

Report  
Identification Mission  
Atlas of Dutch North  
America



'Nieuw Nederland' with view of 'Nieuw Amsterdam' (New York), c. 1651/1652. Claes Jansz Visscher.  
Collection Bodel Nijenhuis, the Netherlands

**Mutual Heritage Project**  
run jointly by the Netherlands and the U.S.A.

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<sup>1</sup> According to final report model, Netherlands Culture Fund. The text was revised by Hans van Westing, Paul Huey and Christine Jefferis. The pictures were made by Hans van Westing and the author.

## **1. CONTEXT AT THE BEGINNING OF ACTIVITIES**

Relations between North America and the Netherlands have lasted for more than 400 years. Beginning in 1609, when Henry Hudson explored *the so-called* Hudson River in the name of the Dutch East India Company (*V.O.C.*)<sup>2</sup>, the Dutch in the seventeenth century actively searched for trading possibilities along the coast. To this end the Dutch West India Company (*W.I.C.*)<sup>3</sup> established a colony between 1624 and 1664 in the northeast of the continent called *Nieuw Nederland* (New Netherland). The area was enclosed by Canada in the north, the Connecticut River in the east, and the Delaware River in the south. The main centre of activities was *Nieuw Amsterdam*, nowadays New York, at the south end of Manhattan Island.<sup>4</sup> In 1664 the colony was taken over by the English, but in 1673 the Dutch recaptured it. Finally, in 1674, *Nieuw Nederland* was ceded to the English in the Treaty of Breda. The takeover by the British was without a gunshot, and the inhabitants have lived together in peace ever since. Today there is still a considerable influence of Dutch culture in the region of this former colony. Much is known, but in archives and libraries in Europe and the United States much more information lies waiting to be discovered, as is the case with the built cultural heritage from this period. Little is known either about the Dutch capture of two French forts in 1674, one in present-day Maine and one in present-day New Brunswick, Canada, enforcing their claim for a Dutch colony, called *Nova Hollandia*, in the northern regions. In 1676 the French recaptured these forts, but it was not until 1678, by the Treaty of Nijmegen, that the Dutch withdrew their claim to this region.

Almost simultaneously with *Nieuw Nederland* in North America, a colony called *Nieuw Holland* (New Holland) was set up by the *W.I.C.* in Brazil and existed from 1630 to 1654. Historical and archaeological research in 2002/2003 at Fort Orange on the Island of Itamaracá in Pernambuco, Brazil, gave new insight into the building methods used in constructing Dutch forts in the New World. Underneath the present fort, which is built of limestone blocks, another, earlier fort was uncovered where the ramparts were constructed of sand, clay, and wood. This fort stems from the Dutch period and was, for the greater part, built according to the old-Netherlands system of fortification. Bricks were used for the construction of the gate, the floors of the soldiers' barracks in the *terre-plein* and, particularly for the powder magazine. Locally-quarried natural stone blocks were used in the foundations for the barracks. The Dutch built at least 48 similar forts or fortifications at strategic points along the northeast coast of Brazil. Through Brazilian-Dutch-Portuguese-Spanish cooperation, a project called Atlas of Dutch Brazil has been set up with the objective of making an inventory of these sites.

The remains of such typical Dutch defence works are expected in North America as well. The plan expanded with the start of a comparable project called the Atlas of Dutch North America, a project to map all military defence works related to the Dutch presence in North America in the colonial period. Forts were essential structures for the establishment and existence of a colony. It was decided to begin the project with a so-called Identification Mission to compile a preliminary inventory of potential sites and to verify the possibilities for cooperation with local partners.

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<sup>2</sup> *V.O.C.* stands for *Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie*

<sup>3</sup> *W.I.C.* stands for *West-Indische Compagnie*

<sup>4</sup> The focus of attention will be on the region of *Nieuw Nederland*, which was situated in the actual United States, but the capture of the fort in Canada in 1674 gives reason to define the scope as Dutch North America.

## **2. OBJECTIVES, IDENTIFICATION MISSION**

### **2a. General objectives, target group**

The general objectives of the Identification Mission of the Atlas of Dutch North America were three-fold:

- I** -preliminary investigation of sites related to the Dutch Period in North America in the colonial period, in this case c. 1609-1678
- II** -making contact with potential partners for the Atlas of Dutch North America project
- III** -setting up an outline for the Atlas of Dutch North America project

The most important target groups for the Identification Mission were the relevant institutions and researchers in North America and the Netherlands. Their awareness is essential for the preservation and conservation of the common cultural heritage.

### **2a.1. Organizational structure<sup>5</sup>**

#### Applicant

-New Netherland Institute, U.S.A.

#### Implementing organization

-New Holland Foundation, the Netherlands

#### The Identification Mission was carried out by a Mission Team of:

-Oscar Frederik Hefting, New Holland Foundation, the Netherlands

-Hans van Westing, New Holland Foundation, the Netherlands

### **2a.2. Financiers**

The Identification Mission was financed by the following institutions:

-KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines), the Netherlands (picture 2)

-New Holland Foundation, the Netherlands

-New Netherland Project, U.S.A.

-New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), NY, U.S.A. (picture 6)

-The Netherlands Consulate General in New York, NY, U.S.A. (picture 5)



*Picture 2. The Mission Team at Kennedy Airport, NY, in front of the*

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<sup>5</sup> Abbreviations: CT = Connecticut; DE = Delaware; NJ = New Jersey; ME = Maine; NW = New Brunswick (Canada); NY = New York; PA = Pennsylvania; RI = Rhode Island

*KLM aeroplane that would bring them back to Amsterdam*

### **2a.3. Partners**

- Atlas of Mutual Heritage, the Netherlands
- Jaap Jacobs, PhD., historian, the Netherlands/U.S.A.
- New Netherlands Project, U.S.A.
- New York State Museum, NY, U.S.A.
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, NY, U.S.A.
- Stichting Archeologie en Monument, the Netherlands

