

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Dyckman House  
AND/OR COMMON  
Dyckman House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
4881 Broadway  
CITY, TOWN  
New York City  
STATE  
New York  
VICINITY OF  
36  
COUNTY  
New York  
CODE  
061  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
20th  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
New York City, adm. by Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs  
STREET & NUMBER  
Arsenal Building, 830 Fifth Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
New York City  
STATE  
New York  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
New York County Hall of Records  
STREET & NUMBER  
31 Chambers Street  
CITY, TOWN  
New York City  
STATE  
New York

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Historic American Buildings Survey (11 sheets and 4 photos)  
DATE  
1934  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Library of Congress/Annex  
CITY, TOWN  
Washington  
STATE  
D.C.  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Today the Dyckman House stands as the last typical Dutch Colonial farmhouse left on Manhattan Island. Built of fieldstone, bricks and wood, this 18th century house replaced one of 1748 which was destroyed by the British in the Revolutionary War.

Built in 1783 by William Dyckman to replace the earlier one burned, the structure has a few features and details suggesting earlier construction. It is believed that some of the materials salvaged from the 1748 house were used in erecting this farmhouse. The one-and-a-half-story dwelling with high basement, has a sweeping low-pitched gambrel roof, curved out over a full porch. There are two porches which run the entire length of the house, front and rear, with wooden floors and steps, supported by plain square columns. There is also a small porch in front of the kitchen door. The roof is covered with hand-split shingles which were new in 1967.

The front and rear entrances have divided Dutch doors with raised panels and original hardware. The shutters are also of wood with panels. Three chimneys with brick tops, one at either end of the main part of the house and one at the end of the kitchen wing, feed a total of six fireplaces.

The walls are of heavy fieldstone construction with the wall at the front faced with red brick. The rear wall of the house rests on a continuous ledge which shows as a huge boulder in the basement. The gable ends are covered with wide clapboards painted white and the rear and north wall have been covered with stucco and painted white. The small kitchen wing at the south end was either a part of the earlier house or a separate kitchen or servant's quarters already standing on the property.

On the interior, the first floor has four rooms and a hall plus a summer kitchen in the first floor of the wing. The winter kitchen is located in the basement. The second floor has five rooms plus a hall with two servants' rooms on the second story of the wing. An open staircase in the center hall is an original feature of the house. There is also a narrow staircase in the wing which goes from the summer kitchen to the two rooms above.

The floors are of wide pine boards with the wall and ceiling finished in lath and plaster. The interior decorative features are styled from the Federal period.

In 1915 restoration of the house and grounds was begun. Using early photographs a determination of the original appearance was made. A small north wing, added about 1830 was removed and the rear porch, destroyed about 1880 was reconstructed on its original foundation. Rotted beams were replaced, the roof was reshingled, and all the exterior woodwork was repainted.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      1783                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Dyckman House, built in 1783, is an excellent and little altered example of the final refinements that took place in the Flemish Colonial style during the last part of the 18th century, displaying the effective use that the Dutch made of varied building materials. William Dyckman built his farmhouse with end walls of uncoursed fieldstones in heavy mortar, the front wall is brick, and the gables are covered with wide clapboards. The projecting gambrel roof has a splendid sweep over the long railed porch or stoop that extends across the full front of the house. A similar porch extends across the rear of the house. The house was given to the city of New York by descendents of William Dyckman in 1915 and is now run as a house museum.

History

William Dyckman, who built the present house, was a grandson of Jan Dyckman who came to New Amsterdam from Bentheim, Westphalia, Germany, in 1660, toward the close of the Dutch occupation of New York, and settled in Harlem. With his associate Jan Nagel, Jan Dyckman was awarded a part of the present Dyckman Tract about 1677. A portion of this land remained in the possession of his descendants until 1916, when two of the original lots were exchanged for the two adjacent northern lots which now comprise Dyckman House Park. Each generation of the family added desirable land to the ancient farm. At their peak, the Dyckman holdings extended from the top of Fort George through the Dyckman Tract to a point beyond 230th Street, eastward to the Harlem River, and westward to Broadway, forming one of the largest farms in the history of Manhattan.

~~William Dyckman was a~~ third son when he inherited the Dyckman estate from his father in 1773. The continued presence of armed forces in the Kingsbridge area after the outbreak of the Revolution endangered his family, especially since his sympathies were with the Rebels. For this reason, he abandoned his home and lived near Peekskill, New York, for the duration of the war.

When William Dyckman returned to Kingsbridge he found that the British had repaid his loyalty to the patriot cause by burning his house to the ground. Rehabilitation of the farm was begun immediately, but he did not live to see the completion of his work. He died in 1787. His wife, Mary Turner Dyckman, lived for fifteen years longer and died at the Dyckman House in 1802.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Burnham, Alan, ed., New York Landmarks, Middletown, Connecticut, 1963.  
 Eberlein, Harold D., The Manors and Historic Houses of the Hudson Valley, Philadelphia, 1924.  
 Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, New York, 1952.  
 Dyckman House File, New York City Landmarks Commission, New York City.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	591071410	4524400	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(Tax Map Block 2241)

The boundaries on the form agree with the property lot owned by New York City: Lot 35- The house sits atop a very high ledge which runs parallel to Broadway, facing west overlooking Broadway. Surrounded by a small garden, the Dyckman House is bounded by the near curb of Broadway on the south, the near curb of 204th Street on the west and apartment buildings on the east and north. The later reconstructed buildings, although not intrusive, do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Sites Survey

10/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington

D.C.

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

Designated: DEC 24, 1967  
date

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Boundary Certified:

TITLE

*Deborah F. Emery* March 10, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 4/3/78

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Inside the house, the only serious changes had been made in the woodwork of the hall and dining room. This was reportedly replaced by copies of older woodwork found either under the new pieces or in another part of the house. Wall colors were determined by examination of paint layers.

On the grounds a smokehouse was constructed after a photograph of the original one. At the rear of the house, in the garden, is a reconstructed army hut of the type used by Hessian soldiers for winter shelter when they occupied the area during the Revolutionary War. Some traces of these huts existed as late as 1916. A well curb was also reproduced, and a stone wall was built in a design to correspond with the walls of the house. Garden paths were paved with bricks along old lines and a number of trees and shrubs were planted in locations shown by early picture.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The next owner of the farm was Jacobus Dyckman, William's eldest son, who added to the family holdings materially. After his death in 1837, the property passed to his younger sons, Isaac and Michael. They moved away from the present house to the "old yellow house," which stood half a mile distant on the upper part of the farm, overlooking the small creek and tidemill, where a ship canal now stands. This house was the home of the Dyckmans until Isaac, the eldest and surviving brother, died in 1868.

Upon his death, the Dyckman estate was divided among numerous nieces and nephews because there were no heirs bearing the name of Dyckman. One of the nephews, James Frederick Dyckman Smith, became principal heir. He had lived in the Dyckman House from 1820 to about 1850, when he moved with his uncles to the old yellow house. He left in 1867 to marry a kinswoman, Fannie Blackwell Brown, and took up residence in the house he built at 218th Street, west of Broadway, which still stands. In 1868, he changed his name to Isaac Michael Dyckman in memory of his uncles. Mrs. Dyckman survived her husband by fifteen years, dying in 1914. Descendants of the Dyckman family purchased and restored the house with period furnishings, presenting it to the city in 1915, which continues to manage it as a house museum.

SKETCH MAP FOR THE  
DYCKMAN HOUSE-  
drawn on site 1975  
unscaled

