

# **NEW AMSTERDAM HISTORY CENTER**

## **MEMO**

**TO:** Casey R. Kemper  
Chair, NAHC Location Committee

**FROM:** Courtney A. Haff  
NAHC Project Director

**SUBJECT:** NAHC BPCA RFQ RESPONSE

**DATE:** December 13, 2009

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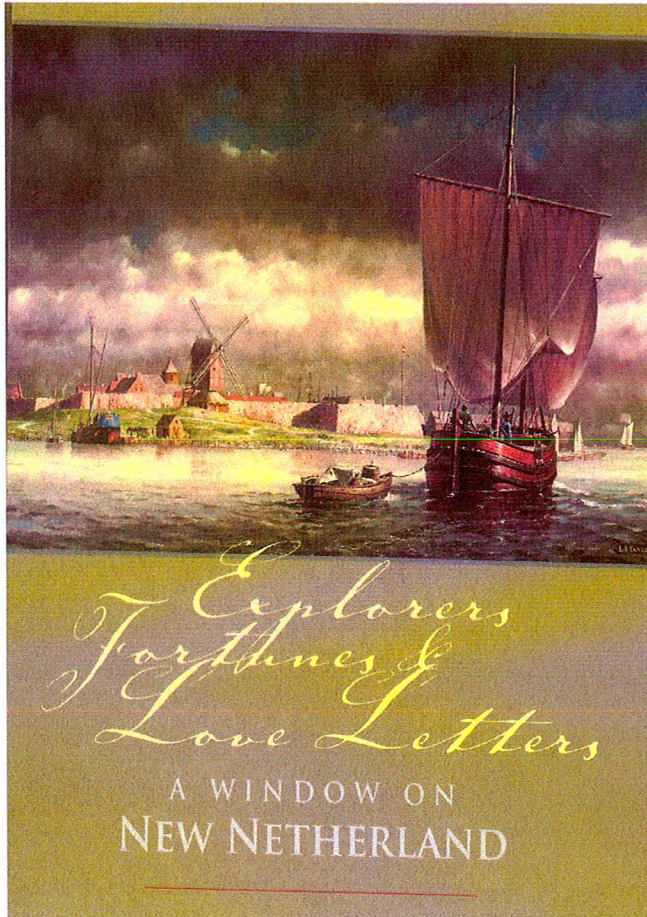
**The following materials represent the initial description of the NAHC response to the Battery Park City Authority Request for Qualifications that is due in January 2010.**

**The materials include:**

- **NAHC Downtown Association Seminar  
“Light on New Netherland Illuminates the Life In New Amsterdam as shown in NAHC’s On-line Virtual New Amsterdam Project.”  
Pages 1-4**
- **Light on New Netherland Exhibit at Federal Hall. Page 5**
- **NAHC at Pier A: It’s Competitive Advantage.  
Pages 6-56**

**Thursday • August 6 • 6:00 PM TO 7PM      By Invitation Only**  
**Down Town Association, 60 Pine Street, New York, New York**

**Light on New Netherland Illuminates the Life in New Amsterdam:  
Themes In Support of the New Amsterdam History Center's Stone  
Street Pilot Area 3-D Model On-Line Exhibition**



The New Amsterdam History Center (NAHC), in collaboration with the New Netherland Institute, is arranging the discussion and exhibit at Federal Hall.

**The Light on New Netherland Exhibit, created by the New Netherland Institute, is to be a Permanent Exhibit of the NAHC in 2010.**

**From August 4 Through September 14, 2009 the Light on New Netherland exhibit will be at Federal Hall, 26 Wall St, New York, New York**

In 1609 the sailors aboard Henry Hudson's ship the *Half Moon* laid their eyes upon the entrance to what would come to be known as the Hudson River, and within 15 years the Dutch began to settle the newly discovered land, creating the colony of New Netherland. The Light on New Netherland Exhibit and its companion book *Explorers, Fortunes and Love Letters: A Window on New Netherland* (Mount Ida Press, 2009) together, present aspects of the fascinating story of this diverse and enterprising colony and its enduring cultural impact. Join **Charles T. Gehring, Ph.D**, translator and director of the New Netherland Project that makes the Dutch records available in English translation and **Len Tantillo**, New York's premiere painter of historical subjects for a dialogue on how the themes of the Light on New Netherland Exhibit illuminate the life in New Amsterdam. The discussion is moderated by **Courtney A. Haff, Ph.D**,; recent author of *Imagine New Amsterdam* (Booksurge, 2009) and Project Director of the Virtual New Amsterdam Project.

