

CONSTANCE WRIGHT HOUSE
90 Greenwich Street
Hempstead, Nassau County
Long Island, New York

HABS No. NY-532

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. NY-5

Historic American Buildings Survey
Lester B. Pope, District Officer
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y.

"THE CONSTANCE WRIGHT HOUSE"
Hempstead, Nassau County, New York

Owner or Custodian

Constance Wright
90 Greenwich Street
Hempstead, New York.

Date of Erection

Main portion, about 1800.

Architect and Builder

Unknown.

Present Condition

Good. Several additions have been made to the original portion: ten feet have been added to the rear of the main portion; the second story porch; the service wing at the south end of the kitchen.

Number of Stories

Two, and attic.

Materials of Construction

Masonry foundations, wood floors, wood walls covered with split shingle. Shingle gable roof; no dormers; inside chimneys. Fine exterior trim, some of more recent date. (See above.)

Other Existing Records

None.

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Additional Data

The placing of the main house at soon after 1800 would make it contemporaneous with the Isaac Snedecker House of Hempstead, already reported in this survey. A study of the stairs, doors, mantels, and other details would seem to show a marked resemblance in character between the two houses. The Snedecker House has a definite record of 1810 for its building date.

About 1885 there was a major alteration to the Wright House. Ten feet were added to rear of the main block and the service wing at the south of the kitchen was constructed. About this time or a little earlier, the second-story porch was added to the earlier one-story porch. The columns are Ionic in style while the cornice is Doric, which may argue an alteration to the roof, perhaps in the period of the Greek revival which was the style in Hempstead between 1820 and 1850.

Whether or not this cornice was original or later, the two-storied porch is very pleasing and was a reason for our deciding to make a survey of this building.

The following details or peculiarities are of particular interest:

The plaster cornices in the living rooms, with their deeply modeled rosettes at the fireplace breast. The interesting little carriage house at the rear of the grounds with its delicate window muntins and trim,

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(Continued)

and obviously later doors. (This may have been an original service wing of the old house removed to make way for more commodious quarters. If so, this change was before 1880.) The differences in levels between the main house and the service wing.

Accurate data concerning the original building of this house is difficult to obtain because of the change in ownership of the family with its traditions and records. The chief clue is in the memory of the present owner that she lived there for forty years and that the former owner, Mary E. Wright, was born in the house and lived there until she died at the age of ninety.

The house stands with great dignity, is well preserved and cared for--a worthy example of the fine architectural developments of the county in the early nineteenth century.

LESTER G. CHAPIN
Leader of Field Party
Historic American Buildings Survey
Nassau County, Long Island, New York

Approved:

Lester B. Pope
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Historic American Buildings Survey
Brooklyn (Long Island) District
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York

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