



NEIGHBORHOOD
HISTORY GROUP

BLOOMINGDALE BULLETIN

Discovering, preserving, and sharing our history

Issue No. 13

Winter 2024

Happy New Year!

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group is starting off 2024 with lots to celebrate as we remember the Old Community, visit the theaters that used to be here, meet more notable residents, and inaugurate a new series on music in Bloomingdale. We welcome a new law that preserves a record of place names, learn the story of the House of Mercy, enjoy a happy warrior, and even unearth some new old history in our neighborhood between 96th and 110th Streets, from Central Park to the Hudson River. We look forward to feedback, comments, and ideas here. We hope you enjoy it all and will choose to support us with a [donation](#).

Upcoming Programs

Free Walking Tours

Jim Mackin

Sunday, January 14, 2:00 pm

Sunday, February 4, 2:00 pm

Sunday, March 10, 2:00 pm

Meet at the south end of Straus Park, Broadway and 106th Street,



Jim Mackin

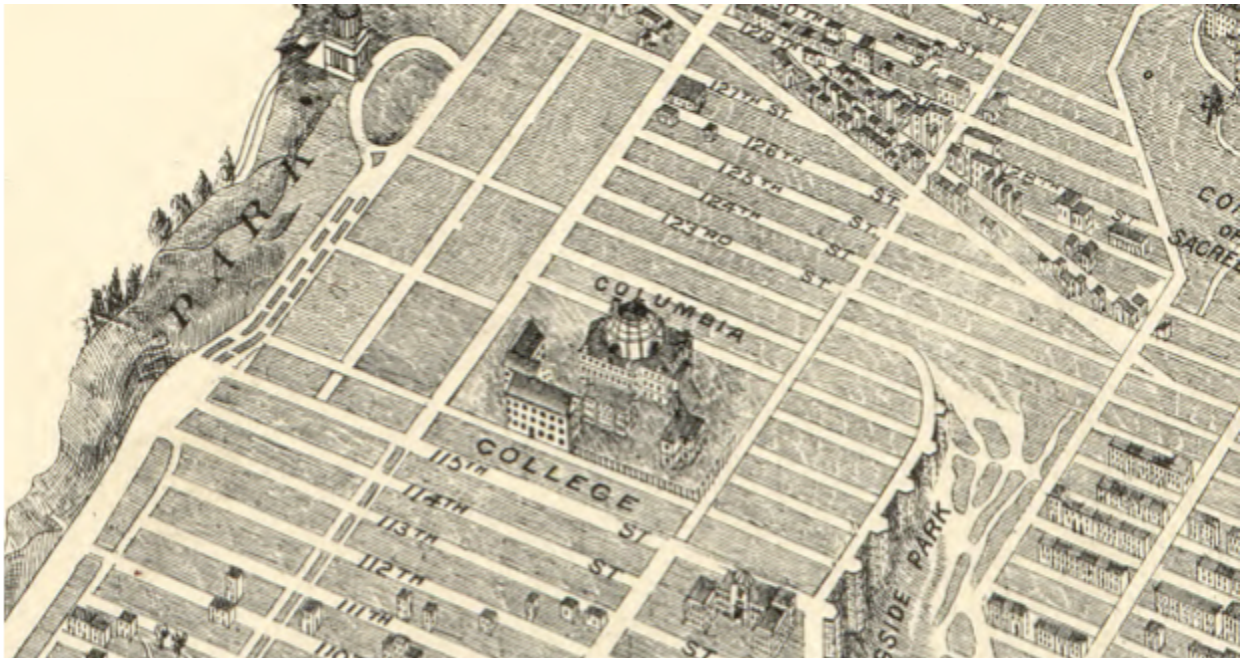
Put on your hat and gloves and join a walking tour led by Jim Mackin for a winter treat of stories about the people and places of the Bloomingdale neighborhood. Author of the popular book, [Notable New Yorkers of Manhattan's Upper West Side](#), Jim's tours are different every time and last one to two hours. Jim also leads [Weekday Walks](#) every Wednesday morning, covering a different part of the city each time.