**Join Charles T. Gehring and Len Tantillo this same evening for further questions and answers from the discussion on these themes at the official opening of Light on New Netherland Exhibit at Federal Hall.**

**Thursday • August 6 • 7:00 to 8 PM, Open to the Public**

To mark the anniversary of Henry Hudson's 1609 voyage to the area now called New York, **the Light on New Netherland exhibit** explores the colony of New Netherland and its dynamic New Amsterdam. It reveals the character of the young settlement's economy, culture, politics, and built environment through a series of panels that begin with Henry Hudson's exploration in 1609 and cover topics such as the fur trade, relations with the Indians, people of New Netherland, religious toleration, slavery, family life and education, among others. Presented in partnership with the New Netherland Project and assisted in the arrangements with National Park Service by the New York Harbor Conservancy.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Light on  
New Netherland**



An exhibit highlighting the  
presence of the  
Dutch in colonial America



New  
Amsterdam  
History Center







## Virtual New Amsterdam Prototype

A product of the New Amsterdam History Center created by the Environmental Simulation Center, in collaboration with Hudson Microimaging and Haff Associates, Inc.

The Virtual New Amsterdam Prototype was created by the Environmental Simulation Center (ESC) for the New Amsterdam History Center (NAHC) with funding from the New York Empire State Development Corporation and the Collegiate Church Corporation. The prototype was conceived as a "proof of concept," demonstrating the capacity to deploy an online virtual 3D environment that can be used to explore the "sense of place" of New Amsterdam in the 17th Century, intended to be used as an educational tool for students and teachers of New Amsterdam history.

The prototype model focuses on Stone Street and includes 28 buildings modeled by noted historical painter Len Tantillo, as well as a garden and an interior modeled by ESC, featuring typical 17th Century Dutch objects that might have belonged to a resident of New Amsterdam. The model also has a lively street scene of people engaged in everyday activities drawn from 17th Century Dutch Paintings.

The emphasis of the prototype is on creating a sense of daily life in the Dutch settlement and connecting the physical environment to historical documents and research.

The application was developed using Google Earth and the Drupal open source content management system. It offers a spatial framework that can house knowledge about the settlement as it is currently understood. Potential connections between the 3D Model of the settlement and present-day Lower Manhattan, as well as database and external websites such Wikipedia, situate it within the context of current historical, curricular, ancestral, archeological, geological and other forms of research.

The Environmental Simulation Center is excited to enter into the next phase of design and development with the New Amsterdam History Center of the vision for this prototype. We appreciate your feedback!



## Castello Plan View

The opening view of the model is an aerial perspective, modeled on the Castello Plan, an early map of New Amsterdam, created by the surveyor, Jacques Cortelyou. Each tax lot is tagged with a number corresponding to its description in I.N. Phelps Stokes' *Iconography of Manhattan Island*. Clicking on a tag links the user to the database containing corresponding information about the tax lot, including the use of the tax lot (i.e., brewery, mill, house, etc.) and the related ancestors, as well as a PDF of the tax lot's listing in the Stokes *Iconography* and other related resources.

## Street View



A user can select "Eye Level" view to virtually walk down Stone Street to gain a sense of daily life in the Dutch settlement. On the way, users encounter figures extracted from 17th Century Dutch paintings, and can visit a fully modeled period garden based on Joel Grossman's *Human-Landscape Interventions in the 21st Century*. Users can also peek into the window of a tavern and see the lively scene inside. Tax lots are displayed and clickable, so that users can click between the 3D model and the database.

## Farmhouse Interior View



The modeled farmhouse interior can be accessed by clicking the label on the top of the screen, or by walking in from Stone Street. The interior features everyday objects such as a barrel, a cradle and a hearth modeled in 3D based on photographs from the Wyckoff House and other sources. The user can visit New Amsterdam residents engaged in domestic activities, further enhancing their sense of daily life in the settlement.

## Database View



The Drupal database that is connected to the 3D model contains linked information about the people and places of New Amsterdam. The database allows users to deepen their understanding of the settlement by learning more about specific inhabitants, occupations and property types.

# Light on New Netherland Exhibit at Federal Hall

26 Wall Street, New York, New York

August 3, 2009 to September 14, 2009



New Netherland - the Dutch province that stretched from today's New York State to parts of Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut - existed for 55 years and its legacy lives on. Just two years after the founding of the first permanent English colony at Jamestown in 1607, and eleven years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, the Dutch were in New Netherland. And, although their hold on that part of North America was tenuous and brief, the influence of the Dutch was both impressive and long term.

*Light on New Netherland*, a traveling exhibit consisting of 26 two-dimensional panels, introduces adults and children to important, but not well-known aspects of this part of the American history and culture.

