

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 05000884**

**Date Listed: 8/16/06**

Van Wagenen House  
**Property Name**

Hudson  
**County**

NJ  
**State**

N/A  
**Multiple Name**

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**This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.**

*for* *Erica K. Martin Seibert*  
**Signature of the Keeper**

8/16/06  
**Date of Action**

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**Amended Items in Nomination:**

The nomination is amended to change the Area of Significance for Archeology from "Historic-non-aboriginal" to "Archeology-Historic-Non-Aboriginal"

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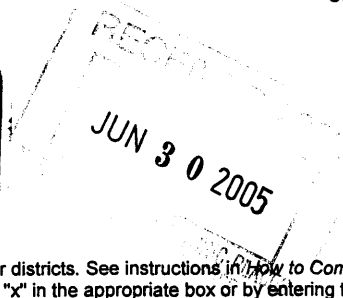
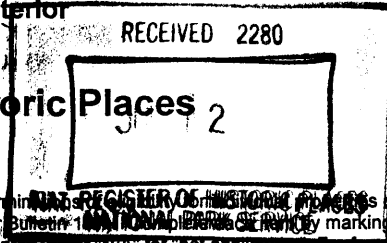
**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

281

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for historic properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 15) and *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 15A). Mark "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Van Wagenen House

other names/site number Apple Tree House

2. Location

street & number 298 Academy Street  not for publication

city or town Jersey City  vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Hudson code 017 zip code 07306

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Bradley M. Campbell Signature of certifying official/Title June 20, 2005 Date

Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner Department of Environmental Protection/SHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper 8/16/06 Date of Action  
Errika K. Martin Seibert

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Bergen County Dutch Stone House

Greek Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick, Stone

walls Brick, Stone

\_\_\_\_\_

roof Slate

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria considerations

(mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # HABS NJ-767
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
Settlement
Historic non-aboriginal

Period of Significance

Circa 1775-1947

Significant Dates

1688
Ca. 1842
Ca. 1860

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency (NJ State Archives)
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Jersey City Free Public Library

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property .49 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	578832	4509219	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Margaret Newman  
organization Holt•Morgan•Russell Architects date 1/6/2005  
street & number 350 Alexander Street telephone 609.924.1358  
city or town Princeton state New Jersey zip code 08540

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Jersey City  
street & number 280 Grove Street telephone 201.547.5200  
city or town Jersey City state New Jersey zip code 07302

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 1

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### Architectural Description

The Van Wagenen House is located at 298 Academy Street, Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey. Located on the north side of Academy Street on a parcel of land owned by the Van Wagenen family from 1688 until 1947 in the original 1660 settlement of Bergen, the Van Wagenen House is now sandwiched between early to mid-twentieth-century buildings in a mixed-use area in the heart of Jersey City. The Van Wagenen House faces south in two sections built over three construction phases and a twentieth century modernization. The western section was built in two phases and the eastern section was constructed during a single, separate phase. The house spans from the eighteenth century to the second half of the nineteenth. The first, earliest extant phase located to the west was a one story, one room deep vernacular farmhouse of local cut ashlar sandstone dating to the eighteenth century. The eastern section was added on as one piece ca. 1842 during Phase II. In the Greek Revival style, it is two-and-one half stories of the same local finely cut ashlar sandstone and is a three-bay, side hall plan with two rooms deep. Ca. 1860, the rear room and second story were added to the west over the original one story section. Aside from the south façade which was matching coursed ashlar sandstone, this wing was constructed in brick with Italianate influences especially in the bracketed cornice.

The south façade is all of fine coursed ashlar sandstone. Both sections have six-over-six double hung windows with paneled solid shutters on the first floor (Photo 6) and louvered shutters on the second and upper half story of the eastern section where there are knee wall windows between the brackets of the cornice. Combed brownstone lintels and sills adorn each of the masonry openings, aside from the bluestone lintel above the western door. This includes the large combed lintel over the massive Greek Revival entrance of the eastern section. This entrance has a four-paneled door with rectangular sidelights and transom. The entrance to the western section has a bluestone lintel (one of its remaining eighteenth-century features) and a four-panel door. The cornices of both buildings are bracketed with a combination of small and large brackets. The cornice of the eastern section has multiple molding profiles and frieze boards (Photo 5). There is a porch across the eastern section, an original feature with later Italianate detailing. Originally, there was a pent eave or small porch over the western entrance; this was made into a full porch ca. 1860. This porch is no longer standing. Both sections have slate roofs (Photos 1-3).

The west elevation provides a deeper understanding of the construction chronology of the house. To the south is the one story stone section; brick has been added above it and to its north. Originally, the Van Wagenen House was a one story, one room deep stone house; its massing can be seen on the west elevation. It was built in the eighteenth century some time before 1778. Ca. 1860, the brick second story and northern room was added converting the western section from a simple one room, one story plan to two stories, two room deep plan. The two different rooflines of this section are the result of Dutch frugality. Wanting to reuse the eighteenth-century roof framing, the gabled roof of the original building was raised and placed over the southern end of the second story while the northern end was given a new low-pitched roof, probably originally metal and now modern built up. This elevation has six-over-six double hung windows with combed brownstone sills and lintels. The upper gable end is wood with two louvered openings. A simpler bracketed cornice follows both sections (Photo 4). The

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 2

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### Architectural Description, continued

north elevation is a combination of the two sections. The eastern section is ashlar stone, the western section brick. Between the two sections is a small, enclosed addition that was originally a porch, built ca. 1860 during Phase III. It was enclosed by 1896 and modernized in the twentieth century. The six-over-six windows on the north elevation of both sections have combed bluestone lintels and rough hewn bluestone sills. The windows of eastern section are outlined in brick set in the stone walls. The simpler bracketed cornice continues on both sections (Photo 4). The east elevation has a rubble stone foundation and the same ashlar stone wall found throughout the ca. 1842 section. There are six-over-six windows with combed brownstone sills and lintels. There are three-light fixed windows in the foundation. The upper gable end is wood and has a six-over-six double hung window and two lunette windows. There is the same bracketed cornice on this elevation (Photo 5).

On the interior, the eastern section is classically Greek Revival. The front door has rectangular sidelights with interior shutters and a rectangular transom. The side hall runs the full length accessing the double parlor to the east of the house and has a second exterior door on the north wall. All three first floor rooms—the stair hall and front and rear parlors—have wide wood floors, run plaster crown moldings, plaster ceiling medallions, recessed decorative wood panels below the windows, six panel doors and porcelain hardware, elaborate three-filleted door and window surrounds with projecting ears, Doric capital pilasters with a recessed panel and formal molded baseboards that forms a plinth at the pilaster and side-lighted entrance. These rooms were the formal spaces of the house. The parlors have brick and marble fireplace mantels with pilasters reminiscent of the other Greek Revival pilasters in these spaces. The mahogany stair with turned newel post and balusters indicative of the ca. 1840 construction runs along the western wall of the stair hall, with a stair to the basement below (Photos 7 and 8). The second story has a double chamber to the east (originally two rooms made into one in the twentieth century) with the same wood floors, deep baseboard and six paneled doors. The wood mantels of the fireplaces of these rooms have the same Doric pilasters. There is a chair rail that runs the full length of the room (Photo 9). A second stair, that matches the first floor stair, leads to the attic. The attic has one small chamber and a larger chamber with six-over-six windows and paired demi-lunette windows in each of the wood upper gable ends. Knee wall windows with three-light casements run across the south wall.

The western section was constructed and remodeled ca. 1860 and the features throughout this section, including the narrow wood floors, molded baseboards, four panel doors with porcelain hardware and molded window and door surrounds are similar and date to this period. The first floor has two rooms. The room to the south, the original section of the house, was converted to a sitting room ca. 1860 and its features largely date to this period. There is an Italianate marble mantle in the location of the original cooking fireplace. There is a run plaster cornice and ceiling medallion. The floor is parquet. The windows are six-over-six double hung sash (Photo 10). An arched recess along the western wall between two closets has elaborate Corinthian plaster capitals. The north room, originally the kitchen when it was added in ca. 1860, has six-over-six windows, an entrance off the western wall and a twentieth-century fireplace with a denticulated wood mantel (Photo 11). Along the east wall, there are stairs to the basement and a second set to the second floor. The second floor has been broken up; in the twentieth century, there was an apartment in the house, likely in this location. There is a hall, modern kitchen and bathroom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 3

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### Architectural Description, continued

and one large room that were created from two original rooms. Originally, this space was three chambers off of a side hall.

In the basement, the original western section has arched supports for the cooking fireplace along its western wall and hand-hewn first floor joists under the modern finishes added in the 1960s. The basement of the ca. 1842 section, also modernized in the 1960s, has vertically sawn floor joists and brick piers along its eastern wall, which supported the fireplaces above.

### *Construction Chronology of the House*

The Van Wagenen House as it stands today is the result of three major phases of construction and a twentieth century modernization. The first occurred in the eighteenth century, the second and third in the nineteenth and the modernization in the twentieth after the building became a funeral home. Originally, the house was a one room deep, one-story, stone house. Built in the eighteenth century, this original building is the surviving first floor of the western section. Phase II occurred ca. 1842 when Hartman Van Wagenen added the stone three-bay, two-and-one-half-story eastern section; the western section remained a one-story building and likely became the kitchen wing of the house. Ca. 1860, during Phase III, Hartman again added onto the house, this time in brick, converting the western section into the two-story, two-room deep portion extant today (see Phase Diagram). Finally, in the twentieth century when the house became a funeral home, the modernization resulted in changes to the interior including the addition of bathrooms and modern systems.

Gerrit Gerritsen purchased Lot 113 within the village of Bergen in 1688 (Figures 1 and 2). All evidence indicates that Gerrit Gerritsen resided in Communipaw, not Bergen. It is unclear which of his descendants constructed the first residence on the Bergen property. The earliest reference puts a Van Wagenen family member in Bergen between 1710 and 1721. This would be under the tenure of Johannis who inherited the land from his father (Gerrit Gerritsen) some time after 1703. Johannis was married in 1704. Based on the physical evidence, Phase I construction could have occurred at this time, built for the newly married couple.

The remaining early evidence of the house—including the massing and size of the original section, the hand-hewn floor joists and some roof rafters, stone walls, masonry arch supports for a large fireplace and asymmetrical fenestration—are indicative of early eighteenth-century Dutch construction. The house was one story. According to Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, early stone houses were constructed as one story; two-story houses were not common until after the Revolution, in the last quarter of the eighteenth century.<sup>1</sup> The pitch of the roof, another important indication of age with early Dutch houses, also points to an early eighteenth century date of construction. While the roof line of the western section is not as steeply pitched as is often the case with early Dutch construction (we believe the existing roof rafters are original and were reused when the second story was added; they were simply lifted in place to accommodate a second story), because of the 1656 edict from Stuyvesant banning the use of thatch roofs within Bergen, the original roof could have been wood shingles making a steep pitch unnecessary. Another important feature of the eighteenth-century section of the Van



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 4

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## Architectural Description, continued

Wagenen House that helps date it is the finely dressed stone work. While dressed stone is more common on later eighteenth-century buildings, there was an early tradition of cut stone buildings in Bergen. The first church in Bergen, built in 1680, was octagonal of cut stone. When the congregation outgrew this building in 1773, it erected a second church on the site. This building was also cut stone and the stone from the original 1680 building was reused in the new structure. When in 1840 the congregation outgrew its building for a second time, the stone from the first two buildings was reused. This church, still extant today, is of cut ashlar stone. The stone appears to be the same local sandstone used in the Van Wagenen house. This indicates that the cutting technology to create fine, ashlar stone was in Bergen as early as 1680. According to the historical records made before most were demolished, the early houses of Bergen were built of stone. Throughout Bergen County and within the village of Bergen, there is a rich eighteenth-century tradition of stone houses built by Dutch settlers. This is the result of the ready availability of the stone as well as the fireproof nature of the material in an area that had seen settlements burned by Indians. While there has been speculation that the first buildings in Bergen were built of log, this is disputed by historians of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Bergen who argue that because of the availability of stone as well as the availability of other building materials including saw mills, lime kilns, and glaziers, it is likely that log was never required. The documentation of the 1680 church construction as well as of the 1708 school house in which masons were employed for 10 florins a day corroborates their findings.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, Sip Manor now located in Westfield but originally built in Bergen, is an extant stone building constructed in the same Dutch stone tradition as the Van Wagenen House. It is alleged to have been built in the seventeenth century. Like the Van Wagenen House and the church, Sip Manor was constructed of dressed local sandstone. The existence of Sip Manor and the church as well as the extant eighteenth-century evidence of the Van Wagenen House point to a construction of the initial stone section in the early eighteenth century. The untooled bluestone lintel above the western door further confirms this. This is the only eighteenth-century lintel still extant and the only lintel that is not combed. Because it is untooled, it may point to an earlier eighteenth-century date. According to Ms. Reynolds, in the Hudson County, New York area, tooling indicates a later eighteenth-century date.<sup>3</sup>

Unfortunately, the features of the western section that date its construction to the early eighteenth century are also indicative of construction throughout the entire eighteenth century. Technology didn't change substantially until the nineteenth century. For the larger structural timbers, hand hewn members remained the norm throughout the eighteenth century, large cooking fireplaces continued to be required and while symmetrical fenestrations became the custom by the close of the eighteenth century, asymmetrical facades persisted in rural areas through the nineteenth century. This part of Bergen remained a rural agricultural area through the middle of the nineteenth century.

The above indicates that Johannis, son of Johannis could also have built the house. He owned the property from 1759 to 1797. He married in 1749. As was common, the newly married couple could have lived in his wife's house and then built a new house for themselves when they acquired the property in 1759. A

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 5

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### Architectural Description, continued

dendrochronological study was undertaken to assist with dating the original structure; the samples were unable to be dated.

Whether built by Johannis, son of Gerrit Gerritsen, or under the tenure of Johannis's son, Johannis, map research confirms that there was a house on Lot 113, the present location of the Van Wagenen House, by 1778 (Figures 3 and 4).<sup>4</sup> On this map, the house has the footprint of a long rectangle that is parallel to Academy Street. Because of the evidence outlined above, it is likely that the western section of the house is the house shown on the 1778 map. Interestingly, a map created three years later in 1781 shows the house on Lot 113 as L-shaped (Figure 6).<sup>5</sup> This may indicate that by 1781 there were two units to the Van Wagenen House: a smaller section to the west and a larger section to the east. The western section that is extant today is one of these two 1781 sections, likely the smaller western section. The extant western section does not show any evidence of an addition on its western wall, making it likely that if it was joined to another section, it was done to its north or more probably to its east. The next map, created in 1841, shows the footprint of the Van Wagenen House as a single unit that is square (Figure 7).<sup>6</sup> This house appears to be set back farther from the street than it was in the eighteenth-century maps. While these set back changes have resulted in speculation that they are two different houses, we believe that because of the surviving architectural fabric of the house, the western section survives from before 1778 and is the house depicted on the map. We believe the set back changes are the result of the mapmakers' interpretations, not a different house.

Whether as a single unit or attached to another section, the existing western section survives from the eighteenth century. In the eighteenth century, it was a stone, one-story gabled structure, which likely had upper gable ends that were wood. It was one room deep, roughly 18'x 21' with entrances on the south and north. This was the typical beginning to a Dutch farmstead. Because of the necessity to quickly establish shelter, these early houses were often small with only a single room with attic and basement.<sup>7</sup> The south façade of this early house, like today, had a central entrance that was flanked by two windows. Originally, there was a small porch or pent-roof like structure over the entrance, as evidenced by the rough stone work in this location. The north elevation had a door to the east (in the existing location of the door between Rooms 106 and 107) and a window to the west, uncovered underneath the existing plaster. In addition to revealing the original window, investigation of this wall also uncovered a blue tinted exterior whitewash on this elevation. This may indicate that there was originally a porch on this side. There is a tradition of whitewashing below the porch roof, particularly on the north side. White wash, it was believed, provided a more sanitary surface and also allowed more heat and light to be captured from the sun. Thus by whitewashing under a porch roof, a second work space was created, establishing another room, albeit outdoors, for the family to occupy. Interesting, this white wash is also found on the stone that infill the original window. This must indicate that when the ca. 1842 addition was added to the east and this wing became the kitchen, the window was filled in. The west elevation of this original, one-story building likely had no windows because of the large fireplace and chimney. Nothing can be discerned from the east wall because of the later addition.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 6

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### Architectural Description, continued

On the interior, the first floor had a large cooking fireplace on the west wall and was the main living area of the house. The interior walls were likely plastered; tradition holds that the Dutch tended to plaster their interior walls.<sup>8</sup> This room was the center of the Van Wagenen family life. Here is where most of the indoor living—cooking, eating, and laboring—occurred. In addition to the numerous activities during the daylight hours, sleeping may very well have occurred in the dwelling room. “The division of public rooms and private bed chambers was a late eighteenth-century development. In early homes, and in small houses into the later colonial era, rooms were seldom used for a single purpose...Many families did all their living in one or two rooms.”<sup>9</sup> Above the first floor may have been a sleeping chamber. The first Johannis (sometime after 1703 until 1759) had eight children. The second Johannis (1759-1797) had four. Both families also probably had slaves or servants, as was common during this period. We know that the second Johannis did; he gave his son Jacob his slave Jack upon his death in 1797. If the first Johannis built the house in the first part of the eighteenth century, this upper story may not have been used. Dutch tradition was that all slept and lived in one room. If, however, the house was built later in the eighteenth century, this upper story was likely used for sleeping. By then, there was a greater desire for privacy both from children and from servants.<sup>10</sup> The location of the original stair to the upper story is unknown but may have been in the southeast corner in the location of the existing closet. The basement, accessed from the exterior from the south, was also a single space and was probably used for storage. It had the large masonry fireplace supports still extant today on the western wall.

In 1839, Jacob Van Wagenen died and passed the house to his son Hartman. Hartman wanting to modernize the house erected the large three-bay Greek Revival eastern section during Phase II of construction. Hartman was a prominent man in the community; he was an Assemblyman and Freeholder. He would have wanted a house that was a better indication of his standing as a community leader. Because of this, we assume that the addition was constructed fairly quickly following his father's death. An 1841 map, mentioned above, shows the house as a single square section (Figure 7). Therefore, we attribute this addition to ca. 1842. Architecturally, its Greek Revival detailing, with the Greek Revival in full flourish in the 1840s, having supplanted the Federal style as the most common architectural style of the day, supports the plausibility of a ca. 1842 date. Carpenters' manuals and pattern books spread the style throughout the country.<sup>11</sup> This addition was definitely constructed by 1855; a map from this date shows the eastern section built (Figure 8).<sup>12</sup> Hartman had the addition built in stone, a traditional building material for the Dutch. Bergen remained a bastion of Dutch influence in the 1840s long after their influence had been diluted throughout the rest of New Jersey. It is consistent that Hartman chose to employ the traditional materials in Bergen, long into the nineteenth century.

When originally constructed, the eastern section probably looked much as it does today. The existing fenestration, windows and shutters are likely original as is the front door. The rubble stone above the front door and first floor windows indicates that there has always been a porch that spanned the entire south façade, although its current configuration has been changed. The cornice was a simplified version of the existing cornice; the knee wall windows are original, a classic feature of the Greek Revival style. The roof was likely wood shingle.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 7

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### Architectural Description, continued

On the interior, most of what remains is original. This includes the trim work, crown molding, six panel doors, fireplaces and windows. The fireplaces in each room were likely used as open fireplaces but may have also contained stoves. Stoves not associated with fireplaces supplemented these. On the western wall of the hall, a circular opening in the masonry indicates the original location of a stove. Of the four chimneys built on this section, the eastern two were for the fireplaces. The southwestern chimney vented the stove of the hallway and potentially, a second stove on the second floor in Room 202. The reason for the northwestern chimney can only be surmised. Because it runs along the western wall, which is mostly occupied by stairs, it likely vented a stove in the basement.

When the eastern section was first constructed, the western section remained one story, one room deep. As was typical, this section probably became the kitchen wing. Its interior was updated at this time with, if nothing else, new paint although the baseboard and two six panel doors are unique to this room and may date to this period. The large fireplace remained and may have continued to be used for cooking or may have accommodated a cooking stove. In 1910 on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Bergen, each of the older homes of Bergen was described as they appeared in 1845. The Van Wagenen House was described as having a "cider press adjoining [the house], and a capacious barn nearby. These two buildings at this time were the only ones on the northwest section of the town."<sup>13</sup> A connected cider press may explain the exterior white wash found on the stone infill on the northern wall of the original section, discussed previously. The window may have been filled in to accommodate the attached cider press and then white wash applied.

