The Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, the last farmhouse in Manhattan, is a vital cultural asset in New York City. It can be found sitting high above the corner of Broadway at 204th Street in Inwood. The Dutch Colonial style farmhouse was built on this site c. 1784. It was home to the Dyckman family for almost a century. It opened as a museum in 1916 and continues to serve the community in a half-acre park. It is an extraordinary reminder of early Manhattan and an important part of its diverse Inwood neighborhood.

Jan Dyckman arrived in New Amsterdam in the 1660’s from Westphalia. Before the American Revolution, the Dyckman family homestead was located roughly near 210th Street and the East River whom Jan’s grandson William had inherited along with land from his father. During the war, the Dyckmans fled the city and returned to a destroyed home. William built the new family home in 1784, which is today's museum. When William died in 1787, the family initially advertised the property for sale but ultimately his son Jacobus took over the house and farm.

The most prominent family that lived in this home was Jacobus' household. In 1820, there were 10 people living here, including Jacobus, his three sons Jacob, Isaac and Michael, his grandson James Frederick Smith, his niece Maria, one unidentified white woman, a free black woman, a free black boy, and one enslaved male. When Jacobus died in 1832, his son's Isaac and Michael took over the family farm. When Isaac, the last remaining son of Jacobus died in 1868, his nephew James Frederick Smith, the young grandson of Jacobus, changed his name to Isaac Michael Dyckman to inherit the land. It stayed in the family until the 1880s, when farm life was diminishing in the area. It was sold and turned into an inn for a short while before becoming abandoned through the turn of the century.

In great disrepair, Mary Alice Dyckman Dean and Fannie Fredericka Dyckman Welch, daughters of Isaac Michael Dyckman, bought the property in 1915 to ensure its preservation. By July of 1916 the farmhouse was open to visitors and has served as an important landmark of history in New York City ever since.
The DyckmanDISCOVERED initiative investigates the stories of enslaved people who live and worked on Dutch farms in what is now called Inwood. This initiative brings an inclusive history to the community, fosters a sense of transparency and, we hope, engages visitors who have not seen themselves represented in the current narrative.

With a grant from The New York Community Trust, DFM hired a part-time research assistant to uncover information about the people who worked on the Dyckman Farm and the other farms nearby. With new information, DFM designed new educational materials for the museum, created public programs and engaged local artists to produce site specific installations that communicate the story of these underrepresented people. This project reinforces the importance of inclusive historical narratives in America's historical institutions, of all sizes.
Since March of 2020, the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum has empowered 120 families to grow food in their urban apartments in Upper Manhattan and the Bronx through our Growing Uptown program as a start to closing the gap in food security in their own homes. Grow Kits with pots, soil, and seedlings were assembled and distributed to constituents. The Grow Kits were accompanied by bilingual written and digital instructions and recipes developed in-house, and designed to teach families how to supplement their food needs through urban growing.

We know this pilot was a great success; 20 kits were distributed to families in need, and several of our new urban farmers have kept in touch to share the progress of their windowsill crops. Moving forward, DFM is putting together kits that are more robust and will include food staples such as onions and tomatoes. Ultimately, these simple Grow Kits are helping families learn more about where their food comes from and are just the beginning of how Growing Uptown can foster successful, impactful urban gardening as we expand the program.
THE COLLECTION

The Dyckman Family
In 1915, after Mary Alice Dyckman Dean and her sister Fannie Fredericka Dyckman Welch purchased the farmhouse, the process of restoring the farmhouse and creating a collection began. Their spouses, Bashford Dean and Alexander McMillan Welch, appear to have reached out to family, friends and knowledgeable colleagues to gather items to furnish the farmhouse. As a result, the collection that is on display is a combination of Dyckman family objects that would have originally been in the farmhouse, items from extended family and objects that the museum founders felt should be in the farmhouse.

Reginald Pelham Bolton
One hundred years ago, a band of amateur archaeologists roamed across Northern Manhattan hoping to salvage history before the modern metropolis expanded northward and obliterated all remnants of a fascinating past. They discovered thousands of objects, many of them dating to the Revolutionary War, a key period in the neighborhood’s history. Many of these intriguing objects, including cannon balls, pottery shards, bayonet points and grapeshot were donated to the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum in 1916 by a key figure in the digs, Reginald Pelham Bolton, an engineer by profession but an archaeologist through his passion for history.

With Bashford Dean, one of the creators of the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, he created an exhibit on the first floor of the farmhouse known as The Reginald Pelham Bolton Collection, and soon became affectionately known as the Relic Room. Originally estimated to be a collection of up to 2,000 objects, the accessioning work has uncovered over 5,000 objects. In addition to archaeological objects, the collection includes materials relating to the work of the archaeologists, including notes, boxes used to carry artifacts and labels from the original exhibit.
Mission
Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, the last farmhouse in Manhattan, is a vital cultural asset in New York City. The mission of the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum Alliance is to support the preservation of the historic site, to be a catalyst for engaging, adventuresome programming and to be a good neighbor and a dynamic resource for the community.

Historic House Trust
The Dyckman Farmhouse Museum is a member of The Historic House Trust of New York City

New York City Parks
The Dyckman Farmhouse Museum is owned by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation

Designations

Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)
1934

National Register of Historic Places
1967

National Historic Landmark
December 24, 1967

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FAST FACTS

LOCATION
4881 Broadway
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CONTACT
info@dyckmanfarmhouse.org
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HOURS
Thursday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Friday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm

GENERAL ADMISSION
General Admission: $3
Children under 3: FREE
HHT Members: FREE
Inwood Residents: FREE
Culture Pass Members: FREE

GROUPS AND GUIDED TOURS
-RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR GROUPS
-BASE PROGRAM FEES FOR TOURS:
Title 1 schools: $75 per group
Public Schools: $150 per group
Independent Schools: $220 per group
Add a hands-on activity: $3 per student

AMENITIES
Street Parking
Public Restrooms
Bilingual Tours
Digital and Printout Guides available

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS
Growing Uptown
Dyckman Summer Camp
DyckmanDISCOVERED
Traveling Kitchen
Artists-In Residence

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS
Beyond Play
Obscurus Projectum
I Was Here

SOCIAL MEDIA
@dyckmanfarmhouse
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DYCKMAN FARMHOUSE FACTS

YEAR BUILT
1784

BUILDING STYLE
Dutch Colonial

YEAR MUSEUM ESTABLISHED
1916

INTERPRETATION PERIOD
19th Century

LOT SIZE
Half acre

OUR COLLECTION
Dyckman Family Collection
Reginald Pelham Bolton Collection
-Lenape, Colonial, Revolutionary War

March 2022