

VAN NUYSE-MAGAW HOUSE, 1041 East 22nd Street, Borough of Brooklyn. Built about 1800; architect unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 7586, Lot 19.

On February 8, 1966, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Van Nuyse-Magaw House and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 76). 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. The owner has informed the Commission that he is in favor of the proposed designation.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This unpretentious frame house is an excellent example of a Dutch Colonial farmhouse of the early 1800's with some Twentieth Century modifications. This rectangular two and one-half story sturdy, shingle-covered dwelling has great architectural character. A gambrel roof with out-sweeping curves gives the house a sharp clean-cut profile. On the two long sides, it projects out beyond the wall forming cantilevered overhangs.

Johannes Van Nuyse (1736-1826), who erected this Van Nuyse homestead at the west end of his father's eighty-five acre farm, was born on the Flatlands plain in the home of his father, Joost Van Nuyse (1716-1792), a Dutch farmer. Johannes married Nellie Lott on April 2, 1800, and about the same time began to build his future home which, tradition says, was completed about 1803 with a kitchen wing on one end. It is believed that Robert Magaw bought the house sometime between 1844 and 1852 and that Frederick, one of his three sons, sold it in 1909. It is known that George C. Case purchased the house in 1916, moved it to its present site, removed the kitchen wing and added the new dormer windows at about the same time.

This modest dwelling, oriented East and West on a lot bounded by two driveways, has its two entrances facing them. In the west gable end of the house fronting the street, there are two large double-hung windows on the first floor, two paired windows on the floor above and a single round arched window in the attic. (It would appear, due to the arrangement of muntins, that many of the windows have new sash. Windows separated by a wood mullion are not at all typical of the period). Stout chimneys rise above the ridge of the roof at both ends of the house. A brick path leads to a raised platform in front of the main entrance which faces north. Flanking the doorway are two free-standing fluted Doric columns supporting a low entablature. There are two single windows on each side of the entrance, and the sloping roof has three dormers, single ones right and left with shed roofs in the old style and paired windows in the later center dormer which has a high gable and small windows at the sides. On the south side of the house the door is centrally located with a picture window to the right of the door and two single windows to the left. With the exception of the central dormer on the north side and the two columns at the front doorway, the house probably looks much as it did when Johannes Van Nuyse built it, although the other dormers may have been added at a later date.

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 Van Nuyse-Magaw 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, the Van Nuyse-Magaw House is an outstanding example of an 1800 Dutch Colonial farmhouse with minor Twentieth Century modifications, that it has fine proportions, is well preserved, sturdily built of good materials, is architecturally an attractive reminder of an important early period of Brooklyn's history, and that this is one of the very few houses of this type remaining in the 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 Van Nuyse Magaw House, 1041 East 22nd Street, Borough of Brooklyn and designates Tax Map Block 7586, Lot 19, Borough of Brooklyn, as its Landmark Site.

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