The Greatest 19th Century Photograph of Morningside Heights: Unlocking a Neighborhood's History

A program of LandmarkWest!

Featuring Rob Garber of the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group

Thursday, January 11, 6:00 pm



Map of Morningside Heights

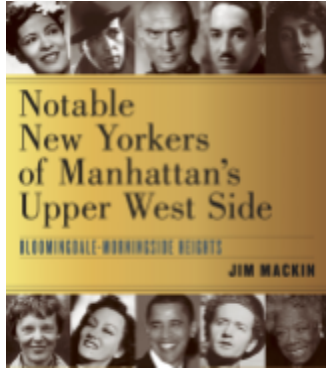
BNHG member and neighborhood historian Rob Garber takes us back to an era when the neighborhood of Morningside Heights was profoundly different than it is today. Taking a deep dive into one very special late-19th century photograph, Rob guides us through a time before automobiles and apartment buildings dominated the Upper West Side – when the “Acropolis on the Hill” had a reputation for sin, and when ten thousand bicycles paraded up Riverside Drive on a single June day.

Anyone on the BNHG mailing list can participate in this LandmarkWest! Zoom program free of charge by entering the promo code RobG in the non-members ticket registration. Register [here](#).

Notable New Yorkers of Bloomingdale: An Update

Jim Mackin

Wednesday, January 31, 6:30 pm



Jim Mackin is a noted New York City historian and author of the popular [Notable New Yorkers of Manhattan's Upper West Side](#). He will update his Notables book with some new local personalities, plus some interesting back stories, and will tell you about a follow-up book.

This will be a free Zoom presentation. Check Upcoming Events on our [website](#) for the link.

An Island in Bloomingdale: Life in the Old Community

Susan Fridie, Rob Garber, Jim Mackin

Monday, February 12, 2024, 5:30 pm

In the opening years of the 20th century, an unlikely community of African Americans arose on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Restricted to two city blocks by discriminatory rental practices, it became a close-knit village within the larger neighborhood.



Snowfall in Central Park near 98th Street: JoAnn Fletcher and Christine Jamison (back), Harriett Waites and Leonora Dawson (middle), and Sheila Davis (front)

The Old Community, as it became known, was razed in the 1950s in the name of "Urban Development," yet managed to maintain much of its cohesion for another 50 years, despite its residents having been widely scattered.

Timed to coincide with Black History Month, this illustrated talk focuses on the half-century life of the Old Community: its residents, its businesses, its activities, and its aftermath. As a special bonus, a former resident of the Old Community, or two, will be on hand to share stories and answer questions.



A game of basketball being played on the street corner at West 99th Street near Central Park West.

Susan Fridie is a volunteer with BNHG, has extensive family ties to the Old Community, and lives in Park West Village, the development that replaced it.

She has immersed herself in the extensive materials in the Old Community archives in the BNHG Library collection, housed at Bloomingdale Library, and has done valuable work to organize them for easier access for public use. You can find a description of this in the Summer 2023 BNHG [newsletter article](#) titled *Sprucing Up the “Old Community.”*

Rob Garber is the author and designer of the current, related exhibit about The Old Community at the Bloomingdale Branch Library (see New in the Neighborhood) and is a member of BNHG’s Planning Committee.

Jim Torain Award: The presentation of the BNHG Jim Torain Award will be part of this program. The award acknowledges the person or organization that honors the history of the Bloomingdale Neighborhood. It is named after Jim Torain, who grew up in the Old Community and ensured that its legacy, including its many talented and accomplished residents who enriched our neighborhood and our history, would not be lost or forgotten.

This program will be live, in person, and free.

Bloomingdale Library, 150 West 100th Street, between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues, 2nd floor (wheelchair accessible)

The Lost Theaters of Broadway - An Upper West Side Story

Gary Dennis

Thursday, February 22, 2024, 6:30 pm



What happened to all those theaters on Broadway on the Upper West Side? Once upon a time, there were 31,000 theater seats between 74th Street and 110th Street. Each has its own unique story and its own place in our history.

