

# **LAMARTINE PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT Designation Report**



**NYC**  
Landmarks Preservation  
Commission

**October 13, 2009**

Cover photograph: North side of West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, Christopher D. Brazee, 2009

# Lamartine Place Historic District Designation Report

Prepared by Virginia Kurshan and Theresa Noonan

Edited by Mary Beth Betts, Director of Research

Photographs by Christopher D. Brazee  
Map by Jennifer L. Most

## *Commissioners*

Robert B. Tierney, Chair

Pablo E. Vengoechea, Vice-Chair

Frederick Bland

Stephen F. Byrns

Diana Chapin

Joan Gerner

Christopher Moore

Margery Perlmutter

Elizabeth Ryan

Roberta Washington

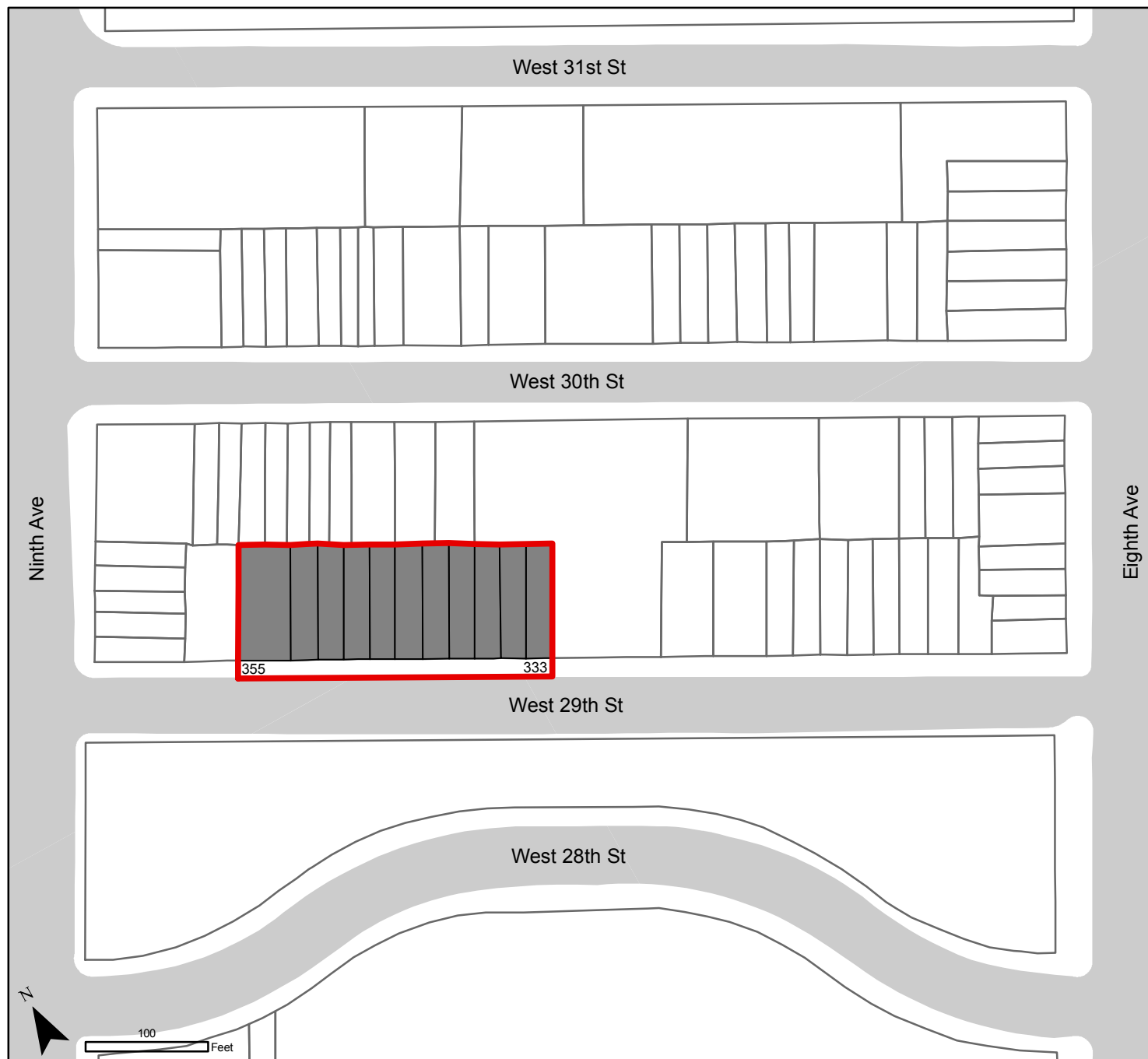
Roberta Brandes Gratz

Kate Daly, Executive Director

Mark Silberman, Counsel



Sarah Carroll, Director of Preservation

## Lamartine Place Historic District

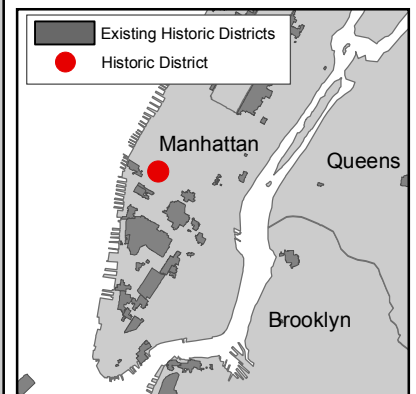


Lamartine Place  
Historic District  
Borough of Manhattan, NY  
Landmarks Preservation Commission

Calendared: December 16, 2008  
Public Hearing: January 13, 2009  
Designation: October 13, 2009

 Boundary of Historic District  
 Tax Map Lots in Historic District

**NYC**  
Landmarks Preservation  
Commission



## **LAMARTINE PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

### Testimony at the Public Hearing

On January 13, 2009 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the Lamartine Place Historic District (Item No. 3). The hearing was duly advertised according to the provisions of Law. There were 23 speakers in favor of designation including representatives of Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Borough President Scott Stringer, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, and numerous individuals and representatives of civic organizations.<sup>1</sup> There were no speakers in opposition. The Commission has also received a statement of support from State Senator Thomas Duane and numerous petitions and letters in support of designation.

### Boundary Description

The Lamartine Place Historic District consists of an area bounded by a line beginning at the southeast corner of the lot of No. 333 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, extending northerly along the eastern side of the lot to the northern property line of No. 333 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, then extending westerly along the northern property lines of No. 333 to No. 355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, then extending southerly along the western property line of No. 355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, to the southern curb line of West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, then easterly along the southern curb line in front of Nos. 355 to No. 333 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, to a point in said curb line formed by a line extending southerly from the eastern property line of No. 333 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, then northerly across the sidewalk, to the point of beginning.

---

<sup>1</sup> Speakers at the public hearing included representatives of Save Chelsea, Friends of Lamartine Place, the Real Estate Board of New York, the Chelsea Reform Democratic Club, the Landmarks Conservancy, Community Board 4, the Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, the Historic Districts Council, the Municipal Art Society, the Four Borough Preservation Alliance, and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation. Letters in support of designation were read from the Mt. Morris Park Community Development Corporation, the Society of Friends, 15<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting, a descendant of Abigail Gibbons, the Society for the Architecture of the City and several individuals.

