

Kenneth Perry House
River Road near the Raritan River,
2 miles south of Bound Brook
Bound Brook Vicinity
Middlesex County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-709

HABS
NJ
12-BOUG.V.
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

KENNETH PERRY HOUSE

HABS
NJ
12-5000V

Location: River Road near the Raritan River, two miles south of Bound Brook, Bound Brook Vicinity, Middlesex County, New Jersey

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a large, well-preserved frame house built about the 1860's.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

I. Technical Description of Exterior:

- A. Layout: The house is L-shaped, two-and-a-half stories high, with a lower, two-and-a-half story rear extension, and with bays, porches, and other appendages. The front block of the building, which faces east, forms the base of the L with a porch its full width, and a two-story, three-sided bay window on the left, or south, side. A porte-cochere is tied in with the return of the front porch on the right, or north, side. On the south side, behind the front block, within the angle of the L is an enclosed, one-story porch. On the same side of the house, a small covered porch with wood steps and railings leads to the kitchen door in the rear extension. Of recent date, a screened-in porch has been added at the rear of the house and is about two-thirds the width of the rear extension.
- B. Foundations: The masonry foundations have small cellar windows above grade, and raise the first floor level about two-and-a-half feet above grade.
- C. Walls: The walls are wood clapboards, about five inches to the weather.
- D. Porches: The main front porch is entirely of wood on a masonry foundation. The cornice of the flat porch roof has a crown-mold over an architrave. Band-sawn brackets support the overhang and project below the architrave to the column capitals. At right angles to these brackets, at the column caps, are other band-sawn brackets supporting the architrave. There are eight columns or posts with chamfered edges and capitals, on pedestals with caps and bases. The pedestal caps are on the line of the handrail of the balustrade, which has turned balusters.

At the right side of the house, the porte-cochere has approximately elliptical arches with pierced ornamentation in the spandrels, ornamented wood keystones dropped below the heads of the arches, and band-sawn brackets at the columns. The porte-cochere columns do not stand on pedestals, but have bases at the porch floor level supported by a stone foundation the length of the porte-cochere.

The porch on the south side of the house in the angle of the L has recently been closed in with a top-lighted, paneled door, with five double-hung windows with nine-over-nine light sash on the same side as the door, and with two similar windows on the end. The door is approached by five wood steps and a wood railing on one side. At the rear of the house, the new screened porch is six bays wide and three bays deep with a screen door and wood steps.

- E. Bay window: The three-sided bay window on the south side has a masonry foundation, paired double-hung windows of one-over-one light sash with slatted shutters on each side of the first floor, and single double-hung windows of two-over-two light sash with slatted shutters on each side of the second floor. The second floor windows have molded and bracketed heads. The flat roof of the bay has a bracketed cornice similar to the main cornice and continuous with it. Between the first and second floors of the bay is another full cornice of the same detail as the main cornice.
- F. Windows: All the principal windows, both first and second floors, except at the rear of the house, are two-over-two light, double-hung sash with slatted shutters and window heads supported by two brackets. The rear windows, without bracketed heads, are similar to the others. Attic windows have circle head upper sash. On the east front there is a single circle head attic window with a molded, curved head, and an ornamented wood balcony supported on band-sawn brackets.
- G. Roof:
1. Shape, covering: Gable main roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The appendages have flat metal roofs.
 2. Eaves, cornice: Heavy overhanging eaves are supported by large, band-sawn brackets, set in pairs. The cornice has a crown mold and a bed mold of stylized dentils. The cornice returns on itself at each gable.
- H. Chimneys: The four chimneys on the main roof and the one on the lower roof of the rear extension are husky, rectangular brick chimneys with simple receding caps.

II. Technical Description of Interiors:

- A. Floor plans: Central hall type plan with the hall flanked by large rooms on each side which lead to the rear rooms.
- B. Flooring: The hall has a parqueted floor in hardwood with border strips of contrasting wood.
- C. Stairs: The stair is a single, straight-run, open string; open newel with continuous rail. It has turned balusters; heavy molded handrail; and a heavy, turned and paneled newel post.

- D. Walls and trim: Walls are plastered throughout and mostly papered. Bases are high with molded tops; all principal rooms have run plaster cornices and ornamental plaster cartouches in the centers of the ceilings.
- E. Lighting fixtures: Modern, electric.

Prepared by George Brokaw Howell
Architect, Rutgers University (ret.)
New Brunswick, New Jersey
December 1960