Gary Dennis is the premier expert on these questions, with deep knowledge of theaters and movie palaces, the architects who designed them, the significance of each theater, and its location. Dennis was the owner of the Upper West Side’s beloved Movie Place, one of NYC’s original independent video stores and a longtime local favorite in Bloomingdale, with one of the most extensive film inventories in the country.

This will be a free Zoom presentation. Check Upcoming Events on our [website](#) for the link.

Past Programs

The Columbus-Amsterdam BID: A Short History of a Vital Neighborhood Resource

Peter Arndtsen

Thursday, October 12, 5:30 pm



Throughout the years, one of the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group's most influential and enthusiastic supporters has been the Columbus Amsterdam Business Improvement District (BID). You can learn more about them [here](#). It is no exaggeration to say that the BNHG could not have accomplished so much without the stalwart backing of the energetic and peripatetic Peter Arndtsen, retiring Executive Director of the BID.



From left: Michael Gonzalez, BID Deputy Director; Daniel Bernstein, BID Executive Director; Peter Arndtsen, BID Retiring Executive Director; Bruce James, BID Interim Chair; Lora Lavon Dole, BID Board Member.

To celebrate the work of the BID and Peter, BNHG hosted a program to honor the organization's work, giving thanks to the BID Board of Directors and to Peter for their extraordinary contributions to life in this Upper West Side neighborhood.

The program was in-person at the Bloomingdale Library (another terrific backer of the BNHG's work). Peter gave a survey of the history of the BID and its influence on the slice of Manhattan along Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues, from West 96th to West 110th Streets during the BID's almost four decades of existence.

He presented a captivating account about the many ways the BID has created a vibrant business environment in the region. The talk was generously illustrated with wonderful photos to accompany Peter's many stories about how the BID has made the neighborhood cleaner, safer, more beautiful, and more cohesive over the years.

During the program, Jim Mackin presented a special award from BNHG to Peter, to honor him and his many years of leadership at the BID. The award also expresses our deep appreciation for his dedication and creativity in

shaping and supporting our work, and for the close association the two organizations have had in preserving and sharing the history of the Bloomingdale neighborhood.

You can see a recording of the program on our [website](#).

Meet the Artist: Neighborhood Resident Beatrice Coron Shares Her Work

Beatrice Coron

Thursday, November 30, 2023



Beatrice Coron

Calling herself a “visual storyteller,” Bloomingdale-based artist Beatrice Coron created an entrancing evening demonstrating how she uses art to tell stories that “are about identities and transformations.”

Her [exhibit](#) of eight art medallions featuring local luminaries is on display at various local outdoor locations in Bloomingdale (see New in the Neighborhood in this newsletter). In her talk she described this art installation, her body of art, her working process, and her ties to the Bloomingdale neighborhood.

New in the Neighborhood

New Library Exhibit – The Old Community: How a Black Neighborhood in Bloomingdale Began, Flourished for Half a Century, Then Was Abruptly Destroyed (and Its Surprising Afterlife)

A project by Rob Garber, BNHG member

On display at the Bloomingdale Library through February 29, 2024



Photo used to demonstrate “blighted conditions” on West 98th and West 99th Streets in 1951 by Robert Moses’ Committee on Slum Clearance

Between 1904 and the mid-1950s, a community of up to 4,000 people of color lived on 98th and 99th Streets between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West. This exhibit shows how this neighborhood came to exist, the famous and the ordinary people who lived there, and what happened to it.

Rob Garber will participate in the upcoming program, An Island in Bloomingdale: Life in the

Old Community, in February (see Upcoming Programs). Both that program and this exhibit are timed to coincide with the February observance of Black History Month.

Coming next: The History of the Bloomingdale Branch of the New York Public Library, on display March 1 – May 31, 2024. The Bloomingdale Library, West 100th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues (across from the 24th precinct station house)

Mon-Tue 10am-7pm | Wed-Thu 11am-7pm | Fri-Sat 10am-5pm

Use of library space by the Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group for this exhibit does not indicate endorsement by The New York Public Library.

