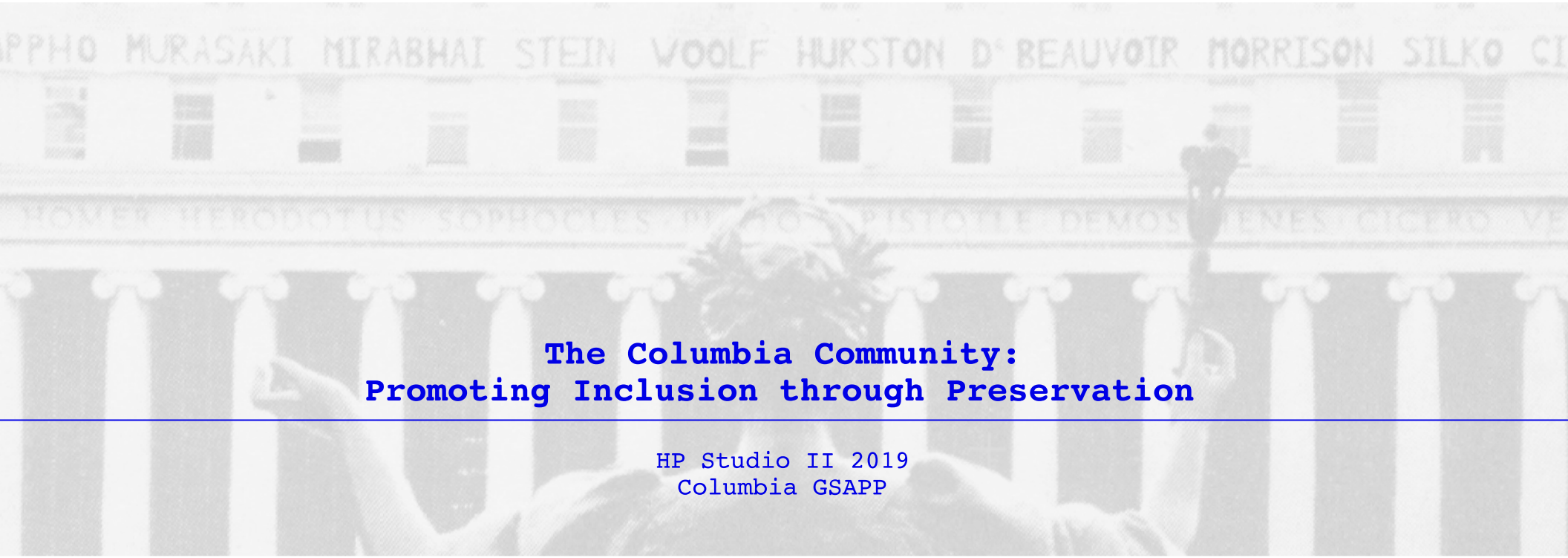
HISTORIC PRESERVATION STUDIO II SPRING 2019

The Columbia Community: Promoting Inclusion through Preservation

Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation



The Columbia Community:
Promoting Inclusion through Preservation

HP Studio II 2019
Columbia GSAPP

Image Sources

Frontispiece: Columbia University, https://commencement.columbia.edu/commencement-day
Title page: Columbia Spectator, Banner of Female Authors Over Butler Library (1994)

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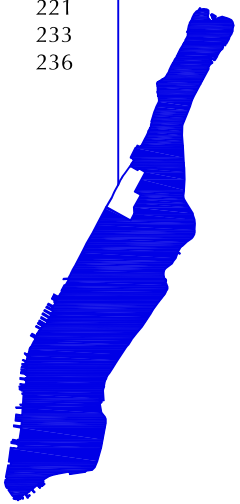

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FACULTY PREFACE

Studio II is the second in the GSAPP Historic Preservation Program's three-studio sequence. Building upon the skills applied in Studio I, a core aim of Studio II is to promote an understanding of cultural heritage and of preservation practices using a context-oriented lens. Whereas Studio I focuses primarily on the building as an inroad to investigation, analysis, and proposition, Studio II engages students in the more complex exercise of contextualizing their research and proposed interventions within a broader social environment and physical setting – or community. Practicing preservation through a community-focused lens requires a studio program that extends beyond simply protecting historic fabric. It compels consideration of the broader social and environmental issues that the field is seeking to address through its work.

This 2019 Studio II focused on how preservation can serve as a tool to promote social inclusion and belonging within the Columbia community (encompassing both the Morningside and Manhattanville campuses and surrounding neighborhoods), and to build bridges across differences. To embark on this inquiry, faculty challenged students to critically explore the following questions:

- How are diverse narratives and publics represented in the Columbia community?
- How does the historic built environment reinforce some narratives versus others, and reflect some publics versus others, and what are the implications of these differences?
- How can the preservation enterprise intervene, so as to instrumentalize heritage toward greater social inclusion?

> *"In a University community, finding ways to listen as well as talk across differences, including differences related to race and ethnicity, is essential if we are to create a place in which all can have some sense of belonging."*
>
> *- Suzanne Goldberg, Executive Vice President for University Life, Columbia*

Different professionals engage in the preservation and management of the historic built environment in different ways and at different levels, from material conservation to adaptive design of structures, to the integration of cultural heritage in broader land use and community development, to interpretive interventions in the landscape. Working in multidisciplinary teams and negotiating varying viewpoints are critical to the preservation enterprise. Students were thus divided into three studio sections to reflect the hybrid nature of the professional realm: Planning and Policy, Architectural and Interpretive Design, and Conservation and Technology.

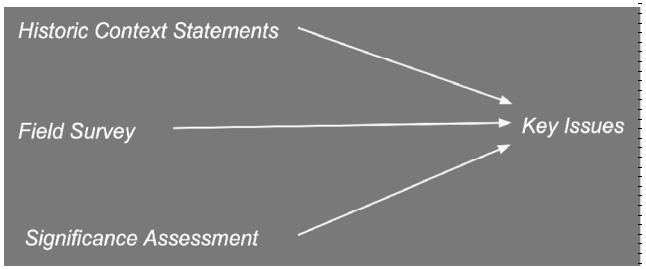
Faculty likewise charged students with a significant amount of collective research. The preservation profession uses material, spatial, and social history, as well as an understanding of contemporary needs and values, to inform decision-making about the built environment. Deep, evidence-based research underpins the work of the field regardless of the sub-discipline or, in this case, studio section. By working across sections, students negotiated and integrated their various perspectives, and ultimately developed this collective studio report.

Establishing a priori a program of social inclusion served as a critical organizing element in the didactic approach of the studio as it sought to promote collaboration while also recognizing distinct skill sets within the preservation enterprise. This shared vision enabled students to find common ground and tap collective agency as they considered the role of preservation in society. We hope the research and proposals included herein provide a platform for continued dialogue within the field and in the Columbia community.

- Erica Avrami, Belmont Freeman, Tim Michiels, and Andrew Dolkart

INTRODUCTION

Scope, Study Area, and General Methodology



Methodology

The Historic Preservation Studio II class at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University studied the architectural and social development of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville in New York City. While these two neighborhoods abut each other, they did not develop in tandem. The Studio analyzed the distinct yet interdependent development of the two neighborhoods, and their continuing influence on each other. It then identified a number of ways, both physically and socially, that preservation can incentivize social inclusion in the greater community, including those living and working in the study area. This was explored through various lenses, from the level of architectural feature, building, site, or study area. To do this, the Studio examined three main questions:

- How are diverse narratives and publics represented in the Columbia community?
- How does the historic built environment reinforce some narratives versus others, and reflect some publics versus others, and what are the implications of these differences?
- How can the preservation enterprise intervene, so as to instrumentalize heritage toward greater social inclusion?

The Studio II study area is a defined portion of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville in northern Manhattan. It includes Morningside Heights between West 110th and West 125th Streets, and bounded by Morningside Park and Riverside Park; and Manhattanville which is bounded by 125th Street to 134th Street, between Amsterdam Avenue and the waterfront of the Hudson River.

A general methodological framework for the course was initially established by faculty, which envisioned discrete and collaborative work across the studio's three sections.

The Studio began its study of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville by examining the historic contexts of the study area. This was evaluated by writing thirteen narrative statements on the following thematic histories:

Gender Equity
LGBTQ Equity
Education
Religion and Worship
Health/Mental Health
Transit, Mobility, and Access
Industry and Business
Residential Development
Columbia Property Ownership and Expansion
Urban Renewal
Racial and Ethnic Equity
National Defense, Conflict, and World Affairs

These studies served the common goal of helping the Studio identify narratives that were important to the development of the neighborhood, serving as the jumping-off point for deeper research.

The next step was to conduct a survey of the built environment. Using KoboToolBox, an open source, web-based platform for data collection, the Studio recorded all of the built resources, including buildings, plaques, public art, plazas, and more, and noted the kinds of narratives that were represented, if any. The goal of this exercise was to understand how one experiences the built environment, and how these experiences shape one's understanding of the area's history.

The third exercise was a significance assessment, through which the Studio sought to understand what kinds of values are ascribed to the built environment in the study area. The three lines of inquiry the group pursued during this assessment were:



Map of Study Area

- Who is ascribing values?
- What do they value?
- How are these values spatialized?

To examine the first question, the Studio conducted stakeholder and demographic analyses. Members of the studio communicated with stakeholders from various community groups, including the Morningside Heights Community Coalition, Community Board 9, the West Harlem Development Corporation, and the Morningside Heights Historic District Council. The second question was addressed through a media discourse analysis, as well as through community outreach. For the third question, the Studio analyzed the survey data and conducting other research-based mapping exercises.

After these three information-gathering exercises, the Studio conducted an analysis of the strengths and weakness of Columbia's approach towards inclusivity historically, and the current challenges and opportunities that were observed in addressing it today. This analysis led to the identification of Key Issues, which provided the collective framework within which the Studio situated individual project proposals. The Key Issues identified by the Studio included Underrepresented Histories, Accessibility of Multiple Publics, Institutional Agency and Influence, along with its corollaries Institutional Effects on Residential Communities and Columbia's Engagement with the Community and, finally, Protests and Activism. They touch on historic patterns of exclusion, power dynamics, and systemic problems related to inclusion with which individual proposals and site-specific interventions contend in their efforts to promote inclusivity in the study area using the tools of historic preservation.

Proposals from each section, Planning and Policy, Conservation and Technology, and Architectural and Interpretive Design, then sought to address one or more of the aforementioned six key issues, employing a range of preservation methodologies and site-specific interventions.

In 1609 Henry Hudson landed on the west side of the island of Manhattan, where he met Lenape people at the inlet later known as Harlem Cove, and today known as the West Harlem Piers. This region of hills separated by a sharp valley is now 125th Street and the neighborhood of Manhattanville, and is the only remnant of the low-lying Hudson waterfront access in northern Manhattan. The contemporary Morningside Heights neighborhood rests on a rocky plateau, bounded by escarpments to the east and west. By the mid-1650s, Dutch colonists began settling in this region, and by 1800, tenant farmers were working the Manhattanville landscape, but development was slow for much of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Rocky outcrops, uneven terrain, and its distance from lower Manhattan led to the reluctance of developers to invest in this area. However, the proximity of the river became an important resource in the development of the region. West Harlem Piers provided vital direct water access for residents and industries, which prompted residential and commercial development. As a result, Manhattanville became a bustling nexus of light industries in the early twentieth century. Large industries joined the neighborhood in this period, including Sheffield Farms milk plant, Bernheimer and Schwartz Brewery, and the Studebaker, Nash, and Buick auto plants.

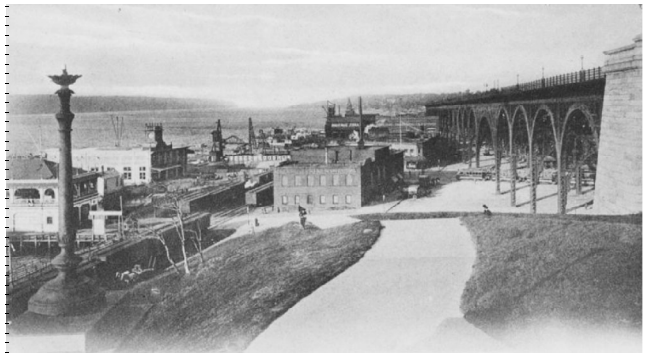
As Manhattanville industrialized, Morningside Heights saw the development of non-commercial institutions. In 1821, New York Hospital's Bloomingdale Asylum was established on the Morningside Plateau as the first institution within the study area. Overcrowding in hospitals of lower Manhattan inspired the move north of the city, and was designed in accordance with emerging theories about the humane treatment of mental illness, with emphasis on the therapeutic effects of nature. Far removed from the congestion, pollution and rising real estate prices that increasingly plagued more urbanized parts of Manhattan, Morningside Heights later became a destination for other health institutions, such as St. Luke's Hospital.

Religious institutions also saw the value of land in this area. For the majority of the nineteenth century, development of the religious infrastructure tracked immigration trends and the needs of specific racial or ethnic communities. The culmination of this religious development occurred in 1887 when it was declared that an Episcopal cathedral would be constructed on the edge of the plateau north of 110th Street, known today as the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. It was upon the announcement for St. John that the region was first referred to as an "Acropolis." Morningside Heights' isolated geography made it an ideal site for institutions. Nearly 40 years later, John D. Rockefeller Jr. founded Riverside Church across from President Ulysses S. Grant's tomb in Riverside Park. While the neighborhood provided proximity to downtown New York City, it also allowed these institutions space for development and expansion. It was this opportunity for growth that attracted a number of educational institutions.

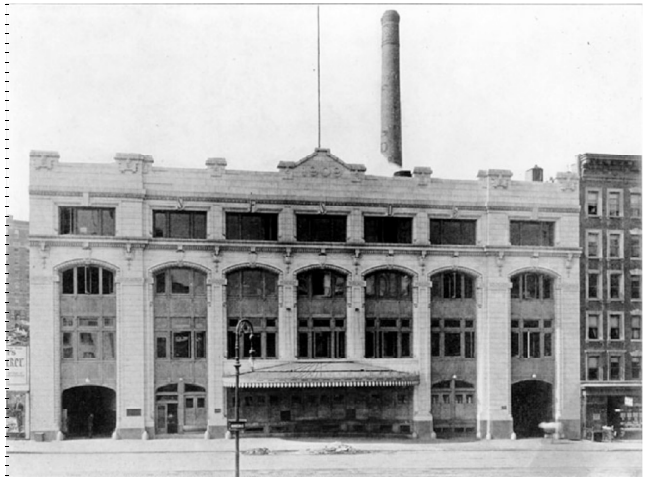
In 1893, Columbia announced its move from a downtown campus site to Morningside Heights property purchased from New York Hospital's Bloomingdale Asylum. The firm of McKim, Mead and White, prestigious New York architects, was chosen to plan Columbia's campus, which was then bounded by Broadway and Amsterdam Avenues between 116th and 1twentieth streets. The architects - under the lead of partner Charles Follen McKim - designed the campus as four courts arranged symmetrically around a centrally-placed monumental library, with a plaza serving as a dramatic approach. The grand space was intended to be open to the neighborhood, with 116th Street open to traffic and pedestrians. Seth Low, the first university president at the new campus, intended that students immerse themselves in the cosmopolitan environment, insisting on an open campus form to maintain relationships with the public. Columbia saw the Bloomingdale Asylum property as an attractive option due to its location within the city as well as the institution's existing buildings, which would allow for phased development of university buildings while still providing classroom space. In 1894, after Columbia's announcement for relocation, but prior to the beginning of construction at its new site, Teacher's College strategically moved to Morningside Heights. This was done to facilitate a relationship with Columbia. Columbia inaugurated its new campus in October 1897.

As the population of the study area grew in tandem with the institutional and industrial development, so did the built environment. In 1904, the first Interborough Rapid Transit (IRT) subway line opened, connecting the undeveloped areas of northern Manhattan to Lower Manhattan. The subway attracted other institutions to the study area, and helped to spur residential development as well.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed a massive growth of institutions of higher education to Morningside Heights. Columbia's relocation to the area sparked the expansion or foundation of other educational institutions, including Barnard College, Union Theological Seminary, Jewish Theological Seminary, and The Juilliard School of Music. As the presence of educational institutions increased in the area, the appellation of the "Acropolis of New York" solidified.



Riverside Viaduct and Hudson River, 1905
Source: Museum of the City of New York



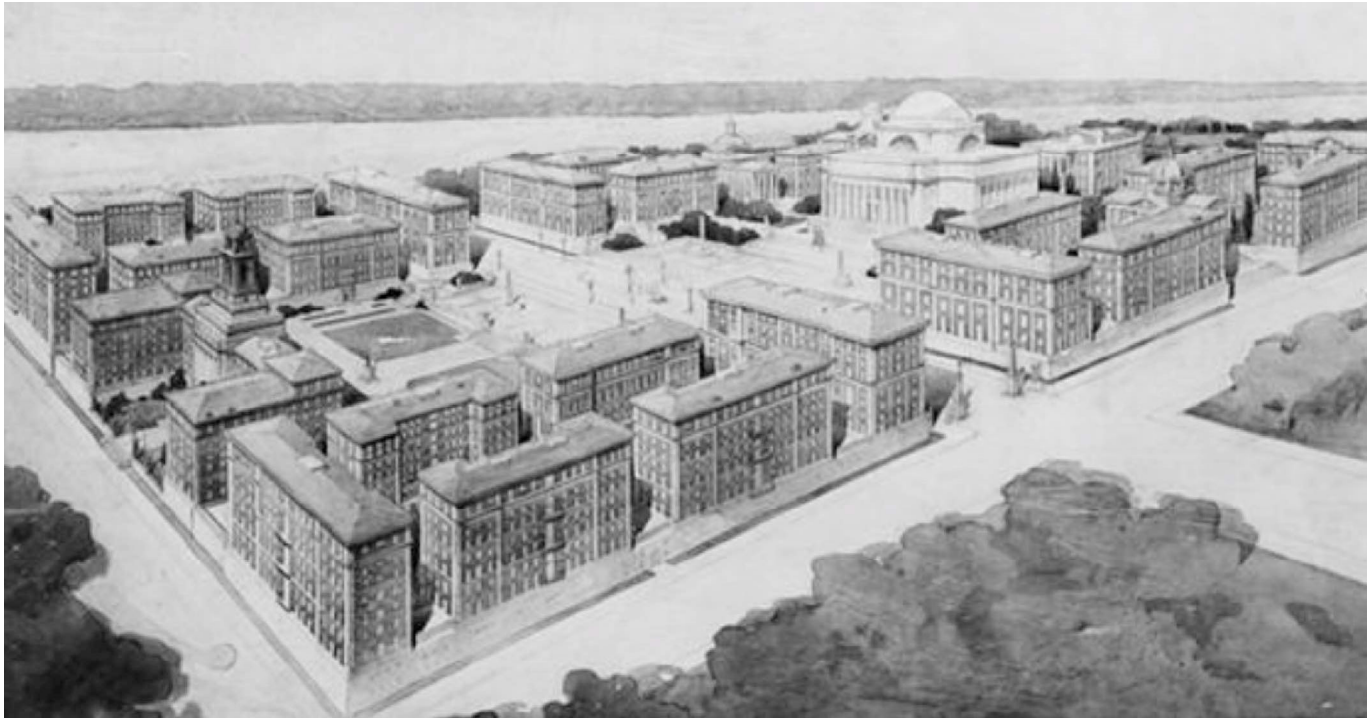
Sheffield Farms, 1909
Source: Columbia University Archives (Avery Library)



Bloomingdale Asylum, 1831
Source: Museum of the City of New York



Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, NY
Source: New York Public Library Digital Collections, The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, Photography Collection



Rendering of McKim Mead and White's Master Plan, Columbia University Morningside Heights Campus, 1903
Source: New York Historical Society

As the institutions developed in size and prestige in the next decades, more students and faculty were attracted to the area, but few of them lived in the apartment houses that were erected in large numbers between 1904 and 1912. These buildings initially attracted middle- and upper-middle-class households. By the 1920s, the institutions had begun purchasing apartment buildings to house their affiliates. But, by the middle of the twentieth century many of the apartment buildings had deteriorated and the institutions saw the surrounding residential community as a major concern. Each institution had enormous investments in property and infrastructure and feared that they would have difficulty attracting students, faculty, and staff due to the socio-economic conditions and changing racial demographics of Morningside Heights. As a consequence, in 1947, fourteen major institutions formed a coalition known as Morningside Heights Inc. (MHI) to develop strategies to improve living conditions in the neighborhood. This resulted in the demolition of tenement blocks at the northern edge of Morningside Heights and in Manhattanville for the construction of the middle-income housing project known today as Morningside Gardens. For Morningside Heights residents, this forced displacement represented increasing racial and class segregation. Rather than integration, long-time tenants were forced out of salvageable buildings and single resident occupancy (SRO) units.

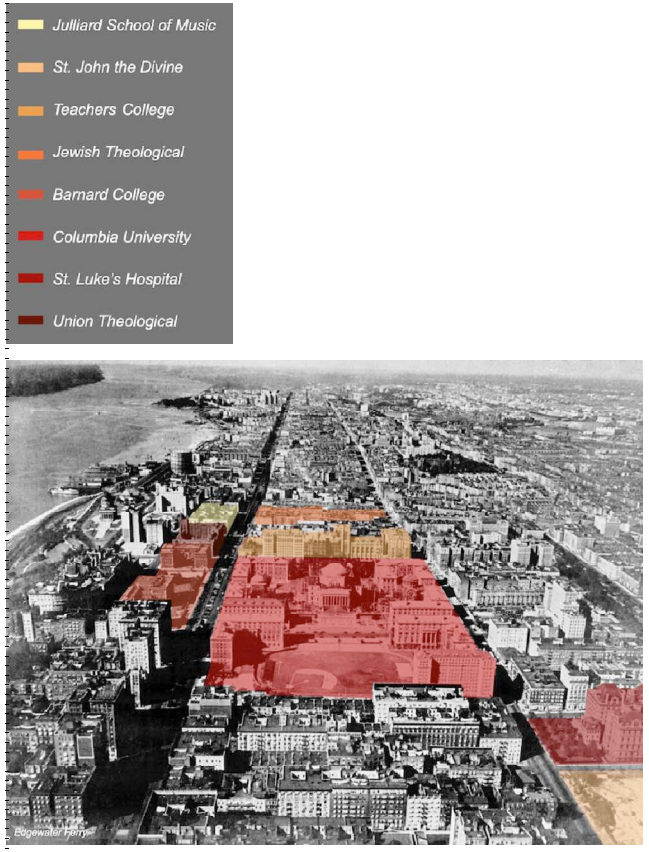
The 1950s began a period of contention between Morningside Heights Inc. and the local community. Campuses, particularly Columbia's, began to be closed off from the public. In 1956, West 116th Street was closed to traffic. Simultaneously, Columbia expanded to the east, constructing a plaza bridging over Amsterdam Avenue, where the new School of International Affairs Building and the Law School were built. The construction of the bridge was intended to allow students direct access to the East Campus, but it also created a dark tunnel over Amsterdam Avenue, further isolating students from the community. Columbia's expansion was greatly criticized by local residents. In 1968, Columbia proposed expanding into Morningside Park to construct a gymnasium that was intended to serve both the university community and Morningside and Harlem residents. However, the proposal sparked huge protests. Many community members, both outside the university and within it, saw this as a symbol of Columbia "clearing out" minorities in Morningside Heights. In 1970, iron gates were installed along Broadway and Amsterdam, creating further sentiments of separation between the university and community.

Amid the plans for expansion during the 1960s, Columbia began to purchase property north of the Morningside Heights campus, above 125th Street in Manhattanville -- an activity that proceeded quietly over the succeeding decades. In 2002, Columbia announced plans to construct a new campus in Manhattanville. The university's approach had ostensibly shifted to a more transparent one, which included board meetings and hearings in the neighborhood among residents, the university, planners, and architects. As an inclusive gesture to the community, the university's efforts focused on creating a gateless campus with open streets, unlike the protected Morningside Heights campus. The university also made a conscious effort to provide publicly accessible spaces to create transparency and engagement with Manhattanville residents. However, the scale of the new institutional buildings exceeds that of the warehouses of Manhattanville's industrial past, creating a disconnect between the historic built environment of the zone and Columbia's starkly modern construction. As a result, Columbia's expansion dominates the built environment of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville.

The Morningside Heights neighborhood was deemed an "acropolis" in 1896 because of its geographic isolation, but also because of its allure to institutions seeking to grow and develop. However, throughout its history, the area has come to stand as an acropolis in the full sense of the term, due to the notion of institutions holding an elevated importance in the urban landscape. Seth Low saw Morningside Heights as a critical element to Columbia's being a leading university:

> "The great city can teach something that no university by itself can altogether impart: a vivid sense of the largeness of human brotherhood, a vivid sense of man's increasing obligation to man; a vivid sense of our absolute dependence on one another."

However, these institutions have consistently fallen short of this ideal, dynamic relationship with the city and, instead, separated themselves from the public realm. An acropolis deserves to be a resource for all members of the religious, educational, commercial, and residential communities, blind to demographic disparities. In order to develop inclusive visions that are cognizant of the many histories of Morningside Heights, these organizations have the responsibility to mitigate these physical and social barriers of exclusion.



Institutional Expansion


Columbia University Manhattanville Campus
Source: Columbia University

Community Character and Demography

While the demographic composition of the study area has historically been diverse, the population, racial composition, education levels, and median income of the included census tracts have changed significantly over time.

In the Studio's Manhattanville-Morningside Heights study area, Manhattanville was settled earlier than the Morningside plateau, in large part due to its low-lying access to the Hudson River waterfront, and was incorporated as a village in 1806. The Studio's understanding of its early population comes largely from the doctoral dissertation of a Columbia student, H. Brown Woolston, who undertook "A Study of the Population of Manhattanville," completed in 1909, during the era when many of the institutions that now characterize Morningside Heights were establishing themselves in the area. The majority of the Manhattanville population, estimated at 18,500 at the time, was largely White and of Irish or German descent. It nonetheless had some diversity, including a few Asians and West-Indians (Woolston 1909, 50-51). In 1909, the Black population was estimated at 1300, having doubled from 614 in 1900 (Woolston 1909, 279). At 7percent of the Manhattanville population, there was a higher Black concentration in Manhattanville than in Manhattan as a whole, which had a Black population of 2.34percent in 1910. Woolston speculated that this growth was due to an increase in blocks of tenements and noted, "there is a strong tendency toward segregation, and the negro sections are clearly defined" (1909, 269).

Woolston also characterized a notable Jewish population in Manhattanville, mostly Russian and Polish Jews who immigrated in the 1890s. They first settled along Manhattan and 125th Streets, and upper Amsterdam Avenue, opening little shops and living in the rear of the store, with more prosperous establishments and residents settling to the north near City College. As new apartment houses were built on both hills, more prosperous Jewish businessmen began to move in (Woolston 1909).

Morningside Heights was largely White prior to the 1930s, but the population notably changed as a result of the Depression and federal policies after World War II that incentivized White migration to the suburbs. Puerto Ricans and African Americans filled the tenements and apartments that became SROs (Carriere, 2011). Puerto Ricans began to move to New York City following the passage of the Jones-Shafroth Act in 1917 which gave them US citizenship and allowed them to travel between the US and Puerto Rico without a passport. However, it was with the increasing ease of air travel that in the 1950s a large number of Puerto Ricans moved to New York City and settled in northern Manhattan.

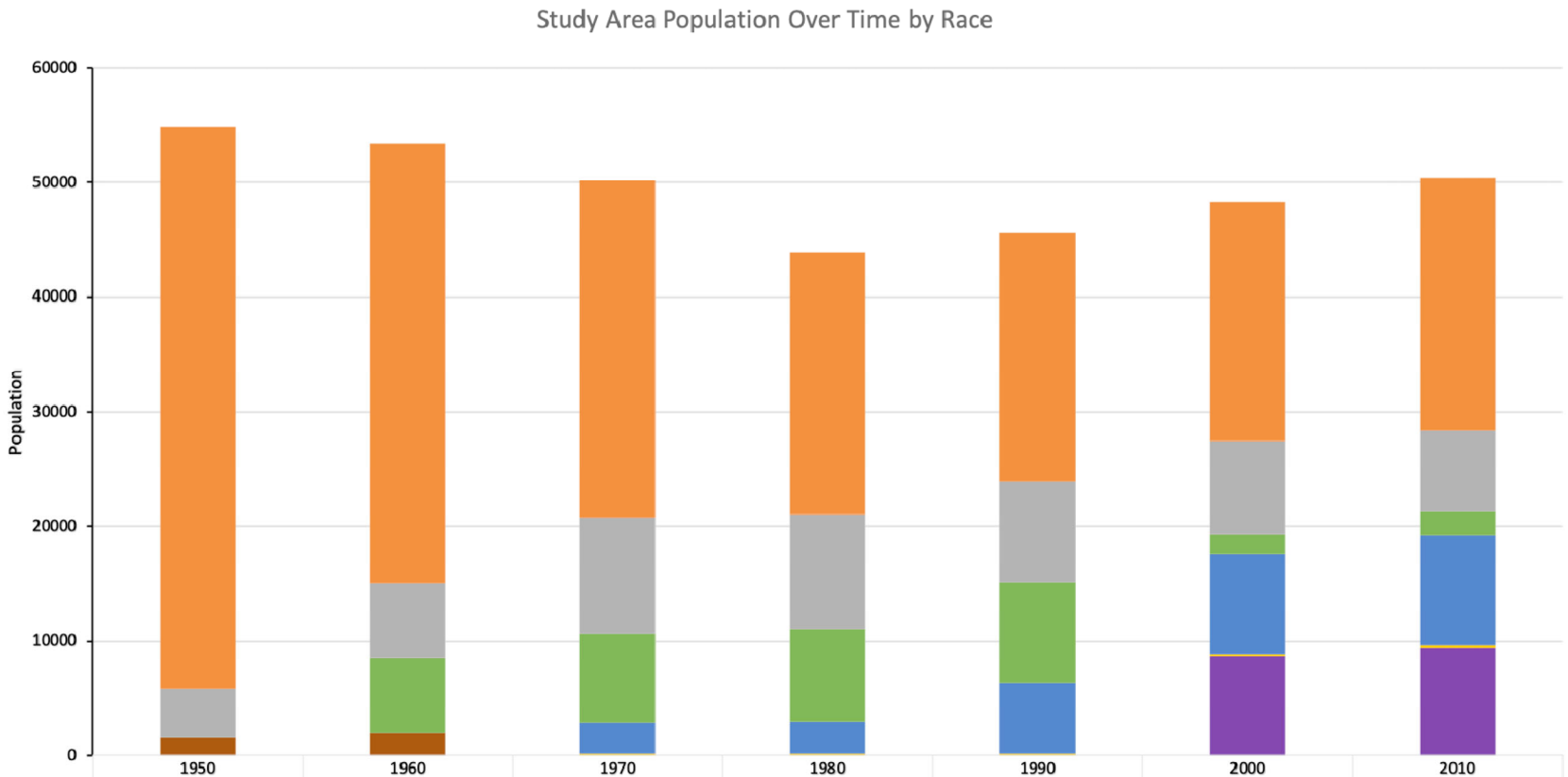
In the 1950 U.S. Decennial Census, 90percent of the approximately 55,000 residents in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville were White. Blacks, Puerto Ricans, other immigrants and minority communities generally settled in the area north of 122nd Street. However, non-White, poor, and vulnerable populations also occupied apartment houses on the Morningside plateau that had been converted to residential hotels during WWII. The "encroachment of Harlem," referring to the almost entirely Black neighboring community, scared Morningside institutions into an effort to defend their "generally White middle-class constituency ("Morningside Heights," 1954; quoted in Dolkart, 1998, 329)." Beginning in 1947, Morningside Heights Inc. member institutions' campaign to improve the neighborhood was a reaction to both this perceived neighborhood decline as well as an effort to plan for future institutional expansion needs. Urban renewal and the demolition and conversion of residential buildings targeted areas where the poor, Blacks, Puerto Ricans, and other vulnerable populations resided.

A significant finding from analyzing 1950 - 2010 U.S. Decennial Census' data is that the population of the study area decreased by 16,530 people between 1950 and 1990, representing a 30 percent decline. Between 1990 and 2010, the population grew by about 2,700 people.

In 2010, the population was 54 percent White, 23 percent Asian, 23 percent two or more races, 17 percent Black, 5 percent Hispanic (alone), and less than 1 percent Native American. In 2000, the census began collecting data on two or more races, with which many Hispanics identify. The Hispanic population, including those who identified with another race, was 21 percent in 2010.

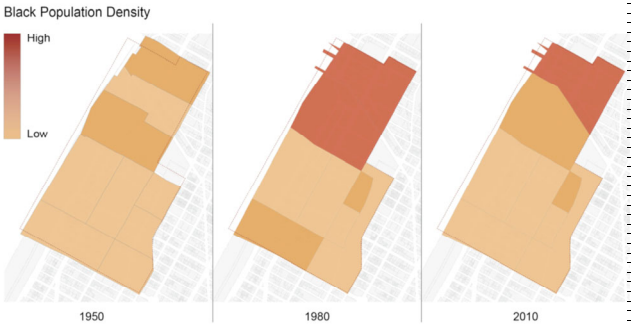
The changing racial composition of this population between 1950 and 2010 is revealing. The White population declined by 57 percent between 1950 and 2000. The Asian population increased by 253 percent from 1970 to 2010. The Black population increased by 140 percent from 1950 to 1970 and had declined by 30 percent in 2010. The Hispanic population increased by 36 percent between 1960 and 1990 where it stabilized.

It is significant to note that Morningside Park serves as a geographic boundary separating the historically-Black community of Harlem from the historically-White community of Morningside Heights. Manhattanville, also separated from Morningside Heights by a hill, was always a mixed population. This differentiation is apparent when spatialized and analyzed by census tracts.



	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Population	54921	46885	42418	39969	38391	39698	41073
White	49118	38315	29468	22795	21702	20931	22123
Negro	4193	6507	10104	10067	8854	8095	7028
Hispanic		6452	7781	8090	8778	1686	2059
Asian			2720	2766	6180	8834	9609
Native American			126	131	128	152	254
Two or More Races						8666	9377
Other Nonwhite	1610	2063					

This bar chart shows the overall population and racial composition of the study area from 1950 to 2010. Blank entries in the table imply that the census did not count that category in that year. Note that the count of the hispanic population in 2000 and 2010 refers to hispanic alone population while most hispanics identify as two or more races. Those with Hispanic identities were 8,666 and 8,677 in 2000 and 2010 respectively. The data was retrieved from the U.S. census using NHGIS and Social Explorer.



Black population density over time, showing the largely non-Black population of the 1950s, the peak of Black population at 25 percent of the overall study area population in 1980, and the reconcentration of the Black population in Manhattanville by 2010. The data was retrieved from the U.S. census using NHGIS and Social Explorer.

Four factors were used to evaluate the demographics of the study area spatially: the density of Black residents, the density of Hispanic residents, the density of residents who have attained four-year college degrees or higher, and the median income of each census tract. These factors were chosen because of the historical contexts of racism against Black and Hispanic populations, the prominence of several higher education institutions within the study area, and the historic working class identity of Manhattanville.

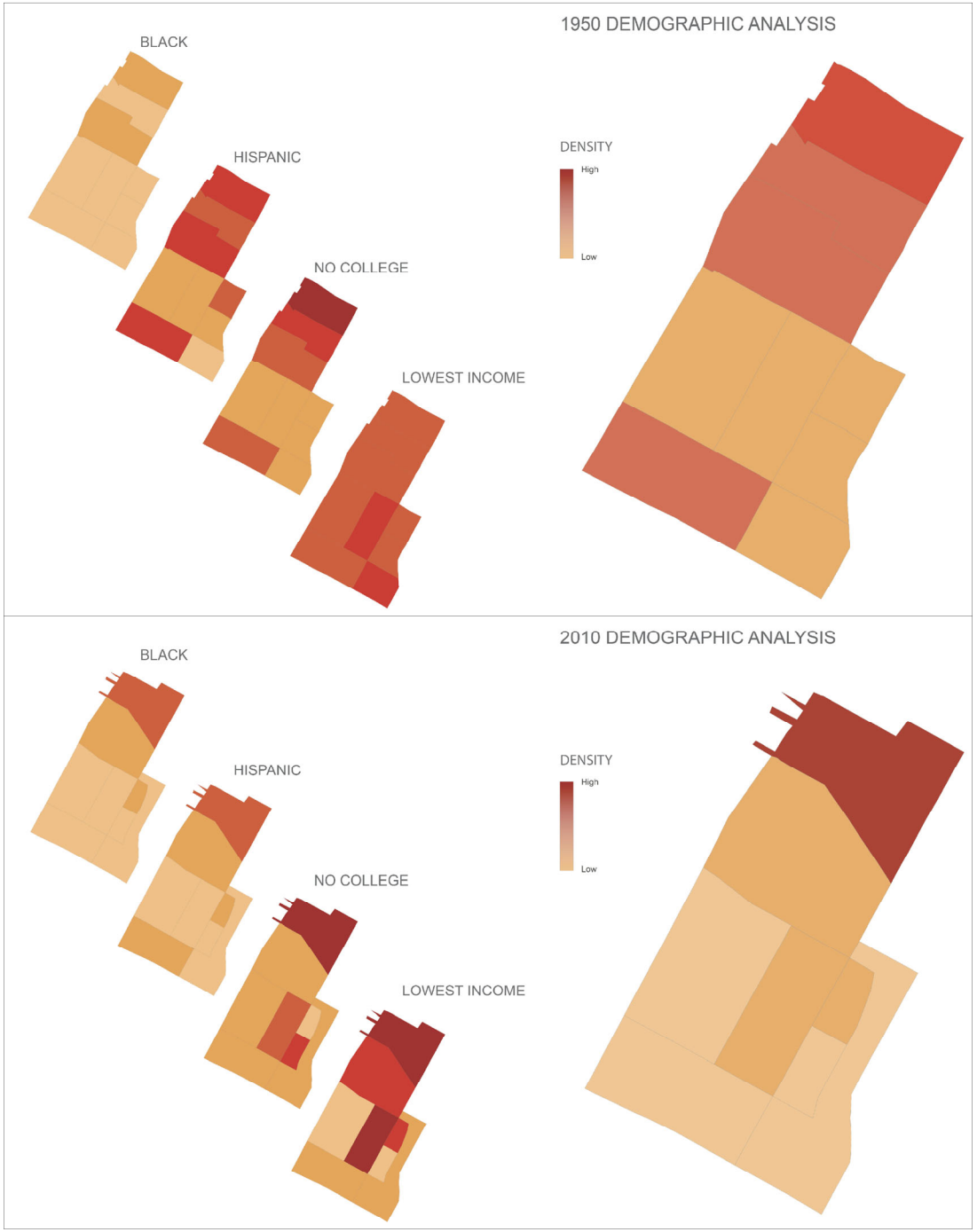
The increase of the Black population from 1970-2000 was densest in the Manhattanville census tracts but also showed an increased density in the southern part of Morningside Heights. The Black population has since been pushed northward to be concentrated in the northern census tract of Manhattanville.

Hispanic immigration to the U.S. increased following WWII. While the 1950 census had no indicator of Hispanic populations, it can be estimated by adding those who identified as 'Mexican' or 'foreign born other American' in the census and comparing the density of this population to 1960s data on the population with Spanish or Puerto Rican surnames. In 1950 Morningside Heights and Manhattanville were dense settlements for Hispanics compared to other parts of the city. The northern tract of Manhattanville is the most densely populated by Hispanics in our study area in 2010.

This northern tract in Manhattanville also represents an area with the lowest quintile median income in the city in 2010. The median income of Census Tract 219, the northernmost census tract of Manhattanville, was $18,869 in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars (American Community Survey, 2010). By contrast, some of the wealthiest areas are on Morningside Heights. The median income of census tract 205 eastern census tract of Morningside Heights was $118,750 in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars (American Community Survey, 2010). In 1950, the study area overall represented a middle range of median income and was more evenly distributed. This illustrates the city's general trend towards greater economic inequality.

In 1950, the Morningside Heights area had a notable concentration of residents holding higher degrees; today more city residents overall hold college degrees. It is significant, however, that the Manhattanville area is representative of the least-educated population in the city despite neighboring several higher education institutions.

When combined, these four factors present a clear trend. Over time, Black, Hispanic, low-income, and less-educated residents in our study area are concentrated in the northern-most census tract of Manhattanville. By contrast, Whiter, increasingly wealthier, and more educated residents reside in Morningside Heights. This illustrates a significant disparity within our study area. It may be of little surprise that a tract whose residential population is largely in NYCHA Manhattanville houses has a concentration of low-income Black, Hispanic, and minority people, with lower levels of educational attainment. Population of NYCHA housing city-wide is composed of 45.6 percent Black families, 44.5 percent Hispanic families, and 11 percent White, Asian, and other families (NYCHA, 2015) . Their average income in 2015 was $23,455 for a family of 2.7, which is in the city's extremely low-income threshold (NYCHA, 2015; HPD, 2019). However, the disparity between those residents and the graduate-level programs in business, science, and arts that will occupy Columbia's Manhattanville expansion suggests divides that will need to be bridged.



The four factors used to evaluate the Studio's study area's demographics were assigned values from 1-5 based on quintiles derived from city-wide census data. The values were then added to result in the choropleth map showing an increased disparity between the north and south of our study area in 2010 as compared to 1950. It is important to note also that because we used the threshold of college-degree holding populations, and income, that the tract containing Columbia University receives a higher number of points due to its large full-time undergraduate student population. The data was retrieved from the U.S. Census and American Community Survey 5-year estimates accessed through NHGIS and Social Explorer.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The core aim of the Studio was to promote an understanding of cultural heritage and of preservation practices using a context-oriented lens. The Studio used historic context statements as the starting point for examining the Columbia community in the defined study area, which encompasses both Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. The Studio was tasked with contextualizing their research, and researching and writing historic context statements played a key role in understanding the study area's broader social environment and physical setting. These statements provided the basis for assessing significance and integrity; served as analytical framework for identifying and evaluating resources; and described the historical development patterns within which the significance of the study area can be understood. A dozen historic context statements, examining individual themes, constitute a collective baseline for examining the Columbia community and lay the foundation for decisions about the identification and evaluation of historic resources in the study area.

Collective investigations of the Morningside Heights-Manhattanville study area revealed the topographical features, broad historical patterns, key institutions and localized events that defined the development of the area's built fabric, the social dynamics of its various communities, and the relationships of different communities to each other and to the environments they co-inhabit. The analysis of archival and contemporary resources allowed the Studio to identify the various publics associated with individual themes and carry out a preliminary evaluation of minority representation and historic patterns of exclusion embodied in the study area's built environment.

The historic statements are appended below as discrete reports that can stand alone but that, together, illustrate various threads in the history of Morningside-Manhattanville. The historic context studies begin with an investigation of open space, topography and view sheds in the study area and their influence in shaping the Columbia community. Subsequent research tracks the educational, religious and health institutions in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville that significantly defined the area's character and shaped its history. Concurrent with institutional growth was the development of residential communities and their related business and industries. The historic contexts also record the institutions' attempts at altering the area's built environment and the social and demographic fabric of its communities. This section of the report concludes with histories of minority rights, political and physical representation of underrepresented communities, and instances of activism both on and off Columbia's campus.

Intersections among these thematic analyses are to some extent inevitable. They are the result of useful but ultimately artificial thematic boundaries. These intersections adumbrate the historic and systemic issues to which the Studio has responded in subsequent investigations. In these subsequent investigations, historic contexts lay the historical and thematic groundwork for assessing the significance of individual resources and narratives through the lens of inclusion.

Open Space, Topography, and View Sheds

Yasong Zhou, You Wu

Morningside Heights is a rocky plateau. Escarpments are found both to the east and west as part of the Harlem Plain and the Hudson River, while the Manhattanville Valley is located to the north at 122nd Street.

This plateau gradually rises from 110th street, peaking at 116th street, and descending sharply on 125th street; the Manhattanville Valley lies north of the plateau. Morningside Heights and Manhattanville are primarily defined as distinct neighborhoods by their topography, which determines the area's boundaries (Dolkart 2001). Cognizant of the ways in which the area's topography has interacted with manmade features in the study area, we have selected key open spaces, such as Morningside Park, for in-depth research. In this process, we explore the role that topography played in the construction of these open spaces and have undertaken studies to clarify relationships between open spaces, topography, and view sheds in the study area.

Prior to the 1890s, major construction on Morningside Heights was limited to public works projects. These include the two main parks in the study area, Morningside Park and Riverside Park, both of which were commissioned in the 1870s.

Morningside Park

Morningside Park is a public park in Harlem, whose natural topography is defined by a cliff formed of Manhattan schist rock (NYC Parks, n.d.). Before the Revolutionary War, Morningside Park was a bucolic region, away from the city, where tobacco was planted. In 1776, Morningside Park and its surrounding areas - between 109th and 125th Streets - were the site of the Battle of Harlem Heights between the British and the Americans. Until the end of the nineteenth century the area remained largely undeveloped. As the economy expanded in the late nineteenth century, the boundaries of New York City's urban areas continued to shift northward. Upon this shift, the government found that the grid system proposed for the island of Manhattan in the early nineteenth century did not adapt well to Morningside Heights because of its rocky topography. Morningside Park was first proposed by the Central Park Commissioners in 1867 when Andrew Haswell Green, Commissioner and Comptroller of Central Park, suggested that a park be built in Morningside Heights to avoid the expense of expanding the Manhattan street grid across difficult terrain.

Built in the 1870s, before the development of the residential district, Morningside Park would enhance the value of future residential property (Dolkart 2001). Designed by Olmsted and Vaux in a picturesque style, this park offered panoramic views and extensive active and passive recreation (Dolkart 2001). Designed by Olmsted and Vaux in a picturesque style, this park offered panoramic views and extensive active and passive recreation (Dolkart 2001).

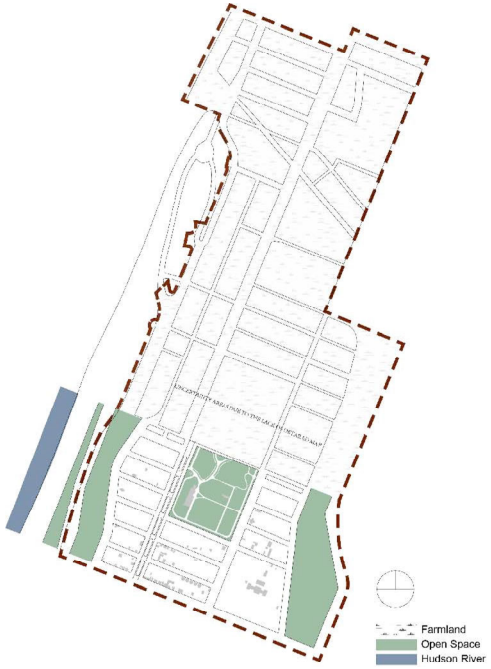
In 1880, Jacob Wrey Mould was hired to rework the plans, although he died in 1886, before the work could be completed (Dolkart 2001). In 1887, Olmsted and Vaux were asked to modify the plans again, and construction was completed in 1895 (NYC Parks, n.d.). The completion of the Park became a powerful impetus for residential development in the Morningside Heights.

Following the Great Depression of 1929–1933 and the deindustrialization of New York City after World War II, rates of crime and poverty increased significantly (Roberts 2010). Due to the park's proximity to Harlem, reports of crime in Morningside Parks had racial undertones, and the park was perceived as extremely dangerous during this period. Decades later, in 1960, Columbia proposed building a gym in the park at 113th Street, resulting in major student and community protests in 1968. Protestors argued that the gym's planned separate entrances would result in racially segregated facilities, which the university denied (Gray 2005). After further protests in 1969, the plan was abandoned, and the excavation site was turned into a waterfall and pond in 1990. In 1998, construction began on an arboretum in the park. The design of the arboretum was based on original plans for Central Park sketched by Olmsted and Vaux. While later abandoned, these arboretum plans involved paths leading through several hundred species of trees and shrubs. Today, although Morningside Park is only one block away from the northernmost end of Central Park, there is no visual connection between the two due to buildings on both sides of 110th Street.

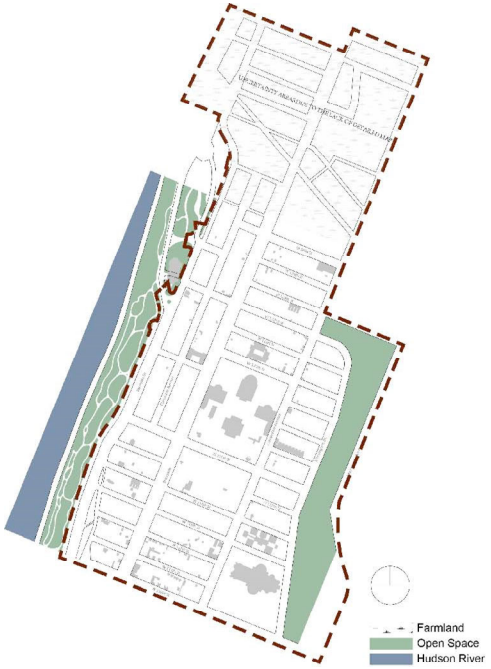
The dense trees on the edges of the park and the sloping topography separate Morningside Heights from Harlem, and provides a relaxing space for the surrounding residents away from the hustle and bustle of the city. The main entrance is located at the intersection of 110th Street and Manhattan Ave, and opens onto a public open space that hosts the Down to Earth Farmers Market from May to December. Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux designed several playgrounds near the main entrance and the residential area, such as the handball court on the north side of the main entrance, and the playing fields near 116th Street and 123rd Street.



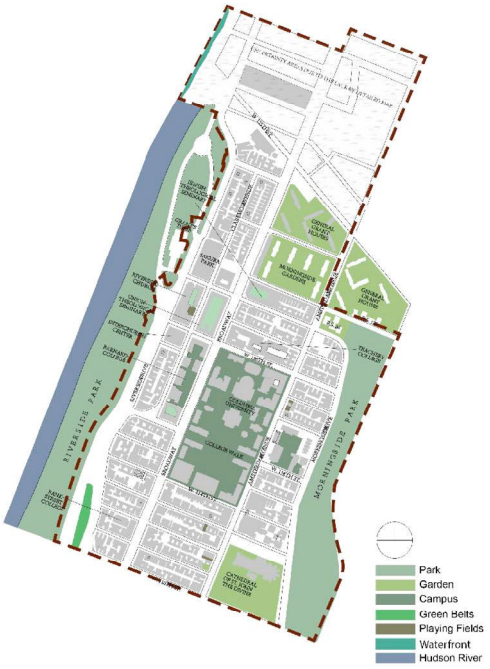
Map of Harlem Heights and Plain, 1814
Source: The original map by G. Hayward for D.T. Valentine's Manual, 1856



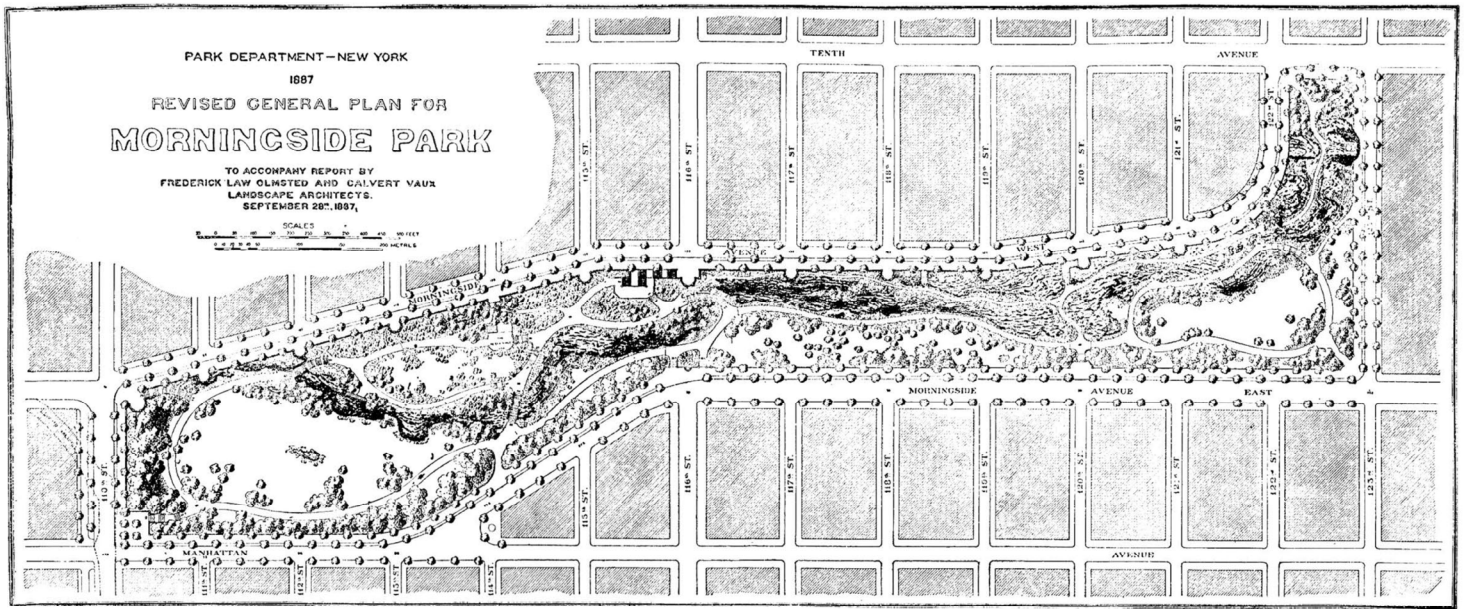
Morningside Height Plan in 1885
Source: Diagrammed by Yasong Zhou



Morningside Height Plan in 1902
Source: Diagrammed by Yasong Zhou



Morningside Heights Plan in 2019
Source: Diagrammed by Yasong Zhou



Map of Morningside Park, 1887, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux
Source: L. H. Bailey Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture (New York, NY: The MacMillan Company, 1917) volume 4, page 1805.jpg



Waterfall at Morningside Park,
New York, NY
Source: Yasong Zhou



Buildings at 110th St, New York, NY
Source: Yasong Zhou



Trees on the outskirts of the park
New York, NY
Source: Yasong Zhou



Playing field at the park, New York, NY
Source: Yasong Zhou



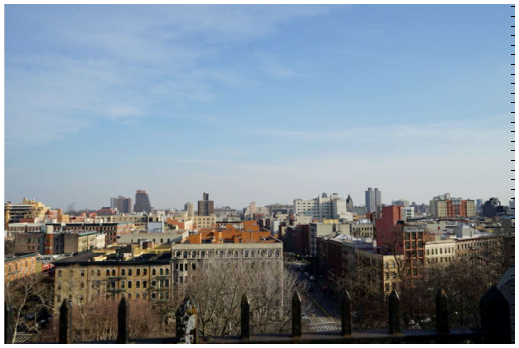
Section of Morningside Park from 113th Street and 116th Street
Source: Diagrammed by Yasong Zhou



Signage at the park, New York, NY
Source: Yasong Zhou



Park-oriented direction bench at the park, New York, NY
Source: Yasong Zhou



Viewsheds at Morningside Drive, New York, NY
Source: Yasong Zhou

Stretching south to north, two main routes were defined naturally by different terrain on the east and west sides of park. Although the terrain is complex, the park has good signage on both sides of the path, which makes it difficult for people to get lost. Olmsted and Vaux also landscaped the surrounding area with benches. These benches are popular during the warm months for sitting and reading. It is worth mentioning that the benches in the observation area, located at the opening of the park on Morningside Drive, are oriented toward both the park or the street. People can view the whole east side of the park from benches facing toward the park because of the steep terrain, offering an entirely different experience than looking at the garden from the lower side of the park.

There are two sculptures in Morningside Park, one of which is the statue of Lafayette and Washington, designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi in 1900. It is an exact replica of a statue in the Place des États-Unis in Paris. The other is the Carl Schurz Monument, consisting of a statue by Karl Bitter and a pedestal by architect Henry Bacon, which stands on a plaza at Morningside Drive and West 116th Street. Schurtz served as a Union General in the American Civil War and helped found the short-lived Liberal Republican Party, becoming a prominent advocate for civil service reform. He also represented Missouri in the United States Senate and was the 13th United States Secretary of the Interior (Dvorak 2002).

Riverside Park

Riverside Park consists of a narrow 4-mile-long strip of land between the Hudson River and the gently curving rise-and-fall of Riverside Drive. The 191 acres of land which form the original area of the Park (from 72nd to 125th Streets) were undeveloped prior to construction of the Hudson River Railroad, built in 1846 to connect New York City to Albany. Access to the river was blocked by the right-of-way of the New York Central Railroad's West Side Line. In 1866, a bill introduced into the Legislature by commissioner Andrew Green was approved, and the first segment of the park was acquired through condemnation in 1872; construction soon began. The conceptual plan for a new park and road was drawn by Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of nearby Central Park. From 1875 to 1910, architects and horticulturalists such as Calvert Vaux and Samuel Parsons laid out the stretch of park between 72nd and 125th Streets according to the English gardening ideal, creating the appearance that the park was an extension of the Hudson River Valley (Caro 1974).

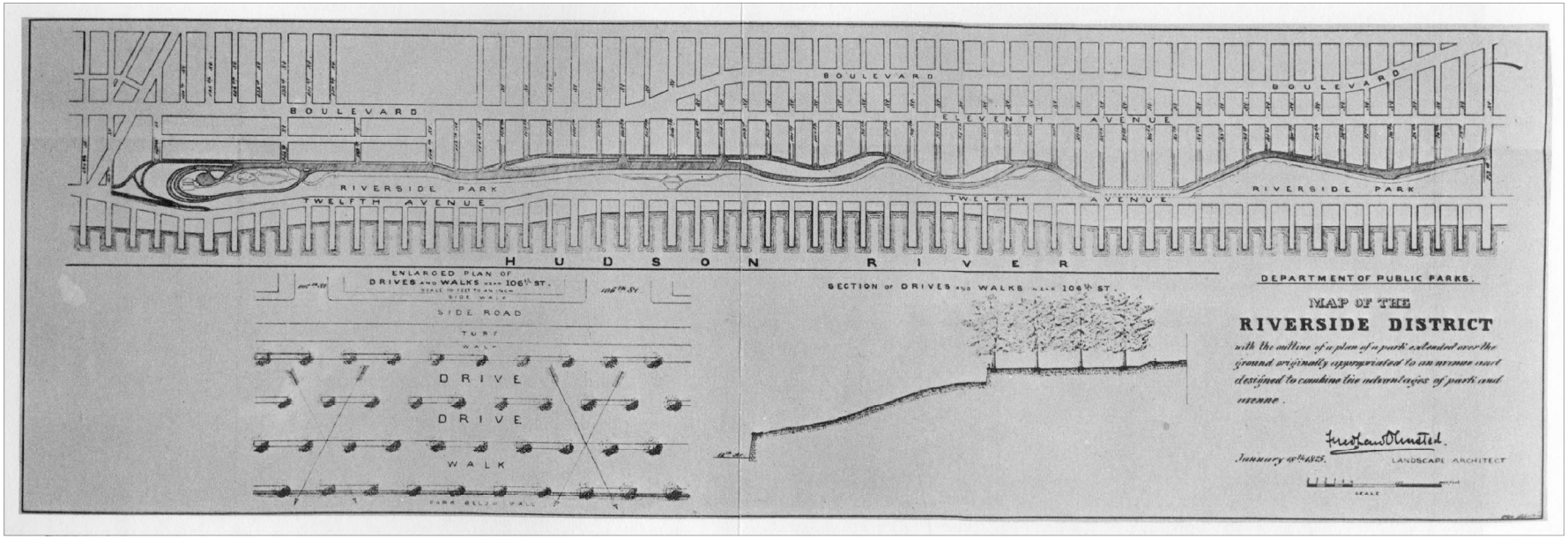
With the beginning of the City Beautiful movement in the early twentieth century, the park's border was extended north to 155th Street. F. Stuart Williamson designed the extension with its decorative viaduct, castle-like retaining walls, and grand entry ensembles (NYC Parks, n.d.).

A steep slope separates the upper part of the park from the lower, which faces towards the Hudson River. Along tree-lined Riverside Drive, there are several playgrounds for children, with additional fenced green spaces.

Despite the dense tree cover on the lower portion of the park, the river and opposite bank are visible from the upper level of the park. At the lower levels of the park, there are leisure facilities, including tennis courts. The park also contains a number of monuments within or on the edge of the park. For example, the Women's Health Protective Association fountain, built in 1909, is located at the intersection between Riverside Drive and 116th Street. Designed by Bruno Louis Zimm, the designer of the Slocum Memorial Fountain in Manhattan's Tompkins Square Park, it was built to commemorate the association's 25th anniversary (NYC Parks, n.d.). This fountain is significant, as it is one of the few representations of female agency in the study area.

Sakura Park

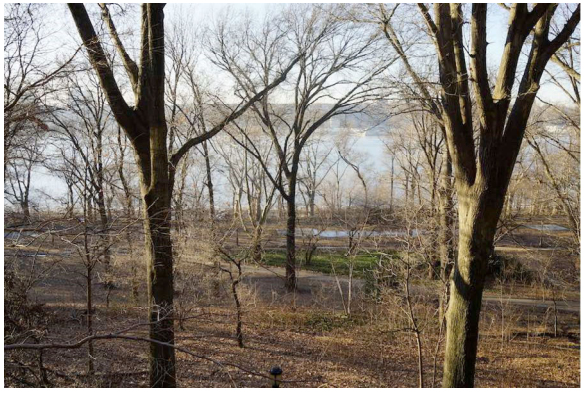
Conceived in 1896 as an addition to Riverside Park, Sakura Park is situated on land donated by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. overlooking the Hudson River. (The Cultural Landscape Foundation, n.d.). The park - originally known as Claremont Park - was re-named in 1912 when 2,000 cherry trees were presented as a gift from the Committee of Japanese Residents of New York ("Sakura" means cherry blossom in Japanese) (NYC Parks, n.d.). In 1928, Rockefeller commissioned the Olmsted Brothers to redesign the park in order to improve the setting for the newly-built Riverside Church and International House, both of which he sponsored. The Olmsted Brothers transformed the rolling hilltop into a flat and formal landscape. This effort required a massive retaining wall along Claremont Avenue, made from local stone and modeled on the ruins of Kenilworth Abbey. Completed in 1934, the Olmsted plan abandoned the curvilinear paths of the original design in favor of formal paths, promenades, and a double allée of linden trees that accented a new north-south axis connecting Riverside Church and International House. The new design retained some of the original Japanese cherry blossom trees (The Cultural Landscape Foundation, n.d.).



Map of Riverside District, Frederick Law Olmsted, 1875
Source: The National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Massachusetts



Hudson River View from Riverside Park, New York, NY
Source: You Wu



Hudson River View from Riverside Park, New York, NY
Source: You Wu



Women's Health Protective Association Fountain at Riverside Park, New York, NY
Source: You Wu

Manhattanville

The Manhattanville campus is a 17-acre site that includes four large blocks from 129th to 133rd streets between Broadway and Twelfth Avenue. Its improved, pedestrian-friendly streets and new publicly accessible open spaces are intended to reconnect West Harlem to the new Hudson River waterfront park (Columbia University Facilities, n.d.). The new campus has been somewhat controversial, with some claiming that it resembles a cloister more than public space for community use. A forward-thinking and outward-facing design may arguably include open spaces on 125th street or Broadway (Eviatar 2006). Ultimately, the projected open spaces in the area may or may not fulfill the needs of the neighborhood.

As a late-developing community in Manhattan, Morningside Heights followed the grid system set by the commissioners' plan of 1811. While flat and livable land became the main residential zone, complex-terrain formations, particularly along Hudson River became the principal open spaces for the area. These open spaces offer Morningside Heights, Manhattanville, and Harlem communities opportunities for recreation and leisure, but in some cases, remain contentious spaces at the boundaries between neighborhoods of historically different character. The terrain in the study area is key for the formation of the area's community, and open spaces continue to act as focal points for the neighborhoods' residents.



A rendering illustrating open green spaces and tree-lined streets, 2017
Source: Columbia Manhattanville project, Columbia's Manhattanville Campus official site



A section view along the Broadway of Manhattanville campus, 2017
Source: Columbia Manhattanville project, Columbia's Manhattanville Campus official site

Types of Open Space

We classified the open space in the study area according to function, accessibility, and ownership. Based on observation, the open space within the study area can be divided into three main types, each of which can be divided into subclasses.

* Open Spaces for Public and Semi-Public Use
    1. Squares/Plazas -- areas enclosed by roads or streets and surrounded by buildings.
        Example: the square in front of the General Grant National Memorial
    2. Parks -- infrastructure in the city, used for recreation or associated purposes.
        Example: Morningside Park
            a. Playing fields, and playgrounds -- platforms for sports and for teaching children different methods of play.
                Example: East side of Riverside Park

    3. Campus -- sub-set of parks, designed to create peace and harmony around a seat of learning.
        Example: Columbia University (Morningside Heights Campus/Barnard College)

* Water features
    1. Dockyards and waterfronts -- green spaces lined with planters that provide spaces for walks.
        Example: West Harlem Piers

* Controlled open spaces
    1. Gardens, tree-lined streets, flowerbeds, verges, and pockets of space -- small green spaces that make the city more human and pleasant for people to pass through.
        Example: Upper level of Riverside Park (Riverside Drive)
            a. Median strip -- green spaces in the middle or at the side of roads that separate people from vehicular traffic.
                Example: Green belts along Amsterdam Ave

We made maps to visualize the different types of open spaces in the study area. The Morningside Heights Open Space Maps shows the location of these parks and the Accessibility map shows which spaces are open or closed to the public. Comparing the Accessibility with the ownership maps, no significant correlation between accessibility and ownership, be it private or public, was identified.



Square in front of the General Grant National Memorial, New York, NY
Source: You Wu



A playground at Riverside Park, New York, NY
Source: You Wu



Riverside Park, New York, NY
Source: You Wu



Green belt along Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY
Source: You Wu



Morningside Heights Open Space Plan, 2019
Source: Diagrammed by Yasong Zhou and You Wu



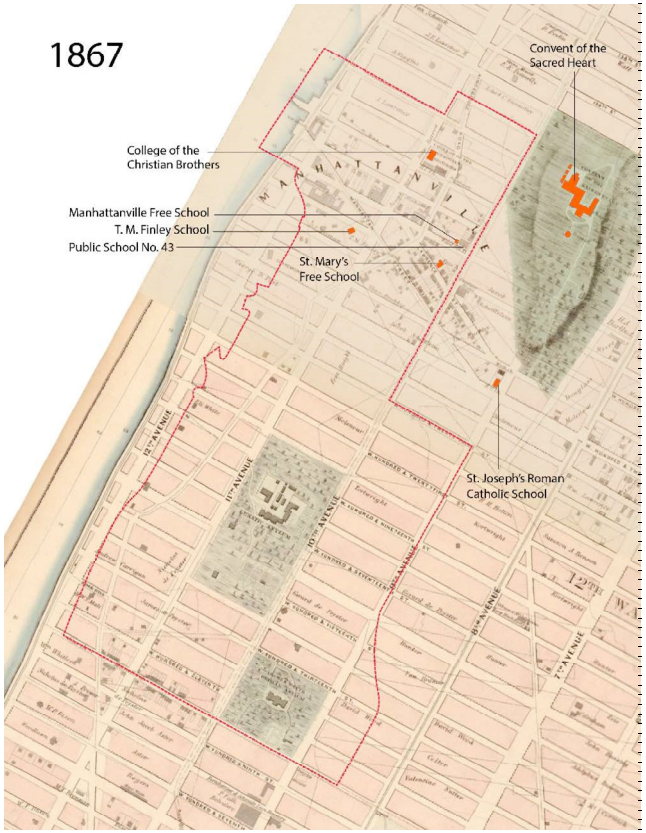
Morningside Heights Open Space Accessibility Plan, 2019
Source: Diagrammed by You Wu



Morningside Heights Open Space Ownership Plan, 2019
Source: Diagrammed by You Wu

Education

Annie Bodhidatta, Drew Barnhart



Map of educational institutions in 1867
Source: Prepared by Annie Bodhidatta and Drew Barnhart (Dripps, Matthew, Plan of New York City from the Battery to Spuyten Duyvil Creek, 1867)

Morningside Heights and Manhattanville are communities whose histories are tied to their resident educational institutions. In order to promote inclusion through preservation in our study area, it is important to take inventory of these institutions, provide a brief overview of their origins, and consider some of the ways in which they have interacted with the area's populations.

The first schools to be located in the study area were those established in the village of Manhattanville. The oldest school was founded in 1806 by Jacob Schieffelin, who played an integral role in the village's establishment. This school, known as the Academy, was short lived, closing its doors by 1813 (Washington 2002, 39). However, that same year the Thomas Finley's Boarding School and Scientific Academy opened at the corner of West 125th Street and Broadway, offering students courses ranging from Literature to Navigation and Lunar Observations (Washington 2002, 41). This school survived considerably longer than its predecessor, still appearing on maps in the late nineteenth century. While these first schools charged tuition, the 1820s saw the establishment of two free schools.

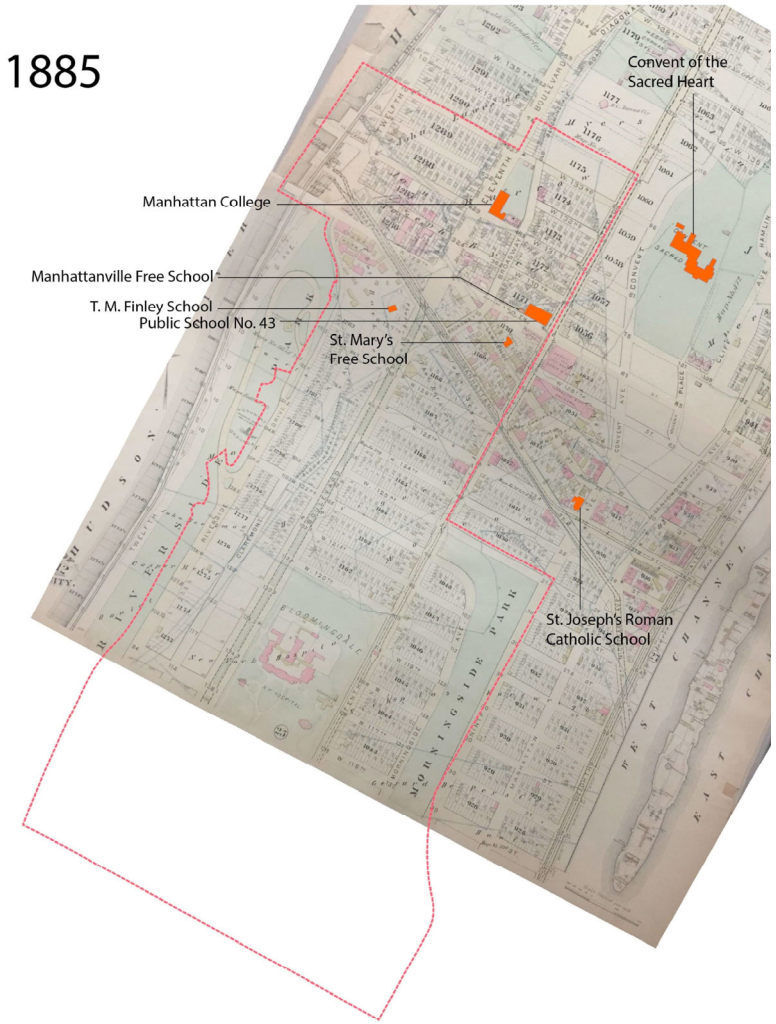
In 1824, Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, which was born out of services that had been held in the Boarding School and Scientific Academy for the previous three years, organized and established New York's first free school, accepting children from all denominations (Landmarks Preservation Commision 1998). While its not clear when this school closed, Saint Mary's still maintained some type of "church school" as late as 1964, which it housed in the former Speyer School building (Gray 1987). Established not long after Saint Mary's Free School, the Manhattanville Free School opened its doors in 1827. Founded for the education of the children of Manhattanville's wealthy families' hired workers, the Manhattanville Free School became part of New York City's public education system in 1854 as P.S. 43. The school was rebuilt twice, first in 1895 and again in 1934, when it became known as the Adam Clayton Powell Intermediate School No. 43, remaining in the same location since its establishment (Washington 2002, 39, 42). In 2001, P.S. 43 was closed due to its failure to meet the city of New York's performance expectations (Wyatt and Goodnough 2000). However, the school building is still in use today as the Adam Clayton Powell Educational Complex, which houses several educational institutions.

In the mid-nineteenth century, a wave of Catholic parochial schools, two of which later became independent institutions of higher education, moved to Manhattanville. In 1847, the Academy of the Sacred Heart, later known as Manhattanville College relocated to the area from the Lower East Side. Founded in 1841 as a boarding school for elementary and highschool aged girls, the school gradually expanded its curriculum, adding its first courses for professional study in 1897. In March of 1917, the institution was finally chartered by the State of New York as a women's college and offered both undergraduate and graduate degrees. The school remained in Manhattanville until 1952 when it moved to Purchase, New York, 25 miles north of New York City, to acquire more space for its students. The school still exists today as Manhattanville College, now coeducational and independent of the Society of the Sacred Heart. (Manhattanville College, History of Manhattanville, n.d.) (Manhattanville College, Undergraduate College Catalog 2017-2018, n.d.).

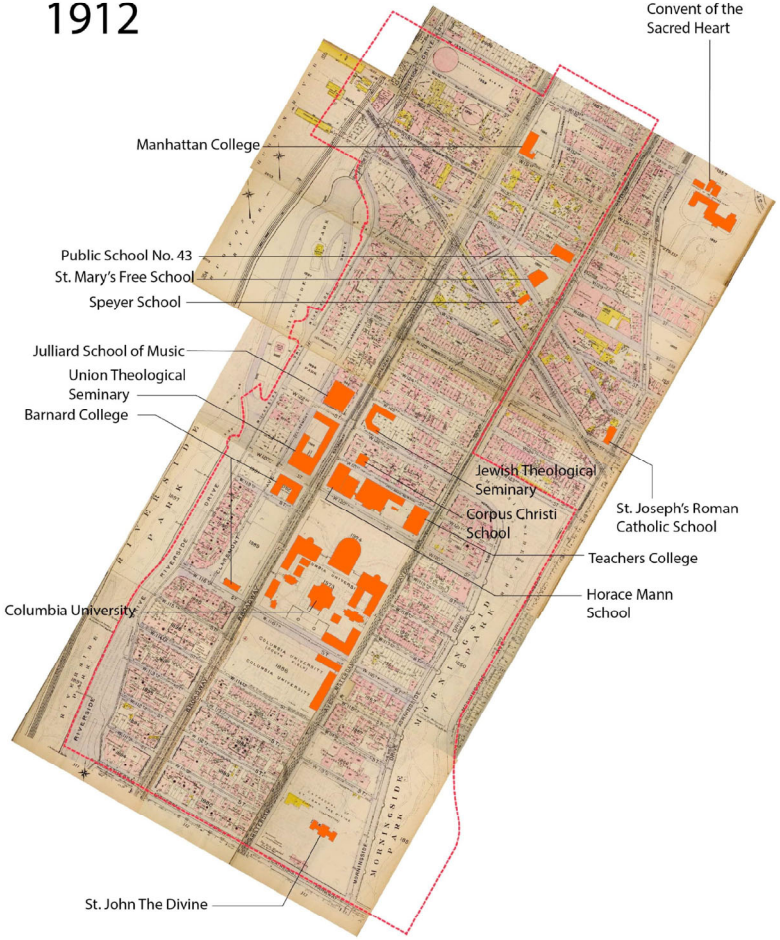
Manhattan College shares a similar history. Originally known as the College of the Christian Brothers, this school for boys was initially located on Canal Street and relocated to West 131st Street and Broadway in Manhattanville in 1853. The Brothers carried the educational tradition of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the Patron Saint of Teachers in 17th century France. The Lasallian approach to education dictated the creation of a new type of school system that would enhance student's education by integrating professional and vocational studies into its curriculum. Both practical courses and religion were taught at the institution. Originally a parochial school, in 1859, undergraduate-level courses were added. The name Manhattan College was first used in 1861 and the school was chartered as a college in 1863. Due to rapid expansion, Manhattan College moved to its current location in Riverdale neighborhood of the Bronx in 1922 (Manhattan College, n.d.).

Technically located outside the study area, but drawing on communities within it, the final Catholic school to be established during this period was St. Joseph's Roman Catholic School, which had been founded to serve the German Catholic community in 1859. Unlike the other two Catholic schools, this institution never expanded into a college and remained in the area until 2011, when it became one of the twenty-seven schools closed by Archdiocese of New York in order to save money (McQuillan 2011).

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed a massive growth in schools in the study area, caused partially by the relocation of institutions of higher education to Morningside Heights, starting with Teachers College in 1894.



Map of educational institutions in 1885
Source: Prepared by Annie Bodhidatta and Drew Barnhart (Robinson, E., Robinson's Atlas of the City of New York, 1885)



Map of educational institutions in 1912
Source: Prepared by Annie Bodhidatta and Drew Barnhart (Hyde, E. Belcher, Miniature Atlas of the Borough of Manhattan, 1912)

Founded in 1887, Teachers College grew out of the the Industrial Education Association and Kitchen Garden Association, which had sought to impart domestic and manual skills to members of the "laboring classes," primarily the daughters of immigrant households; with time, it taught an increasing number of males as the courses of study expanded. (Dolkart 1998, 226-228). The decision to relocate was strategic, as the school intended to affiliate with Columbia University, which had been looking at property in that area due to its rapid expansion (Dolkart 1998, 230, 234). In 1892, Columbia announced its intention to move to Morningside Heights, opening its new campus for classes in 1897 (Dolkart 1998, 114, 153). Founded in 1754 as King's College, the school offered a classical education to the sons of New York City's elite families. While the institute was unofficially affiliated with the Anglican Church, it also admitted students from non-Anglican backgrounds (Dolkart 1998, 104). By the time Columbia moved to Morningside Heights, it had expanded the educational opportunities it offered far beyond a classical education, having established schools for Law, Political Science, Architecture, and Engineering. It had also affiliated with Barnard College and Teachers College in 1889 and 1893 respectively (Columbia 250, n.d.). Born out of a decades-long effort to achieve co-education at Columbia, Barnard College opened in 1889, emphasizing a classical curriculum over the vocational training favored by Teachers College. In 1898, the school joined Columbia University in Morningside Heights (Barnard n.d.).

Following Columbia and its affiliates, The Union Theological Seminary and Jewish Theological moved to Morningside Heights in 1902 and 1905 respectively. Union Theological Seminary was founded in 1836 by progressive laymen and ministers adhering to New School Presbyterian beliefs (Handy 1987, 4-5). While many seminaries of the time were located away from urban "temptations," Union was located in New York City, allowing those with limited resources to attend classes while living at home. From the beginning, Union accepted students from various evangelical denominations, an uncommon practice at the time (Handy 1987, 4-11). However, it was not until 1904 that the institution became truly non-denominational (Dolkart 1998, 247). Today, the school accepts students from all religious backgrounds, including atheists and agnostics (Union, n.d.). The Jewish Theological Seminary was founded much later, the product of a 1902 merger between the Jewish Theological Seminary Association, an organization founded in 1886 that sought to adapt Jewish traditions to modern American life in the training of religious and lay leaders, and the newer, more vital Jewish Theological Seminary of America, created in 1899 (Dolkart 1998, 266-267).

The final school to move to the study area during this period was The Juilliard School, founded in 1905 as the Institute for Musical Art. Like the previously mentioned institutions, this school moved to Morningside Heights during a period of growth, when it became clear that it needed to expand its facilities. The school arrived in the neighborhood in 1910, and remained there until 1968, when it moved south to its current home in Lincoln Center (Juilliard n.d.). The following year, the Manhattan School of Music, established in 1918, in part to provide musical education to New York's immigrant communities, moved into Juilliard's former facilities in Morningside Heights, where it remains today (Manhattan School of Music n.d.).

The second trend that contributed to the increase in schools in the study area around the turn of the century was Teachers College's acquisition and establishment of several experimental schools for children. The oldest of these experimental schools was the Horace Mann School, established by Columbia president Nicholas Murray Butler in 1887. Founded initially as an independent institution, the school became part of Teachers College not long after its establishment. Its experimental curriculum was based on the concept of the country day school, which stressed the importance of exercise, class participation and long school days (Columbia University 1937, 5-6). In 1894, the Horace Mann School migrated to Morningside Heights with Teachers College, and in 1901, the school moved to its own building on the corner of 1twentieth Street and Broadway. Originally coeducational, the school split into the Horace Mann School for Boys and the Horace Mann School for Girls in 1914, and from that point on their histories diverge. Whereas the School for Girls remained in its location at 1twentieth Street, the School for Boys relocated to a new campus in the Bronx, where it gained complete administrative independence from Teachers College in 1947. Conversely, the School for Girls was merged with the Lincoln School, another experimental institution overseen by Teachers College, in 1940 to form the Lincoln-Horace Mann School (Horace Mann School, n.d.).

The Speyer School, founded in 1903, was the second experimental schools associated with Teachers College. The school building, located at 512 126th Street, was lauded for its exceptional facilities at the time of its opening, boasting a fully-equipped gymnasium, spaces for cooking and sewing, and even a garden on the roof ("Speyer School Open: Designed to Educate a Community" 1903, 7). By 1915, the Teachers College, deciding to prioritize

other fields of education, allowed P.S. 43 to use the building as an annex. By 1919, the school had leased the property to the city to become a new school, P.S. 500 (Gray 1987). Under this guise, the school became widely recognized as the site of a ground-breaking program called the "Public School Experiment with Mental Deviates." Initiated in 1935 and spearheaded by professor of psychology Leta Stetter Hollingworth, this program sought to study and improve the education of students with exceptional IQs, specifically "slow learners," with IQs between 75 and 90 and "rapid learners" with IQs above 130 (Rudnitski 1). A finite endeavor, students were enrolled in the program only until their thirteenth birthday, and the entire project was designed to be terminated by 1941 (Rudnitski 2). Despite its short life-span, this project sparked the establishment of special education programs throughout New York, a development that would later spread across the country (Fine 1941, D6). In the following years, the building was largely abandoned until St. Mary's Episcopal Church purchased it in 1964, when it came to house the church school, among other programs (Landmarks Preservation Commission 1998).

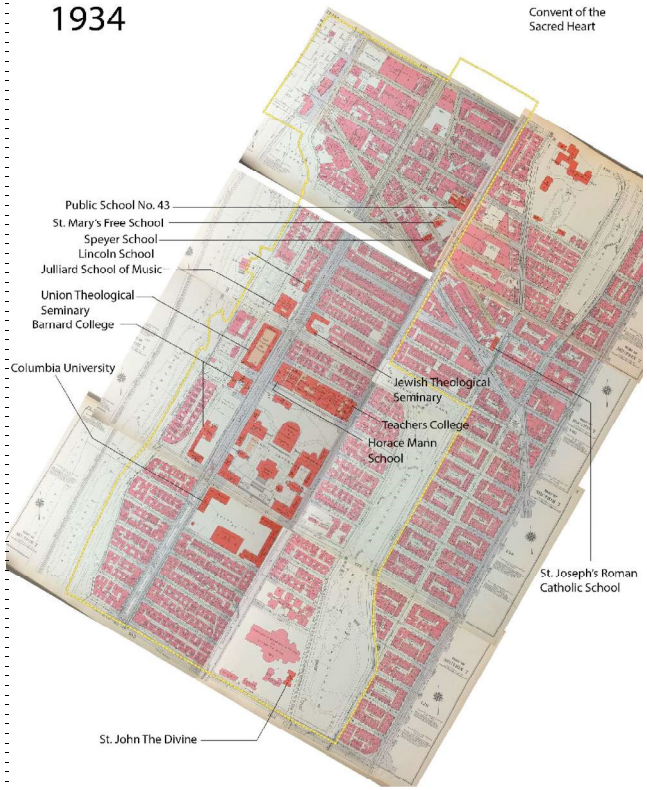
As the Horace Mann School gradually became more independent around the turn of the century, Teachers College developed the need for a new school in which to test experimental curriculums. The Lincoln School, opened in 1918, was established in part to take over this role. (Horace Mann School, n.d.). However, by this time the focus of the experimental curriculum had changed, emphasizing the developing independent initiative and responsibility, as well as the ability to cooperate within a group (Columbia University 1925, 8-10). Initially located at 646 Park Avenue, the school moved to 123rd Street between Amsterdam and Morningside Avenues in the early 1922s (Columbia University 1925, 112). As previously mentioned, the Lincoln School merged with the Horace Mann School for girls, but the combination was short lived, closing in 1946 (Horace Mann School, n.d.). However, in 1948, parents and teachers who had opposed the closing of the Lincoln-Horace Mann School, established the New Lincoln School, which continued the experimental curriculum espoused by its predecessor. Located outside the study area, the New Lincoln School's first home was at 31 West 110th Street in the 110th Street Community Center ("New School Set Up As An Experiment" 1948, 14). In the mid-1970s, the school moved again to the Upper East Side, where it remained until its closing in 1988 ("News of the Realty Trade" 1973).

During the turn of the century, two additional religious schools for elementary and high-school aged children were also founded: the Cathedral School of St. John the Divine and the Corpus Christi School. Opened in 1901 and 1907 respectively, the creation of these schools corresponded with the establishment of the churches with which they share their names. Initially, the Cathedral School of St. John the Divine had exclusionary policies and accepted only White male children. The school only integrated in 1964 and began admitting girls in 1973 (The Cathedral School, n.d.).

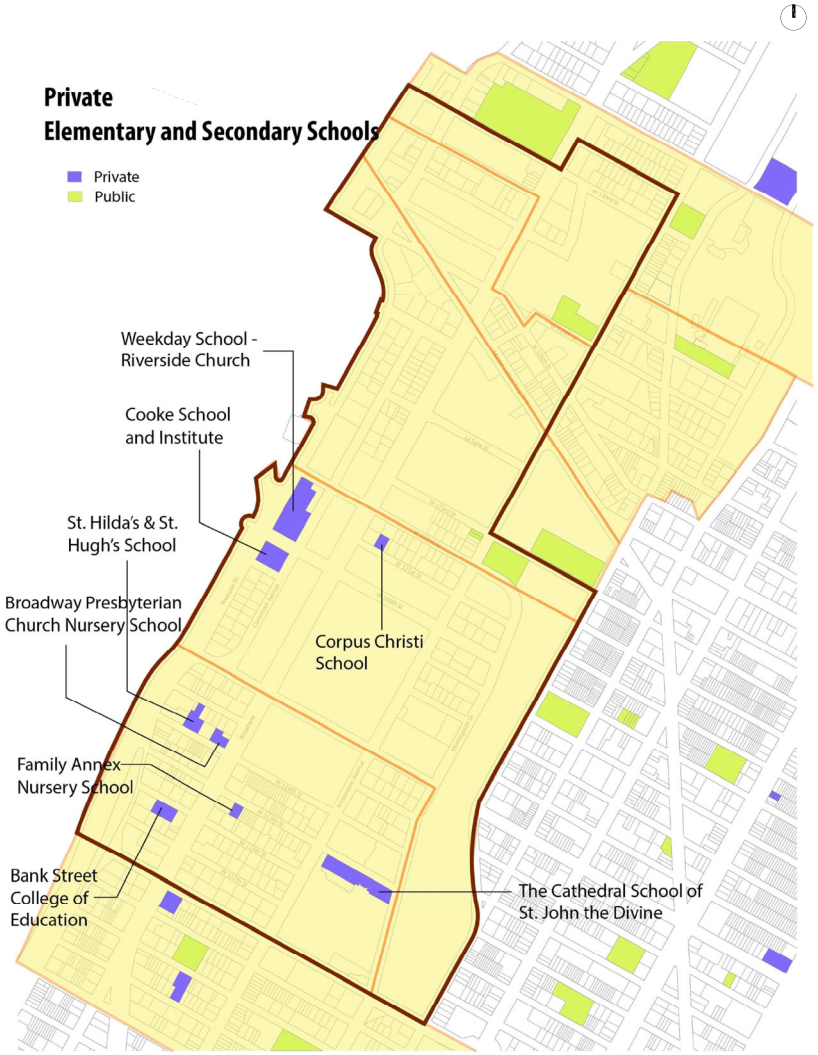
By the 1920s, the growth in educational institutions in the study area had slowed considerably, and only a handful of private institutions were established in the study area after this date. St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's, an independent Episcopal day school opened in the 1950s, founded by a biracial nun who was dedicated to serving children from diverse backgrounds (St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's, n.d.). Finally, the last major private institution founded in the area was the Bank Street College of Education and its associated Bank Street School for Children. Moving into a building on West 112th Street in 1971, the Bank Street College of Education was established in 1916 as the Bureau of Educational Experiments. Its purpose was to research children and the environmental factors that contributed to their growth and educational development, and it currently offers graduate degrees (Field and Baumi, 2014, 94-95). Not unlike Teachers College's former experimental schools, the Bank Street School for Children serves as a place to incorporate and test the College of Education's stances on child education (Bank Street, n.d.).

Today, many of the institutions whose histories are detailed above still exist in the neighborhood. However, there are also other primary and secondary schools that are relatively newer or have less clear histories that currently play important roles in the neighborhood. In addition to the private schools, including St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's School, The Cathedral School of St. John the Divine, the Bank Street School for Children, and the Corpus Christi School, whose histories are detailed above, there are five public schools. Each public school serves students from Pre-K to either 5th or 8th grade and are attached to school zones that overlap with the study area, including P.S. 165 Robert E. Simon, P.S. 036 Margaret Douglas, P.S. 125 Ralph Bunche, P.S. 161 Pedro Albizu Campos, and P.S. 129 John H. Finley (School Zones, n.d.). There are also several non-zoned public secondary schools, including The Urban Assembly School for the Performing Arts, The Academy for Social Action, and the Urban Assembly Academy for Future Leaders, all of which are housed in the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Educational Complex. In general, the public schools tend to be situated around the periphery of the study area.

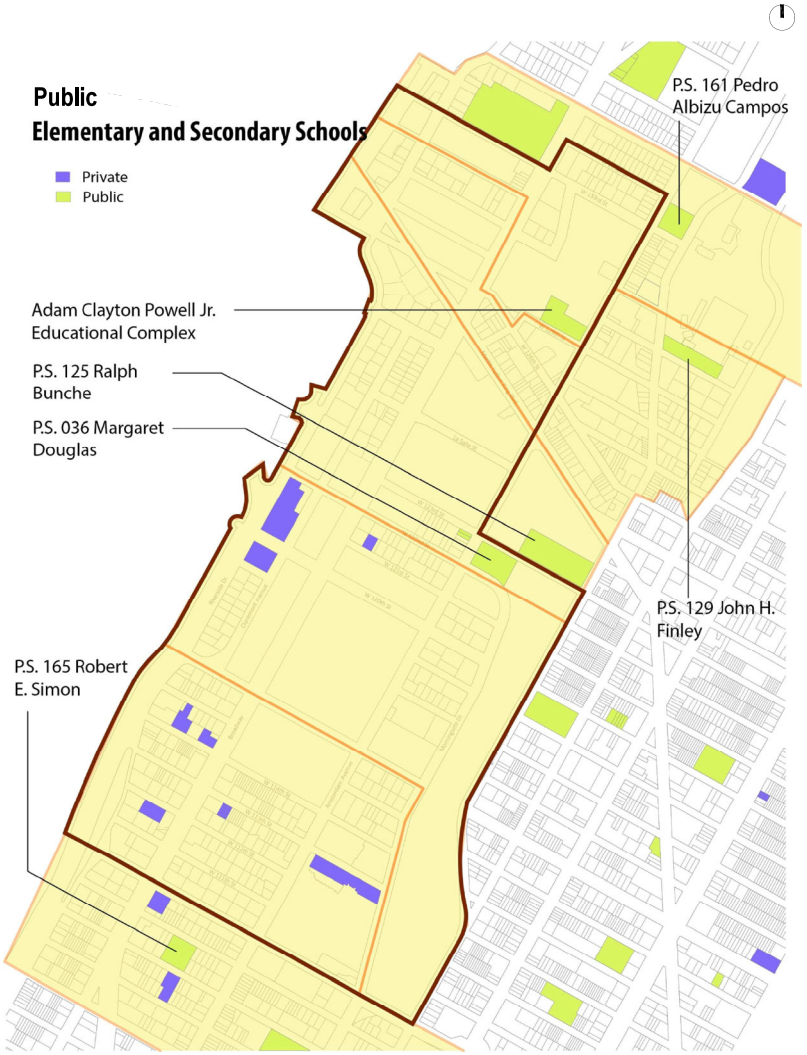
Ethnic and economic segregation in schools is a problem throughout New York City and our study area, as



Map of educational institutions in 1934
Source: Prepared by Annie Bodhidatta and Drew Barnhart (G.W. Bromley and Co., Manhattan Land Book, 1934)



Map of private schools in and around the study area
Source: Prepared by Annie Bodhidatta and Drew Barnhart



Map of public schools in and around the study area
Source: Prepared by Annie Bodhidatta and Drew Barnhart

shown by a 2015 New York Times article that uses P.S. 036 Margaret Douglas to illustrate the problem. While the population of the school's zone has a median income of $69,000 and is 37 percent Black or Hispanic, the median household income of the students attending this school is only $36,000 with 96 percent of its population being Black or Hispanic (Harris 2015). These statistics seem to indicate that there could be serious issues with inclusion with regard to education among school-aged children in the area.

The many educational institutions of the study area's past and present have had a significant impact on the built environments of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. However, there are a couple of sites that stand out because of their connections to issues of inclusivity. First, the land on which the Adam Clayton Powell Educational Complex sits has been in continuous use for education since 1827. With the site's history as home to a free school the children of workers and the location of Manhattanville's first public school, it serves as a connection to the expansion of the opportunity to receive an education beyond the rich. The fact that the location continues to house schools today, strengths this connection to the past.

Secondly, the original Speyer School building, constructed in 1902, still stands today. The experimental education program that took place in this program contributed to the establishment of special education programs that helped schools across the country be more inclusive of children with special needs and learning disabilities. Additionally, Lena Hollingworth Stetter made a concerted effort to include students from varying racial and ethnic groups in the program for "rapid learners," interviewing hundreds of applicants from across the city and exhibiting a great concern for diversity nearly two decades before U.S. schools were even required to integrate. However, it is worth noting that she did not extend this concern for the students in the "slow learner" program, drawing primarily from populations in West Harlem (Rudnitski 2, 1996). This raises questions about the biases that may have informed the experimental program and the implications such inequality in the selection process between the two branches of the project may have had on the community and future special education curriculums. Even decades after the end of the Speyer School's experimental program, the building continued to be linked to issues of inclusivity through the activities, such as civil rights programs, hosted at the site through St. Mary's Episcopal Church (Gray, 1987).

Over their history, educational institutions have been a mainstay of the study area. These schools of have demonstrated their ability to influence areas beyond their own campuses and shape the community, and have variously promoted inclusion or contributed to historic patterns of exclusion, a subject that will be touched on in other historic context statements, notably in the section on urban renewal. Taking stock of the ways in which educational institutions have interacted with surrounding communities is a necessary precondition for devising effective strategies to instrumentalize historic preservation to promote inclusion in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville.

Religion and Worship

James E. Churchill, Laura Garnier

Religion and worship was, and remains to this day, an important presence in the Manhattanville and Morningside Heights neighborhoods. Covering a history of nearly two hundred years and multiple denominations, the institutions in the study area contributed to the initial development of the neighborhoods, served as foci for various communities, and often sought to advance the equity of disenfranchised groups. Further, the built features in the study area related to religion give witness to the changing role of religion in society over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Apart from a Quaker meetinghouse from 1810, which is no longer extant, the oldest religious structure in the study area is Saint Mary's Episcopal church (Washington 2002, 61). Saint Mary's Episcopal was founded in 1823 by Rev. William Richmond after "conducting Sunday school services for Manhattanville's poor children in 1820" (Washington 2002, 30). The founding of St. Mary's grew out of community needs. Indeed, for the majority of the nineteenth century, the cons truction of religious buildings tracked immigration trends and the needs of specific racial or ethnic communities. The Roman Catholic Church of the Annunciation, West 131st Street and Old Broadway, was finished by 1854 to serve the Irish Hudson River Railroad workers, while the German community founded Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, West 125th Street and Morningside Avenue, in 1860 (Washington 2002, 68).

The clergy asserted significant power in the growth of medical, educational, or civil institutions in the study area early on. During the cholera epidemic of 1832, the first rector of Saint Mary's Episcopal, Reverend William Richmond, was given control over the entire upper Manhattan area "to charge whatever was needed to care for the ill" (Washington 2002, 30). The third rector of St. Mary's, Rev. Thomas McClure Peters, founded the Manhattanville Library and the Sheltering Arms Orphans Asylum in 1864. Churches dominated private schooling in the early 1800s. Often opened in concert with the church proper, these schools taught children Protestant or Catholic beliefs under the auspices of free education to all. Saint Mary's Episcopal School, opened in 1824.

As New York City boomed in the second half of the nineteenth century, a new-found professionalism undermined the traditional role of church fathers as civic and community leaders; in response, churches looked to expansion as a means of reiterating the importance of religion to the community. Moreover, as the city grew, it had become evident that early structures were wholly inadequate to cater to the huge influx of potential congregants. Growth, however, would come at a significant cost. Property speculators had pushed land prices exponentially higher, creating increasing affordability issues for expanding organizations. Within this context, large religious institutions, including St. John the Divine, were built in Morningside Heights. St. John the Divine was born out of the fierce competition between the Episcopal and the Roman Catholic churches. Many of New York's wealthiest power brokers were Episcopalian and it was especially galling to them that the only cathedral in the city at the time--St. Patrick's--belonged to "the religion of many of their Irish servants" (Dolkart 2001, 37-38). The crescendo came in 1887, when Bishop Henry Codman Potter of the Episcopal Church declared a new Protestant cathedral would be built in Morningside Heights. In anticipation of the church's construction, Dwight Olmsted, a property owner in Morningside Heights, teamed up with fellow property owners to double the price of a 116th Street lot that the cathedral was considering, forcing its hand to buy a less attractive plot on 111st Street (Dolkart 2001, 40), the former location of the Leaks and Watt orphanage.

The plateau finally developed as the Episcopalians took ownership of the land from the orphanage, while the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum land was sold to the Episcopal-affiliated Columbia University in 1891. The availability of large land tracts, and increased transport links, made the area attractive to expanding institutions. Educational institutions soon followed in the footsteps of St. John the Divine, with other religious institutions not far behind. The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) set up at West 123rd Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway in 1902, The Union Theological Seminary (UTS), initially a Presbyterian organization that became non-denominational on their move to Morningside Heights, at 1twentieth Street west of Broadway in 1908, and multiple chapels in the academic community, including the non-denominational Milbank Memorial Chapel at Teachers College in 1897, and the Episcopal Saint Paul's Chapel at Columbia in 1907. The religious institutions moving to Morningside Heights competed for economic support from philanthropists. As a result, new or smaller religious organizations were pushed out to the surrounding neighborhoods, while the large institutions saw a notable power shift from the clergy to the wealthy patrons who would increasingly fund ambitious building projects.

Of the multi-faith larger religious institutions that followed, millions of dollars were expended by a wide range of community donors. Donors sometimes played a significant role in religious institutions, and often shaped the design of the churches whose construction they funded. In the case of Saint Paul's Chapel at Columbia University, sisters Olivia Egleston Phelps Stokes and Caroline Phelps Stokes demanded that their nephew Isaac

Newton Phelps Stokes be the architect in exchange for the $200,000 initial investment that eventually went in excess of $300,000. Similarly, Geraldyn and Estelle Livingston Redmond insisted that their nephews, the founders of the architectural firm of Cross and Cross, design the second and larger iteration of the Roman Catholic Church of Notre Dame. Some benefactors were notably more political in their dealings with the institutions they were funding. A $500,000 donation by J. D. Rockefeller Jr. to Saint John the Divine in 1925 in response to their call for a "great democratic Church" was qualified with a request to make the board non-denominational. While St. John the Divine accepted the donation, Bishop Manning subsequently rejected Rockefeller's stipulation. This led to a personal crusade by Rockefeller to embarrass Episcopalian conservatism in the media, and to complete an ecumenical church on Riverside Drive, at a cost in excess of $8,000,000 (Dolkart 2001, 70). Given the still unfinished state of the cathedral church of Saint John the Divine, Rockefeller proved emphatically the importance of a patron in large projects, and his work with Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick of UTS effectively spread the ecumenical word.

Most religious buildings in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville built during the early twentieth century were Christian; for three decades, the Jewish Theological Seminary was the only religious non-Christian building in the study area. Episcopalians and Roman Catholics dominated Manhattanville early congregations as the plateau development began in earnest.

The twentieth century saw, however, increasingly diverse denominations that included Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists, that all required their own place of worship. While Catholicism and Episcopalianism stayed mostly conservative, congregational protestants including Baptists and Methodists pressured ecumenism that culminated in J. D. Rockefeller Jr.'s Riverside Church in 1930 and later in 1958, the Interchurch Center, housing the National Council of Churches.

While many faiths remain unrepresented in the built environment, there was a significant increase in populations that practiced other Christian denominations, such as Baptist and Gospel, and Islam, after the 1940s. This coincided with shifting demographics in the neighborhood that resulted from broad urban patterns, including the postwar migration of middle-class White populations to suburbs. Before the late forties, the population of Morningside Heights had been constant at approximately 70,000 people, "almost entirely White, with large numbers of Irish and Jewish immigrants, and less than 1,000 Negroes," but by 1950, "the number of Negroes had increased to 6,671 and there were 6,552 Puerto Ricans." With this shift in ethnic profile, new religious buildings cropped up, especially in neighboring districts where real-estate was more inexpensive than in Morningside Heights proper. These include several mosques that were built in the 1950s and 1960s. The famed Mother A. M. E. Zion Church in Harlem further east built a satellite church at 475 Riverside Drive in the Interchurch Center after its opening in the late 1950s. Financial trials and tribulations saw the Westside Unitarian Church sell its 1921 meeting house at 550 West 110th Street to the Jewish Congregation Ramath Orah in 1942. The New York Buddhist Church also opened just south west of Columbia at 332 Riverside Drive.

With these shifting demographics, as mentioned before, concerns over increased crime rates and the physical deterioration of the neighborhood prompted the formation of Morningside Heights Inc., an alliance of institutions in Morningside Heights that included Riverside Church, Saint John the Divine, JTS, UTS, Corpus Christi, The Church of Notre Dame. While Morningside Heights Inc. participated in urban renewal projects that radically altered the study area, it also developed initiatives to serve the community, in which religious institutions took the lead. The mandate of these institutions was changing from one of expansion, funded by wealthy patrons, back to one of servicing the needs of the poor. Riverside Church, one of the more progressive churches, had set up the Social Service Committee in the 1930s to support employment during the depression, and worked alongside the Charity Organization Society, founded in 1882 in New York, tasked with raising living standards and fighting poverty in the community. At Saint John the Divine, the conscious decision by the Rt. Rev. Charles Gilbert in 1946 to halt construction to service greater needs in the community speaks to such tectonic shifts, while the final sanctioning of non-Episcopalians to the board in the 1970s signaled that the transformation to ecumenism longed for by more progressive personages in the 30s was finally complete at the only Anglican cathedral in the city.

The churches in the study area also actively engaged with political questions of the day, and some, notably Riverside Church, advocated progressive politics. In St. John the Divine, the pulpit was used to full marketing effect with the cathedral addressing McCarthyism and the Cold War. Moreover, both St. John the Divine and Riverside Church hosted Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1956 and 1967 respectively. In Riverside Church especially, the leadership was committed to preaching racial justice, but the church remained a predominantly White enclave that at times



ROCKEFELLER SEEKS UNION IN CATHEDRAL

Request That Other Protestants Be Made Trustees Is Refused by Bishop.

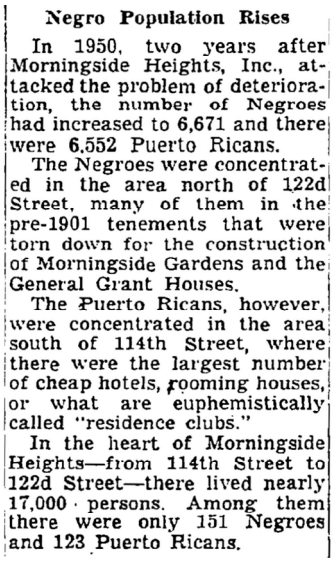
$500,000 GIFT UNAFFECTED

Time Not Yet Arrived for One Great Church Organization, Says Episcopal Prelate.

$6,756,678 NOW IN FUND

Workers Report Contributions of $188,703—Aviators Promise $20,000—Pledges Sought.

Source: New York Times, Feb 7, 1925



Negro Population Rises

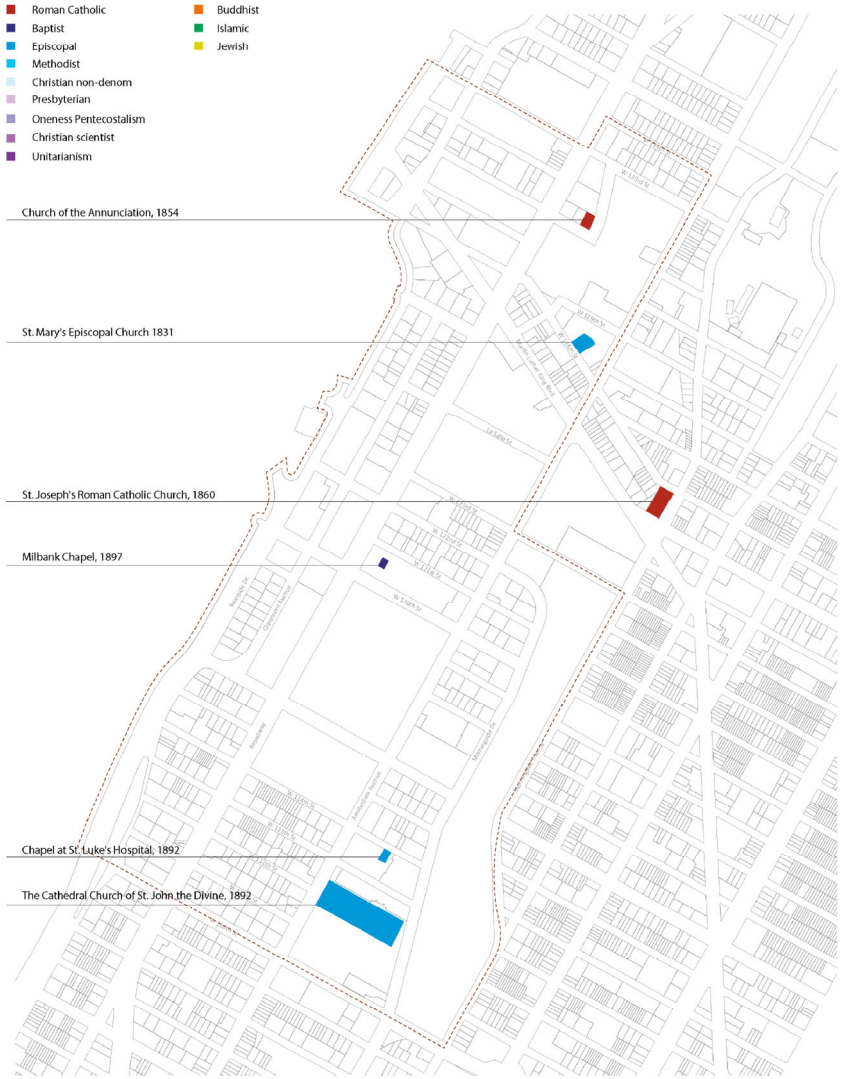
In 1950, two years after Morningside Heights, Inc., attacked the problem of deterioration, the number of Negroes had increased to 6,671 and there were 6,552 Puerto Ricans.

The Negroes were concentrated in the area north of 122d Street, many of them in the pre-1901 tenements that were torn down for the construction of Morningside Gardens and the General Grant Houses.

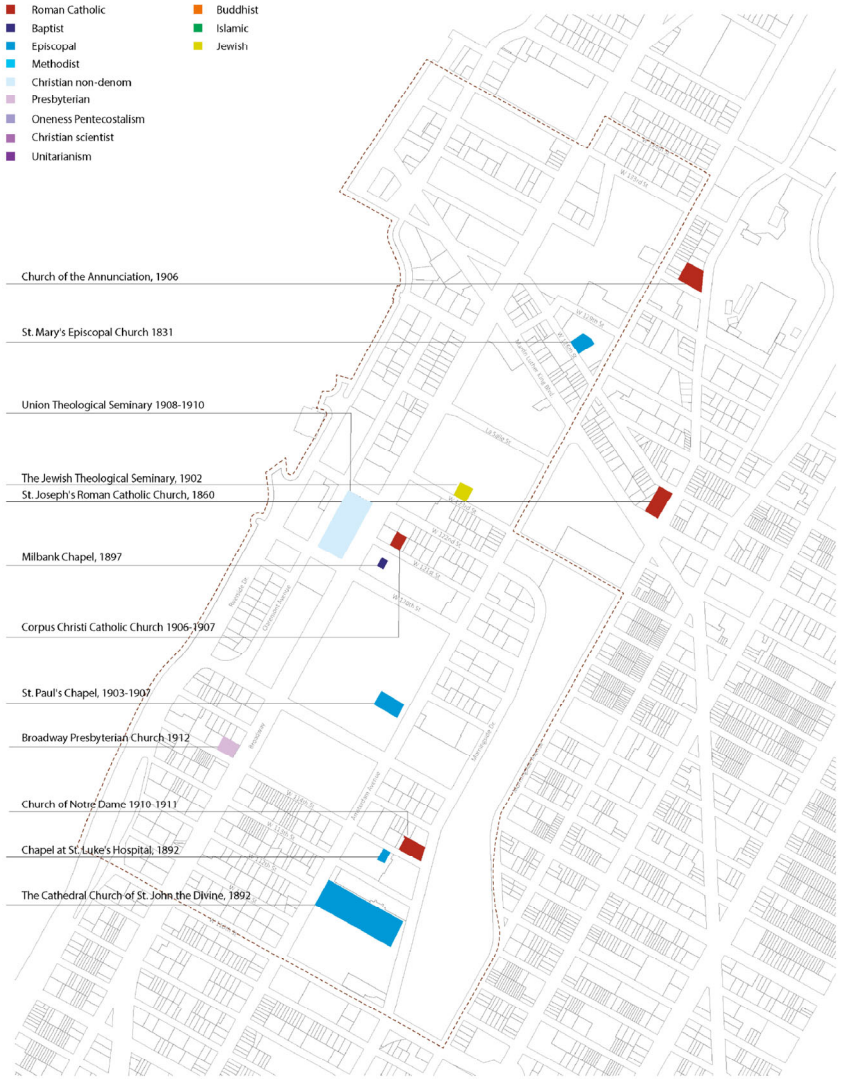
The Puerto Ricans, however, were concentrated in the area south of 114th Street, where there were the largest number of cheap hotels, rooming houses, or what are euphemistically called "residence clubs."

In the heart of Morningside Heights—from 114th Street to 122d Street—there lived nearly 17,000 persons. Among them there were only 151 Negroes and 123 Puerto Ricans.

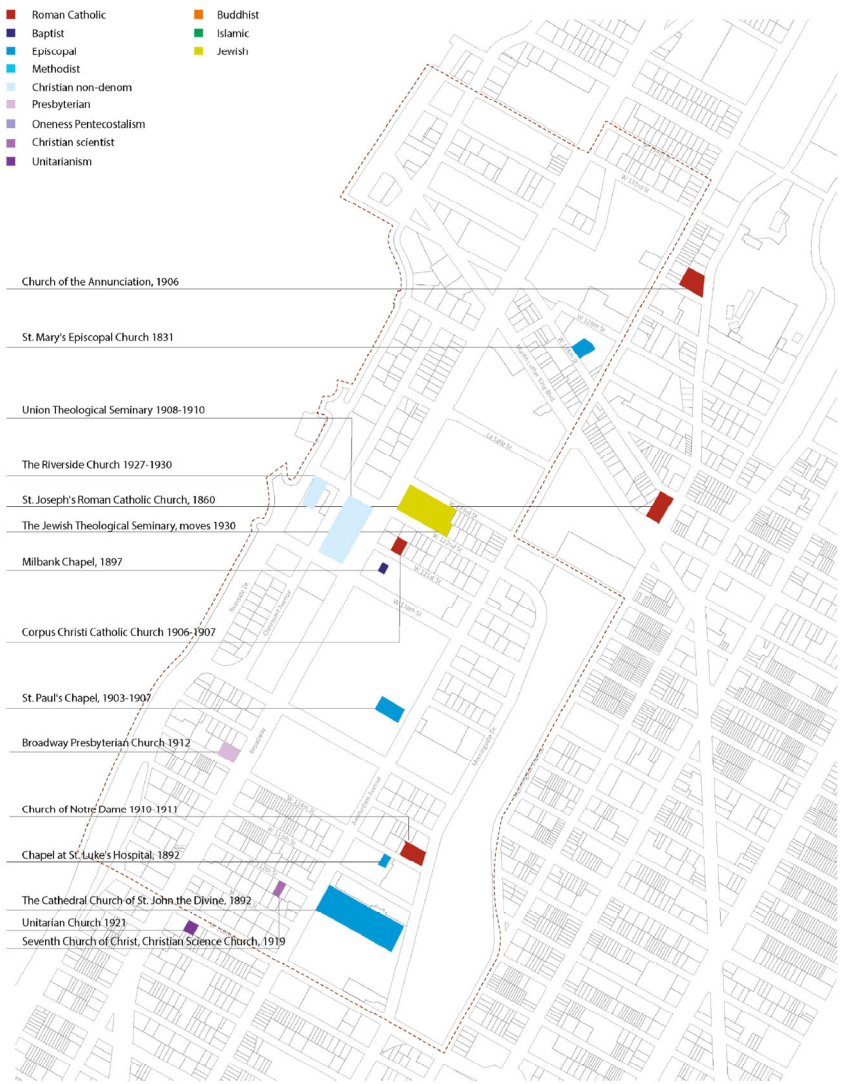
Source: Wayne Phillips, New York Times, "SLUMS ENGULFING COLUMBIA SECTION," June 9, 1958



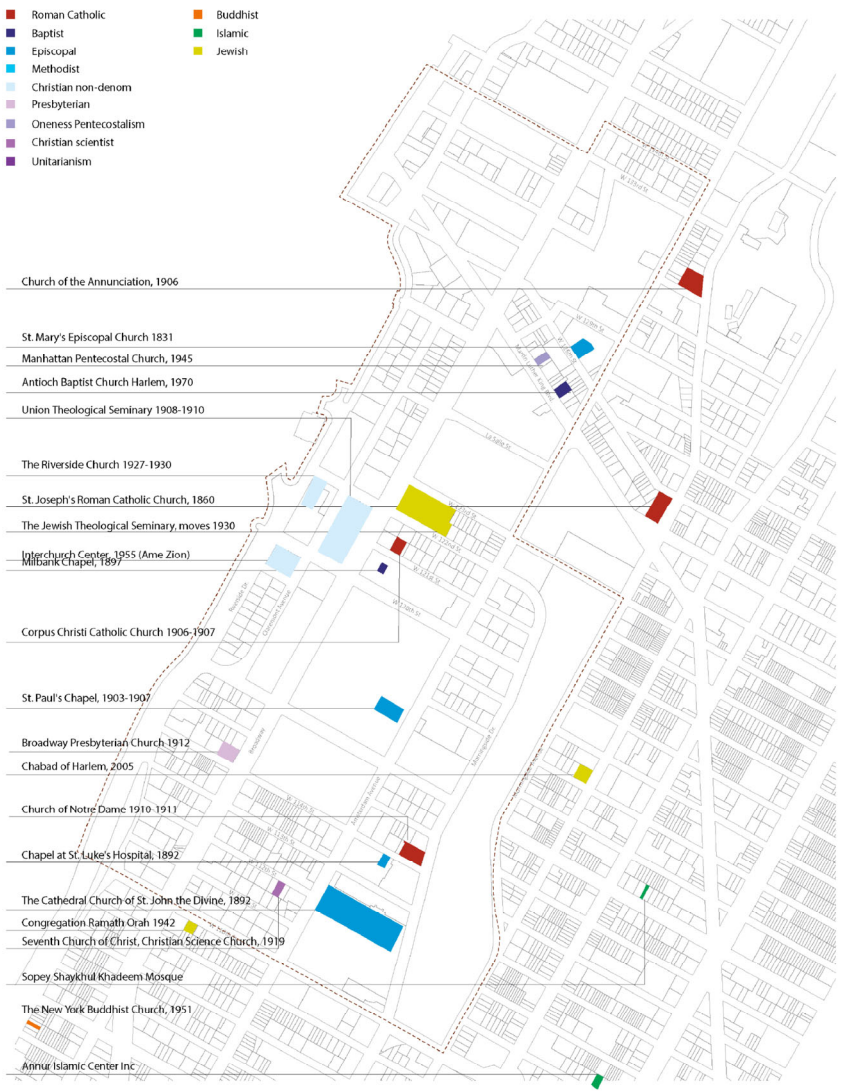
Map of religious institutions in Manhattanville and Morningside Heights neighborhoods, 1890s
Source: Prepared by James Churchill, Laura Garnier



Map of religious institutions in Manhattanville and Morningside Heights neighborhoods, 1910s
Source: Prepared by James Churchill, Laura Garnier



Map of religious institutions in Manhattanville and Morningside Heights neighbourhoods, 1930s
Source: Prepared by James Churchill, Laura Garnier



Map of religious institutions in Manhattanville and Morningside Heights neighborhoods, Contemporary
Source: Prepared by James Churchill, Laura Garnier

struggled to engage with neighboring communities of color. While the church supported the Church of All Nations in the Lower East Side and The United West Side Parish in Hell's Kitchen in the late 1950s, it had previously "shied away from associating itself with some Black and Hispanic churches" through refusal by the Benevolence Committee to give assistance to nearby churches in Harlem throughout the 1940s (Paris 2004). Riverside Church was caught off-guard as late as 1969 by James Forman's Black Manifesto that demanded more integration with the African-American congregation (Paris 2004). The church went on to develop a Black arts festival, gospel music and other program. But it seems somewhat ironic that the Black caucus intention was to develop strategies to rid the church of its racism -- the subject railed upon in sermons in the 1950s (McCracken 1954).

