

The Judge John S. Van Winkle House  
868 Goffle Road  
Hawthorne, Passaic County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Owner: Marjorie E. Arnold

Dates of Erection: (1) ca. 1760 and (2) 1811

Architect: Unknown

Builder: (1) John S. Van Winkle (1723-1816) minor  
unit, and (2) John S. Van Winkle (1784-  
1850) major unit

Present Condition: Good with modern alterations

Number of Stories: One and one-half and cellar

Materials of Construction:  
Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - front and ends of main unit  
(1811) are coursed ashlar brownstone to eave  
line; timber frame above it on gable ends.  
Rear wall is rubble work brownstone, trap  
rock, etc., in both units

Interior walls - stone party wall and lath  
and plaster on wood studding

Chimneys - brick, built into inside of gable  
end walls

Roof - gable on minor unit; gambrel on major  
unit, covered with modern asbestos shingles.  
Modern porch at northeast end and at rear.  
Three dormers in front and one the length of  
the rear are modern

Historical Data:

Title to the land on which this Dutch house was  
later erected has been traced in the public records to 9

February 1730, on which date Derrick Barentse, Peter Johannes, and Abraham Gerritse, released and confirmed to their partner, Gerret Gerretse, his 212 $\frac{1}{2}$  acre share of the tract which they had purchased of Mr. Richard Ashfield describing the share as being a 33.75 by 62 chains "lot of land lying at or near a place called and commonly known by the name of Wagraw in the County of Bergen" and as bounded north by Peter Gerretse, east by Mr. Ashfield, south by Johannes Gerretse, and west by Dirrek Barentse aforesaid. (a)

Subsequently, by deed of 1st June 1743 this Gerrit Gerretse of Bergen County conveyed the same to Simeon<sup>3</sup> Van Winkle of Essex County for 215 pounds. (b) The latter, who was born 1686 and died between 19 April and 18 July 1775 (the dates of signing and of probate of his will), lived near the ford at the "Bogt", on the west side of Passaic River (now the eastern part of the city of Paterson), within the bounds of then Acquackanonk Township, Essex County. (c) By deed of 26 October 1774, this Simeon<sup>3</sup> Van Winkle of Essex County conveyed to (his son) John Van Winkle of Bergen County, for 144 pounds New York money, "All that certain plantation or tract of land whereon the said John Van Winkle now lives", near the place called Wagraw, and describing it as being the same 212 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres abovesaid. (d)

The region bordering the Wagaraw (or Goffle) Brook in the former Saddle River Township, Bergen County, was included in the area of the new County of Passaic created in 1837 from parts of Bergen and Essex as Manchester Township, and in 1898 was incorporated as the Borough of Hawthorne. The house here considered stands on the northwest side of Goffle Road (alias Goodwinville Rd.), on the opposite side of which runs Goffle Brook and the foot of the Goffle Hill road to Sicomac, being less than two miles north of the bend in the Passaic River at Paterson.

(a) Recited in (b)

(b) Recorded 1795 in Bergen Co. Deed Bk. H, p. 110

(c) R. F. Bailey, Pre-Rev. Dutch Houses, 1936, p. 524; and N. J. Archives, vol. 34, p. 554, Abstracts of Wills

(d) Recorded 1795 in Bergen Co. Deed Bk. H, p. 108

John<sup>4</sup> S. Van Winkle, abovenamed grantee, was born in 1723 and died in 1816, having married 5 December 1746 Janneke Ryerson of New York, and apparently settled then on the 212½ acre tract in Wagaraw on which he was living when his father conveyed it to him by deed of 1774 as above recited. Evidently between these two years he erected the earlier and lesser unit of the two part house here surveyed. Having conveyed this farm to his son Simeon Van Winkle of Essex County on 24 May 1783, (e) for 500 pounds, probably John S. Van Winkle continued his residence in this house until death in 1816.

Simeon J.<sup>5</sup> Van Winkle, son and grantee abovesaid, was born 12 December 1749, died 4 November 1828, having married Claesje, daughter of Cornelius Gerritse. He resided in a stone house at Riverside, Essex County, and was accordingly distinguished as Simeon of the Bogt. (c)

John S.<sup>6</sup> Van Winkle, born 13 November 1784, son and heir of Simeon J. Van Winkle abovenamed, was the next owner of the farm and house here considered. He built the major unit of the house (a stone in the southwest corner of which is inscribed I.V.W. 1811) as an addition to the earlier house erected by his grandfather there, incorporating the latter as a service wing. He operated the farm and a successful grist mill opposite it, but all the barns, outbuildings, mill, and storehouse have since been demolished. Having in 1828 obtained the right by Act of Legislature, he and Brant Van Blarcom erected a dam across Passaic River for waterpower, began the excavation of a canal there, and carried on operations on a limited scale. In 1837 this John S. Van Winkle was appointed judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the new County of Passaic created in that year.

