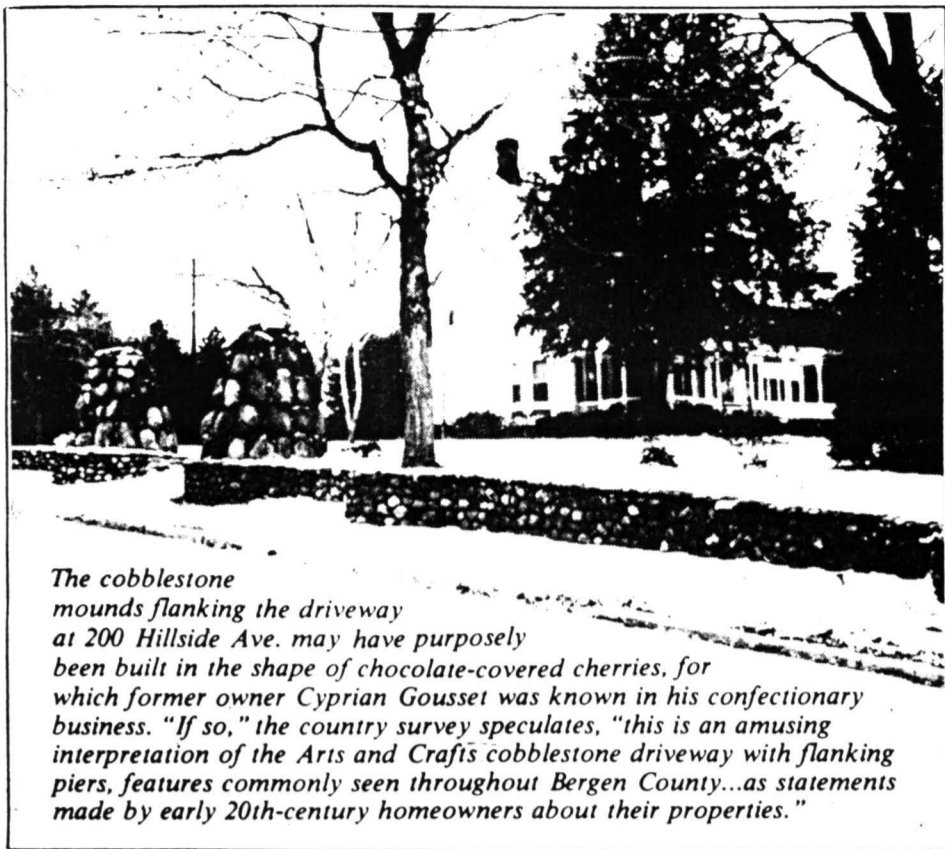


Hillside & Brookside Avenues

Part 8:



"A fine example of a Queen Anne residence," the Reed home at 411 Brookside Ave. retains such features as complex roofline, colored-pane window, patterned shingles, turned posts and spindle rail on the wrap-around porch.



The cobblestone mounds flanking the driveway at 200 Hillside Ave. may have purposely been built in the shape of chocolate-covered cherries, for which former owner Cyprian Gousset was known in his confectionary business. "If so," the county survey speculates, "this is an amusing interpretation of the Arts and Crafts cobblestone driveway with flanking piers, features commonly seen throughout Bergen County...as statements made by early 20th-century homeowners about their properties."

photos by Marsha Stoltz



Survey Misses Local Schools

No school building, past or present, is mentioned in the County Historic Sites Survey for Allendale. The three Brooks presently in operation, all on either Hillside or Brookside Avenue, include:

- Brookside School, built in 1928 with additions constructed in 1951, 1956, 1961 and 1970, which presently serves students in grades 4-8;
- Hillside School, built in 1967 and now housing grades K-3;
- Northern Highlands Regional High School, erected on Hillside Avenue in 1966 with the first built-in planetarium ever constructed in a New Jersey school. It now provides educational services for students in grades 9-12 from Allendale and Upper Saddle River.

County Survey

Date Built	Address
1890	411 Brookside Ave.
1865	450 Brookside Ave.
1860	470 Brookside Ave.

Girl Scout List*

Date Built	Address
1899	214 Brookside Ave.
1880	270 Brookside Ave.
1861	350 Brookside Ave.
1880	450 Brookside Ave.
1890	30 Hillside Ave.
1890	33 Hillside Ave.
1850	84 Hillside Ave.
1865	108 Hillside Ave.
1895	126 Hillside Ave.
1890	200 Hillside Ave.
1865	309 Hillside Ave.
1780	330 Hillside Ave.
1869	541 Hillside Ave.