The New Amsterdam History Center (NAHC) has arranged for the exhibit to appear at the Federal Hall National Memorial site through the cooperation of the New Netherland Institute, the National Park Service, Collegiate Church Corporation and a grant from the New York Empire State Development Corporation.

For further information see:

The Federal Hall National Memorial Site at <http://www.nps.gov/feha/index.htm> is open Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5PM.

New Amsterdam History Center website at <http://www.localarchives.org/nahc/LONN-web/index.html>

NY400 website at <http://www.ny400.org/events/light-on-new-netherland> and <http://www.ny400.org/events/new-amsterdam-history-center-discussion-and-exhibit>



# **New Amsterdam History Center At Battery Park City Authority's Pier A**

**December 2009**



# Pier A and Battery Park City Authority





## ***Mission Statement:***

The New Amsterdam History Center encourages the public exploration of the early history of New Amsterdam and New York, its diverse peoples, landscapes, and institutions, and its legacy for all the peoples of the world today



# NAHC Collaboration

- Casey R. Kemper, COO, Collegiate Church Corporation, Trustee, NAHC
- Courtney A. Haff, Chairman, Archives Committee, Holland Society of New York
- Charles Gehring, Director, New Netherland Institute
- Chip Reynolds, Captain, The Half Moon Ship



# New Amsterdam 1650 View











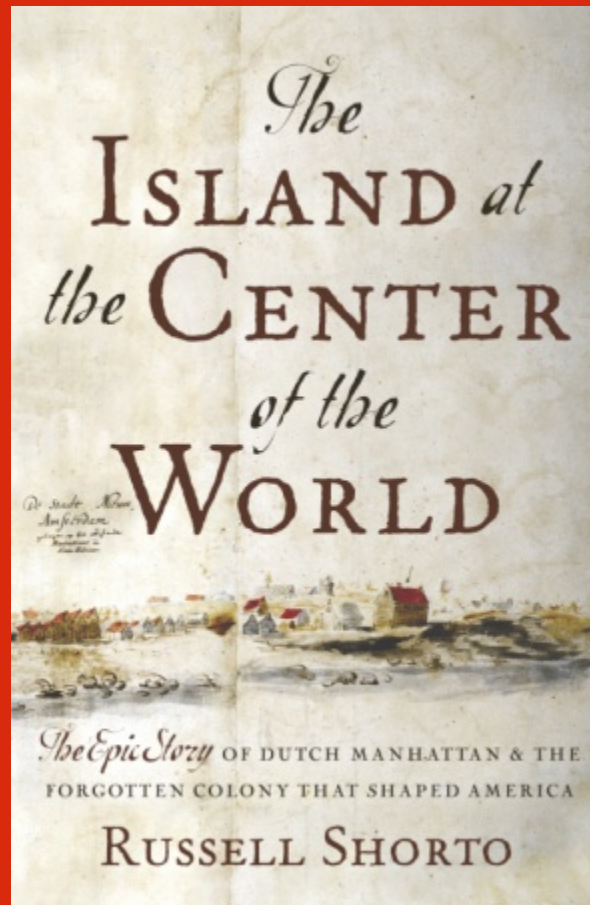








# Inspired By





# NAHC Development Team

- Economic Research Associates, Inc., Feasibility Consultant
- H3 Hardy Collaborative Architecture LLC, Historic Preservation Architect
- Hudson Microimaging
- Richard Rabinowitz, American History Workshop
- Len Tantillo, Historic Artist
- Charles R. Gehring, New Amsterdam Interpretive Consultant



# Bringing New Amsterdam to Life by Making History Matter

**New Amsterdam History Center**

at

**Pier A**

# NAHC Collaboration Strengths

NAHC Collaborative Group has Proven  
Sustainability and Co-Location  
Commitment from Collegiate Archives

- Collegiate Church Corporation (1698)
- Holland Society of New York (1885)
- New Netherland Institute (1975)
- New Netherland Museum (1982)



# NAHC Plans

- A 2009 Celebration and Half Moon landing at the Battery
- Educational asset building at Pier A
- Filling the gap of the New Amsterdam Story at Pier A
- Building an Interpretive Center focused on the New Amsterdam Period

# Location Advantages

- Battery Park City Authority and New Amsterdam location parallel: Lower Manhattan
- The Argument for NAHC at Pier A: Filling the gap in the heritage story where it began
- Ellis Island security and the interpretive opportunity of the New Amsterdam story that meets Harbor Parks Visitor Center grant requirements.