Phase III occurred ca. 1860 when Hartman added on again to modernize the eighteenth-century western wing. A brick second story and rear room was added, converting the one room deep, one-story wing to a two-story, two-room deep section. This addition can be first seen on an 1887 map (Figure 9) but was built by the time of Hartman's death in 1877. We attribute this to the 1860s because stylistically, it appears to be of this era and buildings of similar design and features constructed in Jersey City are contemporaneous. On the exterior, the bracketed cornices (original to the new western section and added to the cornice of the eastern section); two-over-two windows (which were changed in the twentieth century); porches and their cornices and brackets; four-panel doors and interior plaster work and fireplace indicate the Italianate influence on this third phase of construction. The Italianate, like the Greek Revival before it, dominated American domestic architecture beginning in the 1850s and was particularly common in American cities, which this area was becoming by this time.<sup>14</sup> The eastern porch, like the eastern cornice, was updated with the addition of more moldings and brackets. The rear porch was built at this time. It is tied into the brick masonry, confirming its construction during Phase III. The eighteenth-century section was completely remodeled. It had already been updated during Phase II but was totally reworked during this stage. The front door was updated to the four-panel door that survives today. The windows, which were enlarged, were given new brownstone, combed lintels to match the other lintels of the front façade. This explains the unusual pattern of the first floor lintels of the western section. The door lintel is untooled bluestone and is lower than the brownstone lintels of the windows. The bluestone is eighteenth-century; the brownstone was added during Phase III. On the interior, the kitchen of the western section (Room 107) was converted to a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 8

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### Architectural Description, continued

Victorian sitting room. The large cooking fireplace was removed and the smaller fireplace with the Italianate-influenced marble mantel was added at this time. This left room for a window; the six-over-six window on the western wall was added. The ceiling height was raised; the existing eighteenth-century joists were reused and raised, pocketed into the new brick masonry. The original pockets are still extant in the stonework. The joists maintain the same size and spacing as the original pockets and continue to align with them. They are hand-hewn and separate and distinct from the first floor joists of the new first floor room to the north. For this reason, it appears that the joists were reused and simply raised, duplicating their original configuration slightly higher. This raising of the joists increased the head height which enabled the windows to be enlarged. The closets and arched recess opening on the eastern wall may have been built at this time; this may have been the location of the original stair between the first and second floor. It would have been removed at this time because it was no longer needed. The construction of the rear stair in the new northern room of the first floor (Room 106) made the original eighteenth-century stairs obsolete. However, the profile of the baseboard and six panel doors at this location may point to the earlier phase of construction. The plaster medallion in the sitting room also was installed at this time, as was the run plaster crown molding. At the second floor, the existing roof rafters were reused, maintaining the exact configuration only one floor higher, similar to what was done on the first floor when the ceiling height was raised. This explains the two different roof lines of the western section. Over the southern end, the eighteenth-century gable roof structure was reused while over the northern end, a low-pitched shed roof was constructed. The eastern section seems to have remained as it was when first constructed, although the plaster medallions in the first floor parlors and stair hall may have been added with the sitting room medallion. The detailing of Phase III is remarkably consistent throughout. The trim, windows, doors and hardware are basically the same on the first and second floors and all date to this period. The only exception is the fireplace in the first floor north room (Room 106). This appears to be twentieth-century and was added during Phase IV. This is consistent with its original use as a kitchen; by 1860, a fireplace and mantel would not have been needed or wanted in a kitchen space. The second floor, like the first floor, originally was divided into two spaces with a smaller third room in the rear.

Hartman died in 1877. An inventory done at the time of his death describes the furnishings of the house as well as the function of each room. The first floor of the eastern section was the hall and parlor. These were the formal spaces of the house, with a tall clock, sofa, chairs, books and oil painting among other items. The western section first floor was the kitchen to the north and a sitting room to the south. In the sitting room, the only stove in the inventory was listed. The upper story was described as the garret and was used for sleeping with a bedstead, wardrobe, desk and chairs included with other household furnishings.

The house remained in the Van Wagenen family into the twentieth century and was modernized during the final phase of construction which occurred in stages. The work included exterior changes to the rear porch but was mostly confined to the modernizing the interior. By 1896, the rear porch had been enclosed (Figure 10).<sup>15</sup> At some point, a single bathroom was added, probably in the existing location on the second floor, as was a central

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 9

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## Architectural Description, continued

heating system although coal stove continued to be used. A kitchen was added on the second floor; by 1938, there was an apartment in the building.<sup>16</sup>

In 1947, the house and property officially left the Van Wagenen family after 259 years of ownership and became a funeral home owned by Lawrence and Mary Quinn. According to contemporaneous accounts, the Quinn family spent two years restoring the building. This work included the repointing of the exterior masonry, the replacement of the original glass in the windows, the repair of the porches, the installation of a new heating and air conditioning system and the reestablishment of the five original fireplaces which had been closed. Mrs. Quinn reportedly went to Williamsburg for research and endeavored to decorate the house accurately. She added the chandeliers on the first floor and the slate on the roof (an 1938 assessment lists the roofing as composition).<sup>17</sup> The Quinns also added the fireplace in the northern room of the first floor of the western section, as mentioned above. Two additional bathrooms also were added and in 1962, the basement was finished to become the embalming room and casket display area.<sup>18</sup> The rear porch was likely modernized in 1962 as well. The Quinns also opened up the second floor, removing two partitions. In the eastern section, they removed a partition between the two chambers and made Room 203 into a single space. In the western section, the same thing was done. In today's Room 207, they removed the partition wall, built when the second floor was constructed, and added an I-beam in its location, making a single large space.

The Van Wagenen House was operated as a funeral home into the 1980s when it ceased to be used. It was left vacant for many years; the City of Jersey City purchased it in 1999.

In August 2004, Hunter Research, Inc. conducted limited archaeological investigation in the form of eight, one-foot diameter shovel tests in conjunction with the development of plans for renovations of the structure.

Most of the rear yard area is covered by asphalt paving and was not tested, efforts being concentrated around the house where structural information was anticipated and where grass vegetation cover made hand-testing feasible. The topography of most of the property is fairly flat and is elevated about three feet above Academy Street. Between the house and Academy Street is a flat terrace fronted by a moderate scarp down to the street level.

Shovel tests in the side-yard area along the northwest side of the house (ST 1-3, 5) consistently revealed an intact domestic yard accumulation and midden one foot thick beginning approximately two feet below present-day ground surface (ST 1 context 4, ST 2 context 4, ST 3 context 4, St 5 context 4). Artifacts recovered from this deposit consistently indicate that this horizon is a surviving yard deposit with most artifacts ranging in date from the early 18th century to the late 19th century. Notable among these are seven sherds of red and buff-bodied slip-trailed earthenware, a ceramic type that was falling out of fashion by the third quarter of the 18th century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 10

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## Architectural Description, continued

Shovel Test 5 was placed adjacent to the northwest wall of the house. The cut-stone wall of the west gable wall of the house lies above a loosely mortared rubble stone base. The cut-stone wall begins at just below present grade, suggesting that it post-dates the lower midden horizon.

Tests excavated in the front yard (ST's 4 and 6) indicated extensive infilling and leveling of the yard between the house and the street. This suggests that the earlier topography may have been different, perhaps with a more gradual slope down to the road.

Testing of the accessible part of the rear yard area (ST's 7 and 8) revealed 20th-century fill deposits overlying possible building rubble. These contexts also contained 18th and 19th century materials. Archaeological remains may exist beneath the rubble fill.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 7 Page 11

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## Architectural Description, continued

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley Before 1776* (New York: Dover Publications, 1965 reprint from original 1929 by Payson and Clarke), 19.

<sup>2</sup> Versteeg and Vermilye, Jr, 5-7.

<sup>3</sup> Reynolds, 19.

<sup>4</sup> John Hills, "Sketch of the Road from Paulus Hook and Hoboken to New Bridge" (1778).

<sup>5</sup> John Hills, "A Plan of Paulus Hook with the Road to Bergen and Parts Adjacent in the Province of New Jersey" (1781).

<sup>6</sup> L.F. Douglas, "Topographical Map of Jersey City, Hoboken and the adjacent Country" (Drawn 1841, Reprinted by Spielmann & Brush in 1881). Available at the New Jersey State Archives.

<sup>7</sup> Geoffrey Gross and Roderic H. Blackburn. *Dutch Colonial Houses in America* (New York: Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 2002), 48.

<sup>8</sup> Harrison Meeske, *The Hudson Valley Dutch and Their Houses* (Fleischmanns, New York: Purple Mountain Press, 1998), 278.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 276.

<sup>10</sup> Gross and Blackburn, 48-49

<sup>11</sup> Virginia & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1996), 182.

<sup>12</sup> William H. Wood, *Map of Jersey City, Hoboken, and Hudson Cities* (Jersey City: R.B. Kashow, 1855). Available at the New Jersey State Library.

<sup>13</sup> 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 55.

<sup>14</sup> McAlester, 212-214.

<sup>15</sup> 1896 Sanborn, Plate 25.

<sup>16</sup> 1938 Jersey City tax assessment

<sup>17</sup> Dicran Levon Gedickian, "The Apple Tree House" *New Jersey Architecture* Volume 9, Number 3(July- September 1975),

17

<sup>18</sup> 1962 Jersey City Tax Assessment



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 11

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## Statement of Significance

### Summary

The Van Wagenen property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the development of the seventeenth-century village of Bergen and under Criterion D for its potential to yield historic archaeological information on this early Dutch settlement. The Van Wagenen House itself is also eligible under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a Dutch stone house. Situated on an original undisturbed plot of land platted in 1660, the Van Wagenen House is an eighteenth-century, Dutch stone vernacular farmhouse that evolved into a mid-nineteenth century urban dwelling that continued to embrace the Dutch tradition of stone construction. Acquired by the progenitor of the Van Wagenen family Gerrit Gerritsen in 1688, the land and building remained in the family until 1947. The Van Wagenens were one of the founding Dutch families of the original village and remained prominent through the twentieth century.

### Historical Background

#### *General History of Bergen and Jersey City*

In 1621, the States General of Holland granted a charter to the Dutch West India Company for the exclusive rights to explore, colonize and trade within the colony of New Netherland. The merchants were granted full powers of government over the territory. Active operations were begun immediately and permanent trading posts established. To protect the colony, a fort was built on Manhattan Island near the site of present day Bowling Green. Permanent colonization was not the goal; rather trade was the driving influence. The merchants sought to barter with the Indians for the furs and other natural products available and to sell them to Western Europe. Because of the expense of establishing and maintaining settlements, no profit was made at the beginning. To increase individual enterprise, the company began to offer land to its members. This included, "the absolute property of as much land as the emigrants might be able, 'properly to improve.' Any member who should within four years, plant a colony of fifty adults in any part of New Netherland, excepting the Island of Manhattan, should be acknowledged as a 'Patroon,' or feudal chief of the territory thus colonized...If he established a city, he was to have 'power and authority to establish officers and magistrates there.' The Company were [sic] to protect and defend the colonists, finish the fort on Manhattan, and import 'as many blacks as they conveniently could.'"<sup>1</sup>

In November 1629, Michel Pauw, a burgomaster of Amsterdam, declared his intention to establish a settlement on the river. Calling it Pavonia, he sent his agent Cornelius Van Vorst to set it up. This was the start of the first permanent settlement in New Netherland. In the beginning, relations with the Indians were good. The Indians assisted the new settlers who in exchange traded with the Indians. In 1638, William Kieft succeeded Van Twiller as the Governor of New Netherland; this began an unsettled time with the Indians. Kieft instituted policies that were inhospitable to the Indians. By 1643, the new settlers and the Indians were at war. The European settlers abandoned their homesteads and found shelter and security at the fort at New Amsterdam. Peace was settled on August 30, 1645.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 12

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## Statement of Significance, continued

On May 11, 1647, Peter Stuyvesant arrived to succeed Kieft as Director General of New Amsterdam. Stuyvesant was a noted man of his time. He was a hero of the battles of the West Indies, where he famously lost a leg. Stuyvesant, seeing the error of Kieft's policies, immediately set about trying to reconcile relationship with the Indians. He was largely successful for a time and the population of New Amsterdam grew substantially. During these years, more settlers moved into Pavonia as well. This peace lasted until the fall of 1655 when war broke out again. The Indians set fire to the villages west of the Hudson, stole supplies and murdered the settlers. As before, the whites fled their communities and settled into the fort at New Amsterdam.<sup>2</sup>

Following the conflict with the Indians in 1655, Stuyvesant and the Council of New Netherland established an ordinance dated January 18, 1656 that called for the inhabitants of Pavonia to concentrate themselves in villages and hamlets for easier defense. "...if the good Inhabitants of this Province had settled themselves together in the form of Town, Villages, and Hamlets, like our neighbors of New England, who, because of their combination and compact residences, have never been subject to such, at least not so many and such general disasters." The ordinance went on further to say, "...in order to prevent a sudden conflagration, do Ordain that from now henceforth no Houses shall be covered with Straw or Reed, nor any more Chimneys be constructed of Clapboards or Wood."<sup>3</sup> While most understood that this new edict was made for their protection, many were reluctant to give up their established homesteads to settle new villages. Because of this, no real changes were made. Following this edict, in hopes of finally making peace with the Indians, Stuyvesant brokered a deal with them in 1658 to pay them for the lands of Pavonia. Stuyvesant felt that Kieft had perpetuated Indian bitterness by not adequately compensating them from the beginning. Stuyvesant paid the Indians and their successors, "eighty fathom of wampum, twenty fathom of cloth, twelve kettles, six guns, two blankets, one double kettle, and one half-barrel of strong beer."<sup>4</sup> This resulted in a time of peace for the burgeoning development.

Daily life continued west of the Hudson and few followed the 1656 edict, remaining in their original homesteads. Because of this reluctance to give up their farms and relocate, a second ordinance was passed on February 9, 1660, again reiterating the mandate to establish villages, "the Director General and Council of New Netherland...hereby notify and order, all isolated farmers in general, and each in particular, wherever they may reside, without any distinction of persons, to remove their house goods and cattle, before the last of March, Or at the latest, the middle of April, and convey them to the village or settlement nearest and most convenient to them: or with the previous knowledge and approval of the Director General and Council to a favorably situated and defensible spot in a new palisaded village to be hereafter formed, where all those who apply shall be shown and granted suitable lots, by the Director General and Council or their agents..."<sup>5</sup>

On March 1, 1660 Tielman Van Vleck and Peter Rudolphus petitioned to establish a settlement "on the maize land behind Gemoenepaen (Communipaw)." For an unknown reason, this was not granted. However, soon after, several families joined in a petition to cultivate farms behind Communipaw (which must have been in the same general area as the previous application); this time it was granted conditionally, "Provided that the village shall be formed and placed on a convenient spot, which may be defended with ease, and shall be selected by the Director

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 13

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## Statement of Significance, continued

General and Council or their commissioners. That all persons who apply shall share with others by lot, shall be obliged to make a beginning within the time of six weeks after the drawing of lots, and to send hither at least one person able to bear and handle arms and to keep him there upon a penalty of forfeiting their right, and to pay beside others his share of the village taxes, which during his absence have been decreed and levied." The spot was determined and the plan marked out, likely by Jacques Cortelyou, the first surveyor of New Amsterdam. He lay out an 800-foot square. Two cross streets divided this square into four quarters. Each quarter was then divided into eight building plots. At the center, there was a 100-foot by 120-foot public square. Stockades were erected and gates were built at each of the streets. The village was laid out on the Dutch model of *brinkdorp* or agricultural village with a square. In the *brinkdorp* pattern, farmsteads were clustered around a village green known as a *brink*. Within the village, land was divided into smaller house plots for individual farming; meadows separate from the village, were used for pasturage. Today, the original village remains legible in the dense modern city. The original streets survive. The perimeter, where the stockades were, is now bounded by Newkirk, Van Reyden and Vroom Streets and Tuers Avenue. The cross streets are now Bergen Avenue and Academy Street.

Settlement began in the village immediately. Lots both within the stockades and outside were distributed by lottery without charge. Land began to be cleared. This area was named the Village of Bergen. There is much conjecture as to the source of the name. The New Netherland Project, an organization whose primary objective is to complete the transcription, translation, and publication of all Dutch documents in New York repositories relating to the seventeenth - century colony of New Netherland believes the name is derived from one of two towns in the Netherlands: Bergen op Zoom or Bergen west of Alkmaar. Charles Winfield agrees with this but also speculates in his *History of Hudson County* that Bergen may come from the Dutch language meaning, "to save," because of its requirement that it be a place of safety that could be easily defended.<sup>6</sup>

On January 15, 1661 a local government was established with Tielman Van Vleck as schout (sheriff). In 1663, schepens (judges) were appointed. This allowed Bergen the power of self-governance. This was the first municipal government in the State of New Jersey.<sup>7</sup>

According to Winfield, by May 1661, all of the village lots had been distributed. The land beyond the village, which had also been divided, numbered and given to those with house lots in the village, was called the *buyten tuyn* or outside gardens. These lots were larger than the lots within the palisades and were the main fields of the settlement, providing the community with the grains necessary for daily life and grazing fields for cattle and domestic animals.<sup>8</sup> On October 20, 1661, Bartel Lott and Egbert Sanderson applied for a permit to erect a sawmill in Bergen. On January 28, 1662, a public well in the square was ordered. This was done to ensure protection of the inhabitants even during the watering of cattle. The village square was the center of town life in the rapidly growing Bergen.<sup>9</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 14

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## Statement of Significance, continued

After protection was granted by the installation of the public well, another problem arose. This was the result of not enough manpower to protect the village. Because protection had to come from the inhabitants themselves (there were not enough people in the area to hire guards), all families had to participate. Some families who had been given lots in Bergen continued to live at New Amsterdam and were unavailable to assist in the protection of the village and thus, failed to live up to the requirements attached to their grants. This resulted in the November 15, 1663 ordinance. "On the repeated complaints of the majority of the inhabitants of the village of Bergen, that some continue to neglect to occupy the lots they had obtained in said village and to keep thereon a man fit to bear arms: also that some absent themselves without providing their watch...all those who claim any lots in the aforesaid village, shall within twenty-four hours after service hereof, furnish and continually maintain for each lot, one man able to bear arms and to keep watch and ward, on pain of having the lots with the lands thereunto appertaining, as surveyed by the surveyor, immediately given and granted propriety to others..."<sup>10</sup>

By 1662, a school and church had been formed in the community. In 1680 an octagonal sandstone Dutch Reformed church was built to house a congregation already said to number 134. It stood outside the stockades at what is now the intersection of Bergen Avenue and Vroom Street. Its location beyond the palisades is further evidence that all of the town site lots had already been taken up. William Day, Steven Cortland, Johannis Van Giesen, Cornelius Hopper and Claas Areense built it at a cost of 2,612 guilders.<sup>11</sup>

The settlement of New Netherland attracted the attention of the English who claimed ownership of the Hudson Bay region because of Henry Hudson's 1609 voyage. In 1664, the English King Charles II granted a patent to the Duke of York, his brother, giving him the entire territory of New Netherland. By deeds dated June 23 and 24, 1664, the Duke conveyed to Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, "the tract of land lying between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers, which said tract of land is hereafter to be called by the name or names of Nova Caesarea or New Jersey." Bergen was described at the time of the patent "as well inhabited by a sober and industrious people, who have necessary provisions for themselves and families, and for the comfortable entertainment of travelers and strangers."<sup>12</sup>

Upon hearing this news, Stuyvesant was prepared to fight the British. His advisors convinced him that this was ill advised and in the end, he peacefully turned over power to the English. New Netherland became known as New York, named after the Duke of York. The new territory was governed by Colonel Nicolls who ordered the village of Bergen on October 17, 1664, "You are hereby required to receive into your town, Corporal Powell with the soldiers under his command, and them to accommodate with lodgings, not above two of them to bed in any one house and further you are required to join six of the inhabitants with three of the soldiers to be upon constant guard, to secure the peace of the said town until further orders, whereof you are not to fail." The citizens of Bergen were to "continue free denizens and shall enjoy their lands, house and goods wheresoever [sic] they are in this country, and dispose of them as they please. The Dutch here shall enjoy their own customs concerning their inheritances."<sup>13</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 15

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## Statement of Significance, continued

In July 1665, the British set up their seat of government in what is today the City of Elizabeth. Philip Carteret was the Governor. The change of government did not greatly affect the citizen of Bergen. Aside from a reorganization of the court in which many of the same people were involved as had been under the Dutch, the residents of Bergen continued much as they had done before. The English confirmed the original charter of Bergen and recognized all of the land titles of the Dutch. All inhabitants were allowed to continue to worship as they had. On November 22, 1665, the inhabitants of Bergen took an oath of allegiance to the English King.<sup>14</sup>

In 1672, war again broke out between England and Holland. From Holland, the States General dispatched a squadron to recover New Netherland for the Dutch. In July 1673, this fleet of Dutch ships was stationed in New York. The inhabitants of Bergen were instructed to send a delegation to the Dutch commanders to surrender their town. On August 27, 1673, the people of Bergen took another oath of allegiance, this time to the Dutch. Ultimately, all of this was done unnecessarily. On February 9, 1674, England and Holland signed the Treaty of Westminster and peace was established. By the sixth provision of the treaty, England took possession of New York.<sup>15</sup>

Because of the changes in the government, many of the inhabitants were concerned about the validity of their titles to their lands. To allay fears, the freeholders of Bergen presented a petition to the crown asking for relief. On January 14, 1714, the Queen granted a new charter, which came to be known as Queen Anne's Charter. Confirmed by Bergen on March 13, 1714, the primary motivation for this charter was to resolve issues about common lands outside the palisaded village that were used by the inhabitants as pasture land. About two-thirds of the township of Bergen was common at this time. Some residents had begun to fence off some of this land as their own; others had taken timbers for their own use. The 1714 charter set out to reconcile the issues.

