

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 3 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 17 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC VREELAND HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 125 Lakeview Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
9th

CITY, TOWN Leonia

VICINITY OF

STATE New Jersey

CODE 34

COUNTY Bergen

CODE 003 ✓

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Jean Cronan

STREET & NUMBER 125 Lakeview Avenue

CITY, TOWN Leonia

VICINITY OF

STATE New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bergen County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER County Administration Building

CITY, TOWN Hackensack

STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (NJ-158)

DATE 1937

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS U.S. Department of the Interior

CITY, TOWN Washington

STATE D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Borough of Leonia lies along a glacial ridge of Triassic shale and sandstone, deposited in a narrow strip between the Hudson River and Watchung Mountains. While the coastline is characterized by the steep sill of the Palisades, the land surface west of the river becomes sloping lowland, receding to a marshy area watered by the Overpeck Creek, Leonia's natural boundary. Occupied by tracts of farmland until the early twentieth century, Leonia is now a dense suburb comprised principally of single-family dwellings, sited on quarter and eighth-acre lot divisions.

Located on a one-acre lot on Lakeview Avenue, east of its intersection with Grand Avenue, the Vreeland House occupies only a small portion of what was, until the early 1900's, an extensive farm owned by the Vreeland family. Shielded from the street by trees, the house is surrounded by lawns, gardens, a small wooded lot to the East and by Interstate 80, which runs directly behind the rear lot line. Sited on a slight rise, the generously-proportioned structure appears to hug the land, an effect emphasized by its sweeping gambrel roof and the shadow which its extended eave casts on the facade. This low profile is shared by a small, gable-roofed, 1 1/2-story extension, appended to the eastern elevation, speculated to be of an earlier date of construction than the main block. While both sections of the house have rectangular plans, they differ in constructional method, the main house being built of heavy, pegged frame members and sided with shingles and clapboards, and the extension of load-bearing red sandstone blocks, a widely-used building material common to the entire Palisades Region.

The main section of the house, rising two stories above an ashlar red sandstone foundation, combines a vernacular house-form common to Dutch Colonial construction in Bergen County of the mid to late eighteenth century and skillfully-executed Adamesque details. The facade and rear (north) elevation of five symmetrical bays are fronted by loggias, formed by rows of square posts that support the roof's swept eaves at their outer edge. Dominating the facade is a richly ornamented central door enframement, into whose paneled reveal is set a wide, "Dutch Door". The surround is composed of narrow, reeded pilasters of identical design that enclose partial sidelights. These pilasters support an entablature which is "en ressaute",

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1786, 1810-20

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Vreeland House at 125 Lakeview Avenue, Leonia, is a well-preserved example of the late Dutch Colonial homesteads built in Northern New Jersey in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The changes in size and ownership of the property represent the growth of Leonia from a pre-industrial community of contiguous farms to a densely populated suburban borough. In continuous family ownership for over 120 years, the house is associated with a prominent early Dutch family, whose descedants still live in Leonia. Architecturally, the structure represents a link between the native farmhouses of the Hudson Valley built during the eighteenth century, and the high-style decorative influences of Georgian England as interpreted by American carpenter builders.

Originally populated by the Hackensack Tribe of the Delaware Indians who fished and planted along the Hudson River and Overpeck Creek¹, the area which today incorporates Leonia and its surrounding municipalities was made part of the New Netherlands Colony through a series of land purchases in the mid-seventeenth century. Grants were secured in 1768-69 by John Berry and Demarest in what is presently Ridgefield, Palisades Park, Englewood, Hackensack, Leonia and part of Tenafly², and tracts were swiftly taken over by Dutch, French Huguenot and English settlers. While skirmishes over land ownership were common, by 1775, the English had grown to dominate the other nationalities governmentally and had established a secure³ community comprised of ten houses and thirty-five residents. Supported by a stable economy based on agriculture and trade along the Hackensack River, the "English Neighborhood" remained a sparsely-populated agrarian area throughout the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Reputed to be the oldest family in Leonia,⁴ the Vreelands were among the Dutch who established themselves in Bergen County. Settling in the area in c. 1703, they quickly became one of the primary landed families in the New Colony. While

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 585530 4525030
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies City Block 6, Lot 1C and is approximately 100 feet X 100 feet in size.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Terry Winters, Researcher

