

# BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

106

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GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: Winters-Courter House  
 COMMON NAME:  
 LOCATION: 831 Circle Avenue  
 (Block-1511, Lot-7)  
 MUNICIPALITY: Franklin Lakes  
 OWNERSHIP:  Public  Private  
 OWNER/ADDRESS: H. Kaptain  
 (same)

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:  
 Erskine (1778-80)  
 Hopkins-Corey (1861) J. Winters  
 Walker's Atlas (1876) Wm. M. Courter  
 Bromley (1912) W. M. Courter  
 Other  
 RECOGNITION:  
 National Register  BCHS Marker  
 HABS  Bailey  
 Other

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 20° E  
 IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:  
 Barn (across street, converted to residence), modern garage  
 SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:  
 Residential  
 Commercial  
 Agricultural  
 Open Space  
 Other  
 COMMENTS:

USE  
  
THREATS

ORIGINAL: Residence  
 PRESENT: Residence  
 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 has been rough stuccoed on the facade and southwest end. Only the rear shows the broken stone construction.

PHOTO



MAP



**DESCRIPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**

Plan type appears to be 18th century,  
but detailing appears to be 19th century

**BUILDER:**

Probably a Winters

**FORM/PLAN TYPE:**

"C" 3 bay, 1 room deep.  
27'6" x 18'6" deep

**FRAMING SYSTEM:**

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

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:**

Rough stucco on facade and southwest  
end, broken stone on rear, frame  
addition to east.

**FENESTRATION:**

6/6 31-1/2" x 51" front;  
6/6 28" x 47-1/2" rear.

**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**

Doorway has sidelights, probably 20th  
century; old photo shows Victorian  
double door. 59" x 6'4".

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 1-3/4

**CELLAR:**  Yes (part)  
 No

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:**

- Stone Arch
- Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
- Other

**FLOOR JOISTS:**

**FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:**

**FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:**  
18"

**GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:**

**GARRET:**

- Unfinished Space
- Finished Space

**ROOF:**

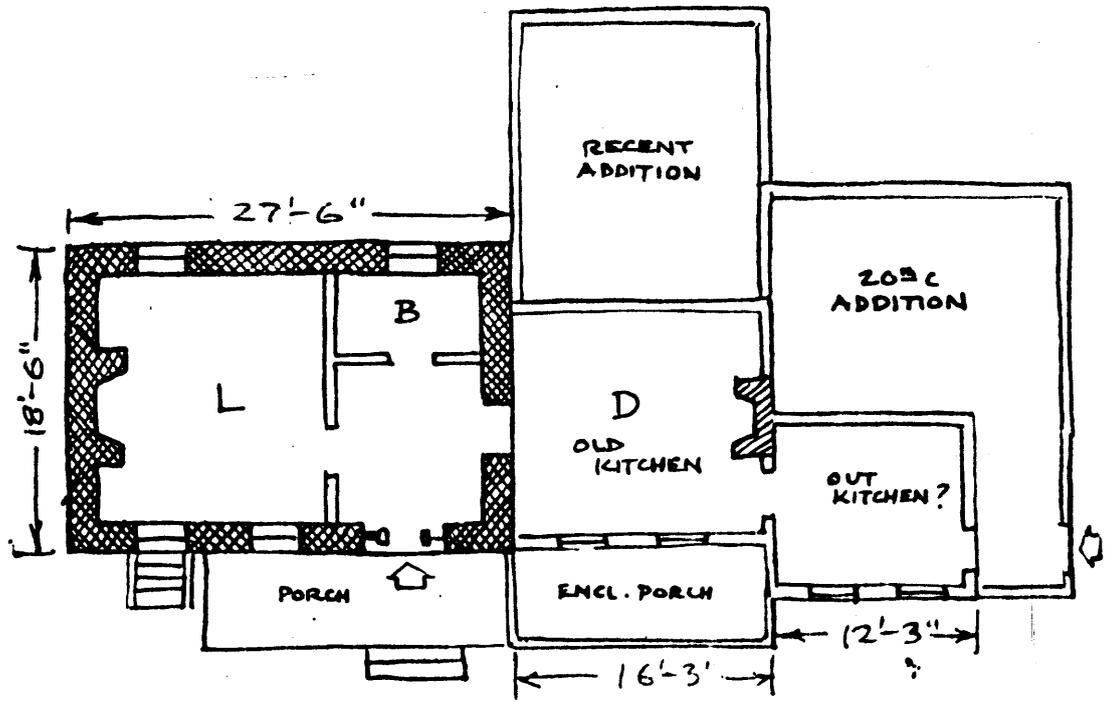
- Gable
- Gambrel
- Curb
- Other

**EAVE TREATMENT:**

- Sweeping Overhang
- Supported Overhang
- No Overhang
- Boxed Gutter
- Other

This house, while having been altered through the years, still retains a sufficient amount of its original fabric that it should be recognized and retained. We are therefore including it for its architectural significance, for its association with the exploration and settlement of the Bergen County area, and for its remaining historic fabric. 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.

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FLOOR PLANS



Peter and Margaret Pulis Winters owned this house at the time of their daughter Susen's birth in 1833. She married John Demarest, and these two celebrated their seventy-fifth anniversary in 1925. It is their sons and grandsons who are [were then?] operating Spring Lake Farm in Wyckoff.

The year 1876 finds William M. Coerter in residence here. "Uncle Willie" served in the Civil War, and was one of the few residents of Bergen County to receive a bayonet wound, as Company C of Bergen County's Twenty-Second Regiment never engaged the enemy in actual combat, but was held in reserve. Mrs. Eleanor Coerter Pulis is William Coerter's daughter and was born in this house.

The living room of the "Winter's farm house," as it was called, is thought to be the oldest section. Some of the glass panes in the rear of the house are still the original panes. The ceiling of the living room consists of the heavy wide boards of the second floor, supported by massive beams. Some of these still have bits of bark on them. Another unusual feature of the house is the extraordinary broad staircase, and the square headed nails. There is a built-in cupboard as well as a fireplace in the dining room.

The stone walls of the first floor are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick. Straw and clay are found in the basement foundation.

The barn was across the street, and has been remodeled. Mr. and Mrs. E. Freshwater live[ed?] here at 830 Circle Avenue. Mr. Freshwater is [was?] the Post Master of Franklin Lakes.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Laciura are the [then] present owners of the "Winters" farm house, located on the road leading from Leaser's corner (formerly Hammond's) directly on the next turn of that road (Circle Ave. and Mountain Ave).

(The above, except for our comments [bracketed], is quoted from Maria Braun's Franklin Lakes: Its History and Heritage.)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Block 1511, Lot 7

1.06 acres

U.T.M.

18 566 680 4541 920  
Ramsey, New Jersey