While this charter temporarily resolved some of the issues, disagreements continued to arise. Fifty years later, in 1764, to finally resolve the issue, the New Jersey Legislature passed an act that provided for the survey of all patented lands. A special commission was appointed to settle and determine the titles and claims. George Clinton of New York and Jonathan Hampton of Elizabeth were appointed as surveyors. Work began on March 6, 1764 when all landowners were requested to bring their title papers and patents to a residence in Weehawken. Work was completed March 1, 1765. The resulting "Partition of the Common Lands in the Town of Bergen" described ownership of privately owned tracts and allotted common tracts for a school, the church and cemetery.<sup>16</sup>

The Town of Bergen played a pivotal role in the Revolution. Seen as a gateway to New Jersey from New York, Bergen was in the hands of the British for much of the war. Because of its strategic location, both sides used it throughout the war to obtain provisions from the inhabitants as well as to survey the workings of the enemy. Often residents of Bergen had supplies and livestock stolen by both the British and American troops. In the summer of 1780, Lafayette used Bergen as a staging ground to attempt to provoke an attack from the British. Though unsuccessful, his three-day presence in Bergen was remembered and memorialized in 1824 during Lafayette's return tour of the United States. The British remained at Paulus Hook until the close of the war in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 16

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### Statement of Significance, continued

November 1783. Following the British evacuation of New York on November 25, 1783, Washington passed through Bergen on his triumphal return to his home at Mount Vernon.<sup>17</sup>

Bergen remained largely rural through the middle of the nineteenth century. The village itself, outside the emerging downtown city, continued to be old fashioned with thrifty people who maintained their old ways. The Dutch language continued to be spoken and the eighteenth-century stone houses remained through the nineteenth century. Home gardens provided for daily sustenance while grains from the *buyten tuyn* were gathered and stored. Bergen Square was the most populated area of Bergen and as it was in the seventeenth century, it was the center of the community.<sup>18</sup>

On January 28, 1820, Jersey City was incorporated but remained a part of the township of Bergen. In 1838, Jersey City became a separate municipality. This was a distinct community from the village of Bergen which was included within the Town of Bergen when it was incorporated on March 24, 1855. Hudson County was organized in 1840, removing Bergen from Bergen County. On March 11, 1845, Reverend Taylor of the Dutch Reformed Church opened the first session at the new Hudson County Courthouse with a prayer. In it he described Bergen, "I remembered the old town of Bergen when it had very few inhabitants except old-fashioned honest Dutchmen and very few houses except those not built for show, but for domestic comfort and convenience; long, low and unpretending in appearance, but durable in materials, and opening upon the streets some two or three hospitable doors, into which the friend and stranger might enter and find a welcome..."<sup>19</sup>

The March 17, 1870 act of consolidation made into one city the cities of Jersey City, Hudson and Bergen. It was called Jersey City.<sup>20</sup> While Bergen remained a farming community longer than the rest of Jersey City, by the second half of the nineteenth century, it too began to be developed. The completion of Montgomery Street in 1870 marked the first cross street on Bergen Avenue between Vroom and Communipaw. This made the village more accessible and greatly increased development. The new construction was higher in density, a mix of residential and commercial. The Van Wagenen family, landowners in this area, sold off their land, contributing to this new building boom. Within the four blocks of the original village of Bergen, development began in the last fifteen years of the nineteenth century. An 1887 map shows the area around the square, particularly on the north side, with few buildings (Figure 9).<sup>21</sup> However by 1896, this same area had become increasingly urban (Figure 10). The older stone houses on large plots were gone and replaced by smaller row houses. By 1908, these four blocks were mostly redeveloped with urban style buildings (Figure 11).<sup>22</sup> Today, the original square as laid out by Cortelyou in 1660 remains legible at the heart of this bustling city. While now paved over, the perimeter of the square is still visible in the set backs of the twentieth century buildings. Bergen Avenue remains an important street in the city.

### *General History of the Property and the Van Wagenen family*

In November 1660, the progenitor of the Van Wagenen family, Gerrit Gerritsen, left Wagening, Holland with his wife Annetje Hermansse and child Gerrit (then two years old) on a ship called Faith. (While the Gerritsen named

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 17

---

### Statement of Significance, continued

is spelled differently in various sources, for the sake of clarity Gerritsen will be used in this document. Similarly Wagening, the town in Holland from which the family descends, is spelled differently and modern spelling seems to be Wageningen. For clarity purposes, Wagening will be used, as this is how it is spelled in the original translated document below.) The ship reached New Amsterdam on December 23, 1660. The trip cost the family 90 florins. Gerritsen brought with him a certificate from the government of Wagening endorsing him:

We, burgomasters schepens and counselors of the city of Wagening, declare by these presents that there appeared before us Hendrick Elissen and Jordiz Spiers, citizens of this city, at the request of Gerrit Gerritsen and Annetje Hermansse, his wife. They have testified and certified, as they do by these presents, that they have good knowledge of the above named Gerrit Gerritsen and Annetje Hermansse, his wife, as to their life and conversation, and that they have always been considered and esteemed as pious and honest people, and that no complaint of any evil or disorderly conduct has ever reached their ears; on the contrary, they have always led quiet, pious and honest lives, as it becomes pious and honest persons. They especially testify that they govern their family well, and bring up their children in the fear of God, and in all modesty and respectability.

As the above named persons have resolved to remove and proceed to New Netherland, in order to find greater convenience, they give this attestation, grounded on their knowledge of the them, having known them intimately, and having been in continual intercourse with them for many years, living in the same neighborhood.

In testimony of the truth, we, the burgomasters of the city have caused the private seal of the city to be hereto affixed. Done at Wagening, 27<sup>th</sup> November 1660."<sup>23</sup>

Gerritsen quickly became an important person in the burgeoning settlement of Bergen. In 1662 and again in 1673, Gerrit Gerritsen was made a schepen of Bergen. He lived in Communipaw at the time and participated in palisading that village in 1663. He was appointed a sergeant when power of the territory returned to the Dutch in 1663. On November 20, 1665 Gerrit Gerritsen took the oath to the King of England with the rest of the citizens of Bergen. In July 1680, Gerrit Gerritsen and again in August 1682 he was appointed to the court. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1692 under the English.<sup>24</sup> Both Gerritsen and his wife were buried in the Dutch church with pall. This further attests to their prominence and wealth; burial in the church with pall was an honor bestowed on important financial contributors of the church and community.<sup>25</sup>

In the invaluable *History of the Land Titles in Hudson County New Jersey, 1609-1871*, Charles Winfield used the 1764 Clinton and Hampton survey to trace back the early titles and patents of Hudson County. According to this, Gerrit Gerritsen was granted four parcels of land on May 12, 1668 from Philip Carteret. These included the outlying Lots 77 and 78 which were to the north of the village; Lot 98 which was to the west, adjacent to the western perimeter of the palisades; and Lot 167 which was within the palisaded village. In 1681, Gerritsen purchased Lot 164 from Cornelis Steenwyck. This lot was part of the 1668 patent to Adrian Post and was adjacent to Gerritsen's village Lot 167. In 1688, Gerritsen purchased two plots from Arent Laurens who had

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 18

---

## Statement of Significance, continued

been granted them along with three other tracts from Carteret in 1670. These plots included Lot 99 adjacent to Gerritsen's western Lot 98 and Lot 113, another tract within the town adjacent to Lot 164.<sup>26</sup> This gave Gerritsen three contiguous lots in town, which formed the northwest corner of the northwestern quadrant of the village. Lot 113 is the location of the house today (Figures 1 and 2).

By all accounts, Gerrit Gerritsen lived in Communipaw until his death, not the village of Bergen. Therefore, it is unclear when the Van Wagenen family first occupied their lots in the village. While the 1663 ordinance demanded occupation of the lands in town, there is no record of Gerrit Gerritsen or any of his sons residing in the village of Bergen. Gerrit Gerritsen died in 1703.<sup>27</sup> According to Winfield's *Land Titles*, he gave all his lands to his son Johannis Van Wagenen (Some of his children kept Gerritsen while other changed to Van Wagenen, the Dutch equivalent of "from Wagening."). No copy of this will has been found.

Some time after the death of his father in 1703, Johannis Van Wagenen acquired the land. Johannis owned the land until his death sometime before 1759. Johannis married Catlyntje Helmigse on November 4, 1704 and had eight children.<sup>28</sup> There is no reference to where Johannis lived, whether in the village of Bergen or Communipaw. The first reference to a Van Wagenen living in Bergen occurred in 1735 when Helmigh, the oldest son of Johannis, married. According to *New Jersey Marriage Records, 1665-1800*, Helmigh was living in "Bergen" when he married in 1735. In these early records, while there is a differentiation made between Bergen and Communipaw, there is no indication whether "Bergen" meant within the palisaded village or the entire township. Seven years later when Helmigh's brother Jacob was married, he was described in the same publication as being born and living in Bergen when he was married in 1742.<sup>29</sup> Jacob's age is undocumented at the time of his marriage. The exact date of his birth is also unknown but must have occurred some time between 1710 and 1721, the known dates of his siblings' birth.<sup>30</sup> This seems to indicate that Van Wagenen's were living in Bergen by 1721 at the latest. The only known land holdings of Johannis within Bergen are the plots within the palisaded village and the outside gardens that were passed to him from Gerrit Gerritsen's upon his death. Because at this early date, the village plots were where residents lived and the outside gardens were where they farmed, it is assumed that by 1721, the Van Wagenens were occupying their plots within the village.

Johannis died and in his will proved November 8, 1759, he gave all of his lands to his grandson Johannis, the eldest son of his deceased son Helmigh mentioned above.<sup>31</sup> While this contradicts Winfield's *Land Titles* where he states that Johannis gave his land to his son Johannis, Johannis's will clearly states that he gave his property to his grandson not his son. Johannis Van Wagenen (grandson of the first Johannis) was born in 1726<sup>32</sup> and was the owner of the Van Wagenen property during the Revolution. When he took possession of the property in 1759, he had been married for ten years. He married Nesia Van Wagenen on November 8, 1749<sup>33</sup> and had four children.<sup>34</sup> He was the landowner during the 1764 survey and was one of four deacons of the church in 1771.<sup>35</sup> His oldest son Jacob, who later received the property upon his father's death, assisted the American cause during the war. He brought intelligence to American outposts after reconnoitering the Tory refugee posts in Bergen Neck. He was arrested but later released.<sup>36</sup> Jacob also was the victim of Tory scavenging. While on his family's farmland



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 19

---

### Statement of Significance, continued

along the Hackensack River, British soldiers stole twelve of his cattle. His unnamed slave attempted to intervene but in the end, the British successfully made off with the herd.<sup>37</sup>

Upon the death of Johannis Van Wagenen on March 29, 1797, all of his property went to his wife Nesia. Upon her death, his will stipulated that all of the property would pass to their son, Jacob. This included all his property both real and personal, "...sundry lots of cleared [sic] land, wood land and meadow situated lying and being in the Township of Bergen." Johannis gave Jacob all his farming utensils including his wagons, ploughs, slays and so forth, his wheel wright utensils, all of his horses, one half of his herd of horned cattle and one half of his flock of sheep as well as his "negro boy named Jack." In addition, Johannis gave legacies to his daughters Leah and Antia. His will was proved on June 17, 1797.<sup>38</sup> While there is no mention of a house in the will, the 1778 map *Sketch of the Road from Paulus Hook* done by John Hills clearly shows a house on Lot 113, the Van Wagenen family plot. It is assumed that the western section of the house that still stands is the house depicted in the 1778 map.

Jacob Van Wagenen, the son of Johannis who participated in the Revolutionary War episodes mentioned above, was born October 7, 1751 and married Aegie Brinkerhoff some time before 1778, when their first child was born. They had four children.<sup>39</sup> Jacob owned the property until his death on June 14, 1839<sup>40</sup> when he passed most of his real estate to his son Hartman. In 1830, the Federal Census listed Hartman as the head of the household. This indicates that Hartman was already residing in his father's house before his father's death. In the 1830 census, there were twelve people listed in the household. These included Hartman, his father Jacob, Hartman's wife Catherine Newkirk, their two sons and two daughters. Two unnamed slaves were also listed. Additionally listed were three other "free white persons:" one between the ages of 20 to 30 and two others between the ages of 30 to 40. The identity of these people is unknown.

In his will dated June 25, 1835 and proved August 2, 1839, Jacob gave his property to his son Hartman Van Wagenen. In his will he stated, "I order and direct that my real estate shall be divided in the following manner, that part which I give and bequeath to my son Hartman and to his heirs and assigns shall answer the description. First the homestead in the Town of Bergen with the improvements thereon bounded southwest and northwest by the public road Southeast by the Parsonage Northeast by land of John Van Horne. Second also an out garden lot...Third also a lot of upland and salt meadow...I further devise and give to my said son Hartman and to his heirs' two lots of land." In his will, Jacob had a total of twelve lots. Eight went to Hartman. The remaining four went to his grandchildren. Jacob also gave legacies to his daughters Catalina and Clarissa.<sup>41</sup> Jacob's 1835 will is the first mention of a Van Wagenen family house in Bergen.

Hartman Van Wagenen was born November 15, 1790. On August 16, 1812 he married Catherine Newkirk. They had four children.<sup>42</sup> Hartman was a distinguished man in the community. He was an Assemblyman of the New Jersey Legislature from 1845-47. He was a County Freeholder in 1861. He was the Clerk of the Board of Freeholders from 1840-1854.<sup>43</sup> In the 1850 Jersey City Directory, Hartman was listed as a farmer; his son Henry,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 20

---

## Statement of Significance, continued

then twenty-seven, also resided at the "second house on West Academy" and was listed as a milkman.<sup>44</sup> Throughout his life, the other directories continued to list Hartman and his sons' occupations as farmers. Hartman inherited significant land holdings from his father and he also acquired land on his own. In the second half of the nineteenth century, as Jersey City was being developed, he began to sell his lands in and around the village. This contributed to the building boom that occurred in this period, particularly following the construction of Montgomery Street in 1870. Hartman died in November 1877.

In his will dated June 2, 1876 and proved December 13, 1877, Hartman gave to his son Henry, "...my Homestead place and premises on Academy Street in said city whereon I reside with all the out-buildings thereon..." He also gave Henry his pew number 54 at the Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen. He gave his daughters Effie and Jane money and plots of land on Stuyvesant Avenue. He divided the remaining land on Stuyvesant between Henry and his other son Jacob to whom he gave a second pew (number 42) at the church. Because Jane died before Hartman did, in a codicil to his will, Hartman split up the residual money between all his remaining children. An inventory that accompanied the will described the possessions in the house.<sup>45</sup> An account of his funeral indicates his relative wealth and prominence in the community.<sup>46</sup>

Henry Van Wagenen was born in 1823. He married Eliza Jane Vreeland in 1849; they had two children.<sup>47</sup> The 1889 city directory listed Henry's occupation as a member of the firm of Van Wagenen & Post, a coal business.<sup>48</sup> Under Henry's tenure, the Van Wagenens remained a prominent family. Henry was an active church member, serving as both deacon and elder. According to his obituary in the *Jersey Evening Journal* dated, April 10, 1900, Henry "died at his residence at 186 Academy. Mr. Van Wagenen was a member of one of the oldest Bergen Dutch families, his ancestry dating back for over two hundred and sixty years. He was born in the family homestead which was located near the present junction of Summit Avenue and Zabriskie Street on October 13, 1823. His father moved to Academy Street about fifty years ago and Mr. Van Wagenen, in addition to farm duties, was engaged in the milk business. About fifteen years ago, he embarked on the coal business..."<sup>49</sup> This account may indicate that when first married his parents, Hartman Van Wagenen and Catherine Newkirk, resided at the Newkirk family homestead on Summit and Zabriskie and lived there through 1823, when Henry was born. According to Benjamin Taylor's 1857 history of Bergen, it was "common for the youthful husband and his wife to have their home for the first years of married life under the roof of her parents."<sup>50</sup> His mother's family, the Newkirks, another old and established Dutch family, may have owned the property referenced in Henry's obituary. By 1830, the Federal Census confirms that Hartman lived on Academy Street, meaning this move occurred at least seventy years before Henry's death, not the fifty listed in the obituary. Henry's funeral was held at the house on Academy Street.

Henry died on April 8, 1900. In his will, he made no mention of the homestead but gave money and other lands to his children. He gave his executors the right to sell the remainder of the property and divide the proceeds up between his children. His executors sold the property to his daughter, Eliza Jane Cokelet.<sup>51</sup> A 1900 city directory

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 21

---

## Statement of Significance, continued

indicated that by the time of her father Henry's death in 1900, Eliza J. Cokelet was already living at the Academy Street house with her husband William Cokelet, a clerk.<sup>52</sup>

Eliza lived in the house until her death on December 21, 1943. Her will, dated April 15, 1941, gave all of her property to her grandson William Van Wagenen Cokelet, the son of her son William Cokelet and his wife Florence. William lived in the house until 1947 when he sold it. The house became a funeral home owned by Lawrence and Mary Quinn.<sup>53</sup> The wakes of many important people were held at Quinn's Funeral Parlor. This included Mayor Frank Hague, Jersey City's most famous mayor. He held office from 1917-1947 during which time he built and ran one of the most powerful political machines in American history. Famous for his often quoted slogan, "I Am The Law!" Hague's notoriety and fame made him a nationally recognized politician. He died in 1956; his body was displayed in the second floor chamber of the eastern section. Another important dignitary, local historian Owen Grundy, similarly was given a wake at Quinn's. In 1995, the estate of Mary Quinn sold the house.<sup>54</sup> The City of Jersey City purchased it in 1999.<sup>55</sup>

### *The Apple Tree Legend*

Since the mid-nineteenth century, there has been an association between the Van Wagenen House on Academy Street and an event that occurred in 1780 when in August of that year, the Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington enjoyed a meal in Bergen. According to this legend, Lafayette and Washington dined underneath an apple tree on the Van Wagenen property. Locally, the house came to be known as the "Apple Tree House" and its fame spread throughout the state based on this legend. While it's certain that Washington and Lafayette were both in Bergen for three days in August 1780 and likely enjoyed a meal together, no documentary proof exists that locates this meal on the Van Wagenen family property.

In 1824, at the invitation of President Monroe, General Lafayette visited the United States. An important hero of the Revolutionary War who was pivotal in establishing the alliance between the Colonists and the French, Lafayette was greatly admired in the United States and his return tour generated accolades from all over the country. On his tour of New Jersey, Lafayette was stopped by a delegation in Bergen and given a cane to commemorate his initial stop in Bergen in 1780. At the end of August 1780, Lafayette spent a few days in Bergen in an attempt to provoke the British into attacking from New York and to forage for supplies. At some point, according to the 1824 account, Lafayette joined George Washington in a meal that occurred under an apple tree in Bergen. The cane, made from the trunk of this apple tree, which had been blown down in 1821, commemorated this meal. Since the middle of the nineteenth century, this meal has been associated with the Van Wagenen family. By the end of the nineteenth century, the meal was attributed to having occurred on the Van Wagenen property.

