

A WALKING TOUR OF THE AUDUBON TERRACE COMPLEX



Boricua College Doors

Welcome to the HarlemNOW walking tour of Audubon Terrace and the surrounding area. This tour goes through Audubon Terrace, Trinity Cemetery, and the Chapel of the Intercession. If you choose to, you may continue your tour at the Audubon Ballroom, where Malcolm X was assassinated. To listen to this tour, check out our tours online at www.culturenow.org. We suggest that you arrive at your tour via the 157th St. Station on the 1 train.

BORICUA COLLEGE



You will arrive at the intersection of 157th St. and Broadway. Make a left on Broadway and head south to 156th St. Across the street in front of you should be Boricua College. Please walk along the building's Broadway façade until you reach a courtyard. The College resides in a building within the courtyard that was originally built for the American Geographical Society. This is why the top of the building is engraved with the names of famous explorers.

HISTORY of AUDUBON TERRACE: ARCHER MILTON HUNTINGTON



View from Audubon Terrace towards Broadway

You are now standing within Audubon Terrace. It is a complex of eight Beaux Arts buildings from the early 20th century whose architects include some of the major stars of the period: Charles Pratt Huntington, Stanford White, and Cass Gilbert. Audubon Terrace was originally part of a farm belonging to painter and naturalist John James Audubon, who is best known for his paintings and descriptions of birds. Railroad heir and philanthropist Archer M. Huntington commissioned the complex in 1907 as one of the first planned cultural centers in America.

Archer Milton Huntington was the stepson of industrialist Collis Potter Huntington, who cofounded the first U.S. transcontinental railroad after making his fortune in Sacramento during the California Gold Rush. Collis adopted Archer when he married Archer's mother. The two had been involved in an extra-marital affair for fifteen years before their marriage and it is unknown whether or not Collis was the biological father of Archer, though Archer himself maintained that Collis was. Archer led a privileged life, but was rejected from Columbia University and never received higher education. He instead followed his own path and traveled to Spain and various Arabic Countries. He was intrigued by the epic poem *El Cid*, but was dissatisfied with the then-current translation, and thus learned Arabic so that he could produce a translation of his own. The translation is today regarded as the top translation, and because of his work he was granted honorary degrees by many top universities later in life. He was married twice; his second marriage was to a sculptor, Anna Hyatt Huntington, whose work adorns Audubon Terrace. The couple married late in life and had no children.



Flagpole Base

Archer Milton Huntington was a scholar of Hispanic Studies, and is known for founding The Hispanic Society of America, which is located within Audubon terrace. He also donated land and money to create other museums and parks throughout the United States. Audubon terrace began as just the headquarters for The Hispanic Society, and grew into a complex that held many other organizations. The original

residents of Audubon Terrace included the American Geographical Society, the American Numismatic Society, the Museum of the American Indian-Heye Foundation, the Hispanic Society of America, the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Church of Our Lady of Esperanza. Only the Hispanic Society, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Church of Our Lady Esperanza remain today.

TERRACE GEOGRAPHY

If you walk through the courtyard and up the stairs, you will find yourself in front of iron gates. Although the sign upon the gates says the American Numismatic Society resides within, the society has moved downtown two years ago. Walk through the gates into the upper courtyard.

On your left stands the building, which houses the Hispanic Society of America, and on your right stands the building which houses the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

THE HISPANIC SOCIETY of AMERICA

First direct your attention to the Hispanic Society of America, which was built in 1908. [HarlemNOW Museum #3]. The entrance is on the south side, where the pair of limestone lions stands. One of Columbus's three ships is featured on the triangular frieze on top of the building. Within, the Society features art from the middle ages to present, including works by Velázquez, Goya, El Greco, and Jose de Ribera. The society is a free museum and reference library dedicated to Spain, Portugal, and Latin America. It features a notable collection of textiles, as well as rare carpets, lace, embroidery, and seals. The museum is known for housing archeological finds, religious artifacts and other historical relics.

THE ACADEMY of ARTS and LETTERS

The American Academy of Arts and Letters is an honor society of artists, writers, composers, and architects. The honor of election is considered the highest formal recognition of artistic merit in the United States. Only Academicians may nominate and elect new members. Awards of recognition and of monetary value are granted to members as a means of encouraging and fostering the arts.