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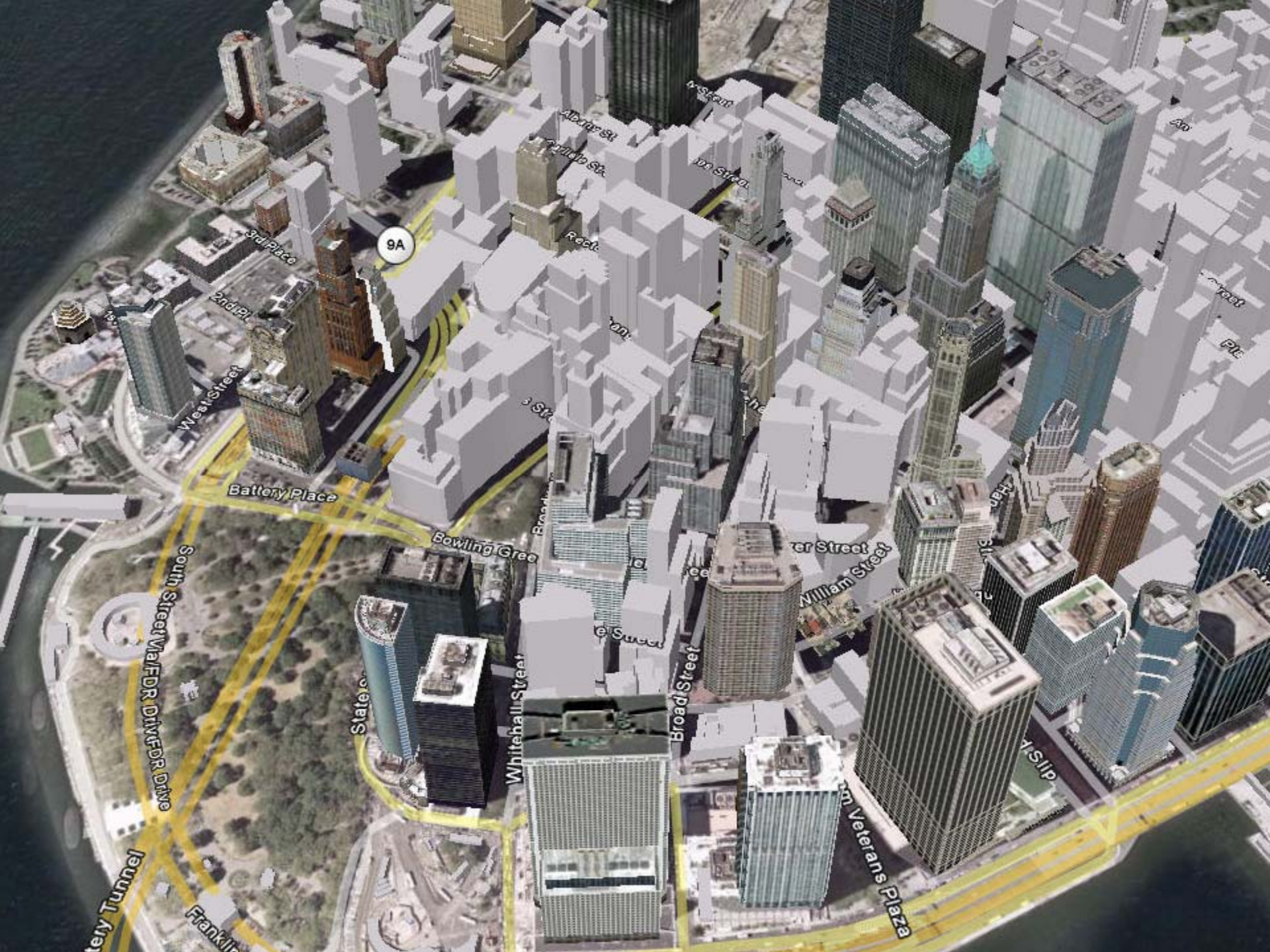












9A

West Street

2nd Pl

3rd Place

Battery Place

South Street Viaduct

Battery Tunnel

Franklin

State

Whitehall Street

Bowling Green

3rd St

4th St

5th Street

Broad Street

William Street

Veterans Plaza

4th Slip

Abert St

Phillip St

Rock

7th St

Broad Street

10th Street

11th Street

12th St

13th St

14th St

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# Harbor Park Heritage Area Description

- Pier A
- Battery Park and Plaza
- Liberty Island
- Ellis Island
- South Street Seaport
- Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park
- Harbor Waters

# Harbor Park Heritage Area Theme

## **Maritime Trade and Immigration**

“Historic waterfront sites around New York harbor tell the epic story of growth from colonial trading post to post-Civil War ascendancy as the world’s largest seaport and immigration destination”



