

AMSTERDAM IN REMBRANDT’S TIME

1 Rembrandt’s home and studio on Sint Antoniesbreestraat/Jodenbreestraat (1639–55)

Rembrandt lived here with his wife Saskia and their son Titus. Saskia died in 1642, and in 1655 Rembrandt sold the house (now a museum), filing for bankruptcy in 1656.

2 Rembrandt’s home and studio on Rozengracht (1655–69)

Rembrandt’s home and studio after his bankruptcy and for the rest of his life.

3 Pieter Lastman’s home on Sint Antoniesbreestraat (1608–33)

A prominent Amsterdam painter who trained both Rembrandt c. 1625 and Jan Lievens between 1617 and 1619. Both young artists stayed here while studying with Lastman.

4 Sephardic Portuguese Synagogue (Esnoga) on Houtgracht, completed 1675

In 1670 Amsterdam’s Portuguese Jewish community commissioned what was then the largest synagogue in the world. The Esnoga (ladino for “synagogue”) is still an active place of worship.

5 Ashkenazic Great German Synagogue on Houtgracht, built 1671

Built by Jewish communities from Central and Eastern Europe. A few decades later three more Ashkenazic synagogues were constructed adjoining the Great Synagogue as a complex, now the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam.

6 Sephardic Talmud Torah Congregation on Houtgracht (1639–75)

Amsterdam’s earliest established congregation. In 1639—the year Rembrandt and Saskia moved to their new home—this synagogue was officially recognized as the Sephardic house of worship. The prince of Orange and the queen of England visited in 1642.

7 Dam Square

Named for its historic function as a dam on the Amstel River. Dam Square was the center of

commerce and city government. A new town hall and civic offices, where Rembrandt declared bankruptcy, opened here in 1655.

8 East India House on Kloveniersburgwal (1606–1798)

The headquarters, warehouse, and auction space for the Dutch East India Company (VOC), the world’s first multinational trading company. Chartered in 1602, the VOC expanded Dutch trade routes and colonized Southern Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Indonesia.

9 de Pinto house on Sint Antoniesbreestraat, built 1605

Purchased in 1651 by the de Pintos, Amsterdam’s leading family of Portuguese Jewish merchant bankers. Its patriarch, Isaac de Pinto (1629–1681) lived here with his wife Rachel de Vega (1631–1676) and their son David Emanuel (1652–1712). Their grandson Isaac de Pinto (1717–1787) grew up in the mansion.

10 Jewish Meat Hall on Houtgracht, built 1648

Situated behind Rembrandt’s house and from 1648 to 1656 owned by the Talmud Torah.

