

In Search of Black Bohemia:

Reparative Preservation in Manhattan's Tenderloin
1870 -1920

Restorative

Justice: a Legal Tool for Healing /
Repairing Harm



Diagram adapted from [Source: Project Lift](#)

Preservation Teaching

02

Preservation Practice

03

Reparative Action

04

Studio ³/₄ Review

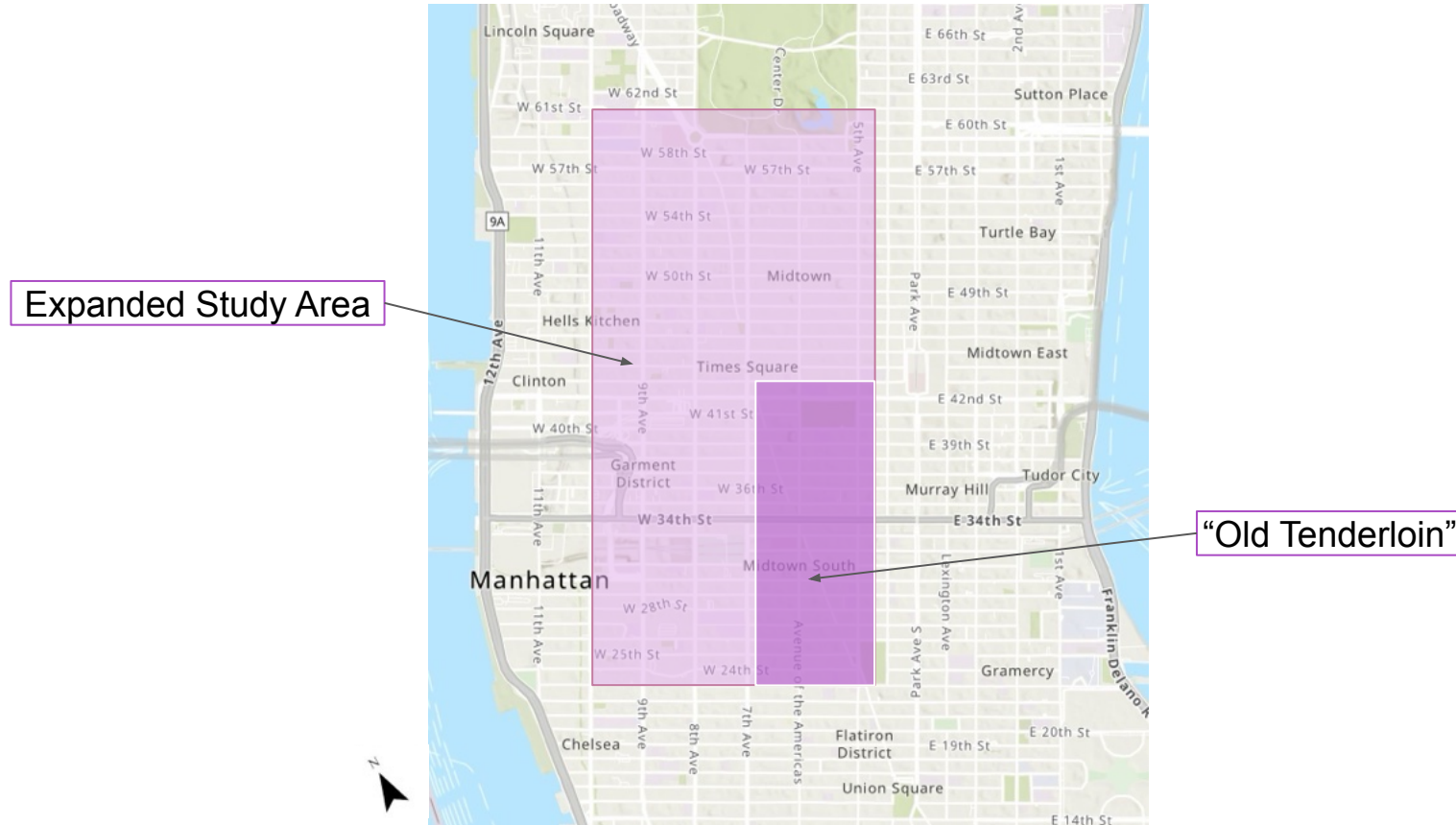
Introduction

Key Findings

Proposals

Introduction : Study Area and Background

Boundaries of the Tenderloin

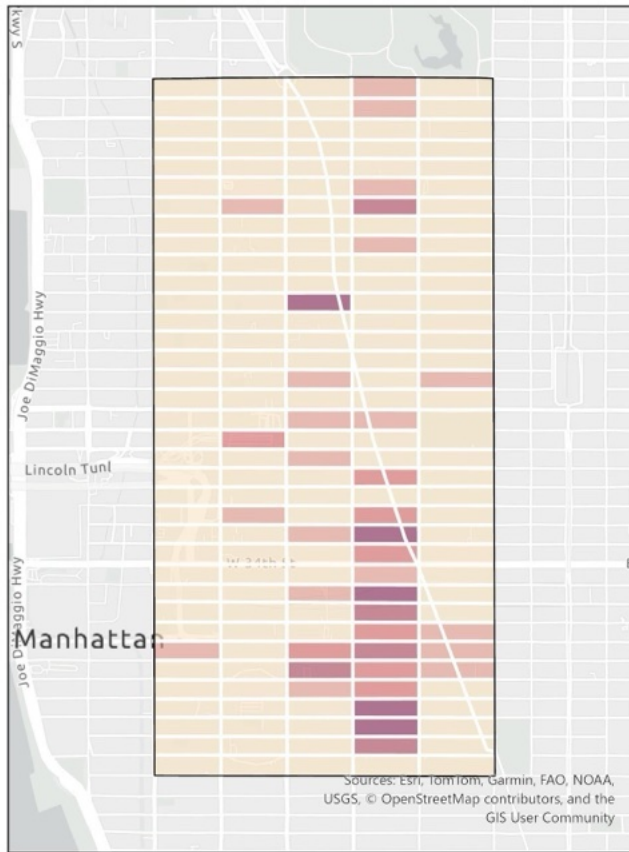
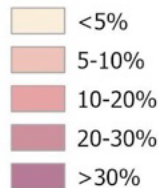
Study Area and Background

Mapping Population Data

Black Populations in the Tenderloin were Clustered

Initial cluster was in the southern portion of the Tenderloin.

Percent Black Population, 1880



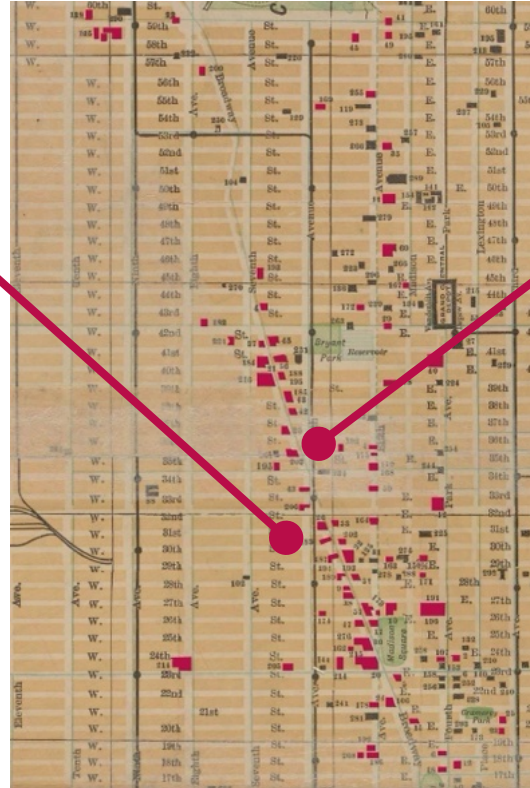
Map generated by Sabina Busch, HP Studio II ArcGIS team, 2025. Population data by block obtained from Mapping Historical New York.

Characterizing Industry

Broadway as a Commercial Corridor of “Vice”



The Haymarket
(1907)
John French Sloan



Map of “Vice” Establishments
(1896)



Herald Square at Night
(1907)
NYPL

Characterizing Space

Black Residents Lived in Close Proximity to “Vice” Venues



Tenements Along Seventh Avenue
(1918)
New York Historical Society



Map of “Vice” Establishments including Centers of Black Population
(1896)

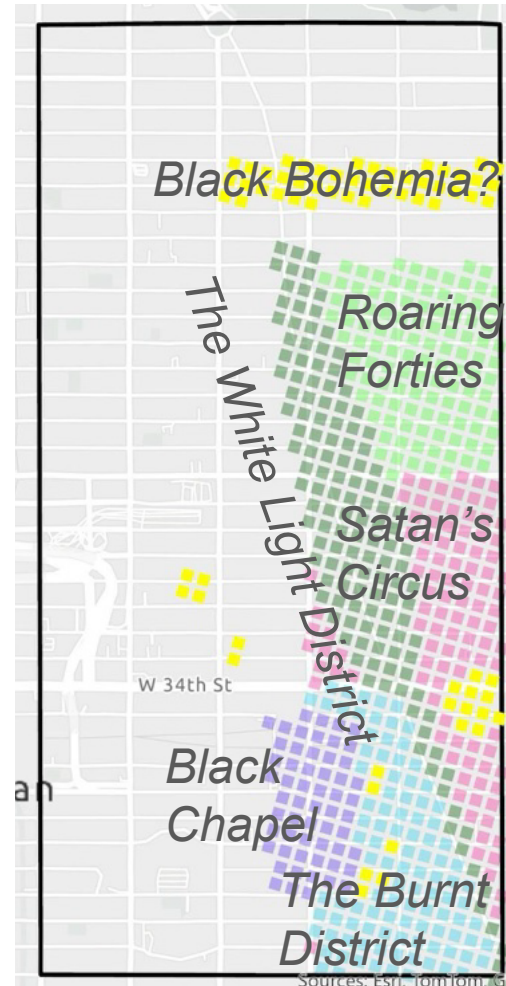


West 41st Street and Eighth Avenue
(1918)
NYPL

Representation

Historic Neighborhood Names

Study Area And Background

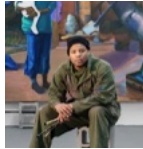


**Neighborhood
Names
Visualization**
Map by Sabina Busch

Introduction : Methodology

Methodology

Reparative Action Precedents



**Titus
Kaphar's
Paintings**



**Ashville, NC
Community
Reparations
Commission**



**Native
American
Graves and
Repatriation
Act**



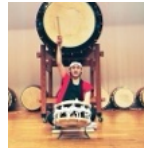
**Bruce's
Beach**



**Tijuana
Projection**



**The
Sarr-Savoy
Report**



**Buraku
Liberation**



**The Waiting
Room by
Simone
Leigh**



**Comfort
women**



**The Emmett
Till
Interpretive
Center**



**South Yard
Dwellings at
Montpelier**



**The Cloaking
by Joiiri
Minaya**



**Memorial to
Japanese
Americans
Imprisoned
in World War
II**



**The Kamisan
Action**

Methodology

Historic Context Themes

Housing
Residents + Publics
Entertainment
Social Clubs, Community Organizations, + Activism
Religion
Health, Welfare, + Charitable Institutions
Commerce, Industry, + Labor
Education
Racial Conflict + Solidarity
Media + Representation
Preservation
Land Use

