

The lot of Jan Evertsen Bout. The history of this site is of more than ordinary significance. In the house shown on the Plan, the *Vertoogh van Nieu-Neder-Land* was written; and here was erected the first French Church. The site is now covered by the court of the New York Produce Exchange.

The *Representation* recites:

At the beginning of the year 1649 . . . we deemed it necessary to make regular memoranda . . . This duty was committed to one Adriaen vander Donck, who by a resolution adopted at the same time was lodged in a chamber at the house of one Michael Jansz. The General on a certain occasion when Vander Donck was out of the chamber, seized this rough draft with his own hands, put Vander Donck the day after in jail, called together the great Council, accused him of having committed *crimen laesae majestatis*. . . —Jameson's *Nar. N. Neth.*, 351.

The earliest history of the house and its owners is confusing. Willem Beeckman, Harman Smeeman, and Michael Jansen signed the deed to Bout, the original of which is owned by the N. Y. Hist. Society.—Recorded in *Liber Deeds*, A: 31.

They seem to have been a syndicate, for each severally declared, "so far as his right and claim of ownership are concerned, to cede and transport" the premises. The contract and bill of sale are very definite, however. On June 9, 1655, Jan Evertsen Bout, then living at Breuckelen, sold to Michael Jansen, at Gemoenepaen, certain land there, on the following conditions: "Michiel Jans shall deliver unto . . . Jan Evertsen Bout the house and lot thereunto depending which belong to him Michiel Jansen, situate within this city between Nicholaes Boot and Isack de Foreest at present leased by Jan Jansen the younger." Jan Evertsen Bout and Michael Jansen were to exchange deeds of the lands at Gemoenepaen and the house of Michael Jansen in the city; and Jan Evertsen Bout was to pay Michael Jansen the additional sum of 200 Carolus guilders.—*Powers of Attorney*, trans. by O'Callaghan, 153-4.

Bout did not himself occupy the house; a family named Barentzen, in whom he took an interest, lived in it.—*Rec. N. Am.*, V: 224; *Min. of Orph. Court*, I: 43. He was, however, confirmed here by Governor Lovelace, in 1669. (Original of patent in possession of N. Y. Hist. Society.) On September 25, 1674, his heirs, Andries Juriaensz and Nicolas Jansen Backer, sold the property to the widow and heirs of Isaac de Forest.—*Original Book of N. Y. Deeds*, 1673-1675, in *N. Y. Hist. Soc. Collections*, 1913, pp. 43-5.

On the easterly part of the lot, the French Church (Église du St. Esprit) was built,

circa 1688. No deed to the trustees is of record, and the source of their title has been frequently discussed. The author believes that Jasper Neseapat^[1] donated or sold the site to the church. It is incontestably true that he owned all the land behind the church plot through to the Brouwers Straet. He purchased the Stone Street front from John Delaval, November 18, 1687 (*Liber Deeds*, XVIII: 112, Albany), and the land in the rear from the heirs of De Forest, by an unrecorded deed. If this deed covered property fronting on the Marckvelt Steegh (which it undoubtedly did, as he naturally would have secured frontage on both streets) then Neseapat owned the land on which the church was built. He was of Huguenot descent. The French Church secured an enabling act, June 19, 1703, Chapter 128, *Colonial Laws* (reprinted in *Eccles. Rec.*, III: 1528), to authorise them to sell. They recite that the elders of the church

are peaceably seized and possessed of a certain Lott of Ground and Church built thereon . . . in the street Comonly Known by the name of Petticoate Lane butting northerly to the said Street Southerly to the ground of Jaspas Nissepat Deced Westerly to the Ground of Isaac De fforest Deced and Easterly to the Ground of Henry Van ffeurden being in Length fforty Eight ffoot Nine Inches & in Breadth in the ffront Twenty Seaven foot Seven Inches and in the rear Twenty Eight foot Six Inches of which breadth on the West side from the ffront to the rear is taken off and reserved three foot & three Inches for a Comon Alley.

Jan Evertsen Bout was born about 1603.—*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, I: 194. He came to New Netherland by “de Eendracht,” in the spring of 1634. Kiliaen van Rensselaer, in a letter to Van Twiller, dated April 23, 1634, says: “*Jan Evertsz* Bout is going thither also [i. e. to the Manhattans] he has offered me his services, but the shirt is nearer to me than the coat.”—*Van Rensselaer Bowier MSS.*, 282.

Michiel Paauw evidently felt no such distrust, for Bout entered his service, and, like Cornelis van Vorst, remained at Pavonia after the Company had taken over Paauw’s holdings there. Van Twiller built him a house there, in 1634.—*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, I: 432; XIV: 16. He had been an officer of the West India Company in Holland, and was a man of determined character. He was one of the Eight Men, in 1643 (*ibid.*, I: 140), and one of the Nine Men, in 1647.—*Laws & Ord.*, *N. Neth.*, 76.

Bout was one of the signers of the “Petition of the Commonalty of New Netherland to the States General,” dated July 26, 1649; the “Additional Observations,” of the same date, and the “Remonstrance,” dated July 28, 1649; and, with Vander Donck and Van Couwenhoven, was chosen to carry these papers to the States General.—*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, I: 331. While in Holland, he contracted with the Amsterdam Chamber to send 200 emigrants to New Netherland.—*Ibid.*, I: 379. He had, meantime, secured the first grant of land in Breuckelen, and was appointed one of the two first schepens of that village, June 12, 1646.—*Laws & Ord.*, *N. Neth.*, 58.

He died there before 1674, when his widow, Annetje Para, married Andries Janse Juriaence.—*Stiles’s Hist. of Brooklyn*, I: 99.

His first wife was Trijntje Symons de Witt.—*Cal. Hist.*, *MSS.*, *Dutch*, 49.

Van Tienhoven, speaking of Bout, in his *Answer to the Representation* (Jameson’s *Nar. N. Neth.*, 376), implies that this settler had been in North America at an earlier period.