11 Print shop of Emanuel Benveniste on Lange Houtstraat (1640–65)

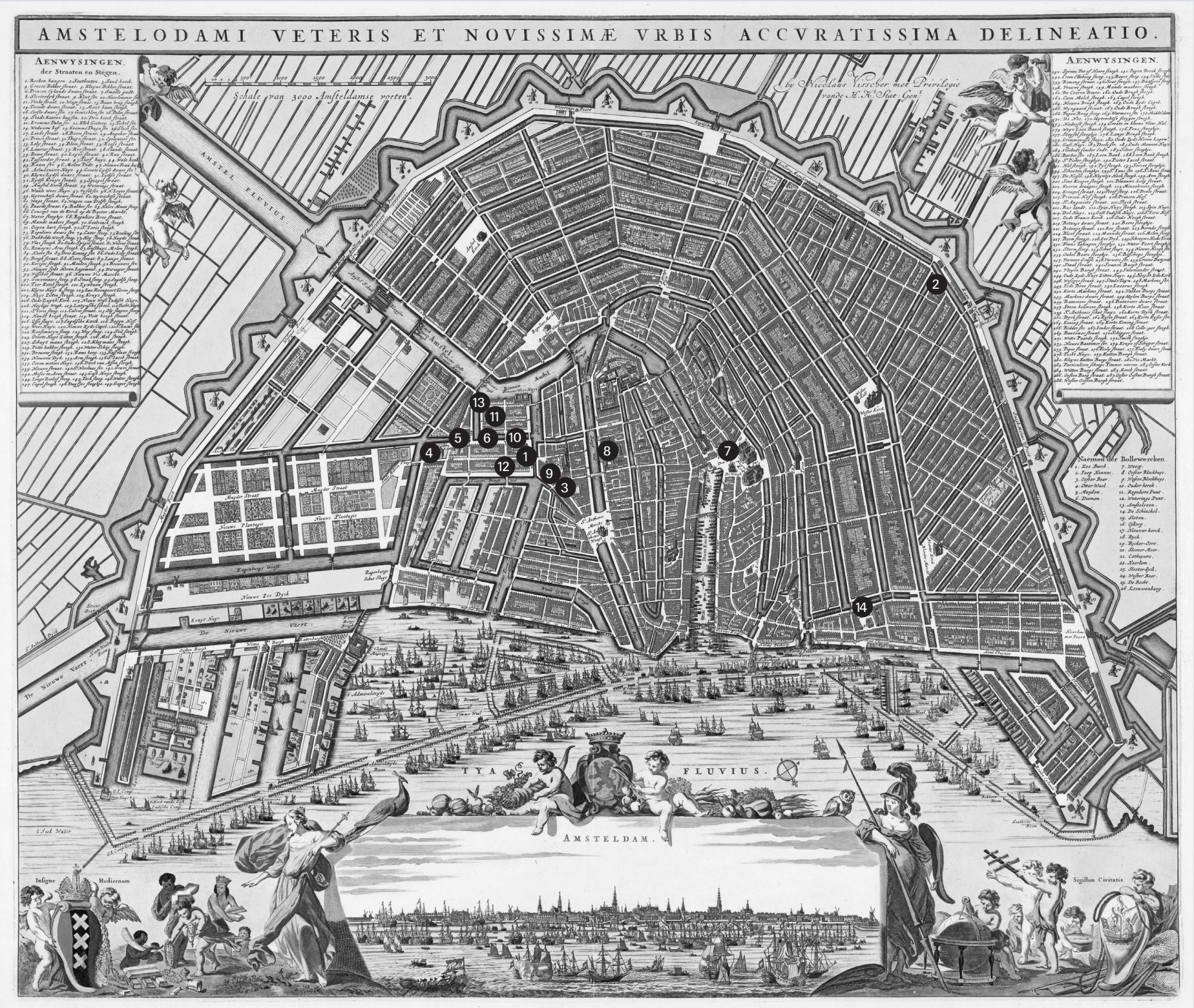
The Italian Jewish printer Emanuel Benveniste (1608–c. 1660) printed many works in Hebrew and lived at the print shop with his family.

12 Huis van Nassauwen, the home of Jacob Hinlopen and Maria Huydecoper, on Jodenbreestraat (1618–71 and 1627–58, respectively)

Patrons of Rembrandt; Hinlopen was an affluent cloth merchant. The Jewish merchant Jacomo (Jacob) de Pinto (1631–1701) rented the house with his wife Rebecca Pereira (b. 1632) until his death.

13 Huis Sloterdijk, the home of Menasseh ben Israel and his brother-in-law, on Zwanenburgerstraat

Menasseh ben Israel (1604–1657) was a prominent scholar and rabbi in the Portuguese Jewish community and Amsterdam at large. He established the city’s first Hebrew printing press.



14 West India House on Herenmarkt (1623–47)

The Amsterdam headquarters of the Dutch West India Company (WIC; 1621–1792), who had a trade monopoly in the Dutch West Indies (present-day Curaçao, Aruba, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba). The WIC also established Dutch colonies in North and South America, including in present-day New York, and on the coast of West Africa, where they participated in the Atlantic slave trade.

Possibly Pieter Hendricksz. Schut, after a design by Nicolaes Pietersz. Berchem, *Map of Amsterdam with Cityscape*, 1695–1720. Published by Nicolaes Visscher. Etching, engraving, and hand coloring on paper, 19¼ × 22½ in. (48.8 × 57.6 cm). Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

Note: Some biographical and geographical information in this map is from *Rembrandt Seen through Jewish Eyes: The Artist’s Meaning to Jews from His Time to Ours*, edited by Mirjam Knotter and Gary Schwartz and published by Amsterdam University Press in 2024.