Saint John the Divine and Riverside Church were often less nimble than the smaller churches when it came to civil rights and serving minorities. The closing of the Hispanic-American Ministry in 1971 after just twelve years of operation indicated the difficulty Riverside Church faced in its attempts to integrate Spanish speakers in the congregation. In contrast, Saint Mary's Episcopal and the Church of Notre Dame, had been preaching in German, French and Spanish since their establishment, with the former offering their Ackley Community Center (later Manhattanville Neighborhood Center) to the Harlem Parents Committee and Freedom School for teaching African-American history. The Ackley Community Center was especially notable for becoming the location for the West Harlem Liberation School after Black and White parents boycott P.S. 125 and P.S. 36 over segregation.

Today religion and worship of Manhattanville and Morningside Heights is as cosmopolitan as New York City. The previously conservative Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine has an incredibly diverse and open door policy on multiple religious and social events, while the Interchurch Center (colloquially known in the neighborhood as the "God Box") is "home to over 70 organizations which represent community development, educational initiatives and inter-cultural and religious exchange" (Mayo). Saint Mary's Episcopal, remains a stalwart in the community and, despite its smaller size compared to the large institutions above, embraces an equally broad program that includes the Columbia-Harlem Homeless Medical Partnership, Zen meditation, a Women's Prayer Group, anonymous clinics, a soup kitchen, and sports. While the churches in the study area were largely founded by and for White middle-class Christian congregations, the services these institutions now perform speak to a more contemporary and inclusive time.

Physical and Mental Health

Andrés Álvarez-Dávila, Scott Goodwin

The evolution of healthcare and concern for public health have informed the development of the study area, leaving significant impressions on its built fabric. Since the nineteenth century, the establishment of large-scale healthcare medical and psychiatric institutions proceeded alongside the development of community hospitals and localized providers, extending care beyond the neighborhood to geographically dispersed communities defined by particular needs. In the latter half of the twentieth century, institutions collaborated to address local public health concerns through participation in urban renewal, and to redress a national health crisis through treatment, advocacy, and education. In recent years, institutional consolidation has continued to define the form and availability of healthcare. The history of physical and mental healthcare in the study area generally reflects the evolution of American healthcare from "the horse and buggy days" of family medicine, to a contemporary landscape of consolidated and specialized healthcare providers (McCastline 1942). But those processes unfolding at a national scale were inflected by context-specific conditions and events, giving unique character to the area's history of healthcare provision and its collection of associated built features. Existing institutional campuses, hospital buildings, and facilities, among other designed spaces in the study area, give witness to the structural changes in healthcare and notions of treatment--in addition to specific events--that influenced the area's development.

The earliest institutional provider of health services within the study area was New York Hospital's Bloomingdale Asylum, established on the Morningside Plateau in 1821. The asylum provided specialized care for patients with cognitive illness or disability, and was founded when overcrowding at the hospital's lower Manhattan facilities inspired a move north of the developed city. The Bloomingdale campus was designed in accordance with emerging theories about the humane treatment of mental illness, which emphasized the therapeutic effects of the natural environment (Eddy 1815). Its grounds contained walks, gardens, a greenhouse, and stables for the use of patients who were housed in a central pavilion, men's and women's lodges, or one of two residential halls for individuals of means. While asylum care spanned social classes early on, it catered to the affluent after a city-run asylum opened on Blackwell Island in 1839. Approaches to treatment, like diagnoses, varied (Earle 1845). Asylum operations were informed by the "retreat" model of institutionalization, of which Bloomingdale was an American pioneer. Despite its emphasis on salubrity of setting, pressure from real estate and political interests who viewed the asylum as a "blight" and a hindrance to development forced the asylum to relocate to White Plains, New York, after 1888 (Dolkart 1998). The asylum's siting and campus plan—reflections of contemporary ideas about mental health treatment—ultimately informed development patterns and the institutional character of Morningside Heights. The asylum's sole built remnant is Buell Hall (1884), currently in the middle of the Columbia University Morningside campus. That building, donated by William H. Macy to the Bloomingdale Asylum, originally housed wealthy male patients in an environment designed to simulate a home. It was moved from its original site at 116th Street to its present location in 1907. While original features like its verandas have been removed, it retains its nineteenth-century form, including several fireplaces.

At the turn of the century, Morningside Heights offered other health institutions an ideal setting far removed from congestion, pollution and rising real estate prices that increasingly plagued more urbanized parts of Manhattan. The first physical health institution to move to Morningside Heights was Saint Luke's Hospital. Founded in 1846 by the progressive Rev. William Augustus Muhlenberg, St. Luke's was one of the earliest attempts of the Episcopal Church to provide medical care to the sick and poor regardless of creed, fulfilling the needs of the new urban-industrial society at a time of increased immigration. The hospital was originally on Fifth Avenue and West 54th Street, but neighborhood development and facility decline compelled St. Luke's move north to Morningside Heights, where Ernest Flagg designed a modern medical campus in the French Renaissance style in 1896 (Figure 1). The design was at the forefront of hospital planning, with autonomous pavilions, built symmetrically around a central administrative building, which provided ample light and air to convalescent patients (Figure 2). By the turn of the century, the hospital had seen the expansion of charitable services and an increase in expenses resulting from extensive free healthcare with comparatively modest growth in funding (Flagg 1893). This growth prompted the construction of a pavilion in 1903 for paying patients. Although paying patients patronized St. Luke's during the nineteenth century, by the aughts they became essential underwriters of the hospital's charitable services (Dolkart 1998). Despite recurring financial troubles, St. Luke's continued to expand its facilities following the pattern set by Flagg during the first half of the twentieth century (Dolkart 1998, 85-96).

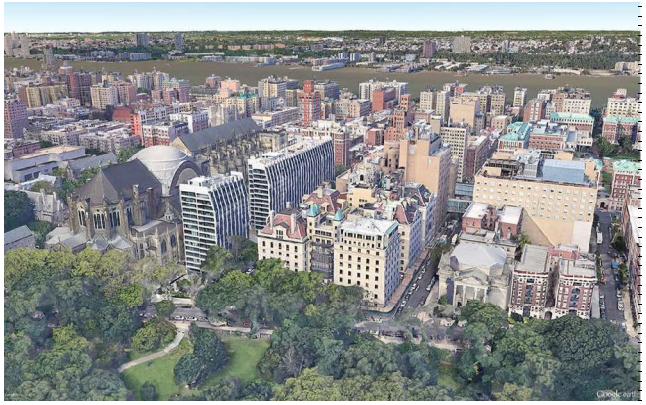
In 1906, Women's Hospital, the first hospital in America founded by and for women, joined St. Luke's in Morningside Heights, establishing itself on Cathedral Parkway. Its move was motivated similarly by a desire to



St. Luke's Hospital, 1904
Source: Museum of the City of New York, Irving Underhill, St. Luke's Hospital 1904, Dry collodion negative, 14 x 11 in.



St. Luke's Hospital, Norrie Pavilion, Men's Surgical Ward, 1900
Source: Museum of the City of New York, Byron Company, St. Luke's Hospital -- Norrie Pavilion 1900, Gelatin silver print, 10 x 8 in.



Google Earth aerial showing the St. Luke Hospital buildings in center
Source: CityRealty

establish a new modern facility outside the congestion of Midtown. The hospital was founded in 1855 by a group of society women at the insistence of the controversial father of modern gynecology, J. Marion Sims, primarily for the treatment of reproductive diseases (Goffe, 1918). During the nineteenth century, Sims had pioneered treatments through experimentation on enslaved African-American women; the midtown hospital gave Sims the opportunity to continue experiments on poor, mostly Irish, women, often without their consent and with minimal concern for their privacy (Crocker 2006, 105-126). At Morningside Heights, and after the ouster of Sims, the hospital continued its educational and research mission and provided surgical treatment to working-class women who suffered from chronic reproductive diseases, at reduced or no cost (Woman's Hospital in the State of New York). Thus, throughout its hundred year history the institution provided both specialized care for poor women, political agency to well-to-do ladies, and bore unfortunate witness to the violence inflicted on the bodies of marginalized women, facilitating the development of modern gynecology. Woman's Hospital's turn-of-the-century facilities are no longer extant; its operations would be absorbed by St. Luke's in coming decades.

In contrast to institutional development on Morningside Heights, the late nineteenth-century growth of manufacturing in Manhattanville generated a new localized need for general hospital services as industrial accidents and workplace injuries became increasingly common (Washington 2002, 48). In 1885, the Manhattan Dispensary Hospital, incorporated in 1862 for the treatment of Civil War injured, relocated to a modest three-story facility in Manhattanville at the corner of 131 Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Prior to St. Luke's Hospital's arrival to Morningside Heights, the Dispensary Hospital, renamed the J. Hood Wright Memorial Hospital in 1895, was the largest general hospital north of 99th Street (Washington 2002, 48). It provided medical care primarily to working-class and immigrant populations in its first decades (Annual Reports of J. Hood Wright Hospital 1902, 1903, 1904). In 1900, for example, 40 percent of the hospital's patients were Irish (Woolston 1909, 127). J. Hood Wright Hospital continued to function as a small-scale general hospital until relocating to a larger facility nearby in the 1920s, renamed the Knickerbocker Hospital. While the original J. Hood Wright Hospital building is no longer extant, the Knickerbocker Hospital still stands at 70 Convent Avenue.

Similarly to the J. Hood Wright Memorial Hospital, the growth of Columbia University created a need for community-specific health care at the turn of the twentieth century. Early health services at Columbia's Morningside campus extended solely to physical examinations and sports medicine under the Physical Education department. But in 1912, the University appointed its first independent Health and Sanitary Officer (McCastline, 1912). Although the office began as "essentially a first aid station," its impact on Columbia's built fabric was immediate (Wise 1949). The Health Officer worked to ventilate chemistry laboratories in Havemeyer Hall, and to install ice-chests in dining facilities, and water-basins in Kent Hall (McCastline 1914, 1915 and 1918). In the coming years, health services' spatial footprint grew to include operational infirmary and office spaces in Earl Hall, and by the 1940s, a men's infirmary in Casa Italiana, as well as men's and women's infirmaries in Johnson Hall, serving students from both Columbia and Barnard College. At the onset of WWII, the housing of Navy midshipmen in Johnson Hall motivated the relocation of the women's infirmary to 1161 Amsterdam Avenue, where it would stay into the 1950s (McCastline, 1942). By the 1940s, the health office provided a range of diagnostic medical and surgical services, as well as psychiatric care after the war, all at a reduced fee for Columbia students (Wise, 1945). But a view emerged within the administration that existing staffing and facilities were inadequate to meet the needs of the growing metropolitan university. The University entered into an agreement with St. Luke's Hospital to expand the University's Medical Office into a new St. Luke's-owned facility between 113th and 114th Streets, which it occupied in 1954 (Lowe, 1965). Columbia's medical school had in fact become affiliated with St Luke's in 1947 (Friedland).

Collaboration between Columbia University's health services and St. Luke's Hospital were indicative of a broader trend in healthcare practices and institutional operation during the 1940s and 1950s: namely, the expansion of medical services into more comprehensive community healthcare. By mid-century, the expansion of services offered by St. Luke's resulted in a slow process of modernization that entailed the demolition of early twentieth-century pavilions and the construction of new facilities (Dolkart, 1998). The evolution of St. Luke's into a modern medical campus not only altered the physical fabric of Amsterdam Avenue, it also directly affected neighboring institutions (Figure 3). In 1965, St. Luke's, seeking to expand into obstetrics, absorbed Women's Hospital, which had by then doubled in size (New York Times, 1950). The buildings on Cathedral Parkway were demolished in the mid-1970s after the obstetrics department moved to new facilities on St. Luke's campus, on Amsterdam between 114th and 115th. St. Luke's continued expanding its programs and facilities to meet

community needs through 1970s, and became well known for its research and medical innovations, including the first open heart surgery in New York City (West, 2010, 1139).

Ties between health institutions in Morningside Heights grew closer and were further formalized through the formation of Morningside Heights Inc. (later called Morningside Area Alliance) in 1947, which included Columbia University and St. Luke's Hospital among other major local institutions. Formed as part of a campaign for urban renewal, the Alliance's sought to promote "the improvement of Morningside Heights as an attractive, residential, educational, and cultural area" (Dyckman 1965, 3). Its members expanded services and community programs, and produced the controversial Morningside General Neighborhood Renewal Plan. Public health provided partial justification for slum clearance and large-scale residential displacement. The alliance identified numerous "hazards to health and safety, and to the general well-being of the community" (Dyckman, 1965, 16), which were echoed by the New York Housing and Redevelopment Board in its decision to condemn the area between 126th and 133rd Streets, and Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue, in part due to "substandard or insanitary" conditions (Dyckman, 1965). In support of urban renewal, the alliance also implemented new medical care programs through St. Luke's Hospital, and disseminated information about community health facilities and services as a matter of public interest. The mixed legacy of Morningside Inc. is expressed in the continued promotion of community health initiatives on the one hand, and in the design of Morningside Gardens and the Grant Houses, on the other. The latter redevelopment projects, informed by modernist notions of health and sanitation, displaced residents and reconfigured community boundaries; they continue to be a point of contention between alliance members and the community.

Cooperation among the study area's healthcare institutions extended beyond the urban renewal project of the Morningside Area Alliance in the second half of the twentieth century: St. Luke's and Columbia affiliates together tackled health crises of local and national import, including a high incidence of rape on Morningside Heights in the 1970s, and the AIDs crisis of the 1980s. In 1977, the Crime Victims Treatment Center, the first hospital-based treatment center for victims of domestic and sexual abuse in New York, was founded at St. Luke's (Venegas, 2014). It has since served as a model for similar programs around the country. Galvanized by the glaring lack of established hospital procedures for sexual violence response, psychiatric social worker Susan Xenarios, and the director of the emergency ward at St. Luke's, Mary Anderson, founded the center to provide medical, psychological and legal support to victims of sexual assault (Columbia Daily Spectator, 1977). From the onset, the program depended on the aid of volunteers, many from the Columbia and Barnard communities. The center currently has three locations across Manhattan, including one in the Emergency Medicine Department at St. Luke's Hospital on Amsterdam Avenue and 113th Street. Over the years, it has treated hundred of cases and increasingly takes an advocacy role through lobbying and education.

During the 1980s, one third of the cases of AIDS in New York were concentrated in the poor communities neighboring Columbia University (Columbia Daily Spectator, 1991). In response to the escalating crisis, health institutions in the area worked together to minister medical care, conduct research and improve education in northern Manhattan. At the time, the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital were at the forefront of AIDs research in New York (Columbia Daily Spectator, 1990, 8-9, 15). For Columbia especially, the public health crisis was a matter of acute concern. In 1985, the university had the nation's highest number of reported cases of AIDS among educational and research institutions (Columbia Daily Spectator, 1985, 11). By 1990, it was the only university to provide its students with full HIV treatment through campus health services. In conjunction with the Columbia Gay Health Advocacy Project (CGHAP), based in John Jay Hall, the university administered antibody testing, antiviral treatments, and peer counseling, in addition to providing advocacy and education (Columbia Daily Spectator, 1990, 3). Other organizations in Morningside Heights provided public health support. For instance, the Upper Manhattan Task Force on AIDS, a coalition of community-based social service agencies, was assembled in 1988 on 475 Riverside Drive to serve neighborhoods from the Upper West side to Inwood through education and public programming (Columbia Daily Spectator, 1991).

Increased cooperation across institutions and hospital consolidation have continued from the 1980s into the present with consequences for the provision of healthcare as well as for the built environment. Already, the rise of for-profit hospital networks have contributed to the decline of small operational hospitals, as exemplified in the closing of Knickerbocker Hospital in 1979. But these ongoing processes spell an uncertain future for the character of one of Morningside Heights earliest notable healthcare institutions: St. Luke's Hospital. In 2013, Continuum Health Partners, the hospital conglomerate that administers St. Luke's, merged with Mt. Sinai Health System to form

one of the largest healthcare networks in New York City (New York Times, 2012). Following that merger, five of the remaining Ernest Flagg buildings on the medical campus were sold to a real estate developer, and construction currently is underway to convert the former hospital facilities into apartments (New York Times, 2016). Prior to the sale, the Flagg pavilions were among the oldest extant hospital buildings in the neighborhood under the continuous possession of the institution that built them. This situation is symptomatic of the radical change that characterizes the history of healthcare over the past century.

Across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, medical and psychiatric institutions have had a primary role in shaping the availability and types of healthcare provided in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville for the benefit of local residents and the greater Manhattan community. While institutional foci varied, health and mental health services were extended to communities defined geographically, by specialized needs, or by common identity, including women, communities of disability, and the working classes. Although many of the spaces designed for, or dedicated to, healthcare in the study area are no longer extant, changing notions about treatment and public health are reflected in an array of property types in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville that span hospital campuses, buildings, and interiors, in addition to built environments that were shaped by historical concern for health or sanitation.

Transit, Mobility, and Access

Bingyu Lin, Huanlun Cheng

The early development of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville varied significantly due to the differences in transportation development. Before the eighteenth century, the only overland access to Morningside Heights was the Bloomingdale Road. Hampered by the area's lack of mass transit, rocky outcrops, uneven terrain, distance from lower Manhattan, and the reluctance of developers to invest in this area, development in Morningside Heights was slow for much of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In Manhattanville, however, the West Harlem Piers provided vital direct access to the waterfront and its services for residents and industries, which promoted residential and commercial development. Moreover, taking advantage of the Hudson River Railroad, which opened in 1851, Manhattanville became a bustling nexus of light industry in the early twentieth century. In 1904, the IRT line began operation, stimulating large-scale construction of residential apartments and institutional buildings in Morningside Heights. The subway transformed undeveloped areas into a prime middle-class residential district and finally connected the neighborhood seamlessly into the rest of the city. In 1936, Henry Hudson Parkway opened. Over the last few decades, transportation and access have not changed much in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. The subway, railroad, and the highway are still functioning. New forms of transportation, such as Citibike and the campus shuttle increased accessibility within the neighborhoods. In recent years, redevelopment plans for the railroad and piers have been proposed, with the goal of developing a better sense of community.

Evolution of the Streets and Blocks

In the seventeenth, eighteenth, and first years of the nineteenth century, the area comprising Manhattanville and Morningside Heights was a quiet rural region. It was far from the city at the southern tip of the island of Manhattan. Streets and building lots grew organically, with no overarching order (Museum of the New York City, n.d.). The only overland access to Morningside Heights was the Bloomingdale Road, which was completed in 1703 and connected the Upper West Side to Lower Manhattan (Dolkart, 1998; Percival, 2017).

The Commissioners Plan of 1811 imposed the streets into a rectangular grid pattern. In this plan, each east-west block was to be about 800 feet long and 200 feet deep. Lots were generally 25 feet wide, but could easily be split or merged to create narrower or wider building plots. (Dolkart, 1998) The upper Bloomingdale Road remained in use, however. In 1868, a wide street called the Boulevard (renamed Broadway in 1899) from West 59th Street to West 155th Street replaced Bloomingdale Road (Percival, 2017). The scenic parkway Riverside Drive, another important road, was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, of Central Park fame (Levine, 2019). It was to serve for "those out on a pleasure drive and would also be an access route to the villas that wealthy people were expected to build along the landscaped boulevard" (Dolkart, 1998). Primary construction of Riverside Drive and Riverside Park was completed in about 1910 (Percival, 2017).

Evolution of Transportation

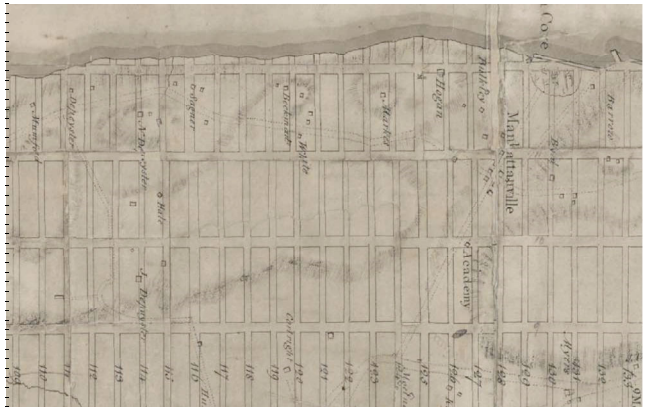
Water Transportation

Manhattanville, located in the valley between Morningside Heights and Washington Heights, was the home of the West Harlem Piers. The low-lying topography allowed for easy access to the Hudson River. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, this stretch of waterfront and, later, thepiers, provided important river access to Manhattanville for native peoples as well as non-native explorers and settlers. In 1806, Manhattanville was officially established by merchant Jacob Schieffelin (See Residential Development). Water transportation and the convenient distance of about eight miles to the city offered advantages to the development of Manhattanville (NYC Park, n.d.). The piers acted as a vital corridor for trade and travel. There was regular ferry service across the Hudson River from Manhattanville to New Jersey. Later, Manhattanville evolved into a prominent residential, manufacturing, and transportation hub. Improvements to the West Harlem Piers in 1899 made it also suitable as a dock for Catskill, Albany and Troy excursion boats. In 1903, the columns of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine were shipped from Maine by water and unloaded at the dock at West 135th Street (Dolkart, 1998).

The number of piers decreased in the early twentieth century. Under to Robert Moses' plan for Henry Hudson Parkway, shanty towns and old piers were removed for redevelopment in the 1930s. Today, the waterfront area of Manhattanville between St. Clair Place/125th Street and West 133rd Street is primarily occupied by storage facilities, auto-repair shops, gas stations, and parking lots. In 2008, a small park, together with bicycle lanes and a museum (Baylander IX-514, a Vietnam-era decommissioned U.S. Navy ship that was used to train helicopter pilots to land at sea and changed into a makeshift museum, DNAInfo) was built for the public by the New York City



Study area before Commissioners' Plan in 1811
Source: Museum of the City of New York
http://thegreatestgrid.mcny.org/greatest-grid/before-the-grid



Study area after Commissioners' Plan in 1811
Source: Museum of the City of New York
http://thegreatestgrid.mcny.org/greatest-grid/the-1811-plan

Stage 2

Transportation

The second part of the plan recommends transportation improvements, including an intermodal hub consisting of new transit stops and potential ferry landing, streetscape improvements along 125th Street, and roadway redesign.

Streetscape

To connect the upland to the water, streetscape improvements will help guide visitors down 125th Street. The improved aesthetics of the streetscape would send a clear signal to local entrepreneurs that West Harlem is ripe for redevelopment. Additional improvements could be made to the 125th Street subway structure, creating a clear view corridor to the water, and along 12th Avenue to encourage street-front retail and marketplace activities.

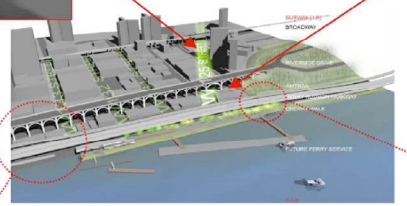
Intermodal Hub

As the area continues to grow, there should be a longer-term goal of improving public transportation access. In this regard, a hub of intermodal activity (i.e. multiple transit uses) is proposed. Bus lines would extend to Twelfth Avenue, and a bus turnaround at 125th Street would be integrated with the proposed 125th Street Metro-North stop. In addition, EDC will continue to coordinate with the appropriate agencies to pursue the option of ferry service from the excursion boat pier.

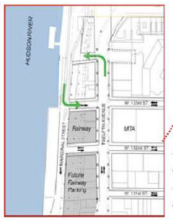


Widened sidewalks, new tree plantings, public street-art, and a possible bike lane will greatly enhance 125th Street.

Development of a potential MetroNorth stop at 125th Street would create a new core of pedestrian and commuter traffic. The MTA is currently investigating this option as part of the Penn Station Access Study.



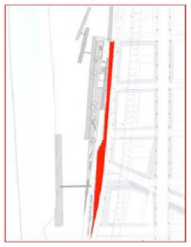




Changes to the Henry Hudson exit and entrances would substantially improve traffic safety.

Stage 2: Next Steps

1. Coordinate with CDOT to Implement Short-Term Traffic Improvements
2. Identify Funding ($7M) and Implement Streetscape Improvements on 125th St.
3. Coordinate with SDOT to Implement 11. 11. Parkway Ramp Improvements (~$8M)
4. Coordination with MTA for Intermodal (Rail and Bus) Improvements
5. Coordination with CDOT and Port Authority for Potential Ferry Service



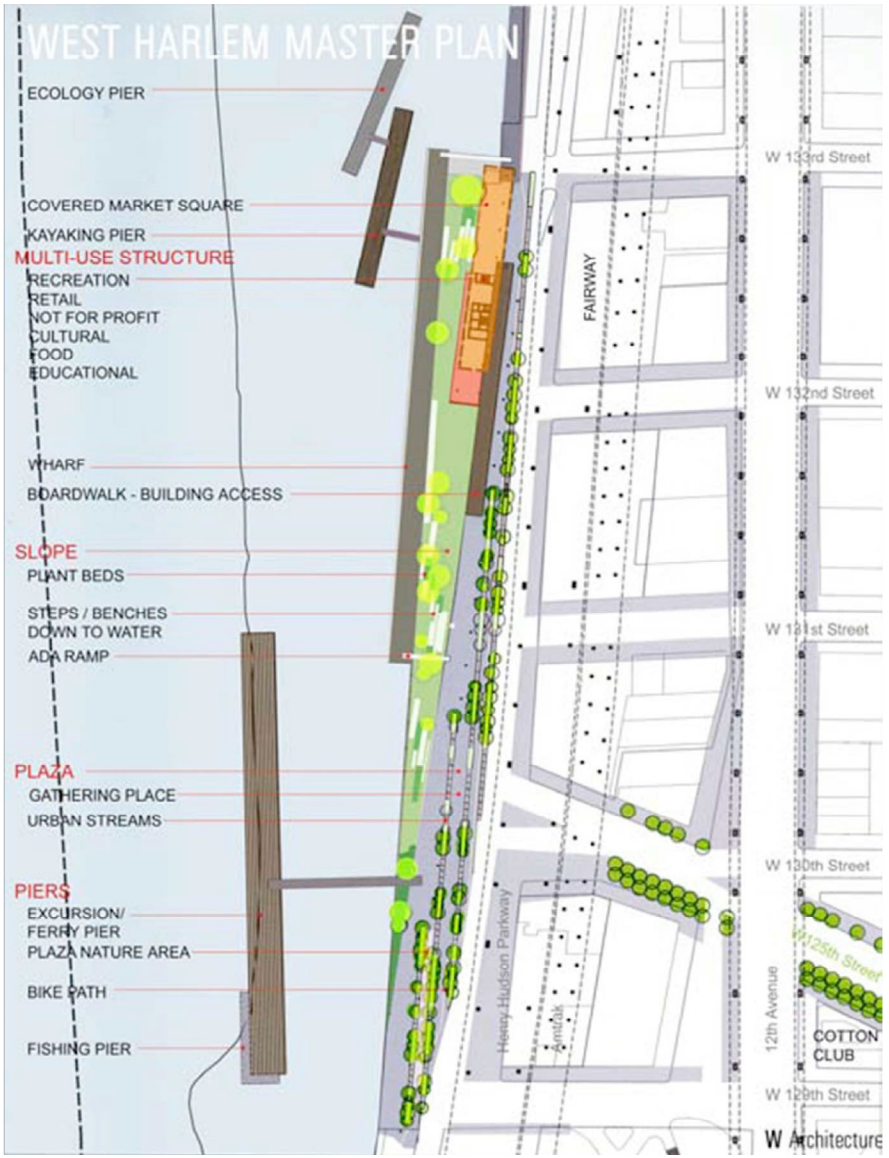
The area shown in red is the space that would be gained for public use by the short-term roadway improvements.

Roadway Redesign

Traffic from the Henry Hudson Parkway comes sweeping down onto Marginal Street. The challenge was to develop a traffic plan that would improve both traffic flow and pedestrian safety. After extensive traffic surveying, the study engineers developed a plan that would help to change the character of Marginal Way to serve the local neighborhood.

In the short term, the consultants recommend narrowing Marginal Way from four-lanes to two-lanes and using special paving to denote a local street. This short term action would narrow Marginal Street by 20,500 sq. ft., adding nearly a half-acre of area to the public waterfront. This area is shown in the diagram to the left.

The long-term concept calls for the reconfiguration of the Henry Hudson Parkway on- and off-ramps (see above). This vision would enable the partial closure of Marginal Way. Without the ramp changes, closure of Marginal Way would compromise traffic flow in the area, adding to congestion and queuing.



West Harlem Plan for new water front, including transportation and public amenities
Source: New York City Economic Development Corporation
http://neighbors.columbia.edu/pdf-files/Harlem_Piers.pdf

Economic Development Corporation. The plan NYCEDC proposed for a new waterfront was conceived in three stages, including the redevelopment of the waterfront, transportation, and upland development (NYCEDC). Stage 2 is now underway, while the detailed plan for transportation improvement, including landscape, lights, city bikes, street furniture, rehabilitation to railtrack and cobblestones, and artistic lighting for IRT line is still unclear.

Railroad

The Hudson River Railroad opened in 1851 and was one of the main lines of the New York Central Railroad. It connected New York and Boston in the east with Chicago and St. Louis to the west, along with the intermediate cities of Albany, Buffalo, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Detroit (James Kempster printing company, 1916). The railroad stop at 130th Street encouraged dairy companies, including the famous Sheffield Farms, Borden's, and the United States Dairy Products Company, to construct buildings and bring workers into the community. Manhattanville was increasingly absorbed by the growing city, becoming a rail cargo hub for dairy products, automotive works, meatpacking and other light industry (See Industry and Business). However, busy and noisy freight tracks had an impact on residential development in Morningside Heights. In the early twentieth century, the construction of the subway and road network gradually reduced the importance of the railroad in transportation; the track became a defining feature in forming the skyline.

The present-day Amtrak tunnel is part of the former New York Central Railroad and was constructed under Riverside Park. Designed in the 1930s to connect the west side of the city, the railroad was partially underground, while the northern section of the railroad was, like the highway, elevated. In the 1980s, the railroad was bought by Amtrak. But the right-of-way was abandoned for about ten years during the late 1990s, only to reopen in 2011 for freight trains. While it sat unused, the tunnel attracted homeless people, graffiti artists, and urban explorers, and its reopening displaced inhabitants (New York Times). Famous for reflecting social problems about the underworld of New York City, the tunnel was documented by authors of magazines, books and documentaries. "Tunnel People", "Mole People" and "Dark Days" all discussed the influence of the railroad underworld. The tunnel is now commonly named as Freedom Tunnel for the graffiti painted by Pape.

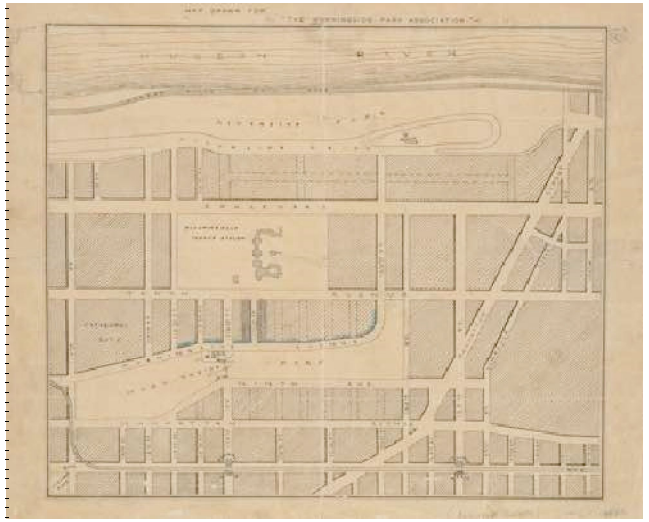
Subway

In 1904, the Interborough Rapid Transit Subway connected the undeveloped areas of the Upper West Side to Lower Manhattan. The subway line ran under Broadway; stations were located at West 104th, 110th, 116th, and Manhattan Avenue (now West 125th Street). (Hetrick, 1904) The subway was the key force in creating a residential neighborhood on Morningside Heights, making the neighborhood accessible and thus convenient to those who worked downtown. Furthermore, it raised land values and attracted developers to build apartment buildings in the undeveloped areas. (Dolkart, 1998)

The subway hasn't changed much since its construction in 1904. Due to the change in topography between Morningside and Washington Heights, the subway track between 122nd and 135th Street is elevated, culminating in the four-story 125th Street station. The elevated track allows space for traffic and ground-level parking below. The structure, subway tracks and station, designed by William B. Parsons and ornamented by Heins and La Farge have historical and architectural significance. The entire IRT Broadway line viaduct at 125th Street was designated as a landmark in 1981 by the LPC. The subway station, the same as West Harlem Piers, is also an important part of the West Harlem Redevelopment project and 125th Street Revitalization. (NYCEDC). It features as the core object of preservation in the redevelopment plan. While its formation served as a key factor in the transportation of Manhattanville, especially the elevated 125th Street station, there is space for improvement and further development for the community. There is no station between 116th and 125th Street, despite a distance of almost twice the length of that between 110th Street and 116th Street, making it difficult for the Manhattanville community to access the subway.

Highway

Henry Hudson Parkway was conceived as an extension of the West Side Highway. Robert Moses directed the master plan, with Emil H. Praeger as Chief Engineer and Clinton F. Loyd as Chief of Architectural Design. During the construction, several shanty towns and old piers were removed. When the parkway opened in 1936, it immediately became one of the most popular sites in the city, as thousands of drivers took in the magnificent views of the Hudson River and new West Side. (NYC Park, n.d.) The highway hasn't changed much in its eighty-year



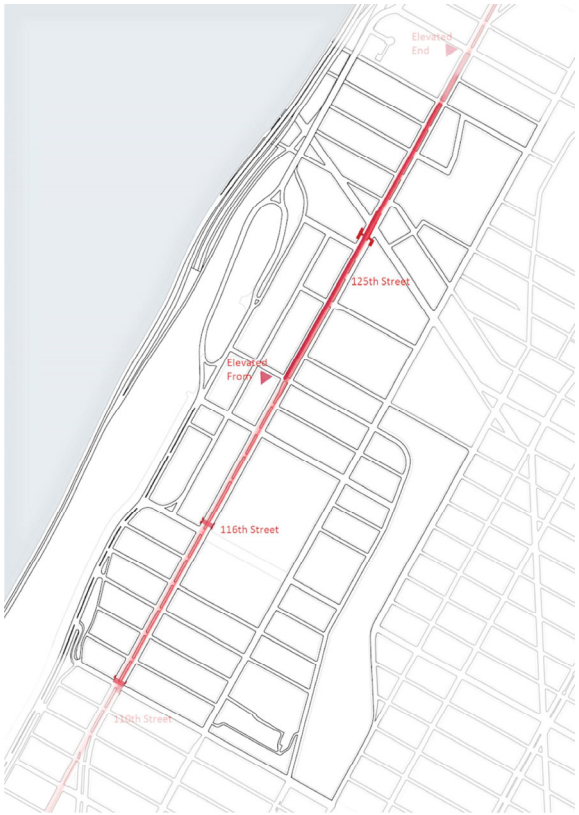
Morningside Park, 1870-73
Source: New York Public Library Digital Collections
https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/atlases-of-new-york-city#/?tab=navigation



Amtrak Tunnel under Riverside Park
Source: Photo credit to Kensnger, Nathan, Curbed New York



The red line showing on ground railroad track
Source: Prepared by Bingyu Lin and Huanlun Cheng



Subway station locations and lane
Source: Prepared by Bingyu Lin and Huanlun Cheng



Highway lanes and exit on 125th Street
Source: Prepared by Bingyu Lin and Huanlun Cheng

history and is still an essential part of local traffic patterns. The influence on the neighborhood is reflected by the hampering of access to waterfront parks and piers, with sole accessibility at the raised section of 125th Street, allowing a ground-level path.

Community and Campus

Roads

Bloomingdale Road was an important north-south avenue and was the progenitor of the diagonal pattern of roads still visible in the study area. While a portion remains in old Broadway, the major part of the original road was replaced by Broadway, Amsterdam Avenue, and Riverside Drive, conforming to the dominant rectilinear grid. The former two avenues play a dominant role in the roadway network. The cross directional pattern of the streets, together with the parkway on- and off-ramps, make the street pattern confusing and the traffic condition unfriendly to drivers.

Disabled Accessibility

The community agreement with Columbia University has improved street visibility in Manhattanville and enhanced accessibility for the disabled and elderly. A specific map for the Morningside Heights campus indicates inclusionary features for the disabled. There is no clear map showing this on a neighborhood scale, and this could be a crucial part of future work proposed by planners. A notable lack of facilities for the handicapped at both 116th and 125th Street subway stations likewise indicates the lack of inclusion in the Manhattanville community.

City Bike

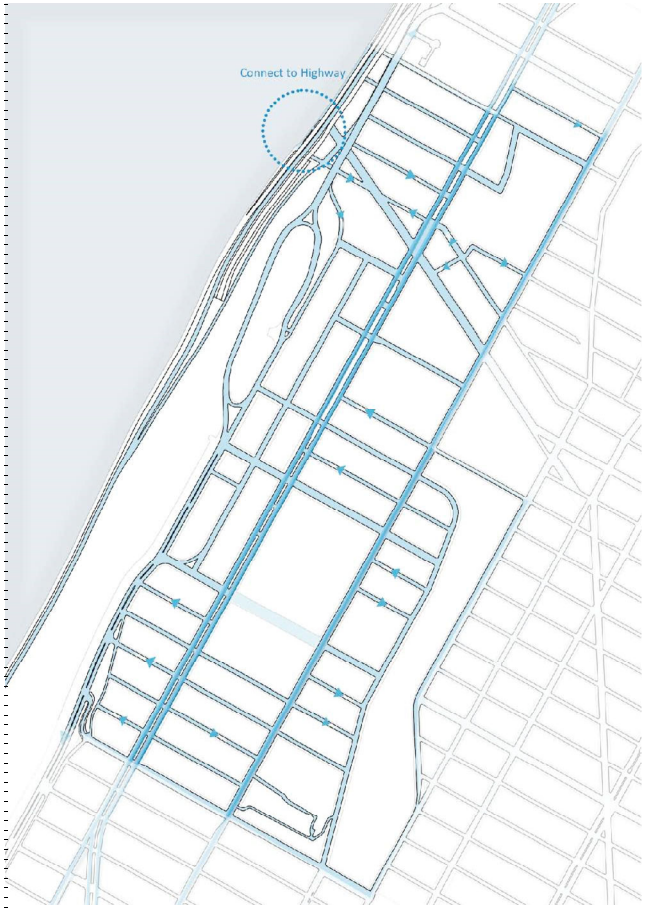
City Bike stops are spread rather evenly in this area, but there are fewer stops in the northern part of Manhattanville. There is potential here for more bike lanes and stops near the waterfront as the elevated track may attract cyclists. Cherry Walk, the part of Riverside Walk connecting 72nd Street to 158th Street named for the cherry trees from 110th Street to 125th Street, was added in the 1930s when the park was expanded. In 2001, a new greenway based on Cherry Walk was completed as part of several additional greenways in the city. This is evidence of the promotion of sustainable transportation and improved accessibility in recent years. However, problems still exist, with the Henry Hudson Parkway reducing accessibility of bicycle lanes near the waterfront. There is no exit for cyclists from 100th Street to 125th Street (NYC Park, n.d.).

Campus Shuttle

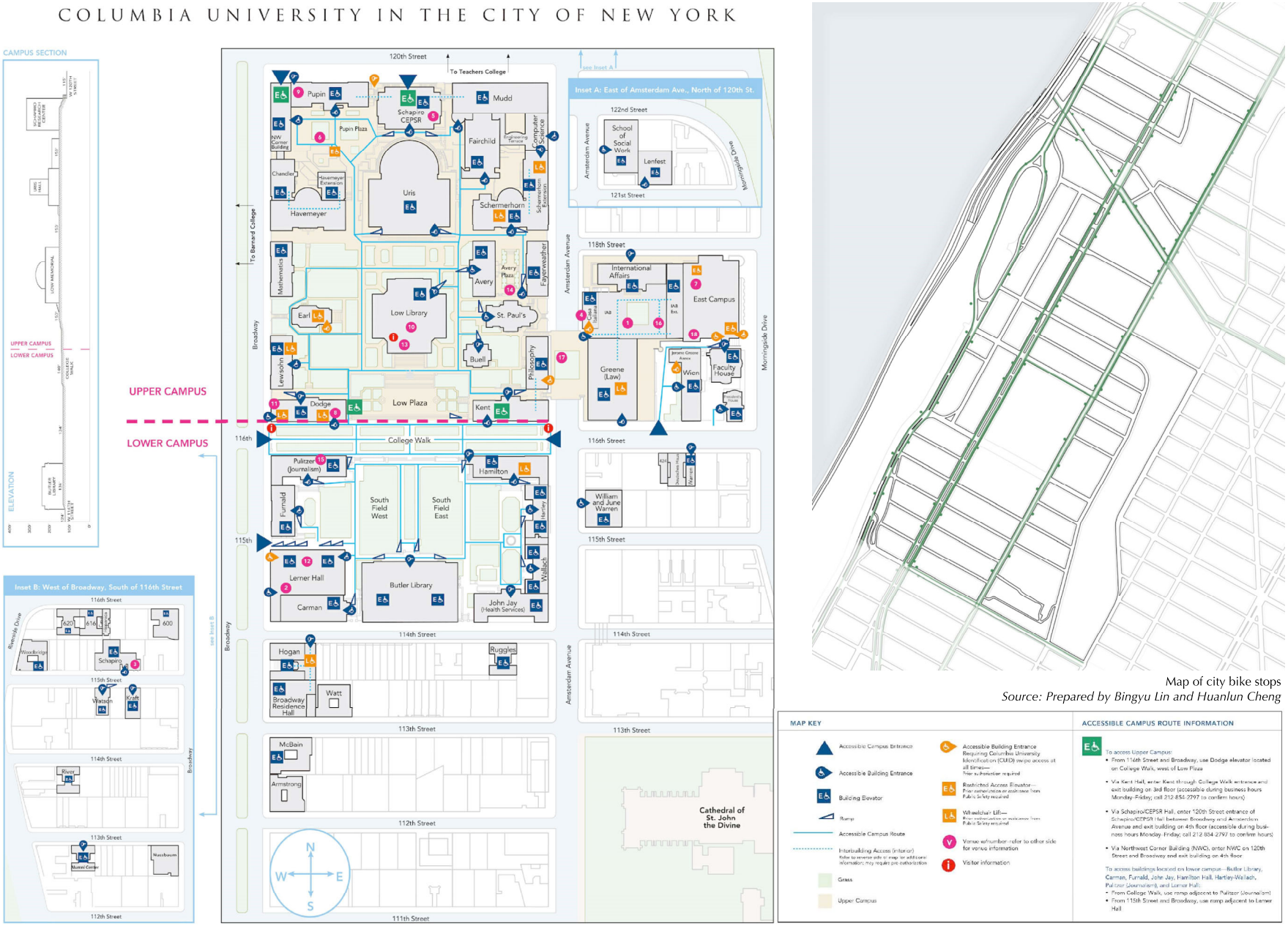
The design of the Manhattanville campus aims to follow the existing pattern of the community that was given form by the small-scale street grid. The new campus attempts to provide public access to both buildings and a future central park. The designers of the Manhattanville campus sought to create pedestrian-friendly streets by making setbacks at street level, and leaving wider sidewalks for pedestrians. While there is no physical link between the two campuses, the effective tie is made by the shuttle buses that travel between them. In addition to the three routes available, there is also a special Manhattanville Loop to connect the two. The Community Benefit Agreement enacted a shuttle bus service for the elderly and disabled and is listed for improving connectivity of the Manhattanville site to subway stations.

Transportation played an essential role in the development of Morningside Heights, Manhattanville and the expansion of the community. Most early forms of vital transportation are still in use today and remain influential on the landscape, notably the Henry Hudson Parkway and the IRT subway.

Developers and architects are working alongside Columbia University and the community, to propose a redevelopment plan based on its transportation needs. Newer methods of transportation such as city bike continue to help on a smaller scale. Subway and bikes are important for Manhattanville, while there is potential for redevelopment of the Freedom tunnel, subway stations and the remaining industrial buildings. Furthermore, the landscape underneath the elevated transportation infrastructure presents possibilities for a more pedestrian-friendly community.



Map of roads in the study area. Arrows show the direction of single-direction roads.
Source: Prepared by Bingyu Lin and Huanlun Cheng



Columbia's Disability Access Map
Source: Columbia University, http://www.columbia.edu/files/columbia/content/accessibilitymap2014.pdf

Map of city bike stops
Source: Prepared by Bingyu Lin and Huanlun Cheng



Section of Manhattanville Campus, buildings respond to elevated roads and subway station
Source: https://www.e-architect.co.uk/images/jpgs/new_york/columbia_university_rpbw211207_17.jpg

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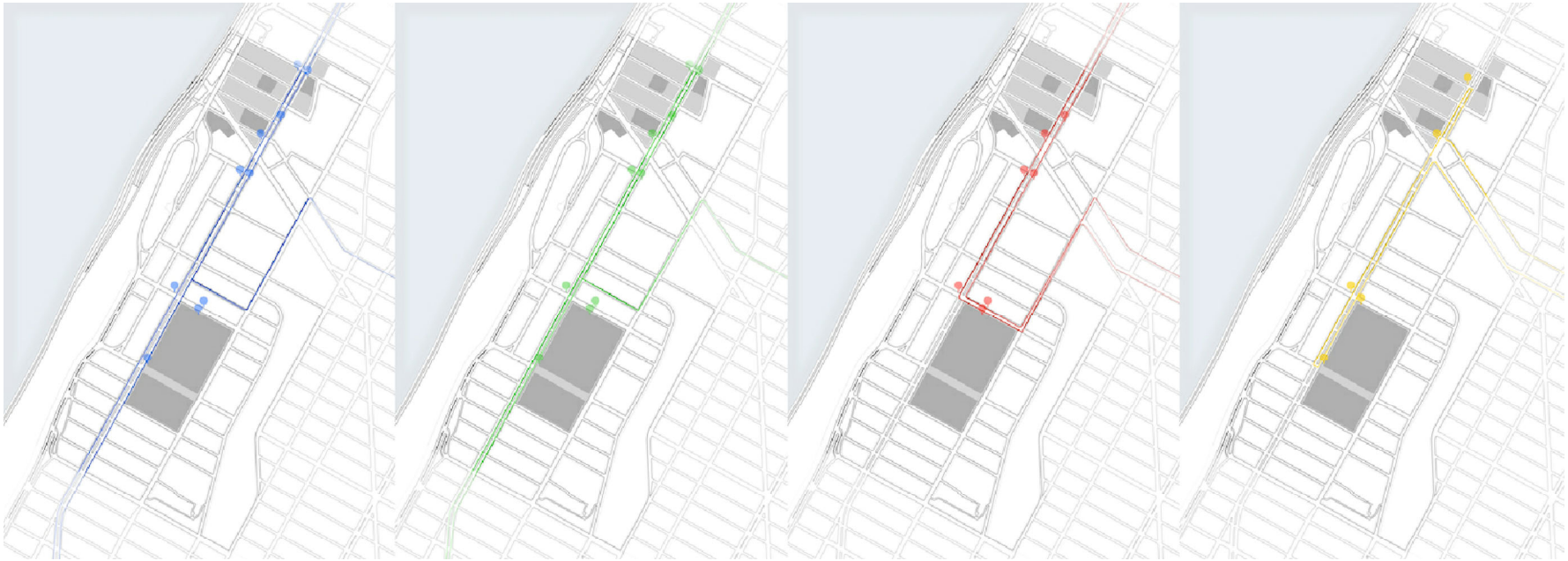


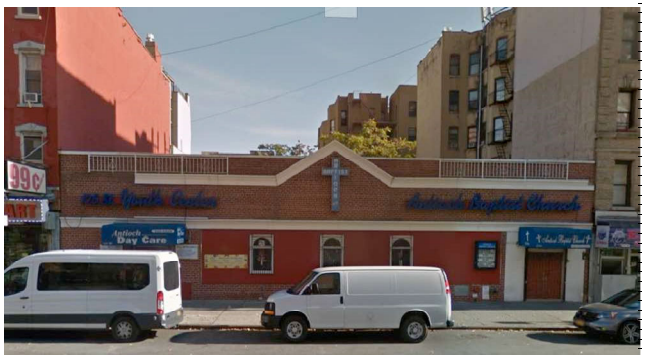
Maps of shuttle bus, Columbia University
Source: Prepared by Bingyu Lin and Huanlun Cheng

Industry and Business

Caitlin Rudin, Seo Jun Oh



515 West 125th Street in 1940s
Source: New York City Department of Records and Information Service



515 West 125th Street 2018 street view
Source: Google Maps

	Labor	Construc-tion	Trans-port	Manufac-ture	Trade	Profes-sions
Manhattanville .	11.5%	14.8%	16.4%	15.5%	17.5%	2.6%
Manhattan and Bronx	6.4%	5.9%	5.6%	29.7%	26.2%	5.8%

Comparison of occupations between Manhattanville and Manhattan and the Bronx
Source: Chart prepared by Woolston, 1909

Industry and business were important factors in the historic development of Manhattanville, as reflected in its built environment. This was less the case in Morningside Heights, the character of which was largely determined by factors that are covered in greater depth in other historic contexts, notably residential development. This report covers the broad historical patterns relating to the development of industry and business in the study area, takes stock of historically important industries, and ends with the current state of business in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville.

Manhattanville

Industry and business was introduced in Manhattanville in the early nineteenth century. By the time tenant farmers and workers first settled in Manhattanville in 1806, building lots were on sale for trade shops (Washington, 2002, 83). The 1821 record shows that "valuable manufactory for woolens, a number of grocery stores, and several mechanical branches of trade" were present in Manhattanville (Washington, 2002, 83). In 1839, Daniel Tiemann opened a paint manufacturing company in Manhattanville, which grew into a prominent enterprise in the neighborhood. By 1889, industries in Manhattanville were thriving and a number of entrepreneurs, including Daniel Tiemann, petitioned the Dock Commission to open more dock facilities in Manhattanville on the Hudson River (New York Times, 1889).

By the early twentieth Century, Manhattanville was a nexus of light industry on account of its access to transportation, including proximity to the docks and Hudson River Railway, and Manhattan and Lawrence Streets (now 125th and 126th Streets,) which connected the neighborhood to the city's main arteries. These convenient modes of transport were key to the development of industry in the neighborhood, which included Pitkin-Hordsworth Worsted Factory, Bernheimer and Schwartz Pilsner Brewery, Tieman Paint and Color Works, and Sheffield Farms Slawson-Decker Company.

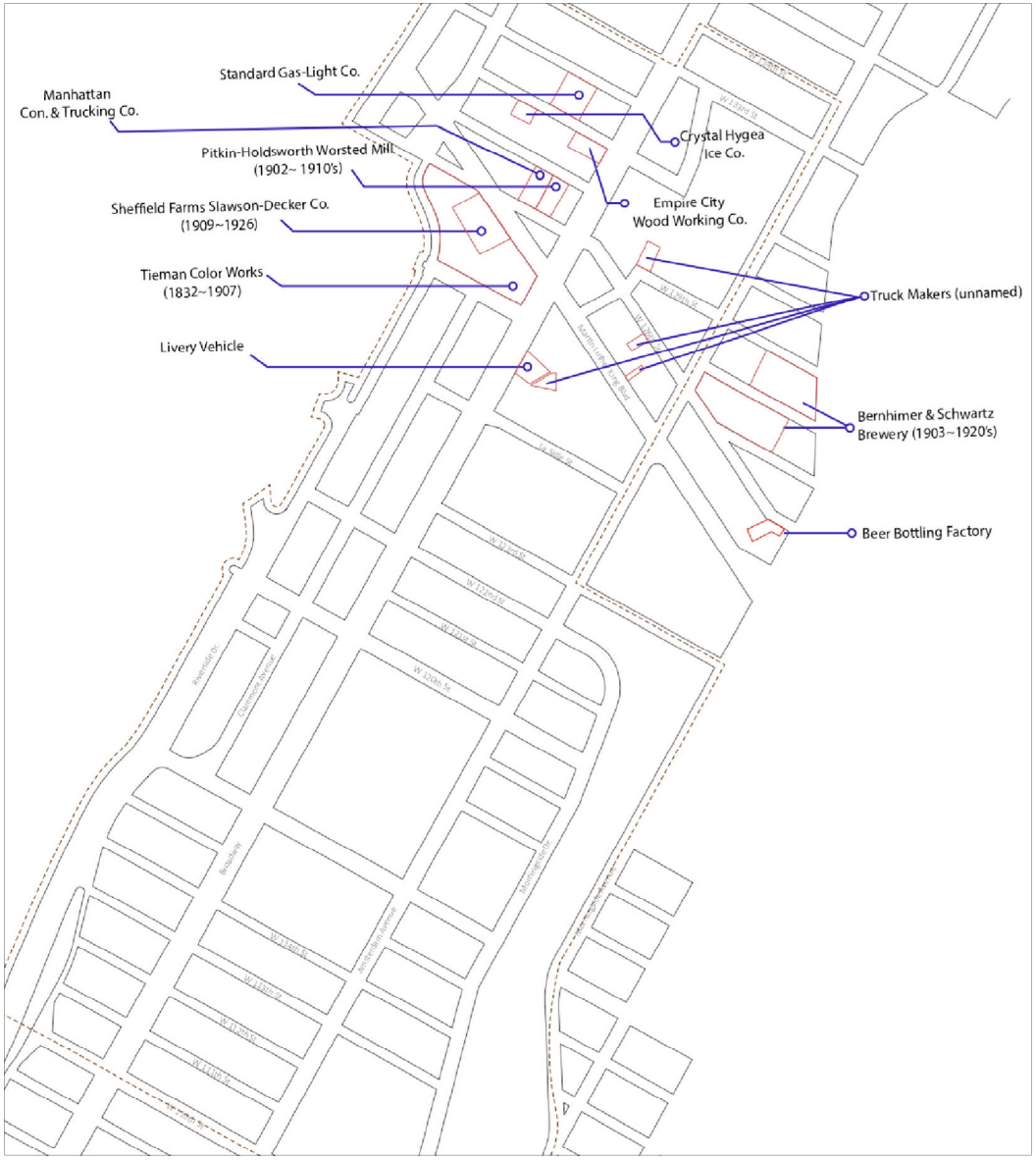
On the west side of the neighborhood, Worsted Factory employed more than 200 workers, while Sheffield Farm's milk plant hired 55 workers for their thriving business. (Burks, 1902; Department of Labor, 1913). On Amsterdam Avenue, Bernheimer and Schwartz Brewery employed more than 250 employees, and according to the New York Tribune, it was "one of the best brewery plants in equipment and one of the largest in size in this country." (Department of Labor, 1913; New York Tribune, 1903).

In addition to large factories, small-scale businesses specializing in automobile services thrived in the smaller buildings under the viaduct, bounded by Manhattan Street and Lawrence Street. 515 West 125th Street, now Antioch Baptist Church, is a remnant of these small-scale automobile industries. A comparison between a current photograph and the 1940 tax photograph shows the remains of a two-story brick building with two wide gateways that were designed for the entry of automobiles.

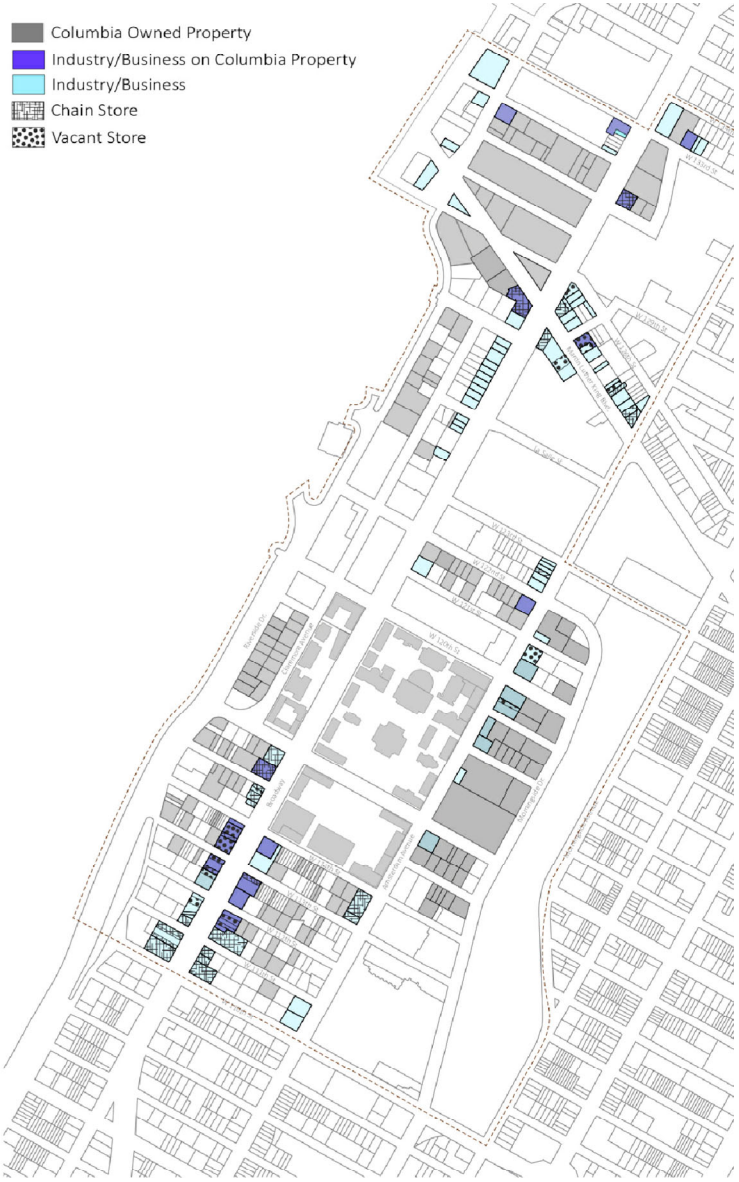
With the development of light industry, the occupation pattern of Manhattanville reflected the balance between unskilled labor and skilled manufacturers that was needed to operate these businesses. The docks and railroad guaranteed a constant influx of raw materials such as coal, building materials, grain, meat, and milk. Local industries including brewing, bottling, textiles, and iron working hired workers for construction and manufacturing jobs (Washington 2002). The 1909 study of the Manhattanville population shows that the percentage of people working in common labor (11.5 percent), construction (14.8 percent), and transportation (16.4 percent) in the neighborhood were significantly higher than in the entire borough of Manhattan and the Bronx (Woolston 1909). Conversely, the percentages of the Manhattanville population in manufacturing (15.5 percent), trade (17.5 percent), and professional roles (2.6 percent) were smaller than in the Manhattan and Bronx populations, which were 29.7 percent, 26.2 percent, and 5.8 percent, respectively.

Industry in Manhattanville began to decline in the beginning of 1930s. First, the stock market crash in 1929 and the Great Depression halted the robust growth of industry in the neighborhood, as elsewhere. Following the Great Depression, trucking replaced water and railway transport, making Manhattanville's location less advantageous for industry (Columbia University, n.d.). By the 1940s, many businesses in Manhattanville left the area as they no longer needed to process their products in the city. The impact of trucking is most visible in the dairy industry. As early as 1926, dairy companies began to replace horse-drawn wagons with ice-laden trucks (Straight, 2019). When refrigerated trucks became widely available in the 1940s, dairy companies no longer needed to pasteurize, bottle, and delivered their milk overnight. Without the need for a pasteurization plant and delivery stop-off points near the city, dairy companies quickly left the neighborhood (Columbia University, n.d.).

Morningside Heights, in contrast to Manhattanville, had little industry. The businesses were mostly small and



Map of industries in Manhattanville based on the 1912~1916 Sanborn Map; It shows that at least four truck makers ran businesses in blocks 1981 and 1982.
Source: New York Public Library Digital Collections, Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division



Map identifying Columbia-owned property, commercial establishments, chain stores, and vacancies in the study area
Source: Prepared by Caitlin Rudin and Seo Jun Oh

catered to the largely residential neighborhood. The construction of the IRT line in 1904 opened a floodgate for large-scale apartment development, alongside the construction of institutional buildings (Dolkart, 1998), which determined the character of neighborhood as a middle-class apartment district (LPC 2017). The 1940 New York City Tax Photo shows a series of storefronts along Broadway and Amsterdam Avenues that are dedicated exclusively to businesses that serve a residential neighborhood, such as laundries, pharmacies, groceries, and barbershops. (New York City Municipal Archive)

Notable Industries

Among the industries in the study area, Sheffield Farms Slawson-Decker Company deserves attention because it revolutionized the dairy industry by promoting pasteurized milk in the United States. Started in the Bronx with a single milk wagon, the company became one of the largest dairy companies in the world. In 1892 the company installed the first pasteurization machine in the United States [Might add a sentence here, or footnote, on Pasteur and when he invented the sterilization process] and opened a cutting-edge milk bottling plant at Manhattanville in 1909 (Columbia University, n.d.). Every night, raw milk from 30,000 individual farms was shipped to Manhattanville by train and was pasteurized and bottled at the Sheffield Farms bottling plant. By 1926, Sheffield Farms operated 2,000 routes, 300 shops in New York City, and controlled twenty percent of the city's milk supply (Columbia University, n.d.).

Until the late nineteenth century, fresh milk from healthy cows, sold at a price of 15 cents per quart, was a luxury only the wealthy could afford. Less expensive milk in the price range of 2~4 cents a quart was referred to as "swill milk," and was produced from cows fed on brewery waste (McNeur, 2014). This bacteria-infested milk contributed to a doubling of the rate of infant mortality between city and countryside (Columbia University, n.d.). A study shows that the infant mortality rate dropped 44 percent after the introduction of pasteurized milk. (Columbia University, n.d.). By bringing pasteurized commercial milk to the United States, Sheffield Farms contributed to the improvement of the quality of commercial milk as well as public health.

The legacy of Sheffield Farms is still felt today. Columbia purchased the Sheffield Farms bottling plant in 1946 and transformed it into the Computer Music Center (CMC). Opened in 1950, Columbia CMC is the oldest center for electroacoustic music in the United States (Columbia University n.d.). Later, Sheffield Farms became a subsidiary of National Dairy Products Corporation, later changing its name to Kraft. (National Park Service 2011, 4)

Another noteworthy industry in the study area was the automobile. Automobiles became widely available in the US during the 1920s, and a few large-scale automobile manufacturers were established in Manhattanville. In 1923, Studebaker Automobile Company constructed a finishing plant at 132nd Street and Broadway. The building was sold in 1937 to Borden Milk Company and used as a milk processing plant (Columbia University, n.d.). The building was later converted into space for warehouse, offices, and manufacturing facilities. The famous Madame Alexander Doll Company operated out of the old Studebaker building. In 2000, Columbia University purchased the building and it is now part of Columbia's Manhattanville campus.

The Nash building is another example of an automobile factory in Manhattanville. Built in 1927, the building was erected as a showroom and service center for Warren-Nash Motor Corporation. In 1943 the building became the substitute alloy materials laboratory for the Manhattan Project (Strausbaugh, 2018). Columbia University purchased the building in 2007 and transformed it into offices and exhibition space.

The West Market Diner, formerly found on the corner of West 131st Street and 12th Avenue, was an integral part of the community from 1921 to 2003. Sold to Columbia University as part of the Manhattanville campus, it was removed to a safe site in 2011 for restoration as part of the community agreement. Originally known as Gibbs Diner, the structure began life as a J.P. Tierney timber wagon cart - the first producer to introduce tiling and restrooms to the diner typology. Its wooden barrel vault structure was cut back to make way for an added stainless steel Mountain View Diner in 1948, and was mostly lost as a result. Significant from a historical and cultural standpoint, the West Market Diner is a reminder of the entrepreneurial spirit of the American immigrant, while acting as a central meeting place and low-priced food establishment for blue collar workers and the community operating in the various commercial and industrial businesses around Manhattanville.

Current Businesses

The following observations are based on research and a field survey conducted on February 4, 2019. In Manhattanville, large-scale factory buildings have, for the most part, been acquired by Columbia and converted

into offices or classrooms. However, there is a concentration of auto body shops, mechanics, and other businesses related to the auto industry remaining in the northernmost part of Manhattanville. These businesses are especially concentrated along 133rd, 134th Streets and Marginal Street. The large number of auto-related businesses that remain appear not to be chain affiliated, and could be legacy businesses, evidence of the earlier predominance of the auto industry in the neighborhood.

The 125th Street corridor between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue can be described as densely commercial on the northern side of the street, with a majority of small mom-and-pop businesses. On our walk, we observed people on the street speaking English and Spanish in about equal amounts, and conclude that the businesses located on this corridor serve the Latino population of the neighborhood. This is also reflected in the names of the businesses, many of them in Spanish.

The buildings along the west side of Amsterdam Avenue in our study area are largely residential or Columbia-owned institutional buildings. More commercial buildings not owned by Columbia line the east side of Amsterdam. To the west on Broadway, Columbia owns almost all of the buildings between 112th Street and 123rd Street. The majority of the commercial properties in this stretch are mom-and-pop establishments, and half of the storefronts currently sit vacant.

The chain establishments in Columbia-owned buildings in Morningside Heights are all food service related, such as Shake Shack, Starbucks, and Sweetgreen. Presumably, they are the exception to Columbia's "no chain" policy because they fulfill the need for fast dining options for Columbia students and faculty. The percentage of chain stores spikes below 112th Street in non-Columbia-owned buildings. Interestingly, on Broadway between 123rd Street and 125th Street, sixteen businesses that are not chains line the avenue. None of these properties are owned by Columbia, and there are no commercial vacancies in this stretch.

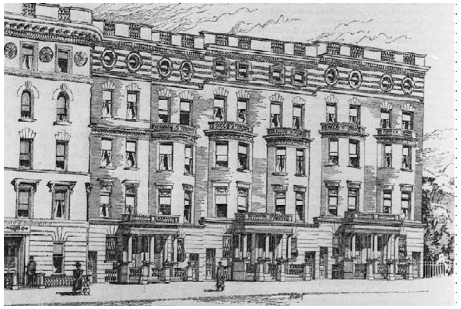
West of Broadway and near the Hudson River, several large industrial buildings still stand. These buildings have been acquired by Columbia or are operating auto or food-related businesses. The area is not densely commercial like 125th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam; rather, a few large buildings dominate each block. The concentration of a variety of mixed use buildings between Broadway and Amsterdam may be explained by access to transportation. The buildings appear to be residential with storefronts on the ground level. It is possible the buildings were constructed as residences for the employees of the industries that operated a couple of blocks to the West and South. The commercial density on the 125th Street corridor can also be attributed to the public transportation options. A Citi Bike station and M104 bus stop at Amsterdam Avenue, Bx14 Bus at Old Broadway, and the 1 subway line at Broadway make the businesses very publicly accessible and contribute to high foot traffic in the area.

Residential Development

Mariana Ávila Flynn, Yu Song



1920 view looks west down 125th Street
Source: New York Public Library



Neville & Bagge's design for rowhouses at 425-435 West 117th Street and a small apartment house at 437 West 117th Street (later Teachers College Hall), 1895
Source: Real Estate Record and Builders Guide, 1909



619-627 West 113th Street (C.P.H, Gilbert, 1897), 1937
Source: Office for Metropolitan History

Morningside Heights and Manhattanville share Broadway as their main artery. Residential development in both areas was a crucial aspect in the consolidation of their urban fabric and communities, and was closely tied to institutional, infrastructural and industrial expansion, primarily during the early twentieth century. These distinct neighborhoods bear witness to the social and historical forces that shaped their residential architecture.
During the seventeenth and eighteenth century, the area known today as Morningside Heights was a quiet, rural region peppered with cottages, farmhouse, and the odd riverside mansion (Dolkart 1998, 275). In contrast, Manhattanville had already been populated by settlers arrived from the Dutch village of New Harlem on the other side of the island (Woolston 1909, 16).

The official establishment of Manhattanville was in 1806 by merchant Jacob Schieffelin. By 1823 the town had fifteen dwellings, and during the same year, Schieffelin laid out the village in plots along six streets. Two of these transverse lanes remain, Martin Luther King Blvd (West 125th Street, formerly Manhattan Street) and West 126th Street (formerly Lawrence Street) (Woolston 1909, 23).

Manhattanville was an industrial area from its early years. Consequently, a significant part of its housing stock developed as dwellings and tenement buildings for immigrant workers and their families. By the beginning of the twentieth century, Manhattanville was becoming a crowded area in which almost 80 percent of the population lived in multi-family homes (Woolston 1909, 36). In 1904 sixty-four old dwellings were demolished to make room for more capacious buildings, and in 1905 fifty-seven new apartment houses arose along the southern border of the neighborhood (Woolston 1909, 36). In addition, the 1904 subway opening represented a crucial moment in Manhattanville's housing development. Expanded transportation in the area attracted real estate interests, which found the land profitable for developing primarily working-class housing. Manhattanville underwent a boom in construction (Washington, February 2019).

In contrast to Manhattanville, Morningside Heights began to take shape as an institutional neighborhood after the relocation of the Bloomingdale Asylum, which allowed the establishment of organizations such as Teachers College, Columbia University, and St. Luke's Hospital. Institutional presence increased the land value, concurrent with the establishment of an early residential community. In March of 1889, an auction of 98 lots was held by the governors of New York Hospital (Dolkart, 1998, 276). In order to assure high prices on the lands, the governors restricted the types of residences that could be erected on the lots in the following twenty years (Dolkart, 1998, 276). Even though the auction was a success, residential construction did not begin until a few years later, with the erection of the first rowhouse in 1891 (Dolkart, 1998, 277).

During the following years, several speculative row house projects appeared in Morningside Heights. Most of them were developed by David T. and Carrie S. Kennedy, and Neville and Bagge, mainly in the Neo-Renaissance style. The development of these projects was successful enough to encourage investment in additional buildings between 1895 and 1899, made promising by the growth of communities affiliated with the local institutions. Probably, the most noteworthy and sophisticated row house project of this era was that designed by C.P.H Gilbert (Dolkart, 1998, 282).

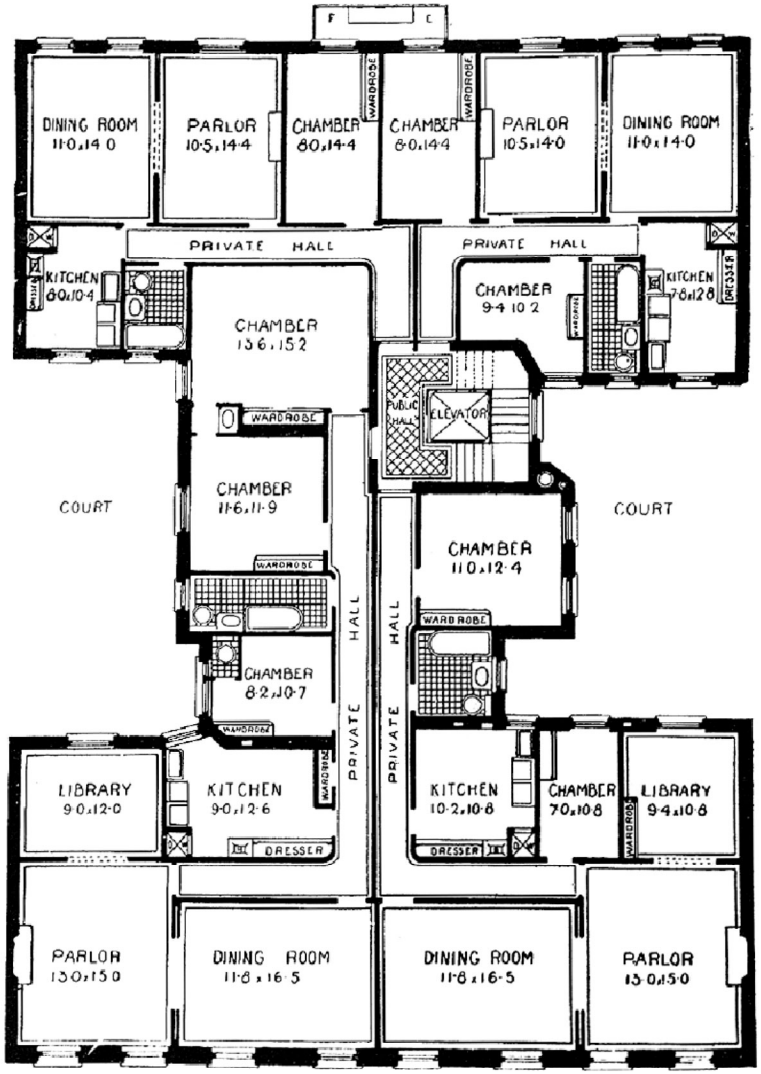
Nevertheless, there were several row houses erected on Morningside Heights during the late 1890s that remained vacant for years because of the still isolated nature of the area. Sales were slow, leading in some cases to the loss of the builder's investments (Dolkart, 1998, 284).

While housing continued to be built in Morningside Heights during the last decade of the nineteenth century, residential development did not take off in earnest until the construction of the subway in 1904, which connected Morningside Heights to the rest of the city (Dolkart, 1998, 290). Apartment buildings such as the Blennerhassett, Mira Mar, or the Colosseum, exemplified the type of constructions that proliferated on the plateau during the first decade of the twentieth century. In addition to the expected use of fine materials and detailed facades, the apartment building designs followed the rules promulgated in the New York State Legislature's Tenement House Act of 1901. The Act stipulated adequate light and air in every room of every apartment through windows that opened onto the street, the rear yard, or a light court. The law further required that buildings cover no more than 70 percent of their lot area (Dolkart 1998, 303). Taking into consideration that the architects could manipulate the shape of the building and the arrangement of the open space, the result was a wide variety of "footprints" as evinced in G.W Bromley's Atlas of 1911 (Bromley, 1911).

Meanwhile, Manhattanville housing was also shaped by the requirements of the Tenement House Act of 1901. Of the buildings constructed around this time, Emery Roth's Whitestone, built in 1909, at 609 West 127th Street, now 45 Tiemann place, is a significant example (Washington, 2002, 117) However, in contrast to



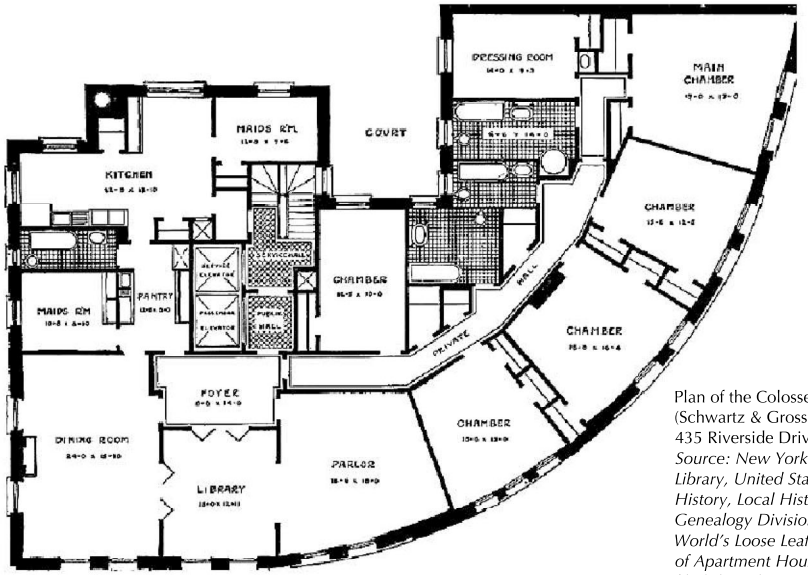
1904 Blennerhasset, 507 West 111th Street
Source: Office for Metropolitan History, American Architect 96 (December 22, 1909), 262



Plan of the Blennerhasset (George F. Pelham,1903), 507 West 111th Street
Source: Columbia University Archives (Avery Library), Apartment Houses of the Metropolis (New York: G. C. Hesselgren, 1908), p.226

Colosseum (Schwartz & Gross), 435 Riverside Drive, c. 1911
Source: National Building Museum, Copyright to Richard Wurts

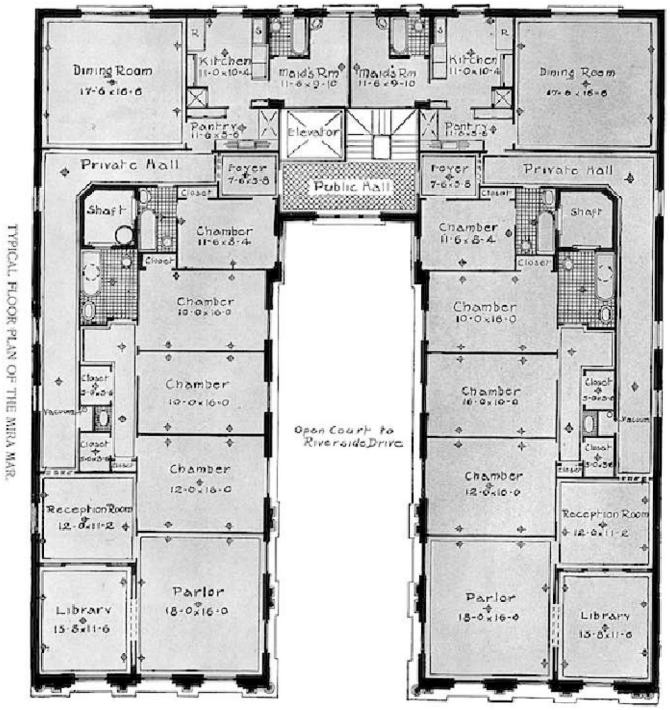




Plan of the Colosseum (Schwartz & Gross,1910), 435 Riverside Drive
Source: New York Public Library, United States History, Local History and Genealogy Division, The World's Loose Leaf Album of Apartment Houses (1910), p. 132

1912 Mira Mar, 452 Riverside Drive
Source: Architecture and Building 44 (December 1912), 491





Plan of the Mira Mar (Gaetan Ajello, 1909), 452 Riverside Drive
Source: New York Public Library, United States History, Local History and Genealogy Division, The World's Loose Leaf Album of Apartment Houses (1910), p. 132

Morningside Heights, which became an upper-middle-class neighborhood, development in Manhattanville kept responding to growing industries, including breweries, garages, coal yards, and milk-pasteurizing-and-bottling facilities (Leadon 2018).

By 1930 most of the land in both had been developed, and the architectural and social character of both neighborhoods had already coalesced. However, the character of Morningside Heights drastically changed during the Great Depression and World War II, which brought financial problems to owners and tenants. This situation notoriously affected building appearance and apartment configuration. Firstly, tenants affected by the Depression could no longer pay rents for large apartments, which resulted in some owners subdividing apartments to maintain fully occupied buildings. Some owners converted their buildings into single room occupancy hotels (SROs) by dividing apartments into small, single-room units with shared bathrooms and kitchens (Dolkart 1998, 328). Some of these buildings started to house prostitutes, drug addicts, and criminals.

The deterioration of Morningside Heights was also a consequence of growing suburbanization. After World War II, during "the era of the packed suitcase," Whites were incentivized by the federal government to leave cities for suburbs. As a consequence of these trends, Puerto Ricans and African Americans rapidly replaced the middle-class population in the tenements and apartments that had become SROs in Morningside Heights (Carriere, 2011, 11). The rise of immigrant and more indigent populations also coincided with health and sanitary code violations because of increasingly crowded housing units. In addition, crime increased in Morningside Heights, generating tensions among the various communities and between the poor residents and surrounding institutions (Dolkart, 1998, 329).

Even though the transformation of Morningside Plateau towards the mid-twentieth century resulted in evident neighborhood deterioration, Manhattanville was beset by even more problems. Increases in the population, brought on by the development of transportation systems resulted in a "helter-skelter growth" of ill-designed tenements, factories, automobile service stations, and shops in which 45,000 persons lived in severely overcrowded units. The area eventually became known as "tragically underprivileged" (New York Times, 1947). Living conditions were poor; tenement buildings were dilapidated, rat-infested, and short of plumbing and ventilation, which compromised public health.

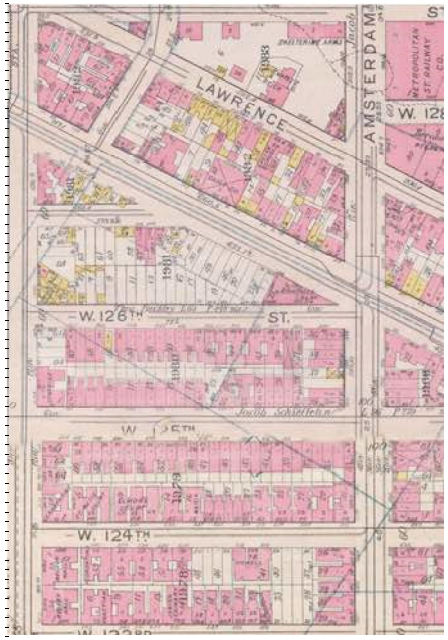
Redlining practices reveal perceptions of Manhattanville area and its population. Redlining was first instituted in 1930 by the Home Owners Loan Association, a Federal New Deal program. As part of this initiative, maps were created to determine creditworthiness and risk across cities nationwide; race was an explicit factor in grading. The area descriptors made this correlation apparent: predominantly "Negro" areas, such as West Harlem and Manhattanville were redlined, meaning they were deemed "hazardous," while areas such as Morningside Heights, and Riverside Drive, which did not have "Negro" populations were deemed "still desirable" (Nelson et al. n.d.).

The situation of the surrounding residential community soon became a major concern for the institutions of Morningside Heights, which held enormous investments in property and infrastructure and feared that they would have difficulty attracting students, faculty, and staff. As a consequence, in 1947 fourteen major institutions formed a coalition known as Morningside Heights Inc. (MHI) to develop strategies to improve living conditions in the neighborhood.

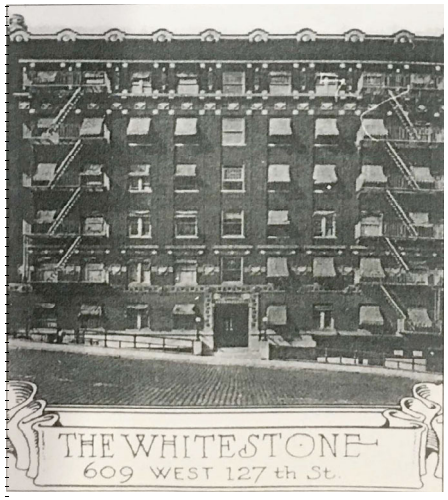
After studying the area's housing stock and demographics, MHI concluded that "nothing short of substantial rebuilding along the northern and southern border of Morningside Heights would assure the maintenance of the community in keeping with the interests of the local institutions." Through Rockefeller's pressure, Robert Moses, who was the chairman of the mayor's Committee on Slum Clearance Plans, agreed to support MHI under the condition of building new housing on "honest to goodness slum land" ideal. MHI set its sights on Manhattanville as an area that could fulfill Moses' requirement (Leadon, 2018).

MHI centered its attention in two square blocks on the east side of Broadway between 123rd Street and LaSalle Streets as the possible site for a middle-income housing project for employees of the institutions. The site consisted of 71 buildings on about 10 acres. Sixty-four of the buildings were five-story "old-law" tenements that predated the city's housing act of 1901. Even though these blocks were not in the worst conditions, MHI saw the site as an opportunity to secure the support of the Housing Authority and Moses. MHI was ready to tear down entire blocks, even if it meant displacing the largely African American and Puerto Rican population living in the tenements of the area. (Philips, 1958).

MHI formed its own real-estate arm, and with Moses's support, announced on October 1st of 1951 the construction of a Title I middle-income house called Morningside Gardens which would be erected on the



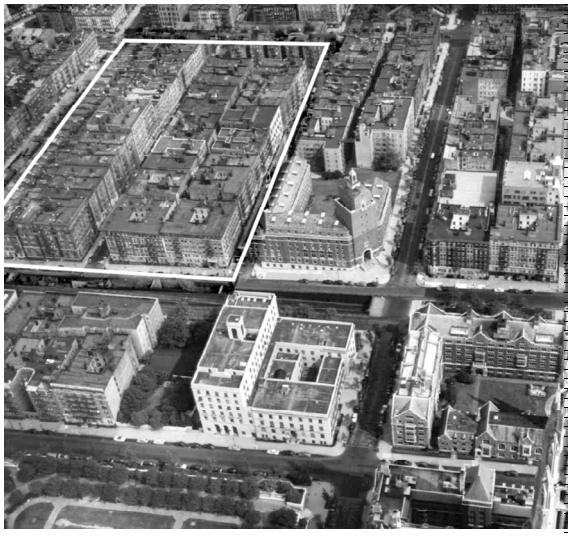
1911 Zoom showing the different footprints and land occupation
Source: New York Public Library, Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, George W. and Walter S. Bromley, Atlas of The City of New York, 1927



The Whitestone by Emery Roth, 609 West 127th St (now 45 Tiemann Place) c. 1909. A newspaper advertisement described the new Whitestone as "one of the richest ornaments to a neighborhood full of fine, high-class apartment houses."
Source: Columbia University Archives (Avery Library), Andrew Alpern Collection



Manhattanville and Morningside Heights Condition
Source: "Mapping Inequality" American Panorama



Urban density in the twentieth century
Source: Beatrice Gottlieb, The Historical Background of Morningside Gardens 2008, "Morningside Gardens 50th anniversary, 1957-2007" --T.p. verso.

Manhattanville site. The project was made possible by the National Housing Act of 1949, which stated that every American deserves a "decent home and suitable living environment" (Muzio, 2009, 118). The Act proved controversial in the nation's cities as federal funds were used mainly for "slum clearance" and replacing tenements with open spaces and isolated high-rising towers (Muzio, 2009, 118). These newly created campuses, or "superblocks," made no attempt to conform to the urban-grid street pattern and channeled modernist design orthodoxy based on the ideas of Le Corbusier (Gottlieb, 2008, 11).

The announcement of Morningside Gardens' construction resulted in the formation of the Save Our Homes committee, which protested the forced displacement of residents and argued that the purpose of urban renewal was to get "Negroes and Puerto Ricans out of the neighborhood" (Samuels, 1955). In response, Bernard Weinberg of MHI said that the redevelopment was to decongest the area, and that it was natural for some people to be hurt in order to generate a good for the community (Leadon, 2018). The Minister Emeritus of the Riverside Church stated that the whole community was interracial as well as all the institutions, arguing for the possibility of having honest-to-goodness non-segregated interracial housing (Bartlett, 1953). Another concern for Save Our Homes was the lack of low-income housing for the neighborhood, and as a response, the New York City Housing Authority announced plans to build a federally-funded low-income project called General Ulysses S. Grant Houses, north of Morningside Gardens. The complex was to house 1,900 low-income families in ten high-rise slabs designed by Eggers and Higgins (Dolkart, 1998, 331). In order to further mollify Save Our Homes, MHI promised displaced residents first preference apartments in Morningside Gardens, while second preference would go to institutional members and employees. Those who couldn't afford Morningside Gardens would be housed in Grant Houses (Leadon, 2018). The outcomes, however, were not well-balanced. When the projects were completed in 1957 Morningside Gardens' first residents were 75 percent White, 20 percent Black, 4 percent Asian, and 1 percent Puerto Rican (Dolkart, 1998, 322). At Grant Houses, the residents were 51 percent Black, 38 percent Puerto Rican, 11 percent non-Puerto Rican White (Dolkart 1998, 322). Although both projects sought to relieve deterioration in the area, they were also seen as a ploy to prevent Harlem from encroaching on Morningside Heights (Gare 1999).

During 1960's more strategies for the improvement of the area arose. In 1964 the "General Neighborhood Renewal Plan" called for razing slums and rehabilitating buildings. Institutions started to buy and redevelop SROs and other buildings. Columbia University became the biggest owner in the area by acquiring more than one-hundred buildings during the 1950's and 1960's. By transforming the buildings either into dormitories or other usages, the institutions hoped to ameliorate poor living conditions and improve safety around campus (Bradley, 2008, 104). This redevelopment resulted in the displacement of 15,000 people between 1960 and 1980 (Fuentes 1986).

While intended to improve the area, the "General Neighborhood Renewal" plan brought protests from the community. For Morningside Heights residents, it represented increasing racial and class segregation rather than integration, by forcing long-time tenants out of salvageable buildings and relocating them to inferior housing in the outer boroughs (Muzio, 2009, 122). Organized groups resisted the plan by refusing to leave the buildings. Some students, mainly Latinos from Columbia University and Barnard College supported this activist movement. In the end, protests did not entirely succeed. Although schools have buffered the neighborhood from the crime and infused it with cultural amenities, the battles over space and housing resulted in Columbia's being perceived as insensitive to its neighbors (McKinley, New York Times, 1987). This struggle against urban renewal persuaded neighboring communities of the urgent need for community education and long term grassroots organizing (Manuel Ortiz, August 2006).

In 2003 Columbia, embarked on its first significant expansion project in 75 years, on land north of 125th Street in Manhattanville that it had acquired over the preceding forty years. The university argued that it had outgrown its Morningside Heights Campus. Renzo Piano Building Workshop and SOM made the masterplan design for developing an academic and residential mixed-use project, intended to be more accessible and integrated into the community than the Morningside Heights campus. However, by 2011 the expansion had resulted in increased higher real-estate prices in Manhattanville and surrounding neighborhoods, which could result in the potential displacement of the current communities. Columbia's expansion strategy intends to generate integration, and it is essential to understand the needs of each neighborhood while acknowledging that their proximity can offer opportunities for inclusive proposals that acknowledge their histories and seek to erase physical and social barriers.

Columbia Ownership and Expansion

Erin Murphy, Micah Tichenor

The Acropolis: Morningside Heights Campus

Columbia's 1893 move to the Morningside plateau from downtown was motivated by a need for expansion (Dolkart 1998). The chosen site for expansion was the location of New York Hospital's Bloomingdale Asylum, which was an attractive option due to its location within the city and to the asylum's existing buildings. The site allowed for phased development of university buildings while still providing classroom space (Dolkart 1998). McKim, Mead and White, prolific New York architects, were chosen to plan the campus, which was bounded by Broadway and Amsterdam Avenues between 116th and 1twentieth streets. The architects designed the campus as four courts centered on a monumental library, with a plaza serving as a dramatic approach. This was intended to be a space that was open to the neighborhood by leaving 116th Street open to traffic and pedestrians.

Since Columbia University's arrival to the Morningside Heights neighborhood, land acquisition has been a priority in the institution's development. This initial land purchase from New York Hospital did not include the South Field, which was bounded by Broadway and Amsterdam between 114th and 116th streets. The institutional presence of Columbia University, Teachers College, Bloomingdale Asylum (who still owned South Field), and St. Luke's Hospital brought a high land value that was attractive to developers. In 1897, Columbia affiliated with Teachers College and Barnard College, expanding the university's influence to the north and west of the original campus.

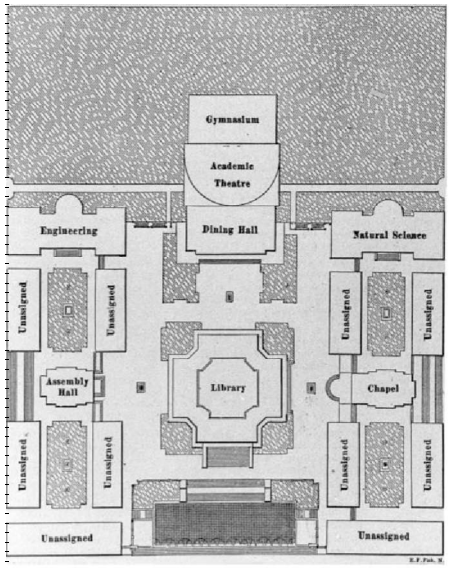
Within the first decade of Columbia's presence in Morningside Heights, few residences were constructed in the immediate area surrounding the campus. Lack of housing was an issue for Columbia students and faculty in the early years of the Morningside Heights campus. Under Seth Low, the first university president at the new campus, Columbia intended for students to take advantage of the city by living in an urban community instead of dormitories and immersing themselves in the cosmopolitan environment (Dolkart, 1998, 161). The succeeding university president, Nicholas Murray Butler, pushed for the expansion of the university's campus. Lack of dormitories ultimately deterred students from attending the university, and the push for a dormitory-based campus was instated. By 1903, Columbia had acquired South Field, which allowed for the development of dormitory buildings to remediate the issue of campus housing. McKim, Mead and White designed this extension to echo the original campus above 116th Street. Development adhering to the McKim Mead and White master plan on the Morningside Heights campus continued through the 1950s. Construction was largely confined to the main campus, with a few additional buildings to the north at Teachers College and to the west at Barnard College.

In 1937, the federal government created "security maps" to evaluate the neighborhood development risks of regions across the nation and assess living conditions for residents and developers. The red regions were marked as "hazardous," based on minority populations, geography, and environmental risk. This systematic evaluation of condition in neighborhoods often had racial undertones (Nelson, 2019). Though geography was also a likely influence in Columbia's development, as Morningside Park includes a large cliff to the east, the institution's lack of expansion to the north in later decades corresponds with the redlining on the 1937 maps. Where the campus bordered the redlined areas was characterized as "unfriendly," a separation of the community from the campus was created.

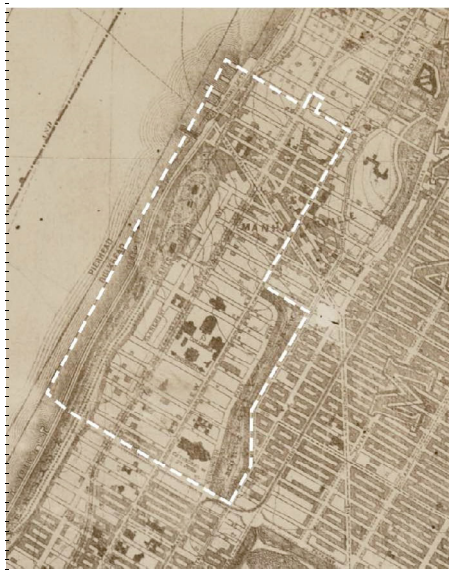
As more institutions joined Columbia in the Morningside Heights neighborhood, real estate acquisition increased. In 1947, fifteen institutions including Columbia formed Morningside Heights Inc. to organize land purchases among the institutions and address urban revitalization in the "war on blight" (Ridgeway, 1968, 15-18). The mission of the group was to "foster, plan, develop, and promote the improvement, redevelopment, and advancement of the Morningside Heights district of the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York as an attractive residential, education, and cultural area," and the group posed this urban renewal as critical to the health and well-being of the community members (Carriere, 2011).

East Expansion

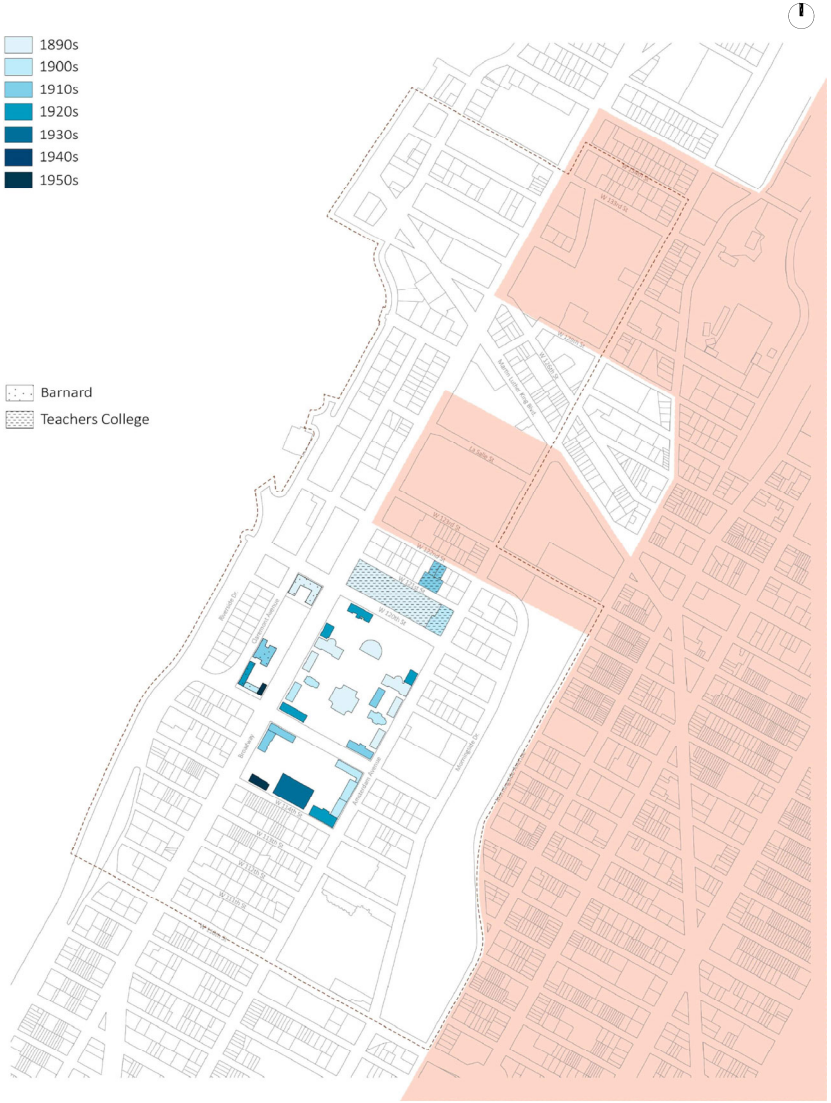
In 1956, Columbia's plan to expand to the east involved construction of a plaza bridge over Amsterdam Avenue, where the new School of International Affairs Building, Law School and Library, faculty offices, and a graduate residence hall would be constructed. This superblock, between 116th and 1eighteenth Streets and Morningside Drive and Amsterdam Avenue, was already mostly occupied by the university. The construction of the bridge was intended to allow students direct access to the East Campus without having to leave the safety and confines of the university. This expansion involved demolition of eighteen small academic buildings and seven apartment buildings, four of which were university-owned. For the three others, Columbia asked the city to bring



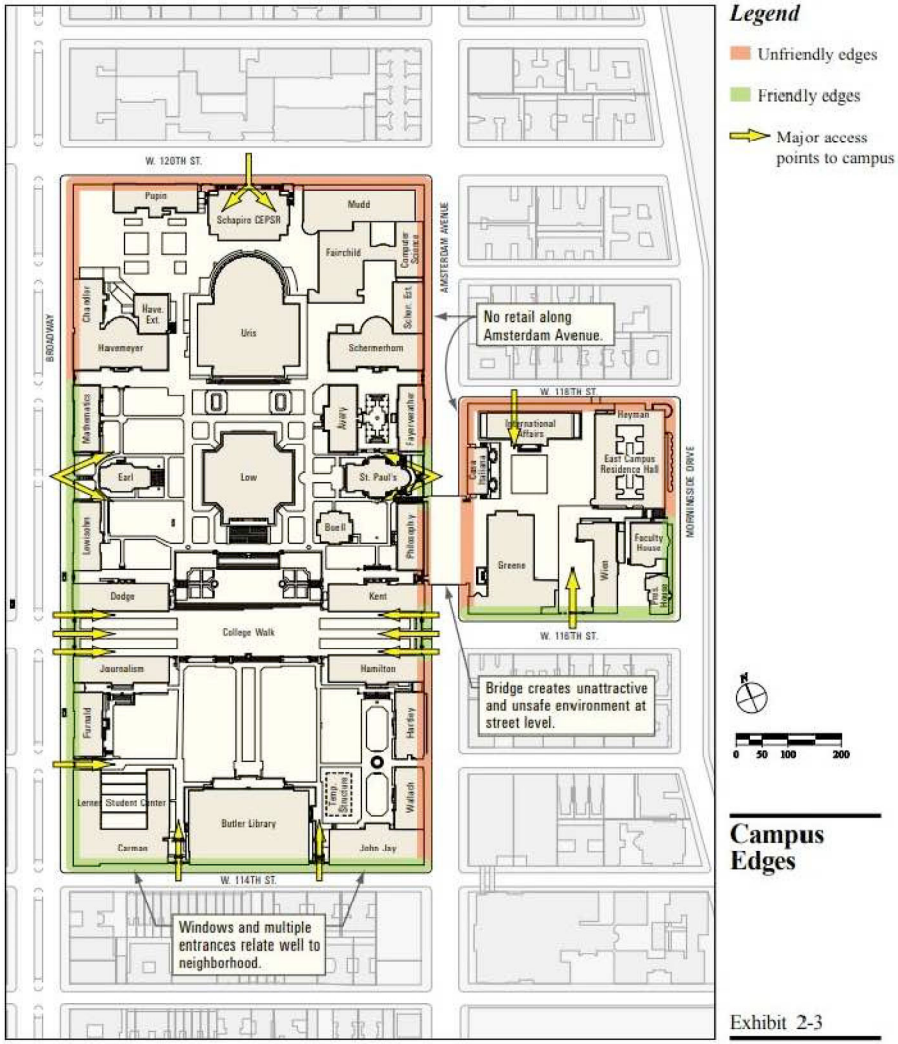
Map of McKim Mead and White's 1893 Final Master Plan
Source: Columbia University Archives (Avery Library)



Map of Morningside Heights in 1900
Source: New York Public Library Digital Collections, Louis A Risse, New York: Board of Public Improvements, Topographical Bureau



Columbia University's Development in the 1950s
Source: Security Map of New York City, NY, Oct. 1, 1937 (1937 Redlining Map Overlaid)



Columbia University Building Map Analyzing the "Friendliness" of Buildings from Street Level.
Source: Beyer Blinder Belle, "Columbia University in Morningside Heights: A Framework for Planning"

Title 1 proceedings under Federal Housing Act in order to acquire the property (Porter, 1956). The university was confident that the new residence halls would accommodate displaced tenants. Along 117th St., 16 small brownstones, known as Dean's Row, and the Brander Matthews Theater were also demolished. Four university buildings remained on the site: President's House, Men's Faculty Club, Johnson Hall, and Casa Italiana.

The pace of construction was primarily driven by the 100th anniversary of the School of Law in 1958, which the university wanted to coincide with the erection of this new campus (Potecte, 1956). Dr. Grayson Kirk, president of the university, announced at a press interview, "It is our hope and belief that this superblock, with its striking and well-spaced buildings, will be a unique adornment to the city as a whole. Appropriately landscaped, this imaginative accommodation to the contours of Morningside Heights will be a new center of life and study for graduate students and faculty and a contribution to the beautification of the city." (Porter, 1956). However, the addition of the 200 ft. wide plaza created a dark tunnel over Amsterdam Avenue.

The university's approach to planning and expansion during this period appears to have been driven by the administration's concerns over university program and operations, with little consideration for urban context. In the 1960s, architecture critics saw this method as the university "translating its requirements into lists, timetables, and room counts, rather than three-dimensional ideas" (Huxtable, 1966). Instead of working with architects in early planning stages, plans were developed to determine programming needs. Critics noted how the design process failed to acknowledge the environment of the neighborhood and felt that this practice would threaten the university's development and the Morningside neighborhood (Huxtable, 1966). The dark and lifeless stretch of Amsterdam Avenue underneath the landscaped plaza was the direct result of the university's lack of attention to the neighborhood fabric and street life, while focusing on institutional goals.

South and West Expansion / Gym Proposal

This lack of consideration for the neighborhood became more evident when Columbia developed a new master plan, which proposed a campus expansion to the south, west, and east, into Morningside Park. In 1965, the Board of Estimate approved Columbia's urban renewal plan, which would cover 92 blocks in Morningside Heights (Roberts, 1966). The plan proposed much-needed student housing, classroom buildings, and a gymnasium in Morningside Park, on land leased from the city (Millones, 1968). Columbia's expansion was bitterly criticized by the community. Minimum consultation between the university, the city, and the community occurred during this planning process. The university acknowledged the disconnect between the school and community, but felt that it was not "possible for institutions to grow the way the institutions feel we must grow and for the residents to remain here in the same number and location they are now" (Roberts, 1966).

In 1968, protests erupted over the Morningside Park gymnasium proposal. The gymnasium was designed with space for university students accessible from campus, and a separate gymnasium, accessible from a separate entrance on Morningside Avenue at the lowest elevation of the park, to serve Harlem residents. Many community members, both outside the university and within it, saw this as a symbol of Columbia "clearing out" minorities in Morningside Heights. A statement released by the Morningside Tenants Committee claimed that the outcry from the community was due to "the University's accelerated expansion and the increasing numbers of buildings removed and tenants [mostly Black and Puerto Rican] ousted" (Columbia's Expansion, 1967). Similar statements reflected this sentiment within the Harlem community; one resident stated that "the day is past when a university of higher learning can exist as a smug, lily-white enclave in a Black community from which it seeks to live in 'academic detachment'" (Hicks, 1965). Additionally, in 1967, imposing iron gates were donated and installed at the campus' main entrances at 116th Street, with signs stating that these were donated to beautify the campus and that neighbors will continue to have free access. The public felt that Columbia was not acknowledging its presence in the center of Harlem. Residents felt that Columbia instigated exclusionary actions, such as locked gates on the Morningside campus, which prevented surrounding neighborhood residents to move freely to Morningside Park (Hicks, 1965).

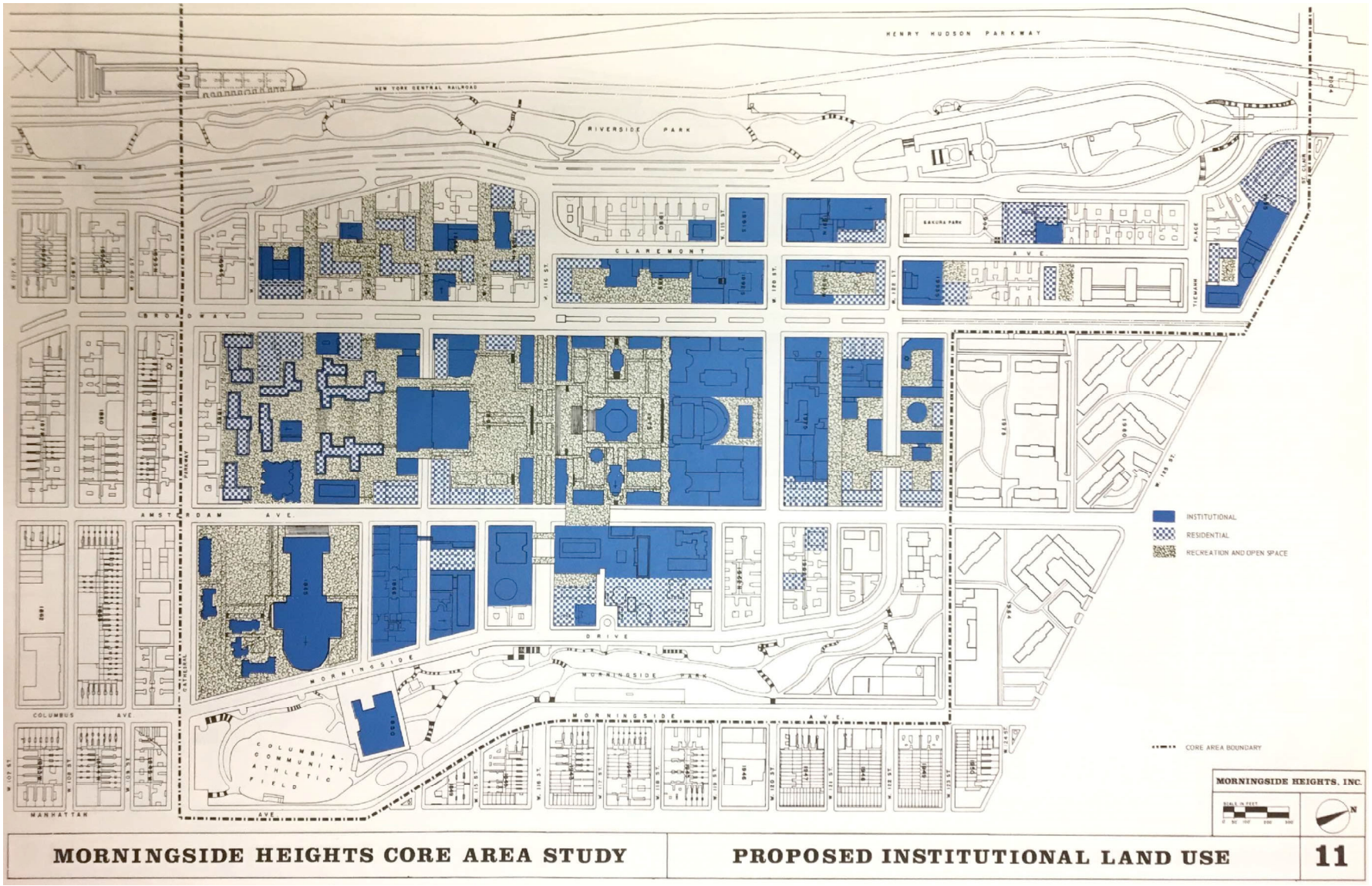
Columbia also significantly influenced real estate in the neighborhood during this period, through the purchase of smaller-scale brownstone and brick apartment buildings to provide housing for students (Roberts, 1966). The highest concentration of this typology was in the blocks from 111th to 114th Streets, between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue. A portion of these properties were hotels, occupied by "prostitutes, derelicts, and narcotics addicts" who were evicted and not considered for rehabilitation or relocation (Millones, 1968). The university intended this area to be used for undergraduate housing, with plans to bridge or eliminate several streets to create a secluded campus atmosphere, separate from the community (Roberts, 1966). Between 1940 and 1966, Columbia



East Campus Expansion Rendering by Harrison and Abramovitz. 3: Law School Building, 4: Faculty Office Building, 5: Graduate Residence Hall
Source: New York Times, "Columbia to Add to Campus And Build New Law School," March 28, 1956



Rendering of Revson Plaza over Amsterdam Avenue
Source: New York Times, "Columbia to Add to Campus And Build New Law School," March 28, 1956



Columbia Institutional Expansion Proposal, 1967
Source: Morningside Heights Inc. Archive, Box 199, Folder 11

purchased 108 buildings, mostly apartments, which demonstrated their significant stake in Morningside Heights (Roberts, 1966). In period articles, Columbia University's acquisition was noted as "among the great real estate development corporations of the day" (Ridgeway, 1968). Aggressive approaches to clearing blight were deployed in residential buildings owned by Columbia to the south and west of campus. Tenants in these buildings reported having door keyholes plugged, heat and hot water turned off, and were reportedly not allowed to have guests (Ridgeway, 1968; Carriere, 2011). In one particular case, the rent at a university-owned single room occupancy building on West 114th Street increased by 25 percent in December of 1967, with an an additional increase anticipated in the following January (Ridgeway, 1968). The Director of Housing for the university was quoted in The Spectator, stating that the raises in rents were "to encourage the few people who are still there to leave." (Ridgeway, 1968).

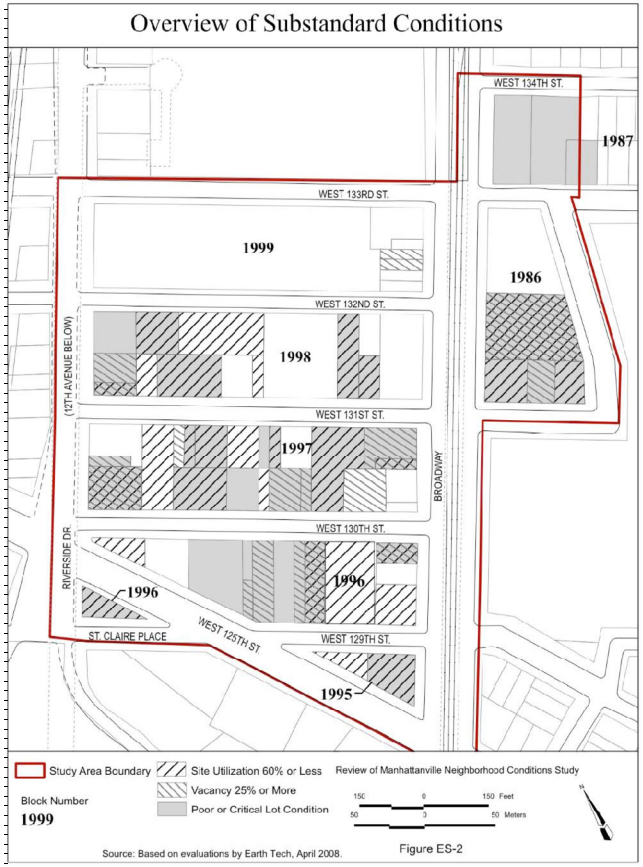
North Expansion

Amid the plans for expansion during the 1960s, Columbia simultaneously began to purchase property north of the Morningside Heights campus, above 125th Street in Manhattanville, attempting to "buy as much of the area as it could lay its hands on" (Ridgeway, 1968). A plan had been developed for a "renewal project" between 125th and 135th Streets (Kihss, 1968). This included a below-grade level of industrial space generating 15,000 to 20,000 jobs for greater Harlem residents. Above grade, housing with 3,000 units would be constructed by the Negro Labor Committee, of which Columbia would hold 1,000 units for faculty members, students, and displaced residents from the Morningside Heights expansion plan. The committee also planned to develop waterfront recreation and "a museum for Negro art and literature" (Kihss, 1968). Much of this purchasing was done quietly, and records of the university's real estate and mortgage holdings have never been made easily accessible by the public (Ridgeway, 1968).

