National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NOV 1 3 2009

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in How Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by ea an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, ard <u>intertural classification, m</u> enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (in typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.	ntering the information requested. If neterials and aleas of significance,
1. Name of Property	
historic name Fridolin Arnault House	
other names/site number Arnault-Bianchi House	
2. Location	
street & number 111 First Street	not for publication
city or town Wood-Ridge Borough	vicinity
state <u>New Jersey</u> code <u>NJ</u> county <u>Bergen</u> code <u>003</u>	zip code 07075
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. ★ meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be constant on the statewide of the National Register criteria. ★ meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be constant on the statewide of the National Register criteria. ★ meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be constant on the statewide of the National Register criteria. ★ meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be constant on the statewide of the National Register criteria. ★ Signature of certifying official/Title Muth official/Title Date	In my opiniorı, the property sidered significant
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria See additional comments.	continuation sheet for
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is: Dentered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.	Date of Action 12・23・09
<pre>determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.</pre>	······
determined not eligible for the National Register.	
removed from the National Register.	·
other, (explain:)	

OMB No. 1024-0018

Fridolin Arnault House

Name of Property

Bergen Co., New Jersey County and State

5. Classification				······································	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)			sources within Prop previously listed resource	
private	X building(s)		Contributing	Noncontributing	
X public-local	district		3		_ buildings
public-State	site				sites
public-Federal	structure			1	_ structures
	object				_ objects
			3	1	Total
Name of related multiple proper (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a				ntributing resources ational Register	previously
N/A			_0	•	
6. Function or Use			<u>,</u>		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		nt Functions categories from ins	tructions)	<u></u>
DOMESTIC/single dwelling	<u> </u>	RECR	EATION and CUL	TURE/museum	
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7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materi (Enter c	als ategories from inst	tructions)	
Italianate		foundation Brick, Stone			
		walls	Aluminum, Wo	ood	
		roof	Slate		
		other			

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

See Continuation Sheet.

Fridolin Arnault House

Fridolin Arnault House	Bergen, New Jersey
Name of Property	County and State
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture
 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. 	
X 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.	Period of Significance Ca. 1891
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
Criteria considerations (mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	
Property is:	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
C a birthplace or grave.	
D a cemetery.	
E a reconstructed building, object or structure.	Architect/Builder Unknown
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	n sheets.)
See Continuation Sheet.	
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):	Primary location of additional data
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	State Historic Preservation Office
CFR 67) has been requested	Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register	Federal agency
X previously determined eligible by the National	Local government
Register	University
designated a National Historic Landmark	X Other
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository:
#	Wood-Ridge Historical Society
recorded by Historic American Engineering	
Record #	· · · ·

Fridolin Arnault House	Bergen, New Jersey
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of property 0.6 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 18 576990 4522000 3 Zone Easting Northing 4 2 4 []	Zone Easting Northing
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 M. Hickey, Historic Preservation Specialist and Ka	thryn Ritson, Historian
organizationHJGA Consulting, Architecture & Historic Preservation, In	<u>ac.</u> date <u>26 June 2009</u>
street & number P.O. Box 1726	telephone <u>973 746 4911</u>
city or town Cranford	state <u>New Jersey</u> zip code <u>07016</u>
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	r's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having larg	e 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 Borough of Wood-Ridge	
street & number85 Humboldt Street	telephone <u>201-939-0202</u>
city or town <u>Wood-Ridge Borough</u> state	New Jersey zip code 07075

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 from 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.

Fridolin Arnault House Bergen County, New Jersey

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Fridolin Arnault House is a single-family residence built in 1891 for Fridolin Arnault and his family in the Borough of Wood-Ridge, Bergen County. The house (Photo 1) is L-shaped in plan and two stories in height with an attic and basement. The building stands on the west side of First Street and the east (front) elevation faces First Street. It is four bays wide by two bays deep. The exterior was clad with aluminum siding from the cornice line down in 1976. An L-shaped porch wraps the east and a portion of the north sides. A second porch extends from a portion of the west elevation. Both porches were enclosed in the late 1970s. Two-bay projections, a two-story and a one-story, are located on the south façade. The roof is slate with the main gable running east/west and the cross gable at the L running north/south. The House shares its site with three other buildings or structures: the carriage house, an outhouse and a gazebo. The carriage house and outhouse are contemporary to the main house, constructed in 1891, and are contributing elements; the gazebo was constructed in the late 1970s and is a non-contributing element. The house is located in a predominantly residential neighborhood of single-family residences. The Arnault House currently serves as the local history museum and provides meeting space for various community organizations.

Site

The Arnault House is located on a site that is a full block deep, from First Street to Second Street, to the west. The north and south lot lines border four adjacent lots, two on each side. Grade slopes downward to the west toward Second Street and a decorative concrete block wall constructed c. 1960 delineates a portion of the north lot line. The main house (Photo 2) is set approximately ten feet from the curb at First Street and a concrete walk leads directly to the front door from the sidewalk. A secondary concrete walk extends from the sidewalk along the north side of the house providing access to a side entrance and continues around the west elevation. A concrete ramp and stair were added to this side entrance in 1986. The carriage house (Photo 11) is located southwest of the house. The outhouse (Photo 14) is adjacent to the carriage house to the north. The gazebo (Photo 7) is located to the west of the main house. Two driveways lead from each street directly to either side of the carriage house; the surface is concrete on the east side and pebbled on the west. There are several large trees and shrubbery along the perimeter of the east façade of the main house; all planted within the last thirty years or so. Aside from a garden located adjacent to the gazebo, the ground cover is grass.

