**NOTES ON EVOLUTION OF ‘MANHATTAN VALLEY’ 1842-1998**

**Schramke, Theophilus. Profile of Lower Part of Croton Aqueduct, Ground Plan of Lower Part of Croton Aqueduct (ca. 1842)…On profile, the valley at Manhattanville is prominently labeled ‘Manhattan Valley’. Reproduced in Wikipedia “Croton Aqueduct.” Accessed October 30, 2020.**

***Articles from New York Times in Chronological Order:***

**ARTICLES RE ORIGINAL LOCATION: MANHATTANVILLE**

**“Our Water Supply.” August 23, 1865. p. 5.**

**“A Valuable Map.” [Viele] May 1, 1880, p.8.**

**“Great West Side Wins: To Be No Transit Viaduct Below Manhattan Valley. Objection from Manhattan College [which owns land btw 132nd and 134th Sts.] March 20, 1895, p.1**

**“Reason for Living in the Heights: A Beautiful Country Lies North of Manhattan Valley.” April 7, 1895, p. 20**

**“Extension of Riverside to the Boulevard Lafayette To Cross the Manhattan Valley on a Viaduct.” January 30, 1897, p.4**

**“The Manhattan Valley Viaduct” [Editorial critical of viaduct design. Deplores “unsightly lattice work.”] November 11, 1897, p.6.**

**[Additional articles on the proposed viaduct for Riverside Drive appeared on November 17, 18, 19 and December 28, 1897; and on January 11, 12, 15 and 16, 1898.]**

**“To Modify Tunnel Plans; Rapid Transit Commission Will Grant Mr. McDonnel’s Request.” [Regarding Limits of viaduct carrying subway over Manhattan Valley.] January 4, 1901, p.5.**

**“Caverns and Giant Viaducts Make Way for Rapid Transit.” August 4, 1901, p. 40. “Within the last fortnight the section of Broadway running through Manhattan Valley, from One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street [now LaSalle Street] to One Hundred Thirty-fifth Street….”**

**“Flood Rages in Manhattan Valley: 3,000,000 Gallons Rush from Burst Water Main Uptown and do $10,000 Damage.” January 24, 1911, p. 18. [Article mentions various businesses in area.]**

***ARTICLES RE PRESENT LOCATION: BLOOMINGDALE***

**“Renewal in Area Around Columbia Drafted by City: 10-Year Program Involving 92 Blocks Advanced for Planning Board Action.” September 30, 1964 pp. 1 &34.**

**“The proposal, known as the Morningside General Neighborhood Renewal Plan, has been three and a half years in the making.**

**“It is a long-range plan for an area in which outstanding religious and cultural institution, sound residential buildings and festering slums and poverty exist side by side in uneasy urban partnership,**

**[The plan] “embraces most of the area from Riverside Drive to Central Park West-Eighth Avenue and from 104th to 125th Streets. In addition, a four-block strip—Manhattan Avenue to Central Park, 100th to 104th Streets –dangles to the south like a tail. The 600-acre area, in which 96,000 people live, embraces parts of two adjacent communities, Bloomingdale-Manhattan Valley and West Harlem.”**

**“The fourth area, 20 blocks bounded by Broadway and Central Park West and 100th to 104th Streets, is so crowded and blighted, according to the [Housing and Redevelopment] board, that extensive relocation of families will be necessary. Action will be deferred there until new housing nearly is under way.**

**Morningside Heights Squatters Hope They’ll be Allowed to Stay” [Re 2046 Amsterdam and 500 West 112th] July 28, 1970, p. 31**

**“Most were said to have lived in a section called Manhattan Valley, in the vicinity of 100th Street and Columbus Avenue.**

**“105 Police Arrive for a Quiet Eviction.” September 4, 1971, p.7.**

**“…the three old buildings on the site of a future home for the aged were filled almost to capacity with the more than 350 unauthorized squatters, including some 200 women and children…They had come [a squatter who was interviewed said, from the “dumping ground” of Manhattan Valley, a group of overcrowded hovels for displaced people between 100th and 110th Streets.”**

