

**BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY**  
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

355

**GENERAL**

HISTORIC NAME: Westervelt House

COMMON NAME:

LOCATION: 81 Westervelt Avenue

MUNICIPALITY: Tenafly

OWNERSHIP:  Public  Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: George Price

**REFERENCE**

MAP REFERENCES:

- Erskine (1778-80)
- Hopkins-Corey (1861) D. Westervelt
- Walker's Atlas (1876) P. Westervelt
- Bromley (1912) (No name)
- Other

RECOGNITION:

- National Register
- BCNS Marker
- HABS # 6-9
- Bailey
- Other N.J. Inventory

**ENVIRONMENT**

HOUSE ORIENTATION: N 50° W

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Agricultural
- Open Space
- Other

COMMENTS:

**USE**

ORIGINAL: Residence

PRESENT: Residence

**THREATS**

THREATS TO STRUCTURE:

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

COMMENTS:

**CONDITION**

CONDITION:

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated

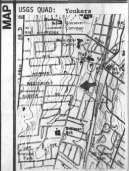
STATUS:

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Work in Progress

ACCESSIBLE:

- Yes, Restricted
- Yes, Unrestricted
- No

This is a handsome house, kept more or less in its original condition except that the northeast chamber is now a kitchen and a bedroom has been added to the south end of the garret. This may be the only house in Bergen County with an operable jambless fireplace.



**DESCRIPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**

Main: 1798/HABS  
Wing: later/Architectural evidence

**BUILDER:**

Main: Daniel Westervelt

**FORM/PLAN TYPE:** Main: "F" 5 bay, center hall, 1 room to each side, each w/ fireplace, and rooms to rear (46'0" x 34'2"). South wing: "B" 2 bay, 1 room w/ gable end fireplace (15'7" x 20'0"). Frame north wing.

**FRAMING SYSTEM:**

- Intermediate Summer Beam (Main)
- Intermediate Bearing Wall
- Clear Span (Wing)
- Other

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:**

Main is coursed red sandstone.  
Wing is roughly dressed stone.

**FENESTRATION:** Front: 3'6" x 5'5 1/2" M.O. (9/6) w. splayed casings. Rear & wing: 2'8" x 4'5" sash (6/6). Wing does not have splayed casings.

**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**

Center bay of west front. Door is Dutch panelled (3'0" x 6'3") w/ panelled surround and transom above (1'1").

**NUMBER OF STORIES:** 1-1/2

**CELLAR:**  Yes  
 No

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:**

- Stone Arch
- Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
- Other

**FLOOR JOISTS:**

4" x 10" deep.

**FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:**

8'6"

**FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:**

22-23"

**GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:**

4" x 9" deep.

**GARRET:**

- Unfinished Space
- Finished Space

**ROOF:**

- Gable (Wing)
- Gambrel (Main)
- Curb
- Other

**EAVE TREATMENT:**

- Sweeping Overhang (Main)
- Supported Overhang
- No Overhang (Wing)
- Boxed Gutter
- Other

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.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