### **2a.4. Authorities consulted**

- Centrum Internationale Erfgoedactiviteiten (CIE), the Netherlands
- CITCO, U.S.A.
- City of Kingston, NY, U.S.A.
- County of Ulster, NY, U.S.A.
- Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, DE, U.S.A.
- Delaware Historical Society, New Castle, DE, U.S.A.
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands
- Embassy of the United States of America in The Hague, the Netherlands
- General Society of Colonial Wars, NY, U.S.A.
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Netherlands
- Jessop's Tavern, New Castle, DE, U.S.A.
- Joel Grossman, PhD., archaeologist, NY, U.S.A. (picture 3)



*Picture 3. Oscar Hefting and Hans van Westing together with archaeologist Joel Grossman in front of the Museum of the City of New York, NY, U.S.A.*

- Kalmar Nyckel Shipyard, Wilmington, DE, U.S.A.
- Len Tantillo Fine Art, NY, U.S.A.
- Nationaal Archief, the Netherlands
- Nederland-America Foundation (NAF), NY, U.S.A.
- The Netherlands Fortress Museum, the Netherlands
- New Netherland Museum Half Moon Visitor Centre, NY, U.S.A.
- New Sweden Centre, Wilmington, DE, U.S.A.
- Museum of the City of New York, NY, U.S.A. (picture 3)
- Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (RCE), the Netherlands
- Stichting Internationale Culturele Activiteiten (SICA), the Netherlands
- Stichting Menno van Coehoorn, the Netherlands
- The Atlantic World and the Dutch (AWAD), the Netherlands
- The Holland Society of New York, NY, U.S.A. (picture 4)

**2b. Additional objectives and final goals**

Following the advice of The Netherlands Consulate General in New York, with reference to the criteria of the Common Cultural Heritage Policy Framework 2009-2012, the Identification Mission was to examine possibilities for the project on the following points:

1. The degree to which the project relates to country-specific common cultural heritage programmes.
2. The extent of knowledge transfer on technical and policy issues (e.g. training courses, exchanges, seminars, workshops).
3. Their impact on a range of policy sectors (e.g. other cultural disciplines, employment, tourism, education).
4. Political commitment in the partner country at local and national levels, as evidenced by financial and operational participation.
5. Reinforcement of the cultural identity of the partner country.
6. A definite utilization plan for the object concerned, including maintenance.
7. Increase in local knowledge of the common cultural heritage and strengthening of local support.
8. Opportunities for multilateral co-operation with priority countries.
9. Specialist considerations such as cultural significance, uniqueness, representativeness, and urgency of the need to take action.

The ultimate goal of the project is preservation and the promotion of better understanding of the Common Cultural Heritage between the Netherlands and the United States. In this way cultural and economic bonds between the two countries can be strengthened.



*Picture 4. The Holland Society in New York, NY, U.S.A.*

**2c. Objectives modified during the course of activities**

Not applicable

### **3. PLANNING, IDENTIFICATION MISSION**

#### **3a. Planned activities**

##### **I Before departure**

- Preliminary historical survey of Dutch defence works in North America
- Getting the necessary information from authorities
- Planning of the Identification Mission by making appointments with authorities and researchers
- Booking of accommodation and transportation for the Identification Mission

##### **II The actual Identification Mission**

A round trip of two weeks, comprising six days in New York and surroundings and six days in Albany and surroundings, was planned with two objectives:

- Surveying, making a first inventory and documenting sites of remains of defence works dating from the Dutch Period (c.1609-1678).
- Examination of possibilities for cooperation with American specialists and institutions for setting up the Atlas of Dutch North America project, similar to the Atlas of Dutch Brazil.

##### **III Finally**

- Elaboration of the results and preparation of the report of the Identification Mission.

#### **3b. Possible changes**

Not applicable.

#### **3c. Planned period of execution**

The Identification Mission was planned to take place in the second half of 2011, dependent upon the availability of the authorities and researchers.



*Picture 5. The Netherlands Consulate General in New York, NY, U.S.A.*

## **4. REALIZATION**

### **4a. Activities realized**

**I** The preliminary historical research on defence works related to the Dutch colonial period in North America resulted in a report: Jacobs, J., 2010: *Colonial Fortifications in New Netherland: Preliminary Survey. Oegstgeest* (Contributions to the Atlas of Dutch America 1).

**II** This report was used as a guideline for the actual Identification Mission. The discussed sites were used as a basis for meetings with local researchers. As many sites of defence works as possible were visited in situ. In chapter 5b, 'Targets achieved', all sites will be enumerated.

The necessary information was gathered from authorities, and appointments and bookings were made. The round trip of two weeks in the *Nieuw Netherland* region was completed successfully, and a first inventory of remains of defence works, dating from the Dutch period (c.1609-1678), was made.

Contact was made with potential partners for the Atlas of Dutch North America. See the listing under 2a.1., 2a.2., 2.a.3. and 2a.4. (picture 6).



Picture 6. FLTR: The Mission Team together with Paul Huey, Joe McEvoy and Michael Roets of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation at the Bureau of Historic Sites at Peebles Island near Albany, NY

As a final result of the Identification Mission the following outline for the Atlas of Dutch America project was set up.

### **Description of the Atlas of Dutch North America project and timeline**

The project is divided into three segments of two months each:

-Two months of historical research in European and American archives

These months of historical research will be carried out in European and American archives under supervision of the historian Jaap Jacobs. His preliminary historical research of only one week quickly indicated the existence of at least 30 defence works. Much more information is to be expected from the now-planned historical research of two months. This historical research will result in a report.

-Two months of archaeological survey in *Nieuw Nederland*, in the United States.

With the results of the historical research in hand, Dutch and American archaeologists will survey the area where the Dutch settled in the United States between c. 1609 and 1678, once called *Nieuw Nederland* (approximately the States of New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware), to locate the position of the Dutch defence works. Old and

recent maps, aerial pictures, and the Geographic Information System (GIS) will be used to locate the sites. The archaeological research will result in an inventory of the remains of defence works dating from this period.

-Two months for writing up the results and preparing the final report

During these last months the results of the historical and archaeological research will be collated and concluded. The information will be presented officially in a final report. The Museum of the City of New York has offered the possibility of presenting this final report during a luncheon, possibly combined with a conference. Participants involved are:

Applicant

-New Netherland Institute, U.S.A.

Implementing organization

-New Holland Foundation, the Netherlands

Probable financiers

-KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines), the Netherlands

-New Holland Foundation, the Netherlands

-New Netherland Project, U.S.A.

-New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, NY, U.S.A.