## Summary

The Lamartine Place Historic District, on the north side of West 29<sup>th</sup> Street between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues is an intact group of twelve buildings that have a strong link to an important and dramatic period of the city's history and also have a close association with several important individuals who had a significant impact on 19<sup>th</sup> century New York. Constructed in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, these buildings were part of a block-long row created by developers William Torrey and Cyrus Mason. As part of the development they also built a small park on the south side of the street, making the row quite desirable and attracting a number of influential New Yorkers. Among the most prominent were Abby and James Sloan Gibbons. Important abolitionists in the period before the Civil War, their house was used as a meeting place for influential people in the movement and as a documented stop on the Underground Railroad, where they helped escaping slaves get to Canada. The house was attacked and burned during the Draft Riots of 1863. Their house at No. 339 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street is one of the very few extant sites to be associated with the pivotal events of those days. While this building was the prime target of the rioters on this block, other houses in the row played an important role in these events. Abby Gibbons's sister and her family lived at No. 335 Lamartine Place and members of the Hopper family took refuge there during the attack. Two of Abby and John Gibbons' daughters escaped the fire and mob by climbing over neighboring roofs to a waiting carriage on Ninth Avenue, descending through the house at No. 355. Although the houses in the row have experienced alterations over time, this small group of houses continues to exist as the city changes around them.

Chelsea remained primarily rural until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and even after development the character varied widely from block to block. The Gibbons family was perhaps attracted to this area because of the variety of people who lived in the neighborhood. While some streets (such as Lamartine Place) were developed with substantial rowhouses geared toward upwardly striving middle-class families, a block to the west, near the Hudson River, there were factories and tenements for their workers. To the east of Lamartine Place was a small community of free African-Americans who had settled there during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After the Civil War, the area west and north of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Fifth Avenue evolved into an entertainment district, with restaurants, theaters and early nickelodeons. It seems to have attracted bohemians, artists and free-thinkers, and a small French expatriate community developed in the area during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

During much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Chelsea became less desirable. With the construction of Pennsylvania Station just to the north, in the first two decades, more factories and warehouses located nearby and residential units were taken over by less affluent residents. The dilapidated houses south of Lamartine Place were demolished in the early 1960s and replaced by the towers of Penn South, overshadowing the small houses on West 29<sup>th</sup> Street. In spite of these changes, this district has remained an enclave in the changing city and has survived as a rare extant physical reminder of a dramatic and unfortunate chapter in the city's history.

## THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF LAMARTINE PLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT

### Development of Greater Chelsea Neighborhood<sup>2</sup>

Although prior to the arrival of European fur traders and the Dutch West India Company, Manhattan and much of the modern-day tri-state area was populated by bands of Native Americans from the Lenape tribe, there were no indications of Native American habitation in the Chelsea area.<sup>3</sup> In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, as the city of New York began to grow northward along the east side of Manhattan, the section that would become Chelsea remained rural, with small farms and large estates providing the only suggestion of future settlement.<sup>4</sup>

Thomas Clarke, who had served the king of England in the French and Indian War was given 94 acres of land on the western side of Manhattan, north of Greenwich Village. He built a large house near what became 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, naming his estate Chelsea, which was an old soldier's retreat in England. After his death, his wife and later his son and then his grandson inherited the property.<sup>5</sup> His grandson, Clement Clarke Moore extended the family holdings as far north as approximately 28<sup>th</sup> Street<sup>6</sup> and was the owner of the estate when the Commissioners' Plan was unveiled in 1811, laying out the street grid that would promote development and growth throughout Manhattan.

Clement Clarke Moore, whose father (Benjamin Moore) was president of Columbia College, received an advanced degree there in 1801. He inherited the estate in 1809, living the life of the landed gentleman, enjoying his extensive property, and dabbling in politics through the writing of several political pamphlets, as well as the first American-produced lexicon of the Hebrew language. As the owner of a large estate, Moore held slaves at this time. In 1819 he donated the land between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets for the construction of a campus for the General Theological Seminary (where he later became a professor of Oriental and Greek literature).<sup>7</sup>

When Moore realized that development would come to his extensive lands whether he wanted it or not, he decided to try to control it. In 1822 he teamed with James N. Wells, whom he had met when the latter was a young carpenter in the neighborhood. Wells helped Moore develop Chelsea, devising property restrictions for Moore's projects that required tree planting and mandated no stables or rear buildings. These details suggest that Moore was trying to create a first-class residential district.<sup>8</sup> A newspaper article in 1846 confirmed this, stating, "The

---

<sup>2</sup> The part of Manhattan that is defined as Chelsea is generally thought to include the area bordered by the Hudson River on the west, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the east, 14<sup>th</sup> Street on the south and 30<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, about one square mile.

<sup>3</sup> Historical Perspectives, Inc. and The Louis Berger Group, *Archaeological Documentary Study No. 7 Line Extension/ Hudson Yards Rezoning* (April 13, 2004), III, A-1-6.

<sup>4</sup> One reason the development moved up the east side earlier was because the East River was salt water and did not freeze, thus allowing shipping all year long.

<sup>5</sup> And rebuilt the house after a fire.

<sup>6</sup> See John Bute Holmes, City Surveyor, Map of the Franklin & Robinson, Janet DeKay, Henry Eckford, Mary Clarke and Clement C. Moore Estates, 1869, New York Public Library Map Collection.

<sup>7</sup> Samuel White Patterson, *The Poet of Christmas Eve, The Life of Clement Clarke Moore* (New York: Morehouse-Gorham, Co., 1956), 44-77.

<sup>8</sup> Christopher Gray, "Home of the Man Who Planned Chelsea," *The New York Times* (Oct. 20, 1996).

arrangements made by the original proprietors of the land in that quarter are such that no building can be erected for any purpose which will make the neighborhood disagreeable, and it is becoming a favorite place of residence.”<sup>9</sup>

In 1825, the entire population of New York numbered 166,000 and very few people lived north of 14<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>10</sup> Gradually however, the west side of Manhattan began attracting residents, many of them new immigrants looking for less expensive places to live. “By 1830 a community had developed near the General Theological Seminary, around Chelsea Square: many of them tenants of Clement Moore’s.”<sup>11</sup> There were enough people in the area by 1831 to organize St. Peter’s Church, and complete its building by 1836-7.<sup>12</sup>

During the boom years of the early 1830s, development moved north in Manhattan at an unprecedented pace. It was temporarily stopped by the Panic of 1837, but continued again by the early 1840s. The population exploded, due in large part to extensive immigration from Europe. As numerous Irish immigrants moved into the Five Points district in lower Manhattan, that neighborhood’s black residents were forced northward. A small African-American community was established west of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Streets.<sup>13</sup> Commercial activity also moved into previously residential areas, forcing residential growth northward. Major development began in Chelsea.

Throughout the city, speculators began to build long rows of townhouses for well-to-do businessmen.<sup>14</sup> The first such development in Chelsea, begun in 1845, was London Terrace, constructed on the north side of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues. This large-scale, continuous row followed precedents that already existed on the Lower East Side and in Greenwich Village, as developers attempted to emulate the elegant and uniform rows or terraces that had been constructed in London’s fashionable neighborhoods since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and display New Yorkers’ growing wealth and good taste. The first such group in New York was on Bleecker Street, one block south of fashionable Bond Street, between Mercer and Greene Streets. Builder Isaac G. Pearson constructed two rows of fine houses on both sides of the street in 1826 and named them for Jacob LeRoy. Built in a simple Federal style with showy granite fronts, these houses were set back a uniform distance from the street and provided with small front yards, making the street feel wider and giving it a sense of grandeur.<sup>15</sup> This development was followed by Depau Row, built in 1829-30 by merchant Francis Depau, and the Greek Revival style Colonnade Row built in 1832-3 and attributed to Seth Greer.<sup>16</sup>

By the 1830s, New Yorkers began to admire the regularity of these developments over the unplanned warren of streets that had previously existed. Wide and straight streets with

---

<sup>9</sup> *Evening Post* (April 2, 1846) reported in I. N. Phelps Stokes, *The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909* (New York: Robert Dodd, 1928) v. 5, 1797.

