

BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY

INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE SURVEY FORM

37

GENERAL 16

HISTORIC NAME: Benjamin P. Westervelt
 COMMON NAME:
 LOCATION: 235 County Road
 (#Book 168, Lot 14)
 MUNICIPALITY: Cresskill
 OWNERSHIP: Public Private
 OWNER/ADDRESS: Melvin Westervelt
 (same)

REFERENCE

MAP REFERENCES:
 Erskine (1778-80)
 Hopkins-Corey (1861) P.B. Westervelt
 Walker's Atlas (1876) P.B. Westervelt
 Bromley (1912) J.P.B. Westervelt
 Other
 RECOGNITION:
 National Register BCHS Marker
 HABS #6-422 Bailey
 Other NJ Inventory

ENVIRONMENT

HOUSE ORIENTATION: 835°W
 IMPORTANT RELATED STRUCTURES:
 20th century garage
 SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
 Residential
 Commercial
 Agricultural
 Open Space
 Other
 COMMENTS:

USE

THREATS

ORIGINAL: Residence
 PRESENT: Residence
 THREATS TO STRUCTURE:
 Roads
 Development
 Zoning
 Deterioration
 Other
 No Threat
 COMMENTS:

CONDITION

CONDITION:
 Excellent Good
 Fair Deteriorated
 STATUS:
 Occupied
 Unoccupied
 Work in Progress
 ACCESSIBLE:
 Yes, Restricted
 Yes, Unrestricted
 No

Unchanged according to owner.
 Interior was not inspected.

PHOTO



MAP



DESCRIPTION

CONSTRUCTION DATE/SOURCE:
Main: 1808/dated lintel

NUMBER OF STORIES:
CELLAR: Yes main only
 No

BUILDER:
Main: Benjamin Westervelt
FORM/PLAN TYPE: Main: "F", 5 bay center hall w/2 front rooms w/f.p. and 2 back rooms 46'-1"x34'-4". Wing to East is 3 bay, one room with interior fireplace. 24'-5"x20'-7". Frame wing to West.

CHIMNEY FOUNDATION:
 Stone Arch
 Brick Arch, Stone Foundation
 Other

FLOOR JOISTS: 3"x9", 23"-27" o.c.

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

FIRST FLOOR CEILING HEIGHT: 8'-8" in Main, 7'-10" in Wing.
FIRST FLOOR WALL THICKNESS: 20"

GARRET FLOOR JOISTS: concealed

EXTERIOR WALL FABRIC: well coursed sandstone on front, east and rear walls of Main and Wing. West wall of of Main has chip coursing.

GARRET:
 Unfinished Space
 Finished Space

FENESTRATION: 2'-9"x5'-1" (12/12) sash with wood trapazoidal lintels in Main. Wing has 2'-2"x3'-6" and 2'-0"x3'-9"(6/6) sash with stone lintels.

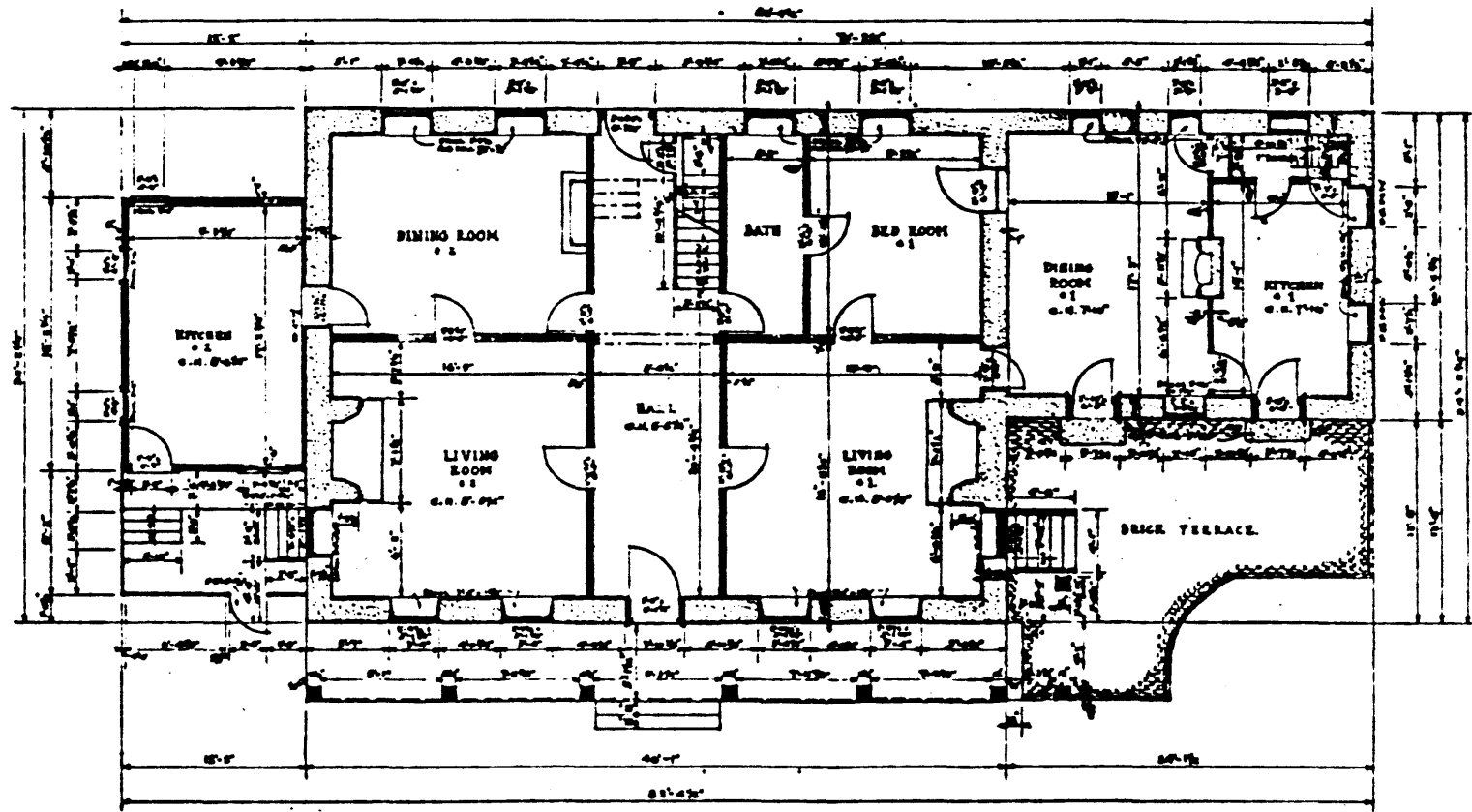
ROOF:
 Gable Wing
 Gambrel Main
 Curb
 Other

