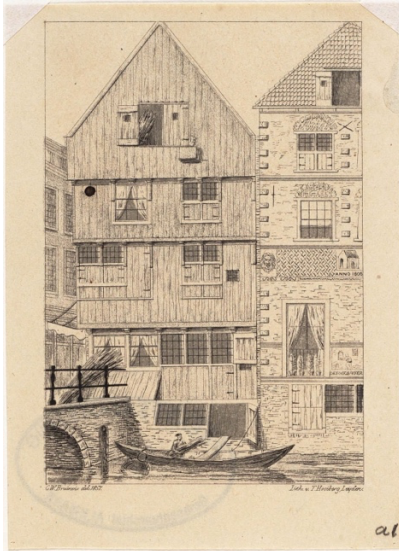


HISTORY HOUSE WITH THE BULLET - ALKMAAR

One of the most famous monuments in Alkmaar is the 'House with the Bullet' in the Appelsteeg. It is not known when the house was built; it is suspected to have been built already around 1480.



An old cannonball with the year 1573 underneath is attached to the wooden facade of the building.



The story goes that it was once the home of the basket and basket maker and preacher, Jan Arentsz, a well-known leader of the Reformation in North Holland. During the Spanish siege in 1573, Alkmaar came under heavy fire and the house was said to have been hit by a Spanish bullet, which destroyed the contents, but left the then residents unharmed.

Since no one of the seven people present was injured, the bullet was placed on the facade in memory of this small miracle.

The wooden facades are all built with an overhang. Each floor is placed on consoles. The stone facade also had this, but this was removed during a renovation in the 19th century. A smaller land plan meant the homeowner had to pay less taxes for land use. The facade is also tapered: the bottom is narrower than the top.