<sup>10</sup> Thomas Janvier, *In Old New York* (New York: Harper & Bros. Publ., 1894), 81.

<sup>11</sup> Patterson, 98.

<sup>12</sup> Clement Moore was major contributor to its new building.

<sup>13</sup> Edwin G. Burrows & Mike Wallace, *Gotham, A History of New York City to 1898* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 854.

<sup>14</sup> Charles Lockwood, *Bricks and Brownstone, The New York Rowhouse 1783-1929* (New York: Rizzoli Int’l Publ., 2003), 77. In 1847 there were 1,823 row houses completed in New York.

<sup>15</sup> Lockwood, 42.

<sup>16</sup> These houses were called “the most imposing and magnificent” houses in the city. The four surviving houses in the row, also known as LaGrange Terrace, are a designated New York City Landmark.



sidewalks became very desirable. By subordinating the individual house to the unity of the streetscape developers were able to group standard-size houses to create a complex of grand scale. “By the 1850s, the monumental streetscape was a stated goal in fine New York streets.”<sup>17</sup>

London Terrace (emulating these existing rows) was a group of 81 houses all set behind small front yards and unified by a double-height colonnade. Designated a “Millionaire’s Row,” its first residents included merchants,<sup>18</sup> city officials, lawyers, diplomats, doctors, clergy and landed gentry.<sup>19</sup> This row was the first effort of developers William Torrey and Cyrus Mason, who had leased the land from Clement Moore.<sup>20</sup> After this, developers Torrey and Mason did other work in Chelsea, including the Chelsea Cottages on the south side of 24<sup>th</sup> Street, a group of houses with picturesque bow-fronts providing a “countrified air.” These two men were also the initial developers of Franklin Terrace, a group of buildings off 26<sup>th</sup> Street, near 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.<sup>21</sup>

By 1852, the city’s population north of 28<sup>th</sup> Street was about 40,000 people, housed in widely scattered buildings.<sup>22</sup> The character of the developing Chelsea neighborhood seemed to change from block to block. While Torrey and Mason were creating a wealthy enclave on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, the Hudson Railroad laid tracks along 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues (in 1847), bringing light industry to the area. Factories were locating west of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and those who worked in them settled in tenements nearby. Gradually more and more of the marshy land west of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue was filled in, creating more inexpensive land that became home to many of the city’s recent immigrants, including a large group of Irish workers. The city’s first stagecoach line, begun in 1838, ran up Broadway from South Ferry to 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and then to 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, increasing Chelsea’s accessibility. Large estate houses began to give way to smaller homes built along the newly-opened streets. The Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles was started in the neighborhood to serve the burgeoning population of émigrés from the British Isles who were settling in the area.<sup>23</sup>

Although much of Chelsea was developed with an eye toward wealthy and middle-class families, they did not stay long in the area and less-affluent, often Irish-Catholic families took

---

<sup>17</sup> Lockwood, 79. One of the finest rows was located on the north side of Washington Square, Nos. 1-13 Washington Square North, built as The Row and begun in 1831. This was composed of thirteen rowhouses in the Greek Revival style with fluted Doric columns on front porches and Greek motifs on the continuous iron fences that faced the street. They were very opulent and grand with a continuous cornice line and regularly-spaced doors and windows, creating an impressive streetscape.

<sup>18</sup> Residents included Samuel Lord, who became the senior partner in the dry goods establishment, Lord & Taylor. Patterson, 107.

<sup>19</sup> Robert Baral, *Turn West on 23<sup>rd</sup> A Toast to New York’s Old Chelsea* (New York: Fleet Publ. Co., 1965), 110. While much of Chelsea was in decline, London Terrace remained a desirable residential address. In 1897, one of its residents was Charles de Kay, a former American consul General in Berlin and by then serving as art critic for *The New York Times*. London Terrace continued to be “one of the most outstanding residential areas in New York.”

<sup>20</sup> Lucy Gibbons Morse, *Rachel Stanwood, A Story of the Middle of the Nineteenth Century* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1894). The author noted that the setbacks showed Moore’s influence on this type of development.

<sup>21</sup> This group of seven houses faced a private street that extended south from 26<sup>th</sup> Street and was considerably remodeled in 1925 and later demolished to make way for the Penn South Houses in the 1960s. “Old Chelsea District To Have a Pomander Walk,” *Real Estate Record & Guide* v. 115 (May 30, 1925), 4; and “Manhattan’s Little Streets and Alleys Reminders of Simple and Earlier Days,” *New York Times* (Dec. 15, 1912).

<sup>22</sup> Lucius A. Edelblute, M.A., *The History of the Church of the Holy Apostles, 1844-1944* (New York: Rev. Lucius A. Edelblute, 1949), 66.

<sup>23</sup> Edelblute, 11, 15, 44. In 1845 Robert Ray and John King donated land on 28<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue to build a permanent home for the church.

their places.<sup>24</sup> A quote from a local newspaper in 1855 stated: “Recent neighborhood changes had not helped make Chelsea the court end of town. Tongues very different from English were heard on its streets.”<sup>25</sup>

### William Torrey and Cyrus Mason

William Torrey (1789-1891)<sup>26</sup> was born in New York and descended from the Torrey family who came from Somersetshire, England in 1590 and settled in Massachusetts. The developer’s father, who served in the Revolutionary War, was also William Torrey. The father acted as agent of the state prison in Greenwich Village and from 1808-11 served as Alderman of New York’s 6<sup>th</sup> District. A younger brother, John Torrey (1796-1873), became a famous botanist who wrote several comprehensive compendia of plants in New York and in North America.

In 1821 William Torrey married Adeline Whittemore,<sup>27</sup> whose family owned substantial property near Lakehurst, New Jersey and passed it to him upon their marriage. Torrey’s early business ventures included importing hardware with the firm of Gillett & Torrey and later acting as agent for the London financial firm of Timothy Wiggen & Co.

Torrey also purchased a large property near Manchester, New Jersey where he built his family’s home and helped develop the town. Since there was iron ore on the property, he used it to form and lay down railroad tracks to connect the area with the coast so that charcoal and timber could be shipped from Tom’s River, New Jersey. This railroad became the Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad Company and was later used to carry Union troops during the Civil War.

Torrey was an active Presbyterian, helping to found several churches, including the West Presbyterian on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. It was perhaps this religious connection that led Torrey to Cyrus Mason, an ordained minister who was born and later held a ministry in Rensselaer County.<sup>28</sup> He came to New York to serve the Cedar Street Church where he was the minister between 1826 and 1835.<sup>29</sup> At that time he resigned to become the principal of the Grammar School of New York University. That institution was founded in 1831 as the University of the City of New York by a group of ministers and laymen of Presbyterian and Dutch Reform persuasion (including

---

<sup>24</sup> Edelbute, 97. The Episcopal Church felt their loss and counted only 331 Episcopal residents between 26<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Street, from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue west to the river.