-The Netherlands Consulate General in New York, NY, U.S.A.

Probable partners

-Atlas of Mutual Heritage, the Netherlands

-CITCO, U.S.A.

-Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, DE, U.S.A.

-Jaap Jacobs PhD., historian, the Netherlands/U.S.A.

-Joel Grossman PhD., archaeologist, NY, U.S.A.

-Len Tantillo Fine Art, NY, U.S.A.

-Museum of the City of New York, NY, U.S.A.

-Nationaal Archief, the Netherlands

-The Netherlands Fortress Museum, the Netherlands

-New Netherlands Project, U.S.A.

-New York State Museum, NY, U.S.A.

-New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, NY, U.S.A.

-Stichting Archeologie en Monument, the Netherlands

-Stichting Menno van Coehoorn, the Netherlands

**III** Final financial and other reports were prepared and presented to the financiers.

**4b. Reasons for modification following difficulties/planning**

The preliminary historical research and oral information demonstrated more Dutch defence works than previously anticipated. The flexible time-schedule allowed the Mission Team to visit more sites than originally planned.

**4c. Actual period of execution**

**I** The preliminary historical research was completed in 2010

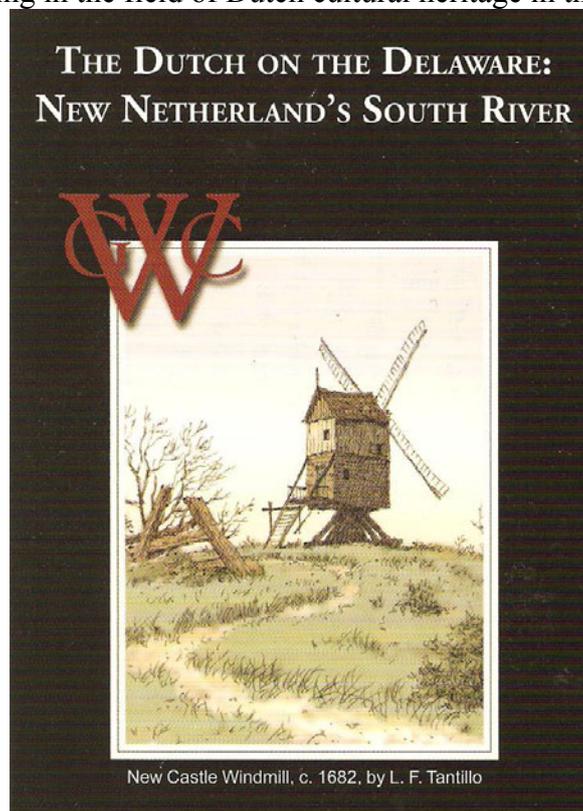
**II** The survey in the United States commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011, and was completed on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011. The itinerary of the Mission Team was as follows:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> September – 18 <sup>th</sup> September | -visit to the 34 <sup>th</sup> New Netherland Seminar in New Castle, DE   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> September - 24 <sup>th</sup> September | -survey in New York City and visit with authorities and researchers working in the field of Dutch cultural heritage                 |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> September – 25 <sup>th</sup> September | -survey in Hartford, CT   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> September – 30 <sup>rd</sup> September | -survey in Albany, NY, and surroundings, and visit with authorities and researchers working in the field of Dutch cultural heritage |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> October                                 | -Return to Amsterdam  |

At the beginning of 2012 results were finalized and financial and final reports were presented to The Netherlands Consulate General in New York by the applicant.

**4d. Explanation for deviations from the planning**

Shortly before departure it became clear that the Mission Team was able to attend the two-day 34<sup>th</sup> New Netherland Seminar in New Castle, DE (picture 7). It was an opportunity to meet many researchers working in the field of Dutch cultural heritage in the United States.



Picture 7. Poster of the 34<sup>th</sup> New Netherland Seminar in New Castle, DE

## **5. EVALUATION**

### **5a. Appraisal of the activities**

As far as it is known all people involved were satisfied with the initiative and the results of the Identification Mission. The preliminary historical research in the Netherlands worked out well. A selection of sites of defence works was visited during the survey in the United States. Inspiring meetings were held with U.S. researchers working in the field of Dutch cultural heritage, and a concept was created for the Atlas of Dutch America project.

### **5b. Interim and final targets achieved**

All targets of the Identification Mission were achieved, and the results were even better than expected. In the first place preliminary historical research carried out in the Netherlands had produced substantial new and additional information about the Dutch presence in North America (c.1609-1678). In the subsequent survey a selection of sites was visited, although it did not always prove possible to locate the 17<sup>th</sup> century defence works. The preliminary results were presented to a local audience on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in the New York State Library in Albany, NY (picture 8). Together with probable participants an outline for the Atlas of Dutch North America was set up.



*Picture 8. FLTR: Hans van Westing, Artist Len Tantillo, Oscar Hefing, Joe McEvoy (NYSOPRHP), Charles Gehring and Janny Venema of the New Netherland Project, and Paul Huey (NYSOPRHP) at the presentation of the preliminary results of the Identification Mission in the New York State Library in Albany, NY, on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011*

The preliminary historical research, as made by Jaap Jacobs (picture 9) identified 30 locations of defence works in the United States. On the advice of archaeologist Joel Grossman, the sites were divided into three categories:

**A.** A still-standing construction or site whose definite location is known, with possibilities for archaeological research. There is a need for the site to be protected from treasure hunting. Archaeological research has to be done before any new construction can take place. These sites should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as administered by the State Historic Preservation Offices and the National Park Service.

**B.** A possible or potential location. Further historical and archaeological research could possibly identify the site. When identified a location can be promoted to category A.

**C.** A possibly destroyed site or the exact location of the site is unknown. When identified, a location can be promoted to category B.



Picture 9. Historian Jaap Jacobs at Harvard University

Below is a list of all the considered sites (picture 17).<sup>6</sup>

### **Forts and Blockhouses**

#### **1. Fort Nassau (Albany, NY): B**

Built in 1614 on the northern tip of Westerlo Island or Castle Island, this fort is indicated on one of the earliest maps of *Nieuw Nederland*. It was very likely a small fortified house rather than a fort. As Fort Nassau was damaged by floods and Castle Island is now used as an industrial site for the Port of Albany, it is unlikely that any remains can be located. The suggestion by Paul Huey of the fort being near Island Creek Park should be verified.

