

210-year-old tree, killing it. In 2003, nearly 150 years after the tree was struck, a pear tree was replanted in the original location. The tree is the second tree from the corner on 3rd Avenue. A plaque from the Holland Society exists on the north side of 13<sup>th</sup> Street commemorating the tree.

4. Located between 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets, uniquely bisected by Second Avenue, is Stuyvesant Square, originally intended to be named Holland Park. Great-great-grandson Peter Gerard Stuyvesant and his wife Hellen Rutherford created the park, deeding the site to the city in 1836. Inside the western portion of the park sits a statue of Peter Stuyvesant, a gift from the Netherland-America Foundation in 1941.
5. 124 and 135 E. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, between 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Irving Place, have stepped Dutch gable roof facades, a popular architectural style in New Amsterdam.
6. While outside Gramercy Park, note that a river once ran through the northern section of Stuyvesant's Farm and would have touched the northeast corner of the Park. The creek was known as "Crummassie-Vly" or "Winding Creek"; also written in old records as "Cromme-see." It has been said that Gramercy is derived from the name.
7. Peter's Field, located between 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> streets and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues, is named for two of the city's most prominent historical figures - Peter Stuyvesant and Peter Cooper (1891-1905), a New York City inventor and politician. The park serves the children of J.H.S. 104 and features a series of cast concrete plaques off 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue depicting other famous Peters such as Peter Pan and Peter Rabbit.
8. Between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues and 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets is what was once known as "Petersfield," so named by great-grandson Petrus S. Stuyvesant. In 1789, this enterprising namesake mapped a portion of his inheritance into housing lots and proceeded to build. His work was largely erased when, in 1811, the city adopted its own street grid.

9. At 432 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street lies the Peter Stuyvesant Post Office, which sits directly atop the former "Stuyvesant Skating Pond," described in *Historic New York* as "in the early years the scene of many a gay skating carnival".
10. Near the intersection of 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue C was the location of Brandt Mühle Point or Burnt Mill Point, the site of where a wind-mill had burnt down and was allowed to stand in ruins for many years. It is described in *A Tour Around New York* as an area through "which several creeks were crossed on small wooden bridges, and the bridges themselves 'were attainable only after a decidedly moist tramp through soggy meadows and salt marshes.' Widely known as the best place to catch flounders and eels, it was also rumored that the pirates Kidd and Blackbeard had buried their plundered treasures here. Today the area is now the site of a large power plant. To the south lying near 12<sup>th</sup> Street was Manhattan Island, a small "island" containing perhaps an acre of land surrounded by a creek and damp salt marshes.
11. Tompkins Square Park, between Avenues A and B and 10<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets, was once the western part of Stuyvesant's Salt Meadows, which stretched 90 acres roughly from Avenue A to the East River and Houston to 12<sup>th</sup> Street.
12. A brightly colored row house, between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets on First Avenue, sits, approximately, on the site of the old Nicholas William Stuyvesant House, built on a high knoll for Peter Stuyvesant's son.
13. While passing by the southwest corner of Astor Place and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, note that where the "Sculpture for Living" currently sits was once a mile marker from the old Boston Post Road, a system of mail delivery routes between New York City and Boston. The Boston Post Road was used by colonists and extended from Wall Street up through and next to Stuyvesant's *bouwerie*.



*St. Mark's Historic Landmark Fund* is committed to the preservation of the landmark St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery site and sponsorship of the Neighborhood Preservation Center.

