

BERGEN COUNTY COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

139

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

285

GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: *Williams*
 Dr. *A* Vroom House

COMMON NAME: Wilsey Galleries

LOCATION: 160 East Ridgewood Avenue
 (Bleek-3704, Lot 4)

MUNICIPALITY: Ridgewood

OWNERSHIP: Public Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: Gordon LaForge
 Lincoln LaForge Agency
 21 Cross Avenue
 Midland Park, NJ

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:

- Erskine (1778-80) no name
- Hopkins-Corey (1861) S. Dayton
- Walker's Atlas (1876) Fred'k. Kidder
- Bromley (1912) no name
- Other

RECOGNITION:

- National Register
- BCHS Marker
- HABS
- Bailey
- Other

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 60° E

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Agricultural
- Open Space
- Other

COMMENTS:

USE

ORIGINAL: Residence

PRESENT: Residence & store

THREATS TO STRUCTURE:

- Roads
- Development
- Zoning
- Deterioration
- Other
- No Threat

COMMENTS:

CONDITION

CONDITION:

- Excellent
- Fair
- Good
- Deteriorated

STATUS:

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Work in Progress

ACCESSIBLE:

- Yes, Restricted
- Yes, Unrestricted
- No

The house is not very noticeable as it is situated with its end to the street and has a large store-fronted wing which somewhat eclipses the house. The interior has been opened up and carpeted since it was Victorianized when the windows were enlarged and the fireplace was redone. The large wing was probably also added at that time.

PHOTO



MAP



DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:
c. 1785-90 (part may be earlier)/
Architectural evidence

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1-1/2
CELLAR: Yes
 No

BUILDER:

CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:
 Stone Arch
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
 Other

FORM/PLAN TYPE:
3 bay, side hall, now 1 room deep,
might have been 2 (approximately 26' x
24'0"), wing: 17'0" x 17'6")

FLOOR JOISTS:

FRAMING SYSTEM:
 Intermediate Summer Beam
 Intermediate Bearing Wall
 Clear Span
 Other

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:
8'2"

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:
19"

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:
Stucco front w/ quoins, painted sandstone
remainder.

