century design, appear to be additions to the dining room.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford
Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 7

Page 3

The two parlors east of the hall are separated by a pair of large pocketed 6-panel sliding doors flanked by fluted Doric pilasters back to back in each room. A soffit with bottom molding rests on the pilasters and spans the room above the wide door opening, functioning as the architrave of a classical entablature, with the wall above functioning as a wide frieze. The parlor rooms are virtual mirror images of each other and follow the dining room in details of ornamental woodwork and plaster work. However, the mantles are simpler designs, but are consistent with the panelled Doric pilaster motifs surrounding doorway and window openings. Chimney cupboards and full-height narrow closets are set in beside the fireplaces.

A doorway in the north wall of the dining room opens onto a modern kitchen, breakfast room and pantry. This room had previously served another function, with kitchen facilities in the wing, until the late 1930's when the present kitchen spaces were constructed. The mantle in this room was removed and the fireplace sealed.

The longitudinal east-west second floor hall opens onto four major rooms, in addition to a sitting room and a bathroom, and terminate at the west end at an attic stair enclosure door. A second bathroom serves the master bedroom, located in the southeast corner. The northwest room was converted to a modern kitchen during the late 1930's. The mantle was removed and the fireplace sealed. Each of the major rooms have a fireplace.

Second floor rooms have 8' ceilings, and decorative woodwork is considerably less elaborate than on the first floor but continues the motif of recessing moldings established on the first floor. Panelled front window casings and underpanelling is similar to that downstairs. Window and doorway enframements are identical, and have flat, molded trim with square, recessed-face corner blocks. The master bedroom mantle is similar to that in the parlors below, while the other mantles have plain surfaces and appear to be sympathetic replacements. The attic is a single unfinished space and the roof rafters are lapped and pinned with trunnels.

The cellar was finished during the late 1930's for recreational purposes, and brick was removed when the floor was concreted. The sandstone foundation walls remain exposed and have semi-dressed surfaces. There are heavy hand-hewn beams in the support structure.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford
Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 7

Page 4

Wing

The west wing is a 1½ story, gable roofed 24' x 21' structure, 3 bays wide and 2 bays deep. It is oriented laterally to the main block and is on a common centerline with it. Visible foundations are similar to those of the main block, however, the water table is 1½" less in thickness. The principal facade is of 7½" x 3½" x 2½" brick, laid in Flemish bond. Remaining facades are clapboard covered with the same aluminum siding as applied to the main block. A front porch, which appears to date to the mid 19th century, is supported on square posts with small curved brackets. The 2 first story front windows have 6/6 sash and there is a plain front door in the east bay. There are 2 3-light upper story windows set into the frieze below the eaves. The brick back of the fireplace remains exposed on the first story of the west wall. This brick is the same size as front wall brick, but is laid in common bond. A brick interior chimney rises above the roof. Most side windows have 6/6 sash. The arrangement of windows and door at the rear facade is similar to the front.

The wing was converted into a separate residence during the late 1930's. It contains a living room, kitchen, and dining room on the first floor, and 2 bedrooms with bath on the second floor. There is a stairway against the east wall. There is an old Rumford-type cooking fireplace with a small bake oven in the jamb, and its original panelling. Roof rafter construction is similar to that in the main block, and wood lath with rough plaster undercoat of the adjoining main block wall is visible from the attic space. The cellar is unfinished with large hand-hewn beams, and there is an uncoursed rubble foundation wall. Adjoining walls of the wing and main block are supported on separate foundations constructed side by side.

Based upon physical and documentary evidence available at this time, it has not been possible to definitively date the wing construction. The existence of separate but adjoining foundation walls: uncoursed rubble for one, and semi-dressed sandstone for the other; difference in water table thickness, and in face brick size, use of the wing attic structure to support main block wall section, all point to wing construction prior to main block. In addition, Casparus Demarest's Will of 1824 (see Statement of Significance) indicates a residence to exist on a tract which included the house site. However, a Surveyor Map of the area, (dated 1828), shows only a cider mill and smoke house on the site. In view of these apparent inconsistencies, a construction date prior to 1828 cannot be assigned to the wing.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford
Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 7

Page 5

Outbuildings

To the rear, northeast of the house, is a 2 story, gable roofed, frame, 3 bay carriage house, built in the late 1930's. In construction of this building, use was made of wood from the remains of an old barn located at the rear of the site. A 2 car garage, utility room and entrance hall are at first floor, and a 4 room apartment with bath is on the second floor.