Digital Heritage Documentation with FARO Laser Scanner

3D Laser Scanning of Tin Pan Alley



FARO in the Field
Digital Heritage Documentation



Placing and Leveling the Laser Scanner
Digital Heritage Documentation



Programming FARO
Digital Heritage Documentation

Studio ³/₄ Review

Introduction

Key Findings

Proposals



**Systemic White
Supremacy**



**Being Black in White
Space**



Displacement



**Black Agency &
Claiming Black Space**



**Black Institutions
Seeded in the
Tenderloin**



**Encountering Black
Stories Today**



Key Findings : Systemic White Supremacy

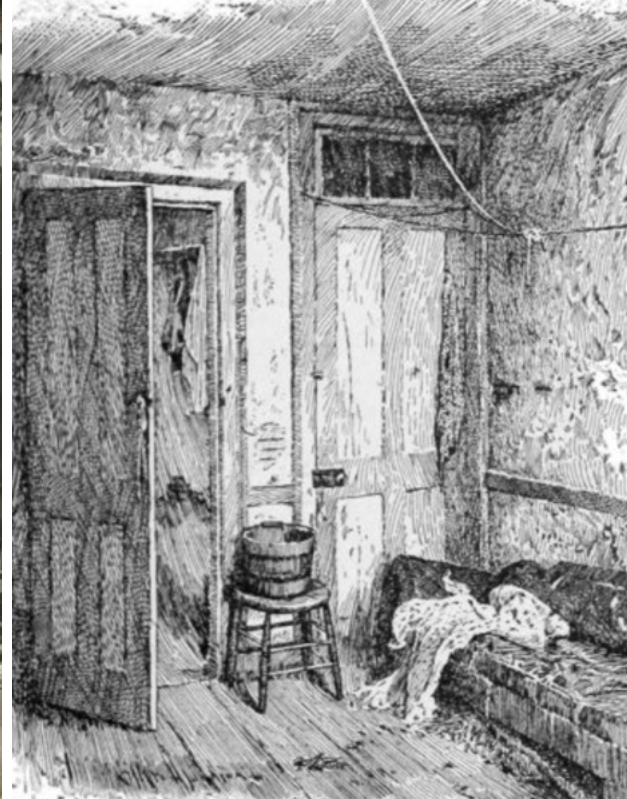
White Landlords Exploited Black Tenants

Pattern of Neglect, Eviction, and Demolition



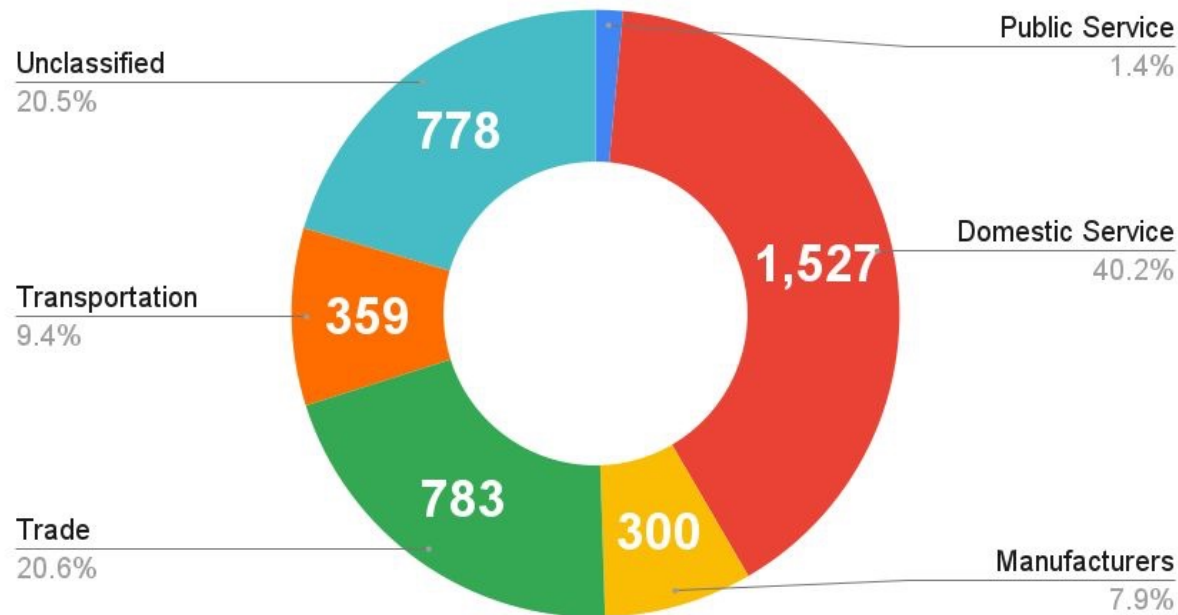
38th Street "Pauper Barracks"

Rear
Tenement,
Location
Unknown
NYPL



"A Flat in the
Pauper Barracks,
West Thirty-Eighth
Street, With All Its
Furniture"
*How the Other Half
Lives*, 1890

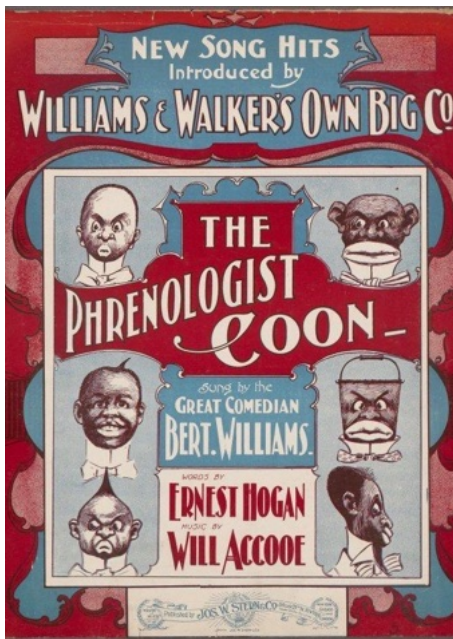
White Employers Denied Opportunities to Black Men



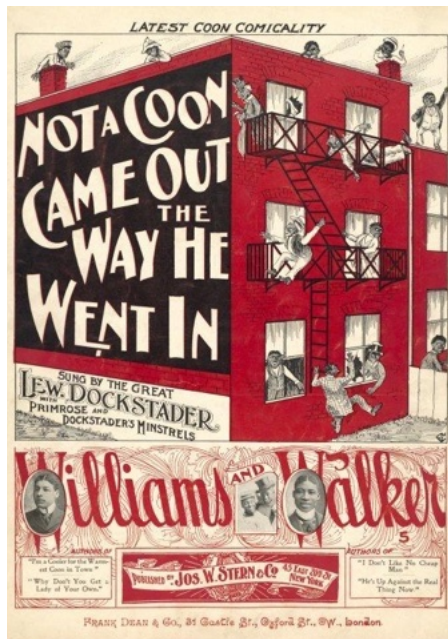
Occupations
of Black Men
in Manhattan
(1905)

Sheet Music

White Publishers Perpetuated Racist Stereotypes



"The Phrenologist Coon"
Jos. W. Stern & Co. Publishers
1901



"Not a Coon Came Out the Way He Went In"
Jos. W. Stern & Co. Publishers
1898



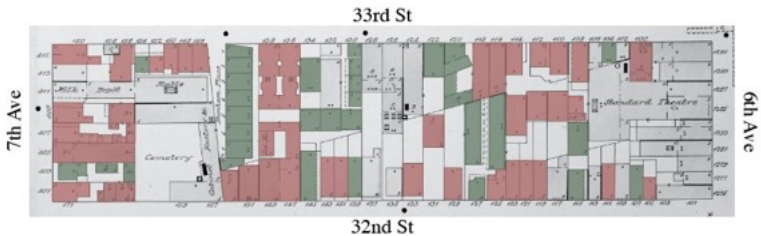
"When a Nigger Makes a 100, 99 Goes on His Back"
Leo E. Berliner & Co. Publishers
1899



Key Findings : Being Black in White Space

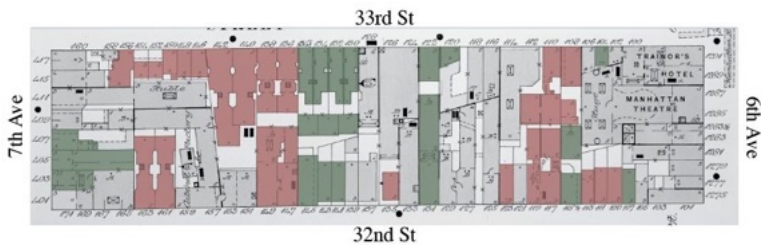
Black Residents Lived Alongside White Residents

Black and White Buildings on the Same Block



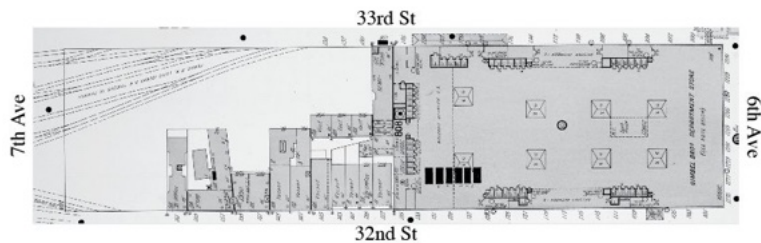
Census Data: 1880

Map: 1880



Census Data: 1900

Map: 1899

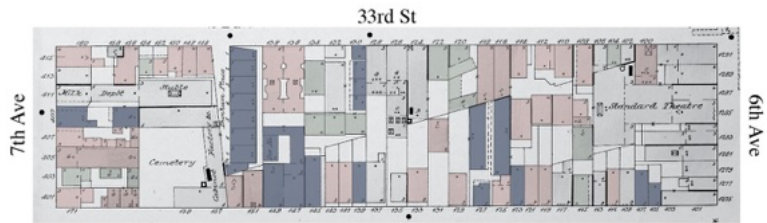
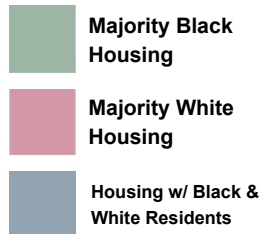


