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Seven Chimneys is a typical 18th century Dutch Farmhouse. The foundation walls are about 20" thick, of hand placed stone. The voids are filled with a mixture of straw, lime, clay and sand. The main support beams are 30' long hand-hewn timbers which are approximately 12"x12". The floor beams are joined to the main beams with wooden pegs. The floors are wide pine (12" to 22" in width) splined construction and are secured to the beams with hand-wrought nails.

The original house - center hall and four rooms - has <u>sandstone</u> walls, cut and dressed on the front(south) and random on the rear and two sides. The interior of the stone walls are covered with mud and straw plaster. Interior partition walls are framed, plastered and filled with sand.

Three of the original fireplaces are still in use. Some of the windows have old glass with imperfections and color tint.

The stone house was expanded with an East and West frame wing about 1770: the roof was raised about 1812, The original Smake House still stands: a well house is also on the property.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Seven Chimneys is architecturally and historically significant as an example of early Dutch architecture (circa 1750). It is the only surviving pre-revolutionary structure in Washington Township, and appears on Robert Erskine's map of this area dated 1778. The builder, Nicholas Zabriskie was a known Tory.

The western most room in the West wing was a study from 1915 to 1917 where Theodore Roosevelt spent many weekends with his host, <u>Dr.</u> William Howland. Dr. Howland was publisher of "The Outlook" in 1890 and of "The Independent" in 1913. Roosevelt was contributing editor to these magazines and wrote many of his articles at Seven Chimneys.

It was Dr. Howland who, in 1914, began to call the house Seven Chimneys. He considered the eighth one on the little smokehouse too far away to be included.

From a social/humanitarian standpoint the house is significant in that it was part of the "underground railroad". There is a written record that this house would accept up to six men on their way to Canada and freedom.

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	Berge	n Cour	nty 1	Histori	cal	Socie	ty	Recor	ds							
	H. Du	rie, '	"His	tory of	Sev	en Ch	im	neys",	The R	ecord,	Hack	ens	ack, l	₩.J.		
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

Bergen FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER

New Jersey

STATE

COUNTY

(Number all entries)

Seven Chimneys 25 Chimney Ridge Court Washington Township, Westwood, N.J.

34

Congressional Correspondence:

Rep.William B. Widnall (7th Dist)

Sen. Clifford P. Case Sen. Harrison A. Williams