Born in 1757 to a prominent French noble family, Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roche Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, came to volunteer his services to the Americans in 1777 at the age of twenty. Lafayette was commissioned a Major General and became a member of Washington's staff. An important soldier during the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 22

---

### Statement of Significance, continued

early stages of the Revolution including heroic leadership at the Battle of Brandywine, he fought bravely throughout the war. He returned to France in 1778 and endeavored to secure additional aid for the Americans from his government. Early in the year 1780, Lafayette's hard work with the French government resulted in the sending of French troops and additional needed supplies. The French government provided French troops and Lafayette commanded an American division. In the spring of 1780, Lafayette returned to America, arriving in Boston. By the fall of 1781 with the assistance of the French, Cornwallis was compelled to surrender. The French were pivotal in the American victory and were immediately embraced by the American people, particularly Lafayette who was seen as a great hero who had devoted himself unselfishly to the American cause.<sup>56</sup>

In the summer of 1780, the Revolutionary War was at a stalemate. The Americans had inadequate troops and supplies to conduct any major offensive. Lafayette, concerned about the morale of the troops because of insufficient food and a lack of activity, developed a scheme to try to entice the British across the Hudson River. He proposed using the entire right wing of the Continental Army in an attempt to lure the British into a trap and recapture Fort Washington. This would be done by sending the Light Infantry on foraging missions along the western boundary of the Hudson River. The British would spot these troops and because the Continental forces would be dispersed along an extended border, they would seem an attractive target for attack. With the British engaged offensively, the French who were waiting to the east, would come in and recapture Fort Washington. Although Lafayette knew it was unlikely that the British would fall for the bait, because the foraging would provide the troops with much needed supplies and an active mission, he proposed his plans to Washington.

Washington adopted his scheme in August 1780. On August 24, the plan was put into place. The main army moved south to the neighborhood of Liberty Pole Tavern in Teaneck. General Greene and his Light Division took up a post about four miles away near Fort Lee, almost immediately across from Fort Washington. Major Lee was sent off north and Lafayette and his Light Division went south.<sup>57</sup>

In a letter dated August 24, 1780 to the Chevalier de la Luzerne, the French minister during the Revolution, Lafayette wrote, "...I leave this afternoon for Bergen, and General Greene is advancing with a part of the right wing to support me. The enemy has only to cross the river to attack us, and I shall lead a part of the vanguard as far as the causeway at Paulus Hook. It is thought that there will be something to do, at least for the light infantry, but I confess that I strongly doubt we shall see our challenge accepted. The principal object of this movement is to forage throughout that region. We are totally without meat, and the army has been suffering for three days..."<sup>58</sup>

For nearly three days, from August 24 through August 26, the right wing of the Continental Army was spread out from Fort Lee to Staten Island. Lafayette and his men were in Bergen, watching the British and obtaining supplies from the inhabitants of Bergen. There are various accounts of what occurred during these days. According to a 1910 account, General Lafayette encamped with his army at Bergen, "leaving a portion of his force on the brow of the hill on the south side of Newark Avenue opposite the present high school and the remainder on the Tuers farm, opposite the Bergen Reformed Church. He made his headquarters at the Van

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 23

---

## Statement of Significance, continued

Wagenen homestead, and entertained General Washington at a dinner, given under the shade of an apple tree, in the orchard behind the house."<sup>59</sup> According to a 1924 account, "on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 1780 General Lafayette encamped his troops on Bergen Heights, near present Newark and Waldo avenues. From this commanding position he looked down upon the British at Paulus Hook and kept watch of their movements. His foraging parties extended their operations down to Bergen Point, at which place they were fired upon by batteries on Staten Island. They secured considerable plunder of cattle and forage, and, when remonstrated by inhabitants, they replied that as they had contributed very little to the American cause, what was taken was only in the way of just taxes."<sup>60</sup>

What is known is that while the British did not take the bait and did not attack, the troops were able to obtain some supplies. An article in the Monday August 28, 1780 *New York Gazette and Weekly Mercury* states, "...General Washington, the Marquis de la Fayette, Generals Green and Wayne with many other Officers and a large Body of Rebels, have been in the vicinity of Bergen for some Days past. They have taken all the Forage from the Inhabitants of that Place and left them destitute of almost every Thing for the present and Winter Subsistence [sic]..."<sup>61</sup> Lafayette's next letter was sent from Fort Lee on Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup> to Luzerne, "...Here I am again Chevalier in my camp near Fort Lee. Our raid was not formidable, but nevertheless secured some oxen and forage for our horses... We came back last night to our camp near Fort Lee..."<sup>62</sup> These two letters and the newspaper articles are the only contemporaneous accounts of the events in Bergen. Lafayette did not keep a journal and sent no letters on the days he was in Bergen.

Like Lafayette, George Washington was a constant letter writer, writing as many as five letters a day. From these letters, one can discern his locations throughout the war. On August 24, 1780, Washington was in Fort Lee. On the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, he was in Teaneck and in one letter he writes about foraging in Bergen. The letters of Washington and Lafayette as well as the contemporaneous newspaper article prove that both Washington and Lafayette were in Bergen between August 24 and August 26, 1780. Aside from the foraging, what occurred during those three days was only described afterwards, years later.

It began with Lafayette's return in 1824. *The Newark Sentinel* of Tuesday morning, September 21, 1824, announced the route of Lafayette for Thursday through New Jersey. His arrival in Jersey City was indicated. Armed with this information, the residents of Bergen prepared for his arrival through their town. At ten in the morning as he passed through Bergen, he was met by a contingent of people. A local newspaper described Lafayette's visit:

On Thursday September 23 1824 General La Fayette stopped at the Bergen Hotel. Reverend John Cornelison presented Lafayette with the cane made from the apple tree which stood at the parsonage at Bergen under which General Washington, General La Fayette and suite dined blown down by a gale on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1821. Engraved on top "LA FAYETTE and around the head, "Shaded the Hero, and his friend Washington in 1779—Presented by the Corporation of Bergen in 1824." and said, "General—In behalf of my fellow citizens, I bid you a hearty and cordial welcome to the town of Bergen—a place through which

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 24

## Statement of Significance, continued

you traveled during our revolutionary struggles for liberty and independence. Associated with our illustrious Washington, your example inspired courage and patriotism in the heart of every true American. You, sir, left your abode of ease, affluence, and domestic happiness, to endure the hardships and privations of the camp. To enumerate your martial deeds is at this time unnecessary—yet they awaken and call forth our warmest gratitude. As a tribute of esteem and veneration, permit me, sir, to ask the favor of your acceptance of this small token of respect, taken from an apple tree, under which you once dined and which once afforded you shelter from the piercing rays of noon day; and although it possesses no healing virtue, may it still be a support to you amidst the infirmities of old age. And may you, sir, after ending a life of usefulness and piety, be admitted into the region of everlasting joy and felicity.” To which the General made an appropriate reply, expressive of his feelings of gratitude and good wishes for the inhabitants of Bergen.<sup>63</sup>

There are several interesting things about this account which occurred forty-four years after the 1780 event. First it attributes Lafayette’s mission at Bergen to 1779. In 1779, Lafayette was in France and could not have been in Bergen. The mission occurred in 1780, not 1779. Second, the meal is attributed to having occurred at the parsonage and John Cornelison who was the Reverend at the Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen in 1824 gives the cane to Lafayette.<sup>64</sup> There is no mention of the Van Wagenen family in this account.

The next uncovered reference to the event comes in 1836 from a friend of Lafayette, Jules Cloquet, who provided an account of the contents of Lafayette’s estate, Lagrange, shortly after Lafayette’s death in 1834. The cane from Bergen was included as one of Lafayette’s possession. According to Cloquet, the cane commemorated a breakfast that Washington and Lafayette had when they both passed through Bergen.<sup>65</sup> Again, there is no reference to the Van Wagenen family.

The next reference to the event is in Benjamin Taylor’s 1857 *Annals of the Classis of Bergen, of the Reformed Dutch Church and of the Churches under its Care*. In it, he states, “the citizens of Bergen presented him [Lafayette] with a cane, taken from an apple tree, in the orchard of the parsonage premises under whose shade he had, with other officers of the American army, dined—and at which time, a counsel was held in reference to the affairs of the army, then in the vicinity.”<sup>66</sup>

The first account that connects this meal to the Van Wagenen family comes from Winfield’s 1874 *History of Hudson County* in which he states that the meal occurred on the Van Wagenen family property. In a footnote, he says, “In one of these visits to Bergen, Washington and La Fayette dined under an apple tree in the orchard back of Hartman Van Wagenen’s house close by Bergen Square. This was blown down by the great gale of Sept. 3, 1821. A pleasing reference was made to this incident when the Marquis visited this country in 1824.”<sup>67</sup> In 1874, the parsonage was located at the northwest corner of the square, next to the Van Wagenen property. This may be the reason for Winfield’s placing the meal on the Van Wagenen property; by this time, the Van Wagenens were associated with a cider press and so a logical assumption is that they also had an orchard. As the property was thought to have neighbored the parsonage and as the meal took place under an apple tree, Winfield described it

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 25

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### Statement of Significance, continued

having occurred on the Van Wagenen property. Unfortunately, in 1780 when the meal took place, the location of the parsonage was the site of the current Dutch Reformed Church of Bergen, south of the square on Bergen Avenue not the Bergen Square location.<sup>68</sup>

Another explanation for this description is that in 1874, when Winfield wrote his account, Hartman Van Wagenen lived in the Van Wagenen House. In addition to property on Academy Street, Hartman also owned Lot 103, which had been known since at least the mid-eighteenth century as "The Orchard." This lot had been in the Van Wagenen family since 1835 and was located directly across the street from the location of the parsonage in 1780. If the source of the Van Wagenen family connection to the meal between Lafayette and Washington is from the Van Wagenen family itself, this could explain Winfield's account.

Following Winfield, every major history written about Bergen and Hudson County perpetuate this story. In her 1899 *Jersey City and its Historic Sites*, Harriet Phillips Eaton states that according to Benjamin Taylor, Lafayette made his headquarters at the Van Wagenen house and that he entertained Washington, who had come from Hackensack, in the orchard on the old parsonage site on the northwest side of square. The dinner was cooked in the Van Wagenen weave-house and eaten under an apple tree.<sup>69</sup> As previously quoted, this is not what Taylor says nor is it likely to have occurred. While it is possible that Lafayette stayed at the Van Wagenen House and made it his headquarters, there is no corroborating evidence for this. He was on the move for the two nights he was in the area and did not write any letters. It would seem unlikely that he used any house in the area for his stay. More importantly, in 1780, when the meal took place, the parsonage was far from the Van Wagenen House as stated above. Therefore, it would have been unlikely that a meal was cooked at the Van Wagenen weave house and brought to the parsonage for consumption; this would have been quite a distance and closer cooking facilities would have existed.

While it is likely that Washington and Lafayette enjoyed a meal under an apple tree in Bergen between August 24 and August 26, 1780, from the information available, it seems unlikely that archival proof will ever be uncovered as to definitively place the meal. The nearest account to the event occurred in 1824, forty-four years later. This account placed the meal at the parsonage, which was located at the present location of the church on Bergen Avenue far from the Van Wagenen House on Academy Street. From the available information, this is the likely location of the event.

However, it must be acknowledged that the "Apple Tree House" myth has been in existence, in one form or another, for almost 150 years, making it an important part of the house's history. For instance, in May 1944, to commemorate the meal, the Jersey City Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution planted an apple tree to the southwest of the house.<sup>70</sup> This tree remains today in the front yard, just off the southwest corner of the building. While not necessarily historically accurate, this is a legend that, like all legends, is based in part on fact, in part on local tradition and lore. Ultimately, this legend has helped preserve the house. It has provided a story that has given the house fame. It has supplied a rallying cry for those who sought to preserve it. Because it has

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 26

---

## Statement of Significance, continued

been around for so long, the myth is as much a part of the history of the house as the Van Wagenen family and must be incorporated into its future.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 27

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## Statement of Significance, continued

### Significance

#### *Historical Significance*

The Van Wagenen House is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the development of the seventeenth century village of Bergen. Platted in 1660 likely by Jacques Cortelyou, the first surveyor of New Amsterdam, the village of Bergen was laid out on the Dutch model of *brinkdorp* or agricultural village with a square. In the *brinkdorp* pattern, farmsteads were clustered around a village green known as a *brink*. Within the village, land was divided into smaller plots for individual farming. Separated from the village, meadows were used for pasturage.

Bergen followed this Dutch pattern of nucleated agricultural village. It was laid out as a square whose sides measured 800 feet long. Two cross streets bisected the larger square, dividing it into four quarters. Each quarter was then divided into eight house plots or roughly four per block. While some blocks in Bergen only had three lots per side, the majority had four. This was a classic feature of the *brinkdorp* in which a cross street consistently separated every fourth lot. At the center of the larger square was the *brink* which in Bergen measured 100 feet by 120 feet. This square was the center of community life.<sup>71</sup>

Because of Indian attacks, the village of Bergen was stockaded with a fence around the perimeter. Adhering to the *brinkdorp* model in which house lots, garden lots and grazing lots were distinct and separated by function, each citizen in Bergen was awarded by lottery a plot of land within the palisaded village and additional plots outside the stockades. The village lots were generally small with street frontage. The exterior lots, called *buyten tuyn*, were typically situated to allow access to a main road, river water (in this case the Hackensack River) and an area of marsh or meadow for cattle feed. These exterior lots allowed for large agricultural production, including orchards, field crops, and cattle and dairy production while the village plots housed smaller kitchen gardens, orchards and the outbuildings for the farm. The village plot provided a centralized base for the outlying farmlands.

The progenitor of the Van Wagenen, Gerrit Gerritsen, arrived in Bergen in 1660. He arrived from Holland and was a part of the initial Dutch settlement. In 1668, Gerrit Gerritsen purchased his first plots within the village of Bergen. Located in the northwest quadrant within the palisaded village, these early plots were a part of the heart of the early village. In 1688, he purchased a neighboring plot, Lot 113, which is the location of the house today. Lot 113 was one of the original plots in the village of Bergen as laid out by Cortelyou in 1660. A narrow rectangular plot located in the middle of the block on what is now Academy Street and extending to the center of the northwest quadrant, Lot 113 was typical of the small village plots of Bergen. In size it matched the rest of the village and in its close proximity to the square, it similarly was characteristic of the village as a whole (Figures 1 and 2).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 28

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### Statement of Significance, continued

The village of Bergen was one of the initial settlements in New Jersey. It remained the most populated area of rural Bergen County through the mid-nineteenth century. Hudson County was organized in 1840, removing Bergen from Bergen County. The village of Bergen was incorporated as the Town of Bergen in 1855. The March 17, 1870 act of consolidation made into one city the cities of Jersey City, Hudson and Bergen. It was called Jersey City. While Bergen remained a farming community longer than the rest of Jersey City, by the second half of the nineteenth century, it too began to be developed. Within the four blocks of the original village of Bergen, development began in the last fifteen years of the nineteenth century. The Van Wagenen family, large land holders in the village, sold off most of their land in the nineteenth century but retained Plot 113 and the house until 1947.

Today, the original village of Bergen is still legible in bustling Jersey City. The perimeter of the village, where the stockades were located, is now bounded by Newkirk, Van Reypen and Vroom Streets and Tuers Avenue. The original cross streets now Bergen Avenue and Academy Street are still extant. The square also still remains in the set backs of the twentieth century buildings. Although paved over and set in a busy intersection, the square can still be distinguished. The Van Wagenen site, on the original plot 113, also retains its legibility. While likely narrower, the site remains roughly in the middle of the block on Academy. Its depth, while likely similarly reduced, roughly mirrors its original layout. Its proximity to the square is also extant although disrupted by modern buildings.

The relationships—between the house and site and site and Bergen Square—are significant as representative of early Dutch settlement patterns. The Van Wagenen House is the last surviving early residence on an original plot of the seventeenth century village in the form of a *brinkdorp*. The two hundred and fifty year span from the purchase of the land until the house left the Van Wagenen family, its association with one of the early Dutch families to settle in the area as well as its configuration as one of the original tracts of land from the seventeenth century village makes the Van Wagenen House historically significant.

#### *Architectural Significance*

The Van Wagenen House is also eligible under Criterion C for its architecture. A house built over a succession of eras and generations, the Van Wagenen House continued to adhere to traditional Dutch building practices into the middle of the nineteenth century, long after the Dutch influence on construction had ceased in most of New Jersey.

The original section of the Van Wagenen House was built in the eighteenth century and was stone, one-room deep and one story with the upper gable end of wood. This was typical of the early Dutch architecture of New Jersey. Because of the necessity to establish shelter, early Dutch houses were small, often only one-room deep. They were utilitarian, simple structures where embellishments or style were not required. They were often built of stone. There is a strong Dutch tradition of stone construction in northern New Jersey throughout what is now Bergen, Hudson and Passaic counties. This was a result of the Dutch tradition of masonry construction, although

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 29

---

### Statement of Significance, continued

in the Old World it was usually brick rather stone as there was no naturally occurring stone in the Netherlands.<sup>72</sup> In addition, in Northern Jersey, the ready availability of the material as well as its fireproof qualities made stone an attractive material. In Bergen, there had been repeated episodes of destruction of early settlement by fire by Indians. These early Dutch houses were usually one to one-and-one half stories. Most commonly, the upper gable ends were made of wood. Because of the difficulty of creating a snug fit between the stone wall and the end rafters, the Dutch usually employed a more flexible material such as wood in the upper gable.<sup>73</sup>

Within the village of Bergen, most of the farmhouses houses that remained at the end of the nineteenth century before the building boom were stone.<sup>74</sup> The date of construction of these building is undocumented. In New York, while there is documented stone construction as early as the seventeenth century, stone was not commonly used until the eighteenth.<sup>75</sup> In Bergen, it is unknown when stone was first used. However, the construction of the first Old Bergen Reformed Church in 1680 in stone and the stone Sip Manor (originally constructed in Bergen but moved to Westfield, New Jersey) alleged to have been constructed in the seventeenth century, may suggest a seventeenth century use of stone in Bergen.

The Van Wagenen House remained in its eighteenth century configuration until the second quarter of the nineteenth century when a large three-bay, two room deep stone Greek Revival addition was erected. Ca. 1842, when the addition was constructed, Greek Revival was the architectural style of the day. This addition had many features that were classically Greek Revival including a large grand entrance, high ceilings, large proportions, six-over-six windows, broad front porch and paneled shutters. On the interior, a formal stair hall with large double parlors separated by pilasters, papered walls and ceilings, wall-to-wall carpet, and faux grained detailing was built to express the social standing of the Van Wagenen family in the nineteenth century.

The introduction of the canal and railroad in the 1830s and 1840s in Jersey City meant expanding industry and population. This brought with it national architectural styles like the Greek Revival. Bergen, however, remained largely an isolated agricultural community which retained its strong Dutch tradition. This is confirmed by the ca. 1842 addition at the Van Wagenen House. While this addition had all the trappings of the Greek Revival, it continued to adhere to the traditional Dutch construction techniques. It was built of stone and had upper gable ends of wood, classic features of Dutch construction.

Ca. 1860, when the second addition was constructed, this time in brick, Jersey City was becoming increasingly urban and less Dutch. This addition on the western section further modernized the house removing the archaic eighteenth century kitchen and creating a modern kitchen and sitting room. During this phase, Italianate detailing was added throughout the building with its large brackets and deep eaves, four-paneled doors, marble fireplace and parquet flooring. Italianate was the dominant architectural style at this time and its presence at this house solidifies its significance as representative of the evolution of the village of Bergen. By this time, Bergen was less of a Dutch village and more of a cosmopolitan city. Rather than stick to tradition and build in stone, brick—plentiful and inexpensive in a time of a large construction boom—was used.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 30

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## Statement of Significance, continued

The evolution of the architecture of the Van Wagenen House parallels the growth of the village of Bergen from a rural Dutch agricultural community of vernacular utilitarian farmhouses to an urbane urban center in one of New Jersey's largest cities. The continued use of Dutch construction techniques into the middle of the nineteenth century represents this evolution. Bergen remained a Dutch community longer than the rest of New Jersey. The fact that the Van Wagenen family chose to continue to build in stone as late as ca. 1842 attests to this.

### *Archaeological Significance*

The Van Wagenen House is also eligible under Criterion D for its demonstrated potential to yield information on the earliest phases of the Dutch village of Bergen. Although the archaeological investigations undertaken so far have been limited in scale, it is clear that stratigraphy of at least the early eighteenth century survives on the lot. The combination of archaeological investigation and historical research suggests that the lot has remained as an open yard throughout its history, and that the current asphalt surfacing is unlikely to have deeply disturbed the site soils. The 0.49 acre lot is essentially in its seventeenth century configuration, although it may be somewhat narrower and shorter.