The Fridolin Arnault House

Roofs

The main roof is slate with three courses of octagonal slates in the center of each slope. The gutters are built-in. The gutters, valleys and ridge rolls are copper. The fascias, soffits and raking cornices are clad with aluminum; the aluminum was added in 1976. Beneath the aluminum, the cornice is wood and is detailed with molded brackets (not clad with aluminum) that are separated by raised panels. Teardrop pendants (Photo 9) mark the peak of each gable including on the dormer. A dormer is located on the north side and has a gable roof clad with copper; its roofline is similarly adorned as the main roof but of a smaller scale. A brick chimney is located on the south side and has a corbelled top. The east (front) porch roof is standing seam copper with hung aluminum gutters installed in 1976. The one-story bay projection on the south elevation has a flat seam copper roof. The rear porch has an asphalt shingle roof.

Elevations

The Arnault House is wood frame with a brick and stone foundation. The wood clapboard siding, the windows and door surrounds, and the corner treatments are all covered with aluminum added in 1976. The windows are typically 1-over-1 wood hung sash with triple track exterior storm windows; the wood sash are original to the building. The basement windows openings have typically been in-filled with glass block; work that was undertaken after 1976. A fire escape, added after 1976, is located on the west elevation with flush wood doors located at the attic and second floor levels.

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East: (Photos 1 and 2)

The east (front) porch serves as the main entrance. Three windows and a door are evenly spaced along the porch facade. The wood door has four panels with a half-circle light at its top; there is a transom above the opening. A brick and concrete stoop and steps provide access to this door. There are three windows, one in each bay, on the second floor and a pair of small windows at the attic level. There is a single window in the east façade of the el at the second floor level.

South: (Photo 3 and 4)

Due to the sloping lot, the brick foundation exposure changes from less than two feet at the east end of this façade to more than four feet at the west. The dominant features are the two semi-octagonal bay projections. The east extends from basement to the roofline and the west from basement to below the second floor. Each bay has a window in each of the three fully-exposed first floor walls; at the basement level, there is one window at the east bay and two at the west. The basement windows have been enclosed by glass block, a change that occurred during renovations undertaken in 1976. The east bay is capped by a gable roof (Photo 8) that forms a pediment over the bay. Each corner above the second floor window is detailed with wood brackets and a small pendent (Photo 10). Centered above the west bay, at the second floor, is a single window.

West: (Photos 4 and 5)

The west elevation is the least regular and its prominent features are the modern metal fire escape, added in 1976, and the rear enclosed porch. The north half of the first floor façade projects slightly beyond the remaining façade; the rear porch extends from this projection. There is a single tall window at the first floor on the south end of the main façade wall and a small wood window added in the 1980s at the projection adjacent to the rear porch. At the second floor, there are three windows and one fire escape door. A fire escape door is centered in the gable end at the third floor level. There is a metal bulkhead entrance at the basement level and one window located on either side of the bulkhead. The rear porch has been modified by the installation of a series of 1-over-1 aluminum storm windows added in the 20th century and the removal of a stair on its south side; the door opening at this former stair is currently covered with plywood.

North: (Photo 6)

The first floor of the north elevation consists of the north face of the front porch to the east, the gable end of the el in the center, and the rear porch to the west. The north face of the front porch has one single window at the east end, a pair of windows in the center and a door to the west. The door is wood with a tall center light; there is a transom above. The concrete switchback ramp leading to the door dominates the elevation. Adjacent to the ramp, a concrete stair also leads to the door. Both the ramp and stair are enclosed by pipe-rail railings and guardrails; the ramp and stair were added in 1986. Above the porch at the second floor level, there is a window immediately adjacent to the east wall of the el and a pair of windows in the dormer at the attic level. Centered on the first floor of the el, there is a pair of triple awning windows, added in the 1950s. A single window is centered above the awnings on the second floor. Attic and basement window are both centered in the gable end of the el.

Interior

The basic plan of the two primary floor levels at the Arnault House is three major rooms and a stair hall with the front and rear enclosed porches at the first floor level. The living spaces generally occupy the south and west sides, and the northwest corner of the building; the front porch wraps the east and north sides. The basement is unfinished and is generally an open plan with some smaller spaces. The attic consists of three finished rooms plus the hall. The first and second floor levels have ceiling heights close to 12 feet. The ceilings at the attic level are shorter and sloped. The wall and ceiling finishes, with some exceptions, are plaster and the floors are strip wood with a decorative pattern at the perimeter in the main rooms (Photo 25); the floors appear to be original to the house. The primary spaces also typically have a plaster crown moulding the perimeter and plaster medallions at the ceiling. The level of detail varies from space to space. The base is typically 9" tall at the first floor and slightly shorter at the second. They are plain at the

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base with a slight recess to an ogee moulding along the top. At the first floor, the upper edge of the base is integral with the first floor door and window surrounds and at the second floor, with the door surrounds. The first floor door and window surrounds are molded with plinth blocks at their base and corner blocks with a flower motif at the head (Photo 24); the trim at the second and attic levels are similar including the corner blocks.

Basement

The basement is divided into four spaces: the main room (001), a secondary space to the northwest (002), a storage area (002B), and a toilet room (002C). The foundation is stone below grade and brick above. The wall dividing 001 and 002 is brick, the storage area wall is concrete block and the toilet room is frame. The floors are concrete. The ceilings are finished. In 001, the ceiling is tin and the other rooms are finished with composite board.