(Terry Karschner, Office of Historic Preservation, Trenton, 609-984-6012)

ORGANIZATION Leonia Environmental Commission

DATE 8/77

STREET & NUMBER Borough Hall

TELEPHONE (201) 944-4250

CITY OR TOWN Leonia

STATE New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy *Terry Winters*
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE 4/27/78

TITLE Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. ...
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11-17-78

ATTEST: *Lynn A. Beebe*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE Nov. 17, 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 3 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County New Jersey 034
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7. PAGE 1.

incorporating a frieze of gauged motifs -- urns, elliptical and circular paterae, leaves -- as well as several decorative moldings. A boldy projecting cap molding terminates the frieze and visually seems to support a broad, semi-elliptical fanlight. Surrounding the fanlight is an arch consisting of chevron and lozenge-patterned moldings, united by a compound keystone. Both fanlight and sidelights are braced on leaded comes of foliate, cusped and beaded designs. Taller and narrower in proportion and less elaborately detailed, the rear door surround consists of molded pilasters that frame, rather than support, a rectangular, lead-camed transomlight and a frieze of fluted work, enriched by a central block with a molded sunburst motif, and topped by a cap molding. The fenestration throughout the frame section is fairly consistent and mostly consists of 6/6 sash windows placed at regular intervals. Lighting the upper floor and positioned under the ridges of the gambrel are both a semi-circular lunette (later enlarged by a casement window placed below it), and two elliptical windows. Three roof dormers, each incorporating an arch-topped casement window, are twentieth century additions to the north elevation. Continuous on three elevations of the house is a partial roof entablature, comprised of a frieze decorated with applied, sawn motifs, and a modillion-studded cornice. Two pairs of brick interior end chimneys are placed to either side of the roof's central ridge.

The interior of the house is arranged according to a symmetrical Georgian plan. A wide central hall connects front and back entry doors and opens onto two large rooms on either side; a living room and bedroom to the West, and a dining room and bedroom (recently converted to a kitchen) on the East. Whereas many hallways in Bergen County farmhouses of this period are spanned by a single, semi-elliptical opening separating front and rear rooms of the ground floor, the Vreeland house hallway is arcaded dividing the space into a narrow central extension of the front hall, flanked by an enclosed staircase to one side and a storage room to the other. This arcade is composed of a central, semi-elliptical arched opening framed by identical doors, each topped by semi-circular

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 3 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1978

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County New Jersey 034
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7. PAGE 2.

arched moldings circumscribing leaded, glazed fanlights. Molded pilasters, their neckings enriched with gauged ornaments, articulate each opening and break through friezes of gauged elliptical and semi-circular patera. Topping the friezes are complex cornice moldings that project markedly, providing a dramatic contrast to the fanlights, which are deeply recessed into paneled reveals. Door surrounds of identical design lead from the hall to both living and dining rooms. Each of these rooms feature, on their interiors, gauged door and window architraves of distinct design. Dining room doors are trimmed with molded pilaster strips, on bases, that meet the patera-studded corner blocks at their upper edges and a lintelboard inset with deeply gauged greek fret motifs and a central, rectangular block with a large urn. Exhibiting yet another variation of gauged detail, living room doors are flanked by molded pilaster strips and support corner blocks and lintelboards of semi-circular gauged designs.

Like the door surrounds, the original fireplaces in the Vreeland House are excellent examples of Federal Period craftsmanship. The three most ornate of these were removed recently and are in the possession of the house's current owners. Whereas the original mantelpieces in the kitchen and dining room were typical of the fine gauged work extant in other Bergen County houses of the period, that of the living room may have been unique, and featured relief leadwork (on wood) in the shape of foliated urns, scrolls, rinceau, what-ear drops and festoons. The northwest bedroom of the house still contains one original mantelpiece. An original corner cupboard in the dining room has also been removed.

In the tradition of eighteenth century Dutch houses, the second story of the main block (or, more specifically, that part which falls under the gambrel roof) is a raw loft space. The framework of the house is exposed, revealing primitive trusses, posts and rafters of heavy, pegged members, some of which exhibit circular saw marks, and others of which have been hand-adzed. This space, which originally would have been unbroken and used for storage, work space and servants' quarters, was partitioned into bedrooms in recent years.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 3 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County

CONTINUATION SHEET ~~New Jersey~~ 034

ITEM NUMBER 7. PAGE 3.