<sup>25</sup> Patterson, 155.

<sup>26</sup> Information about William Torrey was compiled from: “William Torrey,” *New York Times* (June 17, 1891), 4; William Torrey, “Reminiscences of Old New York,” *Adam’s Magazine* v.2 (1892) and genealogy data from [http://www.johnsteelefordon.com/genealogy/n\\_0.html](http://www.johnsteelefordon.com/genealogy/n_0.html), accessed 5/26/2009.

<sup>27</sup> Research has not revealed whether Torrey or his family owned slaves.

<sup>28</sup> Information about Mason’s life is unclear. Much of the information in the report comes from his obituary “Death of Prof. Cyrus Mason,” *The Daily Picayune* (June 10, 1865), 2. However, B.B. Edwards and W. Cogswell, *The American Quarterly Register* vol. 12 (Boston: Perkins & Marvin, 1840), 270, state that Mason was born in Nassau, NY in 1799 and graduated from Union College. This publication says that he served the Cedar Street Church from 1835 until 1836 and that he resigned because of ill health, but other documents show his association with the church differently. Research has not revealed whether Mason owned slaves.

<sup>29</sup> According to the church history found on the website of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, <http://www.fapc.org/index.php/about-us/our-church/history>, accessed on June 11, 2009, the Church in Cedar Street was founded at that address in 1808, with Dr. Romeyn serving as its first pastor. Gabriel P. Disosway, A.M., *The Earliest Churches of New York and Its Vicinity* (New York: James G. Gregory, 1865), 161, says that Dr. Romeyn died in 1825 and Mason then became pastor of this church. During his ministry the congregation moved from Cedar Street to an elegant marble church on Duane Street. It was in 1875 that this congregation moved to 55<sup>th</sup> Street and Fifth Avenue, changing its name to the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Cyrus Mason) who wanted to create an alternative to Columbia College which was an Episcopal stronghold.<sup>30</sup> Mason also served as professor of philosophy and religion at NYU and authored several books about religion, including a well-known volume about the Spanish Inquisition. He was active in various institutions in the city, and served as the treasurer of The New-York Historical Society, vice-president of the American Agricultural Association and secretary of the Society for the Diffusion of Political Knowledge.<sup>31</sup> According to his obituary, he “took much interest in forwarding the views of Democracy, his talents, learning and industry enabling him to exercise no inconsiderable influence on the public mind.”<sup>32</sup>

### Development of Lamartine Place

Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, well before development reached the area, Cornelius Ray<sup>33</sup> acquired several tracts of land for an estate, just to the north of the Clement Moore property, bounded generally by 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the east and the Hudson River on the west. The northern border ran somewhat north of West 30<sup>th</sup> Street and the southern boundary incorporated the northern side of West 28<sup>th</sup> Street, moving south toward West 27<sup>th</sup> Street, near 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.<sup>34</sup> Ray built an estate house near the west side of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 28<sup>th</sup> Street, which was “probably the finest of the private houses along the avenue.”<sup>35</sup> Upon his death in 1827, Ray bequeathed the land to his sons Robert and Richard Ray and his daughter Mary King who began to divide it into lots in 1833.

In 1846 developers Cyrus Mason and William Torrey, proceeding from their work farther south in the expanding Chelsea neighborhood, purchased all the lots on the north side of West 29<sup>th</sup> Street between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues from the Cornelius Ray estate.<sup>36</sup> Their goal was to create a unique and highly desirable neighborhood, and to this end they also acquired leases and development rights to other lots on the south side of West 29<sup>th</sup> Street and on the northern side of West 28<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>37</sup> As they began to build and sell houses along the northern side of West 29<sup>th</sup> Street they apparently created Lamartine Park, running between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Streets, on the eastern half of the block, facing the houses.<sup>38</sup> The two blocks of West 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Streets between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues were given distinctive names to distinguish them from the

---

<sup>30</sup> Burrows & Wallace, 531; and the New York University Charter, published on the school website, <http://www.nyu.edu/about/charter.html> accessed 3/18/2009.

<sup>31</sup> *Monthly Literary Bulletin*, v. 14, Feb., 1844, 219 lists his position as Treasurer of the New-York Historical Society, and the *New York Herald* (Feb. 3, 1846), 6, states that he was elected vice-president of the American Agricultural Association in 1846.

<sup>32</sup> *The Daily Picayune*.

<sup>33</sup> It is likely that, as a wealthy landowner, Ray and his family owned slaves, but this has not been confirmed by the research.

<sup>34</sup> Holmes, Map of the Franklin & Robinson, etc. Estates, New York Public Library.

<sup>35</sup> Edelbute, 115.

<sup>36</sup> Torrey's mortgages were assured by his well-known brother James Torrey.

<sup>37</sup> New York County Office of the Register. Liber deeds and conveyances, various.

<sup>38</sup> Lamartine Park does not appear on any official listing of city parks, indicating that the developers created this amenity themselves, as an attraction for the residents of the new neighborhood. The park appears on the 1849-50 Perris & Hutchinson map and the 1857 Dripps map as a rectangle that runs from West 29<sup>th</sup> Street through the block to West 28<sup>th</sup> Street, with a symmetrical, formal design featuring a central fountain and eight walkways approaching it from the perimeter.

numbered street grid.<sup>39</sup> West 28<sup>th</sup> Street was called Fitzroy Place, named for Fitzroy Road that originally ran north from 14<sup>th</sup> Street to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, near 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and followed the course of a Native American trail.<sup>40</sup> West 29<sup>th</sup> Street was named Lamartine Place. This name seems to have been chosen in honor of the French writer and politician Alphonse de Lamartine who played an active role in the French Revolution of 1848, inspiring its participants with his writings and later running for election as the president of France.<sup>41</sup> These names and the park appear on maps from the late 1840s through 1902.<sup>42</sup> Despite the short time of this official designation, it is clear from directories that these were commonly accepted addresses and residents of the streets continued to use the names (instead of street numbers) as their street addresses for many years.

The developers of Lamartine Place were attempting to create a continuous row or terrace as they had done earlier at London Terrace. Torrey and Mason created strict covenants for Lamartine Place to control the type and use of the buildings built there.<sup>43</sup> Then they began to build similar three-story, Greek revival style brick-front rowhouses with consistent height, stoops, and set-backs with front gardens behind iron fences along the lot lines. The developers were trying to create a solid middle-class neighborhood, despite the mixed industrial and other uses on surrounding blocks. Most of the northern side of the block was constructed by 1849; the seven houses toward the western end of the block, Nos. 347-359, were not completed until c.1852. The houses were purchased by individual families within the next few years, fulfilling the developers' original vision for the area. The park across the street lasted until the late 1850s when it was replaced by individual houses.

Among the early owners of houses on the street was Samuel Sinclair who lived at No. 353 Lamartine Place. His wife was a cousin to the outspoken abolitionist Horace Greeley and Sinclair worked for *The Tribune* newspaper and then served as its publisher for over 10 years. No. 341 and later No. 345 were owned by Theodore Martine, a local businessman and Commissioner of Deeds for the City of New York. Nelson Waterbury a noted lawyer, judge and District Attorney for New York owned No. 351 Lamartine Place from 1860 until 1887.