At the northeasterly corner of the site and to the rear of the carriage house is a long, 1 story, gable roofed, frame structure comprising a standard bay and a wide bay garage space, with adjoining enclosed workshop. This building was constructed during the same period as the carriage house.

A gable roofed carport was constructed during 1984 in the areaway between the carriage house and workshop.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1830–1840 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Demarest-Bloomer House is among Bergen County's few surviving imposing examples of domestic architecture built between approximately 1820 and 1840. It is important in Bergen County's architectural history as an extant building blending major characteristics of the indigenous regional building tradition with the Greek Revival style. This is expressed in the varied materials combined for construction of its exterior walls and in the design character of its decorative interior features, which are among the finest of the period extant in Bergen County.

The building is also one of the oldest houses in the Borough of New Milford, and with the nearby Jacobus Demarest House (NR 2/17/78) is one of the two extant buildings constructed there by Demarest family members, and located within the area along the Hackensack River known as Demarest Landing or Old Bridge. This is the location of what is said to be the first permanent settlement in Bergen County of about 1678. The Demarest-Bloomer House site is very likely the location of a pre-1700 mill and is believed to have been the site of a cider mill and smoke house in 1828. The area has witnessed the construction of mills, a dam and farm buildings before the 18th century. It later became a port and commercial area, and has experience continuity in use and habitation to the present time.

The history of the house and its surrounding lands reflects the evolution of Demarest Landing as it changed from the sparsely populated farming community and river port that it was during the 19th century to the suburban residential community that it is today.

In the restrained formality, classical proportions, and generous dimensions of its architecture, the Demarest-Bloomer House presents an image of well-being and prosperity such as a well-to-do, early 19th century, Bergen County merchant or landowner might have wished to convey to his community. Built in the latest style of the day, with brick front and fine decorative interiors, it expresses a sense of graciousness and refinement not frequently found in extant buildings of the period in Bergen County. By exhibiting the above characteristics the house demonstrates the manner in which local residents of the period and their families might prosper from commerce in the area.

In the proportions of its major dimensions and in the bilateral symmetry of its facade, the main block reflects American Neo-Classical and Greek Revival architectural traditions. However, unlike other houses of the style and period built elsewhere, which most commonly have walls constructed of a single material, the Demarest-Bloomer House utilizes varied materials in its exterior walls. This

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

Quadrangle name Hackensack

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	5	8	1	8	2	0	4	5	3	1	7	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 29, Lot 1-B in Borough of New Milford, Bergen County, New Jersey

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Schuyler Warmflash, PE, MA

organization

date January 2, 1985

street & number 563 Cumberland Avenue

telephone (201) 836-3003

city or town Teaneck

state New Jersey

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

Allen C. Deusha

title Asst. Commissioner for Natural Resources

date September 20, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

Alvina Byrne
Keeper of the National Register

date 11-7-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford
Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 8

Page 1

characteristic of the house reflects a regional variant not uncommon in early 19th century Bergen County architecture. Foundation walls of the house and water table are of sandstone, and stone is also used for window sills and lintels. Brick is used in front wall construction. Wood is used for most trim, and wood-framed side and rear walls are clapboard covered. It is likely that wood was also used originally for roof shingles. A bit of iron also makes its appearance in the tie rod anchor-plates on the front wall. Many of the early 19th century stone houses in Bergen County also display a mix of wall materials, employing sandstone, brick and wood in exterior construction.