Beatrice Coron Art Installation Moves to a New Location

The popular exhibit of art medallions featuring eight Bloomingdale neighborhood luminaries who influenced our world, has landed at a new location: Happy Warrior Playground (see Place Names in Bloomingdale) at PS 163, Amsterdam Avenue between West 98th and West 99th Streets. It will be there until June 28, 2024.



Motley Medallion

The project is a creation of local artist Beatrice Coron (see Past Programs) in collaboration with the Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District (BID), El Taller Latino, and artist J. Maya Luz. The medallions portray musicians John Coltrane, José Feliciano and Mario Bauza; vocalist Abbey Lincoln; artist Isamu Noguchi; poet Elizabeth Acevedo; Judge Constance Baker Motley and composer Billy Strayhorn.

Welcome to Daniel Bernstein, the New Leader of Columbus Amsterdam BID

BNHG enthusiastically welcomes Daniel Bernstein as the new Executive Director of the Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District (BID). The previous Executive Director, Peter Arndtsen, a founding and current member of BNHG, is retiring from the BID after more than 25 years of exemplary service.



Dan Bernstein

Dan is excited about making an impact in our neighborhood. He has praise for his great supporting staff, including the BID's Deputy Director, Michael Gonzalez, who is also a BNHG Planning Committee member. He has expressed his clear intention to keep a close association

between the BID and BNHG and has already become a member of the BNHG Planning Committee.

He has served in executive management positions at two other NYC BIDs, including the Fordham Road BID, as Deputy Director from 2005-2022; and the Madison Avenue BID, as Director of Operations from 1996-2005, where he remains as a Financial/Management Consultant.

Dan lives in Cold Spring, NY, with his two children, an English bulldog named Bronx, and a cat named Tornado. He is a former NYPD Auxiliary Police Officer and is an avid pool player: For the last 28 years he has been shooting in a weekly amateur NYC league, the American Poolplayers Association.

Donate!

You can support local history when you support the work of The Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group. BNHG presents many free programs throughout the year, in person and on Zoom. We display exhibits at the Bloomingdale Public Library. Our website offers numerous blog posts, a usable building database, and many other resources.

Donations to our work can be made through a GoFundMe site managed by the Columbus-Amsterdam Business Improvement District, making your gift fully tax-deductible. Visit our website [Donation Page](#) to learn more. Thank you!

Local Events

Hannah Arendt Birthday Celebration

Jim Mackin, Emcee
October 14, 11:00 am

A celebration of the birthday of political theorist Hannah Arendt included the dedication of a plaque mounted on the façade of 370 Riverside Drive, where Arendt lived and entertained with her husband, Heinrich Blucher, from 1959 until her death in 1975.

In the building lobby, there was a display of original photographs of Arendt taken by photographer Fred Stein. Jim Mackin, 370 resident and BNHG member,



Arendt plaque

emceed a program of history, anecdotes, and memories of Arendt, for an audience of 70 people.

The program featured Leon Botstein, President of Bard College and President and Director of the American Symphony Orchestra. Botstein knew Arendt for many years, dating back to their days as students at the University of Chicago. Arendt's husband, Heinrich Blucher, taught philosophy at Bard for 17 years starting in 1952. Arendt and her husband are both buried at Bard.



From left: Glen Leiner (event organizer, 370 resident), Peter Stein, Leon Botstein, Barbara Bechtolsheim, Jim Mackin, Gale Brewer (NYC Councilmember) Credit: Peter Brandt, resident of 370 RSD

Other speakers included Barbara Bechtolsheim, Yale Professor and author of a forthcoming book about Arendt and her husband; and Peter Stein, Cinematographer, who showed photos of Arendt taken by his father, photographer Fred Stein.

St. Mary's 200th Anniversary Concert

October 28, 2023



Vita Wallace, in concert.
Credit: Margaret Cuonzo

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Manhattanville, a small church on West 126th Street between Old Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue, was founded in 1823. It was the first church in the city to abolish pew rents, and its progressive legacy continues to this day.