#### **2. Fort Ninigret (Charlestown, RI): C**

Both 19<sup>th</sup> century descriptions and 1920s excavations, yielding a cannon and a sword, indicate that a fort may have existed at Fort Neck Road, Charlestown, RI. Native American, Portuguese, and Dutch origins have been suggested, although none of the evidence is conclusive, leading to some controversial theories. There is no 17<sup>th</sup> century documentary evidence supporting a Dutch origin, but the scarcity of sources makes it impossible to rule out the existence of a 1610s or 1620s Dutch fort.

#### **3. “Dutch Fort” (Branford, CT): C**

In the late 1990s, Dr John Pfeiffer of Wesleyan University discovered, on the basis of an 18<sup>th</sup> century map, what he believes to be the remains of a Dutch fort in the area of Branford, known as Indian Neck. Apart from several structural features, Pfeiffer’s excavation in the backyard of Angelica and Chet Bentley yielded two wrought nails, a copper alloy button, and a piece of pottery. In 2007, several of these were displayed at Harrison House, home of the Branford Historical Society. This collection, now catalogued, will remain at Harrison House as part of the permanent collection. As with Fort Ninigret, there is no 17<sup>th</sup> century documentary evidence. If it is a Dutch fort, then it most likely dates from the 1610s or 1620s.

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<sup>6</sup> The text is based on the report: Jacobs, J., 2010: *Colonial fortifications in New Netherland: Preliminary Survey*, Oegstgeest (Contributions to the Atlas of Dutch America 1) (picture 9); The noted classification was made by the Mission Team in consultation with archaeologist Paul Huey (NYSOPRHP).

4. Fort Orange (Albany, NY): A

Construction of Fort Orange started in 1624. For a long time, the fort was the centre of the New Netherland fur trade. After 1652 it also became the location of the court of the village of Beverwijck. The fort was damaged by floods several times and in 1676 was abandoned in favour of the newly-built Fort Albany higher on the hill to the west. The remains of Fort Orange are located under highway I-787 and were partly excavated under the supervision of archaeologist Paul Huey in 1970-1971. A memorial plaque dated 1886 marks the spot, even though it mentions the wrong corner of the fort (picture 10). It has been suggested that the outline of the probable location of the northwest bastion be marked, with explanation, on the pavement. The site has been declared a National Historic Landmark, and a new bronze plaque may be available from the National Park Service to mark the site.



*Picture 10. Archaeologist Paul Huey, who partly excavated Fort Orange (No.4) in Albany, NY, in 1970-1971, in front of the memorial plaque marking the spot, even though it mentions the wrong corner of the fort*

5. Fort Wilhelmus (Burlington Island, NJ): C

One of the four locations selected in 1624, Fort Wilhelmus was located on High Island, today Burlington Island in the Delaware River near modern day Trenton. For about two years, it served to protect a small group of colonists, consisting of two families and eight men, before the settlers were moved to Manhattan. Burlington Island was used in the 20th century as a sand and gravel quarry, which created a large lake in the middle of the island. It is unlikely that any remains of Fort Wilhelmus have survived.

6. Nooten Eylandt (Governors Island, NY): C

Along with three other locations, this island is where the Dutch colonists first settled in 1624. It is likely that a defensive structure, probably a blockhouse, was constructed near the wind-powered sawmill that can be spotted on the 1639 Manatus map. As the colonists moved to Manhattan soon after 1624, it is unlikely that they left many traces, but “subsurface testing in the northeastern corner of the Governors Island National Historic Landmark district has identified the structural remains of what is believed to be the wind powered sawmill erected by the Dutch West India Company.” Another possibility is that the 18<sup>th</sup> century Fort Jay was built on top of the former Dutch fort and therefore Dutch remains could still be expected, hidden under Fort Jay (picture 11).



*Picture 11. The 18<sup>th</sup> century Fort Jay on Governors Island, NY, possibly built on top of a Dutch 17<sup>th</sup> century defence work.*

7. Fort Amsterdam (New York City, NY): A

In 1625 or 1626, the Dutch started the construction of Fort Amsterdam on the southern tip of Manhattan. The location is currently occupied by the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, south of Bowling Green. The original design consisted of a large five-pointed fort, but later information indicates that a smaller four-pointed fort was constructed, with earthen ramparts, later reinforced with stone walls. The fort surrounded several buildings, including barracks, offices, and a church (picture 12). After 1664, the fort was renamed several times, until it was demolished after the end of the American Revolution. It is unlikely that any remains are still in existence.



*Picture 12. Part of a model in bronze of 'Nieuw Amsterdam' with Fort Amsterdam in the centre, Battery Park, New York City, NY*

8. Fort Nassau (Gloucester City, NJ): C

Fort Nassau was one of the early Dutch forts on the Delaware River. Built in the early 1620s, its location on the eastern bank made it less suitable as a centre for the fur trade. It was abandoned in 1651. Its original location was opposite present-day Philadelphia, in what is now Gloucester City, NJ. Presumably, the fort was built near the point where Big Timber Creek reaches the Delaware River. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

9. Swanendael (Lewes, DE): C

Started in 1631 as a patroonship with several patroons, 32 colonists settled on what is now Lewes Creek near Cape Henlopen with the intention to engage in whaling and cultivating tobacco. Within a year, the fledgling colony was attacked by Native Americans, killing all colonists. David Pietersz de Vries, the main source, refers both to a *fortjen* [small fort] and to a *Huys* (house), “encircled with a palisade instead of a parapet.” The location of this fort is supposed to be in Lewes, DE, on Pilottown Road, near the De Vries monument.

Archaeological research in the early 1950s was inconclusive. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

10. Fort de Goede Hoop (Hartford, CT): C

Constructed in 1633 under the supervision of Jacob van Curler, this fort (more likely a blockhouse) served to emphasize the Dutch claim on the Connecticut River. As it was manned by only a dozen or so soldiers, it proved to be little use as a deterrent. By 1639 the English had effectively taken over control by building a fort of their own. The House of Hope was probably located at what is now called Dutch Point in Hartford. The name reoccurs in nearby Huyshope Avenue. In 1808 the fort is still mentioned. Archaeologist Paul Huey expects the fort to be on Dutch Point, under highway I-91. He notes that Dutch yellow bricks from the site are to be seen at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford. The existence of any remains of the fort needs to be ascertained.