One brick pier stands in Room 001 in front of the chimney support along the south wall; a water heater and boiler are vented through the chimney. A wood door with a top pane and two-recessed panels below in the west wall of Room 001 leads to the bulkhead entrance. A five-panel door separates Room 001 from 002. A chimney support is centered in Room 002. There is a double basin sink in the northwest corner along the west wall. A window has been covered with plywood above it. A toilet is located along the north wall in Room 002C.

First Floor

The primary rooms on the first floor include the stair hall (101), east parlor (102) and west parlor (103), and all are connected to one another via the stair hall. Directly behind (west) the stair hall is a service area that includes a vestibule (104a) and a restroom (104b); the restroom was created in 1986. To the northwest of the stair hall is the kitchen. Both the rear and front porches can be accessed from the kitchen. The stair to the basement is off the kitchen. The primary entrance to the house is via the east (front) enclosed porch (107) and provides direct access to the stair hall (101), and east parlor (102), as well as to the kitchen (105) at the far west end.

Room 101 (Stair Hall):

The stair hall is the main circulation space. A straight run stair ascends along the north wall to the second floor, and a hall extends along the south wall. A pair of french doors is located in the east wall and, at the east end of the south wall, there is a similar double opening but without doors leading to the east parlor. At the west end of the hall, there are three single door openings, one on the south wall to the west parlor, one to the service vestibule to the west and one to the kitchen to the north. The vestibule and kitchen door openings were modified in 1986 for barrier-free access; the original trim was modified and reused. The door to the west parlor is a french door. Each leaf of the french doors has eight panes of beveled glass. The door to the kitchen is modern flush wood.

The stairs have stained wood treads and painted risers, a modern wood rail along the north wall, and a wood railing with newel post and turned balusters along its south side. The newel post (Photo 22) has a plain wood base topped by a tall shaft detailed with engaged turned diminutive balusters at each corner. Above the shaft is a shorter neck with chamfered edges and center block with flower motif above (Photo 23). The post is topped by a smaller square newel drop. The balusters, two per tread, have square bases and rounded turned shafts. The handrail is molded in two parts with a narrow top and wider bottom.

Room 102 (East Parlor):

The floor to ceiling semi-octagonal bay is centered on the south wall (Photo 19). Below each window in the bay projection is a recessed wood panel. A part of the west wall is angled; centered on this wall is a faux fireplace installed in the late 20th century. Double width openings are located in the east, north and west walls (Photo 18) corresponding with its adjacent rooms; there are french doors in the east and west openings.

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Room 103 (West Parlor):

The floor to ceiling semi-octagonal bay is centered on the south wall. Below each window in the bay projection is a recessed wood panel. Portions of the east and west walls are angled; there is a closet in the angled portion of the west wall. A single window is set in the west wall and a double width opening in the east. There is a single door in the north wall leading to the hall. The door to the closet is wood with four glass panes at the top over two-recessed panels.

Room 104a (Vestibule):

The vestibule leads to the rear restroom and has an acoustic tile ceiling set in a metal grid installed in 1986. The opening to the hall is without a door. The door to the restroom is modern flush wood and the trim is plain wood.

Room 104b (Restroom):

The finishes in the restroom were installed in 1986. The floor is ceramic tile with tile base and the walls are tile wainscot with gypsum board finishes above. The ceiling is acoustic tile set in a metal grid. There is a small window in the west wall with clamshell trim. The threshold at the door is marble. There is a sink and toilet including grab bars.

Room 105 (Kitchen):

The kitchen (Photo 17) was renovated in the mid-20th century. The floor is linoleum over a wood subfloor. The ceiling is gypsum board and nine feet in height. Cabinets line the east, north and west walls with a ceramic tile backsplash along the west wall. The south wall is finished with gypsum board. The stove location is on the west wall, and the sink and built-in dishwasher are on the north wall; there is a window above the sink. There are doors leading to the front porch and basement on the east wall, to the hall on the south, and to the rear porch on the west. The door trim tends to be narrow fluted mouldings. The doors are flush wood except to the rear porch which is wood with a top light and two panels below.

The kitchen cabinets are wood and include both base and wall cabinets forming a U along the north side of the room. The cabinets and the fixtures (except the refrigerator and stove) date to the 1950s; the stove was removed in 2005 due to a gas leak. The base cabinets are fitted with drawers and the corner wall cabinets have glass fronts; the hardware is typically stainless steel. The counter is a laminate. The counter and corner shelving are edged with stainless steel trim.

Room 106 & 107 (Front Porch):

The front porch is divided into two spaces (Photos 15 and 16), and the ceiling height is 8'-9". The finishes in each room are identical. The floors are finished with carpet. The walls and ceilings are wallboard with wood battens laid in a geometrical pattern. A wood chair rail runs the perimeter and serves as the window sill. The baseboard is simple with a molded top edge. The cornice is a flat wood board topped by a small crown moulding. The dividing wall between the rooms, spanning north/south, has three sections: a glass door and transom in the center and two side panels with windows above the chair rail. The window and door surrounds are flat wood. The cornice serves as the head mould for the windows and the exterior doors.

Room 109 (Rear Porch):

The rear porch is accessible only from the kitchen. The floor is wood strips. The exterior walls are gypsum board below a series of windows and the east wall is exposed clapboard. The gypsum board has been installed with the porch posts exposed and a vinyl base. The ceiling is wood beaded board with a crown moulding the perimeter. The trim at the door to the kitchen is flat wood. There is no trim at the windows.

There are nine aluminum double-hung storm sash serving as windows: two on the south wall, three on the north and four on the east. In the southeast corner, a door used to lead to the back yard but is now covered by plywood. The door to the kitchen has a 12-liteover-one-panel wood storm covering the interior door.