The intimately-sealed, vernacular extension of the house offers a contrast to the rich detailing and ample dimensions of the main block. Constructed of coursed red sandstone blocks, the facade features an off-center door flanked by 12/8 windows. Plainly framed, all openings are capped by crude sandstone lintels. Irregular openings occur on the rear elevation as well, one of which may represent an original 8/8 sash window. As in other Bergen County Dutch Colonial buildings, the structure combines several building materials: on its eastern elevation, the sandstone wall ends abruptly at the eavesline, and the section under the gable is sheathed in clapboards.

The interior is an unbroken space, with an open corner stair providing access to the shallow half-story above. A large Dutch fireplace at the eastern end of the room may have been made smaller recently, when this room was converted from a kitchen to another use: the appearance of heavy stone slabs running the full width of the room suggests the extent of an original hearth, and the infill of new brick and concrete blocks on the chimney breast further belie alteration. A bricked-in semi-circular opening in the chimney wall represents an early oven.

Aside from the removal of the aforementioned interior details, alterations to the house since its construction have not been extensive. In the 1930's, a new heating and electrical system, and additional plumbing were installed. The roof was recovered with hand-split cypress shingles on both sections of the house. Dormers were added to the rear of the main block and to the stone section. The wooden stoop approach to the extension was replaced with slabs of red sandstone, and a cellar hatch door under the easternmost window removed and the wall filled in. The window sash throughout the house has been changed several times.

Two outbuildings are extant on the property. These consist of a small, red sandstone building to the east of the house which may have been built as a smokehouse or ice house at an unknown date, and a well, covered with a wooden superstructure.

Presently occupied, the house is structurally sound and remains in a very good state of preservation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County New Jersey 034

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 3 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8. PAGE 1.

the first three generations of the emigrant family lived on farms in what is today Paterson and Bayonne, Dirck Vreeland⁵ (born in 1736) is believed to have bought property that included the present building site and moved there in c. 1760, around the time of his marriage. Accused of "disaffection" to the Colonists' cause during the Revolution, he was arrested in 1777 and imprisoned briefly at Morristown,⁷ but then returned to his extensive farm which included all of the land north of what is now Christie Heights Road as far as the borough boundary. In 1784, Vreeland was taxed for 250 acres of improved land,⁸ an indication of the expanse and value of his property. In 1821, it was described as "...All that farm lying such being in the Township of Hackensack...with the buildings and improvements thereon, bounded...southwest by the English Creek, northeast by the farm of John DeMott and the mill farm of Jacob Cole, southeast by the Hudson River,⁹ and southwest by the farm of James Brinckerhoff and others,...".

While no precise records exist of the number, exact location and dates of the dwellings ever built on the site, it is accepted by one widely quoted source that three houses were constructed on the property: a temporary shelter, a later stone house (both no longer extant) and the stone portion of the present house, built in c. 1786. The large, frame main block of the house is thought to have been built sometime between 1810 and 1820.¹⁰

Architecturally, the Vreeland House bridges two building traditions, that indigenous one of the Hudson Valley Dutch settlers which produced a houseform responsive to the climate and culture of the area, and an eclectic tradition, based on English decorative designs, which were introduced into Bergen County after the Revolution. The stone section of the house represents the earliest kind of permanent Dutch construction, built in Bergen County throughout the eighteenth century. Accommodating one or two rooms on the ground floor and an unbroken loft on the upper story, these houses often have gabled roofs, whose eaves projected beyond the wall line, forming a "kicked eave". This adaptation protected the masonry walls, cemented with clay, from water damage. The carefully laid, ashlar sandstone walls of the house are another typical eighteenth century feature. The gambrel roof, with a short upper slope and long, curving lower slope, characterizes Bergen County houses built later in the century.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County New Jersey 034

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 3 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8. PAGE 2.