11. Fort Altena (Wilmington, DE): C

Built by the Swedes in 1638 as Fort Christina, this fort was taken by the Dutch in 1655 and named Fort Altena or Altona. It was located in what is now Fort Christina State Park on E. 7th Street in Wilmington, DE. The site is a National Historic Landmark and features the Fort Christina Monument. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

12. Fort Mecoponacka (Chester, PA): C

This small Swedish fort was supposedly built in 1641 in what is now Chester, PA, in the part of New Sweden known as Finlandia or Upland, which the Dutch called Opland. The name Mecoponacka is of Indian origin and refers to a place they called “pleasant little stream.” This could be what is now called Ridley Creek, where in 1641 Olof Persson Stille settled. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

13. Fort Nya Gothenborgh (Essington, PA): C

In 1643, the governor of New Sweden, Johan Printz, moved the centre of the colony from Fort Christina to Tinicum Island, where he constructed both Fort Nya Gothenborg and his own residence, Printzhof. The site is now a park, Governor Printz Park. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

14. Fort Nya Elfsborg or Älfsborg (Salem, NJ): C

This short-lived fort, called Elsenburgh by the Dutch, was constructed by the Swedes in 1643. Its location was chosen to neutralize Dutch Fort Nassau. In order to do so, it was constructed farther south on the Delaware River, where the Varkens Kill (present-day Salem Creek) enters into Delaware Bay. Its nickname was Fort Myggenborgh (Fort Mosquito) as many soldiers there succumbed to malaria. After Fort Casimir was built on the other side of the Delaware, the Swedes abandoned the fort. The original site is offshore at Elsinboro Point, four miles southwest of Salem near the Fort Elfsborg-Salem Road (County Highway 625), where two historic markers are located. The existence of any remains still needs to be ascertained.

15. Fort Nya Vasa (Philadelphia, PA): C

Probably a blockhouse, this fort was built in 1646 on a tributary to Darby Creek, which empties into the Delaware River. Its presumed location is in Philadelphia's Kingsessing neighbourhood, near Cobbs Creek Parkway and Greenway Avenue. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

16. Fort Beversreede and Fort Nya Korsholm (Philadelphia, PA): C

Built in 1648, Fort Beversreede was located at the east side of the Schuylkill River near the Delaware River. As the Swedes soon constructed a 30- to 35-foot long and about 20-foot wide blockhouse called Fort Nya Korsholm in front of Fort Beversreede, the site became the scene of many conflicts between the Dutch and the Swedes. Fort Beversreede was abandoned in favour of Fort Casimir in 1651. The exact locations of Fort Beversreede and Fort Nya Korsholm are difficult to ascertain. It has been suggested that both were located on what later became Province Island, which was later developed into Philadelphia Airport. Archaeologist Paul Huey assumes the fort to have been in the Passyunk section of Philadelphia along the Schuylkill south of the historic 19<sup>th</sup>-century Philadelphia Gas Works and Atlantic Refinery sites. In both cases it is unlikely that any remains are still in existence.

17. "A stone fort" (Kinderhook, NY): C

Some histories of Kinderhook mention the building "at a very early period" (probably mid-17<sup>th</sup> century) of a stone fort south of Stockport Creek, near the house of Abraham Staats. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

18. Fort Casimir (New Castle, DE): B

In 1651, Director-General Peter Stuyvesant, dismantled Fort Nassau and located the main Dutch fort at the Sand Hoeck, south of the Swedish Fort Christina (picture 13). The so-called Fort Casimir was taken by the Swedes in 1654 and named after the day on which it was captured, Trefaldighet or Trinity. Stuyvesant retook the fort a year later. A few years later it became the main defensive fort of the New Amstel patroonship. It was located in what is now New Castle, DE, presumably at the end of Chestnut Street. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.



*Picture 13. Reconstruction of Fort Casimir in the Old Court House in New Castle, DE*

19. Rondout (Kingston, NY): C

A *rondout* or redoubt, usually called the *ronduyt* in the 17th century, was constructed in 1657 at the mouth of what is now the Roundout Creek. At this location, yachts anchored to allow passengers and goods destined for nearby Wiltwijck (Kingston) to disembark. The fortification was probably located at the northern side of the stream. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

20. Crailo (Rensselaer, NY): A

The now visible house was built around 1712. This fortified brick manor served as residence for the Van Rensselaer family (picture 14). Still in existence, it is now Crailo State Historic Site. It is located on Riverside Avenue and overlooks the Hudson River. As early as 1663, the estate had a little fort for the protection of the local inhabitants from marauding Indians and in 1675 during King Philip's War the local militia captain was instructed to install palisades around this fort. Recently, during archaeological excavations, a part of this stockade was identified.



*Picture 14. Crailo State Historic Site or Fort Crailo at Rensselaer (NYS)*

21. Fort Klock (Johnsville, NY): not in Dutch period

This fortified stone farmstead was built for Johannes Klock, a German immigrant from the Pfalz in 1750. It is now a museum and is located on the west side of the Mohawk Turnpike (New York State Route 5), between Nelliston and St. Johnsville. This farmstead is built after the Dutch period, ending in 1678, and therefore does not appear on the definite list of selected defence works.

**Stockades and other perimetric defensive structures**

Many of the towns and villages of New Netherland were palisaded. In fact, such defensive measures were mandatory from 1655 onwards, when it was no longer allowed to live in spread-out farmhouses. In some early cases, individual farmhouses on Manhattan and Long Island were also palisaded, but usually details on the height and extent are missing. Some may not have been much more than reinforced cattle fences. The list below is restricted to palisaded villages.

22. New Amsterdam (New York City, NY): A

In 1653, under the threat of an attack by the English, the newly created city government collaborated with the colonial government to erect “palisades of 12 feet long,” nine feet above ground and three feet below ground, with a breastwork and a defensive ditch. This defensive work would run from the East River to the Hudson River and required a total expense of over *f* 3.000. It was repaired and reinforced several times until abolished in the late 17th century. The location is now known as Wall Street (picture 15). It is unlikely that any remains are in existence.