# New Amsterdam History Comes to Life at Pier A's Interpretive Center

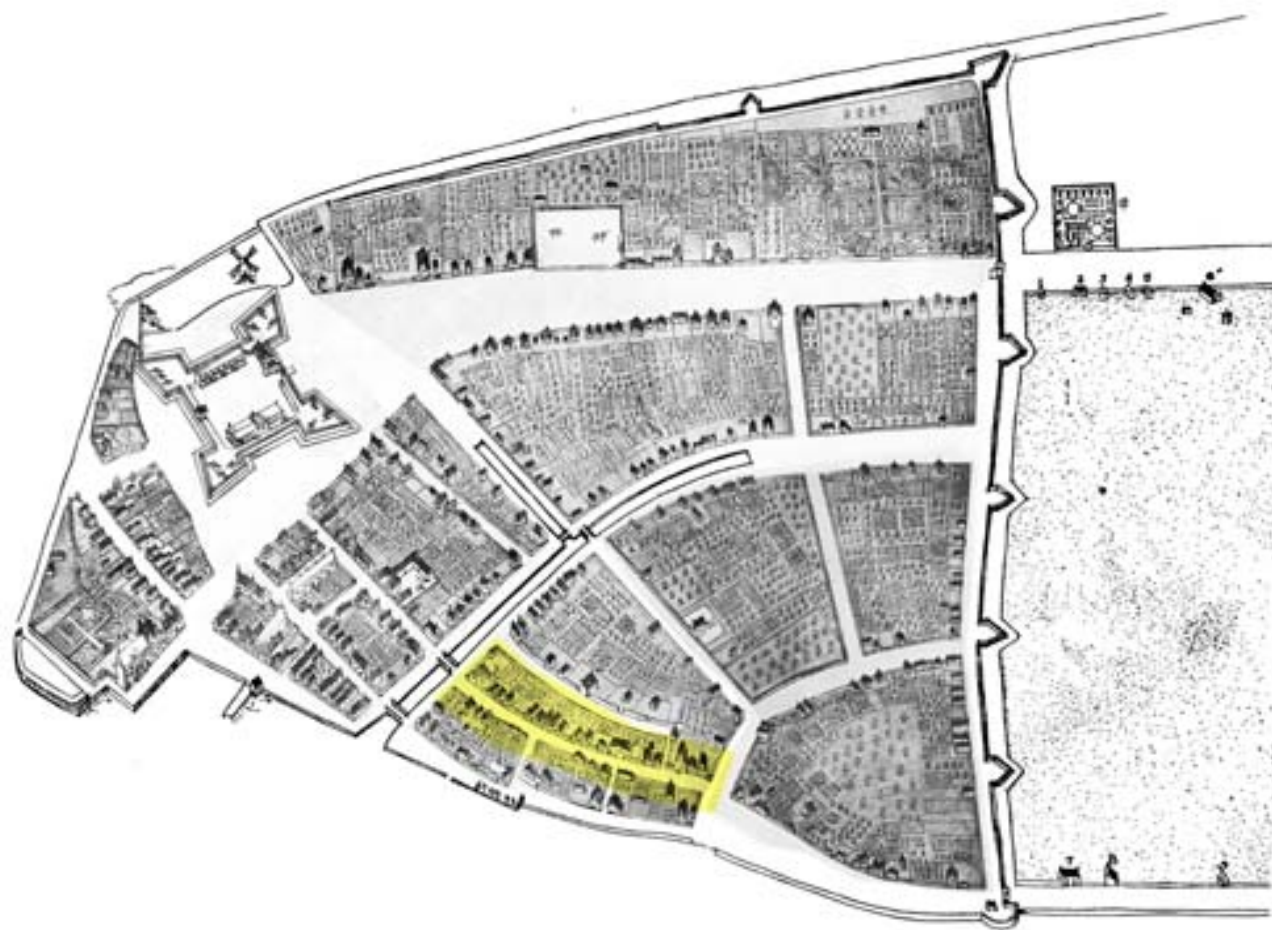
Here the story of New York's inhabitants comes to life in a unique way through:

- Waterfront activity, Immigration and Trade Exhibits
- Light on New Netherland Exhibit
- Virtual New Amsterdam
- Half Moon Education and Living Museum