The Bergen County architectural tradition is usually conservative, if not at times austere, as visually expressed in architectural forms. The decorative interior features of the Demarest-Bloomer House express this tradition of restraint in their design character. Formal elements avoid the exuberance and decorative elaboration to be found in the interiors of imposing urban Greek Revival houses or in rural houses built in a grand tradition. The Doric order is used in lieu of the richer Ionic or Corinthian. Surfaces are not embellished with foliate, rosette, anthemion or fretwork detailing. Nor are panelling or moldings enriched with egg and dart, dentilled or wreath patterns. However, with their simple but handsome formal composition, crisp linearity and clean flat panelling the interiors of the Demarest-Bloomer House are among the finest of the Greek Revival period extant in Bergen County. Their workmanship exhibits care and attention to detail. The work of the same craftsmen or workshop responsible for the house's woodwork is recognizable in a number of mantles, doorways and windows in the Washington Bank Building of 1831, in Hackensack. The woodwork of these two buildings, of apparently common origin, may have been pre-assembled in a local woodworking or furniture-maker shop, but this hypothesis must await confirmatory research.

Although the Demarest-Bloomer House has its origins within the 19th century, the present house site was part of a larger tract connected with the 17th century settlement of Bergen County. This tract, the so-called "French Patent," was purchased by David Demarest, Senior, who immigrated to America in 1663. He is said to have established the first permanent settlement in Bergen County in about 1678.¹

¹Howard I. Durie, "Some Lesser-Known Huguenots on the Hackensack," Bergen County History, Bergen County Historical Society, 1971 Annual, p. 7.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford
Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 8

Page 2

A Warrant for Survey of 1681 defining the limits of the then reduced patent indicates that by that date a mill (called the "little mill") and dam were in existence on a site on the east side of the river first known as Demarest Landing, and later called Old Bridge.² The present-day Demarest-Bloomer House by virtue of its river front location just north of the present New Milford-River Edge Bridge was no doubt in the immediate vicinity of the "little" mill and dam, and so may have archeological potential.

David Demarest Senior's Will of 1689 and a subsequent Agreement of 1693, entered into by his heirs for division of his estate, gave his³ son John Senior (1645-1719) certain properties which included the "little" mill.

The "little" mill, and other adjacent properties, were sold by John Senior between 1714 and 1719 to an undisclosed purchaser by an unrecorded transfer. Since all of this property is believed to have come into the possession of John Demarest (1720-1783), son of Jacobus Demarest⁴ (1681-1763), it can only be assumed that John Senior sold to Jacobus, his nephew.

John, son of Jacobus, was a prominent official in public affairs, holding the office of Commissioner of the Loan Office of Bergen County, Manager of the Court House, Justice and Freeholder, and Assessor and Collector of the Township

²In 1681 a number of tracts were surveyed by Robert Vauquellin for David Demarest, Senior and others. The Surveyor's Notes (Perth Amboy, Record Lib. 2. 128) mention the mill and mill dam on the east side of the river. Mary A. Demarest and William H. S. Demarest comp. The Demarest Family, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1938, p. 464. Also, Durie, Some Lesser-Known Huguenots, p. 9.

³Howard I. Durie, "The Demarest Lands At Old Bridge," manuscript, n.d., Items 1-3. On file at Bergen County Office of Cultural and Historic Affairs, Hackensack. Demarest Family Association, The Demarest Family, New York: Arno Press, 1964, is used here for all family member names and dates.

⁴Howard I. Durie, "Genealogical and Historical Records Pertaining to the Demarest-Casey House, 618 River Road, New Milford, New Jersey, and The Immediate Area at Old Bridge," pp. 3, 5. On file at the New Milford Public Library.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford
Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 8

Page 3

of Hackensack. Because of his knowledge of the farms and their owners in the township, he participated in proceedings held during 1769 in settlement of the New York/New Jersey boundary line.⁵

John's unrecorded Will of 1782 left his whole estate to his wife Rachel, while she remained a widow, and divided his real estate between his sons, Jacobus (1748-1844) and Casparus (1766-1844). Tax records indicate that included in Casparus' land holdings after 1788 was the present Demarest-Bloomer House site.⁶ However, another son, Johannes (1755-1848), is said to have built the west wing of the Demarest-Bloomer House between 1781 and 1790. Johannes was a soldier in the Revolution, married Anna Kip in 1782, and is said to have built the wing as a house for his bride.⁷ As previously indicated, definitive dating or attribution of wing construction is not presently possible, but a pre-1828 date seems unlikely.⁸

Casparus' Will, dated 1824 and probated in 1844, devised to his son, John C. (1795-1865) properties including a 10 acre lot "on which John now resides," north of present River Edge Avenue and fronting the river. The southwest corner of

⁵ Ibid., p. 8.

