

The William Holdrom House
Prospect Avenue cor. of Rivervale Avenue
Township of Rivervale
Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-686

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2-TAPON

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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 William Holdrom House
Prospect Avenue cor. of Rivervale Avenue
Township of Rivervale
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Owner: Mrs. Eugene Garnier

Tenant: Mr. Barnes

Date of Erection: 1763-1776

Architect: Unknown

Builder: William Holdrom (1742-1826), owner

Present Condition: Original; wing and dutch oven removed
from east end wall before 1930. Modern
front porch, dormers and window sash
(except two original in front)

Number of Storeys; One and a half, over cellar

Materials of Construction

Foundation: Stone masonry

Exterior walls: Coursed ashlar red sandstone front
and rear (also east end built since
removal of wing); rubble sandstone
and trap rock west end; all to
eaveline all around; frame gable ends,
clapboarded.

Interior walls: Frame

Chimneys: Brick, built into inside of gable end walls.

Roof: Gambrel, modern composition shingled. Evidently,
the roof projection (usually some 3 feet in Dutch
farmhouses of this type) has been since removed,
as the clapboard freize on front wall indicates.

Historical Data:

The identity of the original owner as above stated has
been discovered by search of title to this house through suc-
cessive owners as recorded in the county archives. (a)

(a) This title search supplies the names of the builder and
early owners who are considered "unknown" in the account of
this so-called Vanderbilt House, pp. 316 and 371 of R. F.
Bailey, Pre-Rev. Dutch Houses and Families, publ. 1936, il-
lustrated, which says inter al. that this house was "probably
erected a few years before the Revolution".

Thus, it appears that one William Holdrum (b) of Harrington Township, Bergen County, in his will dated 25 August 1823 and proved 3 November 1826, devised the use of his real and personal estate to his wife Margaret during her widowhood, and bequeathed to his two-grand-daughters Catrina and Peggy "seventeen acres of any farm, with all improvements thereon, to be equally divided, and being the easterly end thereof," also 4 acres "on the west side of the road leading from Old Tappan to Pascack", and the remainder of his real estate to his daughter Margaret.

By deed of 24 March 1838, one of the two grand-daughters and devisees abovenamed, Peggy, and her husband Martin Pulis, of Franklin Township, Bergen County, conveyed to Abraham N. Demarest of Harrington Township, (husband of her sister and codevisee Catharine), her half interest in the 17 acres "homestead lot" and a 4 acre woodlot both in Washington Township (c). The former is described as having a frontage of 1198 feet on the north side of the "public road leading to Pascack" and of 603 feet on the west side of the "road leading to Middletown", at their intersection. This lot is obviously the property here considered.

The grantee Abraham N. Demarest having thus come into full possession of the farm of his late father-in-law William Holdrum, with his wife Catherine conveyed the same 17 acres by their deed of 12 February 1842 to Isaac Vanderbilt for \$2000, all of the parties being described therein as residents of Washington Township.

From Vanderbilt the same property passed to Whiting M. Alden of same place by deed of 26 April 1864, for \$3250, and he empowered his executors to sell any or all of his real estate by his will dated 30 June 1874 and proved 3 March 1875. Accordingly, they conveyed this property to Howard M. Coles of Jersey City by their deed of 30 June 1875, for \$4850. The last named and his wife, described as of River Vale, Bergen County, and so possible then occupying this house there, conveyed the same to Mary Collins of New York City of their deed of 4 February 1885, for \$5000, and she with her husband Asa E.

(b) The surname Holdrum is developed through Holdrom from Haldron. William³ Holdrom, b. 1742, a son of William² Haldron of Tappan, Rockland Co., N.Y., and of Harrington Twp. Bergen Co., N.J. d. testate 1826 in the latter place, having by wife Margrietje a dau. Margritie b. 25 Mar. and bapt. 15 Apr. 1781 at R.D.Ch. Schraalenburgh, who married Abram Demarest and had issue: Margaret and Catharine. (C. B. Harvey, Genealog. Hist. Hudson and Bergen Cos., N.J., 1900, p. 237. Clayton, Hist. Bergen and Passaic Counties., 1882, p. 239)

(c) Washington Township was set off in 1839 from Harrington Township.

Collins, being of River Vale, passed it to Phenie P. Standish of Elizabeth, New Jersey on 14 September 1887, for \$6000.

The last named grantee, with her husband William P. Standish, being of Rivervale, conveyed the property of Thomas C. Jones of New York City on 14 February 1889, from whom it passed to William R. Loder of Newark, N. J., on 23 July 1889 for \$6000, to Langdon S. Thompson of Jersey City on 26 November 1889, to Benjamin F. Curtis of Brooklyn on 24 January 1890, to Mary Dowling of New York City on 4 October next, to Henry G. Volkmar of New York City on 9 February 1891, to Edgar J. Allegaert of Newark on 30 April 1891, for \$7500, to Richard Hallahan of New York City on 11 May next, for \$7000, and finally to Eugene Garnier by deed of 12 August 1891, in consideration of \$4000.

By his will dated 25 April 1907 and proved 29 March 1915, Eugene Garnier of Rivervale, Bergen County, devised all his real estate in Rivervale to his wife Augusta, and she remains as owner at the time of the survey of the house in February 1941, residing elsewhere in the township while the premises have been leased to one Barnes for the past ten years.

Reference:

Search of title in the land and probate records of Bergen County by Joseph Beneati, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 24 February 1941.

Lewis D. Cook

Supervising Historian 25 March 1941

Approved:

Seymour Williams

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

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