

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Bergen	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
The Hermitage

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Waldwic Cottage

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
335 North Franklin Turnpike

CITY OR TOWN:  
Ho-Ho-Kus

STATE: New Jersey      CODE:      COUNTY: Bergen      CODE:     

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Museum use</u>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<u>is contem-</u>
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<u>plated.</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: Mrs. Gardner Fetter, Executrix,  
Estate of Mary Elizabeth Rosencrantz

STREET AND NUMBER:  
621 East Saddle River Road

CITY OR TOWN: Ho-Ho-Kus      STATE: New Jersey      CODE:     

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Bergen County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
County Administration Building

CITY OR TOWN: Hackensack      STATE: New Jersey      CODE:     

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935-40      Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
First Street at Independence Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE:     

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Hermitage (lot 1, block 1, Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus) occupies an approximately rectangular plot of 4.9 acres with a frontage of 568.71 feet along the west side of North Franklin Turnpike and an average depth of about 405 feet. It is bounded on the north by Rosencrantz Lane at the Waldwick Borough line, on the west by the Erie Railroad tracks, and on the south by a private estate of 2.6 acres. A curving driveway leads between red sandstone gateposts to the house. The grounds are overgrown, but the landscaping is restorable and basically intact. One outbuilding west of the house, a small rectangular red sandstone ashlar gable-roofed structure, remains. A board and batten two-storied barn collapsed in 1969 and is not readily restorable.

Of the original house, the 18th-century Hermitage, no adequate records have been found. In 1849 William H. Ranlett, the architect of the present house, Waldwic Cottage, wrote that "Only a very small part of the original building, which was a substantial first class country house, now remains." He also stated that "The original house, like nearly all the old houses in this part of the country, had a piazza on the western front." (See bibliographical reference.) It therefore seems probable that the original house was a typical North Jersey "Dutch" gambrel-roofed building of red sandstone random ashlar with an overhanging roof sheltering a western porch.

The present house, erected in 1845, is a red sandstone building of irregular shape with numerous projections. The south wing is constructed of regular ashlar: the rest is random ashlar. The overall dimensions on the ground are approximately 79' (four-bayed front) by 56'6". The house is one-and-a-half stories plus attic in height and has three intersecting steeply pitched gabled roofs with a total of eight dormer windows, seven of which are two-storied. The shingles are cedar. The main and dormer gables have pierced barge boards and tall wooden finials. The three chimneys are brick. The rectangular south chimney terminates in four square tangent flue stacks set diagonally, and the north chimney has two tall octagonal clay chimney pots. All windows have diamond-shaped lights set in wooden muntins. Most sash is double-hung. The principal windows have wooden Tudor label moldings. The front (east) entrance is under a small flat-roofed porch in an angle formed by the projecting south wing and the rest of the main facade. The paired front doors are framed by a transom and sidelights. The south wing has a one-storied east bay window and a one-storied flat-roofed open wooden porch along the south wall. A brick-floored one-storied low-roofed west porch is inserted between the projecting south wing and the kitchen wing. The north wall has a one-storied flat-roofed enclosed and glazed porch near the north corner and a stone one-storied gable-roofed milk house projecting from the kitchen wing.

Immediately west of the kitchen wing is a free-standing two-storied gable-roofed rubble masonry summer kitchen with billiard room above. The structure measures approximately 21' by 25' and replaced Ranlett's board and batten extension of the kitchen wing in the late 19th century.

The interiors of the house have simply molded architraves, marble mantel-pieces of neo-Gothic design, plastered walls, and ceilings with neither

(continued)

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)      1845

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	losophy <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	itarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

A house called The Hermitage was built on the site of the present structure at an undetermined date in the 18th century. The earliest contemporary documentation for that house appears to be a road map of 1767, when it was marked "Prevost". The property was purchased in 1804 by Elijah Rosencrantz and remained in Rosencrantz family ownership until the death of Miss Mary Elizabeth Rosencrantz in 1970.

