

The Samuel C. Demarest House
511 Market Street
Saddle River Township, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The Samuel C. Demarest House
511 Market Street
Saddle River Township, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Milton Braun (same address)

Date of Erection: About 1820-1837*

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Samuel C. Demarest (original owner d. 1853)

Present Condition: Original, well maintained; dormer windows modern

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - formal coursed ashlar brown sandstone front; rubble rear and ends

Interior walls - frame partitions, lathed and plastered

Chimneys - brick, built into inside of gable end walls

Roof - gambrel in center main unit, gable in two end minor units

Historical Data:

By a deed of 15 April 1806, John W. Romine and wife Catherine conveyed to Samuel C. Demarest of New York City, in consideration of \$4250, several tracts including an 80 acre one in the Township of Saddle River, Bergen County, the description thereof being "Beginning on the brink of Saddle River, at the southeasterly corner of a lot of land formerly belonging

* This house in the later period of New Jersey Dutch design follows tradition of the main unit with symmetrical wings, but reproduces in one operation what in older houses was the result of three successive constructions. On four stones in a course in the wall of the west wing are the figures 1-3-5-7, indistinctly inscribed.

to Peter Helmaghe and now in possession of Henry Ackerman, thence running west thirteen degrees south along the said Ackerman's lot forty-five chains to the lots formerly belonging to Helmagh Post and Garret Post, thence south thirteen degrees east twelve chains and forty links, then east thirteen degrees north to Saddle River, thence northerly along said Saddle River to the place of beginning", and the recital being same premises conveyed to grantor from Garret Toers by deed of 25 March 1795 and to the latter from Nicholas Toers by deed of 24 April 1753.(a)

The grantee abovenamed, Samuel C. Demarest, and his wife Mary were described as still resident in New York City, as heirs of Abigail Demarest, in a quitclaim deed of 23 April 1820, given by them to John B. Thorpe(b). About 1830 they settled in Saddle River Township, and built on the 80 acre tract acquired in 1806 the house here considered.

By his will dated 24 March 1847 and proved 16 February 1853, Samuel C. Demarest of Saddle River Twp., devised to his son Cornelius "that part of my farm lying on the East side of Saddle River", to his son Nicholas "the remainder of my farm lying on the West side of Saddle River ----- excepting a lot" devised to son Cornelius to make his acreage equal. Testator states that "Because the dwelling house on the farm of my son Nicholas hereby devised cost more than the dwelling house on the farm of my son Cornelius, hereby devised, I will and direct that my son Nicholas pay to my son Cornelius the sum of Two Hundred Dollars". Five acres of woodland in the Big Swamp are also devised to the son Cornelius and another lot there and meadows at Bashie's Creek to both sons. To his daughter Jane was bequeathed a lot of salt meadow in Lodi Township and the interest from \$300. The two sons were appointed executors. A codicil was added on 5 December 1850.

(a) Bergen County Deed Book Z, page 93

(b) Samuel C. Demarest, son of Charles Demarest of Cornwall, N. Y., and his wife Abigail Thorp. (M.A. and W.H.S. Demarest, The Demarest Family, publ. 1938, pp. 103 and 165).

Nicholas S. Demarest, sen and devisee of the paternal homestead on the West side of Saddle River as abovesaid, held the same at the date of his Will, 6 November 1868 (proved 1st January 1873) having therein devised the rents and profits of his real estate to his wife Catherine, one-fifth of his real estate to granddaughter, Elizabeth Ackerman, and the residue to daughters - Martha wife of Cornelius Van Winkle, Helen wife of George Hopper, Jane Ann wife of Henry Kipp, and Maria Catherine Demarest, and empowered the executors - his wife Catherine and John R. Paulison - to sell any or all of the real estate after the death or remarriage of the wife.

Accordingly, by deed of 21 October 1907, Garret Van Cleve, administrator of the estate of Nicholas S. Demarest deceased, conveyed to Arthur Brooks of Midland Township, Bergen County, for \$4100 the homestead farm in Saddle River Township, describing it as "Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the northerly line of the Paterson and Hackensack Turnpike Road (Market Street) with the easterly line of the swamp road (Saddle River Road), running thence north 1 degree 1 minute east along the easterly line of the swamp road 411.50 feet to the southerly line of lands formerly of Ackerman; thence north 79 degrees 13 minutes east along said line of Ackerman 125 feet to the Saddle River; thence southeasterly along Saddle River the several courses thereof to the northerly line of the Paterson and Hackensack Turnpike Road aforesaid; thence north 73 degrees 55 minutes west along the northerly line of said Turnpike Road 473 feet to the easterly line of the swamp road and place of beginning.

Two days later, by deed of 23 October 1907, the grantee Arthur Brooks passed title of the same premises to Frederick G. Footc subject to tenancy expiring 1 March 1908. The last named passed it to Catherine W. Moessner on 2 March 1908, and she with her husband Thomas F. Moessner in turn conveyed it to Charles Gundlich by deed of 5 March 1913. Albert

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Gundlich, brother and devisee of said Charles, deceased, conveyed the property to Milton Braun and wife Evelyn by deed of 4 September 1935, and these grantees remain as owners and occupants of the house at the time of our survey thereof.

Bibliography:

A search of title in Land and Probate records of Bergen County by Joseph Benenati, H.A.B.S. abstractor, as reported 18 April 1939

Lewis D. Cook

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

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