# PEG-LEG PETE'S



## BOUWERIE TOUR

November 2009

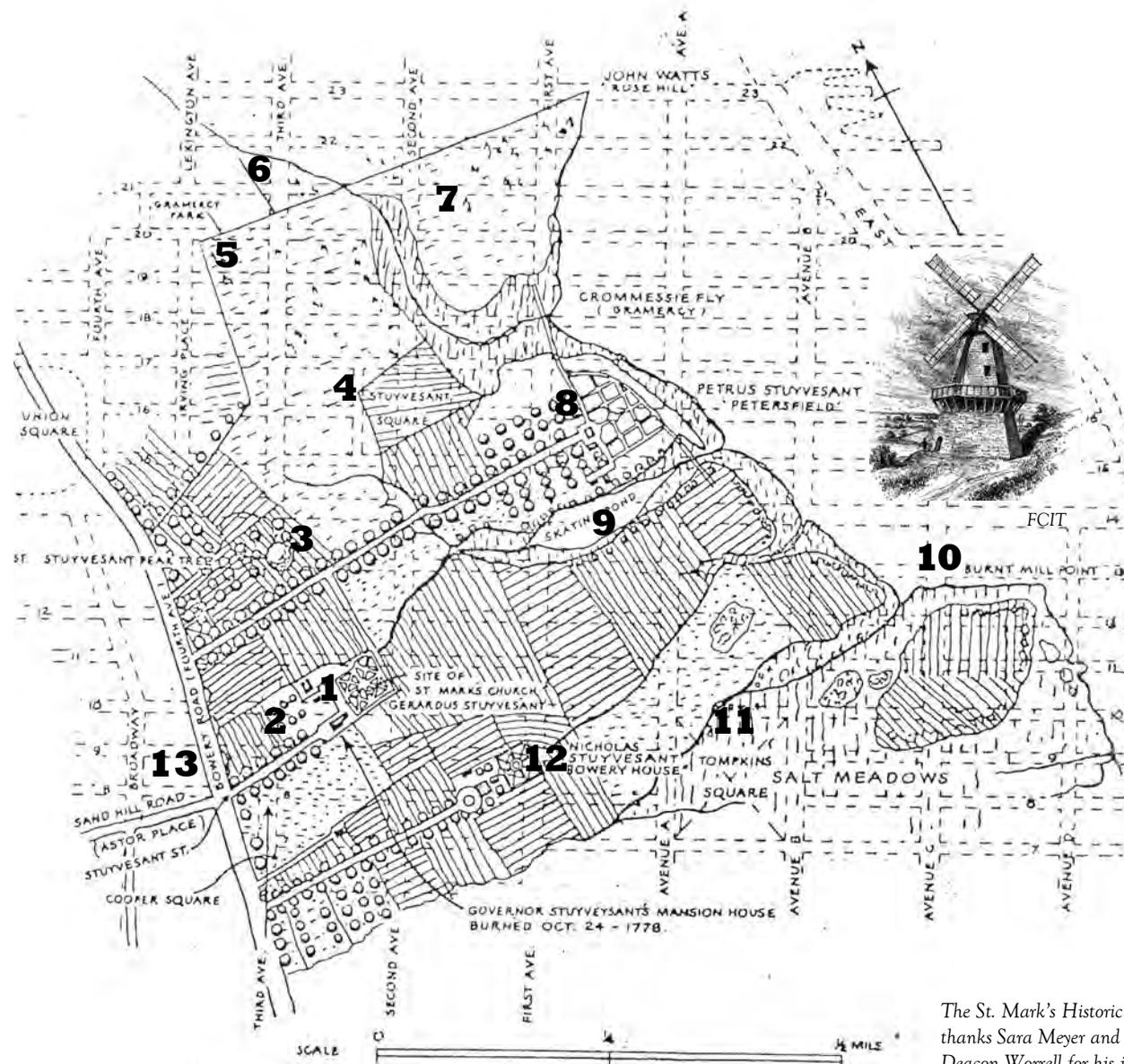
St. Mark's Historic Landmark Fund

## PETER STUYVESANT'S BOUWERIE

**M**uch of the present-day East Village was once the *bouwerie*, or farm, of Peter (Petrus) Stuyvesant (c.1612-1672), the last Dutch Director General of New Netherland, who purchased the land from the Dutch West India Company in 1651. His administration spanned nearly two decades from 1647 until 1664 when the colony was ceded to the English. He was an influential figure in the early history of New York City and his accomplishments included the great expansion of New Amsterdam, later renamed New York and the construction of the protective wall on Wall Street, the canal that became Broad Street, and Broadway.

Take a step back in time to the 17th Century when Peter Stuyvesant's *bouwerie* featured salt marshes, a pear orchard, a winding river, and a skating pond at what is now the Peter Stuyvesant Post Office on East 14th Street. This walking guide explores the history and continuing influence of the Dutch in the East Village.

1. At the intersection of Stuyvesant and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets was the location of Peter Stuyvesant's country mansion, which was located just south of the intersection. Stuyvesant Street was originally the driveway to this mansion. The building burned down in 1778. It was on this spot where the Articles of Capitulation were signed, which turned control of New Amsterdam over to the English, ending Dutch Rule of New Amsterdam.
2. While walking along Stuyvesant Street, the only street in Manhattan that runs true east and west, notice the Stuyvesant-Fish House at 21 Stuyvesant Street. The residence was built by Peter Stuyvesant's great grandson in 1803 as a wedding present for his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Nicholas Fish. Their son and the future Governor of New York and United States Senator, Hamilton Fish was born in this house. General Lafayette visited the home as a dinner guest in 1824.
3. The corner of 13<sup>th</sup> Street and 3rd Avenue was once known as "Pear Tree Corner" after the venerable pear tree that was reputedly planted by Peter Stuyvesant in 1647. Before changing its name, the flagship Kiehl's Since 1851 store located on the same corner was called "Pear Tree Pharmacy" because of the tree. In 1857 two horse-drawn wagons plowed into the



Illustrated map courtesy of Miriam Berman



Stuyvesant Pear Tree  
Aldine Press

### PETER FUN FACTS

- Sometime between 1630 and 1634, Stuyvesant left the University of Franeker for reasons unknown.
- Peter Stuyvesant wrote poetry.
- Stuyvesant was a collector and admirer of exotic birds.
- He lost his right leg to a Spanish cannonball as a clerk for the West India Company, not as a soldier or military man.
- After the death of the last male descendent in the 1950's, the Stuyvesant family crypt at St. Mark's Church was sealed with concrete.

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