*Picture 15. Wall Street, where a defensive work was built in 1653, to protect the city against a possible English attack. In the centre the New York Stock Exchange.*

23. Gravesande (Gravesend, Brooklyn, New York State): B

In April 1656, Gravesend had complied with the order to enclose the village with palisades and requested some cannon and ammunitions. The Director-General and council provided them with two four-pounders, twelve balls, and fifty pounds of powder. The palisaded area lies between Van Sicklen Street, Village Road North, Village Road East, and Village Road South and according to Paul Huey it is very likely that these stockades can be located. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

24. Midwout (Flatbush, Brooklyn, NY): C

In 1656, the combined court of Midwout and Amersfoort ordered house-owners to furnish palisades for the defence of the village. Presumably, the stockade was erected soon afterwards. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

25. Wiltwijck (Kingston, NY): A

In 1658, under pressure from Indian attacks, the colonists in the Esopus area decided to cluster their dwellings into a village, which was named Wiltwijck. It was furnished with a palisade, which enclosed the area now known as the Kingston Stockade District: Green Street, Main Street, Clinton Avenue, and North Front Street. Recently parts of the old stockade were found at the southwest bastion (picture 16). Also a stockade was traced in the Person House, on the southeast corner of John and Crown Streets. The City of Kingston has agreed to support archaeological research in the town. The existence of more remains needs to be ascertained.



*Picture 16. Location of the Old Stockade from 1658 at the southwest bastion of Wiltwijck (Kingston, NY)*

26. Beverwijck (Albany, NY): B

The outbreak of hostilities with the Native Americans near Wiltwijck forced Beverwijck to strengthen its defensive works. In 1659 the village was surrounded with “post and planks, of eight boards high, with seven bastions to protect the curtains, which fence shall surround the greater part of the village of Beverwijck, the length of its circumference being 250 rods (83 metres).” Later repairs and extensions enlarged the enclosed area, as a 1695 plan of Albany shows. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

27. Breuckelen and New Utrecht (Brooklyn, NY): C

Both villages were surveyed and enclosed by palisades in 1660. The latter village was also furnished with a blockhouse in its centre. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

28. Bergen (Jersey City, NJ): C

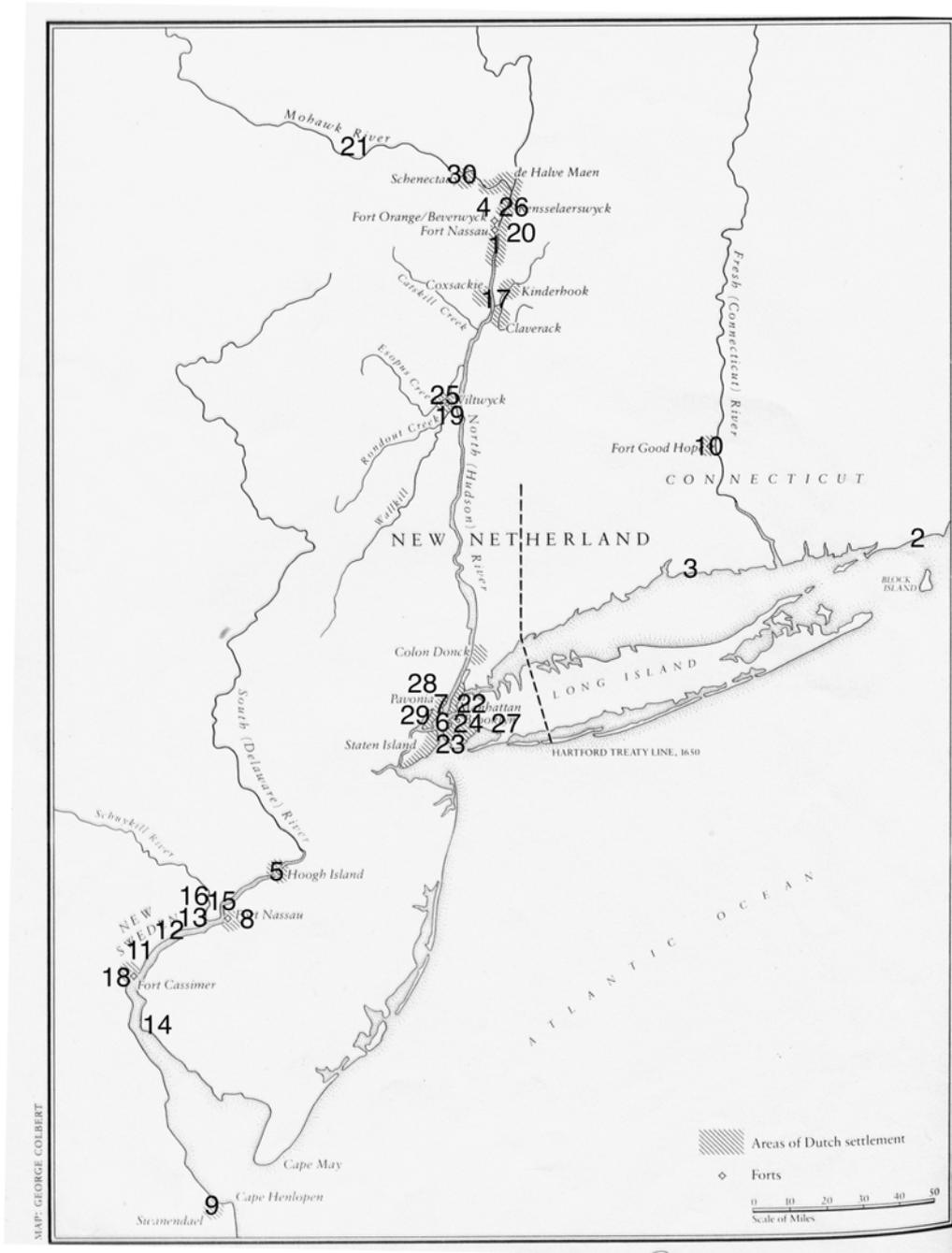
In 1660 the new village of Bergen was laid out in the by now customary shape of a rectangle with cross streets. A palisade was also built. The area enclosed is now known as Bergen Square: Vroom Street, Van Reypen Street, Newkirk Street and Tuers Avenue. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

29. Gemoenepa (Jersey City, NJ): C

The new settlers at Gemoenepa, located just across the Hudson River from *Nieuw Amsterdam*, were ordered to palisade the new village in 1661. As new commissioners had to be appointed to oversee the fortification in 1663, it may have taken the colonists a while to do so. The village was located just south of Communipaw Avenue in Jersey City. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

30. Schenectady (NY): C

Schenectady was settled on the banks of the Mohawk River in 1661/2 and allegedly was palisaded soon after. The first stockade enclosed the area now marked by Washington Avenue, State Street, Ferry Street, and Front Street. After an Indian attack cost many lives in 1690, a new palisade was constructed in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.