Census Data: 1910

Map: 1911

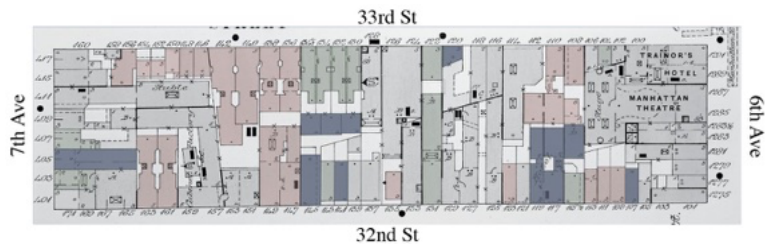
Black Residents Lived Alongside White Residents

Buildings Housed Both Black and White Tenants



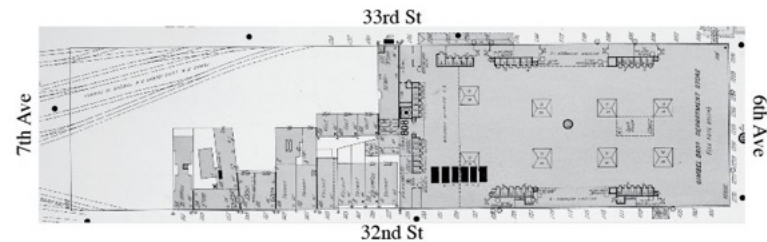
Census Data: 1880

Map: 1880



Census Data: 1900

Map: 1899

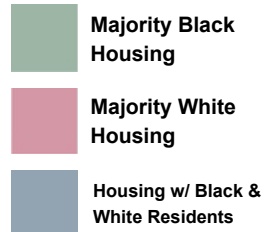


Census Data: 1910

Map: 1911

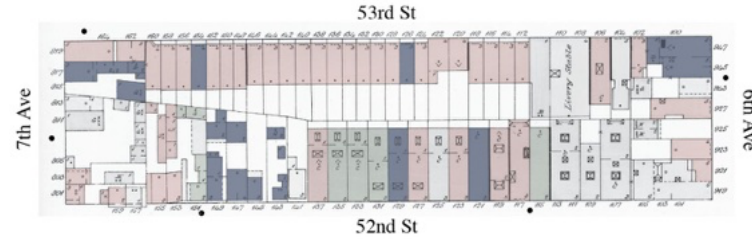
Black Residents Lived Alongside White Residents

Buildings Housed Both Black and White Tenants



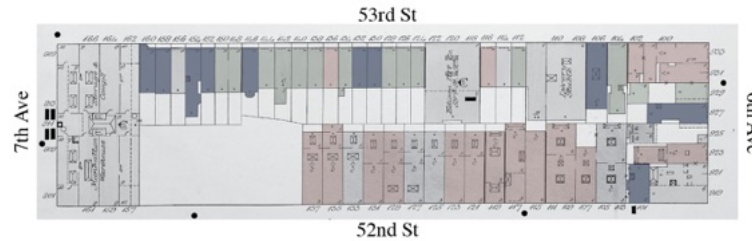
Census Data: 1880

Map: 1885



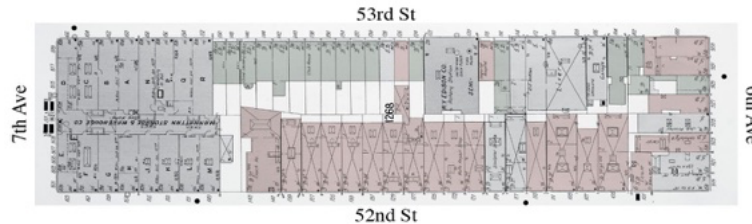
Census Data: 1900

Map: 1892



Census Data: 1910

Map: 1907



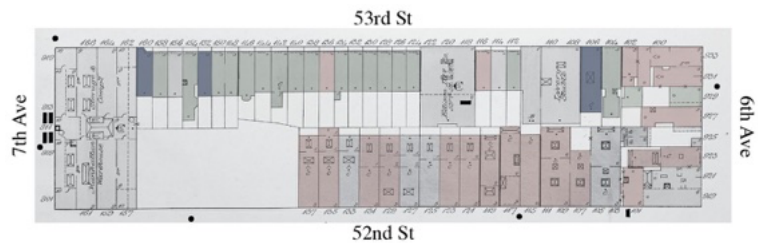
Black Residents Lived Alongside White Residents

Some Buildings Equally White and Black



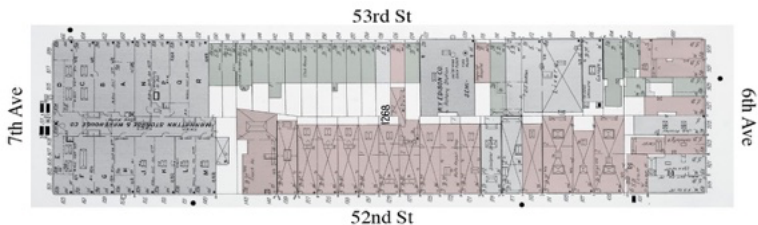
Census Data: 1880

Map: 1885



Census Data: 1900

Map: 1892



Census Data: 1910

Map: 1907

White-Led Integration From the Start



● Carnegie Hall



Carnegie Hall
In 2019,
Wikipedia



Civil rights leader
speech in
Carnegie Hall,
Carnegie Hall
website

Anti-integration

White Anxiety Over Racial Integration

Black and Tan clubs allowed interracial socializing.

The crackdown reflected racial anxieties and ultimately forced the club to close.



Advertisement
The New York Age, June 8, 1905



The anti-saloon league
 A Film by Ken Burns & Lynn Novick

● Hotel Marshall

Black-Owned Establishments

Black-Owned Establishments Were More Than Businesses

More than nightlife, Black-owned clubs were cultural landmarks—targeted as “vice” to justify their destruction and erasure.



**New York Society
for the Suppression
of Vice**
The Tenderloin Club



The Wall Decorations of this Room consist of posters Campaigne Girls.



Cork Room
*The Tenderloin
Club*

● The Tenderloin Club

Black Workers Serving White Clientele

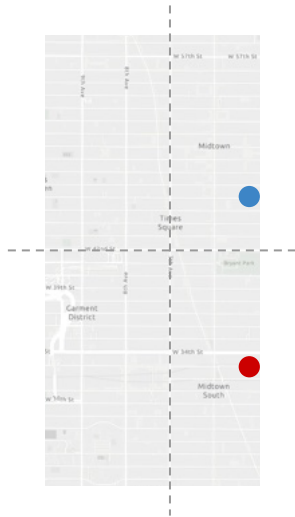
**Black Porters
at Penn
Station**
(1910
NYPL)



**Cartoon of a
Black Waiter**
(1906)
*Restaurant-ing
Through
History*

Hiding Black Identity

Black Florists Beautifying White Spaces



● Waldorf-Astoria Hotel - 33rd Street and Fifth Avenue

● Thorley's - 562 Fifth Avenue

**Thorley's
Flower Store
(1911)
NYPL**



**Gala at the
Waldorf Hotel
(1902)
NYC Historic
Floral District
Museum**

Visual Marginalization of Black Life in the Tenderloin

White Artists Erasing Black People from Art

White artists underrepresented Black individuals, perpetuating a false sense of the neighborhood's demographics

**Fifth Avenue,
New York**
John French Sloan
1911



**The
Haymarket**
John French
Sloan
1907

Leveraging “Passing” The Nail Brothers

People who were ethnically Black but were light skinned enough to pass as White sometimes took advantage of this privilege and leveraged it to make progress for the rest of the Black community.



**Edward Nail,
1907**

*The Negro in
Business*



**John B. Nail,
1907**

*The Negro in
Business*



Key Findings : Black Agency / Black Space / Resilience

The NAACP's *The Crisis*

A Product of Black Professionals in The Tenderloin



● Battey and Warren Photography - 509 8 Ave

● Richetta G. Randolph - 322 W 53rd St



Richetta G. Randolph
NAACP Stenographer



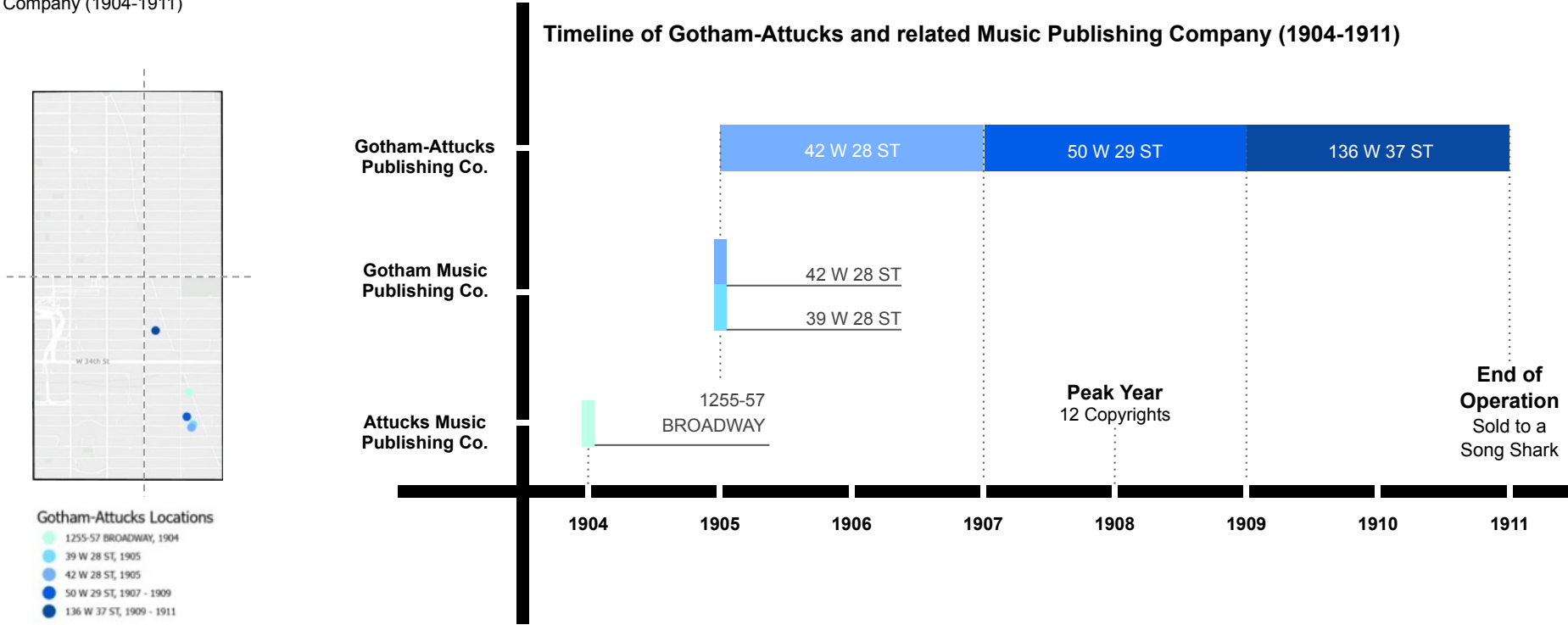
Cornelius M. Battey
Photographer

Gotham-Attucks Publishing Company

Black Agency

Black-owned Gotham-Attucks Publishing Company

Timeline of Gotham-Attucks
and related Music Publishing
Company (1904-1911)