⁶ Ibid., pp. 9, 10.

⁷ All attributions to Johannes are undocumented by their authors. Included are: Sigmund H. Uminsky, History of River Edge, Hauser Printing Co., 1965, p. 24. Leon A. Smith, The Story of New Milford, Guide-Kalkoff-Burr, 1964, p. 15. Raymond D. Bessey, "New Milford Founded by Demarest," manuscript, n.d., Bergen County Historical Society Collection, Hackensack. Raymond D. Bessey, letter to F. Bruce Hart, dated June 9, 1954, in possession of Valerie Maxwell, New Milford. The Demarest Family, 1964, p. V-12, "He (Johannes) was a soldier in the Revolution."

⁸ Erskine Map No. 113, dated 1780, shows no house on the site. A New Milford Surveyor's Map, dated 1828 (BCHS Collection at River Edge), indicates only a cider mill and smoke house to exist at that date, whereas Road Return Map, Book F, Page 100, dated 1848 (County Clerk's Office, Hackensack) shows the full house development.

⁹ Durie, Genealogical, p. 10.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford

Continuation sheet Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 8

Page 4

this lot contains the Demarest-Bloomer House site. Based upon Casparus' Will of 1824, and John C.'s marriage in 1823, it is reasonable to assume that following his marriage he lived on the property later devised to him, and that as his family grew in size he constructed the main block of the house, between 1830 and 1840, either connecting it with a pre-existing wing or adding the wing to it.

John C.¹⁰ was a prosperous farmer with real estate holdings in 1850 valued at \$17,000.00.¹¹ He also appears to have been involved in river navigation or commerce. The large house which he constructed reflects this wealth in its size, its comfort, and in the beauty of its decorative details. However, there were serious reversals in his financial affairs during the 1850's.¹² It appears that he mortgaged his inherited property and lost it by foreclosure, and there is a record of sale in 1860 to his brother, George C. Demarest.¹³

In 1864, George C. Demarest sold to George Bloomer the house and its approximately 12 acre site (Book W-5, page 74). Bloomer was a dealer in coal and builders supplies who operated a business with sons George, Jr. and David H. in River Edge. Following his death in 1883 (noted by the Bergen County Democrat, 10/19/83 and Hackensack Republican, 10/25/83), the property was inherited by his children (Book 3, page 432). All of the land remained in possession of the Bloomer family until 1925, when the last of the Bloomer heirs, George Bloomer, Jr. sold the bulk of the land while retaining the house and its present ½ acre lot. After the death of George Bloomer, Jr. in 1928, responsibility for his Estate was assumed by his appointed Executors and Trustees, The Hackensack Trust Company (Book 95, page 65).

¹⁰ United States Census, 1850.

¹¹ Bergen County Democrat, December 22, 1865. Notes death of Captain John C. Demarest on December 10, 1865 in Hackensack.

¹² United States Census, 1860.

¹³ In a letter dated August 20, 1982 from Howard I. Durie to Valerie Maxwell, he notes a Sheriff's Deed of October 20, 1860, recorded in Book K/5, page 465, by which the property was sold to George C. Demarest.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford
Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 8 Page 5

During the 64 year period of Bloomer ownership, it is believed that the house remained without significant physical modification. Through the 19th century, New Milford essentially remained a farming community, although there were shipping at river ports, mills for grinding feed and flour, as well as lumber, coal, and brickyards. Despite the appearance of the New York and New Jersey Railroad across the river in River Edge in 1870, the area's population did not increase radically until the second quarter of the 20th century, when New Milford's decisive transformation from a farming to a residential community occurred. Prior to this period of change, the Demarest-Bloomer House remained without the conveniences of central heating and, doubtless, without plumbing. Following the pace of the surrounding community, the house moved very slowly into the new century.

