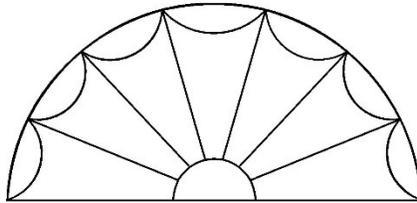


The Casparus I. Westervelt House

610 Lafayette Avenue Block 202, Lot 28.01, Westwood, NJ



Prepared for the Borough of Westwood by:



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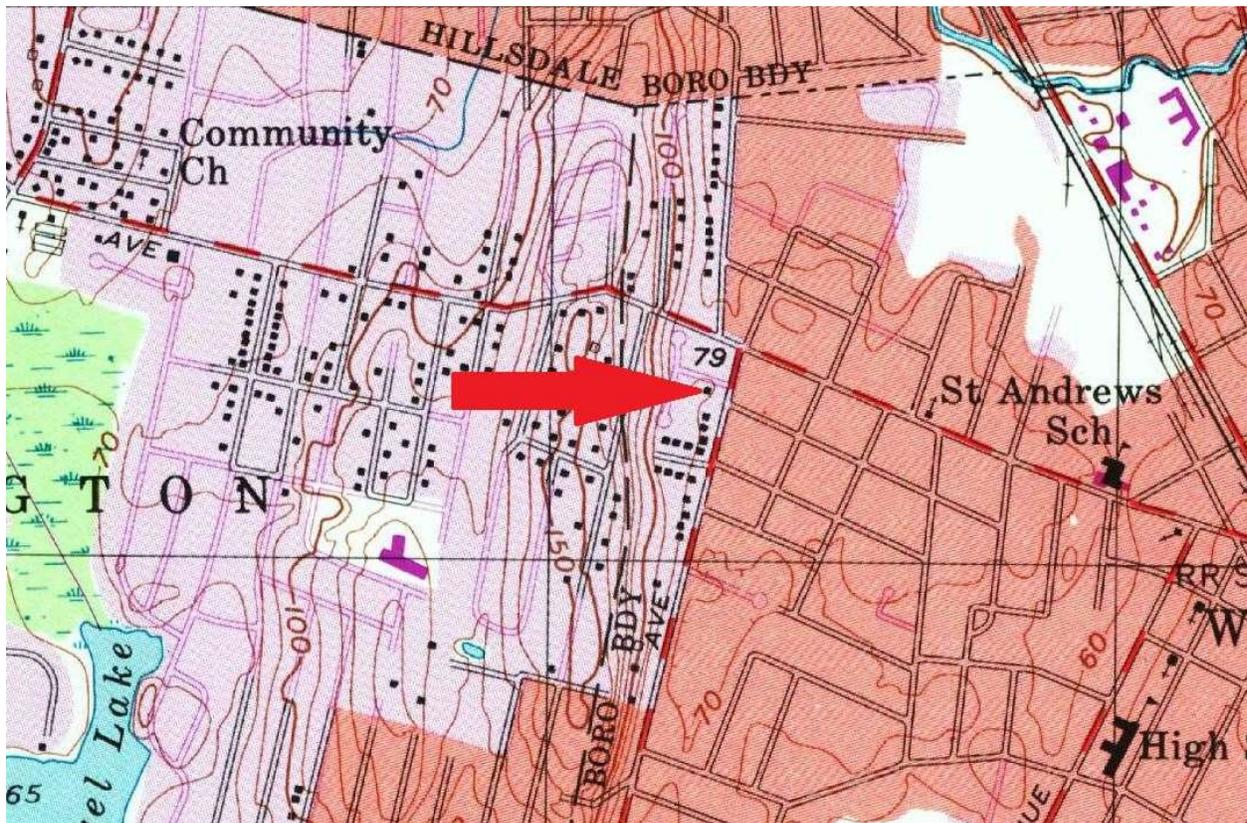
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April 2020

Introduction

Located on the west side of Lafayette Avenue slightly south of the intersection with Washington Avenue stands one of the oldest houses in the Borough of Westwood, and one of the only three surviving pre-1840 dwellings. The Casparus I. Westervelt House situated at 610 Lafayette Avenue is ranked among the finest Greek Revival houses in Bergen County. Remarkably and largely unchanged the house retains its documented look from the days of its construction. This report will endeavor to provide a well-documented history of the structure and its ownership. Among the findings presented concerning the Casparus I. Westervelt House are some very interesting until now undiscovered facts relating to the early developmental history of "Hub of the Pascack Valley."



Topographical map¹ showing location of 610 Lafayette Avenue, the arrow points to the Casparus I. Westervelt House.

¹ U.S. Geological Survey, Hackensack, N.J., 7.5' Quadrangle, NIMA 6165 I NE-SERIES V822, 1997, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado, Revised 1998.



Section of official Tax Map of the Borough of Westwood² showing the subject property Block 202, Lot 28.01.

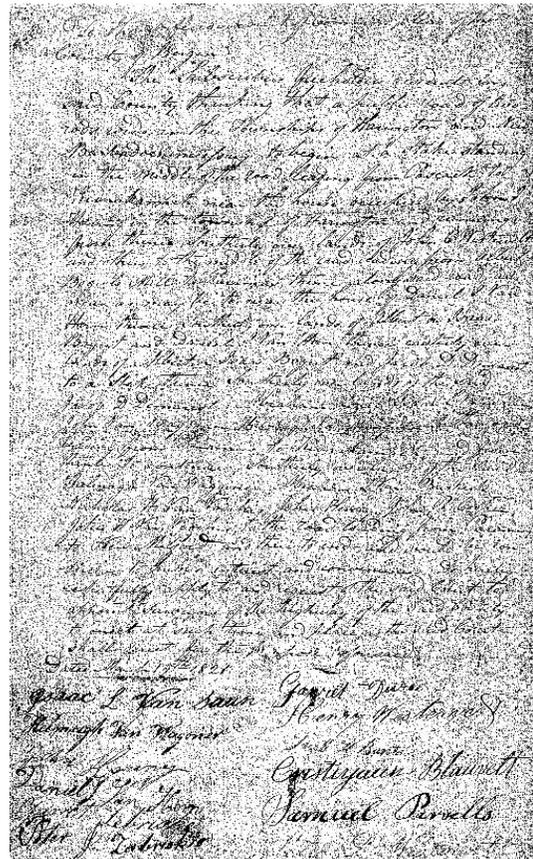
² Tax Map Borough of Westwood, Raimondi, Louise A., P.E., P.L.S., Raimondi Associates, P.A., Westwood New Jersey, 1993, Sheet 2.

History

On April 30, 1821 what we now know as Lafayette Avenue was laid out. This new road starting in what today is Westwood was to run south to the “public road leading from Paramus to New Milford” (today’s Ridgewood Road in Oradell). The Bergen County Road Return (a “deed” for the creation of a County road) stated that “a road 2 rods wide” (33 feet) was surveyed from a point in “the middle of the public road leading from Kinderkamack to Pascack”³ (today’s Washington Avenue in Westwood). That starting point today is the intersection of Washington and Lafayette Avenues. The surveyors in order to establish the center of the intersection started their calculations from the “south west corner of John I. Haring’s dwelling house” to a point “south forty four degrees and three quarters east two chains and forty two links”⁴ (John I. Haring’s dwelling house stood about where 302 Washington Avenue stands today).

The Road Return then states that the new road “runs over the lands of John C. Westervelt”⁵ located immediately south of Washington Avenue. It is important to note that only one dwelling is indicated or noted in the Road Return and that is the home of John I. Haring, otherwise the new road ran over the vacant or undeveloped “lands” of the various property owners along the road’s route.

From this Road Return document, we can with relative certainty, state that the Westervelt House, standing at 610 Lafayette Avenue - was not constructed prior to April 30, 1821.



Page from the 1821 Road Return.

³ Bergen County Road Return, E99, Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

The Westervelts

Now before we move forward, let us look at who this “John C. Westervelt” named on the 1821 Road Return was, his family origin, his son, and the repetitive reuse of the names “John” and “Casparus” in the family.

On April 8, 1662 the ship *Hoop* (Hope) sailed from The Netherlands to New Amsterdam. On board were two brothers from the village of Meppel, Holland they were William Lubbertsen, an “agriculturist,” with his wife and six children, and Lubbert Lubbertsen, also an “agriculturist,” with his wife and four children.⁶ (History shows us that Lubbert is the progenitor of the Westervelt family in Bergen County.)

One of the four children of Lubbert was a son named Roelof (known with the patronymic “Lubbertsen,” and the descriptor “Van Westervelt”), and who was baptized March 10, 1659 in Meppel, Netherlands. At age 29, Roelf married at the town of Bergen (today the Journal Square area of Jersey City), a woman named Orsolena or Wesselena, daughter of Caspar Stymets and Jannekin Gerrits, on March 25, 1688.⁷ On September 17, 1695 Roelof Lubbertsen Van Westervelt purchased, and settled on a piece of property in what is today largely the City of Englewood.⁸

Roelof Lubbertsen Van Westervelt and his wife had a son named Johannes, who was baptized at Hackensack on July 11, 1696. Johannes married Efie, daughter of Peter de Groot and Belitje van Schaick at Hackensack on October 11, 1718. A son born to the couple was named Casparus (after Johannes’s maternal grandfather), and was baptized at Schraalenburgh (today South Church, Bergenfield) on August 11, 1734.⁹

Casparus Westervelt married first Martintie Durie on November 29, 1755,¹⁰ and on April 10, 1760 the couple baptized their son Johannes at the Paramus Reformed

⁶ Westervelt, Walter Tallman, and Dickenson, Wharton, *Genealogy of the Westervelt Family*, Press of Tobias A. Wright, New York, 1905, p. 1.

⁷ *Ibid*, p. 17.

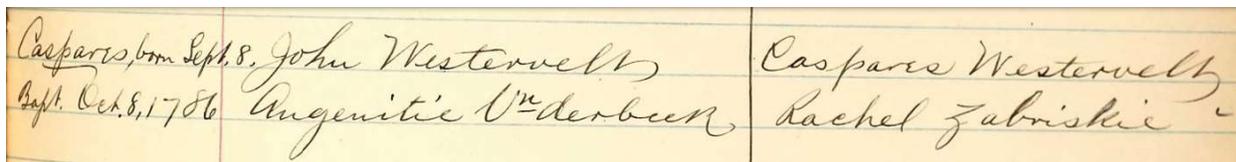
⁸ Harvey, Cornelius Burnham, *Genealogical History of Hudson and Bergen Counties*, The New Jersey Genealogical Publishing Company, New York, New York, 1900, pp. 6-7.