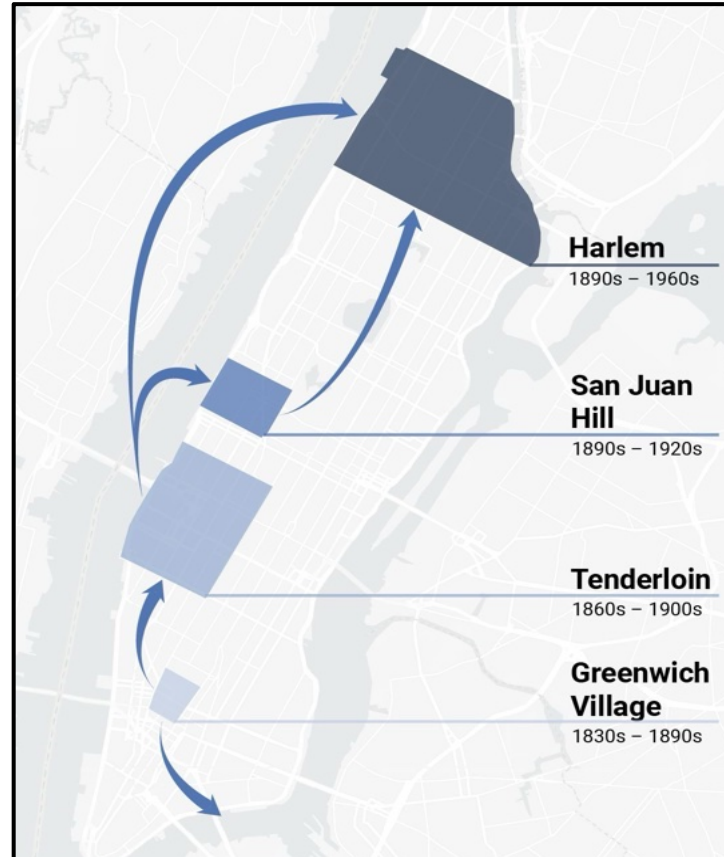




Key Findings : Displacement

Displacement

The Tenderloin Was a Site of Forced Migration

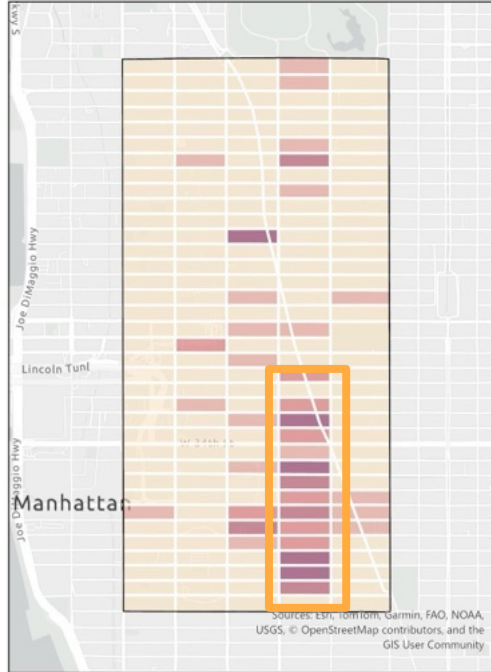


Black Migration Within Manhattan. Andrés Santana-Miranda, Based on Various Sources. San Juan Hill Studio, 2023.

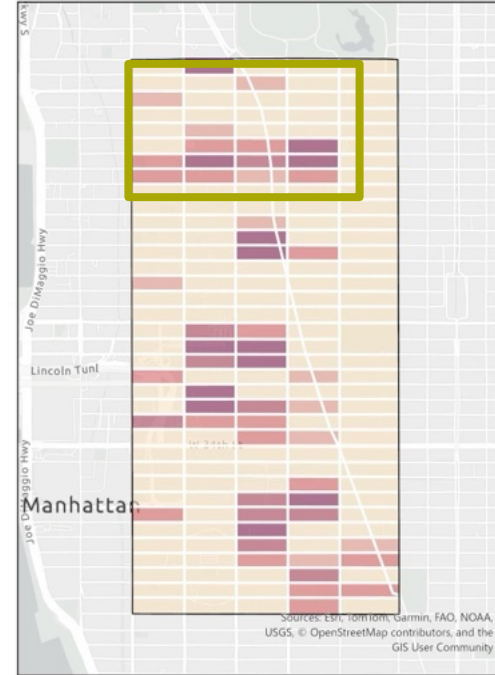
Displacement

The Black Population Migrated Within the Tenderloin

Percent Black Population, 1880

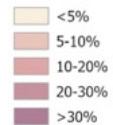


Percent Black Population, 1910



**Percent of
Black
Population in
New York City,
1880 and 1910.**
2025. Courtesy
of Sabina
Busch.

Percent Black Population,



Effects of Structural Change

A Hostile Commercial Environment



● Macy's - 151 W 34th St.

● Sak's - 1311 Broadway



**Sak's (left)
and Macy's
(right)**
1903
NYPL

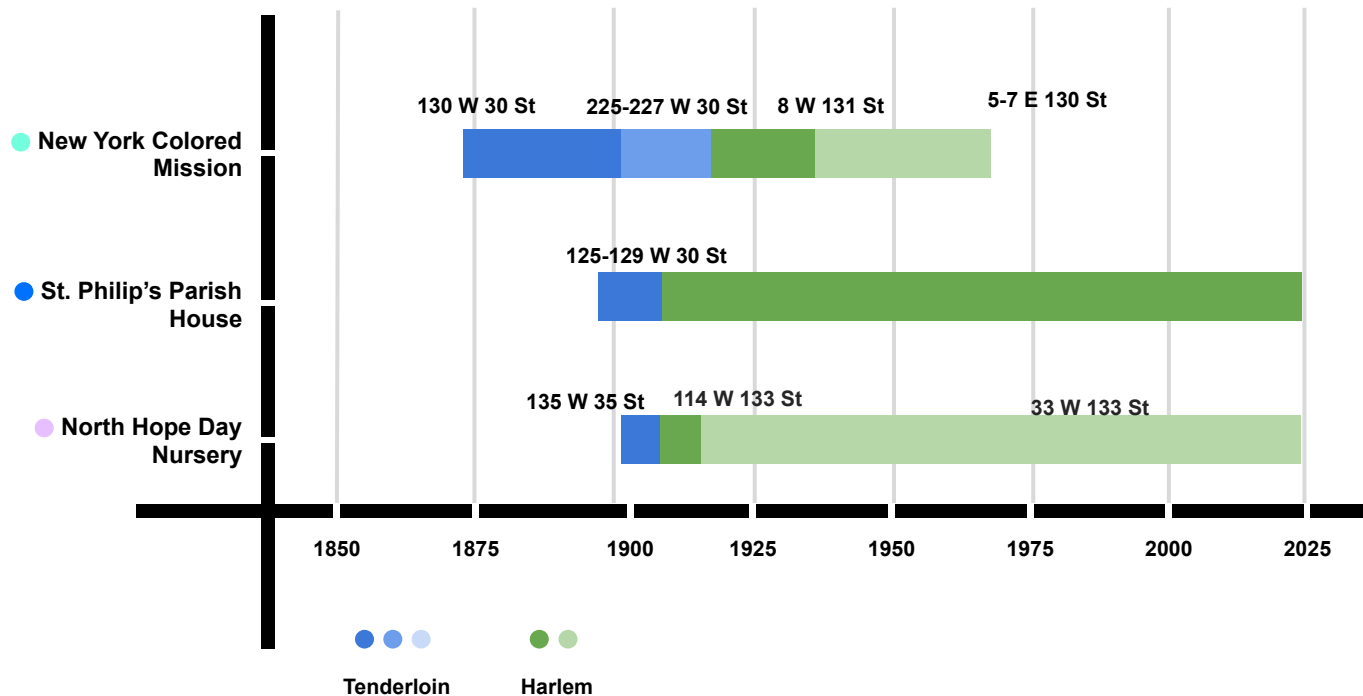
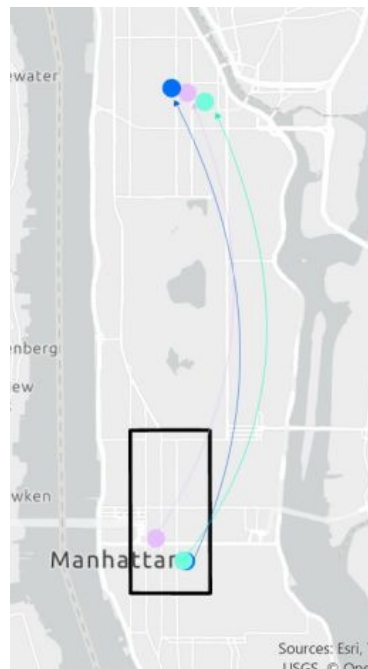