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Second Floor

The second floor consists of the stair hall (201), and four rooms to its northwest, west and south. The plan is similar to the first floor. The wall and ceiling finishes are typically plaster with a wood base similar to the first floor. The doors are typically four-paneled wood with the top two panels taller than the bottom two. The door trim is similar to the first floor with plinth blocks at the base and corner blocks at the head. The window surrounds do not extend to the floor; they have a wood sill with a shallow apron.

Room 201 (Stair Hall):

The stair hall is the main circulation space. The detailing of the stair from the first floor continues at this level (Photo 20). The balustrade continues along the open end of the corridor which leads to the east end of the hall and the stair to the attic. The walls are finished with wallpaper from the early 20th century. The wood floor does not have the perimeter detailing and is partially covered with carpet. The ceiling does not have a cornice. There are five doors off the hall, one to the east leading to the attic stairs, two to the south, one to the west and one to the north. Adjacent to the north door at the stair is a window.

Room 202 (Bedroom):

Room 202 occupies the southeast corner of the house and the dominant feature is the full height semi-octagonal bay projection (Photo 21). There are two windows in the east wall and one window in each wall of the bay. Single doors provide access to Room 203 to the west and to the hall to the north. A closet is located to the northeast containing a built-in wardrobe along its west wall. There is a single window in the east wall of the closet. The wardrobe has a two-paneled door and a molded cornice along its top edge. The wardrobe contains a full-length shelf and hook rails.

Room 203 (Bedroom):

Room 203 occupies the southwest corner of the house. The space is rectilinear except in the southeast corner where a chimney projects into the space. The ceiling appears to be finished with gypsum board. There is one window in the south wall and one in the west wall as well as a flush wood door leading to the fire escape in the west wall; the fire escape door has plain wood trim. Doors lead to Room 204 in the north wall and Room 202 in the east wall.

Room 204:

Room 204 is centered between Room 203 and 205 at the west side of the building. It is a former bathroom with all of its fixtures removed. It was inaccessible for the survey.

Room 205 (Bedroom):

Room 205 occupies the northwest corner of the house. The ceiling appears to be finished with gypsum board. There is a window centered on the north wall and one in the east wall. A door in the south wall provides access to a closet and immediately adjacent is the door to the hall.

Third Floor

The third floor consists of the stair hall (301), and three rooms surrounding it, 302, 303, and 304. The floors are typically strip wood flooring and the two main bedroom floors have perimeter detailing. The walls and ceilings are typically plaster in the two main bedrooms but there is no plaster cornice. Composite board finishes the walls and ceiling in the attic spaces and Room 304; these finishes were added in 1976. The ceilings are low and the outer reaches are sloped to follow the roof lines. The baseboard, door and window surrounds, and doors are the same as found at the second floor.

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Room 301 (Stair Hall):

The stair hall serves as the main circulation space and runs north/south with a stair at its north end. The stair is a closed winder stair with wood treads and risers covered with a carpet runner. The stair descends along the north and east walls to the second floor. Beaded board wall finishes are found on the south and west walls adjacent to the stairs. The upper edge of the west wall rises above the attic floor and serves as a railing along the west side of the stair. There is one pair of windows on the north wall at the stair landing. There are four doors: one centered at the south end of the hall, one door centered on the east wall, and two along the west wall.

Room 302:

Room 302 occupies the southeast corner of the third floor and is a rectangular space with an alcove in the northeast corner and a closet adjacent to the alcove to the west. There is a pair of windows centered on the east wall.

Room 303:

Room 303 occupies the southwest corner and is a long rectangular room with a closet centered on the north wall. There are no windows in this room; the plain wood door to the exterior fire escape is located in the west wall. This door has modern clamshell trim.

Room 304:

Room 304 occupies the northwest corner and is a long rectilinear space with a single window at its north end. A built-in closet set two steps below the level of the main space occupies the southwest corner. The flooring is plywood and the walls are finished with composite board. The closet is lined with cedar.

Attic:

The Attic spaces are finished with composite board and the floors are unfinished wood planks.

Carriage House

The carriage house is approximately square in plan and is two unequal bays wide by two equal bays deep. The east is the primary elevation (Photo 11) and faces First Street. The building stands one and one-half stories in height and is set on a shallow crawlspace with a brick foundation. The roof is clad with slate and the ridge runs north/south. The slate is similarly detailed as the main house including octagonal slates and copper detailing; however, rather than built-in gutters, aluminum hung gutters, added in 1976, drain the roof. The main vehicle entrances are located on the east elevation with a secondary entrance located on the west elevation (Photo 12). There are two entrances on the east elevation with a gabled dormer above the north vehicle entrance. The dormer is detailed with wood fish-scale siding on the east face (Photo 13). The facades including the eaves and soffits are clad with aluminum which was applied in 1976. The façades are without windows; the aluminum siding was installed over the windows.

The south vehicle door in the east elevation is a pair of swinging wood doors composed of six-lights-over-three-vertical panels and the north door is a double overhead roll-up wood door with six-lights-over-eighteen-wood panels arranged in four horizontal and six vertical rows. The north door was added after 1976. Each door has a concrete threshold. A flush wood door set in a wood frame with crosswork and a small single lite is centered in the dormer. The vehicle door on the west side is a wood overhead roll-up in a similar configuration as the door on the east façade and added after 1976.

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The interior is composed of two unequal rooms on the first floor level and two equal rooms at the attic level. The first floor level is set just above grade and the two spaces do not correspond; they are accessible from the exterior only. Access to the attic is via a wood ladder located in the south room.