⁹ Westervelt, Walter Tallman, and Dickenson, Wharton, *Genealogy of the Westervelt Family*, Press of Tobias A. Wright, New York, 1905, p. 23.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 31.

Church.¹¹ The Paramus Church was the closest house of worship to what is today Westwood, about 3 miles west, and this may be an indicator that Casparus and his family were living in the area. Johannes adopted the anglicized version of his name, “John,” and used the name of his father, “Casparus,” as a middle name (this is reflected on his tombstone in the Paramus Reformed Church Cemetery). It is this John C. Westervelt who was the owner of the property noted in the 1821 Road Return establishing Lafayette Avenue.

John C. Westervelt married Angenitie Vanderbeek (anglicized to Agnes) prior to October 8, 1786, as it was on that date that their son Casparus I. Westervelt was baptized.



Baptism Record for Casparus Westervelt.

On June 7, 1831 John C. Westervelt drew his will stating that he was “weak in body,” although, he would go on to live almost eight more years. Dying on February 23, 1839, at age 78, John C. Westervelt’s will was probated on March 8, 1839. As per the will Casparus received 180 acres of his father’s land situated in Harrington Township.¹² (The area today known as Westwood was formerly part of Harrington Township until April 13, 1840, when after a vote that caused a riot,¹³ the portion west of the Hackensack River became Washington Township.) At the time of his father John C. Westervelt’s

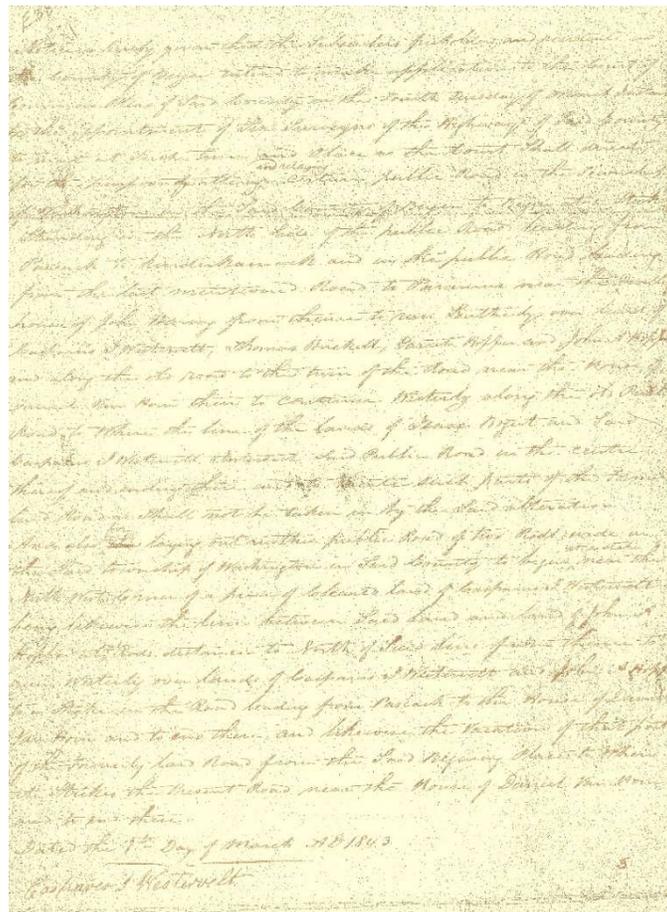
¹¹ Ancestry.com. *U.S., Dutch Reformed Church Records in Selected States, 1639-1989* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Original data: *Dutch Reformed Church Records from New York and New Jersey*, Holland Society of New York, New York, New York.

¹² Bergen County Surrogate Records, Office of the Bergen County Surrogate, Hackensack, New Jersey, John C. Westervelt, Probate date March 8, 1839, Case Number 2243.

¹³ The decision to split off the western half of Harrington Township into its own township was a result of a greater portion of the school taxes for the districts in the eastern half being paid by those in the west. The election to divide the township was held at Jersey’s Tavern (today the site of the Woodcliff Lake Borough hall). Some in the eastern half knowing they benefited from the taxes from the western portion, decided to disrupt the election. Ruffians from the Alpine quarries were recruited to go as a mob and stop the election. Details of the events reported in *The Paterson Intelligencer* newspaper stated that those charged to “protect the ballot-box were severely wounded, the furniture and walls of the room were violently broken in the contest.” For years after, those in Bergen County politics charged one another with being involved.

death, Casparus was 52 years old, had been married to his wife Marytije (Mary) Van Riper¹⁴ for 21 years, and had a son (born August 1818) named - John C. Westervelt.

On March 8, 1843 Casparus I. Westervelt (and others) made an application to the County for improvements in the course of we know today as Lafayette Avenue, and on April 15th the six “surveyors of the highways of the County of Bergen” met at the house of Casparus I. Westervelt to “alter and relay” the public road. In addition, the surveyors were to “lay out another public road of two rods wide”¹⁵ (the western end of Mill Street).



Application for the alterations of Lafayette Avenue by Casparus I. Westervelt.

¹⁴ Casparus Westervelt married Marytije (Mary) Van Riper November 8, 1817 at Saddle River Landing Reformed Dutch Church. According to Patricia A. Wardell’s, *A Dictionary of Place Names in Bergen County, New Jersey and Vicinity* – “the church at this locality was served abt. 1816-1826 by Wilhelmus Eltinge, who also served as minister to the Paramus Reformed Church from about 1799-1850. The neighborhood of “Saddle River Landing” probably included parts of the communities later known as Glen Rock, Fairlawn and Paterson.

¹⁵ Bergen County Road Return, F 37, Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

popular in domestic American architecture until c.1830.¹⁷ The house could have been theoretically standing for roughly 13 years when it was pictured in the 1843 map (if the house was being built on the cutting edge of style in 1830). Now, since we know that the elder John C. Westervelt owned the property until his will was probated on March 8, 1839 the question arises as to – who built the house? It does not seem likely that the elder John C. Westervelt embarked on building a large new house in 1830 (or thereafter), as he was 69 years old in that year. A possible consideration is that when John drew up his will in 1831, he soon after allowed his son Casparus to build a home on lands that he knew because of his being “weak in body,” were soon going to be his son’s. Another consideration is that Casparus acquired his father’s property upon finalization of the estate in 1839, and then built the house prior to April 15, 1843 when it was noted in the Road Return. Given all the evidence, it is safe to say the house that stands today at 610 Lafayette Avenue was built by Casparus I. Westervelt.

In 1840 Hugo L. Dickins created a map for the United States Coast Survey that focused on the west side of the Hudson River from Boompers Hook in today’s Alpine north as far as Croton Point in Westchester County, and west to “Goffle Mountain” (today’s Hawthorne). The map shows waterways, mountains and hills, forested areas, orchards, roads (unlabeled), mills, barns (as unfilled squares), and houses (as filled squares). What is today the Borough of Westwood is depicted and this may very well be the earliest map view of the entire borough showing houses and other important features. The Casparus I. Westervelt House is shown with two barns situated to the south of the dwelling.¹⁸



1840 U.S. Coast Survey map showing the Casparus I. Westervelt house.

¹⁷ McAlester, Virginia Savage, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2015, p. 250.

¹⁸ U.S. Coast Survey, *Map of Part of New York and New Jersey*, 1840, with section showing Westwood, Image T00132-00-1840. Accessed through <<https://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/image=T00132-00-1840>>.

Just shy of turning 58, Casparus I. Westervelt drew his will on August 24, 1844 stating, “considering the uncertainty of this mortal life and being weak in body,” and with this statement one can assume that that he had taken ill. This is confirmed by the fact that Casparus died 29 days later on September 22, 1844. Within his will, probated on October 1, 1844 Caspaurs made provisions that his wife “Maria during the time she shall remain my widow shall have the use of the northerly large room and bedroom of my dwelling house with the privilege of the use of the cellar kitchen and I also give and bequeath unto her during the said time of her widowhood all my household furniture.”¹⁹ To his son John C. Westervelt he bequeathed “all my real estate in consideration therefore to provide my wife Maria with firewood for her use during the time she shall remain my widow.” Caspaurs also bequeathed to his son John all his shares in the steamboat “Warren.”²⁰ The steamboat Warren was built in New York City by Sneden and Lawrence shipyard prior to 1837, with funding from a number of local businessmen who had formed a stock company to build the boat. It served the transportation needs of the Bergen and Rockland Counties by making stops at the local Hudson River landings.²¹ Capaurs’s widow, Maria would live nearly 37 more years, and as per late husband’s will - in her home until it was sold.

The October 1, 1844 finalization of Capaurs’s estate and the acquisition of the property was likely very much welcomed as John C. Westervelt had married Leah Hopper at the Paramus Reformed Church on May 28, 1841,²² and their son Jasper was born June 10, 1844.²³

In 1850 the U. S. Census recorded that John C. Westervelt, age 32, was a farmer with real estate worth \$20,000. Also living in the household was; Leah (John’s wife), age 32; their son Casper (Jasper), age 6; Maria (John’s mother), age 60; a laborer named

¹⁹ According to the *Index to Surrogate’s Dockets - Bergen County*, an inventory of the possessions for Casparus I. Westervelt was filed on February 3, 1845. Unfortunately, the online database shows that only the cover sheet survives, and the petition papers are missing. Online source: *Ancestry.com. New Jersey, Wills and Probate Records, 1739-1991 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015. Original data: New Jersey County, District and Probate Courts. Surrogate’s Court (Bergen County); Probate Place: Bergen, New Jersey. Estate Papers, File #2486.*

²⁰ Will of John C. Westervelt, Bergen County Surrogate Records, Office of the Bergen County Surrogate, Hackensack, New Jersey, Volume F of Wills, 1842-1850, pp. 179-181.

²¹ Green, Frank Bertangue, *The History of Rockland County*, A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, 1886, p. 213.

²² *Ancestry.com. New Jersey, Marriage Records, 1670-1965 [database on-line].* Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016, original data: *Marriage Records. New Jersey Marriages.* New Jersey State Archives, Trenton, New Jersey.

²³ Dutch Reformed Church Records, *Paramus New Jersey, Vol I Book 67*, The Holland Society of New York, New York, New York.

Anthony Earl; and an African American girl named San, age 10.²⁴ Concerning San, what is not indicated is her true status in reference to being free.

