

333 WASHINGTON STREET HOUSE, Borough of Manhattan. Built 1892-3.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 182, Lot 1 in part, consisting of the land on which the described building is situated.

On May 26, 1970, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the 333 Washington Street House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 11). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. One witness spoke in favor of designation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

333 Washington Street stands in the rear of the lot of 33 Harrison Street, the corner of six Federal houses, built in 1827-1828, which compose a group that is unique in New York City. Nowhere else is there a survival of this many houses of this style -- all of which retain their original pitched roofs and dormers. The fact that they wrap around a corner, showing a distinctive gable-end profile, also makes this group one-of-a-kind in the City today.

As the City grew in the early nineteenth century, the commercial activities of the Washington Market, located on a site to the south, expanded northward until, by the end of the nineteenth century, this entire area was wholly commercial, and there were no more than a handful of the original town houses left.

333 Washington Street was built in 1892-3 by R.D.M. Harrison as an addition to 33 Harrison Street to satisfy this demand for commercial space. The simplicity of its vernacular style, and its domestic scale, make it harmonize with its earlier Federal-style neighbors. It is a record of the period in which these buildings were used as a market.

When these houses were built, they were refreshingly close to the river. The land on which 333 Washington Street stands was originally part of the well-known farm of Annetje Jans. The Dutch Director General, Van Twiller, had granted it in 1636 to her and her first husband, who were both Scandinavian born. On this farm of sixty-two acres extending between the present Chambers and Canal Streets, they constructed a building on a point at the then Hudson River shoreline between the present Harrison, Jay, Washington and West Streets, in the block immediately west of 333 Washington Street. After the death of her husband, Annetje Jans married the minister of the province, Dominie Bogardus, and the farm became known as the Dominie's Bowery. Annetje's heirs sold it in 1671 to Col. Francis Lovelace, the English Governor of the province, but three years later he lost it to the Crown in the satisfaction of a debt. Meanwhile the Dutch province had been granted by the English King to his brother, the Duke of York, who later became James II, King of England. He was succeeded on the throne by Queen Mary. Hence Annetje Jans' bowery came to be known successively as the Duke's Farm, the King's Farm, and the Queen's Farm.

In 1705 Queen Anne gave it by patent to Trinity Church. This portion of the farm was leased for ninety-nine years, in 1765, and became also the site of Harrison's Brewery: "the most commodious and complete of any in America." Philip Rhinelander bought the complex in 1793, and the Brewery then became known as Rhinelander's. After the death of William Rhinelander, the property was sold in 1827 by the executors of his estate. 331 Washington Street was built in 1828 as were the two matching houses at Nos. 327 and 329 Washington Street.

333 WASHINGTON STREET HOUSE

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATIONS

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the 333 Washington Street House has a special character, special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, 333 Washington Street, a late nineteenth century vernacular building, makes a clear statement of proportion and harmony, and that, with the six other adjoining houses, it preserves a characteristic nineteenth century domestic scale.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 63 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 8-A of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the 333 Washington Street House, Borough of Manhattan and designates as its Landmark Site that part of Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 182, Lot 1, which contains the land on which the described building is situated.