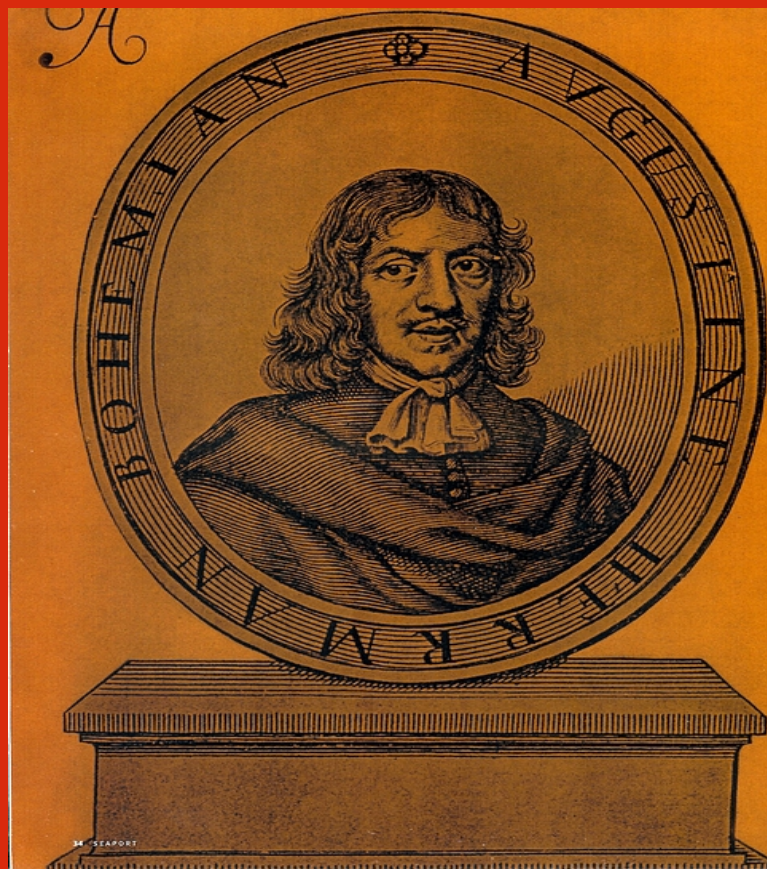


# Waterfront Views of New Amsterdam

NAHC Exhibits are in Production















# Stone Street Homeowner

## Nos. 13 AND 14

This large double house and the curious structure to the left (No. 13) were all that Wessel Evertsen had retained of his ground-brief of July 2, 1646.—*Liber GG*: 151 (Albany). With its garden to the east, the homestead covered numbers 53, 55, and 57 Stone Street. In 1726, Lawrence Wessels, Jacob Bratt, and Nicholas Eyres, heirs of Wessel Evertsen, still owned it.—Recitals in *Liber Deeds*, XXXI: 185.

Skipper Wessel Evertsen is mentioned in the colony, in July, 1642.—*Van Rensselaer Bowier MSS.*, 715. He married Geertie Bouwkens, from Naerden, March 15, 1643.—*Marriages in Ref. Dutch Ch.*, 12. He is said to have come over in the service of the Company, and to have commanded the Company's yacht, "St. Martin."—*Rec. N. Am.*, VI: 220n.

Evertsen seems to have made a living as captain of a sloop, sometimes fishing, sometimes carrying freight to points on Long Island and other nearby places.

He was dead by April, 1671.—*Ibid.*, VI: 220.















