



# Dyckman Farmhouse Timeline

In order to fully appreciate the significance of the Farmhouse's presence in a bustling urban landscape it is important to know about the time when the farmhouse was built, who lived here, and how the house's purpose has changed over time.

## 1784 – THE FARMHOUSE IS BUILT

When the American Revolution was over William Dyckman returned to northern Manhattan with his wife, two daughters and slaves to find his home along the Harlem River burned and his farmland destroyed. He set to building a new house in a new location, along Kingsbridge Road (today Broadway) and rebuilding the farm. The slaves, family members and nearby friends probably helped William build the farmhouse using local materials. They built a practical farmhouse, with a simple layout and features that were useful to a farming lifestyle.

## 1815 – 1820 - THE FARM PROSPERS

William Dyckman's son Jacobus took over the family farm when his father passed away. It was under Jacobus's leadership that the Dyckman farm prospered. Between 1815 and 1820 about 10 people lived in the farmhouse including Dyckman family members, servants and an enslaved man. The landscape would have been very different than what surrounds the farmhouse today. The property contained three houses, barns and stables, a cider mill, fish houses along the Hudson River, orchards, meadowland, crop fields and a cabbage patch. The Dyckmans were not the only farmers in this area, and there were other industries as well: a blacksmith shop, a marble quarry and a tavern.

## 1916 – THE FARMHOUSE IS PRESERVED

The farmhouse left Dyckman family ownership in the 1870's and became rental property. By the early 20th century the farmhouse had fallen into disrepair and the rural character of the neighborhood was quickly changing. Two Dyckman sisters, Mary Alice and Fannie Fredericka, purchased the house in 1915 to ensure its preservation. They, along with their husbands Alexander McMillan Welch and Bashford Dean, restored and furnished the house to reflect life in the early 1800s. They also landscaped a ½ acre of land around the house as a garden. They gave the restored farmhouse an d garden to the city of New York in 1916 and the site has been open to the public ever since.