This situation is quite exceptional. No previous archaeological investigation has been undertaken within the rectangular defended village area, still clearly evident in the street plan of Jersey City, but it is apparent that the great majority of lots have been redeveloped in ways that have probably removed stratigraphy relating to the colonial and earlier national periods. In New Jersey, historic archaeological deposits pre-dating ca.1750 are unusual in any context, and locating these in a planned fortified Dutch village is exceptional.

The specific contributions that the archaeological property may be expected to make to the study of history under Criterion D are as follows:

1. The material culture of Dutch and Dutch-American settlers in a planned defended settlement of the 1660's and later. This data can be systematically compared with that from the larger Dutch settlements of Fort Orange (Albany) and New Amsterdam (New York) where more extensive research has been undertaken. The site should provide important data on cultural processes. Given that the occupants of the property were of Dutch descent, to what extent did they maintain Dutch material traits that distinguished them from their British neighbors, for instance those in the "English Neighborhood" a few miles to the north. As Cohen has cogently argued, the New Jersey Dutch did generally hold to cultural manifestations of language (closely tied to Reformed religious expression), food, architecture, furnishings and celebrations (such as Pinkster). As the eighteenth century progressed these characteristic were retained but increasingly diverged from those of the Low Countries, creating a distinct Dutch-American culture. Bergen, a center of Dutch settlement, provides a potential laboratory for studying this process in a community, rather than in a rural context as has so far been the case in New Jersey.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 31

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## Statement of Significance, continued

2. The effect of the English takeover of the New Netherland colony on material culture of the inhabitants. Specifically, an initial hypothesis would be that restrictive mercantilist policies of the English government would have the effect of reorienting trade in manufactured goods. Higher-end ceramics, in particular, would be expected to show a change from Dutch types to English wares in response to mercantilist principles, but there are many variables involved, including cultural "resistance" and complex trade patterns. Data from the site can be compared with contemporary sites in Dutch Manhattan and English Quaker Philadelphia and Trenton to explore these issues.
3. Foodways are one of the more persistent cultural characteristics that have a material expression. Midden deposits containing faunal materials may be anticipated on site. These can provide a wide variety of information on butchering, preparation, cooking and disposal practices. Floral materials e.g. seeds might also be anticipated in shaft features. Use of communal dishes for such foods as *sappaen* (mush) continued long after other communities had abandoned such practices and these would also be predictors of continuing cultural mores.
4. Dutch and Dutch American architectural traditions in a nucleated settlement. Dutch architecture in New Jersey is known from rural examples of houses, barns and a limited range of other structures. The urban Dutch architecture of Manhattan and Albany is known both from archaeology and from written and graphic sources. There is potential for the Van Wagenen property to retain archaeological resources relating to a house of the late seventeenth century, which would provide important data for the study of Dutch architecture in the Hudson Valley.

## Research Program

These research themes could be investigated through a phased archaeological program to identify, delineate and characterize archaeological deposits and remains, and to ensure their protection and management as part of the historic site.

In order for the archaeological potential of the rear part of the site to be established, it would be necessary to remove the asphalt. During the removal, archaeologists would begin to identify and expose potential areas where archaeological materials are located.

The anticipated result of these investigations would be clear understanding of the location and character of the archaeological resources in the yard and down the driveways.

The current configuration of the slope down from the house does not reflect the original topography in this area, and possibly represents nineteenth century grading. The earlier landform and occupation surfaces, and possibly structural remains, may remain here. The excavation of trenches down the slope in front of the house would investigate these deposits.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 32

---

## Statement of Significance, continued

After this identification and evaluation phase, a long-term research program, with extensive local public involvement, is envisaged to explore these and other aspects of Dutch-American culture.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 33

## Statement of Significance, continued

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- <sup>1</sup> Charles Winfield, *History of the County of Hudson, New Jersey, From its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time* (New York: Kennard & Hay, 1874), 12-13.
- <sup>2</sup> Daniel Van Winkle, *History of the Municipalities of Hudson County, New Jersey 1630-1923* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1924), 6-14.
- <sup>3</sup> Winfield, 58-59.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, 62-65.
- <sup>5</sup> Van Winkle, 16.
- <sup>6</sup> Winfield, 68-71.
- <sup>7</sup> Van Winkle, 18.
- <sup>8</sup> Winfield, 72.
- <sup>9</sup> Van Winkle, 19.
- <sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, 20.
- <sup>11</sup> Nicholas Vreeland, *Bergen Records: Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Bergen in New Jersey, 1666-1788* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1976), 7.
- <sup>12</sup> Van Winkle, 27.
- <sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, 28.
- <sup>14</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>15</sup> Winfield, 122.
- <sup>16</sup> *Ibid*, 135-136.
- <sup>17</sup> *Ibid*, 137-199.
- <sup>18</sup> Van Winkle, 130.
- <sup>19</sup> Winfield, 337.
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid*, 133-134.
- <sup>21</sup> L.D. Fowler, *Atlas of Jersey City* (Jersey City: L. D. Fowler, 1887).
- <sup>22</sup> G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Hudson County, New Jersey Volume 2* (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins Company, 1908), Plate P.
- <sup>23</sup> Winfield, 482.
- <sup>24</sup> Winfield, 82-118.
- <sup>25</sup> Dingman Versteeg and Thomas E. Vermilye, Jr. *Bergen Records: Records of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Bergen in New Jersey, 1666 to 1788* (Baltimore: The Genealogical Publishing Company, 1976), 31 and 37
- <sup>26</sup> Charles Winfield, *History of the Land Titles in Hudson County New Jersey, 1609-1871* (New York: Wynkoop & Hallenbeck, 1872), 81, 120 and 123.
- <sup>27</sup> Versteeg and Vermilye, 31 and 37
- <sup>28</sup> *Ibid*, 483.
- <sup>29</sup> William Nelson, *New Jersey Marriage Records, 1665-1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1967), 577.
- <sup>30</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>31</sup> A. Van Doren Honeyman, *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, Volume III—1751-1760* (Somerville, New Jersey: the Unionist-Gazette Association, 1924), 340.
- <sup>32</sup> "Tomb-Stone Inscriptions from the Old Bergen Church, Bergen Avenue & Vroom Streets, Jersey City, New Jersey," Presented to Constitution Hall Library, Washington D.C. by Paulus Hook Chapter D.A.R., 1832. From the Archives of the Old Bergen Church, Jersey City, New Jersey.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 34

## Statement of Significance, continued

- <sup>33</sup> Nelson, 577.
- <sup>34</sup> Winfield, 483.
- <sup>35</sup> "250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Village of Bergen, 1660," (Jersey City: The Historical Society of Hudson County, New Jersey, 1910), 40.
- <sup>36</sup> Walter F. Robinson, *Old Bergen Township (Now Hudson County) in the American Revolution* (Bayonne: Bayonne Bicentennial Committee, 1978), 51.
- <sup>37</sup> Winfield, 165.
- <sup>38</sup> Bergen County Will Book L36 p. 446
- <sup>39</sup> Winfield, 486.
- <sup>40</sup> Winfield *Land Titles*, 415.
- <sup>41</sup> Hudson County book of transcribed wills, page 427 from the Bergen County original.
- <sup>42</sup> Winfield, 486.
- <sup>43</sup> *Ibid*, 342-354
- <sup>44</sup> *Directory of Jersey City, Harsimus, Hoboken and Bergen for 1850-51* (Jersey City: John A. Ryerson, 1850), 113.
- <sup>45</sup> Hudson County Will Book 10, page 302.
- <sup>46</sup> Inventory from the funeral of Hartman Van Wagenen, dated January 29, 1878. From the "Apple Tree/Van Wagenen House" Vertical File. New Jersey Room, Free Public Library of Jersey City.
- <sup>47</sup> Winfield, 486.
- <sup>48</sup> *Gopsill's Jersey City, Hoboken, West Hoboken, Union Hill and Weehawken Directory, 1889-90*. (Washington D.C.: W. Andrew Boyd, 1889), 565.
- <sup>49</sup> *Jersey Evening Journal* (April 10, 1900), 1-3.
- <sup>50</sup> Benjamin C. Taylor, *Annals of the Classis of Bergen, of the Reformed Dutch Church and of the Churches under its Care* (Board of Publication of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, 1857), 79
- <sup>51</sup> Hudson County Deed Book Liber 778, page 590.
- <sup>52</sup> *Boyd's Jersey City and Hoboken Directory, 1900* (Jersey City: Boyd Directory Company, 1900), 172.
- <sup>53</sup> Hudson County Deed Book Liber 2233, Page 291
- <sup>54</sup> Hudson County Deed Book 4942, Page 289.
- <sup>55</sup> Hudson County Deed Book 5477, Page 325
- <sup>56</sup> Louis Gottschalk, *Lafayette and the Close of the American Revolution* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1965), 1-50.
- <sup>57</sup> *Ibid*, 124-125.
- <sup>58</sup> Stanley Idzerda, *Lafayette in the Age of the American Revolution: Selected Letters and Paper 1776-1790, Volume III April 27, 1780-March 29, 1781* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1977), 153.
- <sup>59</sup> 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 44.
- <sup>60</sup> Van Winkle, 63.
- <sup>61</sup> J. Bennett Nolan, *Lafayette in America Day by Day* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1934), 123-124.
- <sup>62</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>63</sup> Edgar Ewing Brandon, *Lafayette Guest of a Nation: A Contemporary Account of the Triumphant Tour of General Lafayette through the United States in 1824-1825 as Reported by Local Newspapers, Volume II New York to Washington* (Oxford, Ohio: The Oxford Historical Press, 1954), 19.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 8 Page 35

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## Statement of Significance, continued

<sup>64</sup> *Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen, New Jersey now Jersey City* (New York: The Holland Society of New York, Vol. IV, 1916).

<sup>65</sup> M. Jules Cloquet, *Recollections of the Private Life of General Lafayette* (New York: Leavitt, Lord & Co., 1836), 205-219.

<sup>66</sup> Taylor, 75.

<sup>67</sup> Winfield, 192.

<sup>68</sup> *Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Bergen*

<sup>69</sup> Harriet Phillips Eaton, *Jersey City and its Historic Sites* (Jersey City: The Woman's Club of Jersey City, 1899), 57.

<sup>70</sup> "Historic House Sold," *The Jersey Journal* (October 3, 1946), 2.

<sup>71</sup> David Steven Cohen, *The Dutch-American Farm* (New York: New York University Press, 1992), 23, 73.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid*, 206.

<sup>73</sup> Harrison Meeske, *The Hudson Valley Dutch and Their Houses* (Fleischmanns, New York: Purple Mountain Press, 1998), 210.

<sup>74</sup> 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 38-45.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid*, 135.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 3

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 4

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 9 Page 5

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number   9   Page   6  

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number 10 Page 1

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## Geographical Data

### Verbal Boundary Description

The site consists of a .49-acre plot of land comprised of Lot 34 of Block 1871 of the municipal tax map of Jersey City, County of Hudson, State of New Jersey.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary was determined by the municipal tax map of Jersey City and Hudson County Deed Book 4949, page 273. The current property lines have remained the same since the mid-nineteenth century.



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photos \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

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## Photographs

Holt Morgan Russell Architects took all of the photographs. The negatives for the photographs are located at the City of Jersey City, 280 Grove Street, Jersey City, New Jersey.

- Photo 1:                    October 2004  
Academy Street, Jersey City, looking northeast. The Van Wagenen House is ahead to the left.
- Photo 2:                    October 2004  
South Façade of the Van Wagenen House.
- Photo 3:                    October 2004  
South Façade of the Van Wagenen House. The western section (left in the photo) is the original eighteenth century one room deep, one story farmhouse with a ca. 1860, Italianate second story. The eastern section (to the right) was constructed ca. 1842 in the Greek Revival Style.
- Photo 4:                    October 2004  
North and West Elevations of the Van Wagenen House. The original eighteenth century one room deep, one story farmhouse is visible at the southern end of the West Elevation. The brick Italianate section was constructed ca. 1860.
- Photo 5:                    October 2004  
The upper southeast corner of the Van Wagenen House. The stone walls of the ca. 1842 section (shown above) are fine, local ashlar sandstone. The elaborate bracketed cornice was added ca. 1860.
- Photo 6:                    October 2004  
The first floor shutters of the Van Wagenen House are paneled. At the western section (shown above), the panels are raised. All of the nineteenth sills and lintels throughout the building are combed brownstone. The original eighteenth century farmhouse was local fine ashlar sandstone (shown above).
- Photo 7:                    October 2004  
The stair hall of the ca. 1842 eastern section. The six-panel doors, surrounds, and hardware; decorative pilasters; molded baseboards with plinth; and wide wood floors are original features.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photos \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

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## Photographs, continued

- Photo 8: October 2004  
The Greek Revival features of the double parlor of the first floor of the Van Wagenen House include six-over-six double hung windows, six panel doors, decorative filleted and eared window and door surrounds, recessed panels under the windows, broad baseboards with plinth that continues throughout the parlors and stair hall, marble and brick fireplace mantels, run plaster crown moldings and plaster ceiling medallions.
- Photo 9: October 2004  
The upper story was originally two chambers. In the mid-twentieth century, the partition was removed and the two rooms converted into one space. Original features from these rooms include the same baseboard found throughout the ca. 1842 section, the six-over-six double hung windows, the chair rail and wood mantels with pilasters.
- Photo 10: October 2004  
The original one room deep, one story vernacular stone farmhouse (shown above) was constructed in the eighteenth century. Ca. 1842 when the Greek Revival eastern section was built, the original house became the kitchen wing. Ca. 1860, the brick section was added including a bay to the north of the original house and an upper story. This room became the sitting room. For the most part, its features date to this period including the parquet floor, Italianate marble mantel, six-over-six windows, run plaster crown molding and plaster ceiling medallion.
- Photo 11: October 2004  
Ca. 1860 an addition was added to the north of the original eighteenth century farmhouse. Its features including the four-panel doors and hardware, narrow floorboards, and simple Victorian baseboards date to this addition. This room was originally constructed as a kitchen. The fireplace was added in the twentieth century.

VAN WAGENEN HOUSE  
JERSEY CITY  
HUDSON COUNTY  
NEW JERSEY

JERSEY CITY QUADRANGLE  
NEW JERSEY - NEW YORK  
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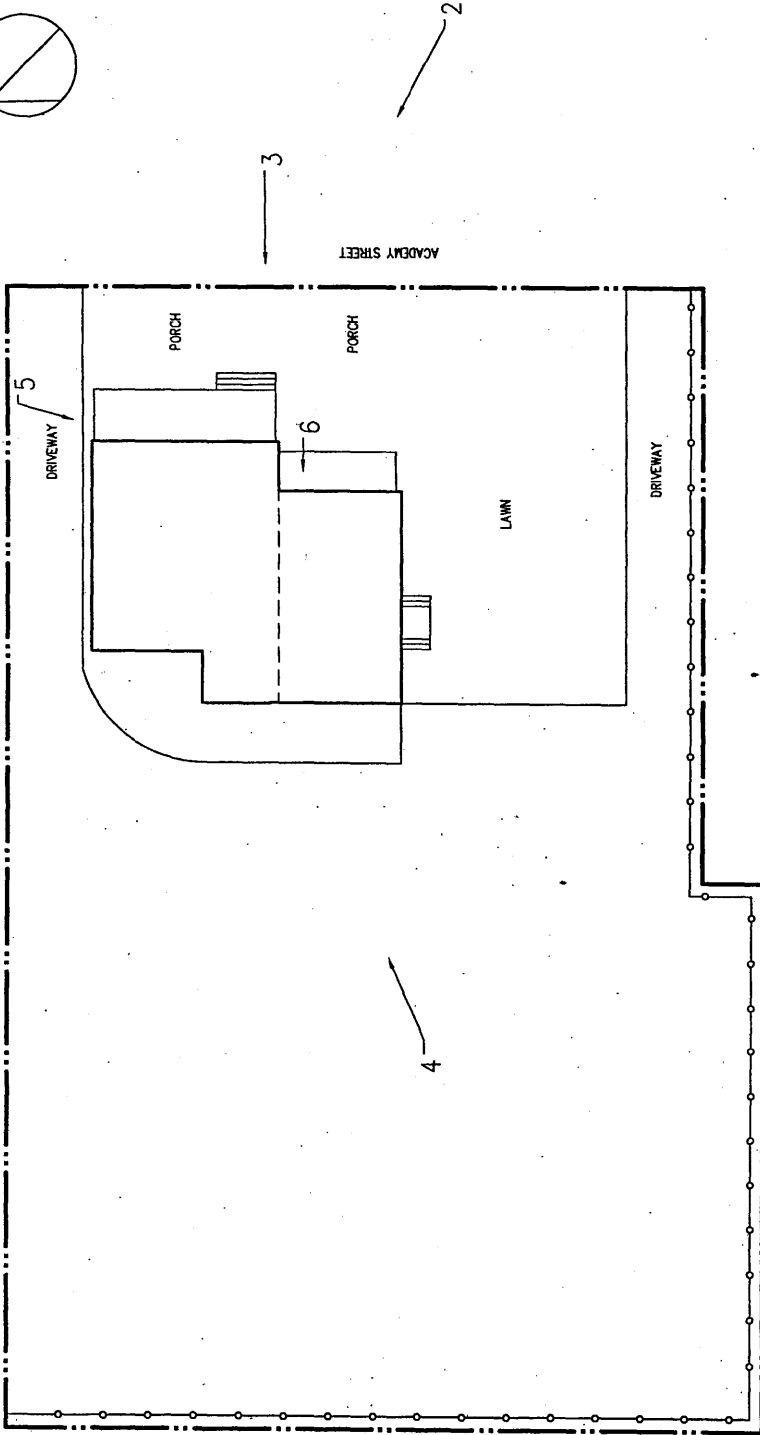
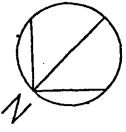
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NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR THE  
**VAN WAGENEN HOUSE**

298 ACADEMY STREET  
 JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306

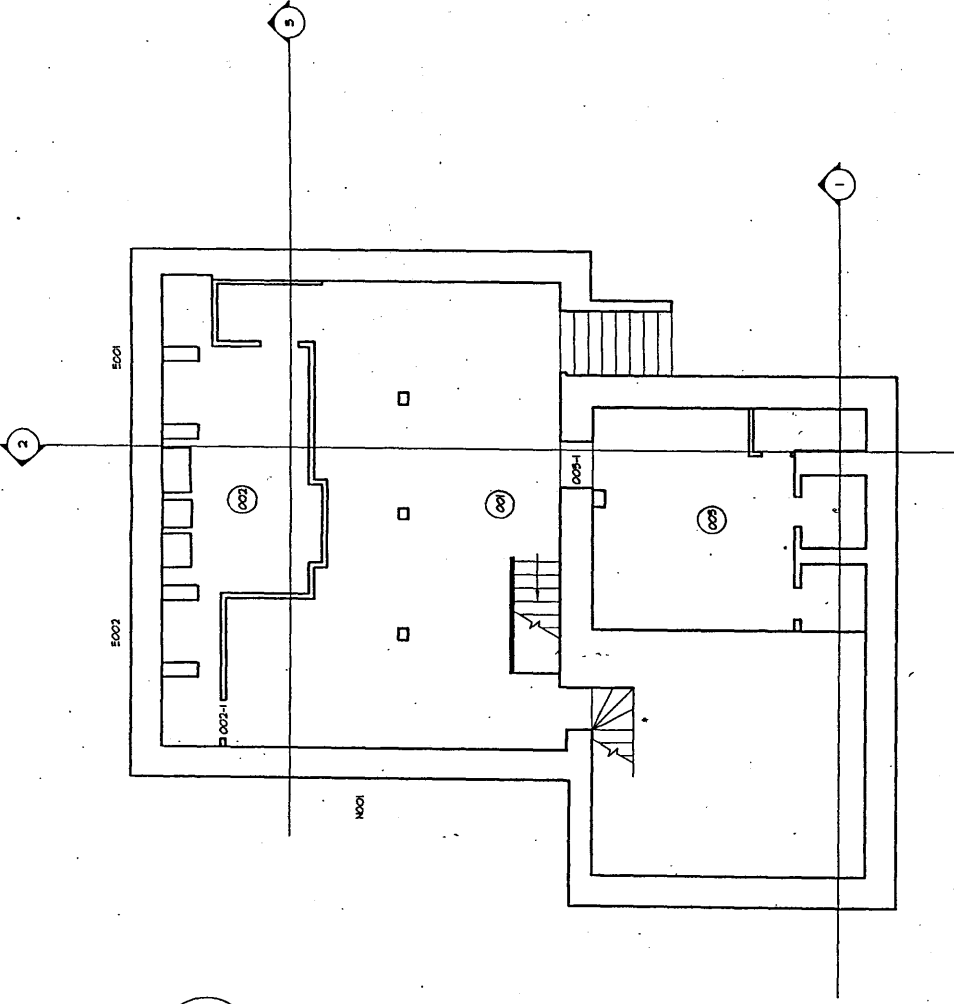
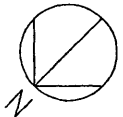