In 1845 The Hermitage was rebuilt for Elijah Rosencrantz, Jr. from designs by William H. Ranlett and renamed Waldwic Cottage. The rebuilding and enlargement of the original house was so thorough and extensive as to obliterate almost all readily recognizable traces of the 18th-century work. Some portions of the random ashlar masonry and the two lozenge-shaped panels bearing Masonic symbols which are set into the front (east) wall may date from the 18th century. A "Dutch" door and its wrought-iron hardware in the west kitchen wall is 18th-century, and a possibly reused second-floor corridor door leading to the back hall may date from the 18th century. All other work, with the exception of a detached summer kitchen with billiard room above, which replaced Ranlett's wooden extension of the kitchen wing at an undetermined later 19th-century date, certainly dates from 1845. That being the case, the historical associations of the property, the most notable of which are General Washington's stay there from July 10 to July 14, 1778 and Aaron Burr's courtship of Theodosia (widow of James Mark) Prevost, who became his wife in 1782, can scarcely be connected with the existing house.

Nevertheless, Waldwic Cottage, or The Hermitage, as it is now again called, is an outstanding example of the early, romantic phase of the Gothic revival in American domestic architecture. It is an unusually felicitous and attractive expression of that style and is considerably enhanced by an ample landscaped setting of 4.9 acres. The house is highly significant as an important work of the influential American architect William H. Ranlett and is, as far as can be ascertained, the only remaining house in the Gothic manner certainly attributable to him. Equally rare is the circumstance that, except for the above-mentioned summer kitchen, the house has undergone absolutely no important alterations of any kind. The original painting and graining are clearly visible, and furniture ranging in date from circa 1800 through the 1870's remains in place. The house has very great potential as a completely untampered-with physical document of its period. It is completely authentic and, except for repairable deterioration, perfectly intact. Local authorities are seriously endeavoring to acquire this almost unique survivor of another age for museum purposes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

William H. Ranlett, The Architect, a Series of Original Designs, for Domestic and Ornamental Cōttages and Villas, Connected with Landscape Gardening, Adapted to the United States: ..., New York, DeWitt & Davenport, 1849, Vol. II, pp. 31-32.

Talbot Faulkner Hamlin, The American Spirit in Architecture, New Haven, Yale University Press, (1926), p. 152.

Dorothy Valentine Smith, "Mrs. Prevost Requests the Honor of his Company", Manuscripts, Fall, 1959, pp. 27-31.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

4.9 acres

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 00' 24"	74° 07' 10"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Denys Peter Myers, Principal Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Historic American Buildings Survey, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service      DATE: 04-14-70

STREET AND NUMBER:  
801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington,      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE:     

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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The Hermitage (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description - continued

cornices nor centerpieces. The principal doors are four-paneled. The front stairs ascend in a stright run and have a bracketed open stringer, a square newel post, and one turned banister per tread.

On the first floor, the stairhall runs through the house between the south wing and the dining room. The south wing contains a southeast parlor with a bay window which can be closed off by sliding doors and a southwest sitting room. A chimney is centered between the two rooms, and French windows open from both rooms onto the south porch. The dining room extends the depth of the house north of the front hall. Beyond the dining room is the library in the northeast corner with a small enclosed porch entered through the north wall. There is a chimney between the dining room and the library. The rest of the front block is occupied by a china closet and a pantry. The rear stair hall and the kitchen are west of the dining room in a rear wing. The milk house on the north wall is entered from the kitchen.

On the second floor, the south wing is occupied by two large chambers, closets, and the attic stairs. There is a small sitting room over the east part of the front hall. A large chamber over the dining room and small bedrooms over the library and pantry are entered from an L-shaped corridor which runs north from the west end of the front hall and turns east beyond the large chamber. The rear stairhall and a bedroom over the kitchen are in the west wing. A blind storage space (called the "secret room") is over the milk room.

A full cellar extends under all of the house except the south wing. The attic has two finished rooms in the south wing. The rest is open garret space.