1850 United States Federal Census for John C Westervelt						
New Jersey > Bergen > Washington						
Family No.	Name	Age	Sex	Race	Occupation	Real Estate
1016	John C Westervelt	32	M		Farmer	2000
	Leah "	32	F			
	Jasper "	6	M			
	Anthony Earl	45	M		Laborer	
	Maria Westervelt	60	F			
	San "	10	F			

1850 U. S. Census record for John C. Westervelt.

The 1850 census named all “free” members of households, white and nonwhite. The enumerator recorded the person’s name, age, sex, place of birth, and the color of each free person in a household (e.g., black, white, or mulatto). Slaves in the 1850 census were enumerated on a separate schedule. The census does not record slave names.²⁵ Now even though San is named and “technically” a free person, she could have theoretically been held bound to be a servant under New Jersey law. In 1804 the New Jersey Legislature passed “An Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery.” It provided that females born of slave parents after July 4, 1804, would be free upon reaching 21 years of age, and males upon reaching 25. So, if San’s mother was born a slave prior to the 1804 cutoff date, San as a child of a slave would have been required to labor as a servant for a master (or his executor, administrator, or assigns) until she reached age 21. In truth, slavery existed in a form within New Jersey until the ratification of the 13th amendment in 1865.²⁶

The 1860 U. S. Census was enumerated in Washington Township on July 15, 1860, and the household of John C. Westervelt was recorded. John C. Westervelt was noted to be a 42-year old farmer with a personal estate worth \$3,000 and with real estate valued at \$18,000. In addition Leah his wife is noted to be 43 years old; Jasper is age 16

²⁴ Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); *Washington, Bergen, New Jersey*; Roll: M432_442; Page: 268A; Image: 546; Records of the Bureau of the Census; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

²⁵ *African Americans and the Federal Census, 1790–1930*, National Archives and Records, Washington, DC. Accessed through <<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/census/african-american/census-1790-1930.pdf>>.

²⁶ Wright, Giles R., *Afro-Americans in New Jersey*, New Jersey Historical Commission, Department of State, Trenton, New Jersey, 1988, p. 27.

and attending school; Maria (John's mother) is noted to have the occupation of "old lady;" and listed as a laborer is 18 year old Isaac H. Sherrit along with Cors Sherrit age 14.²⁷

1860 United States Federal Census for John C Westervelt							
New Jersey > Bergen > Washington							
Family No.	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Occupation	Real Estate	Personal Estate
233	John Westervelt	42	M	"	Farmer	1000	300
	Leah "	43	F	"	Wife		
	Jasper "	16	M	"			
	Maria "	40	F	"	Old Lady		400
	Isaac H. Sherrit	18	M	"	Laborer		
	Cors "	14	"	"	"		

1860 U. S. Census record for John C. Westervelt.

In 1861 a cadastral map (showing land ownership, usually for taxation) of Bergen and Passaic Counties was published. Titled the *Map of the counties of Bergen and Passaic, New Jersey: from actual surveys*, it was created by Hopkins, Griffith Morgan, Jr, G. H. Corey, and John E. Gillette of Philadelphia, Pa.²⁸ (it is often simply identified as "Hopkins-Corey 1861 map"²⁹). This is the first county wide map to label ownership of buildings. The map has long been considered the representation of the extent of housing density and home ownership in the area at the time of its creation.

Unfortunately, that is not the case. As was a custom at the time, advanced sales of such a map were made prior to publication. And as an incentive, the publisher promised to include your name and house with pre-purchase (those owners who did not make an advanced purchase simply had their homes left off the map). A comparative study of the number of dwellings shown on the Hopkins-Corey 1861 map for Bergen County to the number of dwellings recorded in the 1860 U. S. Census for the various Bergen County Townships found that there were 27.78% fewer dwellings on the 1861 Hopkins-

²⁷ Eighth Census of the United States, 1860; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M653, 1438 rolls); *Washington, Bergen, New Jersey*; Roll: M653; Page: 701; Film 803683; Records of the Bureau of the Census; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

²⁸ Hopkins, Griffith Morgan, Jr, G. H. Corey, and John E. Gillette. *Map of the counties of Bergen and Passaic, New Jersey: from actual surveys*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, G. H. Corey, Publisher, 1861. Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2011588009/>.

²⁹ This shortening of the map title is consistent with the pattern of *The County of Bergen Historic Sites Survey*, Office of Cultural and Historic Affairs, Hackensack, 1985.

Corey Map than those recorded in the 1860 U. S. Census. This is a rather accurate picture as the Census taking and the surveying for the map took place withing months of one another. Note: of the nine townships in Bergen County, Washington Township had nearly all of the dwellings in the Census on the map. John C. Westervelt's name and home are proudly noted on the map, and a copy of the map was possibly displayed in the home.



Hopkins-Corey 1861 map showing the J. C. Westervelt House, and most of today's Westwood.

During the Jacksonian period up to the start of the American Civil War there was a remarkable explosive growth in the number of volunteer militia units. Three hundred sprang up in California between 1849 and 1856 alone, and one out of every twenty-nine people in the District of Columbia belonged to a volunteer company. This burgeoning mass appeal of the volunteer militia were akin to our modern social clubs, fraternal organizations, and or organized amateur sports teams. So popular were these colorful “fixtures of the American scene” that the local organized volunteer pre-Civil War militia supplanted that of the actual enrolled militia.³⁰ Bergen County was not without its share of volunteer military companies, and some of those known were: The Hackensack Continental Guards, The Bergen County Rifles, The Bergen County Battalion, The Bergen Brigade, The Jersey Blues Company, The Emmet Light Guards,

³⁰ Weigley, Russell F. *History of the United States Army*. New York: Macmillan, 1967, p. 157.

and The Harrington Rifles.^{31 32 33} So unregulated were these Bergen County groups that in 1860 the State of New Jersey passed a law dictating that “it shall be not be lawful for any military or other company to shoot at any target or mark” within certain populated areas of the County without permission from the justice of the peace.³⁴

A clue in the historical record indicates the residents of what is now Westwood (and the surrounding neighborhood) participated in this popular volunteer military activity. And John C. Westervelt was apparently a leader in a local company – as this is shown by two facts. First, sometime after 1848 Westervelt divided off a lot on the western portion of his land for the erection of a “Military Hall”³⁵ (this drill hall likely stood in present day Washington Township). Second, during the Civil War, when the call for men to fill the ranks from New Jersey was made by the Governor on August 4, 1862 – John C. Westervelt answered. On September 2, 1862 John C. Westervelt enlisted as Captain of Company D of the 22nd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteer Infantry. And his son Jasper, enlisted on that day as 5th Sergeant.³⁶ As was often the practice – leaders in the volunteer military companies automatically became leaders in the newly formed regiments.

The 22nd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry was a “nine-month” regiment with the rank and file mostly made up of Bergen County men. A study of the enlistment roll for Company D shows that it consisted of men largely from what is now Westwood.³⁷ Not known to have the most illustrious regimental history in the Army of the Potomac, the 22nd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry did though take part in the Chancellorsville Campaign and Battle, April 27-May 6, 1863. Captain John C. Westervelt and his son Sergeant Jasper J. Westervelt took part in the action around Chancellorsville and both apparently received injuries. While there are no records of how they were injured, both men were resigned to hospitals in the following weeks;



Seminary Hospital at Georgetown.

³¹ Van Valen, James M., *History of Bergen County, New Jersey*, New Jersey pub. and engraving co., New York, 1900, p. 115.

³² Legislative Documents, *Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of New Jersey*, for the year 1862, Trenton, 1863, p. 7.

³³ The Historical Marker Database, *Civil War Armory and Drill Hall*, Leonia. Retrieved from <<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=54805>>.

³⁴ New Jersey, Legislature, Senate, *Journal of the Sixteenth Senate of the State of New Jersey*, Trenton, 1860, p.52.

³⁵ Bergen County Deeds, Book F8, Page 302 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

³⁶ New Jersey, Adjutant-General's Office, *Officers and Men of New Jersey in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865*, Trenton, New Jersey, John L. Murphy, Steam Book and Job Printer, 1876. Two volumes. “Published by authority of the Legislature.” William S. Stryker, Adjutant General. N.J. Civil War Record, Volume One, p. 767.

³⁷ The muster roll was compared to the 1860 U. S. Census, and the Hopkins-Corey 1861 map.

John to Seminary Hospital at Georgetown and Jasper to the General Hospital at Acquia Creek, Virginia. This is known through a collection of letters preserved in the archives of The New Jersey Historical Society. Within the collection there are nine letters written by John C. Westervelt to his wife, mother, and son. And there are five letters written by Jasper, to his father, mother and grandmother, also two letters by Lieutenant Walter H. Ramsey of the 22nd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry addressed to Captain John Westervelt during the latter's recovery period in the hospital. Transcripts of the letters in the Historical Society collection include brief summaries with historical background to accompany the letters. The collection is organized into three groups, each by author, and chronologically therein.

The first set of nine letters by John C. Westervelt were written while he was a Captain in Company D, depicting the daily tasks of a Civil War soldier. He writes to his family about his decision not to pursue a dismissal but to continue his service, with updates on his health as well as the health of friends and fellow soldiers. A letter to his son Jasper dated April 29, 1863 reveals a sentimental father discussing the difficulties of family separation during wartime. Regulations at the time prohibited officers and enlisted men from fraternizing, thus they were separated (even though they were in the same company). Several other letters to Jasper include questions regarding military operations, the success of these operations, and the progress of the war. John also includes a discussion about the recent formation of the Invalid Corps noting that it was created for injured and crippled soldiers.



National colors of the 22nd Regiment
New Jersey Volunteer Infantry.

The second set includes five letters written by, Sergeant Jasper Westervelt. These letters express well wishes for family at home and his father in the service. They include updates on his health and that of his father and contain only a small amount of military information. The final set of letters includes two letters written by 1st Lieutenant Walter H. Ramsey also of the 22nd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry.³⁸ The letters offer valuable historic information concerning the Civil War and the Borough of Westwood – and should be included in the local school curriculum.

³⁸ Manuscript Group 1597, *John C. Westervelt and Jasper Westervelt Letters*, The New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place, Newark, New Jersey. Retrieved from <<https://jerseyhistory.org/guide-to-the-john-c-westervelt-and-jasper-westervelt-civil-war-soldiers-letters1862-1863mg-1597/#series1>>.