The primary rooms on the ground floor level include the storage room (101) and the carriage room (102). Both rooms are the full depth of the building with Room 101 occupying one-third of the width and Room 102 occupying the remaining two thirds. The two spaces are separated by a modern wood frame wall that is finished with composite board on the Room 101 side and unfinished on the Room 102 side; this modification appears to date to 1976. A shallow beam supported by wood posts runs between the two spaces east to west. Two-over-two wood hung sash windows are located in the north and south exterior walls but have been covered from the exterior. The floor in Room 101 is random width wood boards and the exterior walls are finished with beaded board full height with thick horizontal wainscot applied at the south and west walls. The floor in Room 102 is plywood and the exterior wall framing is exposed. The ceiling in both spaces is finished with the same beaded board as found at the walls and has a molded ceiling cornice.

At the attic level, the floors are finished with random width wood boards, the walls are typically finished with composite board and exposed wood framing. The ceilings are unfinished in Room 201 and finished with composite board in Room 202. The composite board finishes appear to have been added in 1976. There are single two-over-two wood hung sash at both gable ends; however, these have been covered from the exterior by the aluminum siding. A plain wood base with beaded top edge finishes the walls of Room 202.

Outhouse

The outhouse is a small wood frame structure set on a brick foundation. The exterior finishes are wood clapboard siding with corner boards at the walls, and asphalt shingles at the gable roof; the asphalt shingle roof was installed after 1976 and replaced the original slate roof. A single four-panel wood door in the east elevation provides access to the interior. There is a single window in the north wall that is covered with plywood. The trim at the door and window is flat stock with a drip edge over each opening. The interior contains two seats along the west wall. The walls and ceiling are clad in beaded tongue and groove wood boards. The floor is wood planks.

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Statement of Significance

The Fridolin Arnault House meets Criterion C for local architectural significance; it is a good example of the Italianate style of architecture prevalent in the late 19th century. The house, built for a retail merchant in Manhattan who commuted daily by train, also represents vernacular architecture of Wood-Ridge during its early years as a railroad town. In addition to its significant exterior and interior elements, the site also contains a carriage house and a two-seater outhouse, which echo detailing found at the main house, and emphasize the relationship of the main building to these associated buildings and the landscape. While the house has suffered the same fate as many other existing 19th century homes in Wood-Ridge, the application of aluminum siding and enclosing the front porch, it still retains the original cladding under the aluminum, original windows, cornice detailing, bay projections and porches, as well as its original carriage house and outhouse. The house also retains its original configuration of spaces, window and door surrounds, baseboards, the banister of the main stair, and other decorative details such as the plaster ceiling medallions.

Historical Background

History of the Borough of Wood-Ridge

The land including the present Borough of Wood-Ridge was first settled in the 17th century by Captain John Berry. Bergen County, was established in 1682 with its physical boundaries being between the Hudson and Hackensack Rivers and the New York State Line and Constable's Hook at the southern end of what later became Bayonne.¹ Early in the 18th century, the area including Wood-Ridge began to appear in County records and Berry laid out the first roadway, Polifly Road (now Hackensack Street) about 1707.² On May 12, 1784, George Brinkerhoff purchased a 200-acre farm for 1,500 pounds in New Barbados Neck on land that has become the present Borough of Wood-Ridge.³ The land was part of New Barbadoes Township until 1825, when Lodi Township split from New Barbadoes. The new township was located between the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers and extended about 10 miles,⁴ with the present lands of Wood-Ridge included. Local real estate began to be developed in the final third of the 19th century.

During this same period, railroads were an important part of life across the country, including in Wood-Ridge. In New Jersey, trackage grew by nearly fifty percent between 1870 and 1880.⁵ In Bergen County, the Hackensack and New York Railroad Company was chartered in 1856; construction began in 1860, and by January 1861, the first trains were running. The train ran to Jersey City where passengers could board a ferry to New York. The railroad was soon extended beyond Hackensack, and in 1873 was renamed the New Jersey and New York Railway.⁶ A station in Wood-Ridge was constructed circa 1867 south of Moonachie Avenue, at Anderson Avenue on the western side of the track. When a second track was laid, the station was moved to the north of Moonachie Avenue. The introduction and expansion of the railroad increasingly made commuting between Wood-Ridge and New York easier and therefore settlement in Wood-Ridge more desirable. With the successful post-Civil War economy and the added encouragement of newly laid railroad tracks, several land companies were established.

The most successful and well-known of these speculators was Frederick Kohbertz, a German immigrant to the United States. In fact, several sources state that his influence on the development of Wood-Ridge has led many to consider him the "founder" of the town. Kohbertz was one of four development companies operating in the 1870s; he receives the title of founder because he is considered one of the "most ardent and indefatigable" promoters for developing Wood-Ridge during this period.⁷ Kohbertz was a wealthy man who encouraged middle class buyers to settle in Wood-Ridge by selling his lots on an installment plan with a down payment and monthly installments without interest. He and his wife, Anna, bought a large tract of land in 1865 from Henry S.P. Eyre⁸, and filed a map on July 20, 1870, subdividing his land west of Hackensack Street into 628 lots.⁹ "The tract was laid out with streets that ran from Hackensack Street to Thirteenth Street and from North Avenue (North Street on his map) to Union Avenue (South Street on his map),

¹ 1876 Atlas of Bergen County New Jersey (Reading, PA: Reading Publishing House, 1876), 25.

² Patricia Helbig Sloan and Catherine Cassidy, Images of America, Wood-Ridge (Arcadia Publishing, 2004), 7.

³ History of the Borough of Wood-Ridge (Wood-Ridge, NJ: Centennial Edition, 1993), 4.

⁴ History of the Borough of Wood-Ridge, 4.