**“Poverty Unit Protesters Seized.” July 8, 1972, p. 29**

**Arrest at offices of Mid West Side Community Corporation Office, 262 West 96th St.**

**“The protest was sparked by a June 13 decision by the corporation, an anti-poverty agency, to close the Manhattan Valley Spansh Civic Organization for lack of funds.”**

**“Clean-Up Is Begun by Rent Strikers” June 26, 1975, p. 44**

**Re tenants of 945 and 947 Amsterdam Avenue [btw 106th and 107th Sts.]**

**Marie M. Runyon quoted “the ugly sickness of building abandonment is running rampant in Manhattan Valley.”…”The Assemblywoman [Runyon] and others now call the area south of Morningside Heights Manhattan Valley. The area extends from 110th Street to about 100th Street between Central Park West and Broadway and is served by a newspaper, Heights and Valley News, sponsored by the Columbia Tenants’ Union….It was the tenants’ union and the Puerto Rican Socialist Party that supported the takeover by sponsoring a rally yesterday afternoon.”**

**“Urban Homesteading and Renewal in New York City” June 9, 1975, p. 30.**

**Letter to the Editor [Responds to May 30 news article on urban homesteading] Writer says the article ignored New York City’s program, which is the largest in the nation. Mentions Manhattan Valley among neighborhoods involved.**

**“Volunteer Group Makes Changes in Manhattan Valley…” May 9, 1976, p. 39**

**Re Manhattan Valley Development Corporation, which held opening of its second rehab project, 16 units. At 931-933 Columbus Ave.**

**Describes Manhattan Valley as a “40-square block area between 100th and 110th Streets, east of Broadway. MVDC was founded in 1968. Director is Jose Acuna. In 1970 the area had 27,000 peple of who one half Hispanic and over one third black. Plans are in works for rehab of 927 Columbus Avenue. [A correction to the original of this article. Sponsor’s fee was $5,600, not $500,600.]**

**Radio Listings, April 12, 1978, p. 67. Listing for program on WNYC AM 9:30 to 9:55; West Side issues: “Urban Decay in Manhattan Valley.”**

**“Koch Announces a New $10 Million Program to Revitalize Selected Commercial Areas”**

**Article lists about 20 areas with amounts of funding stated for most. Manhattan Valley listed but amount not stated.**

**“The City: 10 Neighborhoods to Get Extra Aid” January 23, 1979, p. B3**

**The NYC Planning Commission has designated 10 Communities as Neighborhood Strategy Areas, eligible to receive extra federal funding. Two of the areas are in Manhattan: Wasgington Heights/Inwood and Manhattan Valley.**

**“For a Mother and 4 Children, One Agency Holds off Despair.” December 9, 1979, p. 58**

**“…originally she had to pay a private landlord $197 a month for a dark, vermin-infested three-room apartment. It is now leased to her by the Manhattan Valley Civic Association.”**

**[Re Intermediate School 54, 103 West 107th St.] March 17, 1981, p. B1**

**“The school lies amid a stretch of abandoned storefronts and burned out tenements on the Upper West Side known as Manhattan Valley.”**

**“About New York: How Grand to See a Police Officer Walk His Beat.” June 10, 1981, p. B3**

**“Officer Weiser started driving patrol around Manhattan Valley…an area where some people are not thrilled to see the police because they frequently get arrested……Manhattan Valley, that area on Manhattan Avenue between 100th and 110th Streets.”**

**“Thousands Seek 126 Vacancies in Apartments.” October 6, 1981, pp. B3-B4.**

**Photo on front page captioned “2,000 seek 126 Apartments. Part of the crowd that gathered yesterday outside the offices of a housing organization at 931 Columbus Avenue.**

**Main article begins on p. B3**

**The apartments are in the area between 104th and 109th Streets, just west of Central Park. Article quotes William Baldwin, housing director for the Manhattan Valley Development Corporation.**

**“The Manhattan Valley organization has renovated 352 units in the neighborhood whose boundaries are West 100th and West 110th Streets between Central Park West and Broadway.” [Re current applications] the buildings are 12-14, 16-18, 20-22 West 109 St., 200 and 204 Manhattan Avenue and 135 West 104th St.**

