

No 1190 used to be home to six nuns after 1945. The carved gable stone still reminds us of this time. What was originally the Catholic school building is now in use as a school for special primary education.

I. Boundary Stake

Between nos 1204 and 1208 you will find the Boundary Stake on the right-hand side of the alley, dating from 1794. Initially it was in an open space, clearly visible from a distance signalling the Amsterdam boundary for exiles. The Latin text *Terminus Proscriptionis* means: Outermost Stake of the Banished. People who had been banished or exiled from the city were forbidden from passing this point.

We continue on our way and pass shops: 1208: baker's; 1210: grocer's and later coffee roaster; 1214: tobacconist and school book-shop.



J. Police Station and Village Square

On the corner is the Netherlands' smallest police station, built in 1866. It's a listed building, now serving as info/shop. The police still used the little building up until 2015. Inside there's a cell with an impressive cell door.

Here's the fire alarm from the 1930s. As there were no telephones back in those days, you would press the button to alert the fire brigade.

The Village Square is on your right. This looks to be an old square, but its current design only dates back to 1991. There used to be large public house here that was used to settle disputes every 3 months. Archaeo-



Police station with village pump, besides the old court-house, where the village square is currently located; 1928.

logical excavations here in 1991 uncovered remains of farms dating back to about 1175. Continuing over the square to the right onto the road that encircles the church. On the right in the corner at Osdorperweg 20 is the old school gate of the Sloterschool, the public primary school, which began its service to the community back in 1595, but closed its doors in 1985. The building is now home to three families.

Turn right, between the bollards and onto the leafy, narrow path. On the left there is a (listed) red beech in the garden of the former parsonage of the Sloterkerk. It's estimated that the tree was planted around 1800. Turn back, go to the right and follow the road around the church (old graveyard).

K. Labourers' cottages

In front of the church to the right and past a cluster of noteworthy labourers' cottages. The cottages are actually built back-to-back with front-door access in the little alleys. Tradesmen and labourers from local farms lived here (and in the other small houses in the alleys).



On the right at the end of this section of the Osdorperweg at no 70, you will find a lovely old farm dating back to the second half of the 19th century, the Welgelegen farm.

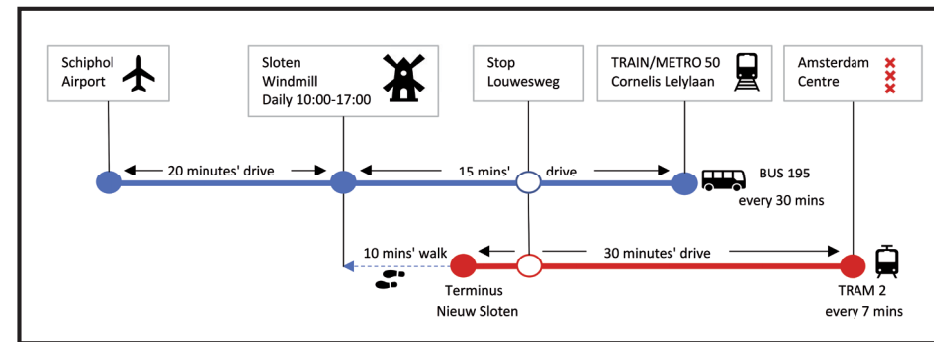


We cross over at the crossroads and follow the footpath on the right until we come to the entrance to the Vrije Geer Nature Park on the left. In 1995, residents organized a referendum which successfully saved this open stretch of green, home to nesting storks.



Colophon

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Public transport to Sloten (windmill).



Discover the Sloten Windmill and the delightful village

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The history of the village of Sloten is long and rich. It was once the beating heart of the sprawling rural district of Sloten, which was annexed by Amsterdam in 1921. The village has bravely stood firm against the ever-encroaching city and has retained its village character. The village structure consists of a few main roads with side alleys leading down to the areas behind, where houses are also located. It is a registered conservation area.

This walk will begin and end at the Sloten Windmill. The mill is open daily from 10.00 to 17.00. The last guided tour starts at 16.30. The audiovisual presentation about Rembrandt, who worked in Sloten, can be seen high up beneath the mill's rafters. On the first attic level there's an exhibition with

images of Sloten around 1900. In short, be sure to pay it a visit!

A. The origins of Sloten

The oldest mention of a chapel at 'Sloton' can be found in a medieval prayer book somewhere between 993 and 1049. This makes Sloten two centuries older than Amsterdam. Since about 1175, the village has been in its present location on a terp or mound on the Sloterweg. The surrounding area remained rural and agricultural until around 1950.

Map of Sloten and surroundings in 1615. Amsterdam is top right.



B. Sloten Windmill

Queen Juliana opened this mill in 1991. The brick substructure is new, but the oak beams in the body came from a mill dating back to 1847. The mill has a lift and is a popular wedding venue. It also plays its part in draining the Sloterpolder, keeping our feet dry and generating electricity too.



To the right of the bridge at no 1355 is the old bridge keeper's house, built in the art-deco style of the Amsterdam School movement. A little further along, at no 1345 we have the pub/restaurant 'De Halve Maen'. An inn has been located here for more than a century. Between 1918 and 1925, this was where the Sloten Municipal Tram began its route.



At no 1335 you can delight in some artisan ice cream. No 1301 is the former doctor's house, where the village GP Dr. Faber lived and worked for many years. He also treated horses.

