Learning Places Fall 2016
**ST. MARK’S CHURCH IN-THE-BOWERY ARCHIVE REPORT**



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11.11.2016

# INTRODUCTION

Completed and consecrated in 1799, the St. Mark’s Church in-the-Bowery is the second oldest Church in Manhattan. The church was built by architect and mason John McComb Jr. in a Georgian style. A Greek Revival-style steeple (designed by Ithiel Town and Martin Euclid Thompson) was erected in 1828. By 1836, the church was renovated with thinner square pillars in an Egyptian Revival-style replacing the older ones, while cast-iron and wrought-iron fencing was added in 1838. In 1858, a cast-iron portico (designed by James Bogardus) was added. After a devastating fire nearly destroyed the church in 1978, architect Harold Edelman supervised the restoration of the site, completing in 1986 when new stained-glass windows (designed by Edelman, himself) were installed. Today, in addition to being the site of continuous Christian worship, dating back to the mid-17th Century, the St. Mark’s Church also hosts modern artistic performances year round. This includes the Poetry Project, which has hosted a series of new and experimental poetries, and the Danspace Project, which has hosted contemporary dance performances.

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

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# DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
	1. Church is located within Abe Lebewohl Park
	2. The original Second Avenue Deli, which is now a Chase Bank is located nearby.
	3. The Yiddish Walk of Fame is also in this neighborhood.
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
	1. Isadora Duncan danced in the church in 1922, and Martha Graham in 1930
	2. 1964: Sam Shepard staged his first two plays, *Cowboys* and *Rock Garden*, at the church
	3. April 13, 1969: Mind Garage performed the first nationally televised Christian Rock worship service in the church.
3. Important Changes to Neighborhood
	1. The Bowery was known as New York’s “Skid Row” between the 1940s and 1970s, as it was synonymous with “Bowery Bums”
	2. Today, it has been a part of the Lower East Side’s revival, as luxury condominiums have grown in numbers in the area.
4. Other Observations
	1. xx
	2. xx
	3. xx

# QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject | Data |
| Land Ownership | - |
| Number of Blocks | 1 |
| # of Buildings on a Typical Block | - |
| Materials  | Fieldstone, cast-iron, wrought-iron |
| # of Stories of Buildings | 2 (6 if counting the steeple) |
| Residential Bldgs |  |
| Empty Lots |  |
| Commercial Uses |  |
| Industrial Uses |  |
| Other Data |  |
| Other Data |  |
| Other Data |  |

# QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet?
2. Consectetuer adipiscing elit?
3. Sed diam nonummy nibh euismod?

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

1. Question 1
	1. xx
	2. xx
	3. xx
2. Question 2
	1. xx
	2. xx
	3. xx
3. Question 3
	1. xx
	2. xx
	3. xx

# SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

The St. Mark’s Church in-the-Bowery has a lot of history, both as a place of worship and as a place of art. I got to learn more about the church and how its performances bring a certain mystique to the place. I also got to learn how it plays an important role in the neighborhood’s artistic culture.