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**EXT. PHOTOS - SITE PLAN**

**1**



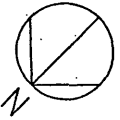
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**VAN WAGENEN HOUSE**  
 298 ACADEMY STREET  
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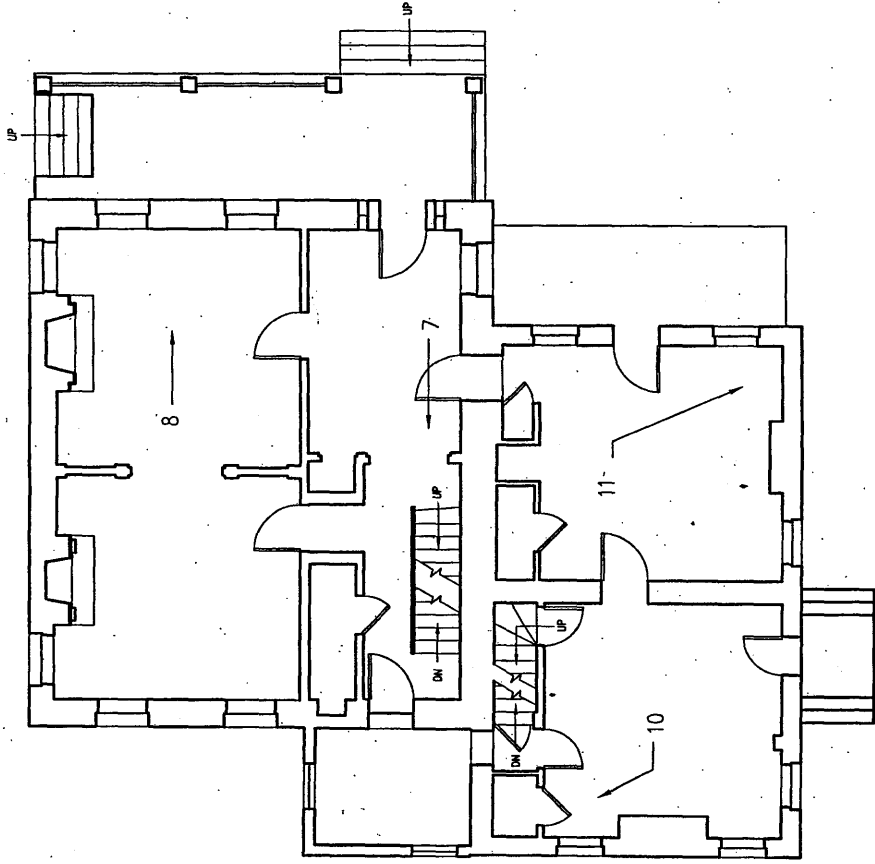
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**EXISTING BASEMENT PLAN**  
**EX-1.1**



SEE 01 WALL



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**VAN WAGENEN HOUSE**

298 ACADEMY STREET  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306

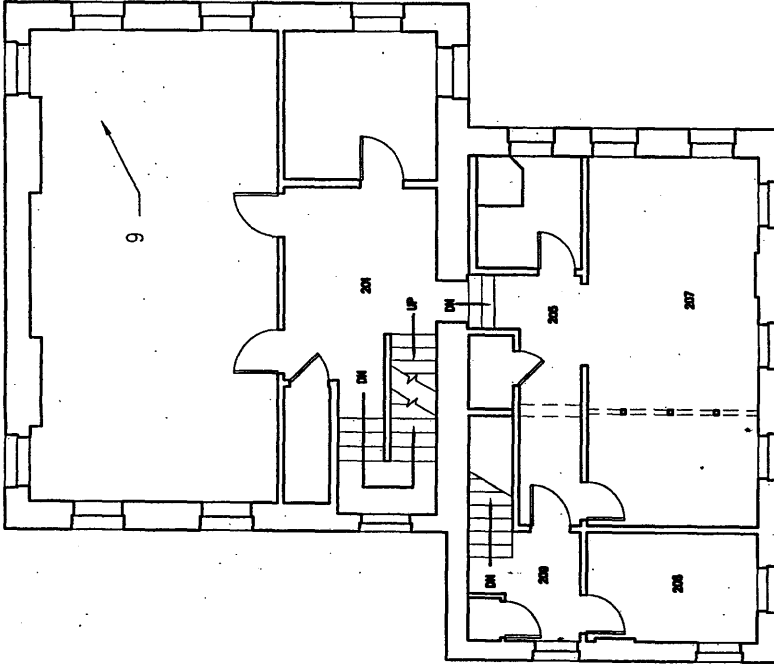
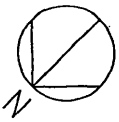
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DATE: 8/18/04

**INT. PHOTOS - FIRST FLOOR**

**2**

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NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR THE  
**VAN WAGENEN HOUSE**

298 ACADEMY STREET  
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306

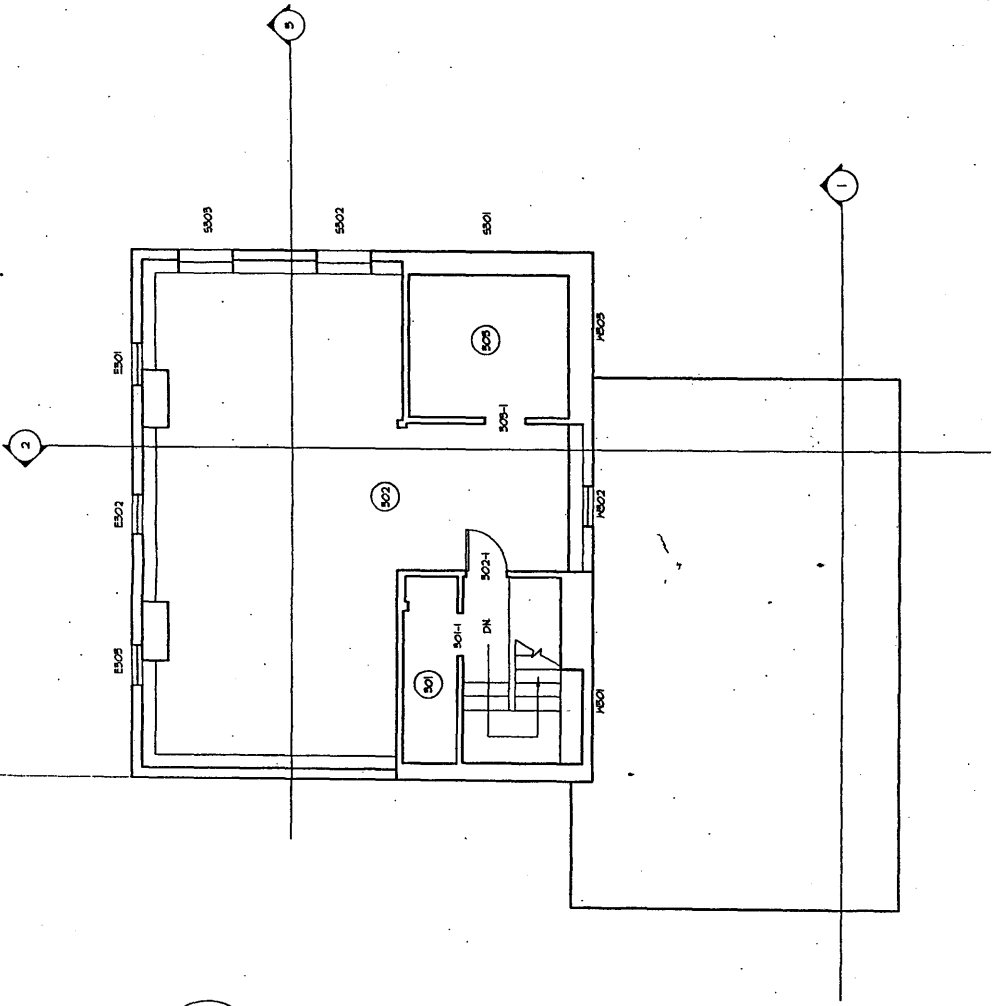
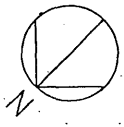


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**INT. PHOTOS - SECOND FLOOR**

**3**

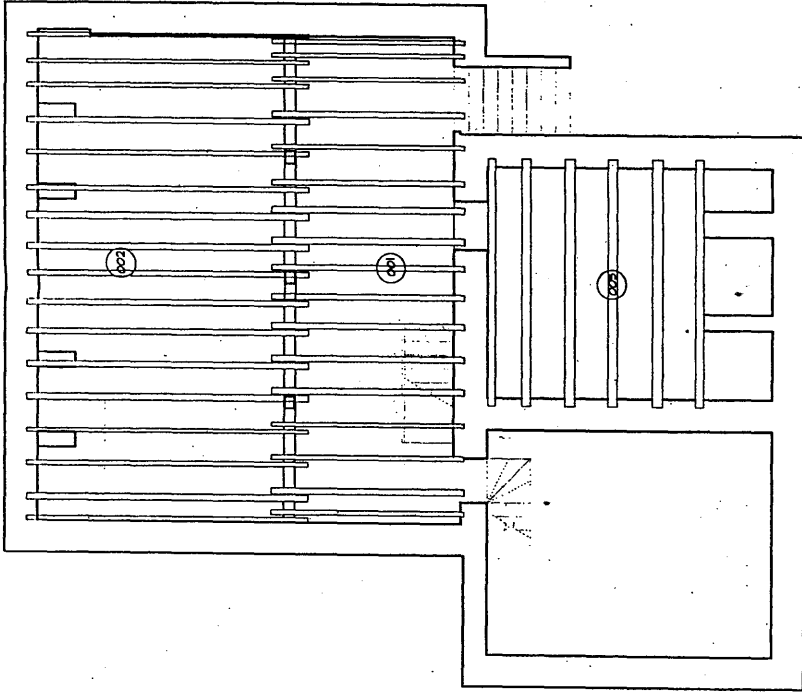


PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE  
**VAN WAGENEN HOUSE**  
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**EXISTING ATTIC FLOOR PLAN** **FX-1.4**





PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE

# VAN WAGENEN HOUSE

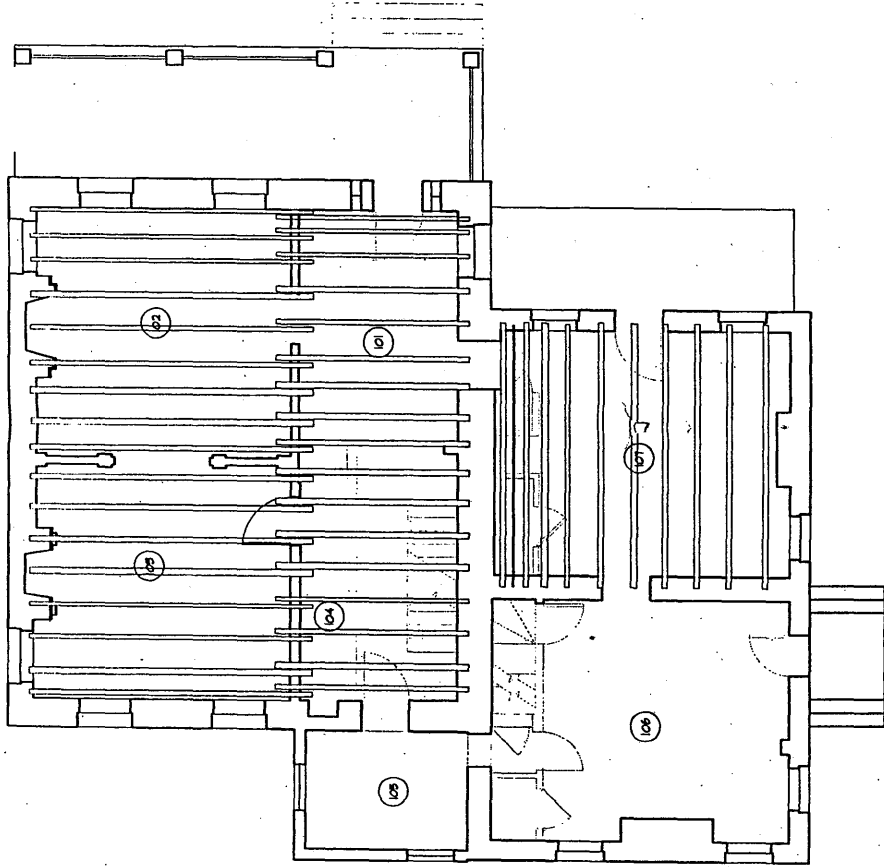
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**EXISTING 1ST FLOOR FRAMING PLAN** **FX-1.5**



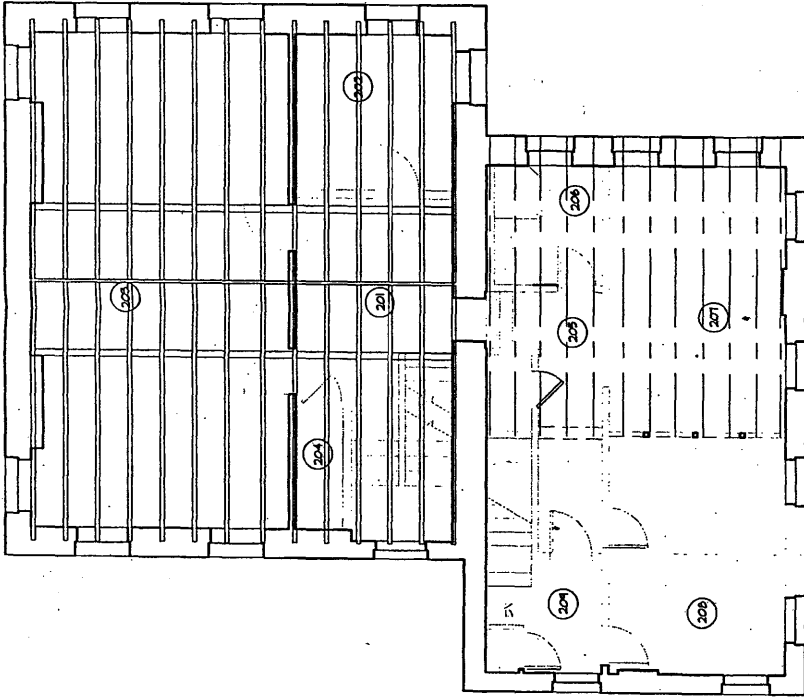
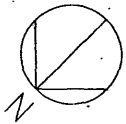
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**EXISTING 2ND FLOOR FRAMING PLAN** | **EX-1.6**



PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE

# VAN WAGENEN HOUSE

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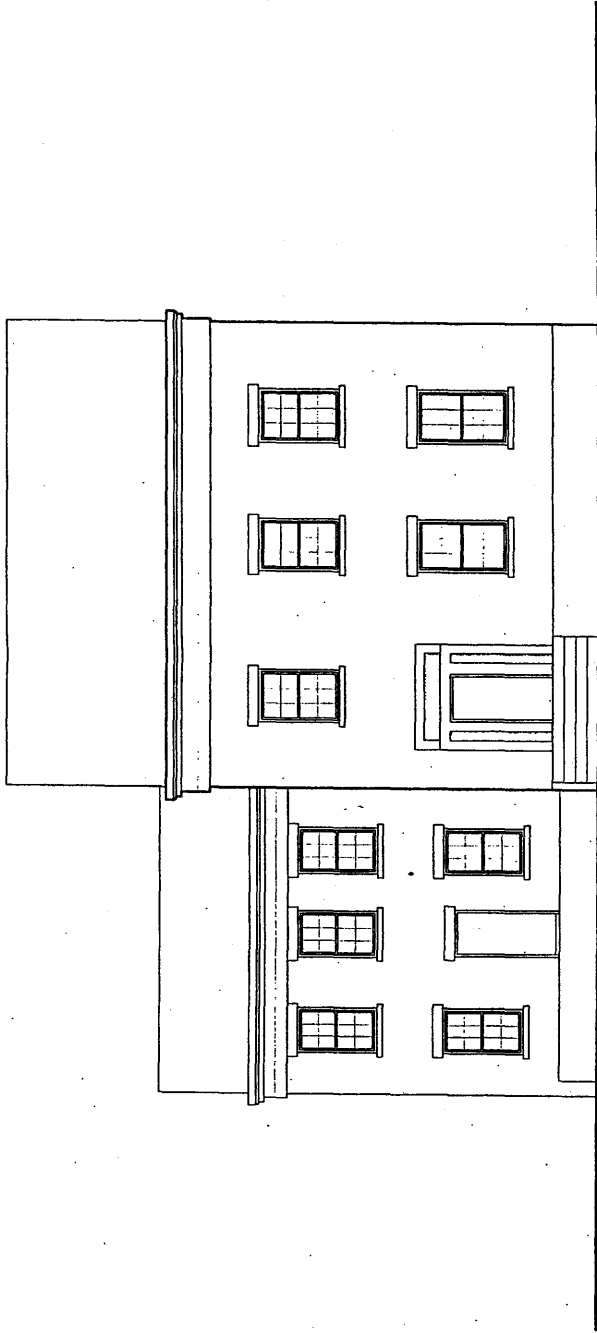
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## EXISTING 3RD FLOOR FRAMING PLAN EX-1.7



PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE  
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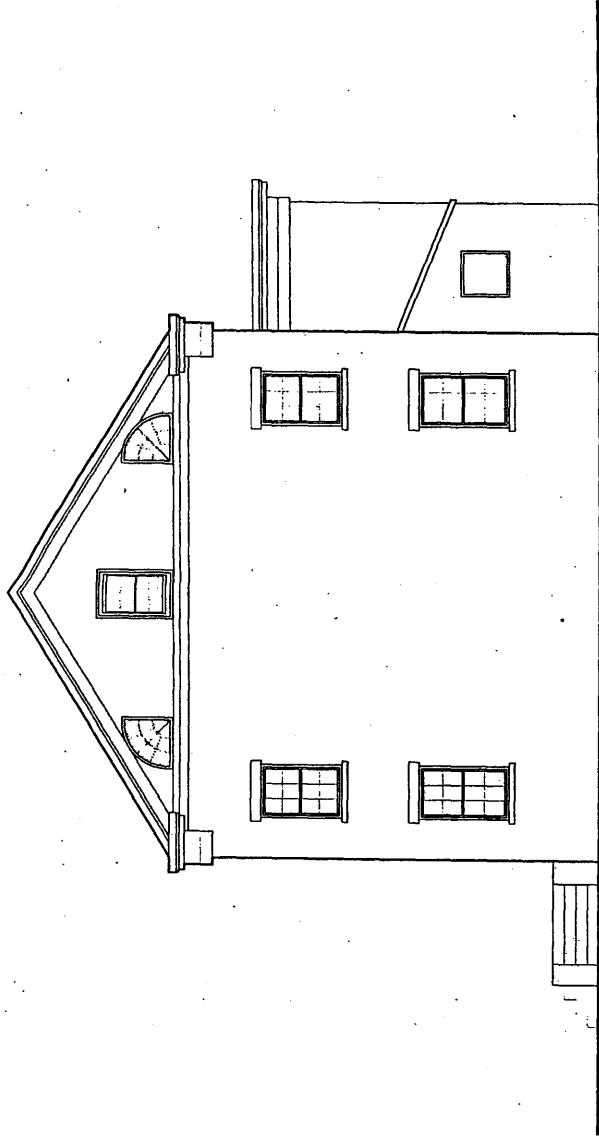
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**EX-2.1**