**“Housing-Aid Cuts Affect Poor Individually and Collectively” January 3, 1982. P. 8E**

**[Re Reagan administration cuts in Section 8 subsidies. “The changes in Section 8 will affect construction and rehabilitation all over the country, but their impact on Manhattan Valley seems especially significant. Residents in the 50-block community have watched with envy and, perhaps, no small frustration as the West Side Urban Renewal Area ten blocks to the south has been at least partly revitalized through a meticulously planned renovation effort during the past two decades.**

**“In contrast, virtually no development took place in the valley, which is bounded by West 100th and 110th Streets and Central Park West and Broadway, until the [Manhattan Valley] Development Corporation was organized 13 years ago. Rather than razing entire blocks and erecting high rises, it has concentrated on restoring the 5-story tenements that dominate the neighborhood, relying on Section 8 half of the more than 300 apartments it has renovated.”**

***“New York Day-by-Day: Tall Order for a Clown Creating Cheer Amid Gloom” [Re* Los Padres Unidos] March 16, 1983, p. B2**

**“…Manhattan Valley, that depression—in skyline and living conditions—between Central Park West and Broadway, from 100th to 110th Street.”**

**“Eight Buildings to be Converted to House Poor and Elderly” August 18, 1983, p. B3**

**[including] “a five story city-owed building at 149 Manhattan Avenue in Manhattan Valley, 72 units.”**

**[Several articles about New York City Housing Partnership, a citywide, business-sponsored group, all mentioning Manhattan Valley as a target area.]**

**“About Real Estate: Project Evokes City’s Brownstone Era” January 13, 1984, p. B7**

**Article on Manhattan Valley Town Houses, sponsored by Manhattan Valley Development Corporation. Includes artist’s rendering of project.**

**“Manhattan Valley Project in Trouble” March 31, 1985, p. RE6. [Re Manhattan Valley Town Houses. Delays. Contractor terminated.]**

**“Manhattan Valley, the area bordered by West 100th Street on the south, West 110th Stree on the north, Amsterdam Avenue on the west and Central Park West on the east, is scarred by housing abandonment and trash-strewn, rutted streets.”**

**“Upper West Side Attracts New Settlers.” March 9, 1986, pp. R1 and 18-19**

**Article mentions Valley Restoration Local Development Corporation. [History of area somewhat garbled]**

**“A Cathedral Centennial With Art and an Aerialist.” June 5, 1986, p. B2.**

**Article mentions John Bess, executive director of the Manhattan Valley Youth Program, which has irs headquarters in the church basement.**

**“Posting: Turnaround in the Valley” June 22, 1986. p. RE 1**

**A 5-story building at 4 West 104th Street, bult in 1890, was demolished in 1975. To be replaced by a 7-story building with 13 1-bedroom apartments of about 600 SF, to rent for $1,200 and one studio at 450 SF to rent for $850. Designed by David Mandl Associates.**

**“About Real Estate: West Side Marketing Twist. $1 Down” July 18, 1986, p. B8**

**Developer “bought seven dilapidated vacant buildings from the city. The buildings are 103, 105 and 109 West 105th and 53 and 61-63 West 104th Streets.” The developer demolished another building and that was structurally unsound and combined yet another building to get larger Manhattan Valley—the area between Central Park and Broadway from 96th to 110th Streets—was one of the city’s larger problems.” ….The Bridge, Inc. is renovating a tenement at 52 West 105th Street (built 1904). It will house 20 chronically mentally ill. At West 107th Street and Manhattan Avenue, the West Side Federation for Senior Housing is renovating a 75-unit former SRO for occupancy by people 50 and older, according to John Kowal, president of the organization, also new chair of Community Board 7.**

