

Ryan Richards
Archive Report

DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History

- a. Previously named Long Acre Square
- b. Was used primarily for horse trade

2. Key Events / Historical Dates

- a. Horse auctions prior to 1904
- b. In 1896 fire swept through the American horse exchange, killing about 60 out of the 265 horses that were stable there

3. Key Players

- a. William H. Vanderbilt
- b. Adolph S. Ochs

4. Relationship Key Players

- a. Mayor of NYC

5. Public Perception of Key Events

- a. The birth of the IRT, Interborough Rapid Transit basically revolutionized transit for millions of people.

6. Important Changes to Neighborhood

- a. The transition from horse trade to art and theater, as well as nice buildings such as hotels
- b. After about 1900, electricity, mainly in the forms of streetlights and theater advertisements, greatly contributed to public space into a safer, more inviting environment

7. Other Observations

- a. I like the coherence of the overall design on a whole even though the hotels were designed by different architects.
- b. This was an example to use new urban design to wipe out a time in history by constructing a beautiful building and renaming the area.

QUANTITATIVE DATA FOR AREA OF STUDY

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	City owned / leased property
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	One – two buildings per block
Materials	Granite, Marble, Concrete, Glass, Engineered wood
# of Stories of Buildings	
Residential Buildings	None
Empty Lots	
Commercial Uses	in 1905, the first year of operation, the IRT Times Square station serviced almost five million passengers.
Industrial Uses	Horse trade ; Public Transit
Other Data	Business improvement district, cultural & recreational property
Other Data	Side walk café zoning regulations
Other Data	State senate district 27, City council district 6, Assembly district 67

QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the culture around the times of the initial renovations of hotel Astor

‘The question I wanted to focus on was exactly what my buildings district was composed of prior to the initial construction of my building. My building is hotel Astor/the PlayStation theatre. The research I had to conduct in order to find the answer for my question was to go to the public Library and search for a book that entails historical periods of Time square, and it's streetscapes. The book I discovered was called New York streetscapes by Christopher gray, it's on the tales of Manhattan's significant buildings and landmarks. I found vital information on the district of hotel Astor which is now the theater district. Prior to the construction of hotel Astor in 1904 the strip of Broadway was composed primarily of wagon factories, harness shops, and horse dealers. In 1881 William K Vanderbilt in the group of investors built the areas biggest building, the American horse exchange. In the American horse exchange horses were being auctioned ranging from five dollars a head to nearly \$1000. In 1896 fire swept through the American horse exchange, killing about 60 out of the 265 horses that were stable there. The property of owners and dealers from places such as Chicago, Kentucky, and Michigan were there to witness the burning American horse exchange building. Around the year of 1900 automobiles came more popular which led to the depletion of relevance for horses, at least in times square.