

107 BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY  
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

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GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: Blauvelt House  
COMMON NAME:  
LOCATION: 54 Tappan Road,  
(B 118, L 1) (east side)  
MUNICIPALITY: Norwood  
OWNERSHIP:  Public  Private  
OWNER/ADDRESS: John V. Kearns  
(same)

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:  
 Erskine (1778-80)  
 Hopkins-Corey (1861) W. Atwater  
 Walker's Atlas (1876) Wm. Atwater  
 Bromley (1912) R.J. & J.P. Hodnett  
 Other  
RECOGNITION:  
 National Register  BCHS Marker  
 HABS  Bailey  
 Other N.J. Inventory

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 45° W  
IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:  
 Residential  
 Commercial  
 Agricultural  
 Open Space  
 Other

COMMENTS:  
Close to travelled road.

USE  
THREATS TO STRUCTURE:

ORIGINAL: Residence  
PRESENT: Residence

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

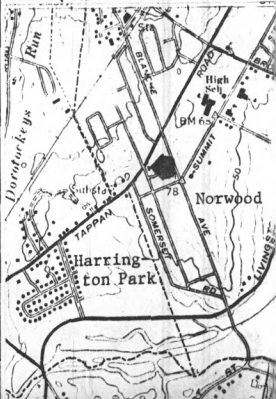
This house was salvaged in 1927 by a Mr. Semendiger and considerable work has been done. The mantels imitate an early style, but are probably not original. The ceiling was taken down to reveal handsome beams. The old cellar kitchen is now an office. The fireplace was changed somewhat but still has the trammel bar in its throat. The only addition is a porch, now enclosed, with a garage underneath.

PHOTO



MAP

USGS QUAD: Yonkers



**DESCRIPTION**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:**  
Pre-Revolutionary/Architectural evidence

**BUILDER:** Probably a Blauvelt.

**FORM/PLAN TYPE:**  
"F", 5 bay, center hall, 2 rooms deep w/ 2 fireplaces above (41'6" x 32'6").

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

**EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC:** Southwest front in uneven sized brick in more or less Flemish bond. Wall below & west end are rough cut red sandstone. Coursed rubble on rear.

**FENESTRATION:**  
32" x 60" sash (6/6) on front.  
25" x 42" on side.

**ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:**  
Center bay of southwest front, plain entrance.

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

**CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:**  
 Stone Arch  
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation (west)  
 Other houldered arch (east)

**FLOOR JOISTS:** Hewn 6 1/2-7" x 8-8 1/2" deep, 31-32" between.

**FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:**  
7'4 1/2" under beams.

**FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:**  
15" @ Brick front, 19" @ stone.

**GARRET FLOOR JOISTS:** Planed & beaded 5 1/2-6" x 8" deep, 33-34" between.

**GARRET:**  
 Unfinished Space  
 Finished Space

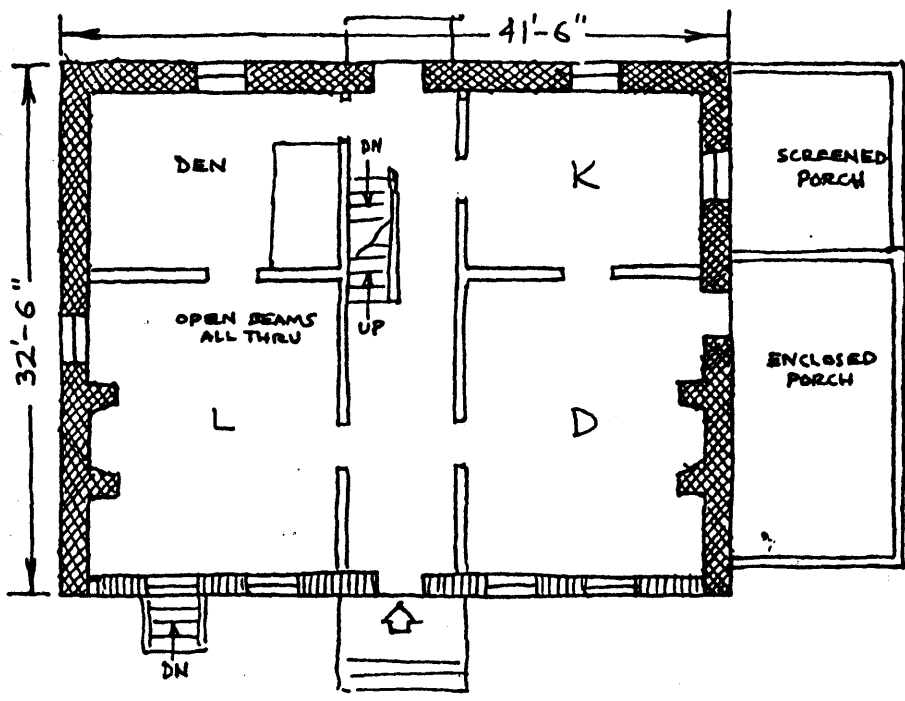
**ROOF:**  
 Gable  
 Gambrel  
 Curb  
 Other

**EAVE TREATMENT:**  
 Sweeping Overhang  
 Supported Overhang  
 No Overhang  
 Boxed Gutter  
 Other Straight 18" overhang.

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.

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FLOOR PLANS 107



This beautiful Dutch Colonial home was probably built by a Blauvelt. A marker can be seen in the west wall with the initials GHKB chiseled into a piece of red sandstone in old Dutch writing.

The first Blauvelt came to this country from Holland in 1620 and settled in New Amsterdam. In 1682 sixteen farmers, two of them Blauvelts, purchased a tract of land from the Tappan Indians.

The Blauvelts immediately started improving their land and a few years later helped organize the Tappan Church. It is interesting to note that the first child baptized in Tappan was Ammarelitje Blauvelt, on October 25, 1694, child of Abram Blauvelt and Grietje Minne.

This house is a lovely example of early Dutch craftsmanship. The east and west walls are built of rough native sandstone, carefully fitted and bound together with a mud, clay and hoghair mixture. The south side is made of beautiful old bricks, which have mellowed to a most exquisite color over the past two hundred years. Brick was not a common material in those days, since it had to be shaped and fired on the premises, a rather tedious and time-consuming task. The gambrel roof has a very graceful sweep, steep on the top and curving gently to form an overhang. You enter through a covered wooden stoop into a central hall, running the whole width of the house, with two rooms opening from it on either side.

According to the 1876 Bergen County map, the home was owned then by William Atwater.

Circa 1900, P. Hodnett and his two sons operated a farm here. One of them, John was a skilled penman, and people came from afar to have him write up documents.

In the mid-1920's the house with all the land was acquired by the Farant Development Company and [the land was] subdivided into building lots. This was later called Norwood Estates, the town's first housing development.

The home stood vacant for a few years, suffering greatly with a leaky roof and broken windows, until 1930 when G. Semendinger saved it from ruin. His son, August Semendinger, lived in it for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Kearns, the present owners, are restoring their historic home with a vast amount of knowhow and love. All the wide plank floors have been cleaned and preserved, the outside bricks have been sand-blasted and the entire first floor has been restored with great taste.

(The above is quoted from Book of Heritage. Norwood Bicentennial Committee, 1976.)

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Block 118, Lot 1 - Norwood Tax Map

Less than 1 acre

#### U.T.M.

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Yonkers, New Jersey-New York