

Adam Lynn House  
532 King Street  
Alexandria  
Virginia

HABS No. VA-687

HABS  
VA  
7-ALEX,  
151-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## ADAM LYNN HOUSE

HABS  
VA  
7-ALEX,  
151-

- Location: 532 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia (southeast corner of intersection with St. Asaph Street)
- Present Owner: Demolished after 1969 by the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority as part of an urban renewal project in the old commercial center of Alexandria.
- Statement of Significance: One of four buildings owned by or associated with Adam Lynn in this block (see also HABS reports VA-676, VA-686, and VA-688), this building is similar in architectural details to the two adjoining buildings fronting King Street and separated from them by one building.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: circa 1815-16

It is probable that Lynn inherited this building site from his father, who, at the time of his death, had owned the quarter block at this corner. It is doubtful that the lot then contained the three-story brick building. Until Lynn, Jr., in 1816 announced that he had moved his store to this corner, it is not mentioned in his many advertisements--either as his place of business, or as being available to rent. It is probable that Lynn built the corner house shortly after he completed the house at 518-20 King--around 1815-1816.

2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: Lynn until 1820; conveyed in that year to his nephew Thomas Childs of Governor's Island, New York, for \$3,000. Thomas Childs, a career Army man, had married Lynn's niece, the daughter of his sister Catharine Coryton. This deed described the property as a three-story brick tenement and a lot of ground on the southeast corner of King and St. Asaph Streets, fronting 23 feet on King Street and 76 feet on St. Asaph Street. The conveyance to Childs was contingent upon Lynn obtaining the release of a trust on the property dated December 8, 1817. Lynn's financial affairs were apparently too involved for him to pay up and obtain the release, because on February 20, 1822, this property was also sold at public auction, bringing \$2,040.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

This building shares the same history of Adam Lynn, Jr. that is detailed in the HABS report on the Adam Lynn House (VA-676).

C. Sources of Information:

See sources for the Adam Lynn House (HABS report VA-676).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

Except for the absence of one bay and the later addition c. 1910 of an Italianate cornice and raised flat roofline with parapet, this house is, like the Catharine Coryton House (HABS report VA-686), a virtual duplicate of the Adam Lynn House (HABS report VA-676). The later additions may have responded to the building's corner location.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Three stories, three bays on King Street facade and four bays on St. Asaph Street facade. An addition to the rear of an undetermined date measures three stories and three bays.
2. Openings: The storefront was altered in the mid-twentieth century.

Prepared by Mrs. Hugh B. Cox of  
The Historic Alexandria  
Foundation  
October 1968  
Edited by  
Antoinette J. Lee  
November 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken in 1968 to document the commercial and residential buildings in downtown Alexandria which were to be demolished in an urban renewal project. The project was cosponsored by the Historic Alexandria Foundation and the Historic American Buildings Survey. Mrs. Hugh B. Cox was the historian and George Eisenman supplied the photographs. The material was edited and updated in 1975 by Antoinette J. Lee, working on contract for HABS.