

Learning Places Fall 2016  
**LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT**



Lincoln Center and NY Historical Society Archive

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## INTRODUCTION

Describe Scope of Activity

It was the first time, I went to this museum/library. Therefore, I was very excited to see what I would learn on this visit. From the beginning I was so astounded by the building's architecture because it is so beautiful. The other thing that caught my attention was the security they have. It was impressive because they do not allow people to come in with bags, jackets or even pencils.

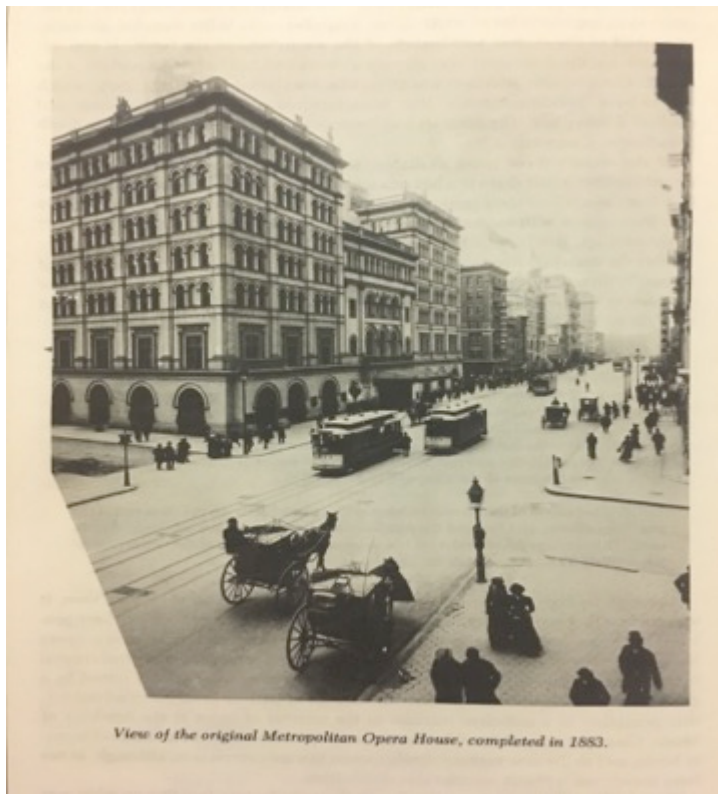
## PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

PRIOR to site visit, reflect on what you anticipate learning or seeing during the visit.

Once inside, it is wonderful to see people wearing the costumes of old soldiers, the decoration is

