

## STORIES of New Jersey

Such a house is the tiny old David Demarest house in River Edge, built about 1686, with twin doors and two large south windows. The roof is pitched from the ridge and curves gently out to cover the overhanging eaves in front; the dormer windows were added only a few years ago. Sometimes the Dutch used a roof with a simple pitch, like this one, but generally they preferred a gambrel roof, one that slopes flatly from the ridge, then breaks into a steep slope down to the eaves. This gave much more headroom in the attic without increasing the size of the building and was often used on larger houses, where there was a central hall and stairway. Thus the attic could be utilized for comfortable bedrooms.

The old Terhune house in Hackensack, much larger than the Demarest house, was built in this form about 1670. It is the oldest Dutch house standing in New Jersey and is still occupied by the descendants of the original Terhune who built it. The gambrel roof ends in long eaves extending over the south porch which was built many years later. Its unusual width has made the roof very high and formed not only a second floor but also a considerable attic above. The outside stonework, rougher and cruder than in the later built houses, has been whitewashed, giving the old stone an aged crusty texture beneath the ivy vines. It has a central hall with steep narrow stairway to the attic, with a door halfway up the flight, kept closed in winter, an arrangement customary with the Dutch in all houses of this type.

As families outgrew their homes, the Dutch sometimes added a wing much larger than the original house and kept the original as a kitchen wing. Occasionally a second small wing was added to the opposite side of the new addition, forming a central house with balanced side wings. Of this type is the Hopper house on Polifly Road in Hackensack. The central portion was built in 1808, although the original kitchen is undoubtedly much older.

Toward the end of the 18th century the eaves were extended still further, and small columns were placed under them to form a front porch. Sometimes this was done on both front and rear.

After 1800 English settlers from New England introduced the Georgian Colonial style, or what is generally known as "Colonial," among the Dutch builders. This influence appeared in the use of English Georgian details in the enframements of doorways, delicate fanlights, transoms and side lights and molded cornices.

Sometimes the houses were built of wood instead of stone, with thick interior walls of brick. The Vreeland house in Leonia, the finest example of the fully developed Dutch Colonial style in New Jersey, is of this type. The frame portion was built about 1836 as an addition to the small stone wing to the east, which was kept for service quarters. It has front and rear porches and a front door with beautiful leaded glass fanlight and narrow side lights. The gables



The Vreeland House at Leonia