Columbia's plans for a new campus in Manhattanville, making use of the property that had been acquired north of 125th Street over the preceding 40 years, were publicly announced in 2002. The campus proposal included new facilities for laboratories, classrooms, academic research, faculty offices, libraries, student housing, and performance spaces (Ryan, 2010). The university's approach had ostensibly shifted to a more transparent one, that included board meetings and hearings in the neighborhood between residents, the university, planners, and architects. As an inclusive gesture to the community, the university's efforts focused on creating a gateless campus with open streets, unlike the protected Morningside Heights campus. The university also claims that the expansion into Manhattanville creates 7,000 new jobs for the community. However, many of these jobs are targeted for laboratory work or the sciences and would not serve current residents of Manhattanville, leaving less desirable jobs like janitorial and service positions (Williams, 2006).

The University's methods for acquiring and developing this property were not as inclusive as these gestures toward the community suggest. Beginning in 2005, Columbia used aggressive tactics to discourage property owners, such as refusing to renew leases on the upper floors of some Manhattanville residential buildings, erecting sidewalk sheds in front of buildings, claiming building facade issues without plans for resolution, and boarding up storefronts of buildings they owned (Last, 2008; Barron, 2009). Concurrently, Alee King Ross and Fleming (AKRF), a development consulting firm, was hired by Columbia to assist in the planning of Manhattanville and the preparation of an environmental impact statement. At the time of the investigation, the area was zoned for light industrial use. In order for a campus to be constructed in Manhattanville, the neighborhood needed to be zoned for mixed use, and for rezoning to occur, the government needed to prove the area was blighted in order for Columbia to acquire property through eminent domain. In 2006, New York State again hired AKRF to conduct a blight survey (Ryan, 2010). The area was declared to be blighted, but the buildings that were the most dilapidated or under-used were owned by the university. In order to meet this condition, it is possible that Columbia purchased buildings in poor condition and let them deteriorate further. This practice of neglect-induced deterioration suppressed positive development for the greater community.

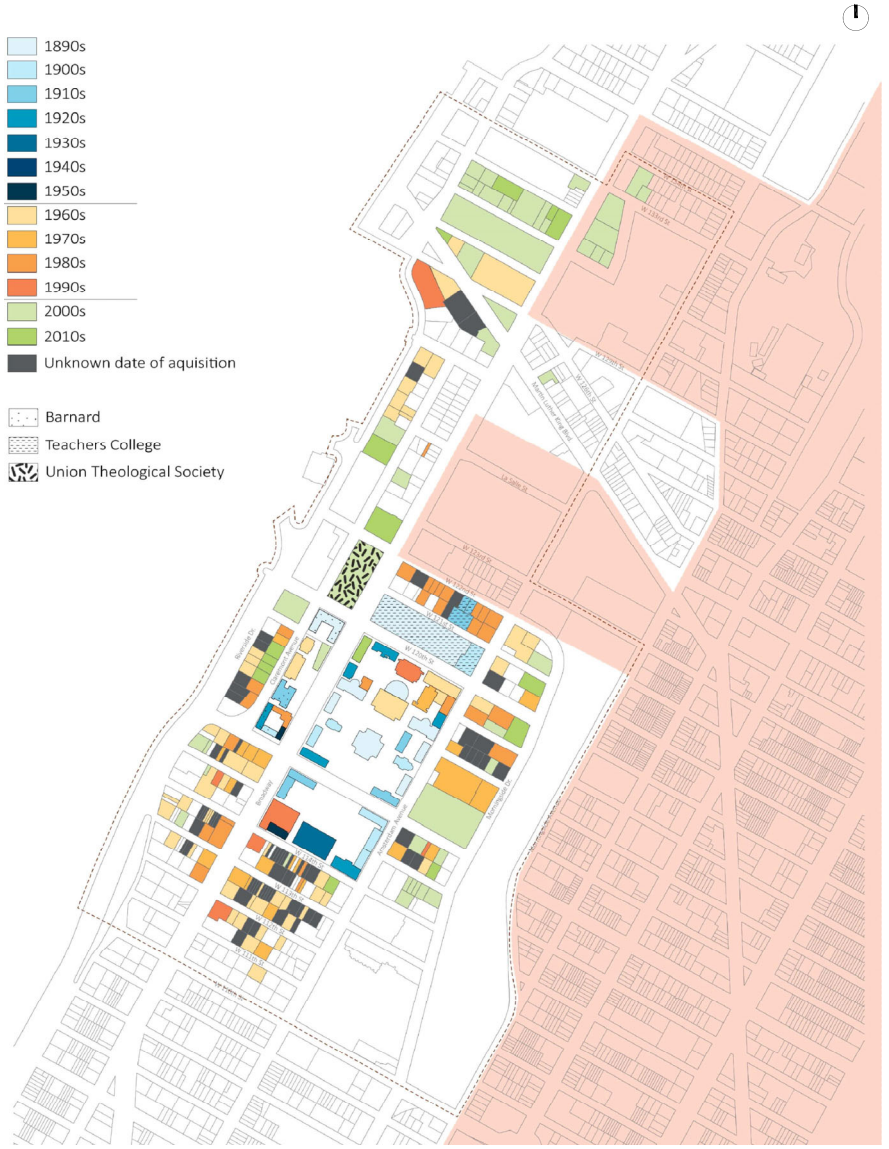
Early in the campus planning process, Community Board 9 proposed an alternate plan for Columbia's development, demonstrating the neighborhood's desire to be involved in the planning. They recommended that the Manhattanville campus retain some manufacturing facilities, preserve historic architecture, and allow current property owners to remain (Williams, 2006). Columbia did not seriously consider this option, which has created a sense of distrust between the university, Manhattanville property owners, and residents of the greater Harlem neighborhood.



Blight survey evaluation map completed by EarthTech, April 2008
Source: Manhattanville Neighborhood Conditions Survey, May 2, 2008



2002 Master Plan of Manhattanville
Source: Columbia News, "Columbia University Says Land Use Review Process Provides Opportunity for Progress and Public Engagement in Proposed Expansion," June 18, 2007



Development of Columbia Owned Properties in Study Area up to 2018
Source: Prepared by Erin Murphy and Micah Tichenor

Columbia's expansion in Manhattanville would displace an estimated 5,000 residents and instigate new construction in the area, raising concern about the loss of the neighborhood's historic vernacular architecture (Kensinger 2018). The Columbia Community Benefits Agreement between the Trustees of Columbia and the West Harlem Local Development Corporation, adopted in 2009, seeks to mitigate the effects of Columbia's expansion and outlines community goals regarding housing, economic development, education, the environment, culture, transportation, and historic preservation in Manhattanville. Columbia is expected to contribute $76,000,000 for a Benefits Fund that will be used to accomplish the outlined programs, $20,000,000 for an Affordable Housing Fund, $4,000,000 in legal assistance for housing, and the use of Columbia facilities and services amounting to $20,000,000 (Columbia University 2009).

Residents of Morningside Heights are also striving to protect their community from institutional expansion. The Morningside Heights Community Coalition (MHCC) consists of community groups and individual tenants in Morningside Heights who are working to prevent overdevelopment in the area. The organization aims to maintain the community, protect buildings, prevent the overutilization of local services and promote affordable housing. Recently the MHCC rallied against development projects associated with the Jewish Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary (Morningside Heights Community Coalition, n.d.). Despite this, the organization has recently joined the UTS in a $5,000,000 community investment initiative to revitalize Union's campus (Union, 2018).

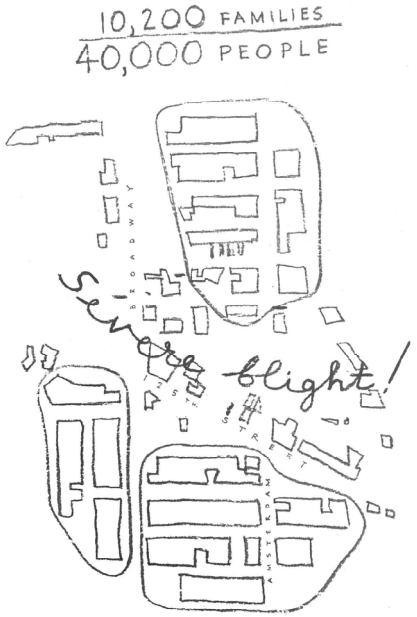
The influence Columbia's Manhattanville campus exerts on its surroundings can be examined by noting the existing public space currently used by residents. There is, for example, the waterfront between 129th and 133rd streets, which sat as a parking lot for 30 years while Harlem residents fought to rehabilitate the neglected area. In 2008, West Harlem Piers finally opened at this location as a public park. Columbia's proposed campus covers the blocks between West Harlem and the waterfront, separating the park from the community it is intended to serve, especially during construction, as streets remain closed. The scale of the new institutional buildings exceeds that of the warehouse buildings previously occupying this site; however, there is more open space, which has potential to connect the waterfront to the residential areas inland. Columbia did however make a conscious effort to provide publicly accessible spaces to create transparency and engagement with the Manhattanville residents. The campus proposal includes an additional 94,000 sf of open space, which could be perceived as an extension of the piers, or as a competitive space, depending on who will use these spaces.

Expanding in the Future

Columbia currently owns 209 properties in Manhattan, making it the largest private property owner in the city by number of addresses held (Bilogur, 2016). Its influence in Morningside Heights has greatly shaped the communities and neighborhoods of the area. As such a dominant property owner in Manhattan, Columbia is responsible to strike a balance between development and the needs of the neighborhood, in order to serve the community - both institutional and residential. Since its move to Morningside Heights, the university has attracted a number of other organizations, resulting in a neighborhood largely defined by institutions. While the community of Columbia today has been molded by its need for expansion, its presence in the neighborhood has dominated many other histories of the neighborhood.

Morningside Heights Inc.: Urban Renewal and Institutional Agency

Scott Goodwin



A sketch from the "Burlingham Report," an early survey and report prepared for Morningside Heights Inc., 1950
Source: Columbia University Archives, Morningside Area Alliance Records, "Preliminary Investigation Toward the Redevelopment of Morningside-Manhattanville"

Collaborative action on the part of the educational, medical, and religious institutions of Morningside Heights profoundly shaped the social and physical fabric of the study area in the mid-to late-twentieth century. Encouraged by new city and federal slum-clearance and housing programs, institutions asserted their influence with the greatest impact during the time of urban renewal. In the decades after, partnerships established in the post-WWII era continued to serve as a significant vehicle for neighborhood change, whether through coordinated land purchases or the establishment of new public services. Institutional agency, as a key to understanding the contemporary character of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville, is most recognizable through the history of Morningside Heights Inc., the first inter-institutional organization to seek large-scale local redevelopment.

In the years following WWII, fourteen institutions mobilized a new collaborative enterprise to reshape Morningside Heights in their own image. In the eyes of these institutions, changing demographics, increasing population density, and an aging building stock had sparked a post-war "trend toward social, economic, and physical deterioration" within the neighborhood; concern was such that "the prospect of all these institutions surviving in an acceptable community setting was being seriously questioned" (Bartlett 1955:1,3). Morningside Heights Inc., a non-profit organization, was chartered in 1947 to investigate, and later to actualize, the wholesale reconstruction of perceived blight areas within the Morningside Heights area (Hepner 1955). The organization's board of directors was led by David Rockefeller, and its institutional membership consisted of: Barnard College; the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; Columbia University; Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church; Home for Old Men and Aged Couples; International House; Jewish Theological Seminary; Juilliard School of Music; Riverside Church; St. Luke's Home for Aged Women; St. Luke's Hospital; Teachers College; Union Theological Seminary; and Women's Hospital Division, St. Luke's Hospital.

The goal of Morningside Heights Inc. (M. H. Inc.) was urban renewal. However, its actions were challenged at the time as an attempt to remake the community to better suit institutional interests as opposed to the interests of local residents. The organization's urban renewal efforts extended from 1947 into the 1970s. That the outcomes of those efforts remain controversial today is a testament to the significant impact of M. H. Inc. and its institutional members during this period.

During its first year of operation, M. H. Inc. sought to quantify through official studies what the organization already had come to believe: that "nothing short of substantial rebuilding along the northern and southern borders of Morningside Heights would assure the maintenance of a community in keeping with the interests of the local institutions" (Hepner 1955: 2; additionally see Burlingham Report, MAA Records)

Having retained a member of the New York City Planning Commission as its Executive Director, M. H. Inc. collected social and economic data to guide its urban renewal approach (see Subseries 11.3, MAA Records). It also conducted a door-to-door survey, through which the organization began to promote large scale community improvement. Initial studies were completed by 1949, and M. H. Inc. began to formulate a vision for redevelopment. Member institutions were particularly interested in constructing middle-income housing that would support their professional personnel in addition to other local residents - the organization even conducted a survey specific to institutional employees to better understand their particular housing needs (Institutional Housing Survey, MAA Records). But high building costs and a concurrent housing shortage prevented the organization from independently purchasing land, relocating tenants, and initiating new construction.

Instead, the organization's Executive Director saw an opportunity to dovetail the organization's private interests with public housing development in light of contemporary changes to national housing policy (Hepner 1955). In 1949, the federal government was expected to enact legislation that would provide financing for municipal slum clearance programs and public housing construction. That year, David Rockefeller, the president of M. H. Inc., approached the City Coordinator, Robert Moses, about the potential for a public housing project in Morningside Heights. Moses directed the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to include "two substantial superblocks" above 123rd Street within its program anticipated through federal legislation; the agreement was reached purportedly on Rockefeller's assurance that the project would take place on "honest to goodness slum land" (Hepner 1955: 2). Later that year, the Housing Act of 1949 was signed into law.

With the passage of the Housing Act, the members of M. H. Inc. chose to expand the organization's redevelopment area beyond the northern boundary of W. 125th Street so as to take full advantage of the new federal framework. The enlarged scope came to encompass both Morningside Heights and Manhattanville, extending north to W. 135th Street. In order to qualify Morningside-Manhattanville under Title I of the Housing Act, M. H. Inc. scaled-up its operations to conduct an expanded community-wide survey and research program in 1950

(Survey Results, MAA Records). Completed later that year, the survey provided enough data to frame M. H. Inc.'s case for urban renewal. Yet many of its findings ran counter to original redevelopment rationales. It found, for example, that there was no exceptional incidence of crowding, although 23 percent of households had roomers or shared space with an additional family; area residents were largely low-income, but families typically paid low rents; and while 49 percent of families surveyed were unsatisfied with their housing, a majority had no intention of leaving the neighborhood (Popular Report, MAA Records).

M. H. Inc. delivered its findings to the Mayor's Committee on Slum Clearance Plans under the chairmanship of Robert Moses in 1950. The organization's report, while concerning the Morningside-Manhattanville redevelopment area as a whole, gave particular attention to a ten-acre area at the border of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville along and to the north of W. 123rd Street (MMR Study, MAA Records). The site was of special interest to M. H. Inc. because its institutional members sought to privately develop middle-incoming housing at the southernmost portion of the redevelopment area to supplement to the city's potential low-income public housing (Hepner 1955). In 1951, Moses specifically approved M. H. Inc.'s proposed private housing cooperative, which was to be called Morningside Gardens and would be located on a site bounded by Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue between W. 123rd and La Salle Streets.

The nine M. H. Inc. institutions geographically closest to the site committed to sponsoring the development; the real estate arm of M. H. Inc., a corporation called Remedco, would acquire the needed land. The project was slated to receive tax concessions for providing housing at economical rates: the original model would require a $450 downpayment for a unit, plus a monthly payment of between $16 and $22 per room (Columbia Daily Spectator 1952). But in the months leading up to announcement, the sponsoring institutions decided to abandon subsidies in favor of higher monthly fees.

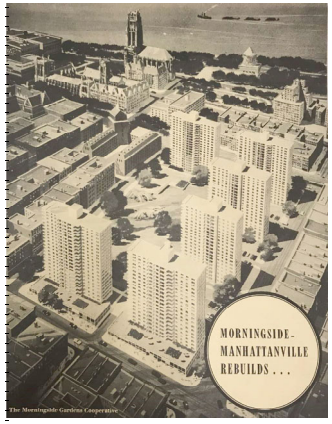
The project's public announcement came in October of 1951, and local residents were confronted for the first time with the reality of relocation (Popular Report, MAA Records). Although Morningside Gardens was to give first priority to displaced families, the building's middle-income price point meant that most of the residents of the more than 3,000 low-income apartments to be condemned in what would become the greater La Salle Street renewal area would be barred from relocating to the cooperative (Chronopoulos 2011). Moreover, the development's sponsors reserved a sizeable portion of the proposed 984 rental units for their own institutional employees. Public concern about the area's first urban renewal project was manifest, notably in the formation of the Save Our Homes Committee. M. H. Inc. reported that Save Our Home's public resistance and other "well known obstructionist techniques" delayed groundbreaking for more than a year (Bartlett 1955: 3). In 1952, the City Planning Commission approved an additional low-income housing project, called the General Grant Houses, to be located adjacent to Morningside Gardens north of La Salle Street. Together, the two developments encompassed the area between Broadway and Morningside Avenue, and W. 123rd and W. 125th Streets. In 1953, the first tenants at the Morningside Gardens site were relocated, and in 1954 demolition began.

In 1956, NYCHA's General Grant Houses was the first of the two housing projects to be completed; it incorporated nine buildings between 21 and 14 stories in height, containing approximately 1,900 family dwellings. Morningside Gardens opened shortly thereafter, in 1957, and consisted of six 21-story buildings with 984 family units. Around this time, NYCHA initiated an additional low-income housing project called Manhattanville Houses, to be located between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue from W. 129th to W. 133rd Street. Demolition at the Manhattanville Houses site began in 1957; its six 20-story buildings, containing approximately 1,300 family units, were completed in 1961. Still, the total number of new rental units created through urban renewal was insufficient to provide for the number of tenants originally housed in the redevelopment sites. At the time, Robert Moses argued that fewer than half of the original tenants chose to move to the new developments because most preferred to live somewhere else (Chronopoulos 2011).

Between 1947 and 1961, M. H. Inc. and its member institutions were the driving force in urban renewal efforts aimed at creating new varied-income housing between W. 123rd and W 135th Streets. The resulting superblocks and residential towers are the clearest embodiment of mid-century institutional agency and urban renewal. However, M. H. Inc. acted concurrently to realize a range of community-improvement goals that extended beyond housing. After 1957, the organization sought to address educational and recreational improvement, in addition to crime prevention and public health (Chronology, MAA Records). For each focus, the organization developed and directed new programs. Street light installation, security patrols, publicly-distributed pamphlets on health-care resources, and youth programs are a few of the programs and actions initiated by the



Aerial image of the area demolished to make way for Morningside Gardens
Source: Columbia University Archives, Morningside Area Alliance Records, "Morningside-Manhattanville: Slum Clearance Plan," 1951



A public brochure regarding the Morningside Gardens Coop
Source: Columbia University Archives, Morningside Area Alliance Records, "Morningside Manhattanville Rebuilds," 1955



Groundbreaking ceremony at the site of Morningside Gardens
Source: Columbia University Archives, Morningside Area Alliance Records

organization.

After 1960, M. H. Inc. sought to realize urban renewal at the geographic core of Morningside Heights. The organization was active in devising and promoting a new Morningside General Renewal Plan (MGNRP) which encompassed the area between 110th to 125th Streets. The institutions saw housing redevelopment north of 125th Street as an indication of what could be accomplished in portions of their immediate neighborhood. Single-room-occupancy hotels (SROs), where single-room residential units were densely packed within an individual building, were a central concern. SROs, often populated by African American and low-income residents, were perceived as blights to the Morningside Heights community "where untreated illness, hunger, loneliness, and sporadic violence [were] an unrelieved concomitance of existence" (Shapiro 1966). M. H. Inc. and its member institutions sought collaboratively to eliminate a number of local SROs, and to reshape the neighborhood further with the help of the City through the MGNRP. But while the plan was being prepared through city authorities, M. H. Inc. acted unilaterally to actualize its short-term goals.

Studies conducted by M. H. Inc. identified local SRO properties, and institutions began to buy them; many became student housing. However, extensive property purchases and the resulting rapid expansion of institutional holdings led to conflicts between M. H. Inc. members and the community, and between M. H. Inc. members and the City. Columbia University, for example, purchased more than 100 properties during the 1960s, and resulting residential displacement led the City of New York to intervene in an attempt to regulate University expansion. Intervention came in the form of restrictive revisions to, and negotiations over, the MGNRP. But Columbia University was reluctant to let the City regulate its expansion, and the MGNRP subsequently fell apart (Rauch et al. 1968: 43-36). Furthermore, public protest over Columbia expansion and displacement peaked in 1968 over the construction of the new university gymnasium in Morningside Park. By 1972, the president of M. H. Inc. appointed a committee to re-examine the goals and purposes of the organization, and ultimately restricted activities to planning and program development (Chronology, MAA Records).

As a result, the mid-1970s marked the close of the organization's urban renewal activities. However, Morningside Heights, Inc. has continued to operate into the present as the Morningside Area Alliance, a non-profit that continues to serve as a collaborative venture of the institutions of Morningside Heights. However, the membership and the activities of the organization have changed. Today, its fourteen members include: Barnard College; the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church; Columbia University; General Grant Houses; Interchurch Center; International House; Jewish Theological Seminary; Manhattan School of Music; Riverside Church; St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's; and Mount Sinai St. Luke's. The added membership of the General Grant Houses alone suggests a difference in the way institutional agency is embodied in the Morningside Area Alliance in the present. However, similar activities to those of the urban renewal period persist today, though largely through unilateral institutional action rather through collaboration: the development Columbia University's Manhattanville Campus has been one recent reminder of power of institutional agency in influencing neighborhood character in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville.

Racial and Ethnic Equity

Fei Deng, Emily Junker, Sohyun Kim

A variety of racial and ethnic groups have occupied the Manhattanville and Morningside Heights study area from the earliest use of the land by the Lenape people, to the development of the neighborhood as a major institutional center with diverse communities of residents. These institutions, particularly Columbia and Barnard, took many years to integrate their student and faculty bodies and continue to work toward equitable representation. These histories are important to recognize in efforts toward greater social inclusion, but histories of racial and ethnic equity extend beyond institutional walls. It is therefore equally critical to understand how integration and related biases unfolded both within these institutions as well as in their relationships with the populations who lived in proximity to them. Historic tensions between these largely White institutions and the surrounding African American and Hispanic communities have important implications for reckoning today.

Columbia, Barnard, and neighboring institutions served a largely White student body and faculty for much of their history. Today, the racial distribution of most of the higher education institutions in Morningside Heights is far more diverse. The majority of these schools' populations consist of approximately fifty percent White, followed by Asian, Hispanic, and Black students. In 2017, Columbia was characterized as the "most racially diverse school [with the] lowest percentage of White students in the Ivy League" (Hirt and Fisher 2017). The following year, Columbia led the Journal of Black Higher Education (JBHE 2018) rankings of the thirty leading research universities in the US with an entering class of 15.5 percent Black students, the highest percentage achieved in the twenty-six-year history of the survey.

However, neither the history of racial and ethnic integration within these institutions, nor the contributions of those that diversified their communities, are readily apparent in the narratives represented by the built environment of their historic campuses.

Asians and Asian American People

After Whites, Asians represent the second largest racial group in the student body at Columbia and Barnard, 12.4 percent and 15 percent respectively (Korn, 2019).

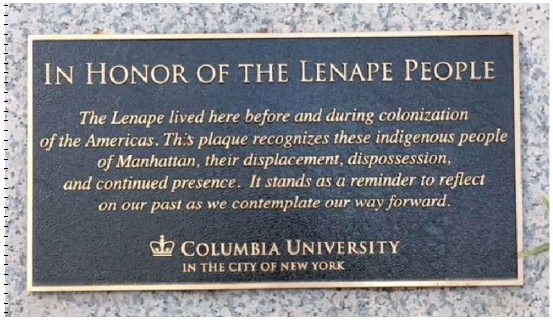
Asian students were first admitted to Columbia in the 1860s. Shu Gaodi, as the first Chinese student to receive a graduate degree, graduated from Columbia's School of Medicine in 1873 (Liang, 2007). The first large wave of Chinese students was enrolled in the U.S. between 1872 and 1881, when the Chinese Education Mission (CEM) was sent to New England by China's Qing government (Rhoads, 2011). Among those who were successfully admitted as undergraduate students in universities, fourteen percent of them chose Columbia University. The first Chinese female to enroll at Columbia was Kang Tongbi, class of 1909 at Barnard College; she was also the first Asian student at Barnard (Barnard College, 2019). After the 1920s, the number of Chinese students increased rapidly, even though the Chinese Exclusion Act was enacted in 1882 and not abolished until 1943.

In the mid-1860s, Japan began sending students to the United States and the first Japanese student, A. Smidtz, appeared on the Columbia campus in 1875. Of the three earliest Japanese students that attended Columbia in 1877, two chose Philosophy and Arts as major (Rhoads, 2011).

By the beginning of the 1920s, Columbia University had become a destination for students and scholars from Korea. Among the most notable from this generation of pioneers was Kim Hwallan, who graduated with a Ph.D. in Philosophy in 1931. Not only was she the first Korean woman to earn a doctoral degree, Kim went on to become one of the most important champions of education, women's rights, and Korean independence in Korea's modern history (Center for Korean Research, 2019).

Jewish People

As of 2017, Hillel International reports that twenty-four percent of undergraduate students and eighteen percent of graduate students at Columbia, and thirty-two percent at Barnard, are Jewish. There is, in fact, a long history of Jewish students at Columbia. Even during the 1920s, when Columbia actively practiced discriminatory admissions, Jews regularly amounted to over 20 percent of the university's student body. These numbers are in keeping with broader demographic trends in New York: Jews comprised over 25 percent of the population of New York City and over one third of the city's high school graduates at the time. At this point in its history, Columbia was primarily a regional school, and most of its students came from New York (Hirt 2016) In addition, Columbia had an established relationship with the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, which was the last major institutional complex erected on Morningside Heights before the Great Depression and World War II (Dolkart 1998). This reorganization of the theological seminary was accomplished by several of New York's most prominent



A photo of the plaque in Columbia University in memory of the Lenape People
Source: Columbia Daily Spectator, Xavier Dade, "Plaque Commemorating Lenape People Unveiled after Three Years of Advocacy," Nov 15, 2016

The Lenape People
The Lenni-Lenape are a Native American population that lived in modern-day southeastern New York before its colonization by the Dutch in the seventeenth century. Archaeological evidence suggests that today's Morningside Heights was once a significant territory of the Lenni-Lenape (Skinner, 1915). However, as the Dutch increasingly occupied their land after 1763, the Lenape people were driven westwards and their population dropped sharply (Carpenter, 2008). To acknowledge that the university sits on traditional Lenape lands and to reckon the injustices perpetrated on these indigenous peoples, a plaque was installed in front of John Jay Hall in 2016, through the efforts of the Native American Council of Columbia ("In Honor of the Lenape People," 2016). This modern intervention in the Columbia University built environment represents an important reckoning with the past and is an example of how heritage and the tools of preservation can advance the cause of social inclusion.



A photo of Kang Tung-pih, 1907
Source: Barnard College Archives, The Mortarboard 1909 and special student elective subject form submitted by Kang Tung Pih, 1907



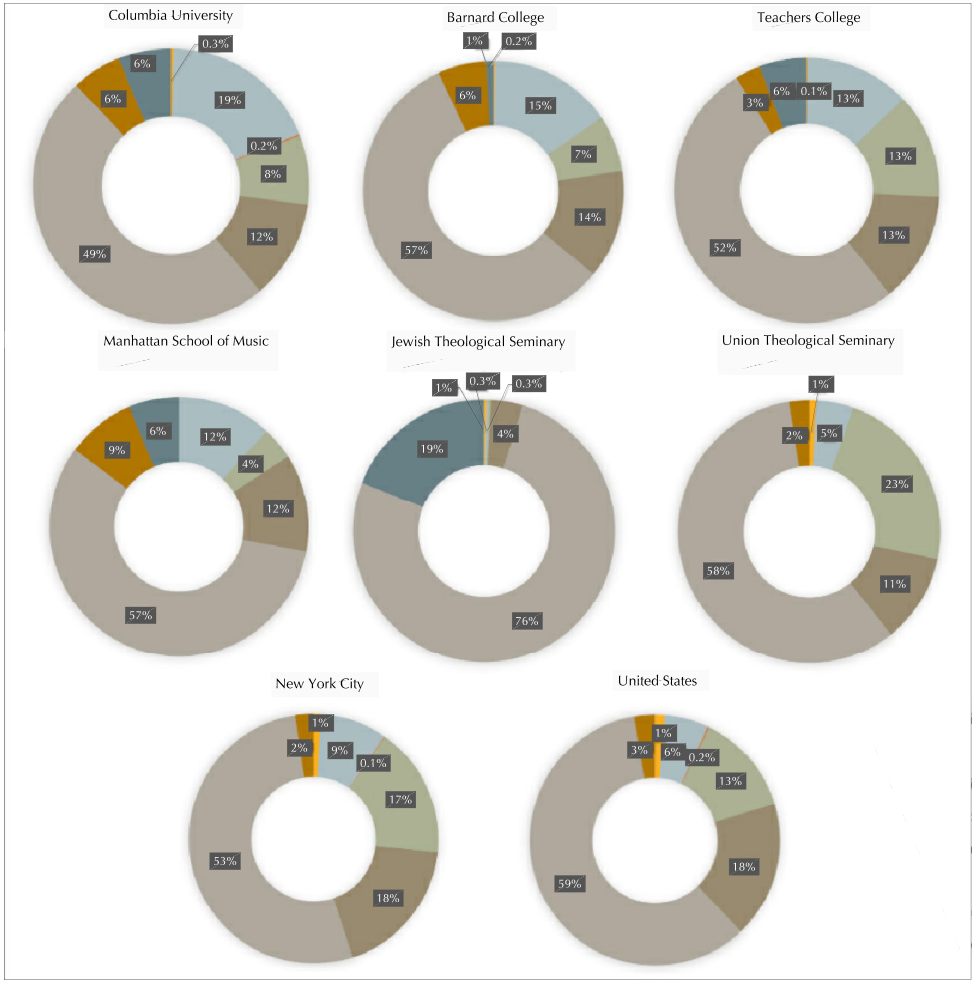
"Women's suffrage activist Mabel Lee, 1917"
Source: New York Tribune, Library of Congress Chronicling America Collection, 1917



Chinese Collection in the Columbia University Library, 1926
Source: Columbia University Archives



Chinese Student Club at Teachers College in 1916
Source: Teachers College Library, Paul Monroe Papers, Special Collections



Snapshot of 2019 student bodies of Morningside Heights institutions
Source: Prepared by Drew Barnhart (Data compiled from various sources, including College Factual, College Tuition Compare, Forbes, Manhattan School of Music, Teachers College, and the US Census Bureau)

Jewish citizens, led by Jacob Schiff and Leonard Lewisohn (Dolkart 1998). Schiff purchased land for a new building at the northern fringe of Morningside Heights, and The New York Tribune commented that "The seminary has unofficial relations with Columbia University, in that the majority of its students receive their academic education at the latter institution, and it was for this reason that the present location was selected" (NY Tribune, 1902). In addition to the School of Mines Buildings donated to Columbia by Adolph Lewisohn, Barnard Hall, designed by New York City's leading German-Jewish architect, Arnold Brunner, was also donated to Barnard College by Jacob Schiff, in 1916. (Dolkart 1998).

However, Columbia's relationship with the Jewish community is characterized by some lesser known histories. From 1928 to 1936, Columbia established an extension institution, the Seth Low Junior College in Brooklyn, to help absorb the high number of Jewish and Italian-American applicants. It charged the same annual tuition as Columbia College, but it granted no degrees. Upon satisfactory completion of the two-year program at Seth Low, students could progress to a Columbia professional school that did not require a four-year diploma, or complete their undergraduate degrees on the Morningside campus; however, they were not considered students of Columbia College and received a different, and less prestigious, undergraduate degree (Hirt 2016). Alumnus Isaac Asimov commented that the "Seth Low student body was heavily Jewish, with a strong Italian minority. It was clear that the purpose of the school was to give bright youngsters of unacceptable social characteristics a Columbia education without too badly contaminating the elite young men of the College itself by their formal presence" (quoted in Hirt 2016). In an interview with the Columbia Spectator (Gohn 2019), Hirt emphasized the need to consciously remember Seth Low Junior College, "Unless there's effort made to memorialize something, then it's not going to be remembered."

Africans and African-American People

The history of African Americans at Columbia University has been fraught and characterized by slavery, segregation, racism, and underrepresentation. This history has also been tied to civil rights movements and community activism. According to "Columbia and Slavery" a report by Prof. Eric Foner (2017), slavery tainted the college from the beginning. King's College, as Columbia was known during the colonial era, was founded in 1754 in lower Manhattan. It was a "merchant's" college" (Wilder, 2013), where many of the governors of the college were merchants and landowners. Like other original King's College governors, Oliver De Lancey owned twenty-three slaves at his farm in Bloomingdale village (near Columbia's current location) in 1775. When Columbia moved to midtown in the late 1850s, many of its administrators, faculty and trustees still owned slaves. Before the Civil War, there were few abolitionist graduates. Among them was John Jay II, who challenged prominent Columbians when launching a crusade against racism in the Episcopal Church. Like most of the northern colleges, Columbia did not admit any Black students before the Civil War. Meanwhile, unlike Harvard, Yale, or Princeton, Columbia did not attract many southerners to enroll, partly because of its open campus that did not offer dormitories or meals to students until 1860. Thus, the student body was mainly made up of commuters from the region.

However, some of the other academic institutions that later located near Columbia University in Morningside Heights showed a more progressive attitude toward admitting African American students. Union Theological Seminary admitted its first African American student in 1861, during the Civil War and long before the ratification of the 13th amendment (Handy, 1987, 41). Likewise, in 1907, only two years after the institution opened, Helen Elise Smith became the first African American to graduate from Juilliard (Olmstead, 1999, 38).

According to Robert McCaughey, author of Stand Columbia (2003), "Columbia never had an official policy against accepting students on the basis of race" (quoted in Hirt and Fisher, 2017). Class photographs from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century include one or two Black students per year, but Hirt and Fisher (2017) speculate that these students were likely from wealthy Caribbean or African families and thus were not representative of the African American or local Black populations. James Priest, a Liberian native, was the first recorded Black undergraduate student, who attended Columbia in 1877, and Pixley Ka Ikasa Seme, a South African, was the first Black student to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree from Columbia, in 1906 (Foner, 2017).

Columbia's professional and graduate schools did train many Black lawyers, scientists, and educators of note, and by 1935 was ranked second only to the University of Chicago as an institution where Black professionals received degrees (Foner 2017). James Dickson Carr was the first African American student to receive a law degree from Columbia, in 1896 (Foner, 2017). George Edmund Haynes was the first African American to receive a doctoral



Frederick Wells, Columbia Law student who faced extreme racism on campus.
Source: Chicago Defender, "Ku Kluxes Fail to Rout Student," April 12, 1924



Zora Neale Hurston, The first Black woman to attend Barnard
Source: Columbia and Slavery, "Post-1865 Students"

degree from Columbia University at the School of Social Work. His dissertation was titled "The Negro at Work in New York City," and while he was studying at Columbia he co-founded what later became the National Urban League, one of the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States ("National Urban League Records 1911-1916," n.d.; Ostrow, n.d.).

The story of Frederick W. Wells, one of Columbia's pioneering Black students, is particularly telling. Despite the support of the Columbia administration, Black students were not always welcomed by their White peers. Wells was threatened by some White students who wanted him evicted from his residence at Furnald Hall on account of his race. In response to Wells' refusal to leave, on April 3, 1924, a group of men burned a cross in the manner of the Ku Klux Klan demonstrating their desire that Columbia be a Whites-only institution (McNab, 2017). Wells chose to leave Columbia and finish his law degree at Cornell despite the well-meaning efforts of Dean Herbert Hawkes to defend his right to remain (Foner, 2017).

Not all administrations at Columbia were open to the enrollment of Black students. At Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, for example, Black students were explicitly rejected, and it was not until 1940 that the first Black medical student, Dr. Charles Drew, received a degree (Hirt and Fisher 2017). The first Black woman to attend Barnard, Zora Neale Hurston, faced many instances of discrimination during her education from 1925 to 1928, and the administration did not allow her to live in the campus dormitory. Nevertheless, Hurston is now a celebrated alumna and recognized by the Zora Neale Hurston Lounge located at 121 Reid Hall in the Barnard Quad.

The campus events of 1968 brought discussions on the formation of a Black Studies program at Columbia. The university established its first African American studies program in 1969; however, the program was criticized for its lack of structure and lack of power to hire its own faculty. In 1968, Elliott Skinner was the only tenured Black faculty member at Columbia (Hirt and Fisher 2017). In response, Columbia began hiring more Black faculty in 1969, including political scientist Charles Hamilton (Hirt and Fisher 2017). In 1982, an assistant dean of students was appointed to focus on the "problems of minority students and organizations" and in 1989, Michael Sovern, the University's president, convened a Task Force on Minorities to recruit Black faculty (Hirt and Fisher 2017). It was not until 1993, however, that Manning Marable founded the Institute for Research in African-American Studies (IRAAS Timeline, n.d.). In December of 2018 the University voted unanimously for the creation of the African American and African Diaspora Studies Department which makes African American studies an official program at Columbia University at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels ("Farah Jasmine Griffin Chairs the New African American and African Diaspora Studies Department," 2019).

Minority Recruitment

Columbia's low enrollment of Black students has historically been attributed to its lack of effort to recruit non-White students (Mcaughty 2003). Columbia's admissions team targeted primarily White, Protestant, private and well-funded public schools through the 1950s (Hirt and Fisher, 2017). In 1964, the passage of the Civil Rights Act marked a turning point in the awareness of Black and other minority enrollment issues at Columbia and other universities nationwide. In the same year, the Students' Afro-American Society (SAS) was founded, and seven Black students registered at Columbia College ("Admission Practice at Columbia College," 1969). New regulations in 1965 mandated that private universities comply with federal anti-discrimination rules if they had federal contracts. This change was widely opposed by the higher education lobby, but led to the formal implementation of affirmative action policies at Columbia in 1972 (McCaughey, 2003, 515).

Systematic recruitment of minority and underprivileged students began to take shape in 1965 when Columbia students and faculty founded the Double Discovery Program. This was one of several federally funded Upward Bound programs. The aim was to offer outreach to disadvantaged—low income and first generation college-bound—high school students, including tutoring, college visits, and application support. Columbia's Double Discovery program targeted primarily Harlem High Schools ("High Ratings: Double Discovery to Celebrate 30 Years of Achieving, Excelling," 1995). By 1965, there were 50 Black students attending Columbia, 17 registered in the incoming class, and 40 enrolled at Barnard (Knubel, "Admission Practice at Columbia College," 1969; McCaughey, 2003, 426). The years 1966-68, saw a slight increase to approximately 30 Black students a year at Columbia, but this still represented only four percent of the overall student body (Knubel "Admission Practice at Columbia College," 1969).

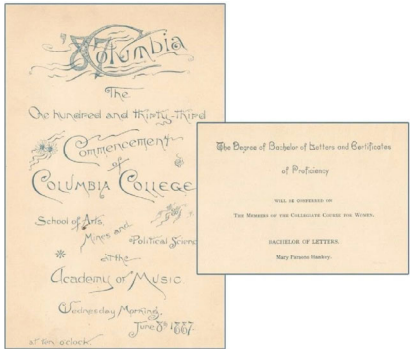
The student protests and events of 1968 led to many changes in Columbia admissions, including the meeting

of demands to recruit, enroll, and support more African Americans, Hispanics, and other minorities. While the protests were led by the Students' Afro-American Society (SAS) and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), other student groups representing diverse racial and ethnic identities rallied in support, including the Latin American Students Organization (LASO), the Committee for Columbia University African Students, Asian American Political Alliance, the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars, the International Student Contingent, and the Third World Coalition ("University Protest and Activism Collection, 1958-1999," n.d.). Following the demonstrations, SAS and LASO met with John Wellington, director of admissions, to propose that a separate admissions board composed of Black and Hispanic educators, professionals, and students be created to evaluate applications by Blacks and Hispanics (Knubel "Admission Practice at Columbia College," 1969). Dean Wellington informed the student groups and committee that the admissions board had a final say on applicants but welcomed the board in a consulting capacity to review applicants. This action was taken for the review of the 245 Black and Hispanic applicants to Columbia College in 1969 (Knubel "Admission Practice at Columbia College," 1969). Of those applicants, 115 Black and 30 Hispanic were admitted, signifying a 55 percent increase in the rate of acceptance (Knubel, 1969). In 1969, SAS students petitioned for and were given funding to make outreach trips to several US cities to recruit Black and Hispanic applicants. In addition, Black students from high schools in other US cities were invited to Columbia for weekends during which they were introduced to the university and its programs (Knubel 1969).

The above provides a limited understanding of the historic context surround racial and ethnic equity in the Columbia community, as many stories and populations have not been sufficiently included. Nonetheless, these positive and negative histories play an important role in addressing social inclusion within these institutions and the Morningside-Manhattanville neighborhood today. Many of these narratives are circumscribed to written sources, and spatial encounters with these pasts are limited. Recognizing how these struggles played out within and influenced the development of the built environment constitute an important area of action for the preservation enterprise.

Gender Equity

Claire Cancilla, Sreya Chakraborty



Cover and detail of 1887 Commencement Program; This limited and inadequate program only awarded eight degrees ("Coeducation at Columbia: Collegiate Course for Women")
Source: Columbia University Archives, Mary Parsons Hankey



Annie Nathan Meyer
Source: Columbia University Digital Archives



Barnard College (early twentieth century)
Source: Barnard Digital Archives

Morningside Heights and Manhattanville have been always been inhabited and enriched by women. Although historically shunned by many of the area's formal institutions, women still carved out their place in the neighborhood, shaping the trajectory of the area's history through their personal and institutional participation in all areas of civil society. Despite the significant impact of women on the neighborhood, however, the study area's built environment is largely devoid of references to women. An examination of women's roles in educational, religious, and healthcare institutions provides particularly important insight into the significant role women have played in the development of the study area and the paradoxical absence of women in its built environment.

Gender equity issues are especially prominent at Columbia and the adjacent Teachers College and Barnard College, which provide a valuable framework through which to understand the impact of gender on the neighborhood's buildings, monuments, and sites. The struggle for women's education began in 1876, prior to Columbia's 1892 move to Morningside Heights, when the women's club Sorosis petitioned for Columbia to become coeducational (Dolkart 1998, 204). Columbia's trustees, headed by the Reverend Morgan Dix, flatly rejected the petition. Students at Columbia, too, opposed coeducation. An editorial in the Columbia Spectator from 1879 stated "while we are admirers of the fair sex, we think that co-education is a mistake, at present, anyhow, and we hope we will not live to see the day when young ladies are admitted to Columbia" ("Current Topics" 1879).

Although this early attempt at coeducation did not succeed, it laid the foundation for additional petitions. The Association for the Promotion of Higher Education of Women held a meeting in 1882 at the Union League Club to discuss the need for coeducation. As a result of the meeting, a petition with more than 1,400 signatures, including former United States President Chester Arthur, was sent to Columbia (Dolkart 1998, 205). This outpouring of support for coeducation did not persuade the trustees to change their position, and Reverend Dix was inspired to preach that coeducation would lead to the breakdown of family and society (McCaughery 2004, 165). Columbia's rejection of gender integration was unpopular with many popular middle-class journals of the day, which criticized the trustees' stance. Harper's Weekly, for example, editorialized that "in the still seclusion of the college this kindly voice of an orderly multitude, eager to advance the cause of law and order, intelligence and morality, was exaggerated [by the trustees] into the frenzied shriek of a rabid mob, bent on trampling down the safeguards of society" (Dolkart 1998, 205).

In response to increased outside pressure, the trustees approved the start of the Collegiate Course for Women in 1883. Over its six-year history, the course enrolled 99 women who met with faculty at the start of the semester, completed their readings at home, and took the final exam, but were prohibited from attending lectures during the semester. Upon completion of the course, a woman would be awarded a Bachelor of Letters.

Program participant Annie Nathan Meyer recognized the need for comprehensive women's education in New York. Lambasting the "farce" of the Collegiate Course, Meyer petitioned for the creation of a women's college (Meyer 1888, 172). In an 1888 article in The Nation, Meyer wrote that in this "huge, growing, striving, ambitious city with its many means of satisfying life's demands, there is one lack: the lack of a college where women may attain a complete education" (Meyer 1888, 174). Columbia trustees ultimately approved the establishment of a women's college, which was a fairly conservative step that involved no financial commitment on Columbia's part and allowed undergraduate classes at Columbia to remain all-male. Barnard, originally housed at 343 Madison, opened its doors in October 1889 (Dolkart 1998, 208).

When Columbia moved to Morningside Heights in the 1890s, Barnard followed, purchasing land near Columbia. The campus, largely funded by Mary Brinckerhoff and Elizabeth Millbank Anderson, was designed by Charles Rich to echo McKim, Mead and White's design of the Columbia campus, although on a significantly smaller scale. The Barnard buildings, like Columbia's buildings, are faced with dark red brick and contrasting white trim, although Barnard's trim is terra cotta while Columbia's is limestone (Dolkart 1998, 215). The design, use of materials, and proximity of Barnard to Columbia was meant to create a visual link between the two institutions. This visual link was enhanced in 1903 when Barnard expanded its campus on the three blocks between 116th and 1nineteenth Streets on land donated to Barnard by Elizabeth Millbank Anderson. Barnard oriented its entrance to face Columbia's Earl Hall after its expansion, but the visual link created by this orientation was "extremely weak" as it was aligned with a secondary entrance to Columbia (Dolkart 1998, 223).

Located just north of Columbia on 1twentieth Street, Teachers College was also focused primarily on the training of young women. Teachers College, initially known as the Industrial Education Association (IEA), was a project of philanthropist Grace Dodge (Dolkart 1998, 227).

Founded in 1884, it was originally intended to impart household service skills to women, but soon it

diversified to include technical education to men and women of poor families (Dolkart 1998, 227). IEA established the coeducational Horace Mann School in 1887. However, after Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler became the President of IEA, the school dropped its curriculum in technical education and became an institution exclusively for professional teaching. In 1892, the school was officially renamed Teachers College, with a majority of students being women (Dolkart 1998, 228).

Teachers College moved to Morningside Heights in 1894 with the specific intention of allying itself with Columbia. Teachers College originally sought to merge with Columbia as a professional school, but Columbia rejected this proposal due to the trustees' desire to keep women out of Columbia's undergraduate classes (Dolkart, 1998). In 1898, however, a compromise was struck and Teachers College achieved an affiliation with Columbia while retaining its legal and financial independence ("Historical Timeline," Teachers College N.D). While Columbia was built in a neoclassical style, Teachers College was built in a "Collegiate Gothic" style, demonstrating visually that the two institutions were not completely integrated (Dolkart 1998, 232).

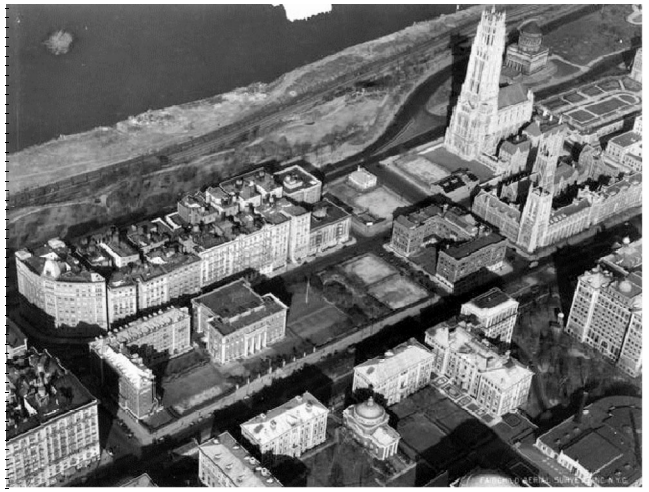
Coeducation at Columbia remained a contentious issue for decades. Although some graduate schools had been coeducational since the 1890s, it was not until 1942 that all of Columbia's professional and graduate schools were coeducational, with the Graduate School of Engineering being the last to admit women ("Women at Columbia Timeline," N.D). In 1947, Columbia's School of General Studies opened in part to accommodate the influx of student veterans after World War II. Among these soldiers were female veterans, many of whom served in the Women's Army Corps and Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (Ast 2017). This increased gender integration did not extend to the undergraduate Columbia College, however, as pervasive beliefs about the inherent differences between the sexes dominated the campus. In 1931, for example, a Professor of Psychology at Columbia wrote that coeducation leads to inferior educations for both sexes, stating that "'many a bright girl giggles her sexy way through college, learning less than a decimal of what she might, but for her flirting and erotic fidgets" ("Sex Dangers in Co-Education says Columbia University Expert," 1931).

Despite the segregation of the sexes, women were not absent from Columbia's campus. Students from Columbia and Barnard were able to cross-enroll in courses (Dolkart 1998, 205). Over 100 Barnard women also participated in one of Columbia's most well-known political events – the protests of 1968. Barnard women occupied Columbia campus buildings but were often assigned to menial administrative work, such as answering phones or taking notes, by male strike leaders ("1968: Women's Involvement in the Strike," N.D). Nancy Bieberman, a Barnard student who participated in the protests, wrote in 1968 that "liberation has applied only to buildings, not to ourselves...[t]o be sure, it is easy for the Barnard girl...to allow the traditional role patterns perpetuated by the separation of the colleges to continue into the supposedly liberated strike" (Bieberman, 1968).

Fifteen years later, women were finally admitted to undergraduate education at Columbia. When the first coeducational class entered in 1983, the class was 45 percent women, the highest percentage of women in any Ivy League institution at the time (Belkin 1983). Barnard is not only smaller, less expensive, and less architecturally imposing than Columbia, but it is also physically separated from Columbia by a road. This spatial separation influenced perceptions of the two institutions, even fueling a joke that asked "why does the Barnard woman cross the street?" The punchline was "to get an education" (Belkin 1983). Although Columbia's acceptance of undergraduate women was a significant step forward in gender equity at the school, the physical separation of Barnard and Columbia has had lasting impacts on the perception of the validity of each institution and the individuals who choose to attend them. But the "traditional role patterns perpetuated by the separation of colleges" proved difficult to eradicate. A male student at Columbia said that women who chose Barnard did so because they thought they could only be successful in an all-female environment, while "Columbia women, on the other hand, are not afraid to compete" (Belkin 1983).

In 2018, 51 percent of Columbia's undergraduate class was women and the enrollments of the graduate and professional schools combined were 49 percent women ("Columbia University: Enrollment by School, Gender, and Degree Level" Fall 2018). Despite strides in gender equity at Columbia and its related institutions, however, the built environment within and surrounding still reflects a gendered history. The significance of the separation of Columbia from Barnard and Teachers College was perhaps inadvertently summarized by Herman Wouk, a Columbia alumnus who graduated in 1934. Wouk stated that "the best things of the moment were outside the rectangle of Columbia; the best things of all human history and thought were inside the rectangle" (Sachare 2014). Barnard and Teachers College are located outside Wouk's rectangle.

One of the most conspicuous ways in which Columbia's environment is still dominated by men is the



Aerial View of Barnard and Columbia, Showing Barnard's Orientation (1933), On verso: Aerial view of Barnard College buildings
Source: Barnard Digital Archives



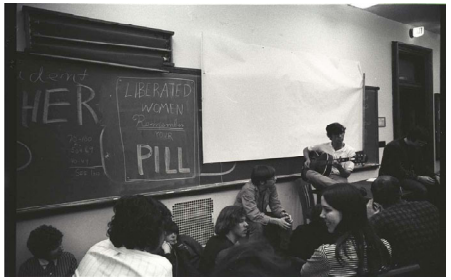
Teachers College Original Home at No. 9 University Place
Source: Horace Mann School website



Teachers College (circa 1894)
Source: Teachers College website



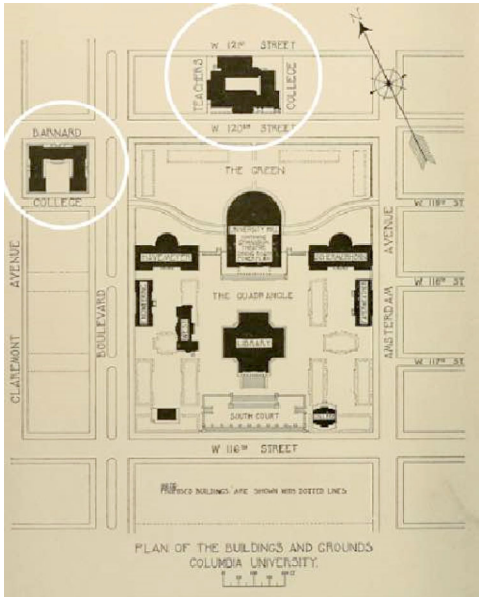
Grace Hoadley Dodge
Source: Teachers College Website



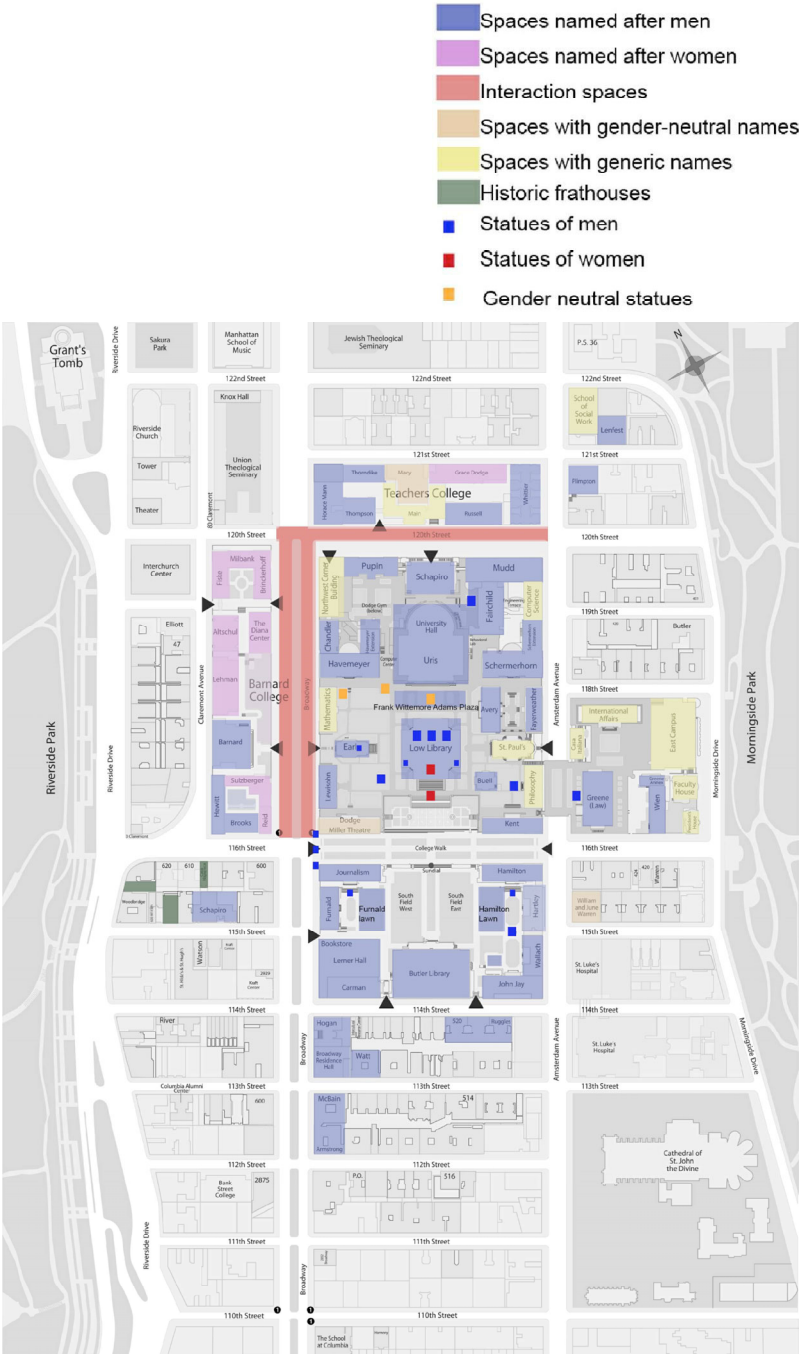
Women Participating in the 1968 Protests. On verso: Liberated Women Remember Your Pill (1968)
Source: Columbia University Archives, Gerald S. Adler



Columbia's First Co-Educational Undergraduate Class (1983)
Source: New York Times, "First Coed Class Enters Columbia," August 30th, 1983



Map of Columbia, Illustrating Columbia's "Rectangle" (1898)
Source: Columbia University Archives



Spatialization of Academic Building Names at Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College
Source: Prepared by Sreya Chakraborty

naming of spaces, buildings and open spaces. Of all the buildings and open spaces at Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College, nearly 60 percent are named after men. At Barnard, 64 percent of spaces are named after women while 18 percent are named after men and another 18 percent are named after families or couples. Teachers College has only 11 percent of spaces named for women, with 56 percent of spaces named for men. An additional 33 percent of spaces at Teachers College are named for families or couples. Out of all the named spaces at Columbia, which includes open spaces and academic buildings, 76 percent are named for men while the remaining 24 percent are named for families or couples. No open spaces or buildings at Columbia are named for women. The only space on Columbia's campus that is named for a woman is Miller Theatre, named for Kathryn Bache Miller. The theatre is located inside the Dodge building, named for Marcellus Hartley Dodge.

Most of the buildings or open spaces in these institutions are named after male donors whose contributions have helped build the structures or maintain their upkeep. Although some of the spaces were donated by married couples and families, the spaces are always named after the man of the family. The undergraduate residence Hartley Hall at Columbia, for example, was named after Marcellus Hartley Dodge, a member of an established American family who donated money to Columbia and Teachers College. Although Dodge's aunt, Helen Hartley Jenkins, also donated a significant amount of money to the construction of Hartley Hall, the naming of the building does not acknowledge her contribution. The naming of other spaces at each institution, which includes open spaces, interior spaces, library rooms, and meeting rooms, exhibit the discrepancy in naming of the academic buildings.

The visual language expressed by Columbia's art installations and statuary reinforces the building names to reflect male dominance on the campus. The vast majority of exterior statues on campus represent men and were designed and sculpted by men. Although there are several allegorical or mythological statues of men on campus, such as God Pan by George Grey Barnard, most male statues represent real historical figures.

Two of the most prominent male statues on campus are Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, both designed by William Ordway Partridge. Another male statue Le Marteleur designed by Constantin Meunier does not represent a specific historical figure, but is a representative figure for miners and engineers.

The few female statues on campus, conversely, are all allegorical, representing abstract ideals rather than real individuals or groups. The primary statue of a woman on campus is Alma Mater, located in front of Low Library. Designed by Daniel Chester French, Alma Mater does not represent any woman who actually lived. She is an allegorical representation of the university's educative mission and a "nourishing mother of studies" ("Alma Mater: Early History" N.D). While this allegorical female figure welcomed young men to a campus where, for many decades, women were not allowed, no exterior statues of real women stand on Columbia's campus.

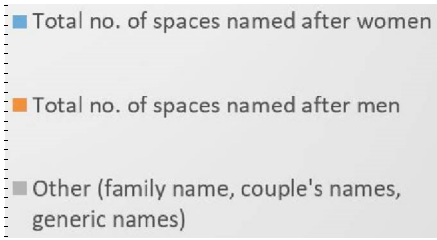
Women have acknowledged the gendered spatial and artistic inequality on campus and have made active attempts to confront this inequality in Columbia's built environment. One of the first attempts came in 1989, when Laura Hotchkiss Brown, a student at the School of General Studies, attempted to unfurl a banner with the names of seven prominent female authors directly above the engraved names of seven male writers on the front facade of Butler library. Brown's banner, which used the same typeface as the engraved men's names, included the names of Sappho, Marie de France, Christine de Pizan, Juana Inés de la Cruz, Emily Brontë, Emily Dickinson, and Virginia Woolf. Brown was stopped from completing the unfurling of the banner by Columbia Security (Rosenblum 1994). Later in the year, Columbia permitted the unfurling of the complete banner on the facade of the library. In 1994, with university support, another banner was unfurled over male names on Butler with female authors, including increased numbers of women of color, such as Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, and Leslie Marmon Silko (Rosenblum 1994).

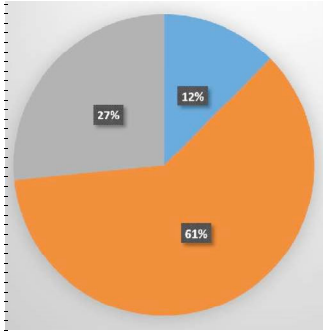
The discrepancy in naming and representations between men and women on campus has historically been acknowledged. Despite the work of generations of Columbia women to address this inequity, however, no permanent changes have been made to the campus to reflect the gender diversity of the Columbia community.

Although Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College represent significant issues of gender equity, they were not the only important women's institutions in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. The Women's Hospital, which originally opened in 1855 before moving to 110th Street in Morningside Heights in 1902, was the first hospital in the country that catered specifically to women (Dolkart, 98 and 100).

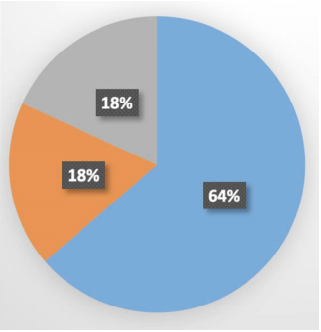
This institution originated revolutionary gynecological treatments, becoming the "seat of instruction in gynecology not only of America but of the entire world" (Grad 1918, 1). This hospital and its treatments were made possible, however, by the work of Dr. Morgan Sims. Dr. Sims perfected his gynecological techniques in South

Source: Prepared by Sreya Chakraborty

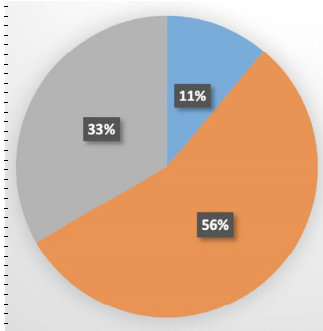




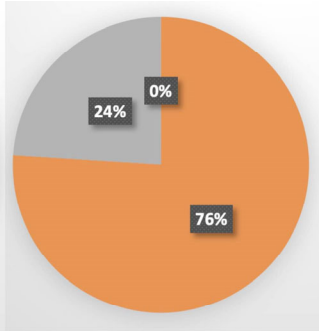
Percentage of Male vs. Female Named Spaces at Barnard, Columbia, and Teachers College



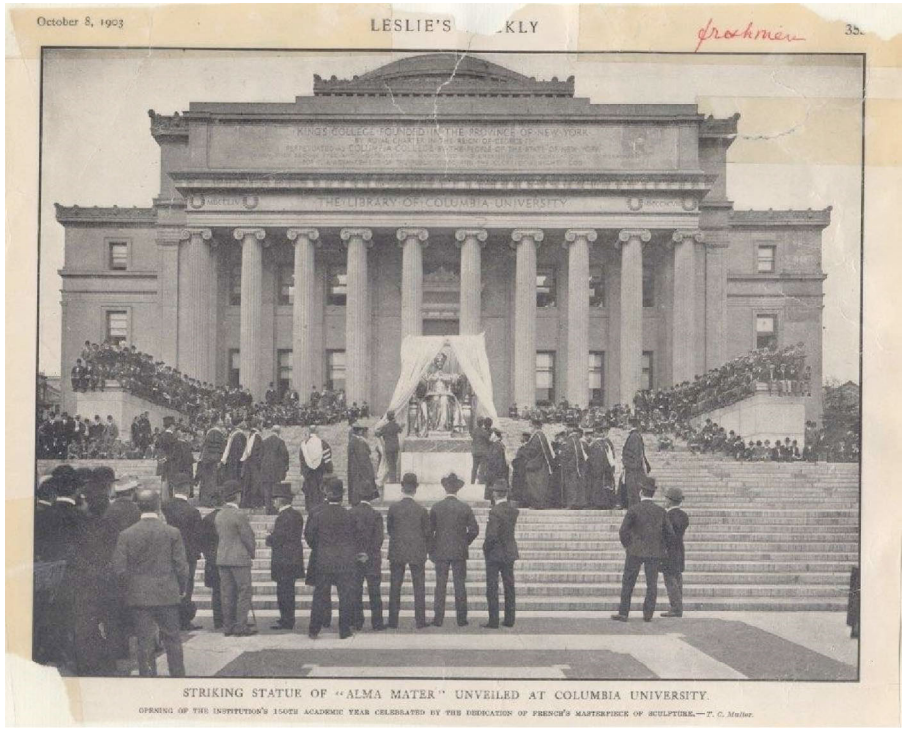
Percentage of Male vs. Female Named Spaces at Barnard College



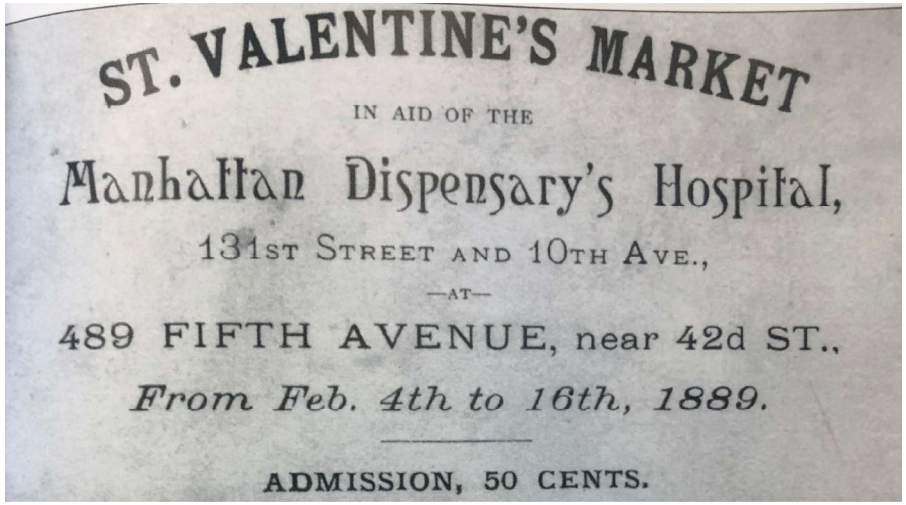
Percentage of Male vs. Female Named Spaces at Teachers College



Percentage of Male vs. Female Named Spaces at Columbia University



All-Male Audience at the Unveiling of Alma Mater Statue at Columbia University (1903)
Source: Columbia University Archives, Clipping from Leslie's Weekly, October 8, 1903



Ladies' Association Advertisement for the St. Valentine's Day Market Aiding the Knickerbocker Hospital (1889)
Source: Eric K. Washington, Manhattanville: Old Heart of West Harlem, 49



Brown's Original Banner Hanging Over Butler Library (1989)
Source: Columbia University Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality



Women's Hospital in Morningside Heights (circa 1909)
Source: St. Luke's Hospital Archives

Carolina, where he conducted medical experiments on slave women and poor, primarily Irish immigrant women (Grad 1918, 2). Dr. Sims "operated upward of forty times on three [slave women] and twenty-one times on one [slave woman]" (Grad 1918, 2). The Women's Hospital provides insight into intersectionality and emphasizes the difficulties of spatialization of gender in conjunction with race, immigration, and socioeconomic status. Now demolished, there is no commemoration of the hospital's site in the neighborhood, nor of the women whose medical sacrifices helped create the techniques that made the hospital famous. While there is little representation of women in the neighborhood, in naming or in buildings, there is even less spatial representation of women of color.

Women played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Knickerbocker Hospital, which aimed to serve underprivileged populations in the area. The Knickerbocker Hospital (known as the Manhattan Dispensary Hospital until 1913) was located north of the former site of the Women's Hospital on 131st Street in Manhattanville. The hospital's Ladies' Association, established in 1886 to aid the fundraising of the Knickerbocker, raised $10,000 of the $13,000 needed to originally fund the construction of the hospital. In 1889, the Ladies' Association held a fundraiser on St. Valentine's Day which raised an additional $11,000 to establish a permanent endowment for the hospital (Washington 2002, 49).

Although the Knickerbocker Hospital no longer exists - the building currently serves as a senior center - the importance of women's health organizations in the city is physically commemorated to the south, on 116th street in Riverside Park. In 1910, a marble fountain was erected in the park to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Women's Health Protective Association, which was founded in 1884 in New York City with the aim of improving public health. ("Women's Health Protective Association," N.D). The fountain still stands today, one of the few pieces of public art in the area commemorating the role of women in shaping the neighborhood.

Women not only raised funds for healthcare organizations, but also served as healthcare professionals at all of the area's medical institutions. Women worked as staff and nurses at the area's health institutions, including the Women's Hospital. St. Luke's Hospital, located at West 114th Street, also employed and trained women as nurses. The Knickerbocker additionally had women working as nurses and, during World War II in the 1940s, had an emergency ambulatory unit that was primarily made up of women.

Religious institutions provide further context through which to understand the multiple histories of gender equity present in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. Union Theological Seminary, located at 3041 Broadway, admitted its first female student in 1895. Although female students were initially required to sit in the back of the classrooms and avoid drawing attention to themselves--entering the room after their male counterparts and leaving before them--the Seminary enrolled 18 women in its Bachelors of Divinity program between 1895 and 1910 (Handy 1987, 97). Jewish Theological Seminary, located at 3080 Broadway, began admitting women by 1904 through the Teachers' Course, a program designed to train future Jewish instructors (Kaplan 1939, 124).

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the construction of which began in 1887, notably employed a woman, Carrie A. Howland, to direct the raising of its massive "ninety-ton and forty-ton monoliths" ("Odd Work for Woman" 1904).

Howland, the wife of one of the contractors of St. John, had previous experience in erecting "monuments of all sizes, and cables, ropes, pulleys, levers, scaffolds, hammers and drills [were] as familiar to her as teaspoons or scissors are to other women" ("Odd Work for Woman" 1904). Howland's active role in the construction of St. John the Divine was unique in the neighborhood, as few buildings were designed, much less constructed, by women. Despite her role in the construction, however, contemporary accounts were still careful to note that Howland was "womanly and naturally graceful in speech and manner" ("Odd Work for Woman" 1904).

North of St. John's, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, located on 126th Street in Manhattanville, was also shaped by women. In 1824, Hannah Lawrence Schieffelin, a woman who risked her life by scattering copies of a poem she wrote condemning the lewd behavior of British officers during the Revolutionary War, and her husband Jacob, who was ironically a British officer, donated the land to St. Mary's (Washington 2002, 29). St. Mary's continued to emphasized the role of women in the church throughout its history, providing social opportunities for women such as the St. Mary's Order of the Fleur de Lis, a girls' club that provided recreational opportunities and comradery.

In 1973, St. Mary's elected its first female warden and two female deacons, Emily Hewitt and Carter Heyward. St. Mary's supported the two female deacons for priesthood ("A Brief History of St. Mary's Episcopal Church" N.D). In 1974, the national Episcopal Church would still not permit ordaining women as priests. In defiance, a ceremony was held in Philadelphia in July 1973 where 11 women were ordained by women as Episcopal Priests - both Hewitt and Heyward were ordained in this ceremony. The ordination pushed the Episcopal



St. Luke's Hospital Surgical Theater (1899)
Source: St. Luke's Hospital Archives



Knickerbocker Hospital Emergency Units 3 and 4 (1942)
Source: Eric K. Washington, Manhattanville: Old Heart of West Harlem, 51



Revs. Alison Cheek, Carter Heyward of St. Mary's (center), and Jeannette Piccard at Riverside Church (1974)
Source: National Catholic Reporter

church to officially allow the ordination of women in their General Convention ("A Brief History of St. Mary's Episcopal Church" N.D).

In addition to women in prominent philanthropic and civic positions, working class women also contributed to the development of Manhattanville. Women in the area worked in all sectors of the area's economy. The 1905 census provides a snapshot into the employment of women in Manhattanville. There were 438 female heads of households in the neighborhood. Of that number, approximately 220 described themselves as employed, 63 percent of which were employed in "personal service," which included laundering, cleaning and other work that was traditionally associated with women. The author of a study of Manhattanville's population in 1909 described this work as "the most natural type of work for women" (Woolston 1909, 112). An additional 22 percent of these women were engaged in manufacturing, which primarily involved sewing (Woolston 1909, 112). The final 9 percent were engaged in commercial work, which included employment at shops. These numbers do not provide a complete picture of the trades and numbers of women who worked in Manhattanville, as there were many women who worked but were not the head of household on the census and are thus excluded from this analysis, but they do provide perspective into the varied ways in which women actively participated in the economy of the neighborhood.

Women shaped the Morningside Heights and Manhattanville neighborhoods through the formation of colleges, through working in factories, stores, and homes, through the construction of churches, through the funding of hospitals, through leadership roles in civil society, and through protests for inclusion and equality. Despite the importance of women in the story of Manhattanville and Morningside Heights, however, the built environment of the area is still dominated by men, as women's roles in the development of the neighborhood have largely remained hidden. Although much has changed in the neighborhood, much of the built environment has remained the same, lacking substantive inclusion of women's names, images, and stories.

Gwen Stricker, Qian Xu

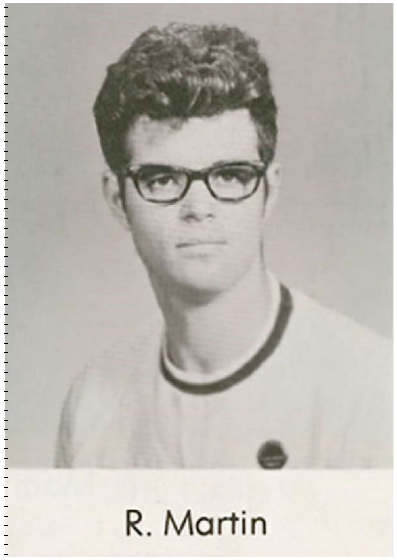
The collegiate institutions of Columbia University and Barnard College are central in the historical narrative of LGBTQ inclusion in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. Columbia's campus contains the two most prominent spatializations of this narrative, having been at the forefront of gay rights in collegiate life in the late 1960s. Religious institutions in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville such as Riverside Church, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Union Theological Seminary, and Jewish Theological Seminary were inclusive toward the LGBTQ community, and contribute to the narrative within our study area. These institutions acted as allies to individuals alienated because of their sexuality. LGBTQ student groups today carry on the legacy of the initial intent of gay students at Columbia in the 1960s, but the narrative is in need of spatialization in the neighborhood. Understanding the spatial connection that this history has to the Morningside Heights and Manhattanville study area will be instrumental in identifying spaces that do not currently carry visible representations of the strong LGBTQ history they hosted.

Columbia University LGBTQ History

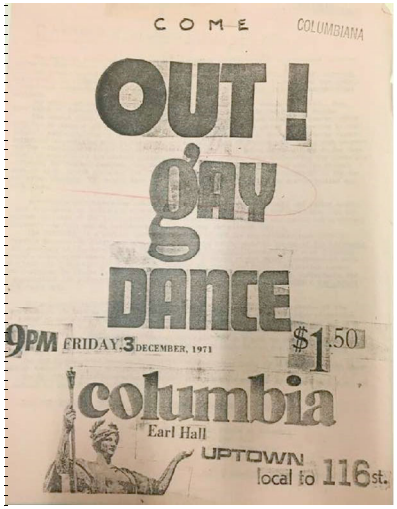
The Student Homophile League was the first collegiate gay student organization in the country, founded in 1966 by Robert Martin (AKA Stephen Donaldson) in partnership with student James Millham in an effort to establish a Mattachine Society Chapter at Columbia University (Dolkart, 2017). The Mattachine Society was one of the earliest gay rights groups, with its first chapter in San Francisco. There were difficulties with relating the student group to the national Mattachine network, leading Donaldson to establish the group as the Student Homophile League (Columbia LGBTQ Record). The group functioned with the support of the university chaplain, Reverend John Dyson Cannon, who also put the group in contact with John V.P. Lassoe, the Director of Christian Social Relations for the Diocese of New York of the Protestant Episcopal Church (Columbia LGBTQ Record). The organization was not officially acknowledged by the university until 1967, and even then the university was not supportive of the group. Columbia faced negative reactions from many alumni and media regarding the decision to allow the group, and many letters urging to disband the group were sent to the university (Dolkart, 2017). The goals established by the group related to companionship and support for gay students, like providing counseling, information, and open discussions about the issues gay people were experiencing across the country (Dolkart, 2017). The League eventually became a group called Gay People at Columbia, which took on a more activist role at the university. This group eventually also included Barnard students in its membership, becoming Gay People at Columbia Barnard and later Columbia Queer Alliance.

The Homophile League was not initially considered an activist organization; rather, it acted as a safe community for gay students to understand each other's hardships. However, eventually the SHL adopted a RADICAL MANIFESTO: the Homophile Movement must be Radicalized! and engaged in continuous political struggle on all fronts. After the SHL was replaced by the group Gay People at Columbia (GPC/GPCB), the purpose was changed to "present as complete a view as possible of the contemporary gay experience". They outlined three aspects of work: social, educational, and political. Socially, it aimed to create a gay community at Columbia which would enable its members to relate to each other in a non-oppressive atmosphere; educationally, to promote, among homosexuals, bisexuals, and heterosexuals alike, an enlightened understanding of homosexuality free of the taboos, misconceptions, and stigmatization of a sexist society; and politically, to fight against the oppression of gays in and out of Columbia University. Gay People at Columbia hosted many activities and events for gay students, including research initiatives and educational programs, discussion groups, and counseling. It briefly ran a newspaper known as Pride of Lions. The Columbia Daily Spectator rarely covered any of these events, giving little to no acknowledgement that GPC even existed. Barnard College Bulletin did, however, allow the first article covering LGBTQ issues to be published in 1969; titled "The Lesbian," it was written as a demand for the voices of homosexual students to be heard, and a criticism that Columbia and Barnard were not allowing these voices at the table (Gordon, 1969).

Among the activities and events organized by the GPC, the monthly Friday night Gay Dance hosted in Earl Hall was the most popular event put on by the group. Early dances saw between 100 and 150 attendees, with the numbers fluctuating in the mid 70s to near 350 on popular nights (Student Homophile League, 1967-1968). The dances were open to the public, and people from elsewhere in Manhattan made their way to Columbia's campus to take advantage of the opportunity to socialize in a safe space. Gay men from the West Village, and other neighborhoods along the 1 Train route, learned of the dance by word-of-mouth through Columbia students. Soda and eventually wine were served at the dances as they gained popularity, and people recall a nice, relaxed



Portrait of Robert Martin, founder of the Student Homophile League at Columbia University
Source: NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project



One example of the many posters used to attract people to the Gay Dance throughout the years it was run.
Source: Columbia University Office of the President Records, Student Homophile League Files



Earl Hall on Columbia's campus
Source: NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project

atmosphere different from gay bars and clubs throughout the city. The dances served as fundraisers for the group as well, always bringing in a profit for the GPC to use for other events and future dances. Earl Hall was the space most utilized by the LGBTQ community, making it the most connected space in the study area to the issue of LGBTQ equity.

LGBTQ Spaces at Columbia

When it was formed, the Student Homophile League was supported and encouraged by the university chaplain, Reverend John Dyson Cannon, who gave its members access to his office in Earl Hall. Designed and built in 1902 by McKim, Mead, and White as part of the campus master plan, the structure was originally referred to as Student's Hall (Dolkart, 2017). From the time of its construction, the building was always used to house spaces for student organizations, with preference given to religious organizations, upon request of the donor, William Earl Dodge Jr., who funded its construction. Earl Hall was the home base for the League (and later GCP) where they held their meetings, provided temporary housing for gay Columbia students, and hosted the well-known Friday night dances. In [WHAT YEAR?] Earl Hall was successfully nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its connection with national LGBTQ collegiate history and the larger network of NYC historic LGBTQ sites.

Another pertinent gay space on Columbia's campus was (and continues to be) Furnald Hall. In 1971, gay students led by Morty Manford began occupying a lounge in the basement of the dormitory building of Furnald Hall, and proclaimed it a gay student lounge (McDonald, 1971). Columbia did not initially acknowledge or support its use as a gay space, and urged them not to do so. Gay students at Columbia and Barnard began having rallies to call attention to their lack of representation; after back and forth meetings with the administration, Dean Peter Pouncey was persuaded to recognize the space as a gay lounge. The Undergraduate Dormitory council voted to officially designate it a space for gay students to use however they like (Barnard Archive). The room was renamed the Stephen Donaldson Lounge after the alias of the founder of the Student Homophile League, although it is not certain when the renaming occurred. Many of the current LGBTQ groups on campus still frequently use this space for meetings and events, carrying on the legacy of its LGBTQ history.

Barnard College's LGBTQ Involvement

A few years after gay students at Columbia began to band together to form student organizations, Barnard College students followed suit. The Barnard Center for Research on Women was founded in 1971 in an effort to promote women's equality, and took on the responsibility of collecting and storing records about LGBTQ students and organizations at the college ("About," BCRW). Soon after, the Lesbian Activists at Barnard formed in 1972 with the goal to give lesbian students a sense of sisterhood. They released an article in the Barnard Bulletin explaining struggles that lesbian students face, and announcing the first open session for the group with speakers from the Lesbian Liberation Committee of the Gay Activist Alliance (May Chen, 1972). In 1979 at the Conference on Special Programs for Women in Higher Education, more than 50 administrators, staff, and faculty at Barnard College drafted a statement of support for lesbian students in the college, a large step towards inclusion (Tappan, 1979). Barnard students remained active in LAB and GPCB, and other groups formed later, like the Lesbian and Bisexual Inclusion Alliance in 1994.

Additional Institutional LGBTQ Representation

While Columbia and Barnard sparked the early efforts to represent LGBTQ student populations, other educational and religious institutions in the surrounding Morningside Heights neighborhood joined the conversation of inclusion and equality as well. Members of the Teachers College student body were not initially very active in the fight for LGBTQ equity along with Columbia and Barnard, but these students did eventually form their own representative group. In 1985, students established the Lesbians and Gays at Teachers College, or LGTC, in order to encourage inclusion in the field of education (Columbia LGBTQ Record). It was also a Teachers College graduate, Rick Shur from the class of 1975, who established the Columbia Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association in 1984 (Columbia LGBTQ Record). The Union Theological Seminary also at some point established a Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Caucus, which was included in the 1993 CALIPSO (Columbia Almanac of Information Pertaining to Sexual Orientation) student magazine, dedicated to issues of sexuality at educational institutions in the Columbia network. Although the origins of this caucus have not been pinpointed, the group was meant to support LGBTQ students and work toward inclusion in the church. The same magazine discussed "lesbigay" groups at the

Manhattan School of Music, the Jewish Theological Seminary (for both LGBTQ students and straight students in support of them), Bank Street College, and Riverside Church. Riverside Church's involvement was mainly to act as allies to the LGBTQ communities, with a group called Manartha devoted to issues of sexuality and sexual harassment or abuse ("CALIPSO," 1993).

Riverside Church has been an active institution in the history of LGBTQ inclusion in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville since the early 1970s. Bill Johnson, the first openly gay minister of the United Church of Christ, was ordained at Riverside Church 1972, making it the earliest explicit manifestation of gay rights in the study area. Six years later in 1978, congregants at the church organized an adult ministry group led by Sam Barrett devoted to the inclusion and study of homosexuality and religion. The group, self-named Maranatha meaning "the Lord cometh," began as a small support group, but grew into a very active group which was involved with the larger New York City gay rights network, participating in gay pride marches and eventually hosting sermons and religious activities to promote homosexual equality in the church. In 1985, the Board of Deacons and the congregation voted to endorse "A Statement of Openness, Inclusion and Affirmation of Gay and Lesbian Persons," one of the first congregations in the country to do so. While this decision was met with opposition from Riverside congregants, the presence of progressive ministers such as Dr. William Sloane Coffin and his successor, openly gay Rev. John J. McNeil, helped to ensure this statement was upheld. The group is still very active today, and continues to advocate and provide support for religious LGBTQ individuals.

Additionally, St. Mary's Episcopal Church has been involved in LGBT equity in the Manhattanville Neighborhood. St. Mary's congregants were socially active individuals concerned with equal justice, demonstrating concern for civil rights, LGBT rights, anti-war issues, and economic disparity concerns (Kooperkamp, 2011). In fact, in the 1992, then Reverend Robert Castle converted the Ackley Center (previously the Speyer School) into a 40-bed residence called St. Mary's Episcopal Center, where individuals living with HIV or AIDS could receive medical treatment (Washington, 1998). This effort, now called St. Mary's Center, Inc., continues their HIV/AIDS healthcare today in the same building where the radical program started.

Today, there are more than twenty Columbia student organizations related to LGBTQ issues, many of which cater to specific races or nationalities that may face specific hardships. It is evident from the CALIPSO magazine listings that the unity of one central LGBTQ student group began to disseminate and branch off into several smaller, less united groups in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The Columbia Queer Alliance as it exists today is the organization that is tied to the original gay student group, the Student Homophile League, and still functions in a way that is congruent with the original goals of the group. Several of the current student organizations still utilize the Stephen Donaldson Lounge in the basement of Furnald Hall, ensuring that the space remains dedicated to use by LGBTQ students. However, there is a lack of spatial and physical representation of LGBTQ history on Columbia's campus and in the surrounding Morningside Heights neighborhood, and this history should be spatialized because of its national importance as the first institution to allow an LGBTQ student organization. There is great potential to present a stronger presence of this history within the spaces provided, and Columbia, Morningside Heights, and Manhattanville would benefit from a spatialized recognition of LGBTQ history.



Historic tax photo of the St. Mary's Episcopal Center where the church's HIV/AIDS healthcare initiative housed patients (1940)
Source: New York City Municipal Archive

Conflict, War, and National Defense

Kathleen Maloney, Sarah Sargent



Members of the Columbia Students' Army Training Corps (SATC) taking the oath of allegiance, October 1, 1918.
Source: Columbia University Archives



Students training on a dummy airplane during World War I.
Source: Columbia University Archives



Navy Midshipman in uniform during commencement, 1944
Source: Columbia University Archives



Students stand guard atop Butler Library during an air raid drill,1941.
Source: Columbia University Archives

This historic context statement takes stock of histories related to conflict, war and national defense, insofar as they relate to Columbia, its built environment and communities. Large-scale historical events, conflicts and influential war-related research--as well as localized events that responded to these global developments--have left their mark on the history and, to a lesser extent, the built fabric of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. In its exploration of histories of conflict, war and national defense, the report is divided into three sections--war, protests and international affairs. While these topics are intimately related, they have been divided into these three sections for greater clarity.

War

Conflict and war have shaped the built environment of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville in a variety of ways, starting with the battle of Harlem Heights in 1776, during the Revolutionary War. This battle took place near what is now the campus of Columbia University (Stockwell, n.d.), and a plaque installed in 1897 near Broadway and 116th commemorates the event (Columbia University, n.d.). Several wars and conflicts took place after the Revolutionary War, but for the most part they are not currently represented in the built environment. Three block house fortifications were built in Morningside Park during the War of 1812, none of which is extant (New York City Parks and Recreation, n.d.).

War and conflict were largely absent from the neighborhood until World War I, which made a lasting impact. Approximately 2,600 Columbia affiliates served in World War I ("The First World War", n.d.), and the Morningside Heights campus also played a role in the war. In 1918 a branch of the Student's Army Training Corps was created at Columbia to prepare students to serve in France ("Student Training", n.d.). Three Curtiss fighter jets were placed behind Schermerhorn Hall so that students could practice with them ("Specialized Training", n.d.). Kent and Havemeyer Halls housed the newly-minted U.S. Signal Corps school of military cinematography, which produced propaganda films to "boost morale among soldiers and the U.S. public" ("Specialized Training", n.d.).

Morningside Heights and Manhattanville played a larger role during World War II, a fact that is only partially represented in the current landscape. In 1942, four German spies were dropped off at Long Island with explosives and $82,000 (Jackson, 2012). They made their way to the Columbia campus, stayed in the Upper West Side, saw Grant's tomb, listened to Jazz, and visited a brothel (Jackson, 2012). Their tour of the area was interrupted when two of them decided to defect, and turned themselves in along with six other members of their mission (four of whom had landed in Florida) (Ardman, 2006). To preserve secrecy, they were tried in a clandestine military court, and the six spies who had not defected were summarily executed by electric chair (Ardman, 2006). The two defectors stayed in prison until they were deported to Germany in 1948 (Ardman, 2006).

Additionally, a midshipman's school located at Columbia University trained as many as 21,000 Navy midshipmen during the war, more than the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis ("Columbians in WWII", n.d.). This program occupied twelve buildings on campus, along with a ship docked in the Hudson River ("Columbians in WWII", n.d.). The U.S. Navy's V-12 programs also trained approximately 850 doctors, dentists, and chaplains ("Specialized Training Programs", n.d.). Columbia University campus buildings were used for many war-related drills, and photos show students standing guard atop Butler Library during an air raid drill.

Most significantly, the Manhattan Project - research that led to the atomic bomb - was started at Columbia, which is how the project got its name. Army projects are traditionally named after the place in which they are started, and the name was kept even after the project dispersed to other areas of the country, to avoid arousing additional suspicion (Jackson, 2012). Most Manhattan Project activities took place on Columbia's campus, in buildings such as Pupin Physics Laboratories, Havermeyer Hall, and Schermerhorn Hall. However, an apartment building at 1eighteenth street remodeled for office purposes and a former Nash automobile showroom at Broadway and 133rd street were also used (Columbia University, 1945). Pupin Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks, and a small plaque installed in the lobby of the building mentions its history. However, the cyclotron and other significant equipment has been removed (Lithicum, 2008). Other buildings lack any physical interpretation of their role in the Manhattan Project.

Despite extensive scholarship on the history of the Manhattan Project, the role of women and minorities has frequently been left out of most accounts. There were several important women who worked on the Manhattan Project at Columbia University (Howes 1999, 12). They include Maria Meyer, who won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1963, Edith Hinkly Quimby, who developed the first film badges for measuring radiation exposure, and Chien-Shiung Wu, the only Chinese person to work on the Manhattan Project, and a brilliant physicist who fixed

Hanford's reactor from across the country (Howes 1999, 12, 116). This fact is represented spatially only by the presence of women's restrooms on alternating floors in several buildings on campus. The physics department did not have any women's restrooms at the time, so they opted to designate alternate-floor bathrooms as an efficient solution (Howes 1999, 69). Pupin Hall and Schermerhorn Hall continue to have alternate-floor men's and women's restrooms to this day.

The Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) was also present on university grounds as early as its formation in 1916 but, as one of the objects of the 1968 protests, the program was halted in 1969 and brought back to campus only in 2012, after garnering student support once the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy was repealed in 2011 (Feuer, 2011; Downs, 2011). Program offices are currently located in Lerner Hall. The ROTC's expulsion and return is just one example of a program influenced by student unrest or support.

Protests

Student engagement has been, and continues to be, instrumental in enacting change on campus and in the surrounding neighborhood. One of the longest continuous student-led protests ran from April 23 to April30, 1968, and ended when 1,000 NYC police officers removed students from five occupied campus buildings including: Avery, Fayerweather, Hamilton, Mathematics, and the President's office in Low Library.

The protest was the culmination of a series of smaller conflicts on campus including student and community opposition to the construction of the university's proposed Morningside gymnasium, the Student Afro-Society's (SAS) walkout of the Martin Luther King memorial service, opposition to CIA on-campus recruiting, mounting tensions between pro and anti-Vietnam War student factions on campus, and the university's refusal to distance itself from the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA). The resulting conflict with the police left 143 students injured, 700 arrested, and damage to the interior of many of the occupied buildings, most notably Mathematics, which was the last building to be entered by police (1968: Columbia in Crisis, n.d.)

Developed by the Department of Defense's Weapons Systems Evaluation Group (WSEG), the IDA operated as a university research consortium that attracted the nation's leading scientists to work on military and national security projects. The IDA gave priority to faculty of universities that were organizational members, which included Columbia University as of 1964. In March, 1967, a Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) member, Bob Feldman, discovered the university's affiliation with the IDA and began calling for Columbia to resign its membership, arguing that much of the research conducted was supporting technical advancements for the military (1968: Columbia in Crisis, n.d.). The SDS sent a letter to University President Grayson Kirk with 1,600 student signatures supporting a petition to end the affiliation with the IDA.

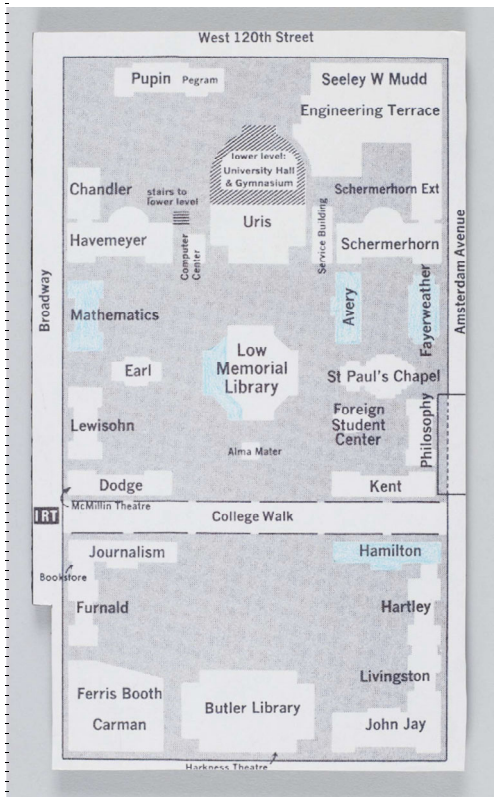
President Kirk conceded that a Committee would be formed to look into the affiliation but he refused to take any measures that might restrict the faculty's academic freedom (1968: Columbia in Crisis, n.d.). In response, SDS members staged a sit-in on April 5th in Low Library that resulted in six members being placed on probation. A few weeks later, on April 23, students (including 100 women from Barnard College) began a rally that started at the sundial and ended with students occupying five university buildings for eight days.

Protesting students first gathered by the sundial, in the center of College Walk between Low Library and Butler Library. Initially, the protest adhered to the ban President Kirk had issued on picketing in buildings by utilizing a centrally-located open space on campus that was accessible to all. As students crossed Low Library and Butler plazas and encountered the protestors, the number of supporters grew. By the end of the day, after unsuccessfully entering Low Library to hand a list of their demands to the President, students staged a sit-in at Hamilton Hall. Hamilton's prominent location along College Walk, between Amsterdam Ave and where the protests began at the sundial, would be an important factor in the days to come. Members of the surrounding community entered through Amsterdam Ave and joined the students in Hamilton Hall, which ultimately prompted SAS to request SDS and other student groups to leave. They complied and moved to Fayerweather, then to Low Library, and Avery, while the more hardline students settled in Mathematics (McCaughey, 2003). Faculty also formed an Ad Hoc Faculty Group (AHFG) in Philosophy 301 where they met throughout the protest (McCaughey, 2003).

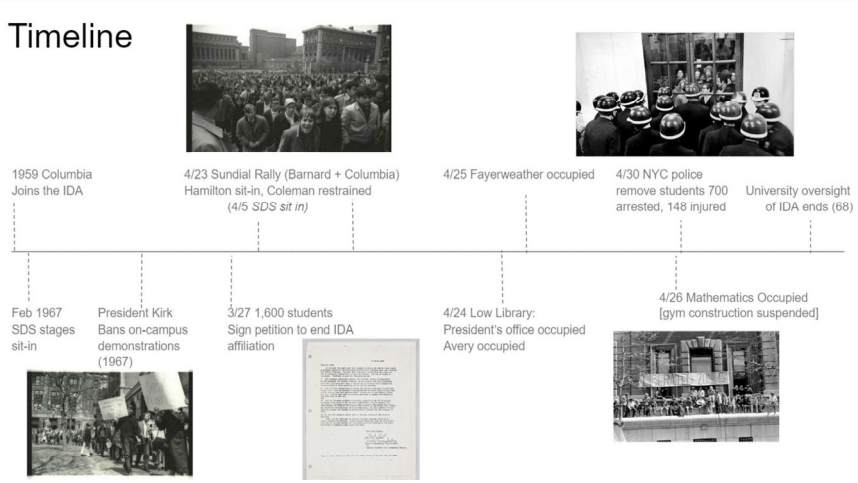
Campus unrest continued after the end of the April 1968 protest. Many students walked out of the commencement ceremony and 250 students occupied Hamilton Hall again on May 21 (Cronin, 1968). These May 21 protests saw some damage to Schermerhorn, College Walk, and the tunnels used by police to travel between Fayerweather and Hamilton. Community members and students also occupied 618 West 114th Street in opposition



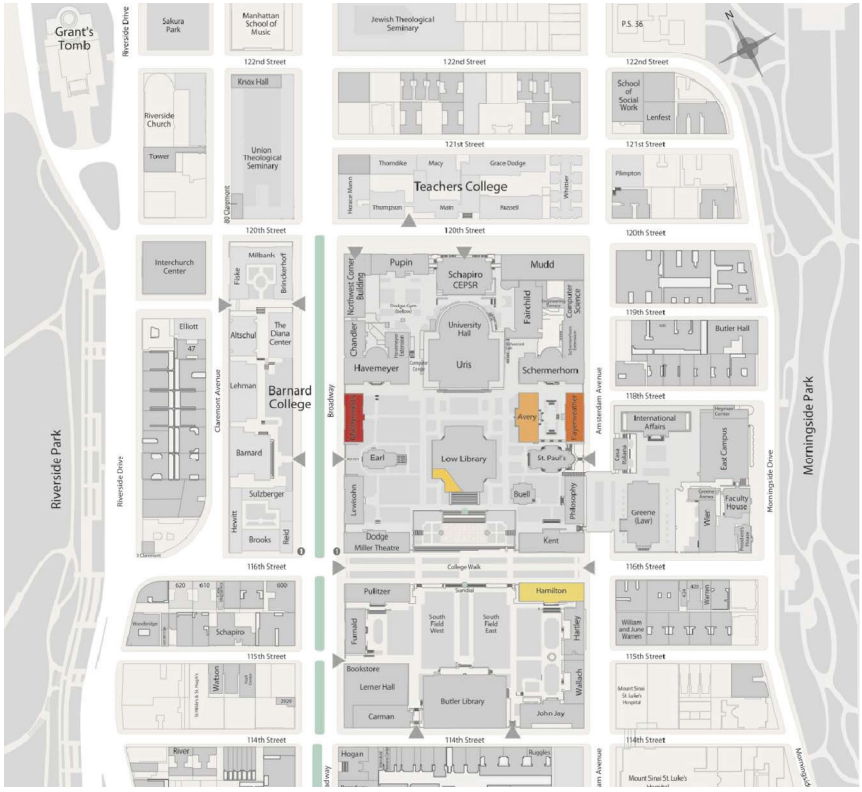
Community march down Amsterdam and through College Walk protesting the expansion of CU and the construction of Morningside gym in 1968
Source: Barnard.edu, Photo credit to Lee T. Pearcy



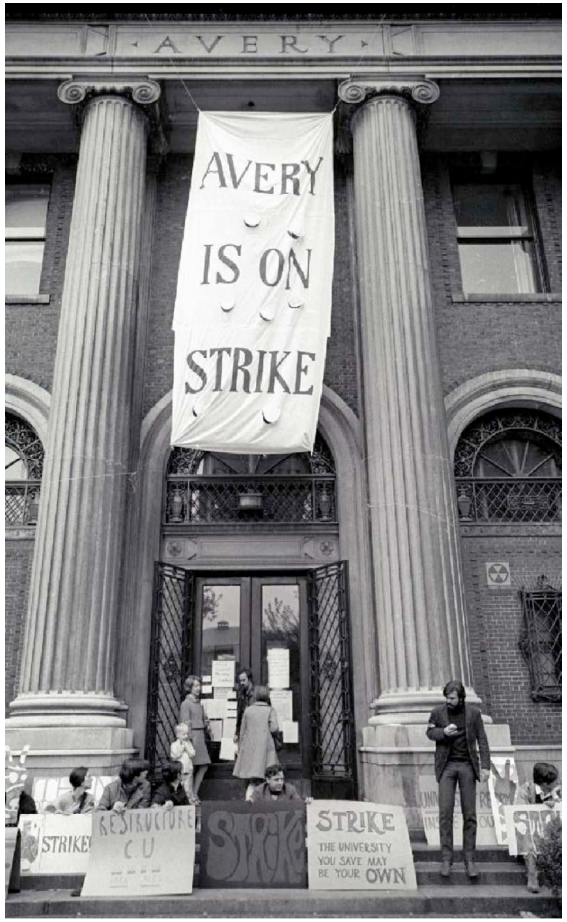
Blue indicates buildings that were occupied during the 1968 April protest.
Source: Columbia University Archives



Source: Prepared by Kathleen Maloney and Sarah Sargent (New York Times, 2/29/68; 1968: Columbia in Crisis, n.d.)



Map indicates degree of hostility between police and students with red being the highest level of damage or injuries incurred and yellow being the least.
Source: Prepared by Kathleen Maloney and Sarah Sargent



Avery Hall during the 1968 protests
Source: Columbia College Today



Faculty in Philosophy 301
Source: Columbia University Archives, Gerald S. Adler

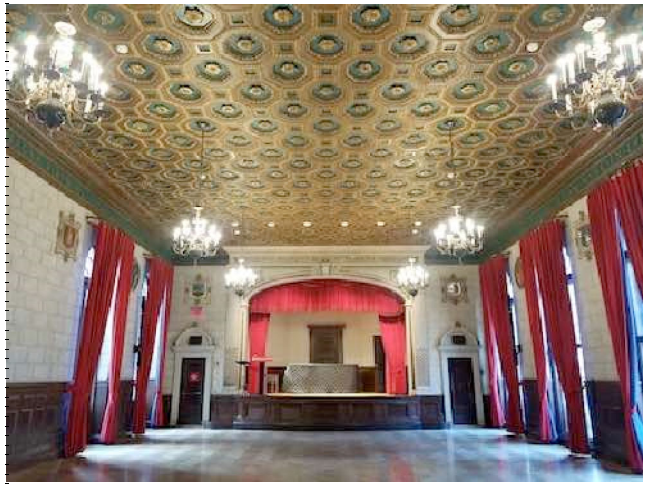
of the university's plans to demolish the building, ending with 117 people arrested (Sylvan, 5/20/68; Sylvan 5/22/1968). As a result of the April 1968 protests and the disorder that followed, university oversight of the IDA ceased, the ROTC program was removed from campus, President Grayson Kirk resigned, and construction on the Morningside gym stopped.

Another major impact of conflict and student protest happened in 1977 when students pushed back against the university's activating a Triga Mark II Fission Reactor that had been constructed below Pupin Hall. The university was granted a federal permit to activate the reactor but without a satisfactory guarantee of safety, and shortly after the accident at Three Mile Island, students protested against use of the reactor. Their position was supported by the city and University President William J. McGill (ABC News, 1/1/69; NYT 5/20/1979). The reactor was eventually dismantled and removed from Pupin (Columbia Engineering, 1/1/1969).

Global Affairs

Columbia University's ties to global affairs are rooted in the formation of two schools after WWII: The School of General Studies, established for veterans and returning military, and the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), founded in 1946 (Columbia World Leaders Forum, n.d.). SIPA's curriculum offers a concentration in International Organization and United Nations Studies designed to field students into United Nations programs and other international organizations like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. They also host the World Leader's Forum (est. 2003), which has brought over 100 world leaders from 85 countries to campus, including Madeleine K. Albright, Kofi Annan, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama (Columbia World Leaders Forum, n.d.). Many of these speakers have had warm receptions but others, like the former President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, have put the university at the forefront of debate on whether such controversial leaders should be given a forum to speak (Wright and Branigin, 2007). SIPA holds these events in Low Library, Casa Italiana or Lerner Hall.

Significant developments related to war, conflict and (inter)national affairs have taken place in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. Perhaps most significantly, the Manhattan Project was started and developed at Columbia. Wars and conflicts on the world-stage have also helped catalyze notable instances of student protest and activism, which have contributed to Columbia's ethos and its tradition of student activism. While these histories are important--and sometimes touch on issues of inclusion--little of it is represented in the built environment.



Many events are held in the interior of McKim, Mead and White's Casa Italiana.
Source: Kathleen Maloney

SIGNIFICANCE

The studio examined the physical character of and narratives associated with the built environment through a lens of inclusion. From this perspective, an understanding of the ways in which this neighborhood is significant to multiple publics was developed, and the studio identified opportunities to improve representation of underserved narratives and experiences. A survey was conducted by all studio members to assess the physical fabric of the study area, looking at issues derived from the historic context themes like narrative representation, accessibility, and connectivity. In order to connect the observed and identified resources on site, GIS data and mapping was used to explore how different communities are represented and spatialized. The studio then divided into three separate groups: planning and policy, conservation, and technology, and design, to further analyze and inform evidence-based proposals and interventions. Examining these resources reveals historic and architectural values associated with the neighborhood, but this studio is approaching the significance of the area through the perspective of inclusion.

Architectural History and Significance

The neighborhood's significance is well documented in existing publications, which the studio used to understand historic context and its importance. The two primary publications are Morningside Heights: A History of its Architecture and Development by Andrew Dolkart and Manhattanville: Old Heart of West Harlem by Eric Washington. These foundational publications guided architectural and historical significance research.

Morningside Heights and Manhattanville are two adjacent neighborhoods in northwestern Manhattan. Bordering the Hudson River, the topography of the area facilitated two major historical events with national consequences. The first is the landing of Henry Hudson and his crew on the indented shoreline of the present Manhattanville during his early 17th century expedition commissioned by the Dutch East India Company, which laid the groundwork for colonization of the island by the Dutch. The second is the Revolutionary War Battle of Harlem Heights of 1776. The terrain was a significant in facilitating both of these events and proved to be a prime character-defining feature of the neighborhoods as they developed into the nineteenth century.

From the 17th to the early nineteenth centuries, Morningside Heights had a rural character, dotted by villages on the western part of the area along the Hudson River. The area was separated from the growing city at the southern tip of the island, in part due to its plateau-like topography. Its segregation from the bustle of the city to the south made the area prime for development as an institutional hub with large swathes of land available inexpensively. Bloomingdales Insane Asylum and Leaks and Watts Orphan Asylum were two of the first institutions to establish their institutional presence when the area was still largely segregated from the congested part of the city. With the improvement of public transportation, however, other institutional agencies started taking interest in the area. Columbia University set up its Morningside Heights campus on the former site of Bloomingdale Asylum in 1876, followed by the construction of the Teachers College and Barnard College around it

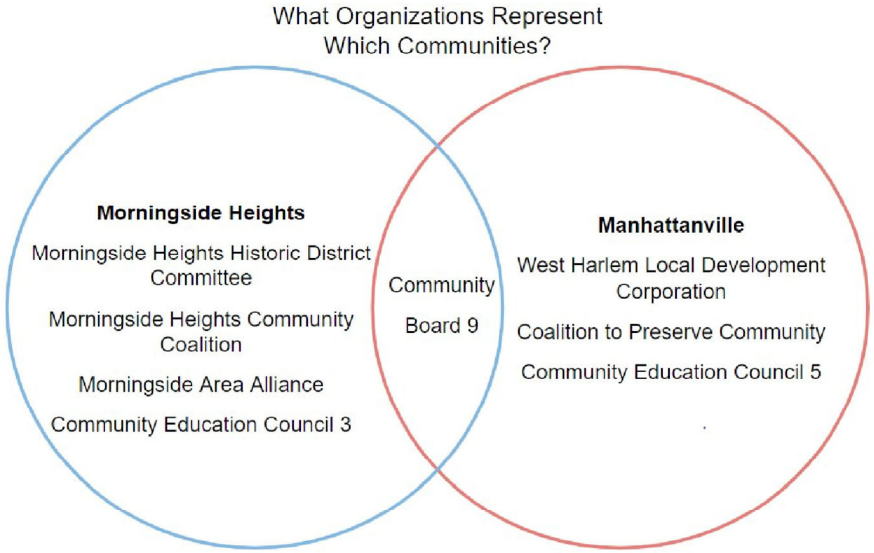
The area is also home to religious institutions like St. John the Divine Cathedral, Riverside Church and institutions for religious education like Jewish Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary. Following the establishment of institutions and the arrival of the Interborough Rapid Transit (IRT) along Broadway in 1904, Morningside Heights saw unprecedented real estate investments which resulted in rapid development of empty lots with small apartment buildings for the middle and upper classes, solidifying Morningside Heights' character as a prominent middle-upper class apartment house district.

Meanwhile, Manhattanville valley emerged as a residential, manufacturing and transportation center. The area consisted of low-lying farmland between the plateaus of Morningside Heights and Washington Heights. Historically, the geography of the site lent itself to a natural port for docking of ships and transportation of people and goods. In addition to the geography of the area, the coexistence of an ethnically and economically diverse population that contributed to the industrial development of the area. Although geographically adjacent to each other, the spatial and visual characteristics that define Manhattanville and Morningside Heights are very different today.

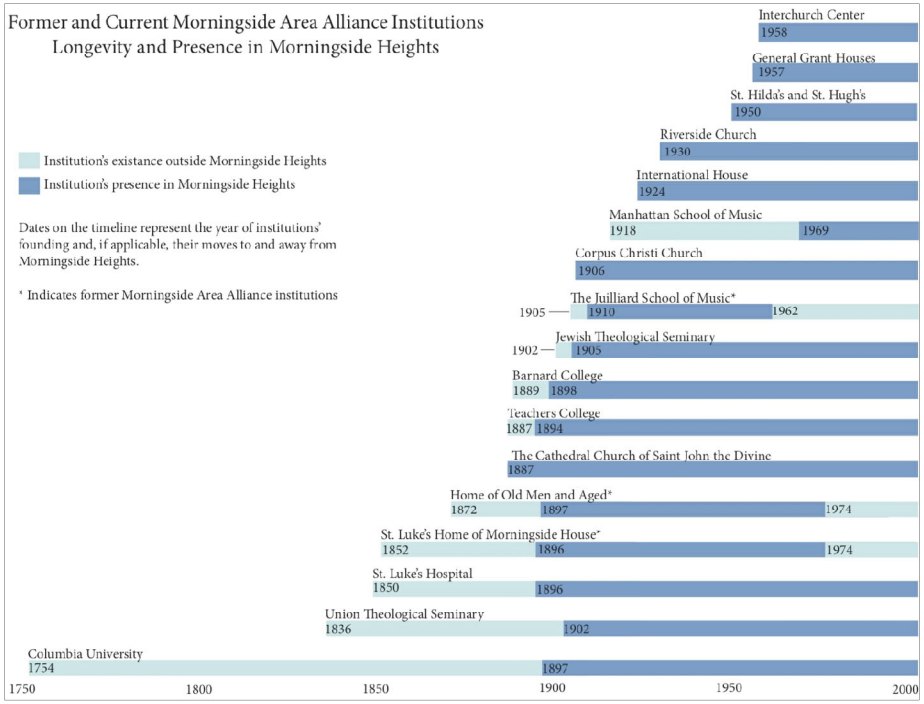
The historical and architectural significance of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville neighborhoods has been documented by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) and National Register. Eleven sites in Morningside Heights and five sites in Manhattanville have been designated National Landmarks.



Current National Register and Landmark Preservation Commission designations
Source: Prepared by Mariana Avila Flynn



A Venn diagram showing which organizations represent the concerns of which neighborhoods, 2019
Source: Prepared by Drew Barnhart

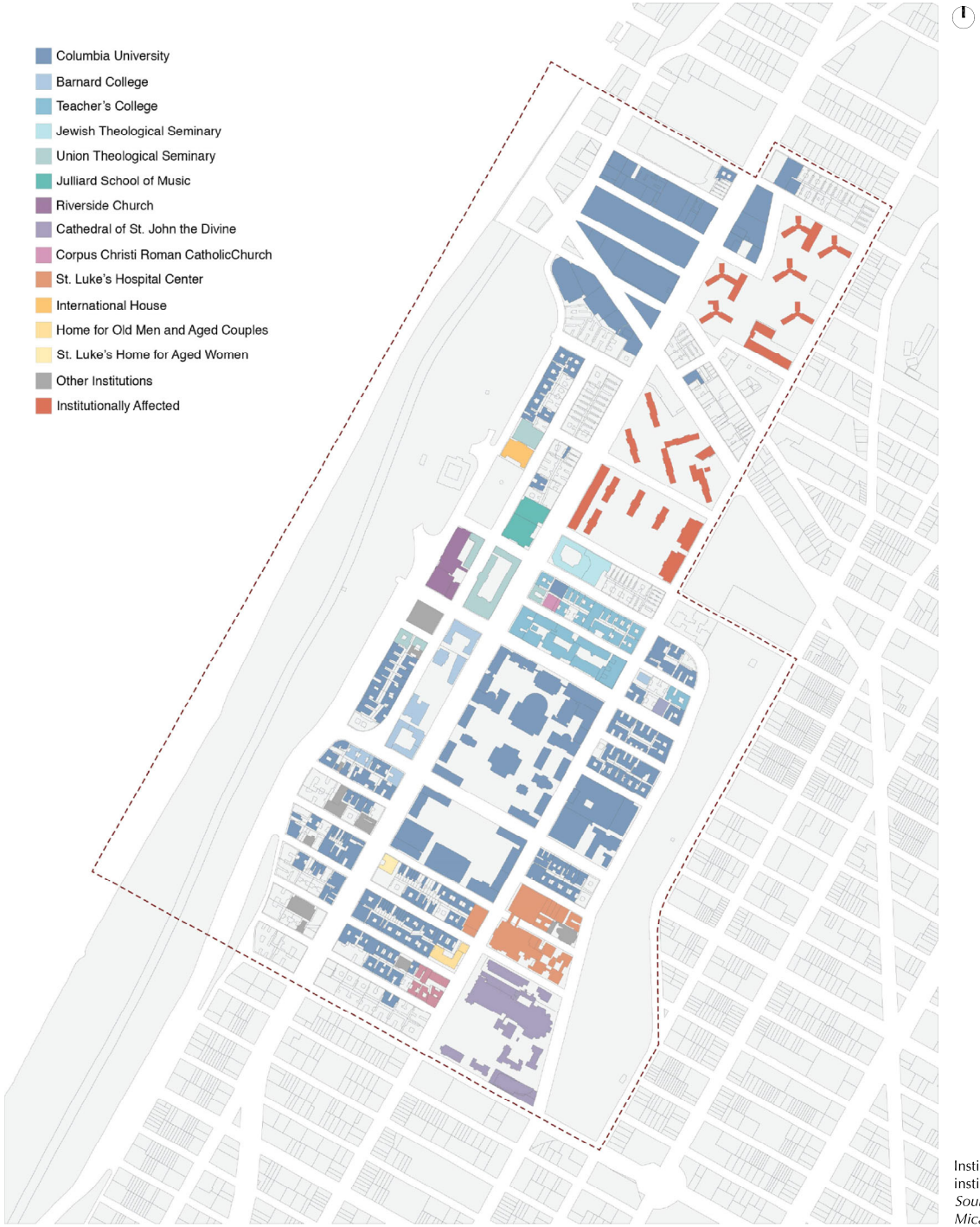


A timeline comparing the ages of current and former Morningside Area Alliance members, as well as the amount of time they have been in the study area, 2019
Source: Prepared by Drew Barnhart

Influence of Stakeholders

There are many types of stakeholders in the study area, including institutions; residents; business owners and landlords; people who may live outside the area but who come to the area for a specific purpose, like employees or shoppers; and those who may interact with the area, but do not have a place-based connection to it, such as the government and the media. In order to better understand the study area's stakeholders and communities, the studio experimented with various methods for mapping institutional and organizational stakeholders, conducted archival research to characterize historical stakeholders and analyzed various aspects of the study area's demographics over time.