In honor of its 200th anniversary, BNHG's own Vita Wallace, wearing another hat as musician and

co-founder of *What a Neighborhood!*, worked with members of the St. Mary's congregation and with the Harlem Chamber Players to create a musical program entitled *200 Years of Praise and Protest*. The performance opened the church's anniversary celebrations on October 28th. The Cathedral of St John the Divine lent its sanctuary for the concert.

The history of Manhattanville was highlighted in posters created for the occasion by BNHG member Rob Garber. A suite for piano by neighborhood composer Nailah Nombeko was given its World Premiere. The Neighborhood Composers Chorus joined the St. Mary's Gospel Choir to honor retired music director Janet Dorman, and the Harlem Chamber Players closed the program with new works by composers of color. The concert, bridging the historical with the contemporary, was very warmly received, enhanced by the colored ribbons of Anne Patterson's *Divine Pathways* art installation that filled the soaring arches of the Cathedral above.

What a Neighborhood! was founded by Vita and her brother Ishmael Wallace in 2003 and has identified and encouraged composers aged three to 80 to write and perform songs and music about their neighborhood.

Music in Bloomingdale

JAZZ in the Neighborhood

By Pam Tice

Mikell's at Columbus Avenue and West 97th Street



Mikell's. Credit: www.livinglegendsfoundation.com

Mikell's was a jazz club that was operated from 1969 to 1991 by owners Mike and Pat Mikell. *The New York Times* music critic Jon Pareles wrote that "the club nurtured a particular kind of New York soul, a mixture of urbanity and heat. The music placed suave, leisurely grooves, jazz chords, and guitar with bluesy twang behind singers and musicians who let loose with gospel-rooted passion." Paul Shaffer, the bandleader on "The Late Show with David Letterman," called Mikell's

“soul heaven.” Musicians gathered there and impromptu jam sessions regularly occurred.



Album cover

When James Baldwin’s brother worked there as a bartender, the club attracted authors as well, from Baldwin to Toni Morrison to Maya Angelou. Whitney Houston was still a teenager when she was discovered at Mikell’s one evening while she was there with her mother, gospel singer Cissy Houston. Stevie Wonder and Joe Cocker would show up at the club to sing. A young trumpeter, Wynton Marsalis, sat in with Art Blakey’s band one night and was offered a spot with the band. Jazz guitarist Doc Powell titled his 2003 album “97th and Columbus.”

After Mike Mikell fell ill with Lou Gehrig’s disease, a tribute concert was held at Symphony Space in 2004, reuniting many performers. Mikell was honored with a Mayoral proclamation that praised him “for providing a stage for the world’s most talented and ingenious poets, musicians, and artists.”

The October Revolution in Jazz

On October 1 to 4, 1964, a festival of new jazz music took place at the Cellar Café at 251 West 91st Street. It was organized by composer and trumpeter Bill Dixon, who was living on West 103rd Street at the time and had discovered the Cellar Café by accident. The Café had an eclectic program of poetry, folk music, and jazz, and Dixon began producing concerts there on Sunday afternoons, inviting musicians who were avant-garde and unknown.

In the summer of 1964, he began planning the early fall event, named for the October Revolution of 1917. Performances began at 4 pm each day, ending at midnight when panel discussions about the music would begin.



Poster for October Revolution in Jazz

The event was a huge success, with 700 people attending over the four days. Long lines developed as word spread that new and previously underground jazz was getting attention. Soon after the festival, Dixon and others formed the Jazz Composers Guild to continue highlighting the music.

In the 1970s, a restaurant that celebrated black jazz musicians opened on West 95th Street, just off Columbus Avenue. It was called The Cellar, perhaps in memory of the earlier venue.

In 1994, in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the October Revolution in Jazz, several jazz musicians, including Rashied Ali, Borah Bergman, Joe McPhee, and the Myra Melford Trio, recorded an album, *The October Revolution*.

Advent Lutheran Church, Broadway at West 93rd Street

Thanks to Tom Miller's writing for [Landmark West](#) about the church, we know about the work of pastor Rev. John Garcia Gensel, who arrived at the church in 1956 and began blending jazz culture with his work as a minister. Eventually, the Lutheran Board of American Missions allowed him to divide his time between the jazz community and church duties. Funerals at the church brought jazz musicians together.