Key Findings : Black Institutions Seeded in The Tenderloin

Following Their Community North

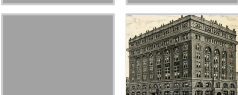
Social Services Migration to Harlem

Black Institutions Seeded in the Tenderloin

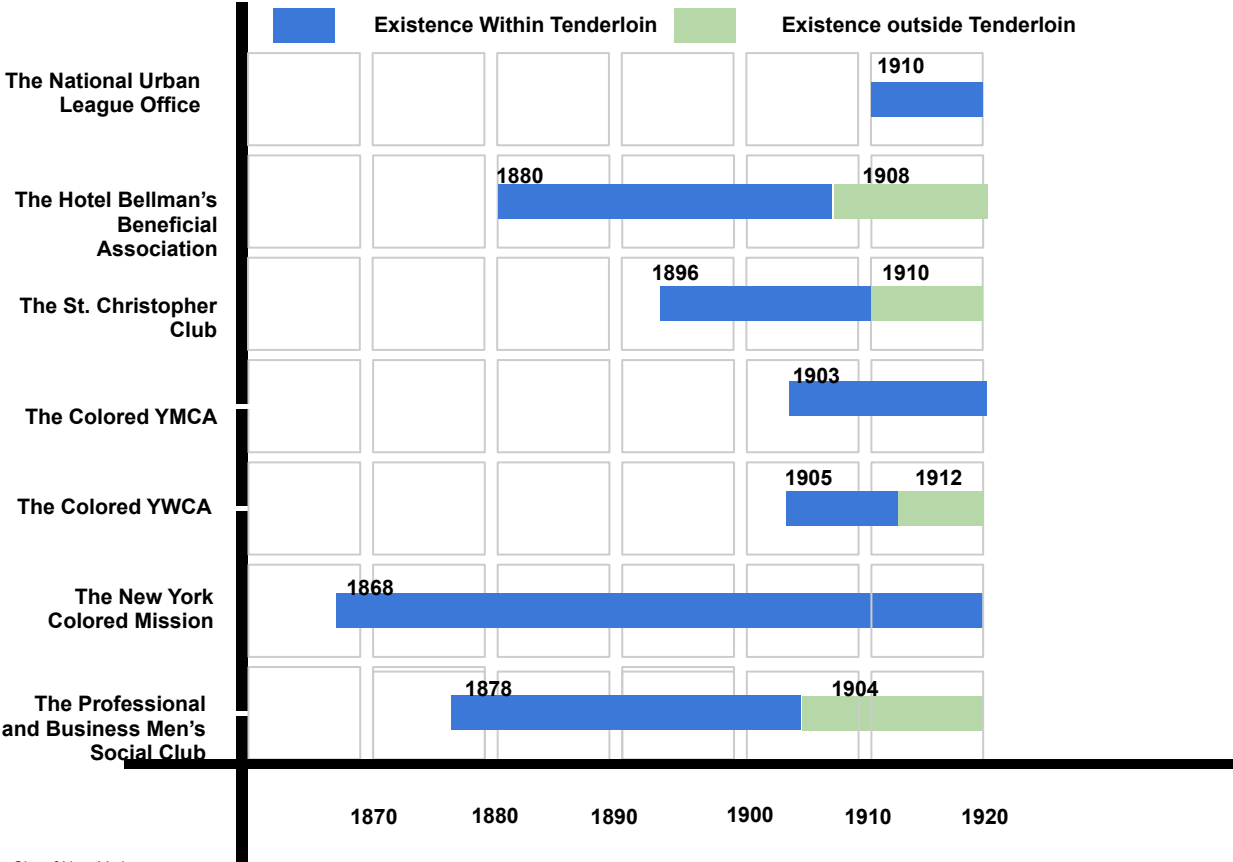


The movement of Community Organizations

From Tenderloin to Harlem

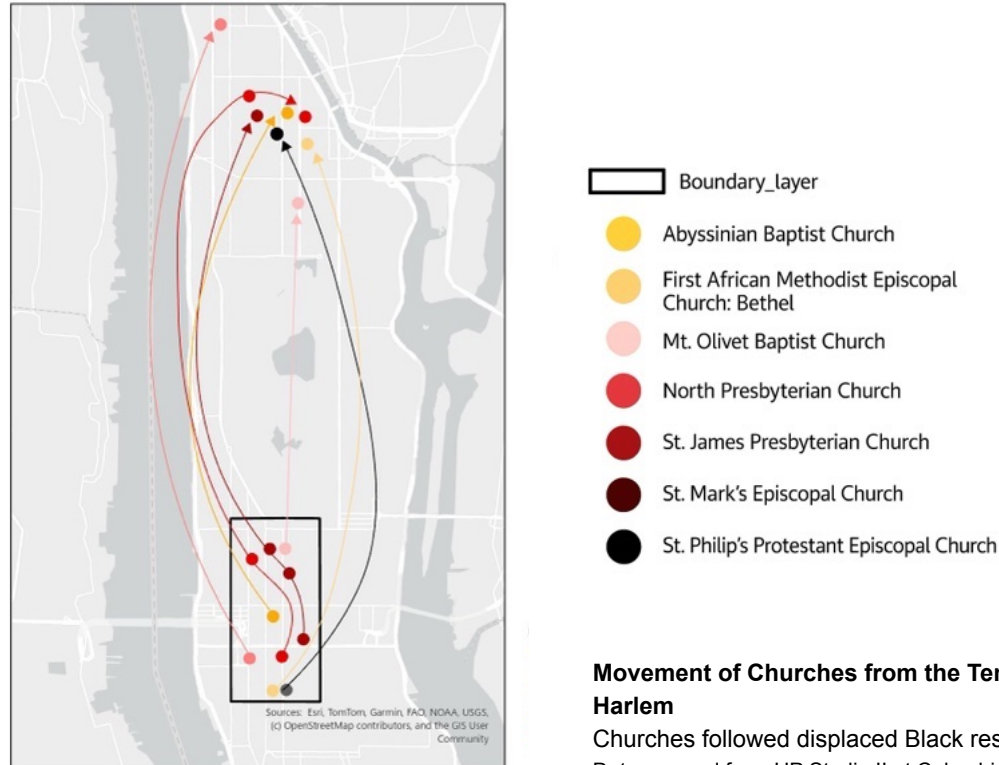


Historic Image in the Tenderloin Contemporary Image in Harlem



Black Institutions Worked to Keep Up with the Black Community

Black churches moved from the Tenderloin to Harlem.

