

209 BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY
INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

115

GENERAL

HISTORIC NAME: Cairns-Whitten-Blauvelt House

COMMON NAME:

LOCATION: 160 Ravine Avenue (north side)
(Block 483, Lot 52)

MUNICIPALITY: Wyckoff

OWNERSHIP: Public Private

OWNER/ADDRESS: Kenneth W. & Anne Danbach
Same
445-9188

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:

- Erskine (1778-80)
- Hopkins-Corey (1861) A. Van Orden
- Walker's Atlas (1876) Adam Vanorden
- Bromley (1912) A. Mahon
- Other

RECOGNITION:

- National Register BCHS Marker
- HABS Bailey
- Other N.J. History

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: S 35° W

IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Agricultural
- Open Space
- Other

COMMENTS:

USE

ORIGINAL: Residence

PRESENT: Residence

THREATS

THREATS TO STRUCTURE:

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

COMMENTS:
Proximity to road.

CONDITION

CONDITION:

- Excellent Good
- Fair Deteriorated

STATUS:

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Work in Progress

ACCESSIBLE:

- Yes, Restricted
- Yes, Unrestricted
- No

Main: Large 20th century gable-roofed porch

Wing: Gabled hoods over doors
2 low, wide shed dormers front and rear

Room and porch addition to east end

Three large multi-faceted dormers on main.



DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:
1770-1810/Architectural evidence

BUILDER: Unknown.

FORM/PLAN TYPE:
Main: 5 bay, center hall "F"
42'6" x 30'3"
Wing: 4 bay w/ end doors (?)
30'0" x 22'8"

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

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC: Main: coursed red sandstone on front and west, mixed with rubble on rear and east. Wing: front framed with clapboards. Gable ends of decor. shingle patters, prob. Victorian

FENESTRATION:
Main: 2'8" x 5'1" w/ modern sash
Wing: 2'7" x 4'5"

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:
Main: Center bay, heavy 6 panel doors w/ sunburst over - may be later modification. Door casing: recessed panels 2'11½" x 7'9½" opening.

NUMBER OF STORIES: 1-1/2
CELLAR: Yes (Main)
 No (Wing)

CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:
 Stone Arch
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
 Other

FLOOR JOISTS:
4-1/2" x 9" hewn, 2'9" o.c.

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT:
Main: ? Wing: 7'3"

FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS:
Main: 2'1" Wing (Rr stone): 1'7"

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS: Wing: 2½-3" x 8-9" w/ 22" bet. This in ½ of wing.

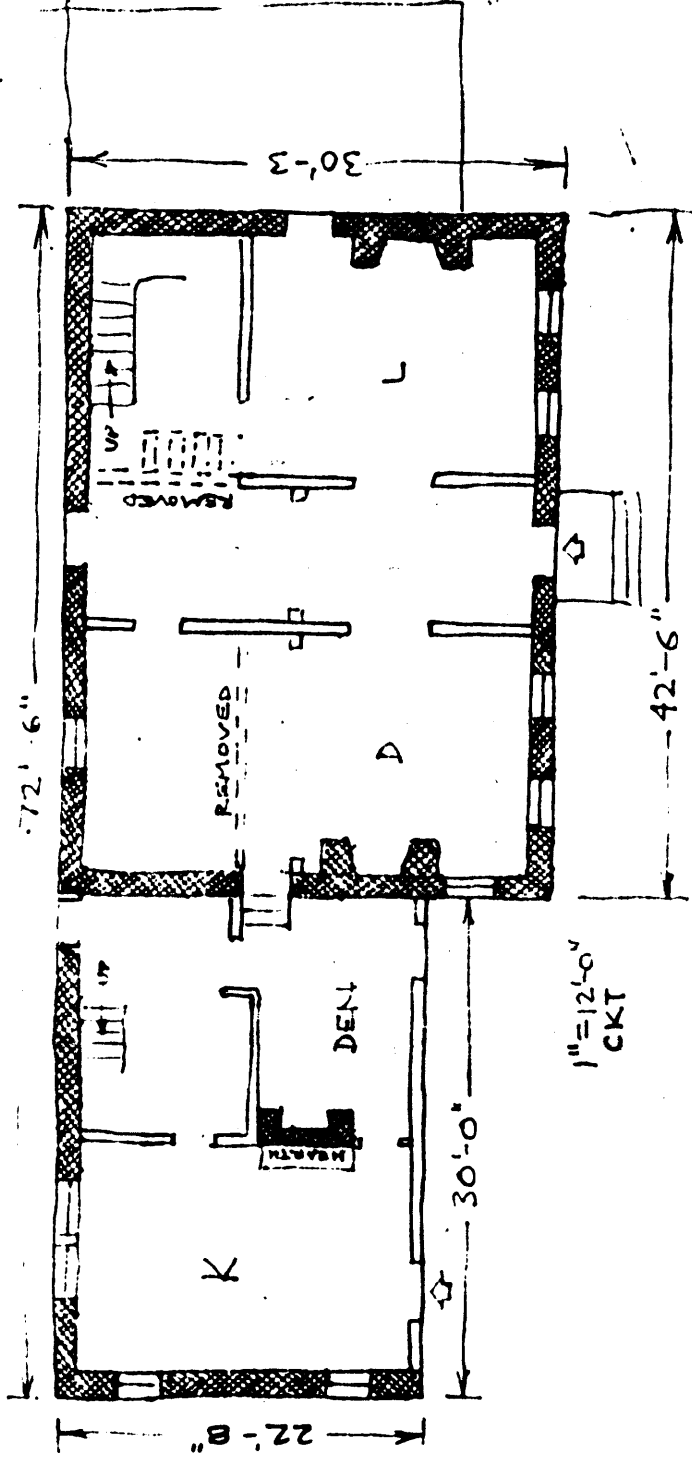
GARRET:
 Unfinished Space
 Finished Space