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:
not visible

GARRET:
 Unfinished Space
 Finished Space

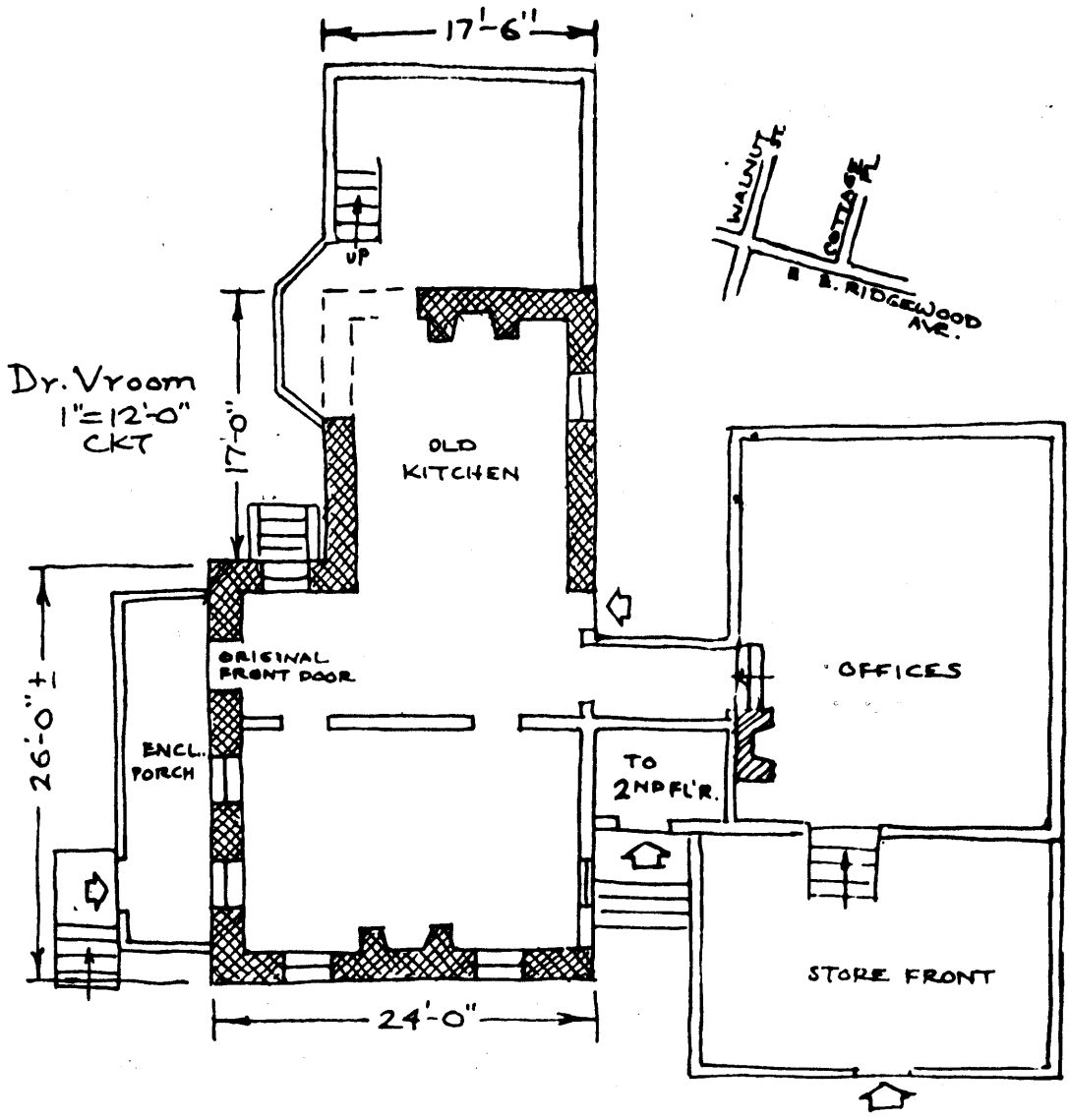
FENESTRATION:
Front 34" x 57" (2/2). Street side
altered, rectangular lintels.

ROOF:
 Gable
 Gambrel
 Curb
 Other

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:
Southwesternmost bay of east facade,
simple 32" x 7'2"

EAVE TREATMENT:
 Sweeping Overhang
 Supported Overhang
 No Overhang
 Boxed Gutter
 Other

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. We are therefore including it for its architectural significance, for its association with the exploration and settlement of the Bergen County area, and for its remaining historic fabric. As such, it is included in the Thematic Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Early Stone Houses of Bergen County, New Jersey.



Since the builder or early owner is not known (1861 and 1876 names were speculators), the name "Dr. Vroom" is used as he was a famous physician of the area who lived and worked here. He was William L. Vroom of Hoboken, born in 1866 and came to Ridgewood in the blizzard of March 1888 to visit his father and decided to set up his practice here. He rigged up his own telephone, the first in the area, made of cigar boxes, odds and ends and stringing his own wires. He wore out 28 horses and became the first County citizen to drive a horseless carriage - a 1900 Stanley Steamer. He was a personal friend of Woodrow Wilson and pioneered in the use of insulin and diptheria antitoxin. With his associate, Dr. William C. Craig, he organized Ridgewood's first hospital by building the large wing on this house. He treated his last patient when he was 97, ending a career in which he had delivered over 3,000 Bergen County babies. He died in 1966 at the age of 100.

(Source: "Early Physicians of Northeast Bergen County" - Nevens)

Tradition says the house was built by a Hopper c. 1830, but this may refer to the house which had been to the east. The present owners have been here for eighteen years. - CKT

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Block 3704, Lot 4 - Ridgewood Tax Map

Less than 1 acre

U.T.M.

18 574 360 4536 560

Ramsey, New Jersey