On 24 March 1805 he had married Jannetje daughter of Pieter Kip, born 14 January 1788. Both he and his wife are said to have been murdered on 9 January 1850 in the bedroom at the north end of the first story of this house, (f) but the contemporary

(e) Recorded 1795 in Bergen Co. Deed Bk. H, p. 104

(f) Proceedings N. J. Hist. Soc., new series, vol. 10, pp. 291-3. (1925)

records show that only the Judge so suffered. Thus, from the records of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, Passaic County, March term 1850:- (Quote) The jurors of the State of New Jersey upon their oath present that John Johnston late of the township of Manchester.....a laborer, not having the fear of God before his eyes, but being moved and seduced by the motivation of the devil, on the 9th day of January 1850 in the forenoon -----, with force and arms at the township aforesaid ----- in and upon one John S. Van Winkle, in the peace of God, then and there did feloniously, willfully, and with malice aforethought-----strike and thrust, giving the said John S. Van Winkle then and there with the knife aforesaid in and upon the belly, below the navel, and inflicted one mortal wound of the breadth of four inches and depth of two inches, of which said mortal wound the said John S. Van Winkle, from the forenoon of the 9th day of January ----- until the afternoon of the same day did languish ----- and ----- died. (end quote). Johnston was found guilty on the 11th March 1850 of murder in the first degree as charged and was sentenced to be hanged on 30th April next. Administration upon the estate of John S. Van Winkle, deceased intestate, was granted 28 January 1850 to (his son) Cornelius. After the tragedy, the family leased the house to tenant farmers.

Cornelius<sup>7</sup> Van Winkle, born 9 September 1806 died 26 May 1873 in Paterson, son and heir of John S. Van Winkle abovenamed. He married 31 May 1826 Catrina Leah Van Dean, born 4 March 1809, and they resided successively at the Goffle, at Riverside, and at 46 Ellison Street, Paterson. His will dated 2 January 1864 devised most of his property in Paterson to his wife Catherine Lea, daughter Ann Elizabeth, and son Simon Van Winkle, and all the residue in whatever location to the said son and daughter.

Simon Peter<sup>8</sup> Van Winkle, born 6 July 1831, son and heir abovenamed, was the next owner of the house here surveyed. He married 10 October 1852 Maria Ackerman and they resided in Paterson. By deed of 28 April 1875, his sister, Ann E. wife of Helmas Romaine, conveyed to him her share in the paternal farm (here considered) in Manchester Township, for \$31,233.50 and he lived in this house until his death on 26 June

1891, its locality then known as Hawthorne. His heirs were two daughters, Jennie widow of Aaron Van Houten, and Anna wife of Andrew B. Inglis, and Sarah Van Winkle the widow. The first of these died 3 September 1881 intestate, and her half of the father's estate devolved upon her only son Zabriskie A. Van Houten. The other daughter, Anna M. Inglis of Hawthorne died 13 February 1896 having devised all her estate to her husband.

Accordingly, by deed of 9 May 1901, said Andrew B. Inglis and (second) wife Elizabeth B., Sarah widow of Simon Peter Van Winkle, Zabriskie A. Van Houten and wife Addie G. conveyed to William A. Arnold the premises (here considered) in the Boro of Hawthorne, for \$41,000. Arnold sold them to George and Thomas J. Arnold by deed of 2 August 1902, and these grantees in turn passed title to the Hawthorne Development Corporation on 4 May 1909, describing the tract as comprising some 226 acres excepting numerous lots reserved therefrom.

By an unrecorded deed of 4 May 1925, the Hawthorne Corporation abovenamed conveyed to Marjorie Eccles Arnold, wife of T. Ivan Arnold (son of Thomas aforesaid), a lot extending 200 feet along the west side of Goffle Road and 250 feet along the north side of the intersecting Ivan Place, in the Boro of Hawthorne, (on which stands this house) being a portion of the larger tract sold to them in 1909. Mrs. Arnold remains the actual owner at the time of our survey of this house 1939.

#### Architectural Analysis:

The chief alterations are the open garret being partitioned into rooms and the three front and one long rear dormers being inserted in the roof of the main house in modern times. Likewise, the first floor plan of the minor and older unit has been changed to comprise a garage in its outer end, as shown on the survey drawing number 2, and the floor level of the

kitchen raised to that of the main house, and the stairway removed. The main entrance hall has a modern vestibule and open stairway to replace the original, while the partition between the parlor and north bedroom has been removed, all as indicated in our field book notes.

Bibliography:

A search of Title in Land and Probate records of Bergen and Passaic Counties by Joseph Benenati, H.A.B.S. abstractor

*Lewis D. Cook*

Supervising Historian

Approved:

*Seymour Williams*

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

*(Faint circular stamp)*