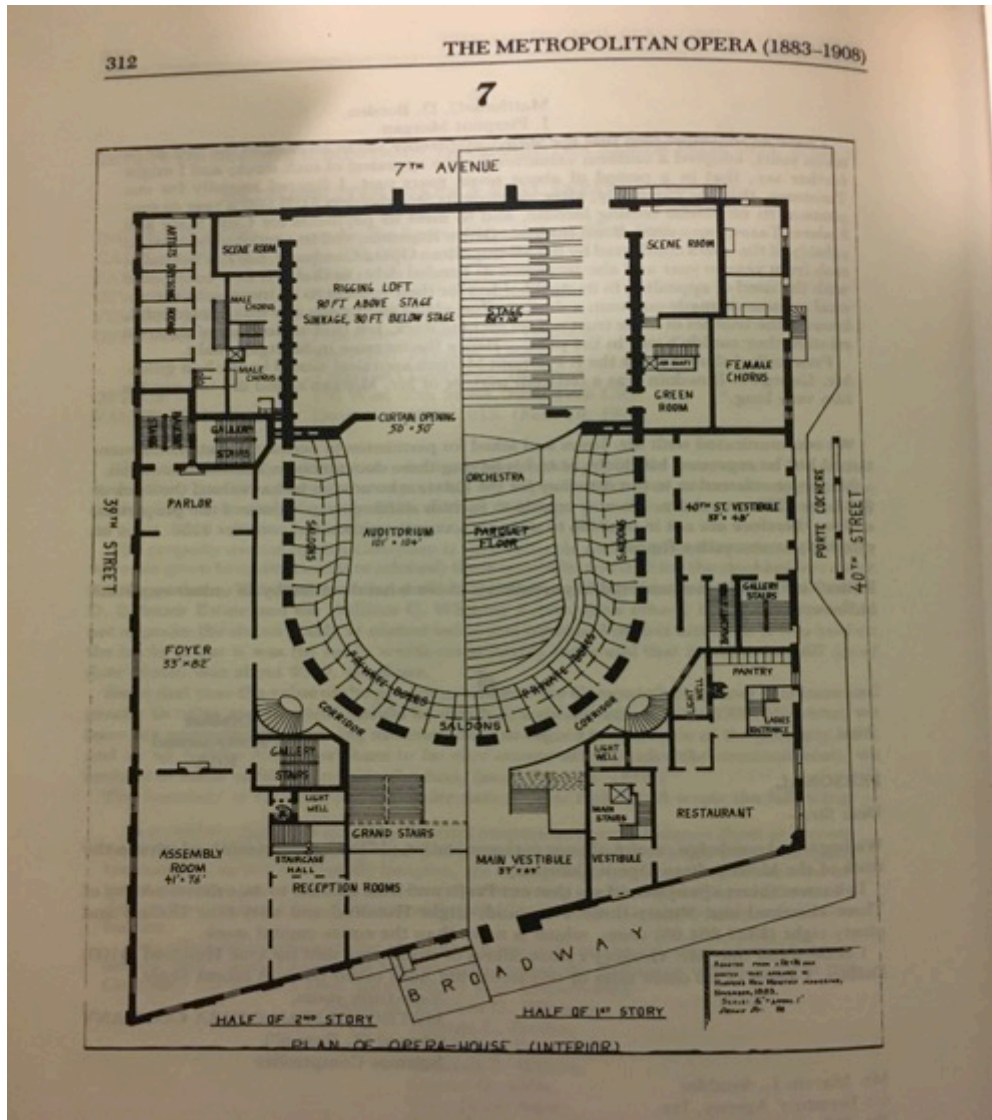
very cute. I loved the train on the ceiling. When we arrived at the second floor, we were greeted by our guide, who gave very good information about the maps they have, how to classify the information, the photos and even recommended some books to do the search.

SOURCES found DOCUMENTATION of site & resources (maps/archival documents/photos)



The original Metropolitan Opera House, 1883. It was called, Yellow Brick Brewery, located on 39<sup>th</sup> St and Broadway

This photo shows that at that time people were transported in carriages, by train and some in their vehicles. Also, we can observe that the buildings were not so high and no traffic at all.



Plan of the Metropolitan Opera House. Drawing above was adopted from 2 ½ inch x 3 ½ inch sketch appearing in Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Vol 67 No 402 November 1883, P 879.

We can observe that most of the boxes are private.

The idea of abandoning this theater and moving uptown was in the minds of the Met's directors. They wanted a bigger space where they could build a great theater for the opera, with enough infrastructure to bring big operas. One of the first involved in this project was John Rockefeller, who thought to create a house for the new Metropolitan Opera. But not just did the Met need space; the Philharmonic's lease was simultaneously due at Carnegie Hall so they were looking for space too. However, the opera and philharmonic were not friendly at that time. Architect

Wallace Harrison advised to make a new home together as a cultural square and bring culture to a new area.

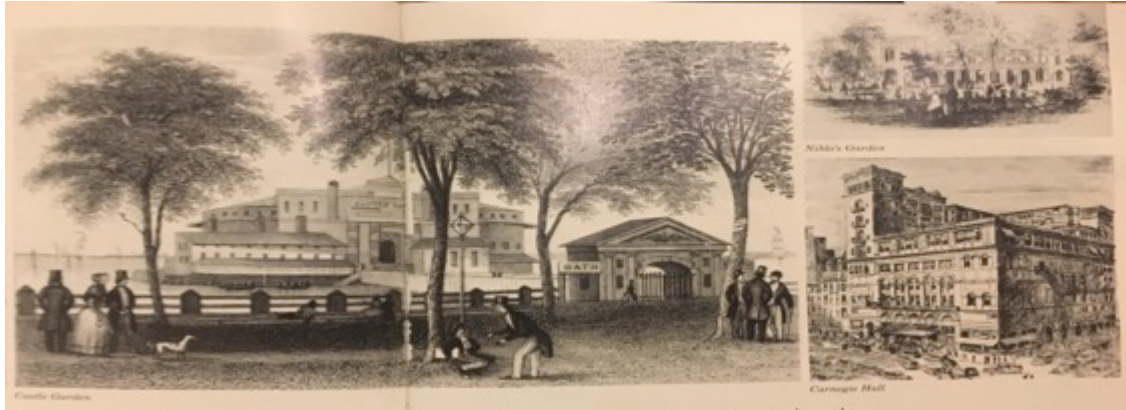
Write description of sketch or photo here, explaining why it is important and what it shows