The Academy is housed within three buildings, made of limestone and granite. The first building was designed by William Mitchell Kendall of the firm McKim Mead & White. The building was completed in 1923, and currently houses administrative offices, a members' room, a portrait gallery, a library, and exhibition galleries. Adolph A. Weinman, himself an Academy member, designed the bronze doors at the 155th St entrance, which were dedicated to Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, novelist and one of the first female members, and to the woman writers of America. A winged Pegasus flies over the door, which features figures in bas-relief.

The second building was designed by Cass Gilbert and was completed in 1930. It houses a large terrace-level exhibition space and a large 730-seat auditorium. The bronze doors were done by Herbert Adams and represent Arts, Letter, Poetry, Music, Painting, Sculpture, Inspiration, and Drama.

The third building was originally built for and occupied by the American Numismatic Society. It was designed by Charles Pratt Huntington, who also designed the master plan of Audubon Terrace, the Hispanic Society building, the Geographical Society building, and the Museum of the American Indian Building. In 1930, the building was expanded to include addition of a west wing. This addition narrowed the terrace-level gap between this building and the Academy's original building to a 12-foot corridor. In 2009, the Academy completed the Glass Link at the site of the corridor. The Glass Link was designed by James Vincent Czajka in consultation with Henry N. Cobb and Michael Flynn of Pei Cobb Freed & Partners.

TERRACE SCUPLTURES: ANNA HYATT HUNTINGTON

Anna Hyatt Huntington, wife of Archer M. Huntington who owned the land, created all of the statues within the courtyard. She is considered among the greatest female American Sculptors, active for a period of approx 70 years, around the first half of



Hispanic Society of America



Academy of Arts and Letters



Lion Statues in front of the Hispanic Society of America



Bear Statues in Audubon Terrace



Base of El Cid Statue



The Chapel of Intercession

estate, gave its name to the surrounding neighborhood of Chelsea, Manhattan, and Moore's land in the area is noted today by Clement Clarke Moore Park, located at 10th Avenue and 22nd Street.

THE CHAPEL of INTERCESSION

Return to the street and walk up 153rd to Broadway, and cross Broadway so that you are on the northeast corner of the intersection. Walk north on Broadway to 154th St. On your right is the Chapel of the Intercession. Make a right, heading east on 154th St., and you will see a sign for the Chapel. Enter here. The Chapel of Intercession was built in 1912. It is the third church to occupy the site, and is also home to one of the only cloisters in North America. The chapel is built in the Gothic Revival or Neo-Gothic Revival Style. In the tower is an 850-lb bell, which was cast in London.

TO END YOUR TOUR:

You may now choose to end your tour, or you may choose to visit Audubon Ballroom on Broadway between 165th and 166th St.

If you choose to end your tour, you are near the 1 train. The nearest station located on the northwest corner of Broadway and 157th St. To get there, exit the church onto 154th St. Walk west, and turn right onto Broadway. Walk north until you hit 157th St.

TO CONTINUE to AUDUBON BALLROOM

If you choose to continue your tour, please exit the church onto 154th St. Walk west, and turn right on Broadway. Walk north until you reach 165th St. The Audubon terrace will be on your right at 3940 Broadway.

The Ballroom is best known as the site of Malcolm X's assassination on February 21, 1965. After Malcolm X left the Nation of Islam in 1964, he founded the Organization of Afro-American Unity and held weekly meetings of the organization at Audubon Ballroom. At one of those meetings, Malcolm X was assassinated. Columbia University bought the building in 1980, with the intention of tearing it down. Many activist groups protested and the University eventually agreed to restore a portion of the original façade of the Audubon Ballroom and build a museum inside to honor Malcolm X. In 2005 the University announced the opening of the museum, the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center.