In 1861, as a result of the Civil War the federal government was strapped for cash, and to remedy the situation President Lincoln and Congress agreed to implement the first federal income tax with the Revenue Act. Records for three years exist which show that John C. Westervelt paid federal taxes. In 1862, while shown as living in Washington Township, John paid \$2.00 in taxes on one two-horse carriage valued at \$100. In 1865, he paid taxes on \$317 in income, a carriage valued at \$150, a second carriage valued at \$75, two watches valued at \$50 each, and an organ valued at \$150 – in all he paid \$22.85 in taxes. Finally, in 1866, a total of \$26.10 in taxes were paid on the value of two carriages, three watches, and a piano.³⁹

Of note in 1865 and 1866 the location of John's residence was recorded as "Pleasantville." On June 21, 1862 a post office named Pleasantville was established in what is present day Westwood with William Bortick as the first Postmaster. Pleasantville is often incorrectly thought to simply be "Westwood," where in fact the area served by the post office was much larger. In terms of general modern locations Pleasantville spanned east and west from the Hackensack River to the eastern line of Washington Township, and north and south from Prospect Avenue in Rivervale to Soldier Hill Road in Oradell.⁴⁰

On June 30, 1870 the U. S. Census was enumerated in Washington Township, and the household of John C. Westervelt was recorded. John C. Westervelt was noted to be a 52-year old farmer with a personal estate worth \$31,500 and with real estate valued at \$40,000. In addition, Leah his wife is noted to be 53 years old; their son Jasper is age 26 and married to Mary Leya age 26, and they had a daughter Leanore, who was 3 years old; Maria (John's mother) is noted to be 80 years old.⁴¹

³⁹ *Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for New York and New Jersey, 1862-1866*; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M603, 217 rolls); Records of the Internal Revenue Service, Record Group 58; The National Archives at Washington, D.C.

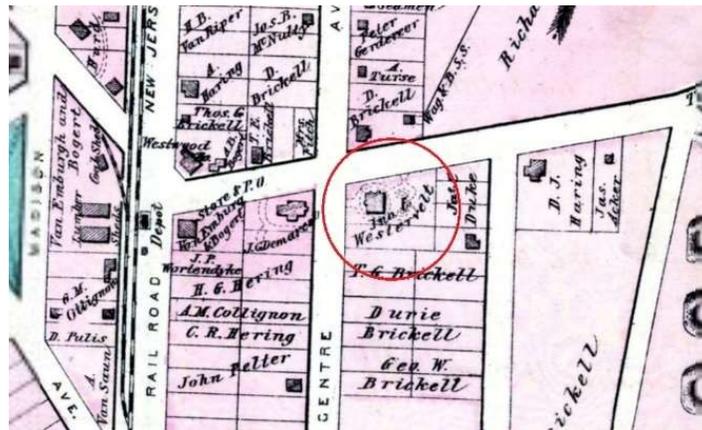
⁴⁰ The area of Pleasantville was determined by comparing the 1865 and 1866 *Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for New Jersey, Division 9, District 4*, which shows 72 people who are recorded to be in the Pleasantville Post Office area with those same named individuals indicated as homeowners on the 1861 Hopkins - Corey map.

⁴¹ *Ninth Census of the United States, 1870*; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M593, 1,761 rolls); *Washington, Bergen, New Jersey*; Roll: M593-852; Page: 562A; Film 552351; Records of the Bureau of the Census; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

1870 United States Federal Census for Jasper Westervelt							
New Jersey > Bergen > Washington							
Name	Age	Sex	Race	Occupation	Real Estate	Personal Estate	Birthplace
Westervelt John C	52	M	W	Farmer	40000	31500	New Jersey
" Leah	53	F	W	Keeping House			New Jersey
" Jasper	26	M	W				New Jersey
" Mary Luiza	26	F	W				New Jersey
" Selmore	3	F	W				New Jersey
" Mary	80	F	W				New Jersey

1870 U. S. Census record for John C. Westervelt

On August 30, 1870 John C. Westervelt purchased a 5,230 square foot lot, on the southwest corner of "Westwood Avenue (formerly called Greenwood Avenue)" and Center Avenue.⁴² This was followed by John C. Westervelt and his wife Leah issuing seven deeds for property in Washington Township, including his homestead property (today known as 610 Lafayette Avenue). One may surmise that John C. Westervelt then age 52 was retiring from the hard work of farming and moving into his "retirement" home in the emerging town of Westwood. The 1876 *Walkers Atlas of Bergen County* shows that John C. Westervelt was owner of a large house on the southeast corner of Westwood Avenue and Center Ave.⁴³



John C. Westervelt's new home in downtown Westwood, as shown in the 1876 Atlas of Bergen County.

⁴² Bergen County Deeds, Book U7, Page 548 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁴³ Pease-Walker, 1876 *Atlas of Bergen County*, Historic Map Works Rare Historic Maps Collection, Sheet 111 Park Ridge and Westwood. Retrieved from <<http://www.historicmapworks.com>>.

Robert J. Tanner

On June 19, 1874 John C. Westervelt and Leah his wife of the Township of Washington sold two parcels to Robert J. Tanner of the City of Paterson for the sum of \$19,000.00.⁴⁴

The property was described as “situate lying and being in the Township of Washington in the County of Bergen and state of New Jersey.” The first lot or parcel was described as beginning “at a point in the middle of the road running from Westwood to Paramus nine chains and thirteen links south of where the said road intersects the original center of Washington Avenue & running thence from the before mentioned point (1) north sixty six degrees west eleven chains and thirteen links (2) north sixteen and three quarter degrees east three chains and thirteen links (3) south seventy nine degrees east four chains and thirty links (4) north seventeen degrees east five chains and ninety one links (5) south fifty nine and one half degrees east sixteen chains and thirty three links (6) south sixteen and one quarter degrees west nine chains and twenty seven links (7) north fifty nine and one half degrees west two chains and twenty seven links to the place of beginning. Containing seventeen acres and forty hundredths of an acre.” The second lot was a 9.53-acre parcel to the southeast of the first lot.⁴⁵

The metes and bounds of the property were entered into a computerized plat planning program, and a plat plan was produced showing the first lot sold to Robert J. Tanner. This is the property where 610 Lafayette Avenue stands today.



Plat plan of the first lot purchased by Robert J. Tanner from John C. Westervelt.

⁴⁴ Bergen County Deeds, Book F9, Page 353 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

The historical record does not reveal much about Robert J. Tanner. What is known is that prior to the purchase on June 19, 1874 Tanner was an established resident of Paterson as stated in the deed. And that is confirmed by two records, the first being the 1870 U.S. Census record which notes he was a 32 year old unmarried book keeper with a personal estate worth \$1,000 and with real estate valued at \$1,000.⁴⁶ And the second record is the 1874 Patterson City Directory where Robert James Tanner is listed as a paymaster living on Buffalo Avenue.⁴⁷

The 1876 *Atlas of Bergen County* shows that “R. J. Tanner” was the owner of the Westervelt property.⁴⁸ The map was overlaid into Google Earth, with the position of the Westervelt House as shown on the satellite image – and the house position in 1876 lines up perfectly.



1876 *Atlas of Bergen County* overlaid into Google Earth showing the Westervelt House with R. J. Tanner as owner.

⁴⁶ Ninth Census of the United States, 1870; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M593, 1,761 rolls); *Paterson Ward 2, Passaic, New Jersey*; Roll: M593-855; Page: 318A; Film 552384; Records of the Bureau of the Census; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁴⁷ *Boyd's Paterson City Directory*, C. M. & A. Herrick Printers, Paterson, New Jersey, 1874, p. 201.

⁴⁸ Pease-Walker, *1876 Atlas of Bergen County*, Historic Map Works Rare Historic Maps Collection, Sheet 113 Washington Township. Retrieved from <<http://www.historicmapworks.com>>.

As to when Robert J. Tanner ceased ownership of the former Westervelt property, that is unknown, as no record has been discovered. Although there is evidence to establish a range of time. A record that the property reverted to the Westervelt family is found in a deed dated April 25, 1895 which shows that Leanore Voorhis (the granddaughter of John C. Westervelt) sold the property. The will of John C. Westervelt reveals that Leanore was his granddaughter (through his son Jasper, as does the 1870 Census). And the probate record for John C. Westervelt reveals that after Jasper's death on June 21, 1887 (at age 43), Leanore took on her father's responsibility becoming executrix of her grandfather's estate.⁴⁹ Of note, the Patterson City Directories for 1876 and 1878 do not have listings for Robert J. Tanner (as he was likely living in the Westervelt House), but the 1879 directory does have a listing for him.⁵⁰ Thus, we may conclude that Robert J. Tanner ceased ownership of the former Westervelt prior to January 1879 when the directory was created.

A search for records to establish how Leanore Voorhis acquired the property from Robert J. Tanner has not found evidence of transference. The fact exists though, that ownership from Tanner to Voorhis was accomplished, and the only logical answer is that it was through an unrecorded deed. When John C. Westervelt sold his property to Robert J. Tanner on June 19, 1874 there was no mortgage held by Westervelt, as the deed states that the "sum of nineteen thousand dollars lawful money of the United States of America to them in hand well and truly paid by the said party of the second part at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents the [inserted word - 'record'] whereof is hereby acknowledged and the said party of the first part therewith fully satisfied contented and paid."⁵¹

There is the possibility though that Robert J. Tanner privately mortgaged the property with John C. Westervelt after the initial sale, and that the property was foreclosed on. The possibility of such is indicated by the economic turmoil caused by the Depression of 1873-1879, and the fact that the probate inventory of the personal property of John C. Westervelt taken on November 13, 1885 shows that four private mortgages were held by him at the time of his death.⁵²

⁴⁹ Bergen County Surrogate Records, Office of the Bergen County Surrogate, Hackensack, New Jersey, John C. Westervelt, Probate, Administrators bonds, vol A, C, 1861-1901, p. 678 & c.

⁵⁰ *Boyd's Paterson City Directory*, C. M. & A. Herrick Printers, Paterson, New Jersey, 1879, p. 168.

⁵¹ Bergen County Deeds, Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey, Book F-9, Page 353 & c.

⁵² Bergen County Surrogate Records, Office of the Bergen County Surrogate, Hackensack, New Jersey, John C. Westervelt, Probate date November 13, 1885, Liber Q of Inventories, P. 134 &c., Case Number 7456B.

Lillian Breckbill

On April 25, 1895 Leanore Voorhis and William W. (her husband) of the Township of Washington sold by deed the property today known as 610 Lafayette Avenue to Lillian Breckbill of the Borough of Westwood. The sale price was \$6,400.⁵³

The property is described as “Beginning in the middle of the road leading westerly from Westwood to Paramus and six hundred and four feet southerly from where the said road intersects the original center line of what is known as Washington Avenue and running from that point (1) north sixty degrees west seven hundred and thirty four and fifty eight one hundredths feet to the south westerly corner of this lot herein intended to be described (2) north sixteen and three quarter degrees east about six hundred and ninety one feet to the north westerly corner of said lot being the middle of a road lately dedicated by deed of dedication being the continuation of Washington Avenue thence (3) through the middle of the same south fifty nine and one half degrees east eight hundred and three feet thence (4) south twenty two and one half degrees west six hundred four feet to the place of beginning. Containing about eleven and one quarter acres.”⁵⁴

Further the deed states that the property is “being part of the same premises described in a deed made by John C. Westervelt and his wife to R. J. Tanner dated June 19th AD 1874 and recorded in Lieber F-9 of deeds pp 353 &c. thus being also included in the above description being the north westerly corner thereof a part of what is known as the L – farm.”⁵⁵ What exactly the “L – farm” means is unclear.