1. Alan Rich, *The Dream, The Lincoln Center Story*, 13 or Volume, 1984

Aerial view of Manhattan in 1955. Looking southeast, shows the future site of Lincoln Center Outlined in white

A group of six dreamers: Charles M. Spofford and Anthony Bliss of the Metropolitan Opera's executive committee; Floyd Blair and Arthur A. Houghton, Jr. of the New York Philharmonic Symphony society; and the architect Wallace Harrison and John Rockefeller met together in 1955 to create the sketches. But they started to look back to the Renaissance Florence because it was the only one that gathered everything they wanted in a single space. With this idea in mind Spofford defined his mission about having a center not just for music but also for ballet, drama and education. That way the idea of Lincoln Center expanded to be the big center of cultural arts.



NY Historical Society Archive

We can observe that it was the Colonial theatre, and Hotel Empire.

Also, Broadway was originally the Wickquasgeck..

In 1776 it was called Broadway and was two ways. Now it is just one way.



San Juan Hill 1940



San Juan Hill 1960 before demolition

## DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
  - a. It was called San Juan Hill
  - b. Name possible outcomes from the battle in Cuba during Spanish American War.  
One block can hold about five thousand residents.
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
  - a. 1940 San Juan Hill named “the worst slum section in the City of New York.”
  - b. 1950 people were evicted
  - c. 1960 demolition started
3. Key Players
  - a. Rockefeller
  - b. Harrison
  - c. Spofford
4. Relationship Key Players
  - a. Collected 84 millions to start
  - b. Architecture
  - c. Executive heat of Metropolitan Opera
5. Public Perception of Key Events
  - a. Before demolition some films were recorded there
6. Important Changes to Neighborhood

- a. Become cultural center known worldwide
- b. Generate employment
- c. Generate tourism

7. Other Observations

- a. It is place with its own magic.
- b. Good prices for students and veterans.

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

Materials, Acoustic,

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	New York City Housing Authority, Johannes Van Brunch, Thomas Hall, Stephan de Lancey and James de Lancey
Number of Blocks	From 62 St to 65 St and
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	
Materials	Different material and styles
# of Stories of Buildings	
Residential Bldgs	Residential buildings, Condominium, and Houses.
Empty Lots	

Commercial Uses	Century21, Bed Bath & Beyond, Imax theater, restaurants and banks among others. Lincoln house
Industrial Uses	
Other Data	
Other Data	
Other Data	

#### QUESTIONS to Research Further

#### QUESTIONS:

1. How did the Metropolitan Opera at the 39<sup>th</sup> St look at that time?
2. How did the area of Lincoln Center look before the Metropolitan Opera?
3. How does it help the neighborhoods?

#### RESEARCH METHOD/ ADDITIONAL SOURCES NEEDED TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
  - a. In the Picture above you can see the carriages and trains.
  - b. People dressed very well compared to today.
  - c. The architecture was pretty. It was demolished because the Metropolitan Opera Managers did not want competition.
  
2. Question 2
  - a. This neighborhood was occupied for Afro-Americans
  - b. Was not a safe place



3. Question 3

- a. Brings the most amazing place for performing arts and education
- b. Employment
- c. Public theater
- d. Generates tourism

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

This visit was enjoyable. The museum has amazing architecture and the people were nice. Our guide was amazing; she explained and gave us a lot of information, because we could have direct contact with the maps, the photos, and even ask her different questions.

References

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<https://www.cityrealty.com/nyc/lincoln-center>