ENTRANCE LOCATION/TYPE:
Center bay of South front. 2'-10-1/2"x6'-1-1/2" double-leaf (Dutch style) paneled door with transom and wood trapazoidal lintel.

EAVE TREATMENT:
 Sweeping Overhang back-main & wing
 Supported Overhang front-main
 No Overhang back-wing
 Boxed Gutter
 Other

This house is significant for its architecture and its association with the exploration and settlement of the Bergen County, New Jersey area. It is a reasonably well preserved example of the Form/Plan Type as shown and more fully described herein. As such, it is included in the Thematic Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Early Stone Houses of Bergen County, New Jersey.

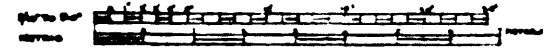
BERGEN COUNTY STONE HOUSE SURVEY
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 LOCATION: 235 County Road, Cresskill



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

LEGEND
 FRAME
 STONE

ROY S. CRANE, DEL.



WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
 OFFICIAL PROJECT NO. 663-22-3-63
UNDER SUPERVISION OF SURVEY DISTRICT SUPERVISOR BY THE ARCHITECT
 AND ENGINEER, STATE OFFICE, DIVISION OF PLANNING AND DESIGN

THE BENJAMIN P. WESTERVELT HOUSE
 COUNTY ROAD 2030 OF CRESSKILL NEW JERSEY

INDEX NO.
 NF-422

HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 5 OF 19 SHEETS



This house stands on a piece of land patented to Isaac Bedlow in 1669; it was sold to Jacobus Van Cortlandt in 1728. The tract is supposed to have been bought by Johannes Westervelt who was the grandson of Lubbert Lubbertse, the first of the family in America, who came from Holland in 1662. Johannes was baptised in 1696 and married in 1718; we know he lived at Cresskill, but there is no evidence that he built a house on this tract. We do know that his eldest son Petrus, who was baptised in 1722 and married about 1745, lived here at Cresskill and was the probable builder of the wing. We assume this because there is a house standing on this spot marked on Erskine's map as Westerfell's. The main house bears the date 1808 carved on the lintel over the main entrance door. We know this was erected by Benjamin P. Westervelt, the son of Petrus, who was born in 1763 and died in 1845. Benjamin served in the Revolution; he was imprisoned twice by the British and thrown in the Sugar House; when he was captured a third time by his Tory neighbors, he was recaptured by Colonel Blanch of the militia. He married in 1784 at the close of the war. The property passed to Benjamin's son Petrus born in 1796 and died in 1870. The next owner was Petrus's [sic] only son John P. B. Westervelt; his son Peter is the present [at time of HABS] owner.

(The above is quoted from HABS data sheet #NJ-422.)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Block 168, Lot 14 - Cresskill Tax Map

Less than 1 acre

U.T.M.

18 587 750 4532 700
Yonkers, New Jersey-New York