The institutions' relative power and influence within the neighborhood was understood by creating a timeline that compares institutions' ages and the amount of time they have been a part of the Morningside Community. This timeline includes all of the institutions that have been a part of Morningside Heights Inc, a major organizer for institutional interests within the study area. Our field survey indicated how institutional affiliation is perceived. When compared to actual institutional ownership, it is clear that the presence of institutions is widespread and conspicuous.



Institutional ownership and institutionally-affected property, 2019
Source: Prepared by Erin Murphy and Micah Tichenor

The studio looked at how different groups within and outside the boundaries of the study area, valued the neighborhood through media portrayal of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. This provides insight into perceptions of Columbia and the greater community both historically and currently. Through a discourse analysis of newspaper articles about Morningside Heights and Manhattanville, it is possible to glean information on how both the physical environment and the communities of these neighborhoods have been historically characterized.

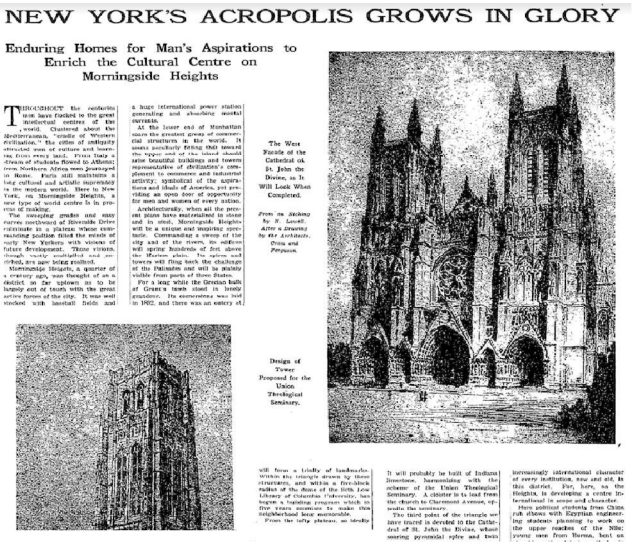
This analysis specifically examined articles published by The New York Times, The New York Herald-Tribune, The Village Voice, The Columbia Spectator, and The New York Amsterdam News. News outlets have described the neighborhood differently over time, although there are often overlaps among media portrayals of the area. The New York Times, for example, has fairly consistently identified the built environment of Morningside Heights through its institutions, specifically referring to the area as "The Acropolis." The newspaper used the term "Acropolis" to refer to the neighborhood in headlines many times, notably in 1895 (The New York Times, April 7, 1895), 1926 (The New York Times, March 7th 1926), and 1957 (The New York Times, May 21, 1957).

Some additional broad trends emerged as a result of this media research. From Morningside Heights' early days in the 1890s to the 1930s, the area was generally referred to as a bucolic oasis relative to the rest of the city. Morningside Heights was characterized by the "most expensive educational, religious, and charitable institutions in the metropolis" that together "form[ed] a group of buildings that will attract visitors" (The New York Times, April 7, 1895). The rapid development of the early 1900s led to further declarations of Morningside Heights' appeal, with The New York Times announcing in 1913 that "figures that show how prices have jumped on Morningside Heights" (The New York Times, December 7, 1913). By 1924, The New York Herald proclaimed that Morningside Heights provides "an escape from life" through its "calm medievalism" (The New York Herald, November 7, 1924). During this same period, there were nearly no mention of Manhattanville in these mainstream New York newspapers.

By the 1930s, however, the characterization of the area as an affluent, semi-suburban neighborhood changed. The late 1930s saw a slew of articles about crime in Morningside Heights. A 1937 New York Times article announced that "daily crimes stir Morningside Drive" and that the locality "is one of the most dangerous in New York City" (The New York Times, January 19, 1937). The article particularly blames Morningside Park, which borders Morningside Heights and Harlem, for the rise in crime, insisting that "because of the ready access to Morningside Park, the criminals almost invariably escape" (The New York Times, January 19, 1937). References to Manhattanville were again largely absent from mainstream newspapers in this period. Crime continued to be a primary characterization of the neighborhoods into the 1940s, culminating in the establishment, in 1947, of Morningside Area Alliance, a conglomeration of neighborhood institutions that banded together to fight the "creeping obsolescence" (The New York Times, April 14, 1949) that was reportedly prevalent.

In the 1950s, the Morningside Alliance attempted to reduce crime in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville through physical intervention, specifically the construction of Grant Houses and Morningside Gardens in Manhattanville. These projects provide a point of reference through which to understand the varied ways in which different publications defined "community" in these neighborhoods. In 1950, the "community" of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville is defined by The New York Times, a publication based outside the neighborhood, as the Morningside Alliance of institutions that make up the "Acropolis" (The New York Times, August 6 1950). A 1950 New York Times article describes rampant crime and blight in the neighborhood, noting that "linked up with this picture of physical deterioration - perhaps responsible for it - has been a lack of community spirit." The Morningside Alliance was portrayed as a savior of the Morningside and Manhattanville neighborhoods. The New York Times lauded the Alliance's involvement in the neighborhood's development, declaring the Alliance's work "a lesson for others" (The New York Times, August 6 1950). The Morningside Area Alliance is portrayed as responsible for developing both the tangible physical environment through their presence in the neighborhood and their housing development projects, and as the core of the area's community, responsible for promoting community spirit. Prior to the Alliance's involvement, Manhattanville, on the other hand, is characterized as a "human wasteland" that lacks community spirit (The New York Times, August 6, 1950).

But this definition of community did not include groups outside of the Alliance. Two years later, in 1952, the Harlem-based New York Amsterdam News reported on protests of Manhattanville community groups, such as the "Community to Save Our Houses," against the Morningside Alliance's housing projects, showing that there is in fact "community spirit" in Manhattanville (The New York Amsterdam News, January 26, 1952). The same year, this group was even ejected from a public meeting about the project (The New York Amsterdam News, May 17, 1952.).



NEW YORK'S ACROPOLIS GROWS IN GLORY

Enduring Homes for Man's Aspirations to Enrich the Cultural Centre on Morningside Heights

THROUGHOUT the centuries men have flocked to the great intellectual centres of the world. Clustered about the Mediterranean, "cradle of Western civilization," the cities of antiquity attracted students from every land, and many a long road was trodden by streams of students flowed to Athens; even Northern Africa was footsteps to Rome. Paris still maintains a long cultural and artistic superiority in the western world. Here in New York, on Morningside Heights, a new type of world centre is in process of making.

The sweeping grades and easy curves northward of Riverside Drive culminate in a plateau whose commanding position filled the minds of early New Yorkers with visions of future development. Three visions, though vastly modified and enlarged, are now being realized.

Morningside Heights, a quarter of a century ago, was thought of as a district so far uptown as to be happily out of touch with the great active forces of the city. It was well stocked with baseball fields and a huge international power station; parading and shouting musical carnivals.

At the lower end of Manhattan since the greatest group of commercial structures in the world. It seems peculiarly fitting that toward the upper end of the island should arise beautiful buildings and towers representative of civilization's complement to commerce and industrial activity, symbolical of the aspirations and ideals of America, yet providing an open door of opportunity for men and women of every nation.

Architecturally, when all the present plans have materialized in stone and in steel, Morningside Heights will be a unique and inspiring spectacle. Commanding a views of the city and of the rivers, its edifices will spring hundreds of feet above the Harlem plain. Its spires and towers will fling back the challenge of the Palisades and will be plainly visible from parts of three States.

For a long while the German halls of Grant's tomb stood in lonely grandeur. Its convenience was lost to 1902, and there was an outcry al

The West Facade of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, as It Will Look When Completed.

From an Etching by F. Lovell After a Drawing by the Architects, Cram and Ferguson.

Design of Tower Proposed for the Union Theological Seminary.

will form a trinity of landmarks within the triangle drawn by these structures, and within a five-block radius of the dome of the 50th Low Library of Columbia University, has begun a building program which in five years promises to make this neighborhood less serviceable.

From the lofty plateau, so ideally

It will probably be built of Indiana limestone, harmonizing with the scheme of the Union Theological Seminary. A cloister is to lead from the church to Claremont Avenue, opposite the seminary.

The third poles of the triangle will have traced is devoted to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, whose soaring pyramidal spire and twin

increasingly international character of every institution, new and old, in this district. For, here, as the Heights, in developing a centre international in scope and character.

Here political students from China talk shoes with Egyptian engineering students planning to work on the upper reaches of the Nile; young men from Burma, bent on

Source: New York Times, Mar 7, 1926



'DAILY CRIMES' STIR MORNINGSIDE DRIVE

600 Residents of the Heights Appeal to Mayor for More Police Protection

WANT PARK SHUT AT DUSK

Judge John C. Knox and Leading Clergymen of the Section Are Signers of Petition

Source: New York Times, Jan 19, 1937

HOUSING BATTLE IS ON AGAIN

Group Aim: Houses For Area Needs

Group Will Hear Javits On Issues Affecting The Neighborhood

Source: New York Amsterdam News, Jan 26, 1952

CITY'S 'ACROPOLIS' COMBATING SLUMS

Manhattanville-Morningside Heights Area Is Getting a Mammoth Face-Lifting

INTEGRATION TAKES ROOT

3 Projects Will Be Bi-Racial —University, Church and Hospital Buildings Due

By CHARLES GRUTZNER

The biggest face-lifting job under way in this city is eradicating slum furrows from the Morningside Heights-Manhattanville area.

It is bringing, along with new housing, expansion of Columbia University, Barnard College, Riverside Church, St. Luke's Hospital and other famed institutions clustered on what is sometimes called the Acropolis of Manhattan Island.

Workmen were putting color yesterday to balcony rails and giving other receiving touches to the six twenty-one-story apartment buildings of Morningside Gardens between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue from West 123d to LaSalle Street.

The middle-income cooperative is one of three projects that will provide, at a cost of $69,450,000, apartments for 4,788 families of varied economic, ethnic and social backgrounds, within an area



MANHATTAN ISLAND IN TRANSITION: This is an aerial view of the Morningside Heights-Manhattanville area, showing redevelopment projects in various stages of construction. View is north, with Grant's Tomb at far left

Source: Meyer Liebowitz, New York Times, May 21, 1957

Morningside Residents Protest Renewal Plan

Opposed to the redevelopment program on Morningside Heights, a number of residents of that area said they were going to attend the Board of Estimate hearing on Thursday, March 11 to voice their protests.

The Tri - Community Organization (TCO), headed by Rev. Eugene S. Callender, pastor of the Church of the Master, will participate in the protest action, members of the group will stage an all - night vigil at City Hall on the eve of the hearing.

The Board of Estimate will be asked to postpone the hearing until some or all of the objections by residents can be ironed out.

According to TCO one of the major objections is the problem of relocating tenants who will be displaced as a result of the physical and social renewal program. Many of them live in single-room occupancy buildings.

Omitted In Plan

The burden of institutional expansion, said the Tri - Community Organization, is being borne by residents of the 14 square blocks surrounding Columbia University which has been omitted from the plan.

Source: New York Amsterdam News, Mar 20, 1965

These articles define the area as more than the "human wasteland" beyond the "acropolis" and the community as more than just the Morningside Alliance.

Despite these varied community groups that opposed the development of the Grant Houses, many mainstream newspapers continued to emphasize the importance of the area's institutions. In 1955, for example, The New York Herald Tribune emphasized the significance of the Morningside Alliance in similar language to earlier articles from The New York Times. The Herald-Tribune noted that "blight has attacked the vicinity of the immediate north of Columbia University" and that "the local community refused to lose heart [forming] Morningside Heights Inc...to establish a new basis for stability." Despite the activism of Manhattanville community groups between 1950 and 1955, many newspapers continued to view the institutions the community of the neighborhoods, minimizing the agency of other community organizations and celebrating the role of the institutions as "something to be proud of" (New York Herald Tribune, September 17, 1955).

In the decades following, crime was still consistently cited as a major problem for both Morningside Heights and Manhattanville despite claims that institutional intervention would help rectify these issues. Articles about the neighborhoods from the late 1950s and into the 1960s reflected concerns of "slums engulfing Columbia section" (The New York Times, June 9, 1958). The Columbia Spectator declared in 1960 "Crime - Morningside's constant problem" (The Columbia Spectator, November 22, 1960). In response to these reports of increased crime, Columbia and other institutions intervened again in the physical environment, this time to significantly less fanfare.

In the late 1950s and 1960s, media portrayals of the area tended to focus on Columbia and controversy surrounding the school's expansion and influence in the area. Columbia increasingly evicted residents from Single Room Occupancies throughout the neighborhood, spurring waves of activism among community groups. Columbia's attempt to build a gym in Morningside Park, one of the primary catalysts for the 1968 protests, further impacted newspaper portrayals of the neighborhoods and the communities within the neighborhoods. In this period, institutional intervention was not portrayed as an overtly positive force in the neighborhoods. Instead, newspapers highlighted the tensions between the institutional and community groups.

Neighborhood groups in Harlem and Manhattanville organized to oppose this expansion, and local newspapers such as The New York Amsterdam news tended to portray Columbia and the City of New York as faceless institutions ignoring the desires and needs of residential populations. In 1965, The New York Amsterdam News published a headline stating that "Mayor Ignores Harlem Groups" who gathered to oppose Columbia's expansion (New York Amsterdam News, May 1st, 1965). The New York Amsterdam News further noted in 1965 that "tenants claim Columbia [is] ousting them to make area safe for the university" (New York Amsterdam News, June nineteenth, 1965) and that "Columbia's expansion to uproot minorities" (New York Amsterdam News, November 12, 1965). The newspaper published numerous editorials lambasting Columbia's expansion plans and policies that led to displacement in the neighborhood. The New York Amsterdam News covered the tension with a community-oriented lens, focusing on groups and individuals.

In the years since the 1968 protests, many of the same themes continue to emerge in neighborhood coverage of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. There have consistently been articles written about crime in the area. In 1973, The New York Times reported that "safety [is] promised in Morningside Heights," as leaders of Morningside Heights met with Mayor Lindsay and cited safety as their primary concern. The mayor responded by stating that Morningside Heights "will emerge as the most important urban educational center in the country and we'll make great efforts to assure all institutions that New York City means business in answering their appeals for safety." Nearly a decade later, in 1982, The New York Times still reported on perceived issues of safety in Morningside Heights, stating that although the neighborhood has been undergoing "a quiet evolution" many parts of the neighborhood were "shunned as unsafe by many residents" (The New York Times, September 26, 1982).

The focus on crime in Morningside Heights began to change in the late 1980s and 1990s. Morningside Heights was portrayed as a neighborhood "on the mend" while Manhattanville was still characterized as overrun by crime. In a profile of Morningside Heights in 1993, the Times declared that the neighborhood has a "relaxed pace that belies the area's urban nature" and the neighborhood has "practically escaped yuppification" (The New York Times, June twentieth, 1993). A year later, the Times declared of Manhattanville in 1994 that "the cocaine sales are wholesale," (The New York Times, April 24, 1994). By 1999, the Times declared that Morningside Heights "beautified" and that "the atmosphere of fear is now gone" (The New York Times, September 10, 1999). There are few mentions of Manhattanville in these newspapers unless it is about crime or opposition to Morningside's institutions, most commonly Columbia.

The early to mid-2000s saw fewer articles about crime but increased articles about the relationship between Manhattanville and Morningside Heights as Columbia prepared to expand its campus north. In previous decades, out-of-neighborhood newspapers rarely mentioned Manhattanville unless there was a conflict between Manhattanville residents and institutions in Morningside Heights. Columbia's expansion continued this trend. In 2005, The Village Voice described Manhattanville as being "in an awkward phase" as "people are buying, but it is still forlorn, full of dingy, poorly zoned lots." The article further discusses the "simmering tensions between Ivy League expansionists and the few neighborhood loyalists who love their chicken shops and bodegas" (The Village Voice, May 31, 2005). The New York Times in 2006 noted that "in West Harlem land dispute, it's Columbia versus Residents" (The New York Times, November 20, 2006). In 2008, Columbia seized land in Manhattanville through eminent domain, spurring additional articles defining the neighborhood through the controversy of Columbia's expansion.

In the past decade, articles about Morningside Heights and Manhattanville have generally focused on Columbia's imminent expansion into Manhattanville. Similar themes have emerged - community versus institutional tension, claims of crime and blight, and the power and influence of institutional agency. Local newspapers extensively covered the expansion. In 2016, The Columbia Spectator published multiple articles focused on the relationship between Columbia and Manhattanville, emphasizing the importance of the expansion in both neighborhoods. These articles tended to take a critical lens, stating "how we talk about Manhattanville matters" (Columbia Spectator, November 3, 2016) in one article and asking "was Manhattanville blighted?" (Columbia Spectator, October 12, 2016) in another. These local writings about the neighborhoods tend to be more reflective and inclusive of various community groups rather than solely focused on the institutional power of Columbia.

This discourse analysis revealed several broad themes about the portrayal of Manhattanville and Morningside Heights. Institutions, both physically and socially, have always been portrayed as paramount in shaping the neighborhood. The relationship between Columbia and residential groups has also been a continuous theme throughout the neighborhood' histories. Mainstream newspapers typically refer to Manhattanville, if at all, through its opposition to Columbia rather than as a community of its own, while in-neighborhood papers such as the Columbia Spectator and The New York Amsterdam News delve into the experiences of non-institutional neighborhood groups, providing a platform for local voices that is often lacking in out-of-neighborhood newspapers.



People Are Gloomy On Future of Area

By C. GERALD FRASER

Most people who live in Harlem see their neighborhood declining amid crime, drugs, poor housing, unclean streets and unemployment. Convinced that community services are inadequate and that they have little or no influence over what happens in Harlem, residents conclude they are trapped.

These are the principal findings of a public-opinion survey, "Living in Harlem: A Survey of Residents' Attitudes," conducted by Louis Harris and Associates for the state's Harlem Urban Development Corporation and the Metropolitan Applied Research Center. Some 523 adults living in the area were interviewed by the Harris organization at home last year and the results were recently made public.

A companion study, "A Survey of Leadership Attitudes Toward the Quality of Life in Harlem," also was conducted among 58 unidentified persons in government, the professions, religion and business whom the Harris group designated as community leaders.

Most leaders said Harlem's problems were more serious than those of the rest of New York and were getting worse. The leaders believed that Harlem was controlled by white outside money and they don't care what happens here.

Survey Findings Cited

Among the significant findings of the surveys are the following:

Almost people who live in Harlem said they do so because they had "no other real choice."

Of 28 problems afflicting the community, most people interviewed felt that crime in the streets, drug addiction, burglarizing of apartments, youth unemployment, dirty streets and pollution and poor housing conditions were, in that order, the "very serious" ones.

Of 25 community serv-

from Central Harlem residents.

The leaders believed that housing was Harlem's most serious problem and that the community must retain its middle-income population if there was to be more community influence.

The survey designated Harlem as that portion of Manhattan from the George Washington Bridge south to 110th Street on the West Side and 96th Street on the East Side. The Harris organization also divided Harlem into four parts: Central Harlem, East Harlem, Morningside Heights and Manhattanville-Washington Heights.

Not all of the residents of these areas agreed that they lived in Harlem. Most in predominantly nonblack Morningside Heights and Washington Heights disassociated themselves from Harlem.

In fact, unlike the tradi-

Continued on Page 52, Column 6

Source: C. Gerald Fraser, New York Times, Nov 21, 1974

The New York Times

N.Y. / REGION

In West Harlem Land Dispute, It's Columbia vs. Residents

By TIMOTHY WILLIAMS NOV. 20, 2006

Source: New York Times, Nov 20, 2006

Influence of Urban Policy

Another means through which the significance of the area can be understood is via urban policy. Columbia's first attempt to redevelop Manhattanville was proposed by Percival Goodman in 1965, which focused on the area adjacent to the Hudson River between West 125th and 135th Streets. Opposition to the plan emerged immediately, as community tenant groups in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville organized to resist this development. These groups feared that University involvement in redevelopment would yield only middle income or luxury housing, forcing lower-income residents out. They wanted to see apartments built for the people who already live in Manhattanville, most of whom could not afford middle income rents (Columbia Daily Spectator, March 5, 1965). Goodman accepted that his proposal would be for a middle income development but he also believed that the housing for low income families could be provided through to The Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965. Under this law, families with low incomes are given subsidies that allow them to live in middle income developments at low rents.

After University President Bollinger announced the intention to expand Columbia's campus into Manhattanville in 2003, there was significant delay due to the need to relocate individuals and families living in the buildings slated for demolition. A number of "hold-outs" in the area caused Columbia to pursue plans to have the property taken by eminent domain, a power possessed by New York State. According to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), owners would be forced to sell to the state, which would then sell it to Columbia. In 2007, the plan was approved by Land Use Committee. In 2008, the Empire State Development Corporation approved Columbia's plan for the area, then voted to use eminent domain to seize Manhattanville property for Columbia's benefit. The City Council additionally approved the rezoning for academic and residential use from its previous industrial use. The development of the campus will take place generally over 25 years in two phases. In addition to the rezoning, implementation of the Plan would entail the adoption of a General Project Plan. The plan would provide for implementation of features that may not be mandated through zoning regulations or other mechanisms, such as new educational, academic research, recreational and civic facilities by rehabilitation of the blight-declared area. The intended result is to enhance the City and State as centers for higher education, and to create employment opportunities with the expansion. The West Harlem Community Benefits Agreement was established to mitigate adverse effects of Columbia's move to Manhattanville and to optimize the University's interaction with the existing community. This includes requirements around community outreach programs, funding from Columbia to benefit housing, employment and economic development, education, arts and culture, and community facilities.

There is also a special policy for 125th Street which serves the historical and dynamic business corridor in Harlem. The special 125th Street district focuses on four aspects: rezoning, art, affordable housing and transportation. Principles of the rezoning include: maintaining a consistent street wall through the base of new buildings at heights consistent with the existing context, ensure ground floor retail continuity and transparency, and prohibiting gates or fences that would impede pedestrian access. The elements of this rezoning are intended to create a more welcoming gesture towards the community.

The conservation and design sections used this research to identify the character-defining features of the neighborhood and assess what values and narratives they represent through the lens of inclusion. Specific sites were selected where spatialization of values and narratives are missing, and proposals aimed to enrich these sites through more specialized areas of study. Having established significance through the lens of inclusion allowed the appropriate analysis of the sites that exemplify these issues and determine dominant narratives to inform conservation and design approaches. Six key issues identified on the following page are the dominant narratives which the studio developed through individual proposals.

Barriers in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville were identified in both psychological and physical ways. In Manhattanville, the 125th Street Viaduct, the elevated Riverside Drive, and Henry Hudson Parkway are formidable infrastructure that can be addressed in ways to support existing narratives and foster community. Other efforts like institutional expansion have left remnants of oppressive infrastructure which negatively affects street life. Also explored are the barriers faced by those with limited mobility and how sites of significance may be experienced by all.

Several narratives were identified that could to be beneficially reinforced through preserving memory of certain groups, institutions, industries, and activities. Buell Hall on Columbia's Morningside Heights campus is the only physical representation remaining of the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum. In Manhattanville, the area's industrial history can be represented through preservation of buildings like Prentis Hall, Studebaker, and Nash, and through the stories of the industrial workers. Also, of interest were resident groups fighting displacement against the institutional power in Morningside Heights.

Events that are important to certain communities are often not represented. Low Library Plaza on Columbia's Morningside Heights campus has a long history of significant events, and spatializing these stories can enhance its significance. The benches at Grant's Tomb in Riverside Park were an important large-scale community project, and conservation efforts can help to preserve the narrative of this community.

KEY ISSUES

To identify key issues, the Studio reevaluated the research previously undergone for the historic context statements and significance assessments, including historical research, survey data, and media and demographic analyses to find recurring themes. The Planning and Policy group also conducted an additional "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges" analysis to identify the strengths and weaknesses of Columbia's approach towards inclusivity, assessing both the historic and the current challenges, and opportunities in addressing it today. The Planning and Policy group then sorted the many items discussed thematically to identify topics that may have otherwise been overlooked. This formed the basis of our analysis of Key Issues. The analysis was integral to shaping the direction of individual proposals for the Studio and to developing an evidence-based approach to our interventions, ensuring that the Studio developed a holistic approach to the study area by addressing all potential key issues.

This process resulted in the identification of six key issues:

- Institutional effects on residential communities
- Columbia's engagement with the community
- Accessibility of multiple publics
- Protests and Activism
- Institutional agency and influence
- Underrepresented histories

While these six categories overlap considerably, they each provide the Studio with a unique perspective for analysis. Each of these issues are characterized in the descriptions below.

Institutional Effects on Residential Communities

The Studio's research showed that the institutions within the study area have had profound effects on the surrounding residential communities. Historically, institutional expansion has caused fissures between institutional communities and the non-affiliated Morningside Heights and Manhattanville residents. Some of the many ways that this has occurred is through urban renewal, the evictions of single room occupancy (SRO) residents, displacement of populations, and the creation of disparity.

As addressed in the Historic Context statement on urban renewal, Morningside Gardens and General Grant Houses were two urban renewal projects carried out in the 1950s, affiliated with Morningside Heights Inc. and NYCHA respectively. These projects not only caused displacement and discontent within the residential community, evidenced by the formation of the Save Our Homes Committee, but they also resulted in the disruption of the street grid in the study area, creating physical and psychological boundaries.

Members of the Morningside Area Alliance also impacted the community through the systematic elimination of SROs. SROs were a form of inexpensive housing, but the institutions of Morningside Area Alliance viewed them as incubators for illicit activity and as potential properties for expansion, a fact that is well documented by the organization's reports, surveys, and condition assessment of SROs ("All Single Room Occupancy Buildings in Morningside Heights," 1961). Some of these buildings still stand today, while others were demolished to accommodate institutional expansion projects. Sixteen SROs still exist, five of which are independent SROs and eleven of which are owned by Columbia or another institution.

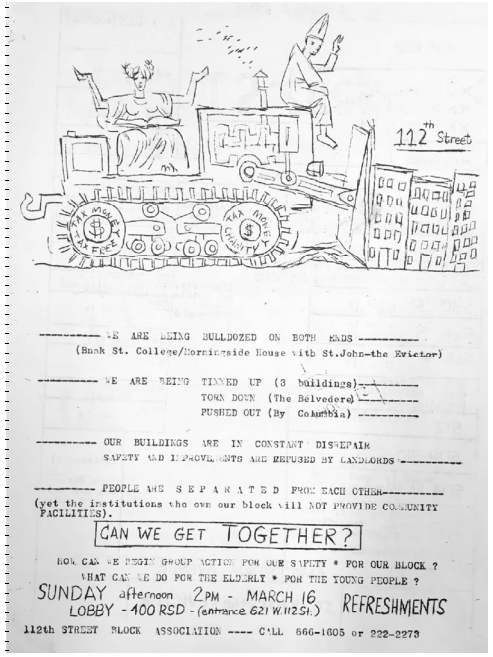
Institutional expansion has also been a source of displacement of community members. For example, the elimination of SROs and purchasing of other apartment buildings by Morningside Heights Inc. members resulted in the displacement of approximately 9,500 residents between 1960 and 1980 (Fuentes, 1986). Literature and plans for urban renewal projects recovered from the Morningside Heights Inc. archive show that the organization accepted the relocation of populations as inevitable and was a part of their calculations.

Finally, the Studio's demographic analysis also illustrates that the increase in properties owned by institutions since the 1950s has corresponded with increased segregation within our study area as Hispanic, Black, low-income, and non-college-degree holding populations have become concentrated in the northern-most census tract of the study area.

Historic accounts of urban renewal, SRO elimination, and resident displacement, coupled with current demographic analysis, demonstrates increasing disparity within the neighborhood. This research indicates that the impact of institutions on the residential communities within the study area is a key issue. Individual proposals seek to engage with this topic by spatializing these histories, addressing the negative impacts of institutional policies, and preserving community narratives that may otherwise be lost through institutional expansion.



The General Grant Houses, placed at an angle with the grid system, form a visual barrier between Morningside Heights and neighborhoods to the north.
Source: Burke Library of the Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York



A poster promoting activism against institutional expansion and displacement in Morningside Heights, c. 1970
Source: Columbia University Archives, University Protests and Activism, 1958-1999, Box 7, Folder 22

Columbia Engagement with the Community



Teachers College Aquatic Center,
where public swimming lessons were offered
Source: Teachers College, "Come On In, The Water's Fine"



Morningside Heights Inc. Community Service Guide,
detailing the services and facilities available t
o community members, 1950s
Source: Columbia University Archives,
"Services Offered to the Community," 1964,
Morningside Area Alliance Records, Box 18, Folder 7

Related to the influence of institutions on the community, the second key issue is Columbia's engagement with the Community. Because of the prominent role Columbia plays in the study area, it is important to consider the ways in which the university has attempted - and missed opportunities - to engage with the community it impacts so profoundly. Often, the Studio found that the university's public-facing social programs operate at odds with the ways in which its physical use of space has served to exclude the non-Columbia affiliated population. This disconnect was a serious challenge that many proposals seek to address.

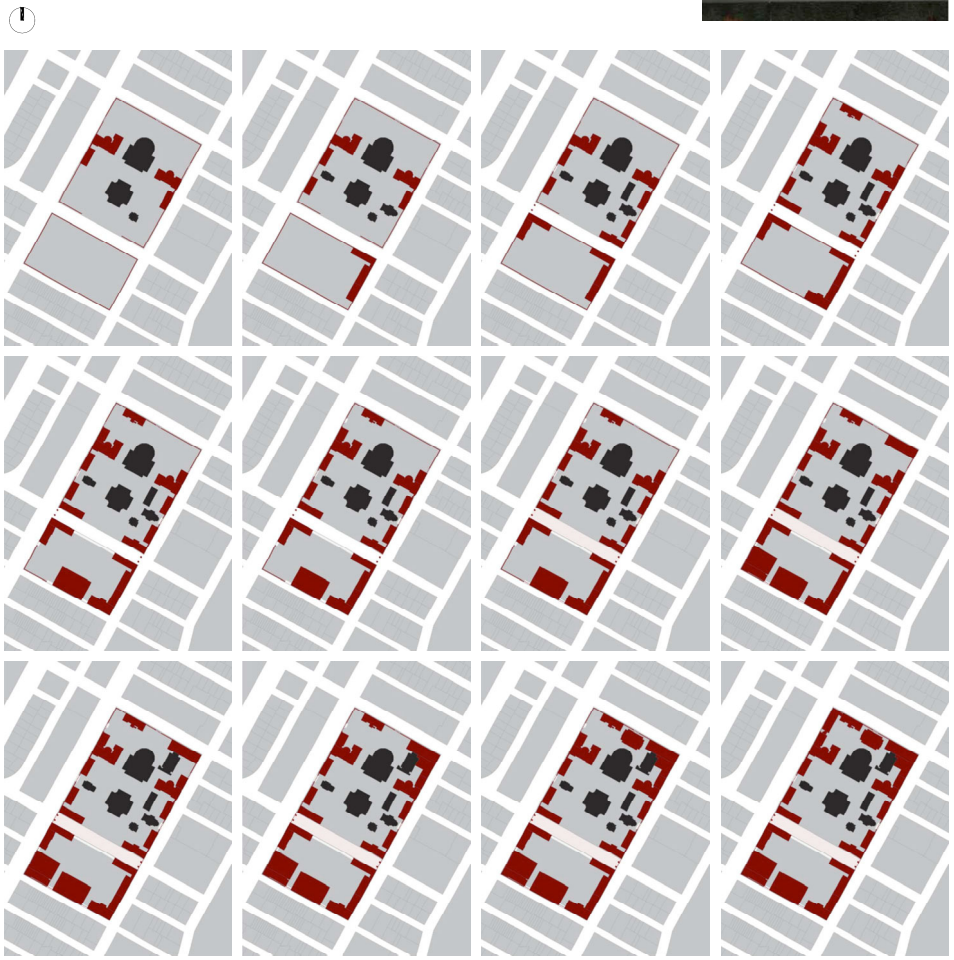
A major strength in Columbia's community engagement in the past as been the instances in which it opened its facilities and programming to the public. In the 1950s and 1960s, for example, the university made spaces like Bakers Field and swimming pools accessible to the public and, through Morningside Inc., it funded services including youth organizations, physical fitness clubs, day camps, and citizens committees, all of which were open to the public ("Directory of Community Facilities and Services," 1954; "Services Offered to the Community," 1964). Although the extent of public access to Columbia's facilities has waxed and waned, the Studio sees the periods of greater public access as a strength in Columbia's previous community-oriented policies and as something to build upon.

Additionally, the institution has shown support to small businesses in the community, both through their preference in leasing to non-chain businesses and through the Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center, a national organization locally supported by Columbia's Business School. Columbia Community Service also makes grants to local not-for-profits. Yet another example is the Double Discovery Center, a Columbia outreach program that provides low-income, college bound students from Harlem and Washington Heights with academic enrichment and support in applying to college.

Finally, the Community Benefits Agreement has laid the groundwork for further community engagement between Columbia and the Manhattanville Community, describing how Columbia will provide support to the Manhattanville community financially, through access to facilities and programing, and in an advisory capacity over the coming years. These examples of Columbia's prior engagements with the community gave the Studio precedents on how to base further avenues for engagement. The examination of the strengths and shortcomings of previous policies helped shape how individual proposals addressed the challenge of being inclusive of the larger community at Columbia.

Survey results indicated that many open spaces like Riverside Park have inconsistent accessibility points from the street level to the walking paths and recreational features within the park.
Source: Mariana Avila Flynn





Timeline of gates erected around Columbia University's campus 1890-1990 illustrates the steady increase in physical barriers between the campus and the surrounding community. These barriers include not just fences and gates, but also walls facing the street.
Source: Prepared by Mariana Avila Flynn

Accessibility of Multiple Publics

Accessibility of multiple publics was a key issue across many projects and something identified from the Studio's survey results. This issue was examined as it relates to the physical environment, specifically defining accessibility as "the quality of being able to be reached or entered."

As the Historic Context sections note, residential and commercial expansion coincided with the West Harlem Piers, Hudson River Railroad, and most importantly, the opening of the IRT line, which connected the residents and industries of Manhattanville and Morningside Heights to the rest of the city. Though expanded bus routes and bike share programs encourage more varied access throughout the study area, heavily trafficked streets like Broadway, and unreliable elevators and escalators can limit accessibility and paths of travel for the elderly, pregnant, or differently-abled persons to critical public transportation nodes, like the 125th Street subway station. The lack of ADA accessible routes to the primary entrances of buildings on Columbia's campus was identified as a concern.

The studio's survey data revealed that of the 121 buildings surveyed in the study area, 57 are accessible through the primary entrance, 11 are accessible through secondary entrances, and five are unknown. Columbia University-owned properties in addition to the Morningside campus feature prominently on this list. Open spaces like Morningside Park and Riverside Park also present varying degrees of accessibility barriers.

Exclusionary architectural features like fences, walls, and gates can have a significant impact on a neighborhood's character and a negative perception of inclusiveness. Physical or perceived barriers can dramatically impact the experience of a site. Columbia University's Morningside campus has progressively added gates and barriers along its boundary lines, closing itself off from the community. Meanwhile, elevation changes, streets, parks, and avenues create natural geographical boundaries. Similarly, spaces such as those within and around Grant Houses, Morningside Gardens, St. John the Divine, and Columbia University can be perceived as neither public nor private, and hence "off limits."

Projects across the Studio's subsections of design, planning, and conservation address this issue and offer proposals for increased accessibility.

Based on 'Industry and Business' group's observations of businesses along Amsterdam Avenue, Broadway, Riverside Drive, Marginal Street, 125th Street and 126th Street, almost all establishments are handicapped accessible. For instance, all but two commercial buildings along Broadway are wheelchair accessible. The few businesses in our study area that are inaccessible are located on the basement level of a building and lack a ramp.



Visual representation of wheelchair accessible businesses along the major commercial corridors in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville
Source: Prepared by Caitlin Rudin and Seo Jun Oh

Protests and activism have been and continue to be important catalysts for change both within Columbia University and the surrounding neighborhood. Examples of this longstanding history include a 1930s student strike supporting the Spectator and students' freedom of speech, the 1968 campus and community protests, the anti-apartheid protests in the 1980s, community opposition to the Manhattanville expansion, and more recent protests generating debate on sexual harassment and fossil fuels.

These events often entailed a physical interaction with the built environment that results in an added layer of significance for these interior and exterior spaces. Large-scale protests held on campus tend to have gathering points near, or be heavily concentrated around, the sun dial and plaza in front of Low Library. Protest and activism can change the way in which we interact with a space. In the case of the 1968 protests, and others like the 1996 hunger strike protests that sparked institutional change, the buildings occupied by students became an important part of the narrative.

Community involvement and community-driven activism is another core component of this issue that has helped to shape the surrounding environment. In the 1950s, the Committee to Save Our Houses protested against the construction of Morningside Gardens and Grant Houses, and the 1960s occupation of a tenement home in protest of Columbia's expansion plans by the Community Action Committee. Community support was shown to students in 1968 by the Hamilton Grange Peace Organization and involvement of the United Black Front in Harlem and the Congress of Racial Equity. Later, in response to Columbia's Manhattanville expansion plan, the Coalition to Preserve Community and other members made their concerns heard and helped to enact changes to the plan to maintain community priorities and elements of the neighborhood.

Protest and activism also encouraged the development of activist groups. These groups advocate for a variety of interests, both on and off Columbia's campus. One example that helped to effect meaningful change and alter the built environment is the student-run Native American Council of Columbia University's petitions to recognize the Lenni Lenape, resulting in the university dedicating a plaque to commemorate the Lenape people on October 10, 2016. Groups have lobbied for the addition of new programs or courses, such as the 1996 formation of an Ethnic Studies Department, and have also led to the cancellation of programs, like the removal of the ROTC in 1968, which no longer aligned with the values students associated with the university.

Student protest and activism in the built environment have become part of Columbia University's identity. However, physical representation of these impactful histories has been largely limited to temporary exhibits or events with fleeting spatial connections. There are no permanent commemorations of protest on Columbia's campus. Individual student projects have sought to spatialize and address these events in respectful ways.



Crowds head to Low Library from the Sun Dial Rally in 1968
Source: Columbia University



Anti-Apartheid Rally, 1985
Source: Georgecohenphoto.com, Photo credit to George Cohen



Columbia students protest university investment in fossil fuels, 2016
Source: Columbia Spectator, Photo credit to Yasmin Akki

Institutional Agency and Influence

Institutional Agency and Influence is another key issue identified through the Studio's Historic Context and Significance research. Since the late nineteenth century, institutions like the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum, St. John the Divine, St. Luke's Hospital, the Leake and Watts Orphan House, and Columbia University have significantly impacted development of the surrounding neighborhood. Institutional influence was further accentuated with the establishment of Morningside Heights Inc., later the Morningside Area Alliance, and the construction of Morningside Gardens in the 1950s.

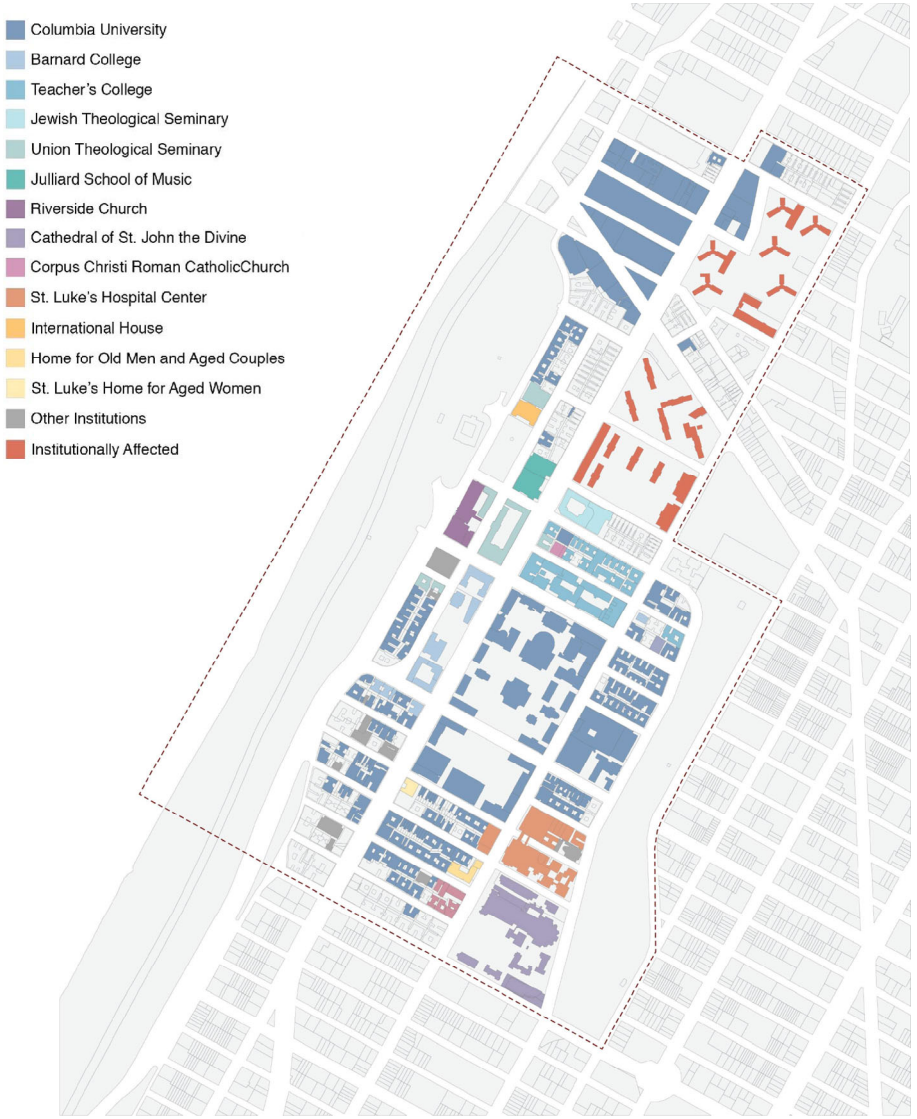
The clearest evidence of institutional power in our study area is the extensive amount of land owned by institutions. As mentioned in the Historic Context statement, the formation of Morningside Heights Inc. in 1947 and subsequent actions to actively plan, remove, and redevelop housing was largely instrumental in shaping the character of the neighborhood.

Morningside Heights Inc. compiled the real estate records from all of its members during the ten years between 1957 and 1968. Columbia, for example, purchased 105 properties in the ten year period, valued at 13 million. In total, local institutions purchased about $17.5 million worth of properties in the ten most active years of Morningside Heights Inc (about $150 million in today's dollars). Within these redevelopment plans, Morningside Heights Inc. also facilitated new public health services and constructed new recreational resources for the neighborhood. These physical interventions inspired the organization of community and activist groups that helped to shape a social environment that varies within the study area.

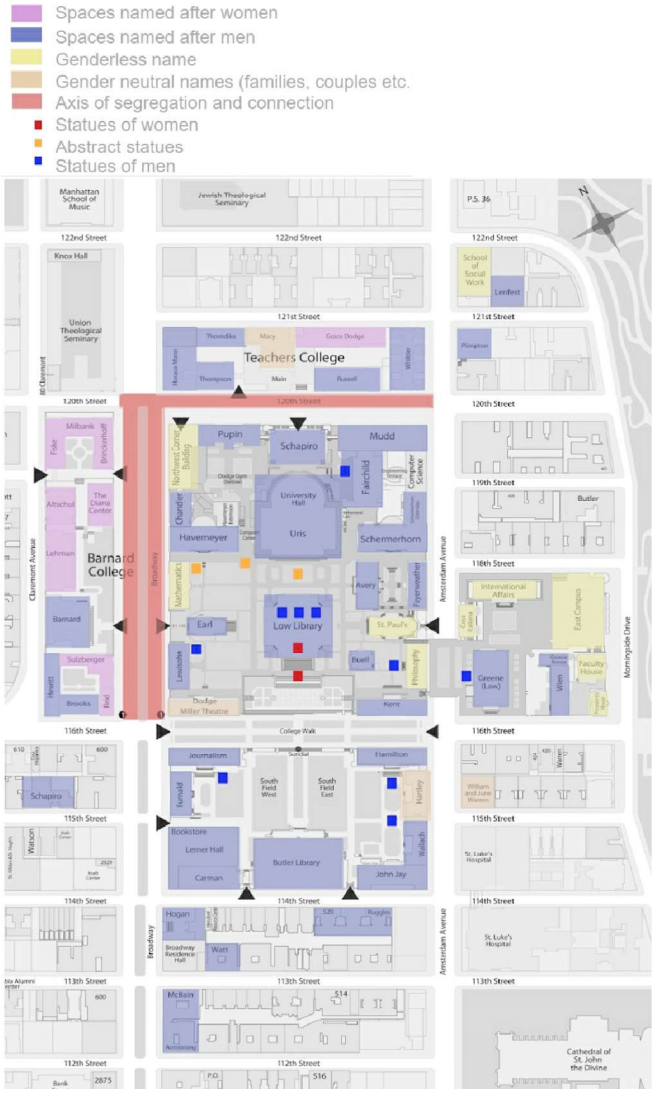
Columbia University's influence is likewise reflected in the number of properties owned. These impacts reverberate across economic, social, aesthetic, and accessibility issues and are addressed in several project proposals and backgrounds. Through property ownership and redevelopment, institutions cemented their influence on residential occupancy and land use, and minimized the potential agency of others - an issue central to the Studio's theme of inclusion.



This image of the groundbreaking ceremony of Morningside Gardens in 1957 shows the massive scale at which redevelopment was occurring in the area.
Source: Columbia University Archives

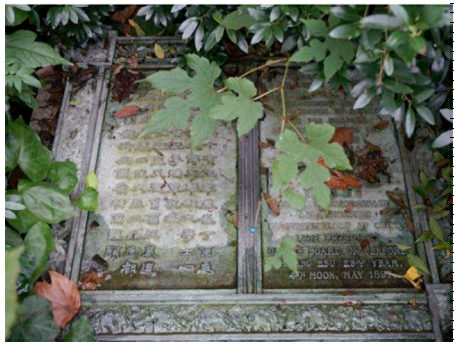


Map showing institutional properties by owner, 2019
Source: Prepared by Erin Murphy, Micah Tichenor, and Scott Goodwin



Gender representation on Columbia and Barnard campuses
Source: Prepared by Claire Cancilla and Sreya Chakraborty





Minority representation in Morningside Heights
Source: Planning and Policy group



LGBTQ representation on Columbia and Barnard campuses
Source: Prepared by Gwen Stricker and Qian Xu

The Studio's Historic Context statements further show that the study area is rich with histories that are spatially underrepresented. Among these neglected histories are those relating to racial and ethnic minority groups, women, the LGBTQ community, and Manhattanville's industrial past.

To illustrate this lack of representation in the built environment, none of the exterior public statues on Columbia's campus were created by or for minority groups, and few instances of public art in Morningside Heights were created by a minority artist. Of the 173 physical resources visually affiliated with Columbia, including plaques, public art, monuments, and buildings, one plaque representing Asian history was identified, along with one plaque representing Native American history and one plaque representing Latin American history. In contrast, 23 such resources represented White histories, while the remaining 148 resources did not have interpretative signage or imagery that overtly represented any race or ethnicity. There were no resources that represented African American individuals or groups.

Similarly, no buildings or spaces on Columbia's campus were named for women, and the only representation of female figures on the university's campus are allegorical.

Earl Hall is a landmark of LGBTQ activism, yet there is nothing to indicate its significance on the exterior of the building. Although the LGBTQ community is active on campus, this is not represented in the built environment.

This is a key issue not only because individuals from all of these demographics have contributed to the history of Columbia as an institution and as a community, but also because Columbia's student body and faculty come from increasingly diverse backgrounds. Individual proposals engage with this key issue primarily by making these largely unspecialized narratives visible using a variety of techniques and technologies.

Additionally, the Historic Context statement on industry and business shows that Manhattanville has a rich industrial history. However, the Studio's survey data shows that this is but minimally represented. Of the over 680 resources identified through the survey, only 5 large industrial buildings survive in Manhattanville. Furthermore, many of these resources were actually relatively new establishments or national chains, that are not linked to the study area's industrial past. Some of the key resources that are representative of Manhattanville's former industries and businesses are Prentis Hall, the West Market Diner, and the 125th Street viaduct. Several individual proposals address the conservation of these key sites to ensure that this underrepresented history continues to have a place in the built environment.



This chart shows which Studio proposals engage with which key issues.
Source: Prepared by Annie Bodhidatta

P + P = Planning + Policy
C + T = Conservation + Technology
A + I = Architectural + Interpretive Design

1	Campus Gates: Resolving Barriers in Morningside Heights	Micah Tichenor	P + P
2	Seeking Asylum: Mental Health Spaces at Columbia	Gwen Stricker	C + T
3	Addressing Mobility Issues on Columbia's Morningside Heights Campus	Sreya Chakraborty	C + T
4	Projected Pasts: Shedding Light on Underrepresented Histories	Caitlin Rudin, Drew Barnhart	P + P
5	The Platform of the Acropolis: Low Library Plaza	Erin Murphy	C + T
6	Avery Gallery Extension on the Margaret Mead Plaza	Laura Garnier	A + I
7	Community Crown: Fayerweather/Avery Courtyard	Sohyun Kim	A + I
8	Revson Plaza: Rethinking the Relationship between Campus and Community	Yasong Zhou	A + I
9	Revson Plaza: Curve on Campus	Annie Bodhidatta	A + I
10	Untold Stories: Women at Columbia	Claire Cancilla	P + P
11	Untold Stories: LGBTQ at Columbia	Qian Xu	P + P
12	Untold Stories: Mapping and Spatializing Chinese Heritage	Fei Deng	P + P
13	Preserving General Grant National Memorial Benches: A Guide for Community Members and Organizations	Sarah Sargent	C + T
14	Save Our Homes: Morningside/Manhattanville	Andrés Álvarez-Dávila	A + I
15	“Walk With Us!” Residential Displacement Tour	Emily Junker	P + P
16	Reconceptualizing University Expansion in Manhattanville	Scott Goodwin	P + P
17	Broadway from 122nd to 135th Streets: An Opportunity for Reprogramming Physical and Psychological Barriers	Mariana Ávila Flynn	P + P
18	Reconnecting 125th Street IRT Viaduct to Manhattanville	Bingyu Lin	A + I
19	Viaduct Accessibility - Renovation of 125th Street Viaduct	Yu Song	A + I
20	Prentis Hall: Preserving Manhattanville's Industrial History	Kathleen Maloney, Seo Jun Oh, You Wu	C + T
21	The West Market Diner	James Churchill	C + T
22	Manhattanville Waterfront	Huanlun Cheng	A + I

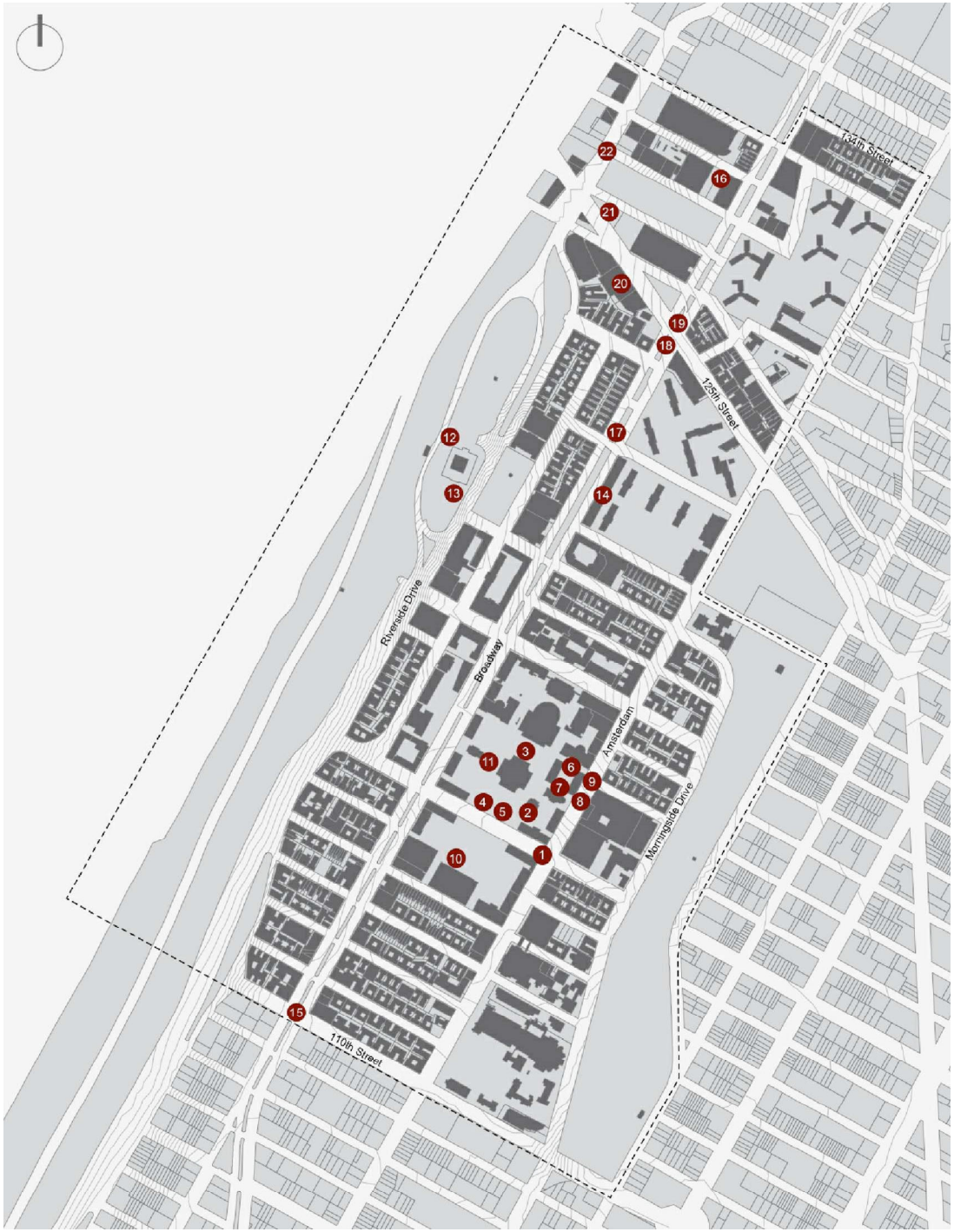
PROPOSALS

During the proposal development phase, students focused on the last of the Studio’s three core questions:

> How can the preservation enterprise intervene, so as to instrumentalize heritage toward greater social inclusion?

Students developed twenty-two proposals that primarily used the tools of their respective Studio section -- Planning + Policy, Interpretive + Architectural Design, or Conservation + Technology. However, many projects are hybrid in nature, using mixed methods and challenging the traditional boundaries of preservation’ subfields. The proposals include projects in both Morningside Heights and Manhattanville, and seek to spatialize the narratives identified in the key issues. In this sense, each proposal sought to address the history of the area and its current conditions as a way to shape an inclusive future through preservation.

The first section of proposals delves into interventions that deal directly with Columbia’s Morningside Heights campus. The second section focuses on interventions that deal with Morningside Heights beyond Columbia’s campus, as well as the Manhattanville neighborhood.



Map of proposals in study area
Source: Prepared by Mariana Avila Flynn

Campus Gates: Resolving Barriers in Morningside Heights

Micah Tichenor

The university is evident in their intentions with the new Manhattanville campus to be gateless, as a departure from the fortified Morningside campus, and to leave streets open to the public. This provides an opportunity for Columbia to utilize their campus gates as a memory device to reconcile an equally evident history of exclusion. By removing the 116th Street gates and installing them in Manhattanville as a reminder of this history, Columbia University can spatially represent and strengthen its relationship with the neighborhood.

History of Barriers as Exclusionary Actions on Campus

Designed by McKim Mead and White, Columbia University's Morningside Heights campus opened in 1897. The campus stands between 116th Street and 120th Street. McKim's plan defined a distinguished, processional approach from 116th Street up to Low Library. In 1903, the lot south of 116th Street was purchased for campus development. The first President of the university, Seth Low, advocated for the urban campus to be a part of the city it resided in, requiring 116th Street to remain open to traffic and pedestrians as a continuation of the New York City street grid.

The perimeter of the campus' north section, known as "The Grove," was originally fenced as parkland. The primary entrance into this park was from a gate at 120th Street, installed in 1893 and donated by the Class of 1882. The second gate to be installed was the Mapes Memorial Gate in 1895, donated by the class of 1891 in memory of their classmate Herbert Mapes, at 119th Street and Broadway. This was followed by additional gates for the campus also donated by alumni classes: 1913, 119th Street and Amsterdam gate, gift of School of Mines Class of 1888; 1916, Earl Hall gate at 117th Street and Broadway, gift of Class of 1891; 1924, Chapel Gate at 117th Street and Amsterdam, gift of Class of 1906 College and Science.

Additionally, Columbia has a history of installing former gates on campus as a memory device. The gate from Columbia College's previous campus stood on 49th Street and Madison Avenue, and is now free standing in front of Weston Plaza on the Morningside campus. Three other free standing gates on the campus are from the North Dutch Church, where Columbia College's 1809 commencement took place. Two of these are placed in front of St. Paul's Chapel and one is placed at the entrance of the court between Avery and Fayerweather Halls.

In 1915, the Broadway and 116th Street entry pylons were erected, with statues representing "Letters" and "Science." Two more were planned to be placed on the Amsterdam side, but the pylons were not erected until 1932, when funding was received. The pylon statues were never donated and the pedestals remain empty to this day. These pylons established a conspicuous arrival to the campus, allowing vehicles and pedestrians to enter freely. Gates were never intended to be installed at these entrances.

In 1954, gates were installed at the 114th Street entrances, donated by the Class of 1929. In 1953, New York City granted private domain of 116th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam by Columbia, making this possible. Closing this section of the street to traffic severed the intended integration of the campus within the New York City street grid. By 1957, several proposals had been drawn for new campus gates at either end of 116th St. This suggests that Columbia's decision to close the street was part of a plan to control and monitor access into the campus. In the context of urban renewal and the actions of Morningside Heights Inc., these additions to the campus indicate values of fear, fortification, and exclusion. Columbia was concerned with a need to expand the campus as well as establishing a safe neighborhood for the university community, responding to crime and deterioration. Residents accused the neighborhood institutions of secret expansion plans, monopolizing property ownership in the neighborhood, and creating a sense of suspicion and mistrust. In the 1960s, Morningside Heights Inc. spent $100,000 a year on private security patrol, in addition to Columbia's Public Safety patrol, and NYPD patrol. According to a 1964 New York Times article, "Columbia is the largest builder in the area, and local hostility has not been eased by its carrying out an expansion program of singular architectural insensitivity. This, in turn, affects the character of the environment."

Tensions between Columbia and the community only continued to rise as institutional occupation of the neighborhood increased, and gating the campus seems to have been part of a broader attempt at spatial separation. The 116th Street gates were presented to Columbia University in the City of New York by a private donor, George Delacorte, in 1967. His donation expressly specified that the funds were to be used to fulfill the original intention of McKim Mead and White's design for gates at either end of the campus on 116th Street, though there is no evidence of this intention. The gates were installed by January 1968, and dedicated on October 29, 1971. Delacorte was a 1913 Columbia graduate, and became wealthy from his own company, Dell Publishing. His donations to Columbia over the years through pledges, contributions, and gifts totaled over $6 million. His contributions to the university



Gate use on the Morningside Heights campus, 2019
Source: Prepared by Micah Tichenor



116th Street pylons at Broadway, 1937
Source: New York Public Library, Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy

and to New York City were towards "beautification" efforts: trees, fountains, the Delacorte Theater and Alice in Wonderland statue in Central Park. When asked by the New York Times why his financial contributions to the city were not more charitable, like aid for the poor, he replied, "People are poor because they're dumb or because they're lazy. If you feed them you just keep them in the same strata."

The Columbia Spectator provides an insightful perspective on student opinions of gates throughout the campus's history, especially Delacorte's contribution. Complaints about the use of gates and fences shift over time, from inconveniences to safety concerns, to criticism of isolating the campus from its community. Paul Starr writes in the May 10, 1968 issue, "the administration was erecting its defenses [against friction]." In one case, gates assumed the form of a real physical barrier. The article declared:

> "'Ornamental gates,' costing $87,000, were built at either end of College Walk. Despite the disclaimer that the gates were only part of the University's beautification and that all local residents would still have free access to the campus, no one was fooled. Fortress Columbia was being readied for the native uprisings. Aside from fear, the administration has spent few of its emotions on the ghetto which it overlooks - all the time."

A review of the new gates at Broadway in the December 12, 1967 issue further reveals Columbia's attitude towards those outside the campus:

> "The gates, of course, will not be locked - the campus will still be officially open to 'outsiders' - but their appearance is undeniably hostile. The last thing Columbia needs is more walls, more fences, more barricades. Perhaps the gates might be made more attractive by painting them or adding some decoration. At least that way the gates might give our neighbors the impression that Columbia is trying to keep them off the campus in a friendly spirit."

Installing these gates with an intention to never close them sends an apparent message to outsiders - you may enter, but you are not welcome.

University administration provides an alternative perspective on the gates, acknowledging the complexity between security and fear. In 1963, director of University residence halls Joseph Nye faced complaints about the inconvenience of students being forced to walk around campus to find an open entrance. He defended the gate closings, declaring that "[a]ny outsider to the campus represents a potential security problem. Although closing the gates does not cut off entrance to the campus completely, the barrier is a psychological factor which helps prevent problems by discouraging people from using the campus as a shortcut." In 1990, Director of Columbia Security Dominick Moro further explained the security logic regarding gate closings with 116th Street as the only entrance into campus. He stated that any intruders would be discouraged from wandering onto other parts of the campus, and would limit themselves to crossing on College Walk, while noting that "[a] great deal of this is psychological, of course." This attitude towards defensive architecture and its psychology conveys the impression that there is a potentially real, but often imaginary, threat that must be avoided.

This is a fear that is being addressed in the new Manhattanville campus in a very different way. The alternative approach to a security of gates, fences, and fortified walls in one of total transparency, light, and surveillance, leaving no place to hide. Columbia President Lee Bollinger has made the university's intention with Manhattanville clear; that its environmental tone is different from Morningside. In a 2017 interview with Columbia News, he says, "This time it had to be open - no gates and no walls - and face outward rather than inward, relating to the city with a sense of engagement." In 2007, Columbia University filed a Zoning Resolution with New York City to facilitate the development of the academic mixed-use campus in Manhattanville. The resolution states the university's intentions with construction and use: "The Special Manhattanville Mixed Use District regulations prohibit any gates or fencing within or around the perimeter of the open spaces and these spaces are required to be open and accessible to the public. While these provisions guarantee public use and access, the Commission strongly encourages Columbia to adopt further design measures to ensure that the spaces are welcoming to all." Though fences and gates are prohibited, the security of the campus is manifested in transparent ground floors and excessive use of security cameras. There are 30 cameras mounted around the perimeter of the University Forum building alone. It is not clear exactly how the campus performs within the community using this approach until construction is complete. Nonetheless, this intention shows a clear shift in how the university approaches its neighbors with a inclination towards inclusivity, which is an intention that should also apply to the Morningside campus as part of Columbia's identity.

Proposal

At the Manhattanville dedication ceremony on October 24, 2016, Renzo Piano spoke to how the campus will perform, stating that "[t]raffic and people will move through seamlessly, without barriers. It is a campus built around the idea of shared values and of cultivating diverse approaches to life." Gates and fences are physical features that separate communities from each other, reducing any potential for mutual understanding or collective purpose.

This proposal responds to this issue through two independent components. The first component is the removal of the 116th Street gates as a physical intervention that can reconnect the Morningside and Manhattanville campuses through gestures of building community, trust, and interaction. The gates would be re-erected in the Manhattanville campus as a memory device that explicitly demonstrates what Columbia claims it wants to avoid in planning future campus expansion. To realize this action, efforts would be required from CU Facilities and CU Public Safety for the removal and reinstallation process and in potential supplemental security features with absent gates. As the campus is currently under construction, there is opportunity for many installation types. Therefore, the installation design is left open to interpretation, but must follow specific guiding principles (see following). A plaque would accompany this placement, explicitly stating the intentions of the gates and what they represent (see following). The statement makes clear, through historical evidence, that intentions of a "gateless campus" are not necessarily adhered to and secure.

The guidelines are in place to assist in supporting and enforcing the significance of the installation, which is to acknowledge their history as a way to remind future generations of what should be avoided. These dictate parameters for arrangement and placement, maintenance, and how to support their meaning. Decisions about how the gate removal should be approached should come from outside the university administration. Given the history of contested gate use on campus, the input of the student body in these interventions would be beneficial to understand current perceptions of the gates and their use. Removing the gates is intended to be a gesture of good will, and the community's participation is essential to establish who this action affects, and how it internalized by those affected. Their participation allows the gates to not only hold values attributed to the university, but values from the other side of the gate - which are to be determined. Submissions could be obtained through a symposium held by the university to determine options with residents. Specific submissions could also be placed in the form of the survey for a wider input from residents of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. Design mockups follow as examples of possible installations within the guiding principles, but do not represent any particular community-informed decision.

The second project component serves as an action towards building trust, where community groups would be given the opportunity to design a site installation at the empty pylon pedestals on Amsterdam Avenue as an inclusive gesture of welcome and reconciliation. These installations could be managed by the Arts Initiative at Columbia University, an organization that creates arts and performance to facilitate opportunities for cross-disciplinary exchange on campus. This call for proposals could be issued by the Arts Initiative to residents, local groups, and public schools. There is also potential for collaboration among local groups and student organizations, clubs, or university schools like GSAPP in order to effectively carry out varied proposals. As a contradiction to gates (and potentially, an alternative that marks the absence of gates), this action recognizes that a boundary has two sides, where both perspectives can be represented. Crossing a boundary into Columbia University is also crossing a boundary into Morningside Heights. Implementing the proposals should also follow guiding principles (see below). It is suggested that the installations be temporary to provide rotating opportunities for multiple perspectives and communities to be represented.

Removal of the gates alone does not result in trust and understanding between Columbia and the community, which is why a dual process should occur, independent of the removal, that also involves outreach, collaboration, and engagement with the community as a means to build this trust. Establishing trust between Columbia and the community has the potential to provide new security measures, which are more sustainable than cameras and defensive architectural features, which can mutually benefit both groups. Socially-based systems for security as advocated by Oscar Newman (The Economy of Fear) and Jane Jacobs (The Death and Life of Great American Cities) are more successful than gates and fences - where multiple communities can protect each other, connected through consistent interaction where outsiders would immediately be recognized. If the university is serious about fostering this relationship, it must make the effort to acknowledge and reconcile its history of exclusion spatially.

Proposed Guiding Principles for Installation of 116th St. Campus Gates in Manhattanville

1. Proposals should be community-informed. This would be initiated by the university, and can manifest through a call for proposals, survey, or symposium.
2. The central drive gates, posts and fences on Broadway and Amsterdam should be removed and reinstalled in the Manhattanville campus.
3. The side pedestrian gates and fences should be removed, but may be used as replacements for existing gates on the Morningside campus, or could be considered as installations within Morningside Park or Riverside Park.
4. The removed gates must be installed as freestanding entities, and may be vertical, mounted to a vertical surface, or horizontal i.e. set in concrete as a paved surface.
5. The removed gates must not be installed with the intention of being used as functioning gates that open and close.
6. The gates must not be placed in a position that could impede pedestrian access including sidewalks, perimeters, boundary and lot lines, etc.
7. If security booths are necessary for the Morningside campus 116th St. entrances, the booths should be placed to the north or south of the Gateway to allow for clear sightlines that would avoid unnecessary supplemental security measures.
8. Plaque must be clearly visible and may be attached to the gate or inscribed on an immediate surface.
9. The removed gates should be allowed to deteriorate naturally.

Proposed Manhattanville Gates Plaque Inscription

These gates were presented to Columbia University in the City of New York by a private donor, George Delacorte. They were erected in 1968 on the Morningside Heights Campus at either end of 116th Street at Amsterdam and Broadway. These gates were not part of the original Morningside Heights campus design, where the intention of President Seth Low and McKim, Mead, and White was for the campus to remain open to traffic and pedestrians as a continuation of the New York City street grid.

The gates were removed and erected on this campus in Manhattanville as an effort to reconcile Columbia University's history of exclusionary actions based in fear and segregation. They are to serve as a reminder of President Lee Bollinger's intent for this Manhattanville campus to remain gateless, open to traffic and pedestrians as a continuation of the New York City street grid.

"May all those who enter find welcome and peace."

Proposed Guiding Principles for Morningside Heights Entry Design Installations

1. Call for proposals should be issued from the Arts Initiative at Columbia University to residents and community groups in Morningside Heights, Manhattanville, and West Harlem.
2. Proposals may take the form of, but are not limited to: sculpture, painting or covering of pylons, performance, digital projection, sound or music, vegetation or planting.
3. Selection of proposals should be based on feasibility, with consideration to diversifying the groups represented and installation type.
4. Selected proposals should be funded by Columbia University in collaboration with the designer, and involvement with appropriate student groups or university schools in encouraged.
5. Proposals are to be temporary, installed for a maximum of one year, providing opportunities to acknowledge the diversity of influence the community outside the university.
6. Final installations must visibly attribute the designer and groups involved with production.



Empty pylon pedestals on Amsterdam Ave. to be used as site for community art installations
Micah Tichenor





Possible installations within guiding principles
Micah Tichenor



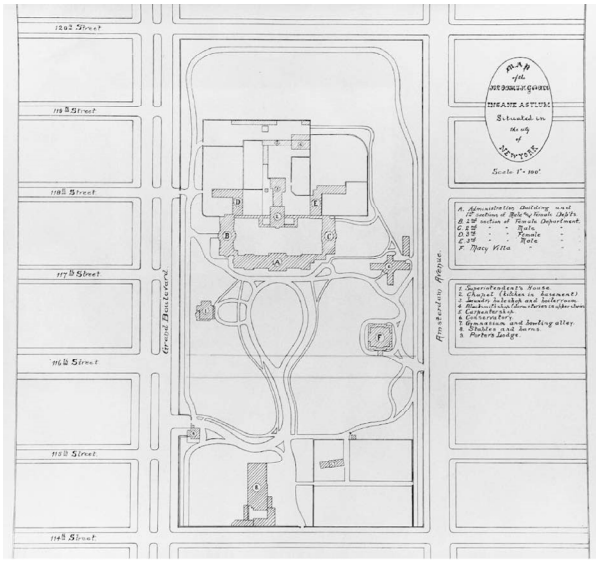
Possible installation and inscription within guiding principles
Micah Tichenor



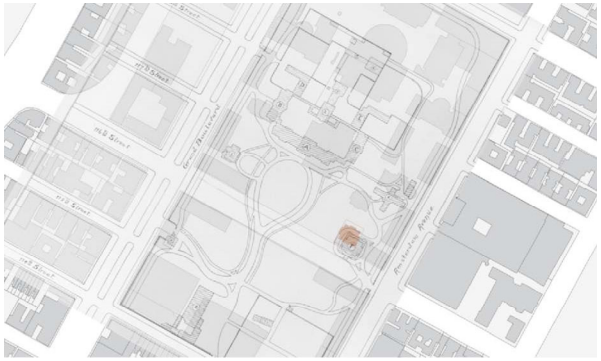
Buell Hall (2019) is the only remaining building from Bloomingdale Insane Asylum and houses Columbia GSAPP and Maison Française.
Source: Gwen Stricker



Macy Villa with original verandas circa 1890
Source: bloomingdalehistory.com



Map of Bloomingdale Insane Asylum showing Buell Hall (then Macy Villa)
Source: Columbia University, Columbiana Collection



Buell Hall relocation map
Source: Gwen Stricker and historic Bloomingdale map

Seeking Asylum: Mental Health Spaces at Columbia

Gwen Stricker

This proposal recommends that Buell Hall be utilized as the Columbia University Mental Health Center. This proposal for Buell Hall, which is linked to its history related to mental health, addresses the key issues of underrepresented histories and accessibility. Through the preservation of the existing building and its fabric, in combination with the addition of interpretive elements of the building's history, the proposal promotes a more vital use of the building that tailors better to the needs of its current users: the university community.

Buell Hall, constructed in 1885, is the only physical remnant of the historic Bloomingdale Insane Asylum campus and thereby represents an important period in the development of the Morningside Heights neighborhood which would otherwise be entirely absent in the built fabric. Originally called Macy Villa, it housed the wealthy male patients of Bloomingdale. The building's design at the time was innovative, as it employed the light afforded by an open environment of verandas to promote the natural healing process for asylum patients, a novel mental illness treatment at the time of construction. Historic photographs and maps of Bloomingdale indicate the presence of the character defining verandas, which wrapped the north and south facades of the building.

When the Columbia University Morningside Heights campus was being developed, Buell Hall was only intended to be used until another educational building was built, and it was moved twice to accommodate for campus development. However, Buell was never torn down as the other Bloomingdale buildings were, making it the oldest fixture of Columbia's campus today. During its second relocation, the verandas were demolished. Today, the character defining features of Buell Hall are the bright red brick, the gabled roof, and the building's small scale compared to the rest of Columbia's campus buildings. The interior of the building also contains notable original features, such as the fireplace on the second floor. Through the documentation process and investigation of the built fabric, evidence of Buell Hall's past was revealed. The ghost of the veranda is still visible by observing the difference of materials of the north and south facades, an important yet subtle presence of the original institution in Morningside Heights. The traces of the verandas are a physical reminder of the building's original use on the Bloomingdale campus.

Because of the physical evidence of Buell Hall's history as part of the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum, and due to the

current lack of university space to promote mental health awareness and mindfulness, the proposal to transform Buell Hall into a Mental Health Center is historically contextual with the building's original use. University students across the country increasingly note that their institutions do not address the serious need for mental health treatment on campuses. The demands on clinical treatment have steeply increased over the past 15 years, and university mental health professionals note that the services provided do not meet these needs. Some higher-education institutions are responding to students' needs through the use of designed green space, among other mindfulness spaces, such as sensory rooms and dark rooms. The healing and therapeutic power of nature has been proven time and again, and this design theory is in keeping with the original design intent of Buell Hall to help give patients more time outdoors.

This proposal includes the goal to open the lawn east of Buell and design it as a mindfulness landscape, but further supports the promotion of mental health awareness by re-programming the interior space to correspond with this goal. This ensures that there is open, public space to promote mental health awareness to all. The entry into the garden will branch off the main entrance to Buell, and the path will pass through an open, interpretive structure in the space where the original veranda would have been. The new structure would support the growth of ivy, a historically dominant feature on Buell's facade, so as to disguise it as part of the landscape and reference the Alumni House period of the building's history. This proposal also suggests to bring the history of the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum and the origins of Columbia's oldest building to the forefront through an exhibition on the building's importance as part of Bloomingdale as well as its use throughout its time as a Columbia educational building. The interior of the building will house the offices of several university-staffed psychologists and psychiatrists as well as programmatic spaces for mindfulness and stress relief educational programs open to all students and the Columbia community.

The change in use will promote mental health awareness not only within the institutional setting, but could also have an effect on the surrounding community. The building will be entirely devoted to mental health awareness and advocacy, a use which is necessary at Columbia and in the greater community. Additionally, the building will be made ADA accessible by the placement of a hydraulic elevator, which imposes least on the exterior appearance of the building.

The proposal for the recreation of the verandas is not a restoration proposal. Rather, the proposed structure is an interpretive reconstruction that stands alone and is easily reversible and distinguishable from the historic fabric of the



Buell Hall during second relocation, approximately 1902-1907
Source: maisonfrancaise.org/centennial/centennial-highlights



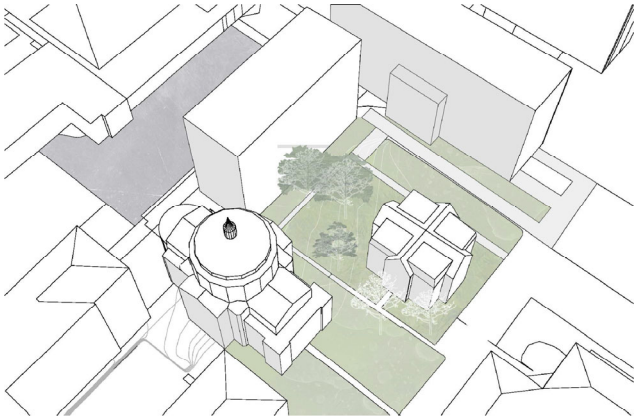
Buell Hall during its time as Alumni Hall, covered in ivy
Source: Columbia University Archives, Historic Photograph collection, 1858- Series VII: Buildings and Grounds, Box 162



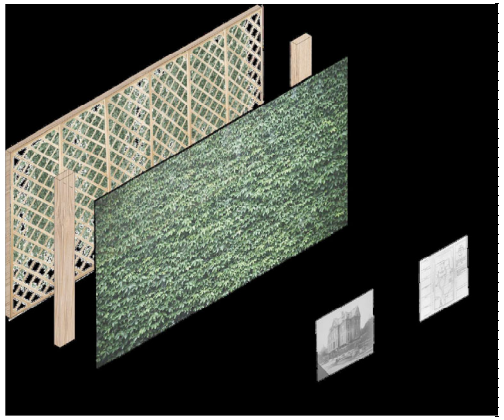
Buell Hall facade detail of the veranda remnants
Source: Gwen Stricker



Documentation of visible materiality change at the old veranda roof line.
Gwen Stricker



Aerial graphic showing the open green space surrounding Buell that could be used as part of the Mental Health Center
Gwen Stricker



Composition of the interpretive exhibit within the reconstructed and simplified veranda structure
Gwen Stricker



Rendering of the exterior of Buell Hall with designed mindfulness garden
Gwen Stricker

building.

Columbia owns Buell Hall and the surrounding space and has the agency to facilitate this proposal. Doing so would put Columbia at the forefront of academia's response to increase mental health treatment and awareness. Currently, the building is occupied by GSAPP and Maison Française, but space for these departments could be secured elsewhere as the use of Buell as a mental health center is paramount. This proposal brings mental health awareness to the forefront while typically these services are tucked into the dark corners of university buildings. Bringing the program out and placing it in a prominent spot on Columbia's campus directly related to the mental health history of Morningside Heights makes a statement. It reveals an underrepresented history and elevates the importance of mental health instead of hiding and further stigmatizing mental illnesses.

Addressing Mobility Issues on Columbia's Morningside Heights Campus

Sreya Chakraborty

All people, with or without physical impairments, have the basic right to access and experience historically significant sites. Despite the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, too often historic sites remain complex to navigate for wheelchair users, often rerouting users through convoluted paths via back entrances or across steep ramps. Making historic sites wheelchair accessible, however, is particularly challenging as their original layouts often include impediments for disabled visitors. This proposed project is a phased participatory planning tool that facilitates a clear methodological rationale from a campus-wide perspective. It addresses inclusion through the lens of access and historic preservation in a systematic way, so that the eventual campus-level circulation becomes better than the sum of barrier-removal at each building level.

Columbia University in Morningside Heights, a twentieth century Beaux Arts campus designed by American architects McKim, Mead and White is one such campus with a complex planning. Originally built on a natural plateau, the level-differences were navigated using staircases, which were also employed to impart architectural drama. The topography coupled with design decisions to create an acropolis-like campus raised from the street had an inadvertent effect of rendering the campus largely inaccessible for people with mobility issues, especially those bound to wheelchairs. While Columbia has made efforts to make the campus more accessible, wheelchair users often need to travel unacceptably long distances within the campus to go between adjacent buildings.

The challenge of creating access for people with mobility issues without affecting the integrity of the site is particularly prominent on historic sites because the mitigation measures are often permanent and irreversible which directly conflict with preservation values. This issue is of utmost concern to administrators, who often face difficult decisions on how and where to act first. Retrofitting the historic integrity of the campus is a particularly difficult challenge that has resulted in piecemeal interventions on a building-to-building level, without a clear methodological rationale from a campus-wide perspective to marry the ease of access with historic preservation of the campus. Thus, a data-driven step-by-step process allows researchers and administrators to fully understand the extent of the problem while also quantifying several aspects of it.

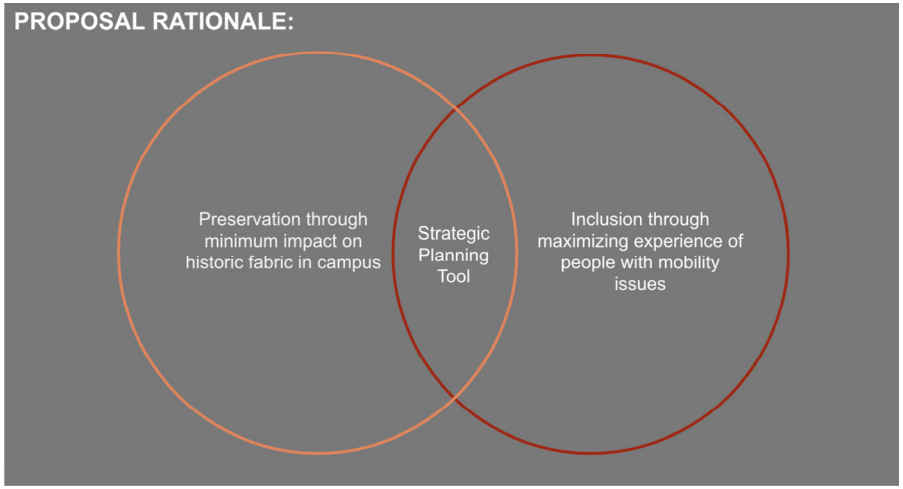
This study thus presents a tool that helps identify the most efficient locations for an accessibility intervention on the campus, while also considering historic preservation values. The proposed planning aid is primarily meant for Columbia agencies dealing with accessibility issues within the campus. The project aims to maximize circulation experience of people with mobility issues and minimize of impact on the historic and architectural integrity of the campus, promoting instrumentalization of heritage towards greater social inclusion. It is designed to foster a systematic and sustainable approach through an evidence-based study, supported by thorough documentation of current conditions on site, delineation of factors involved and identification of primary stakeholders. Documentation of existing barriers underscores the complexity of the issue. Furthermore, the project recognizes that intervention decisions are not only based on historical integrity and intervention design, but also on economic feasibility. A systematic approach allows decision-makers to prioritize areas for intervention based on traffic, significance of the area, and quality of life from an academic perspective.

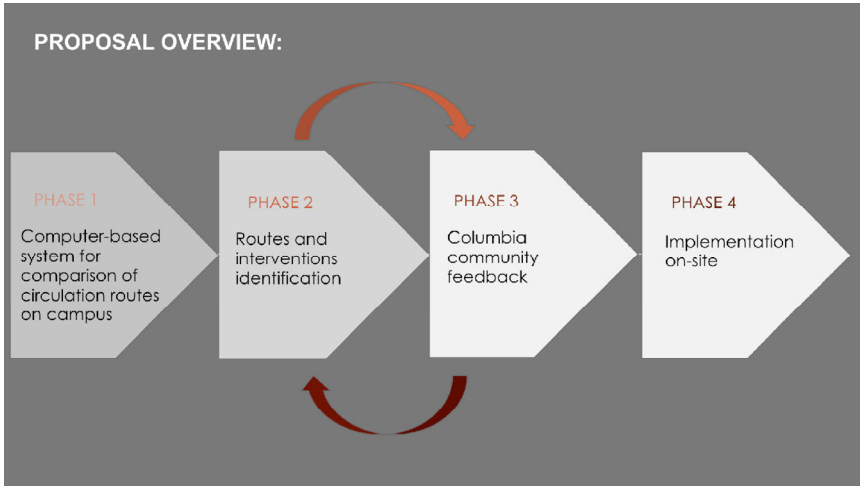
In an attempt to efficiently use planning tools, the project proposes phasing of the work. Each phase has clear delineations of the work that has to be done and the primary participants involved in the phase. The iterative nature of the process to find the most effective solutions makes it difficult to suggest a definitive timeline for the project. However, based on spatialization of survey data that the studio conducted and onsite observations, it is suggested that the project be set in motion as soon as possible to bridge the experience gap between fully abled and disabled publics within the Columbia community.

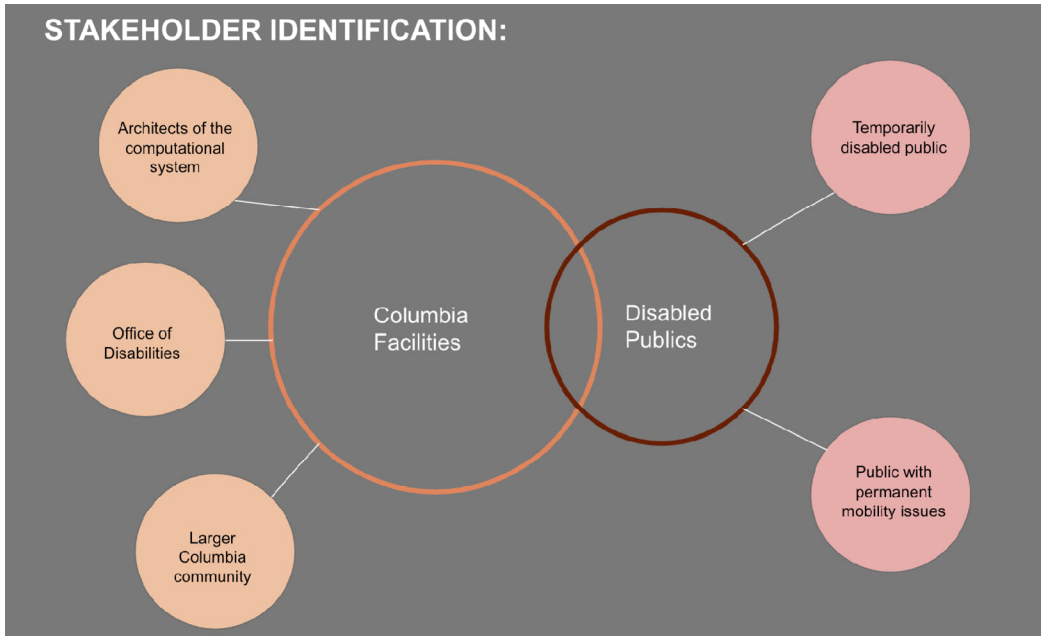
Phase One

Phase one of the project is a tripartite process - input, computation and output. The input stage involves an in-depth understanding of the project through rigorous mapping of existing physical barriers and previous mitigative interventions on site, considering speed of travel of multiple users such as regular pedestrians, temporarily disabled pedestrians, temporarily disabled wheelchair users, permanently disabled wheelchair users and other instances that may require use of barrier-friendly accessibility, and traffic and direction of traffic within campus. Mapping of all kinds of mobilities with different speeds of travel within the campus is paramount to have a quantitative understanding of the mobility issues within the campus. These mapped parameters should be spatialized on a 3D campus map which becomes input information for the next step.

To account for all the layers of information, a computational platform employing a shortest-distance optimization algorithm must be designed. The algorithm computes the travel times, distances and elevation gains







Proposal Rationale, Proposal Overview, and Stakeholder Identification
Sreya Chakraborty

Spatialization map of accessibility in the study area (Survey data)
Sreya Chakraborty



Project details
Sreya Chakraborty

Phasing	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Proposed Work	Creating a computer-based system to map every possible route in campus	Columbia Facility and students evaluate best possible routes minimising impact on historic campus and maximising circulation experience of people with disabilities	Consultation with students and faculties with mobility issues	Implementation on site
Primary Participants	Architects of system, Columbia Facilities	Columbia Facilities and system architects	Columbia Facilities and Columbia student and Faculty	Columbia Facilities

based on circulation routes to access different parts on the campus. The algorithm is proposed to be is implemented in the parametric modeling plug-in Grasshopper for Rhino3D and outputs the most critical locations at which interventions will optimally reduce travel time for wheelchair users from a campus-wide perspective. The output data from the computation are subsequently considered in the context of the interventions' effects on historic preservation values.

The proposed key participants of Phase One include Columbia Facilities and architects of the system. However, their study must involve interaction with disabled publics and/or researchers who establish important research questions and perspectives to eliminate cognitive biases of architects of the system and relay their understand into quantitative data. The quantitative data, in the form of input parameters, is used to build a computational system which can account for every layer of information. Therefore, if the researchers' and system architects' biases are not eliminated, the project would be heavily compromised.

To simplify the concept, a situational analysis was employed on two routes within campus. These were picked arbitrarily but there may be hundreds of circulation possibilities. Route 1 is from A-Fayerweather to B-Low Plaza.

Two circulation options have been mapped to get a comprehensive understanding of the issue. One of them is a pedestrian-friendly option with multiple barriers and the other is barrier-free. In a similar manner, Route 2 is mapped between two adjacent buildings in the lower part of campus, Hartley Residence Hall and Hamilton Hall.

Now, from observation it is evident that some barrier-free routes are longer than pedestrian-friendly ones. However, with the help of this tabulated data which is segregated based on input, computation and output, the study attempts to quantify the discomfort felt by disabled publics and rank routes based on travel times.

Phase Two

Phase Two is a decision-making phase which involves evaluation of the output from Phase one. Based on travel times, lack of barrier-free access facilities and traffic on campus, Columbia Facilities has to evaluate a hierarchy of circulation of routes that in turn determine areas of campus which are in need of interventions. This step is especially important to the tool since it provides an opportunity to the administrators to prioritize mitigation measures based on a comprehensive understanding of mobility issue on campus from a campus-wide perspective. This step further goes on to define implementation strategies for mitigation of mobility issues on campus.

Another situational analysis is done to explain this process through a series of maps. The first map illustrates the barrier-free option of previously named Route 1 which is significantly longer than the barrier-ridden circulation route. The other two are alternative options that require barrier removal.

Option 1 requires installation of two ramps and an elevator, as marked by the dots, and Option 2 requires interventions on two locations, both ramps. Option 1 is shorter but requires more interventions on historic fabric.

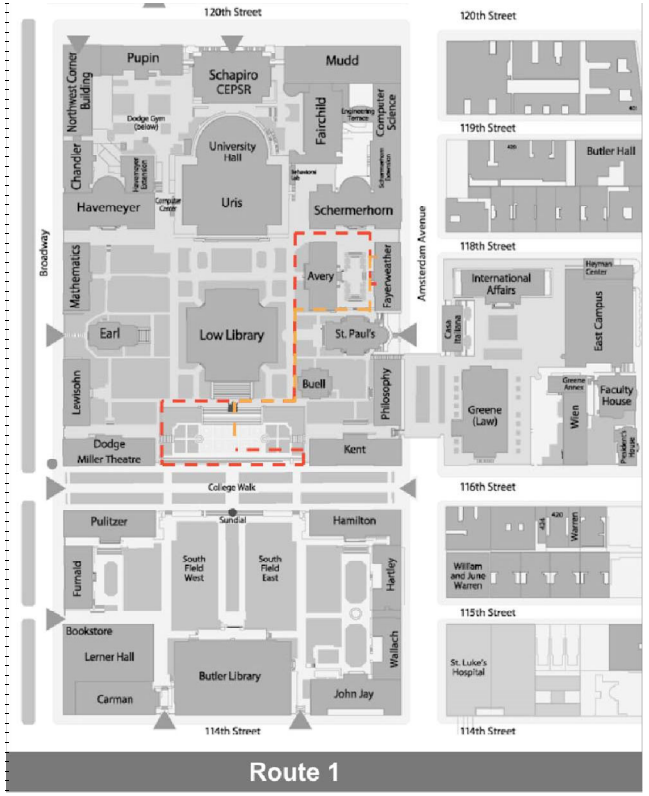
The algorithm offers administrators ranked options of routes based on travel time. The Facilities then has to determine the optimum intervention opportunities weighing both circulation experience and preservation values.

Phase Three

Phase Three involves consultation with larger Columbia community. Disabled publics must be given an opportunity to engage in dialogue with Columbia Facilities and architects of the system to be on the same page about the project and its prioritizations. However, the conversation must not just be open to disabled publics but to the larger community since barrier-circumvention or removal can also help larger Columbia community. For example, a fully abled person with an infant perambulator or a cafe worker delivering food to other buildings within campus also benefits from barrier-removal. These decisions must be taken into consideration before the commencement of physical mitigation on site. These conversations can facilitate positive re-evaluation of decisions taken by Facilities but emphasis must be laid on the iterative nature of the project to ensure stakeholder engagement and participation.

Phase Four

Phase Four involves the physical mitigation on site to ensure best possible campus experience to all publics with or without disabilities. In the future, the algorithm could be developed into a mobile application that would guide people along the shortest accessible route and can be applied to other historic sites that face similar challenges.



Route 1 mapping
Sreya Chakraborty

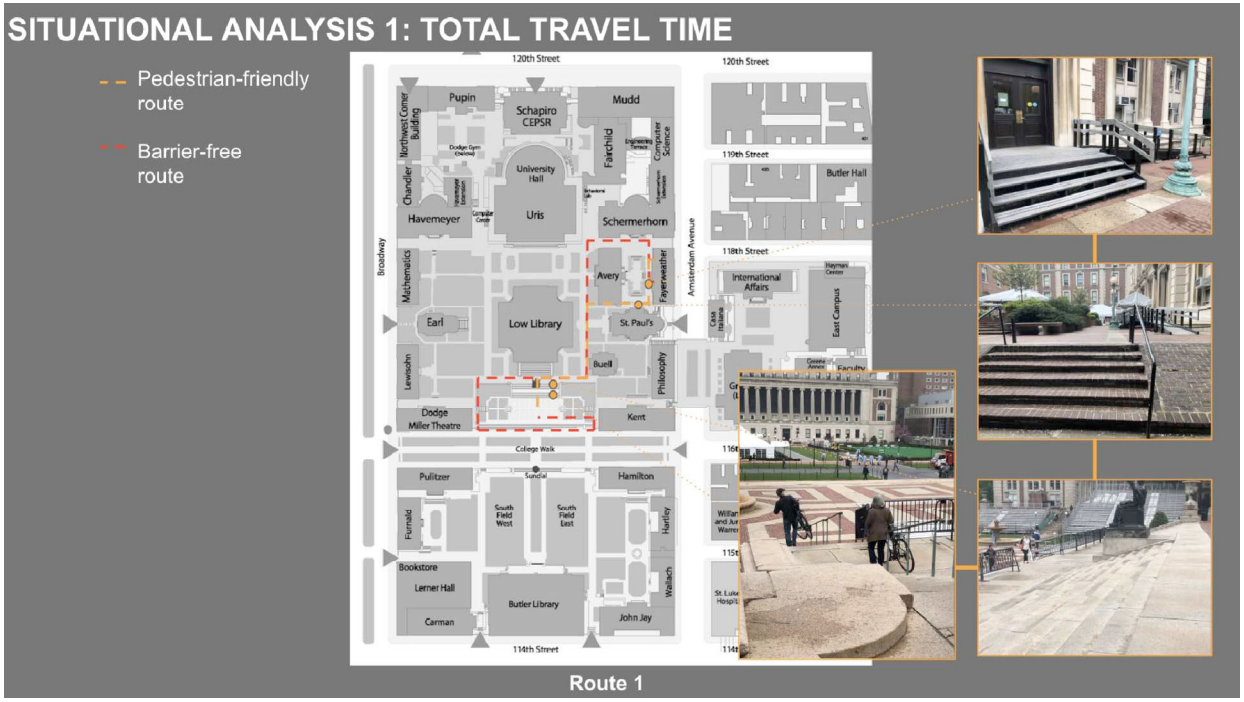


Photo documentation of pedestrian route
Sreya Chakraborty

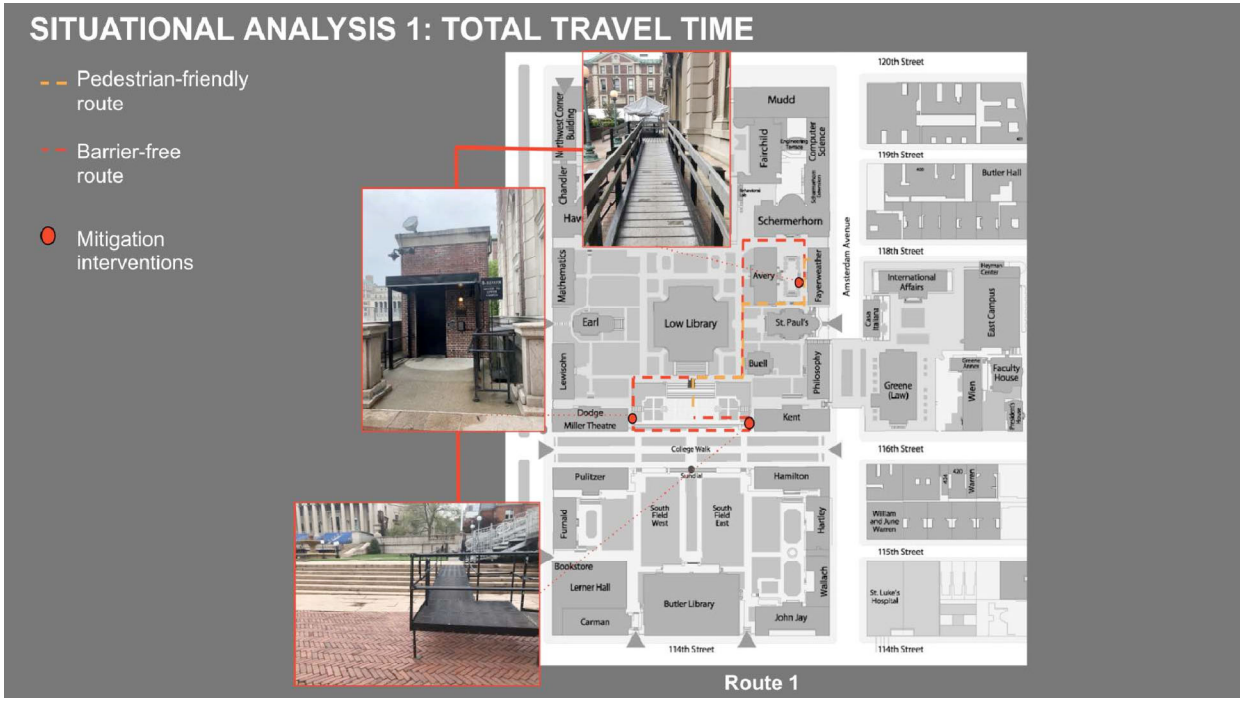
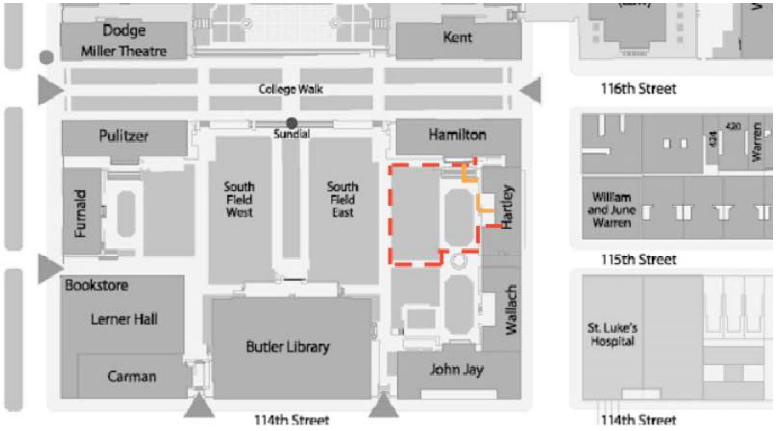


Photo documentation of barrier-free route
Sreya Chakraborty

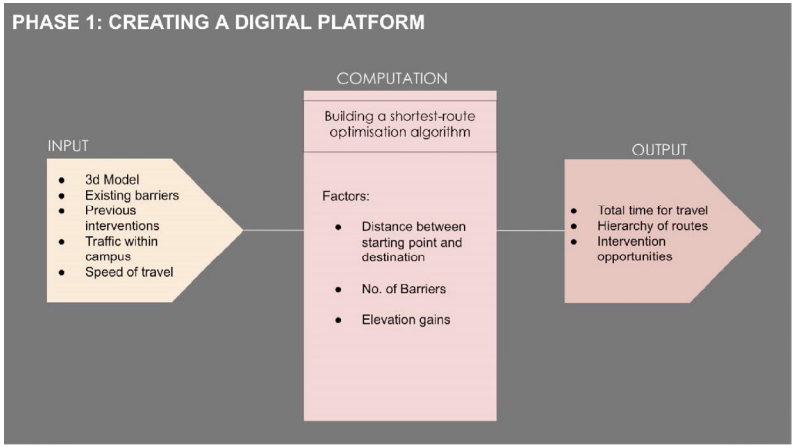


Route 2

Route 2 mapping
Sreya Chakraborty

		INPUT			COMPUTATION	OUTPUT
		No. of barriers	No. of barriers removed	Speed of travel	Distance travelled	Total time
Route 1 (Fayerweather to Low Plaza)	Pedestrian-friendly	2	0	1.5 m/s (~ 5 ft)	139 m (~460 ft)	1.54 mins
	Barrier-free		3	0.45m/s* (~2 ft)	332 m (~1090 ft)	13 mins
Route 2	Pedestrian-friendly	3	0	1.5 m/s	28m	0.3 mins ~ 18s
	Barrier-free		2	0.45m/s*	131m	~5 mins

Tabulated Data (*MWC - Manual wheelchairs speed of travel)
Sreya Chakraborty



Flow chart illustrating steps within Phase 1
Sreya Chakraborty



Situational analysis 2: hierarchy of routes
Sreya Chakraborty

Projected Pasts: Shedding Light on Underrepresented Histories

Caitlin Rudin, Drew Barnhart

Introduction and Overview

As shown in the Key Issues analysis, the study area is home to many significant histories that are not spatialized, limiting how these narratives can be experienced and appreciated. "Projected Pasts: Shedding Light on Underrepresented Histories" seeks to address this issue by using projection as a method for empowering a Columbia University's diverse student body to engage with those histories through the mapping of historic imagery and ephemera onto the built environment.

This proposal outlines a four-part pilot project that creates the opportunity for similar interventions to be carried out by student groups at Columbia. It revolves around a week-long installation of projected light that showcases underrepresented histories on Columbia's Morningside campus. In the case of this pilot project, these installations will hone in on Columbia's rich history of protest and activism, a narrative that demonstrates how diverse student groups have raised their voices to change the course of the institution's history. A forum will be held at the end of the week to discuss the place of these histories on campus. Then, the proposal provides for the formation of a student group that will use this technology to explore the histories they find important moving forward. Finally, this project addresses the creation of an online toolbox that will enable students at other institutions to use projection as a means of shaping their campuses' built environments. Because this project relies on projection as a means of intervention, it is additive and reversible and does not require significant monetary investment, making it an ideal method for empowering a dynamic student body to craft their own narratives and adapt it to changing values and focuses.

Key Issues

The pilot light installation and forum will revolve around the theme of student protest and activism. The selection of these topics is meaningful for two reasons. First, women and minority populations played important roles in activism and protests at Columbia and used these platforms to advocate for the recognition of issues that were important to them. As shown by the Studio's key issues analysis, these populations are spatially underrepresented on campus to this day, despite the fact that the student body is more diverse than it has been in the past. By inscribing the histories of their activism on the built environment, these projections will help mitigate this inequality in representation. Second, as this proposal will show later, projection has itself been co-opted as a technology of protest and activism. Two aspects of this proposal, the formation of a student group and the creation of an online toolbox, are aimed at empowering students to use projection to spatialize the narratives that they identify as important, which, in shedding light on underrepresented narratives, is a form of activism. Finally, protest as a form of expression has become an important part of Columbia's identity despite the fact that there are no physical representations of it on campus. These projections will not only fill that void, but in empowering students to take the projections into their own hands, it will also contribute to the preservation of student activism as a piece of Columbia's intangible heritage.

Site-Specific Protest Histories

The history of several protests that will be addressed through the projections are elaborated on in the studio's historic context statements. The causes and outcomes of the 1968 Protests are discussed in the statement on National Defense, Conflict, and World Affairs. This statement also addresses how Avery Hall, Fayerweather Hall, Mathematics Hall, Hamilton Hall, and parts of Low Library were occupied by protestors. The statement on LGBTQ Equity covers the history of LGBTQ activism on campus, including the dances held by Gay People at Columbia at Earl Hall. Finally, the statement on Gender Equity describes how Laura Hotchkiss Brown unfurled a banner featuring women's names on Butler Library to challenge the lack of representation of women in Columbia's core curriculum and campus. All of these narratives will be spatialized through the projections detailed in this proposal. However, these projections will also seek to shed light on additional unrepresented histories. The following section addresses the history of protests that play key roles in the proposed projections but have not been discussed in the studio's historic context statements.

The Divestment Protests

The Divestment Protests began on April 4, 1985, when a group of protesters affiliated with the university's Coalition for a Free South Africa organized a series of speeches to be held at the sundial on Low Plaza. After the rally, the protestors descended upon Hamilton Hall, chained the doors to the building, and announced that they

would form a human blockade to the building until the University chose to divest from South Africa. The protest gathered steam quickly. The initial event, organized by only seven students, attracted roughly 250 students to the Hamilton Hall blockade with their initial announcement. Hours after the announcement, the number of students in attendance had risen to roughly 300 (Lee, 2016). On top of the blockade, a handful of students also committed to a hunger strike, with at least one being hospitalized (Murphy, 1985). At its height, the blockade consisted of over 1,000 students and attracted prominent individuals including civil rights activist Rev. Jesse Jackson and folk musician Pete Seeger. Ultimately, the blockade lasted 21 days and yielded significant results, both within the Columbia community and nationally. Three weeks after the start of the protests, the University president finally agreed to meet with the protest leaders. Six months later, Columbia had fully divested from South Africa, making it first university in the United States to do so. Within three years, more than 150 American universities joined Columbia in divesting (Lee, 2016).

The Ethnic Studies Protests

The 1996 Ethnic Studies began on April 1, 1996, when four students declared a hunger strike in the hopes of pushing Columbia to establish a more the creation of an Ethnic Studies department. According to fliers these students distributed, they were motivated by the opportunities Ethnic Studies programs offer, “for the interdisciplinary study and discussion of the contributions of people of color in the United States,” a topic that was “traditionally ignored by academia” (Jacobovitz 2018). For the following ten days, students, including those who had committed to the hunger strike, occupied blue tents erected on the lawns around College Walk. On the tenth day, more than 100 students participated in a sit-in at Low Library, an event that ended with the arrest of 22 students. The strike subsequently moved to Hamilton Hall, where the student protestors remained for a further six days, at which point President Rupp created a committee to negotiate with the students. As a result of the collaboration between faculty and students, Columbia’s Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race was founded in 1999. While this fell short of protestors’ initial demands - they had fought for the creation of a department not a center - it still gave Ethnic Studies a home at Columbia and further legitimized the discipline in the academic arena (Jacobovitz, 2018).

The Audubon Protests

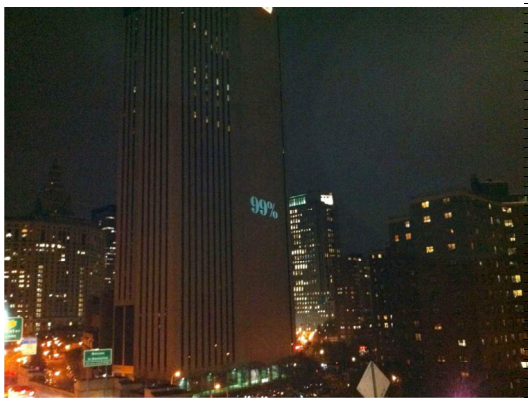
Hartley Hall became the home of Malcolm X Lounge, a space for black students on campus, in April 1970, when “several students occupied the empty NROTC office and renamed it the Malcolm X Liberation Center” (Xia 2013). The NROTC office had been abandoned two years earlier, when the University discontinued the program in the wake of the 1968 Protests (Xia 2013). This dynamic alone - the fact that students took the creation of a space for black students on campus into their own hands by occupying a space that was vacant as a result of previous student protests - makes Hartley Hall as a significant space for student-led activism. However, material from the University’s archives show that the space also became a meeting place for the Barnard/Columbia Save the Audubon Coalition (B/C STAC), an organization created in response to Columbia’s plan to demolish the Audubon Theater and Ballroom, where Malcolm X was assassinated on February 21, 1965, and construct a biomedical research facility (Newman, 1993). On December 14, 1992 B/C STAC organized a demonstration outside of Hamilton Hall in opposition to the demolition of the Audubon, with roughly 150 protestors in attendance. Unlike previous demonstrations held at Hamilton Hall, this protest was broken up within a day, and seven students were swiftly charged with violating university rules of conduct. In addition to their efforts on Columbia’s campus, B/C STAC also participated in protests throughout the city, including at Columbus Circle and outside the Audubon Ballroom at 165th Street and Broadway (Kantrovitz ,1990; “Ready to Defend the Audubon,” 1992). Ultimately, pressure from students and protesters around the city forced Columbia to change their plans. The University adaptively reused the building, preserving and restoring most of the original facade, and rebuilding the interior space as an education center named after Malcolm X and his widow, Dr. Betty Shabazz (Kilgannon, 2005).

The Sundial

The Sundial, with its prominent central location on College Walk, has become an essential space for student protest. The original 15-ton green granite sphere was removed from its pedestal in the 1940s when it developed a dangerous fissure, and was never replaced. ("Sundial, Campus Landmark Develops Dangerous Fissure," 1946). The open pedestal left behind became the physical heart of activism and protest on campus, being utilized by student



A projection by Shimon Attie at Almstadtstrasse 43, Berlin
Source: Segal, 2017



Mark Read's "99percent" projection on the Verizon Building
Source: Martin, 2011



"Columbia Protects Rapists" by No Red Tape, 2015
Source: Georgantopoulos, 2015

protestors and community activists as a soapbox that is a permanent element of Columbia's physical fabric. A perusal of Columbia's Protest Archives yields dozens of student-made flyers and posters with the call to action "Meet at the Sundial." This rallying cry has been used by students for decades to organize fellow demonstrators. The Sundial was central to the 1968 Protests, Anti-Apartheid Protests, Anti-Soviet Imperialism Protests, and decades of anti-war and women's rights protests. (University Archives, Columbia University Libraries).

Examples of Projection as Protest

Protesters have used light projection as a means of communicating their message for decades, and the popularity of the technology is rapidly growing. The format is surprising, engaging, reversible, and easily relocated. Some protest groups refer to this method as "projection bombing" or "guerilla projection," terms that highlight the provocative ideas and attitudes they hope to communicate. Several examples of how

In 1992, the artist Shimon Attie displayed projections on buildings in Berlin's former Jewish Quarter. The photos projected were intended to show "long-destroyed Jewish community life" and the underrepresented history of the Jewish working class that had defined the neighborhood before the Holocaust. The neighborhood has become a gentrified, chic residential area with expensive development projects, so Attie paired these rare photographs with old buildings to highlight the neighborhood's history. This image serves to illustrate how a collage of newspapers, pictures, flyers and signs can be mapped onto a facade to represent a historical narrative (Segal, 2017).

In 2011, artist Mark Read, a member of The Illuminator collective of artists and filmmakers involved in the Occupy Wall Street Movement, projected messages on the facade of the Verizon Building located at 375 Pearl Street in downtown New York City. By projecting 50-foot messages that read "99percent," "LOOK AROUND YOU ARE A PART OF A GLOBAL UPRISING," and "LOVE," halfway up the office tower using a single projector mounted in the building across the street, he was able to transmit the ideas of the Occupy Wall Street Movement to thousands of people, including passers-by, commuters, and residents of adjacent buildings, as well as remotely due to the media attention the projections received. The opportunity to illuminate dark spaces, create a large-scale message using limited equipment and financial resources, and the reversibility and temporal nature of projection all contribute to the effectiveness of the medium and its appropriateness for student protest on campus (Bennett, 2011).

In 2015, Columbia's No Red Tape student group organized a protest addressing the university's handling of alleged sexual assaults on campus. The protest coincided with an event for prospective students, and was meant to affect Columbia's public image and to further the conversation about sexual violence on campus. An image was projected onto the front of Low Library with the words "Columbia Protects Rapists" (Figure 3). During the protest, an administrator physically blocked the projector with her body in order to obscure the message, which we believe is representative a different side of Columbia's complicated history of protest that this project hopes to address (Georgantopoulos, 2015).

Light Installation Projects

The pilot project will showcase seven different locations that lend themselves to the spatialization of protests on campus: Low Library, Mathematics Hall, Avery Hall, Hamilton Hall, Low Library Plaza, Hartley Hall, Earl Hall, Butler Library, and the sundial. While many of protests addressed through the light installations actually occupied various places on campus as they progressed, the locations where they will be represented will be limited by the availability of historic imagery to tie them there.

As addressed in the Historic Context Statement on War, Conflict, and National Defense, Low Library, Mathematics Hall, Avery Hall, Fayerweather Hall, and Hamilton Hall were all occupied to varying extents by students during the historic 1968 Protests. A wealth of photographs documenting these protests exist in Columbia University's archives, with the exception of Fayerweather Hall. The pilot project will take advantage of this fact by mapping some of these available images onto the locations where they were taken, allowing the audience to see exactly how students during the protests interacted with and instrumentalized these spaces as part of their protests (see figures). These historic photos will be featured throughout the campus, on all of the buildings that were occupied.

During these protests, Low Plaza also served as a site for student demonstrations. Due to its significance as the main gathering location for both small demonstrations and protests on massive scales, Low Plaza will receive a unique video projection treatment, whereas the other projections are static or rotating images. Laser or optical

projectors will project 4,500 pairs of footprints moving on the surface of the plaza. This is approximately the number of people who can simultaneously stand on Low Plaza and move freely. These dynamic footprints in multiple colors spatialize the many significant protests that have taken place on the Plaza and the various histories that are represented throughout the installation. Several pairs of footprints will appear to walk down the steps toward the Sundial, with the intention of drawing viewers' attention and bodies to the Sundial.

From the Sundial, the audience will be able to view Butler Library, the largest production in the installation. At the top of the building, Laura Hotchkiss Brown's banner featuring female authors' names will be projected onto the space where it hung in 1989. However, on most of the facade, we plan to display a constantly shifting constellation of student-made posters from various protests that invite viewers to "meet at the sundial," a key location to almost all of Columbia's protests. By projecting the posters onto Butler at such a large scale, the audience is forced to view them from a distance, causing them to occupy the space surrounding the sundial. In doing this, we hope the audience's occupation of the space will approximate the form of one of the protests that they are celebrating.