Since by the nineteenth century many farms were expanded to house more family, servants, and the functions of a growing household, the frame section of the house represents the increase in prosperity of the Vreeland family. While its basic form, united by a gambrel roof, relates it to earlier houses, its size, symmetrical facade, and elaborate detailing suggest the growing influence of Federal architecture in the colonies, resulting from an increasing association with English culture. While it is probable that one of the Vreelands designed and built the vernacular stone portion, it is not likely that the fine Adamesque detailing on the later part of the house was executed by anyone but a highly skilled carpenter builder who was familiar with a range of pattern books that featured Georgian designs. Asher Benjamin's The Country Builder's Assistant (1797) and The American Builder's Companion (1806), William Pain's The Practical House Carpenter (1797), and William Norman's Young Carpenter's Assistant (1803) were catalogues of classical details, including designs for doorways, mantelpieces, friezes and range of ornamental moldings, and any of these books would have been available to a craftsman working in the Northeast in the first decade of the nineteenth century. Yet, while the artisan was probably inspired by these sources,¹¹ the fact that he did more than merely copy pattern book designs is borne out in the distinctive proportions and number of unusual moldings, suggesting that he was sophisticated enough to improvise.

The Vreeland House contains a number of features which are the best Federal design in the County and perhaps in the State, as well as several unusual treatments. While its overall plan is similar to that found in at least three other Bergen County houses,¹² the symmetrical division of the main hall into three bays by arched openings is an unusually formal, and rare, treatment. The degree of ornamentation on the door enframements throughout the house is unusual, particularly the number of fanlights: "Only...in a few cases does one find the Georgian entrance with elliptical fan and sidelights of leaded glass."¹³ The original mantelpieces were fine examples of the gouged work that is¹⁴ represented in the best Federal Period houses in the County. Hackensack was firmly established as a crafts

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 3 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8. PAGE 3.

center for northern New Jersey as clearly evidenced by furniture attributed to this locale. Consequently, it is not improbable to suppose that the Vreeland House in Leonia, considering its exceptional detailing, used, at least in part, nearby Hackensack artisans.

Shortly after Dirck Vreeland conveyed his farm to his son, Michael D. Vreeland, for the sum of \$1.00 in 1821¹⁵, the "English Neighborhood" had grown to contain "... a post office, True Reformed Church, a Church of Christians, three taverns, two stores, and from fifteen to twenty dwellings."¹⁶ With the death of Michael Vreeland in 1832, it was stipulated in his will¹⁷ that the farm should go undivided to his son, Richard M. Vreeland, but that his grandsons, Michael and Isaac, should equally divide the property into northern and southern sections upon their father's death. This property division appears on a map of 1869¹⁸, and is recorded in a deed of 1872¹⁹. The dividing up of the original farmsteads in Leonia occurred concomitantly with a rise in residential and commercial development, engendered by the coming of the Erie Railroad in 1859. By the mid 1860's, a growth of new farms and residences, oriented towards Grand Avenue, the original north-south thoroughfare through the "English Neighborhood", accompanied new industrial and institutional development: the building of a new school, blacksmith shop, "dyeing establishment" and Drill Room.²⁰ Broad Avenue and several unnamed streets appear on a map of 1877, as does a small town center at the junction of the railroad tracts and Fort Lee Road. By the turn of the century, "Leonia", named in 1865 for its proximity to Fort Lee, was incorporated as a borough. A second town center had grown up at the crossroads of Fort Lee Road and Grand Avenue, and further residential settlement was encouraged by a trolley line, linking the 125th Street ferry dock in Edgewater to Leonia. The first phase of intensive suburban development occurred during the years 1910-1920, when advertising entrepreneur Artemis Ward organized the Leonia Heights Land Company to uniformly develop a large section of the borough into a "planned white collar community."²¹ While a network of quiet, suburban streets of one-family residences began to develop, the Vreeland Family still owned all of the land north of Broad and Hillside Avenues.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County, New Jersey 07034

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 3 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8. PAGE 4.

Made a trustee of his father's estate in 1881²², Richard M. Vreeland (son of Michael R. Vreeland) took over the property and continued to live in the house with his wife and four daughters until his death. Two of his daughters, Mary and Kathryn, inhabited the house until 1928, when it was sold to Helen Clark and Bessie Rush²³. A series of land sales by the Vreelands and their Executors in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century had reduced the property to roughly an acre by the time it was sold to Natalie Corbett in 1930. An extensive remodeling campaign was planned by Mrs. Corbett, involving the addition of a garage, and the "colonializing" of the stone extension of the house. However, the loss of her money in the Stock Market Crash prevented this scheme from materializing. Currently for sale by its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Church, the house is in a good state of preservation and is the subject of concern to community groups who advocate a compatible present use for the vacant structure.