⁵ John T. Cunningham, New Jersey; America's Main Road (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1976), 195.

⁶ Derato, 37-38.

⁷ History of Borough of Wood-Ridge, 6.

⁸ Derato, 8.

⁹ Derato, 8.

Fridolin Arnault House Bergen County, New Jersey

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with Main Avenue running between them."¹⁰ Among these lots was the one on which the Fridolin Arnault House was built two decades later. When Frederick Kohbertz, Sr. died on September 9, 1872, his wife became his executrix, continuing ventures in real estate.¹¹ Kohbertz Sr.'s son, Frederick Jr., also became involved in real estate and town affairs. He appears to have been directly involved in the construction of the Fridolin Arnault House.¹²

The end of the 19th century was to become one of the most important periods in the history and development of Wood-Ridge. At the end of the century, with the revival of the economy and the continued success of the railroad, village life began to grow around the tracks. There was a quantity of empty land surrounding the railroad which soon became the obvious location for real-estate development.¹³ As a small town with easy access to surrounding cities, Wood-Ridge was the ideal location for commuters looking for a quiet home life in a more rural area. In 1880 the hamlet of Wood-Ridge had 400 inhabitants, largely French families living along Hackensack Street,¹⁴ but the town was soon to go through a significant population explosion. In 1884, John Adelung bought seven lots along the south side of Moonachie Avenue and subsequently built a hotel and saloon across from the railroad station. Before long many immigrants who had originally settled in New York began to move to Wood-Ridge. In the 1880s and 1890s, retail shops, including grocery stores and drugstores, were established to serve their needs.¹⁵ Hackensack Street and the area around the railroad depot became centers for business. The country village was attractive to many immigrants who had suffered in the tenement living conditions in the city. Many of these immigrants were very important in the forming of suburban communities, including the Kohbertz family and Fridolin Arnault.

In 1894 the New Jersey Legislature passed laws that allowed communities to become boroughs and to form their own school districts. As a result, many villages throughout Bergen Township (which had split off from Lodi in 1883) voted to incorporate. In 1894 Carlstadt, Corona (now Hasbrouck Heights), Wallington, and Wood-Ridge all became boroughs. Community members voted for the incorporation of Wood-Ridge on December 5, 1894.¹⁶

By 1920, the population of Wood-Ridge reached 1,923, and Italian families like the Bianchi family began to dominate the area. As a result, in 1922 a second school was constructed, and in 1926, Mayor Innes' administration completed construction of a sewer system. In 1927, the creation of a new housing development named "Sunshine City" encouraged further growth in the town. As was predicted, Sunshine City greatly affected the Borough. Many residents migrated from Jersey City, bringing another immigrant population to the area, the Irish. By 1930, the population had increased to 5,159.¹⁷ As great numbers of people moved to Wood-Ridge from surrounding cities, the need for more services was recognized. Government services increased and civic groups like the Wood-Ridge Manor Community Club formed which encouraged increased citizen participation in the town.¹⁸

Wood-Ridge greatly resembled many other small suburban towns across the country in the years before World War II. Since that time, the Borough of Wood-Ridge has remained largely residential with many of its residents still commuting outside of town for work, completing the evolution towards modern suburbia which began in the late 19th century when the Fridolin Arnault House was constructed.

Fridolin Arnault House

The original owner of the house was Fridolin Arnault, a signer of the 1894 petition to vote on Wood-Ridge's incorporation as a Borough. Arnault was born in France in 1840, and emigrated to the United States on March 22, 1862, aboard the ship "Mercury".¹⁹ In

¹⁰ Derato, 8.

¹¹ Derato, 16.

¹² According to a letter written by Fridolin Arnault's daughter, Lucie Arnault Heilshorn.

¹³ Derato, 18.

¹⁴ History of the Borough of Wood-Ridge, 8.

¹⁵ History of the Borough of Wood-Ridge, 25.

¹⁶ History of the Borough of Wood-Ridge, 9.

¹⁷ History of the Borough of Wood-Ridge, 13.

¹⁸ History of the Borough of Wood-Ridge.

¹⁹ "New York Passenger List"; available from <u>http://www.ancestry.com</u>; Internet; accessed 12 October 2006.

NPS Form 10-900-a

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1870 and 1880, this same "F. Arnault" was listed in the U.S. Census as a liquor merchant,²⁰ who lived in New York City with his wife, Clara²¹ (often listed as "Claire" in later deed documents).²² He is listed in the 1889 Passaic City directory²³ as being a wine merchant at 201 Lexington Avenue in New York City.²⁴

Fridolin Arnault purchased the property at First Street in Wood-Ridge from the Manhattan Insurance Life Company in October 1890 and appears to have had the house constructed in 1891. According to a letter written in 1979 by Lucie Arnault Heilshorn to Rita Rietz of Wood-Ridge, she states that her father, Fridolin, had the house constructed in 1891 by a builder from Hackensack; the name of the builder was not mentioned in the correspondence. The Arnault family settled in Wood-Ridge as the economy had begun to revive and land speculation was again high. Wood-Ridge grew as a wave of new immigrants settled in the area, and as new retail and commercial services were established in order to meet their needs.