The metes and bounds of the property described in the April 25, 1895 deed were entered into a computerized plat planning program, and a plat plan was produced showing the first lot sold to Lillian Breckbill. In comparing this plat plan to the one from June 19, 1874, we notice that the area of the property has been reduced by about six acres by a subdivision.

⁵³ Bergen County Deeds, Book 401, Page 564 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.



Plat plan of the property purchased by Lillian Breckbill from Leanore Voorhis.

Concerning personal information regarding Lillian Breckbill, there is little available. Other than the deeds for her purchase and sale of the Westervelt property, there are only four other records. First is the New Jersey State Census taken in June 1895 for the Borough of Westwood in the Township of Washington which reveals that Lillian Breckbill was between the age of 30 and 60 and living in her household was a man named John Bell between the age of 30 and 60.⁵⁶

Page No. 21

NEW JERSEY STATE CENSUS, A. D. 1895.

County of *Bergen* Township of *Washington* Borough of *Westwood*

Enumeration made by *L. M. Plouck*

Dwelling house, numbered Premises, numbered in order of visitations No. of	NAMES OF PERSONS	NATIVE BORN			FOREIGN BORN			AGE OF MALES BY CLASSES			AGE OF FEMALES BY CLASSES			REMARKS												
		White Male	White Female	Colored Male	Colored Female	Male, Irish	Female, Irish	Male, German	Female, German	Male, all other nationalities	Female, all other nationalities	5 to 10	10 to 15		15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 60	Over 60		
125159560 561	<i>Lillian Breckbill</i>		1																							
	<i>John Bell</i>																									

1895 New Jersey State Census showing the household of Lillian Breckbill.

⁵⁶ Ancestry.com. *New Jersey, State Census, 1895* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: New Jersey Department of State. *1895 State Census of New Jersey*. Trenton, NJ, USA: New Jersey State Archives. 54 reels. Accessed through <www.ancestry.com>.

Two other records are the 1888 and 1889 New York City Directories which show that Lillian Breckbill was the widow of William W. Breckbill, she was a dressmaker, and in 1888 she lived at 288 8th Avenue and in 1889 at 756 Seventh Avenue.⁵⁷

Of the other records, the third, is a document dated June 25, 1897, where Lillian Breckbill and Cornelius S. De Baun both of Westwood entered into an agreement to establish a right of way on the property owned by Lillian Breckbill. Cornelius S. De Baun is stated in the document to have recently purchased from Hiram Bellis a tract of land adjoining that of Lillian Breckbill that he acquired with intention of creating a reservoir “for the storage of water for the purpose of supplying Westwood and other villagers the same for private and public use.” The right of way “fourteen feet in width” was created for the purpose of laying “water pipes and mains across the lands of said Lillian Breckbill.”⁵⁸

A search concerning Cornelius S. De Baun’s efforts in creating his own water company has not revealed solid evidence of its existence (physical evidence, map evidence, photographs, etc.). Although, an 1897 edition of the *Engineering News and American Railway Journal* has the following: “Westwood, N. J. – Cornelius S. De Baun is reported to have been granted an exclusive franchise for 20 years to supply this place with water. Mr. De Baun writes us that his plant, built in 1894, is in perfect condition.”⁵⁹ Interestingly, the 1900 U. S. Census shows that Cornelius De Baun indicated that his occupation was “Turner of Water Works.”⁶⁰

On October 11, 1898 Lillian Breckbill, “widow of the Borough of Westwood” sold the Westervelt property back to Leanore Voorhis, of the Borough of Westwood for the sum of \$5,050. The property is described as “Beginning in the middle of the road leading westerly from Westwood to Paramus and six hundred and four feet southerly from where the said road intersects the original center line of what is known as Washington Avenue and running from that point (1) north sixty degrees west seven hundred and thirty four and fifty eight one hundredths (734 58/100) feet to the southwesterly corner of this lot herein intended to be described thence (2) north sixteen and three quarter degrees east about six hundred and ninety one (691) feet to the northwesterly corner of said lot being the middle of a road lately dedicated by deed of

⁵⁷ Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Accessed through <www.ancestry.com>.

⁵⁸ Bergen County Deeds, Book 466, Page 646 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁵⁹ *Engineering News and American Railway Journal*, Volume XXXVIII, July-December 1897, The Engineering News Publishing Company, New York, N.Y., p. 232.

⁶⁰ 1900 U. S. Census search for Cornelius DeBaun, Westwood, N. J., accessed through www.ancestry.com.

dedication being the continuation of Washington Avenue thence (3) through the middle of the same south fifty nine and one half degrees east eight hundred and three (803) feet thence (4) south twenty two and one half degrees west six hundred four (604) feet to the place of beginning. Containing about eleven and one quarter acres.”⁶¹

The property is stated as being the same premises conveyed to Lillian Breckbill by Leanore Voorhis and husband by deed dated April 25, 1895 recorded in Book 401, Page 564. The property was subject to the “covenants and agreements made by and between Lillian Breckbill and Cornelius S. De Baun, dated June 25th, 1897, and recorded in Book 466 of Deeds, Page 646.”⁶² As to why the property was sold back to Leanore Voorhis the answer to the question remains unknown. But a year and a little over three months later Leanore Voorhis sold the property to one Hattie S. Dickenson.

Hattie S. Dickenson

According to a deed dated January 30, 1900 Leanore Voorhis, widow of the Borough of Westwood sold two tracts to Hattie S. Dickenson the wife of Asa D. Dickenson (also of Westwood) for the sum of \$6,000. The tracts were noted to be “in the Borough of Westwood” and “The Township of Washington.”⁶³

The Township of Washington tract (the second tract) was two and two hundredths of an acre and was adjoining the property to the west. (This second tract is outside the scope of this report.)

The first tract (in Westwood) is described “Beginning in the middle of the road leading westerly from Westwood to Paramus and six hundred and four feet southerly from where the said road intersects the original center line of what is known as Washington Avenue and running from that point north sixty degrees west seven hundred and thirty four and fifty eight one hundredths (734 58/100) feet to the south westerly corner of this lot described north sixteen and three quarter degrees east about six hundred and ninety one (691) feet to the north west corner of said lot being the middle of a road lately dedicated by deed of dedication being the center of Washington

⁶¹ Bergen County Deeds, Book 475, Page 53 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Bergen County Deeds, Book 497, Page 633 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

Avenue thence through the middle of the same south fifty nine and one half degrees east eight hundred and three (803) feet thence south twenty two and one half degrees west six hundred four (604) feet to the place of beginning. Containing about eleven and one quarter acres.” The tract is noted as that property sold by deed “dated October 11, 1898 and recorded in Book 475, Page 53” and is subject however to the “covenants and agreements made by and between Lillian Breckbill and Cornelius S. De Baun, dated June 25th, 1897, and recorded in Book 466 of Deeds, Page 646.”⁶⁴

On June 1, 1900 the Dickenson household was enumerated in the U. S, Census. Asa D. Dickenson, age 66 is noted as the head of the household with Hattie, age 56 being his wife. Asa was described as being in the “commission dry goods” business. The couple had a 23-year-old son also named Asa D., in addition a 41-year old house servant named Hannah Todd who was also living in the house. Of note, the property is listed as a “house,” rather than a farm.⁶⁵

1900 United States Federal Census for Hattie Dickinson																									
New Jersey > Bergen > Westwood > District 0043																									
il	Name	Relation to Head	Race	Sex	Birth Month	Birth Year	Age	Marital St	Years Mar	Children	Children	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Immig Year	Natur Year in U	Occupation	Months Attended	Can Read	Can Write	Can Speak	Owned or Operated	Farm or Homestead	Farm L Sched No	
2	Dickinson Asa D.	Head	W	M	Oct	1833	66	M	40			New York	Maine	Maine			Commission Dry Goods	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	0	M	H	
	Hattie	Wife	W	F	Oct	1843	56	M	40	5	3	Michigan	Vermont	Vermont											
	Asa D.	Son	W	M	May	1877	23	S				Michigan	Michigan	Michigan											
3	Todd Hannah	Servant	W	F	5/21	1858	41	S				Pennsylvania	Poland	England			House Servant	0	Yes	Yes	Yes				

1900 U. S. Census record for the Dickenson Household.

In 1902 a large wall size map of Bergen County was created by E. Robinson & Company of New York. The Westervelt House is noted on the map with “A. D. Dickinson” shown as owner.⁶⁶



1902 Map of Bergen County overlaid into Google Earth.

⁶⁴ Bergen County Deeds, Book 497, Page 633 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁶⁵ Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900; (National Archives Microfilm Publication T623, 1,854 rolls); *Westwood, Bergen, New Jersey*; Page: 12; Enumeration District: 0043; FHL microfilm: 1240956; Records of the Bureau of the Census; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁶⁶ E. Robinson, *Map of Bergen County New Jersey*, published by E. Robinson & Co., New York, 1902. Accessed through Rutgers Cartography <http://mapmaker.rutgers.edu/BERGEN_COUNTY/BergenCounty_1902.html>.

Leah Green

On May 9, 1906 Hattie S. Dickenson (now living in Manhattan) sold by deed the Westervelt House at 610 Lafayette Avenue to Leah Green the wife of Aaron Henry Green (of Westwood) for the sum of "Ten Dollars and other values in dollars." The property is described as being "part of the first lot described in a deed dated January 30th, 1900 conveyed by Leanore Voorhis (widow) to Hattie S. Dickenson and recorded in the Bergen County Clerk office in Book 497 Page 633 & c." The property was also noted to be "Subject nevertheless to the covenants and agreements made by and between Lillian Breckbill and C. S. De Baun, dated June 25th, 1897, and recorded in Book 466 of Deeds, Page 646 & c." At the time of the sale the property was encumbered by a mortgage lien with a principle of \$4,500, and an outstanding balance of \$3,500.⁶⁷

The metes and bounds within this 1906 deed are described as: "All that certain tract or parcel of land situate lying and being in the Borough of Westwood County of Bergen and State of new Jersey bounded and described as follows Beginning at the Southeasterly corner in the middle of Lafayette Avenue being in line of lands of Mary L. Westervelt, and running thence (1) along said Westervelt's line North 64° and 5' West, 549.98 feet; thence (2) North 21° East about 670 feet to the center of Washington Avenue; thence (3) through the same South 56 3/4° east about 589.23 feet to the intersection point with the center of Lafayette Avenue; thence (4) through the same South 24° and 45' West about 604 feet to the point or place of beginning, containing about 8.30 acres."⁶⁸ The property was obviously by Hattie S. Dickenson as the property was 11.25 acres, and now it is noted as 8,30 acres. The metes and bounds of the survey were entered into a computerized plat planning program, and a plat plan was produced showing that the property was subdivided off on the western end by Hattie S. Dickenson (when compared to the plat plan made of the 1895 purchase by Dickenson).