While the Vreeland House is itself an important architectural and historical document, it should be noted that the site of the property is equally important for its archaeological merit. Artifacts related to the technology of five generations of family use, spanning pre and post-industrial periods, may exist, as well as remains of what was a slave burying ground during the seventeenth century, located directly south of the present property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	JUL 3 1978
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County New Jersey 031

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8. PAGE 5.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 John T. Boyd, Jr., "Some Early Dutch Houses in New Jersey," in Architectural Record, July, 1914, vol. 36.
- 2 Abeles-Schwartz & Associates, Master Plan of Leonia, NJ, (New York, Feb. 1976) p. 1.
- 3 Ibid., p. 1.
- 4 William McGeeveran, "Leonia Grew on Hunting Ground", in The Record, April 29, 1968, Clipping, Vertical File, Leonia Public Library.
- 5 The great-grandson of Michael Jansen Van Broeckhuysen, who emigrated to America in 1636.
- 6 Rosalie Fellows Baily, Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York, (New York, Wm. Morrow and Co., 1936) p. 324.
- 7 Madeleine W. Hampton, Historic Houses in Bergen County, Typed notebooks, 1967, Collection of Bergen County Historical Society, Hackensack, NJ.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Deed, September 25, 1921, Liber S2, p. 157.
- 10 Bailey, Op. Cit., p. 324. Bailey dates the house at c. 1818, as does Clifford Wendehack, while Aymar Embury believes it to have been built no later than 1810. While vernacular stone dwellings were commonly expanded through the addition of later and larger houses in Bergen County, a controversy exists over whether this case applies to the Vreeland House. A descendant, Isaac Vreeland, believes both sections to have been built simultaneously in the early nineteenth century.
- 11 Aymar Embury II makes this point in his discussion of the Vreeland House in his Building the Dutch Colonial House.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County New Jersey 034

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 8 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8. PAGE 6.

- 12 The Kip-Outwarter House, Dumont (HABS, NJ-700), the Early De Groot House, Ridgefield (HABS, NJ-170), and the John Stagg House, Wyckoff (HABS, NJ-678).
- 13 Boyd, Op. Cit., August, p. 157.
- 14 The Nicholas Kipp House, Bergenfield, the Durie House, Closter, the Benjamin Westervelt House, Cresskill, and the Peter Westervelt House, Englewood, all contain mantelpieces of similar design as those originally in the Vreeland House.
- 15 Deed, Sept. 25, 1821, Liber S2, p. 157.
- 16 Quoted in Abeles Schwartz, Op. Cit., p. 1.
- 17 Will of Michael D. Vreeland, October 26, 1830, Liber D, p 317.
- 18 Chapman Map, in centerfold of Leonia Semi-Centennial (Leonia, 1944).
- 19 Deed, July 31, 1872, Liber , p. 285.
- 20 Quoted in Abeles-Schwartz, Op. Cit., p. 4.
- 21 Ibid., p. 2.
- 22 Deed, 1881, Liber U10, p. 456.
- 23 Deed, 1928, Liber 1595, p. 156.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9. PAGE 1.

Books:

1. Abeles-Schwartz & Assoc., Master Plan of Leonia, NJ, NY, Feb. 1976.
2. Rosalie Fellows Bailey, Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York, (1936, Wm. Morrow & Co., New York).
3. Aymar Embury II, Building the Dutch Colonial House (New York, Robert M. McBride & Co., 1929).
4. Madeleine W. Hampton, Historic Houses in Bergen County, (Typed Notebooks, 1967, Collection of Bergen County Historical Society, Hackensack, New Jersey).
5. Leonia Semi-Centennial (1894-1944), Published 1944, Leonia.
6. Westervelt, Frances A., History of Bergen County, New Jersey (1630-1923) (3 vols.) - 1923.

