



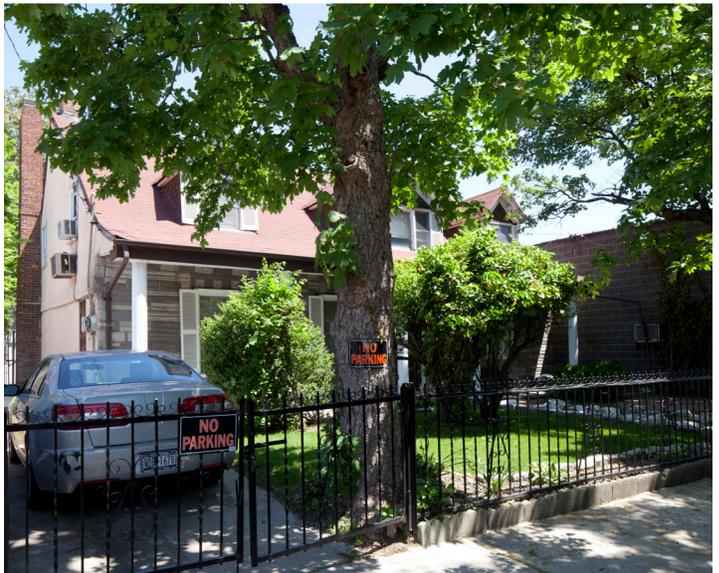
**Landmarks Preservation
Commission**

Lady Moody-Van Sicklen House

27 Gravesend Neck Road, Brooklyn
Brooklyn Block: 07123; Lot: 0064

Backlog Initiative: Addressing 95 Properties
Brooklyn Items

Brooklyn Community Board 15
Public Hearing Date(s): 02/08/1966; 05/26/1970;
03/02/2004



Photos 2014

Special Public Hearings

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the backlog of buildings in the Borough of Brooklyn on **October 8, 2015**. Each speaker will be given three minutes to speak, and in that time may address all of the items within the Borough, specific items, or add comments to support written testimony. In order to conduct efficient hearings, we ask speakers to register in advance and submit written statements by **October 1, 2015** to backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov. If you are unable to attend the hearing, your written submissions will be entered into the record and distributed to the Commissioners.

If you have any questions about this property or the hearing process, please contact backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov or call (212) 669-7817. If you would like more information about this property, please see the research file summary (over) and go to our website (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/backlog95>) and click on the link for this building's research file.



**Landmarks Preservation
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Lady Moody-Van Sicklen House Description

Landmark Type: Individual

Built: Early 18th century

Architect: unknown

Style: Dutch-American farmhouse

Research Staff Hearing Statement (2004)

LADY MOODY – VAN SICKLEN HOUSE

27 Gravesend Neck Road, Brooklyn

Located in Gravesend, Brooklyn, the Lady Moody–Van Sicklen House is a rare surviving example of an eighteenth-century Dutch-American farmhouse, and the only known extant 18th century farmhouse of stone construction in Brooklyn. In addition to the stone walls, the house features a gable roof with wide, overhanging eaves and end chimneys that are typical of 18th century construction

The house was built on a portion of the original house lot of Lady Deborah Moody, who founded Gravesend in the 1640s. An Anabaptist (forerunners of Quakers), Lady Moody first left England and then was forced out of Massachusetts, because of her religious beliefs. Lady Moody planned the distinctive layout of Gravesend, the first English settlement in the New Netherlands, and is credited as being the first woman to establish a European colony in the United States. The current house may incorporate features of Lady Moody's 1640s-50s house.

Farmer and property owner Ferdinandus Van Sicklen acquired this land in 1702. The Van Sicklen family most likely built the present house. In the 1840s-50s the house and land were acquired by Cornelia Van Sicken Hicks and her husband Thomas Hicks, a fisherman. The Hicks family occupied the house until 1903/06 when it was sold to realtor William E. Platt, who with his wife Isabella, made extensive alterations to the house in keeping with the prevalent Arts and Crafts aesthetic including the addition of dormer windows and stuccoing the exterior.

Extant Dutch-American farmhouses are extremely rare in New York City. Only 14 of the 31 Brooklyn farmhouses catalogued by Rosalie Bailey in 1936 still survive. Eight of the fourteen are designated individual New York City landmarks, and the commission is currently reviewing a request to designate the remaining six. Of the six, the Lady Moody–Van Sicklen house is probably the most significant because of its age, historical associations, stone construction and siting.

Most Brooklyn Dutch-American farmhouses are of wood. Bailey documented four Dutch-American stone farmhouses in Brooklyn, including this house. Two have subsequently been demolished and due to a boundary change the Onderdonk House, a designated New York City Landmark, is now in Queens, making the Lady Moody–Van Sicklen house the only extant 18th century stone farmhouse in Brooklyn. Most stone houses were built in areas adjacent to ridges where stone was available, the use of stone for the Lady Moody–Van Sicklen house in flat, coastal Gravesend is highly unusual. Several scholars of eighteenth-century Dutch-American houses have made a correlation between the use of stone and the presence of slave labor. Late 18th century Kings County had the largest percentage of slaves outside the south, and the Dutch farmers of Kings County were the main slave owners, reinforcing the likelihood that the Van Sicklens, farmers of Dutch descent, had the house built.

Many Dutch-American farmhouses have been moved from or reoriented on their original sites. The Lady Moody–Van Sicklen house remains on its original site in its historic location making it one of the few Dutch-American farmhouses on its original site, which additionally is a prominent and central location within the colonial plan of Gravesend. The Lady Moody–Van Sicklen house is one of the few remaining built forms that represents the early history of Gravesend, a significant New York colonial community.