Picture 17. Map of 'Nieuw Nederland' (New Netherland) showing the locations of the Dutch defence works. The numbers relate to the text in chapter 5b.

On the basis of oral information from Charles Gehring, Paul Huey, and others, new locations were added to the list:

31 Fort Beeren Island (NY): C

The fort was situated on the southern point of Beeren Island in the Hudson River. This fort marked the southern border of the patroonship of Kiliaen van Rensselaer. The existence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

32 Fort Shantock (CT): C

Here archaeologist Bert Salwen did some research in the 1960s, claiming he found evidence for a Dutch presence. More information is needed, and presence of any remains needs to be ascertained.

33 Blockhouse in the church (Albany, NY): C

More information is needed and any remains need to be ascertained.

34 Fort close to Patroons Bridge (Albany, NY): C

More information is needed and any remains need to be ascertained.

35 Fort Massapeag (Oyster Bay, NY): B

In the 1990s archaeologist Ralph Solecki recognized this earthwork as a mid-seventeenth century quadrangular fort with two corner bastions, a six-foot-wide ditch or moat and a stockade. Possibly this is the fort that Peter Stuyvesant ordered to be built in 1656. As part of a treaty with the local Indians this would be the place that had to be “furnished with Indian trade or commodities” so Indians and Dutch could live together in peace. Today this site is a National Historic Landmark. Further research is needed to confirm the site being a Dutch fort.

36 Fort Pentagouet, (Castine, ME): C

This originally French fort was for a short time (1674-1676) occupied by the Dutch enforcing their claim for a Dutch Acadia, which they called *Nova Hollandia*. The French recaptured the fort in 1676. More information is needed to verify transformation of the fort in any way by the Dutch.

37 Fort at Jemseg (NB, Canada): C

This originally French fort was for a short time (1674-1675) occupied by the Dutch enforcing their claim for a Dutch Acadia, which they called *Nova Hollandia*. The French recaptured the fort in 1676. More information is needed to verify transformation of the fort in any way by the Dutch.

The Identification Mission examined the possibilities for the project on the nine points mentioned in chapter 2b, referring to the criteria of the Common Cultural Heritage Policy Framework 2009-2012 as set up by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Culture.

*1. The degree to which the project relates to country-specific common cultural heritage programmes.*

In Dutch politics, the United States unfortunately is not yet a priority country for common cultural heritage programmes. Nevertheless the Netherlands Consulate General in New York contributed substantially to the Identification Mission, because it considers the promotion of Dutch Cultural Heritage important.

2. *The extent of knowledge transfer on technical and policy issues (e.g. training courses, exchanges, seminars, workshops).*

Annually the New Netherland Institute, applicant of the project, organizes a seminar about Dutch North America. The Mission Team attended the 34<sup>th</sup> New Netherland Seminar in New Castle, DE, dealing with the Dutch on the Delaware. For the Atlas of Dutch North America special attention will be given to the exchange of data and researchers.



Picture 18. Architectural designer Len Tantillo in front of his painting of a reconstruction of 'Fort Orange in Rensselaerswijck in circa 1650'

It was a nice surprise to meet Len Tantillo, architectural designer and artist, who specializes in depicting Dutch colonial fortifications in the United States (picture 18). Recently he published the book 'The Edge of New Netherland' about the construction of Fort Casimir in New Castle, DE. With his expertise and enthusiasm he will provide invaluable contributions to the Atlas project.<sup>7</sup>

3. *Their impact on a range of policy sectors (e.g. other cultural disciplines, employment, tourism, education).*

Any investment in educational programmes in schools, universities, and public services concerning Dutch cultural heritage in the United States will be important in adding value to the research and improving the relations between the two countries in all ways.

Besides the historical value of the named cultural heritage there is an economic and tourism value. In 2011 a travel guide 'Exploring Historic Dutch New York' was published.<sup>8</sup> A co-operation with the Atlas project seems logical for future publications and the promotion of the region.

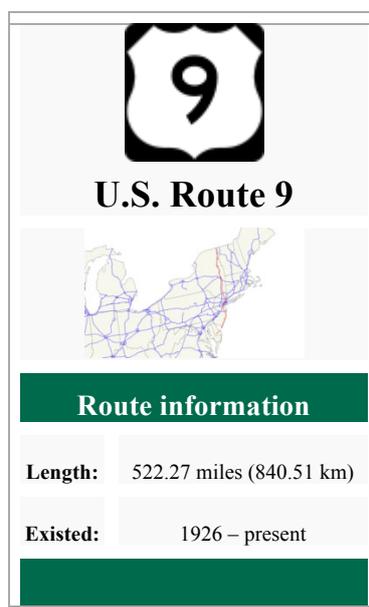
US Route 9 is a north-south highway positioned in the States of New York, New Jersey, and Delaware, more or less in the region of *Nieuw Nederland* (picture 19). Because of the presence of many sites related to the Dutch colonial period, Charles Gehring of the New Netherland Project suggested creating a touristic route in this area following this highway. The related historic sites should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as organized by the respective State Historic Preservation Offices and the National Park Service.

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<sup>7</sup> Tantillo, L., 2011: *The Edge of New Netherland*, Nassau, NY.

<sup>8</sup> Scheltema, G., and H. Westerhuijs, 2011: *Exploring Historic Dutch New York*. New York City, Hudson Valley, New Jersey and Delaware, New York.

A similar historical route already exists for the Revolutionary War (See: [www.revolutionaryday.com/usroute9](http://www.revolutionaryday.com/usroute9)). This route could serve as an example for the historical route following Dutch cultural heritage sites in the United States.