---

<sup>39</sup> Most 19<sup>th</sup> century maps give only the street numbers, indicating that these names were not given officially by the city.

<sup>40</sup> Stokes, 1918, 999-1000.

<sup>41</sup> Given Mason's interest in "spreading Democracy" and the intense and wide-spread American interest in the words and actions of M. Lamartine during the political activities of 1847-48 in France, it seems likely that this was the derivation of the name. Lamartine's writings, speeches and activities were followed closely throughout the United States, as evidenced by articles found in newspapers as far-flung as New Orleans, Memphis, and New York.

<sup>42</sup> The latest map identified that shows the name "Lamartine Place" is the *Sanborn Insurance Map of New York*, 1890-1902, v. 5, plate 89.

<sup>43</sup> These covenants are made clear in the original leases.

### Abby and James Gibbons<sup>44</sup>

One of the most well-known families to take up residence during the early years of Lamartine Place was that of Abby Hopper Gibbons and James Sloan Gibbons, who resided first at No. 17 and then at No. 18 Lamartine Place. They were dedicated abolitionists and philanthropists who devoted their lives to improving those of other people.

In her obituary, Abby Hopper Gibbons (1801-1893) was called “one of the most remarkable women of this century.” She received a traditional Quaker education in the home of her father, Isaac Hopper of Philadelphia. An active and well-known Quaker, Isaac Hopper became legendary for his success in helping escaping slaves achieve their freedom.<sup>45</sup> The Hopper home was known as a “refuge for escaping slaves.”<sup>46</sup> “Many a fugitive has been sheltered and forwarded on his journey by them.”<sup>47</sup>

Abby was extremely close to her father and helped with his work, both as she was growing up and as an adult. When Isaac Hopper and his second wife moved to New York in 1829, to manage a Quaker bookstore and help publish a Hicksite Quaker newspaper, Abby followed and took charge of a nearby Quaker girls’ school.

In 1833, Abby married James Sloan Gibbons (1810-1892), also a Quaker, who had come to Philadelphia from Delaware. The couple lived in Philadelphia until 1835 when they moved to New York and Abby started a small school for African-American children in her home.<sup>48</sup> James Gibbons was a banker, and first worked for the Bank of the State of New York.<sup>49</sup> Then he helped organize and became “head cashier” (equivalent to CFO) at the Ocean Bank.<sup>50</sup> He wrote several books on banking, including *The Banks of New York, their Dealers, the Clearing House and the Panic of 1857* (1859) and *The Public Debt of the United States* (1867). James Gibbons was also involved with Abolitionist causes and gave financial support to the *Anti-Slavery Standard* newspaper.

Abby Gibbons followed her father’s example of working diligently for others, and was an extremely capable organizer and leader. Beyond her abolitionist activities, she started and managed numerous philanthropic organizations during her long, productive life, including the German Industrial School to aid homeless children and teach them trades, and the New York Infant Asylum, a home for unwed mothers and orphans, stressing preventive health care.<sup>51</sup> Following her father’s example, Abby Gibbons became very involved with prison reform; she

---

<sup>44</sup> Information about Abby and James Gibbons and Isaac Hopper was compiled from the following sources: *Dictionary of American Biography* v.5 (New York: C. Scribner’s Son’s, 1933), 224, 237, 242; Margaret Hope Bacon, *Abby Hopper Gibbons, Prison Reformer and Social Activist* (Albany, NY: State Univ. of New York Press, 2000); Amy Curtis, *Stories of the Underground Railroad* (Island Workshop Press, 1941); “Mrs. Abby Hopper Gibbons Dead,” *New York Times* (Jan 18, 1893), 8; “James Sloan Gibbons,” *New York Times* (Oct. 19, 1892), 4; Letters from the Abby Hopper Gibbons collection at Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College; Sarah Hopper Emerson, ed., *The Life of Abby Hopper Gibbons, Told Chiefly Through Her Correspondence* (1897), microfilm.

<sup>45</sup> Bacon, 7.

<sup>46</sup> Emerson, 243.

<sup>47</sup> Emerson, 244.

<sup>48</sup> Bacon, 40-1.

<sup>49</sup> Bacon, 25-9.

<sup>50</sup> Bacon, 70.

<sup>51</sup> Bacon, 147.

made weekly visits to the Tombs prison and became friends with its matron. Each year before Christmas, she and her friends and family created and collected dolls and other toys and treats for the children who were at the poor house on Randall's Island.

In 1844, Isaac Hopper and other reformers started the Prison Association, an organization formed to help released prisoners re-enter society when they had no money or support.<sup>52</sup> The following year, Abby Gibbons and her friends created a Female Department for this group, because they believed the needs of women prisoners should be addressed separately. They founded the Home for Discharged Female Convicts<sup>53</sup> which became the first such halfway house in the world, housing up to 30 women at a time, most of whom had been in prison for crimes related to poverty or the abuse of alcohol. Their efforts were based on the idea that women needed different treatment because of their different natures, not just to equalize the endeavor.<sup>54</sup> In 1854 the Female Department became a separate organization called The Women's Prison Association and Home. Its incorporation was promoted by Isaac Hopper's personal intervention with the legislature in Albany. The building used as its home was later named the Isaac T. Hopper Home, and Abby Gibbons served in its leadership for many years. (The Isaac Hopper Home on Second Avenue is a designated New York City Landmark.)

After the Civil War, Abby Gibbons helped start a "Labor and Aid Society" for returning soldiers and their families.<sup>55</sup> This effort, which lasted only a few years, involved the creation of a laundry to provide jobs for veterans and a nursery and school for their children. In 1873 she became involved in the establishment of the New York Diet Kitchen Association, intended to furnish healthy, nourishing food for the sick and poor, in connection with area dispensaries. Gibbons also became President of the New York Committee for the Prevention of State Regulation of Vice. She was insistent on education for girls and women, and was an early supporter of women's suffrage. Although she was great friends with many of the women advocating and organizing for women's suffrage, she was a devoted Republican and did not attend suffrage conventions after the first one in 1868 because she did not want to be associated with people and activities of the Democratic Party.<sup>56</sup>

In 1835, when James and Abby Gibbons moved to New York, they first lived in a house in Chelsea, on West 17<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1851, James Gibbons purchased lots 17 and 64 (No.18 Lamartine Place, now No. 337 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, and No. 342 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street).<sup>57</sup> No alley-way was allowed between the lots, and it is unclear why the lot on West 30<sup>th</sup> Street was purchased. The Gibbons family lived at No. 337 for only a year and it was at this house that Abby's father, Isaac Hopper died in May of 1852. Later that year, Gibbons purchased the house and lot next door at No. 19 Lamartine Place (now No. 339 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street).<sup>58</sup> Gibbons sold his original

---

<sup>52</sup> Bacon, 54-5.

<sup>53</sup> This facility was first located at West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, near 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and then moved to 191 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, before the group purchased the building on Second Avenue where it continues to exist today.

<sup>54</sup> Bacon, xii.

<sup>55</sup> Emerson. 249-50.

<sup>56</sup> Bacon, xii.

<sup>57</sup> New York County Office of the Register, Liber 569, p.466, recorded April 26, 1851, James Gibbons from Enoch and Clarinda Mettler. Lot 64 faces 30<sup>th</sup> Street. Both lots are 22 feet wide and close to 100 ft deep. The total purchase price for both lots was \$8,750.