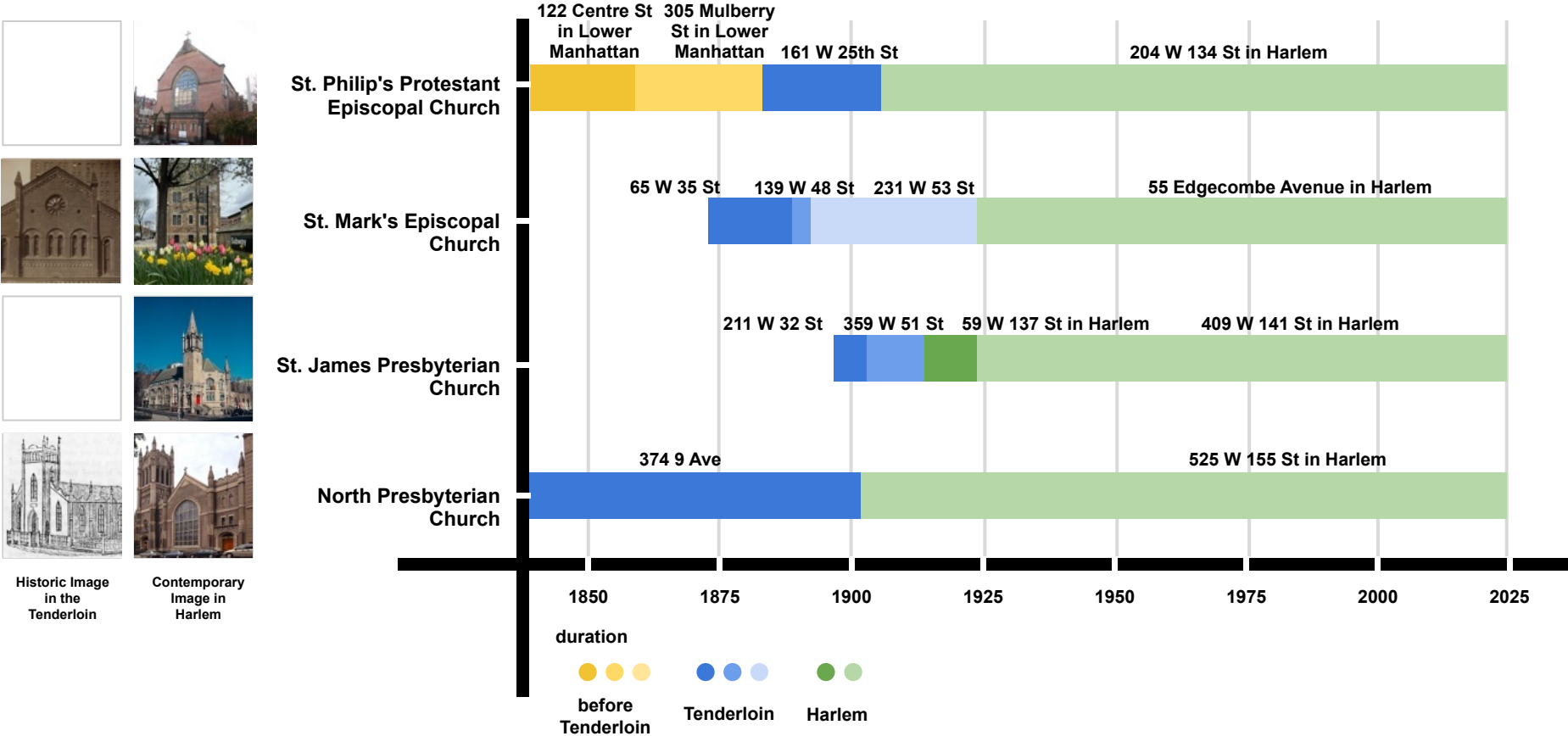


Movement of Churches from the Tenderloin to Harlem

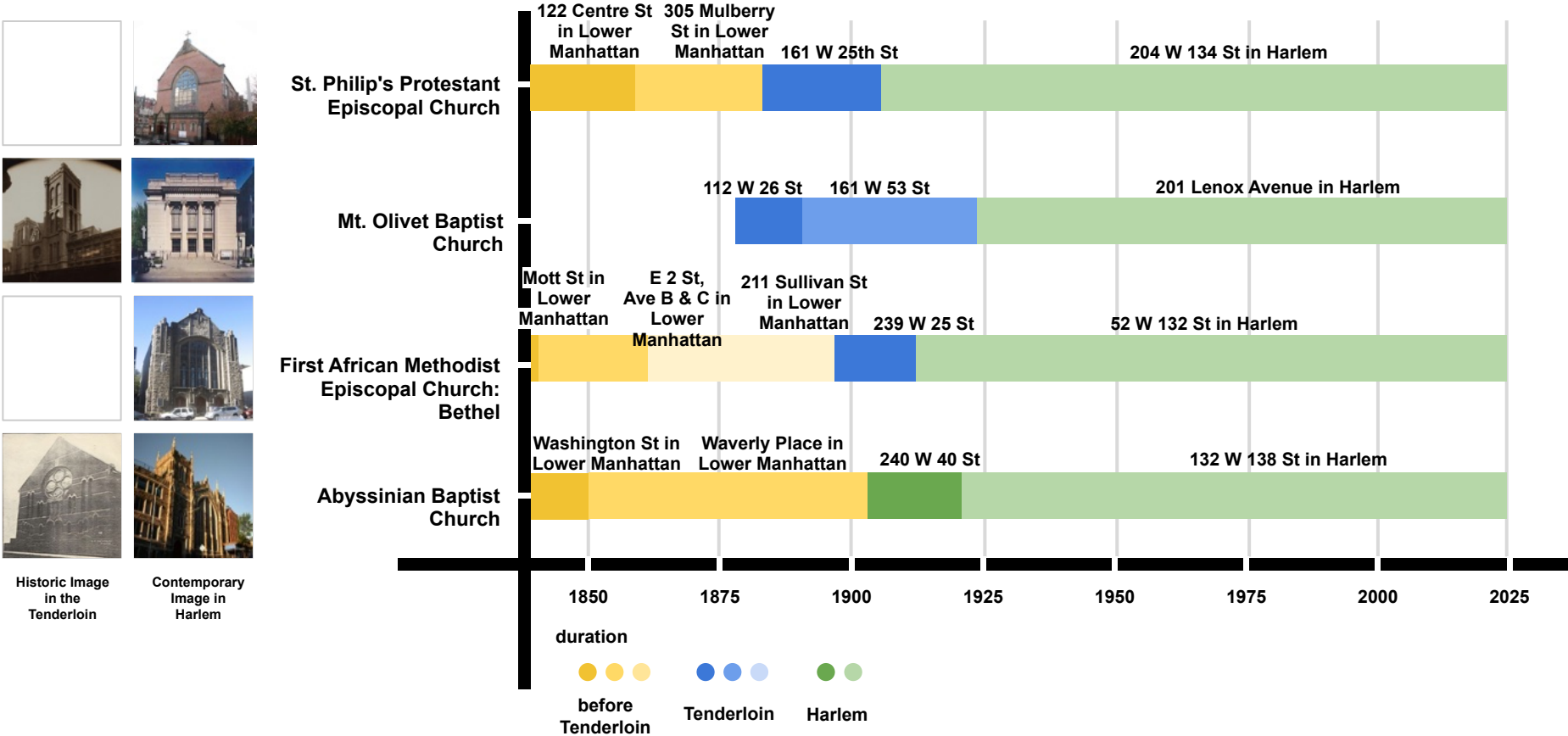
Churches followed displaced Black residents

Data sourced from HP Studio II at Columbia University

St. Philip's Led Black Church Migration to Harlem



St. Philip's Led Black Church Migration to Harlem

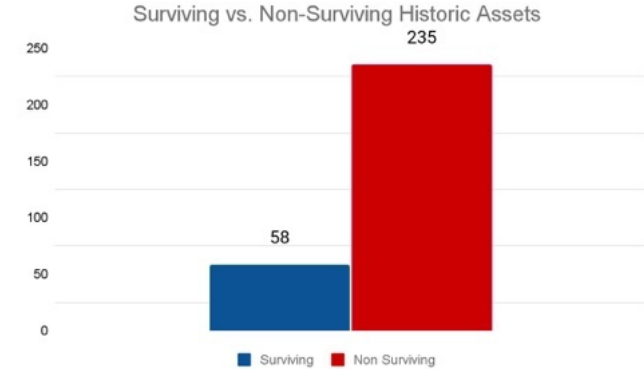
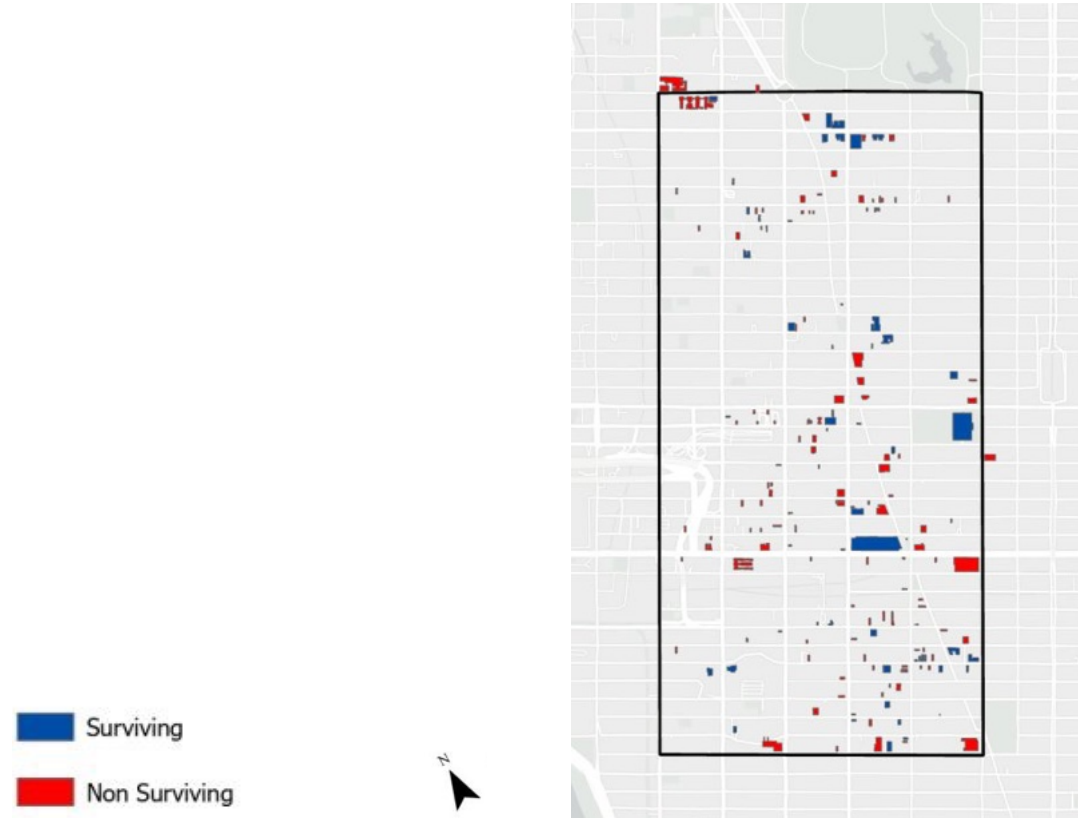




Key Findings : Encountering Black Spaces / Stories Today

Surviving vs. Non Surviving Assets

Limited Number of Historic Assets Survive



Extant Historic Assets and Non-Extant Historic Assets with the Tenderloin Study Area.

Data sourced from NYC Open Data and HP Studio II at Columbia University. Map authored by Ashlyn Pause.

Examples of Preservation Success

Tin Pan Alley and the Recognition of Black Histories in Preservation



Press Release

For Immediate Release: December 10, 2019
Contact: lpcpressoffice@lpc.nyc.gov, 212-669-7938

LPC Designates Five Historic Buildings Associated with Tin Pan Alley

Together, these buildings represent Tin Pan Alley's significant contributions to American culture and popular music.



Preserving Significant Places of Black History.
 NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, 2021-2025.

Community Involvement in the Preservation of Tin Pan Alley

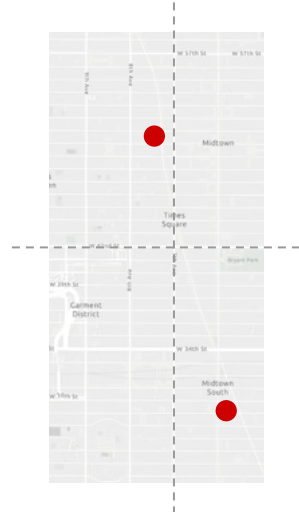
Tin Pan Alley and the Recognition of Black Histories in Preservation



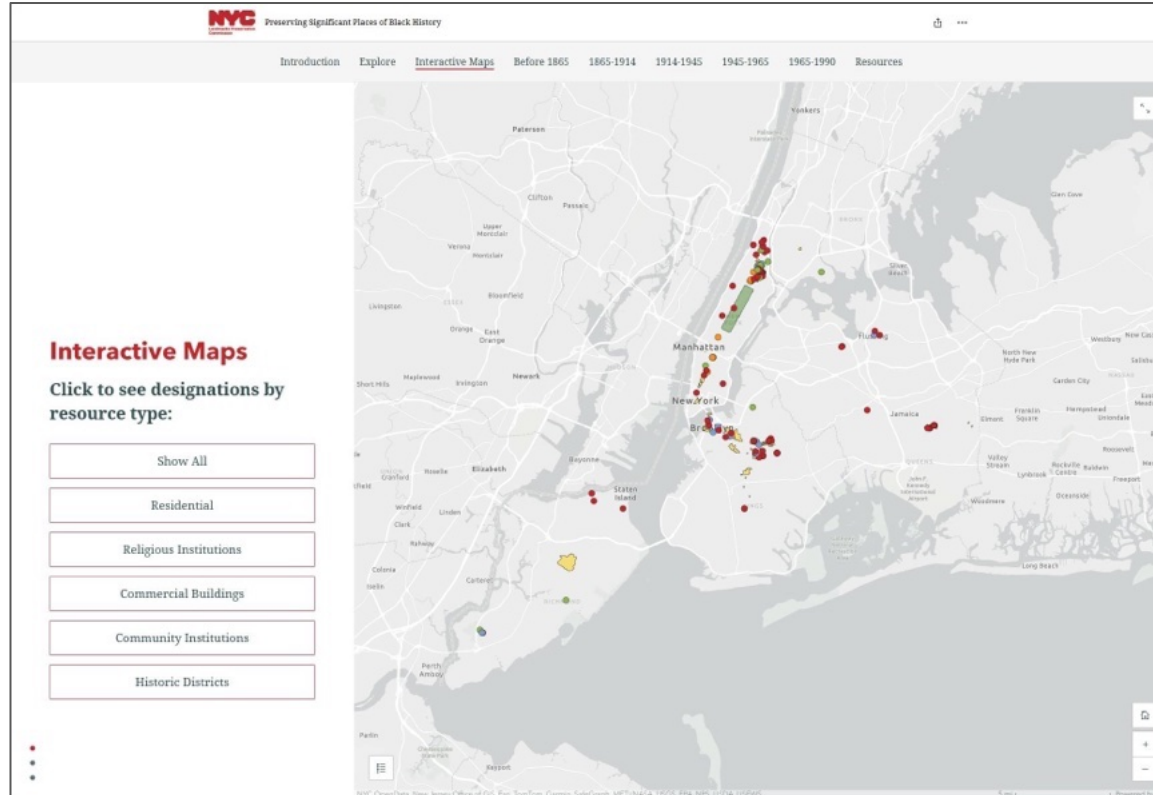
Tin Pan Alley Naming Ceremony.
Tin Pan Alley American Popular Music Project, 2022.

