

## **Hamilton Grange**

Individual Landmark

287 Convent Avenue

Designation Date: August 2, 1967



*Northern exterior of Hamilton Grange. Photo: Lorraine Colbert*

The almost square architectural mass of Hamilton Grange is impressive in its symmetry and handsome proportions. Designed by one of the city's best early architects, John McComb, Jr., and incorporating features suggested by Alexander Hamilton, this Federal style house, with its porches and unpretentious clapboard exterior, has a gracious dignity. "The Grange" was planned as a country seat by Alexander Hamilton for the open countryside and was named after his paternal grandfather's home in Scotland. It is one of the few remaining notable historical houses, designed in the Federal Style, of true architectural distinction.

In 1889, the two-story frame mansion was moved 500 feet from its original site, necessitating the construction of a new foundation and basement to receive it. At its present site, the mansion first served as a chapel and later as a rectory for Saint Luke's Church, and the original front now faces the church. The original front porch was moved around and added to the side veranda, which now faces the street. The original entrance door was moved to a corner of the veranda. It is an exceptionally fine doorway with leaded sidelights and has a fan design within the transom. Due to vandalism, the leaded sidelights will have to be restored. The front door is set in paneled reveals, and pilasters adorn and flank the exterior sidelights.

The front facing the street has a featured central window at the second floor; the rear is five windows wide, while the sides have four. In the rear, supported by six evenly spaced Doric

columns, is one of the two side verandas which extend the full width of the house. Two handsome octagonal rooms reflect themselves externally by projecting as three-sided bays into the side verandas. These bay windows have the elegant full length triple sash so typical of Federal houses.

The handsome roof cornice is Doric, with triglyphs in the frieze, and, as seen in photographs taken of the house in 1933, was once surmounted by a fine Federal balustrade which encircled the low-lying hip roof. Similar balustrades were to be found above the side verandas and the entrance and rear porches. Four large chimneys (two of brick and two false ones of frame) rise prominently and emphasize the symmetry of the house.

[Read the full NYC LPC designation report here.](#)