In 1934, the house was sold by The Hackensack Trust Company to Harry C. Homburg (Book 1935, page 268). It was during the period of Homburg ownership that the house really stepped into the 20th century, with the addition of central heating and plumbing systems. Homburg also used the house as an income producing property by adapting the main block to accommodate four small rental units, and the wing for his own use. The carriage house and garage, also constructed during this period, provided an additional rental unit and the required on-site facilities for automobiles. Between 1940 and 1950, the World War II and post-war periods, the population of New Milford doubled. Those were times of great demand for housing, with little new construction taking place, and use of the property for rentals can be viewed as a reflection of the times.

In 1946, the house was purchased by F. Bruce Hart (Book 2688, page 567). With occupancy by the Harts, minor adaptations were made in the main block for single family use. The wing and carriage house remained as separate occupancy units. Title to the house passed on in 1980 to Thomas and Valerie Maxwell, who are its present owners (Book 6606, page 558). Mrs. Maxwell is the daughter of the Harts.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford

Continuation sheet Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 9

Page 1

Bailey, Rosalie Fellows. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families. New York: William Morrow, 1936.

Bessey, Raymond D. Letter to F. Bruce Hart, June 9, 1954. Possession of Valerie Maxwell, New Milford, New Jersey.

Bessey, Raymond D. "New Milford Founded by Demarest," manuscript, n.d., Bergen County Historical Society Collection, Hackensack, New Jersey.

Bergen County Book of Deeds, Bergen County Administrative Building, Hackensack, New Jersey. Book W-5, page 74; Book 1935, page 268; Book 2688, page 567; Book 6606, page 558.

Bergen County Book of Wills, Bergen County Administrative Building, Hackensack, New Jersey. Book 3, page 432; Book 95, page 65.

Bergen County Democrat. December 22, 1865 and October 19, 1883.

Bergen County Historic Sites Survey. Borough of New Milford. 1980-1981.

Bergen County Historic Sites Survey. Borough of River Edge. 1980-1981.

Breed's Directory. 1902-3.

Demarest Family Association. The Demarest Family. New York: Arno Press, 1964.

Demarest, Mary A. and William H. S., comp. The Demarest Family. New Brunswick, N.J., 1938.

Durie, Howard I. "Genealogical and Historical Records Pertaining to the Demarest-Casey House, 618 River Road, New Milford, New Jersey, and The Immediate Area at Old Bridge." New Milford Public Library.

Durie, Howard I. Letter to Valerie Maxwell, August 20, 1982.

Durie, Howard I. "Some Lesser Known Huguenots on the Hackensack." Bergen County History, Bergen County Historical Society, 1971 Annual.

Durie, Howard I. "The Demarest Lands at Old Bridge," manuscript, n.d. Bergen County Office of Cultural and Historic Affairs, Hackensack, New Jersey.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Demarest-Bloomer House, New Milford
Bergen County, New Jersey Item number 9

Page 2

Ellis, Rowland, C. Colonial Dutch Houses in New Jersey. Newark, New Jersey:
The Carteret Book Club, 1933.

Erskine Map No. 113. 1780.

Hackensack Republican. October 25, 1883.

Homburg, Harry C. Letter to Valerie Maxwell, September 3, 1982.

Interview with Mrs. F. Bruce Hart. Demarest-Bloomer House, October 15, 1984.

Interview with Valerie and Thomas Maxwell. Demarest-Bloomer House, October 8,
1984.

Seventh & Eighth United States Census. 1850, 1860.

New Milford Surveyor's Map. 1828. Bergen County Historical Society Collection,
River Edge, New Jersey.

Road Return Map. 1848. Book F, page 100. County Clerk's Office, Hackensack,
New Jersey.