<sup>58</sup> New York County Office of the Register, Liber 608, p. 152, recorded June 4, 1852, James Gibbons from William Young for \$8,500.

purchase, lot 17, to Samuel Underhill in 1853<sup>59</sup> and lot 64 to Dervitt Grinnell in 1854.<sup>60</sup> Possibly in response to some financial difficulties, James Gibbons sold lot 16 in 1858, to his brother-in-law John Hopper, Abby's brother.<sup>61</sup> The family continued to live there however, and apparently resumed ownership at some later, unrecorded date.

A few years later, the Gibbons family was joined on West 29<sup>th</sup> Street by relatives. Abby Gibbons' sister, Rachel Brown, along with her husband Samuel and their young adult children Sarah and Samuel rented the home of Erastus Lyman at No. 17 Lamartine Place for one year, beginning May 12, 1863.<sup>62</sup>

### Abby and James Gibbons and the Civil War

In the years before the Civil War, Abby and James Gibbons worked to end slavery and help its victims. Following the example of Isaac Hopper, Abby and James Gibbons made their home an established stop on the Underground Railroad for slaves trying to get to Canada. There were often several escaping slaves in residence, or passing through, and they were given whatever aid they needed. This fact was confirmed by several sources, including a handwritten account of an escaping slave in 1855 that noted, "They were served (?) at the house of J.S. Gibbons."<sup>63</sup> Additionally, several entries from the letters of their family friend Joseph Choate verify this, including this one:

The house of Mrs. Gibbons was a great resort of abolitionists and extreme antislavery people from all parts of the land, as it was one of the stations of the Underground Railroad by which fugitive slaves found their way from the South to Canada. I have dined with that family in company with William Lloyd Garrison, and sitting at the table with us was a jet-black negro who was on his way to freedom. ...<sup>64</sup>

Many years later, one of their daughters, Lucy Gibbons Morse wrote a thinly-disguised novel in which she essentially describes her home and family, likely based on her own experience.

Ten years or thereabouts before our civil war, in the city of New York, in one of the cross streets between Ninth and Tenth avenues, Twelfth and Twentieth streets, there was a row of six three-story, red brick houses with green blinds, high doorways, and small, neat grass plots in front. The houses were numbered from 264 to 272...There were no other trees on the block, the main part of which was

---

<sup>59</sup> New York County Office of the Register, Liber 628, p. 551.

<sup>60</sup> New York County Office of the Register, Liber 667, p. 327, recorded August 25, 1854.

<sup>61</sup> New York County Office of the Register, Liber 765, p.314, recorded September 28, 1858. Purchase price was \$11,750.

<sup>62</sup> Gibbons collection at Friends Historical Library, Box 3: folder 162. In Julia's letter to her mother, dated April, 1863, she states: "The most interesting news at present is that Uncle Samuel has sold his house and has rented the Lyman's (No. 17 Lamartine Place, now No. 335 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street) here on this block for one year with the privilege of keeping it for 3 years."

<sup>63</sup> Sydney Howard Gay, *Record of Fugitives* (slaves) v.p. 1855-58, 2 vol. (in bound notebooks in the collection of Columbia University).

<sup>64</sup> Edward Sanford Martin, *The Life of Joseph Hodges Choate, As Gathered Chiefly from his Letters* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1920), 99.

occupied by vacant lots and lumber yards. Along Tenth Avenue, where the Hudson River Railroad ran, was a row of irregular buildings with shabby stores on the ground floor. ...No. 268 was the home of a Quaker family named Stanwood...They were among the most liberal even of the liberals of the Hicksite Quakers...and principally they were abolitionists. Their house was a regular station on the Underground Railroad, being one of the safest and best refuges in the city for runaway slaves...<sup>65</sup>

Many people active in the anti-slavery movement were frequent guests at the house on Lamartine Place, including (as mentioned above) the outspoken newspaper publisher William Lloyd Garrison, the Grimke sisters, Lydia Child, and Charles Burleigh. During the Anti-Slavery Convention held in New York in 1865, Abby Gibbons extended her well-known hospitality to house as many people as she could, including blacks. The convention participants who stayed with the Gibbons family included African-American leaders Robert and Harriet Purvis.<sup>66</sup> Horace Greeley, the well-known abolitionist and editor of the *Tribune* newspaper, also stayed at the Gibbons home.<sup>67</sup> It is also documented that John Brown spent a morning with Abby Gibbons in October, 1859, and told her of his plans for Harpers Ferry. She sympathized with him, but told no one.<sup>68</sup>

The members of the Gibbons family were staunch Republicans who supported the Civil War as something that needed to happen in order to free the slaves. When President Lincoln sent out a call for 300,000 more soldiers for the Union Army in July, 1862, James Gibbons responded by writing the poem, "Three Hundred Thousand More."<sup>69</sup> This became a song, which begins "We are coming, Father Abraham, Three hundred thousand more..." It was first published in the *Evening Post* on July 16, 1862 and became very popular because of its rhythm and the patriotism it expressed. As a further show of the family's support, when the Emancipation Proclamation was delivered on January 1, 1863, the Gibbons' daughters hung bunting in their windows to celebrate. This led to an attack on their house by opponents of emancipation in New York.<sup>70</sup>

When the war began Abby Gibbons and her oldest daughter Sarah (Sally) went to Washington to visit army hospitals.<sup>71</sup> She and Sarah cooked for the injured soldiers and helped them write letters home. They stayed on for four years, rarely coming home for visits, and followed the troops through a series of different field hospitals. Because of her diplomacy and organizational skills, Gibbons was eventually placed in charge of the hospital at Point Lookout, in the southern tip of Maryland. While there, she organized the hospital and its nurses to run more smoothly and also undertook protection and aid for escaping slaves who had made it that

---

<sup>65</sup> Lucy Gibbons Morse, *Rachel Stanwood, A Story of the Middle of the Nineteenth Century* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, & Co., 1894), 1-2.

<sup>66</sup> Bacon, 130.

<sup>67</sup> Bacon, 133.

<sup>68</sup> This fact was noted in both Bacon, 83 and Emerson, 261.

<sup>69</sup> Bacon, 98.

<sup>70</sup> Iver Bernstein, *The New York City Draft Riots, Their Significance for American Society and Politics in the Age of the Civil War* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1990), 25.

<sup>71</sup> Margaret Hope Bacon, "Abby Hopper Gibbons and Prison Reform," Pendle Hill Lecture, May 14, 2001.



far in their journey.<sup>72</sup> While she was away, James Gibbons remained active in the Freedman's Association.<sup>73</sup>

### Draft Riots

In March 1863, Congress passed the "Act for Enrolling and Calling Out the National Forces" (the draft) to increase the federal armed forces that were severely strained because of ongoing fighting and high rates of desertion. It was the first time the United States had attempted national conscription and the law was opposed by many. Responses to the law varied, with one of the most violent coming from New York. A lottery was held in July that led to four days of rioting in which the streets of New York were taken over by mobs of people who sought to destroy the property of wealthy people and those associated with Lincoln's Republican Party and to harm African-Americans and those linked with them or the abolitionist cause.

