

**HISTORIC BUILDINGS NOW  
STANDING IN NEW YORK,  
WHICH WERE ERECTED PRIOR  
TO EIGHTEEN HUNDRED**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649194308

Historic buildings now standing in New York, which were erected prior to eighteen hundred by Bank of the Manhattan Company

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**BANK OF THE MANHATTAN COMPANY**

**HISTORIC BUILDINGS NOW  
STANDING IN NEW YORK,  
WHICH WERE ERECTED PRIOR  
TO EIGHTEEN HUNDRED**



Chase Manhattan Bank, New York.

**HISTORIC BUILDINGS  
NOW STANDING IN NEW YORK  
WHICH WERE ERECTED PRIOR  
TO EIGHTEEN HUNDRED**



PRINTED FOR  
BANK OF THE MANHATTAN COMPANY  
NEW YORK CITY

COPYRIGHTED 1914  
BY  
BANK OF THE MANHATTAN COMPANY

The vignette on the preceding title-page is the seal of the Manhattan Company. On May 8, 1799, the Committee on By-Laws reported "that they had devised a common seal for the Corporation, the description of which is as follows: Oceanus, one of the sea gods, sitting in a reclining posture on a rising ground pouring water from an urn which forms a river and terminates in a lake. On the exergue will be inscribed 'Seal of the Manhattan Company.'"

COMPILED, DESIGNED, AND PRINTED  
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
WALTON ADVERTISING AND PRINTING COMPANY  
BOSTON, MASS.

## FOREWORD

**I**T is apparent to the New Yorker as well as to the stranger that the city is changing rapidly. Time lays as destructive a hand upon that which is historic as upon that which is uninteresting; and the buildings of yesterday give place to those of to-day.

It has seemed appropriate to the Bank of the Manhattan Company that it should assemble views of substantially all the buildings of historic interest now standing within the city limits which were in existence in 1799, when it was founded. Many of these buildings have undergone but little change since then; others, though their original walls are standing, have been altered to meet more modern requirements. While the city possesses many interesting buildings erected in the first half of the nineteenth century, the small number of interesting buildings of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries which still remain shows how little is left of the New York of Colonial times and even of the early days of the Republic.

The compiler has made every effort to render both the views and the historic notes reliable and interesting. His indebtedness is acknowledged to Frank Cousins, Esq., Salem, Mass., who furnished a majority of the photographs; to Dr. George W. Nash, Randall Comfort, Esq., John Ward Dunsmore, Esq., John Moore Perry, Esq., and A. A. Russell, Esq., for other photographs; to Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes, Esq., for his valuable advice and suggestions; and to the New York Historical Society for permission to reproduce old prints.

In the belief that it will be of interest to the busy man of affairs as well as to the antiquarian, the bank presents this brochure to you with its compliments, and hopes that it may find a permanent place in your library.

BANK OF THE MANHATTAN COMPANY

40 WALL STREET, NEW YORK

269973

[ 3 ]

O. Oct. 20, 1917 C.M.

Robt. S. 11-19-15  
Bank of the Manhattan Company 5-22-14 g



**NEW YORK FROM LONG ISLAND**

1807

Engraving by W. Robinson

Published by J. Wood and W. Robinson, New York, Feb. 14, 1807

Drawn by John Wood



## NEW YORK

1626-1800

**T**HE Island of Manhattan, which for years marked the bounds of the city of New York until the outlying districts were taken in, presented in 1626, when Peter Minuit, the Dutch governor-general, bought it from the Indians for \$24 in trinkets, a far different aspect from that of to-day, when the value of the land upon the island is \$3,155,389,410.

Where massive sky-scrapers now tower, primeval forests, untouched by the hand of man, fretted the sky line. At the lower end of the island there were wooded hills and grassy valleys where the wild strawberry, apple, cherry, and grape fruited in their season, and wild flowers of every hardy kind bloomed in profusion. Brooks, ponds, swamps, and marshes covered the middle part of the island, and not far from the shore at the lower end on the east side was a pond with a little island in the middle to which the Dutch later gave the name Kolloch. To the north were high rocky hills, covered with dense forests, in which the wolf, the bear, the deer, and the wild turkey had their haunts, and between the hills trickled, tumbled, and foamed scores of limpid brooks, full of trout.