Similarly, Earl Hall will serve as a canvas displaying posters from the numerous gay dances that the Student Homophile League and subsequent organizations hosted there, spatializing the building's place in the history of LGBTQ+ activism on college campuses.

Moving to the southeast corner of campus, posters and newspaper clippings from the Audubon Protests from the 1990s will be projected onto Hartley Hall, representing the actions of the student activists of C/B STAC, who made Malcolm X Lounge their base.

Finally, in addition to the role it played it the 1968 Protests, Hamilton Hall was also a primary setting for activism during the 1985 Apartheid Divestment Protests and the 1996 Ethnic Studies Protests. All three of these landmark protests will be represented at this building through the direct mapping historic photos onto the facade. In order to ensure that the audience has time to appreciate each projection individually but will also be able to see all three projections within a reasonable time frame, each historic image will be projected for a three-minute interval before cycling to the next projection.

Projection Mapping Technology

While some projection programs are expansive endeavors requiring content designers, professional projection mappers, and graphic design specialists, the projections detailed in this proposal are designed to be relatively straightforward to produce. The fact that most projections are static images of pre-existing content, i.e. historical imagery, means that, given some support from the university, creative students who are willing to experiment with the technology and software should be able to produce these projections without assistance from professional projection designers. More advanced projections - like the projection of changing posters on Butler Library - could be omitted if they prove too difficult for students to accomplish. This would not jeopardize the overall success of the project.

Projection mapping allows projected images and videos to be "placed" onto complex objects and surfaces rather than onto traditional flat screens. Images and videos are mapped using software so they do not become distorted when projected on uneven surfaces. The first step of projection mapping includes a survey of the "canvas," in our case, the elements of Columbia's built environment that have been identified as sites of student activism and protest. The image is then set into or imposed upon the facade of the building and the designer controls how the facade interacts with the content. The intention of the projected images is to change the built environment and create a new experience for the viewer.

Using either Adobe Photoshop or Illustrator, the designer conceptualizes the visual of projection. Archival photographs and documents related to protest by Columbia students on campus can be imposed upon the projection surfaces. Files are exported for each projector and synchronized with timecode. In order to create a moving image, multiple projectors must be used at the same site; however, one projector is suitable in most cases of projecting a static image on a relatively two-dimensional surface (Driver, 2017).

In the case that projectors cannot be mounted in an ideal position, it is possible to use mirrors to reflect the projection onto the desired surface. Mobile projection units in the form of bikes and wheelable devices can also be purchased or built. These standalone, self-sufficient units are ideal for moving projected images from one site to another and for removing and protecting the projector when not in use. An example is "The Light Cycle," a converted bike that houses a high power projector, sound system, tablet and battery pack (Urban Projections,



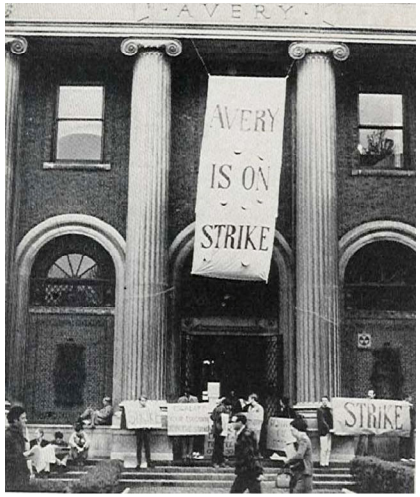
Example projection depicting protestors occupying Mathematics Hall during the 1968 Protests
Source: Base photo from Google Earth, Projected image from Schuessler, 2018



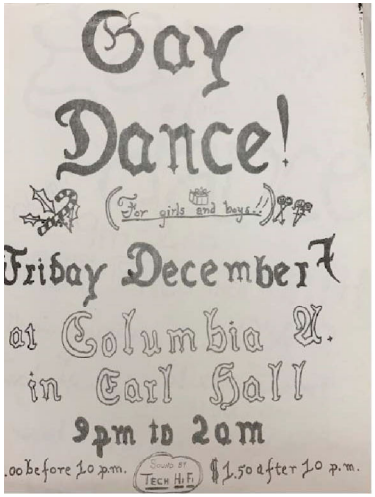
Rendering of a projection depicting supplies being given to protestors in Low Library during the 1968 Protests
Source: Projected image from the Columbia Spectator Staff (Columbia 1968, 2014)

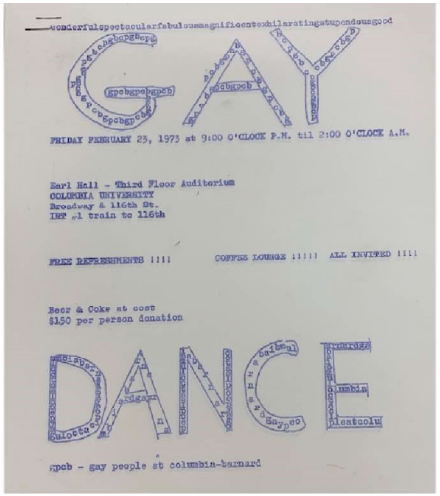


Rendering of a projection depicting protesters in front of Hamilton Hall during the 1968 Protests
Source: Projected Image by Warren Chung (Columbia 1968, 2014)

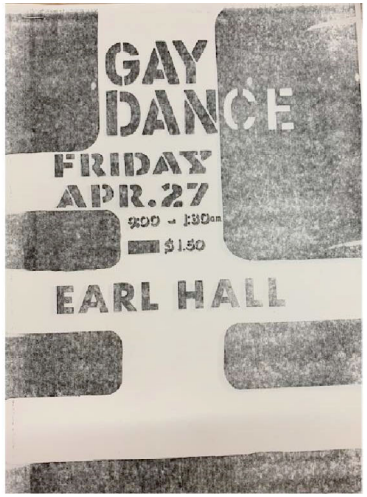


Potential image for projection onto Avery Hall, taken during the 1968 Protests
Source: Columbia College Today, Spring 1968





Posters advertising Gay Dances at Earl Hall
Source: Columbia University Archives, Columbia LGBT Records 1961-1990, Box 1





Rendering of the proposed projections onto Butler Library
Caitlin Rudin, Drew Barnhart
Sources: Base image from Wikimedia Commons User BeyondMyKen; Historic Posters from Columbia University Archives, Series VII: Demonstrations, 1920s-2000s; Photo of banner from the Columbia Spectator



Rendering of the projection of ephemera from the Audubon protests onto Hartley Hall
Caitlin Rudin, Drew Barnhart
Source: Base photo from Columbia University Housing; Historic posters and newspapers from the Columbia University Archives, Series VII: Demonstrations, 1920s-2000s, Box 125, Folder 7



The blockade at Hamilton Hall during the Apartheid Divestment Protests, projected the building's onto the facade
Caitlin Rudin, Drew Barnhart
Source: Historic image from Columbia University Archives, Series VII: Demonstrations, 1920s-2000s, Box 127, Folder 6



An image from the 1996 Ethnic Studies Protests, shown on Hamilton Hall's Facade
Caitlin Rudin, Drew Barnhart
Source: Historic image from Jacobovitz, 2018

2018).

Other adaptations that require some degree of trial and error when preparing for a projection installation are color images. The goal is to create the highest possible contrast, ideally with a dark surface and extremely bright projector. The colors of each projected image must be adapted to the value of its canvas. The projection surface bounces the light of the projection to make the image visible. The darkest portion of the projected image is never darker than the darkest color of the projection surface. In order to achieve the improved contrast ratio without purchasing high-powered and costly projectors, this installation is intended to occur after dark to create the best possible images and experience (Driver, 2017).

Factors that affect the cost of projection mapping include production, projectors, media server, media storage, and the size and complexity of the projected surface. Production of static images costs significantly less than video or live production. Larger, more intricate facades are more expensive to project upon because they can require multiple projectors and complicated coordination of the projections. For the purpose of this installation, a projector with 4,000 Lumens or higher and a projection size of 200 inches is ideal. Projectors with these specifications are priced at about 200 dollars.

Although outdoor projection has existed since the invention of movie projectors in the 1880s, projection mapping has only entered the mainstream in the last thirty years. With time and popularity, projection mapping has become brighter and less expensive. Projection mapping may face an overhaul in the near future with the development of laser projectors. Optical projectors beam light through a lens, where laser projectors create images by sweeping or scanning lasers onto the projection surface. Laser projectors are more energy efficient while producing brighter light, simpler to focus, and do not have expensive bulbs that need to be replaced every few thousand hours. With the costs of equipment, software, and invested time steadily decreasing, the barriers to entry into projection mapping are disappearing and more people will be able to use this technology in a wider variety of environments and situations.

Logistics

The light installation will be held for a week, from Monday to Sunday, in mid-April, in honor of the many protests, including the 1968 Protests, the Ethnic Studies Protests, and the Apartheid Divestment Protests, that have taken place during that time of year. According to the Farmer's Almanac Online, the sunset mid-April occurs roughly at 7:30 p.m., so the projections could reasonably begin around 8:00 pm. (Farmer's Almanac, n.d.). Columbia permits the reservation of outdoor spaces until 1:00 a.m. However, given that Hartley Hall is a residential building and acting as a canvas for projections, it may be useful to reference the University's "Noise Policy" as guidelines for how long to keep the projections may be kept on without interfering with students' sleep. According to the "Noise Policy," quiet hours begin at 11:00 p.m. on weekday nights and 1 a.m. on the weekend. These times will serve as the absolute latest cut-offs to turn off the projections (Columbia University Housing, n.d.).

The Office of University Life will be a key partner in making this event possible through their Events Council. The Event Council is a group of students from across all of Columbia's schools that plan activities with three goals in mind, namely to "build community through university-wide social programs and events", "create opportunities for students to connect beyond their schools through student engagement, leadership and programming," and "produce events that include, film, wellness, inclusion and belonging, and University community traditions" (Office of University Life, n.d.). According their website, "Office of University Life supports the Events Council with administrative liaison, funding, and logistical support" (Office of University Life, n.d.). The overlap between the Event Council's goals and the goals of this proposal, as well as the resources available through the Event Council's affiliation with the Office of University Life, suggest that collaboration with the Event Council would be mutually beneficial.

Forum

At the culmination of the first year of the installation, a forum will be held to discuss the questions raised by the projections. The installation aims to transform the familiar Columbia Morningside campus into a temporary venue that sparks conversation about its spatially underrepresented histories. The forum will gauge student interest in the event, impart new ideas for future installations, and provide valuable feedback on narrative and image selection, methods of conveying underrepresented histories, and logistics. Questions that will be addressed during the forum include:

- Whose narratives should be included on campus?
- How can underrepresented histories be included in the fabric of Columbia's built environment?
- How can current students engage with Columbia's history of protest?
- Should Columbia's history of protest be spatialized permanently? If so, how should this be done?
- What are the critiques of this approach? Could the selected narratives be spatialized in a different or more impactful way? What narratives are missing?

Ideally, the forum will be held at the Sundial and will require a moderator, experts, and an engaged audience. Due to his familiarity with guiding academic discourse between current and former students on the subject of protests on campus, Frank Guridy, a Columbia professor who teaches a seminar that addresses the 1968 Protests within the context of activism at Columbia, will be invited to moderate the forum. Columbia's efforts to recognize the 50 year anniversary of the 1968 Protests in 2018 led to engagement with former student protestors, who will be invited to serve as experts and audience members during the forum. Other experts will include projection mapping professionals and projection artists who use the technology in messages of protest such as The Illuminator, the Backbone Campaign, or artist Robin Bell. These experts will be able to discuss how the medium can be used to manipulate the built environment to promote certain narratives. Additionally, a representative from Columbia College's Office of Multicultural Affairs will be invited to participate and provide insight into how the University seeks to promote inclusion on campus.

The setting at the Sundial is both poetic and practical. The primary target audience will be undergraduate students, and a special effort will be made to extend invitations to student groups who may see their histories represented in the installation. Including these students in the discussion will be critical for refining and improving approaches to addressing underrepresented histories moving forward. However, the forum's location at the Sundial will make it publicly accessible and open to all who wish to participate in the conversation. Throughout week, a call to action will be projected on the ground around the Sundial that reads "Meet at the Sundial for a Public Forum to Discuss Unrepresented Histories on Campus" with the date and time of the forum also projected.

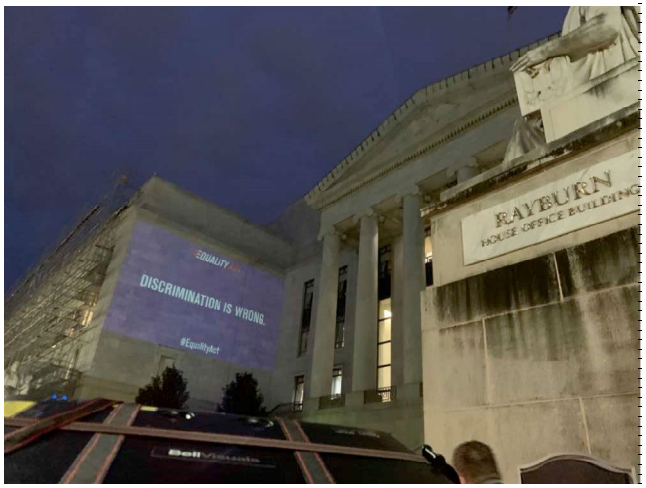
If the forum is able to be held at the Sundial, its setup will be somewhat unconventional due to its setting. Seating will be provided for invited individuals, including the guest speakers, arranged in a semi-circle around the north side of the Sundial. The moderator and experts will flank the Sundial, but will not have a table in front of them. Rather, their chairs will be set at an angle facing the Sundial, opening them up to the steps and open space below to the south of the Sundial. This southern half of the circle at which the Sundial is at the center is where members of the public can gather and engage in the conversation as well. Technical support for microphones and corresponding speakers for the moderator, experts, and north and south sides of the Sundial will be required. As with the projected light installation, the Office of University Life's Events Council would ideally support the public forum, assisting with coordination with the University's Events Management Office.

Recognizing and understanding the Sundial setting may be impossible due to practical considerations of pedestrian circulation and vehicular access to the 116th Street path, the forum would also be successful on the South Lawn. The central location to Lower Campus and direct views of the Sundial, Butler Library, and Low Library and Low Plaza make it an appropriate setting for the forum. In the case of inclement weather, a relocation inside of Low Library will be proposed.

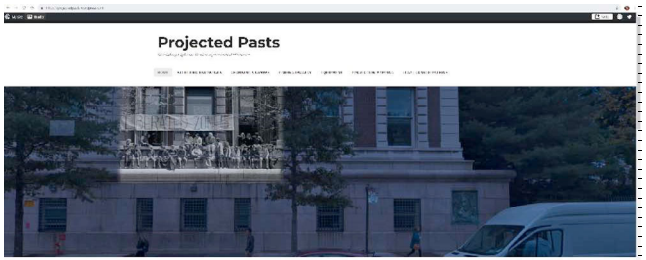
Student Group

Given enough student interest in the light installation and forum, a student organization will be formed to carry on this programming in the future. This will empower Columbia's ever-changing student body to create opportunities for the spatialization of narratives that they value. Over the course of the school year, this group, which will be intended primarily for undergraduate students, will select a history or issue, and identify its associated narratives, imagery, and spaces. Then, the students will decide how to best represent these stories using projection. As the makeup of the student body changes, and the issues and narratives they respond to evolve as well, the organization will adapt its programming to represent the students' shifting values and interests.

This organization may be the first official student-led group to work with projections in this way, but there are many precedents for undergraduates banding together to produce large-scale events, including the protests addressed in this proposal. Additionally, it is important to note that the creation of a separate student group would not preclude the involvement of the Office of University Life, whose expertise in logistics is an essential component



Robin Bell's projection "Discrimination is Wrong" on the side of the Rayburn House Office Building
Source: Madden, 2019



An example of an online toolbox made with WordPress for free
Source: Created by Drew Barnhart on WordPress

of the pilot program and its future iterations, as the Office's Event Council does promote and co-sponsor student-led initiatives (Office of University Life, n.d.).

Recognition as an official student group makes it easier for organizations to take advantage of resources offered by the University, including funding. Official recognition also adds a sense of legitimacy to the organization that will help it survive in years to come. This proposal outlines one path a student group may take to achieve recognition. However, in reality, there are many ways that a group could become an official Columbia student organization, and it ultimately depends on how various University bodies respond to that group's application for recognition.

To apply for recognition as a new student group at Columbia, one must first determine under which of Columbia's many governing boards purview it falls (Undergraduate Student Life. n.d.). The Student Governing Board (SGB), a group of eleven elected students that oversees groups with missions that are "political, activist, humanitarian, religious, spiritual, ideological, and/or identity-conscious in nature," is the most likely candidate to serve as the governing board for the student group described by this proposal (Undergraduate Student Life. n.d.). In order to apply for recognition under this governing board, the student group must complete and online application and give a five to ten minute presentation outlining the group's goals, programming, and what the group will gain from SGB recognition. After the presentation and the following discussion, the SGB will make a recommendation concerning the group's recognition. Whether or not a a group gains recognition is determined by a vote at the Town Hall held by the SGB at the end of the year. Representatives from all already-recognized SBG groups vote at this Town Hall, where a majority of two-thirds is needed to overturn the SGB's recommendation ("New Group Applications").

Online Toolbox

The final component of the proposal is the creation of an online toolbox that will give students the information they need to implement an installation of projected light on their own. This website will be created after the events of the pilot project so that it can incorporate everything that is learned through the actual process of planning and executing the event. This toolbox will include methodology for identifying histories on which to focus, where to look for suitable imagery for the projections, how to navigate university policies, and equipment suggestions for every budget. The online toolbox will also include basic information on how to map projections, allowing students to completely take the project into their own hands. Additionally, the website will also contain information on legal issues and cases faced by protestors who have used projections in the past. If a website visitor chooses to use the information to enable a protest, it is important that they consider potential legal ramifications.

An example of the type of legal case listed on the site is the 2016 case brought against members of the protest group Illuminator after they demonstrated against the renaming of a plaza at the Metropolitan Museum of Art after David H. Koch by projecting the words "Koch = Climate Chaos." While the individuals were charged with "unlawful posting of advertisements," the case was ultimately dismissed for "legal insufficiency" due to the fact that unlawful advertising only addressed "the physical placement of tangible objects or substances," which did not include the use of light. The arrested individuals were then able to sue the NYPD "on various constitutional grounds," and ended up winning a $4,500 settlement (Segal 2017). Another example is the case brought against Robin Bell, an artist who projected the words "DISCRIMINATION IS WRONG" on the side of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington D.C. On March 14, 2019, Bell was arrested for "unlawfully demonstrating on Capitol Grounds" (Madden, 2019). While the result of Bell's court appearance has yet to be published, this will be an important case to follow, as it could set a precedent for whether projections can be legally classified as demonstrations, which will dictate the type laws that could regulate their use in protest.

A website such as the one described here could cost as much or as little as there are available funds. It is relatively easy to setup a website using any number of free website builders including Wix, WordPress, or Yola. These platforms are designed to be used by anyone who is generally computer savvy and do not require specialized website design knowledge. This means that theoretically, this online toolbox could be created by a volunteer on these platforms completely for free.

For a more advanced website, one could purchase a domain name for roughly ten dollars per year, which would allow the website to omit the name of the hosting platform in its web address (changing the name from projectedpasts.wordpress.com to projectedpasts.com, for example). This would make the website look more official and be easier to find through a search engine. For an additional estimated ten dollars per month, one could also

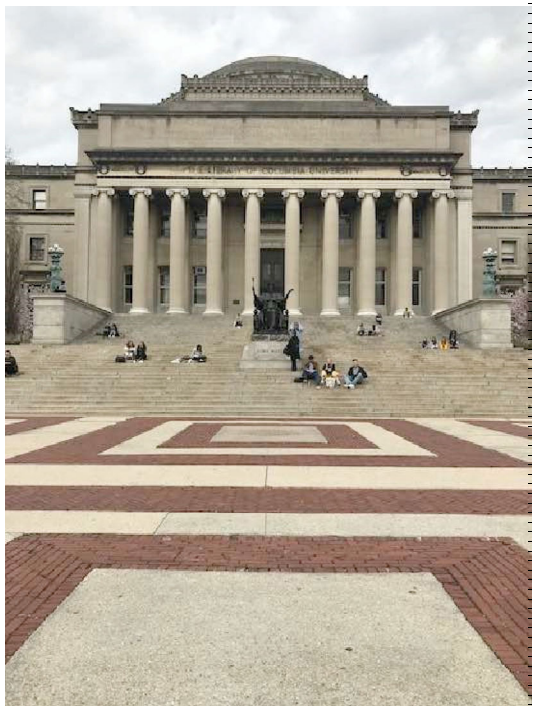
purchase a better website hosting service, which would make the website generally more reliable. On the more expensive end of the spectrum, paying a professional do design an entire website can cost upwards of 5,000 dollars, not including the ongoing hosting and domain name fees. The website would most likely be an individual endeavor, unless the previously mentioned student group or Columbia University wanted to take it on. With this in mind, it best to plan to create a free website with no maintenance costs.

The Platform of the Acropolis: Low Library Plaza

Erin Murphy



Deterioration on the plaza, looking northwest, March 2019
Source: Erin Murphy



Site photo at center of plaza, April 2019
Source: Erin Murphy

Low Library Plaza, also known as South Court, is the location where the narratives of inclusion on Columbia's campus converge. Dating back to its design and construction in 1897, the plaza was designed to serve as a civic monument, in addition to being a collegiate one (Ballon 2002). The architecture of South Court provides a literal platform for inclusion, to give students and community members a space to freely voice their opinions. However, in the 122 years of the plaza's existence, significant deterioration has occurred, resulting in the plaza as unsafe to walk on, inaccessible for the handicapped public, and under-recognized as the civic monument it was designed to be. This proposal consists of three separate parts, each of which enhances the other. First, I propose to extend the boundaries of Low Library's National Register of Historic Places designation to include the plaza, due to its architectural and cultural significance and the symbiotic relationship of the two. Second, I propose that an extensive rehabilitation of the plaza be conducted to homogenize the material and to ensure its long-term future as a safe and usable space. Finally, I propose that a series of ramps be installed on the plaza in order to promote ADA accessibility through this central artery of campus. By accomplishing these three goals, the preservation of the plaza will maintain and enhance its function as a space of inclusion and activism, preserving the memory of this space's rich history of demonstration, while ensuring its continued use for the future.

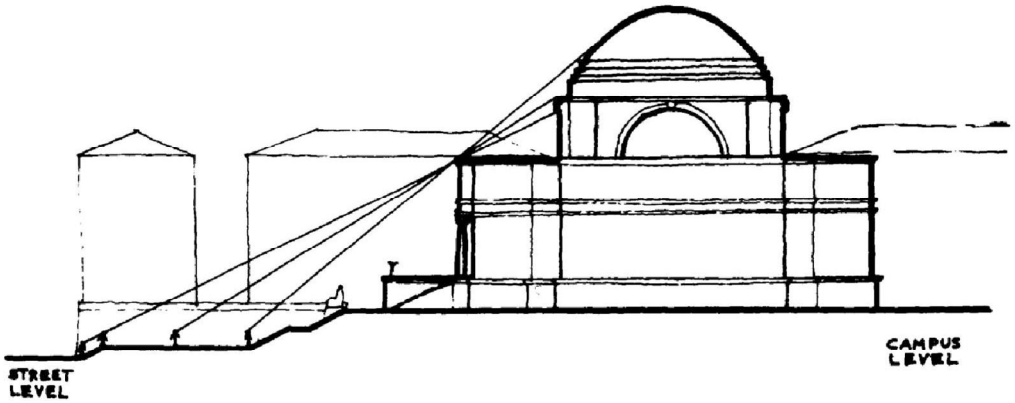
Project Background, Significance, and Rationale

South Court is an expansive plaza that sets the stage for Columbia's campus. It is centered between Broadway and Amsterdam avenues, situated along the now-closed 116th Street. The plaza stretches between Dodge Hall and Kent Hall, and creates a dramatic promenade of steps up to Low Library. Granite steps from the street level rise up to the main platform of the plaza. Upon reaching the top step of the first set of stairs, the dome of the Library disappears from view. Benches and fountains on the left and right create an idyllic environment, as students mill around the plaza. A massive expanse of herringbone brick, edged with concrete (what once was Joliet limestone), decorates the plaza and mimics the material of Columbia's academic buildings. Along the central axis on the second tier of stairs, Alma Mater sits, a bronze statue presiding over the campus. Once reaching the first step of the second set of stairs, the dome disappears, further drawing the visitor into Low Library. Character defining features of the space include the materiality of the brick, the relationship between Low Library and the plaza, the Alma Mater statue, and the constant presence of people.

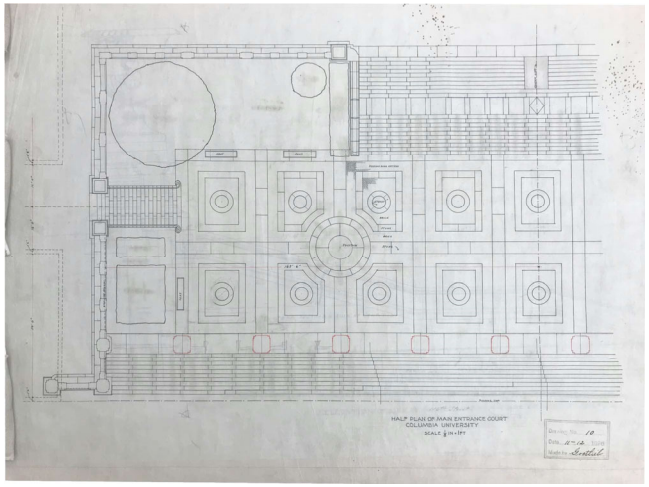
In 1897, the construction of the plaza was completed under the design of McKim Mead and White. The prestigious New York architects designed South Court as a "suitable approach" to Low Library. The plaza was designed to resemble a Greek amphitheater, with cascading steps rising to the pinnacle of the "Acropolis" of Columbia's campus, Low Library. The architecture of the two work in tandem, with the steps compressing the viewshed of the library dome, with the intention to draw an individual into the structure. This relationship is evident in the 1987 National Register Listing of Low Library, which cites the plaza on multiple instances (NPS 1987).

Gates were intentionally not installed on the steps of 116th street in order to promote social inclusion and public engagement (Dolkart 1998). Throughout Columbia's presence in Morningside Heights, the plaza has sustained this character as the epicenter of campus and community culture. However, a number of developments over time have closed the space from the public. In 1954, 116th Street was closed off from traffic. In the 1970s, iron gates were installed at the Broadway and Amsterdam entrances, further creating sentiments of separation from the surrounding public. Despite this, movements of activism and demonstration, key elements characteristic of Columbia's student body, have consistently taken place on the plaza throughout time. Most protests that have occurred on Columbia's campus have at least started or ended at the plaza. The plaza serves as a platform of encounters, as the main circulatory corridor for students, faculty, and the public to interact. However, those who are physically handicapped are prohibited from experiencing this space.

The paths of travel around Low Library Plaza currently direct users to an elevator along the west side of the plaza, closest to Broadway. People entering from the Broadway side of campus typically enter from the 116th Street subway station, which lacks an elevator system for handicapped users. The bus stop at Amsterdam and 116th Street is a more feasible access point for physically handicapped people. From the gates of the campus, in order for an individual to enter the campus from the street level to the academic buildings, they must travel via elevator, nearest Broadway, directly to the highest level of the plaza where entrances to campus buildings are. The elevator neglects the multi-tiered plaza and does not allow the user the experience of the platforms, a critical component of the space. In order to access the lowest platform of the plaza, a physically handicapped user would have to utilize a



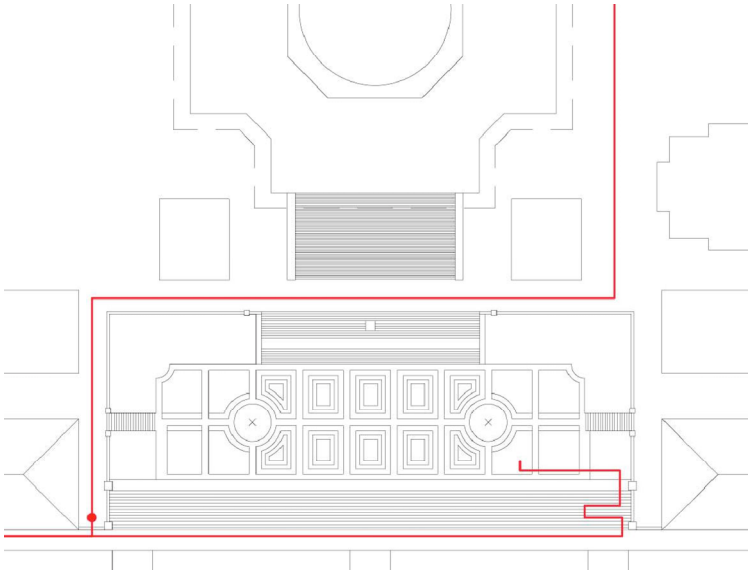
Section through plaza site, demonstrating visual relationships between South Court and Low Library
Source: Passanti, "The Design of Columbia in the 1890s, McKim and His Client" (1977)



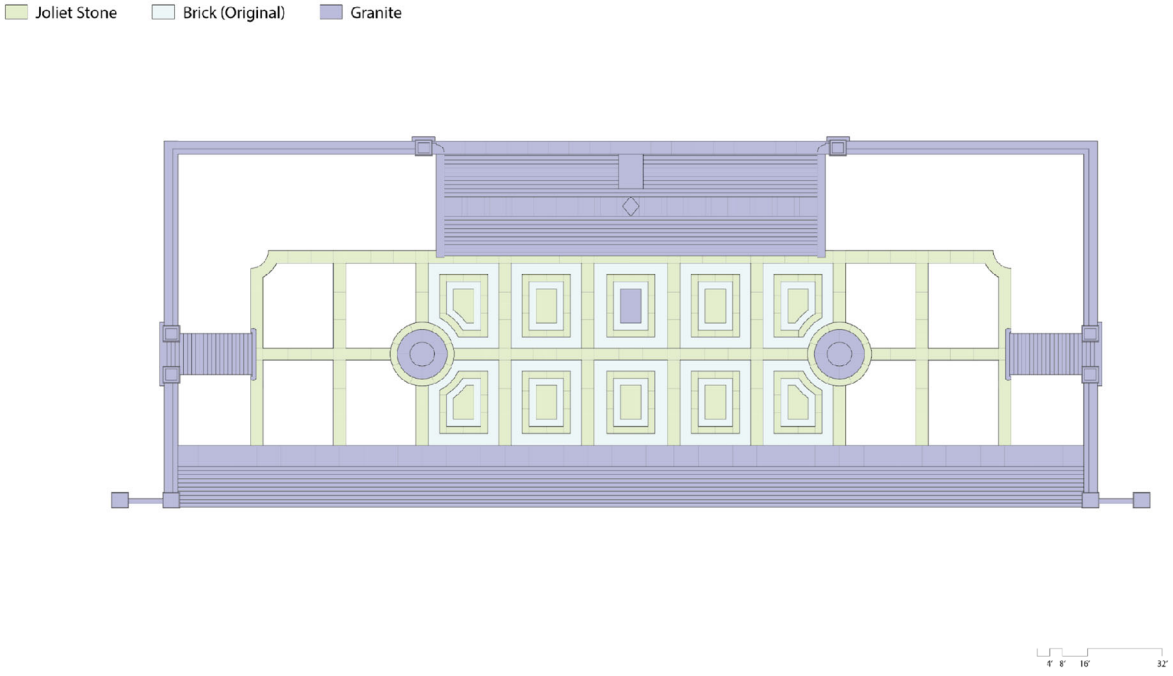
1897 McKim Mead and White Half Plan of South Court. Outlines of proposed gates are drawn in red.
Source: Columbia University Archives (Avery Library)



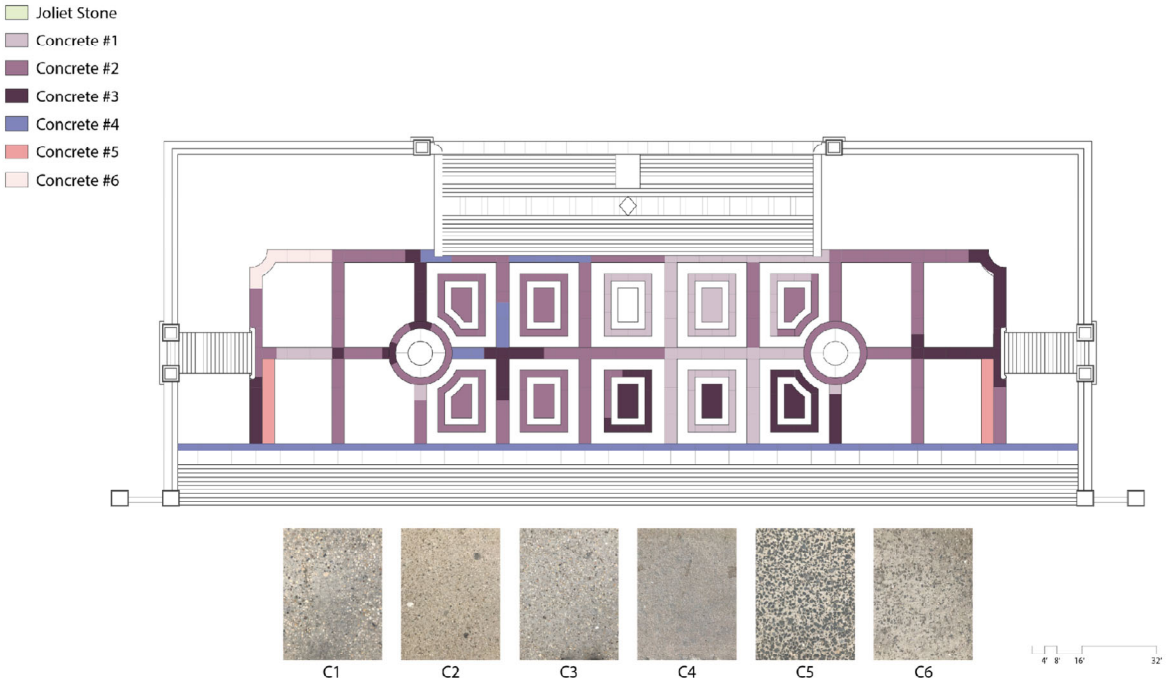
2017 Protests against Sexual Assault on Low Library Plaza
Source: Columbia Spectator



Accessibility Map of Current Routes, 2019
Erin Murphy



Original Material Plan
Erin Murphy
Source: Derived from McKim Mead and White Drawings, Columbia University Archives (Avery Library)

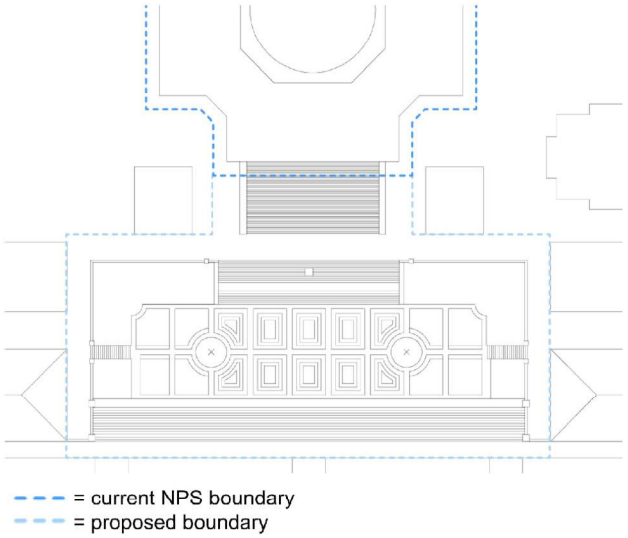


Concrete Material Plan (Recorded on April 16, 2019)
Erin Murphy

temporary ramp installed on the eastern side of the plaza, closest to Amsterdam. This ramp provides access to the first platform but does not allow for travel between other platforms, a significant design feature of the plaza. No accessible route is currently in place for a handicapped individual to reach Alma Mater, a character-defining feature of the plaza and an icon of Columbia University.

The current condition of the plaza severely detracts from experience of the space and more importantly, the safety. The McKim Mead and White plaza was originally clad with granite, red herringbone brick, and joliet limestone These materials were selected to maintain a homogenous aesthetic with the campus buildings. Over time, the joliet stone deteriorated, leading to a number of replacements with at least six different concretes. In addition to these replacements, extensive concrete patchwork, missing bricks, and substantial cracking contribute to the enhanced sense of degradation. Joints between the bricks range widely, between 1/16" to ½". While the gaps in the brickwork are a defining feature of the brickwork's aesthetic, the widest gaps as a result of deterioration have caused safety concerns, particularly for people wearing heels. Still, the brickwork installed on the plaza is the only remaining original brickwork from 1897 and is an important feature in maintaining the historic fabric of the campus. While the deterioration of the plaza has not driven students away from it, continued deterioration may do just that. By restoring the materiality of this space, it will increase safety but also encourage use and generate engagement. The preservation of the plaza must be done in order to preserve its function as a platform for inclusion, activism, and identity.

In order to fully recognize the significance and importance of South Court and its symbiotic relationship with Low Library, the National Register designation of the Library should be extended to include the boundaries of South Court. The current designation bounds Low Library with a 12' buffer around the exterior walls (NPS, 1987). To extend the National Register designation, the new boundaries would include the entirely of Low Library plaza, which is 327' wide and 140' deep. It would also include the surrounding walkways on the upper tier of the plaza, which are approximately 15' wide. This designation would provide national recognition of the space, which it certainly deserves. Striking a balance between historic fabric of Columbia's campus and needs of the handicapped public is a difficult preservation challenge. However, Low Library serves as a platform for the university to take a stance on the importance of inclusive campus environments, regardless of historicity, which will transcend to universities across the nation.



Current and Proposed National Register Designation Boundaries
for Low Memorial Library
Erin Murphy

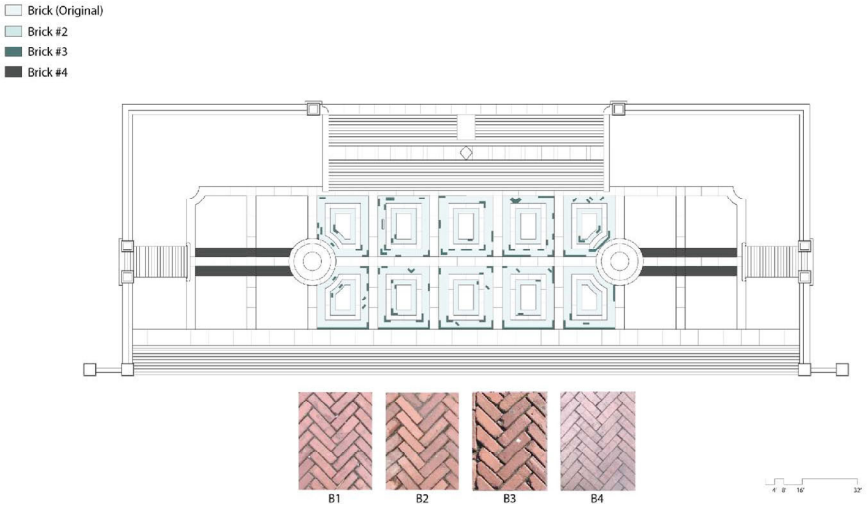
Project Description

The rehabilitation and restoration of South Court will serve the Columbia community, particularly students, but also the general public. Columbia serves as a major tourist destination and Low Library Plaza is an important platform for Columbia's identity. By restoring the materiality of the plaza, the importance of this place will transcend to the public, but by making it an inclusive and handicapped accessible space, Columbia will inherently make a statement that historic campuses can and should be accessible to all. South Court provides a unique platform for the university to make this statement: The historic fabric of an internationally renowned campus can be changed to support inclusion of all publics and foster the original intent of the plaza as a civic space.

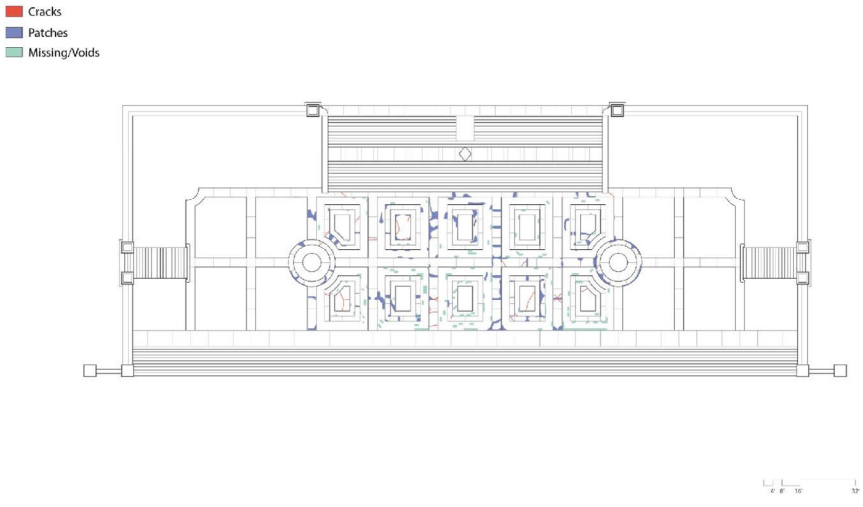
In order to rehabilitate the plaza, comprehensive documentation of existing conditions must occur. In this Studio II proposal, preliminary documentation was performed to evaluate the original materials and existing conditions. In addition to the concrete mapping discussed prior, mapping was performed to locate regions of original brickwork as well as replacement bricks. Original bricks have a unique shape and size, with slightly rounded corners, which was instrumental in identifying original versus replacement bricks. Joints between individual bricks were also elements of the brick's character-defining features. In areas of total replacement, bricks were installed tight to each other, leaving no gaps. Though the gaps between the original brick, due to erosion and deterioration of the mortar, introduce safety concerns, design solutions should be vetted in order to maintain the visual aesthetic of gaps between bricks.

A final survey was performed to identify regions of replacement patchwork, cracking, and missing material. When superimposed on maps of the various concrete replacements and brickwork, significant damage is evident.

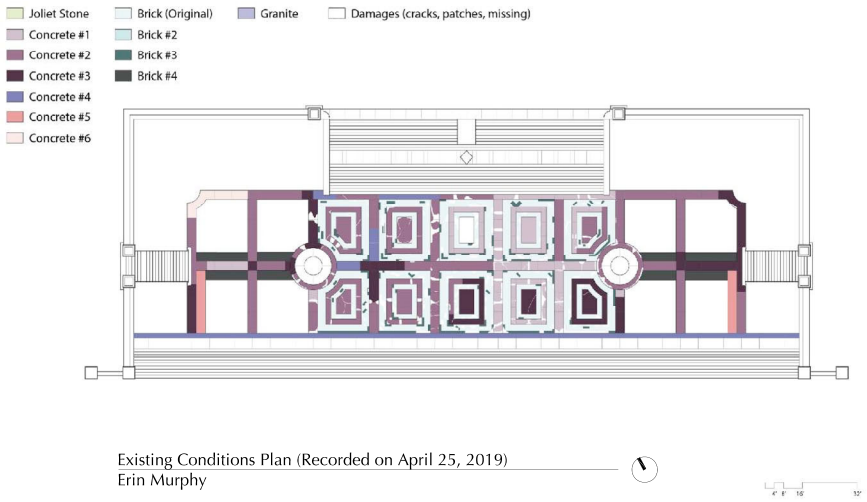
Columbia's current procedure to repair the plaza appears to find temporary solutions, such as filling voids or large cracks with mortar. This practice became exceedingly evident when the University began preparing for Commencement exercises. Repair mortar and sand were installed in random locations across the plaza to fill gaps. These temporary solutions only perpetuate the deteriorating condition of what should be one of the grandest spaces of the university.



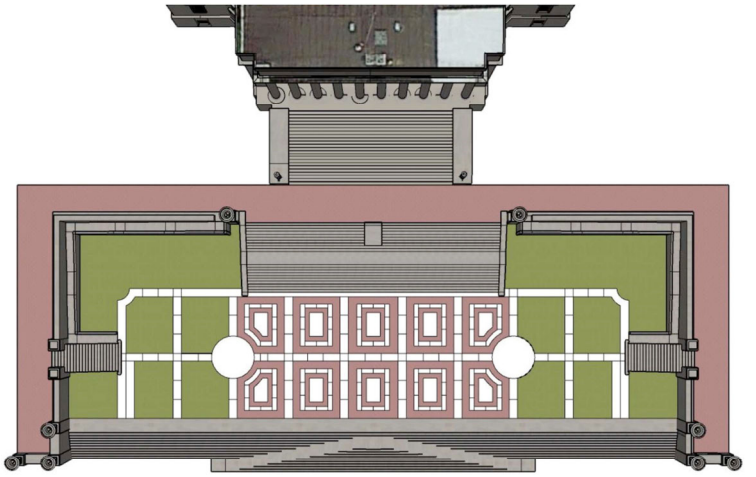
Brick Material Plan (Recorded on April 16, 2019)
Erin Murphy



Damage Material Plan (Recorded on April 25, 2019)
Erin Murphy



Existing Conditions Plan (Recorded on April 25, 2019)
Erin Murphy



Plan view of proposed ramps. A bold option is shown at the first set of steps, discussed further below. A subtle option is shown along the walls of the court.
Erin Murphy

Though these surveys have identified a number of issues on Low Library plaza, a full conditions assessment should be conducted to further identity causes of deterioration, areas with significant damage, repair, or changes. This survey should also account for the landscaping of the plaza, and assess historic shrubs and trees that were in accordance with the original McKim Mead and White design. Assessments of the benches, fountains, flagpoles, and other defining features should be conducted in order to comprehensively rehabilitate the plaza. Evaluation of the condition of all original materials should be performed in order to maintain as much original material as possible.

In addition to the complete rehabilitation of the plaza, a series of ramps must be implemented in order to enhance the inclusivity of the space. Historic plans from 1950s indicate that attempts to install a series of permanent ramps were vetted. However, no plans were implemented. The proposed ramps in this study will provide primary handicap accessibility routes to the campus and be driven by the relationships between South Court and Low Library. To do this, Columbia has a number of choices. The implementation of ramps on this historic center of campus can either be bold or subtle. Whatever the choice, the expansive plaza provides ample space to implement ramps that not only meet, but could even exceed the requirements for ADA accessibility.

For example, a symmetrical stramp (stair-ramp) installed on the lower steps of the plaza can seamlessly integrate with the existing stair, resting on the original form without altering the granite steps. The stramp is a unique and bold form that focuses on guiding the user to the center of the platform, tying to the relationship between the Library dome and the staircase. For the 327' wide plaza, ample room is available to install this system without compromising the entire platform. In exercises evaluating this installation, the stramp could be installed at a ratio of 1:20 or below, the minimum ratio for a ramp that does not require handrails.

If a more subtle option is preferred, a series of ramps along the edges of the platform seamlessly integrate with the surrounding walls of the plaza. These similarly can integrate below the maximum ramp ratio requirements of 1:12. Shrubs that align with the historic design could potentially mask the addition of the ramps. Regardless of intervention, it is important to emphasize the significance of symmetry on Columbia's Morningside campus. From a design standpoint, in order to blend with the historic fabric of the campus, symmetry should drive any implementation, meaning that identical ramps should be installed on both sides of the plaza. This is further enhanced by the need for handicapped publics to have increased access to all areas of campus, while also getting to experience the space as McKim Mead and White intended.

Project Implementation

In order for this project to occur, a number of organizations must be involved. First, Columbia University Facilities Department should be consulted in facilitating this project. Within the university, the Department of Disability Services must be consulted in optimizing routes of accessibility and ensuring that any changes to the plaza will promote inclusivity. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) should also be involved in all facets of the project, particularly with regards to the proposal to extend the National Register designation of Low Library. The SHPO will be instrumental in advocating for the project's extension, but also in evaluating any changes that occur to the plaza during restoration and implementation of ADA accessible routes. The SHPO will also assist in communicating with the National Parks Service, who are ultimately responsible for approving the extension of the designation.

It is apparent that South Court is critical to the architectural, social, cultural, and historical significance of the Columbia University community, the surrounding neighborhood, and to the identity of American universities. This must be recognized on a national platform. While balancing the needs of a historic campus and its fabric with the needs of the public provides unique issues to create a cohesive and inclusive campus can be difficult, it is possible to find solutions that allow this historic resource to be accessible by all.



Repairs to the plaza, performed in April 2019
Source: Erin Murphy

Avery Gallery Extension on the Margaret Mead Plaza

Laura Garnier

This proposal focuses on Columbia's Morningside Heights campus, and more precisely on the courtyard between Fayerweather, Avery, and Schermerhorn Halls, and St Paul's Chapel, which has been a New York City Landmark since 1966. Although McKim, Mead & White initially designed four courtyards on the east and west sides of the campus in a densely built, symmetrical composition, this courtyard was the only one realized as per their original intent (White, Willensky, Leadon, 2010). While the courtyard, as part of the campus, does not specifically involve any specific social justice issues or urban mechanisms, this proposal aims to activate the space as a place to engage in a new debate of spatial dynamism and social inclusion.

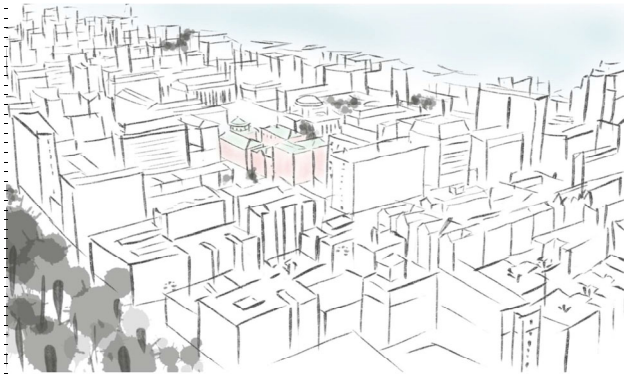
Based on the historical integrity of the site, this proposal implements a design intervention in the form of a transparent glass structure, attached to Avery Hall, that keeps the original façade visible. This extension will be composed of ramps, creating a sloped gallery for exhibitions, and leading to a rooftop gathering space. The design will be used as a tool to advance inclusion; in particular to represent the history of women's representation on the campus, and to open the building to a larger public, promoting GSAPP outreach. The courtyard itself will be redesigned for improved accessibility by eliminating the physical and visual boundaries imposed by the current configuration of the courtyard.
Three main goals of inclusion relate to this design intervention:

1. Create new accessibility for people with mobility issues
2. Reveal an untold story and give it new evidence
3. Welcome a larger public at GSAPP with outreach intentions

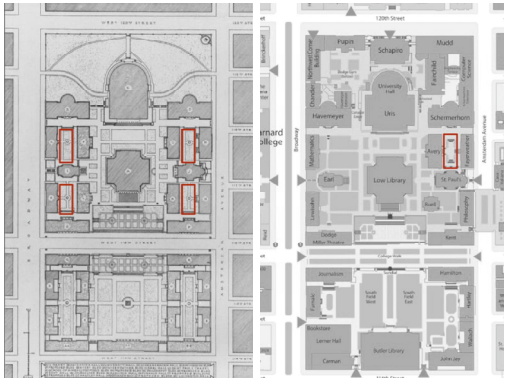
New Accessibility to the Courtyard

The Morningside Heights Campus is characterized by a complex system of level changes. The topography of the site, reinforced by design choices made in the past, has produced a campus that is today largely inaccessible for people with mobility issues. The case of the Courtyard located between Avery and Fayerweather is one of the worst examples of this. The closest pedestrian access point to reach the courtyard is from Amsterdam Avenue, which route consists of three staircases over a span of less than 100 meters, and to traverse the courtyard itself involves negotiating even more stairs.

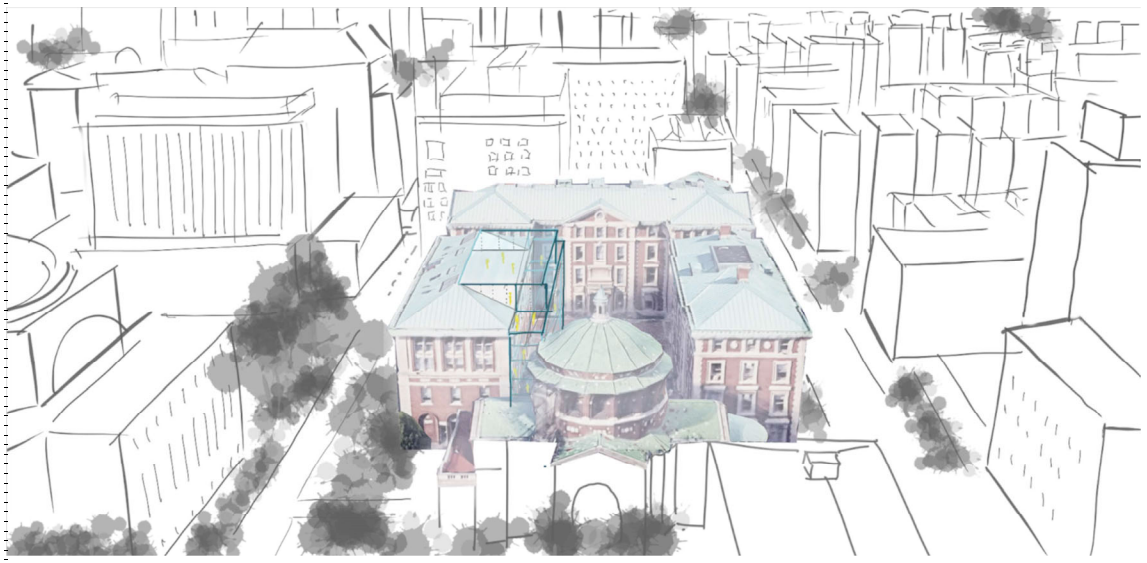
The first challenge of this project was to create new and more direct access to the courtyard between Fayerweather and



Drawing location
Laura Garnier



McKim, Mead & White comprehensive plan for Columbia University's expanded site, 1903 (left) and campus map, present (right)



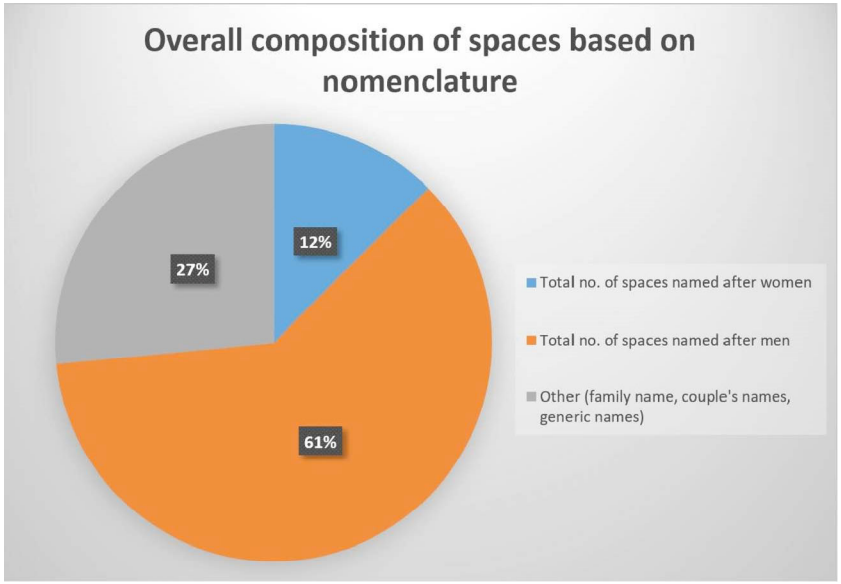
Drawing key concept
Laura Garnier

Columbia GSAPP
SOCIETY OF WOMEN
ARCHITECTS & PRESERVATIONISTS

Proposition of a new logo

Columbia law women's association
Columbia Women in Business
Society of Women Engineer

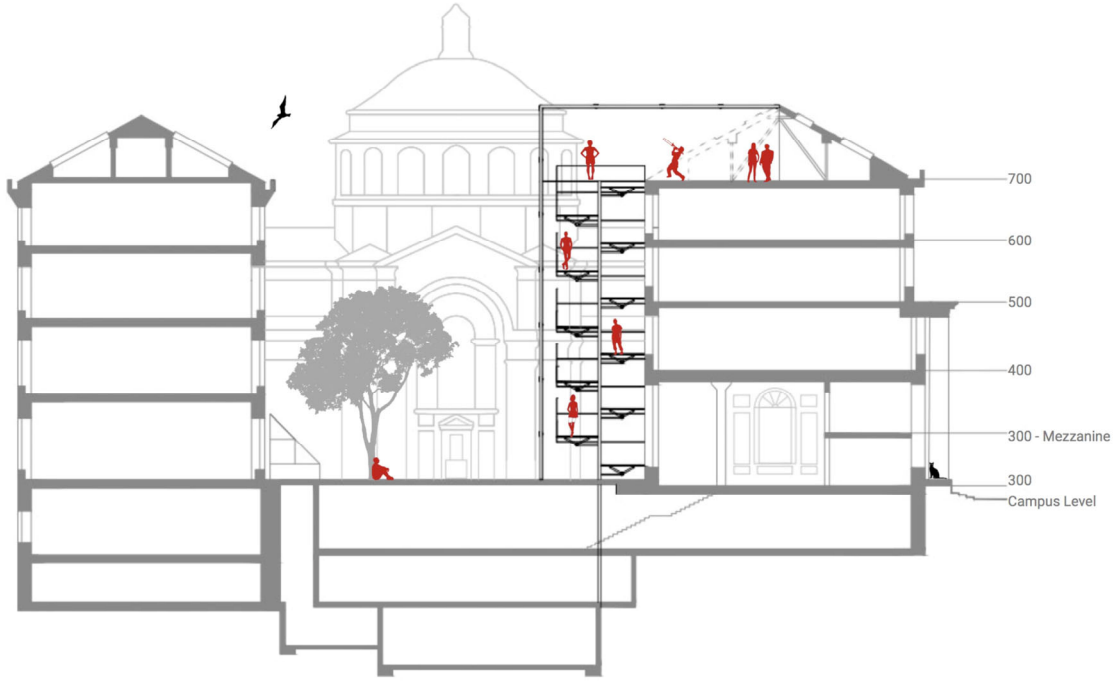
Women's associations at Columbia



Percentage of Male vs. Female Named Spaces at Barnard, Columbia, and Teachers College
Source: Prepared by Sreya Chakraborty



Mead, Margaret
Source: Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.



Avery extension section
Laura Garnier

Avery. In the current configuration, the only way for someone in a wheelchair to access the courtyard from the street is to enter from the College Walk, then travel up to Low Plaza by using an elevator. The user would then turn around Low Library Plaza, continuing straight, turning around Avery, to finally access to the courtyard. One goal of this proposal is to improve the access from Amsterdam Avenue to the Courtyard and to reduce the travel distance between the street and Avery.

In addition, since my design project creates a new gathering space on the 7th floor of Avery, it makes the former attic of Avery handicapped accessible by adding a new elevator from the 6th floor to the 7th floor. The project in itself is a succession of ramps, designed for wheelchair use, climbing along the east façade of Avery to the rooftop, with exhibitions accessible to anyone.

New Project, New Representation

Women at Columbia are underrepresented. Despite the significant impact of women on the school and in the neighborhood, the built environment is still largely void of representation of women. Of all the buildings and open spaces at Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College, nearly 60percent are named after men. “No open spaces or buildings at Columbia are named for women. The only space on Columbia’s campus that is named for a woman is Miller Theatre, named for Kathryn Bache Miller.” [Claire Cancilia - Untold Stories: Women at Columbia].

Considering this lack of representation and this need of giving a new life to this courtyard, this proposal suggests naming the Plaza after Margaret Mead, who worked, taught, and studied in Schermerhorn. Margaret Mead (1901-1978) was an American anthropologist who earned her undergraduate degree from Barnard in 1923 before earning her M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia in 1929. She worked for many years at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. At the age of 72, she was elected to the presidency of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Posthumously, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Of the diverse psychological and cultural subjects she studied, women’s rights and sexual equity were among the most significant. Because Margaret Mead was a great figure molded by Columbia University, and because she was invested in Women’s Rights, she is an appropriate icon for whom to rename this courtyard: the Margaret Mead Plaza.

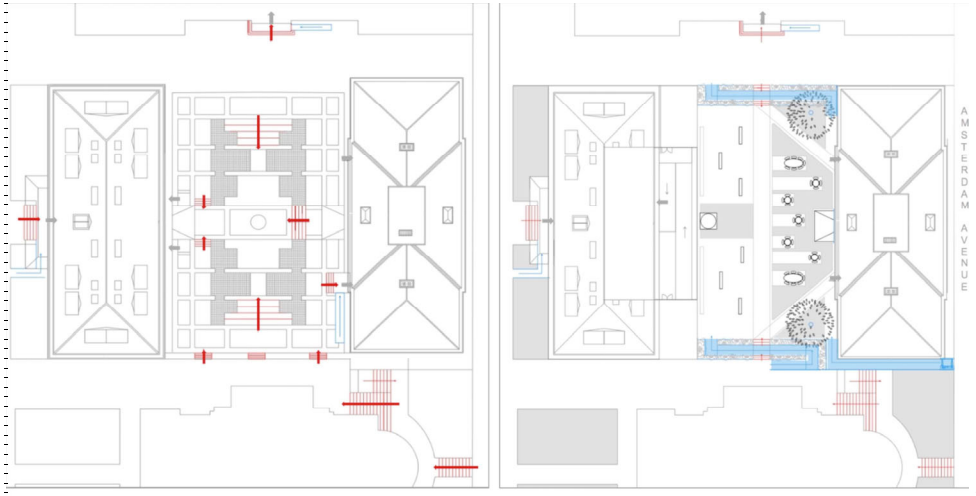
In addition, the proposed ramps along the Avery façade create opportunities to integrate, at each level, a representation of women significant to Columbia’s history, using portraits and a short text to introduce all these women. This would create a specific space dedicated to the Community of Women at Columbia: “Columbia Society of Women Architects, Planners &

Preservationists." The Law School, Engineering School, and Business School currently have their own women's Societies or associations, while GSAPP does not. The new rooftop space proposed by this project could house such a center for the "Columbia Society of Women Architects, Planners, and Preservationists."

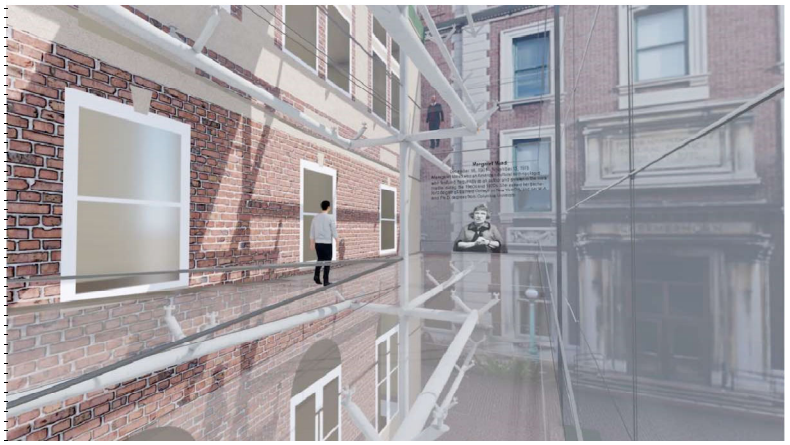
Public Outreach and Inclusion

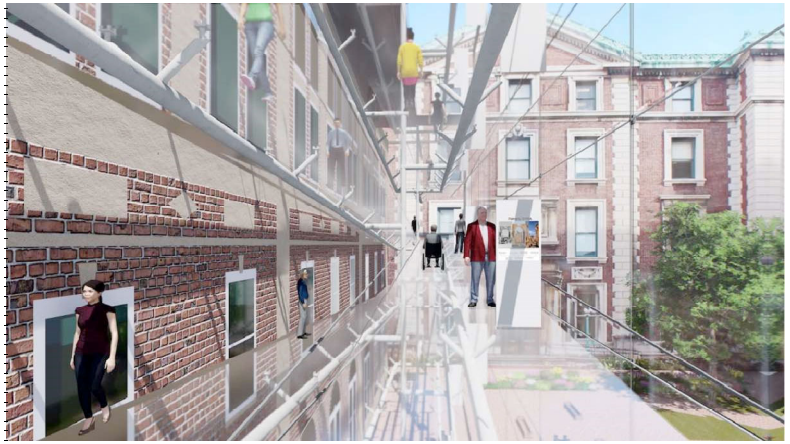
In keeping with the first two inclusion strategies, the final inclusion goal focuses on giving more visibility to GSAPP within the community. The idea is to create a space that will benefit the community, in addition to serving GSAPP's needs, by enhancing Columbia's mission of outreach to a larger public. To this end, the proposal suggests an extension to Avery Library by creating a gallery and a rooftop space that will welcome people to events, lectures, and exhibitions open to the public.

In my redesign of the plaza, I include a set of vitrines, which will be exhibition space available to architects, artists, or preservationists who want to present their work, as well as tables and seating of different configurations where people can share time together, be they classes meeting outdoors when the weather is nice, or other members of the Columbia community.

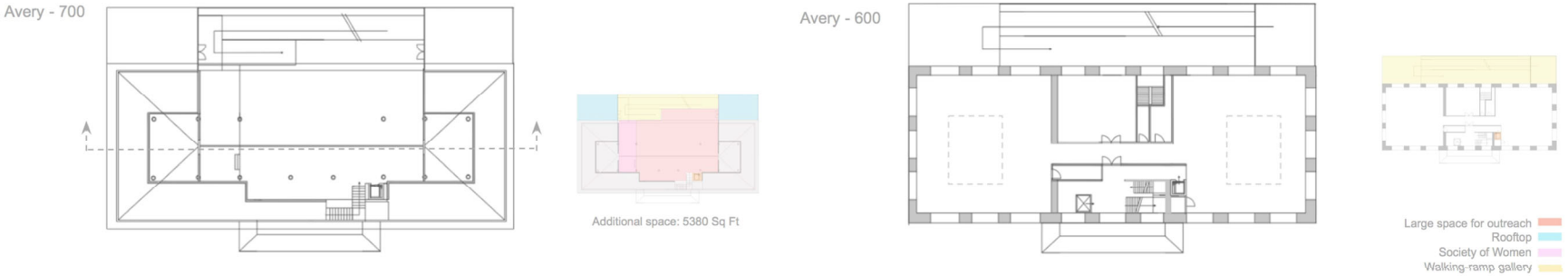


Access to Courtyard
Laura Garnier

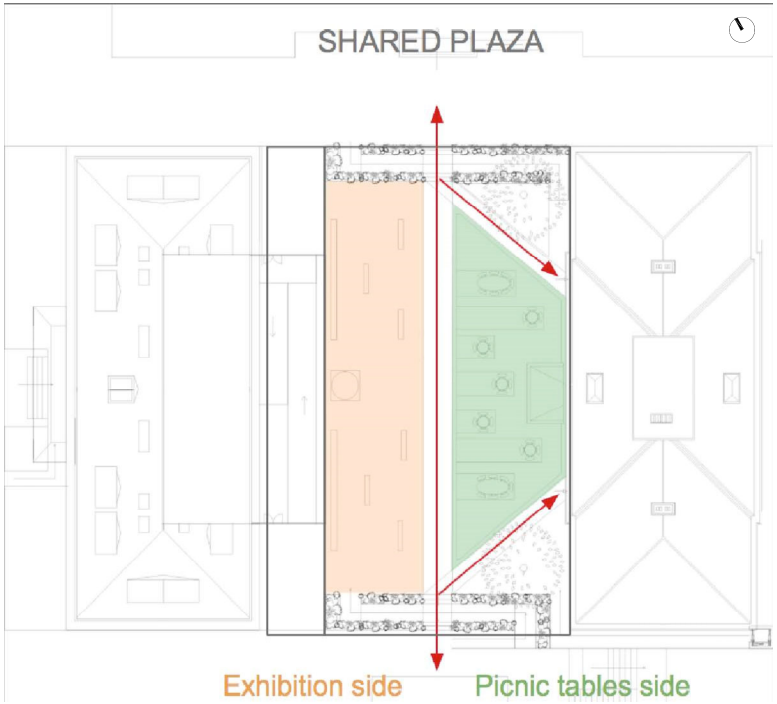

View from walking-ramp gallery
Laura Garnier


View from walking-ramp gallery
Laura Garnier





Rooftop extension
Laura Garnier





New design of the plaza
Laura Garnier

Community Crown: Fayerweather/Avery Courtyard

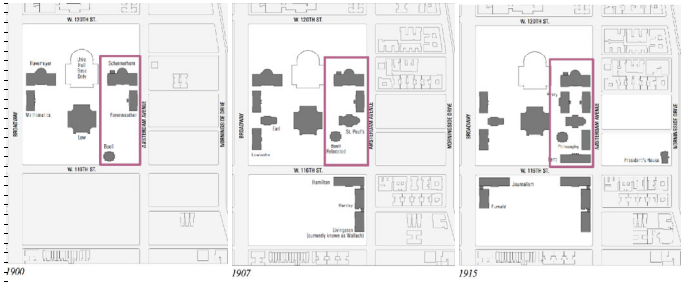
Sohyun Kim

The courtyard between Fayerweather and Avery belongs to the original master plan for the Morningside campus of Columbia University, which was completed with the construction of Avery Hall in the early 1900s. The significance and key issues of the courtyard may be derived from the interpretation of Columbia's growth through history. Columbia's expansion in the Morningside Heights has in the past provoked significant tensions and conflicts within the community, as exemplified by the Gymnasium project of 1968 and Columbia's backing for some urban projects. If Columbia is now committed to a new campus design in Manhattanville, pursuing a true partnership and engagement with the community to grow together, what should the expansion of the Morningside campus be like? Columbia GSAPP is in need of more space, and the Fayerweather / Avery courtyard has been considered a potential site for their expansion. If GSAPP's expansion into the courtyard suggests a visible and dedicated space for community benefit as well as for GSAPP's need, it could successfully demonstrate Columbia's educational and institutional mission towards the community.

As a response to the significance and context of the courtyard, I propose the addition of a "Community Crown" to the space, which will bloom out of the historical fabric of the Morningside campus, while still maintaining the integrity of historic structures of Fayerweather and Avery. The Crown makes two main statements within the courtyard. First, it represents the inclusion of community by resolving public accessibility issues, activating the courtyard, and providing space and programs for the community as well as for GSAPP. Second, it suggests additional spatial rehabilitation and enhancement of the courtyard through preserving the architect's original design intent, which was diminished by the underground extension of Avery, and by introducing new architectural expression and symbolism.

The courtyard went through a significant alteration in the 1970s with Avery's underground extension, which, with its varied elevations, imposed the physical accessibility issue to the courtyard. As the first design intervention, the proposed new courtyard has one consistent elevation, matching the top level of the current condition.

In the courtyard at Level 300, ADA-compliant access ramps are provided at both the Chapel side and the Schermerhorn side. In addition to the inviting accessibility, seating platforms and exhibitions are installed to the courtyard



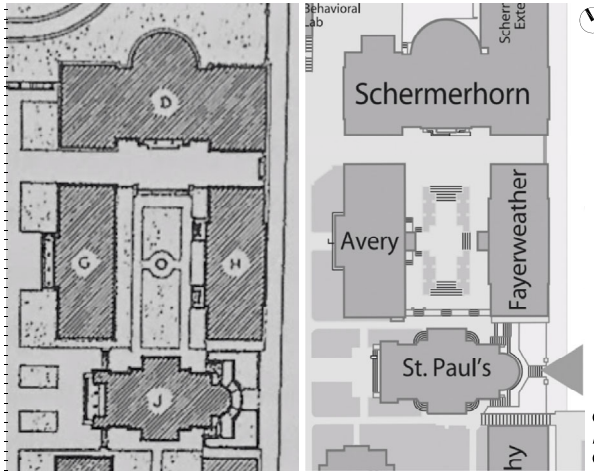
Growth of the Campus 1900-1915
Source: Columbia University, "Columbia University in Morningside Heights: A Framework for Planning"



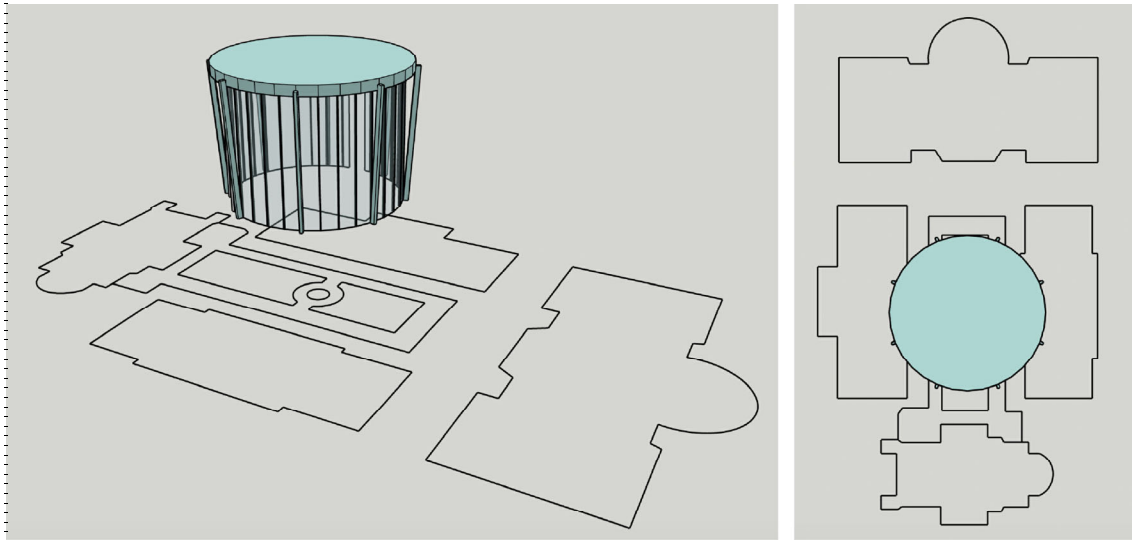
A view of the excavation of Morningside Park and West Harlem from Columbia (April 1, 1968)
Source: "1968 in American Memory," http://1968inmemory.web.unc.edu



Gymnasium: People protesting against fencing
Source: Columbia University Libraries Online Exhibitions



Courtyard layout, 1915 (left), *Source: A Monograph of the Works of McKim, Mead & White 1879-1915 (1915)*
Courtyard layout, Present (right), *Source: Google campus map*



Community Crown Blooming out of the Original Courtyard Layout from 1915
Sohyun Kim



Elevation View from Schermerhorn Hall
Sohyun Kim



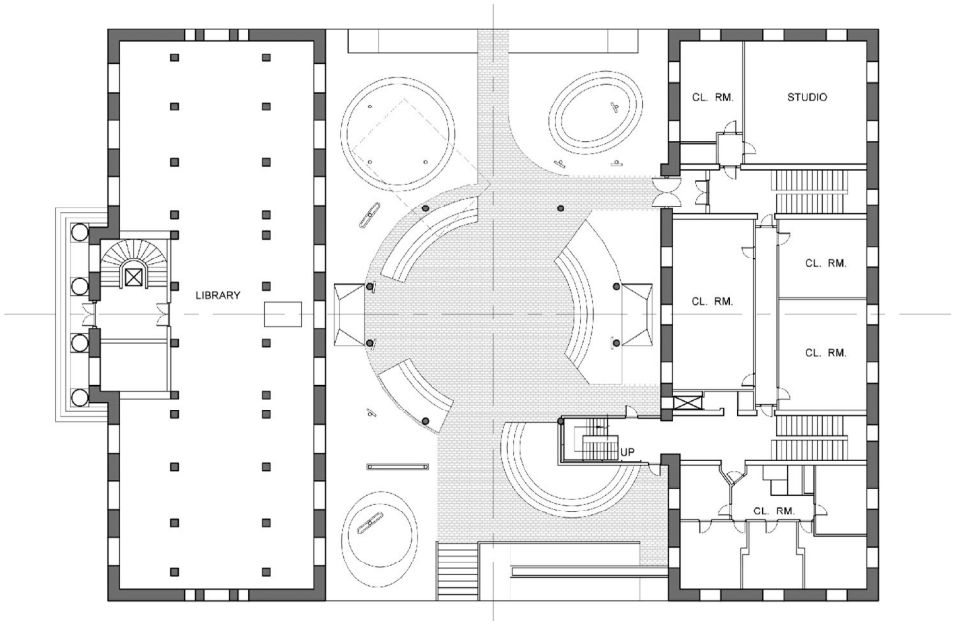
Elevation View from St. Paul's Chapel
Sohyun Kim

to activate and revitalize the space. Exhibitions may accommodate a wide range of themes, from simple announcements to representation or memorialization.

The Crown has three levels above the courtyard. Each level can be accessed from both Avery and Fayerweather via their existing elevators and stairs, or from a new independent stair tower. Level 400 of the Crown is designated entirely for an open gathering space that can be freely used for community-oriented activities in addition to lectures and conferences in line with Columbia's educational mission. The two levels above provide space for classrooms and studios to meet GSAPP's needs.

The Crown is supported by existing columns extended from below grade, only requiring structural reinforcement for the increased load-bearing. The historic integrity of Avery and Fayerweather Halls, including the underground extension by Alexander Kouzmanoff, is preserved with minimal façade alterations for connections to both buildings. McKim, Mead and White's original intent for greenery, which changed to planter settings during the underground extension, is recovered back to the green trellis and the structure, including columns.

The round, curved geometry running through the new design elements works as an architectural treatment conducive to human gathering. The curtain wall system of the Crown, highlighted by Columbia blue, and creating layers of Old and New, symbolizes the integration and transparency between Columbia and the community, seeking to be a positive symbol of Columbia's expansion in the Morningside Heights neighborhood. My proposal with the Community Crown tries to relate reconceptualizing Columbia's internal expansion in the historic Morningside campus, seeking possible design methodologies to get past some of Columbia's antipathetic attitude in the past and successfully embody the university's educational and institutional mission towards the community.



Level 300 Plan - Courtyard
Sohyun Kim



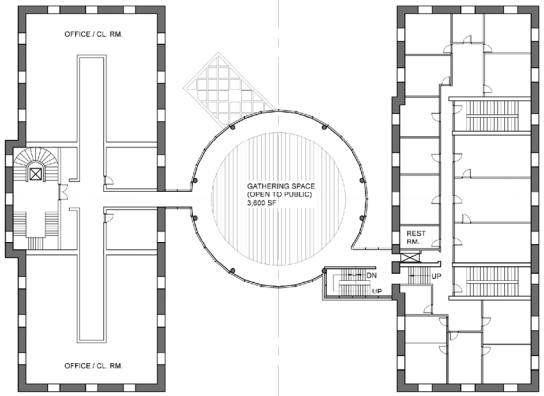
Bird's Eye View from Schermerhorn Hall, toward Fayerweather Hall
Sohyun Kim



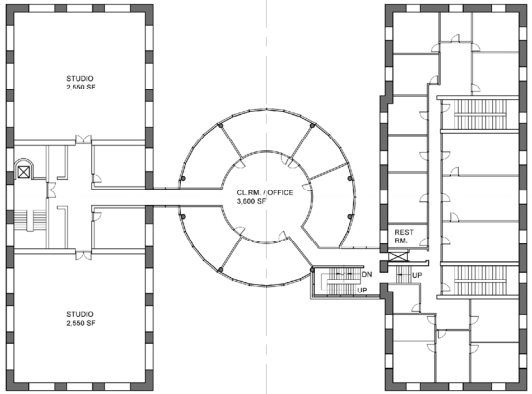
Provision for ADA accessible ramps, seating platforms, and column posts for exhibitions
Sohyun Kim



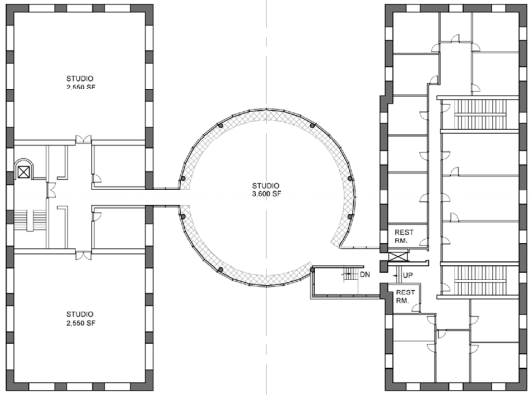
Bird's Eye View from Schermerhorn Hall, toward Avery Hall
Sohyun Kim



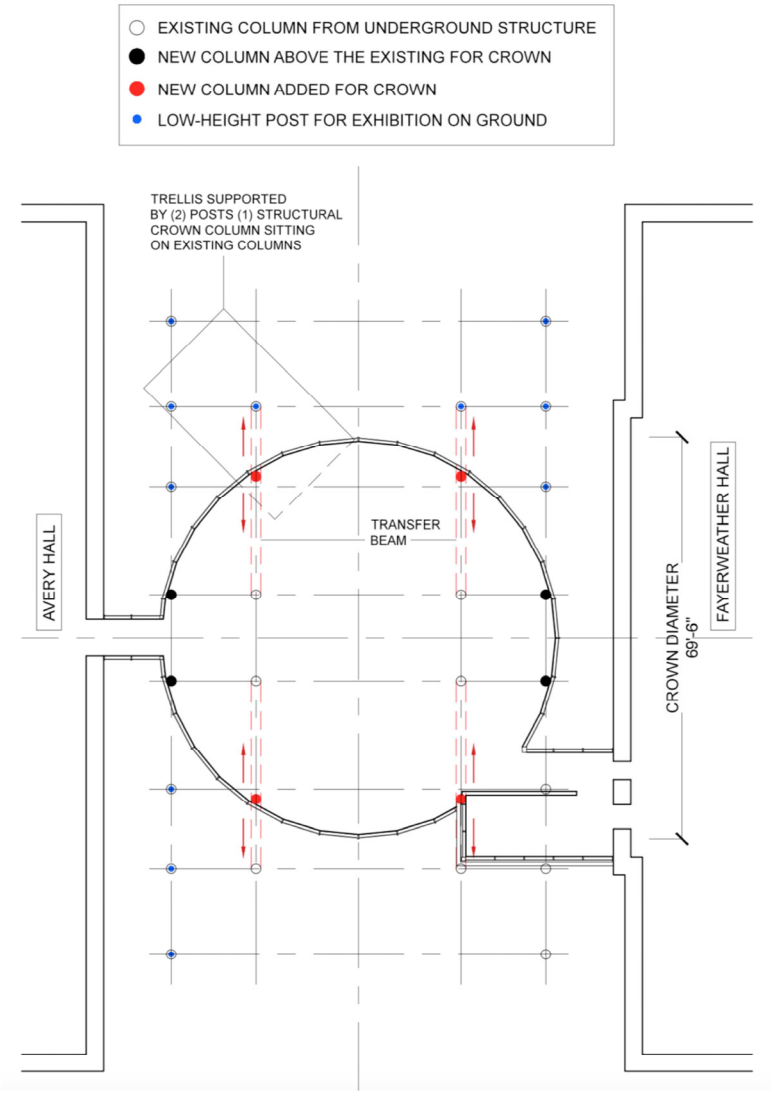
Level 400 Plan - Gathering Space (open to community)
Sohyun Kim



Level 500 Plan - GSAPP Classrooms
Sohyun Kim

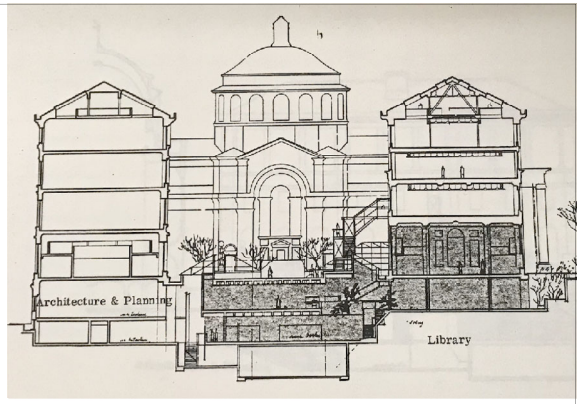


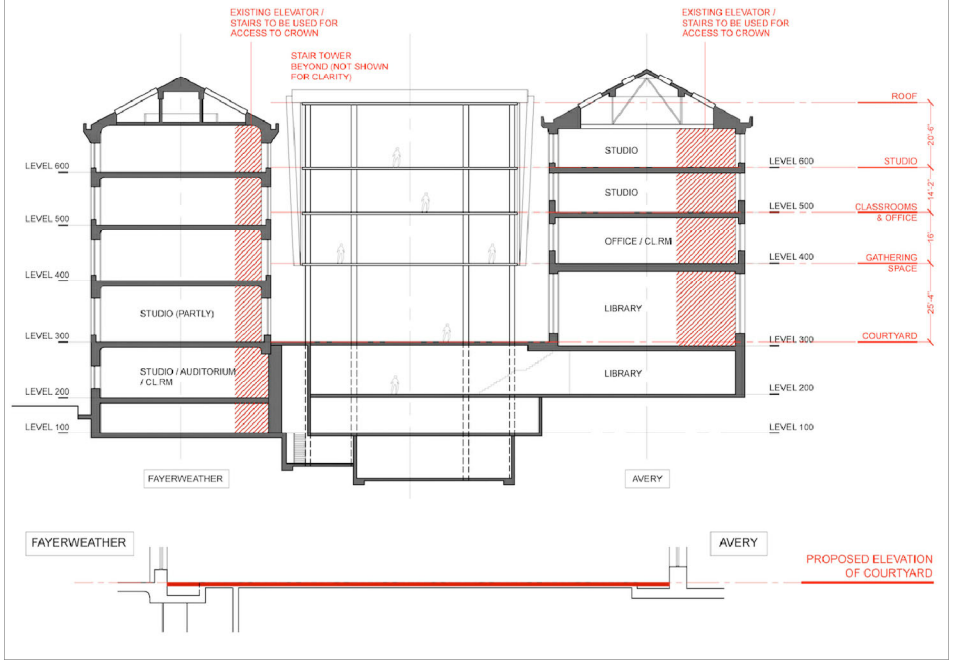
Level 600 Plan - GSAPP Studio
Sohyun Kim



Column and Structural Framing Plan
Sohyun Kim

The Avery Project - Feasibility Study 5/18/73, by Alexander Kouzmanoff and Associates
Source: Columbia University Archives, Buildings and Grands, Box 2, Folder 1 (Avery Hall 1900s-1970s)

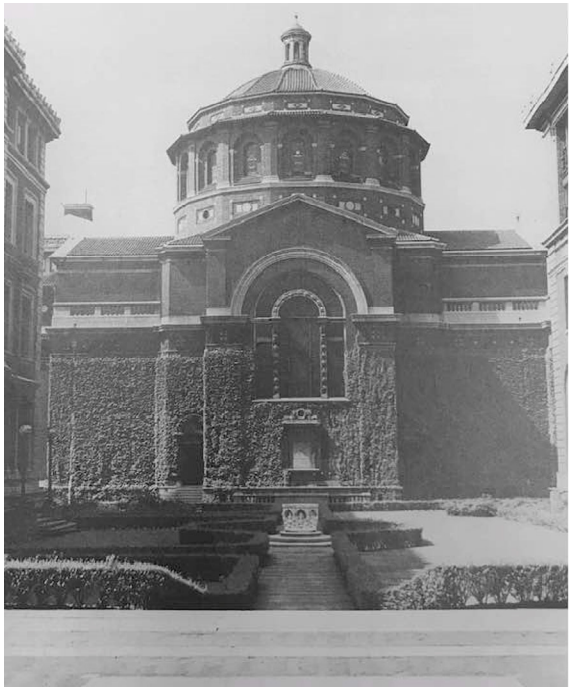




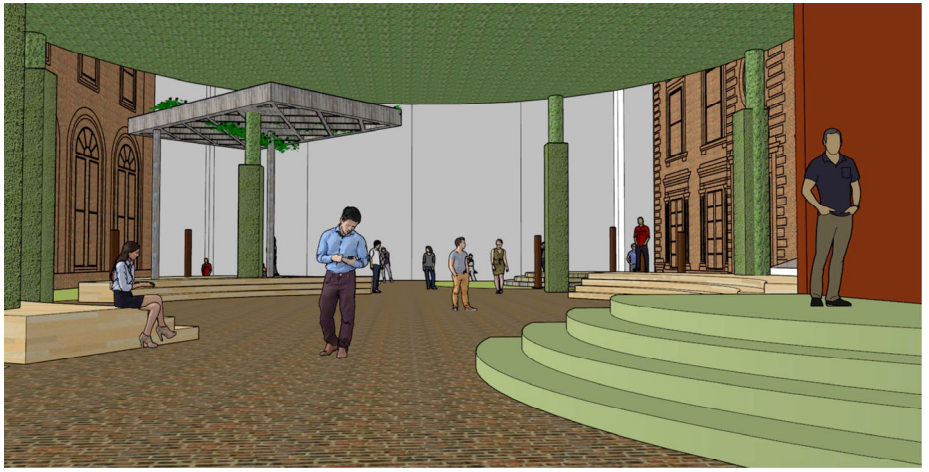
Section through Fayerweather, Avery, and the Courtyard
Sohyun Kim

Proposed Courtyard Greenery (recovered onto structure and trellis)
Sohyun Kim





The Original Courtyard Greenery
Source: The Collection of The New-York Historical Society





The Courtyard Greenery after Avery Underground Extension, February 2019
Source: Sohyun Kim



Revson Plaza: Rethinking the Relationship between Campus and Community

Yasong Zhou

Revson Plaza, located between 116th and 117th streets, is a vast overpass across Amsterdam Avenue. It exemplifies the urban renewal approach to architecture and city planning popular in the 1960s. While connecting the east and west sides of Columbia University's Morningside Heights campus, with its high altitude it provides a unique perspective to appreciate Amsterdam Avenue. The three sculptures in the Plaza also offers opportunities to get close to modern art. However, Revson Plaza totally separates the campus from the community. (Trace|Work 2012, Views from Columbia's Campus) While a few are enjoying the benefits of this space, a larger group is feeling the loss.

Columbia's Vision

Revson Plaza is not ADA accessible from the historic Morningside campus, and also creates a segregated condition between the elevated level of campus and the street level below. Although the problem was recognized at the end of the last century, it was not corrected for various reasons. (Bergdoll 1997, 106) This inconvenient state continues to the present day.

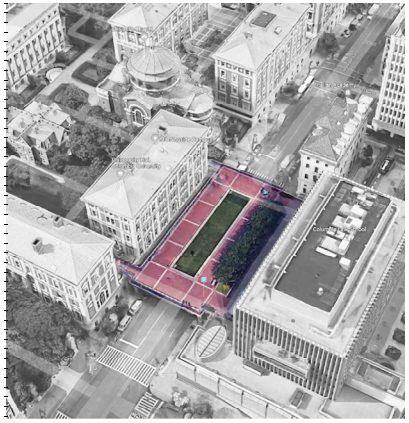
Classrooms on the street level of Philosophy Hall and the Law School, beneath the Plaza's deck, are blocked off from daylight by the elevated Plaza. Moreover, the Plaza seems oversized for its function as a passage to East Campus. (Columbia 1998, 4.21) To remedy the problem, in 1998, Beyer Blinder Belle and other consultants suggested replacing Revson Plaza with a narrower bridge. This was, however, merely a proposed guideline and was not implemented. (Columbia University 1998, 4.21)

Community Vision

The Plaza renders Amsterdam Avenue below a dark and unpleasant space through which cars speed and park unsafely along the curb. The lack of stairs to access the Plaza from the street level further isolates the community. (Columbia University 1998. 1.13)

Based on improving the surrounding environment of the Plaza, this proposal rethinks the relationship between campus and community through implanting new functions, and increasing the visual and physical connection between street level and Plaza level, to promote inclusivity and accessibility of the Plaza.

First, this proposal suggests changing in the shape of the



Site Plan
Source: Google Maps



Revson Plaza Current Condition
Source: Flickr photography by gigi_nyc c.2015



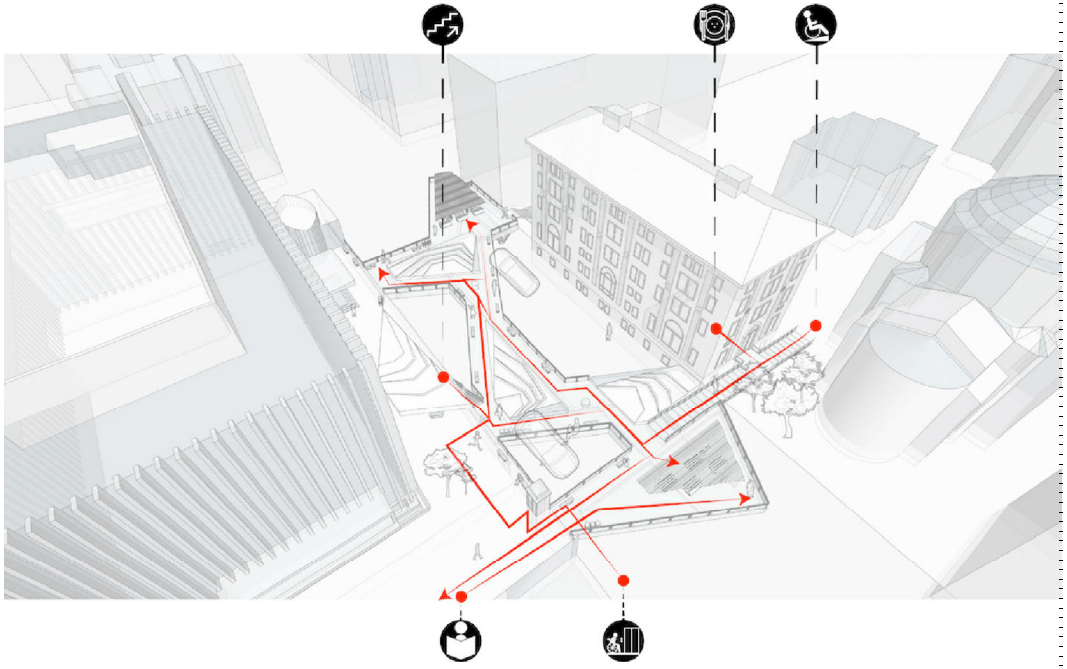
Render of Law School, ca. 1961 (cat. 86), Drawn by Harrison & Abramovitz
Source: Jerome Greene Hall, WikiCU, 2013



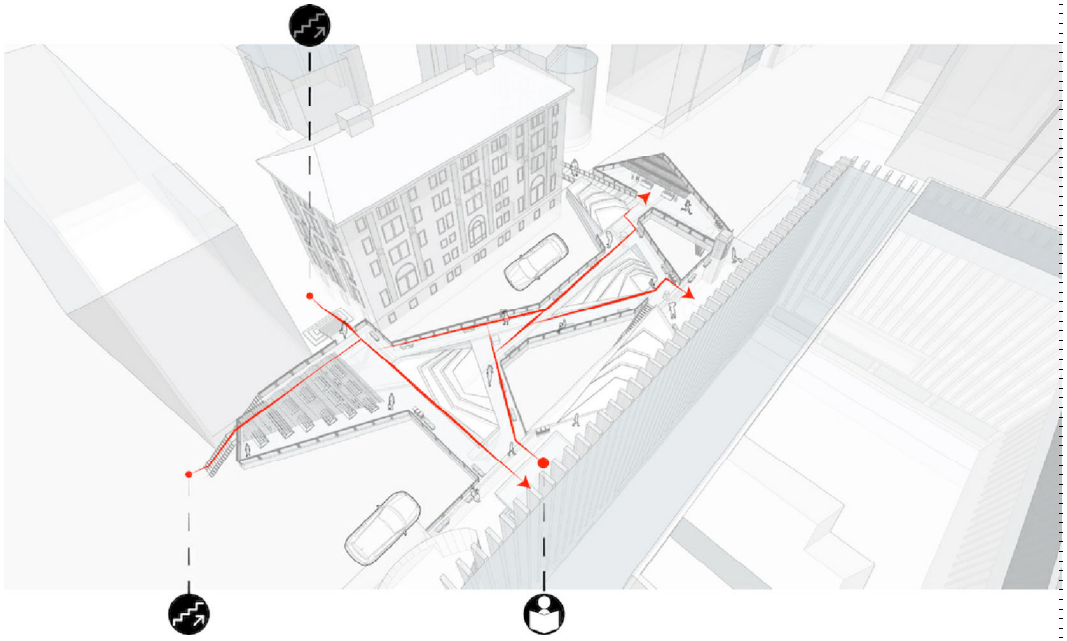
Tight Rope Walker (left), Three way Piece Points (middle), Life Force (right)
Source: Yasong Zhou



Introducing New Axes and Cutting Oversized Parts
Yasong Zhou



Circulation Analysis
Yasong Zhou



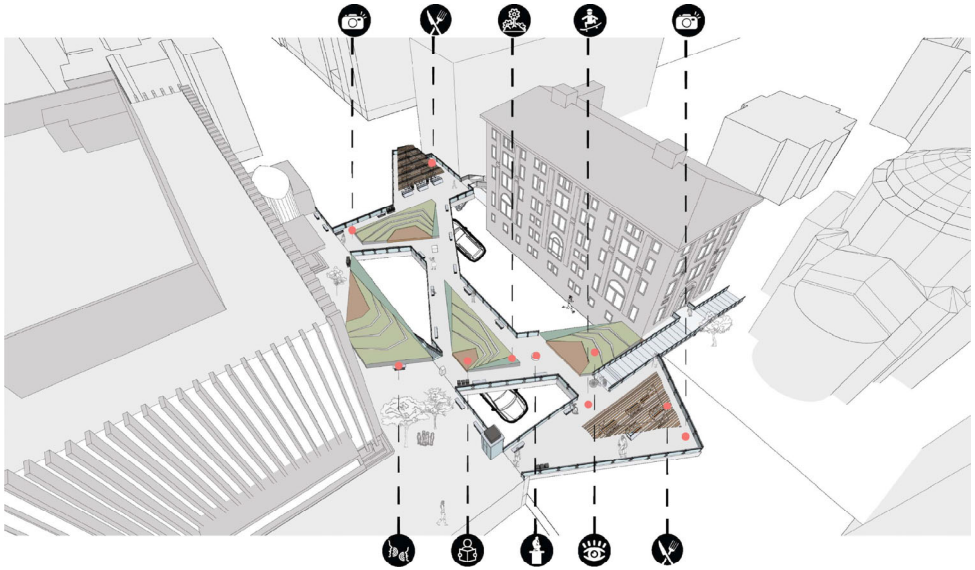
Circulation Analysis
Yasong Zhou

Plaza, by introducing a new axes and cutting out the unneeded sections, to bring more daylight to the ground level. Additionally, the magnificent facade of Philosophy Hall, which is currently truncated by the Plaza, would be fully exposed to view. At the same time, stairs and elevators are proposed to be added from the street level and the campus level to increase the accessibility of the Plaza and remove the physical barriers to the campus and community.

This proposal also enhances the public space of the Plaza by connecting it to the food trucks on Amsterdam Avenue, which have a broad audience. The addition of outdoor dining areas will vivify the Plaza while supplementing the function of the food trucks. The ribbed canopies echo the facade style of Law school while providing vertical elements on the Plaza and visual connections with the street level.

Finally, the effective use of visual clues is another method to reconfigure the plaza. By placing the sculptures in the center of the staggered gardens and at the end of the pathways, and with the orientation of seating areas, people's appreciation of the four sculptures will be aroused. The community should know that these sculptures not only tell the story of Columbia but are also outstanding examples of modern art.

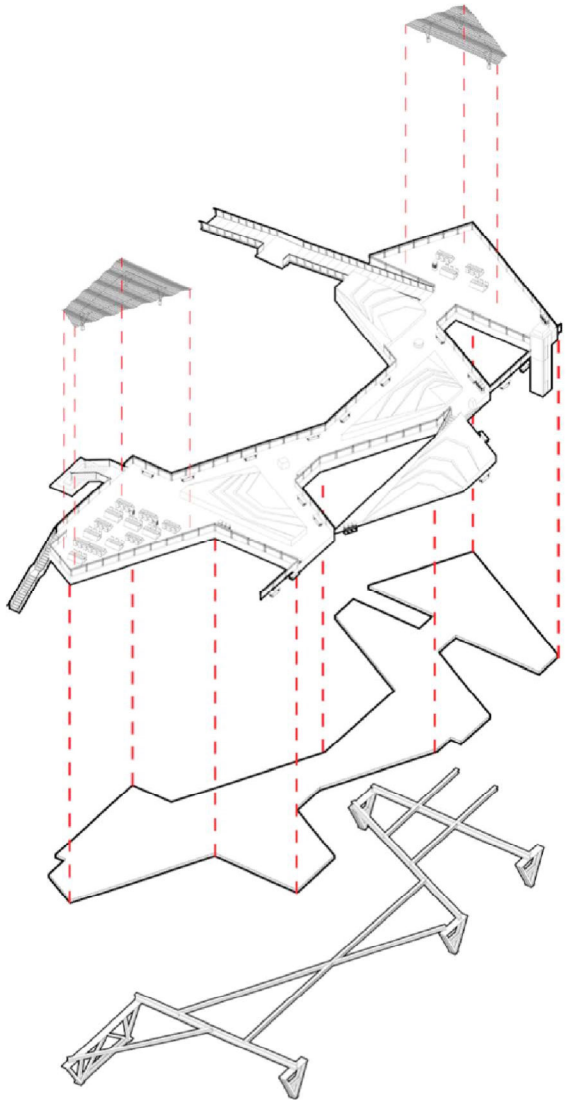
Altogether, this intervention corrects the part of the original design that ignores the greater community and brings it back into the user group. It provides equal opportunities for the community to appreciate the surrounding buildings and sculptures, and also serve as a vehicle for communication and peaceful coexistence between campus and city.



Function Analysis
Yasong Zhou



Section
Yasong Zhou



Proposed Structure
Yasong Zhou



View Analysis
Yasong Zhou



View Analysis
Yasong Zhou



Perspective
Yasong Zhou

Revson Plaza: Curve on Campus

Annie Bodhidatta

Revson Plaza is evidence of a history of social exclusion of the Columbia campus; the forced separation of Columbia from the street and the Morningside Heights community. Born as part of the urban renewal approach to architecture and city planning popular in the 1960's, the plaza intended from the very start to segregate the elevated level of campus from the street level below. The result is an elevated plaza that is not inviting or functional at campus level, and that renders Amsterdam Avenue dark and unpleasant at street level. The separation is further augmented through the lack of any physical and visual connections from the plaza to street level.

To carry on Seth Low's original vision of Columbia as a true metropolitan university, being in and of the City of New York, my design proposal seeks to remove the physical and social barriers that the existing plaza has created. The proposal reinvents inclusion and establishes the new Revson Plaza as a better community connector by re-engaging the street as well as the multiple publics of the community that are currently being disregarded. Providing a new space for potential community interaction, the redesign of Revson Plaza will enhance accessibility and connection with Columbia and Morningside Heights community.

Project Background, Significance, and Rationale

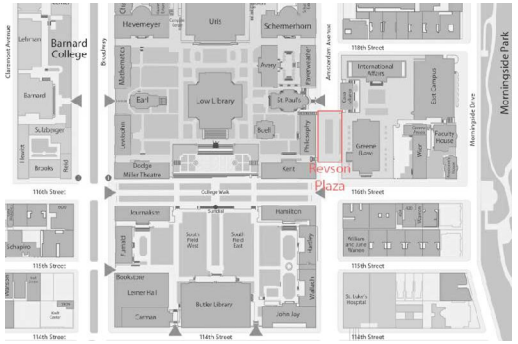
From the time that Columbia opened its door on the Morningside Heights campus in 1897, Seth Low's vision has always been to connect Columbia University and the city. In his own words, "Columbia cannot escape the observation of the city, nor can the city escape from it" (Columbia University 1998, iii). The Morningside Heights campus was intended to be a true metropolitan university, where students could feel like they were part of the city and have open space to exercise their intellectual activities (Columbia University, School of Architecture 1963, 5). President Low envisioned an urban university that could both serve and benefit from a diverse urban population, eroding boundaries between academic pursuits and public life and service (Bergdoll 1997, 32).

With the expansion of the University and the master planning of the East Campus in the 1950s and 60s, we begin to question the relevance of today's context to Columbia's earlier vision, especially through the design of Revson Plaza.

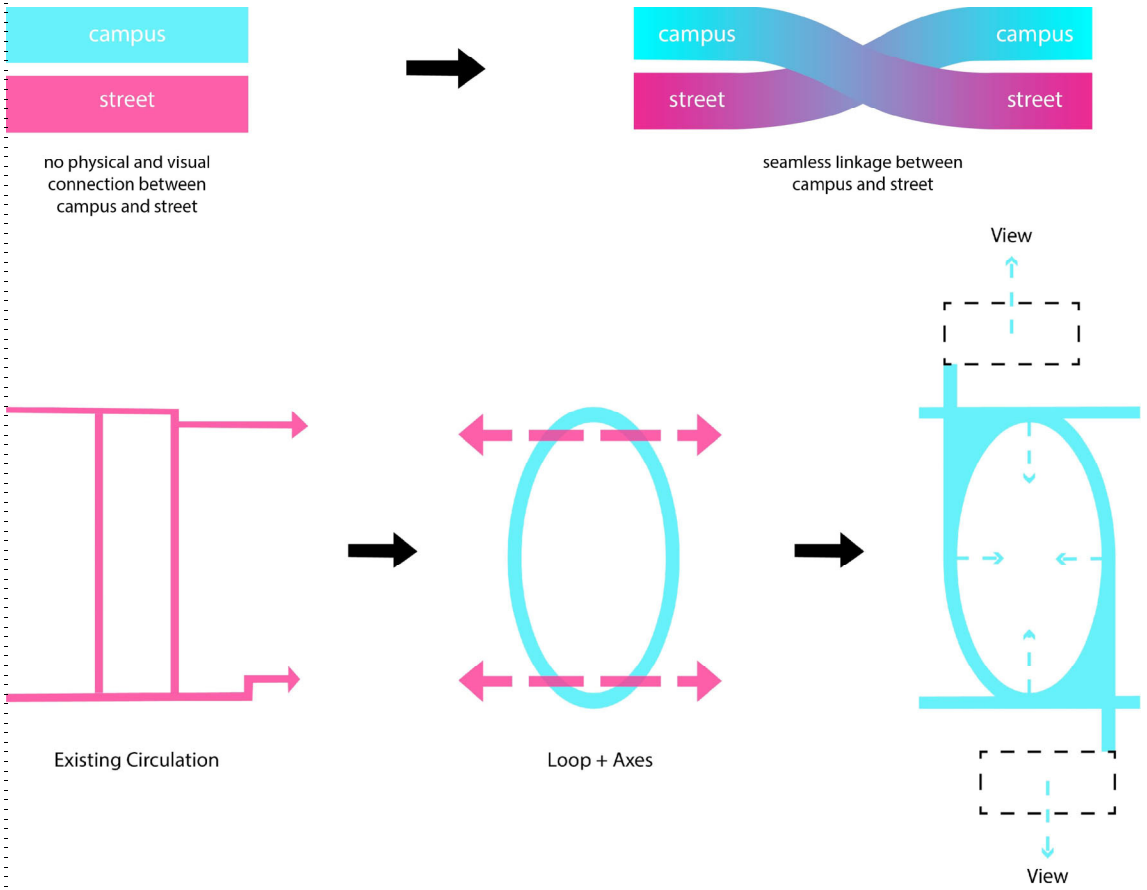
In 1956, Columbia announced its plan of an estimated $17 million expansion of East Campus designed by Harrison & Abramovitz, including the construction of three large buildings and connecting to McKim's original campus via a broad



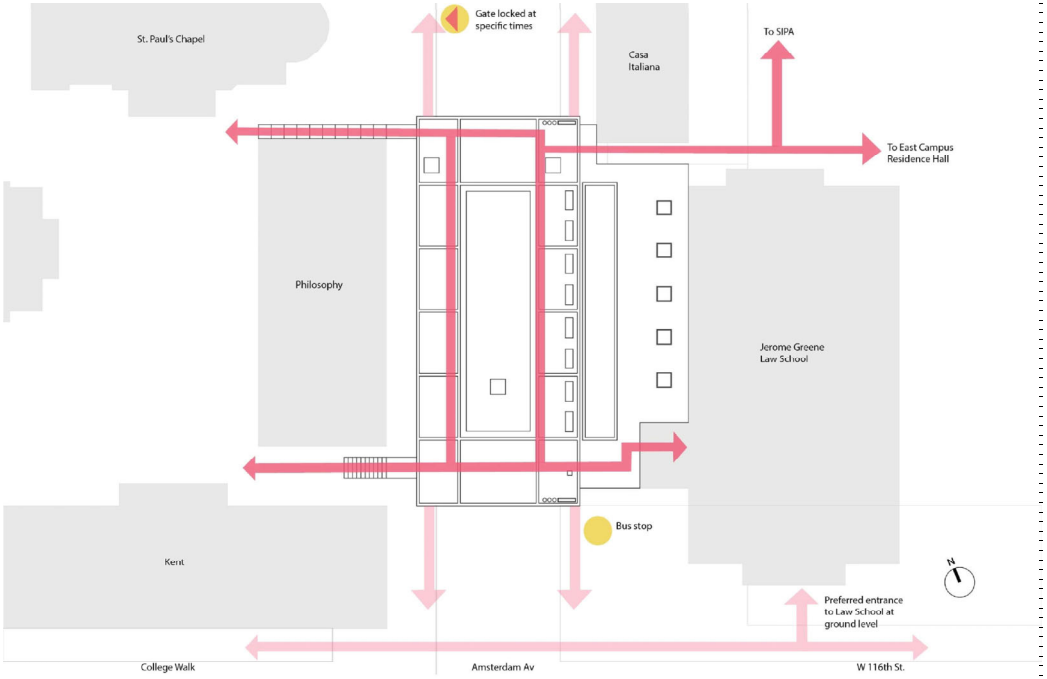
Mock up of the East Campus plan with Revson Plaza
Source: New York Herald Tribune, March 28, 1956



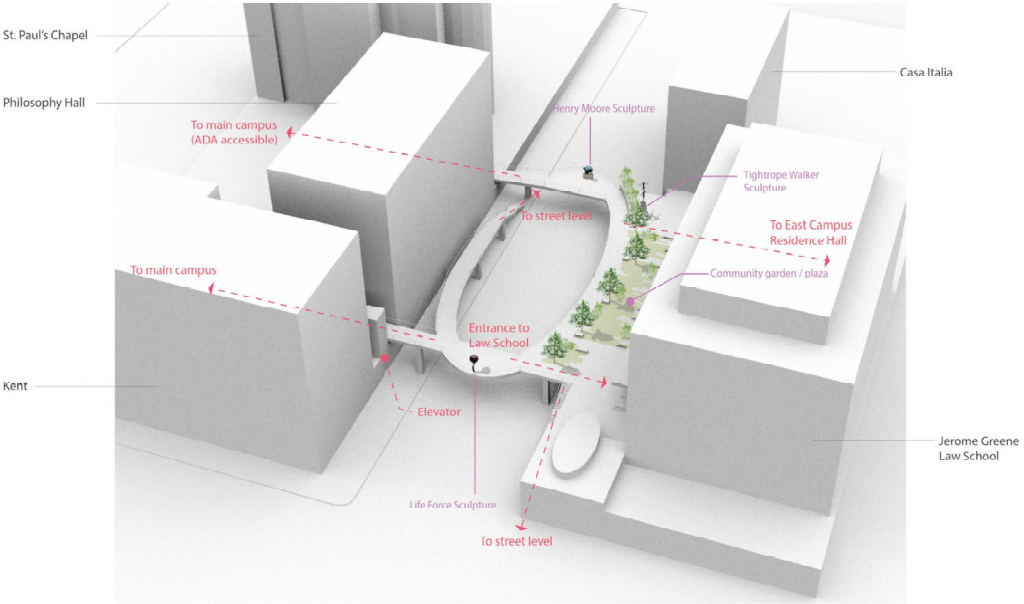
Site Map Showing Location of Revson Plaza
in relationship to Columbia Campus
Source: Google campus map



Conceptual Diagrams
Annie Bodhidatta



Analysis of Existing Circulation
Annie Bodhidatta



Axonometric
Annie Bodhidatta

bridge-plaza spanning Amsterdam Avenue for a full city block (Bergdoll 1997, 105). The Law School was the first East Campus building to be constructed, completed in 1961, followed by the School of International Affairs in 1971, and a residence hall designed by Gwathmey Siegel & Associates in 1981 (Columbia University 1998. 1.13).

Even though the elevated plaza over Amsterdam Avenue was initially planned to be open at the same time as the Law School building, it was caught up in a delay due to construction errors and difficulties in meeting city demands and was not completed until 1963 (Trace|Work 2012, Revson Plaza). It was named Revson Plaza in honor of its principal donor, Charles Revson, the chairman of the cosmetics manufacturer Revlon. (Bergdoll 1997, 106).

Often referred to as "the elevated walkway over Amsterdam Avenue" or "an overpass above Amsterdam Avenue," Revson Plaza is "rather peripheral to the daily experience of Campus space" (Trace|Work 2012, Revson Plaza). It is not ADA accessible from the original campus, and it creates a very segregated atmosphere between the elevated level of campus and the street level below. This, according to William C. Warren, the former Dean of the Columbia Law School, was intentional:

> "With Campus level above and traffic below it we will have a separation of academic and commercial life and provide students with a rural atmosphere in a great metropolis. (...) We are most fortunate at Columbia. The topography of the Morningside Heights area makes this unusual plaza development feasible, in an area where the land is level, such a project would be impossible."
> - William C. Warren, Dean of the Columbia Law School, at the opening of Revson Plaza on November 23, 1965. (Trace|Work 2012, Revson Plaza)

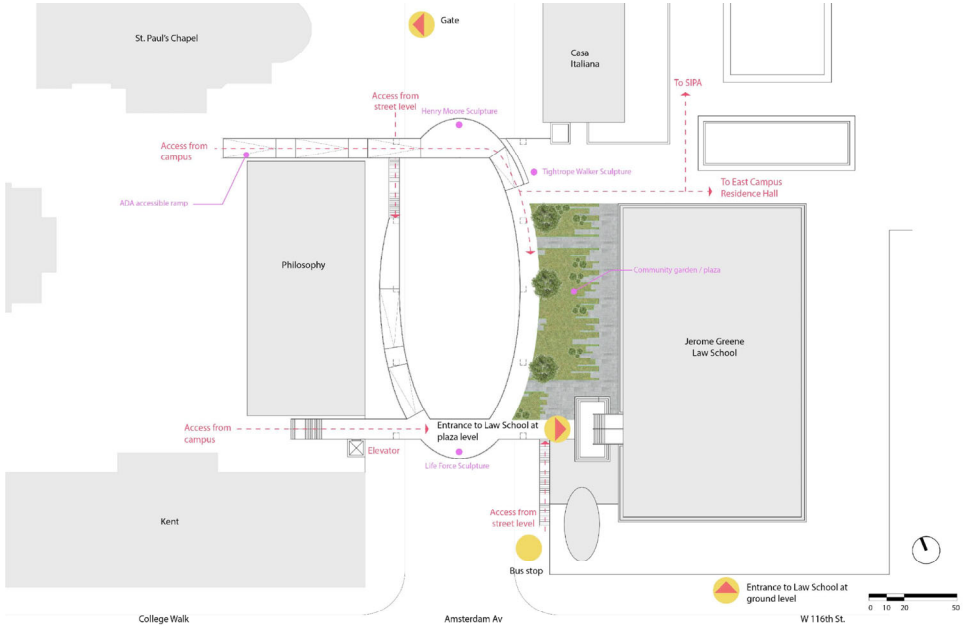
Revson Plaza is 235 feet wide and seems oversized for its function as a passage to East Campus (Columbia 1998, 4.21). Although university events such as the Columbia Law School Reunion Weekend have been held on Revson Plaza, which has abundant garden space and opens up to beautiful views up and down Amsterdam Avenue, many perceive the plaza to be unpleasant and an unnecessary use of space for such an expensive endeavor. A strange space that hovers over Amsterdam Avenue, it is the point where Columbia's elevated position in the city is made clear (Trace|Work 2012, Views from Columbia's Campus), and it accentuates one's privileged place above the street as a member of the Columbia community (BWOG 2009).

