

Peter Mesier, SR.

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Based on the Lyne-Bradford map (Cohen & Augustyn. Manhattan in maps, p. 54-56).

From <http://maps.bpl.org/ld/1838/>

Mesier Mill, Manhattan, c. 1695

In the late 17th century a mill was built by the Mesier family north of Wall Street near Trinity Church on the banks of the Hudson River in New York City. It remained in operation for nearly 50 years and stood as a landmark and beacon to travelers. Centuries later this site became the location for the World Trade Center. The South Tower stood on nearly the same plot of land as the old mill.

This image was derived from period source material, most notably the "Lyne-Bradford Map" of circa 1735 and the "Plan of the City of New York, 1735," often referred to as "Mrs. Buchner's Plan." Both sources are in the collection of the New York Public Library. The Buchner Plan includes a small sketch of a small post mill on the Mesier site.

Mesier Mill, c. 1695
oil on canvas, 2010, 20 x 30 inches
L. F. Tantillo, (American, b. 1946)



Peter Jansen Mesier, born about 1631 it is supposed, in Normandy, came to America, and in some early records is written **Pieter Janszen**; in 1673 at New York the house, garden and orchard of **Pieter Janse Mesier**, near Fort Willem Hendrick, were ordered demolished by Governor Colve. Sometime between 1682 and 1686 he obtained a part of the Van Cortlandt lot and erected a windmill on the bluff toward the North River. The lane to the mill was forty feet wide, and from Broadway it passed nearly midway between Liberty and Cortlandt Streets to Greenwich Street, thence northward to the present line of Cortlandt Street, where the windmill stood according to Miller's Plan. The mill appears in views of New York as late as 1746. March 29, 1701, the Corporation granted to Mesier for £20 the land in front of his purchase from high to low water mark. In 1686 Mesier and his wife, Maritje Willems, were members of the First Reformed Dutch Church, and lived on the "Strand," as the west side of Whitehall Street was then called. He died in 1691, and in 1698 his sons Abraham and Peter were admitted freemen of the city.

The Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York: History, Customs, Record ... - Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York - Google Books
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