**SOUTH ELEVATION**



PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE  
**VAN WAGENEN HOUSE**

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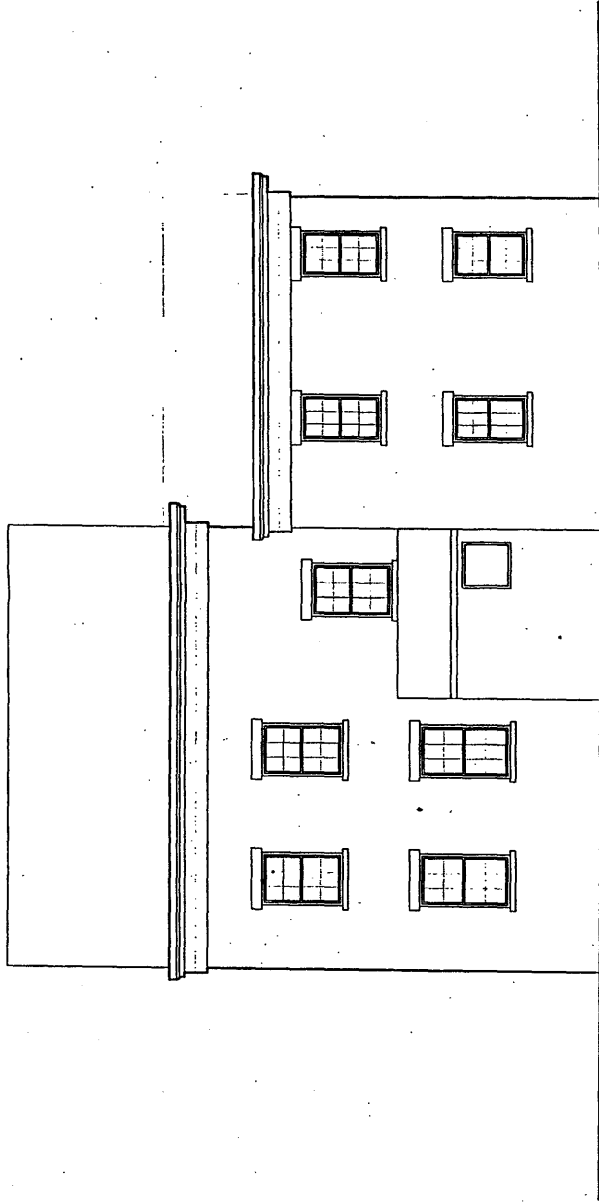
**EAST ELEVATION**

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**FX-2.2**



PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE

# VAN WAGENEN HOUSE

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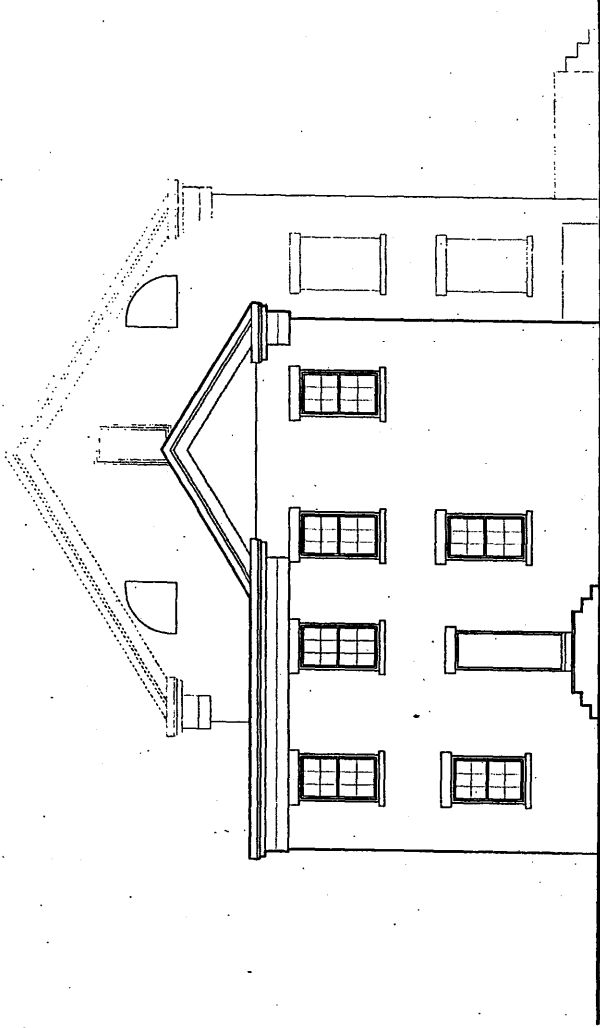
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## EX-2.3

## NORTH ELEVATION



PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE  
**VAN WAGENEN HOUSE**

298 ACADEMY STREET  
 PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

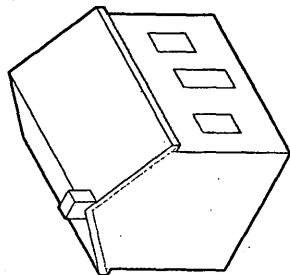


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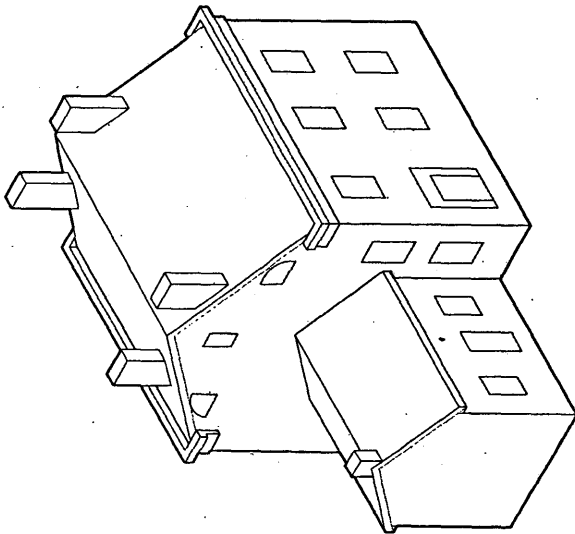
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**EX-2.4**

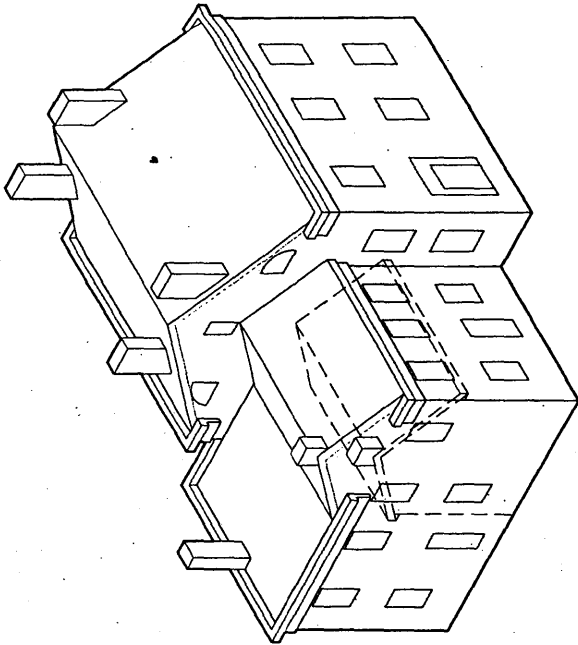
**WEST ELEVATION**



PRE- REVOLUTIONARY



CA. 1840



CA. 1860

# PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE VAN WAGENEN HOUSE

298 ACADEMY STREET  
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DATE: 9/14/04

## PHASE DIAGRAM



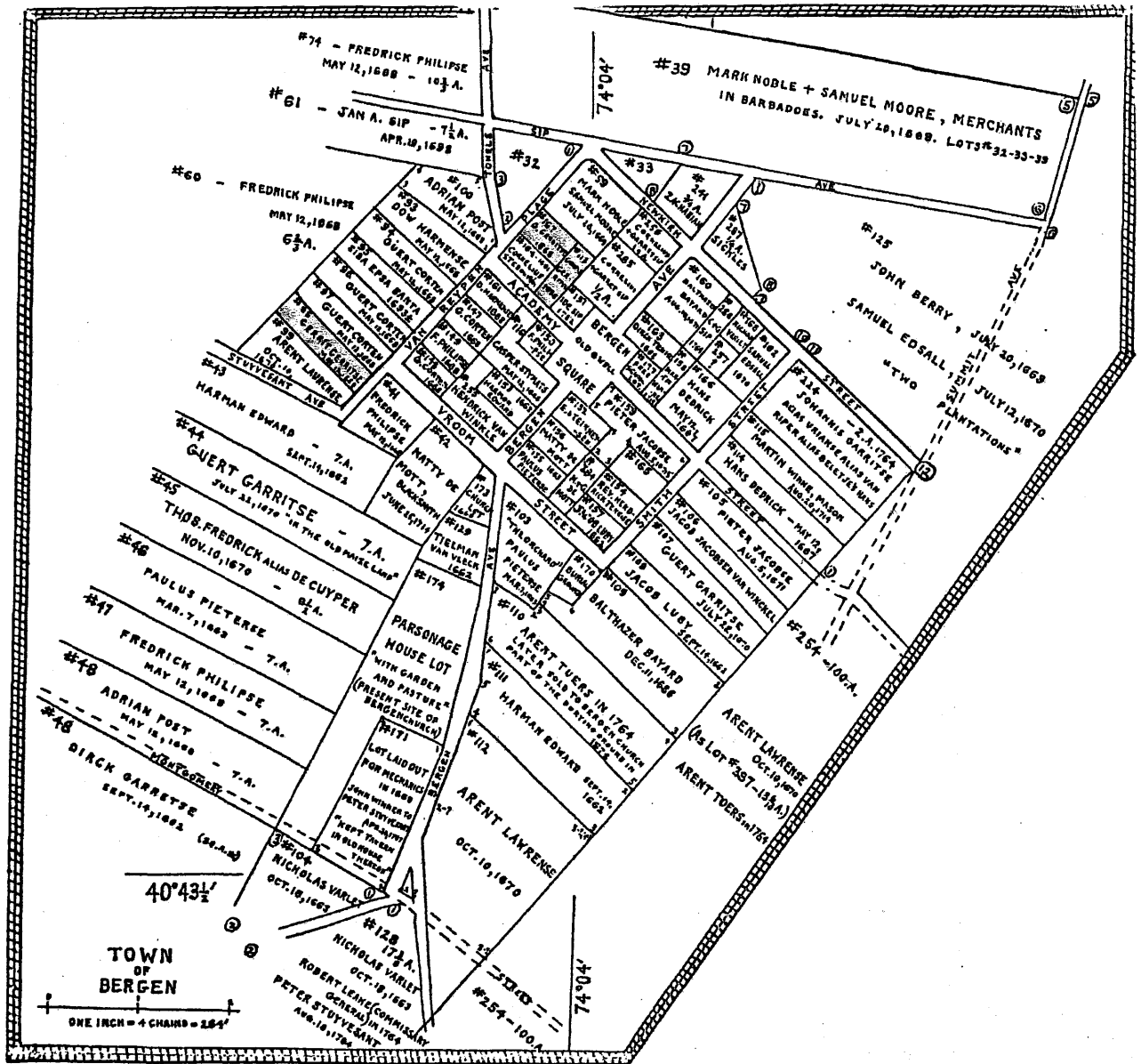


Figure 1: Map of the village showing seventeenth century property ownership. Gerrit Gerritsen's property is highlighted.



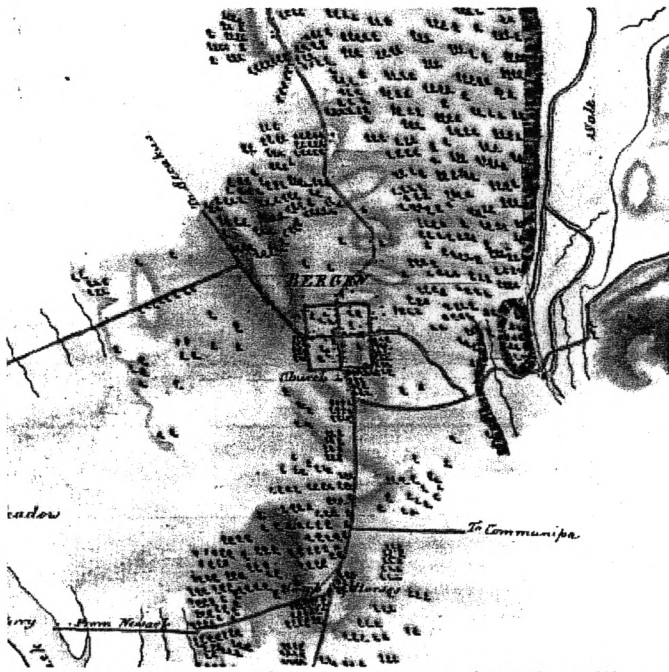


Figure 3: 1778 map of the Bergen area by John Hills, engineer for the British Army during the Revolution.



Figure 4: Enlargement of the 1778 map with the Van Wagenen House highlighted. This is the earliest depiction of a house on the property. Note the floor plan of the building is rectangular and two outbuildings are extent.

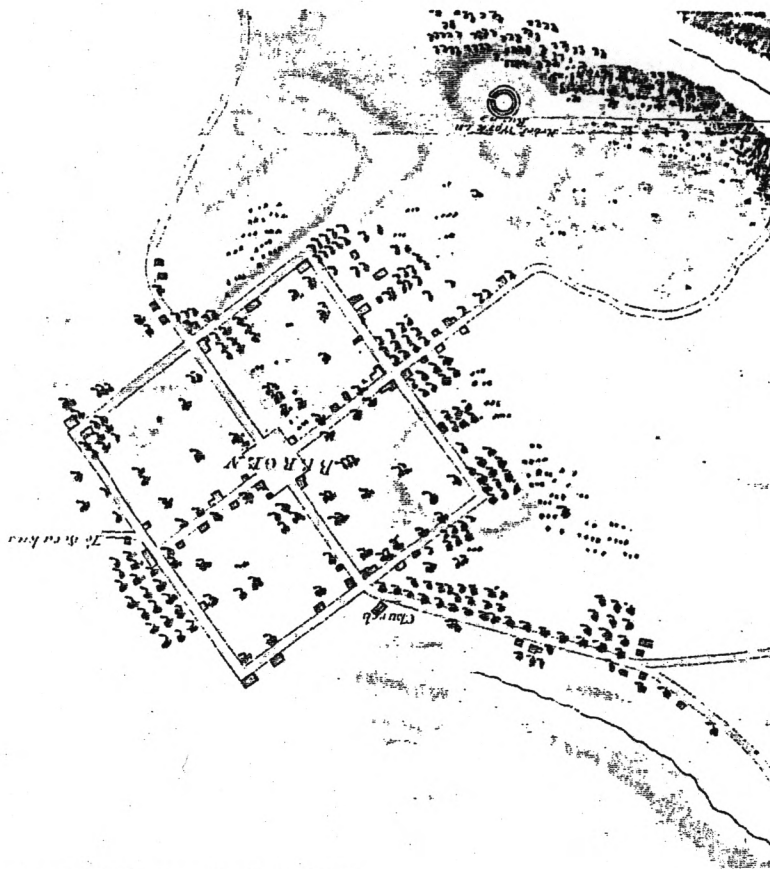


Figure 5: 1781 map by John Hills.

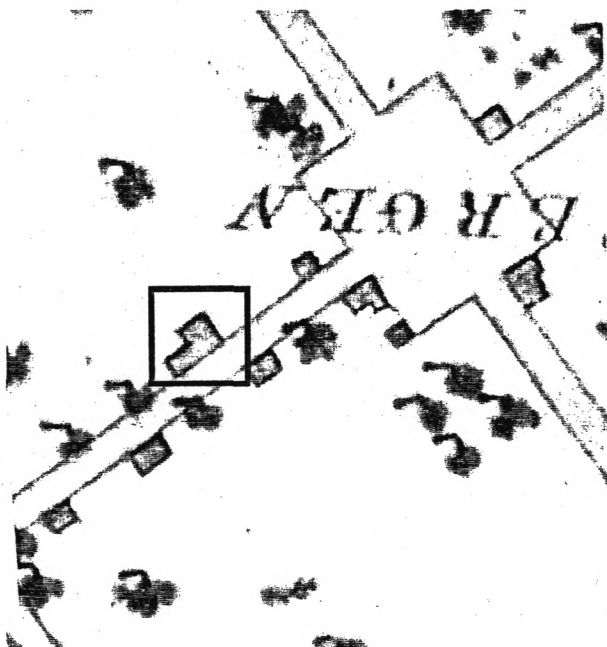


Figure 6: Enlargement of 1781 map. Note the floor plan of the Van Wagenen House is now L-shaped.





Figure 8: 1855 map by Kashow. Note the addition has been constructed to the east.



Figure 9: 1887 Bromley map with Van Wagenen House identified with the western section enlarged. Note the area immediately around Bergen Square remains largely undeveloped.

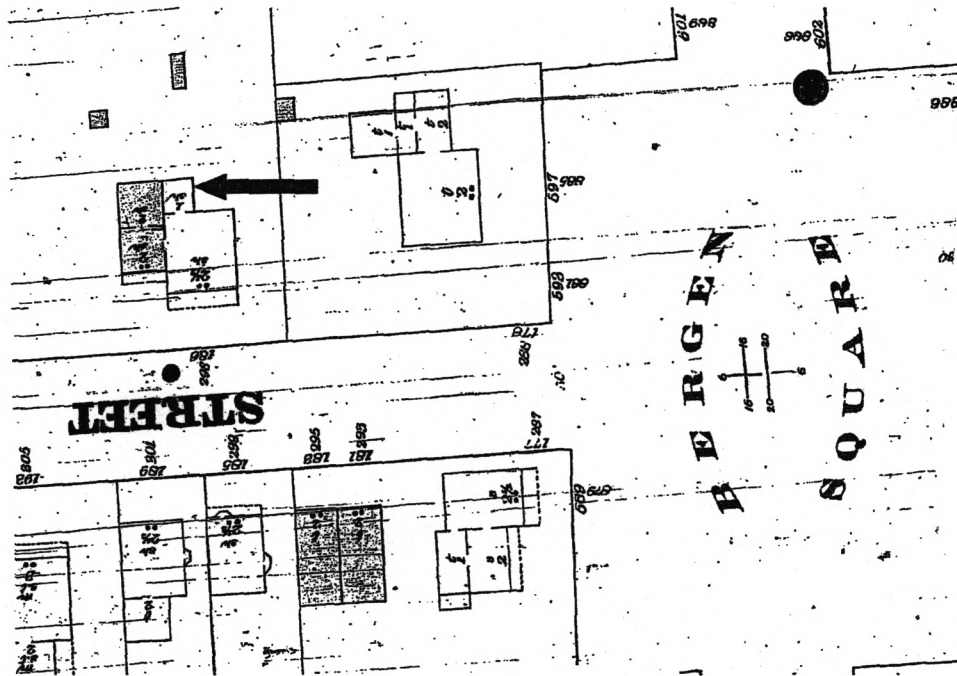


Figure 10: 1896 Sanborn map shows Bergen as increasingly urban. Note the shed addition on the North Elevation, originally built as a porch, has been enclosed.