Rev. Garcia went on to become the pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in midtown, which became the "jazz church," but musical celebrations continued at Advent Lutheran, including a two-day celebration in 2007 of the late Moondog, the famous eccentric New York musician who hung out on Sixth Avenue dressed as a Viking. Today, the Church offers free monthly concerts on Music Mondays, although mostly classical and modern music.

Augie's, now Smoke

Located on Broadway between West 105th and 106th streets, Augie's Jazz Bar was what one writer calls authentic and understated. Others claimed that this atmosphere made it financially untenable – a place where one could spend a whole night with just one beer, listening to jazz. Augie's was closed due to non-payment of taxes in 1996.



Fortunately, one of the former employees was able to re-open the space in 1999 as Smoke Jazz Club. The name draws from an eponymous movie written by Paul Auster based on Augie's owner, Augusto Cuartas. Auster was a regular at Augie's.

The club survived the Covid closure and is now larger, offering the Bloomingdale neighborhood live jazz once again.

An Upper West Side Notable

From [Notable New Yorkers of Manhattan's Upper West Side](#)

By Jim Mackin, Fordham University Press

Charles Gulden (1843 - 1916)
Founder of Gulden's Mustard
318 West 102nd Street

Before he was 20 years old, Charles Gulden founded the mustard company that bears his family's name and fought in New York's Washington Grays Regiment at the Battle of Chambersburg.



Charles Gulden

The mustard company, which started in what is Chinatown, expanded to 30 varieties by 1882, gained distinction at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, and grew to be currently the third best seller behind only French's and Grey Poupon.

Born in New York, Gulden was on the boards of two major banks, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, the Merchants Association, and the Real Estate Board. Gulden is buried in an impressive mausoleum in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.

A New NYC Law Preserves Gil Tauber's Work

Various NYC streets have secondary names to honor notable people or organizations of special significance to that community or neighborhood. These designations can apply to a portion of a street, to an intersection, or to a corner. There are more than 2,500 such streets and, until 2014, there was no place to find information about the people and places so honored.

That year, retired urban planner, Upper West Side resident, and BNHG member Gil Tauber created, paid for, and began maintaining a website called [NYC Honorary Street Names](#) that catalogs all secondary streets and provides information on their honorees.

This past August, the New York City Council enacted Local Law 104 of 2023. It requires, by July 2024, the establishment of an official city website that provides biographical or background information about people or institutions with streets, parks, or other public facilities named after them.

Councilmember Gale Brewer introduced the legislation, as she had a number of times previously, and this time it passed. Mayor Adams subsequently designated the NYC Department of Records and Information Services as the agency to carry out this work.

The members of BNHG are proud of Gil's work and are delighted that the City of New York has guaranteed that it will be continued permanently.



Gil Tauber

Place Names in Bloomingdale

Happy Warrior Playground



The playground at West 98th Street and Amsterdam Avenue may have the most felicitous name in New York City, and it certainly carries a good share of upbeat history.

Located adjacent to P.S. 163, the Alfred E. Smith School, both the playground and school honor four-term New York Governor Alfred Emanuel Smith (1873-1944). As a youth, Smith dropped out of school to help support his Irish immigrant family. Even so, he became a major political leader in New York before he served as Governor through the 1920s.

In 1928, Smith became the first Irish Catholic to be nominated for president. He ran as a Democrat but lost the election to Republican Herbert Hoover. Smith returned to New York City and became active in municipal development as president of the Empire

State Building Corporation. He died at his home on Fifth Avenue in 1944.

It was President Franklin D. Roosevelt who nicknamed Smith “The Happy Warrior,” a reference to William Wordsworth’s poem, *Character of the Happy Warrior* (1807), which celebrates diligence and perseverance.

In 1952, NYC acquired the site that would become the school and playground. The playground opened in 1965 and was named P.S. 163 The Alfred E. Smith School Playground. Nearly 30 years later, in 1994, Commissioner Henry Stern designated it Happy Warrior Playground in tribute to Smith’s nickname.