**Plat plan of the Dickenson to Green
sale of the Westervelt property**

⁶⁷ Bergen County Deeds, Book 630, Page 490 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

On May 28, 1906 Leah Green wife of Aaron Green (of Westwood) and Hattie S. Dickenson entered into an agreement to limit the use of the section of the property that had the easement created by "the covenants and agreements made by and between Lillian Breckbill and C. S. De Baun, dated June 25th, 1897 for a term of twenty years."⁶⁹

The agreement first reiterated the metes and bounds of the overall property, then the section of the property with the easement was described as "beginning at the southwesterly corner of the first described tract of land belonging to the party of the first part and running thence (1) north sixty four degrees and five minutes west one hundred and eighty four and six tenths feet (184.6) to, line of land now or formerly of C S De Baun thence (2) along the same north nineteen degrees east 200 feet to a corner thence (3) still along said De Baun line north seventy six degrees west six hundred and seven feet (607) to a corner thence (4) north twenty one degrees east three hundred and twenty four feet to the center of a new road being the extension of Washington Avenue thence (5) through the same north eighty eight and three quarter degrees east 630 feet to an angle in said Avenue thence (6) still through said Avenue south fifty six and three quarter degrees east about 213.78 feet to the northwest corner of said Green property thence (7) along the same south twenty one degrees west about six hundred and seventy feet to the place of beginning. Containing about eight and fifteen on hundredths acres (8.15)."⁷⁰

The agreement prohibited the described portion of the property for twenty years from "certain purposes as hereinafter stated." Those uses were stated as (punctuation has been added for clarity) "any manufactory brewery distillery refinery, or any stable of any kind, or any coal yard, wood yard, coke yard, lumber or timber yard, or any coopers carpenters, or cabinet makers shop, or factory bakery, drinking or lager beer saloon shop, or establishment or for any trade or business whatever, or any barns outhouses of any kind or description, including piggery chicken houses, &c, or permit to be erected, or allow or permit upon any part of said lands to be restricted any building of any nature or kind whatever."⁷¹

On November 9, 1906 Hattie S. Dickenson (living in Manhattan) issued to Leah Green wife of Aaron Green (of Westwood) a correction deed pertaining to the original deed between the parties dated May 9, 1906. A study of the May 9th deed and this November 9th deed, shows that the reasons for the correction are (1) the purchase price

⁶⁹ Bergen County Deeds, Book 630, Page 492 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

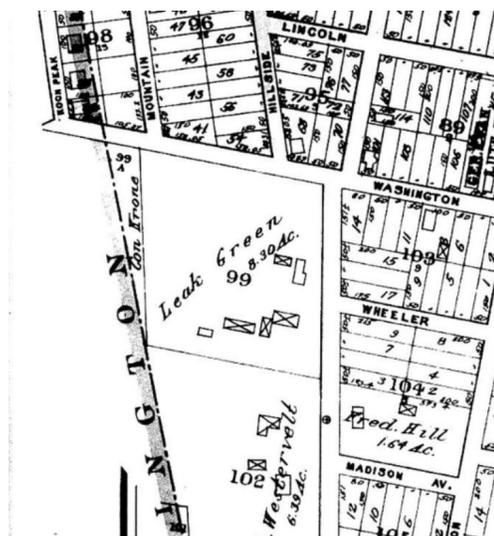
⁷¹ Ibid.

in May is stated as “Ten Dollars and other values in dollars,” where here in November it is “one dollar and other valuable consideration lawful money,” and (2) the page number on May 9th for the “covenants and agreements made by and between Lillian Breckbill and C. S. De Baun, dated June 25th, 1897, and recorded in Book 466 of Deeds” is stated to be “Page 64” – where in this correction deed it states correctly that the page is “646 &c.”⁷² The metes and bounds in both the May 9th and November 9th deeds are identical.

Concerning personal information regarding Leah Green and her family, several records exist. The 1905 New York State Census shows that the Green family lived 300 West 15th Street in Manhattan, in addition to Aaron (age 58) and Leah Green (age 54) there were six sons and one daughter in the household.⁷³ In the U. S. Census taken on May 10, 1910 for Westwood Borough, in Washington Township, the Green family is noted to be now headed by Leah Green (age 59) who is widowed. With her are sons Emanuel (age 38), Gerald (age 26), Herbert (age 25), and a daughter named Dorothy (age 19). The home is noted to be owned, but mortgaged.⁷⁴

In 1912 a two volume *Atlas of Bergen County* was created, showing the Westervelt house then owned by Leah Green (both the house and outbuildings are noted).⁷⁵

1912 map noting “Leak” Green as owner of the Westervelt House.



⁷² Bergen County Deeds, Book 656, Page 283 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁷³ New York State Archives; Albany, New York; *State Population Census Schedules, 1905*; Election District: A.D. 07 E.D. 14; City: Manhattan; County: New York; Page: 27.

⁷⁴ Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910; (National Archives Microfilm Publication T624, 1,178 rolls); *Washington, Bergen, New Jersey*; Page: 21B; Enumeration District: 0056; FHL microfilm: 1374883; Records of the Bureau of the Census; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

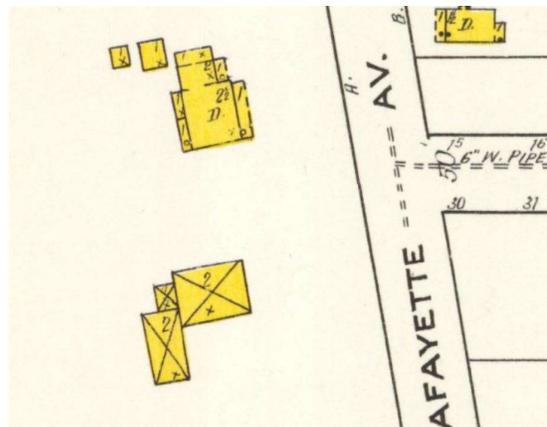
⁷⁵ G. W. Bromely, *Atlas of Bergen County New Jersey, Volume Two*, G. W. Bromely and Co., Philadelphia, 1912. Accessed through <<http://www.historicmapworks.com>>.

The 1913 -1914 *Directory of Hackensack, and the New York & New Jersey R. R., from Hackensack to Spring Valley* lists Mrs. Leah Green, widow living on Lafayette Avenue in Westwood.⁷⁶ On June 1, 1915 the New Jersey State Census was taken and Leah Green's household in Westwood Borough was shown to be the same as that in the U. S. Census of 1910.⁷⁷ The 1920 U. S. Census enumerated for Westwood Borough on January 11-12, 1920 shows the Green household living on Lafayette Avenue (the Census taker had the foresight to note what street they were on). The household members did not change, and the house was still mortgaged. Of note on this Census form the now adult children of Leah and the late Aaron Green are recorded as stating that their father was from Russia and his native tongue was "Hebrew."⁷⁸ An obituary for Leah Green was published in the New York Herald on April 4, 1920, and her date of death was noted as April 2, 1920.⁷⁹

In 1921 a series of eight Sanborn Fire Insurance maps were created to show Westwood, and the Westervelt House is documented with some noted details.⁸⁰



Section of sheet #1 of the 1921 Sanborn map, showing the Westervelt House.



Detail of the Sanborn map

⁷⁶ *Directory of Hackensack, and the New York & New Jersey R. R., from Hackensack to Spring Valley*, Breed Publishing Company, Newburgh, New York, 1913 – 1914, p. 288. Accessed through Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

⁷⁷ New Jersey State Archive; Trenton, NJ, USA; *State Census of New Jersey, 1915*; Reference Number: L-12; Film Number: 7.

⁷⁸ Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920; (National Archives Microfilm Publication T625, 2,076 rolls); *Washington, Bergen, New Jersey*; Page: 11A; Enumeration District: 124; Roll T625_1020; Records of the Bureau of the Census; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁷⁹ *New York Herald*; Publication Date: 4/ Apr/ 1920; Publication Place: New York, New York, United States of America; URL: <https://www.newspapers.com/image/64384523/?article=22f7e432-b60f-4eec-bd65-d2556ace890d&focus=0.6186468,0.7438815,0.73910165,0.78411996&xid=2378>

⁸⁰ *Sanborn Map Company, Westwood*, Sanborn Map Company, New York, 1921, Sheet 1. Retrieved from Historic Map Division, Rare Books and Special Collections, Firestone Library, Princeton University, New Jersey.

On April 7, 1930 the U. S. Census was enumerated for Westwood Borough, and noted at 610 Lafayette Avenue (street and house numbers are given) were Herbert D. Green (age 45) with his sister Dorothy (age 38) and both were recorded as single. The house was valued at \$25,000, and no mortgage was noted. Of note, the Census of 1930 asked if there was a radio in the house, and this household did not have one.⁸¹

David J. and Jean L. Morgan

Apparently, Dorothy Green eventually inherited the property purchased by her mother Leah in 1906. And on February 2, 1953 Dorothy Green, an unmarried woman sold the property know as 610 Lafayette Avenue to David J. Morgan and Jean L. Morgan, his wife (of Maywood, NJ) for the sum of “One Dollar and Other Good and Valuable Considerations.”⁸² (What those “other good and valuable considerations” were remain unknown.)

The metes and bounds within this 1953 deed are described as: “Beginning at the Southeasterly corner in the original center line of Lafayette Avenue (being 33 feet in width), being in line of lands of Mary L. Westervelt, and running thence (1) along said Westervelt’s line North 64° and 5’ West, 549.98 feet; thence (2) North 21° East about 670 feet to the center of Washington Avenue; thence (3) through the same South 56 3/4° east about 589.23 feet to the intersection point with the center of Lafayette Avenue; thence (4) through the same South 24° and 45’ West about 604 feet to the point or place of beginning, containing about 8.30 acres.” The property is described as “Being the same premises conveyed by Hattie S. Dickenson to Leah Green by deed recorded in Book 630 of Deeds in the Bergen County Clerk’s Office on Page 490, and also the same premises described in a correction deed, between the same parties recorded in Book 656 of Deeds in the Bergen County Clerk’s Office on Page 283.” The property was also noted to be “Subject nevertheless to the covenants and agreements made by and between Lillian Breckbill and C. S. De Baun, dated June 25th, 1897, and recorded in Book 466 of Deeds, Page 646 &c.”⁸³ At this point, the events concerning the Westervelt House are such recent history that little is revealed about the personal life of the parties in official records due to privacy concerns.