Periodicals, Articles:

1. John T. Boyd, Jr., "Some Early Dutch Houses in New Jersey", in Architectural Record, July, Aug., Sept. issues, 1914, vol. 36.
2. Aymar Embury II, "Farm Houses of New Netherlands", in White Pine Monographs, vol. 1, Dec. 1915, #3.
3. William McGeveran, "Leonie Grew on Hunting Ground", in The Record, April 29, 1968, Clipping, Vertical File, Leonia Public Library.
4. Harry E. Moore, "Reminiscences of Borough of Leonia", Transcript of Interview, June 30, 1970, Vertical File, Leonia Public Library.
5. Leonia Tercentenary of Leonie Life, June 6, 1968.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED NOV 17 1978

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9.

PAGE 2.

6. "Vignettes of Leonia's Past", in Leonia Magazine, Leonia Chamber of Commerce, 1971, Vertical File, Leonia Public Library.
7. Clifford C. Wendehack, "Early Dutch Houses of Northern New Jersey", in White Pine Monographs, (New York, Russell F. Whitehead, 1927, Vol. xi, 1927.

Miscellaneous:

1. Interview, Mrs. Earlyn Church.
2. Historic American Buildings Survey, NJ-158, Drawings and Photographs of Vreeland House, 1935-37.
3. "The Vreeland House", Scrapbook published by Leonia Women's Club.

Atlases and Maps:

1. C.M. Hopkins, Map of the Counties of Bergen and Passaic, NJ, Covey Publishing Co., 1861.
2. Walker, A. H., comp., Atlas of Bergen County, New Jersey, 1776-1876, (C.C. Pease, Reading Publishing Hart, 1876).
3. Bergen County Farm Lines, 1891.

Legal Records:

1. Deed, September 25, 1821, Liber S2, p. 157.
2. Will, Michael D. Vreeland, October 26, 1830, Liber D, p. 317.
3. Will, Richard M. Vreeland, February 26, 1846, Liber F, p. 505.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Vreeland House
Leonia
Bergen County New Jersey 034

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 3 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 17 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9. PAGE 3.

4. Deed, July 31, 1872, Liber , p. 285.
5. Deed, 1881, Liber U 10, p. 456.
6. Deed, March 29, 1888, Liber J 12, p. 619.
7. Deed, April 1, 1912, Liber 810, p. 621.
8. Deed, June 25, 1926, Liber 1421, p. 81.
9. Deed, June 25, 1928, Liber 1595, p. 156.
10. Deed, January 10, 1930, Liber 1702, p. 236.

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY
 INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

190

77

GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: The Vreeland House
COMMON NAME:
LOCATION: 125 Lakeview Avenue
 (Block 6, Lots 1C & 1F)
MUNICIPALITY: Leonia
OWNERSHIP: Public Private
OWNER/ADDRESS: Walter & Jean Cronan

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:
 Erskine (1778-80)
 Hopkins-Corey (1861) Mich. Vreeland
 Walker's Atlas (1876) Michael Vreeland
 Bronley (1912) M. R. Vreeland
 Other
RECOGNITION:
 National Register BCHS Marker
 HABS # 6-158 Bailey
 Other N.J. Inventory

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 35° W
IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:
 1 acre
SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 Residential
 Commercial
 Agricultural
 Open Space
 Other
COMMENTS: Near highway in woody setting.

USE

THREATS

ORIGINAL: Residence
PRESENT: Residence
THREATS TO STRUCTURE:
 Roads
 Development
 Zoning
 Deterioration
 Other
 No Threat
COMMENTS:

CONDITION

CONDITION:
 Excellent Good
 Fair Deteriorated
STATUS:
 Occupied
 Unoccupied
 Work in Progress
ACCESSIBLE:
 Yes, Restricted
 Yes, Unrestricted
 No

The main house (frame) is the well-known & frequently published Federal style house. The present owners are renovating & restoring the house. They plan to remove the dormer in front, but retain the two skylights in the rear. The chimney girt is shored up with concrete block jacks & the bee hive was removed. The window to the west has a panel below & was at one time (20th century) a door.

PHOTO



MAP



CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:

Stone wing: probably pre-Revolutionary/
Architectural evidence

BUILDER: Michael Vreeland (possibly)

FORM/PLAN TYPE: Wing: "C" 3 bay, 1 room,
center door w/ 1 gable end fireplace
(28'3" x 22'5") w/ main house (frame)
to west.

FRAMING SYSTEM:

- Intermediate Summer Beam
 Intermediate Bearing Wall
 Clear Span
 Other

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:

Neatly coursed on south front and
rough coursing on side and rear.

