

Learning Places Fall 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

New-York Historical Society

Museum/Library



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INTRODUCTION

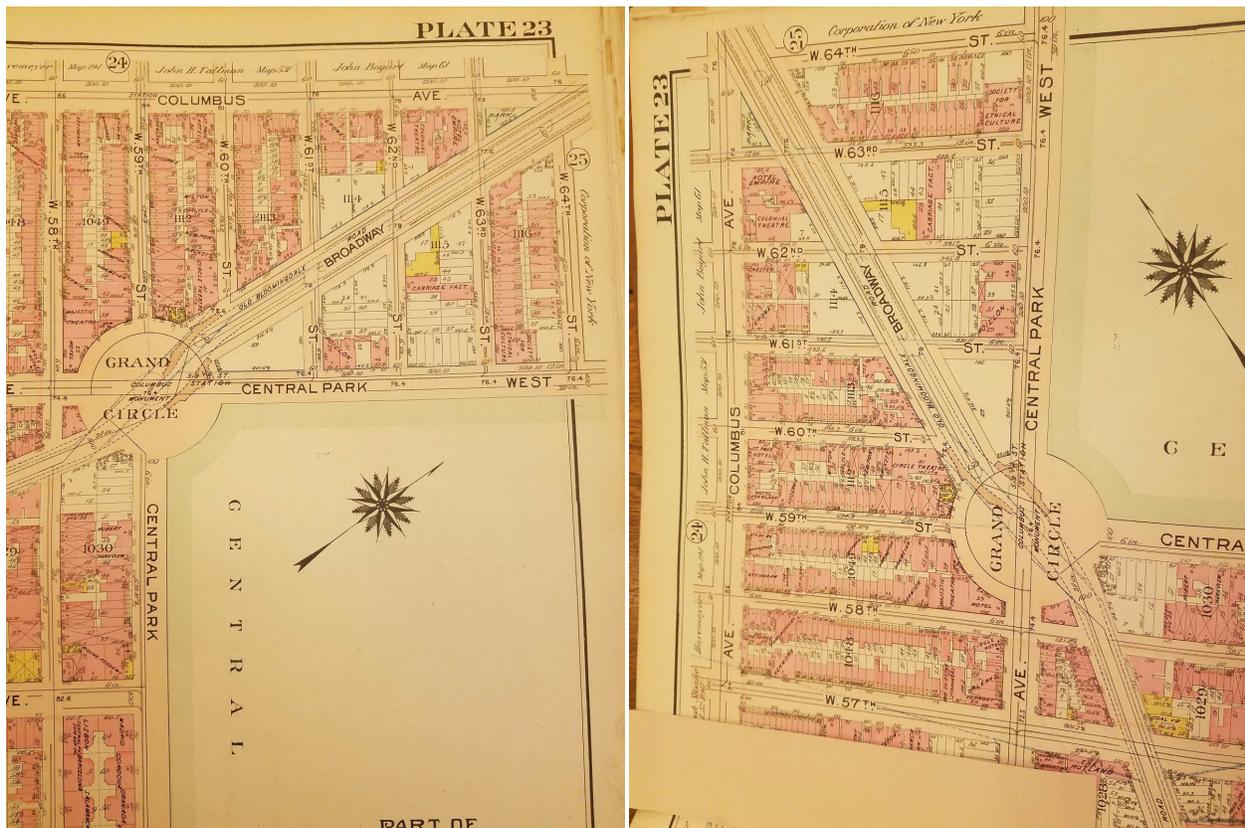
For this class trip we set our eyes on the New-York Historical Society. Our main focus was to visit the archive portion of the Museum/Library. The area contains thousands of historical images, maps, and books, along with other things of that nature.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Prior to the visit I was interested to see what an Archive has to offer, since I have never actually been. It was a very interesting experience as we were greeted with a room filled with historical photographs, books, building plans, you name it. It was very interesting to see what some areas looked like in the past.



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



The above two images depict the area surrounding where Lincoln Center is now (Intersection of Broadway and Columbus Avenue), in the 1900s. Lincoln Center still did not exist at that time, as construction for the area began in the mid 1950s. The area was very different with fewer structures, many of them still under construction, and many more due to be demolished in order to make space.

DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
 - a. The area was formerly known as San Juan Hill, predominantly African American.
 - b. Was considered a slum section in NY, in the 1930's.
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
 - a. Lincoln Center Project 1950s - 60s.
 - b. Date Founded - 1955
3. Key Players
 - a. Max Abramovitz: David Geffen Hall
 - b. Pietro Belluschi: Julliard School + Alice Tully Hall

- c. Euro Saarinen: Vivian Beaumont Theater
- d. Wallace Harrison: Master plan, and Metropolitan Opera House.
- 4. Public Perception of Key Events
 - a. Anger due to the requirement to demolish living space in order to create the Lincoln Center. Part of the Lincoln Square urban renewal.
- 5. Important Changes to Neighborhood
 - a. Became more modernized.
 - b. Activity levels increased.
 - c. No longer considered a slum with years to come.

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

Renovation, demographics, performance space, hardships.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	City owned land.
Number of Blocks	62nd to 65th street, 16.3 acre.
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	5 Buildings in Lincoln Center.
Materials	White travertine Marble.
# of Stories of Buildings	2-4
Residential Bldgs	-
Empty Lots	-
Commercial Uses	Performance, entertainment.

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. What are some other renovations that are not easily accessible to the public?
2. What were some hardships in terms of building the interior of the buildings?
3. Did the demographics of the area prior to building the Lincoln Center have any impact on the building process?

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

- a. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Center_for_the_Performing_Arts
- b. <http://www.nyhistory.org/>
- c. <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/lincoln-center-for-the-performing-arts-inc-history/>

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

The archive was a very interesting place to visit. It is a great to see that places such as the NY Historical Society care so deeply about gathering historical information. The idea to have this such information digitized is also an amazing idea. It gets all of this information out there to the public without the need to visit, so long as you have access to the internet. This visit had a great impact on motivating us to look at, and appreciate the Lincoln Center more as a whole.