The lottery was begun in the first of Manhattan's eight draft districts on Third Avenue and 46<sup>th</sup> Street, on Saturday, July 11, 1863. After more than 1200 names were picked, the offices were closed for the weekend. The chosen names were published in the city's newspapers on Sunday. Discontent grew as it became clear that the wealthy could buy their way out of the draft with a payment of \$300. As Monday dawned the city erupted. Large groups of people began to move out of the slums on the Lower East Side, including the notorious Five Points area, home to some of the city's most aggressive gangs. Many historians have alleged that outside agitators stirred up the crowds and led them toward specific targets.<sup>74</sup> They believe that the groups were too well-organized to exist without outside leadership, as they chopped down telegraph poles and tore up railroad tracks to hinder communication and transportation, cut off approaches to the city, and seized armories and arsenals for their munitions. This activity seemed to suggest that men with ties to the south, known as "Copperheads," were leading the charge. As the crowds moved through the city, they were armed with bats, bricks or small firearms. Their first targets "were the industrial firms that had replaced unskilled white labor with blacks."<sup>75</sup> Some people headed toward draft offices or other sites related specifically to the draft. Swarms of people moved up and down the avenues, holding impromptu gatherings and addresses about the injustice of the draft, while other groups seemed to target specific sources of grievances. The crowds were unhindered by police who had only 800 officers available for the entire city as the trouble began.<sup>76</sup> Army troops were not available either, as most had been sent to Gettysburg at Lincoln's request.

The mobs burned and looted draft offices and stores<sup>77</sup> and attacked and killed policemen. Angry groups approached the mayor's residence as well as the offices of the *Tribune* newspaper, because its publisher, Horace Greeley, was known for his outspoken abolitionist views. As the mobs moved around the city, they looted stores, set fires and attacked any unlucky African-American person who happened to be in their sights. Many blacks were injured or murdered, some tortured and hung. One crowd attacked the Colored Orphan Asylum on Fifth Avenue

---

<sup>72</sup> Bacon, 106.

<sup>73</sup> Bacon, 97.

<sup>74</sup> Edward Robb Ellis, *The Epic of New York City* (New York: Carroll & Gref Publ., 1966), 299.

<sup>75</sup> Selma Berrol, *The Empire City, New York and Its People 1624-1996* (Westport, CN: Praeger, 1997), 67.

<sup>76</sup> Ellis, 301.

<sup>77</sup> Including Brooks Brothers which had produced army uniforms.

between 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Streets, home to more than 200 children. The mob burned the building down, while most of the residents escaped out the back.

The mayhem continued until army troops began arriving on Wednesday evening. They fought with the rioters throughout Wednesday night, breaking down barricades, storming into houses, bayoneting anyone who got in their way. By Thursday evening, with over 6,000 troops in city, it was over. On Friday omnibuses were running again and laborers returned to work, while repairs to telegraph poles and rail lines began to be made.

By the time the violence was quelled, thousands of people were wounded and hundreds killed, more than 100 buildings were burned to the ground, with about 200 others damaged, and property loss was estimated between \$1,500,000 and \$5,000,000.<sup>78</sup> Many people, including many African-Americans, fled the city, not to return. The black population in New York dropped by 20% so that in 1865 it numbered only 9,945.<sup>79</sup> “The New York City Draft Riots had been the largest single incident of civil disorder in the history of the United States.”<sup>80</sup>

The Draft Riots started, ostensibly, in response to a draft lottery in which wealthy individuals could buy their exemptions, however they turned into a free-for-all in which pent-up hostility toward free blacks and their supporters by working class New Yorkers (especially Irish immigrants)<sup>81</sup> was expressed through destruction of property and attacks and murders of individuals. The riots were the result of a combination of social and demographic issues, including a growing lack of popular support for the Civil War, concern about immigration, the abolition of slavery, the economy and a lack of jobs. Many New York businesses had commercial ties to the South and were reluctant to break them for economic reasons. The events of these days were also a test of Federal power, to see whether the Republicans in Washington could impose a national government on a city with strong Democratic (and Southern) ties. The lack of a functional municipal government, including politicians who encouraged the rioters and a shortage of police and other troops also contributed to the strength and duration of the riot.

### The Gibbons Home and the Draft Riots<sup>82</sup>

The Gibbons family was well known for its work in favor of abolition and for supporting Lincoln and the war. It was also common knowledge that Horace Greeley, William Lloyd Garrison and other abolitionists had often been guests at the Gibbons’ house.

When the draft riots started in New York on Monday morning, only James Gibbons and his daughter Lucy were at home. Abby Gibbons and her oldest daughter Sarah were still serving

---

<sup>78</sup> Ellis, 315.

<sup>79</sup> Alex Blankfein, “The Causes and Effects of the New York Draft Riots of 1863,” on the website <http://mapsites.net/gotham/es/alexblankfein.es.htm>, accessed 1/13/2009, and Burrows & Wallace, 897.

<sup>80</sup> Burrows & Wallace, 895.

<sup>81</sup> There was heavy Irish immigration during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century in New York. Most people came with no skills and were employed in manual labor, in direct competition to the freed blacks who lived in New York at the time.

<sup>82</sup> In addition to the sources already cited, information on the Draft Riots comes from: *New York Herald Tribune* (July 16, 1863), 8 ; “House at No. 19 Lamartine Place Emptied of its Furniture, Tenanted by Mr. Gibbons, Greeley’s cousin,” *New York Herald Tribune* (July 15, 1863), 1; Lucy Gibbons Morse, “Recollections of the Draft Riots,” August 1927, unpublished manuscript; Hyman Bogen, *The Luckiest Orphans : A History of the Hebrew Orphan Asylum of New York* (Urbana, IL: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1992); Barnett Schecter, *The Devil’s Own Work* (New York: Walker & Co., 2005).

at the hospital at Point Lookout, Maryland. Another daughter, Julia, had been visiting her uncle John Hopper and his family in Connecticut but was on her way back to New York.<sup>83</sup>

Because of the previous attack on his home, James Gibbons was concerned by the developing events of the riots. By Tuesday, as rumors about an attack on his property began to circulate, James went back and forth to the Fifth Avenue Hotel to try to get information. He reported the rumors to the police and asked for extra protection but they had no officers to spare. Historian Iver Bernstein called what happened next “one of the most concerted and systematic attacks of the riot week.”<sup>84</sup>

When a servant brought back news that the crowd planned to attack the Gibbons and Sinclair houses, James and Lucy Gibbons decided to carry some belongings to their Uncle Samuel Brown’s house for safekeeping but James Gibbons was concerned that if anyone saw what they were doing, it would endanger their relatives so they did not pursue this.

When Julia Gibbons returned home on Tuesday afternoon, she and her sister Lucy and their cousin began to move some belongings from their home to their uncle’s house by way of the rooftops. By late in the afternoon they had brought one load into the attic of their uncle’s house when the crowd appeared on 29<sup>th</sup> Street, led by two men on horseback. Shouting “Greeley! Gibbons! Greeley! Gibbons!” the crowd moved directly to the Gibbons home as the girls watched from the nearby window.<sup>85</sup> Carrying bricks and bats, the mob broke down the door and windows. They ran into the house and ransacked it, destroying or carrying off everything they could, throwing furniture and household effects out of the windows. In less than an hour, soldiers and militiamen arrived, coming from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and used their clubs and bayonets to break up the mob, killing and wounding several people. They marched around the block and returned to chase the crowds out of the house again and try to disperse the crowd. After the soldiers left, the rioters regrouped and returned to their looting, setting fire to what was left. Some of the neighbors tried to put the fires out to keep them from spreading. One neighbor, Mr. Wilson, tried to stop the crowds in defense of his own home, but they thought he was Horace Greeley and beat him for his efforts.