On the other side of the road is Sloten Playground, a source of fun for young and old since 1921. The playground is freely accessible to everyone. Over the bridge and in the playground on your right there's a flagpole with a black mark indicating how high the water could be if there were no dikes, mills and pumps! The Sloterweg is 1.5 metres below NAP. Should the dikes fail, the waters could reach this level!

C. Sloten Shopping Centre

It's still clear from the fronts of many of Sloten's buildings that the majority of the village housed shops (with shopkeepers living behind or above the shop premises).

All of the shops have now disappeared. The village of Sloten was the commercial shopping centre of the large, similarly named rural district.

In ca. 1925 there were dozens of shops in the village, including 7 grocer's, 7 shoe-maker's, 4 butcher's, 4 baker's, 4 tobacconists, 3 barber's, 3 tailor's, 1 dairy, 1 green grocer's, 1 shop with agricultural products and 1 with household items. And... there were no less than 7 pubs!

At no 1285: hairdresser's where men went for a shave and each customer kept his own shaving brush in the cupboard, and no 1283: cigars and cigarettes. No 1252 is an attractive detached listed building (from 1893) with two listed beeches in front of it (8).

D. Horse tram

Diagonally opposite on the left: no 1277 is a listed building (from 1879), a short stretch of tram rails leads to the old horse-tram depot (from 1918 and demolished in 1988). The rails were replaced by clinker bricks. And in 1922, tractors took over from the horses, only to be replaced in 1925 by bus.



Diagonally across the road on the right is the Lies Bakhuyzenlaan, which leads to the VAT allotment gardens, open from May to September. A lovely place to go for a walk and enjoy the delightfully kept gardens. No 1244: clogs and sweet shop (6 salty liquorice sweets for 1 cent); no 1242: haberdasher's.

On the opposite side of the road, we turn left into the Akerpolderstraat. No 5 on the left is a tastefully renovated building with a crow-stepped gable. Next door is the old orphanage and alms house (*Wees- en Armenhuis*) built in 1905.

In the little public gardens opposite, poor and elderly men used to be allowed to grow their own vegetables. The gardens contain an unassuming monument in memory of the Dutch lives that were lost in the Dutch East Indies between 1945-1949.

E. Sloterkerk

From the Nieuwe Akerweg there is a magnificent view of the listed monument, the Sloterkerk, the oldest church in Sloten. In the Middle Ages, the first stone church was built on a terp north of the Sloterweg. In 1573 this church was burned down by the Beggars (*Geuzen*) following the Siege of Haarlem. A fragment of wall from the middle section (nave) of the devastated church was used in the construction of the new Protestant church, as recorded by Rembrandt, amongst others. This building fell into such disrepair that it had to be demolished in 1861, making way for the current Waterstaatskerk. Its neoclassical design is the work of architect P.J. Hammer. Remnants of the old church include the Knipscheer organ (from 1850), the pulpit (from 1664) with a sounding board (from 1860) and lectern (1664).



And this is where we turn to the right. On the right-hand corner is no 1. This restored property used to be a public house and coffee house.

Here we turn left and cross over to continue on the other side of the Sloterweg (odd side). At no 1257, the large doors and the round brickwork of the blacksmith or farrier are still to be seen. Horses would wait their turn in front of the door.

F. Oldest farm

At no 1253 there is the village's oldest farmhouse (from 1668), which is still partly in its original state. The building with striking wall anchors under the windowsills became a dairy farm in 1850.



Nos 1251: pub; 1249: pastry chef and later printer's; 1243: tobacconist and post office; 1239: (Catholic) butcher's; 1237: green grocer's; 1233: (Protestant) butcher's; 1231: dairy; 1223: baker's and later chemist's.



Opposite the church at no 1209 is the aptly named 'Café Kerkzicht' (church view). The pub was already known by that name before the church was even there! No 1195: shoe shop.

G. Toll House

No 1191 is the former toll house. From 1816 to 1923 the Sloterweg was a toll road to recoup the costs of paving the sand road and planting trees. A few examples of what it



cost to pass the barrier: horse: 5 cents; bovine / donkey: 2 cents; calf / sheep / pig: 1 cent; bicycle / 2-wheeled vehicle: 2 cents; bridled horse: 8 cents; villager: 12 guilders.

No 1185: radio and TV shop. Most Sloten locals saw their first television programmes here in the shop window. On the right there's the entrance to 'Eigen Hof' allotment gardens (1937), one of Sloten's splendid green oases.



From this point the charming Sloterweg continues towards Amsterdam as it has done since the 14th century, with water-filled ditches along both sides. We cross the road and enter Sloten again.

H. St. Pancras Church

We walk back into the village to the Roman Catholic Church of St. Pancras (*Sint-Pancratius*), dating from 1901. An image of Saint Pancras adorns the corner of the tower. This church was the first church to be designed by Jan Stuyt (one of P.J.H. Cuypers' pupils). It is a small, three-bay basilica with short square tower and a shallow rectangular choir.

The building is roughly neo-Gothic in style, which is quite sober compared to the more 'traditional' rich neo-Gothic style that was popular for Catholic churches at that time. The church includes a wooden painted ceiling, an Ypma organ of 1882, painted Stations of the Cross and a magnificent altar.

The large graveyard behind the church is still regularly used. And the monumental plane in front of the church is a listed tree.