Project Description

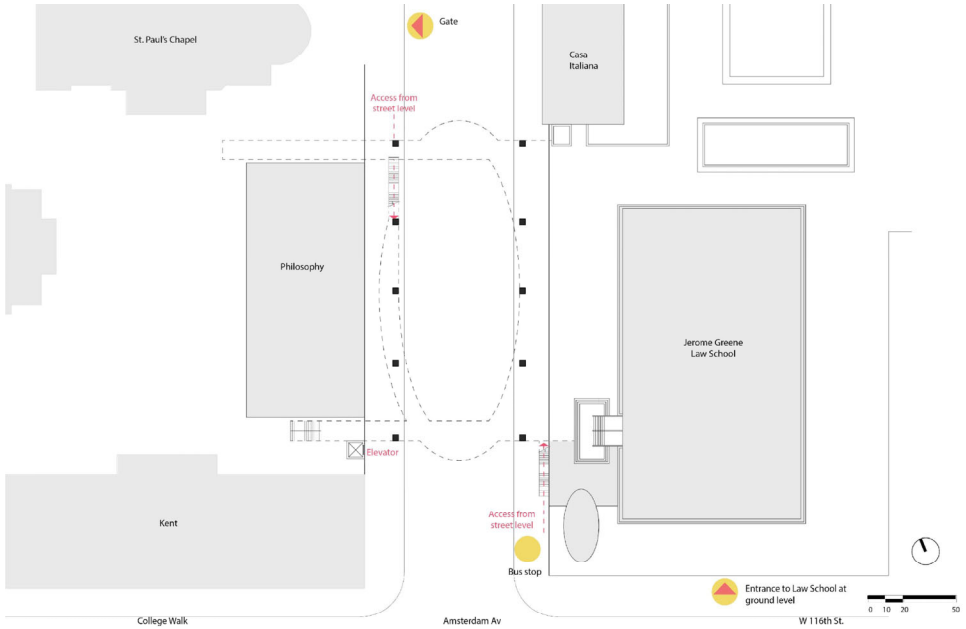
Because of the purposeful disconnect from the street that Revson Plaza sought to create, I am proposing to remove the entire plaza and create a new bridge structure that will reinvent inclusion as a better community connector by re-engaging with the street as well as those who are handicapped. The new bridge provides more points of access from street level in addition to access between the main campus and East Campus. The three sculptures are relocated along the bridge to create nodes of interaction along the path. The curved form of the bridge presents itself as a visually inclusive form that flows seamlessly between access points, engaging all parts of the context and social entities of Morningside Heights. Despite creating a stark deviation from the rectilinear site plan of campus, the bridge still follows McKim's axes and seeks to strengthen the physical and visual relationships to the overall master plan of Columbia campus.

Project Implementation

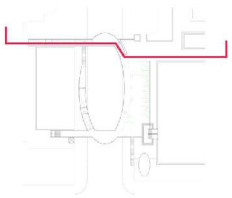
The significance of Revson Plaza lies not in the materiality and physical form of the plaza itself, but in its intent following Columbia's vision as an imaginative accommodation where connections between spaces and social entities are facilitated and encouraged. The proposed project provides a new inclusive space formally and spatially, offering a flexible and interactive connection between the main campus and East campus, as well as between Columbia University and the community. The new plaza invites students and all community members to experience the elevated space over Amsterdam Avenue in ways that re-conceptualize inclusion and encourages them to observe the Columbia campus and surrounding community from different vantage points and perspectives. The new Revson Plaza celebrates the "curve on campus," socially and spatially, in which Columbia and the rest of the Morningside Heights community are reconnected and reengaged.



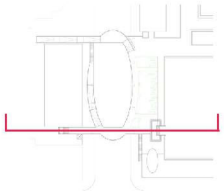
Plan at Campus Level
Annie Bodhidatta



Plan at Street Level
Annie Bodhidatta

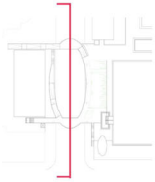






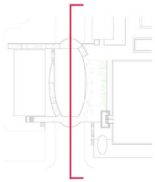


North Section Looking South (top) and South Section Looking North (bottom)
Annie Bodhidatta



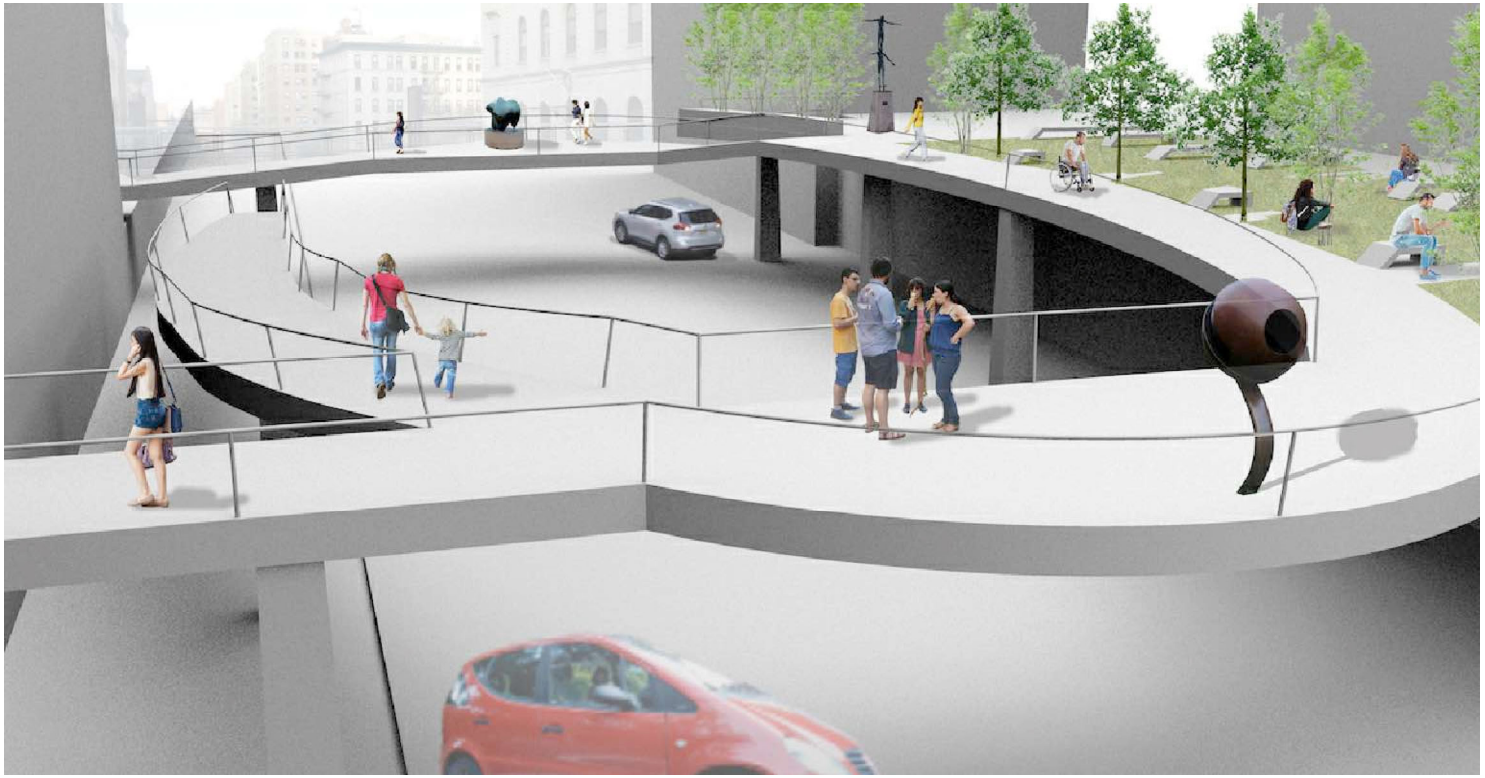


Long Section Looking East
Annie Bodhidatta





Long Section Looking West
Annie Bodhidatta



Overall Perspective
Annie Bodhidatta



Street view looking South from Amsterdam Avenue
Annie Bodhidatta



Street view looking North from Amsterdam Avenue
Annie Bodhidatta

Untold Stories: Women at Columbia

Claire Cancilla

This proposal seeks to include women's names, stories, and experiences on Columbia's campus through a digital walking tour and through the physical engraving of women's names and names of women's organizations on the path between Earl and Lewisohn Hall.

Morningside Heights and Manhattanville were built, utilized, occupied, and enriched by women. But the built environment is still dominated by men. This is particularly evident in the class' survey of the study area. Of the 683 resources surveyed, women are only associated with six resources, all of which are public art and only one of which represents a real, as opposed to allegorical or mythological, woman. The survey identified forty-eight total exterior works of public art, twenty of which represented men - nearly four times more than those that represented women. The inequity in representation of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville is echoed in New York City writ large. Out of the 150 statues of historical figures in New York City, only five are of women ("She Built New York," N.D).

This city and neighborhood-wide inequity is especially pronounced on Columbia's campus. The only exterior resource directly associated with women on campus is Alma Mater. Yet Alma Mater is not a real woman. She is an allegorical figure whose purpose was to "nurture and educate virtuous young sons" ("Alma Mater: Early History" N.D). Not only are there no exterior statues of real women on Columbia's campus, there are no statues that were designed by female artists. This dearth of women's representation in the built environment at Columbia, however, extends beyond art and exterior statuary. The naming of Columbia's building also shows a sharp divide between men's and women's representation. Columbia does not have a single building or open space named for a woman. Miller Theater, inside Dodge Hall, is the only space on campus named for a woman. Women's invisibility in Columbia's built environment does not reflect the impacts that women, both individually and collectively, have had at Columbia.

This proposal aims to address this lack of representation by promoting the inclusion of women's history on campus through a two-prong approach. The first prong is a digital walking tour around campus that highlights individuals, groups, moments, and stories pertaining to gender equity. These stops would include basic information, images, background, and primary documents about that individual or event. Women's articles, publications, and research, when available, would be referenced at these stops. Whenever possible, the information provided at the stops would incorporate interviews, quotes, and oral histories, so that women's stories are told in their own words.

This women's history walking tour would be a part of a larger series of thematic walking tours around Columbia's campus, entitled "Untold Stories," developed with classmates Fei Deng and Qian Xu. Through the Untold Stories digital walking tours, visitors and the Columba community would be able to learn about the histories of underrepresented groups at Columbia. The three preliminary themes for Untold Stories are women's history, LGBTQ experience and history, and Chinese heritage. These stories often overlap, so some of these stops would cross-over into multiple themes, promoting intersectionality among narratives. Red points represent women's history stops, green points represent Chinese heritage stops, and purple points represent LGBTQ+ stops. As Untold Stories develops, there would be room to add thematic tours representing additional underrepresented groups, as well as to add stops and stories providing further information on the themes discussed in this proposal.

The second part of this proposal involves a physical intervention on Columbia's campus: the engraving of the names of women, or women's groups, associated with Columbia on the brick path between Lewisohn Hall and Earl Hall. The engraved names would be selected based on submissions by the Columbia community and could be added to every few years. As names are engraved, they would be added to their appropriate corresponding space in Untold Stories. This particular campus path was chosen because both Lewisohn and Earl Hall have historically been, and continue to be, central spaces for women's groups. Historical groups that have met in these spaces include the Women's Affirmative Action Coalition, the Ad Hoc Committee on Women, and Columbia Women's Liberation, among others (see section entitled "Untold Stories: Women at Columbia Walking Tour Highlights," for more detailed information on these groups and other women's groups that have used this space). Contemporary gender-related groups, such as GendeRevolution, Columbia's first organization for transgender individuals, Women in Science at Columbia, and Society of Women Engineers also utilize these spaces. This path between the two buildings provides a spatial connection to this history of women's collective action.

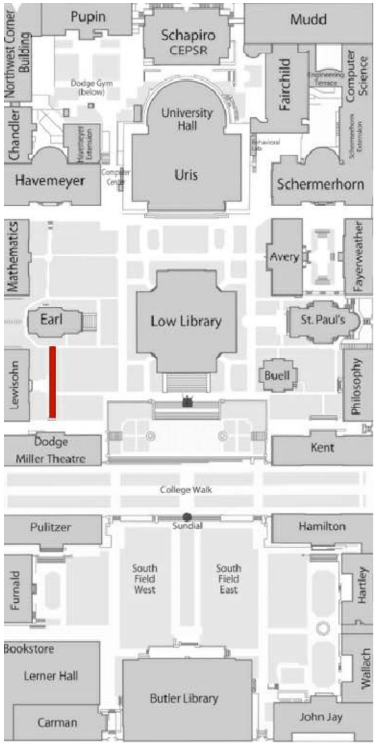
The inclusion of women's words and histories on campus is significant because women today makeup 51percent of undergraduate students and 49percent of graduate students at Columbia, and yet there is virtually no architectural or spatial representation of women on campus ("Columbia University: Enrollment by School, Gender, and Degree Level" Fall 2018). The key aspects of women's presence at Columbia associated with this project



Six Resources Associated with Women as Identified in the Class' Survey
Source: Class Survey Data



Untold Stories Overall Tour Stops for Women's history, LGBTQ+ experience, and Chinese Heritage
Source: Prepared by Claire Cancilla, Fei Deng, and Qian Xu



Map Showing the Site of the Proposed Engraving Intervention
Source: Prepared by Claire Cancilla



Path Between Lewisohn and Earl Halls (April 2019)
Source: Claire Cancilla

include Columbia's engagement with communities, protests and activism, and underrepresented history.

This two-prong approach to addressing gender inequity in the built environment is meant to include women in the campus that they have always been a part of but in which they have never been represented. The heritage walking trail tool connects names, stories, and histories to the spaces where they happened, enlivening history and connecting past to present. The engraving of women's names and organizations begins to rectify the blatant exclusion of women from Columbia's campus and engages the community through a participatory element that encourages conversation about women's place, or lack thereof, on campus. This proposal aims to turn women's history at Columbia into an ongoing, participatory process rather than a fixed preservation product.

Project Precedents, Rationale, and Implementation: Untold Stories

The stories, events, and narratives of the first iteration of Untold Stories: Women at Columbia would be curated, but after its launch, stories and individual names would be added based on the names that are engraved on the Lewisohn-Earl path, as described further below in the section entitled "Precedents, Rationale, and Implementation: Lewisohn-Earl Engravings." In the future, additional stories, names, and experiences will be solicited from the community to uncover new physical sites of women's history, expanding both the geographic scope of the tour and the scope of included narratives.

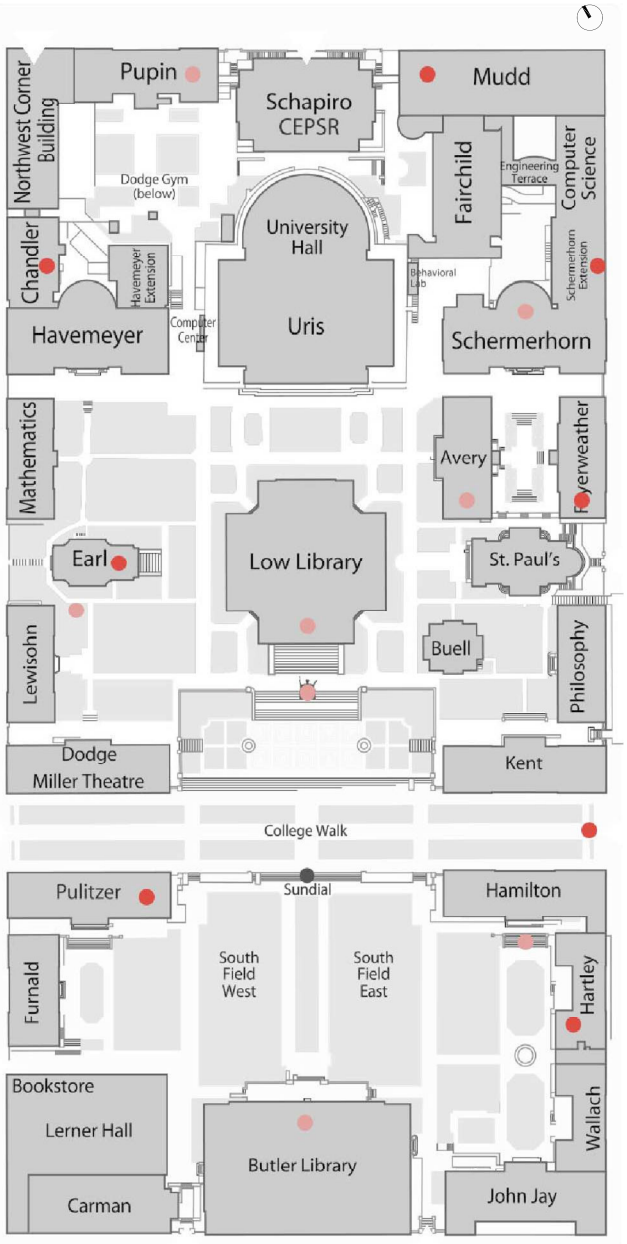
The map set forth in Figure 5 shows the location of all sixteen initial stops on the women's walking tour. The histories and stories of the eight light pink stops on this map are explored in-depth in the "Untold Stories: Women at Columbia Walking Tour Highlights" section of this proposal. This corresponding spreadsheet provides suggested preliminary names, stories, or themes for these stops.

There are several precedents for thematic walking tours that highlight underrepresented histories on university campuses. Princeton University unveiled its (In)Visible History walking tour project in 2018. This project currently has five historical themes, each of which as an associated map of campus with stops that include historical information, photos, and resources about an individual or an event in Princeton's history. Princeton's five themes are: African-American history, women's history, Asian and Asian American history, Princeton traditions, and Princeton firsts (Aronson, 2018). The stops shown on Princeton's map, however, tend to focus on broad themes that do not necessarily have clear spatial connections. For example, the Women at Princeton tour includes a stop at Corwin Hall that is simply titled "Academic Experience." The stop discusses some of the first women to graduate from Princeton in the 1970s. But Corwin Hall houses the Department of Politics and the Center of International Studies, which are hardly universal "academic experiences;" the tour does not make it clear whether the women discussed in this section actually spent any time at Corwin Hall. This lack of site-specificity is one way in which Columbia can improve upon Princeton's foundational tour.

Although Princeton is currently the only known university that utilizes a thematic digital map with multiple stories, several other universities and colleges have implemented women's history walking tours. These walking tours tend to consist of a PDF document that provides photos, lists buildings on campus, and discusses specific women's histories. Central Washington University, for example, has a self-guided "Women's Buildings Walking Tour" that identifies buildings named for women. ("Women's Buildings Walking Tour Map," N.D). Yale University has a similar tour in the form of a downloadable PDF document containing text and pictures that highlight important places on campus that relate to women's history ("Women at Yale: A Tour," N.D). A supplemental webpage provides an audio description of the sites described. In December 2018, the College of William & Mary created a webpage that similarly highlights places and moments in women's history at the college (Grave, 2018). These tours tend to focus heavily on overarching histories of women's roles on campus and the stories of prominent women donors or early members of the university's community.

These collegiate projects are localized iterations of women's heritage trails that exist nationally and are part of decades-long efforts to incorporate women's histories in physical spaces. Since the 1970s, women have utilized heritage trails as a way to point out inequity in history and the built environment (Moshier, 2010). Women's history walks now exist on all scales. Several states have developed women's heritage trails, including New York State's Women's Heritage Trail ("New York State's Women's Heritage Trail," N.D). Arizona, through the Arizona Centennial Project, initiated a Women's Heritage Trail project that consists of walking tours in individual cities and driving tours through specific parts of the state ("Arizona Women's Heritage Trail," N.D).

Cities, too, have developed women's heritage trails. Boston, for example, has a formal city-funded organization called the Boston Women's History Trail that developed multiple self-guided and docent-run tours



Columbia Campus Map Showing Suggested Initial Untold Stories Stops
Source: Prepared by Claire Cancilla

Name of Campus Stop	Site Story	Brief Summary
Alma Mater	Introduction to tour	The tour would begin at Alma Mater, the only exterior resource affiliated with women on Columbia's campus. This stop would point out this disparity in representation, supply information on current statues, naming, and other representations of women. The purpose of this stop is to provide a spatial acknowledgement of inequality of Columbia's campus. More information on this is available in the studio's historic context section.
Low Library	History of Coeducation at Columbia	Low Library, the administrative hub of campus, would provide information on Columbia's tumultuous road to coeducation. This space could highlight when the various schools, both graduate and undergraduate, became coeducational as well as attitudes towards coeducation through Columbia's history. This section can also include information on Columbia's relationship with Barnard and Teacher's College. More information on this is available in the studio's historic context section.
Butler Library	Butler Banner Project	Information on all three iterations of the Banner Project from 1989, 1994, and 2019, where women unfruled banners with female authors names over the inscribed names of male authors on Butler Library, with varying levels of institutional support. Details on this stop are expanded upon in the written proposal.
Hartley Hall	1940s Columbia Summer Sessions	Hartley Hall, which became mixed-gendered for the first time in the summer of 1941 when the 42nd summer session attracted 9,802 women - two and a half times as many women as men. The program as a whole had 13,857 total enrollees were women - nearly two and a half time as many women as men (Men Lose Stronghold: Hartley Hall, Columbia, to House Women this Summer," 1941). The New York Times boldly declared that "men lose stronghold" and that the "dormitory reserved exclusively for men will resound with girlish laughter." ("Men Lose Stronghold: Hartley Hall, Columbia, to House Women this Summer," 1941.)
Hamilton Statue	Anti-suffragist movements and continuous discrimination	anti-suffrage sentiments among students at Columbia in the early 1900s. On May 6th, 1913, three Barnard students, described by The New York Times as "moderately militant crusaders," placed a placard over the Hamilton statue that read "Votes for Women." Columbia undergraduate students, all of whom were men, tore the sign down. Additional information on this stop can be found in the written proposal.
Avery	Norma Merrick Sklarek	Norma Merrick Sklarek was the first black woman to become a licensed architect in the United States and the first woman to have a fellowship in the American Institute of Architects. Her projects included the United States Embassy in Tokyo and Terminal One at the Los Angeles International Airport. Sklarek worked at Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill as well as at Gruen Associates and Welton Becket before opening a firm with two other female architects called Siegel-Sklarek-Diamond. Additional information on Norma Merrick Sklarek can be found in the written proposal.
Fayerweather	Women in the 1968 protests	Women played an important role in the 1968 protests at Columbia, occupying Fayerweather. Although undergraduate women were not accepted to Columbia College for another 15 years, women from Barnard and the graduate schools occupied, protested, and organized alongside male students. Despite women's participation in these protests, however, many women felt that they experienced discrimination and that they were relegated to secretarial roles. This stop would explore the role of women in the 1968 protests and the politics of protesting as a woman. More information on this is available in the studio's historic context section.
Schermorhorn	Ruth Benedict	Ruth Benedict was an anthropologist and the first female tenured faculty member at Columbia. Benedict was a pioneer in her field and socially progressive social scientist. This site can be cross-listed with the LGBTQ+ tour. Additional information on Ruth Benedict can be found in the written proposal.
Schermorhorn Extension	Institute for Research on Gender, Women, and Sexuality	The Institute for Research on Gender, Women, and Sexuality was founded in 1987 and continues to be the "locus of interdisciplinary feminist and queer scholarship and teaching" ("IRWGS Home," N.D). The institute offers courses to both undergraduate and graduate students and today has more than fifty faculty members ("Our History," N. D). Additional information on IRGWS can be found in the written proposal.
Mudd	Anna Kornbrot	The first woman to earn a degree from Columbia College in 1974, ten years before Columbia became coeducational. Kornbrot earned her undergraduate degree in engineering from Columbia when she saw a posting for a 4-1 program, which would allow students to earn their undergraduate degree in engineering and their BA in five years. The program did not specify the sex of students applying, although an administrator stated that Kornbrot's application "came out of left field" ("Columbia College Enrolling a Woman," 1974). Kornbrot was eventually admitted, a "curious fluke," and became the first woman to earn a BA from Columbia College ("Columbia College Enrolling a Woman," 1974).
Pupin	Chien-Shiung Wu	Chinese physicist who worked on the Manhattan Project and disproved the Law of Parity. First Pupin Professor of Physics at Columbia, outspoken about experience working as a woman in physics. This site can be cross-listed with the Chinese Heritage tour. Additional information on Chien-Shiung Wu can be found in the written proposal.
Chandler	Mary Caldwall	Chemist and in 1929 became the first woman to become an Associate Professor in the School of Arts and Sciences. She earned her M.S and PhD from Columbia in 1919 and 1921, respectively. Although she was in a wheelchair due to a muscular disorder. She became the only female member of the senior faculty in the chemistry department. Caldwall became a full professor in 1948.
Earl	Queer Women at Columbia	This section will go into the histories of various queer and transgender groups that have existed at Columbia, ranging from the historic to the contemporary. The history of LGBTQ+ students can be explored here in conjunction with the LGBTQ+ tour stop. In addition to the history of these organizations and women's involvement in these organizations, this stop can discuss currently existing queer organizations, providing information about each group (Columbia Queer Alliance, GeneRevolution. Proud Colors, Queer and Asian, Columbia iQ, JQ (Jewish LGBTQ+ organization), and the Columbia Queer Business Society) and where they meet so that this can also be a platform for current students to identify resources. This site can be cross-listed with the LGBTQ+ tour.
Lewishon / Earl Lawn	Women's Collective Action	This stop will feature the stories of historical women's groups and the effect they have had on campus policies and practices. The primary groups discussed are as follows (longer histories of these groups provided in the written proposal).
Pulitizer	Phyllis Garland	The first African American and first woman to earn tenure at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in 1981. She was a journalist during the Civil Rights movement and there is a full transcript available of a panel she did discussing her experiences as a black female reporter at Columbia and as a reporter during the Civil Rights movement. See references in the written proposal.
East Campus Gates	First Female Security Guards and Women on Staff	In 1972, two women were hired as security guards at Columbia for the first time in the school's history. They are Miss Pat Vickery, a stuent in Columbia's School fo General Studies, and Mrs. Joyce Forbes, who formerly worked as a janitor at the school. This section can be expanded to discuss other women who worked on staff.

Untold Stories: Women at Columbia Stops
Source: Prepared by Claire Cancilla

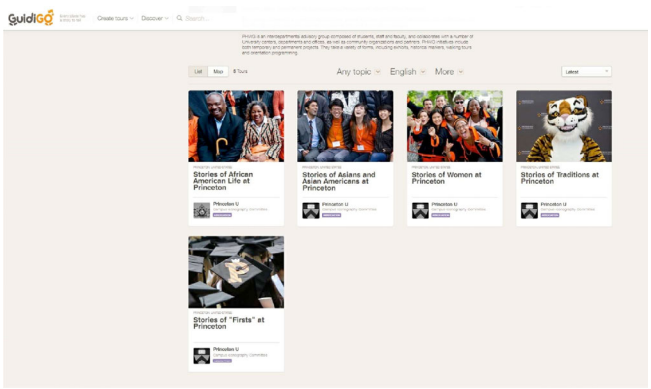
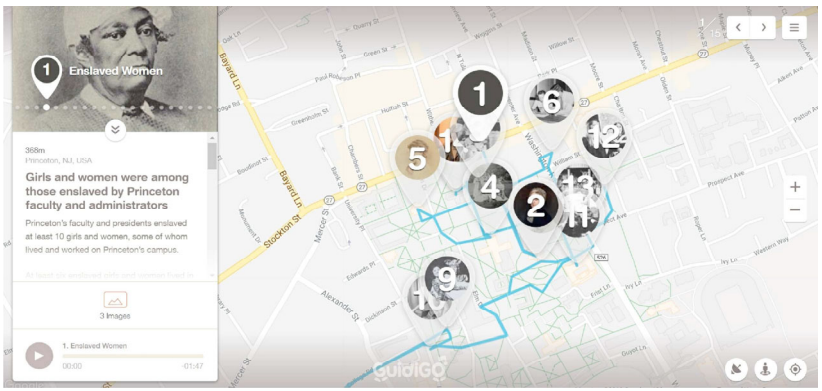
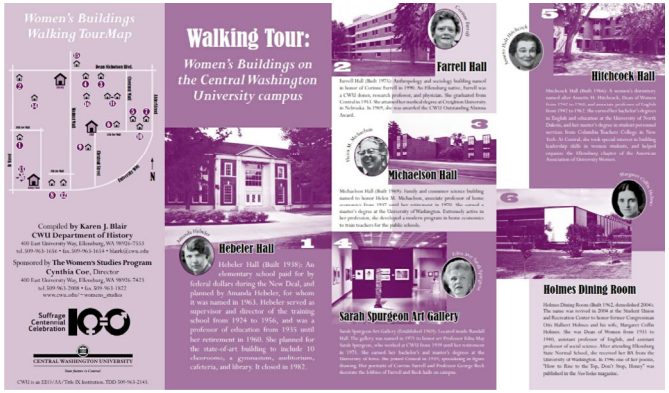


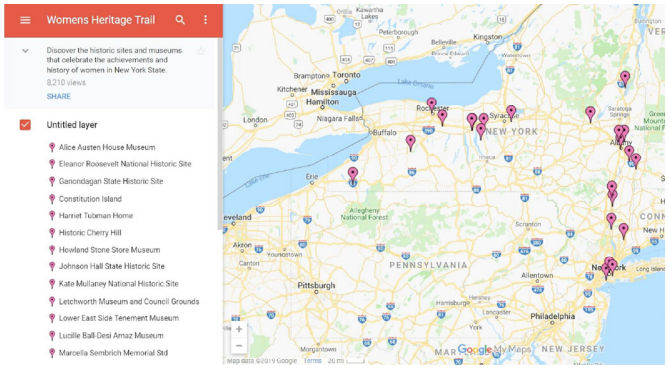
Image Showing Princeton's Five Themes on the Platform GuidiGo
Source: GuidiGo



Women's History Thematic Tour from (In)Visible Princeton
Source: GuidiGo



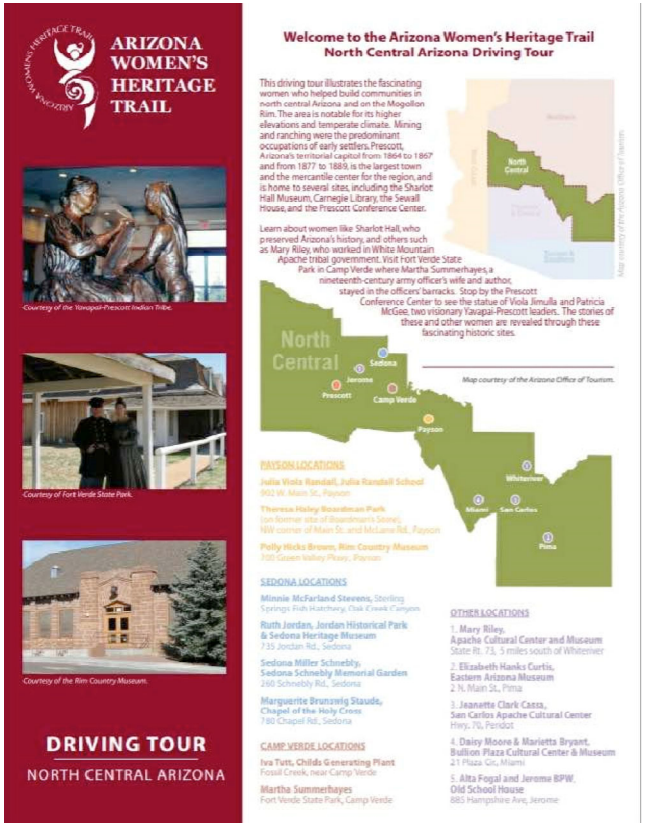
Central Washington University's "Women's Buildings Walking Tour"
Source: Central Washington University



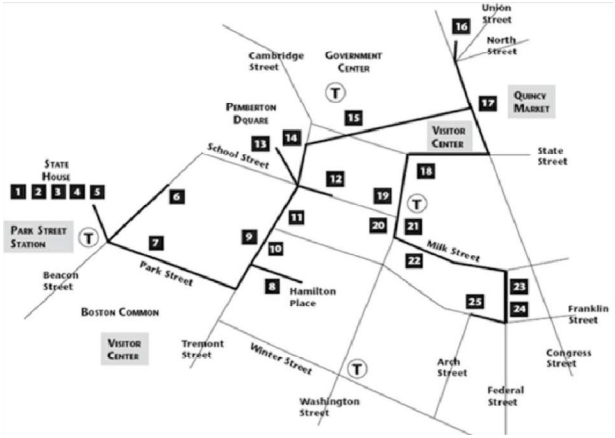
NYS Women's Heritage Trail
Source: New York State



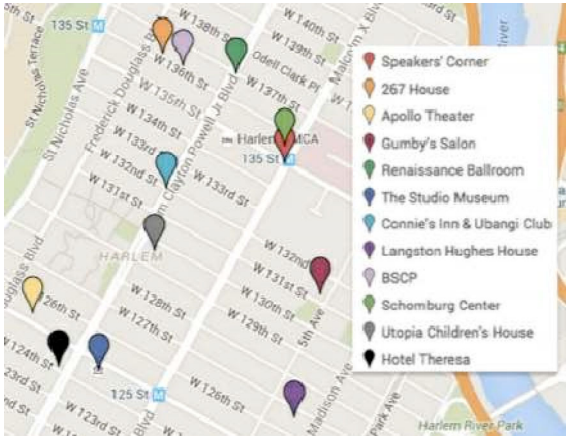
Women at Yale: A Tour
Source: Yale University



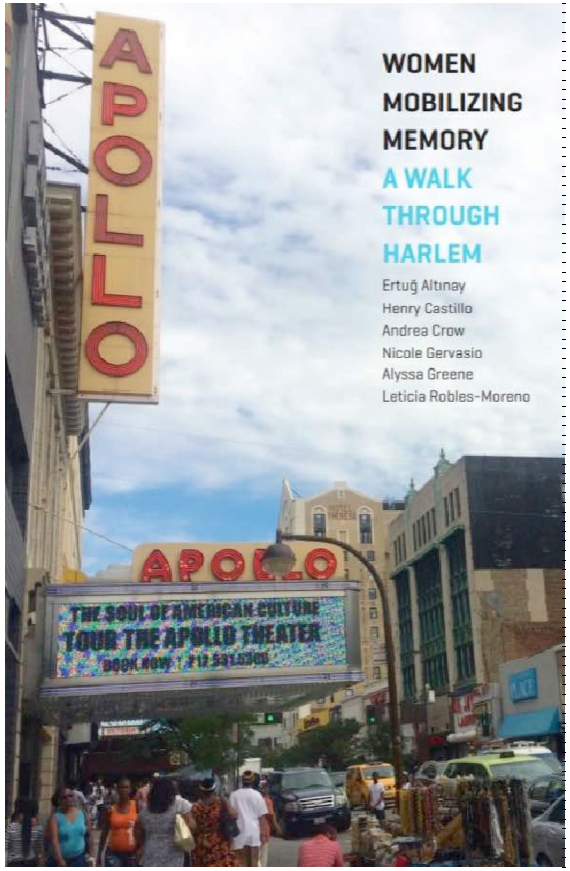
Arizona State Heritage Trail North Central Arizona Driving Tour
Source: State of Arizona



Boston Women's Heritage Trail Downtown Tour
Source: Boston Women's Heritage Trail



Mobilizing Memory: A Walk Through Harlem
Source: Columbia University Center for Social Difference



Mobilizing Memory: A Walk Through Harlem
Source: Columbia University Center for Social Difference

throughout Boston ("Boston Women's Heritage Trail," N.D). The "Women Mobilizing Memory: A Walk Through Harlem" tour explores women's lives, roles, and contributions at the neighborhood scale (Altinay, N.D). This tour was sponsored by a Columbia institution - the Center for Social Difference. Similar to the campus walking tours, City and neighborhood tours tend to rely on PDF documents or websites that include a single story at a single stop, rarely recognizing overlaps in identity or multiple histories that may exist in a single location.

These campus-wide, neighborhood-wide, city-wide, and statewide, precedents provide a frame of reference for the proposed women's heritage tour and create the opportunity to improve upon both content and format. While some of the stops at Columbia would address general themes, as other tours have, most stops would include information on an individual woman, story, or group that utilized that specific space. This detailed approach would create a direct tether between history and place, providing a more complete portrayal of the impacts that women have had on campus -- impacts that are not recognized by or visible in the built environment.

This digital platform for Columbia's heritage tour would allow for a wider array of stories, as well as more specific stories, about individuals, groups, and actions that have had significant impacts on Columbia's historical trajectory, but that have largely remained relegated to the archives. Because a digital platform allows for easier addition of content than a PDF or a website, new stories and experiences can be added as time passes, ensuring that the map is not static. With an updatable digital platform, the familiar goal of adding geography to women's history becomes an ever-evolving process, as the tour is expanded upon to include a wider breadth of narratives and stories. Columbia's implementation of a dynamic, thematic, spatial walking tour could put the university at the forefront of collegiate efforts to recognize underrepresented histories.

This same approach would be applied to the LGBTQ+ theme and the Chinese Heritage theme, as well as any additional themes that would be added in the future. This multi-themed, spatially-focused approach increases intersectionality in stories and ensures that each walking tour can delve into campus history with a holistic perspective, providing a complex narrative that aids in better understanding the many facets of experience on campus. This map transfers hidden stories into the public realm to reclaim exclusionary campus spaces, using a physical route to expose invisible narratives that would recontextualize the visible built landscapes.

The implementation of a walking tour app is feasible and would be a relatively inexpensive project. There are several potential platforms could host Columbia's Untold Stories walking tours. ArcGIS offers the ability to create story maps with associated GIS data. Columbia has already purchased ArcGIS, so this platform would not require any additional funding, although uploading new stories and stops would require tasking a user with GIS experience. ArcGIS story mapping also allows for visual documents, writings, and audio with spatial associations. Classmate Fei Deng has produced a beta version of "Untold Stories: Mapping and Spatializing Chinese Heritage" for reference. Princeton's (In)Visible walking tour utilizes GuidiGo, an online and app-based platform that allows clients to easily create site-specific maps and does not require specific technical knowledge to use. Clients of Guidgo include Royal Museums Greenwich, Detroit Institute of the Arts, the National Museum of Singapore ("Discover Tours - Worldwide," GuidiGo, N.D). This program is easily usable and relatively inexpensive. A "Plus" package that includes five different thematic maps costs $149 per month; annual packages cost even less per month ("Pricing - Choose Your Plan," GuidiGo, N.D). Either ArcGIS or GuidiGo would be effective platforms for this thematic campus mapping.

The initial tour could be developed with a set of curated stories. These stories could be developed for this purpose and could also compile existing histories of women at Columbia. There are many digital resources based on archival resources of stories of women at Columbia, but they are not located on a centralized platform and are disjointed and disconnected from one another. For example, there are various webpages with archival materials hosted on the Columbia Library website, but additional histories also exist at specific exhibition sites through the library (Columbia University Libraries Special Exhibitions, "Women's Involvement in the Strike," N.D), at the c250 website for Columbia's 250th anniversary (McCaughey, N.D), at the Columbia Record website, throughout The Columbia Spectator website, the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality oral history project ("An Oral History of IRWGS," N.D), and at the Columbia College Women alumni group's website ("History of Women at Columbia College," Columbia College Women, N.D). Untold Stories could provide a unified platform for these histories.

After the initial development of the walking tour, the engraved names on the path between Lewisohn and Earl could be added and suggestions for additional stories could be solicited from the Columbia community. This project could be facilitated by the Office of University Life (see expanded description below).

Lewisohn-Earl Engravings

This walking tour would lead to a stop at the lawn between Earl and Lewisohn, where names of women's groups and individual women at Columbia would be engraved on the bricks lining this path. This particular path was selected due to its connection to the histories of women's organizations and collective action. Women's groups that have organized in Earl and Lewishon throughout Columbia's history have changed Columbia policies and practices, yet there is little information readily available about these groups.

Each existing brick on this path could be laser engraved with a woman's name or a women's organization name. Brick engraving is an inexpensive process; engraving a name on a brick can cost as little as $18, and Columbia's Facilities Department frequently replaces bricks throughout Columbia's campus paths ("Brick and Tile Pricing," N.D). There are also precedents of engraving and plaques on the ground on campus. Low Library has engraved acknowledgements of the architects of campus, and a metal plaque outside of Lerner Hall commemorates Ferris Booth Hall, which was demolished for the construction of Lerner. Engraving existing bricks is easier and less expensive than engraving buildings or attaching plaques. It is also reversible, as the engraved bricks can be replaced if needed. The engraving of bricks is a relatively easy, inexpensive way to promote the inclusion of women on a campus that excludes women's representation. But this intervention seeks to do more than symbolically add women's names to campus - it also seeks to forge a relationship between the space and contemporary members of the Columbia community through ongoing participation in the process of commemoration.

The names and organizations for these bricks would be submitted by members of the Columbia community, echoing the history of collective action of the women's groups that used, and continue to use, this space. This intervention spatializes the history discussed through the walking tour and would showcase the engraved women's words on the path, an additive physical intervention that changes the experience of walking on Columbia's campus. Every few years, new names can be added to the path, reflecting changes in the Columbia community and ensuring that the path does not become a relic. A collaborative, participatory framework would ensure that a multiplicity of voices is heard and physically reflected on campus. Through a process of participation, top-down value judgements are not made about what women or what organizations deserve recognition. Including multiple names and organizations on a single path, rather than naming one space after one woman, de-tokenizes the inclusion of women and alleviates the pressure on one woman's name to represent all of women's experiences at Columbia.

Community submissions have been successfully solicited and utilized in a number of other projects focused on inclusion, both on and off-campus. New York City recently announced their plan to add four new public statues of women through an initiative called She Built New York, designed to address the disparity between men and women's representation in statuary throughout New York City. The City had an open submission process for recommendations of women to be commemorated as statues and received over 2,000 submissions ("She Built New York," N.D). At Columbia, a group of students recently started a project to unfurl a banner with the names of female authors over the male names of authors on Butler Library, a contemporary iteration of women's protest from 1989 and 1994 called the Butler Banner Project. The students organizing the project solicited submissions for names from the Columbia community, generating 180 individual submissions, each of which included an average of six names (Kohut, 2019). Princeton has a similar public suggestion process for commissioned statues and portraits that would be added to campus ("Campus Iconography," N.D). This acknowledgement of inequity in representation and attempt to rectify it through a collaborative process is an important formal, institutional acknowledgement of the inequality of the built environment.

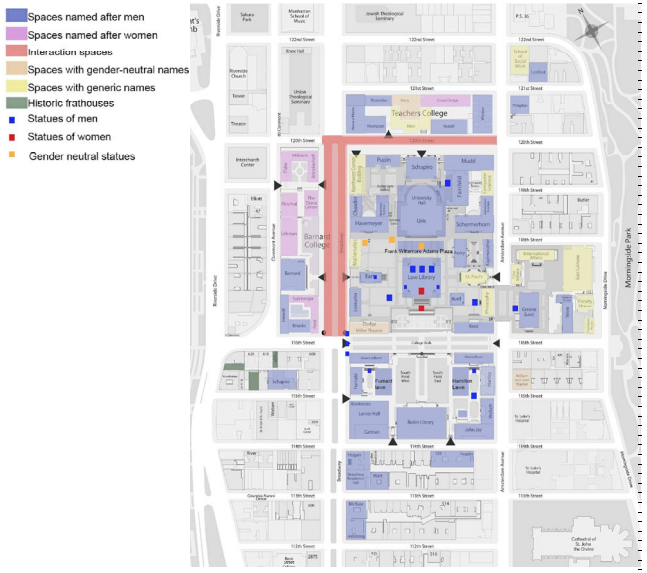
The final names and organizations to be engraved would be decided by a group of representatives from the administration, Columbia alumni groups, and current student organizations organized in an ad hoc committee by the Office of University Life. Some of the myriad of possible organizations from which members can be drawn include Columbia College Women, a women's alumni network; GendeRevolution, an existing student organization for transgender individuals; the Center for Social Difference; and the Institute for Research on Gender, Women, and Sexuality. Additional representatives could come from the current student body, faculty, and staff. The individuals and groups named on the pathway would be discussed at relevant stops on the Untold Stories tour, and new stops would be added, to create a spatial connection between the names identified on the path and their activities on the campus. Submissions that are not selected for the pathway would be listed in the digital map at the Earl-Lewisohn stop, to continue documenting the history of women's collective action into the present day and ensuring that all names and organizations that Columbia community members find meaningful are recorded for posterity. Those names can also be drawn upon to expand Untold Stories in the future.



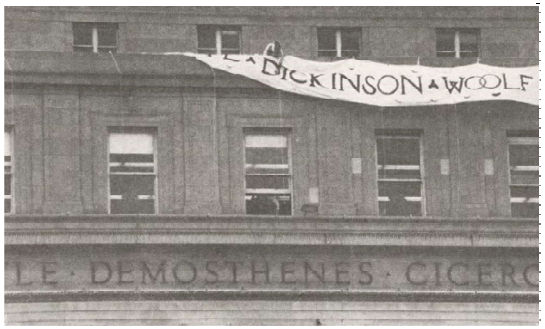
Visualization of Engraved Names on the Path Between Lewisohn and Earl Hall
Source: Prepared by Claire Cancilla



Brick Replacement on Low Plaza (May 2019)
Source: Claire Cancilla



Named Spaces at Columbia Map
Source: Prepared by Sreya Chakraborty



Laura Hotchkiss Brown Unfurls Banner Over Butler Library, 1989
Source: Columbia Spectator



1994 Ripped Banner
Source: Columbia Spectator

There are also precedents for this kind of selection committee, both at Columbia and at other organizations. The Columbia students working on the 2019 Butler Banner Project selected names from the submissions through an ad hoc group of students and faculty (Kohut, 2019). At Princeton, an iconography committee advises on issues of inclusion and representation in the physical environment, providing recommendations of portrait subjects to be added to the university's collection. The committee is made up of four professors, the dean for Diversity and Inclusion, three students, and the university architect. An additional supplemental advisory group made up of alumni, faculty, administrators, also provides input to the Iconography Committee for recommendations (Council of the Princeton University Community, 2018).

Untold Stories: Women at Columbia Walking Tour Highlights

The following highlights eight of the sixteen total identified potential stops for the initial phase of the Untold Stories women's history walking tour at Columbia.

Historical Overviews: Alma Mater and Low Library

This tour aims to showcase the many ways in which women have impacted Columbia's campus, through their individual contributions as well as through organizations, protest, or collective action. Stops on the tour would highlight the history of women on Columbia's campus, beginning at the only exterior statue associated with women on Columbia's campus: Alma Mater. This stop would introduce the spatialized inequity in campus, showing the map of naming on campus that highlights the fact that all buildings are named for men. The introductory stop would also provide a catalogue of Columbia's outdoor art, identifying the all-male designers of each statue. The purpose of this stop is to introduce the user to the inequitable environment of the campus, and to bluntly point out women's exclusion from the built environment. The tour would then proceed to Low Library, where archival documents would be used to provide a history of coeducation at Columbia. The studio report's "Gender Equity" historic context document sets forth additional information on this history.

Protests and Activism: Butler Library

Other stops would highlight women's engagement with the built environment and point out sites of protest. Butler Library would highlight what is now referred to as the "Butler Banner Project." In 1989, Laura Hotchkiss Brown, who attended the School of General Studies, unfurled a banner with the names of prominent women authors over Butler Library to protest the lack of inclusion of women in the required readings of the core curriculum. The University initially took the banner down before allowing it to be put up again later that year. In 1994, the project was revived by the administration, although neither Brown nor anyone else originally involved with the 1989 banner was consulted. Instead, "twenty students were elected under-the-radar by various Columbia officials, and the selection process for the eight names that would be displayed on the banner was kept under wraps" (Kohut, 2019). The selection process also did not solicit input from the Columbia community. The banner was not successful, as the project was not promoted and used a handmade banner that ripped after only a few hours. For the next twenty-five years, the banner project was largely forgotten until April 2019, when current Columbia undergraduate students attempted to revive the project, using a participatory framework for names to be included on the banner.

This stop would include information on the various iterations of these projects, including archival photos, newspapers articles pertaining to the banner, and Laura Hotchkiss Brown's original sketches for the logistics of the banner, which are in Columbia's archives. This stop emphasizes the cross-generational nature of these protests.

Columbia's History of Gender Discrimination: Hamilton Statue

Other stops on campus would include stories of women's experiences and stories of physical encounters with the built environment, serving as jumping-off points to discuss larger trends in Columbia's gendered history.

A stop at the Hamilton Statue would emphasize how discriminatory actions manifested in tangible effects throughout Columbia's existence. This stop would tell begin with the story of anti-suffrage sentiments among students at Columbia in the early 1900s. On May 6th, 1913, three Barnard students, described by The New York Times as "moderately militant crusaders," placed a placard over the Hamilton statue that read "Votes for Women." Columbia undergraduate students, all of whom were men, tore the sign down ("Sign on Hamilton Statue: 'Votes for Women' it Read and Students Tore it Down," 1913). Just one week later, on May 13th, Columbia sophomores

paraded down Broadway dressed in women's clothing, mocking suffragists. A male student dressed as Inez Milholland, a prominent suffragist, led the parade while riding a mule. The nearly 200 men who followed waved banners that read "Votes for We-Men, Women Can Wait" and chanted ditties such as: "assassination is vexation and murder gets my goat; but arson it is glorious; it's sure to get the vote." Another section of the paraders pushed baby carriages, eventually setting fire to the fake babies inside. Men in this section held signs reading "no votes, no babies" ("Mock Suffragists Startle Broadway," 1913).

This stop would provide an opportunity to explore the lengthy history of anti-woman bias at Columbia. For example, when writing about women who petitioned to take courses at Columbia in the late 1870s, the editors of The Columbia Spectator reported that faculty members prohibited the women's entrance to the school. The editors approved of this decision, declaring "we are glad of it, very glad" ("Current Topics - Co Education," 1879). These exclusive sentiments continued for decades. In 1957, for example, a headline in The Columbia Spectator proclaimed that "coeducation faces powerful opposition" (Raab, 1957). The article noted that "tradition plays a great part in keeping the knotholes in the green fence [between Columbia and Barnard] from growing too large" (Raab, 1957).

Gender discrimination was not just discussed openly; it was manifested in Columbia's hiring, policy, and student, faculty, and staff makeup. In 1971, the Health, Education and Welfare Department warned Columbia that its eligibility for federal contracts was in jeopardy because it failed to meet the legal requirements for equal opportunity employment. In response, the University produced a report on the status of women at Columbia (Topor, 1972). This document showcased the pervasive gender disparity between the number of male and female faculty members - in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, only 13percent of instructors were women in 1973, 12.3percent in 1972, and 11.9percent in 1971 An additional breakdown broadened the scope of this discrimination - only 4.3percent of Columbia full professors were women. Another 18.2 percent were associate professors, 25.8percent were Assistant Professors, while 51.9percent, were "instructors." These distributions in gender can also be compared to contemporary faculty rates. In 2018, for example, 43.8percent of full-time faculty at Columbia were women, up from 38.7percent in 2008 ("Full-time Faculty Distribution by Gender and Faculty Status, 2008 - 2018," Office of the Provost, N.D).

This Hamilton Statue stop would use a spatially-connected story to provide a vivid example of the history of blatant discrimination against women by members of the Columbia community throughout the university's history in both words and actions.

Women's Achievements in Buildings Named for Men: Avery

One of the ways in which this tour would address the inequity in naming on campus is by highlighting individual women's stories at buildings named for men. At Avery, the home of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, there would be information on Norma Merrick Sklarek, the first black woman to become a licensed architect in the United States and the first woman to have a fellowship in the American Institute of Architects. Her projects included the United States Embassy in Tokyo and Terminal One at the Los Angeles International Airport. Sklarek worked at Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill, as well as at Gruen Associates and Welton Becket, before opening Siegel-Sklarek-Diamond, a firm with two other female architects (Larken, 1989, 44). Sklarek's personal history would be provided, along with photos of her and the buildings she designed.

Beyond facts and images, stops highlighting individual women who worked or studied at Columbia would include the woman's own words. Interviews with Sklarek are available through the University of California, Los Angeles online oral history archives (Norma Merrick Sklarek, Oral History Program, University of California, Los Angeles, Center for African American Studies). She was further extensively interviewed for the I Dream A World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America, which provides a narrative of her life, her struggles, and her triumphs in her own words. Sklarek describes trials she faced in school, noting that "I had never seen a T-square or a triangle before I entered the School of Architecture at Columbia University." Sklarek elaborated that "[i]n architecture, I had absolutely no role model," largely because "[t]here was strong discrimination against women in architecture. The schools had a quota, it was obvious, a quota against women and a quota against blacks" (Larken, 1989, 44). The use of women's own words promotes the dynamism of these stops, encouraging didactic dialogue between the historical figure and user, humanizing history and creating a personal connection between person and place.



SIGN ON HAMILTON STATUE.

"Votes for Women" It Read and Students Tore It Down.

"Votes for Women" was the legend on a large placard which hung yesterday afternoon in a crook in the upraised bronze right arm of Alexander Hamilton, whose statue stands in front of Hamilton Hall on the Columbia University campus.

It was noticed there at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. But it did not last long. Some of the young men who go to Columbia thought that, if they had read history aright, all this was painful and humiliating to the great Federalist, and they succored him promptly by tearing the sign down.

It was said at Columbia last night that three young women who attend Barnard and are moderately militant crusaders, had been seen earlier in the afternoon at the statue.

Source: New York Times, 1913

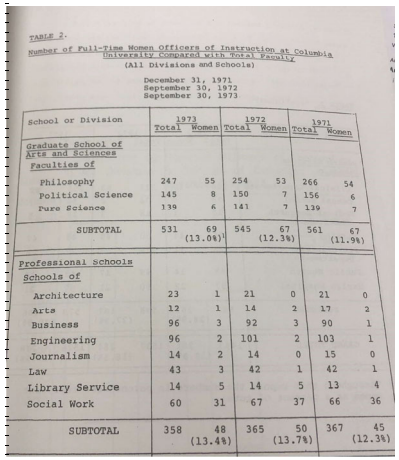
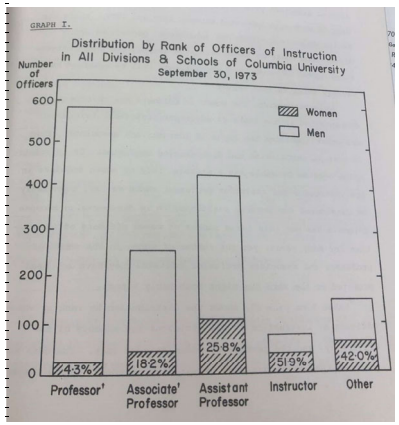


TABLE 2.
Number of Full-Time Women Officers of Instruction at Columbia University Compared with Total Faculty
(All Divisions and Schools)
December 31, 1971
September 30, 1972
September 30, 1973

School or Division	1973 Total	1973 Women	1972 Total	1972 Women	1971 Total	1971 Women
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Faculties of						
Philosophy	247	55	254	53	266	54
Political Science	145	8	150	7	156	6
Pure Science	139	6	141	7	139	7
SUBTOTAL	531	69 (13.0%)	545	67 (12.3%)	561	67 (11.9%)
Professional Schools Schools of						
Architecture	23	1	21	0	21	0
Arts	12	1	14	2	17	2
Business	96	3	92	3	90	1
Engineering	96	2	101	2	103	1
Journalism	14	2	14	0	15	0
Law	43	3	42	1	42	1
Library Service	14	5	14	5	13	4
Social Work	60	31	67	37	66	36
SUBTOTAL	358	48 (13.4%)	365	50 (13.7%)	367	45 (12.3%)

1971 - 1973 Number of Full Time Women Officers of Instruction at Columbia Compared with Total Faculty
Source: Columbia University Archives, Historical Subject Files 1870s-2017, Series XXII: Women at Columbia, 1870s-2000s



1973 Distribution by Rank of Officers of Instruction at Columbia
Source: Columbia University Archives, Historical Subject Files 1870s-2017, Series XXII: Women at Columbia, 1870s-2000s



Full-time Faculty Distribution by Gender and Faculty Status, 2008 - 2018
Source: Office of the Provost

Intersection of Women's History and LGBTQ+ History: Schermerhorn

The stop at Schermerhorn Hall, which houses the school's anthropology department, would highlight the life and work of Ruth Benedict, an anthropologist and the first female tenured faculty member at Columbia. Benedict, a pioneer in her field, was a socially progressive social scientist. This stop would include basic information about Benedict's life and career at Columbia, incorporating some of her own writings. Benedict, along with fellow female Columbia anthropologist Gene Weltfish, wrote a children's book in 1943 called The Races of Mankind, which argued the scientific case against racism, directly opposing Nazi racial policies and advocating racial equality (Benedict and Weltfish, 1943). The pamphlet used simple language and cartoons by the animator responsible for Mr. Magoo, Ad Reinhardt. The United States Army ordered 55,000 copies of the pamphlet to pass out to troops, although Congress labeled the pamphlet "communisitic" and its use by the Army was subsequently banned (Campbell, N.D).

This stop would be included in the LGBTQ+ thematic walking tour as well. Benedict was the mentor and friend of famed anthropologist Margaret Mead, also of Columbia, and the two shared a romantic relationship (Banner, 2004). Letters between the two women have been published, and this stop would include excerpts from these letters, such as one in which Mead, who was doing research in the field, wrote to Benedict, who was teaching in Schermerhorn at the time: "Darling, you will never know what a priceless and so undeserved gift you have given me in giving me a perfect love no least inch of which I need ever repudiate — Oh — I love you, my beautiful. I kiss your eyes" (Caffrey, 2006). Mead further wrote: "Ruth, I was never more earthborn in my life — and yet never more conscious of the strength your love gives me. You have convinced me of the one thing in life which made living worthwhile" (Caffrey, 2006). Stops with multiple thematic applications promote intersectionality and a more holistic understandings of experiences at Columbia, as underrepresented identities do not exist in a vacuum separate from one another.

Multiple stops can also have multiple stories from both the past and present as a way to highlight the historical continuum of women's experiences at Columbia. In addition to documenting the life and work of Ruth Benedict, the stop at Schermerhorn would provide information on the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality (IRWGS), which is housed in the Schermerhorn extension. This organization, founded in 1987, continues to be the "locus of interdisciplinary feminist and queer scholarship and teaching" ("IRWGS Home," N.D). The institute currently offers courses to both undergraduate and graduate students and has more than fifty faculty members ("Our History," N.D). IRWGS has its own oral history archive that can provide information, as well as a repository of history and writings from women at Columbia affiliated with the organization from which to draw archival information.

Stories from both the past and the present can showcase overlapping experiences and associations within a single space, forming a cross-generational, cross-departmental repository of women's varied experiences at spaces throughout campus.

Chinese-American Women's History: Pupin

The stop at Pupin Hall would highlight the life and work of Chien-Shiung Wu, a Chinese physicist who worked at Columbia from 1944 until her retirement in 1981 (Chiang, 2014). Wu began working at Columbia when she conducted research as part of the Manhattan Project. While working on the Manhattan Project, Wu played an important role in the process of separating uranium into uranium-235 and uranium-238 isotopes. Her best-known contribution to the field of physics is the aptly named Wu Experiment, conducted in 1956. This experiment has been called "the most important to science since the work seventy years earlier that led to Einstein's theory of relativity" (Gilson, 1980). This experiment contradicted the law of conservation of parity, which had long been called the "cornerstone of physics" (Gilson, 1980). Often referred to as "the first lady of physics" (Gilson, 1980), Wu was the first Pupin Professor of Physics at Columbia, an endowed professorship ("Wu is Named to Pupin Professorship," 1973).

This stop would also include Wu's own works and words. One example of her work would be a piece she wrote for the layperson, describing her experiment disproving the law of parity, entitled "Subtleties and Surprise: A Brief History of Beta Decay" (Wu, 1966). In addition to her writings, quotes from interviews and public appearances would be included. In October 1965, for example, Wu spoke at a symposium called "Women and the Scientific Professions" at MIT, stating: "I sincerely doubt that any open-minded person really believes in the faulty notion that women have no intellectual capacity for science and technology...the main stumbling block in the way

of any progress is and always has been unimpeachable tradition" (Chiang, 2014).

This stop would be cross-listed with the Chinese Heritage thematic tour to emphasize overlapping identities and experiences. Wu spoke openly about her experience as a Chinese woman in the United States and in a male-dominated field. In an interview for a San Francisco newspaper in 1963, for example, she said that "U.S. society and families unfortunately believe that science and some other fields are exclusively men's turf...it is different in China." Wu added that "[t]he West is ahead of China in science and technology, but not necessarily in the effective utilization of human talents" (Chiang, 2014, 173).

Women's Collaborative Efforts and Protests: Earl-Lewisohn Lawn

The stop at the Lewisohn-Earl lawn would showcase the histories of various women's groups that have historically met in, and continue to utilize, this space. These groups had a substantial impact on events on campus and Columbia's policies, but their histories have not been extensively explored.

Columbia Women's Liberation (1960s)

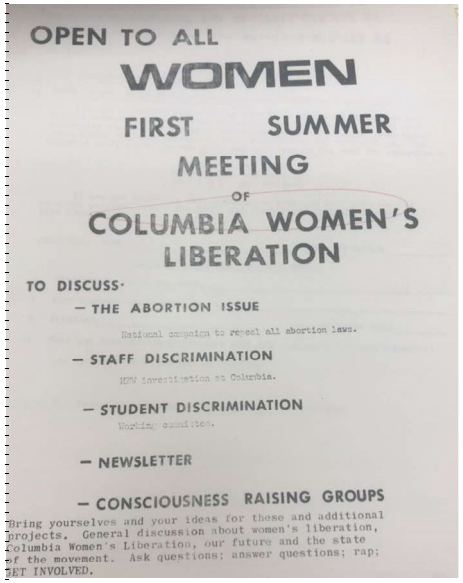
Columbia Women's Liberation, comprised of women from Barnard and from Columbia's graduate schools, faculty and staff, was the first active women's group at Columbia (Craiglow, 1984). Meeting every Thursday in Earl Hall, this group provided a forum to discuss both national women's issues as well as Columbia-specific issues of gender discrimination. The organization sponsored panels and lectures, including "Notes on Women as Scapegoats in American Literature" and "Aborted Hopes: Women and the Revolution in France". Barbara Buonchristiano, who was an original member of the group and an assistant to the dean, stated that the group formed because "Columbia University was predominantly male" (Craiglow, 1984).

In addition to meetings, forums, and lectures, this group obtained tangible results in Columbia's hiring policies. The group produced a faculty report showing that less than 3 percent of the faculty was female. The group also worked to change admissions policies when it discovered that Columbia Medical School was not accepting the top 50 percent of female applicants. Buonchristiano stated that this was "so that the women accepted would either flunk out, or, if they succeeded, they would not provide a real threat to men once in the workforce" (Craiglow, 1984).

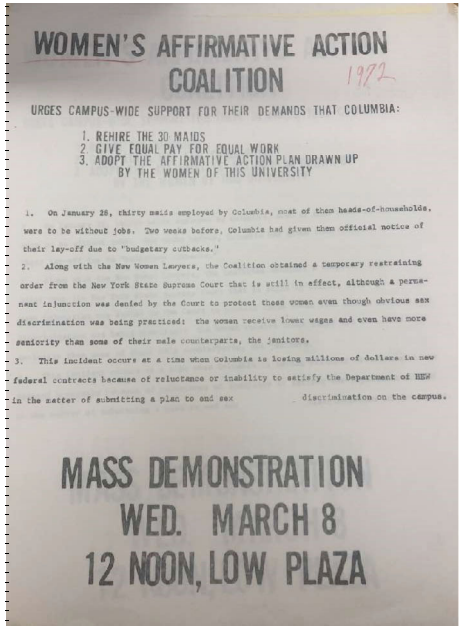
Women's Affirmative Action Coalition (1970s)

The Women's Affirmative Action Coalition was a group of students, faculty, and staff who organized to protest gender inequity at Columbia, primarily in the 1970s. This group hosted forums and "speak outs" at Earl and Lewisohn Hall, using both of these spaces for meetings. The group also organized direct protests against discriminatory policies and actions at Columbia. In 1972, the group mobilized to protest Columbia's firing of thirty female janitorial staff members, referred to as "maids." The Women's Affirmative Action Coalition contended that Columbia was hiring male janitorial workers at the same time it was firing "maids" ("Feminists Set Protest at Columbia," 1972). The group organized a protest at Low Plaza on campus to protest the firing of these maids. The group also prepared a federal suit against Columbia based on the Equal Pay Act, as the maids were paid $18 a week less than their male counterparts (Topor, 1972). Ultimately, this collective action was successful, and Columbia both re-hired the maids and produced the Affirmative Action reports requested by the group and required by law.

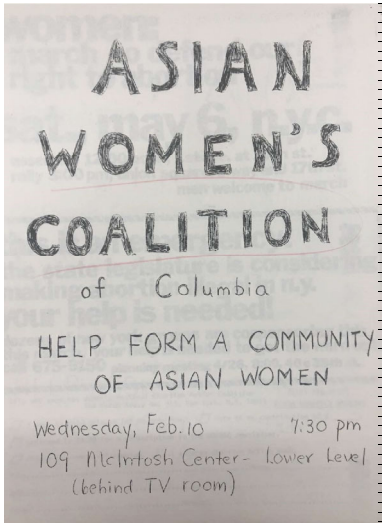
The organization, through a collective forum that included ballots for voting and comments, put together an Affirmative Action Plan for the university to begin to rectify issues of gender inequality ("Feminists Set Protest at Columbia," 1972). The Women's Affirmative Action Coalition solicited input from all factions of the Columbia community, sending their proposal to various groups and asking for feedback so that the plan "accurately represents the needs and wishes of Columbia University women" (Columbia University Affirmative Action Plan to End Sex Discrimination at Columbia, Submitted by the Women's Affirmative Action Coalition," 1972). The coalition specifically stated that: "any academic community thrives to the extent that its practices are recognized as equitable, based on merit, and designed to encourage and develop the best talent available within its ranks. From the results of an initial review of the status of women at Columbia, we believe that the university's practices are not meeting these objectives" ("Columbia University Affirmative Action Plan to End Sex Discrimination at Columbia, Submitted by the Women's Affirmative Action Coalition," 1972). Based at Earl and Lewisohn, this group forced Columbia to take action, altering Columbia's hiring policies, showcasing blatant gender discrimination, and re-securing the jobs


OPEN TO ALL
WOMEN
FIRST SUMMER MEETING
OF
COLUMBIA WOMEN'S LIBERATION
TO DISCUSS·
— THE ABORTION ISSUE
National campaign to repeal all abortion laws.
— STAFF DISCRIMINATION
NOW investigation at Columbia.
— STUDENT DISCRIMINATION
Working committee.
— NEWSLETTER
— CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING GROUPS
Bring yourselves and your ideas for these and additional projects. General discussion about women's liberation, Columbia Women's Liberation, our future and the state of the movement. Ask questions; answer questions; rap; GET INVOLVED.

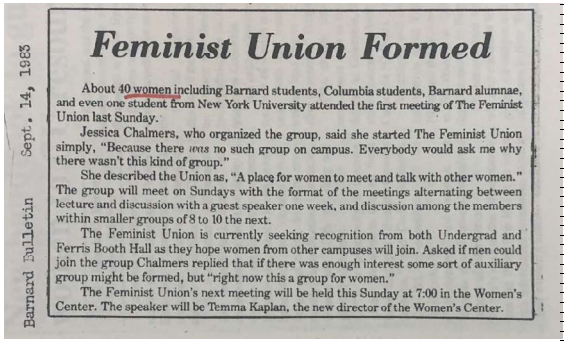
Poster Advertising a Meeting of Columbia Women's Liberation
Source: Columbia University Archives, Historical Subject Files 1870s-2017, Series XXII: Women at Columbia, 1870s-2000s


WOMEN'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COALITION 1972
URGES CAMPUS-WIDE SUPPORT FOR THEIR DEMANDS THAT COLUMBIA:
1. REHIRE THE 30 MAIDS
2. GIVE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK
3. ADOPT THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN DRAWN UP BY THE WOMEN OF THIS UNIVERSITY
1. On January 28, thirty maids employed by Columbia, most of them heads-of-households, were to be without jobs. Two weeks before, Columbia had given them official notice of their lay-off due to 'budgetary cutbacks.'
2. Along with the New Women Lawyers, the Coalition obtained a temporary restraining order from the New York State Supreme Court that is still in effect, although a permanent injunction was denied by the Court to protect these women even though obvious sex discrimination was being practiced: the women receive lower wages and even have more seniority than some of their male counterparts, the janitors.
3. This incident occurs at a time when Columbia is losing millions of dollars in new federal contracts because of reluctance or inability to satisfy the Department of HEW in the matter of submitting a plan to end sex discrimination on the campus.
MASS DEMONSTRATION
WED. MARCH 8
12 NOON, LOW PLAZA

Women's Affirmative Action Coalition Poster for Low Plaza Rally (1972)
Source: Columbia University Archives, Historical Subject Files 1870s-2017, Series XXII: Women at Columbia, 1870s-2000s



Asian Women's Coalition Flyer
Source: Columbia University Archives, Historical Subject Files 1870s-2017, Series XXII: Women at Columbia, 1870s-2000s



Feminist Union Formed

About 40 women including Barnard students, Columbia students, Barnard alumnae, and even one student from New York University attended the first meeting of The Feminist Union last Sunday.

Jessica Chalmers, who organized the group, said she started The Feminist Union simply, "Because there *was* no such group on campus. Everybody would ask me why there wasn't this kind of group."

She described the Union as, "A place for women to meet and talk with other women." The group will meet on Sundays with the format of the meetings alternating between lecture and discussion with a guest speaker one week, and discussion among the members within smaller groups of 8 to 10 the next.

The Feminist Union is currently seeking recognition from both Undergrad and Ferris Booth Hall as they hope women from other campuses will join. Asked if men could join the group Chalmers replied that if there was enough interest some sort of auxiliary group might be formed, but "right now this a group for women."

The Feminist Union's next meeting will be held this Sunday at 7:00 in the Women's Center. The speaker will be Temma Kaplan, the new director of the Women's Center.

Barnard Bulletin Sept. 14, 1983

Feminist Union Formed, 1983
Source: Columbia University Archives, Historical Subject Files 1870s-2017, Series XXII: Women at Columbia, 1870s-2000s

of fired women staff members.

Ad Hoc Committee on Women (1980s)

Despite the work of these earlier women and the strides that were made for gender equity on campus, inequality still reigned at Columbia into the 1980s. In 1982, a group of faculty, administrative staff, students, and religious counselors formed the Ad Hoc Committee on Women to address issues of gender inequality on campus. The Committee was "brought together by our shared concern about the status of women who study, teach, and work at Columbia University." This group organized and met in both Earl Hall and in Lewisohn Hall. The Ad Hoc Committee on Women had three primary foci: improve the number of female tenured faculty members, provide more guidance and role models for graduate students, and encourage the development of support for the soon-to-be admitted female undergraduate students at Columbia. The committee eventually developed into five subcommittees: tenured faculty women, non-tenured faculty women, administrative women, graduate women at Columbia, and undergraduate women at Columbia, each of which worked on issues designed to address that particular group's needs. The subcommittees also sponsored school-wide lectures and events, notably addressing issues of sexual harassment.

The Coalition noted in 1981, ten years after Affirmative Action, that there were still only seventeen tenured female professors in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS). In that ten-year period, four women earned tenure. In the same period, fifty-eight men earned tenure. At the same time, there were large numbers of female graduate students in GSAS - in some departments, a majority of students. The coalition stated that "these advanced female students have few role models to encourage them in their study, research, and teaching, and very little evidence that their efforts to attain professional goals are worthwhile." With coeducation impending, the coalition further noted the importance of "combat[ing] the sexist attitudes which many young men continue to imbibe from their cultural environment and to manifest, however unintentionally, in discussing women in higher education." The Coalition asserted that three issues displayed an "overall pattern of inadequate attention to the needs of women at Columbia, and inadequate awareness of the crucial roles women have to play in Columbia's continuance as a major educational force in American life" ("Ad Hoc Committee on Women At Columbia Manifesto," 1982) and formed the backbone of the Coalition's actions at Columbia.

Many other historical women's groups met in these spaces throughout Columbia's history, including the Asian Women's Coalition and the Feminist Union, which started in 1983 ("Feminist Union Formed," 1983). WOMANSPACE, a service begun in 1979 and expanded in 1983, when Columbia College became coeducational, provided career support and resources to women from Columbia's School of General Studies Lewisohn 211.Earl Hall was the center of queer life and was the site of early attempts to organize a "gay women's consciousness raising" group in the 1970s. Earl additionally hosted dances for queer women at Columbia. In addition to providing the histories of these groups, this stop would include the list of submissions for names and organizations submitted by the community that were not chosen for engraving on the path, creating a contemporary connection between these histories.

These are only a handful of the stories could be told of women's experiences at Columbia. Women have historically been excluded from Columbia's campus, and continue to face struggles for equality on campus. This proposal, which highlights women's words, names, and stories, attempts to address Columbia's historical exclusion of women by shedding light on stories that have largely remained in the dark and changing the physical landscape to include women.

Untold Stories: LGBTQ at Columbia

Qian Xu

This proposal seeks to make Columbia's invisible LGBTQ history visible through both a digital and physical component. The first component is an LGBTQ digital walking tour, which is a part of the thematic series of walking tours on Columbia's Campus that focus on spatially underrepresented histories called "Untold Stories," developed with Claire Cancilla and Fei Deng. The second part is a luminous interpretive design on the sidewalks and stairs around Earl Hall, which has a strong connection with national LGBTQ collegiate history and the larger network of NYC historic LGBTQ sites.

The topic is meaningful for two reasons. First, Columbia's campus contains five important spatializations of LGBTQ narratives, having been at the forefront of gay rights in collegiate life since the late 1960s. However, according to the Studio's survey, no building is evidently associated with the LGBTQ community. The invisibility of Columbia's LGBTQ community in the built environment does not reflect the importance of LGBTQ groups and pioneers at Columbia. Using physical expression to narrate Columbia's LGBTQ history will alleviate this underrepresentation and promote the inclusion of this community. Second, on a larger scale, despite a series of victories across the United States, LGBTQ people continue to face discrimination and marginalization. Physical interventions are still needed to promote LGBTQ visibility and rights in the built environment. This proposal aims to empower the LGBTQ community at Columbia and beyond, advocating social and spatial justice.

Project Background, Significance, and Rationale

The Columbia community has four prominent spaces related to the LGBTQ narrative that require representation.

Earl Hall is significant for its early and important association with Columbia's LGBTQ community. It hosted the first officially recognized LGBTQ student group in America, the Student Homophile League (SHL), founded in 1966. In Earl Hall, the League held meetings, events, provided temporary housing for gay Columbia students. In the following years, LGBTQ groups located various room in the Earl Hall. [Figure1: Spatialize LGBTQ Groups in Earl Hall, drawing by Qian Xu] is exceptionally significant in the period 1970-1985 when the SHL morphed into the Gay People at Columbia (also known as Gay People at Columbia-Barnard) which was even more active and sponsored monthly Friday dance in the second-story ballroom (Dolkart, 2017). The dances were key social events for gay men and lesbians at Columbia and Barnard, as well as for LGBTQ individuals in the community and New York City at large. These dances grew into one of the most important gay social events in New York and eventually attracted large numbers of LGBTQ people from across New York City (Dolkart, 2017).

Furnald Hall is significant for its association with early Columbia's LGBTQ protest and fights for rights. This is evident in the class's LGBTQ Equity Historic Context report edited by Gwen Stricker and Qian Xu. In contemporary times, the Queer Columbia Alliance still meets at Stephen Donaldson Lounge every Sunday.

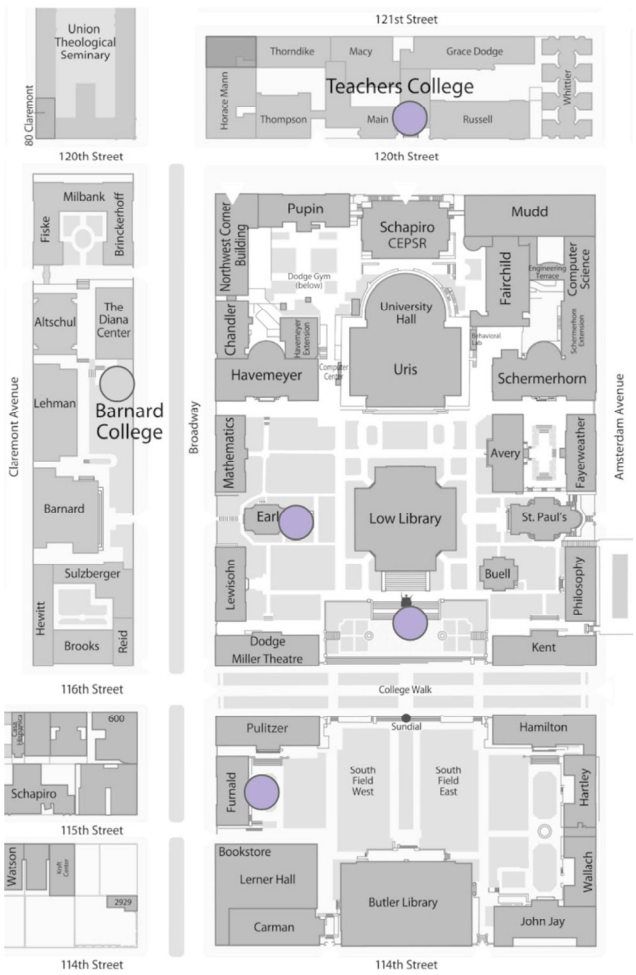
Another pertinent LGBTQ space was Main Hall in Teachers College. In 1990, an exhibition entitled "Maturity and Tolerance at Teachers College: Examples of Anti-Gay Graffiti from Teacher College's Academic Buildings and Dorms" was mounted on one of the bulletin boards designated for the Lesbians and Gays at Teachers College (LGTC) in the Main Hall of Teachers College. It was removed after the Office of Student Life received a complaint about sexually explicit drawing in the graffiti. LGTC protested the removal of the display. After a meeting, the college agreed that the display was useful in educating the public and redisplayed it.

Untold Stories: LGBTQ at Columbia Walking Tour

The LGBTQ-themed walking tour seeks to promote the inclusion of this underrepresented community by narrating and archiving historic sites, in order to enable visitors to learn about the histories of underrepresented groups at Columbia. The walking tour will include four stops. These stops will include basic information, images, archival resources about Columbia's LGBTQ groups and individuals. This walking tour is just one part of a thematic digital walking tour around Columbia's campus, entitled "Untold Stories," developed with Claire Cancilla and Fei Deng. The thematic digital walking tours can be added to and updated over time.

Earl Hall: Making Invisible history Visible

Earl Hill is the most important space among the four stops. The proposal seeks to promote inclusion by using luminous interpretive design to spatialize the invisible LGBTQ history from the late 1960s on the walks and stairs around Earl Hall. This proposal attempts to make the history visible by supplementing the site with luminous drawings and texts. Drawings are based on the historic photo of the Lion's Den. Texts indicated the complicated



Map of walking tour stops
Source: Prepared by Qian Xu

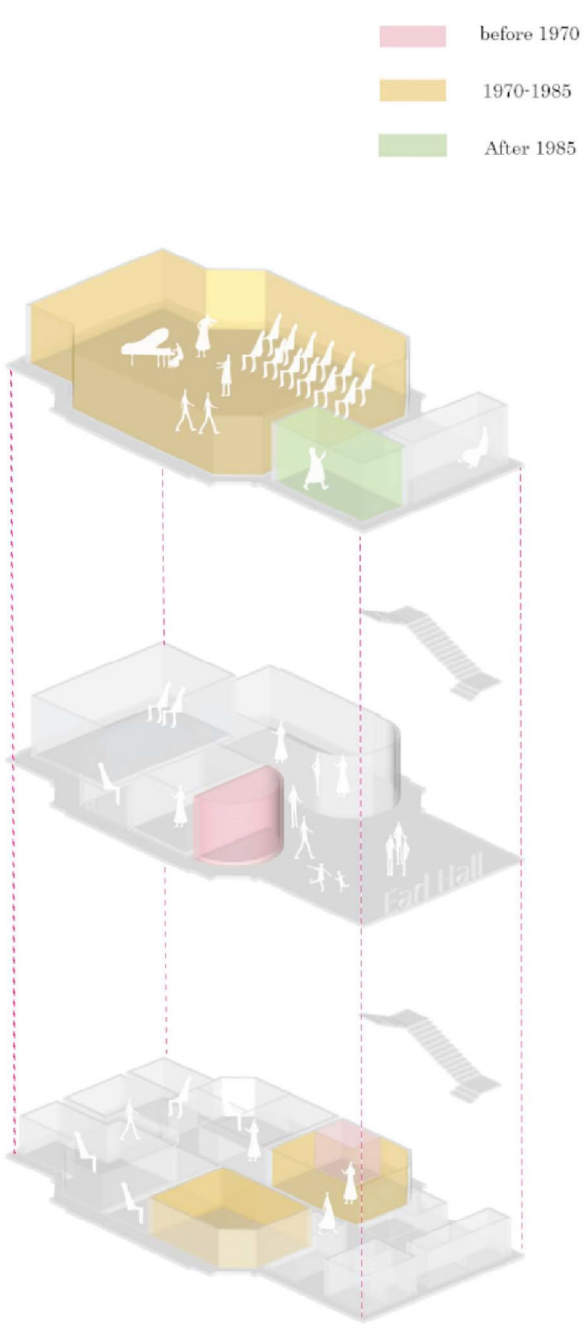
feelings and comments from gay and straight people. Altogether, these texts express the complex social background of LGBTQ experience at Columbia and beyond.

Luminous material can express the concept of “invisibility” and “visibility”. Given the risks gay men faced, most of them hid their homosexuality from their straight workmates, relatives, neighborhood, and police. But being forced to hide from the dominant culture did not keep them hidden from each other. Gay men developed a highly sophisticated system of subcultural code that enabled them to recognize one another in the world (Chauncey, 1994). In the daytime, the design cannot be seen. It is like an invisible world from straight. Earl Hall is a place that making the invisible world visible, where people came out and where they could meet others in a friendly world visible environment. In the night, texts and drawings become luminous which reminds people of the spirit of pioneers.

Taps which are printed drawings and texts by “glow in the dark pigment” would stick on the front of stairs and path around Earl Hall. The nearly white pigment absorbs light in the day time and becomes luminous in the dark.

The proposal also seeks to make the connection with the LGBTQ at Columbia digital walking tour by placing QR Code near the sidewalk. By scanning the QR Code, visitors will be led to the digital walking tour and know more information about LGBTQ history and pride. This design also has a strong sense of direction leading people into Earl Hall and to the plaque of national register of historic places.

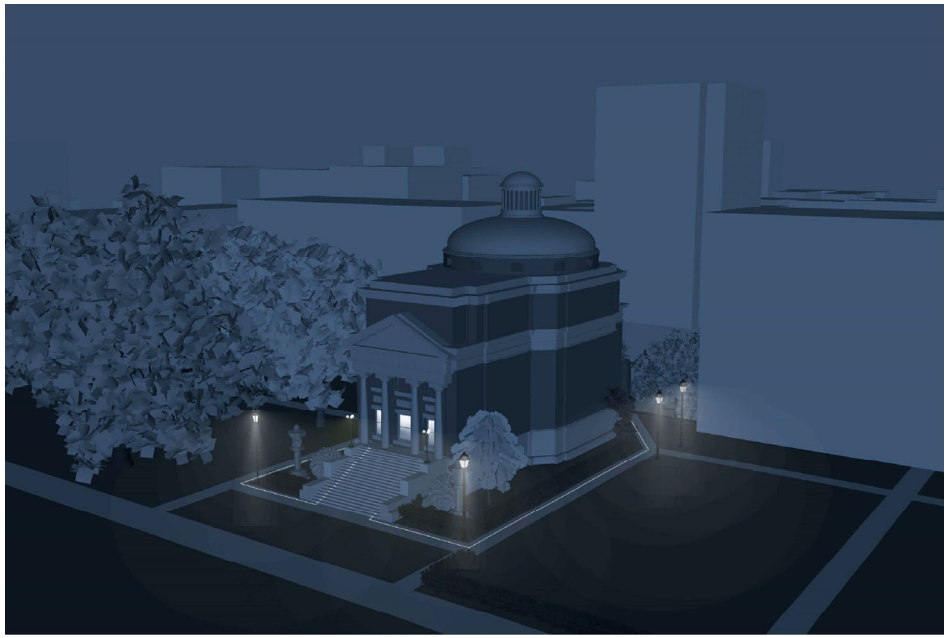
Although Earl Hall is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it is not protected in any strict sense by the Federal listing. If authorized by Columbia University, this project raises further awareness and promote continued engagement.



Spatialized LGBTQ Groups in Earl Hall
Qian Xu



Proposed backstair design
Qian Xu



Proposed front stair design and sidewalks around Earl Hall
Qian Xu

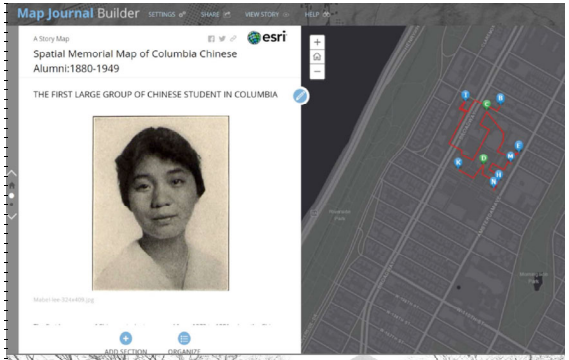
Untold Stories: Mapping and Spatializing Chinese Heritage

Fei Deng

Since 1875 when the first Chinese students appeared on the campus of Columbia College on Pearl Street, Chinese students have made up a significant proportion of Columbia's international student group. In 2018, Chinese students made up 51 percent of all international students, representing a majority of international students at Columbia.

A welcoming policy for international students has been a key feature of Columbia since Seth Low, the president of Columbia from 1890 to 1901, decided to transform Columbia into a metropolitan university. The official website of Columbia International Student and Scholars Office (ISSO) states that "Columbia has one of the largest international student and scholar populations in the United States. Despite the uncertainty and challenges of the political landscape of the last year, we continue to welcome international students and scholars from across the globe. Our international population continues to grow in contrast to the trend experienced by many American schools." Furthermore, international students from East Asia, South Asia, and South-East Asia make up more than 55 percent of Columbia's international student body. However, Asian-American students are not included in those international student statistics. An article from 2013 in the Columbia Spectator noted that the number of Chinese students at Columbia had more than doubled in five years. Author Wilfred Chan commentated that "we cannot simply integrate the new population into some notion of Columbia As It Used To Be. A true vision of global engagement must ask a more difficult question: Is a global Columbia willing to work toward true equality for international students? And if so, then how must Columbia change?"

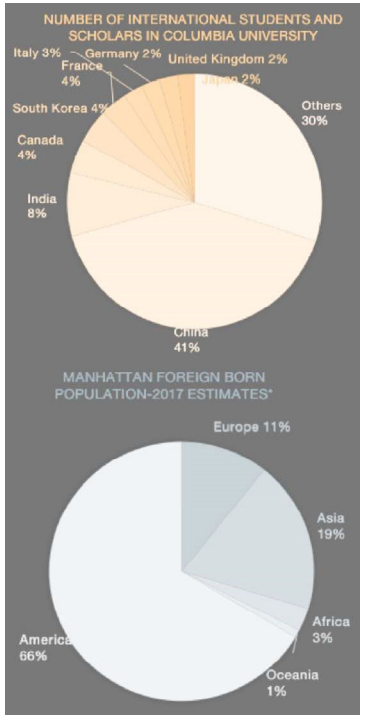
Despite the significant number of Chinese students at Columbia and their impact on Columbia's history, there is virtually no representation of Chinese heritage or Asian heritage in the study area. Among the 683 resources that the Studio survey identified, only the East Asian Library and the Korean Methodist Church, as names of buildings, have a direct connection with Asian groups. Moreover, the only outdoor memorial monument for Asian group at Columbia is a cherry tree accompanied with a plaque. The only Chinese outdoor memorial monument in Morningside Heights is the Chinese Tablet donated by Li Hung Chang in 1897, located on the northern part of the General Grant's Tomb at Riverside Park, opposite Sakura Park, which was donated by the Committee of Japanese Residents and the Columbia International House.



Spatial Memorial Map of Columbia Chinese Alumni: 1880-1949. ArcGIS story map, May 2, 2019. *Source: Prepared by Fei Deng*

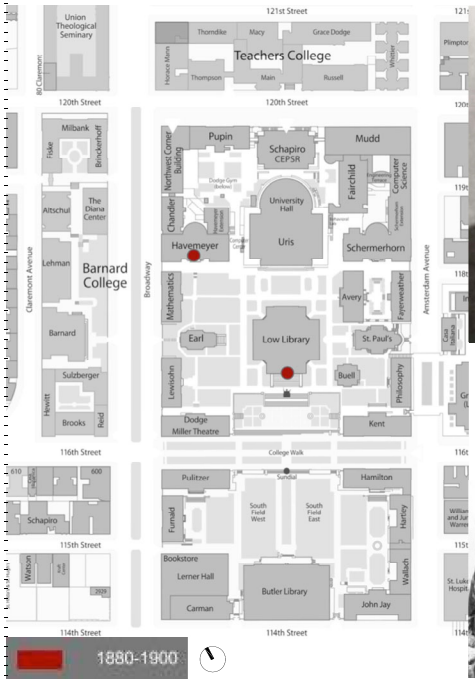


Proposal for protecting the tablet of Li Hung Chang of General Grant's Tomb May 2, 2019. *Source: Prepared by Fei Deng*



Source: Columbia International Student Service Office (ISSO), created in 2017

Source: NYCData, 2019





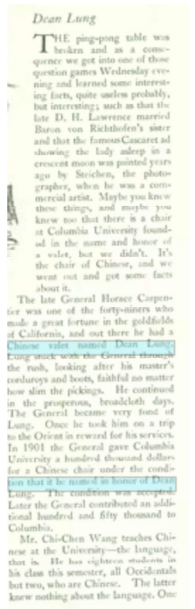
Dean Lung
Source: https://montanatude.blog/2017/02/22/lee-tung-foo-and-dean-lung/



Liang Yu Ho / M.T. Liang (left) and Tong Shao Yi (right)
Source: Washington State University Libraries, Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections



From left to right: Rong Qizao, Wang Changling, Rong You, Wu Yangzeng
Source: cpc.people.com.cn



Source: Charles Cooke and James Thurber, The New Yorker, March 28, 1931





Vi-Hyuin Wellington Koo
Source: United States Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs division, May 29, 1912



Five Chinese woman students that are studying in America
Source: Liang Qichao, Xindalu yu ji , China, 1904

Kang Tung-pih
Source: Barnard College Archives, The Mortarboard 1909 and Special Student Elective Subject Form submitted by Kang Tung Pih, 1907





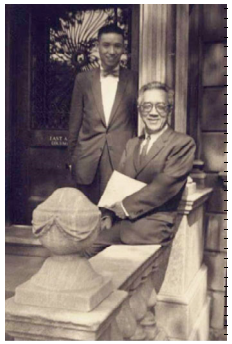
Hu Shih and Tang Degang in Columbia University
Source: Private Collection, 1958, https://www.chinatimes.com/newspapers /20190504000183-260306



Women's suffrage activist Mabel Lee, pictured in the New York Tribune after a 1917 women's voting rights parade in New York City
Source: Library of Congress Chronicling America Collection, 1917



Lv Bicheng in Columbia University
Source: Ci Xue Tu Lu, China





Tse-ven Soong in Columbia University
Source: Shouhu News, May 30, 2019

This lack of representation is echoed on a city-wide scale. Out of the 150 statues of historical figures in New York City, only one statue represents a Chinese historical figure: the statue of Ling Zexu in Chinatown. Despite this lack of representation in the built environment, Asian individuals represent the second-largest group of foreign-born groups in Manhattan. This amounts to 19 percent of the total population of foreign-born individuals in New York City.

Although there are many ways to commemorate different ethnic groups, public monuments are a traditional, powerful, and impressive way to do so. Moreover, as social media plays an increasingly important role in promoting different histories, it is possible to combine digital and traditional means to increase visibility of underrepresented groups. This would allow for varied narratives to be recorded, respected, and remembered. Thus, the project "Untold Stories: Mapping and Spatializing Chinese Heritage" aims to digitize the existing real monuments and the memorial locations of Chinese individuals who influenced the history of Morningside Heights.

This project has two parts. The main part is an online digital map based on an ArcGIS Map system. An ancillary element is a detailed project to promote the conservation of cultural heritage that was discovered and recorded on the digital map.

For this proposal, an initial edition of the memorial map was created, which shows the places within the Columbia campus where Chinese alumni lived or studied from 1880 to 1949. It will be available for use by anyone interested in Chinese history and experience at Columbia. When clicking on a certain location on the map, it will show more information about the individual and his or her history. The advantage of this GIS Map is that it is collaborative and easily editable. Depending on its features, it could be developed with scalable imagery, and could relate tangible architecture with oral history, historical photos, and paper archives easily.

The physical project that grows from the GIS map is the preservation of the Chinese Tablet of General Grant's Tomb. It suggests the possibility of public participation in the preservation of this underrepresented cultural heritage.

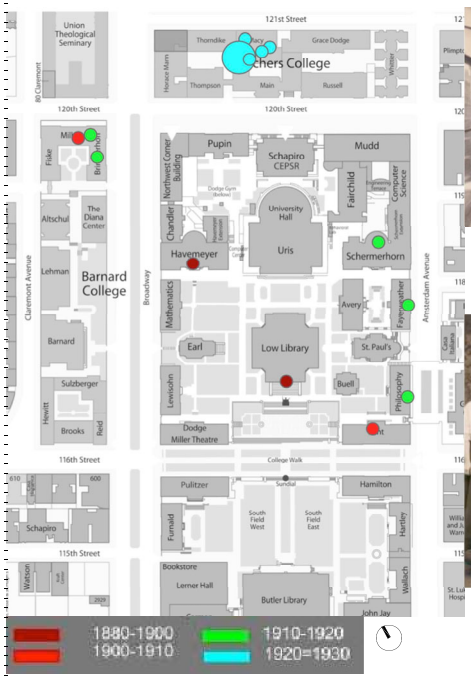
Furthermore, "Untold Stories: Mapping and Spatializing Chinese Heritage" is connected with two previously described digital maps that focus on spatializing other underrepresented histories at Columbia: women's history and LGBTQ experiences and history. All three maps focus on histories that have not been spatially reflected on Columbia's campus, and have been underrepresented by the mainstream narrative both on campus and the larger community. By transforming storytelling subjects, people could visually feel the complexity of history. Under some circumstances the women, LGBTQ and minority group history would overlap on the same geographic locale, which

promotes a more holistic understanding of overlapping stories, experiences, and identities.

Discover: Maps

The following represent some sample locations on the digital map:

- *1880-1890: The first appearance of Chinese students at Columbia, Location: Low Library*
  The first Chinese person to attend an American College was Zen Laishun at Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, while the first Chinese graduate of an American university was Yung Wing, who graduated from Yale in 1854. In 1873 Shu Gaodi (Vung Piau Suvoong) graduated from the School of Medicine at Columbia University, the first Chinese student to successfully finish a four-year program of study at Columbia.
  The first large wave of Chinese students came to the United States from 1872 to 1881, when the late Qing government sent 120 boys with the Chinese Education Mission (CEM) to New England. This marked the beginning of the Self-Strengthening Movement (1861-1905). Fourteen percent of these students attended Columbia. The students were young and could not speak English when they left China. The second large wave of Chinese student students was the Boxer Indemnity Scholars in the 1910s and 1920s, who were better prepared and, because they were not required to live with host familiar, were more free to adopt Western lifestyles.
- *1890-1910: Kang Tongbi and Lee Mabel Ping-Hua: Chinese woman representation in Columbia, Location: Barnard*
  Since the early 1900s, Chinese women began participating in Columbia's history. The first Chinese woman to graduate Barnard was Kang Tongbi in 1909. In 1907, she was admitted to Barnard as the "Guest of the College" by the Dean, Laura D. Gill. Under this title she could waive the credits of the courses she had chosen. As the daughter of the former adviser to the late Qing emperor, she could afford a luxury room in the Bronx with private servants (The New York Times).
  Lee Mabel Ping-Hua, one of the Boxer Indemnity Scholars, went to Barnard College and majored in history and philosophy in 1913. In Barnard she joined the Debate Club and ran an unsuccessful bid against T. V. Soong for President of the Chinese Students Association in 1916. After Barnard, she studied political science and economic history at Columbia University, where she graduated as the first Chinese, and Asian, female Ph.D of





Chinese Collection, Columbia University Library, 1926
Source: http://www.thepaper.cn/baidu.jsp?contid=1474872



Chang Poling (1872-1975)
Source: Teacher's College, Center of Chinese Education, Photographic Exhibition



Chinese Student Club at Teachers College in 1916
Source: Teacher's College, Center of Chinese Education, Photographic Exhibition



Chen Heqin (1892-1982)
Source: Teacher's College, Center of Chinese Education, Photographic Exhibition





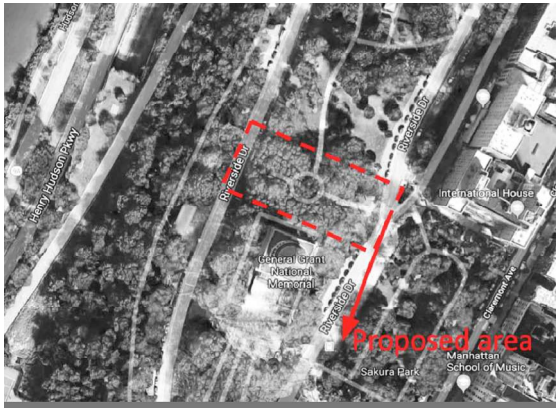
Physics Professor Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu in a laboratory at Columbia University
Source: Getty Images, Bettmann Collection, Dec 6, 1958



Physics at work, New York, NY: (left to right) Professor Chien-Shiung Wu, Dr. Y.K. Lee and L. W. Mo, her associates, conducting experiments
Source: Getty Images, Bettmann Collection, March 21, 1963



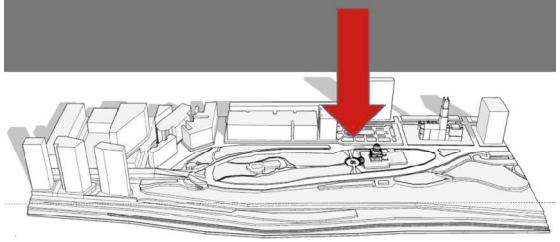
Architect Dong Dayou
Source: Private Collection, Hangzhou Daily, Aug 2017





Source: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C., photo credit to Cervin Robinson (March 19, 1964)

Source: Fei Deng (March, 2019)



Preservation: Li Hung Chang Tablet of the General Grant's Tomb - Proposed site
Fei Deng



Ulysses S. Grant and Li Hung-chang
Source: Photo by Library of Congress/Corbis/VCG via Getty Images, January 1, 1879



The ginkgo tree behind the General Grant's Tomb was planted by Li Hung Chang.
Source: Tengxun Dajia, Jun 5, 2018 (center and right)



Source: Fei Deng

Columbia. Later she continued advocating for women's suffrage in the U.S. and became the head of the First Chinese Baptist Church in New York's Chinatown for more than 49 years.

- *1910-1930: Increasing of Chinese scholars representation*
  After the 1920s, the amount of Chinese student has increased rapidly even when the Chinese Exclusion Act was active from 1882 to 1943. In the long history of Columbia, many young Chinese scholars have received their education and had important influences on modern China's history after graduation.
- *1930-1949: World War II and new majors representation, Location: Teacher's College, Pupin Hall, Avery*

Preserve: Tablet

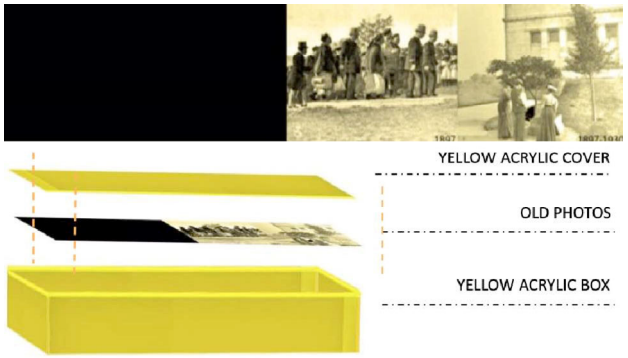
The second component of this project is an on-site design proposal that tests the digital map as a historic preservation instrument. The Chinese Tablet, which was donated by Li Hung Chang, a Chinese politician, general, and diplomat of the late Qing dynasty, has been at the Northern part of General Grant's Tomb since 1897. This bilingual, bronze tablet was donated with a ginkgo tree, and has been protected by steel fences since the 1930s. However, with time, the tablet came to be blocked by the thick bushes around it, facing the threat of rust and staining especially in summer. Neither the tablet nor the tree has any interpretive signage. At the same time, the Grant Monument Association also encourages community participation in redesigning and better using of the northern part of the Grant's Tomb.

Given these existing conditions, this proposal recommends a renovation plan for enlarging the small northern landscape into a public square, leaving the tablet and Ginkgo tree at the original location and encircling them with wooden benches. Either metal print or acrylic boxes with printed photos would be attached to the benches to provide interpretation. The circle terraces around the square would also provide public places for both resting and art performances. Furthermore, detailed information about the history of the tablet, the preservation needs of the community, as well as critics of the site, would be included on the digital map as a supplement. People could access this information by searching the website's name, which would be printed onto the benches.

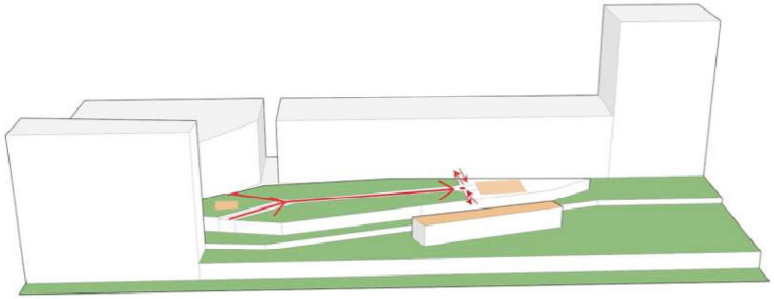
All in all, this is a trial for instrumentalizing heritage toward greater social inclusion. This proposal hopes this initial idea would help to enhance recognition of the Chinese community by respecting their public and individual memory.

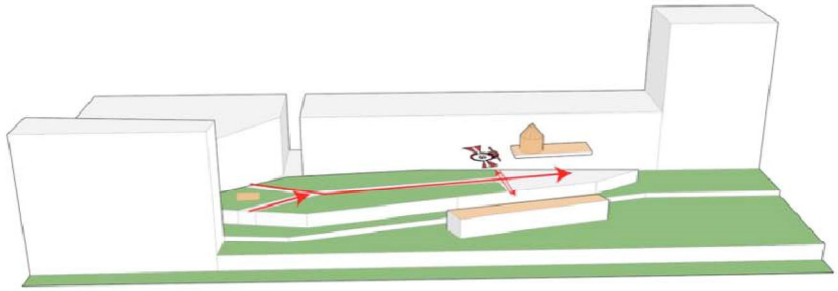
Metal print (left) & Acrylic box (right)
Fei Deng





proposed renovation space
landscape design
public memorial spaces





Routine analysis: before renovation (left) & after renovation (right)
Fei Deng





Renderings
Fei Deng

Preserving General Grant National Memorial Benches: A Guide for Community Members and Organizations

Sarah Sargent



The benches at Grant's Tomb, May 2019
Source: Sarah Sargent

History and Background

The General Grant National Memorial stands atop a small peninsula in New York City's Morningside Park, surrounded by trees and encased on three sides by colorful mosaic benches. These benches were created as part of a community art program from 1972 to 1974. Community members created designs, helped build the benches, and installed the mosaic tiles in whimsical patterns. The benches are massive, stretching for 460 linear feet and encompassing approximately 3,220 square feet of colorful tile mosaics. It is estimated that 2,500 people were involved in their construction, which was the largest community art project that had been completed in the United States at the time (Huff-Hannon, 2008 and Akasi, 2008). The intent behind the benches was to give community members an outlet for creative expression and a sense of ownership over the space ("New Benches Set at Grant's Tomb, 1972). By creating the benches, the organizing artist Pedro Silva and others hoped that the desecration and graffitti of Grant's tomb itself would be reduced ("New Benches Set at Grant's Tomb, 1972). The project to build the benches can therefore be seen as an early example of an experimental, community-based historic preservation project.

Though the benches have been repaired before, in the decade since the last restoration they have once again fallen into a state of decay and disrepair (Dziedzic, 2011). This project aims to lay the groundwork for bringing the benches back into the hands of the community, by providing the tools necessary to organize a community-based restoration project. The goals of this project are to promote the continued inclusion of historically marginalized voices within the built environment by proposing the preservation of a public artwork that was created by and for the local community. The benches have been a contentious issue since they were constructed, and continue to be viewed negatively by some groups. The National Parks Service has attempted to remove them on two occasions in the past, only to yield to intense community backlash each time (Gupta, 1979). Despite the differing views around them, the benches clearly spatialize a narrative of community involvement and inclusion that is not otherwise represented at General Grant National Memorial. Therefore, it is important to conserve these artworks in order to ensure that they continue to facilitate a connection with the local community.

This proposal provides a written guide that will help community members and organizations (including the National Parks Service, The Grant Monument Association, CityARTS, and others) to plan an effective restoration of the Grant's tomb benches in a way that sparks a renewed sense of community ownership over the space. This project is intended to serve all members of the local community, including those who have historically been marginalized and/or made to feel unwelcome in the space. Ideally, the extensive background provided in this report will be used as a starting place to help organize a community-based restoration project in the future.

The following report provides a historical context of the benches, a discussion of their significance, and an analysis of the conflict surrounding them. It also provides an assessment of their current conditions, and discusses the next steps for preserving them with community involvement. Also included are a damage atlas and examples of how to document the existing conservation issues in preparation for further study and eventual repair.

History of Construction

In the early 1970's, the tomb of General Grant had fallen into disrepair. The walls of the tomb were frequently vandalized with graffiti, and the area was considered "high-crime" ("New Benches Set at Grant's Tomb", 1972). The National Parks Service, which was spending $10,000 a year on graffiti clean up, proposed that artwork should be added to the site to commemorate the centennial of Grant's designation of Yellowstone National Park ("New Benches Set at Grant's Tomb," 1972) . They hoped that investing in an art project to give community members a voice would reduce the amount of graffiti sprayed on the tomb itself. The Parks Service had originally suggested a mosaic tiled border for the tomb's plaza, but the project evolved into a long stretch of benches under the leadership of the sculpture artist Pedro Silva (Chancey et al., n.d.). The benches at General Grant National Memorial were constructed starting in 1972. The project lasted until 1974, when the last bench was completed. The project was completed in partnership with the New York City based non-profit organization CityArts. CityArts was founded in 1968 with the goal of "connecting the children and youth of New York with professional artists to create public works that address civic and social issues" (Scanlon n.d.). CityArts had already completed several murals in NYC by this time, and had a good record of gathering community involvement.

The benches relied on community involvement from the start. Flyers and newspaper articles advertised bench-building events to the local community. A blurb in the New York Times' Going Out Guide entitled "Tomb of Your Life" discussed the laying of formwork and encouraged readers to participate in the mosaic process:



A Volunteer places tiles on a bench in 1974
Source: Inspicio, "Timeless Mosaics," Photo credit to Pedro Silva, from Stephanie M. Chancey, Kenneth Silver, and MLS Stegall, n.d.

> Here's where you come in: the forms are to be laid over with tiles, and everyone is invited to come up and put down tiles, each according to his own design (the tiles may be broken up and put in however you feel they may look most exciting). You may draw a design and get equipment and materials to do this free, on the spot. It's done, they say, every day from 8:30 to 6 but better telephone ahead first: 264-4454 or 66-1640. (Shepard, 1973)

Large numbers of people turned out to assist during the two years (three summers) of the project. The project to build the benches at Grant's Tomb became the largest public community art project completed in the United States at the time. Approximately 2,500 people participated in the project, though official accounts of the numbers vary (Huff-Hannon, 2008).

A series of historic granite benches that lined the tomb were removed to make room for the community art project ("New Benches Set at Grant's Tomb," 1972). Once the ground was clear, the benches were constructed using a wire mesh and rebar formwork that was covered in poured concrete. (This can be seen clearly on the underside of one of the benches, where the concrete covering has cracked and fallen off.) First the formwork was constructed, and then a coating of concrete was applied and tamped down into the wire mesh. After the first layer of concrete was set and cured, a layer of mortar was applied and the mosaics were set in place. Workers could bend the steel bars as they wished ("New Benches Set at Grant's Tomb," 1972). This allowed amorphous forms to take shape organically and randomly, giving the benches their characteristic curves and bends.

Pedro Silva worked with six young professional artists as well as hundreds of community members to construct the benches and add the colorful mosaics (Scanlon, n.d.). The mosaics were crafted with donated tiles, some of which were intended for use in bathrooms or swimming pools (Chancey et al., n.d.). It is likely that some of these tiles were not well suited for outdoor use, resulting in some of the conservation problems seen today. Community members could draw their own designs on sheets of paper and turn them into tile mosaics as they wished. Both children and adults could participate, and the events did not require an RSVP or any kind of advance notice. People could show up as they wished, draw a design, and start adding it to a bench for free, with virtually no barriers to entry. The only prohibited images were names, flags, and religious symbols, which were excluded to ensure that the space remained inclusive to all (Chancey et al., n.d.). All members of the community were welcomed with open arms. Pedro Silva was quoted in a 2008 New York Times article as saying that during the project, "We had graffiti artists elbow to elbow with professors from Columbia" (Huff-Hannon, 2018). The mosaic benches depict a wide variety of themes, ranging from the sophisticated to the relatively simple. Designs include portraits of several presidents, clowns, cityscapes, fish, dinosaurs, and penguins. Every bench tells a different story, and many contain several distinct elements.

The project stretches for approximately 460 linear feet and encompassing three sides of the tomb's courtyard. By rough estimate there are 3,220 square feet of tile mosaics (this assumes an average height of the rear vertical of the bench as 2′ front and back, the seat as 18″, and seat to ground 18″). This may be a conservative estimate, as the benches curve frequently and some are taller than others. Regardless of the exact size, the benches have a significant visual impact on the immediate area of Grant's tomb.

Battles over Representation

The bench project faced backlash almost as soon as it was completed. The project was commissioned using $11,000 in National Parks Service funds (Romero, 1972). The Canada Dry Corporation also donated $10,000 and the New York State Council on the Arts and the city's Department of of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs also contributed ("New Benches Set at Grant's Tomb," 1972). However, many people questioned the use of park funds for such a project that did not seem to directly benefit the tomb itself ("Skirmish at Grant's Tomb Over Benches," 1979) . Others found the architectural style of the benches jarring, and claimed that the benches detracted from the experience of the tomb ("Skirmish at Grant's Tomb Over Benches," 1979). Similar views can still be found today.

The National Parks Service has made plans to remove the benches on two separate occasions. The first occurred in 1979, just a few years after the benches were constructed. A significant change in park leadership left the future of the benches in question. David Kahn, the head of the Manhattan National Parks, thought the benches were incongruous with the tomb and wanted them to be removed (Gupta, 1979). He was quoted as saying that "The bench cannot be called a word of art… the Parks Service has made a mistake in commissioning it" (Gupta, 1979). A draft management plan from that year entitled offers of several possible plans for what to do with the

benches, but every option included either moving or bulldozing them. Despite the fact that the plan was titled "Analysis of Management Alternatives (Including Environmental Assessment" (1979)) it does not seem as if a management alternative of leaving the benches in place was ever considered. Though the intent of the bench removal was to return the tomb to a state more in line with its historic context, the plan was presented in such a way that many community members felt that the Parks Service was ignoring their voices for the sake of recreating a historical purity that had frequently excluded them.

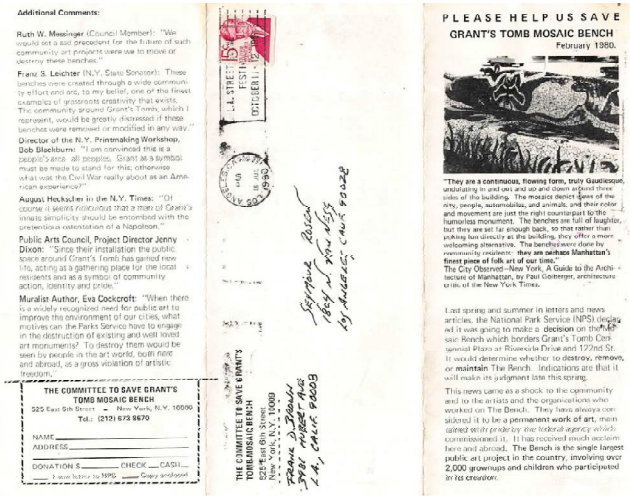
The proposal to remove the benches faced significant community backlash. An organization called "The Committee To Save Grant's Tomb Mosaic Bench" was formed to protest the removal of the benches ("Skirmish at Grant's Tomb Over Benches," 1979). It was headed by Franz S. Leichter, a New York state senator ("Skirmish at Grant's Tomb Over Benches," 1979). The group circulated a petition, which gathered 2,000 signatures (The Committee to Save Grant's Tomb Mosaic Bench, 1980). In January 1980 "the entire membership of New York City Planning Board No. 9 which represents the Grant's Tomb area voted 50—1 to support the presence of The Bench and to oppose its removal, and in February the Columbia University Senate recommended that NPS hold formal public hearings before reaching a decision" ("Committee to Save Grant's Tomb Mosaic Bench," 1980). Eventually, the Parks Service relented to public pressure and agreed to keep the benches.

