

An unusual first date . . .

Maybe an old house isn't the typical place for a first date, but Tim Casey knew that the woman who would become his wife would have to love old houses—and for good reason. He lived in the Jacobus Demarest Homestead, one of the oldest dwellings in the state. His maternal grandfather, John Abram Gurd, a noted architect, had bought the house in 1908 and carefully restored it. Gurd had worked on the U.S. Government Building at the Paris Exhibition of 1900 (World's Fair) and also designed public and private buildings in New York and New Jersey. Tim's roots were deep in New Milford, and his mother, Alice Gurd Casey, was the town's longtime librarian.

That night, Tim and his date, Marlene, climbed to the roof of the house to take in the view. Marlene—who did become Tim's wife—recalls noticing something shoved underneath a shingle. They pulled it out and discovered the old map. Although it had been exposed to the elements, most of it was intact. Tim brought it inside, unfolded it, and placed it in a simple frame for safekeeping.

Throughout their marriage, Tim, who died in 1990, and Marlene were leading advocates for historic preservation in New Milford. Marlene decided to donate the map, which had been stored in the basement for many years, to the New Milford Historic Preservation Commission.



THE JACOBUS DEMAREST HOMESTEAD

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Demarest House on River Road is the oldest continuously occupied

home in Bergen County. Dating from around 1680, it was built on land David Demarest Sr., founder of the Huguenot colony in Bergen County, purchased in 1677. His grandson Jacobus (born 1681) lived in it until his death in 1765. John Demarest, a son of Jacobus, completed the house two years later. It remained in the Demarest family until 1850.

(Photo by Bill Coughlin, courtesy of HMdb.org)

This brochure was prepared by the New Milford Historic Preservation Commission. The NMHPC is charged with preserving the integrity of the borough's historic heritage as the birthplace of Bergen County through preservation and archiving of buildings, land, and items of historic value; through research into the people, events, and locations that have formed that history, through public education programs for all ages, and through commendations for borough residents and organizations that have aided this mission.

NEW MILFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



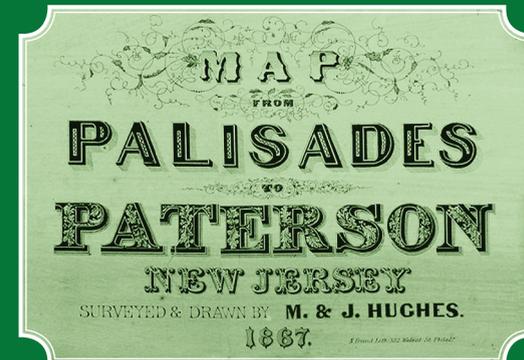
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New Milford Historic Preservation Commission

A MAP'S STORY



*The journey of a
historical relic
from 1867 to
present-day
New Milford,*