Municipal Preservation Efforts

LPC's Steps to Make Documented Black History Accessible



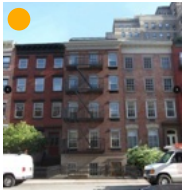
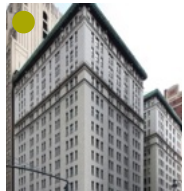
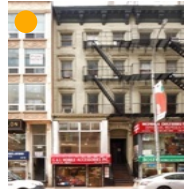
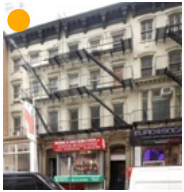
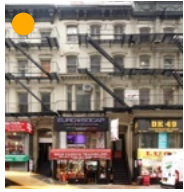
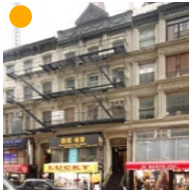
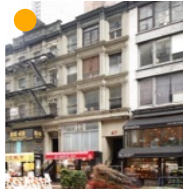
● Tin Pan Alley



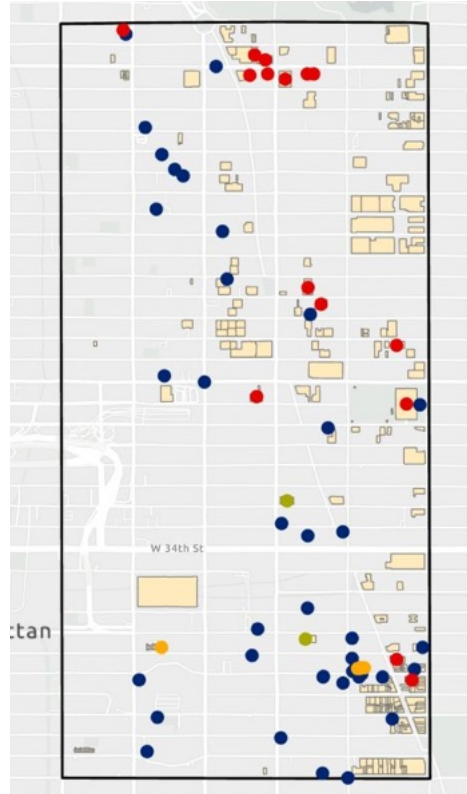
Preserving Significant Places of Black History.
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, 2021-2025.

Need for Inclusive Storytelling

Limited Number of LPC Designated Properties Represent Black History



- Focus on Black history
- Mention Black history
- Do not mention Black history
- Non Listed Assets
- LPC Designated Buildings
- Boundary Layer



NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission Total Landmarked Buildings vs. Extant Historic Assets.

Data sourced from NYC Open Data and HP Studio II at Columbia University.
Map authored by Ashlyn Pause.

Exclusion in Designation Reports

Significant Places of Black History Excluded from the Narrative



New York Public Library



Marble Collegiate Reformed Church



Trinity Chapel Complex



American Fine Arts Society



Osborne Apartments



Society House of the American Society of Civil Engineers



Rodin Studios



Carnegie Hall



130 West 57th Street Studio



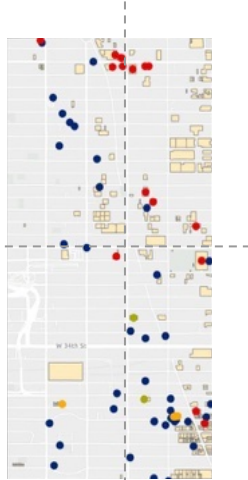
New Amsterdam Theater



Public School 67



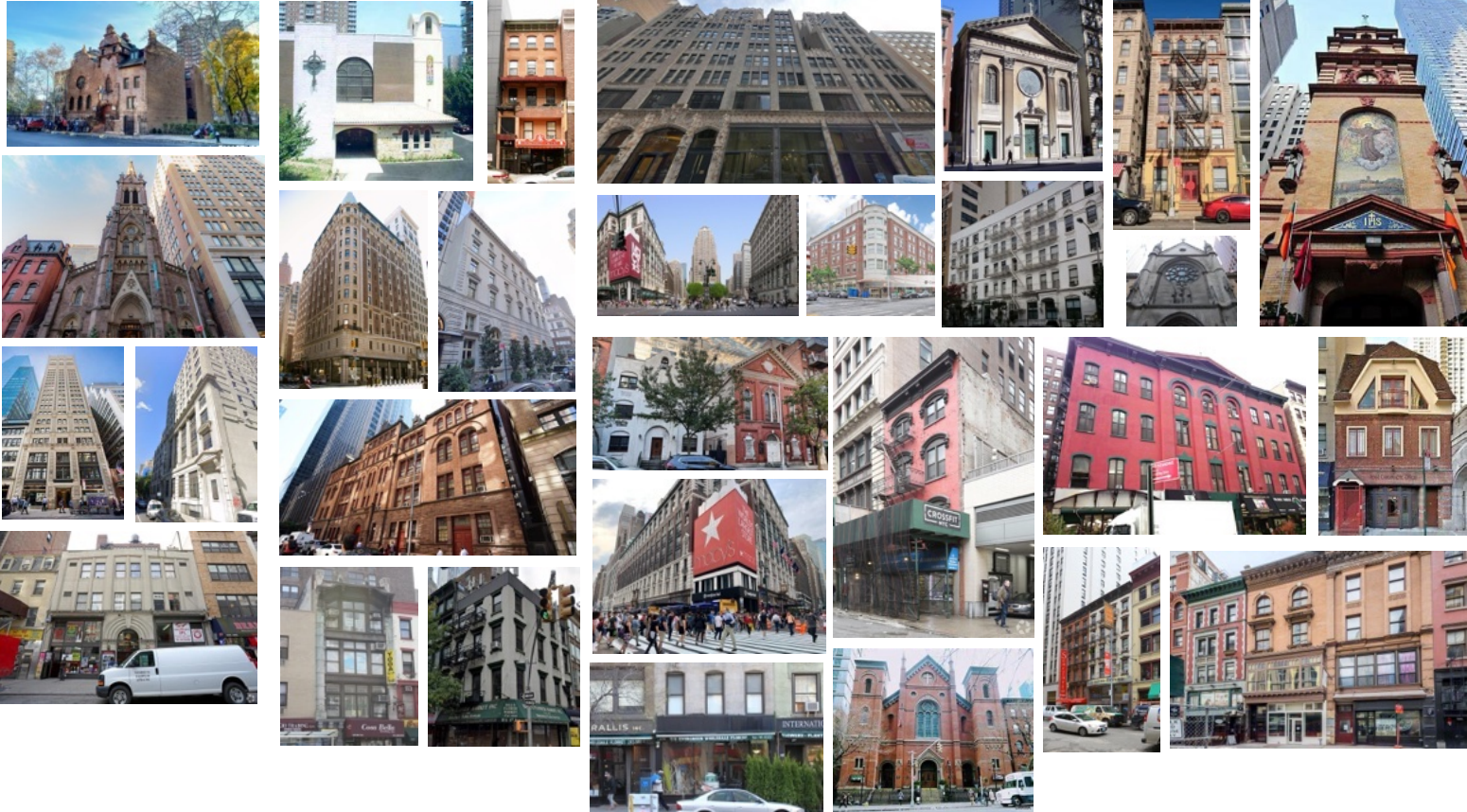
Church of the Holy Apostles



- Focus on Black history
- Mention Black history
- Do not mention Black history
- Non Listed Assets
- LPC Designated Buildings
- Boundary Layer

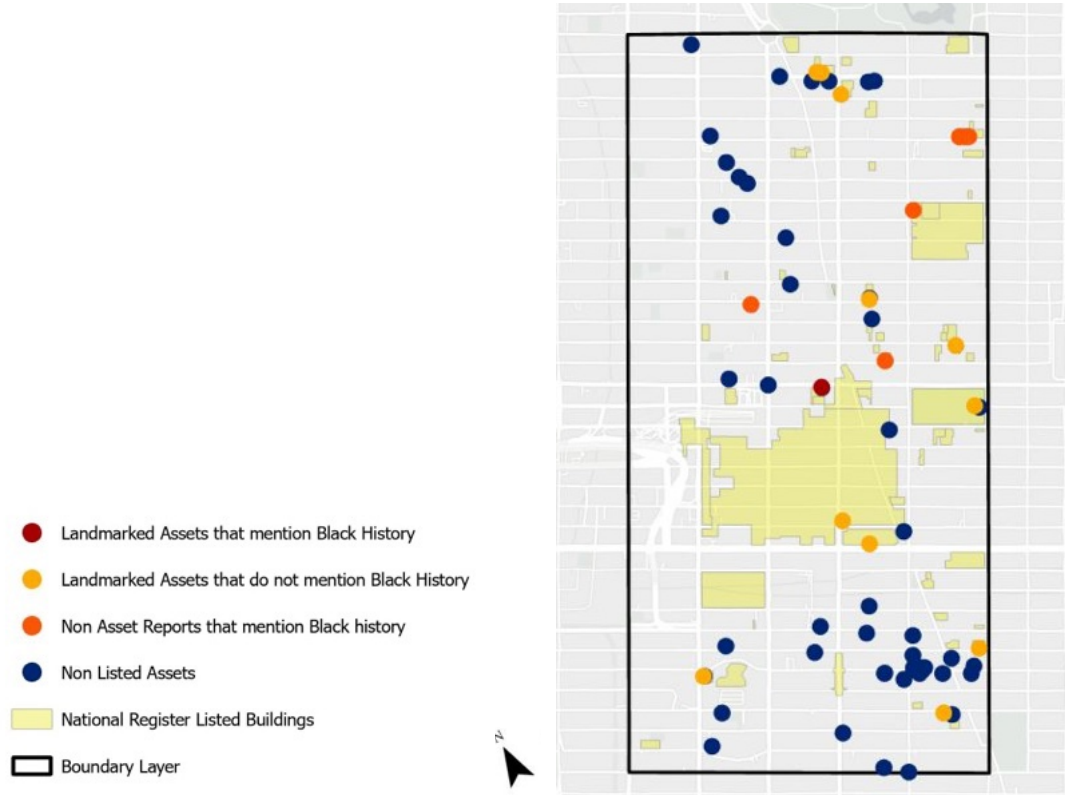
Opportunities to Tell the Black Narrative Through Preservation

Surviving Places of Black History that could be Landmarked



Underrepresentation in Designation Reports

Nearly Zero National Register Properties Represent Black History



Historic Assets on the NRHP with Reports that mention Black History.