**“If You’re Thinking of Living in Manhattan Valley” February 8, 1987, RE 9**

**“…has suddenly caught the attention of bargain-conscious New Yorkers…Thomas J. Blum of Trans-Manhattan Realty has been rehabilitating buildings in the neighborhood for four years….[area in which] half of the approximately 500 buildings had been abandoned by the late 1970s as a result of flight from crime and drugs….…“Manhattan Avenue and 107th Street, a site frequented by drug dealers, is widely regarded as among the worst in the borough…“ [Mentions Warner Condominiums, 467 Central Park West t 107th St. 16-stories. 1-BR units, averaging 790 SF, selling for $171,000.] [At 10 West 109th St, Lloyd Equities new 40-unit coop]…“several hundred buildings within the 40-block area of Manhattan Valley are either burned and derelict or, more commonly, boarded up. One rehabilitated building at 973 Columbus Avenue near 108th Street, with 18 one-bedroom units, is due to open later this month. [Photos of Towers on the Park under construction, and condo conversion at 418 Central Park West. Inset map shows Manhattan Valley boundaries as 100th to 110th and Central Park West to Amsterdam Avenue.]**

**Article includes sidebar on Manhattan Valley Town Houses, first offered in 1982, which is expected to ne finished “later this year after prolonged legal and construction problems.” Comprises 22 new attached four-story buildings.**

**“Hispanic Life Dims in Manhattan Valley” September 11, 1987, p. B1**

**Article describes decline of Hispanic-oriented businesses as area gentrifies. Prominently mentions closing of Edison Theatre.**

**“Perspectives: Rehabilitation; Public Housing in Abandoned Buildings” October 4, 1987, p. RE9**

**Article explains how revenue from Battery Park City is being used to aid rehab in areas such as Manhattan Valley. But rentals in delivered buildings would require income of over $40,000.**

**“Group Hails Corporate Aid on Housing” October 11, 1988, pp. B1 & B4.**

**Re Local Initiatives Support Corporation. Explains program. Peripheral mention of Manhattan Valley.**

**“Good Design, Good Prices Uptown”…February 8, 1990, p. C11. Re Manhattan Valley Town Houses.**

**“Manhattan Valley’s Long Awaited Boom Ends Up Just a Fizzle” December 25, 1990. Sec. I, p.33**

**“The real-estate slump has removed the incentive for well-heeled bargain hunters to move in, as rents and co-operative prices have fallen in better neighborhoods.“…police raid on 67 West 107th Street on October 30 yielded half a kilo of cocaine, $448, 751 in cash and an Uzi machine pistol.**

**“About three years ago, the Manhattan Valley Development Corporation, along with the Valley Restoration Development Corporation, the Westside Federation for Senior Citizens Housing, and Community Board 7, developed the Manhattan Valley Plan to renovate all the city-owned properties -- 447 units -- and build on eight vacant city lots.”**

**“So far, they have opened a 40-unit building for homeless and low-income households, with 10 percent of the units reserved for AIDS-afflicted homeless people, and have accepted applications for 50 apartments at 102-116 109th Street for people with incomes of no more than $33,000. In February, a 72-unit building on 104th Street for homeless, low- and moderate-income families will open.”**

**“Postings: 90 Low-Income Rehabs; In the Valley” January 13, 1991, p. RE1**

**“Manhattan Valley Restoration Corporation, a neighborhood group that has rehabilitated more than 800 apartments since the late 60's, has received city approval to buy and rebuild eight five-story buildings on Columbus Avenue between 108th and 109th Streets.**

**Leah Schneider, director of the group, said the buildings would be bought from the city for $1 each. Construction is to be financed with loans from the city and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, a nationwide organization that raises money for low-income housing and that has already financed similar projects by Manhattan Valley Restoration between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues on West 104th and 109th Streets.”**

**The architect is Schuman, Lictenstein, Claman & Efron of Manhattan. Construction, to begin in July, is expected to take 12 to 14 months. Low-income tenants, who will be selected by lottery, will pay 30 percent of their monthly income in rent.”**

**“Return of Welfare Hotel is Angering West Siders.” January 21, 1991, p, B3. Re Regent Hotel.**

**“Postings: Manhattan Valley; Mixed Income Rehabs” February 3, 1991, p. RE 1**

**“ Manhattan Valley… has been emerging from the sort of vacuum that sucks the life out of communities overtaken by drugs and abandonment.**

