

Huyler Dock House
Alpine, Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-167

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Huyler+Dock House
Alpine, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Palisades Interstate Park Commission

Date of Erection: 1750

Architect:

Builder: Johannes Huyler (reputed)

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - wainscoting,
plaster

Floors wood

Roof - slate over 6" tongue
and groove boards

Historical Data:

Huyler's Landing on the Hudson River was formerly known, according to Walker, as Lower Closter, and was the place at which the British crossed when they raided Fort Lee. It was no doubt possible that the Huyler boats were pressed into service by the British preparatory to the raid.

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At the time this took place, General Greene was in charge of about 3,000 American troops at Fort Lee. It was apparently the plan of Lord Cornwallis to form a line from the place of landing to the Hackensack Bridge, and thereby hem in the whole garrison between the north and the Hackensack River. Fortunately, General Greene was too alert for him and succeeded in withdrawing the whole body of troops.

The road just north of the Huyler Homestead is labeled on official Bergen County maps as the Old Huyler Dock Road. The descendants claim that this old road was used by farmers in their trading at the landing. When New York City was young a large portion of fire wood and lumber came from the country back of the Palisades and much of this wood was carted over the Dock Road. The Huylers had a slide down which logs were skidded from the top of the Palisades to the Hudson River. The Huylers also built boats, up to thirty feet slopes, and maintained the wharfs at the landing. The Dock House was used at various times as a trading port, a tavern, and a store. At one time Captain Huyler's brother, Cornelius, lived there. We are also told that it was noted as a place where prize fights were held.

Bibliography:

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Dunlop, Wallace, local historian

Walter C. Rutt
Supervising Historian

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Reviewed
Sept 2, 1936
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