Fridolin Arnault died in May 1896, but his wife Clara and their children continued to occupy the house until Clara sold the house to Joseph Briggs and his wife, Elizabeth in September 1908. Briggs who was from Elmsford, Westchester County, New York, is known for being the First Assistant to Louis C. Tiffany, and many of the works signed by Tiffany are actually Briggs's design. Briggs served in many capacities at Tiffany Studios soon after immigrating to the United States in 1901, including as manager until its closing in the 1930s. Their presence in Wood-Ridge is confirmed by the 1910 United States Census, which lists a 36 year old Joseph Briggs, "decorator," living on First Street. The Briggs family remained in the house for less than three years and sold the property to Alfred Gramlich on May 19, 1911. Gramlich served as mayor of Wood-Ridge between 1916 and 1918.²⁵

Gramlich sold the house to Clemente Joseph Bianchi in July 1916.²⁶ Bianchi was an Italian immigrant who worked for the Sier-Bath Gear Company in New York City, and eventually became the company's sole owner. Born in 1889²⁷ in Pastena, Italy, Bianchi came to the United States in 1901 at 12 years old. He began working for the Sier-Bath Gear Company at the age of nineteen, and by twenty-five years old, he owned the company. According to census records from 1920, Bianchi, a widower at the time, moved to the Arnault house with his three children, Eleana, Malfalda and Edward. Also living with the family were his father and mother-in-law, with the last name of Flora, as well as one servant by the name of Minnie Stirne. By the year 1930, according to a U.S. Census, Clemente Bianchi had apparently remarried to a woman named Marie, who was 38 years old and a native of New York. Added to the household were two children, Marie and Helen, 12 and 17 years old respectively, as well as Bianchi's brother, Louis, 32 years old, who worked at Sier-Bath Gear for his brother. Bianchi died on April 3, 1958 leaving the house and property to the Borough of Wood-Ridge for use as a park with a life estate for his wife, Marie.

Marie Bianchi officially deeded the property to the Borough on April 14, 1975²⁸ at no cost to the Borough. In addition to a public garden and a gazebo at the rear of the property for public use, the Borough also decided to use the main house for an alternative community use. In 1976, Councilman Frank Wells stated that according to a survey of area residents, the most desired use for the house was as a local senior citizens center.²⁹ Once this use was decided, restoration of the house began. From 1976 to 1977 the house was cleaned, sanded, painted, and partially refurbished. On May 19, 1977, it was reported in *The Herald News* that the restoration of the Arnault House would begin soon, and that "According to Mayor Peter Incardone, the Borough has received \$12,500 under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA), to pay for workers and some material needed to renovate the First Street structure". In addition to these funds, the mayor and town council approved an \$115,000 bonding ordinance, about \$9,000 of which

²⁰ Family Search, Family History and Genealogy Records; available from <u>http://www.familysearch.org/</u>; Internet; accessed June 2006.

²¹ Clara Arnault was born about 1850, and immigrated in 1856. Source: 1910 U.S. Federal Census Records.

²² 1880 Census of New York.

²³ June 20, 1979 Letter from Lucie Arnault Heilshom to Rita Rietz notes that she and her family moved to Passaic in 1888. (Rita Rietz was a member of the Bicentennial Committee.)

²⁴ Directory of Passaic City Directory, 1889; available from <u>http://www.ancestry.com</u>; Internet; accessed 24 November 2008.

²⁵ History of the Borough of Wood-Ridge, 11.

²⁶ Indenture, Alfred Gramlich to Clemente Joseph Bianchi, July 12, 1916, County of Bergen, Deed Book 938, page 241.

²⁷ Sources vary on the exact date of his birth; his U.S. World War II Draft Registration card, from 1942, states that he was born on July 2; his World War I Draft Registration Card states the date of his birth as September 22.

 ²⁸ Indenture, Mrs. Marie Bianchi and Edward J. Bianchi to Borough of Wood-Ridge, April 14, 1975, County of Bergen Deed Book 5998, page 454.
 ²⁹ "Wells Tells of Bianchi House Help", *Wood-Ridge Independent*, September 2, 1976, p. 6.

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would go towards paying for exterior repair work on the Arnault House.³⁰ More specifically, it was to be used for siding, storm windows and surface treatment. On Sunday, October 9, 1977, the house was dedicated as a Borough-operated senior citizens center.³¹ The Borough hoped the center would serve as a meeting place for such events as dances and lectures, and provide health services and job placement. Today, the house is used by the local athletic organizations, the boy scouts and serves as the local history museum for the Wood-Ridge Historical Society.

Significance Statement: Fridolin Arnault House

The Fridolin Arnault house is significant under Criterion C, architectural significance, for embodying the distinct features of the Italianate style and as a representative of the vernacular architecture that was popular in the Borough of Wood-Ridge at the turn of the 20th century.

At the time the Arnault House was constructed, most residences in Wood-Ridge were modest homes constructed on sizeable lots and employing the typical decorative details of the period. The Arnault House was constructed during a decade in Wood-Ridge when there was the increased establishment of industry and commerce, as well as a growth in residential construction. It was during this period that the Borough was incorporated and transformed itself from a rural enclave to a modern suburban community. Prior to such growth, the region was primarily farmland with widely spaced houses typically constructed in the Dutch American mode commonly used in Bergen County.

As Wood-Ridge began to emerge as a town, The Kohbertz Mansion, constructed in 1870 on three acres, is considered the most prominent of the new residences constructed during this initial period of expansion. However, development continued to be scattered and widely spaced on large plots of land until the late 19th century. At this time, more regular plots of land were developed with two to two-and-a-half-story houses employing a variety of architectural styles popular during the period. Such styles capitalized on the advantages of mass-produced details to create distinctive residences. It was during this period that entire blocks, such as Hackensack and Main Avenue, Anderson Avenue, and Wood-Ridge Avenue were developed. This development was spurred by the steady growth of rail transportation that supported daily commuters from this region to businesses in Manhattan. Industry also began to expand with the construction of a large pumping station and tank farm by Standard Oil Company in 1879, which relied heavily upon the railroad. Trolley lines laid in the latter years of the century also helped to spur residential growth by easing transportation within the Borough and to surrounding towns. The Borough changed first gradually and then more rapidly from a rural farming community to one occupied by professionals and craftspeople of various backgrounds including immigrant communities including French, German, Italian, English and Irish.