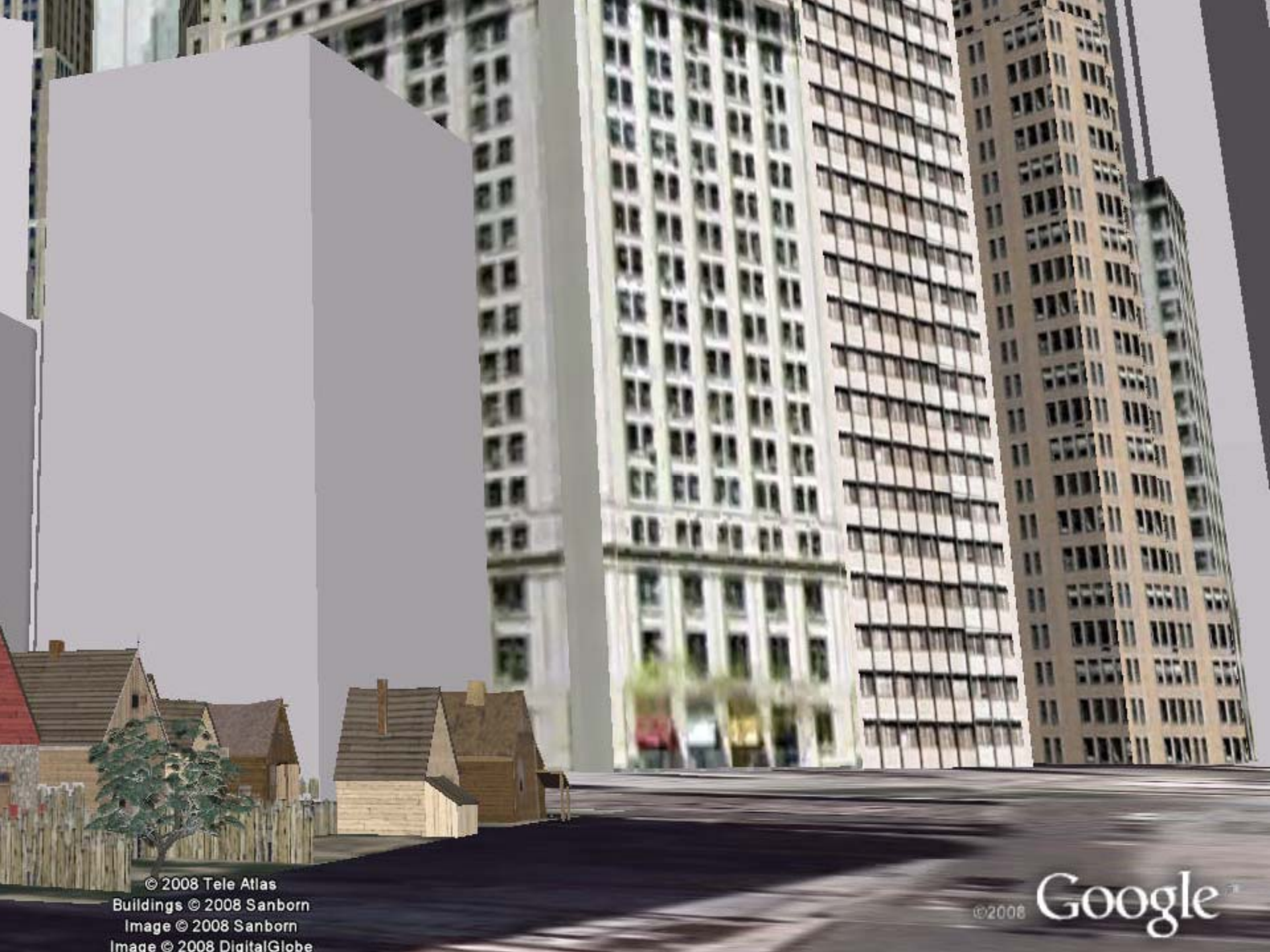






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# FOCUS ON NEW NETHERLAND AND THE DUTCH:

## *A 2009 Project of the New Netherland Institute*

In celebration of the Henry Hudson Quadracentennial in 2009, the New Netherland Institute has embarked on a 4-part project, coordinated by James F. Sefcik of the NNI staff.

- *LIGHT ON NEW NETHERLAND*, a traveling exhibition on the Dutch colony in North America to be available throughout the former New Netherland area and beyond. Museum exhibits present history far more effectively than any other medium. This exhibit of some 24-26 panels totaling some 1,500 sq. ft. will introduce the general public and children to important but not well-known aspects of American history and culture and reach an audience greater than that of a lecture series, catalog, or book.

The exhibit will travel beyond Albany and New York City and ultimately become part of the permanent exhibits at the New Amsterdam History Center in NYC. No other institution to our knowledge is developing an exhibition on the scope of the 17th-century Dutch in the New World, from Connecticut to Delaware, including Beverwijck and New Amsterdam.

- *DISCOVERY AND INVENTION: THE WORLDS OF HENRY HUDSON*, a non-traveling exhibit being developed by the Museum of the City of New York with the New Netherland Institute as a co-sponsor. NNI involvement includes the assistance of Dr. Charles Gehring, Director of the New Netherland Project, as well as support with funding and content.
- *ILLUMINATING NEW YORK'S DUTCH PAST*, a documentary film focusing on the New Netherland Project for presentation on TV and by DVD. This video will make clear why New Netherland documents are unique and important; explain the importance of using documentary evidence; relate the journey the documents took from 1674 to the present; explain the translation process and describe the skills necessary for translation; give examples of some of the fascinating information found in these early records; and dispel some of the Dutch folks myths and misrepresentations of the Dutch all too frequently found in literature and history.
- *REFLECTIONS ON DUTCH AMERICA*, a publication or *liber amicorum* in praise of the Dutch-American heritage as initiated in New Netherland. It will include an introduction by Russell Shorto followed by a series of 10-12 chapters by prominent writers and historians on a variety of topics germane to the Dutch experience in the New World and its relationship to modern times.

Total expenditure of all four segments of the NNI 2009 Project is estimated at about \$450,000. Support has already been garnered from the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York, the New Netherland Institute, the Netherlands America Foundation, Philips North America, Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, Rabobank, the Bender Family Foundation, Broughton Charitable Private Foundation, Inc., Collegiate Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York, Hollee Haswell, Lucius Littauer Foundation, the Wright Family Foundation, and members of NNI.