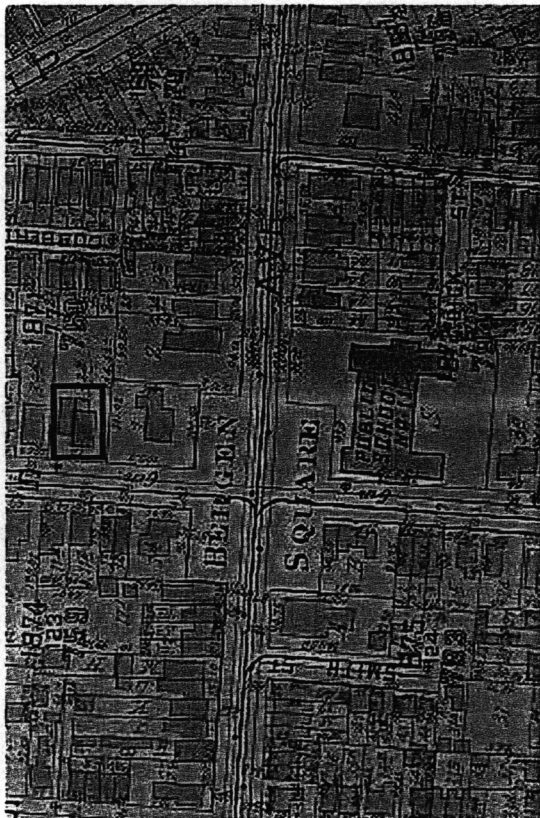
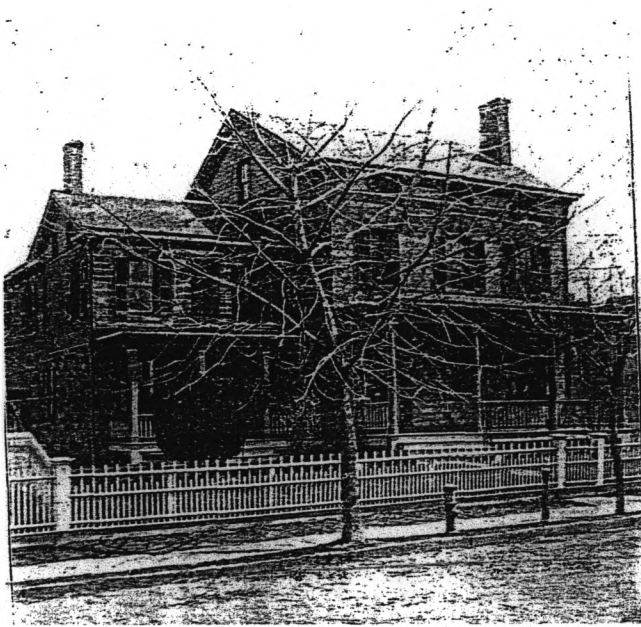
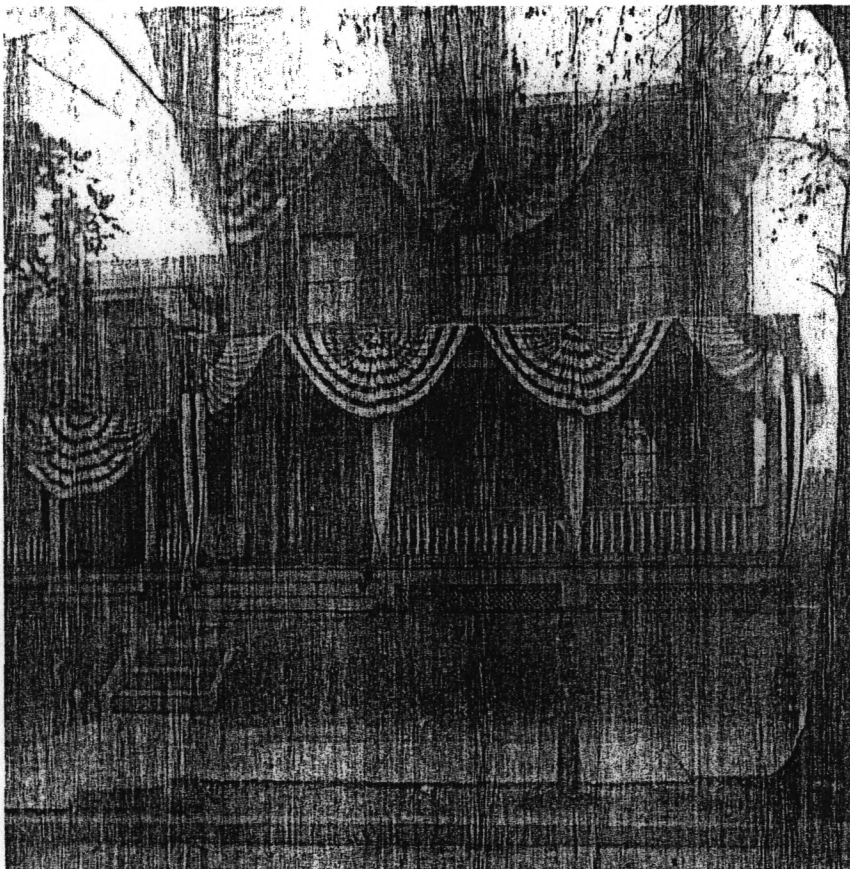


Figure 11: 1908 Hopkins map shows the density of Bergen Square after the building boom of the late nineteenth century.

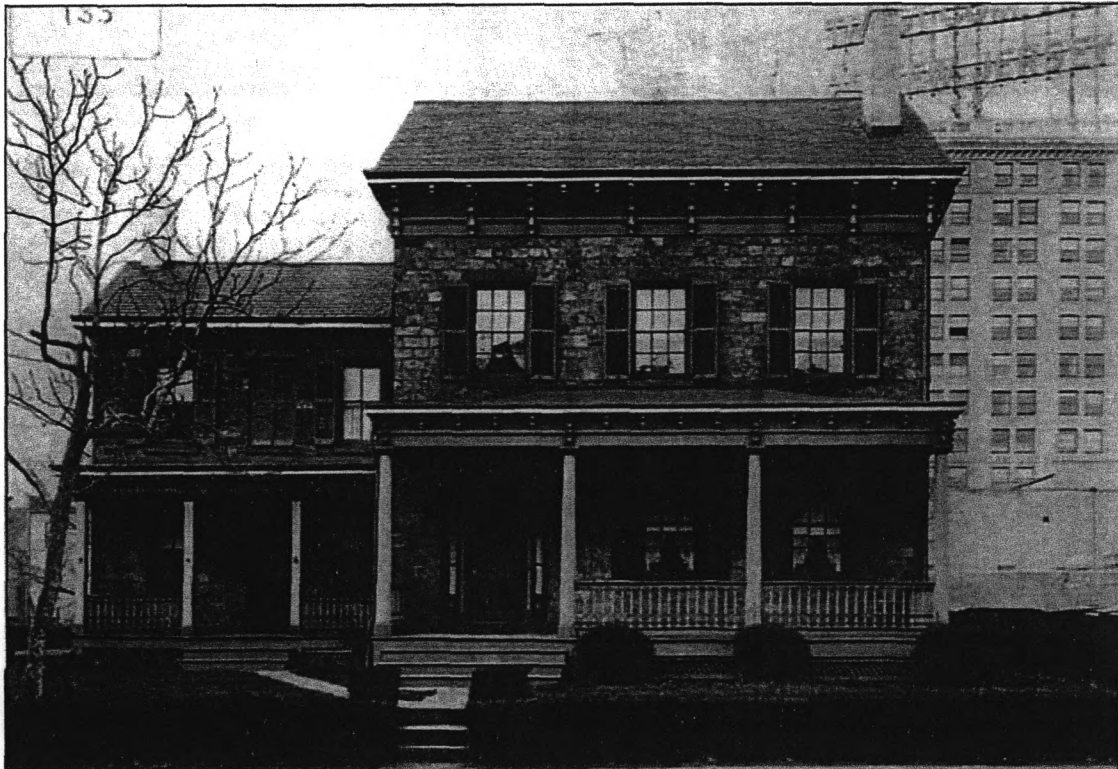


Historic Photo 1: Early image of the Van Wagenen House from the Jersey City Free Public Library, date unknown.

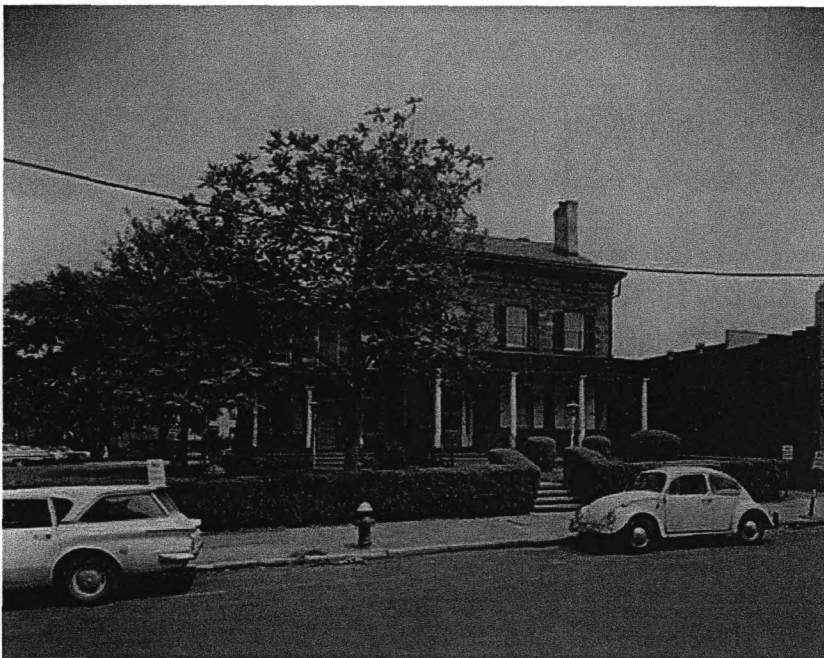


Historic Photo 2: Early image of the Van Wagenen House from the Jersey City Free Public Library, date unknown.

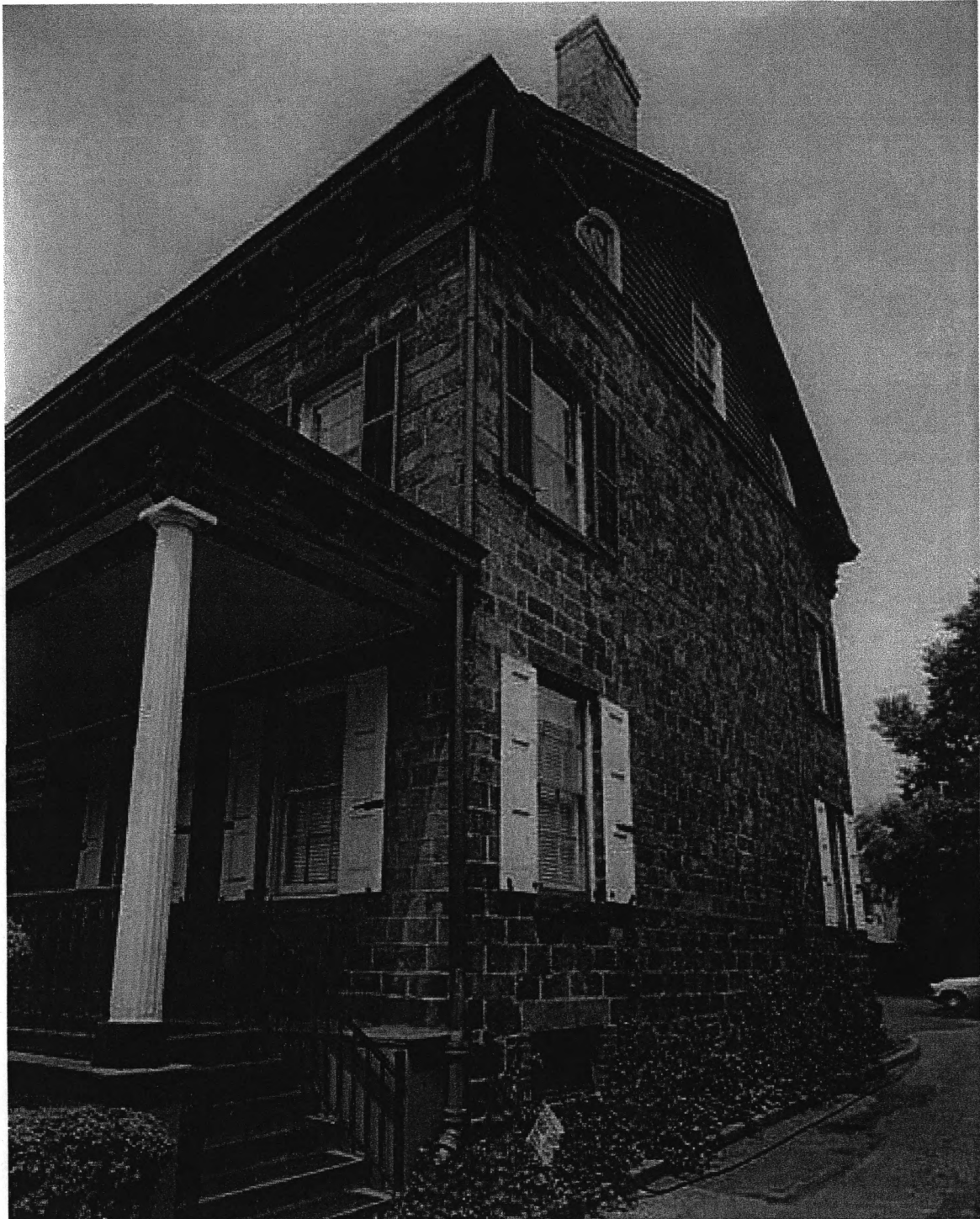




Historic Photo 3: This is one of the only clear images of the house taken before it became a funeral home that was found. The date it was taken is unknown. Note the balustrade and columns of the porches. The Quinns changed them after 1967. Also note the wrought iron handrails have not yet been added. The Quinns also added these.



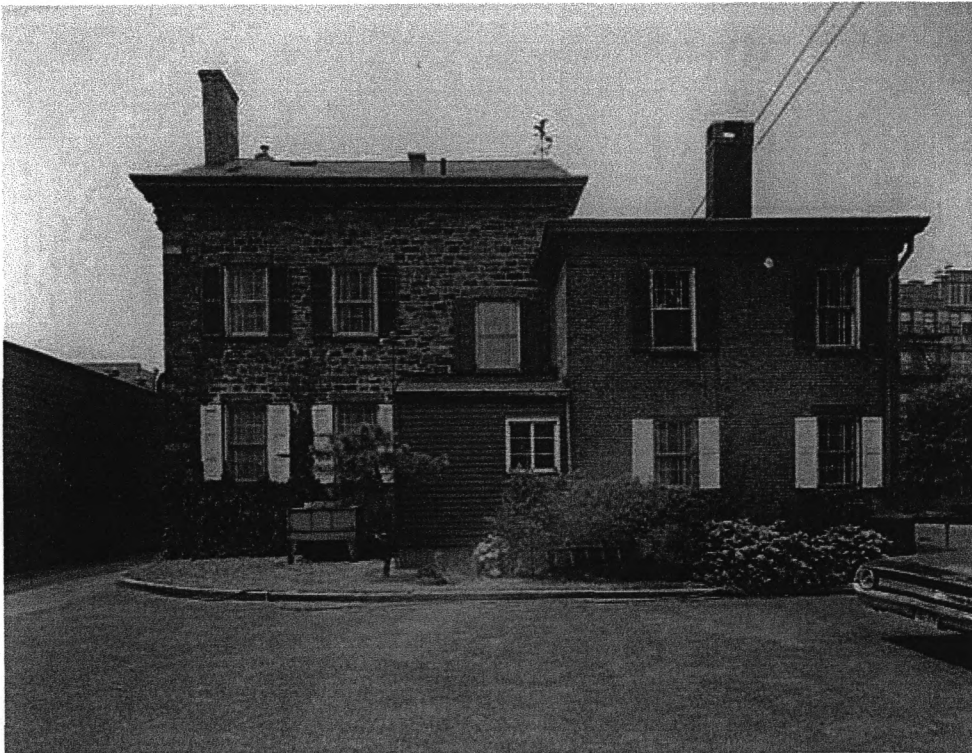
Historic Photo 4: South Façade from the 1967 HABS photo.



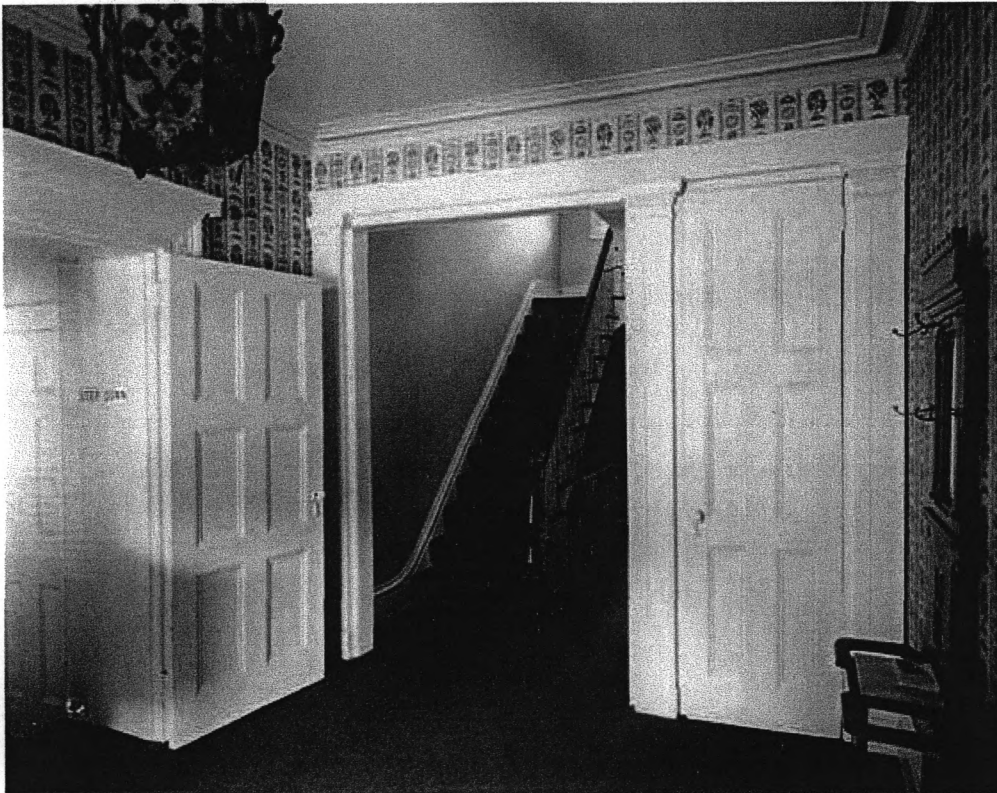
Historic Photo 5: East Elevation, HABS 1967 photo. Note the columns and balustrade of the porch and the iron handrails.

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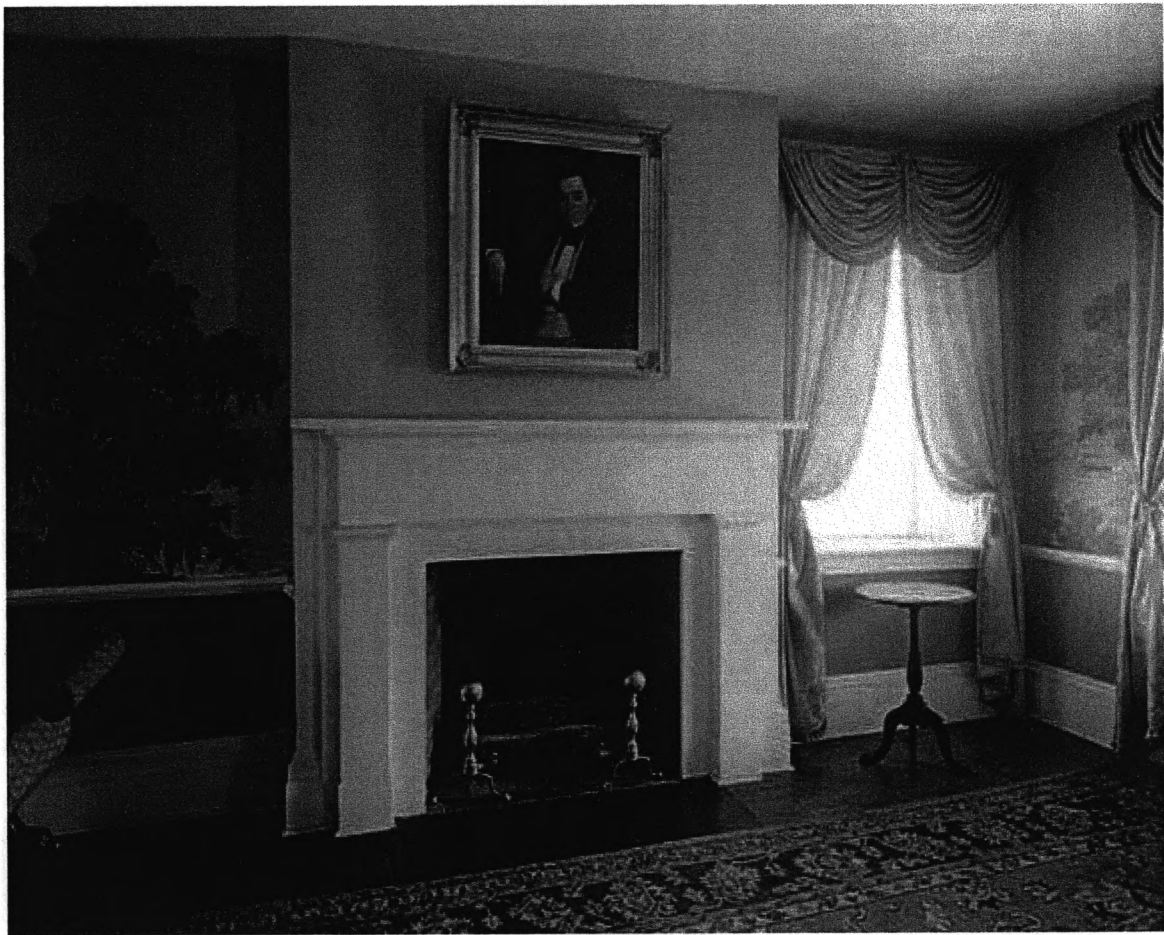
Van Wagenen House  
Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey



Historic Photo 6: North Elevation from the 1967 HABS photo.



Historic Photo 7: Stair hall from the 1967 HABS photo.



Historic Photo 8: Room 203 from the 1967 HABS photo.