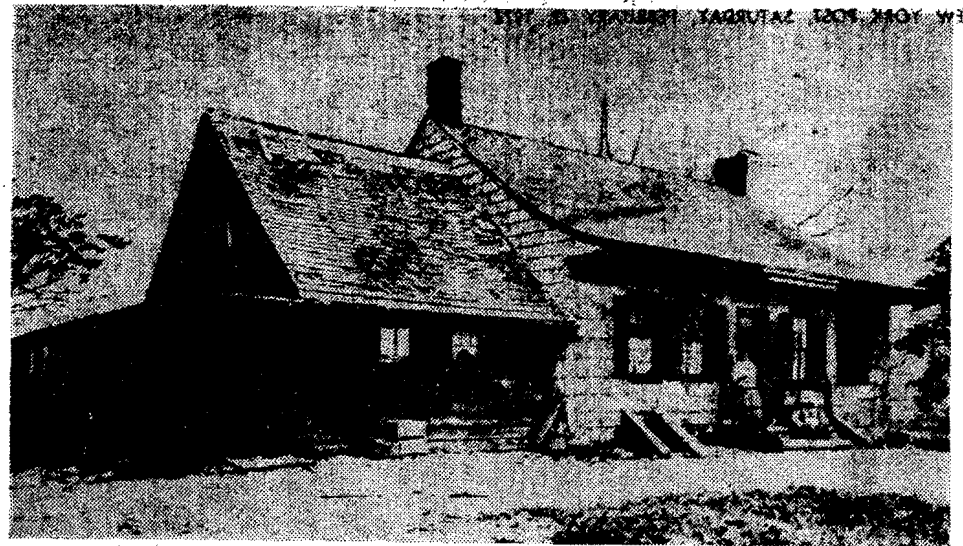


The Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House, from Dutch Colonial days, as it looks today . . .

Post Photo by Joe DeMaria



. . . And as the house once looked, and may again look after restoration is finished.

## Time running out for a 1630s cottage

By ROBERTA B. GRATZ

The Board of Estimate long ago approved the use of federal funds to restore a long-neglected Dutch colonial farmhouse in Brooklyn—the oldest house in the state and possibly the oldest wood-frame dwelling in the country.

Yet, ten months later, not one penny has been spent.

New requirements and endless interagency reviews have caused the restoration plans to be shuffled back and forth among many layers of bureaucracy.

And it could be another year before preservation work actually begins on the Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House, built by a Dutch settler in the 1630s.

For more than 20 years, people have been trying to rescue it from the ravages of time and neglect. For 10 years, city officials have been promising the go-ahead.

Eventually, the farmhouse will be a symbolic remnant of colonial history surrounded by a park and open to the public.

Since \$825,000 in federal Community Development money was approved in April, new roadblocks have arisen. The federal government wants an archeological dig made prior to construction work—the site may once have been an Indian encampment. And there are provisions for a live-in custodian, which requires new sewage and utility lines.

Restoration work can't

begin until the archeological survey is complete. The survey can't begin until plans are drawn for the sewage and utility lines. Those plans are in the works, according to a spokesman for the Landmarks Commission which is co-ordinating the interagency effort.

Initially, the far-flung descendants of Wyckoff saved the house from demolition, purchased it, donated it to the city and promised further funds to furnish and maintain it. But an agreement on details is still being worked out.

The dilapidated but sturdy two-chimney cottage, with its sloped roof, hand-hewn oak timbers and rounded shingles, is a pathetic

sight—boarded up and empty—at the corner of Clarendon Rd. and Ralph Av. in the East Flatbush-Flatlands area of Brooklyn.

It became the city's first officially designated landmark in 1965.

Pieter Claesen Wyckoff was a town magistrate under Peter Stuyvesant and the name Wyckoff, in Dutch, means magistrate. He had 10 children to whom the more than 1000 direct descendants trace their origin.