**“Among … efforts under way there is an $8 million mixed-income project. It will create 36 apartments in three tenements -- at 967 and 971 Columbus Avenue and at 69 West 107th Street around the corner -- and erect a 10-story building on the lot at 965 Columbus. The new building will have 22 units for elderly homeless people and 10,000 square feet of retail space…William Q. Brothers, whose architectural firm, Brothers & Gura, designed the project, is managing partner of the development company, OBRFC/Columbus Associates**

**“Mayor Backs Bid to House Mentally Ill.” October 3, 1992, p. 26.**

**Dinkins vetoes bill that would have blocked plan to provide 20 studio apartments for homeless mentally ill at 201 West 98th Street. The Post Graduate Center, a national nonprofit group, woud receive $2.2 million in state and federal money to rehabilitate the building.**

**[Various articles re drug-related violence on July 3, September 10, and December 4, 1994; also March 5,and June 15, 1995; and January 24, 1996]**

**“SoHa Loses Blight. Gains Acronym” November 3, 1996, Cec. 13, p. 6.**

**“…improvements in one corner of Manhattan Valley, roughly between Columbus Avenue and Central Park, and 104th to 107th Streets, have been so noticeable in the last couple of years that some residents say it has earned a nickname: SoHa, for South of Harlem.**

**“… with the drug problem largely cleaned up after a crackdown on gangs two years ago, both rents and demand for apartments are rising…Don Lebowitz, who owns a building at 69 West 105th Street, said his one-bedroom apartments rent for $850 to $900 now, when two years ago, he had trouble getting $600.**

**“…In the last 10 years, most of the vacant buildings have been rehabilitated. In some cases, small social service centers have moved in, initially triggering the neighbors' concerns. The most alarming, an annex to the Spofford juvenile detention center, moved into three abandoned buildings at Manhattan Avenue and 106th Street about two years ago. ''You'd never know there was a facility for troubled kids there,'' said … a longtime resident…Amy Dubin bought two brownstones on that block almost 10 years ago. She is putting the finishing touches on the second restoration, at 30 West 105th Street….Mr. Kellner, a landlord-tenant lawyer, … bought and renovated one of five empty brownstones on Manhattan Avenue between 105th and 106th Streets 20 years ago.**

**Correction: Nov. 17, 1996**

**An article in the Neighborhood Report on Nov. 3 about development in the Manhattan Valley section referred incorrectly to one site, the August Aichorn Center for Adolescent Residential Care. It is privately run, not an annex to the Spofford Juvenile Detention Center. It opened in May 1991, not two years ago. It occupies two buildings, not three. [Per Google, now August Aichorn Center for Adolescent Residential Care. 23 West 106t St. 212-316-9353. Opened May 1991.**

**“Shift in Manhattan Valley Disturbs Some Residents” November 17, 1996. Sec. 13, p. 27**

**[Letter to the Editor] “As a resident of Manhattan Valley I resent the focus of your article ''SoHa Loses Blight, Gains Acronym'' (Nov. 3).**

**Manhattan Valley is basically a poor, hard-working community. My neighbors struggle to survive. I did not hear their voices in your article about where they live.**

**At a time when many of us worry about how the new welfare law and immigration regulations will affect ourselves or our neighbors it is rather obscene to read about the continued success in the gentrification of another poor neighborhood. IRA MANHOFF [Board member of Northwest Central Park Multi-Block Association]**

**“Habitats/ 62 West 106th Street; A Decontrolled Flat in a Transitional Area. April 12, 1998**

**Article reports that some landlords are renovating apartments to the point where they can be decontrolled. “a landlord can begin charging open-market prices when the legal rent after a vacancy reaches $2,000 a month…together with the rental increase allowed when an apartment becomes vacant, a $42,000 investment in the apartment would have been sufficient to raise the rent to $2,000. An amount equal to one-fortieth of the capital expenditure on the apartment is allowed to be applied to each month's rent.**