

“The 5 houses of the Company stand in the Winkelstraet [Shop Street],” says the De Sille List, of 1660. As shown upon the Plan, the houses are all under one roof, and occupy the entire eastern side of the little street.

When the five houses were built, has not been exactly ascertained, but they were, probably, in existence before 1633, as they are not among the buildings listed in the deposition of Gillis Pietersen van der Gouw, master housecarpenter, as having been erected during Van Twiller’s administration (1633–1638).—*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, XIV: 16. The deposition shows, however, that Van Twiller built a goat-house behind the “Five Houses,” which is evidence of their existence. Jacob Stoffelsen, Gillis Pietersen van der Gouw, and Tijmen Jansen depose, April 16, 1639, that, on the arrival of Director Kieft, March 28, 1638, he found the “five brick houses” in need of “considerable repair.”—*N. Y. Hist. Soc. Collections*, 1841, p. 279.

They appear to have been used not merely to receive, store, and merchandise, the Company’s goods, but also to house its servants. In 1652, the fiscal, Van Dyck (see Block A), was ordered to vacate the Company’s house, which he was occupying, as it was “required for the rev. Samuel Drisius,” who had “recently arrived.”—*Cal. Hist. MSS., Dutch*, 129.

Jacob Hendricks, "the barber" (i. e. Varrevanger), is stated to have been living in the Company's house.—*Ibid.*, 160, 375. Schout Tonneman petitions, and is allowed, to occupy one of the Company's houses as a residence.—*Ibid.*, 262.

The five houses were condemned as enemy property by the English, under the Act of October 10, 1665. After the demolition of the Gasthuys, shortly before 1674 (see Nos. 23 and 24), the five houses were converted into a hospital, but before 1680 they had become so dilapidated that Andros had had them pulled down:

The ffive houses or Old hospitall in the towne, in w^{ch} offic^{rs} also used to be lodged for want roome in the fort being yearly chargeable & of little use, and upon a Survey found too old & rotten to be repaired I caused it and the ground to be appraised & then pulled downe, and brought the materialls into the ffort for the rebuilding of a like old house designed to be built by all my predecesso^{rs} w^{ch} is rebuilt accordingly and therein made very convenient Lodgings for the Officers & Secretary &^c which was before very much wanted.

The ground of the hospitall and a little part of the streete by consent of the Towne was appraised at 200^{li} & sold in 4 lotts.—*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, III: 308-313.

The "4 lotts" were sold to Captain Anthony Brockholst, John Darvall, Stephanus van Cortlandt, and Phillip Welles.—*Patents*, V: 5, 8, 9 (Albany); *Land Papers*, I: 179, 213 (Albany).