A Tour of the Historic Houses of Hillsdale

Saturday, September 15th, 1973
75th Anniversary Commemoration

Tariff $2.00 Hours 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Therefore when we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight, nor for present use alone, let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them and that men will say as they look upon the labor and wrought sustance of them "See: this our fathers did for us."

Ruskin
This house stands on land sold by Thomas Van Buskirk to Paulus Vanderbeek before 1748, and devised by the latter’s will in 1761 to son Coenradus for life.

He probably built the earliest part of the house; and was succeeded by his son Paulus, whose name appears as owner on Erskine’s Revolutionary War Map in 1780. Paulus Vanderbeek died in 1795 and his lands were divided by sons Arie and George. They were the cousins of Coenradus who lived at 215 Wierimus Road.

George Vanderbeek owned the McClave house until he died in 1842 and was followed by his son Aaron, who sold it to Abraham Van Riper in 1854. The Hooper, Powers and Langerfeld families were subsequent owners, during which time the house was renovated and enlarged. Before a realignment moved Wierimus Road farther to the west, the house originally stood close to the old road.

Original part built between the years 1749 and 1754 by John Banta who eventually owned nearly 400 acres of land along Pascack Road when he died in 1806.

The homestead was inherited by Jacob, his youngest son, who lived here until his death in 1831. His estate retained ownership until 1860.

John I. Mabie acquired the house in 1861 and it was known as the Mabie House for the next fifty years. Mrs. Mary M. Warren subsequently made the renovations changing it to its present appearance. Mr. MacArthur has owned the home since 1954.
DEMAREST HOUSE 215 Wierimus Road

The original part of the house was probably built for Coenradus Vanderbeek on land he received for life by the will of his father in 1794.

Coenradus was married in 1789 and lived here until he died in 1823. His son, Jeremiach, inherited the house and the 19.50 acres of land and met an accidental death in 1836.

Richard Vanderbeek later had title and sold the property to Abraham Van Riper in 1882. George W. Demarest, grandfather of the present owner, purchased the house from Van Riper in 1886.

DONOVAN HOUSE 230 Washington Avenue

Indicative of the architecture around the time Hillsdale came into being, this house was built in 1906 by George Fink on lots he purchased out of a subdivision of land belonging to Mary L. Holdrum of River Vale.

This was ancestral land of the Demarest family which she had inherited from her uncle, Squire Garret S. Demarest whose homestead is at 141 Demarest Avenue.

The Donovan house was later owned by the Schlotterbeck family for a number of years.

THE FARRELL HOUSE 156 Eliz Road

Garret Durie built this house about 1767 on land inherited from his father. During the Revolutionary War the house was plundered by both American and British armies. Mr. Durie was a farmer and blacksmith as well as a Bergen County Freeholder, a Justice and a Judge.

The house, later enlarged, was inherited by his daughter, and through her passed to the Terhune and Hopper families.

During the 14 years the Farrells have lived here they have worked to restore the home to its original state and have succeeded admirably.
This frame house originally stood on the east side of Broadway about 125 feet north of Wilts Avenue, on the middle third of the farm of Arie Blauvelt who lived at 230 Broadway.

Cornelius Blauvelt, son or Arie, inherited this land at his father's death and probably lived here after his marriage to Catharina Holdrum. On May 13, 1788, they sold the property to his brother, Christian A. Blauvelt, for the sum of 250 pounds.

Christian A. Blauvelt made his home here until his death in 1823, owning a total of about 100 acres of land by inheritance and purchase. In 1830, his son Aaron Blauvelt, sold the homestead and farm to Garret J. Haring for $2500. The house was enlarged and changed to its present appearance during the ownership of this family. They later adopted the Hering spelling of the name.

When the Hering farm was subdivided into the real estate development called "Hillsdale Manor", the old homestead was moved to its present location.

Garret F. Haring of River Vale made his will on August 31, 1836 and devised to his black employee Sam, after the death of Haring's widow, 4 acres of land, more or less, on the south side of present Piermont Avenue, together with the sum of $100.

After the death of Mrs. Haring in 1853, Sammuel Moore, as he was known, built the original part of the house and lived there until it was sold to Garret H. Mead in 1882.

It is now owned by the latter's daughter, Mrs. Jane Mead Bachman. (photo below) Taken on House Tour)