*Card catalogue on file in Lee Memorial Library

Marsha Stoltz

ALLEDALE — Six houses along Brookside and Hillside avenues are mentioned in the Bergen County Survey of Historic Sites, from the stately Doolittle-Goussett Queen Anne at 200 Hillside Ave. to the rapidly deteriorating Blauvelt-Van Blarcom House at 470 Brookside Ave.

While all three of the Borough's schools are located on these two streets, none are mentioned in the survey (see box). Neither are 10 other homes listed in the public library's Girl Scout list of pre-1900 homes (see chart).

Heading away from the town center along Brookside Avenue, the first-mentioned house in the county survey is a vernacular Queen Anne at number 411. Possibly one of three homes owned by Mrs. Reed in the area, the house may have been built around 1890. "A fine example of a Queen Anne residence," says the survey, with its patterned shingles, pyramidal and complex roofline, colored-pane window, turned posts and spindle rail on the wrap-around porch, the house was built "about the time that the Queen Anne style made

a major impression on residential architecture in Bergen County." No other history is included for the house, which "appears unaltered from the early 20th century."

Diagonally across the street is another Reed house at 450 Brookside Ave. Built about 1865, the house is mentioned because "it reflects changes in architectural preferences from around mid-century to the early 20th century." The Italianate house was occupied in 1880 by Louis Rossner. The carpenter and contractor/builder may have been responsible "for some of the late 19th-century modifications to the house's original vernacular Italianate design." The survey notes that "one element of this earlier design retained in the present building is the low-pitched gabled roof with cross-gables." Again, no other history is included for the house.

The circa-1860 Blauvelt-Van Blarcom House at 470 Brookside Ave. is "a significant remnant of Allendale's architectural and agricultural history," perhaps because it would have been one of fewer than 35 buildings within the

present Borough limits at the time of its construction. The house is cited for its possible original clapboard siding on east and west sides, wood water table and semi-circular trim in gables.

"Unfortunately," the survey adds, "its overall condition will rapidly deteriorate if the walls are not structurally stabilized and if the exterior fabrics are not repaired and painted." The occupied house — located east of the entrance to the private Brookside Swim and Racquet Club — now appears to remain upright only because of some wood supports clamped around the outside.

Clerk Administrator Norma Colburn speculates that she has never received a complaint about the house because the owners are "such nice people." Building Inspector Frank Giovatto says making property owners maintain their homes in good condition can be a lengthy, although not impossible, procedure underlining one of the more subtle enemies of historic house preservation. With a house so old, the cost of renovation would be prohibitive.

Because its facade is hidden from street

view by large trees, the Doolittle-Goussett house at 200 Hillside Ave. may be more easily recognized by residents as the house with the huge cobblestone mounds flanking the entrance to its driveway. The Queen Anne home was begun in 1861 and passed through such ownership as that of a Mrs. E. Doolittle in 1876 and J.H. Oxley in 1902 just prior to its sale to Cyprian Gousset. The Frenchman was in the confectionery business, especially known for his chocolate-covered cherries — "Three Cherries Brand" — according to a recent Record story on the house. It is speculated that he added the stone mounds and other Arts and Crafts features to the house.

"Although it has lost some architectural details and some have been altered, the house retains the asymmetrical massing, varied textures and lively details of the vernacular Queen Anne style," the survey says.

The Record story also adds that another resident of the house was songwriter Charles O'Flynn, whose summertime parties apparently rivaled such works as "Smile, Darn You, Smile" in notoriety. Its present owners are engaged in an extensive renovation program on the house.

Across the street at 205 Hillside Ave. is the reputed home of Gousset's son-in-law C.H.D. Darrow (Darrah), a "large and attractively detailed example of early 20th century styles" begun around 1900.

William Christopher — perhaps one of the ancestors of the Christophers who ran the Railroad Station District lumber business — is listed as the 1861 owner of 330 Hillside Ave. Begun around 1830, "the massing and fenestration and a few other details recall the age and earlier appearance of this vernacular farm-house." The house "has been greatly altered in the 20th century" including "replacement synthetic shingles on exterior walls." Other owners included J.H. Oxley in 1902 — perhaps after he moved from 200 Hillside Ave. — and J. Schilling in 1913.

(Next: The Maple/Elm Streetscape)

The externally-braced circa-1860 Blauvelt-Van Blarcom House at 470 Brookside Ave. "will rapidly deteriorate if the walls are not structurally stabilized and if the exterior fabrics are not repaired and painted" according to the Bergen County Historic Sites Survey. The occupied house is less than 15 feet from Brookside Avenue, and would thus be threatened by any future road expansion, the survey adds.