"We must have no other object than the Glory of God in the building up of this Kingdom and the salvation of many souls."

— Hendrick Christiaan Posthumus

"We have here Papists, Mennonites and Lutherans among the Dutch; many Puritans and Independents, also atheists and other servants of Baal among the English under our government."

— Governor John Peter Stuyvesant, c. 1673

It was the turmoil arising from the Protestant Reformation which created the Dutch state. Until the 1550s the seventeen Netherlands provinces were Catholic. However, Calvinism found ready converts among all levels of Netherlands society. When the Spanish overlords repressed this new "heresy" with heavy fines and burning at the stake, an opposition led by Count William of Orange resisted. In 1568 this became open revolt and in 1579 the seven northern provinces declared their independence.

Calvinism was an austere religion, but the Holy Inquisition was worse. Even many Catholics from the southern Netherlands fled north to the new nation, making Amsterdam the fastest growing city in Europe by 1590. By 1670 over half the population was foreign born, and this included many Catholics, French Protestants and also Iberian Jews seeking asylum. The education, skills and wealth of these immigrant groups gave a tremendous impetus to Dutch society and their economy.

In 1609 the Dutch and Spaniards signed the Twelve-year Truce. Freed from the common Spanish enemy, Dutch Calvinists were now free to attack each other. The Remonstrants believed in a humanist and liberal interpretation of the Bible and advocated a limited toleration of other religions. The Counter-Remonstrants believed that an orthodox, homogeneous society living by strict religious rules was needed, and that Church and State should support each other.



The Synod of Dordrecht (1618-19) attempted to reunite the two viewpoints. The Counter-Remonstrants won outright. Calvinism was made the state religion. Outnumbered and facing the mightiest power in Europe, the Spaniards, the Dutch needed all the help they could get. Other religions had to be "tolerated" but could not worship openly in public.

This was the background in which all the ministers of the Gospel who journeyed to New Netherlands were trained, and which they accepted as the proper state of society and personal life.

The first minister in New Netherlands was Dominie (i.e. Reverend) Johannes Michaelius who arrived on April 7, 1628 with his family. Three days later he organized the first congregation in New Amsterdam. This congregation today is the Collegiate Marble Church of New York City, which makes the Reformed Church in America (formerly known as the Dutch Reformed Church) the oldest unbroken ministry of any Protestant denomination in North America.



This seemingly innocuous request by a small group of people, inhabiting a tiny community three thousand miles from the homeland, scarcely seemed to warrant being placed on the agenda of the national government, not on the agenda of Holland's second largest business corporation. However, to the two Calvinist ministers of New Amsterdam, this was the first rising of the Serpent's head. It granted, a Lutheran church would tend towards "the diminution of hearers of the Word of God, and the increase of dissensions [and] pave the

#### THE FLUSHING REMONSTRANCE

On December 27th, 1657, thirty English inhabitants of Flushing on Long Island signed a remonstrance addressed to the Director-General, Peter Stuyvesant, in which they protested his treatment of one of their respected fellow citizens.

Henry Townsend had opened his house to Quakers for their services. When Stuyvesant discovered this, he ordered Townsend arrested, fined, and banished to the Netherlands.

When Stuyvesant received the remonstrance, he arrested four of the signatories, two of whom recanted.

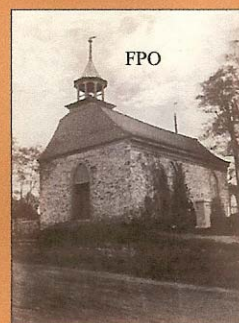
The other two were fined and banned from holding office. Town government was removed and Dutch replacements appointed by Stuyvesant.



The town charter of 1645 gave "the right to have and enjoy liberty of conscience according to the custom and manner of Holland without molestation or disturbance from any magistrates, or any other ecclesiastical minister."

The remonstrance argued: "We desire therefore in this case not to judge lest we be judged. Neither to condemn, least we be condemned. But rather let every man stand and tall to his own Master. We are bound by the law to do good unto all men."

Stuyvesant won the first round against the "damnable heresies" of the town, but in 1662 John Bowen, whose wife had converted to Quakerism, was arrested in his home and charged with conducting worship services in his home. Stuyvesant jailed Bowen for three months, and sent the unrepentant















# Half Moon Moored at Battery Park September 2009





# Half Moon on the Hudson





# Half Moon at Pier A



# Tourists Coming to Pier A



# Ellis Island Boat





# Tourist Lines



# Half Moon at Pier A





# Harbor Views Impaired