The benches again faced removal in 1997, as the centennial celebration of the tomb's opening loomed (Allon, 1997). Joseph T. Avery, the Manhattan Parks Superintendent, was quoted as saying "'We've spent a lot of money in the last three years rehabbing the monument and the plaza. We want to restore it to its original intent.'' (Allon, 1997). The Parks Service went as far as cutting a ten-foot section one of the benches and lifting it a few inches off of the ground to test whether they could be moved (Allon, 1997 and Harden, 1997). A Parks Service worker had reportedly told a city worker that the benches would be hauled away on trucks the following Monday (Harden, 1997). This horrified preservationists and community members, and backlash once again ensued. Members of the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee considered how they might chain themselves to the benches, a challenge given their curved, smooth forms (Allon, 1997). Petitions were circulated, and community members and organizations wrote letters in protest. The Morningside Heights Historic District Committee set about getting a restraining order to keep the benches in place (Harden, 1997). In the end, the community members won (Allon, 1997 and Harden, 1997). At a public meeting Joseph T. Avery called the benches "weeds", but announced that they would stay until after the centennial celebration and a city-wide hearing could be held (Harden, 1997). As far as the research for this 2019 proposal shows, the benches have not been threatened since.

Exclusion from Official Narratives

Though they are an important community landmark, the benches continue to face a battle for acceptance and recognition to this day, even at preservation-oriented institutions. The official National Parks Service brochure for General Grant National Memorial uses a photo of the tomb with the benches conveniently cropped out of the frame. There is no mention of them in the brochure or on any signage or printed materials presented to the general public. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission designation report for the exterior of Grant's tomb, which was written in 1975, completely ignores the existence of the benches, and does not address them in their narrative description of the site. Similarly, the Landmarks designation for Riverside Park discusses the tomb and several other points of interest, but excludes the benches from mention. Landmarks West, an upper west side historic preservation non-profit, has a detailed article about Grant's Tomb on their website that does not mention the benches at all ("Happy Grant Day," 2018). Even Atlas Obscura, which prides itself on revealing quirky, unknown histories, does not mention the benches in their article on Grant's Tomb, and also does not list them separately.

The official General Grant National Memorial Facebook page also largely leaves the benches out of the narrative. There are 536 images posted on the Facebook page, which, like the site itself, is managed by the National Parks Service. Though they are highly visible around the tomb in person, the benches appear in just 15 of the 512 images. Eleven are from a single event in 2016 when volunteers cleaned the benches and swept leaves ("General Grant National Memorial Facebook Page", n.d.). Four of those eleven photos are identical duplicates that appear to have been uploaded by mistake. One photo from 2014 shows soldiers dressed up for an event with the benches in the background. Another shows one of Grant's descendants, with the benches barely visible in the corner of the photo. The final image, also from 2014, shows a vintage image of the bench, with a caption asking followers to guess when it was taken ("General Grant National Memorial Facebook Page", n.d.). No one commented, and the



A brochure from the Committee to Save Grant's Tomb Mosaic Bench
Source: The Committee to Save Grant's Tomb Mosaic Bench, 1980, "Please Help Us Save Grant's Tomb Mosaic Bench," Archival paper record uploaded to Spaces Archives

date was never revealed.

News articles and books about Grant's tomb vary significantly in how they represent the benches, if they are mentioned at all. The Grant Monument Association, which fundraises and supports the continued preservation of Grant's tomb, mentions the benches under the heading "Mismanagement" on their website ("Decine and Preservation", n.d.). Though the association presents highly detailed plans for necessary interventions at the monument, they exclude the benches from further mention. Their take on them reads as such:

> The NPS spent much needed government funds in 1972 on the construction of abstract mosaic benches, which have been widely criticized for having little to do with the monument and for detracting from its architectural and aesthetic character ("Decine and Preservation", n.d.).

Historically, though community members and others have tended to support the benches, there have been many vehement remarks published about them. Some seem to have a flair for the dramatic. A selection of notable quotes is presented below:

> "A contemporary "art project," the Rolling Bench, plagues the atmosphere with distracting colors and irrelevant images more suited to a children's playground than a marker of American history…(the bench) contrasts gaudily against the classical architecture of the tomb."
> - Mackowski, Chris and Kristopher D. White. 2015. Grant's Last Battle: The Story Behind the Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant. El Dorado Hills: Savas Beatie. Page 132.

> "Psychedelic, slightly garish"
> - (Mindlin, 2004).

> "It's like having a roller□coaster ride running up and down the Lincoln Memorial. It may be fun, but it's not history."
> - Ralph G. Newman of Chicago, president of the Ulysses S. Grant Association in 1979. ("Skirmish at Grant's Tomb Over Benches," 1979.)

Previous Conservation Efforts

The benches have been restored three times in the past: in 1980, 1994, and 2008 (Dziedzic, 2011, Pg. 38). The fact that previous restorations have been necessary approximately every ten years suggests that there are ongoing condition issues that have not been fully resolved. It also implies that the benches are due for another restoration, which their current condition would certainly suggest. Previous restorations were completed in partnership with CityArts, the non-profit that helped build the benches originally. In keeping with the intent of the original construction project, the restorations have all involved the local community in the rebuilding process.

Based on available photographs of the 2008 restoration, it appears that the benches were restored by simply finding tiles that were damaged, removing them with a chisel, and replacing them with a similarly colored tile (Akasi, 2008). Because replacement tiles were also donated, problems with their suitability for the outdoors may remain. In addition, old photographs from 2007 show that some clearly damaged tiles in conspicuous locations were not replaced ("NY Grant's Tomb Mosaic Tile Benches", 2007). It is not known if this was due to a desire to preserve the historic fabric, the lack of a suitable replacement tile, or for other reasons. This suggests that not all of the damage seen on the benches has occurred since the previous restoration.

It is also obvious in looking at the benches that some tiles were replaced with tiles of vastly different shapes, colors, and textures. This makes some of the images very difficult to decipher. Without a clear documentation of what was installed originally, it is challenging to return these designs to their original configurations. However, some laboratory testing may be implemented to find tiles of higher durability that closely match the existing colors.

It is worth noting that all of the previous restorations have involved the original artist, Pedro Silva. Unfortunately, Pedro Silva passed away in 2013 ("Pedro Pablo Silva," 2013). However, Pedro Silva's son Tony was also involved in the original project and has contributed to past restoration projects, so it is possible that he might be involved in future restorations efforts (Chancey, Stephanie M., Kenneth Silver, and MLS Stegall. n.d.). The next section of this report will discuss the need for a more conservation-oriented restoration in the future, and will lay

the groundwork for involving the community in such a project.

Involving the Community

The benches at Grant's Tomb have a long history of community involvement that starts with their construction as a community art project in 1972. Members of the community have also been involved in all three previous restoration projects, which occurred in 1980, 1994, and 2008 (Dziedzic, 2011, Pg. 38). While these restorations have been successful in keeping the benches in good condition for a decade or so, the continued need for conservation suggests that there may be some underlying condition issues that have yet to be resolved. With the help of local experts to provide guidance and leadership, it should be possible to find out how to best treat the benches so that they last longer into the future. Previous restoration efforts have been framed as a continuation of the original art project, and have focused on replacing damaged tiles. While replacing tiles will almost certainly be part of subsequent restorations, this should be done using a conservation-oriented approach. The damage should be mapped and documented using set standards. Expert analysis, lab testing, and other tools may be necessary to try to pinpoint why condition issues appear to be recurring. The goal should be to perform a restoration in a way that resolves as many of the problems as possible without creating new ones or detracting from the historic character of the benches.

While this report largely focuses on the material aspects of the benches, it is worth noting that the connection of the benches to the community seems to have deteriorated over time as well. The benches continue to tell their stories, but in the absence of interpretation at the site many people seem to know nothing about them. On several occasions throughout this study, visitors have been overheard exclaiming over the unusual bench designs, but when the topic of why the benches were there has come up, most people just shrug. While performing documentation work at the site for this project, several people came up to ask what I was doing. Many were quite curious about the benches and knew nothing about the history of their construction. It is therefore important that any future conservation efforts involve the community in such a way that the connections between the benches and the local community are restored as much as possible. The intent of restoring the benches should not just be to heal their physical damage, but to restore them as a place of community pride, inclusion, and openness.

Because they manage the site, National Parks Service is one of the main stakeholders of the Grant's Tomb benches. Other notable stakeholder organizations include: The Morningside Park Conservancy, General Grant Monument Association, CityArts, the Morningside Heights Historic District Committee, and Landmarks West. Community stakeholders include local residents, tourists, those who visit the site for recreational purposes, Columbia University affiliates, descendants of General Grant, and many more. Many of these groups and/or people may be potential sources for future partnerships.

Changes in Interpretation

As it stands today, the deterioration of the benches has an impact on the overall appearance of Grant's Tomb. The fact that they are visibly decaying detracts from the experience of both the benches and the tomb, which has its own conservation problems. Furthermore, the tomb itself does not necessarily project a welcoming facade. Guard booths dot the corners of the property, and metal barricades are placed along the main entrance every night. When not moved out of the way, these barricades block access to the benches and contribute to the run-down appearance of the site. The guards themselves are not welcoming, and are quick to remind-after hours visitors that they are not welcome in the plaza in front of the tomb, despite the fact that this is public property which is part of Morningside Park, and not technically administered by NPS (ZOLA records search). These security interventions, while potentially necessary to reduce vandalism, do not encourage visitation. People are unlikely to visit if they feel unwelcome or uncomfortable, which is especially true for local community members, and even more true for members of marginalized groups.

The problems of the benches and the problems of the tomb, at least in terms of declining visitation and the need for capital for restorations, go hand in hand. Raising awareness of the benches will almost certainly raise awareness of the tomb. It is also worth noting that some of the same problems exist at the tomb that existed in the 1970's when the benches were built, namely that the tomb did not feel like a part of the community, and that it did not seem to reflect the interests of younger generations. It is a challenge to interpret a final resting place as a fun place to visit, and over the years the National Parks Service has largely seemed to focus on more solemn interpretation. More lighthearted events should continue to be held to ensure that the community feels welcome



Pedro Silva, the artist who led the construction of the benches, sitting on a newly restored bench in 2008
Source: Joseph Huff-Hannon, New York Times, "Echoes of Gaudí in a Place That Honors Grant," 2008

and connected to the site. However, the benches, in contrast to the tomb, are inherently fun. This, of course, is the root of much of the conflict over them. Regardless of the myriad negative views on them presented in various literatures, they exist, and they should continue to exist in the future. They offer the perfect opportunity to present a more whimsical and exciting side of the tomb, one that will draw visitors both local and from afar.

With such an important historical site as Grant's Tomb there is often the tendency to keep interpretation consistent over the years. However, the collective memory of General Grant has naturally faded with time. Trying to cling to a historical narrative that once brought hundreds of thousands of visitors to Grant's funeral parade is highly unsustainable. In much of the current site interpretation, the popularity of Grant in the past seems to be presented as evidence of the continued importance of the site today. However, there is a massive disconnect between historical patterns of visiting the site and those that exist currently. Many visitors may never have heard of Grant, and if they have, their knowledge may be limited to a paragraph in a high school history class textbook. Presenting historical narratives that focus on the importance of Grant as a historical figure is unlikely to draw visitors if they do not already have a personal knowledge of him or his history. Fostering a connection with the past and interpreting the lives of important historical figures is vital work. However, the way that this is done must evolve with time.

In order for Grant's Tomb to continue to exist, it needs to be visited. People need to care about it. Local community members need to feel connected to it. The tomb is historically important, but it needs to be presented in such a way that its continued importance today is made clear. The tomb is not just the resting place of Grant. It is also a landmark, a community gathering place, and a National Memorial. By presenting the history of the tomb as rooted in the past, the entire site runs the risk of being relegated to a position as a historical relic. Preservationists care deeply about preserving buildings that tell important stories about the past, but members of the general public may not feel that way. The generations that knew of Grant firsthand are long gone, and those whose grandparents knew Grant are quickly fading. In the absence of that collective memory, it is important to bring the site further into history and to make it relevant today. One of the ways in which this can be done is by focusing on interpreting the now-historic benches. The general population has a much better collective memory of the 1970's than they do of the 1890's, and this can be used to the site's advantage.

One of the first things that can be done to begin the process of restoring the benches is to change how they are interpreted. A "Friends of the Grant's Tomb Benches" or similar group could be formed to facilitate the restoration and ongoing maintenance of the benches. There is currently no interpretation of the benches at Grant's Tomb, which makes it difficult for the benches to serve as a clear representation of the local community. They are very visible in the landscape, but their purpose is far from self-explanatory. Many visitors seem to know little about why the benches were there, how and when they were constructed, and who built them.

The benches themselves currently include an inscription that reads "Grant Memorial Plaza - By Pedro Silva and The Community, 1972-74", but this is located at the rear of the tomb, and must be viewed from the north. It is difficult to read due to decay and biological growth. Furthermore, its location is far from eye-catching, and despite knowing it was there, it was difficult to find. The inscription is a helpful historical and spatial record, but it is inadequate to interpret the site in the present day. A sign (even a small one) should be created with community input and installed at the site in a prominent location. It could also be argued that the Parks Service should consider interpreting the benches inside of the tomb or at the small visitor's center. The benches are now 47 years old, and are interesting visually and architecturally. In a world where quirky, unusual places are celebrated, visited, photographed, and broadcast on social media, the benches have great potential to attract tourists to the site. One needs only to look at the success of Atlas Obscura to know that they would make for an interesting destination of their own right if interpreted properly. Bringing people to the tomb to see the benches would also likely increase visitation to the tomb itself. It is much better for the Parks Service to capitalize on such a unique architectural feature rather than ignore it. Yes, the benches will be criticized, but this should be understood and taken in stride. The benches should be a source of pride, not shame. There are many examples of places and buildings interpreting criticism of their artworks in a unique way to engage with the public. One is the Hirshhorn Museum which, after long being criticized for its donut shape, started an event to hand out free donuts.

Interpreting the benches should not be limited to the site. There are many ways of promoting and interpreting the benches online, ranging from the creation of an Atlas Obscura entry to a dedicated Grant's Tomb benches Facebook page and Instagram account. The benches need to have a significant online presence in order to attract more visitors. Most people plan their visits to a particular locale based on online research, and if the benches are

not visible online they will likely continue to be relatively neglected. The benches are ripe for a social media presence because they are quirky, colorful, and make for interesting photographs. They are also relatively unknown, which can easily translate into a sense of discovery, and exclusivity, when interpreted in the right way. Furthermore, their bright colors and wild designs are emblematic of the 1970's, when they were created. With the current popularity of "vintage" structures, now is the perfect time to highlight them. There are hundreds of different scenes that could be photographed and posted online. Photos could be random, could correspond to times of the year (for example a black cat for Halloween), or could celebrate unusual holidays (for example an underwater scene for World Oceans Day). Increasing tourism to the bench site could also greatly benefit the tomb itself. Social media also has the power to be used as a fundraising tool and to help facilitate community involvement.

Creating a Damage Atlas

The benches at Grant's Tomb show many signs of deterioration and decay. Tiles are falling off, glaze is spalling, and biological growth is spreading. Some benches have deep cracks in the concrete which expose the metal formwork. One of the first steps in figuring out why these condition issues are occurring is to examine the benches in the field and create a damage atlas of all known condition problems. I have created an example damage atlas which is included in abbreviated form below. This may form a good starting point, however different types of damage may occur in the future so it is important to update this atlas before proceeding with a restoration. Some of the current condition issues include: tile glaze loss and spalling, tile glaze cracking and crazing (which is likely a precursor to spalling), missing tiles, standing water on bench surfaces after rain or snow, cracks in the concrete formwork, missing pieces of concrete, and significant accumulations of biological growth. The use of a magnifying lens such as a loupe can be very useful in examining damage patterns up close. The creation of a damage atlas should be done in consultation with a conservation professional. Ideally someone with knowledge of conservation issues would perform a site visit, but if not, emailed detail photos may be sufficient.

If there are any maintenance records available about how the benches have been treated in the past, these should be examined for any practices that might have inadvertently led to damage. For example, the paving stones in front of the benches show clear signs of pressure washing. If the benches were also pressure-washed, that may have contributed to some of the missing and damaged tiles seen today.

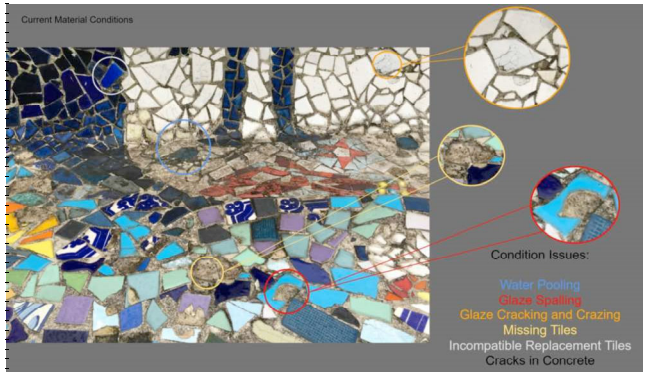
Documentation

Before any conservation work is performed, the benches should be thoroughly documented. This allows the damage to be mapped and analyzed. It also gives future conservators a detailed record of how the benches looked at a given point in time. Documentation can also be used to piece together how past restorations were performed. Furthermore, if something were to happen to the benches, having extensive documentation would allow them to be repaired and/or reconstructed. This documentation should continue as interventions are performed. A record should be created that accurately explains why the benches may have decayed, where that decay was, and what was done to mitigate it. There are many different ways of documenting current conditions and material decay, several examples of which are provided below. As part of this project, preliminary photographic documentation of the benches was completed, as well as two different test damage maps. This can serve as a useful record, as well as an example of how to complete documentation in the future. Most documentation methods can be completed with help from the local community. Documentation projects can also serve as a useful learning experience and could involve local educational institutions.

Photography

One of the best ways of documenting the current conditions of a historic building or structure is through photography. Though it includes some distortion, photography offers a clear and detailed record of the current conditions of the structure. It can be used to capture both overall and detailed views. It is also the best method of capturing a record of a structure's color. When documenting a structure through photography, it is important to keep a detailed record of where and how photographs were taken so that they may serve as a useful historical record in the future. The easiest way of doing this is to add an erasable whiteboard to each photograph. This whiteboard can be used to add necessary information directly to the frame of the photo.

Documenting the site through photography can easily be accomplished with the involvement of



An example of a damage atlas, May 2019
Source: Prepared by Sarah Sargent



An example of how the camera can be set up for photographic documentation, May 2019
Source: Sarah Sargent

community members. If it is possible to rent multiple cameras and tripods teams of people could tackle multiple areas at once. If not, a relatively small number of people could assist in measuring, moving the camera, writing the whiteboard notes, and leveling the tripod. It is possible that a documentation event could be completed with the help of local community members who are interested in learning more about photography. A photography workshop could even be offered, with documentation of the site occupying the morning and a more creative lesson occupying the afternoon. Photographs should be taken head-on from the front and back, and at an angle to capture the horizontal surface of the seat.

In the test photographic documentation completed for this report, bench orientation was recorded (East, North, or West), the distance from a predetermined point (in this case the start of the inlaid stone rectangular paving blocks and the corner where they meet at the Northern edge), the distance behind or in front of a O line (the rear edge of rectangular stone paving blocks), the angle of the camera relative to the ground, the height of the camera relative to the ground, and the angle of the camera lens.

In this instance, all photos were taken with a Canon EOS Rebel T3 Digital SLR camera with an 18-55mm kit lens. This particular camera model is somewhat outdated, but it is representative of an inexpensive entry-level DSLR camera that produces quality images for documentation. Images were shot in both RAW and JPEG form to capture the maximum amount of data. The camera was set to Program mode, which automatically adjust the shutter speed, ISO, and aperture. The lens was allowed to auto-focus. This makes taking the photos for documentation quite simple, and allows it to be done by an inexperienced photographer. However, there is a also a significant amount of perspective distortion in an 18-55mm lens. To remove distortion requires the use of a wide-angle tilt-shift lens, which is very expensive to purchase. The 18mm lens may also not be wide enough to capture the entire rear of the bench while looking towards the tomb, where there is very little room to maneuver. A tilt-shift lens or fixed wide angle lens may be necessary to complete this phase of documentation. These may be rented, and it is possible that a camera store such as B+H Photo Video might be convinced to donate a short-term lens rental in order to support the documentation project.

In this test case, an inexpensive plastic tripod was used, which can be purchased for less than $20. It was set to the lowest possible height in order to capture the benches head-on, which in this case was exactly 24”. The camera was kept level and parallel to the bench surface. The distance from the 0 point measured each time the camera was moved. A 100’ measuring tape laid out at the edge of the paving stones helped with this. A distance of 5’ or 3’ (depending on site obstacles) was measured back from this line at each five-foot interval. Each time the camera was moved to a new position it was re-levelled, using two built-in bubble levels on the tripod mount. Other tripods may offer more efficient leveling systems, and may be worth pursuing due to their potential for added efficiency. Leveling the tripod can be tedious, and adds to the time required to take each photograph. However, it is necessary to level the camera to ensure that the photographs are consistent throughout the documentation.

Though photography is a simple way of producing an effective documentation, it is not without its challenges for the Grant’s tomb bench site. The stone pavers on the ground made leveling the camera and adjusting the tripod necessary for almost every individual photograph. Because the benches are curved, they are difficult to document. In order to capture every surface of the benches, it will be necessary to take some photographs of the back of the bench looking towards the tomb. However, this will almost certainly require a wide-angle lens, as there is only a small ledge from which to take pictures. Some areas may not be accessible at all due to the presence of trees and tall bushes planted around the perimeter of the tomb courtyard. Weather is also a potential challenge. It is best to take photos when it is cloudy but not raining or windy. Direct sun can create harsh shadows in the photographs, and can blow out overexposed areas so that they appear white. Wind makes it difficult to keep the camera steady, and may blow over the recording whiteboard and/or disturb the measuring tape.

Other Methods

Aside from simple photography, photogrammetry may also help in documenting the benches. Though this software is expensive and requires training to use, it could produce a three-dimensional scale model of the benches. If the photographic documentation were done properly, those photos could then potentially be used with photogrammetry software to create a model. Detail photographs could be added to the model to better capture the individual tiles.

Because it is difficult to access many areas of the site, drones may also be used to photograph the benches. Drones would be especially useful for photographing the horizontal seat of the bench, which is difficult to capture accurately with a tripod. A drone could be flown above the benches at a consistent altitude while recording video. Stills of the video could then be taken to use in conjunction with the other photos. Because the site is managed by the National Parks Service, special permission would have to be granted for drone use. Both photogrammetry and drone photography should be performed by knowledgeable preservation professionals.

Damage Mapping

One of the easiest ways of documenting and mapping damage is by marking it in the field and photographing it. Damaged tiles can be counted, categorized, and catalogued through the use of a spreadsheet. This gives an overall sense of what percentage of each type of tile is damaged. By cataloguing damage by tile color and type, it is possible to identify patterns of deterioration. Based on field observations it is obvious that some colors of tiles exhibit more signs of deterioration than others. These need to be mapped, in order to provide a basis for examining which tiles need to be explored further through materials testing. It is also important to map the tiles that are original, as well as those that were replaced at a later date. Mapping deterioration is also crucial for calculating the scope of the restoration project, including hours, number of people, and materials needed.

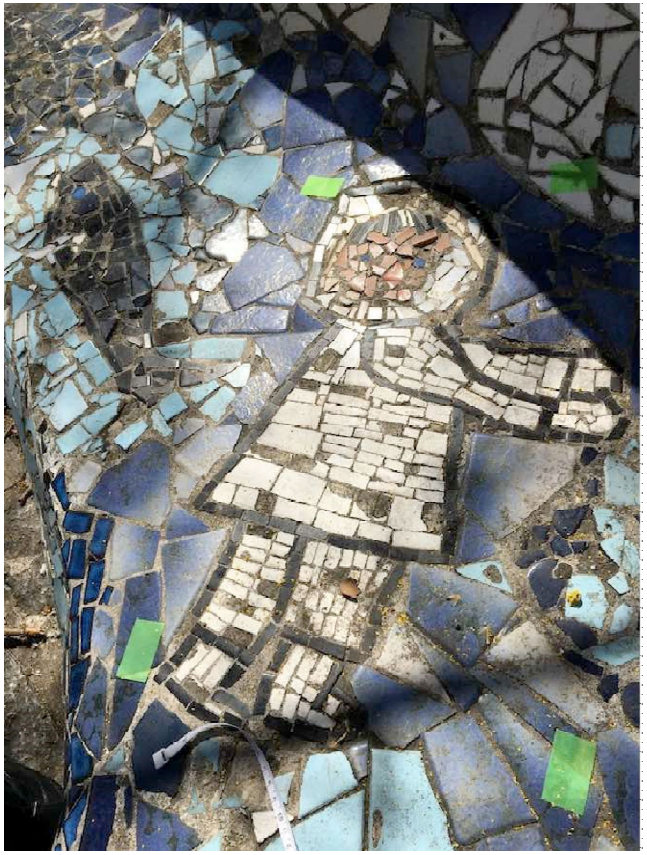
Damage mapping could also be done with community involvement. It is very time consuming, so having a large number of people to assist would be very useful. A short training should be held to ensure that everyone is able to catalogue the damage in the same way. A conservation professional or someone with some training should be onsite to offer clear definitions of damaged areas and to assist with any questions that arise.

To document damage by hand, a small section of the bench should be focused on at once. It can be taped off with blue painter's tape, or marked with brightly colored flags. A grid pattern could be developed and placed over the benches to ensure a complete and organized documentation. A 12" by 12" or 18" by 18" square area might work well, though anything larger than that is difficult to manage. First, the different colors and types of tiles in each grid area should be identified and recorded. There may be many different types of tiles even in a small area. These differences should be noted in a spreadsheet or field notebook. Then, each tile of a particular color and type should be counted. Once all of the white tiles are counted, for instance, the number of tiles with damage should be noted. Visible damage includes cracks or crazing in the glaze, glaze spalling, and tile loss. Because it is difficult to keep track of which tiles have been counted, it is helpful to use easily removed stickers to mark and color-code the type of damage on each tile. Tiles should also be tapped with a sounding hammer or other object to check for changes in sound that may indicate a lack of adhesion with the concrete substrate.

Counting tiles by hand in the field is simple and easy to do without much training, but it does have limitations. It does not provide a scaled map, and keeping track of photographs may be difficult even with annotations.

The most detailed way of creating a complete damage assessment is through the use of CAD software. It is not recommended that community members attempt to document damage in CAD. A documentation photo can be opened in CAD and scaled. (If there is obvious distortion that may need to be corrected in photoshop first, though the best way to avoid distortion is to use a tilt-shift lens to take the photo in the first place.) The transparency of the photo is reduced. Then, each tile can be outlined using a very thin line. Tiles that show damage in the photo can then be marked with different colors that correspond to the type of damage. It is best to do this in the field with a portable laptop to ensure that all of the damage, including the results of percussion testing, is marked. However, this may not be feasible, in which case only the visible damage will be noted. The advantage of this technique is that it also produces a clear and highly detailed drawing of the benches, which is useful for general documentation purposes. It also provides a model of the benches and each tile that is to scale. However, there are significant downsides to using CAD. It requires training to use, and it takes time to become efficient at using the software.

The most significant drawback of this technique is the time required. As a test, I attempted to draw every tile on a section of bench. As a student who has used AutoCAD before, I averaged about two hours per square foot of bench drawn. It is very time consuming to trace each tile individually, as they are all different,



A photo of the figure that was mapped as a test, April 2019
Source: Sarah Sargent

and do not have regular shapes. At this rate, drawing every tile on every bench would take someone approximately three years of full-time work (2 hours per square foot x 3,220 square feet of bench= 6440 hours). Though efficiency would likely improve over time, this renders attempting to draw each tile essentially pointless, because by the time someone finished the documentation the conditions would have noticeably changed, and the damage would have gotten worse. Therefore, it is recommended that CAD drawings be used for only the most significant tile images, or those that require a higher level of documentation than photography can provide.

Materials Testing

Based on site analysis, it appears that the damage to the tiles has a relatively straightforward cause. One theory of why the tiles are losing glaze to spalling is as follows. The tiles and glaze expand and contract during freeze-thaw cycles, which causes small cracks to form in the glaze over time. Water eventually infiltrates these cracks. When that water freezes, it expands, exerting outward pressure on the glaze, which then falls off in small chunks. Some of the tiles appear to be more affected by this than others. It is possible that these tiles were not well suited to outdoor use and are more sensitive to temperature changes than others. However, it is important to fully understand how this is occurring, and to ensure that any replacement tiles will not have the same problem. Therefore, materials testing in a lab setting may be necessary. Sample replacement tiles can be attached to concrete substrate and subjected to repeated freeze-thaw tests. This testing and any other necessary tests should be performed by an experienced conservation professional.

Conservation, Maintenance, and Upkeep

The restoration work itself should be completed with significant involvement from local community members. Conservation professionals should be involved in planning the conservation intervention. The tiles that need to be replaced should be mapped or otherwise identified in the field. Some community members could be involved in the tile removal process, but they would need to be trained in how to properly use chisels and other tools. The most community involvement can be achieved through the tile breaking and installation processes. Breaking the tiles (with proper safety equipment) could be turned into a fun community event. Furthermore, people of all ages could be involved in replacing the damaged tiles. These events would need to be supervised, but could otherwise be open to community input. The decision would need to be made ahead of time what constraints should be placed on the replacement tiles. Community members could be given freedom in the choice of tiles (which would foster a greater sense of involvement) or could place tiles of a predetermined color and type in a set pattern to better replicate the original historic fabric. It could be argued that some evolution in the tile designs may be justified if it results in a renewed sense of community ownership over the site. Given that there is no known complete documentation of the original bench, returning it to its original state is likely impossible. Therefore, it makes sense to allow the bench to change slightly with continued community input. It may even be possible for community members to add to the bench, or to be involved in the creation of an element of on-site interpretation.

Ideally, community members should continue to be involved in the maintenance and upkeep of the benches after they are restored. This can be as simple as holding an annual clean-up day to remove leaves and other debris from the area. The benches may also need occasional cleaning with an appropriate gentle cleanser. All of this work can easily be organized through a "Friends of the Benches" group if one is created as part of the restoration process.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the benches at Grant's Tomb have a long history of serving the community, and have spatialized underrepresented narratives since their construction from 1972-1974. They have survived for 47 years, and have stood through two separate attempts to tear them out. They have been largely rendered invisible by official narratives of Grant's Tomb, and the story of their construction is not clearly represented at the site. However, their colorful forms have power as a form of community expression and inclusion. The benches hold the potential to help interpret the site of the tomb at large, and to draw visitors to the tomb. Three past restorations have already been completed, but the benches have once again started to deteriorate with the passages of time. A community-based conservation project should be undertaken to restore them to a more functional and aesthetically pleasing state. Members of the local community should be involved in this process as much as possible, to reestablish the benches as a community project.

Test Section: Inuit Figure (Measured 11"x20") Documented 4/13/19					
Type of tile	# of tiles	# glaze missing	# cracked	Sound change	
White Matte	165	25	140	8	
White Speckle	22	11	11	0	
Bluish White	15	0	0	0	Note- Erosion of mortar between tiles in this area
Black	131	0	131	1	
Dark Brown	18	6	4	5	
Light Brown	2	0	0	0	
Red Tiles	2	0	0	0	Note- Both significantly faded but no glaze loss
Mottled Blue	41	3	0	0	Note- Significant surface scratches were visible
Round Blue	2	2	0	0	
Light Blue	8	4	2	1	Note- 2 adjacent tiles that may have been light blue at one time are completely missing
Total:	406	51	288	15	
Square Feet: 1.53				Time to Document: 40 minutes	

An example of how to use a spreadsheet to keep track of damage mapped by hand
Source: Prepared by Sarah Sargent



An example of a damage map created in AutoCAD
Source: Prepared by Sarah Sargent

Save Our Homes: Morningside/Manhattanville

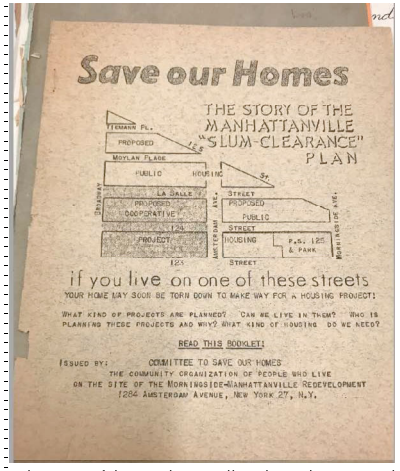
Andrés Álvarez-Dávila

This proposal seeks to promote inclusion by using a large-scale graphic composition to spatialize the hitherto invisible history of Save Our Homes, a grassroots tenant organization that resisted processes of urban renewal in the study area from 1951-2. However, beyond that, the proposal is conceptualized as a reckoning with the fraught legacies of urban renewal and histories of unilateral institutional action, the consequences of which, in the area's built form, power dynamics, and demographic make-up, continue to reverberate to the present. This project seeks to confront suppressed histories by revisiting Save Our Homes' claims to urban space; demand recognition of historic iniquities perpetrated against vulnerable populations; and provoke critical reflection about historic patterns of exclusion and the continuing impact of institutional power on the study area's built environment and social fabric. Giving physical expression to narratives related to Save Our Homes is well suited for confronting this suppressed memory, because it promises to assert the historic reality of spatial injustice — and of the protesters who resisted it — in more public and forceful ways than would be possible through non-physical interventions like history writing.

The Save Our Homes Committee, a multiracial tenant organization backed by the American Labor Party, was formed in response to plans, developed by Morningside Heights, Inc. and the Mayor's Committee on Slum Clearance Plans, to redevelop two city blocks as Morningside Gardens, a middle-income cooperative, under Title I of the Housing Act of 1949 (alongside the General Grant Houses, a NYCHA public housing project). Residents whose homes were designated for clearance organized the Save Our Homes Committee in October 1951, and challenged the project's entire rationale - starting with the presumption, never conclusively proven, of social decay in the targeted area. The group formed part of a network of other tenant organizations that united potential evictees from geographically dispersed Title I urban renewal projects into a citywide Save Our Homes movement (Zipp, 2010). Save Our Homes activists across northern Manhattan, including those in Morningside Heights, were among the first to notice that, on many urban renewal sites, the burden of clearance fell disproportionately on blacks and Puerto Ricans. The Morningside-Manhattanville project, in fact, called for the destruction of one of the then-few racially integrated communities in New York. The group spoke out against the inevitable displacement of residents, especially of the minority



View from Manhattanville
Andrés Álvarez-Dávila


Save our Homes
THE STORY OF THE MANHATTANVILLE "SLUM-CLEARANCE" PLAN
if you live on one of these streets
YOUR HOME MAY SOON BE TORN DOWN TO MAKE WAY FOR A HOUSING PROJECT!
WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS ARE PLANNED? CAN WE LIVE IN THEM? WHO IS PLANNING THESE PROJECTS AND WHY? WHAT KIND OF HOUSING DO WE NEED?
READ THIS BOOKLET!
ISSUED BY: COMMITTEE TO SAVE OUR HOMES
THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON THE SITE OF THE MORNINGSIDE-MANHATTANVILLE REDEVELOPMENT
1284 AMSTERDAM AVENUE, NEW YORK 27, N.Y.

The Story of the Manhattanville "Slum Clearance" Plan
Source: Columbia University Archives, Morningside Area Alliance Records, Box 89, Folder 4



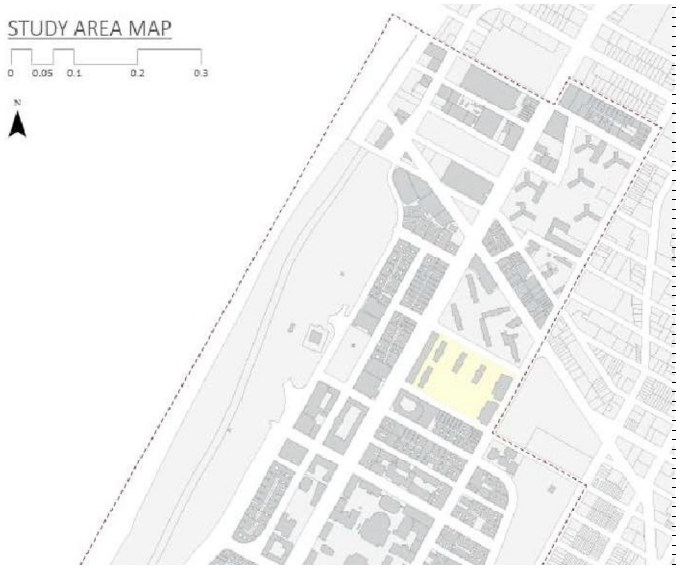
Photograph of Neighborhood from the Morningside-Manhattanville Slum Clearance Plan Under Title I of the Housing Act of 1949
Source: Columbia University Archives, Morningside Area Alliance Records, Box 3, Folder 37 (Gold, 2014)



Board of Estimate Meeting Draws a Full and Fervent House
Source: Columbia University Archives, Morningside Area Alliance Records, Box 89, Folder 4 (Chronopoulos, 2012)



Aerial View of Morningside Gardens as Boundary
Source: Google Earth



Site Diagram
Andrés Álvarez-Dávila

groups who suffered from discrimination and segregation in housing and accounted for half of the area's population (Statement of the Committee to Save, MAA Records). The group's opposition tactics, which included petitioning the Board of Estimate and disrupting its meetings with hundreds of demonstrators, succeeded in delaying approval of the project by city government for over a year.

The connection of organizers to the labor movement made it easy for the city government, the mainstream press, and Morningside Heights, Inc. to dismiss the tenants' legitimate dissent as communist-backed obstructionism and fear-mongering (Chronopoulos, 2012). The powers-that-be suppressed the voices of tenant activists, and Morningside Heights, Inc. leveraged its clout to gain final approval for redevelopment under Title I (Schwartz, 1993). The project proceeded as planned: Morningside Heights, Inc. built Morningside Gardens, and in the process obliterated all physical trace of the neighborhood--and the people--the site formerly housed. The construction of Morningside Gardens clearly delineated the boundary between predominantly white, middle-class Morningside Heights and more indigent, African American and Hispanic Harlem. It is the ultimate result and spatial inscription of Morningside Heights, Inc.'s unilateral agency, and perpetuates the omission of narratives related to Save Our Homes Committee in the built environment.

This project attempts to redress this omission by supplementing the site with an impermanent graphic composition of texts and images sourced from the Morningside Heights Inc Archive at Columbia, where the memory of Save Our Homes has persisted in its posters, pamphlets and other ephemera. The proposed graphics would be affixed to the urbanistically hostile back wall of Morningside Garden's garage on Broadway, a major thoroughfare that connects Columbia's Morningside Heights campus and the new campus in Manhattanville, the most recent spatial inscription of institutional agency in the study area. The graphics are meant to serve the memory of activists who resisted unjust redevelopment and to alert current populations, especially those connected with Morningside Heights institutions, of historic iniquities that shaped the present character of the study area. This project is conceptualized as an impermanent installation that would catalyze critical reflection of the continuing impact of institutional power in shaping the area's built and social fabric, as the neighborhood faces the changes adumbrated by the construction of the Manhattanville campus.

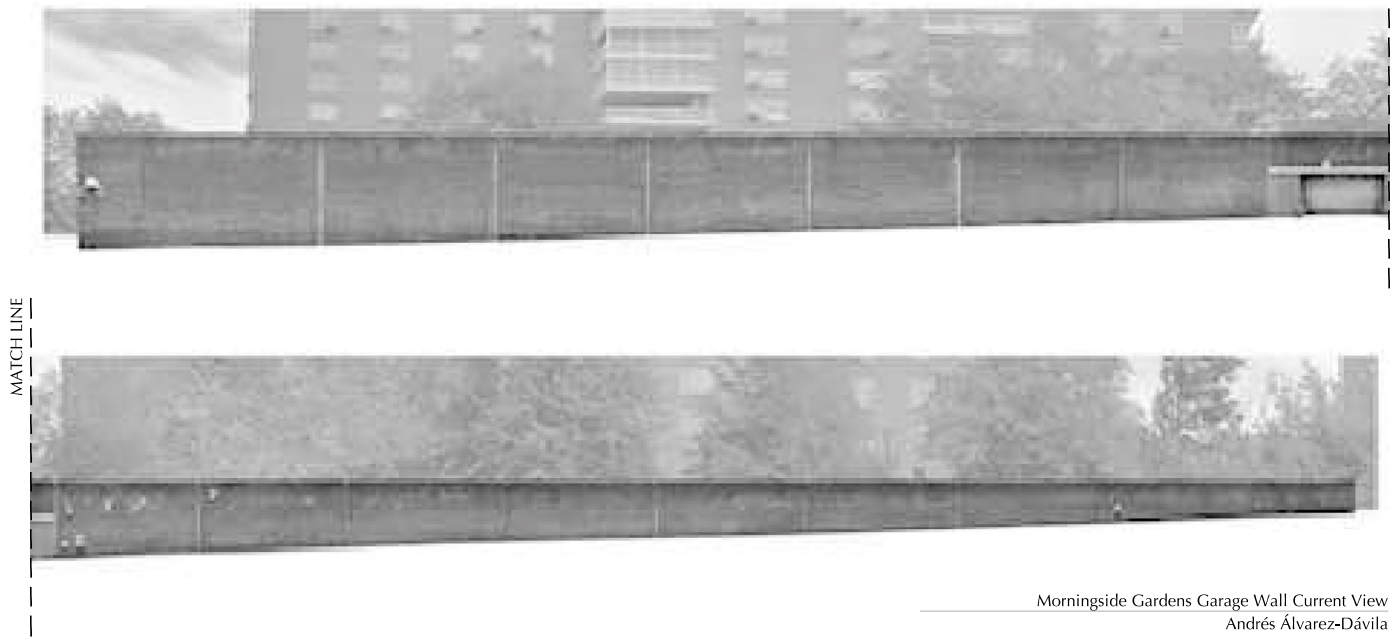
Morningside Heights, Inc.'s official timeline, essentially copied verbatim, offers the overarching organizational principle for the graphic composition, and informs the public of the events that preceded the construction of Morningside Gardens. Texts and images above gloss this chronology, and express the

efflorescence of textual production, debate and conflicting claims on urban space that accompanied Save Our Homes' activism. Texts in red represent the point of view of protestors; texts in black, those of Morningside Heights, Inc., city government, and their supporters. The design sets key words and phrases in the texts from the two different sides in relation to and in conflict with each other, creating slippages and disjunctures between them. Altogether, these texts express the questions of justice, inclusion and urban futures protestors raised, while images contextualize these debates and inscribe them in the space then being contested. The composition is mean to recharge historically contested ground, give recognition to Save Our Home's spatial politics, and critically interrogate the processes and agents that determined the area's history and defined its spaces.

In order to implement this proposal, securing permission to use the back wall of Morningside Gardens from the Morningside Heights Housing Corporation is obviously a necessary prerequisite. The Morningside Area Alliance, the Morningside Height's Inc.'s current incarnation, may be amenable to this kind of collaboration. In the recent past, it has concentrated its efforts on fostering communication among institutions and promoting social services for surrounding communities. Funding this project might offer an opportunity for member institutions of the erstwhile Morningside Heights, Inc. to publicly establish accountability for their past actions, and facilitate collective processes of reckoning with fraught histories of urban renewal.



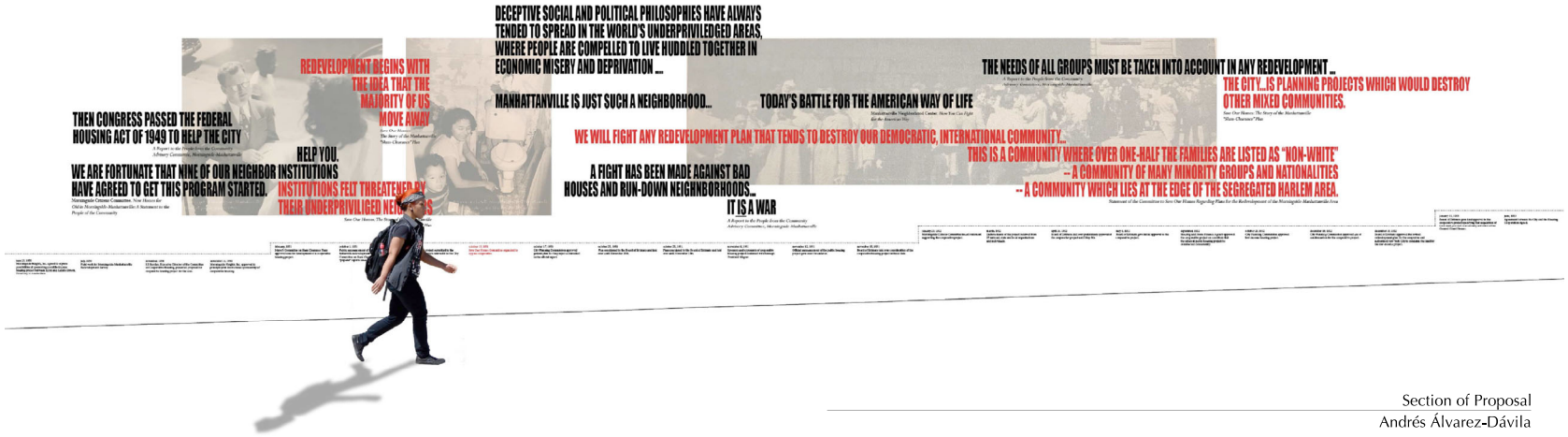
View from Morningside Heights
Andrés Álvarez-Dávila



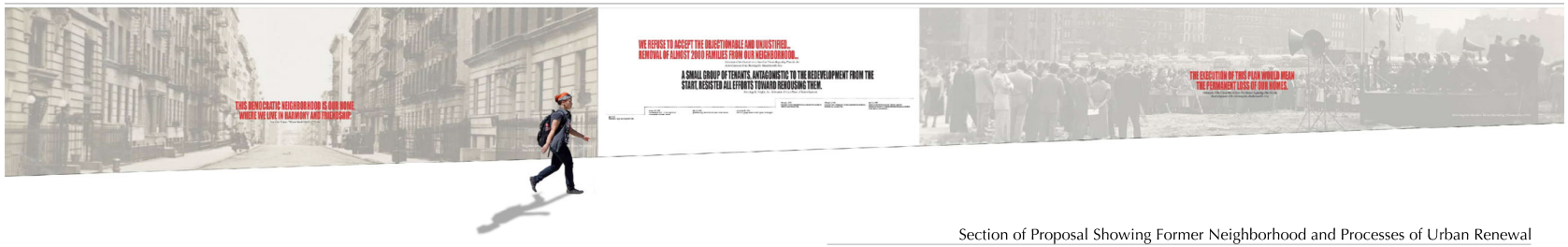
Morningside Gardens Garage Wall Current View
Andrés Álvarez-Dávila



Proposal
Andrés Álvarez-Dávila



Section of Proposal
Andrés Álvarez-Dávila



Section of Proposal Showing Former Neighborhood and Processes of Urban Renewal
Andrés Álvarez-Dávila

"Walk With Us!" Residential Displacement Tour

Emily Junker

This proposal is comprised of a walking tour of Morningside Heights that enlightens the walkers of the impact that institutions have had on the residential environment of Morningside Heights. These sites cover the neighborhood's history of institutionally driven single room occupancy (SRO) elimination, urban renewal, and acquisition of residential buildings for institutional use. These histories are further illuminated by the resistance to eviction, protests, and activism that brought institutions and the community to a head. Nevertheless, institutional influence and power were successful in expanding within Morningside Heights while other plans were thwarted.

Purpose

The walking tour aims to generate consciousness about the long history of destabilization and tenant displacement by institutions and its continuance today. At the pedestrian scale, walkers interact with this history's physical remnants or lack thereof. It can establish communication between Columbia, other institutions, and the communities. This history can be instrumentalized to advocate for the inclusion of much needed affordable housing and to mitigate ongoing displacement of rent-stabilized tenants and those in the path of expansion.

Inspiration

The inspiration for the walking tour comes from Morningside Heights tenant activist groups themselves. "Walk with us!" read a demonstration poster, "Join a sightseeing tour of scenic Morningside Heights. See such wonders as 500 apartments held vacant by institutions, Empty lots where tenants once lived" (Runyon, Box 2, Folder 14; University Protest and Activism Collection, Box 7, Folder 22). Also recovered from the archive was a neighborhood walk of SROs that had been eliminated (Runyon, Box 3, Folder 16). As recently as April 2019, the Morningside Heights Community Coalition conducted a Morningside Heights "walk around" with a council member and chair of the Department of City Planning and her staff to demonstrate the neighborhood's "missed opportunities for affordable housing, ongoing displacement of rent-stabilized tenants, and potential for future development opportunities with affordable units in an updated rezoning plan" (Morningside Heights Community Coalition, 2019). Consciousness about the long history of destabilization and tenant displacement by institutions and its continuance today can establish communication between Columbia, other institutions, and the community, to make better real estate decisions. This can encourage the exploration and implementation of inclusion of much needed affordable housing.

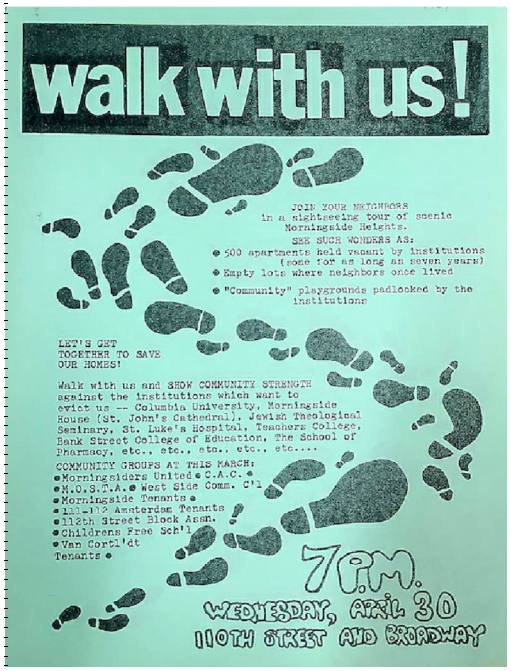
Methodology

Mapping the impacts that institutions had on the residential built environment helped spatialize the incidences of urban renewal, SRO history, and acquisition of residential buildings. These three themes were broken down into typologies. Superblock urban renewal describes the massive clearance of entire blocks for residential redevelopment at Morningside Gardens, Grant, and Manhattanville Houses. Institutional urban renewal describes the assemblage and demolition of residential buildings to build institutional buildings such as Columbia's East Campus. Other residential buildings were demolished and left underdeveloped in the form of parking lots, playgrounds, or vacant lots. Of 34 SROs in 1961, only five are still non-institutionally owned SRO classified buildings in the neighborhood ("All Single Room Occupancy Buildings in Morningside Heights." 1961; New York City Department of Buildings, 2019). Residential properties in Morningside Heights, including SRO's and apartments, were converted to Columbia or Barnard dorms, or used as university affiliated housing, offices, and classrooms. Overlaying these nuanced incidences presents an overwhelming picture of the disintegration of the residential community.

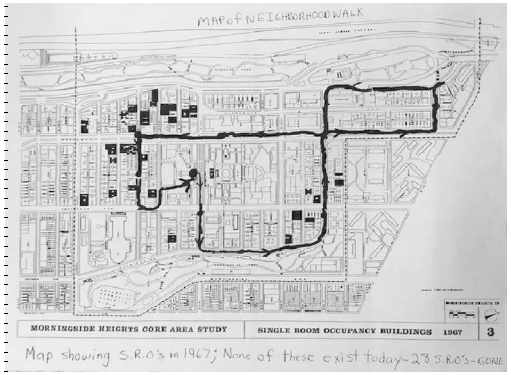
Research into site histories informs the content of this tour. Documents recovered especially from the archive of Marie Runyon, a leading Morningside Heights tenant activist, the archives of Morningside Heights Inc., and the Columbia University Protest and Activism Collection, were consulted. As were numerous historical newspaper articles. These resources helped begin to build site-specific stories for over 50 sites. From these a curation of 11 of the most illustrative sites illuminated a reasonable route for a walking tour, which was further refined in consideration of walking distance and time limitations. The route follows a path that would allow for additional sites of significance to be easily incorporated.

Implementation

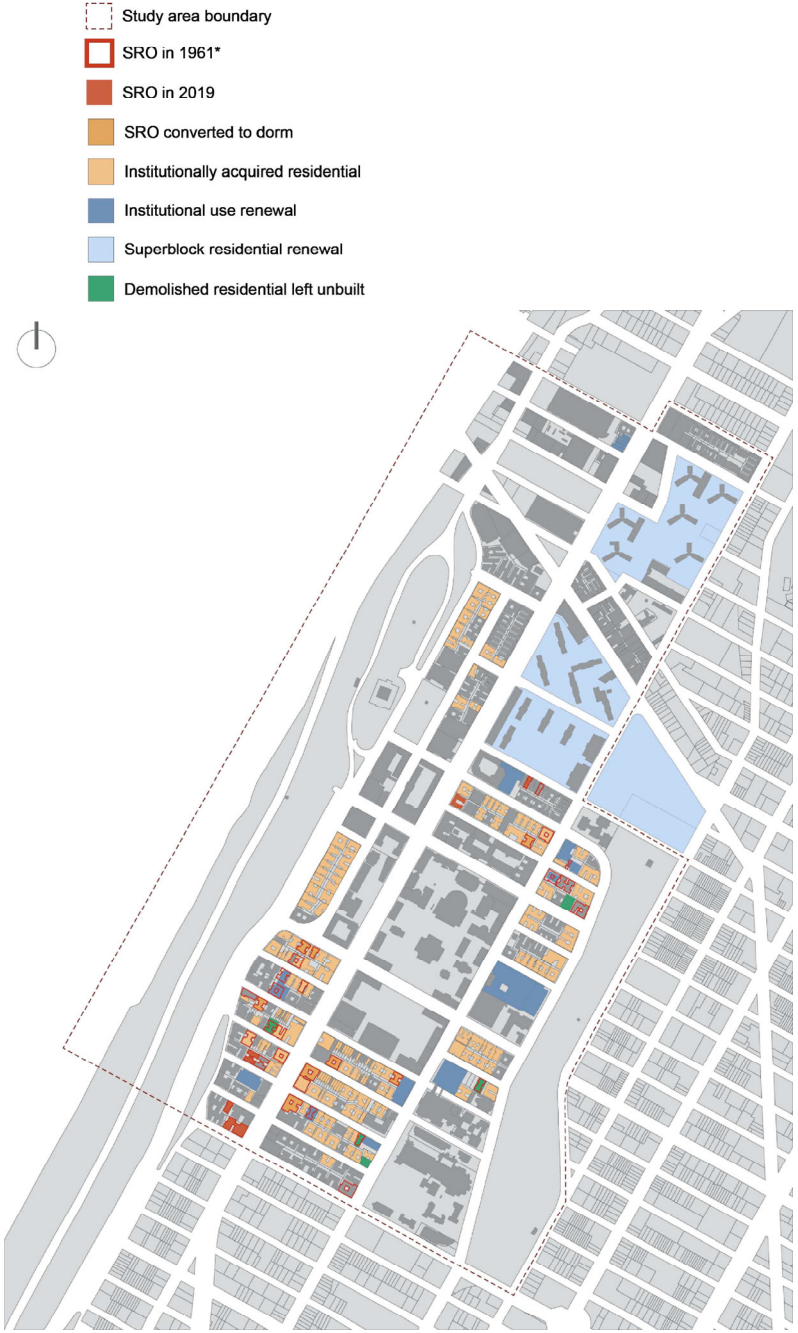
The proposed route and site descriptions that follow will allow anyone with this report to get an overview of



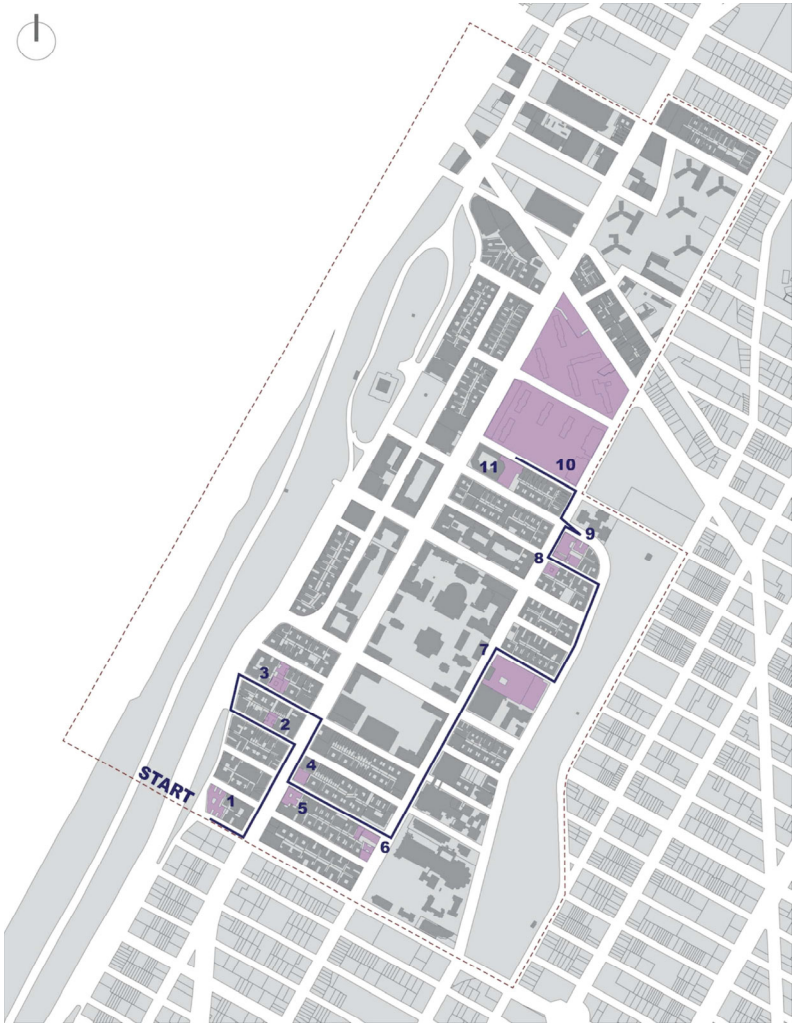
"Walk with us!" tenant groups demonstration poster
Sources: Columbia University Archives, Marie Runyon Papers, Box 2, Folder 14; Columbia University Archives, University Protest and Activism Collection, Box 7, Folder 22



SRO Neighborhood Walk
Source: Columbia University Archives, "Map Showing SROs in 1967," Marie Runyon Papers, Box 3, Folder 16



Map of institutional impacts on the residential built environment of Morningside Heights and Manhattanville organized by incident typology
Emily Junker



Proposed Morningside Heights Residential Displacement Tour
Emily Junker

residential displacement histories in Morningside Heights. The map and descriptions of 11 sites follow.

However, the tour can be adjusted to create a longer or shorter version in order to tell different narratives or to accommodate different people's limitations. For example, a tour of Columbia only buildings could be made to make current students aware of and reflect on their role as temporary residents of the neighborhood. More research and organization need to be completed to more fully narrate the specific stories of the many sites identified. Resources for this further research have been identified by our studio and can be expanded.

Involvement of the people who are a part of this history, whether activists, the displaced, or long-term neighborhood residents, can fill in and personalize these narratives. This can create an ongoing dialogue for institutions and the community to talk openly about this complex and unreconciled history. This can also inform the contemporary debate about how to use real estate in the neighborhood to provide community needs such as more affordable housing, accommodate institutional needs, and maintain the contextual character of the built environment.

Tenant activists and long-term residents of the neighborhood could act as tour guides to give personal narratives. Exploring how their individual stories could be captured, such as an oral history, could further preserve and connect this narrative to the built environment.

Finally, an online platform is a necessity in order to build upon these narratives and gather them in a single place. The future of this walking tour could also have a self-guided component through an interactive map accessible through one's device. This would allow users to experience these sites at their own pace and will allow for the inclusion of all documented stories rather than solely the curated paper tour provided here.

THE TOUR

Tour Introduction

Much of the tension between area institutions and the surrounding community comes from their efforts to expand and to prioritize their own affiliated communities' interests. A 1946 Memo by University President Butler put the intention of Columbia's property expansion into words: to protect the neighborhood from, "the greatly feared invasion from Harlem which has been threatened more than once." While Columbia began buying residential properties that were built on the private market to house their students and faculty as early as 1919, it was in 1946 that Morningside Heights institutions began to organize against what they saw as blight invading their neighborhood. The 1950's were marked by 'slum clearance' urban renewal projects beginning with Morningside Gardens and Grant Houses. The 1960s marked a period of institutional expansion planning that encouraged the elimination of Single Room Occupancies (SRO) and proposed vast renewal schemes especially for the areas south and east of Columbia University. While not all institutional renewal projects were fulfilled, the acquisition of residential properties was a way that institutions secured and aggregated lots for future expansion and could control who lived in the neighborhood.

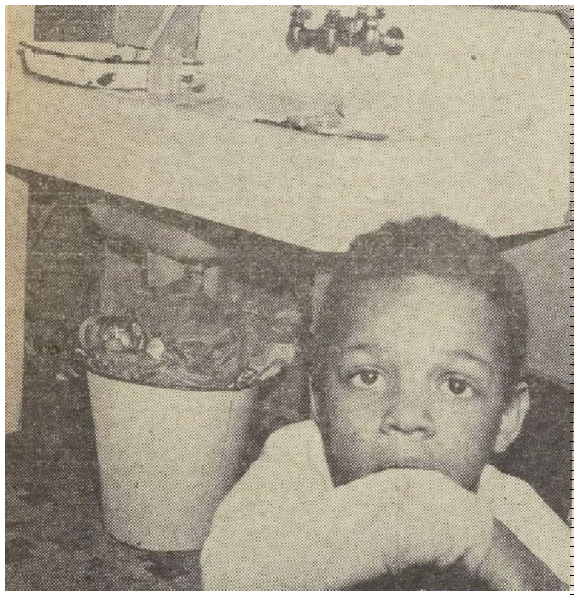
These buildings were transformed into uses that served or prioritized institutions at the expense of a wide range of residents. Not only was blighted housing such as deteriorated tenements or apartment houses that were converted to SROs targeted, perfectly sound apartment buildings were also in the line of the "institutional bulldozer."

Superblock urban renewal affected approximately 13,812 residents, of which 4,342 were Puerto Rican and 4,676 were black (MMR Survey 1950). Further, between 1960-1968 approximately 6,700 SRO tenants—of which 2,500 were black or Puerto Ricans—and 2,800 other residents of the neighborhood were displaced by institutional acquisition of residential buildings (Rauch, Feldman and Leaderman 1968). Evictions, relocations and tenant harassment have caused subsequent uncounted displacements. Furthermore, for those residents not displaced, their struggle to stay in the neighborhood has certainly had an impact on their life.

As a reminder, institutional expansion continues. Columbia's Manhattanville campus development resulted in the relocation of residents from six residential buildings in Manhattanville (Community Board 9 2008). Although lessons have been learned from the past, tenant displacement is still one of the biggest issues in the community. Indirect displacement, especially from Columbia's growth, will add students and employees of Columbia to the neighborhood resulting in rising housing prices and harassment of rent-stabilized tenants within and beyond this map's boundary ("Final Environmental Impact Statement For The Proposed Manhattanville In West Harlem Rezoning And Academic Mixed-Use Development" 2007). As part of a Community Benefit Agreement, Columbia



Columbia University Evictions Destroy Morningside Heights Community
Source: Columbia Daily Spectator, Jacqueline Shea Murphy, "Tenants Hold All-Night Vigil: A dozen take over empty CU apartment," August 28, 1985



This community kitchen is shared by eight families. These same eight families also use the same toilet and bath tub.
Source: Columbia Daily Spectator, Alfred Eichner, "Slums on Morningside-2 Residence Hotels Just Like Airless Prisons," Feb 11, 1958, Photo credit to Norman Bernstein

has committed to a $20 million dollar affordable housing fund, four million dollars in tenant legal services, and $76 million dollars that can go to housing advocacy groups (CBA 2007).

Let this tour be a reminder of past housing injustices and a tool for reconciliation and inclusion into the future.

Background: SROs in Morningside Heights

Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings were also called 'residence hotels' 'residence clubs' and 'rooming houses.' When classified as a residence hotel, apartment buildings were no longer rent-controlled (Eichner Feb 24, 1958). This would allow landlords to charge what they wanted and remove tenants at any time (Eichner Feb 24, 1958). However, this classification also required the operators to provide certain services to their occupants such as doorman, desk service, and maid service, yet in most of the SROs in Morningside Heights these services were not provided or not done adequately (Eichner Feb 11, 1958). "To the men who run the rooming house, SRO symbolizes six-rents-for-one. To the poverty-stricken residents, crowded into cubicles as small as eight by eleven feet in size, SRO spells only sorrow" (Drosnin, Nov 16 1964).

In Morningside Heights and other neighborhoods that developed in the early twentieth century, the SRO buildings were often middle- and high-class apartment houses built following the construction of the subway. They were six- to ten-stories. Five apartments were typically on a floor and could contain from four to nine rooms. Typically, these apartments had long corridors so that as many rooms could have window exposures. The labyrinthine corridors were often not well lit and lacked fire egress. Building owners subdivided these large apartments into single rooms, usually with cheap partitions. The rooms were often ten- by fourteen-feet. While the law limited SROs to no more than two adults, many housed families with two adults and several children. These families shared a kitchen and bath with five to eight other families.

Most buildings were converted following WWII although some were converted to residential hotels in the late 1930s to accommodate those moving north seeking economic betterment and war time production jobs (Drosnin Oct 28 1964). In early years, they also provided housing for students of the neighborhood institutions. In 1954, a law suspended the conversion of buildings to SROs, and the law was again extended to 1962. By then, the city was actively dealing with the problems within SROs city-wide. The Department of housing reported 585 SRO's city-wide in November 1957.

Landlords were viewed as "mercenary blood-suckers" for profiteering off of poor and vulnerable communities who had little agency. On the other hand, they provided housing to those who might otherwise be homeless. Blacks and Puerto Ricans often resided in SROs because they were unable to get public housing and were discriminated against in the private housing market. Migrants from Puerto Rico and the Southern United States were looking for economic opportunities in New York, Yet with an apartment shortage and housing discrimination, they ended up in SROs. It was estimated that more than half of the SRO residents were on welfare. These poor families were neighbors to the "socially undesirable," those recently released from prison or mental institutions who were no longer being treated in inpatient facilities in the state.

SROs were considered a health and social menace to their tenants and to the greater Morningside Heights community. In 1957, the concentration of 400 police in the precinct was cited for reducing crime in the area (Eichner Nov 26, 1957). However, residence hotels were seen as harboring the remaining element of crime on the heights. The SROs were considered to be havens for prostitution, narcotics junkies, policy racketeers and ex-criminals, violence, and gambling. Crime in the neighborhood, according to police at the time, was not organized. Five- and ten-dollar street walkers worked out of the residence hotels and narcotics, particularly heroin were disseminated there in small quantities (Drosnin Oct 26, 1964).

Many groups and agencies were working to eliminate the "slum" buildings. These groups included Morningside Heights Inc., the Morningside Citizens' Association, The Morningside Property Owners' Association, The Temporary State Housing Rent Commission, The Department of Buildings, The Riverside Democratic Club and the City Planning Commission (Eichner Mar 5, 1958).

Between 1958 and 1963, seven crash inspections of area buildings were performed by a special squad deployed by the Deputy Commissioner (Cooper 1963). These inspections were encouraged by M.H. Inc who provided the Commissioner with a list of area buildings. While some building code violations and a couple of overcrowding violations were discovered, these were not always enough to get action taken against the landlords. M.H. Inc and other local groups however, still felt the buildings presented serious social problems to which they

held the building owners responsible: “One rotten building of this type can spoil a whole block. Several spoiled blocks can ruin a neighborhood” (Drosnin Oct 28 1964).

Remedco—the real estate group of Columbia University, Barnard and eight other neighborhood institutions—began to strategically purchase the SRO’s, often at what they claimed was a financial loss (“CU Buys Three Hotels, Vows To ‘Clean Up.’” 1964). Their express purpose was to clear out the occupants and demolish or gut the buildings. William Bloor, treasurer of the University explained, “The school can’t operate in an atmosphere of degradation (“CU Buys Three Hotels, Vows To ‘Clean Up.’” 1964).” However, this left the tenants of the buildings and those concerned for their welfare wondering, “where will they go?” “For Columbia the answer was, “somewhere else.” (CU Buys Three Hotels, Vows To ‘Clean Up’ 1964).

Issues of racial segregation and moral obligations of the city and neighborhood institutions to these vulnerable populations became the topic of debate.

In September of 1961 tenants of the Devonshire, a local SRO, filed a charge with the State Commission Against Discrimination (SCAD) accusing Columbia University of attempting “to drive Negroes and Puerto Ricans from the Morningside Heights area (Arnold, 1961).” The charges were dropped in the following February. “Though the report concluded that persons entitled to preference in the rehabilitated building would be “predominantly white,” it pointed out that non-white students, teachers, and staff members would receive equal treatment (Housing Bias Case Won by Columbia: S. C. A. D. Clears Institution of Devonshire Charges 1962).

In 1967, the City Commission on Human Rights criticized Columbia’s Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) group which provided relocation assistance to tenants for “chasing” black and Puerto Rican residents out of the neighborhood through intimidation and illegal eviction (Hardman 1967). The program’s director, Ronald Golden, was responsible for the relocation of residents of the York Studios, The Princeton, Albert Hall, and the Oxford Hotel, four SRO’s acquired by Columbia. He said the tenants were predominantly black and Puerto Rican. Columbia Daily Spectator Journalist Martin Filler followed Golden on his visit to several relocated tenants (1967). While Golden emphasized that there had been no “persecution,” and that the tenants were “happy,” Filler interpreted their reactions to be less enthusiastic (1967). One former resident of the Bryn Mawr, an elderly woman who needed a cane to walk, was placed on the 6th floor of a walk-up building and was seeking an apartment on a lower floor (Filler 1967). Another former resident of the Oxford was placed in another SRO that she considered to be worse. This led her to quit her clerical job at Columbia and move to Brooklyn (Filler 1967).

Ultimately, it has been estimated that this “attack” on SROs resulted in the displacement of 6,700 SRO tenants between 1960 and 1968 (Rauch, Feldman and Leaderman 1968).

1. **The Hendrik Hudson**

- Address: 380 Riverside Drive
- Historical Use: Apartment House, converted to an SRO
- Present Use: Private apartment house
- Displacement: 301 SRO rooms, 1,066 - 1,500 residents (Rauch, Feldman and Leaderman 1968; Barnett 1960)

The Hendrik Hudson was not an institutionally acquired SRO and is included in this tour to demonstrate that SRO’s were considered a city-wide problem and their eradication was not only an institutional venture.

Rouse & Sloan architects designed the Hendrik Hudson as an eight-story upper-middle income apartment house in 1907 (Dolkart, 1999, 346). During WWII, the 72 apartments were divided into 301 single-room occupancy units (Margulies 1958). Max Schneider was a principal stock holder of the Est Pearl Realty Corporation, which bought the building in 1955 (Eichner Feb 21, 1958). The Metropolitan Life insurance company held the mortgage of the Hendrik Hudson and profited from it without concern for the travails that occurred there (Eichner, Feb 20, 1958).

Each single room was said to be home to a black or Puerto Rican family (Eichner Feb 19, 1958). They shared 51 community kitchens. One seven-room apartment was occupied by seventeen persons, sharing the same kitchen and bath (Margulies 1958). Rent ranged from $7 to $17.25 a week (Margulies 1958).

The Building became notorious through the 1950s and was considered “one of the city’s worst slum buildings (Barnett 1960).” Police raids were said to have occurred nightly. In an eleven-month period in 1957, “thirteen arrests were made in the building for narcotics, prostitution, numbers taking and bootlegging” (Eichner Feb



The Hendrik Hudson
Source: Google Maps



Parking Lot (York Studios)
Source: Google Maps

19, 1958).

In April 1957, a Building Department inspection disclosed almost 200 violations of the Multiple Dwelling Law and Code, including illegal conversions to single room occupancy, unlawful cooking spaces, defective plumbing features and "no secondary means of egress for all apartments, all floors" and "accumulation of rubbish, junk, disused furniture, etc." (Eichner Feb 19, 1958; Eichner Feb 21, 1958). Mr. Schneider and the other owners managing the building were convicted and fined $75 in September of 1957 with over 100 of these violations still unremoved (Eichner Feb 19, 1958).

In 1958, a boy was killed in an elevator accident which set the city off to investigate building and health code violations (Barnett 1960). This resulted in the jailing of the landlord. The Hendrik Hudson was bought by private investors in 1959 to be converted into a "first-class" building with one- to three-bedroom apartments. "The new owners had to persuade the old tenants--some of them prostitutes, narcotics addicts and other undesirables—to move (Barnett, 1960)." Those who rented the apartments following the renovation included many Columbia University faculty and students.

2. Parking Lot (York Studios)

- Address: 611 West 113th Street
- Historical Use: Apartment House, converted to an SRO around 1937
- Present Use: Parking Lot
- Displacement: 140 SRO rooms, likely 280 residents ("All Single Room Occupancy Buildings in Morningside Heights" 1961; Rauch, Feldman and Leaderman 1968)

York Studios was originally an upper-middle class apartment house called the Sunnycrest. It was built by V. Cerabone Construction Co. with Schwartz & Gross architects in 1907 (Dolkart 1999 348).

The York Studios was converted into an SRO by the late 1930s. An advertisement for York Studios from 1938 reads "Luxuriously Modern! Housekeeping, elevator, hotel service." But following WWII, these buildings began to cater to an "undesirable" clientele in the eyes of the surrounding white middle-class institutions.

In 1950, a Columbia Teachers' College post-graduate student, Kenneth Roduner, was found dead bound and gagged in his room at York Studios ("Student Found Dead, Bound and Gagged, 1950). Criminal activity was often traced to the local SRO's made this housing typology a target of M. H. Inc.. In 1961 they conducted a survey of SRO buildings and institutional expansion needs. Following, buildings were acquired by Remedco and tenants forced to leave.

The early campaign sparked criticism and investigation into the practices of these institutions in their acquisition of properties. In 1964 the city approved a General Neighborhood Renewal Plan (GNRP) which reiterated that the elimination of SRO's was a goal, but it tried to limit expansion of institutions by overseeing their plans. However, Columbia continued to vacate four SRO's—the York, Oxford, Bryn Mawr, and Princeton (622 West 113th Street across from the York Studios site)—despite their being outside of the approved projects. Columbia created a mistrust between neighborhood groups, residents and The City ("Columbia Action Stirs Community," 1965).

The York was demolished in 1965. Rather than building housing, an athletic field for the use of the Columbia community was installed in its place. There were four handball courts, basketball and shuffleboard courts on a paved, fenced area. A local political leader, Frank Baraff charged that while "the use of the field for physical education activities, although an admirable thing in itself, was not the primary purpose of the University when it purchased the land ("New Neighborhood Athletic Facilities Nearly Completed CU-Owned Field Built On Site of SRO Hotel." 1958)." Edward Solomon, head of M.H. Inc., said the University purchased the building because it was one of "the worst SRO's on the North side" (New Neighborhood Athletic Facilities Nearly Completed CU-Owned Field Built On Site of SRO Hotel 1958). Today, the facility does not exist any longer and is a parking lot.

To the rear of this site, you can see another vacant lot on the south side of 114th Street (no. 618). This empty lot was the location of a small Columbia acquired tenement where the university was accused of using harassing tactics to dispossess tenants. Fifty members of the Community Action Committee occupied the building on the evening of May 17, 1968. A concurrent demonstration by the Students for a Democratic Society was alerted of the building's seizure and subsequently marched to 114th street. "The crowd rallying to the support of the Community Action Committee filled 114th Street from sidewalk to sidewalk from Riverside Drive almost to Broadway" (Van Gelder 1968). More than fifty uniformed policemen wearing riot helmets moved through 114th Street to clear the

occupied building.

3. St. Hilda's & St. Hugh's School (Hudson Hall and College)

- Address: 611-619 West 114th Street, (also 620 West 115th Street)
- Historical Use: Apartment Houses, converted to SROs
- Present Use: St. Hilda's & St. Hugh's School
- Displacement: 225 SRO rooms, likely 450 residents ("All Single Room Occupancy Buildings in Morningside Heights" 1961; Rauch, Feldman and Leaderman 1968)

Hudson Hall and the College building were SRO's whose story is illustrative of how M. H. Inc. both targeted SRO's and coordinated their use to fulfill institutional needs.

Hotel Arleigh, 620 West 115th street, was purchased in 1945 by College Studios Inc. (Eichner Feb 21, 1958). The six-story building was divided into ten single-room units with two bathrooms per floor. There were not kitchens and residents cooked illegally on burners in their own rooms (Eichner Feb 21, 1958). It was acquired by Columbia university and razed in the fall of 1961 ("Apartment House On W. 114 Street Purchased by CU." 1962). Hudson Hall and the College Building, 611-619 West 114th Street, were purchased by Columbia in December 1962. While the Arleigh's lot was seen as too small to be profitable for construction, the site of Hudson and College Halls were promising ("Apartment House On W. 114 Street Purchased by CU." 1962).

However, Columbia sold them to St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's school for only $1.00 (Dolkart 1999 327). With REMEDCO, they lent money for the construction of a new school building on the site that cost $4.6 million (Dugan 1967). This achieved both aims of ridding the neighborhood of SRO's and allowed St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's school to expand. It was hoped that this primary school and the Bank Street School—which M.H. Inc. and Columbia assisted in a similar manner to acquire property nearby—could make the neighborhood more attractive to faculty. (Dolkart, 1999, 327)

In addition to the inability to find affordable and adequate housing, one of the most severe problems cited by faculty of local institutions was the poor quality of public education in Morningside Heights. Faculty preferred to live in the suburbs and to commute in order to keep their children out of the public schools in the neighborhood. Other faculty sent their children to private schools at great expense. "Various faculty members have called the Morningside schools "antiquated," "overcrowded," and "behind the times in their techniques of teaching" (Burd 1957)." Another added: "Educational progress for the gifted child is slow because an undermanned faculty must spend most of its time teaching underprivileged Puerto Rican children to speak English (Burd 1957)."

4. Armstrong Building (Oxford Hotel)

- Address: 545 West 112th Street
- Historical Use: Apartment House, converted to an SRO in 19--
- Present Use: Columbia and NASA offices
- Displacement: 197 SRO rooms, likely 394 residents (Rauch, Feldman and Leaderman 1968)

"The Oxford Hotel was an SRO acquired by Columbia and converted for non-residential office use.

The Ostend Apartments were converted into an SRO known as the Oxford Hotel (Dolkart, 1999, 334). The Oxford Hotel was purchased by Columbia in 1965. At the time, the Oxford Hotel was considered a "bad building" which housed "an undesirable element" (Drosnin 1965). The block between Broadway and Amsterdam on West 112th Street—where the Oxford was located—was "considered by the police to be one of the two "highest hazard posts" in the precinct. Its crime rate is one of the worst in the neighborhood. A spokesman for the 26th Precinct said the Oxford has a long history of arrests, ranging from narcotics to prostitution. "This was a routine arrest for the Oxford. You could go in there any time of day and find something going on," he said (Hartzel Feb 24, 1965).

William Bloor, the University Treasurer would not disclose the price of the building nor the intended use. Most of the tenants were black and some were surprised that Columbia would acquire the hotel at a moment when they were being criticized for displacing minority groups from the heights.

Members of the Oxford Hotel tenants committee charged Columbia of trying to oust them to clean up the neighborhood in favor of the University (Tenants Claim Columbia Ousting Them to Make Area Safe For Univ.) Columbia's Housing Office offered stipends to get the people to leave, starting at a mere fifty to one-hundred dollars. The tenants also charged that the hotel management—who was working for Remedco— harassed and



Armstrong Building (Oxford Hotel)
Source: Google Maps



Burgess Hall (Devonshire)
Source: Google Maps

intimidated them and plugged locks to get them to move (Tenants Claim Columbia Ousting Them to Make Area Safe For Univ.).

The community was outraged that Columbia was continuing to evict tenants from this building through the summer and fall of 1965. Like York Studios, it was not one of the approved sites in the GNRP ("Columbia Action Stirs Community: Mrs. Motley Seeks to Know Why 350 Were Ousted." 1965). Once the building was emptied, it was gutted and converted into the Goddard Institute of Space Studies and renamed Armstrong Hall (Dolkart 1999, 334).

5. Burgess Hall (Devonshire)

- Address: 542 West 112th Street
- Historical Use: Apartment House, converted to an SRO in 19--
- Present Use: Columbia Dorm
- Displacement: 351 SRO rooms, likely 702 residents (Rauch, Feldman and Leaderman 1968)

The Devonshire, like many other SROs and residential buildings acquired by Columbia and Barnard, was converted into exclusive student housing.

The Devonshire is a ten-story Neville & Bagge designed apartment house built in 1907 (Dolkart 1999). It contained six apartments per floor, some containing up to nine rooms and three baths. In 1947, it was rent decontrolled and in 1952 it was purchased by Devonshire Associates, whose principal member was Sol Henkind (Eichner Feb 21 1958). Henkind was an immigrant from Russia who worked his way up in the real estate business (Eichner Feb 18 1958). At the Devonshire, with his partnership, he made a substantial profit of between $22,000 and $34,000 annually on an original investment of $90,000 (Eichner Feb 18 1958). All the while, he did not invest in maintenance for the hotel nor did he supply the services expected of a hotel such as daily maid service, desk personnel, and doormen. Following Henkind's acquisition of the building, it deteriorated rapidly (Eichner Feb 18 1958). The spacious apartments were broken into about 226 rooms averaging nine by twelve-feet. Up to eight families shared a bathroom and kitchen (Eichner Feb 21 1958).

"As of February 1958 there were 102 violations of law pending in the Department of Buildings against the Devonshire. These included "nuisances of vermin in the community kitchens and private halls," "unlawful cooking space" and "occupancy for sleeping purposes unlawfully increased." (Eichner Feb 21 1958)."

Remedco offered Henkind a to buy the building's mortgage and to give it a loan—a total of $1,500,000 (Schwartz 1961). Henkind agreed to use the loan for renovations and to give Columbia personnel priority to rent the new apartments. Following the acquisition of the mortgage, tenants received seven-day eviction notices (Schwartz 1961). 190 of the building's 350 tenants proceeded to vacate the building. However, the 160 who remained began to organize a tenants' association to fight their eviction. Some residents who were members of the Democratic club and lived in the building hired a lawyer to fight their case in court (Schwartz 1961).

Many of the tenants considered the Devonshire as their permanent residence, having occupied the building for many years. Additionally, because the hotel services were not provided, they fought in court to remove the hotel status of the building and regain rent-control protections (Alpern Oct 5 1961). While the landlord and Remedco continued their efforts to remove the tenants, the tenant's association resisted. They called the Devonshire "a prime example, a test case" to determine whether the city's rent control law "enacted to protect tenants during a housing emergency has any real value," or whether "big money or big money pressures can drive the Puerto Ricans, Negroes and other minorities from the Morningside area despite the law" (Alpern Dec 6, 1961).

On January 10, 1962 the local State Rent Administrator announced that the Devonshire was no longer a hotel and it was again subject to rent control (Alpern Jan 11 1962). In order to continue evicting the tenants, Henkind would need to go through a lengthy process with the state rent administrators. In a letter to the state rent administrators, William Bloor wrote in reference to the Devonshire: "Columbia University and the institutions which have joined efforts to remove this cancer from their neighborhood, would find incomprehensible the action of a governmental authority to prevent their action" (Alpern Jan 11 1962).

Remedco bought the Devonshire Hotel in July of 1962 for $750,000 (Institutions Buy West Side Hotel: Devonshire to Be Rebuilt for Columbia Tenants 1962). By this point only 29 of the 226 units were still occupied. Services in the building declined and the new management failed to provide heat to the building several times during the winter (Schwartz 1962). Additionally, tenants complained about faulty wiring and plumbing and lack of paint on walls. However, their efforts to fight for these repairs were futile as their final settlement required them to

vacate by July 1st (Hotel Granted Extended Time For Repairing Court Acts After Plea Of Devonshire Tenant. 1963). Few tenants except for those on welfare would receive any assistance in relocation. Following, the building became known as Burgess Hall and is used as a Columbia dorm.

6. Morningside House Site

- Address: 1046 Amsterdam (also 500-510 West 112th Street and 501 West 111th Street)
- Historical Use: Eight Apartment Houses, one was an SRO
- Present Use: Phipps House Apartment Building and Parking lot, Apartment House, and Amsterdam Garden.
- Displacement: 730 residents, 184 housing units and 126 single rooms (Rauch, Feldman and Leaderman 1968)

The Morningside House site demonstrates the partial success of tenant action and community support. Squatters occupied empty residential units and preserved them. Additionally, an affordable housing complex was built on the site of demolished apartment buildings.

The site comprised of seven apartment buildings, including one SRO, on Amsterdam Avenue 111th and 112th Streets across from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Morningside House was emptying the building in order to build a home for the aged. Six-hundred mostly white families were evicted by Morningside House, affiliated with St. Luke's Hospital, through a 6-year battle (Episcopalians for the Poor 1970). 1046 Amsterdam Avenue still contained three families. Following, In the summer of 1970 380 mostly Hispanic squatters—who lived in poor conditions in the surrounding neighborhoods—took over three buildings including 1046 Amsterdam, 503 West 111th Street, and 500 West 112th Street (Episcopalians for the Poor 1970; Alexander 1970). One of the buildings did not have running water, gas or electricity. Episcopalians for the Poor was a group of "concerned church people" that formed to fight for the restoration of the buildings to house this population (Episcopalians for the Poor, 1970). In August, the tenants and over 100 of their supporters joined on the steps of St. John the Divine where the president of Morningside House announced that they would be given 72-hour eviction notices (Episcopalians for the Poor 1970; "Protesters Rally at St. John's To Back West Side Squatters." 1970). They appealed in court. In November, Morningside House announced its plans to build a home for the aged had been discarded (Gansberg 1970). The Church intervened to supply heat and hot water to 1046 Amsterdam and 500 West 112th Street where the squatters concentrated (Gansberg 1970). The remaining buildings were demolished.

In 1971, "more than 100 policemen with an array of equipment that included a mobile communications center, five patrol wagons and gas masks converged on two of the squalid tenement buildings (Burks 1971)." They were only authorized to evict the three official tenants. However, two had already vacated, so only one family was ousted by the excessive police force.

In 1976, the building at 503 West 111th Street caught fire, killing one of the squatting tenants (Hart 1976). In the following nine years, squatters stood their ground and fought Morningside House in court (Verrengia 1979). Morningside House relinquished ownership of 1046 Amsterdam to the city (Lock and Caridad 1979). HPD and the Manhattan Valley Development Corporation took responsibility for the building to make necessary repairs.

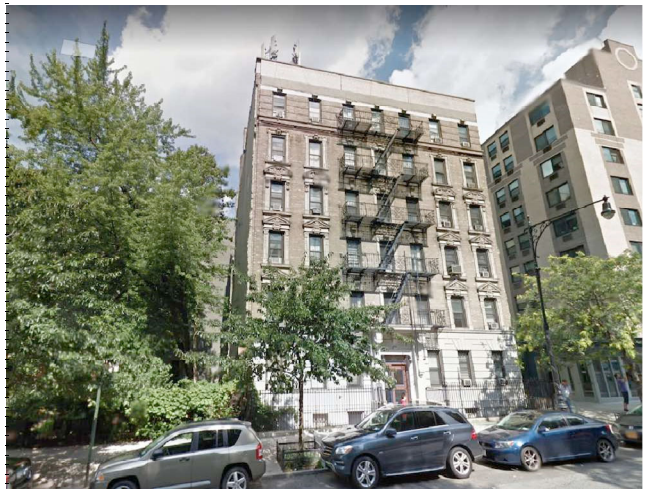
On the corner of 111th and Amsterdam, the community began to cultivate a garden in the place of the demolished building, and today it is called "Amsterdam Garden." To the north of the site, Phipps House, an affordable housing, tower and parking lot were built.

7. Columbia East Campus

- Address: 420 West 118th Street and 74 Morningside Drive
- Historical Use: 16 row houses and 7 apartment houses
- Present Use: Columbia East Campus: International Affairs Building, East Campus Residence Hall, Heyman Center for the Humanities

8. Plimpton Hall (Bryn Mawr)

- Address: 420 West 121st Street
- Historical Use: Apartment House, converted to an SRO
- Present Use: Plimpton Hall Barnard Dorm
- Displacement: 190 SRO rooms, likely 380 residents (Rauch, Feldman and Leaderman 1968)



Morningside House Site
Source: Google Maps



Plimpton Hall (Bryn Mawr)
Source: Google Maps

The Bryn Mawr was the most notorious SRO in the neighborhood and became a key pin in the debate about how to help residents in SROs and how to relocate them in a more humane way.

Built as a middle-class apartment house in 1905, with thirty apartments, the building was subdivided into 190 single-room units. In 1962 it lost its hotel status because it was not providing services and was brought under rent control regulations. Columbia bought the mortgage to the building in February of 1963 with the intention to "clean the place up" and had plans to own it in the future ("More Plans For Morningside CU May Buy the Bryn Mawr, A Slum Building in Local Area." 1963; Shapiro 1963). As the mortgage holder of the building, community members believed that the University had a moral obligation to see that the building was well-maintained and tenants cared for.

M.H. Inc. described the Bryn Mawr of "having many social violations in the recent past, including crimes of assault, dope addiction, and prostitution ("More Plans For Morningside CU May Buy the Bryn Mawr, A Slum Building in Local Area" 1963)."

In November of 1963 a prostitute was arrested at the Bryn Mawr. The police posted a sign on the outside of the building that read "These Premises Have Been Raided by the Police" (Shapiro, 1963). Following, a police officer was stationed in the lobby 24-hours a day. In 1964 alone, 48 arrests were made, mostly for narcotic possession. Nine were found dead in the building in the one-year period, mostly due to narcotics overdose but two were also considered possible murders (Drosnin Nov 19, 1964). "Moreover, it [was] believed that many of the muggings, house burglaries and auto thefts that plague the neighborhood are committed by residents of "this den of iniquity," as one community leader called the building (CU Buys Three Hotels, Vows To 'Clean Up' Oct 28, 1964)."

In January of 1964, Columbia sought to buy the Bryn Mawr through Remedco. However, Morton Jay, head of the management company for the building, still owned the 15-year lease and fought back against the low price Remedco set. Mr. Jay claimed that Columbia was harassing him to force him to sell:

> "'I don't want to sell the lease, but I will sell it because they're giving me such a hard time. But I won't give it away. They don't want to buy this lease,' they want to steal it from me.'" "'I'm willing to get out,' the hotel manager said. 'But, I'm not going to crawl out. Columbia doesn't want to part with any money; they want to force me to leave" (Drosnin Nov 16 1964).

Columbia pressured the Department of Buildings to make an inspection in which 325 violations were uncovered. Remedco bought the hotel in July of 1964. In November, through partial pressure by a letter from William Bloor, Columbia University Treasurer, the City Department of Welfare put the Bryn Mawr on its non-referral list due to its high incidence of building violations and crime ("Off Welfare List" 1964). It was estimated that more than half of the residents were on welfare and had been placed there by the agency.

Bertram Weinert, Director of the Office of Neighborhood Services at Columbia University, submitted a proposal in November of 1964 to the Vice President of the University Lawrence H. Chamberlain and other officials of the University (Drosnin Nov 20 1964). He called on the University to take responsibility for allowing the residents to stay in the Bryn Mawr for at least six months following the university's acquisition of the property in order to supply social services to the occupants. He also called for the rehabilitation of the building and priority occupation for families dislocated by University expansion.

A week after Weinert submitted his proposal, he was fired. While Vice President Chamberlain denied the Bryn Mawr played a role in the decision, his reasoning included disagreement over the scope of his job and the slow pace at which Weinert was relocating tenants on Columbia sites. Weinert understood that "when human rights and property rights conflict, institutions always seem to choose property rights" (Drosnin Dec 4, 1964). At the CORE conference on urban renewal in 1965, Weinert remained involved in the issue and called on Columbia students to rally for the cause (Hartzell, 1965).

During the same week, Remedco delivered eviction notices to the manager and 150 residents and called them to court to defend themselves (Drosnin Nov 24, 1964). More than forty of the tenants organized resistance and retained a lawyer to represent those who were not on welfare (Drosnin Dec 3, 1964). Ninety other residents who were on welfare were represented by a lawyer from the welfare department. A group of other local tenant organizations formed an area wide tenants' organization, the Tri-Community Organization, and coordinated a rally at city hall two days before the hearing.

On December 17, 1964 tenants of the Bryn Mawr and their supporters picketed outside of the New York

County Civil Court. “Robert Night, one of the principal organizers of today's demonstration, declared that ‘Columbia University has no jurisdiction to determine where people are to live and where they are not to live.’ He accused the University of "practicing discrimination and selectivity to control who should live in the neighborhood” (Welt 1964). The remaining 140 tenants of the Bryn Mawr were all black. An investigation into the expansion policies of the University was set into motion by the Democratic District Leader (13th A.D. West) Margaret L. Cox who charged that they discriminated against Puerto Ricans and blacks and were furthering the racial segregation in the area (Drosnin Dec 8, 1964).

In February of 1965, the court ruled in Columbia’s favor, breaking the lease with the managing agent and giving Remedco complete control over the future of the building (Drosnin Feb 25 1965). This would set a precedent for similar buildings that Remedco sought to own including the Oxford Hotel (Bryn Mawr 1965). The new director of Columbia’s ONS, Ronald E. Golden, said that the university would continue to help relocating residents within their deadlines. He admitted that "Tenants unfortunately will not have the rent control advantages that they enjoy here” (Hartzell Mar 1 1965).

The Morningside Citizens’ Committee Vice Chairman, John Erlich, saw the Bryn Mawr as an “opportunity for public agencies, local institutions, and community residents to join together in bringing-' maximum help to its tenants through a variety of services! Certainly there are no single, simple, or immediate answers to the needs of addicts, alcoholics, prostitutes and the like. But where in the City is there more potential for dealing with these needs than reposes in the institutions which constitute Remedco, owner of the Bryn Mawr? Could a better "laboratory" be found for students to learn about urban problems and be an integral part of developing services aimed at solving them?” (The prospects for Morningside 1964).

However, the University’s role in such matters was questioned. In their defense, budget restraints prevented them from providing the scale of social services suggested to care for the residents their expansion program displaced.

“Should the University hold back needed increases in faculty salaries and scholarship aid to pay for teams of doctors, psychologists and social workers? Carrying out extensive rehabilitation projects is not Columbia's job. It is rather the responsibility of the various City agencies concerned with social problems. Columbia must also act responsibly, however. It must give sufficient notice to those it has to displace, continue to give relocation help, and maintain its Office of Neighborhood Services to familiarize people with available social services from which they could benefit. It should do everything it can to ensure that Morningside remains an integrated community, and especially guard against driving out decent citizens because they happen to live in the same building as dope addicts and other "undesirables” (Community Policy 1965).

The head of the Bryn Mawr Tenants’ Group, Mary Pierce, invited a St. Luke’s Hospital social worker, Joan Shapiro, to implement a “self-help” rehabilitation program at the building (Dolin Mar 2 1965). The program set up a community room for the residents with television, radio, and games. They also provided weekly parties, movies, family-style dinners, classes, programming from local institutions and church services. Volunteers from the hospital referred tenants to medical treatment and rehabilitation programs at the hospitals and to employment opportunities. A doorman was also placed in the building and police patrolling was reduced (Dolin Oct 4 1965).

The program ran from March to October and was considered a success. Tenants were said to take action to improve their own lives and living conditions (Hartzell Apr 14 1965). The building was cleaner and better maintained by tenants. Crime was reported to have discontinued in the building (Dolin Oct 4 1965). Nevertheless, Columbia continued to relocate the tenants. By October only seventeen remained in the building (Dolin Oct 13, 1965). Columbia and relevant city agencies conferred to see if the pilot social services program at the Bryn Mawr could be applied in other locations throughout the city (Dolin Nov 23 1965). However, a program ending in the relocation of all tenants, especially following the apparent improvement of their condition and group bonding is questionable.

Following, the Bryn Mawr was purchased by Barnard for $335,000 from Remedco (Hartzell Feb 21 1966). Barnard at the moment was only able to provide housing for half of their student population (“Barnard Seeking New Dorm Sites.” 1966). They decided to demolish the building in order to accommodate more student housing on site than could be possible in the existing building (Hiatt 1966). A 16-story tower named Plimpton Hall was built in 1967.



"Pharmacy Site, Marie Runyon Court"
Source: Emily Junker



Jewish Theological Site
Source: Google Maps

9. "Pharmacy Site"

- Address: 130 Morningside Drive (And 1245, 1249, 1259, 1255 Amsterdam Avenue, and 421, 419, 417 West 121st Street)
- Historical Use: 9 Apartment Houses, 421 West 121st Street was an SRO
- Present Use: Columbia owned apartment building, Columbia University School of Social Work, Lenfest Hall law student luxury high rise housing
- Displacement: 65 SRO rooms with likely 130 residents, and approximately 150 housing units

The "Pharmacy Site" embodies the history of tenant activism and the long battle of Morningside residents against Columbia and other institutions.

The Columbia College of Pharmacy planned to demolish the apartment buildings to move their facilities there. When they tried to vacate the buildings, residents organized. Marie Runyon lead their battle through court trials, resistance and activism.

Runyon was able to preserve her own building. However, those buildings neighboring hers were emptied and demolished as tenants could not sustain the harassment and lack of maintenance, and preferred to take a pay-out. After the Pharmacy School's plans fell through, Columbia acquired the site for themselves. The buildings were emptied of tenants and demolished. Within Runyon's and other Columbia-owned buildings, apartments were locked and boarded up as tenants left.

Runyon's Building, which in 2002 had only five remaining tenants, was finally renovated to prepare it for shared use by Columbia and community residents. The vacant lots were not developed until 2001 when Columbia built Lenfest Hall and The School of Social Work.

Runyon, arguably the most prominent tenant activist on the heights, lived here for over fifty years and 130 Morningside Drive was renamed Marie Runyon Court by Columbia in 2002 as a gesture after forty years of attempting to evict her and neglecting her building's maintenance. Runyon passed away last fall and Morningside Drive east was co-named Marie Runyon Way in April, 2019.

Runyon was a member and founder of several tenant activist organizations. She held meetings in her home, organized protests, and was involved in other causes including anti-war and civil rights.

10. Morningside Gardens and Grant Houses

- Address: Area bounded by West 123rd and 125th Streets, Broadway and Morningside Avenue
- Historical Use: Hundreds of tenements and apartment houses
- Present Use: Morningside Gardens Middle Income co-operative, Grant Houses NYCHA Housing
- Displacement: 8,526 Residents (MMR Survey 1950)

The story of the development of Morningside Gardens middle-income cooperative and Grant Houses public low-income housing is representative of a superblock urban renewal project with institutional agency. One of MH Inc.'s first initiatives was to replace largely African American and Puerto Rican occupied "slum" north of 123rd Street on the east side of Broadway with orderly modern housing. Despite protests from the tenants group "Save Our Homes," the area was razed without trace and redeveloped.

11. Jewish Theological Site

- Address: 531 West 122nd Street and 540 West 123rd Street
- Historical Use: Two apartment houses
- Present Use: Construction site for high-rise luxury housing
- Displacement: 213 units, 554 tenants

The Jewish Theological site is included here to demonstrate that the past incidences and sites of tenant displacement are echoed today. The site where two fully inhabited rent-controlled apartment houses were vacated and demolished, is today the site of an non-contextual, luxury high-rise condominium that is having a negative effect on the surrounding residential community.

In 1965, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America announced a $35 million plan to expand their campus

located on Broadway between 122nd and 123rd Streets ("Jewish Seminary Maps Expansion: Finkelstein Says Program Will Double Capacity 1965). They planned to build a new library, academic building, and residence hall. Their goals were to increase student enrollment and update their facilities which had not been enlarged since 1929. However, an obstacle stood in their way: the two residential buildings adjacent to the seminary would have to be demolished to make way for the new buildings.

While the seminary expected to avoid the controversies experienced by Columbia and other neighborhood institutions that had vacated residential buildings for expansion, they were confronted by a ten-year eviction battle. They purchased the back-to-back buildings at 531 West 122nd street and 540 West 123rd street from Columbia in 1964. At the time, they said they had alerted the tenants of their plans. By 1965, 100 of the 212 units were vacated (Jewish Seminary Maps Expansion: Finkelstein Says Program Will Double Capacity 1965). The seminary had also dedicated services to help the tenants find new comparable residences and provided moving costs. As the property was emptied, the seminary held them vacant. As the building was vacated, the premises became unsafe for the remaining tenants as their empty appearance attracted vandals and others who harassed the tenants and defaced the property (Morningside Open-Stair Tenants' Association 1967).

In 1969, Community groups occupied four of the 195 vacant apartments in a demonstration (4 Vacant Apartments At JTS Occupied 1969). The Morningside Open-Stairs Tenants' Association which had been formed by the residents shortly after the seminary had purchased the buildings, Morningsiders United, the West Side Community Council, and several block associations also faced with institutional evictions, joined in the demonstrations. The demonstrators moved into the buildings with their possessions, opened a rental office, and sent in rent checks. However, after about a month, the police took action to have them removed and threatened jail time if they did not comply.

The seminary finally served eviction notices to the last 14 tenants in 1969 (400 Here Attend Heated Debate On Jewish Seminary Expansion 1974). Of these 11 complied, but three held out. The most vocal of these tenants was Lucille Gasper, a rent-controlled resident of 540 West 123rd Street since 1952 who refused to move on principal (Maeroff, 1973).

In 1972, the case was taken to court where Gasper and other tenants testified that the seminary's building management used harassment, breakdown of services including heat, hot water and electricity, and of boarding up their windows while they were still living in the building (Jay 1972). They argued that when the buildings were purchased, they "were still beautifully maintained, attractive looking and had an occupancy of almost 100 percent. The purchase of such a property for demolition and conversion of use by an institution in the light of the present critical housing shortage should have been forbidden by legislation passed long ago" (Jay 1972). Nevertheless, the Rent Commission ruled that the Jewish Theological Seminary did not harass the petitioners and that such a finding was arbitrary and capricious. The residents fought back by presenting a documented log of incidences of harassment which tied up the seminary's development plans for several more years (Jay 1972).

In 1975, Gasper—the last tenant of the buildings—joined by Marie Runyon, refused entry to police who came to evict her (Janison 1975). Runyon and another protester were arrested. Following, Gasper moved into Runyon's apartment at 130 Morningside Drive and refused compensation and assistance from the seminary for her relocation (Janison 1975).

The buildings were demolished and a new library was constructed on the site in the 1980s. However, in 2015 the seminary began plans to sell development rights in order to rehabilitate their 1929 campus and to build a new library more appropriate to modern technology (Nathan-Kazis 2015). In 2016, it sold the land and air rights to develop on and off-site for $96 million to Savanna, a real estate developer (Morris 2016).

Currently, the site where the former rent-controlled residential buildings once stood is now the construction site of a 32-story 350-foot high luxury condominium. The construction of this tower has once again brought questions of the moral obligations of institutions to the surrounding residential community when their decisions will impact the stability of their neighbor's housing. Lack of affordable housing and rapidly increasing housing prices on the heights, often caused by deregulation of rent-controlled buildings and quick turnover of student populations, will be aggravated by the introduction of luxury condominiums to the neighborhood. The Morningside Heights Community Coalition tried to get the seminary to sign a Community Benefits Agreement, as some other institutions have done in recent expansion projects (Feldman 2018). However, the Seminary which has a small endowment and sees its other community services as enough, and Savanna, the developer who has an as-of-right site, see little obligation to towards the community's service and housing needs.

Reconceptualizing University Expansion in Manhattanville

Scott Goodwin

Key Issues

Columbia University maintains that a community orientated approach in planning and designing its new Manhattanville campus is central to that project's success. In 2016, Columbia President Lee Bollinger wrote: "When we committed ourselves to creating a new kind of open, accessible university campus in Manhattanville, we knew it was essential for Columbia to use this as an opportunity to deepen our partnerships and engagement in West Harlem" (Growing Together 2016: 2). Yet the university's expansion largely has been defined in one-sided spatial terms. Columbia University currently is redeveloping 17 acres for new educational and administrative facilities; agreed-upon community benefits are largely monetary and programmatic (Community Benefits Agreement, 2009). New programs build upon a history of university-community engagement. Yet these programs, both new and old, lack visibility and sizeable spatial presences on either the Manhattanville or Morningside campuses.

The new Manhattanville campus serves as an opportunity for Columbia to expand the university to meet local publics. Creating visible and dedicated space for public-facing university programs could materialize a commitment to community as an integral part of Columbia's educational and institutional mission. In the case of the new campus, historic preservation can provide a language of social inclusion to give further meaning to that endeavor. My proposal combines the notion of the public-facing institution with the spatialization of underrepresented histories on the Manhattanville campus. Specifically, this proposal suggests that the university preserve one of the sole remaining residential buildings within the new campus boundaries, and that it opens the site to a Request for Proposal process within the university network toward its programming and occupation as a community-oriented university space. This proposal intends to create space on Columbia's campus that recognizes the value of past residential communities in Manhattanville while affirming the value of contemporary publics within day-to-day university activities.

Project Background, Significance, and Rationale:

The idea forwarded by Columbia that the university and West Harlem are "growing together" through its Manhattanville expansion is the central problem of this project (Growing Together 2016). Columbia is dedicated to community engagement and to building partnerships with local publics -- a fact supported by its active network of public-facing programs. However, the university has yet to include local publics--past or present--in a meaningful way within the spaces and activities that define its new expanded campus. While the new campus features nominally-public spaces like ground-floor cafes, and has open thoroughfares, the accessibility of these spaces to local residents has been questioned. And while the Manhattanville campus was the impetus for new public programming through the 2009 Community Benefits Agreement, new programs' spatial footprint on that campus is limited to art studios and reservable meeting spaces. Moreover, Columbia's decision to preserve two industrial buildings as the sole built remnants from the former mixed-use neighborhood effectively excludes past publics from historical representation within the built landscape. Building on the idea that the university can affirm the value of past and present publics through campus design and program, this project has a two-part focus: the creation of visible and dedicated space for public-facing programs on the university campus, and the spatialization of Manhattanville's underrepresented residential past. Although these objectives ultimately converge through my proposal, both draw upon a distinct set of precedents and problems.

Columbia's impact in Manhattanville through the development of its campus, including its effects on people, businesses, and the built fabric, was officially recognized through the 2009 West Harlem Community Benefits Agreement (CBA). This document, signed by Columbia University President Bollinger and the President of the West Harlem Local Development Corporation (WHLDC), establishes monetary and programmatic commitments on the part of Columbia University to the residents of Manhattan Community District 9. Through the CBA, Columbia is dedicated to providing new educational opportunities and services to previously unaffiliated community members for at least the next 25 years. A Community Scholars Program and a Lifetime Learners Program are among the university's commitments. These new programs exist among other public-facing programs and offices within the university, many with long histories of community engagement. Both the Community Scholars and Lifetime Learners, for example, provide adult educational opportunities that complement programs like Columbia Double Discovery, which has engaged local youth with university education since 1965. Other programs also provide educational opportunities and community services for local publics: Community Impact engages local students and adults in classroom programming; the Columbia-Harlem Small Business Development Center (SBDC) holds workshops for new entrepreneurs, and facilitates a local vendor program; and the Harlem Health Promotion center

provides educational programs in addition to medical and social services.

When considering the discrepancy between Columbia's space-based approach to expanding its academic campus and its programmatic approach to expanding public programming another issue becomes clear: although Columbia's public-facing programs serve a significant educational function, they typically lack visibility or sizeable spatial presences on the university's campuses. With offices in Earl and Lerner Halls or the Interchurch center, these essential aspects of the public-facing university occupy shared spaces on and off campus for their public programming. Conversations with two of these offices, Double Discovery and the Office of Community Affairs, revealed an interest in newer, larger, and dedicated spaces. However, for educational programs, being on Columbia's campus was viewed as essential, even in light of current spatial limitations. This is because being in the campus environment was seen to have the potential to change a student's perception about what is accessible to them.

Given the lack of visibility and limited spatial representation of public-facing programs within the university, Manhattanville offers a unique opportunity to grow public programs within a campus environment. By creating visible and dedicated space for these offices, Columbia could promote social inclusion by demonstrating its commitment to local-publics and educational public partnerships in a way that extends beyond program alone. There is precedent for this kind of project: the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at University of Pennsylvania is a current hub for that university's public-facing programs, which is thought to be a success. While the centralization of all Columbia's community-facing programs may create a feeling of segregation from the rest of the university - a view held by the Office of Community Affairs - dedicated space for one of more programs, if thoughtfully chosen and placed, can have an important impact. This could be done through the creation of new space of any design or format; but in the case of Manhattanville, historic preservation offers a way to enhance both visibility and inclusive meaning.

Columbia University is still planning and developing its new Manhattanville campus, located between West 125th and West 133rd Streets between Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway. Three of its southernmost academic facilities are already complete; but, much of the land on the four Columbia-owned blocks north of West 125th Street is in the process of being cleared.

Among the buildings that remain is a former apartment building located at 602 W. 132nd Street This building, constructed in 1907, housed Manhattanville residents until 2016, when its tenants were relocated by the university to make way for new construction. The apartment building is one of several former residential properties within the campus footprint; nearly all have been demolished. Others still standing are sited along Broadway between West 132nd and West 133rd Streets. Together, these residential properties housed approximately 5,000 tenants, all now relocated (Davis 2007). Yet there is a narrative that the Manhattanville campus is sited on a former exclusively-industrial area - a view of history expressed in Columbia's promotional materials regarding its campus expansion, both online and in print (see manhattanville.columbia.edu 2019). Importantly, that narrative is also reproduced through the university's decision to only preserve two industrial buildings within the campus footprint: Studebaker and Nash.

Preserving the apartment building at 602 West 132nd Street as a third reuse case would acknowledge an underrepresented residential community's history, as well as a history of its displacement. Moreover, if reused as new facilities for one of Columbia's public-facing programs, this building could affirm both the value of past communities, and the value of contemporary publics even within university operations. Beyond symbolic meaning, preservation could also grant the site visual prominence within the campus. The building would be distinct and recognizable surrounded by new construction. Located on a central thoroughfare, the result could be a properly public face for a public-facing university program.

Project Description

This proposal recommends that the apartment building located at 302 W. 135th Street on Columbia's new Manhattanville Campus, currently slated for demolition, be preserved and reused as a new university facility occupied by one or more of the public-facing offices, programs, or organizations within the Columbia-network. The primary vehicle of this proposal is a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) to be disseminated by the University that engages programs, and that outlines specific preservation requirements for the building's reuse.
The RFP presents an opportunity for public-facing aspects of the University to propose a use and program for new facilities that will then be occupied by a selected proposing party. The space is intended to facilitate the growth of



602 W. 132nd Street, a 1907 apartment building in the campus footprint slated for demolition
Source: Google Earth



Rendering of proposed community center on Manhattanville Campus
Scott Goodwin
Source: Base image by Field Operations, Project Details from Morningside Manhattanville Campus

Request for Proposal document
Scott Goodwin
Source: Formatting drawn from Columbia University Facilities

Request for Proposal



Request for Proposal

Columbia University Community Center

Over the next three decades, Columbia's long-term plan for Manhattanville will redevelop the four former industrial and residential blocks from 125/129th to 133rd Street between Broadway and 12th Avenue, and three small blocks along the east side of Broadway from 131st to 134 Street, into an environmentally sustainable and publicly accessible center for academic and civic life woven into the fabric of the West Harlem community.

Opportunity

Columbia University is currently soliciting public-facing offices, programs, and organizations within the university network. The opportunity is to design the use and program for new facilities on the Manhattanville Campus for occupation by one or more university offices, programs, or organizations. Collaborative proposals are welcome. These facilities will be located at the current site of 602 W. 132 Street on the Manhattanville Campus. Respondents should propose a use, or uses, that support or expand upon their office(s), program(s) or organization'(s) current functions. This program will be supported by new facilities designed in collaboration with the university, and with outside parties, to meet use needs. There are requirements to maintain aspects of the existing building's facade and massing at the site (see "Requirements"). However, there are no limitation on the current use or format of interior spaces.

Project Background

Columbia University believes that institutional expansion means more than just growing its geographic footprint and its top-tier academic programs. It also means growing to meet the community that it is a part of. Central to the university's educational and institutional mission are its public-facing programs and partnerships. Columbia hopes to expand these essential and outstanding elements of its day-to-day operations and to give them a prominent and dedicated space within the new campus.

Just as the university believes in the importance of community, it also believes in the value of the past. To acknowledge Manhattanville's history and the residential displacement that occured to make way for university facilities, Columbia has chosen to preserve portions of one of the sole remaining residential buildings in the campus footprint. It is its hope that the preserved image of residential life in Manhattanville will serve as complicated reminder of the past -- but one that ultimately affirms the significance of community within Columbia's present and future.

(Continued)



602 W. 132 St., Project Site, 2018

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Scope of Work

This contract involves the planning for use and program of a new university facility ultimately to be occupied by the office(s), program(s), or organization(s) that submit the selected proposal. Architectural design is outside of the scope of work. However, preliminary descriptions of proposed spaces or spatial needs are encouraged. Designs for the winning proposal will be devised in collaboration with Columbia University and additional providers. Build-out will be facilitated through a separate bidding process.

Qualifications

Proposals will be accepted from active offices, programs, or organizations within the university network that directly engage with the public. Collaborative proposals are welcome. If a university affiliated body serves as the proposal primary, collaboration with student groups or outside organizations will be considered. Preference will be given to those offices, programs, or organizations that currently engage with local publics. Proposals and spatial program must include local public engagement. Proposals must be for long-term use and programming.

Proposal Period

May - September 2019

Requirements

This project site requirements stem from preservation concerns regarding the former apartment building at 602 W. 132nd Street. There are two primary components to the planned preservation scheme that must be considered:

1. Facade: The building's facade is its primary means of conveying historic character to the street. For this reason, all efforts will be made to preserve the structure and materiality of the facade, as well as its public view, in a manner that establishes a clear visual contrast between the building and its surroundings, both in terms of temporality and original use. However, the specifics of a preservation design may be part of a proposal. Creative approaches are welcome within requirements.

2. Massing and Elevation: Massing is another important element of historical character that distinguishes the building from surrounding new construction. For this reason, lot lines and vertical profile must be maintained, as visible from street level. Added elevation may be possible towards the rear of the building (ie. a 'setback') to account for additional spatial needs. Proposals for alterations to massing and elevation are welcome within these terms.



Rendered image of project site in the new Manhattanville Campus.

Contact Information:

If you wish to enter a proposal please contact:
ColumbiaUniversity@columbia.edu

Request for Proposal

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

existing programs within the university, although additional new programming also is welcome. While the RFP describes the space as a Columbia Community Center, the requirement is only that that space ultimately serves one or more public functions, and facilitates university-community engagement. The RFP is meant to appeal to educational offices and programs including Columbia Double Discovery, Community Impact, Columbia Harlem SBDC, and Harlem Health Promotion Center, as well as programs within the Office of Government and Community Affairs, including Community Scholars, and Columbia Community Service. Proposals must outline planned programs and needed funding, in addition to specific spatial needs. Although these offices and programs need not submit specifical architectural plans, preservation requirements are outlined in the RFP because they may impact programming - but also because they are central to the project's mission.

