

Ackerman-Rozmus House dates back to 1789

One can only image how Allendale, or at least the vicinity which is now Allendale, must have appeared in the latter part of the eighteenth century when our forefathers were still fighting for independence.

The Ackerman-Rozmus House (historic name A.C. Ackerman House) formerly 70 Franklin Tpke., now 8 Rozmus Ct., is Allendale's last architectural link to that era, dating back to about 1780. The persistence of the Allendale Historical Society and the actions of the borough's planning board have now ensured that, despite surrounding development, the house will be restored rather than destroyed.

The house was listed on the New Jersey State Register of Historic Places in 1980 and is also listed in the Bergen County Stone House Survey.

The Bergen County Historic Sights Survey (1983) explains that there have been alterations and additions to the home during the course of its long history and the original stone has been covered by a gunite-type stucco, but much of the pre-1800 construction remains.

"This house, while having been altered through the years, still retains a sufficient amount of its original fabric that it should be recognized and retained," the

Survey states.

The Allendale Historical Society has traced A.C. Ackerman's ownership of the house to 1811. History tells that in 1861, someone plowing on the property struck metal. A subsequent search unearthed pieces of pewter, bowls and plates intact, dating back to the Revolution. It was said that the pewter was most likely hidden at the time to prevent it from being converted to bullets.

In 1871, Ackerman's son, James Alfred, an Allendale schoolteacher, inherited the property and ultimately sold off several parcels of land. Twenty-three acres went to an Eliza M. Longchamp in 1875 for a mere \$7,000.

In 1892, the younger Ackerman sold the house to Gustave Nadler, a Paterson confectioner. Nadler, a father of four, served as Allendale's mayor from 1914-18.

There were some short term interim owners, but the 1983 Survey claims that the Rozmus family was the most recent owner, having moved there and operated a nursery some 30 years before. According to the Survey, the Rozmuses had little information about the exact origin of the home. The 1985-86 issue of "Here's Allendale" lists Robert Rozmus as occupant.