ROOF:
 Gable (Wing)
 Gambrel (Main)
 Curb
 Other

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

This house, while having been altered through the years, still retains a sufficient amount of its original fabric that it should be recognized and retained. We are therefore including it for its architectural significance, for its association with the exploration and settlement of the Bergen County area, and for its remaining historic fabric. As such, it is included in the Thematic Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Early Stone Houses of Bergen County, New Jersey.

FLOOR PLANS



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The house is located on Lot #21 of the Ramapo Tract acquired by Cornelius Van Horne, Jr. and David Cairns. It consisted of 204.2 acres. Whether the last named is correct as a relative is uncertain as Douglas Cairns is the one associated with the mill here from 1779-1784. Douglas came from the Paramus Reformed Church area where his father, William, ran a fulling mill. Douglas (born 1740, died May 15, 1816) was taxed for 225 acres from 1779 until just before 1785 and from then through 1793 for sixty acres and a fulling mill. Douglas Cairns name appears on the Erskine maps #36 and #56B of 1778 and 1779 showing the mill on the northeast side of the brook, but no house, except one that was on the northwest side of the present Grandview Avenue. There is no deed to Joseph Whitten, but we might assume that Cairns sold the property to him in 1784 and may have gone back to take over his father's fulling mill. Joseph Whitten was taxed from July through August, 1794 for Lot #21, consisting of two hundred acres. Whether he lived in the house across the road or built this one is pure speculation, but he did sell 130 acres on November 15, 1799 to James Blauvelt for \$3,000, which would seem to have included a dwelling. (L-42) James Blauvelt was born November 27, 1763, fought in the Revolution from 1779 until 1782, when he was wounded at Liberty Pole. On January 9, 1790 he married Rachel Hogencamp. He established a grist and saw mill and was taxed in 1802 for 120 acres. Ravine Road was put through along the Depe Voll Brook in 1809. James Blauvelt died on May 30, 1842 and his widow stayed on until 1856, as Aeltje (Letty) Blauvelt, wife of David Van Orden, probably living in the house which she inherited on October 10, 1842. Adam Van Orden became the owner on January 10, 1854. In the late 1880's Judge Stevenson owned it and sold to John Schneering in 1892. By 1913, Archie B. Mahon owned the house, then a Violet S. Conklin, a Phelps and in 1930 the Garden Homes Company sold it to Clarence N. Merritt who named the estate "El Clare". The executors sold the property to the Dambach's on September 3, 1970, since which time they have made many improvements.

(Most of the above has been gleaned from a report by Howard I. Durie.)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Block 483, Lot 52 - Wyckoff Tax Map

1.46[±] acres

U.T.M.

18 570 920 4536 900
Paterson, New Jersey