

Adam Vrooman House
119 Front Street
Schenectady
Schenectady County
New York

HABS No. NY-3286

HABS
NY,
47-SCHE,
30-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

ADAM VROOMAN HOUSE

Address: 119 Front Street, Schenectady, Schenectady County,
New York.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Philip Stanley

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement
of Significance: One of the oldest remaining houses in the area.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original and subsequent owners: Adam Vrooman; deeded to his son Johannes in 1726. Owned for long time before 1932 by Judge Whitmore. Purchased by Philip Stanley in 1932.

B. Date of Erection: c. 1720.

C. Original plans, construction, etc. Original portion about 20' x 20', was on west, with gable facing street, with two rooms on each floor. It was extended northward at an undetermined date.

D. Notes on alterations and additions: Extended to east at an undetermined date. Rear stair removed (c. 1930?) for addition of bathrooms. Chimney removed from east portion in recent years. West front room on second floor widened toward north in recent years.

E. Sources of Information: Historic Buildings in Downtown Schenectady, booklet (Schenectady: Committee on Historic Markers, Schenectady County Historical Society, 1961), p. 8.

Prepared by John A. Miller
Schenectady, New York
AND Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
September 1962.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A very early surviving example of a small house in this area.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: About 35' frontage, about 28' depth. Two stories; approximately rectangular.

2. Foundations: Very low. Field stone, brick. A few sun-dried bricks are still visible in present central wall.

3. Wall construction: Clapboards, and novelty siding (obviously replacement); heavy timber frame with brick infilling.

4. Chimneys: Brick. One on west wall near front, one on ridge to rear of center.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Entrance has architrave trim, narrow transom light, four-panel doors.

b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung sash, six over six lights. Architrave trim. Louvered shutters.

6. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable, with gable fronting the street, on original (west) portion. Gable, with ridge parallel to street on east portion.

b. Cornice: Simple wood cornice with small ornamental brackets on facade.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Original portion: front and rear room, each floor. Added (east) portion similar. Central stairway.

2. Stairways: Enclosed; 12 risers.

3. Flooring: 9" x 11" joists laid flat, 5' on centers. Sash-sawn floor boards up to 15" wide in older portion. All surfaces now covered with narrow boards or linoleum.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted. Ceiling height of second floor is 7'-6".

5. Doors: Old portion, four-panel doors, simple. New portion, six-panel doors.
 6. Trim: Old portion, architrave trim, wood. New portion, simple trim, wood. Simple wood base.
 7. Door hardware: Two cast iron butts, cast iron box locks.
 8. Heating: Fireplaces added in recent times.
- D. Site: Faces south. Built near sidewalk with narrow side yards.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
September 1962.