⁸¹ Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930; (National Archives Microfilm Publication T625, 2,667 rolls); *Westwood, Bergen, New Jersey*; Enumeration District: 0248; FHL microfilm: 2341052; Records of the Bureau of the Census; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁸² Bergen County Deeds, Book 3400, Page 499 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁸³ Ibid.

Martha M. and Marcus G. Messing

On August 12, 1960 David J. Morgan and Jean L. Morgan, his wife sold to Martha M. Messing and Marcus G. Messing, her husband, by deed the property known as 610 Lafayette Avenue for the sum of “One Dollar and Other Good and Valuable Considerations.” The metes and bounds were stated as:

“Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the westerly line of Lafayette Avenue with the southerly line of Polin Place and running thence

- 1) North 57 degrees 45’ , 30” West along said southerly line of Polin Place 202.52 feet to a point; thence
- 2) South 22 degrees 36’ 30” West 196.43 feet to a point; thence
- 3) South 64 degrees 03’ 30” East 200 feet to a point in said westerly line of Lafayette Avenue; thence
- 4) North 22 degrees 36’ 30” East along the same 174.11 feet to place of beginning.

The property is described as “a part of the same premises conveyed to David J. Morgan et ux. by Dorothy Green, single, by Deed dated February 2, 1953 of record in Book 3400 of Deeds page 499 &c.” The property was subject to a mortgage held by The Hillsdale National Bank dated January 20, 1959, with a principal of \$13,000.00. The mortgage was recorded in Book 3457 of Mortgages page 595 &c. Payment of lien was assumed by the grantees, “and the zoning ordinances of the Borough of Westwood.”⁸⁴ The property as indicated in this deed had been significantly reduced in size by subdivision (almost 7.5 acres smaller), and at this time the lot was only 0.849 acres. A plat plan of the property was computer generated and is pictured to the right.



Westervelt House property in 1960

⁸⁴ Bergen County Deeds, Book 4154, Page 279 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

Marvin C. and Corinne H. Sachs

On January 7, 1993 Marcus G. Messing sold 610 Lafayette Avenue for the sum of \$265,000.00 to Marvin C. Sachs and Corinne Henning Sachs. The metes and bounds within this deed are identical to those in the 1960 deed described previously. The deed states about the property that is "Being the same premises conveyed to Marcus G. Messing and Martha M. Messing by deed from David J. Morgan and Jean L. Morgan, his wife, dated August 12, 1960 and recorded in the Bergen County Clerk's Office on August 15, 1960 in Deed Book 4154 at Page 279. Etc." The deed states that "Martha M. Messing died on June 14, 1990 leaving Marcus G. Messing as surviving tenant by the entirety. Marcus G. Messing has not remarried." The deed further states that at the time of sale Marcus G. Messing was living at "412 Glen Ridge Road, Key Biscayne, Florida."⁸⁵

On January 13, 2005 "Marvin C. Sachs and Corinne Henning Sachs, married" both residing at 610 Lafayette Avenue, Westwood, New Jersey issued a Subdivision Deed to each other with both parties being the Grantors and Grantees. At this time Mr. and Mrs. Sachs were subdividing their property into two lots. The lots became known as Lot 28 which consisted of 22,482 square feet, and Lot 28.1 which consisted of 14,418 square feet. Both lots were "exclusive of a grant to the Borough of Westwood."⁸⁶

As per the first of two surveys created on December 21, 2004, the lot to be designated as Block 202, Lot 28 had the following metes and bounds:

"Beginning at a point in the southerly sideline of Polin Place (50' feet wide) where the same is intersected by the dividing line between Block 202, Lot 28.1 and Block 202, Lot 28, said point being distant 126.45' on a course of N 57°45'30" W from the intersection with the westerly sideline of Lafayette Avenue (60" wide), if said sidelines were prolonged to intersect, and running:

1. Along the dividing line between Block 202, Lot 28.1 and Block 202, Lot 28, S 22°36'30" W, 188.05' to a point in the northerly line of Block 202, Lot 29; thence
2. Along the same S 64°05'00" E, 124.87 to a point in the westerly sideline of Lafayette Avenue (60' wide); thence

⁸⁵ Bergen County Deeds, Book 7577, Page 632 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁸⁶ Bergen County Deeds, Book 8775, Page 987 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

3. Along the same N 22°36'30" E, 152.98' to a point of curvature; thence
 4. Along a curve to the left, in a northwesterly direction, having a radius of 25.00' a chord of N 17°34'30" W, 32.26', an arc distance of 35.07' to a point of tangency in the southerly sideline of Polin Place; thence
 5. Along the same, N 57°45'30" W, 105.34' to the point of beginning.
- Containing 22, 482 square feet or 0.5161 acres."

The second lot surveyed was to become Block 202, Lot 28.1 and had the following metes and bounds:

"Beginning at in a point in the southerly sideline of Polin Place (50' wide) where the same is intersected by the dividing line between Block 202, Lot 28.1 and Block 202, Lot 28, said point being distant 126.45' on a course of N 57°45'30" W from the intersection with the westerly sideline of Lafayette Avenue (60' wide), if said sidelines were prolonged to intersect, and running;

1. Along the southerly sideline of Polin Place, N 57°45'30" W, 76.07' to a point in the easterly line of Block 202, Lot 23; thence
 2. Along the same, and along the easterly line of Block 202, Lot 24 and Block 202, Lot 25 S 22°36'30" W, 196.43' to a point in the northerly line of Block 202, Lot 29; thence
 3. Along the same S 64°04'30" E, 75.00'; thence
 4. Still along the same S 64°05'00" E, 0.13' to a point in the dividing line between Block 202, Lot 28 and Block 202, Lot 28.1; thence
 5. Along the same N 22°36'30" E, 188.05' to the point of beginning.
- Containing 14,418 square feet or 0.3310 acres."⁸⁷

It is this second lot where the historic Westervelt House stands and is the subject of this report.

⁸⁷ Bergen County Deeds, Book 8775, Page 987 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

On July 15, 2008 “Marvin C. Sachs and Corinne Henning Sachs, married” both residing at 610 Lafayette Avenue, Westwood, New Jersey issued a Confirmatory Deed to each other with both parties being the Grantors and Grantees. The purpose of the deed was to change the lot number for the property from Lot 28 to Lot 28.01 so that the lot number in the record of title conforms to the Borough Tax Map. The lot number changed as a result of a subdivision of the property confirmed by Deed issued by “Marvin and Corinne Sachs, married, dated January 13, 2005, recorded January 31, 2005 in Deed Book 8775 at page 987, et seq.”⁸⁸

On May 7, 2018 a foreclosure judgement was handed down in Superior Court of New Jersey in a case where the Federal National Mortgage Association (“FANNIE MAE”) was plaintiff against defendants Marvin C. Sachs; Corinne M. Henning-Sachs; Bank of America, N.A. The property at 610 Lafayette Avenue had been mortgaged on April 29, 2003 by the Mr. and Mrs. Sachs for \$414,308.73, and the mortgage was defaulted on, with the amount of \$351,724.14 still outstanding.

As a result of the foreclosure judgement a Sheriff sale of the property was held, and on January 29, 2019 the property at 610 Lafayette Avenue was conveyed by deed from the Sheriff of Bergen County to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF11 Master Participation Trust C/O Caliber Home Loans, Inc. The deed was recorded April 18, 2019. The Sheriff sale deed finally states that: “Being known as lot 28.01 FKA 28, Block 202 on the official Tax Map of the Borough of Westwood,”⁸⁹ dimensions 202.52 feet, by 200 feet, by 200 feet, by 174.11 feet.

U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., LSF11 Master Participation Trust

On April 29, 2019 U.S. Bank Trust N.A., LSF11 Master Participation Trust, Hudson Homes Management LLC as grantors sold the property at 610 Lafayette Avenue to INJ Properties LLC⁹⁰ as grantees via deed of sale dated April 29, 2019, and

⁸⁸ Bergen County Deeds, Book 9579, Page 113 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁸⁹ Bergen County Deeds, Book V03223, Page 1105 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁹⁰ According to the Borough of Westwood tax records the current property owner of 610 Lafayette Avenue is INJ Properties LLC, located at 1097 Kirfitsen Road New Milford N.J. 07646.

recorded with the Bergen County Clerk on June 17, 2019.⁹¹ The consideration was \$425,500. Within the deed dated April 29, 2019, are the following metes and bounds:

“Beginning at in a point in the southerly sideline of Pilin [sic] Place (50’ wide) where the same is intersected by the dividing line between Block 202, Lot 28.1 and Block 201, Lot 28, said point being distant 126.45’ on a course of N 57 degrees 45 minutes 30 seconds West from the intersection with the westerly sideline of Lafayette Avenue (60’ wide), if said sidelines were prolonged to interest [sic], and running; thence

- (1) Along the dividing line between Block 202, Lot 28.1 and 202, Lot 28, South 22 degrees 36 minutes 30 seconds West, 188.05 feet to a point in the northerly line of Block 202 Lot 29; thence
- (2) Along the same, South 64 degrees 05 minutes 00 seconds East, 124.87 feet to a point in the westerly sideline of Lafayette Avenue (60’ wide); thence
- (3) Along the same North 22 degrees 36 minutes 30 seconds East, 152.98 feet to a point of curvature; thence
- (4) Along a curve to the left in a northwesterly direction having a radius of 25.00’ a chord of North 17 degrees 34 minutes 30 seconds West, 32.26 feet, an arc distance of 35.007 feet to a point of tangency in the southerly sideline of Polin Place; thence
- (5) Along the same, North 57 degrees 45 minutes 30 seconds West, 105.34 feet to the point of beginning.”⁹²

INJ Properties LLC

About seven months after INJ Properties LLC purchased the Westervelt House, on April 29, 2019, the property was listed for sale on December 9, 2019 with the New Jersey Multiple Listing Service, Inc. (MLS # 1954041) and having an asking price of \$1,249,000. The house was noted to have 11 rooms, 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 1 half bath,