The site requirements outlined in the RFP address core preservation concerns tied to the fundamental visual significance of the building in context. Underpinning these requirements is a belief that the building's impact stems from its ability to express its past residential use, and its ability to express its overall pastness to the public - therefore, to street view. By preserving a sense of history and the appearance of residential character, the building will appear in contrast to its new surroundings and evoke the history of a former residential community within the campus footprint. In order to maintain this expressive ability, the requirements refer to two specific considerations: the facade, and the building's massing and elevation. The facade must be preserved as to clearly convey through arrangement and materiality its past use, and without large-scale obstruction to view from the street. The building's massing also must be preserved to view from the street, although elevation additions that do not impose upon the visual outline of the building (i.e. setbacks) are permissible. Beyond these requirements, the specifics of a preservation scheme are open to proposal, and creative approaches are welcome. Minimum requirements are meant to maintain key points of visual significance while: meeting expectations for modern facilities; allowing for vertical additions that facilitate more robust programming; and encouraging tenant participation in designing--and thereby interpreting--the building.

New facilities at the site could support a variety of different programs, organizations, and activities. For example, Columbia Double Discovery may propose new classroom spaces, including technology or media labs, to expand their curricula for local students, emphasizing active and cross-disciplinary learning. The Columbia-Harlem SBDC may propose administrative and training spaces, along with retail spaces to support their various activities with local business and entrepreneurs. The Harlem Health Promotion Center may propose medical and psychosocial services spaces in addition to kitchen space, or even rooftop garden space, to grow its current programs that provide services and educational opportunities regarding healthy living. Any program may propose to create dedicated spaces within the new facility for community uses, or uses by student groups, community scholars, or otherwise. The winning proposal would be implemented at the site towards the realization of an expanded public-facing university on the Manhattanville campus.

An RFP approach to programming is intended to give agency to the public-facing offices within the university that would utilize this space. Through this process, offices may envision their own growth along with the facilities necessary to support expanded or strengthened programs. Given the unique set of activities undertaken by each program, this is a requisite for creating space that maximizes benefits to both the university community and local publics. Moreover, the RFP encourages university programs and potential collaborators participation in thinking through and defining the historical value of the space they will occupy. The decision to preserve the apartment building affirms that this space has value, and the requirements within the RFP signify that that value is tied to its residential history and its age relative to its surrounding. However, opportunities remain for creatively defining how history is communicated to the public through the building's preservation design. Ultimately the building will represent the local publics' inclusion within new university space both through the spatialization of histories and through contemporary public participation in university activities.

Project Implementation

This project's implementation would require the initiative of Columbia University, including Columbia University Facilities, in choosing to preserve and reuse the site at 602 W. 132nd Street. But because the project is specifically intended to expand one or more public-facing offices or programs within the university network, the Office of the Provost would hold the ultimate responsibility for initiating a course of action. Because the RFP applies to programming within a particular space, the Office of the Provost and CU Facilities would collaborate in designing the RFP and evaluating submissions. No changes to policy and no property purchases would be required,

as the university currently owns the site; however, the decision to preserve the building would necessitate the reassessment of existing plans for that portion of the Manhattanville campus. If the site already is proposed for a specific use, or if it is incorporated into existing design plans, adjustments would be necessary. Subsequent to those adjustments, an RFP would be distributed or publicized by the Office of the Provost and CU Facilities.

Interested parties are likely to include a range of university offices, programs, and organizations. The RFP, as drafted, allows any Columbia-affiliated office, program, or organization to submit a proposal independently or in collaboration with one or more university-affiliated offices, programs, or organizations. If the primary proposing party is university affiliated, collaborators may be student groups or organizations from outside of the university network. These offices are not expected to provide architectural services for the design of the new facility, including the preservation of key elements of the historical building. However, as previously noted, it would be expected that spatial needs are detailed in the proposal. The university would be required to facilitate a design process, which would include input from the chosen office or program, after the winning proposal was selected; this may be done through CU Facilities if architectural services are to be opened to a secondary bidding process. Another option is that architectural design is undertaken in collaboration with Columbia GSAPP. Build-out would be put out to bid through CU Facilities.

The primary obstacle to actualizing this project is the potential loss of useable space in the Manhattanville campus, perceived either in terms of square footage, generally, or square footage for use by a particular academic program. Overcoming this obstacle only requires a shift in values. The recognition that Columbia's public-facing programs are an essential part of the university's educational and institutional mission is central to this project; Columbia only has to benefit from strengthening these aspects of its day-to-day operations. By taking the step to create dedicated space for public-facing programs, Columbia University could join other American universities in growing innovative educational programs grounded in community action. But most central to this project is a necessary shift towards valuing vernacular histories and their spatial representations. Although 602 West 132nd Street lacks exceptional architecture or associations with broad patterns of history, it does represent a meaningful past for both the West Harlem community and the university itself. Through its continued presence, the building can stand for that past, while serving as a conscious acknowledgement by the university of its own historical agency. By combining public-oriented use and preservation, Columbia stands to create both a symbol and a program that affirms the value of both past and present local publics.

Broadway from 122nd to 135th Streets: An Opportunity for Reprogramming Physical and Psychological Barriers

Mariana Ávila Flynn

Natural barriers in Morningside Heights and Manhattanville have always been part of its character due to geographical conditions. The rough topography of the area represents a primary characteristic that articulates and defines the nature of both neighborhoods. At the same time, this condition shaped their development in terms of architecture and infrastructure, which in some cases resulted in the construction of physical barriers complicating the connection between neighborhoods through the years.

This proposal frames a master plan along Broadway between 122nd and 135th Streets. This area comprises the centerpiece for promoting the connection between Morningside Heights and Manhattanville, and also holds one of the most prominent landmarks of West Harlem. From two perspectives, this project seeks to mitigate the segregating condition resulting from the development of infrastructure in the area.

First, the project starts with reprogramming the poorly utilized space underneath the elevated station of 125th Street with small incubator spaces for commercial use. The strategy aims to facilitate the establishment of local businesses from the Columbia University-Harlem Small Business Development Center programs to promote the inclusion of small business entrepreneurs within the neighborhood. The proposal further focuses on connecting the new commercial spaces with its immediate context by providing street enhancements, which would strengthen the connection between Morningside Heights and Manhattanville, and valorize he historical significance of the elevated 125th Subway Station to broader communities.

Project Background, Significance, Rationale, and Proposal Description

The elevated 125th Street Station embodies one of the primary architectural features of Manhattanville and Morningside Heights while creating a link between both neighborhoods. The main structure, which is located at the intersection of Broadway and 125th Street, is historically significant as the most imposing and visually impressive above ground engineering structures of the Interborough Rapid Transit (IRT) subway system (LPC 1, 1981).

It also exemplifies the advancements of transportation that contributed to the development and character of northern Manhattan. The station was inaugurated on October 27, 1904, as part of the subway line created for connecting the undeveloped areas of the north of the island to Lower Manhattan. The construction of the subway line was along Broadway, and in addition to the station in 125th, it also included stations at West 104th, 110th, and 116th Streets. (Hetrick, 1904). However, the viaduct of 125th is a testament to the skill of the engineers and contractors who designed and built New York City's first subway between 1900 and 1904.

The structure that completes the 125th Street Station is visible above the ground from 122nd to 135th Streets because of the topography of the valley. Therefore, the construction required three different types of structures from tip to end at 125th Street. The three-ribbed, double-hinged parabolic braced arch, spanning 168 feet supported by complex steel towers, represents the most recognizable feature located at the center of the construction. The total length of the structure from 122nd to 135th Street is 2,174 feet, and the maximum height above 125th Street is 54 feet (LPC 3, 1981). The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission designated the entire structure a city landmark on September 11, 1979. Despite the recognition of its historical significance, however, today more than 80 percent of the space underneath the massive steel structure is utilized for improvised parking, resulting in an unwelcoming and conflictive space.

The condition of the elevated 125th Subway Station is only one portion of the visible physical barriers within the study area. In addition to the complex topography, during the twentieth century, urban growth evolved to create barriers in the form of exclusionary architectural features. These were implemented to demonstrate security to the inhabitants, which eventually came to characterize regions of social exclusion. Examples like the gates enclosing Columbia's Campus or fences around open spaces resulted in a condition that did not promote a physical or social connection between Morningside Heights and Manhattanville. Consequently, social and psychological barriers between the neighborhoods developed, partly through exclusionary and enclosed architecture.

The ongoing expansion of Columbia University towards Manhattanville creates an opportunity to amend the physical and social segregation within the community and its built environment. To accomplish this purpose, the space along Broadway between 122nd and 135th streets constitutes a crucial component as the centerpiece that links Morningside Heights with Manhattanville while connecting Morningside Campus with the Manhattanville Campus. Moreover, the significance of the station's structure results in a favorable juncture for encouraging engagement towards the history of the neighborhoods through a large-scale interpretive component. Therefore, the rehabilitation and reprogramming of the area should be planned as one of the strategies for mitigating the exclusionary social history of the neighborhood.



Elevated 125th Subway Station in Broadway and 125th Street, 1919 (top)
Subway along Broadway and 122nd Street, ca. 1919 (bottom)
Source: New York Public Library Digital Collections



Location Map
Mariana Ávila Flynn





Broadway and 122nd Street
Source: Mariana Ávila Flynn

Regarding the University expansion towards Manhattanville, the West Harlem Community Benefits Agreement (WHCBA), signed on May 18, 2009, constitutes the partnership made between Columbia University and the Manhattan's Community District 9 residents. In addition to the financial commitments made by the University, the document references Columbia's commitment to develop a more substantial relationship between the community and the academic resources of the institution. Part of the agreement emphasizes the requirement of facilitating retail development along Broadway from W125th to W133th Streets (CBA 22 , 2009). However, 50 percent of the area is occupied by residential development which includes housing complexes such as Grant Houses, and Manhattanville Houses; which challenges the development of other uses.

Since 2009, the Columbia Business School has housed the Columbia University-Harlem Small Business Development Center (CHSBDC) as part of one of the in-kind projects stated by the CBA. Funded partially by the United States Small Business Administration, the CHSBDC is one of the 900 centers across the country that offer free business advice and training provided by qualified small business professionals to existing and future entrepreneurs. Although the program gives a capacity-building education, it does not have a space in which this business entrepreneurs can incubate their business ideas before making the investment of rent a full retail establishment.

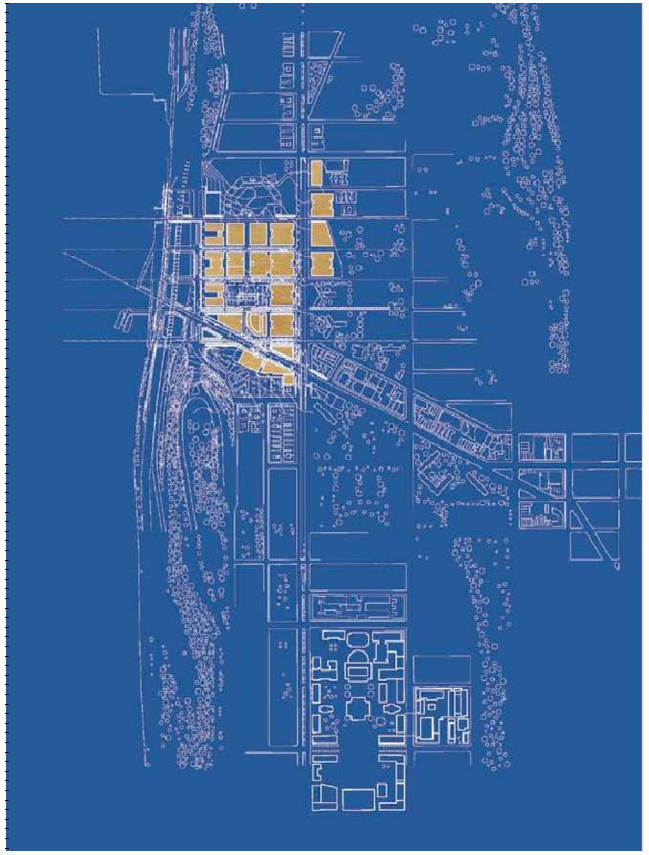
In this sense, the proposal for Broadway from 122nd to 135th Streets frames a master plan that seeks to reprogram the currently underutilized space beneath the elevated station of 125th Street, with incubator spaces for providing the missing spatial component for the multiple business programs of Harlem SBDC. The project aims to revalue the historical significance of the station through a commercial use that promotes inclusion while reinforces the connection between the community of Manhattanville and Morningside Heights. Although the impressiveness of the elevated 125th Street station relies mostly on the steel arches, it is important to recall that multiple sections compose the structure, demonstrating the transition of structural systems and the variety of building materials. Therefore, acknowledging the structure as a whole allows for a cohesive proposal, which addresses the historic significance of the station as part of an important infrastructure project in the area. Consequently, this proposal includes the implementation of pedestrian improvement for connecting the new incubator spaces to its immediate surroundings and defining multipurpose spaces for contextualizing the area on a human scale.

Therefore, the proposal for the zoning distribution between 122nd and 135 Streets responds to a virtual division into confined areas outlined by the existing streets for establishing principal crosswalks as follows:

- Zone I: West 122nd Street to LaSalle (West 124th Street)
- Zone II: West 124th to West 125th Street (Martin Luther King Boulevard)
- Zone III: West 125th Street to West 129th Street
- Zone IV: West 129th Street to West 131st Street
- Zone V: West 131st Street to West 133rd Street
- Zone VI: West 133rd Street to West 135th Street

In addition, the implementation of secondary crosswalks is proposed as a way for decreasing the automobile speed and improving the connection between both sides of the street and their center. The location of secondary crosswalks varies from responding to existing streets which are not connecting one side with the other, or to the distance between one zone and the next one. Therefore, the distribution results as follows:

- Zone I: West 122nd Street to LaSalle (West 124th Street)
- Zone II: West 124th to West 125th Street (Martin Luther King Boulevard)
- Secondary crosswalk between LaSalle and Tiemann Pl
- Secondary crosswalk at Tiemann Pl
- Zone III: West 125th Street to West 129th Street
- Zone IV: West 129th Street to West 131st Street
- Secondary crosswalk between W129th Street and W131st Street
- Zone V: West 131st Street to West 133rd Street
- Secondary crosswalk between W131st Street and W133rd Street
- Zone VI: West 133rd Street to West 135th Street



Manhattanville Campus Sketch
Source: Renzo Piano Building Workshop

In order to generate a mixture of encounters within different sectors of the community, it is important to provide adequate space to promote the development of multiple activities. Therefore, each one of the zones would include the following mixed-use program:

- Two pocket parks: One for each end of the zones for creating safe and welcoming crosswalks.
- A group of five vendors: Commercial area will be placed in permanent pavilions of 82 by 16ft. Final dimension may vary according design and final requirements. However, the design should provide service to both sides of the street.
- One common space designated for community gathering: This area should serve vendors' clients and general public. For example, shared seating area between food vendors and pedestrians.
- One common space designated for multiple activities: This area should serve community in general for developing a mixture of community activities promoted either by organizations of the West Harlem Community or Columbia University.

This proposal includes designated areas for parking located along Broadway, acknowledging that many people currently use a significant area of this public space for parking. However, the new percentage of parked cars represents less than 50 percent of the current number of users that park along Broadway between 122nd and 135th Streets. The intention behind this rationale is that as the use of the street increases, the presence of automobiles will hopefully diminish in the area.

Finally, the proposal seeks to promote a more sustainable and local market inside the community. Therefore, it will be necessary for vendors to make use of the products and goods produced by the local community as a way of promoting local producers on a broader scale. Hopefully, this would eventually begin to erase barriers, to build an inclusive social and urban environment for future generations.

Implementation

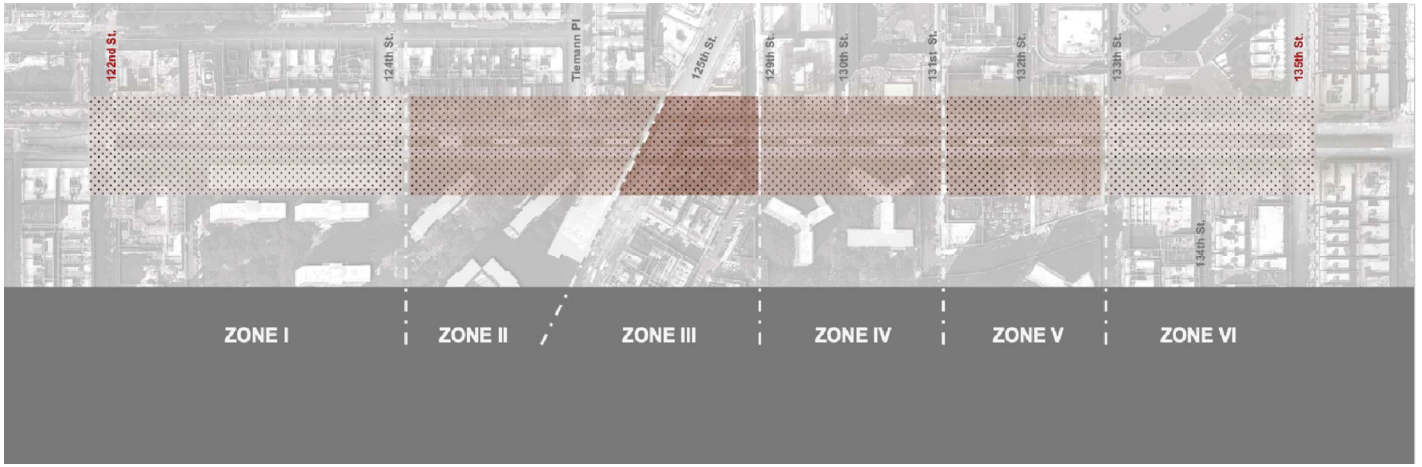
The complexity of the proposal includes a variety of stakeholders who should work together to successfully implement and direct the project as an actual response to community requirements and concerns, and towards social inclusion. This project is understood from a public perspective, one that suggests the use of open space to the benefit of the immediate community. Therefore, the ownership of the land undoubtedly should remain under the government agencies in charge of dealing with public space, such as the New York City Department of Transportation.

The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) seeks to provide safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible movement for the people in the city, while maintaining and enhancing the transportation infrastructure crucial to economic vitality and quality of life (DOT Website, 2019). To implement the proposal, it would be necessary to incorporate the Plaza Program as part of DOT's urban programs. Consequently, it would be possible to develop a feasible strategy to accommodate automobiles and pedestrians through a more equitable use of public space.

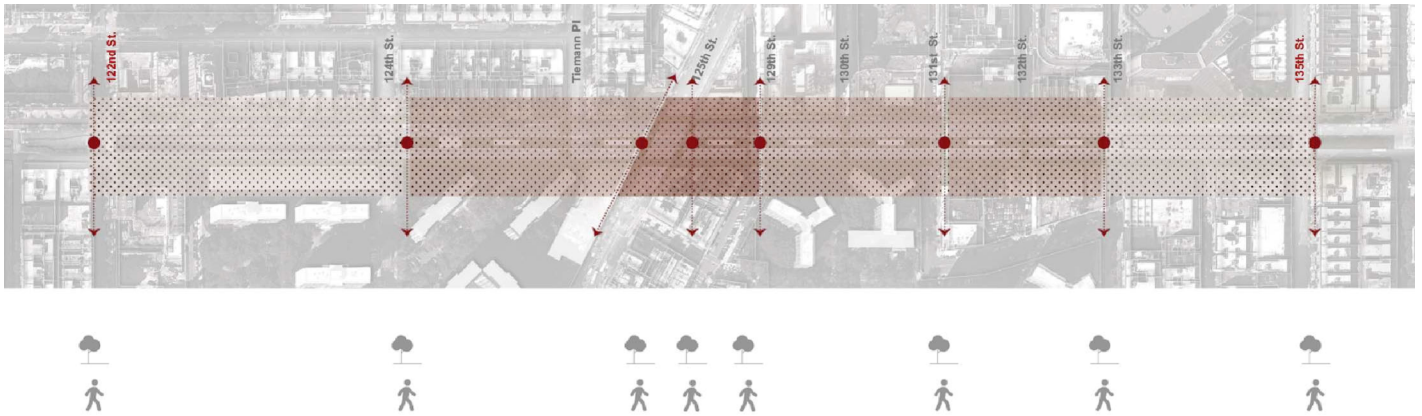
The implementation of the commercial portion would be through the Columbia Business School West Harlem programs. Therefore, the promotion for the resulted spaces would be as community spaces funded by the University. However, the operation will run by proposals incubated in the Columbia Harlem SBDC as a way of continuing development of their projects in the retail environment. In addition, understanding the scheme as a way to bridge Columbia-affiliated and non-affiliated communities, the design of the area could be developed as part of the architecture and urban planning programs of GSAPP and other nearby institutions.

Finally, it would be crucial to obtain participation and constant input from Manhattanville community organizations to ensure the adequate implementation of the plan and proper rehabilitation and physical restoration of the structure for creating a cohesive junction between the Morningside Heights and Manhattanville communities.

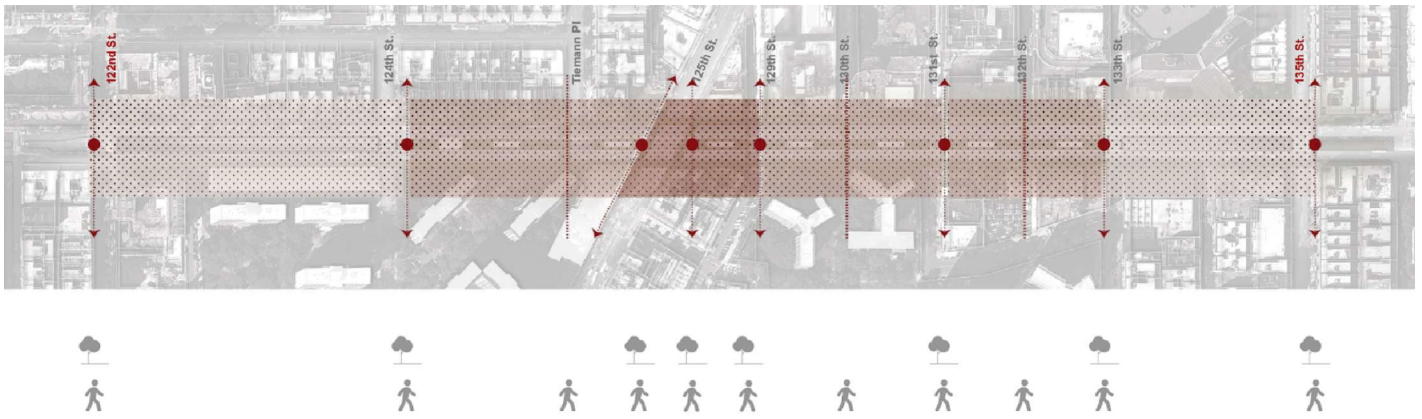
Proposal for zoning
Mariana Ávila Flynn

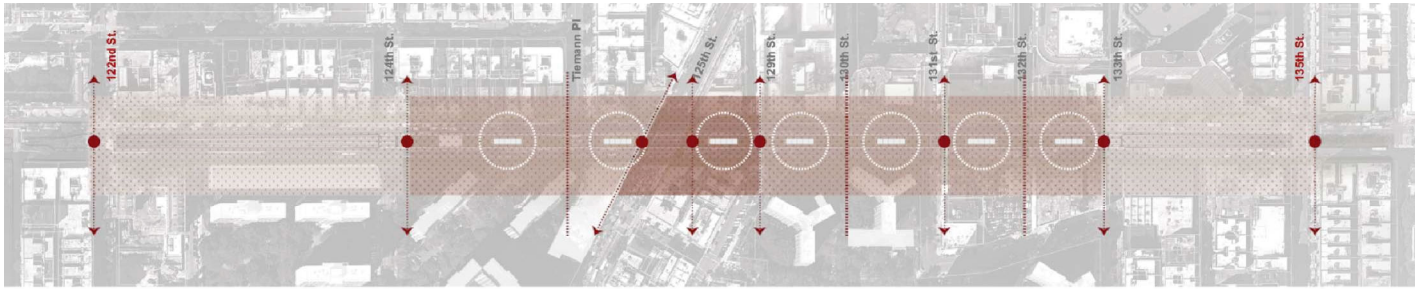


Proposal for principal crosswalks
Mariana Ávila Flynn



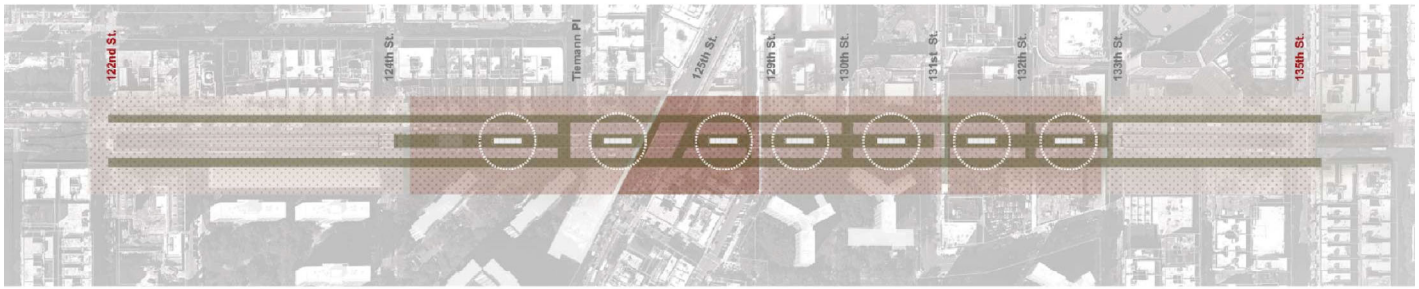
Proposal for secondary crosswalks
Mariana Ávila Flynn



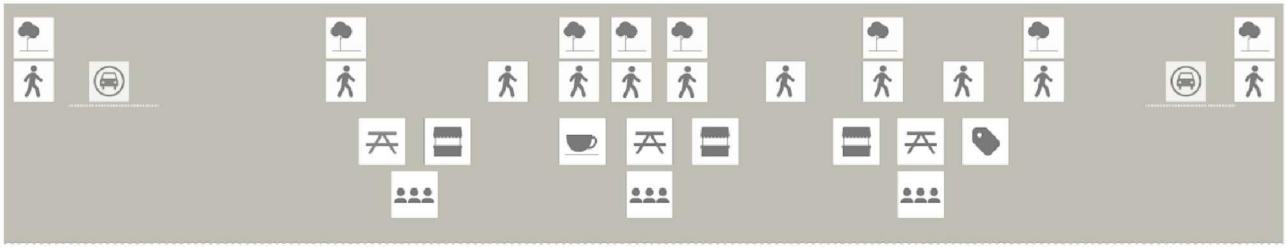


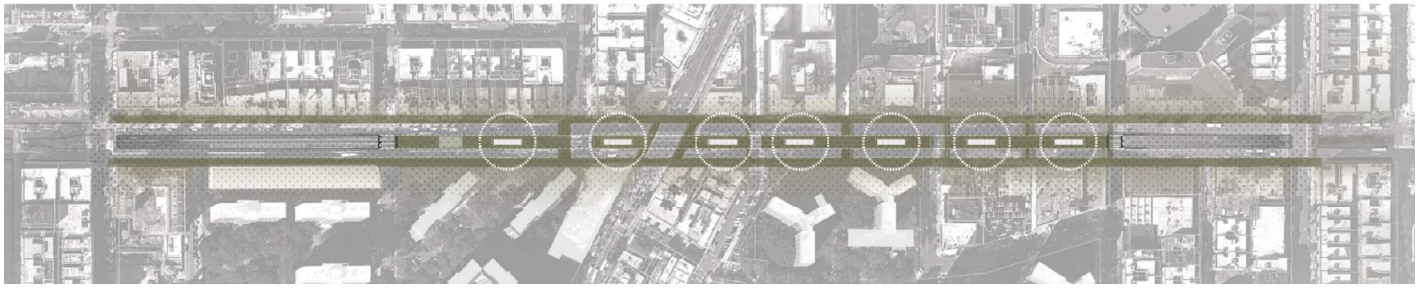
Proposed Program
Mariana Ávila Flynn





Proposed Program and
Street Interlocking
Mariana Ávila Flynn





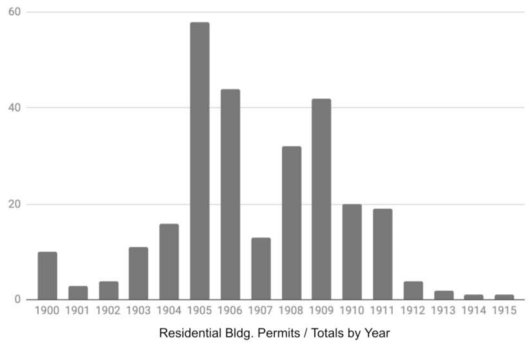
Master Plan Proposal
Mariana Ávila Flynn

Reconnecting the 125th Street IRT Viaduct to Manhattanville

Bingyu Lin



Newly Completed Subway, 1904
Source: Getty Images



Residential Bldg. Permits / Totals by Year
Source: A Digital History of Morningside Heights, Columbia University



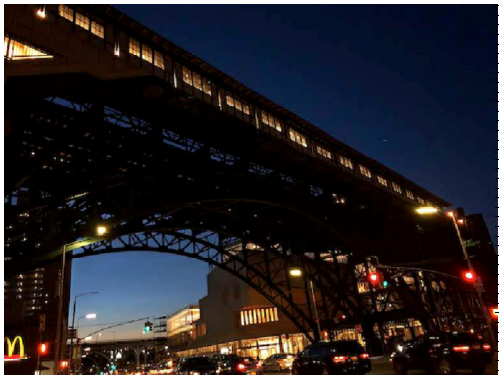
Original Entrance. c 1905
Source: Shorpy Old Photos



Parking Space under the Viaduct. 2019
Source: Bingyu Lin



Access to the Station, 2019
Source: Bingyu Lin



Viaduct at Night, 2019
Source: Bingyu Lin

The IRT Broadway Line viaduct is one of the most imposing and visually impressive above-ground engineering structures in New York City. It spans the deep valley between 122nd Street and 135th Street along Broadway, connecting Manhattanville seamlessly into the rest of the city.

The subway is tightly woven into the daily routine of many residents in Manhattanville, but it remains largely inaccessible or even dangerous to people in the neighborhood. Right now, the closest subway stops to the Columbia campuses with handicapped accessibility are the Broadway 96th Street station and Amsterdam 125th Street station. In our study area, from 110th Street to 135th Street, no station is handicap accessible. In order to make the Columbia neighborhood a more accessible and inclusive neighborhood, considerations must be taken to evaluate how people travel to and from the area. Thus the physical exclusion must be fixed. The 125th Street Viaduct is not only the transportation hub of the Columbia campuses but also an important historic resource that visually defines Manhattanville. The viaduct and space under the structure are of great, unrealized potential in re-knitting the fabric of the neighborhood. This proposal aims to promote inclusion by creating accessibility for people with physical disabilities both within Columbia campuses as well as the neighborhood, and activating the public space to further enhance inclusion for the public.

Project Background, Significance, and Rationale

The site, 125th Street Viaduct, is significant for both its structure and its transportation function. Its most prominent feature is a steel, double-hinged parabolic braced arch, supporting both the tracks and the 125th Street station. It is also a testament to the skill of the engineers and contractors who designed and built New York City's first subway system between 1900 and 1904.

When the subway began operation in 1904, it became the key force in the neighborhood for a number of reasons. First, it connected the Manhattanville and Morningside Heights neighborhoods seamlessly into the rest of the city, making them accessible and thus convenient to people who worked downtown. Second, the subway led to a building boom in Manhattanville and Morningside Heights. The dramatic surge in building permits in the period around and after the 1904 IRT subway opening is apparent.

However, its historical value is largely forgotten, and

some alterations have reduced its significance. The original entrance, which located in the center of Broadway, had been in use since the Broadway line began operation in 1904. In 1931, the beautiful structure was removed in favor of turning lanes for automobiles. The new entrances to the station were located on the sidewalks. In 1981, the structure was designated as a New York City Landmark, though no plaque or sign was placed to tell its history, which is now largely forgotten. Within the neighborhood, the viaduct has become a physical and psychological barrier. Though many people pass by, few of enter the trash-strewn and dusty space under the viaduct. The subway station is not handicapped accessible. And at night, the viaduct becomes a dark and forbidding corridor. The viaduct has created an isolated environment that is not integrated with the community and that this is what warrants action.

Project Description

This project seeks to solve the physical exclusion by increasing the accessibility of the subway station as well as connecting the Manhattanville campus and the communities on both sides of the viaduct.

First, a new elevator connecting the street and the mezzanine station will be installed. It is in the same location as the original entrance, in the center of Broadway, and the roof of the elevator vestibule is a recall of the roof of the original station. By bringing back these historical elements, the project hopes to honor the original structure. The handicapped access will not only offer humane care for the disabled but also creates a more accessible campus and neighborhood for people traveling there.

To accommodate the accessible subway station, the project will close a left turn lane and a T intersection and create a public space in the center of Broadway. The dead space under the viaduct needs to be revitalized in a way that enhances inclusion even further for the public. The public space will be used for an exhibition and a community center. The exhibition will exploit the physical space and reveal the untold stories of the viaduct and the neighborhood. The community center will post weekly events happening in Manhattanville and provide recreation space for surrounding residents. The steel towers which create a unique space might be used for retail stores, souvenir shop or interactive experience room.

Lighting the viaduct is necessary. It could become a beautiful and interesting beacon in the landscape. The goals are not purely aesthetic, but to raise awareness of the historical structure and bring light and energy to Manhattanville at night. A track trigger lighting will be installed, allowing people to better perceive this feat of engineering. The light will not be so strong as to affect local residents, and it will only be triggered



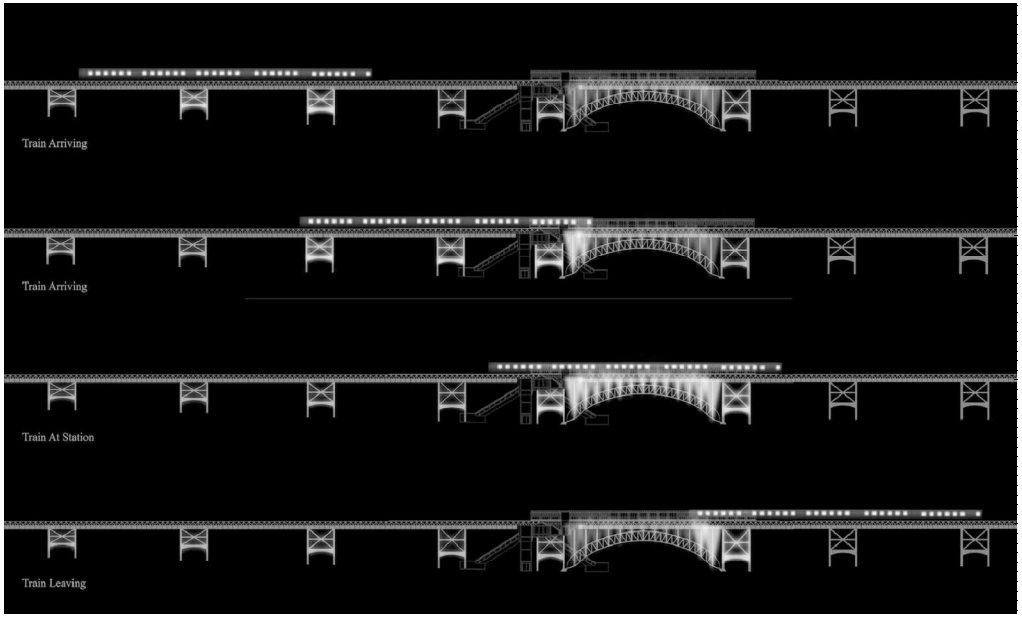
Proposed New Elevator
Bingyu Lin



Proposed Exhibition Space
Bingyu Lin



Proposed Community Center
Bingyu Lin



Proposed Track Trigger Lighting System
Bingyu Lin

during a specified time, for example, from 7 pm to 10 pm. It is a scheme that will reclaim public space from the automobile, relieve people from noise and darkness, and bring people in the neighborhood together.

Project Implementation

Project Implementation would be authorized by The Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Considering its landmark status, the project also needs to be approved by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Viaduct Accessibility - Renovation of the 125th Street Viaduct

Yu Song

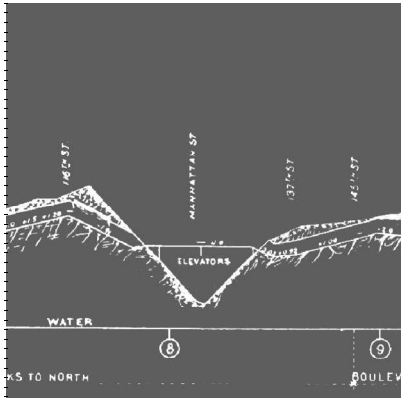
The Interborough Rapid Transit (IRT) Broadway Line Viaduct, also known as the Manhattan Valley Viaduct, extends from West 122nd Street to West 135th Street, along Broadway in the borough of Manhattan. The Viaduct was designed and constructed between 1900 and 1904 and was designated for its structural engineering significance by New York City's Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) as a city landmark in 1981. The LPC's designation document cited that "if the function was paramount in the minds of the Rapid Transit engineers, the solution was beautiful as well as practical." Today, 115 years later, the Viaduct has experienced several alterations that give it multiple historical layers to demonstrate both its purpose as a transit instrument, as well as its influence on the development and inclusion of the community living in Manhattanville and Morningside Heights. Based on the documentation of historic context and site research of this site, there are several possibilities to improve and strengthen the significance of the Viaduct. These could emblematically represent its features, which have not been fully presented and interpreted in a considered manner to the public. Moreover, there remain several problems that impede both the conservation and equitable use of the Viaduct.

This proposal is mainly focused on a comprehensive program to preserve and improve the Viaduct. First, handicapped accessible entry points must be considered in order to better serve the community of both Manhattanville and Morningside Heights. It is important to emphasize the historic significance of the Viaduct, not only in its structure and transportation aspects in a conventional sense, but also attempting to explore various possibilities of space utilization. By incorporating different functions based on historical context analysis and site research, it is possible to strengthen and enrich the perception of the Viaduct within the community.

The proposed intervention focuses on two major components: the renovation of current station and the construction of a new station to the north, in the process moving one third of the current platform to the north to connect the new station to the existing one.

The project is comprised of the restoration of the original station from 1904, renovation of existing escalators to strengthen eye connection of neighborhood, and accessibility improvements, as well as a new station design at 131st Street.

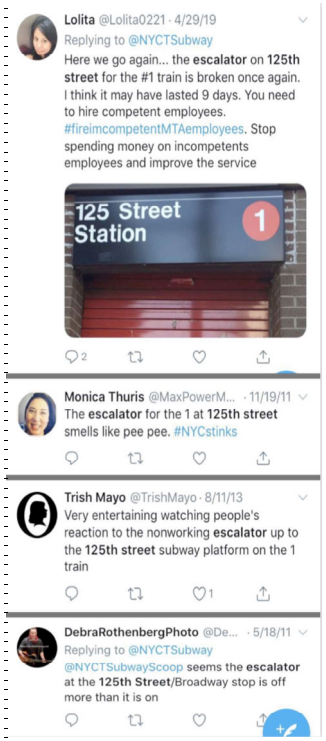
The restoration includes the maintenance of the steel structure, keeping it clean and intact, and restoring the platform



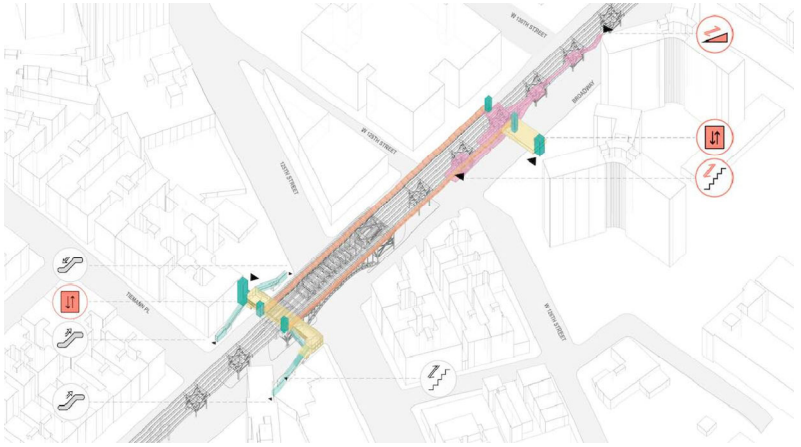
Viaduct Topography
Source: Interborough Rapid Transit Company



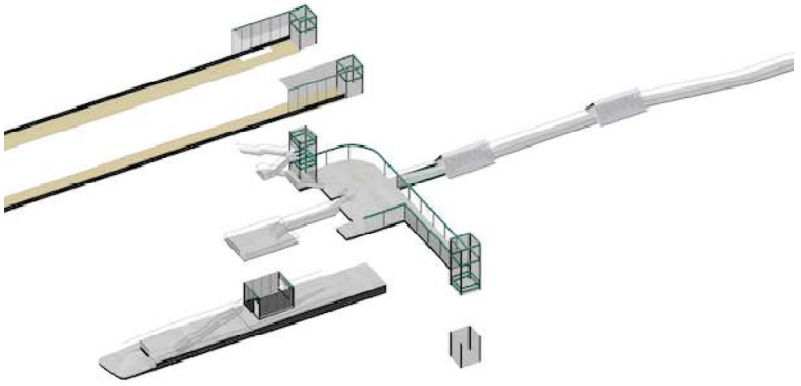
Finished Viaduct in 1904
Source: Getty Images



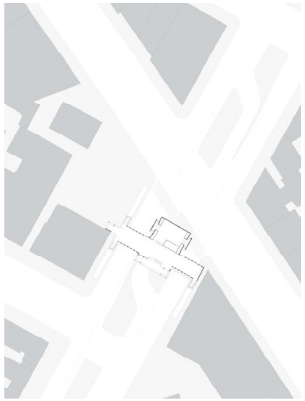
Problems remained of the viaduct
Source: Screenshot from Twitter



Project Diagram
Yu Song



Circulation analysis
Yu Song



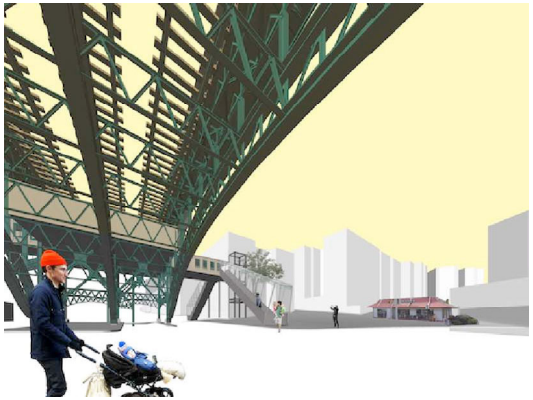
Renovated plan of existing station
- Mezzanine level
Yu Song



Plan of new station - Mezzanine level
Yu Song



Plan of new station - Platform level
Yu Song



Rendering - renovation of existing escalator on
west side walkway of Broadway
Yu Song



Rendering - eye connection
Yu Song



Rendering - accessibility improvements
of existing station
Yu Song



Rendering - new station from 129th Street to 131st Street
Yu Song

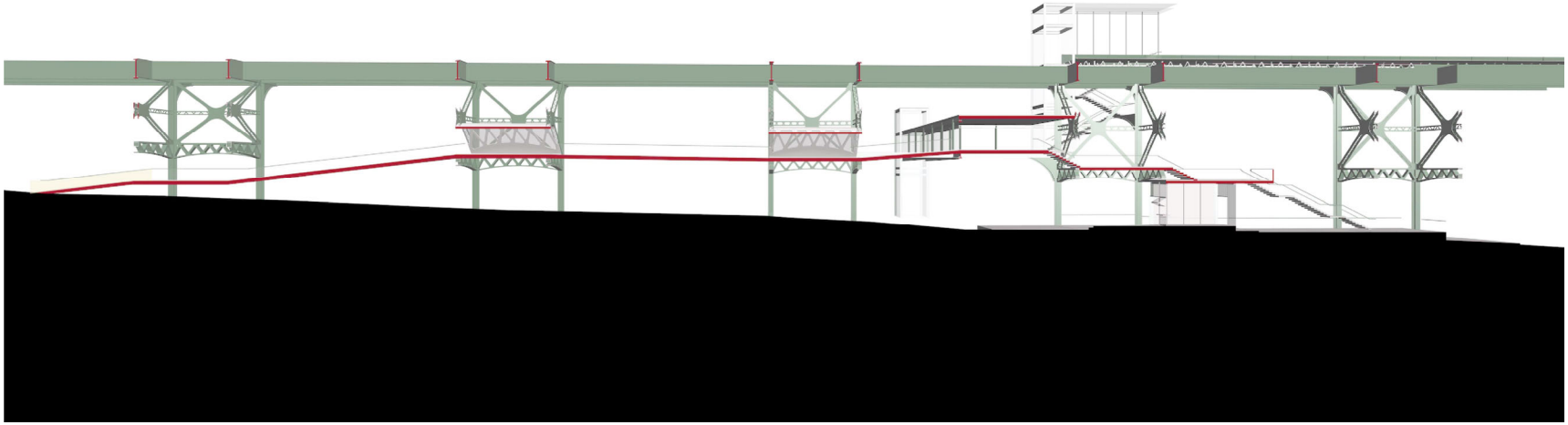
enclosure to its original condition; more transparent and friendly for passengers to enjoy the view. The renovation includes extending the existing platforms to the north to connect to the new station. The proposal adds a handicapped-accessible elevator to the current station and rehabilitates the existing escalators. The new station at the north end of the viaduct is a ramp-based, multi-functional design integrating retail space and viewing platforms to fully exploit the use of the visually impressive space underneath the Viaduct.



Rendering - restoration of existing platform
Yu Song



Rendering - multifunctional space underneath viaduct
Yu Song



Section of new station
Yu Song

Prentis Hall: Preserving Manhattanville's Industrial History

Kathleen Maloney, Seo Jun Oh, You Wu

Statement of Inclusion

Prentis Hall, a former Sheffield Farms milk pasteurization plant located at 125th street, is a historic and architecturally significant building that represents the industrial past of Manhattanville. Since Manhattanville's formation in 1806, the convergence of river, train, and surface transportation has led to the robust growth of light industry and characterized a century of the industry in the area (Columbia, n.d.). During this time of industrial growth, individual factories in Manhattanville employed 55 to 250 people on average (Department of Labor, 1913). The expanding number of mid-to-large size factories, as well as the scale of infrastructure development during the 1840s and 1900, contributed to the neighborhood's population growth (Burks, 1902). As a pioneer in the dairy industry, Sheffield Farms sought greater social inclusion by providing healthy, affordable milk for all classes thus reducing the risk of infant death or disease related to unsanitary milk.

Much of Manhattanville's former industrial character has been obscured by the development of Columbia's Manhattanville campus. This proposal for Prentis Hall suggest a way to preserve the underrepresented industrial narrative that was once a character-defining feature of the neighborhood. This proposal involved three phases. The first phase was the documentation of the building in combination with a significance assessment to understand the building's historic and architectural significance. This analysis provided an informed trajectory for the following two phases of this project. Phase two is to preserve the building's exterior through nomination as a New York City Landmark; and phase three is to adaptively reuse the building's first floor with the objective of opening this area to the public, restoring the significant interior architectural elements as identified, in addition to providing a permanent space for the Sheffield Farms exhibition.

Project Background, Significance within Community, and Rationale

The industrial development of Manhattanville was closely related to the changes in transportation technology. Prentis Hall's exterior facade has particular significance for representing this broad industrial development history, as evidenced in the building's alteration history. For hundreds of years, Manhattanville's shoreline provided a landing point for Native Americans to trade and travel. In 1609, this landing point was crucial for Hendrik Hudson to obtain supplies from the Lenape Indians. The opening of the Hudson River Railroad in 1851 provided the impetus for industrial growth in Manhattanville. The railroad stopped at 130th street, and cargo was moved to manufacturing facilities concentrated around 125th street. The waterfront grew to be crucial for Manhattanville entrepreneurs, so much so that in 1889 they petitioned for the expansion of the pier. When the West Harlem Piers expanded in 1899, Manhattanville became a transportation hub, connecting West Harlem to New Jersey, Albany, and Troy (NYC Park, n.d.). By 1890, 130th Street Station became one of the city's largest freight station, ensuring a continuous flow of materials for trade (NYC Park, n.d.). This was due to the steady flow of raw materials and goods, dairy factories, breweries, meatpacking industries, and auto shops which thrived along 125th Street.

In the early 1930s, Manhattanville's light industry faced a major transition as the truck replaced the horse wagon, and became the primary means of transporting goods (Figure 2). Trucks allowed for bulk-loading of goods, spurring the industrial heyday of Manhattanville. During this period, industries in Manhattanville tried to adapt by accommodating driveways for trucks within their facilities. However, by 1949 the heyday of Manhattanville industry had ended. The widespread use of the refrigerated truck in the 1940s, backed by highway infrastructure, put an end to the robust industrial growth of Manhattanville. Proximity to the docks and railway were no longer a necessity for the industries, and resultantly, they left Manhattanville and moved to the suburbs.

The former owner of Prentis Hall, the Sheffield Farms Slawson Decker Company, revolutionized the dairy industry in the U.S. and led the industrial growth of Manhattanville. They pioneered the dairy business in many ways. One of the most important contributions was the installation of the first pasteurization machine in the U.S. in 1893 (Historic American Engineering Record, 1968). In 1907, Sheffield Farms Slawson Decker Company constructed the first large scale pasteurization plant in New York City (Columbia University, n.d.). The company revolutionized the sanitary quality of commercial milk by administering tuberculin tests for dairy herds and in 1925, became the first company to install stainless steel dairy equipment (HAER, 1968). A trademark of Sheffield Farms milk plants was the use of white-glazed terra cotta for the facade, designed by Frank A. Rooke that symbolizes the hygienic character of pasteurized milk (Sheffield Farms Bulletin, 1915).

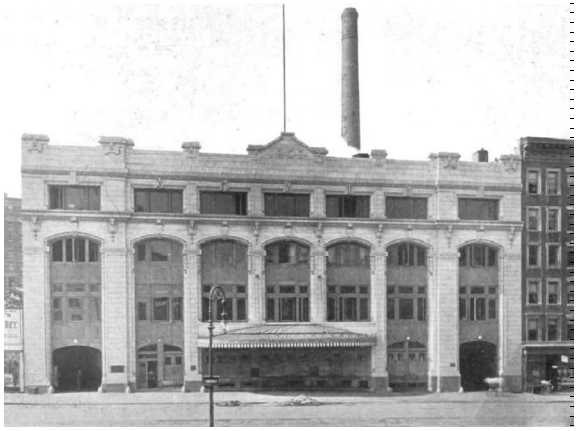
In 1909, Sheffield Farm's second bottling plant was constructed in New York City, what today is known as Prentis Hall. A New York Times article vividly described how the company designed its cutting-edge facility as a



Milk cans lying at 130th Street freight station of the Hudson River Railroad (1920). 130th station was a major freight station where the water and surface transportation converges.
Source: New York Public Library



Automobiles lined at the 130th street ferry terminal (1922)
Source: New York Public Library



Sheffield Farms Milk Plant (1911)
Source: Architects' and Builders' Magazine



Sheffield Farms Milk Plant (1929)
Source: New York Public Library



Sheffield Farms retail store and garages in 125th street (1939)
Source: New York City Municipal Archive

way to engage with the public:

> "A new $500,000 building to be constructed on the south side of Manhattan Avenue for the scientific pasteurization of milk. Rapid bottling and delivery are ensured by means of two driveways leading into and around either side, at which a continuous stream of wagons can be constantly loading. 75,000 quarters of milk are to be received daily...the bottling room is abundantly lighted, having a ceiling 27 feet high with a sky-light and large dome… The entire process will be open to the public, for which purpose additional balconies have been provided on the second floor" (New York Times, 1909).

By 1926, Sheffield Farms became one of the largest dairy companies in the world, operating more than 300 retail stores and thirteen bottling plants in New York State (HAER, 1968). As a major industry in Manhattanville, they hired 55 employers to operate the facility formerly in Prentis Hall (Department of Labor, 1913). The Sheffield Farms Stable, located directly across the street, operated in conjunction with Prentis Hall, hiring employees to maintain more than 100 delivery horses and wagons (Columbia University, n.d.).

The exterior facade of Prentis Hall today clearly conceptualizes how industries altered their buildings in order to cope with the constantly changing development of transportation systems. Historic photos of the original building show two driveways at the each end, designed for transporting and receiving goods via horse-drawn wagons. By the 1929, as Sheffield Farms became one of the largest dairy companies in the United States, the company had expanded their building, running more than 300 retail stores and 13 milk plants in the New York State (Columbia, n.d.). Above the original roof, a one-story manufacturing facility and parapet wall was added. In 1934, a three-bay structure of the same floor height and ornament as the original building was added to the east of the north-facing elevation, to provide additional space for trucks. In this era, horse wagon deliveries were replaced by trucks and the original driveway was barely used. By 1938, trucks replaced horse wagons entirely, and a one-story storage and garage structure was added to the east of the 1934 addition, at 614-628 West 125th Street. This expansion stopped in the 1940s, as the new mode of refrigerated transportation drove light industries out of city boundaries. This series of exterior expansions on Prentis Hall clearly depicts the growth of industry in Manhattanville, and later declined as a result of the changes in transportation systems.

Project Description

Documentation and Significance Assessment

The objective of this project was to develop an understanding of the building's programmatic changes since 1909 (see appendix A), visually represent the building's condition, and identify significant architectural features, as well as unique architectural and industrial relics (see Appendix B). Documentation and research provided critical information into the social, industrial, architectural, and educational significance of the building, material integrity, and its current condition. Due to limited access of the building's interior during this project, documentation was primarily focused on the front facade and interior first floor. Historical research indicated these were two of the most significant components of the building's original design and use. The first floor of Prentis contains a series of tile vaults which are present throughout the hallways and above staircases, in the former filler room, and the bottle room (painted and covered with a protective mesh). Additionally, the loading dock appears to have much of its original material. The period of significance was defined as 1909-1949, with core, significant architectural features primarily located on the facade and in the first-floor filler/bottle room. Additional investigative techniques including FLIR were used to aid in evaluating the condition of the facade. The following maps illustrate the results of our documentation and significance assessment:

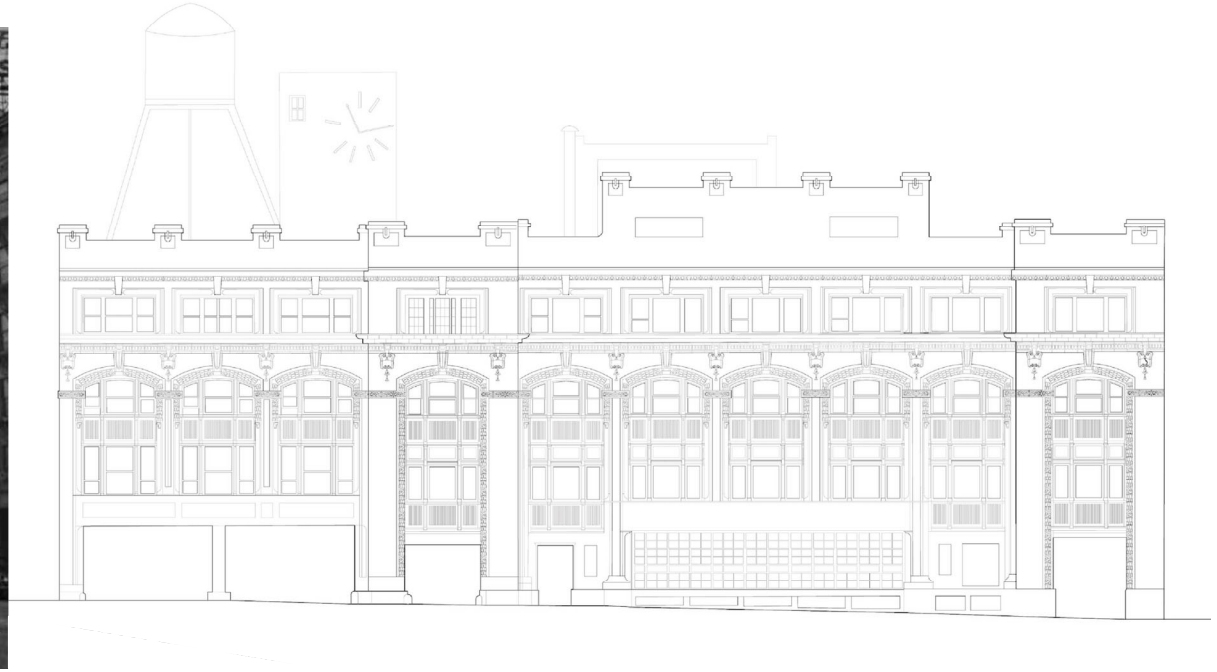
- Photogrammetry [1]
- Facade Drawing [2]
- Alterations [3]
- Material map [4]
- Damage assessment map [5]
- Significance assessment map [6]
- Infrared Thermography (IRT) [7]



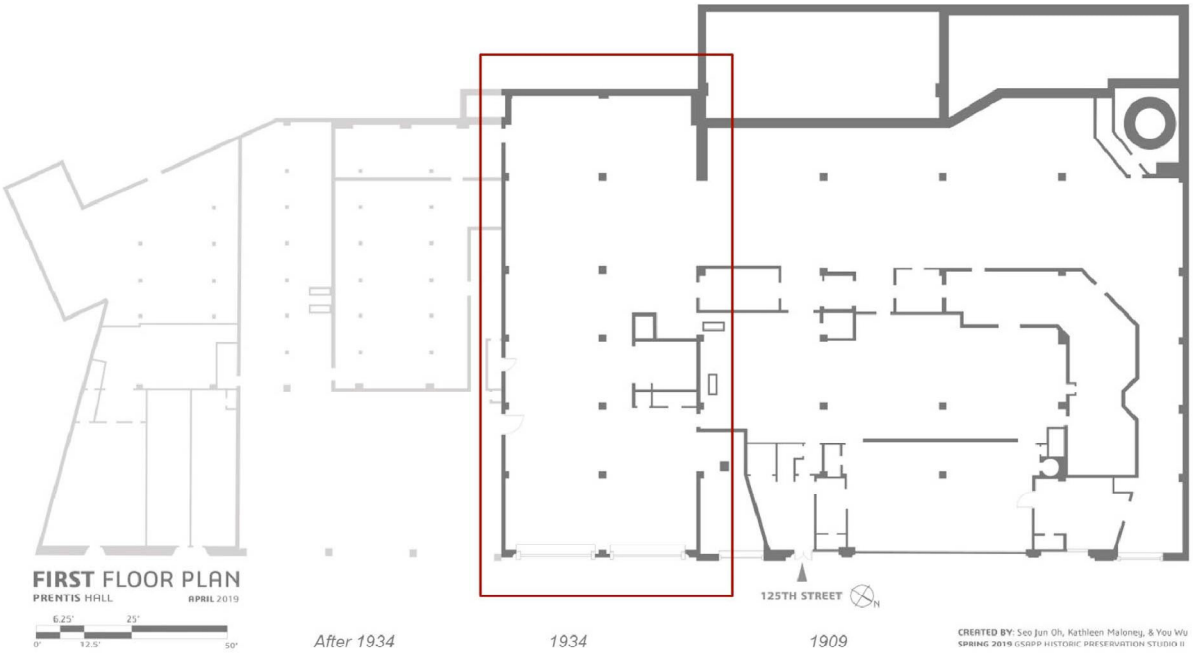
[1] In conjunction with the digital heritage documentation class, a photogrammetric model was created. The orthographic image of the facade was used to cross-reference measurements and produce a more accurate cad drawing.
Rob Kesack



Sheffield Farms Milk Plant (1939)
Source: New York City Municipal Archive



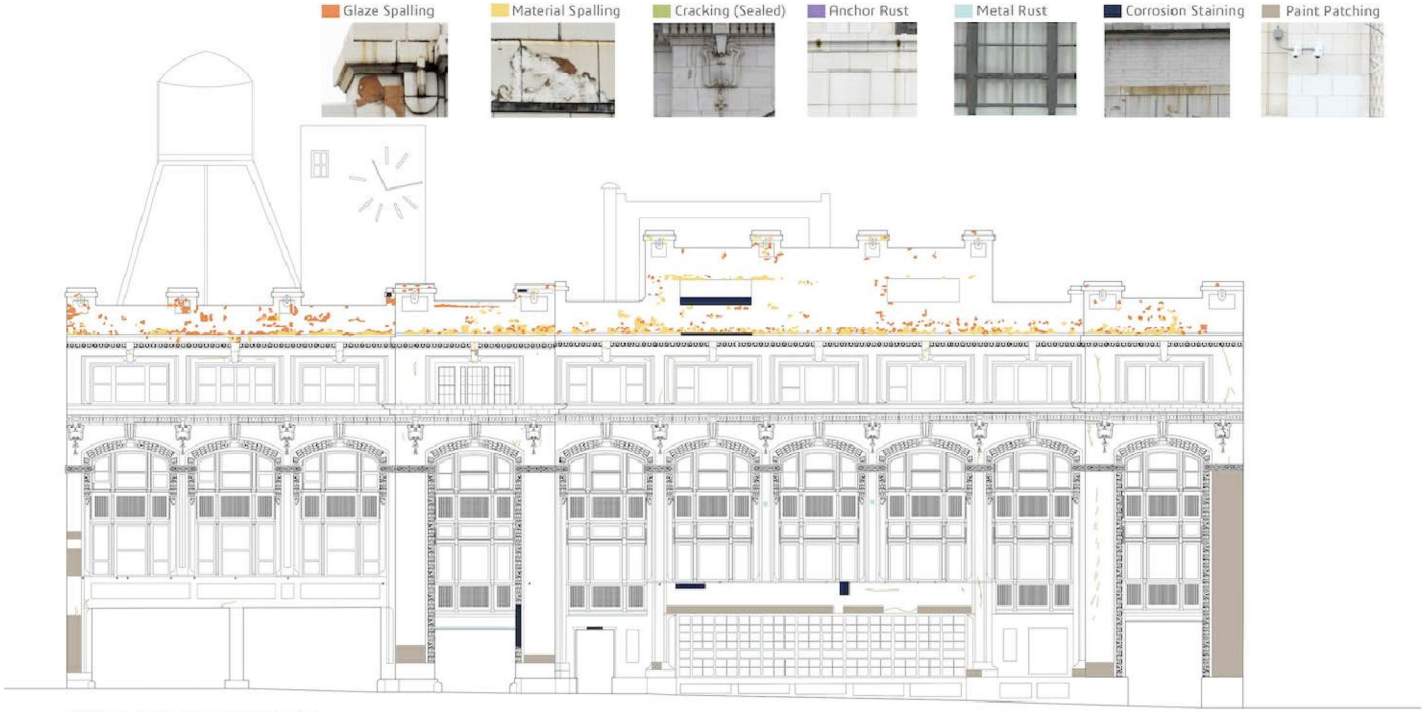
[2] North Elevation
Kathleen Maloney, Seo Jun Oh, You Wu



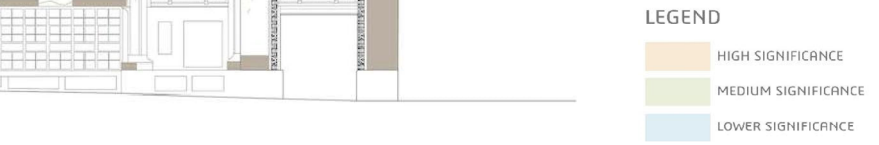
[3] Sheffield Farms expansion in 1934 and addition of the garages after 1934. Additional interior alterations occurred during the building's conversion to the Heat Transfer Research Facility in the 1950s, and an adaptation to artist studio space in 2003. The vaults and broad original footprint of the bottle room and filler room remain largely intact.
Kathleen Maloney, Seo Jun Oh, You Wu



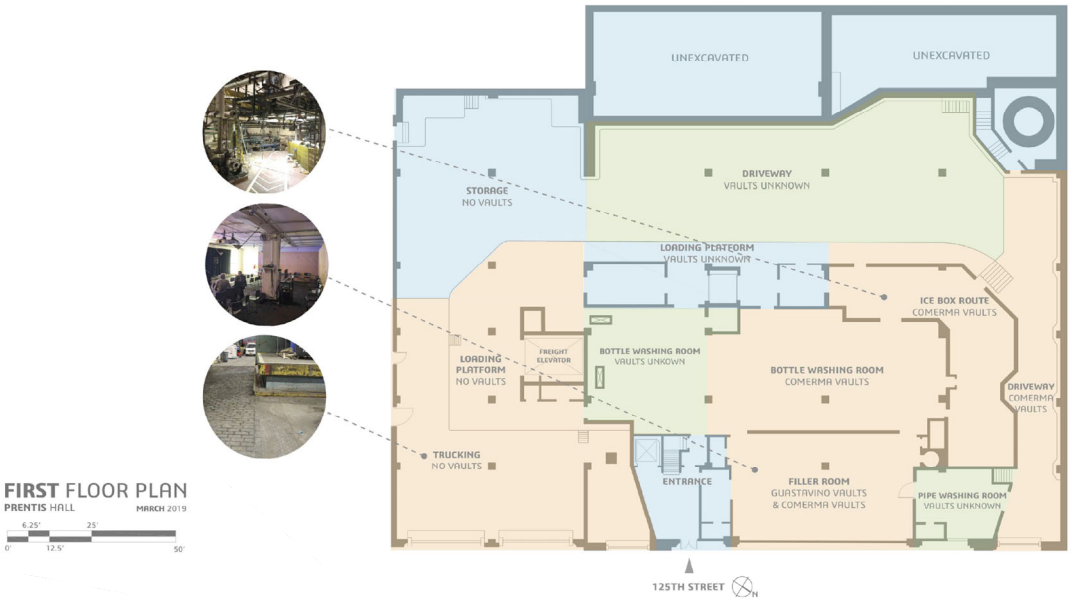
[4] Using observation and historic descriptions of the original material we determined the primary materials to include three or more different kinds of metal (the sash and doors were all originally copper, corroded to a green tint), wood, brick, four different installations of smooth white glazed terra-cotta, glass (originally wire-glazed) and granite (base).
Kathleen Maloney, Seo Jun Oh, You Wu

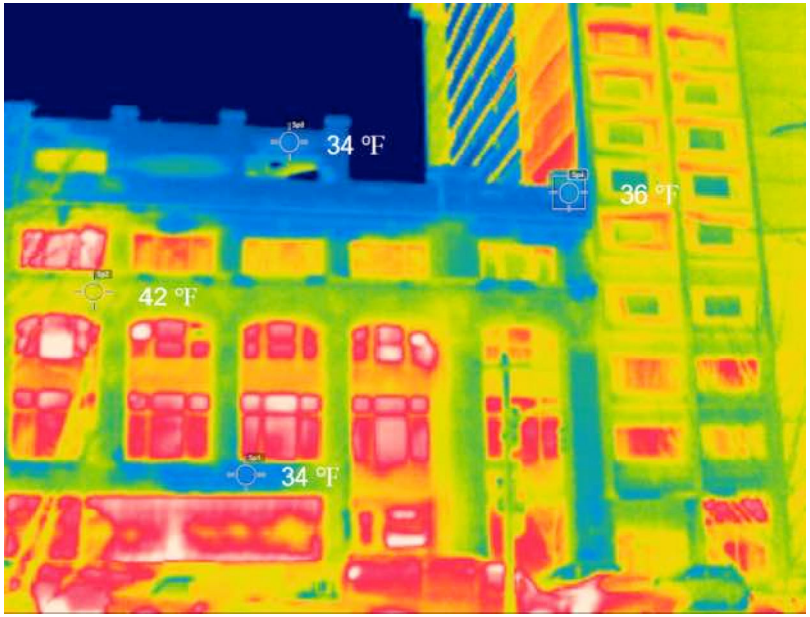


[5] According to the observations and basic research about the facade of the building, we have concluded a damage assessment map, which summarized six types of damages: spalling (glaze spalling and material spalling), cracking, rust (anchor rust and metal rust), corrosion staining, and paint patching. Based on this map, we can further understand the condition of the facade.
Kathleen Maloney, Seo Jun Oh, You Wu



[6] Parameters were established for this significance map of the first floor of Prentis. For this map, the period of significance is defined as 1909-1949, consistent with the National Register evaluation. Areas of high significance include rooms that maintain their original function, material, and/or significant architectural features. The loading dock to the left of the main entrance is the only space that maintains its original function as well as much of its original material, and the former filler and bottle rooms containing the Comerma and Guastavino vaults are considered of high significance. Areas of medium significance are indicated in green. These contain original material from the period of significance, some of which may have been altered slightly, or of secondary importance to the function of the pasteurization plant.
It should be noted that, outside the defined period of significance, the filler room has added significance as the mechanics room for the Heat Transfer Lab and the public lecture space for the Art School. Likewise, the loading dock was necessary in the construction of the Heat Transfer Lab.
Kathleen Maloney, Seo Jun Oh, You Wu





[7] Thermal image of Prentis Hall. Taken March 8th, 2019. Image shows possible location of thermal bridge or moisture at the first floor ceiling. Please refer to Appendix C) for more detail.
Seo Jun Oh



Landmarks in Manhattanville
Kathleen Maloney, Seo Jun Oh, You Wu

Landmarking and Adaptive Reuse

In partial response to the relocation of the School of the Arts from Prentis Hall in 2019, we propose that Columbia University nominate Prentis Hall as a New York City Landmark. Prentis Hall was determined eligible for the National Register by OPRHP on 10/7/04 under criteria A - Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history and C - Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possess high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. It was also assessed and confirmed eligible for New York City Landmark status by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) on October 2, 2004 (Manhattanville FEIS Report, 2007).

The intention of this approach is to ensure the building's facade remains in its current location, and that the building be a permanent physical reminder of the neighborhood's industrial history, as well as the impact Sheffield Farms had on the milk industry and in reducing the number of infant deaths due to unsanitary milk. As of May 2019, none of the four landmarks in the Manhattanville area represent this. The only listed building with relationship to this industrial history, the Sheffield Farms Stable, was on the National Register. However, the building, which was formerly across the street from Prentis Hall on Broadway, was demolished to make way for the Manhattanville campus. The facade was relocated out of the neighborhood and truncated to fit on a new building at 51 Audubon Ave on the Medical Campus. The garages of the former Bronx Sheffield Farms plant still exist. Parts of the facade are extant at the Brooklyn Sheffield farms plant, but the other locations have been demolished.

Landmarking the building would ensure a physical representation of this early industrial community remains in dialogue with the new Manhattanville campus across the street. Financially, Columbia University would benefit from additional tax credits at the municipal level. The City of New York also benefits, by ensuring this significant piece of city and national heritage remains. The university stands to gain by strengthening the promise made in the West Harlem Community Benefits Agreement in 2009 to treat 'all exterior alterations to Prentis Hall...in a historically-sensitive manner'(Columbia University, 2007). Landmarking would ensure a physical connection to the historic neighborhood is maintained.

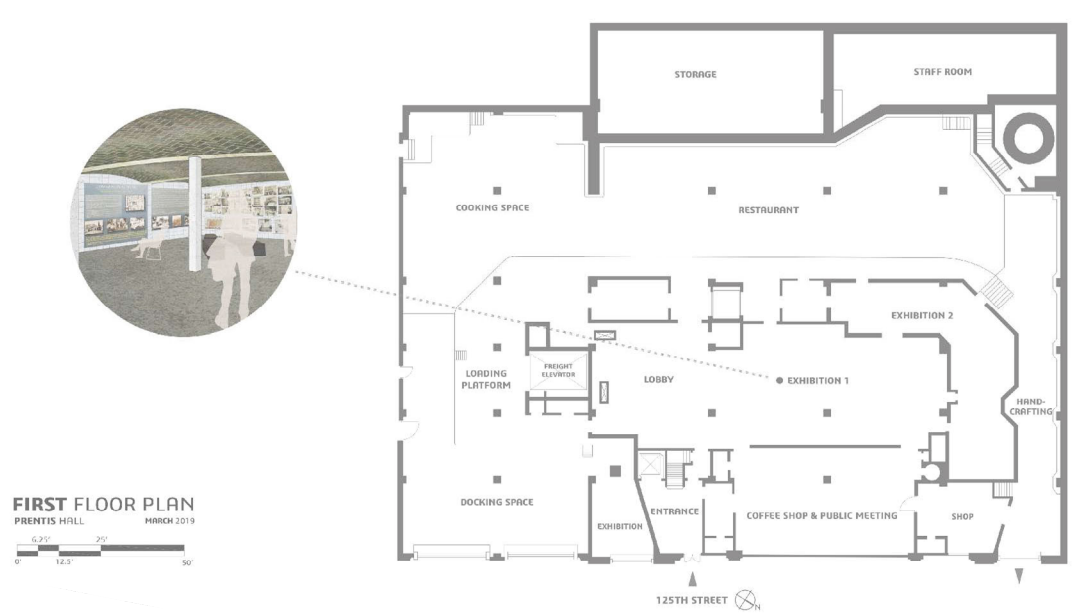
Adaptive Reuse

To preserve the underrepresented industrial narrative of Manhattanville, this proposal recommends permanent relocation of the exhibit Manhattanville: A New York Nexus -- Sheffield Farms, the Dairy Industry, and the Public Good to Prentis Hall and retrofit the first floor as a public coffee shop or dining space. The current Sheffield Farms exhibition eloquently highlights the industrial narrative of Manhattanville and the impact of the dairy industry, but it currently resides in the Nash Building, which is unrelated to the dairy industry. It is also open to the public for a limited amount of time each week, or by appointment only (Manhattanville Exhibit, C.U.). This award-winning exhibit should be showcased in the center of the Manhattanville campus. The content of the exhibit should be updated to include more history on the building's specific influence on the neighborhood and dairy industry.

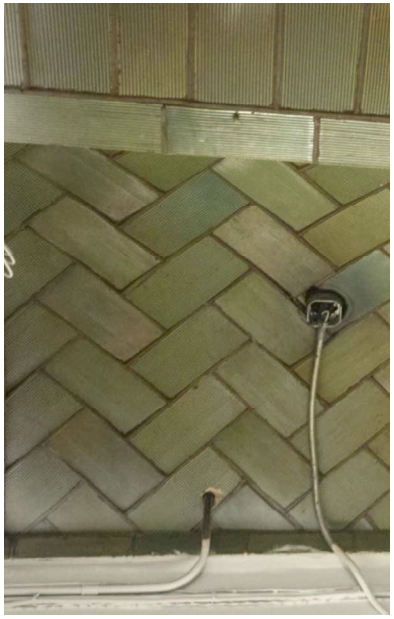
This proposal recommends using the first floor as a permanent exhibition space and public gathering space would necessitate re-opening the space to the public, as it was originally intended. The Manhattanville exhibition and aspects of the building's history could be incorporated in the restaurant and coffee shop space, on menus, or digitally presented on touch screens. It would also become a public destination, increasing traffic in the building and exposure to the exhibition and history.

In addition to the repurposing the first floor, the Guastavino and Comerma tile vaults should be uncovered and restored to further appreciate the architectural significance of Prentis Hall. Sheffield Farms conceived the building as a grand showcase for promoting the company's achievements (Figures 17-19). The company opened its cutting-edge facility to the public and included Comerma Tile Vaulting, considered to be lightweight and durable (Rooke, 1911). In 1930, they employed Guastavino to expand the vaults, indicative of how Sheffield Farms Company valued the public engagement (see Appendix B-1).

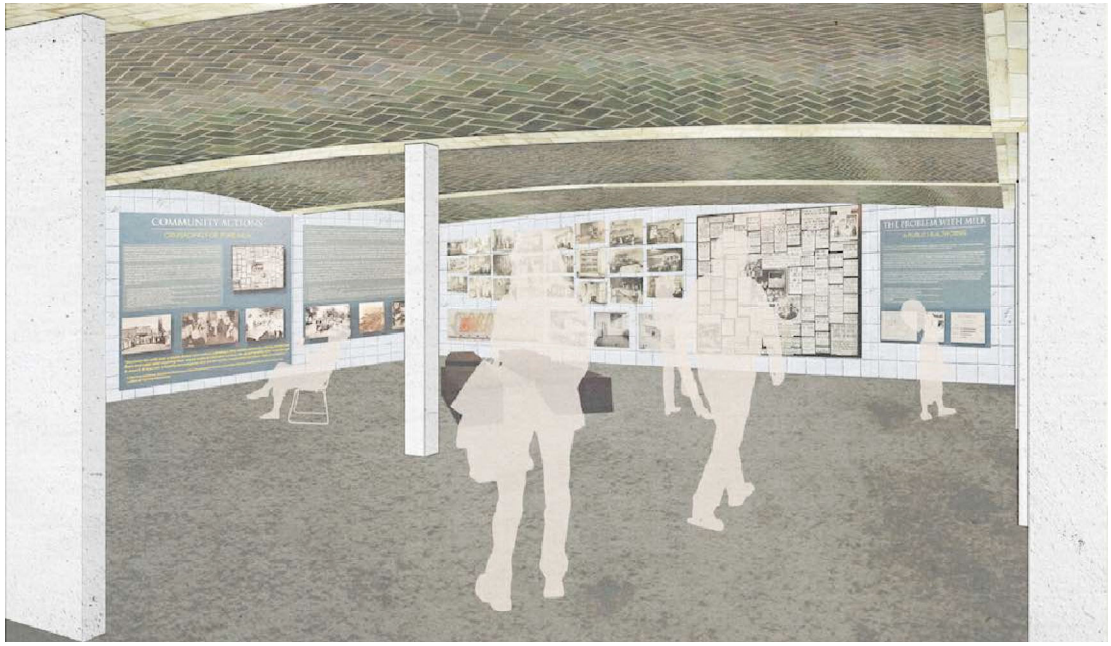
The future programming for Prentis Hall is unclear but there is speculation from the community that the building, and/or the adjacent garages, may become a hotel or housing (CB9 Meeting, March and April 2019). Columbia has used 3.48 out of a maximum 6.5 floor area ratio (FAR) for Prentis Hall. The adjacent garages have significantly more potential for new construction with only .97 out of 6.5 the maximum FAR built (MAS, AccidentalSkyline). The university has the capacity to expand the current buildings, due to its location in a high



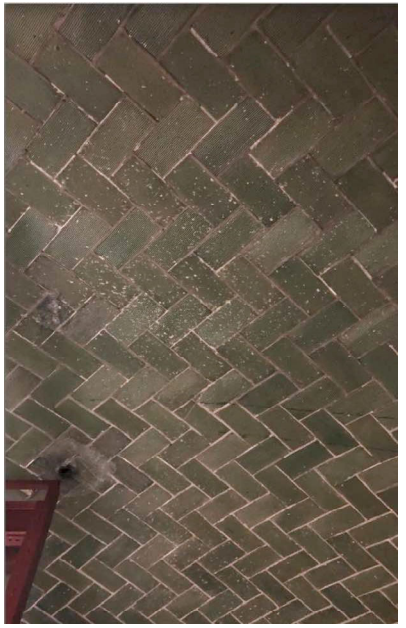
Adaptive reuse plan
Kathleen Maloney, Seo Jun Oh, You Wu



March 5, 2019
Source: Erin Murphy



Conceptual design for the first floor of Prentis Hall
Kathleen Maloney, Seo Jun Oh, You Wu



April 12, 2019
Source: Seo Jun Oh

density residential district. This proposal supports the University capitalizing on this opportunity of growth by incorporating the facade of the garages into a new multi-story facility that would not exceed the current height of Prentis Hall. This would ensure that there is a height continuity for the southern side of 125th street and prevent Prentis Hall from being dwarfed by another high-rise residential tower or becoming a high-rise residential tower itself. The latter, if realized, would further distance the current built environment from the historic industrial streetscape.

Acknowledging this shift in use and potential for redevelopment of the adjacent lot, this proposal suggests respectful adaptive reuse of the building's second to fourth floors as a branch of health care services, hotel/housing, or artist studio space. These possible uses are outlined in more detail below:

Health Care Services

Part of the building could be used for urgent care services or as a satellite office for student health services. This would provide better access for the Manhattanville campus students. The closest health care facility is CU's Charles B. Rangel Community Health Center on 135th or Columbia Health in John Jay Hall. This ties to the building's original use as a pasteurization plant its' mission to create safer products through cleaner environments, with an emphasis on sanitation. By collaborating with the shelters in the neighborhood, it can better serve the local community and provide more options for people when facing potential health problems.

Hotel or Housing

If speculation is accurate and the building is slated to become a hotel or housing, floors 2-4 could be privately accessed for residents or guests. This would allow the first floor to remain open to the public.

Artist studio space

Artist studios space could be coordinated with the souvenir shop on the first floor of the Sheffield Farm's Exhibition, the rest of the space, and even the existing upper floor studio. This space could invite the public to participate and learn more about the dairy industry from within the building. Given the current use as an Art School, this is an efficient way to reuse the existing space and combine the dairy history with the building's most recent tenants. By showing the contrast of space usage, it can represent the multiple possibilities of the building.

Project Implementation

Preferably, Columbia University would support nominating Prentis Hall as a New York City Landmark. However, owner support is not required. Any member of the community can submit the request for evaluation. If Prentis is subsequently designated a landmark, then Columbia University and Facilities would need to adhere to the Landmarks Preservation Commission's (LPC) guidelines and submit any major changes to the facade for review. Minor changes or maintenance would not need to go through the review process.

For any proposed adaptive reuse plans, Columbia University would need to approve the financial and programmatic changes, and apply for a change in zoning. The building is currently classified as 'Educational Structures - Other College and University (W6)' in zone R8 (zola.com, accessed 5/2/19). The lot would need to be rezoned for a commercial overlay in order to operate a restaurant or other commercial element since it sits just outside of the Special Manhattan Mixed-Use District.

The next step would involve Columbia selecting and hiring a preservationist and architect to design and manage the renovation, taking care to restore the original footprint of the filler room without damaging the vaults. Programmatically, if converting to a hotel, Columbia University would need to determine whether this would be university-managed by facilities or if space would be leased the private companies. If the building were to be nominated for landmark status prior to completion of the adaptive reuse projects, Columbia University would need to submit plans to the LPC for review.



April 12, 2019
Source: Seo Jun Oh

Heat Transfer Lab

The former Sheffield Farms Dairy was identified as a potential asset, amid Columbia University's collaboration with the United States Atomic Energy Commission in the late 1940s. The extensive square footage, high ceilings, interior driveway, and existing artesian well, were considered the ideal to house the cranes and large equipment needed to set up what would become the Heat Transfer Research Facility. Columbia purchased the building for $1 in 1949 and in 1950, the facility officially opened. The purpose of the facility was to simulate nuclear meltdowns using 15 megawatts of power and pumping over 10,000 gallons of water per minute (Hutchinson, 2003). When activated, it slowed the 7th Avenue subway line by 6percent, in part due to the enormous power supply needed to run the tests (Fighetti, 2019). The facility only operated between 10pm-2am . As a response to the 1968 protests and the University's distancing from the IDA, the facility transitioned from a national laboratory to a private laboratory conducting applied research. As a private lab, it generated consistent annual revenue but the vast amount of space and shifting priorities of the University prompted the closure of the lab in 2003 (Fighetti, 2019). For over 50 years this laboratory, unique for its field, ran tests for local and international power plants and substantially influenced the nuclear power industry by improving nuclear safety. Part of this facility and the mechanic's rooms were located in the former Filler and Bottle rooms of the Sheffield Farms Milk Plant.

Synthesizer

Prentis Hall has housed Columbia's Computer Music Center (CMC) since 1950. Originally the Columbia-Princeton Music Center, the CMC is the oldest center for electronic music in the United States (Columbia University, n.d.). As a founder of electronic music research in 1958, CMC installed an RCA Mark II Sound Synthesizer, the first programmable electronic synthesizer.

Art School

In 1971, the School of the Arts moved a few artist studios to the building, combining its use as music center and art school. The school relocated the artist studios out of Prentis in 1994, reopening a few studio spaces and offices in 2003 (Columbia.edu, N.D.). Columbia initially planned to dramatically expand Prentis to fully house the School of the Arts, but ended up only adding an extra floor in 2015.

Library and Storage Space

In 1995, WASA Architects & Engineers began converting some of the lab space to be used as a off-site storage for libraries on Columbia University (DOB, 1995). The building was also used as storage space for the electronic music studio (Columbia.edu). It still houses some of the overflow from the library.

Vaults

The original building plans were not available to us, but through research and site visits we were able to composite an approximate timeline for construction of the glazed-tile vaults on the first to fourth floors of Prentis Hall, specifically those located in the first-floor filler and bottle room. Tiles in the filler room have been painted white and covered with a protective mesh that is anchored into the tiles. The 'vitreous, green-ribbed tile, laid with white mortar joints' described in a 1910-11 Architecture & Building Magazine article written by the architect, are still evident in the bottle room and hallways of the first floor (Rooke, 1910-11). The 1910-11 Architecture & Building Magazine article, 1950's plans found on site, and 1934 drawing from the Avery Archives confirm that two companies produced the vaults currently in Prentis Hall (Guastavino, Avery Archives).

John Comerma, a former assistant in the Guastavino Company, founded The Comerma Company in 1909. The two companies were rivals constructing extremely durable structural glazed tile vaults using a very similar tile system. In 1917 Comerma managed to secure a patent but was quickly put out of business after Guastavino sued the firm and won in 1918 (Ochsendorf, 2010). The vaults throughout the first floor are a combination of the Comerma and Guastavino tile companies. The original vaults were constructed by the Comerma Company but plans show that some of the vaults were replaced in addition to a row of smaller vaults added to the filler and bottle room by the Guastavino company in 1934. The juxtaposition of these vaults illustrates an interesting narrative of the relationship between these two companies, the conflict and patenting of one of the famed vault systems.

Artesian well

Upon our initial visit to the building, we noticed flowing water on the back wall of the old boiler room in the basement. By researching articles describing best practices for milk factories, speaking with former employees of the history of the Heat Transfer Lab, and investigating historic plans of the basement in 1950 and 1952 we were able to learn that this was, in fact, an artesian well. Artesian wells were a unique and desirable feature in early twentieth-century industrial facilities, and particularly well-suited for the dairy industry where sanitation was prioritized and a constant flow of water was necessary to keep machinery clean. The well was included as part of Frank Rooke's design and also incorporated in the larger Sheffield Farm's factory on 166th street. Later, when Columbia University was looking for a building to house its Heat Transfer Laboratory, the well was considered an important component of the building. When the Heat Transfer Lab was running tests, it required 10,000 gallons of water to be pumped per minute. The water was heated and used during testing but a steady stream of cool water was used to reduce the temperature of the test water before it drained to the city sewer.

Boilers

1,000 horsepower boilers were considered extremely powerful when Sheffield Farms opened the plant in 1909.

Generators

The original generators, relocated from Oak Ridge National Laboratory for the opening of the Heat Transfer Research Facility, are still in Prentis Hall along with much of the equipment.

Appendix C - Infrared Thermography (IRT)

IRT testing for Prentis Hall was conducted on March 8th 2019, using FLIR E60 thermal imaging camera. The weather was cloudy and the temperature was 35.6 □ with 44percent relative humidity. A total of 12 thermal images were captured at the distance ranging from 5 meter to 25 meter. There was no rain or snow four days prior to the investigation so there were no signs of surface or groundwater from the building. We input 0.9 for the emissivity of white-glazed terracotta cladding as per the emissivity standard in the device manual.

Images from the first IRT survey showed a thermal anomaly at the top floor parapet and small region on the first-floor ceiling. Cold zones on the parapet could be normal given that the extensive material spalling and the presence of empty space behind the parapet could have dropped the surface temperature. However, the first-floor ceiling area had no surface damage but still showed temperature as low as the parapet area. Temperature difference between first-floor ceiling and other undamaged terra cotta were more than 8□, indicating possible thermal bridges or existence of moisture (Please refer to figure 13 in proposal). To investigate further, the group planned to take IRT images from the inside to see whether the damage is detectable from the interior. However, due to the security and access issues, we were not allowed to investigate the interior of the building. Please note that this IRT was implemented only for the qualitative assessment of thermal anomaly, and cannot be a quantitative assessment of the damages. To ensure the cause and extent of damage, additional investigations should be performed. This IRT investigation is provided to narrow down the possible area of damage so that the facility can save time for the further investigation.

The West Market Diner

James E. Churchill

Proposal and Key Issues

The proposal for the West Market Diner requests that Columbia University comply with its agreement to restore the West Market Diner as confirmed in the community and rezoning legalities reached through New York City Charter in 2007, and to reopen it in the center of the new Manhattanville campus (City Planning Commission, "N 070496 ZRM", Department of City Planning, NYC. November 26, 2007. Accessed May 2, 2019.)

The diner symbolizes the American dream, representing the entrepreneurial and hard-working spirit of the immigrant operator and the blue-collar community they came to serve, an important demographic of the Manhattanville community. Columbia's purchase of the diner's was the result of a two-year negotiation. The closure, and now significant absence, of the West Market Diner exemplifies the overbearing and damaging impact this institution has had on blue-collar communities in Manhattanville. What once was an important dining and meeting place for countless workers in this industrial and commercial neighborhood is now inaccessible. The failure to date to restore a diner measuring just 40' x 16' is all the more provocative when juxtaposed against a completion of three large campus buildings as part of Phase 1 construction for Columbia University's new Manhattanville campus.

Based on both oral history and archival research, the West Market Diner should be restored to a period around the early 1970s, prior to when the brick cladding was installed for maintenance reasons. This would include rehabilitation of original character defining features and restoration or reconstruction of heavily damaged fabric. Original function as a dining space would be retained and reuse options would be offered to operate either as a delicatessen, eatery, or more complete restaurant through a lease on Columbia property. However, this proposal suggests that the diner retain independence as a non-Columbia affiliated establishment. Histories would be used to tell the story of the displaced peoples, their neighborhood, and the types of businesses they were employed by, bridging gaps between the new and old community and promoting cross-cultural and class dialogue.

Project Background, Significance and Rationale

The West Market Diner, originally known as the Gibbs Diner, was an integral part of the community from 1921 to 2003. It was previously located on the corner of West 131st Street and 12th Avenue. In 2011, it was sold to Columbia University as part of the Manhattanville campus expansion, and was removed to a safe site after eight years of non-operation. Upon this move, the university promised restoration of the diner would occur.

The structure originated as a J.P. Tierney timber wagon cart, the first producer to introduce tiling and restrooms to the diner typology. In 1948, its original wooden barrel vault structure was cut back to make way for an additional stainless steel Mountain View Diner. While reported as holding little historic integrity, the as-found tiles, wooden roof and skylight documented in the FEIS (City Planning Commission, "Final Environmental Impact Survey", Department of City Planning, NYC. November 16, 2007.) should be placed on display.

Diners originated in the northeastern United States - a dining experience that typifies the determined and strong spirit of the citizenry to better their lot. Celebrated as a piece of Americana, their futurist and polished designs embraced modern materials such as formica, chrome and stainless steel. Additionally, their cultural iconography in magazines, artwork and movies has cemented their popularity as a bastion for home-cooked food in a clean and socially inclusive environment.

For 36 years, the previous owners operated the diner over two generations. Upon purchasing the business in 1967 and the property in 1969, Bill Lolis ran the diner until falling ill in 1985. His son, Matt Lolis, a builder by trade, took over the diner until its closure in 2003. Business hours ran from 4:00 AM to 4:00 PM from Monday to Friday. In the 1990s, Saturdays were added as business declined. For over 20 years, the first and only waitress, Nellie, worked at the diner before ultimately retiring in in her 70s. Serving a mostly male clientele, professions of patrons ranged from truckers, factory workers, meat-maker wholesalers, retail employees, secretaries et al.

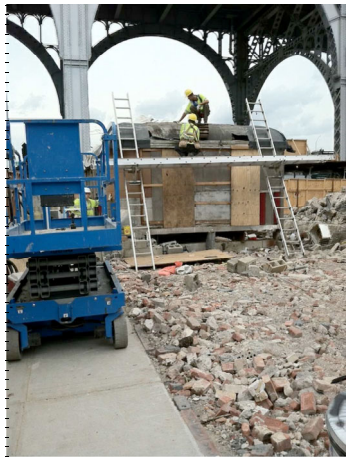
This project involved significant engagement with multiple publics. Two oral histories were recorded during the research phase. Matt Lolis, a first-generation Greek-American provided a significant and lasting impression of the neighborhood, while speaking neutrally about his experience with Columbia and the sale of the diner. Ana Diaz, from 2000 Auto Service, a car care center placed next to the diner, as a first-generation Dominican-American, had entirely negative opinions of Columbia and their handling of the community amid the Manhattanville campus expansion. Diaz felt minorities had not been heard, had been significantly displaced, and that Columbia had not carried through on its promise of 6,000 jobs for the community. She believed the only benefits of the new campus were for students, staff and faculty of Columbia. All of the oral histories have been recorded digitally and are to be



West Market Diner, 12th Avenue II, Manhattan, February 2, 2002
Source: Stephen Scheer



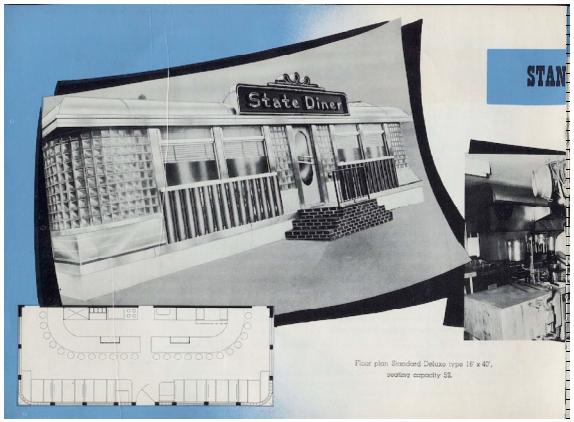
West Market Diner, 12th Avenue III, Manhattan, February 25, 2002
Source: Stephen Scheer



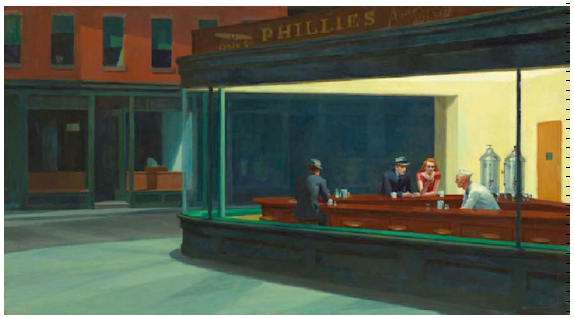
Matt Lolis, West Market Diner Demolition



Gibbs Diner, Columbia Facilities



Mountain View Diner Catalog, Standard Deluxe Model



Edward Hopper, Nighthawks, Art Institute of Chicago, Oil on canvas, 33 ⅛ x 60", 1942

deposited in the Columbia Archives for academic resource purposes.

The West Market Diner is significant both historically and culturally. It is a reminder of the industrial and commercial culture of Manhattanville, and the migrant population that worked in and around this archetypal American diner. Beyond its use as an inexpensive food establishment, it served as a central meeting place for blue-collar workers and the community at large, connecting the varied businesses around the neighborhood.

While the community has radically altered since the removal of the diner in 2003, the versatility of the diner, proven with over three-thousand establishments still in operation nationwide, demonstrates its ability to reinvent itself in a new setting. Considerable cachet in the American mindset would permit the diner to re-establish itself as an old friend with new beginnings, bridging a gap in non-fast-food eateries in the area, while offering reasonably priced, home-cooked food for all. The diner would not be placed on its original site. Its inherent mobile nature supports a shift two blocks south to center itself in the high foot-traffic academic community that has replaced the meat and auto community it once served.

Project Description

Retaining original functionality of the diner is the primary goal of this project. While rehabilitation will be emphasized, restoration or even reconstruction may be required where sanitation and modern comforts are required. Using the twin Mineola diner as an example, the West Market Diner, now 75 years old, would need a significant upgrade of kitchenware and furniture to contend with municipal codes on hygiene and expected standards by customers. Further analysis, which has not been possible due to lack of access, may suggest either rehabilitation or reconstruction of tables, stools and benches to cater for larger population sizes.

The West Market Diner will face east, running lengthwise from the southeast corner of the new Global Center building opposite the square at the Lenfest Center for the Arts. Servicing all foot traffic from the new Manhattanville academic campus and open spaces, it will also capture business along the 125th street corridor which includes the subway station down to the West Harlem Piers.

The diner can operate either as a basic food and beverage stall, a light menu eatery with outsourced storage and delivery, or with an enlarged footprint inside the new Global Center. The positioning of the diner would allow a connection to an additional kitchen, storage and group seating area directly behind in the new foyer of the building. Retaining independence from Columbia, this extended area would not be operated by Columbia employees but would be leased out to the owners of the diner to organize and operate alongside their business.

The West Market Diner will service the Manhattanville community at large. A lack of low-priced restaurants and eateries in the area, other than McDonald's on the corner of 125th and Broadway, and the limited representation in the same vicinity (Starbucks, Ramen, et al.) would enable further choice for construction workers, restaurant and supermarket employees, auto technicians, staff, faculty, students, residents et al. to enjoy a centrally located home-cooked meal in a socially inclusive setting. A history booth would be created within the diner, or a recorded history would be added to a digital menu (iPad) that would allow visitors to engage with the content recorded for this assignment.

Project Implementation

- Given Columbia's entire ownership of block 1996 there should be no issues in terms of zoning.
- Columbia Senior Management would consider the location of the diner at Global Center.
- Columbia Facilities Manhattanville Development would establish if the Global Center could repurpose the southeast interior to an integrated restaurant with the diner.
- Columbia Facilities would establish if permits were required for food enterprise on Columbia property.
- Columbia Legal and Real Estate would draft a lease for the new operator of the diner and potentially the space inside the Global Center.



Matt Lolis, Inside the West Market Diner, photographer and date unknown



Plan for Phase 1, Manhattanville Campus, 2013
Source: Renzo Piano Building Workshop



125th St Corridor, 2019
Source: James Churchill



Perspective for Phase 1, Manhattanville Campus, 2013
Source: Renzo Piano Building Workshop

Manhattanville Waterfront

Huanlun Chen

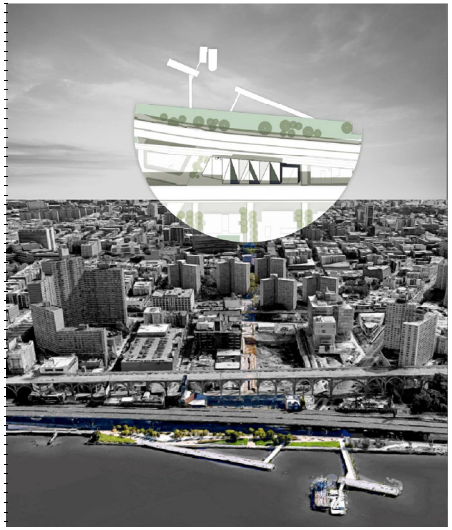
The proposal for the Manhattanville Waterfront is situated at the northwestern corner of our study area, between Columbia's new business school building and the West Harlem Piers. The key issues of this site pertain to accessibility to waterfront, public needs for fresh food and parking, and preservation of the collective memory of the neighborhood history. The proposed architectural intervention is intended to provide public amenities and infrastructure, while interpreting the site's history in the current context, recalling the various people who once populated and activated the waterfront.

The topography and history of this site is critical to understanding its context. It is notable that West Harlem Piers is a now an isolated location along the Hudson River. However, this historic location was where people traditionally gained access to the river. This is where the Lenape tribe harvested seafood. The written narrative of the site dates back the time when Henry Hudson entered the cove of Manhattanville on September 13, 1609, and purchased oysters from the native inhabitants. From the late seventeenth century to the early nineteenth century, the waterfront docks were an essential part of the Dutch farming community for shipping products and building materials. The site was a core connection point of transportation in the mid to late nineteenth century, especially after the railroad was constructed. This brought the industrial buildings for processing, storage and packaging to the waterfront, closing the waterfront end of 131st Street. In the early twentieth century, after the IRT subway was constructed, some of the industrial buildings were demolished and the waterfront became a large parking lot. This condition remained until the early 2000s, amid Columbia's expansion in the area, starting a decade ago.

As surrounding buildings gradually changed from industrial to commercial, and as Columbia currently develops its Manhattanville campus, the site is again a crucial connection point to link the waterfront to the community and the campus. The site is presently a parking lot between two Fairway Market office and market buildings that have survived the radical changes to the neighborhood. This context begs the question: how can we preserve history for the cause of social inclusion and equity?

The principal idea of this proposal is to reintroduce pedestrian access to the waterfront, by providing food supply, parking infrastructure, and social activities in correlation with and with respect to the site's multiple layers of history.

The project starts from its volume and structural form. The development of Columbia's Manhattanville campus



Manhattanville Waterfront Site
Huanlun Chen

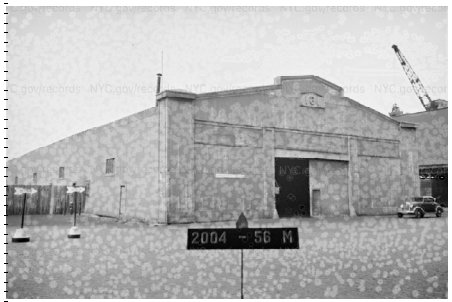


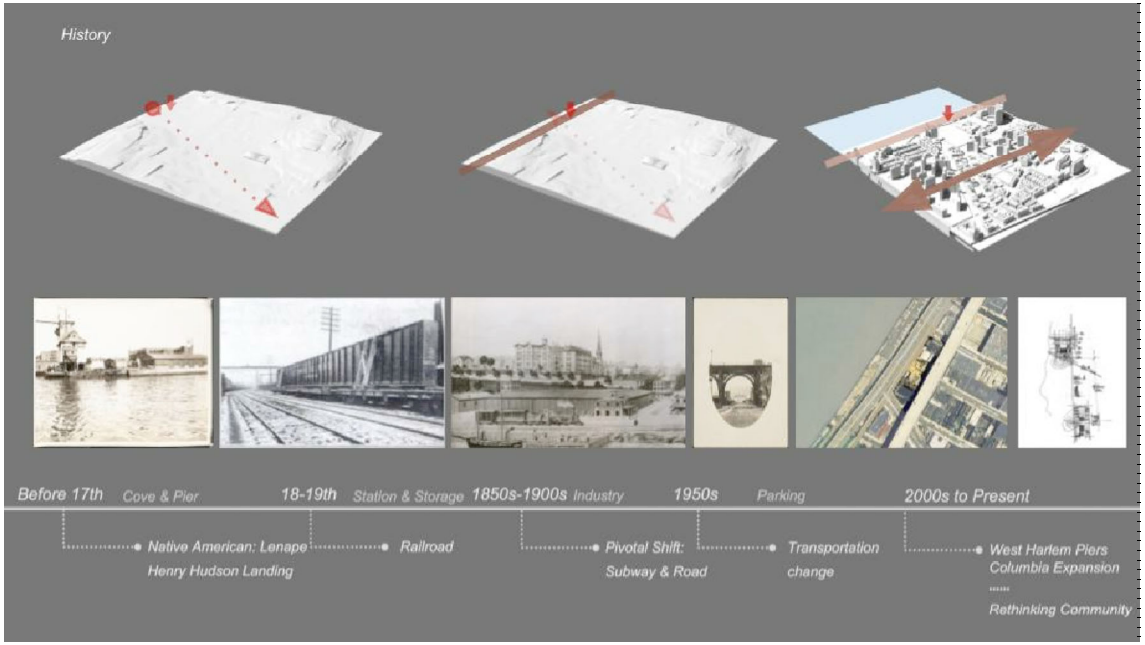
Photo of Building on Block 2004, 131st Street (1940)
Source: New York City Municipal Archive



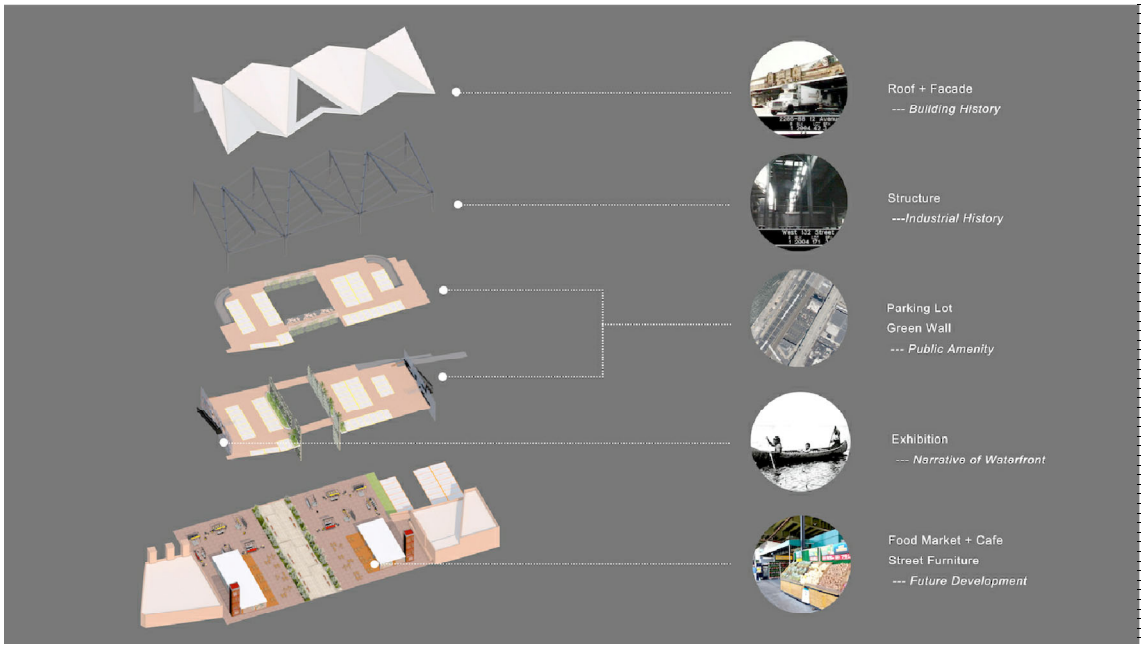
Proposed Plan for Manhattanville, 2030
Source: Manhattanville in West Harlem Rezoning and Academic Mix-used Development



Proposal in the Urban Context
based on Piano's Plan
Huanlun Chen



Waterfront History Timeline
Huanlun Chen



Isometric Drawing of Levels and Related History
Huanlun Chen

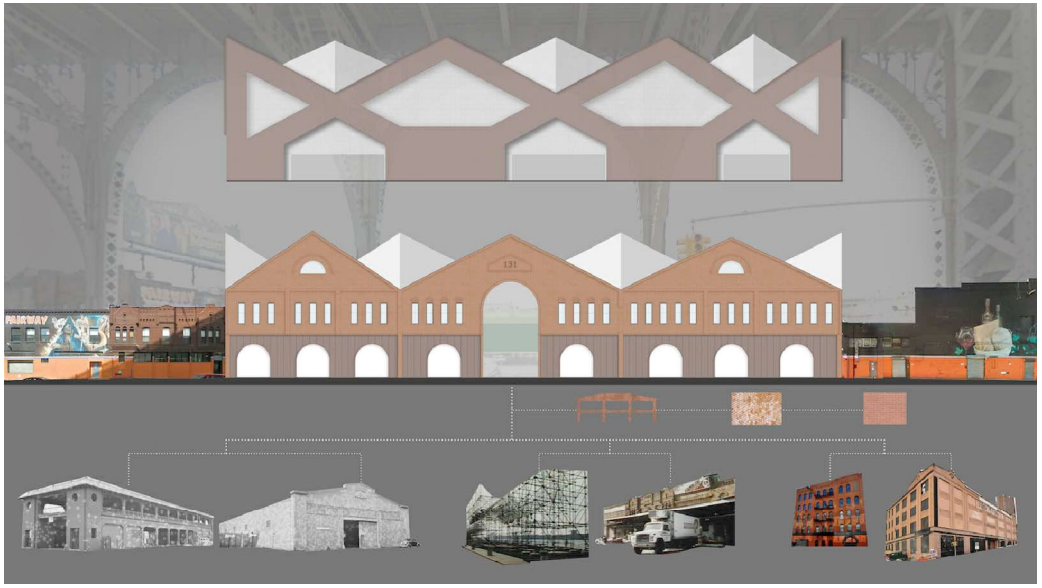
demolished many of the small industrial buildings and warehouses, which were crucial features of this low-rise community. The three-story volume of the proposed building helps recreate the image of industrial building, and adds a mediating layer between the high-rise housing projects near Broadway, large campus buildings, viaducts, railroad, and the piers. As for interpreting history, elements and events that symbolize a historic period are montaged and stacked in the volume in a contemporary architectural expression.

The ground floor is the most active part of the proposal, which provides access to the park and public food venues like markets and cafes. The ground parking and landscape is reorganized, and the entrance ramp for upper level parking is arranged on the north side of the site, occupying the gap between the railroad track and Fairway Market office building. The second and third floors serve as parking infrastructure. When night descends, the third floor is convertible to a public activity space for events such as social gatherings, movies, and more. The street façade of the new building is a scaled montage of its context that hints at the brick industrial buildings of Manhattanville's past (Figure 9). By setting the new volume back from the adjacent buildings, the murals on Fairway buildings can be preserved and displayed as background for activities.

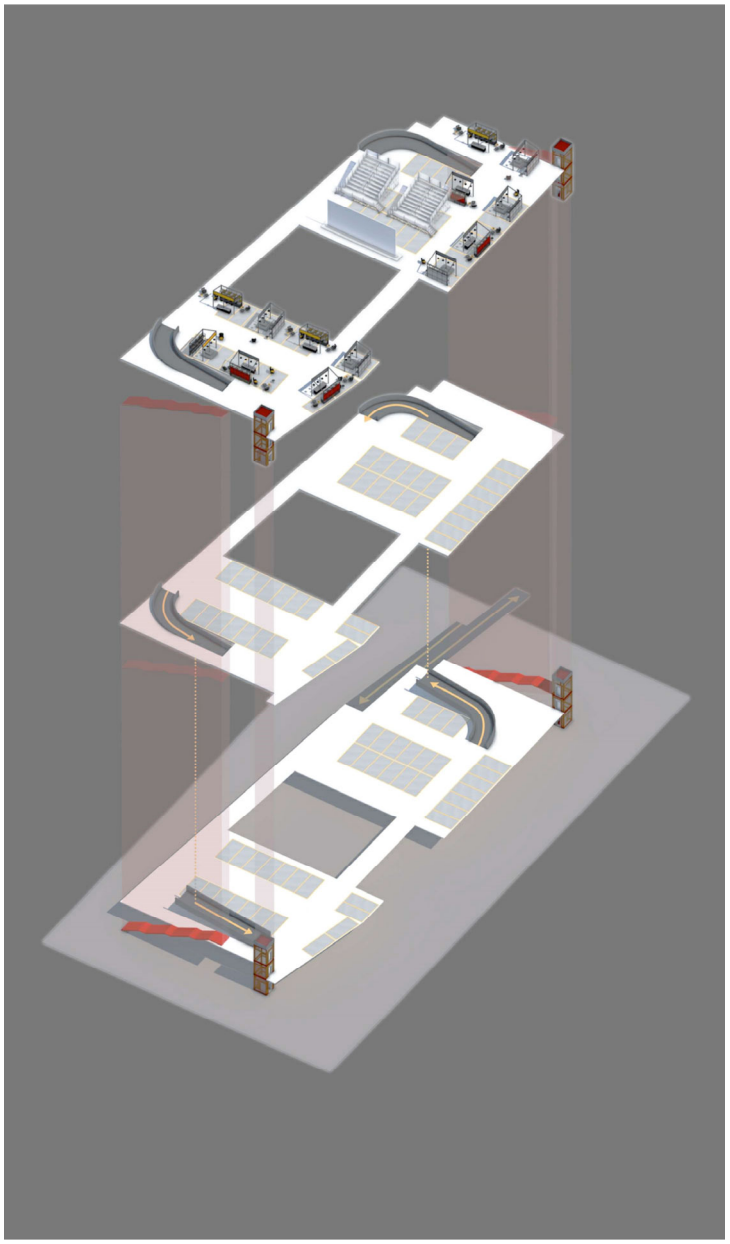
Unrepresented facets of Manhattanville's history, particularly of the Lenape Native Americans, and the historic events about the waterfront are displayed through the ship models hanging from the truss over the walkway to the water, as well as at the open exhibition along the stairs on both sides of the proposed structure. Altogether, an activated ground floor, two elevated parking floors and the expressive structural form of this intervention preserves, interprets, and serves its users from past, present, and future, while promoting inclusion through architecture.



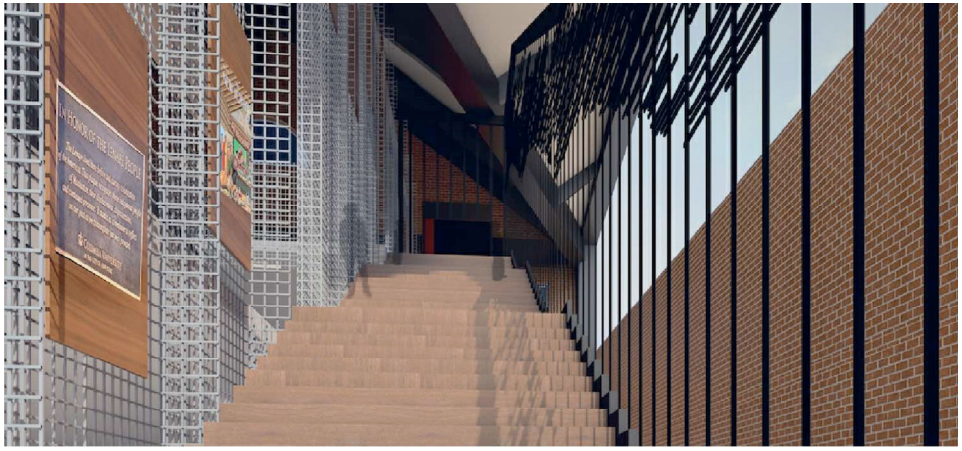
Ground Floor Plan and Activity
Huanlun Chen



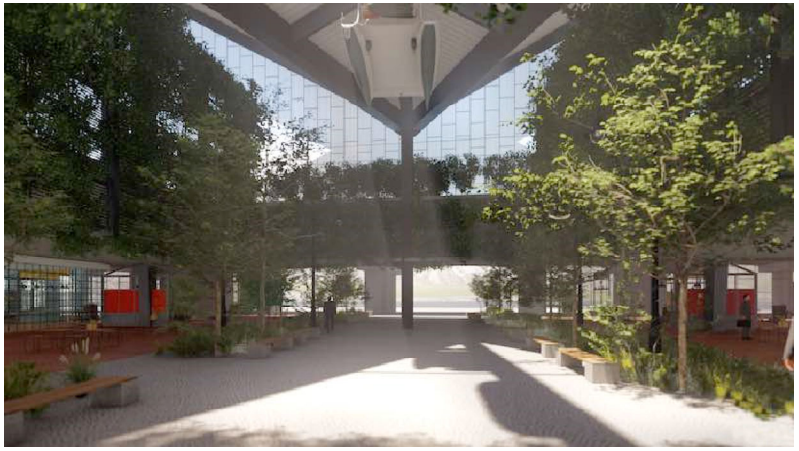
Analysis of Facades and Rationale
Huanlun Chen



Isometric Drawing of Circulation and Activities
Huanlun Chen



Exhibition and Stairs
Huanlun Chen



Rendering showing Central Path and Models
Huanlun Chen





Street Collage
Huanlun Chen

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