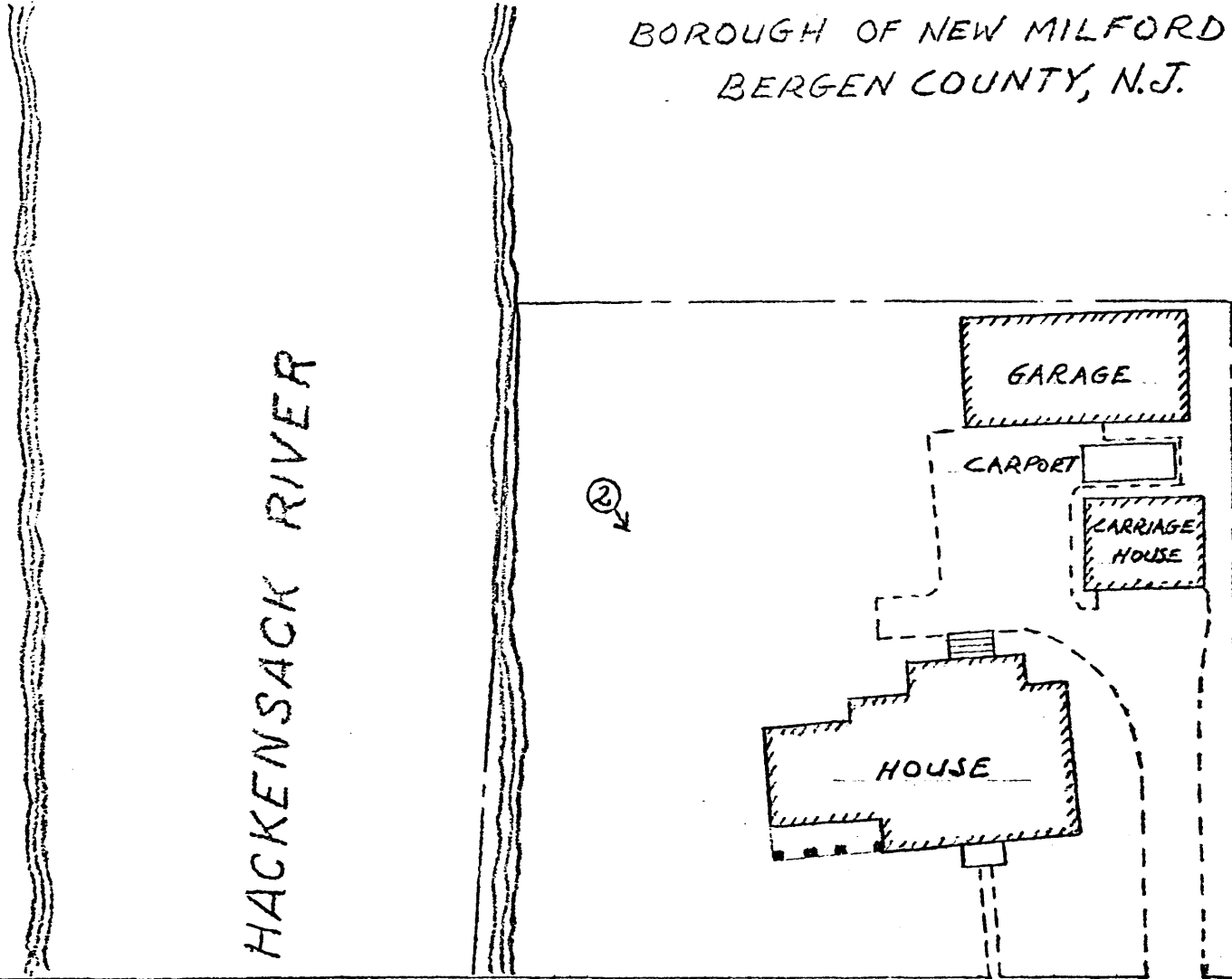
Smith, Leon A., ed. The Story of New Milford. New York: Guide-Kalkoff-Burr,
Inc., 1964.

Uminsky, Sigmund H. History of River Edge. River Edge: Hauser Printing Co.,
1965.

SITE PLAN

DEMAREST-BLOOMER HOUSE
BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.

