

The Martin Berry House
Jackson Avenue and Route 23
Pompton Plains, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-546

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14-Pompl
2

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

HABS
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2-

The Martin Berry House
Jackson Avenue and Route 23
Pompton Plains, Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Home Owners Loan Corporation

Date of Erection: Before 1784

Architect:

Builder: Martin Berry, Senior (Owner in 1784)

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One and one-half with basement

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone
masonry, the stucco
facing being modern

Interior walls - timber
studding covered with
lath and plaster

Chimneys - brick built
into inside of the gable
end walls

Roof - gambrel with modern
dormer windows and asphalt
roofing

Historical Data:

By an ante mortem Deed of Gift dated 9 Sept. 1784, Martin Berry Senior, of Pequannock Township, Morris County, conveyed to his grandson Henry Berry son of Peter Berry, house carpenter, deceased, the farm on which grantor then resided, also a 12 acre lot

in the "great turn" adjacent, with "the Houses and buildings thereon erected" but reserving the use thereof to himself and providing continuation of residence therein to Susannah Berry widow of Peter Berry, decd., during her widowhood. In the event of the death of said Henry Berry without heirs, the farm to be divided among the other heirs of grantor, but if he "ever gets an heir" the farm devolves accordingly. Catrena Berry, obviously wife of grantor, endorsed the Deed by signing off her right of dower.

Henry Berry, abovenamed grantee, of the same place, by his Will of 27 July 1833, devised to "my youngest son Henry Berry and to his heirs and assigns forever my Homestead whereon I now live", etc., appointing John Berry and Henry H. Berry the executors.

Henry H. Berry, abovenamed devisee, with wife Elizabeth, of the said Pequannock Township, gave a Deed of 1 April 1862 to James Graham of Paterson, N. J., conveying for \$6000. the 34½ acre homestead farm and 5 lots of meadow and woodland amounting to some 55 acres. The place then became known as the Graham Farm as late as 1921.

James Graham, grantee abovenamed, now of Wayne Township in Passaic County, with wife Eliza, by their deed of 1 August 1876 conveyed to Mary W. Dwight of Montclair, Essex County, for \$6500, the western 20 acres of the farm, a rectangular tract of 908 feet frontage on the north side of the highway including the house in the said Township of Pequannock, Morris County, New Jersey

Mary W. Dwight, grantee abovenamed, now of Reigelsville, Bucks County, Pa., "formerly of the City of Brooklyn", N. Y., by her Deed of 16 Sept. 1879, conveyed the same tract to James R. Evans of Pompton Plains, Morris County, New Jersey, for \$2250, subject to a lease of the property until 1 Jan. 1880.

James R. Evans, grantee abovenamed, now of Pequannock Township, Morris County, and wife Julia A. (having evidently taken up residence in this house after purchase) by their Deed of 27 Aug. 1891 conveyed the same property to Lockwood R. May of Brooklyn, N.Y., for \$5000.

William H. May and wife and Jessie M. P. May Schultz late widow of Lockwood R. May decd., all of Pequannock Twp., Morris County, conveyed by their Deed of 26 April 1916 the same property to Warren C. Eberle and Ellis D. Eberle his wife of the same place.

The last named couple, of Pompton Plains in same County of Morris, by their Deed of 1 Sept. 1921 conveyed to Ludlow C. Meeks and wife Louise C. of same place, $8\frac{1}{4}$ acres of the tract, describing this part as "Beginning in the center of the Highway leading from the former Graham farm to Pompton Plains Depot" being a corner of the lands of said Graham thence along the center of that highway West 385.9 feet, thence North 933.15 feet, thence East 386.24 feet, thence South 931 feet along the said Graham farm to the center of the highway, with the house.

And finally, Meeks and wife of Pequannock Township, Morris County, by Sheriff's deed of 1 July 1938, conveyed 2.31 acres of the same tract to the Home Owners Loan Corporation, describing the property as being on the southwesterly side of proposed N.J. State Highway 23. The house was operated as the "Old Stone Inn" previous to these foreclosure proceedings.

Bibliography:

Morris County Land and Probate records
Field books and drawings of the Survey

Louis D. Cook

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

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

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