New Amsterdam lived on traffic, and was a lively place from the beginning, for it was on the highway between the northern and southern colonies. Life was remarkably cosmopolitan from the earliest days. Official edicts were issued in French, Dutch, and English, and in 1643 eighteen languages were spoken on Manhattan Island. The town, settled for purposes of trade by a seafaring people, naturally long clung close to the water's edge. And here centred the social life of the old Dutch town.

The irregularity of the streets below Bowling Green,—the open space set apart in 1626 for common use,—is evidence of the haphazard way in which the first settlers placed their houses. At first there were only two recognized roads. One of them led from the fort to Brooklyn Ferry at about the present Peck Slip, along the line of the present Stone and Pearl Streets (the latter then the water front). The other, on the line of the present Broadway, went north from the fort, out of the town through Peter Stuyvesant's "Bowerie," or country place, from which this part of the road took its name "the Bowery," and on into the wilderness. For more than a century this was the only highway traversing the island from end to end, and was famous as the Boston Post Road.

In these early days the favorite dwelling-place of the quality of the town was along the canal that ran the length of the present Broad Street, then called Heere Gracht. The palisade, built in 1653 along the line of the present Wall Street for protection against a threatened attack by New Englanders, marked the northern limit of the town, and for many years served to retard the natural growth of the town in that direction.

In 1664 there were only twelve buildings outside the wall, and only one-third of the area within was built upon. The western side of the town, from Bowling Green northwards, was entirely given over to gardens, orchards, and green fields. On the east the farthest outlying dwelling was Wolfert Webber's tavern on the northern highway, near the present Chatham Square, where travellers rested on their perilous journey to Harlem. Except for the settlement at Sappokanican, afterwards Greenwich Village, and the few farms along the highway, this region was empty. Annual round-ups were held of the herds which ran wild in the brush country, beginning where City Hall now stands. Soon after the settlement on Manhattan the Dutch and English turned covetous eyes on Long Island, particularly the neighborhood of Flatlands, Flushing, Jamaica, and Brooklyn, and here they early built their homes. The English also settled upon Staten Island.

With the passage of the Bolting Act in 1678, giving the city

a monopoly of the bolting and packing of flour, New York boomed. By 1695 the city inside the wall was densely populated, and new streets north of the wall doubled the area of the city. Under English rule New York became very prosperous. One source of its wealth was the plunder of the privateersmen, pirates, and slavers, who made New York their headquarters. Red Seamen, as they were called, not only had little difficulty in disposing of their booty in New York, but were welcomed as guests by the gentry and merchants, who made fortunes out of their dealings with them. One of the lots on the north side of Wall Street, 25 feet by 112 feet, was sold on March 13, 1689, to William Cox, a merchant, for £60, and by him bequeathed to his wife Sarah, who later married Captain Kidd. When the Kidds resold it on January 27, 1694, to John Warren, a butcher, they received £130. In 1712 the population was 5,840; in 1731, 8,622; and lots sold for from £30 to £100, according to their nearness to Bowling Green.

Many New Yorkers had country places outside the city, where they lived in considerable state. The Bowery was lined with the farms of the Bayards, the DeLanceys, and other well-known families, and was the fashionable drive of the period. Scattered here and there were inns which attracted the gay world, and in some cases formed the nucleus of a village ultimately absorbed by the growing city. Business was still concentrated in the streets leading to Brooklyn Ferry, and no one expected that it would ever encroach upon the west side of the island. At the beginning of the English period social life centred at Fort George at the Battery, where the governor lived in state in his mansion and where the King's Chapel stood. Lower Broadway and the streets west, Greenwich Street from the Battery to Cortlandt Street, and, in time, the region further north, were occupied by people of fashion.

At the opening of the Revolution the Bowery was largely built upon as far as Grand Street, and from there to the junction with the Middle Road (Broadway) it was lined with the country houses of well-to-do citizens. The epidemics of small-pox and yellow fever, which visited the city regularly