HACKENSACK RIVER



② ↘

③ ↗

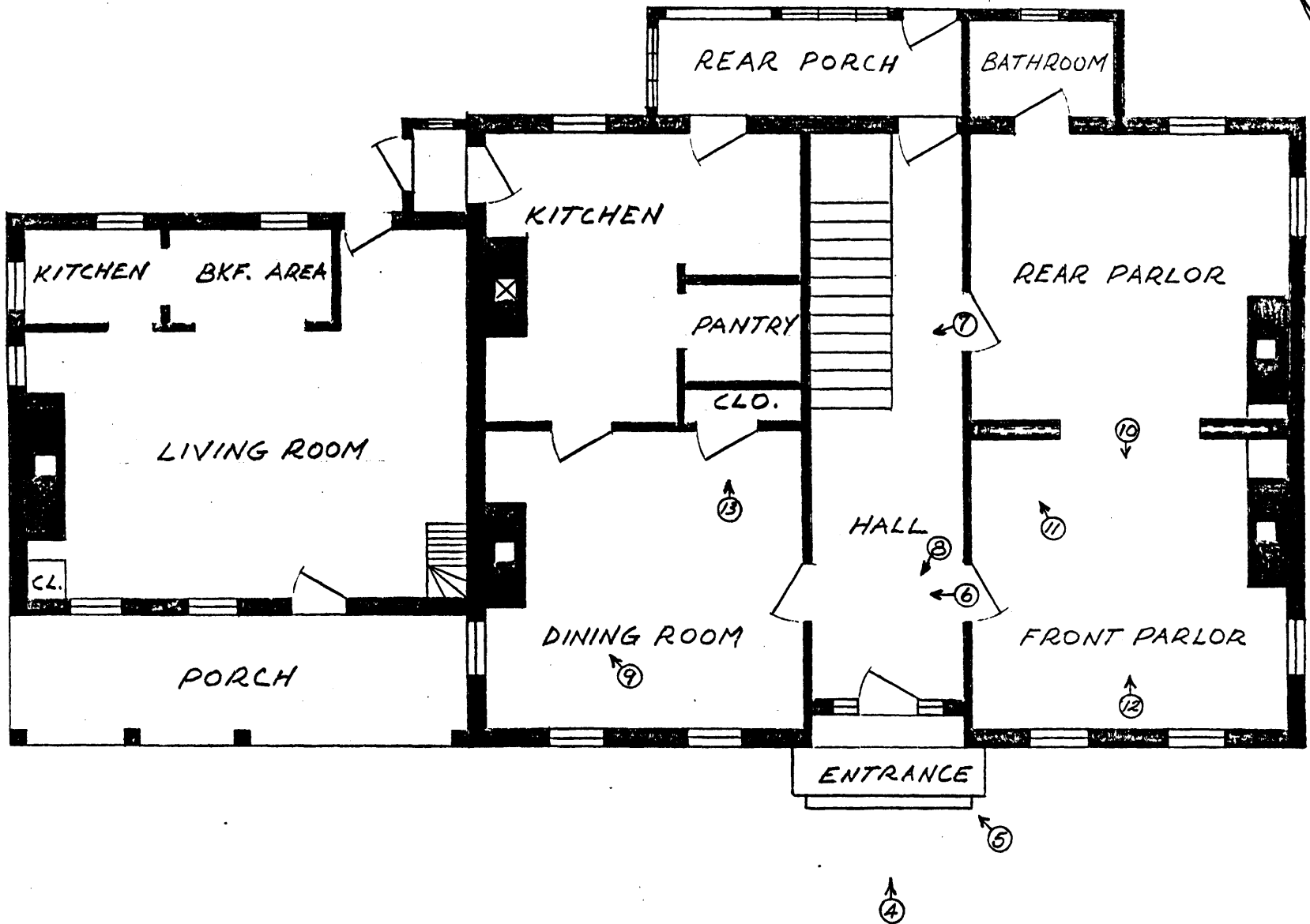
RIVER EDGE

AVENUE

BRIDGE

① ↗

NOTE: NOT TO SCALE



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 DEMAREST-BLOOMER HOUSE
 BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
 BERGEN COUNTY, N.J.

NOTE: NOT TO SCALE

SW