FENESTRATION:

34" x 58" (12/8)
32½" x 54" (12/8)

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:

Center bay of south front. Simple
doorway is 28" x 7'2".

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1

CELLAR: Yes
 No

CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:

- Stone Arch
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
 Other (Triple barrel vault,
brick arch w/ jamless fp. above.
FLOOR JOISTS: 6½" x 9½" & 5½" x
8", 27" apart.

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:
7'6"

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:
18"

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS: 3" x 9",
chimney girt is 6" x 10".

GARRET:

- Unfinished Space
 Finished Space

ROOF:

- Gable
 Gambrel
 Curb
 Other

EAVE TREATMENT:

- Sweeping Overhang
 Supported Overhang
 No Overhang
 Boxed Gutter

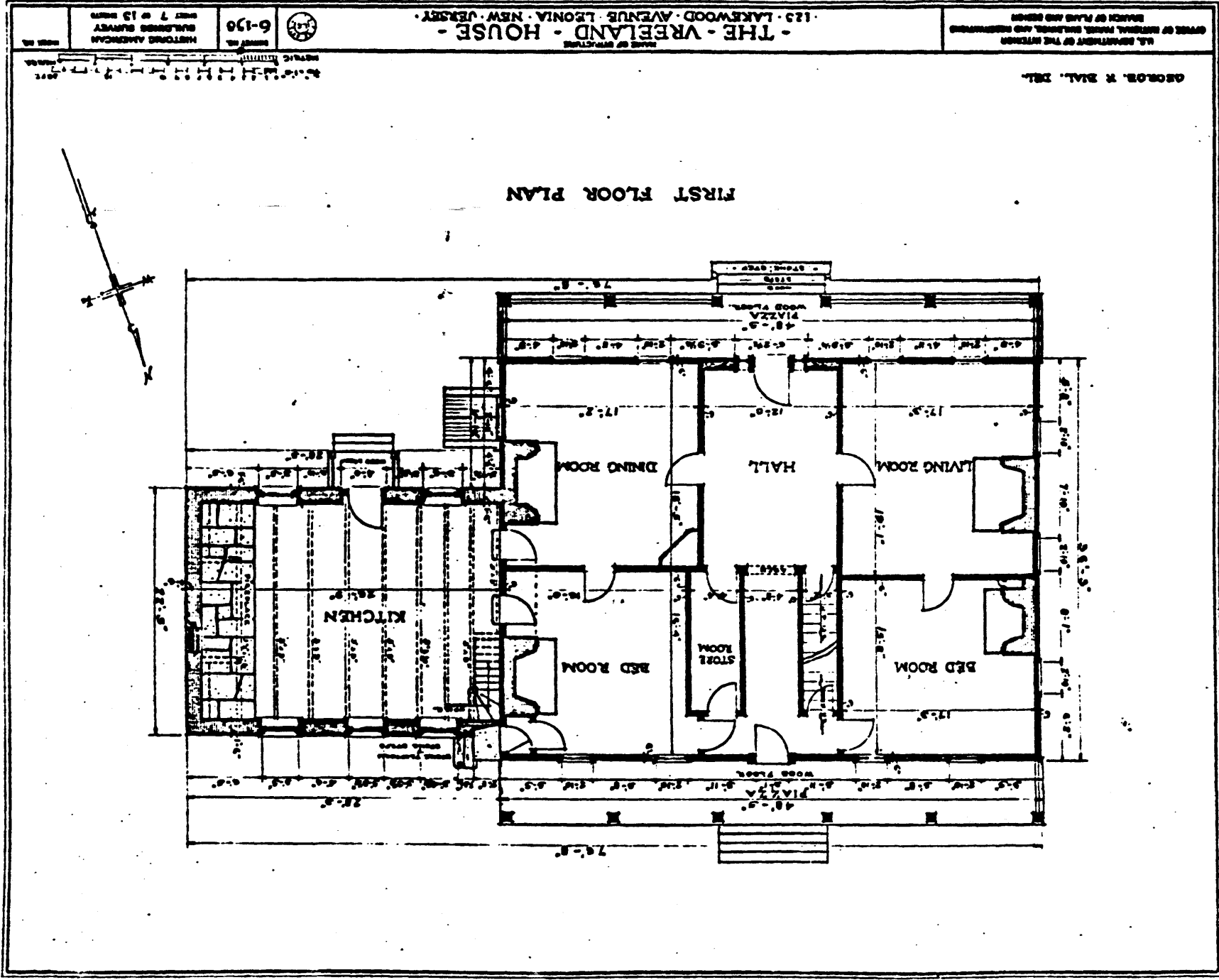
This house is significant for its architecture and its association with the exploration and settlement of the Bergen County, New Jersey area. It is a reasonably well preserved example of the Form/Plan Type as shown and more fully described herein. As such, it is included in the Thematic Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Early Stone Houses of Bergen County, New Jersey.