Data Sourced from NYC Open Data, CRIS Online, and HP Studio II at Columbia University. Map authored by Ashlyn Pause.

Co-Learning Process

Takeaways from Connector Interviews

Lacking
Previous
Knowledge
about the
Tenderloin

Lacking
Place-Based
Interventions

Incomplete
Narrative of
Black History

Prioritizing
Facades
Instead of
Stories



Studio ³/₄ Review

Introduction

Key Findings

Proposals

Permanent Space Community Center

KEY FINDINGS ADDRESSED

Systemic White Supremacy

Being Black in White Space

Black Agency and Claiming Black Space

Displacement

Black Institutions Seeded in the Tenderloin

Encountering Black Spaces Today

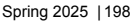


2024 Proposed Design for Port Authority Reconstruction

Intersection of W 40th St. and 8th Ave.

Rendering courtesy of the New York City Department of Planning. Accessed through *New York YIMBY*.

Walking Tour: Tracing the Lost Black Churches in the Tenderloin



A Multi-Sited Memory Activation Project

Walking Tour: Tracing the Lost Black Churches in the Tenderloin

Movement of Churches from the Tenderloin to Harlem

Legend:

- Yellow dot: Mount Olivet Baptist Church
- Red dot: 1 Linear Walking Tour (Walking Tour App)
- Yellow dot: 2 Augmented Reality Reconstructions
- Green dot: 3 Harlem Connections & Public Programming

Mount Olivet Baptist Church

3 Harlem Connections & Public Programming

Develop public programming centered on Harlem-based congregations descended from displaced Tenderloin churches, as a way to reconnect past and present communities.

Events may include on-site storytelling and gospel performances (with audio archived in the AR app), or orienteering.

Outdoor Worship Service with Street Preaching Times Square NYC. YouTube.

Orienteering

Across the Street: A Visual Projection of the Past



A Mock Up Collage
Google Map Recreated



Haymarket
The Gilded
Hour



**NW Corner of
30 St. & 6 Ave**
Google Map

Fifth Avenue Parade Silent Protest Commemoration



Your hands are full of blood. _____

Mothers, do lynchers go to heaven? _____

The great contradiction—love of God and hatred of man. _____

Color, blood and suffering have made us one.

Occupying Space

Reclaiming the Narrative Concert Series

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Group of Vaudeville Musicians, ca. 1920

NYPL Digital Collections

Occupying Space

Reclaiming the Narrative Concert Series



Booker T Washington at Carnegie Hall
Carnegie Hall



Mme. Sissieretta Jones
New York Times



Carnegie Hall
Wikimedia

Flowering Histories on West 28th

Heather Oakley, Ashlyn Pause, and Matt Goff

Project Goal

1. Promote Black florists
2. Bring awareness to place of significance for the Black community of the Tenderloin



LaParis Phillips, Brooklyn Blooms

Next Steps



Laser Scan
processing
by Sabina
Busch.

Temporary Installation

Legacy in Play: MLB Store Fundraiser & Installation

KEY FINDINGS ADDRESSED

Systemic White Supremacy

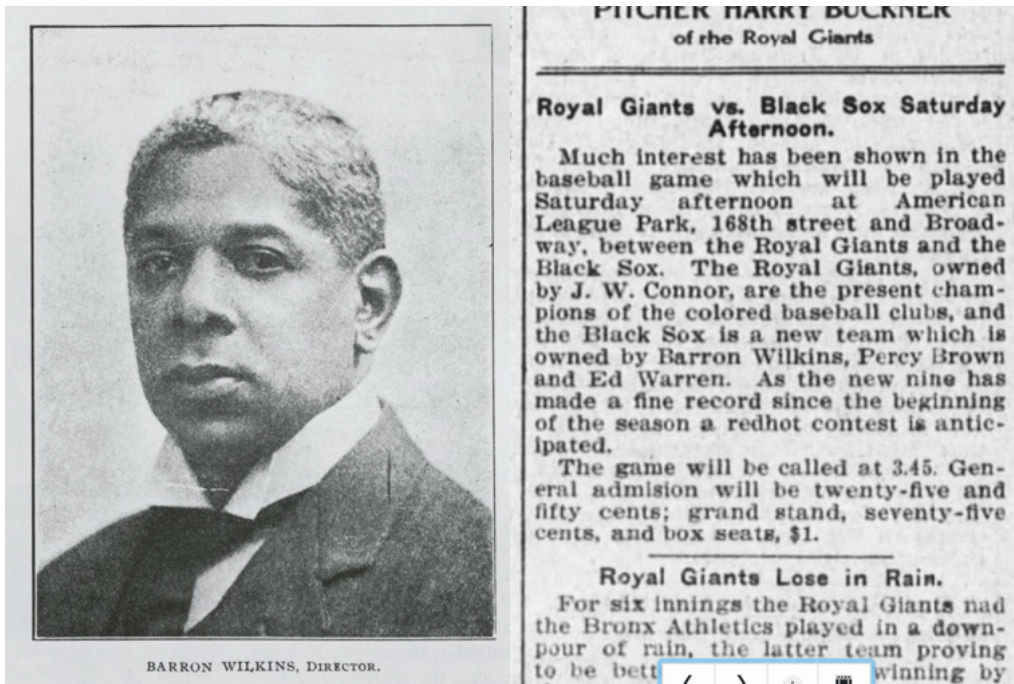
Being Black in White Space

Black Agency and Claiming Black Space

Displacement

Black Institutions Seeded in the Tenderloin

Encountering Black Spaces Today



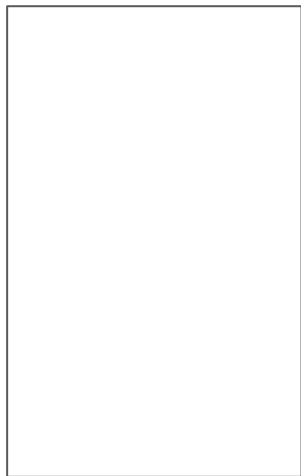
Barron Wilkins, Early Patron of Negro Baseball League

Left: NYPL, Right: New York Age

Barron Wilkins: Tenderloin Businessman

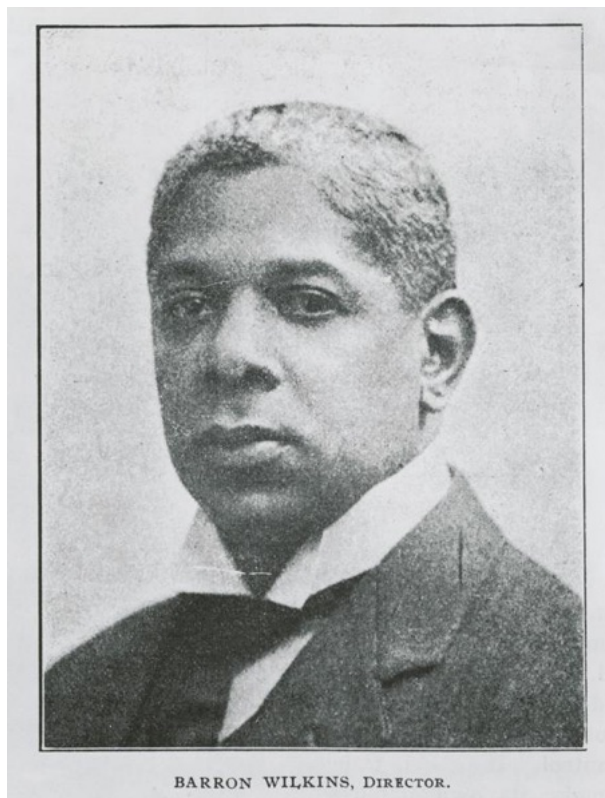
Background and Significance

Topic Name



● 235 W 35 ST

Barron Wilkins
NYPL
1906



235 W 35 ST
Former location
of Little Savoy
& Cafe Wilkins
NYPL
c. 1916

Permanent Space

REVIVING BLACK BOHEMIA

**Black Agency, Claiming Black Space,
Encountering Black Spaces Today**

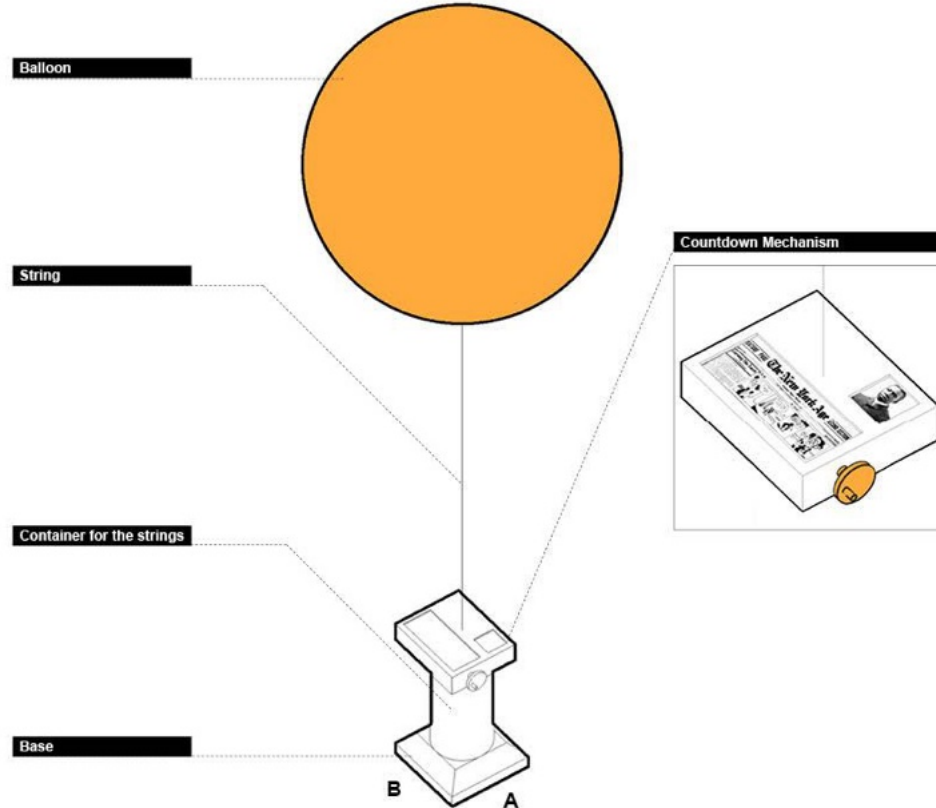
Reviving Black Bohemia

Bringing Back Black Bohemia in Contemporary Manhattan



Reviving Black Bohemia

Design Overview



Reviving Black Bohemia Illustration



Reviving Black Bohemia Illustration