The Fridolin Arnault House, constructed in 1891 on a 125' by 200' lot, is not considered to be of the highest style but it may be one of the more distinctive houses from the late 19th century in the Borough. The Arnault House displays many Italianate characteristics including 2 ½ stories with L-shaped plan, has a high-pitched gable roof, and amplifies the interior living space by the use of bay windows and an open front porch. The exterior employs such decorative detailing as roofline brackets and decorative dropped mouldings to distinguish corners and the peaks at the gables. At the interior, such typical details and interior layout features employed include patterned wood flooring in the more public rooms, the typical straight run stair from the first to second floor with decorative detailing on its balusters and newel posts, the use of plaster cornices, roses and medallions at the ceiling, and flower corner blocks at the doors and windows which are carried throughout the house, even in private spaces. The Arnault House is one of the few remaining vernacular residences constructed that represent the growth and expansion of Borough in the late 19th century and early 20th century. It also retains its two outbuildings, the carriage house and outhouse that were typical auxiliary buildings in residential construction of that period. Many of these residences have been lost to the more compact suburban development that became popular in the 1930s.

³⁰ "Bianchi House Facelift Near," The Herald News, May 19, 1977.

³¹ "Now a Senior Citizens Center; House Gets New Lease on Life," The Record, October 5, 1977.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Arnault-Bianchi House is located at 111 First Street as shown on the accompanying site plan.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property consists of the lot that has been associated with the Arnault house since its construction.

Fridolin Arnault House Bergen County, New Jersey

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Name of Property:	Fridolin Arnault House		
City or Vicinity:	Wood-Ridge		
County:	Bergen	State:	New Jersey
Photographer:	Margaret M. Hickey		
Date Photographed:	September 2008		

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 25: Exterior: View looking west at the front (east) elevation of the Arnault House.
- 2 of 25: Exterior: View looking northwest at the front (east) elevation.
- 3 of 25: Exterior: View looking north at the south elevation. Note the two bay projections.
- 4 of 25: Exterior: View looking northeast at the south and west elevations.
- 5 of 25: Exterior: View looking east at the rear (west) elevation.
- 6 of 25: Exterior: View looking west at the north elevation. The Arnault House sits close to its adjacent lot to the north.
- 7 of 25: Exterior: Overall view of the rear yard showing the proximity of the house to the gazebo, carriage house and outhouse.
- 8 of 25: Exterior: Detail of roofline at the east bay projection on the south elevation.
- 9 of 25: Exterior: Detail view of dropped pendant at the gable end of the south elevation.
- 10 of 25: Exterior: Detail view of the bay projection on the south elevation.
- 11 of 25: Exterior: View of the carriage house looking west at the east elevation.
- 12 of 25: Exterior: View looking southeast at the west and north sides of carriage house.
- 13 of 25: Exterior: Detail view of the treatment at the dormer gable of the carriage house.
- 14 of 25: Exterior: View of the outhouse.
- 15 of 25: Interior: View of the front porch looking south.
- 16 of 25: Interior: View of the north side of the front porch looking east.
- 17 of 25: Interior: View of the kitchen looking northwest.
- 18 of 25: Interior: View of front parlor looking west into the rear parlor.
- 19 of 25: Interior: View of front parlor looking east to the front porch.
- 20 of 25: Interior: View from second floor hall looking at railing and baluster of main stair between first and second floor levels.
- 21 of 25: Interior: View of Bedroom 1 at second floor looking south at bay.
- 22 of 25: Interior: Detail view of the newel post to stair at the first floor level.
- 23 of 25: Interior: Detail view of the flower detail at stair which is carried through to the corner blocks at the doors.

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24 of 25: Interior: Detail view of a typical door surround showing the corner block with flower inset. 25 of 25: Interior: Typical detail of floor pattern.



Figure No. 1 1876 Map Showing Wood-Ridge Area

Bergen County, including the Village of Wood-Ridge, in 1876.

Credit: A.H. Walker, 1876 Atlas of Bergen County New Jersey (Reading, PA: Reading Publishing, 1876).



Figure No. 2 1876 Map Showing Wood-Ridge Area

Bergen County, including the Village of Wood-Ridge, in 1876.

Credit: A.H. Walker, 1876 Atlas of Bergen County New Jersey (Reading, PA: Reading Publishing, 1876).



Figure No. 3 Map of the First Section of the Estate of Frederick Kohbertz.

This map was filed on July 20, 1870. The lots shown here were sold off by Kohbertz throughout the 1870s, and included the lot on First Street on which the Arnault-Bianchi House would later be built.

Credit: Frank C. Derato, Down the Hill; Memories of Lost Wood-Ridge (Norwalk, Connecticut: Cranbury Publications, 2002).



Figure No. 4 View of west side of Arnault-Bianchi House

View of Bianchi House and other properties in Wood-Ridge at the turn of the twentieth century taken from the Kohbertz Estate. House with arrow is the Arnault-Bianchi House.

Courtesy: Historical Society of Wood-Ridge.



Figure No. 5 View of Bianchi House in the 1970s.

View of Bianchi House taken prior to the installation of aluminum siding in 1977 when the house was converted into a senior citizen center.

Credit: "Bianchi House Facelift Near," The Herald News, May 19, 1977.







SECOND STREET