⁹¹ Bergen County Deeds, Instrument Number:19-038030.02, Book 03269, Page 0546 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

⁹² Bergen County Deeds, Instrument Number:19-038030.02, Book 03269, Page 0546 & c., Office of the Bergen County Clerk, Hackensack, New Jersey.

a full unfinished basement, and attached one-car garage. The house was further described as:

“Truly One of Kind Historic Home. Home originally built circa 1793, styled Greek Revival with beautiful, stunning bracketed cornice. Referred to as the Westervelt House with original details preserved and more to be restored while under complete resto/renovation. This home boasts a grand entrance with flowing center stairway, soaring ceilings accented by original crown moldings and much more period details to include original wide plank flooring, fireplaces throughout. Features include a Grand Kitchen area with exposed woodwork and beams complimented by a stunning over-sized dining area nestled by a large fireplace. Sitting Room complimented with a full size dining room, large living room overlooking yard with an adjoining library room with french doors flowing into private yard. This historic home will feature updated electric, plumbing, baths and kitchen - Come now and select all custom colors, features and design to suit to taste! So many unique features - a must see property.”⁹³

The online listing also includes 24 photos of the house showing the exterior and the interior (with two kitchen views that are stock photos from another location).⁹⁴ Within some of the photos extensive alteration work is shown being performed on the house. A website dedicated to the selling of old houses called CIRCA (circaoldhouses.com) has 17 photos of the Westervelt house. The photos appear to be concurrent with those shown on the New Jersey Multiple Listing Service, and by the same photographer, although the CIRCA website has 9 images that show different angles or views.⁹⁵ Another real estate website called HOMEMETRY (HomeMetry.com) has 7 photos of the Westervelt House (1 exterior, and 6 interior). These photos appear to be from the period when the house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Sachs, as there are personal possessions shown, and the site notes the house is owned by “The Sachs Group.”⁹⁶

⁹³ New Jersey Multiple Listing Service, Inc., online listing for 610 Lafayette Avenue, Westwood, New Jersey. Accessed from <<http://www.njmls.com/m/detail.cfm?mlsnum=1954041&dayssince=14>> .

⁹⁴ All photos on the New Jersey Multiple Listing Service, Inc., online listing for 610 Lafayette Avenue, Westwood, New Jersey are affixed with a watermark noting “NJMLS.” The website is noted to have a copyright. Accessed from <<http://www.njmls.com/m/detail.cfm?mlsnum=1954041&dayssince=14>> .

⁹⁵ CIRCA listing for “Westervelt Home, 610 Lafayette Avenue, Westwood, NJ, USA.” Accessed from <<https://circaoldhouses.com/property/westervelt-home/>>.

⁹⁶ HomeMetry listing for “610 Lafayette Ave Westwood, NJ 07675-1954.” Accessed from <<https://homemetry.com/house/610+LAFAYETTE+AVE,+Westwood+NJ>>.

Architecture

From 1820-1865 during the popularity of Greek Revival style in America there was a favored tendency for architects to use faithful historical details when designing their buildings, and in some cases, they created nearly equivalent copies of some ancient buildings. One prime example is the Second National Bank of the United States in Philadelphia, PA, designed by William Strickland, and built in 1818-24. The front façade of the bank is almost identical in styling to the Parthenon in Athens Greece.⁹⁷

Now following the lead of well know architects local builders, who often did their own design work using pattern books, captured some of the classical Greek details into their vernacular houses – which today are simply known as “Greek Revival.” Most notable on the typical exteriors are the lines and details associated with the entablature, porches, and the doorways.

The entablature on Greek Revival gabled houses found below the eave of the roof usually has slight returns around onto the gables, and on a flat (or nearly flat) roofed porch (or house) the entablature wraps completely around (porches when gabled will have a entablature that mimics the main house in design). Following the classical pattern, the entablature is made of three parts - the cornice, the frieze, and the architrave. The cornice often consist a molding assembly which is often simply called a “crown.” In more elaborate houses striving to reach a higher order, dental work and bracketing can be found in the cornice assembly. The frieze often mimics the classical designs with a repetitive geometric patterning (often rectangles on story-and-a-half houses), and on porches the frieze is usually left unadorned. Below the frieze is the architrave, which is a band of molding that creates a lower frame or a visual foundation for the assembly.

Within Greek Revival houses, windows (called “eyebrow” windows) are very often found installed in the frieze, and they serve a design function to act as part of the repetitive geometric patterning. The entablature is very often “supported” by the corners of the façade walls below, which will often have representations of columns. These faux columns are always square (a type of column never found in the original Greek prototypes), and these vernacular representations of classism will in most cases follow a Doric styling with a minimal capitol, a shaft without extensive detail, and an unassuming base (often part of the water table).

The porches will have an entablature at the eave of the roof. The roof will be supported by either square or round columns. When the columns are round, they will follow one of the three classical orders: Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian.

⁹⁷ Roth, Leland M., *American Architecture*, Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado, 2001, pp. 151-152

The doorways are typified with a narrow line of transom lights of glass above that visually represents a frieze, and with vertical sidelights on each side of the door with a panel below simulating a type of column. Normally separating the sidelights from the door is a set of scaled down applied columns. And the whole of the components are usually incorporated into an elaborate door surround assembly. When the doorway is set inward a casing copying that of the windows is usually applied.

Sometimes on the higher styled Greek Revival houses the windows will have details along the upper portions of the side casing that extend out as “ears,” these are meant to resemble the classicism of the original models in Greece. A crown is also often added to the window casing in order to give a proper finish to the design element. In addition, some of the very high styled residential Greek Revival dwellings will have a mimicking of a column detail as side casings applied to the windows in the frieze.

The Casparus I. Westervelt House is a wood frame structure that today consists of three sections; a gabled two-story main block; a gabled story and a half wing to the north of the main block; and a new modern single car garage on the far north end.

Main Block

The main block is rectangular in shape, with a five-bay, two rooms deep, center hall configuration. The foundation is raised out of the ground approximately two feet and is constructed of regionally quarried hand cut sandstone laid in an ashlar manner. Three pane basement windows are installed in line with the windows above. A recently replaced water table acts as a visual base to the wood façade. The corners are simulated square columns in the Doric style. The narrow-coursed siding has recently been replaced with similar new material.

The four windows on the first floor are six-over-six double hung and are original construction. The side casing on the windows extend outward at the top with classically inspired “ears,” and the window heads are finished with a crown molding. The front door is set inward, and the outer frame detail mirror that of the main floor windows. The door itself is not of original period construction, but rather of a later vintage (possibly early 20th century) and has a single large beveled glass pane with two panels below. The door is flanked with fluted Doric columns on either side. Sidelights with two panes each are found adjoining the column detailed door frame, and along the top is a transom of three lights of glass.

The entablature is grand and highly detailed. The cornice with a large crown molding extends outward of the roof eave and is part of a boxed gutter assembly.

There is a dental molding with a wide band below and affixed to the band supporting the extended outward portion of the cornice are evenly spaced brackets graced with Ionic capital details at their top. The frieze is high and there are five three-over-three double hung windows in line with bays below. The side casings are scaled Doric columns (a detail rarely found in Bergen County). The field of the frieze is of coursed siding wider than that of the siding below, and with less pronounced extending-outward course lines. The architrave is simple and unadorned, as it is largely one continuous windowsill extending along the length of the entire façade.

Story and a Half Wing

The story and a half wing to the north is set back from the main block, has a relatively square footprint, and originally had three-bay configuration. That original configuration consisted of a doorway to the south with two windows to the north. The doorway has recently been removed, thus notably altering the look of the wing. The wing sits close to the ground with nary a full course of exposed regionally quarried hand cut sandstone foundation showing. The wing (likely used as a kitchen) is undecorated, as was the practice, to allow the main block to be the primary architectural focus. The original narrow-coursed siding has recently been replaced with similar new material, and a water table has been added. The window arrangement is such; there are two simple six-over-six double hung windows on the first floor; and two simple three-over-three double hung windows above that slightly mimic the placement of the windows within the frieze in the main block.

Garage

A modern single car garage with an entryway into the house has recently been constructed north of the story and a half wing. The garage is set back such that it does not compete or greatly distract from the overall architectural beauty of the original house. The siding matches the newly installed type on the original house. The overhead garage door is of a style that appears akin to “barn doors” and as such gives a nod to the agrarian culture that the house was once a part of.

Significance

Overall, the Casparus I. Westervelt House embodies a higher order of Greek Revival stylistic details not regularly found on the typical house of the genre in Bergen County. One could argue that this house is one of the finest Greek Revival styled dwellings in the County. Within the Borough of Westwood this is the finest extant

example of the Greek Revival architecture, and one of only three surviving pre-1840 dwellings. With its notable classical stylistic details, the Casparus I. Westervelt House is unequalled among the handful of ante-bellum 19th century houses in the Borough. Today the house retains and reflects a significant amount of architectural integrity, despite the recent rehabilitation work,⁹⁸ and thus it qualifies it for preservation. The nearly 200 years of documented history of the house, its inhabitants; and role in the settlement, development, and significant events of history is superb. All efforts should be made by the people of Westwood to ensure the preservation of this extremely important house.

⁹⁸ When structures of historic value are to be worked on the scope and practice of that work is to follow one of the four alternative approaches set forth in *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR 68)*. Those treatment approaches are preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. The work currently being performed on the Casparus I. Westervelt House falls under the category of rehabilitation, and as with all the approaches there are specific guidelines. Unfortunately, the work appears to have been undertaken without full cognizance to the scope of the guidelines within the standards. The rehabilitation standards can be accessed here: <<https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/treatment-rehabilitation.htm>>.

Photos

In addition to the before noted 40 online photos associated with real estate websites (all copyrighted and thus not included), this author has been able to obtain 15 photos of the Casparus I. Westervelt House from various sources. The photos are presented here.



Circa 1980s - 1990s view of east (front) and south.



Summer 2019 view of the front elevation taken from the northeast.



Summer 2019 detail view of front elevation windows.



Summer 2019 view of north end of the main block and the south end of wing.



Summer 2019 view of the story and a half wing east (front) elevation.



Summer 2019 view of the story and a half wing and north gable of the main block.



Summer 2019 view of the story and a half wing and now removed north end section.



Summer 2019 view of the north end of the story and a half wing.



Summer 2019 view of the north end of the house.



Spring 2020 three quarter view of the east and south elevations from the southeast.



Spring 2020 view of the east elevation.



Spring 2020 view of the south elevation.



Spring 2020 view of the east (front) elevation of the story and a half wing.



Spring 2020 view of the north end of the house.



Spring 2020 view of the west side of the house from the northwest.