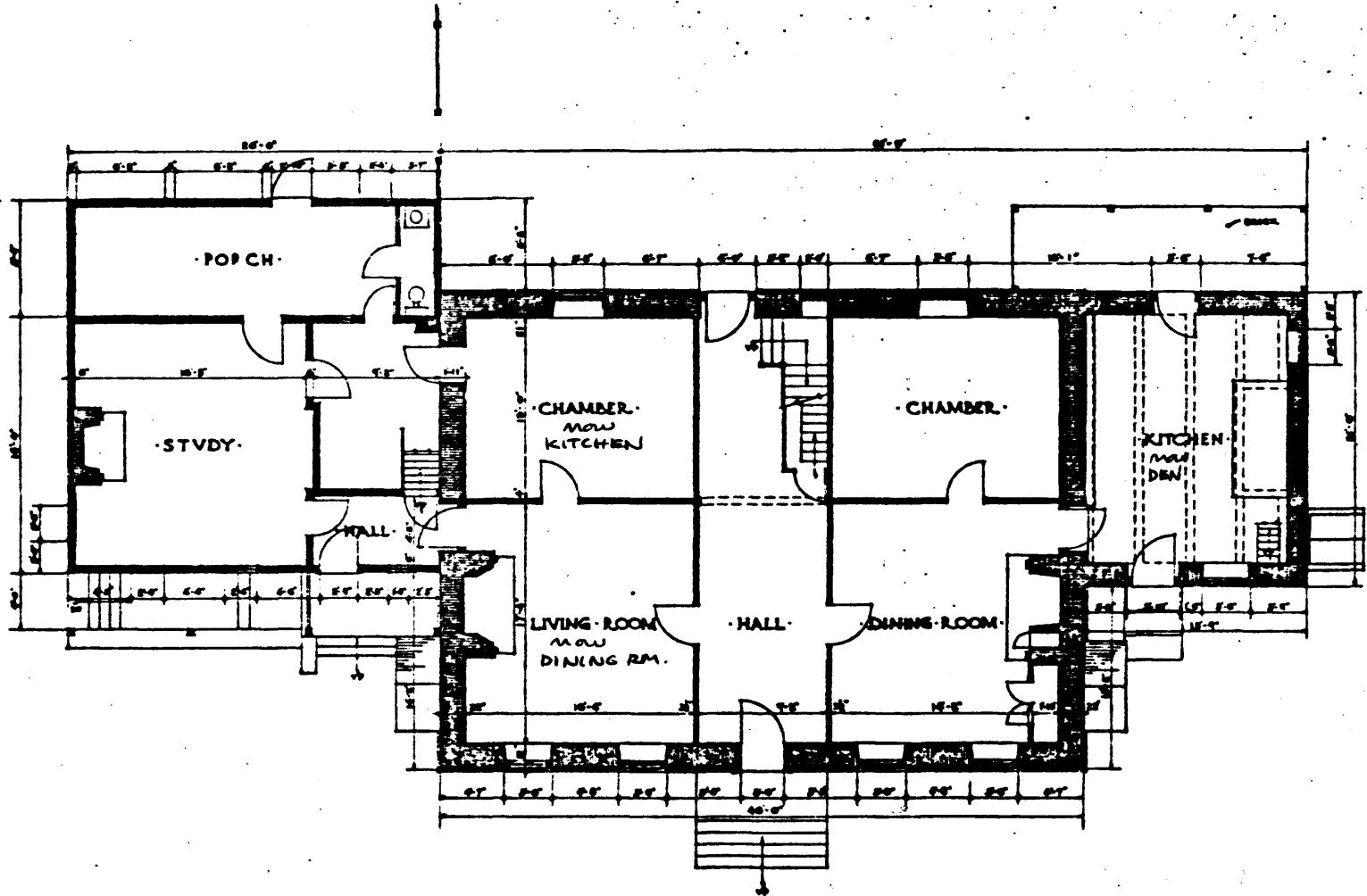
Block 108, Lot 22

Less than 1 acre

U.T.M

18 586 820 4530 330  
Yonkers, New Jersey-New York

BERGEN COUNTY CIVIC HOUSE SURVEY  
 HISTORIC NAME: Westervelt House  
 LOCATION: 81 Westervelt Avenue, Tenafly



· PLAN · OF · FIRST · FLOOR ·

MASONRY   
 FRAME

· VICTOR · C · KULLGAER · DR ·  
 · NEW · JERSEY · DISTRICT ·

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS  
 BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE  
 · THE · WESTERVELT · HOUSE ·  
 · 236 · TENAFLY · ROAD · TENAFLY · NEW · JERSEY ·



SURVEY NO.  
 6-9

HISTORIC AMERICAN  
 BUILDINGS SURVEY  
 DATE 2-14-33

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

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Roelof Westervelt... was baptized March 10, 1659 at Meppel in the Province of Drenthe, and came to America with his parents.... In 1695 he and nine others bought from the Proprietors for £100 some thousands of acres between the Hudson and Overpeck, extending from the present Englewood northwards nearly to Tenafly; to Roelof fell the northern section, on which he is said to have settled. On Sept. 17, 1695 he also bought from the patentee a triangular tract of land between the branches of the Overpeck Creek northwards to the head of the Tenakill (brook), for which he had to obtain an added release from the Indians in 1705; it was on this tract that his grandson later built [this house]. Roelof Westervelt was a religious man, a member of the Church of Hackensack, deacon and church master.... His son Johannes married Oct. 11, 1718 Efië De Groot and had ten children, of whom we are interested in Roelof.

Roelof Westervelt, b. Dec. 4, 1723, died 1800, married about 1745 Dirkjin Taelman, and had two sons, Douwe and Johannes, and five daughters.... His elder son Douwe Westervelt, b. Jan. 9, 1753, d. May 16, 1822, aged 69 yrs., 4 mos., 17 days,\* married first Oct. 28, 1773\* Rebecca Demarest, and secondly June 12, 1802\* Margrietje Banta, b. Aug. 16, 1759,\* widow of Renis Kuyper; by his first wife he had four children; Roelof, b. Sept. 9, 1774,\* d. March 7, 1837,\* unmarried, Daniel, and two daughters. Daniel Westervelt, b. Oct. 4, 1779,\* d. April 13, 1877\* at the advanced age of 97 yrs., 6 mos., and 9 days,\* was married on Jan. 13, 1801\* to Polly Cole, b. Dec. 8, 1785,\* d. Sept. 8, 1867, aged 81 yrs., 9 mos.\* He was the builder of the main stone house about 1798. He had an only surviving son Peter and five daughters, including Gertrude who married John Ackerman, Jr. and removed to the Durie house on the Schraalenburgh Road (plate 86). Peter D. Westervelt, b. March 9, 1806,\* d. June 4, 1885, aged 79 yrs., 2 mos., 26 days,\* married Nov. 19, 1825\* Rachel Westervelt, b. Oct. 25, 1809,\* d. Feb. 22, 1874, aged 64 yrs., 3 mos., 25 days,\* daughter of his cousin Johannes Westervelt, Jr. (son of Douwe's brother Johannes) and Rachel Brinkerhoff; they had six children. Peter D. Westervelt added the frame wing on the north end of the house when he married in 1825. He had six children. His youngest son, Charles P. Westervelt, b. April 17, 1857,\* now [at the time of Bailey's writing] lives nearby, having sold the homestead about 1923 to Mr. Shulzer, who sold it to The Tenafly Weavers, the [then] present owner.

The... wing is built of roughly dressed stone; its roof has a steep pitch and no overhang, characteristics of an early eighteenth century house.... The very irregular stonework in a part of the end shows the location of the old Dutch oven, which was formerly built out here.... Charles Westervelt states that the main stone house was built by his grandfather Daniel Westervelt (who married in 1801); therefore it is likely that it was erected a few years later than 1798, the date attributed to it....

\* Taken from family Bible.

(The above is 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.)