

Now 23 Harrison Street on Sanborn Block 142 lot 10

314 WASHINGTON STREET HOUSE (Jonas Wood House), Borough of Manhattan.
Completed 1804; architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 142, Lot 20 in part, consisting of the land on which the described building is situated.

On December 27, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the 314 Washington Street House as a Landmark and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 43). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This house is one of the very few of its period to have survived in New York City. It is in very early Federal style, which still carried on the eighteenth century Georgian tradition of building.

Jonas Wood, who built the house at 314 Washington Street, described himself as a farmer in 1795 when, for \$395, he purchased his building lot from Trinity. The 1804 City Director lists him as living at that address, indicating that the house was built in 1803-1804. This charming house retains its original scale, and, above the first floor, virtually all of its original early nineteenth century detail. Although the first floor has been completely altered, the lintel blocks which probably crowned the original entrance still remain under the later canopy. The masonry is of Flemish bond brickwork and the window lintels are splayed, with handsome double keystones; the roof, the dormers and the cornice are original and intact. This house is a fortuitous survival of a class which, though built for people of considerable means, presented a very discreet and unostentatious exterior. One can see in this house an exceedingly careful attention to proportion and harmony of detail, and, equally important, the rare craftsmanship necessary to achieve such a simple and elegant statement.

The land on which No. 314 Washington Street stands was originally much nearer the river and was 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, and Washington and West Streets, in the block immediately northwest of No. 314 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 Anne. 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 the site of Harrison's Brewery: "the most commodious and complete of any in America." Philip Rhinelander bought the complex in 1793 and the site then became known as Rhinelander's Brewery.

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.

When moved and restored, this house, as part of the larger group of nine houses, will retain intact the characteristic late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century domestic scale so rare in New York City.

314 WASHINGTON STREET HOUSE

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATIONS

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this house, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the 314 Washington Street House has a special character, special historic 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, 314 Washington Street is a fine early Federal house, that it makes a clear statement of refined proportion and harmony, and that, with eight other houses in the area, it preserves a characteristic late eighteenth century domestic scale and profile unique in New York City.

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 314 Washington Street House, Borough of Manhattan and designates as its Landmark Site that part of Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 142, Lot 20 which contains the land on which the described building is situated.