Happy Warrior Playground

The facilities include basketball courts, handball courts, age-appropriate playgrounds, public restrooms, and spray showers. It is closed to the public during school hours for the use of students during recess time.

The playground has such a rich history that it carries two additional names.

The Goat Courts – The playground’s basketball courts honor Earl “The Goat” Manigault (1944-1998), a gifted basketball player and well-known community leader. The Goat played basketball throughout the city during the 1960s-70s, with such future NBA greats as Wilt Chamberlain, Connie Hawkins, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Manigault’s signature move was the “double dunk” where he dunked the ball, caught it in mid-air, and dunked it again.

He later became involved in neighborhood recreation and organized a basketball tournament that has taken place every year since 1971. Soon after his death, friends and family worked with Commissioner Stern to dedicate the basketball courts in the playground to Manigault, naming them “The Goat Courts.”

Rock Steady Park – Others know the playground as “Rock Steady Park,” a nod to a well-known 1980s break-dancing group, Rock Steady Crew, who once frequented the park to practice their routines. At one time, the dance group numbered over 500 members throughout the five boroughs. Malcolm McLaren’s 1983 video, “Buffalo Gals,” featured Rock Steady Crew—as well as several local dancers—break-dancing in this playground.

Neighborhood Charities: House of Mercy

A new BNHG blog post

By Pam Tice, BNHG member

The story of the House of Mercy, located at the far end of West 86th Street on the Hudson River, is a tale of women's work. The House was founded in 1855 by a devoted Episcopal woman, Mrs. William Richmond, who used her religious convictions and social skills to establish the charitable home.

In 1863, the House of Mercy was put under the management of Episcopal nuns, whose establishment was a historical moment for the church. It is also the story of young women of New York City in the mid-nineteenth century and their struggles that reflect the social mores of the patriarchal culture of that era. Read Pam's extensive, illustrated study of this institution in the BLOGS section of our website, [here](#).

There's Some New Old History in the Neighborhood

Imagine this at 105th Street and West End Avenue:

"An apple orchard, a small baseball field, pear trees, chicken coops, a barn with cows and goats, and a stable, [and a] frame-and-brick house, with [a] cupola."

This was a description of the property owned by Isador and Ida Straus. It was home to the Straus family from 1884 until Isidor and Ida perished on the Titanic in 1912.



The house at 2745 Broadway, nearly obscured by vines, and the masonry stable building at 2747 Broadway.
Source: New York Public Library Digital Collection

When they first moved there, it was still a semi-rural neighborhood. In those days, Broadway was called The Boulevard and West End Avenue was known as 11th Avenue.

This and so much more has been uncovered in outstanding new archival research conducted by Rob Garber into the Straus family home at 105/106th Streets. It's all

available in a special edition of the Straus Historical Society Newsletter, illustrated with photos and maps, and it's well worth a read! You'll find it [here](#).

Tools for Exploring Neighborhood Landmarks

The New York City Landmarks Commission makes it easy for us to explore the official NYC landmarks in our neighborhood – as well as the Landmark Districts and Landmark Interiors.

First, start with the Map at [NYC LPC Discover NYC Landmarks](#).

- The individual landmarks are in pink, and the districts are in yellow.
- The Interior sites are blue dots; the closest to Bloomingdale appears to be the IRT station at Broadway and 110th Street.
- The Scenic landmarks are in green, our surrounding Central and Riverside Parks.



Map of Bloomingdale neighborhood

Click on a site, and up comes the address and a brief description. Click on the photo there, and up comes the whole Landmark Designation Report, as a pdf.

If you want to see more about a particular site, go to the [Landmarks photo site](#) where all the photos of a particular site are grouped. These are the photos that were used as the Commission considered a designation.

Enjoy your exploration!

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood History Group promotes research and education about the history of the Bloomingdale neighborhood, and we are available as a resource. We share our findings through free public programs, walking tours, workshops, publications, a blog, our website www.upperwestsidehistory.org, and a Neighborhood History Collection of materials housed at the Bloomingdale Branch of the New York Public Library, 150 West 100th Street.