THE VREELAND HOUSE

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY
The Vreeland House
125 Lakeview Avenue, Leonia

171



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF MINERAL INVESTIGATION AND RECONSTRUCTION
GEORGE F. SWAN, DIST.
NAME OF STRUCTURE
- THE - VREELAND - HOUSE -
125 LAKEWOOD AVENUE LEONIA NEW JERSEY
6-130
HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDING SURVEY
SHEET 7 OF 13 SHEETS

There is some question as to whether the stone wing of this house was built before the Revolution. A descendant, Isaac Vreeland, considers that the whole house was built at the same time (1818), as it was the third Vreeland house on the property, the first further east and the second just south, and he sees no reason for the third house to have been built while the second was still standing. The wing, however, is Revolutionary in style; it may have been built about the time of the son's marriage in 1786.

Michael Jansen van Broeckhuysen (a village on the river Maes in the Duchy of Limburg) emigrated in 1636 on the Rensselaerswyck with his wife Fitje Hartmans and two children. He was engaged as a farm servant for the patroon; he left in 1646 to strike out for himself, and died in 1663; his wife survived him, dying Sept. 21, 1697. Their eighth child, Cornelis Michaelsen, b. June 3, 1660, d. May 1727, married May 12, 1681 Metje Dircks Braecke, and lived on his tract at Pembrepogh (now Bayonne). His only son, Michael Vreeland, b. Sept. 18, 1694, married Oct. 23, 1718 Janneke Van Houten; they lived on the Wesel Road (now part of Paterson) and had ten children.

Their son Derrick or Dirck Vreeland, b. March 1, 1736* (old style) bap. March 11, 1737 at Bergen, married and removed to a large farm he had bought in the English Neighborhood, a part of the Berry patent of 1669. He undoubtedly built the first two houses here, a temporary structure and later his permanent stone home. In 1777 he was imprisoned at Morristown for British sympathies. He had only two children, Michael and Elizabeth, and died in his 86th year on Nov. 5, 1821.* Michael D. Vreeland, b. March 12, 1760,* d. May 13, 1832,* married Margaret Terhune, b. Feb. 28, 1770,* d. March 22, 1837.* Their son Richard M. Vreeland, b. Oct. 5, 1787,* d. Feb. 2, 1849,* married Dec. 1, 1810,* Mary Sipp, b. March 26, 1793,* d. July 10, 1880.* Richard built the main frame house about 1818 (or his father built it for him); it is noted for its beautiful lines, proportions and carvings. Richard and Mary's children were: Isaac who married and lived just south; Margaret wife of Henry Westervelt, who lived in a stone house further north in South Englewood; and Michael. Michael R. Vreeland, b. April 27, 1812,* d. Oct. 12, 1893 aged 83 years,* married Sept. 24, 1840 Lavina Brinkerhoff. The last of the family to own and occupy the old home was their son Richard M. Vreeland, who died about 1928 when almost ninety years of age; he had four daughters, two by his wife Helen Harris. Mrs. Natalie Corbett, the [then] present owner, bought the property in 1930 from the Richard M. Vreeland estate.

The house is in the northern part of the locality originally called the English Neighborhood. It stands on a hill, overlooking a brook to the north and the old road (now Grand Avenue) to the west. It is in the former Nordhoff, now the borough of Leonia, south of Englewood.

* Taken from family Bible.

(The above was quoted from Rosalie Fellows Bailey's Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1968.)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Block 6, Lots 1C & 1F - Leonia Tax Map

Less than 1 acre

U.T.M.
18 585 600 4525 000
Central Park, NJ-NY