The Audubon Ballroom

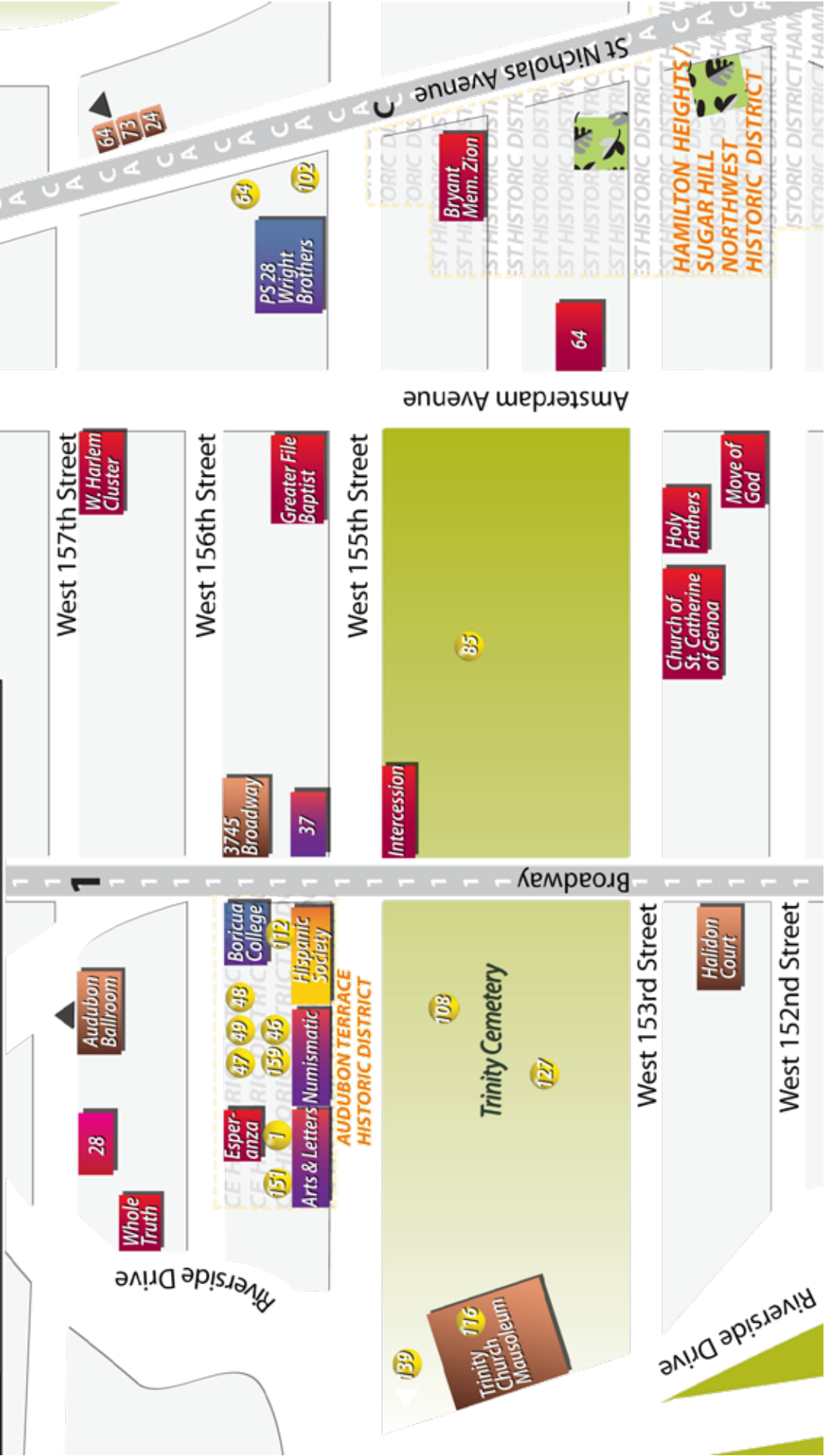
END of TOUR:

Your tour is now over. To take the 1 Downtown, please proceed to the nearest station at the intersection of Broadway and 168th St.

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AUDUBON TERRACE (Hamilton Heights)

Public Art Installations	Performance Spaces	Educational
Galleries • Art Spaces	Jazz Clubs	Libraries
Museums	Places of Worship	Parks
Historic Buildings	Cultural Landmarks & Resources	Community Gardens
Recent Architectural Works	Civic Resources	Greenmarkets



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