

Captain Lynch House (Blue Door)
708 Wolfe Street
Alexandria, Virginia

HABS No. VA-476

HABS
VA
7-ALEX
41-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D.C.

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Present Owner: Miss Ann Lewis Jones

Present Occupant and Use: Residence of owner

Description:

Clapboard, Reminiscent of New England Farmhouse

Number of stories: 2 with ell and west wing

Historical Data:

Year of erection: Pre-Revolutionary

Built for (first owner): Unknown

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Notable events and occupants:

When built, this was a farmhouse on the outskirts of Alexandria. It stands today upon a larger-than-usual town lot which protects some of its original character. In the rear stand a brick Smokehouse and small Dairy. The earliest house unit is a modest box like structure with gable roof and massive square chimney. First floor 6/9 sash are probably the original type. Hand-rift flush siding lost doubtless reveals early wall treatment.

According to owner, available records on this structure at Fairfax Court House go back no farther than 1779 when it was owned by Captain Lynch. For a number of years, Miss Jones operated here, an antique shop known as "The Blue Door".

In recent years the house was sheltered two distinguished writers: John Dos Passos and Van Wyck Brooks.

References: HABI forms prepared by T. Russell Jones and Worth Bailey, HABS, National Park Service.

Approved

Dick Suther

Date

Feb. 16, 1959

Chief Architect