Picture 19. U.S. Route 9, is a highway between the states of Delaware, New Jersey and New York.

*4. Political commitment in the partner country at local and national level, as evidenced by its financial and operational participation.*

The Netherlands Consulate General in New York contributed substantially to the Identification Mission, because it considers the subject important. Other Dutch financiers were KLM and the New Holland Foundation. From the United States side, the New Netherland Project and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation were matching partners.

*5. Reinforcement of the cultural identity of the partner country.*

Noting the growing interest in the United States for the Dutch influence in their culture, the Atlas of Dutch North America will contribute to this movement in a positive way, thus stimulating the relations between the two countries.

*6. A definite utilization plan for the object concerned, including maintenance.*

Not applicable.

*7. Increase in local knowledge of the common cultural heritage and strengthening of local support.*

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, two state agencies, were extremely supportive during the Identification Mission. Their interest and commitment will strengthen the local knowledge and local support.

*8. Opportunities for multilateral co-operation with priority countries.*

The eight priority countries for the Netherlands are Brazil, Ghana, India, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Surinam, and South Africa. The results of the Atlas project in the priority country of Brazil were essential in starting a similar project in North America. Opportunities for multilateral co-operation are evident in other priority countries where Dutch Cultural Heritage is involved.

9. *Specialist considerations such as cultural significance, uniqueness, representativeness, and urgency in the need to take action.*

Economic developments and Mother Nature are a constant threat to archaeological sites. With new information and new research techniques, unique spots related to the Dutch period in the history of the United States can be traced and protected. This is a fantastic opportunity and offers possibilities for discoveries and further cooperation. In this way the ultimate goal of the project, the preservation and the promotion of a better understanding of the Mutual Cultural Heritage between the Netherlands and the United States can be reached, and cultural and economic bonds between the two countries will be strengthened.

### **5c. Explanation in case of deviations following difficulties/planning**

Because the Identification Mission was not fully funded, improvisation played an important role. Thus economy was practised in expenses for travel and accommodation. A flexible time schedule made it possible to visit many sites, enabling an assessment of the area.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES**

### **6a. Conclusion on reaching general objectives**

During the preparations and the effectuation of the Identification Mission for the Atlas of Dutch North America, contact was made with Dutch and United States authorities, institutions, and researchers. As a result the outline for the Atlas of Dutch North America project was instituted. Depending on financiers and availability of researchers it is planned to execute the project in 2012.

Thanks to the preliminary historical survey and the local researchers, a draft list for defence works dating from the Dutch period (c.1609-1678) could be made. The 37 locations on the list were divided into three categories marked A, B and C. 'A' means still standing or location known, 'B' means a potential location and further research is needed, and 'C' signifies that the site is destroyed or the location is unknown. Locations in categories B and C may be promoted to a higher level if further information is obtained.

Five defence works were placed in category A: 1. Fort Orange, Albany, NY; 2. Fort Amsterdam, NY; 3. Crailo, Rensselaer, NY; 4. Defensive structures at Wall Street, NY, and 5. Wiltwijck, Kingston, NY.

Five locations were assigned to category B: 1. Fort Nassau, Albany, NY; 2. Fort Casimir, New Castle, DE; 3. Gravesande, Brooklyn, NY; 4. Beverwijck, Albany, NY and 5. Fort Massapeag, Oyster Bay, NY.

The other 26 locations were placed in group C. It is expected that thorough historical and archaeological research will substantially aid the identification of the remains of these sites. One of the locations, number 21, was taken off the list because it was built after the Dutch Period (c.1609-1678).

Focus of attention for the Identification Mission was New York State where eighteen defence works are located. New Jersey has five locations, Pennsylvania four, Connecticut and Delaware each three, and Rhode Island, Maine, and New Brunswick (Canada) all have one.

An outline for the Atlas of Dutch North America was set up and contact was made with potential partners and financiers for the project.

**6b. Conclusion on reaching target group**

It was inspiring to encounter the enthusiasm for the Atlas of Dutch North America in the Netherlands and the United States. Authorities and institutions, such as the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the New Netherland Project, and the Netherlands Consulate General in New York were more than willing to cooperate. Institutions and researchers gave all support during the Identification Mission, and most stated they will continue their support in the future.

**6c. Conclusion on quality of executing authorities**

Cooperation between applicant and implementing organization went smoothly, and a continuation of the cooperation for the follow-up seems logical. Historian Jaap Jacobs did a good job in providing valuable preliminary historical research. The exchange of ideas between researchers of the New Netherland Project, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the Mission Team was inspiring and provided a solid base for the Atlas project.

**6d. Possible explanation on above-mentioned conclusions**

The Americans regard the Dutch colonial period as contributing to the enrichment of their culture. The founding of *Nieuw Amsterdam* (New York City) is still seen as the start of the “free-trade, upwardly-mobile melting-pot that would help shape not only New York, but America”. The recent published book by Russell Shorto ‘The Island at the Center of the World’ refers to this sentiment.<sup>9</sup> In 2009 the anniversary of the 1609 discovery of the Hudson River by Henry Hudson was celebrated, giving a lot of positive attention to Dutch-American connections.

**6e. Suggestions for the future/’lessons learned’**

Any investments in educational programmes in schools, universities, and public services on the Dutch cultural heritage of the United States will add a promotional value to the project and improve relations between the two countries in all ways (picture 20).

Besides the historical value of this cultural heritage there is also an economic and tourism value. In 2011 a travel guide ‘Exploring Historic Dutch New York’ was published. Cooperation with the Atlas project seems logical for future publications and the promotion of the region.

US Route 9 is a north-south highway positioned in the states of New York, New Jersey, and Delaware, more or less passing through the region of *Nieuw Nederland*. Charles Gehring of the New Netherland Project suggests creating a touristic route following the sites relating to Dutch cultural heritage in this area along this highway. The related historic sites should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as organized by the State Historic Preservation Offices and the National Park Service.

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<sup>9</sup> Shorto, R., 2005: *The Island at the Center of the World. The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped America*, New York.



*Picture 20. Bronze statue of Peter Stuyvesant, Dutch Director-General of 'Nieuw Nederland' between 1645 and 1664, at Stuyvesant Square in New York City*

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