While these events were taking place, a friend of the Gibbons family, Joseph Choate, saw smoke coming from the vicinity of their house and became concerned. Once he saw the crowds at the Gibbons’ house, he made his way inside, searching for members of the family among the rioters. Finding no one, he went to the nearby home of their relatives, and found the two Gibbons daughters. In order to remove them from the dangerous situation, he went to find a carriage and arranged for it to wait around the corner. He then led the two girls over the rooftops, toward 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They descended through the home of Esther & Henry Herrman at No. 355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street<sup>86</sup> and the carriage transported them to the Choate home on West 21<sup>st</sup> Street.<sup>87</sup> The family stayed there for the next several days.

---

<sup>83</sup> Uncle John Hopper and his wife and son lived on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, near 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue but were spending the summer in Milton, Connecticut at the farm of Isaac Sherman, leaving their aunt at home in Manhattan. On Monday, she came to the Gibbons house on 29<sup>th</sup> Street to report that the crowd was burning the Colored Orphan Asylum.

<sup>84</sup> Bernstein, 25.

<sup>85</sup> It was widely (although falsely) believed that Greeley was related to the Gibbons family and that he was in residence there.

<sup>86</sup> Lot 8 was sold to Esther Herrman in 1852 (Liber 613, page 570) who owned it until 1884 (Liber 1800, page 454).

<sup>87</sup> Martin, 256. In a letter to his mother, dated 15 July, 1863, Joseph Choate gave a detailed account of what happened. “...Our friends the Gibbonses have lost everything and are at our house. At 5 yesterday afternoon their house was sacked. It was reported that they were Horace Greeley’s cousins, and that was cause enough... By merest

Julia Gibbons wrote to her mother at Point Lookout the next day describing what had happened and telling her that she need not come home. As soon as they learned about the riot, Abby and Sarah Gibbons returned to New York anyway. The family moved to Abby's brother John Hopper's house.

Abby Gibbons wrote to her daughter Sarah in August from New York stating that she hoped they could settle their claim on the house by October so they could "have a home then"<sup>88</sup> but she spent the winter supervising the rebuilding of the house. In September, Abby wrote to her friend Dr. Walker of her terrible losses, including her father's bookcase that was his "pet piece of furniture" and had been in her family for over one hundred years, more than 2000 books, her father Isaac Hopper's papers, and some of their son Willie's books and belongings that had special meaning.<sup>89</sup> She wrote that she hoped to get a "snug home in the autumn." She also noted, "Because this calamity has overtaken us is no reason why we should sit with folded hands. I hope we are disposed to seek a renewal of strength, and perform cheerfully the labor assigned to us."

She preferred not to live in the house again, but James thought it was the right thing to do. The Gibbons reported the events to the police and some of the rioters were found to be in possession of some of their broken furniture and were eventually tried for their part in the destruction. Joseph Choate took up a collection among his friends and was able to give the Gibbons \$2,750 toward their losses.<sup>90</sup> Eventually the City of New York settled the claims of those victimized by the events of those four days. The Gibbons received \$8,500 to rebuild and move back into their house. As a result of the settlement, Abby Gibbons wrote in a letter that "It was now possible to prepare to move."<sup>91</sup>

Their friends and family also chose to move away from Lamartine Place. Abby Gibbons' sister and her husband, Rachel and Samuel Brown, gave up their lease to No. 17, and Greeley's cousins, the Sinclair family, took an apartment at London Terrace.<sup>92</sup>

By 1865, the Gibbons family was still in residence on Lamartine Place, although the house was up for sale.

It was not until 1866 that the family settled with the Humboldt Fire Insurance Company and the house could be sold.<sup>93</sup> The Gibbons family then moved to a rented house in West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. In 1871 they moved to No. 11 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street, where they stayed for nine years.<sup>94</sup>

After the war James Gibbons immersed himself in banking and branched out to financing railroads. In 1870, he helped finance the Delaware Railroad and then became its President. For

---

accident, I happened to be in that part of the town just before six, on Broadway, and seeing all eyes turned down West 29<sup>th</sup> St. went down expecting to see trouble in the negro quarters, between Broadway and Lamartine Place. But there was nothing there, and I went on and found the mob just completing the work of destruction."

<sup>88</sup> Gibbons collection at Friends Historical Library. Letter from Abby to Sally [Sarah] in Box 1, Folder 6, dated August 10, 1863. The house did not sell at that time however.

<sup>89</sup> Gibbons collection at Friends Historical Library. Letter from Abby to Dr. Walker in Boston on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863 thanking him for his concern and offer of housing.

<sup>90</sup> Bacon, 116.

<sup>91</sup> Bacon, 121.

<sup>92</sup> Gibbons collection at Friends Historical Library. Letter from Abby dated August 31, 1865.

<sup>93</sup> The property was conveyed to James C. Carter, (Liber 975, p. 639, May 25, 1866). John Gibbons received \$11,000 for the property as a result of an auction held on April 27, 1866.

<sup>94</sup> Bacon, 145.

the first time the family became moderately affluent. Throughout the rest of her long life Abby Gibbons continued her philanthropic efforts.<sup>95</sup>

### Chelsea After the Draft Riots

By the 1870s, Chelsea, especially the northern part, had begun a significant decline. The elevated train line, powered by noisy and smelly steam engines, was extended from the Battery along 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 30<sup>th</sup> Street in the 1870s. The noxious fumes from the el helped to foster “the deterioration of the character of the whole neighborhood”<sup>96</sup> and the residential population continued to shrink. In the 1880s tracks were laid along 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Street for horse car lines.<sup>97</sup>

Toward the east, the theater district was moving up Broadway from 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Chelsea became the next northward stop, with theaters, restaurants and accommodations for visitors, artists and entertainers. From the late 1860s through the 1890s, “much of the city’s artistic and social life centered in Chelsea.”<sup>98</sup> Some of the well-known establishments located there included Edwin Booth’s Theater, near 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, Proctor’s 23<sup>rd</sup> St. Theater, and Pike’s Opera House at 23<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Fifth Avenue Hotel, the Hoffman House, and the Waldorf Astoria, were local hostelrys, while patrons could eat at Delmonico’s at 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Wallach’s at Broadway and 30<sup>th</sup> Street, or the Eagle at 6<sup>th</sup> Ave between 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. The Hotel Chelsea was built as an apartment building by Hubert, Pirsson & Co. in 1883 (a designated New York City Landmark). It was converted to a hotel by 1905 and soon became a well-known stopping place for writers and artists including Mark Twain, O. Henry, Sarah Bernhardt, Eugene O’Neill, Tennessee Williams, Jasper Johns, and many others.

Along with legitimate theater, in the 1890s, the neighborhood around West 28<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue evolved into a small red-light district, probably because of its proximity to the theaters and other entertainment venues.<sup>99</sup> Peep shows, flickers, two-reelers and nickelodeons took over, as serious theater continued its northward march. Koster & Bial’s concert hall at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, west of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue opened in 1879 as a music and beer hall and then changed to a movie house, showing the first “Vitascope” production in New York. Procter’s, with a seating capacity of 2,800, opened in 1889 on West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, featuring “refined vaudeville.”

Gradually businesses and commercial enterprises began to encroach on 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Streets and residents were able to achieve a rezoning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to restrict the streets to residential development. The wealthy residents never came back however, and more poor people and immigrants moved to the area.

Around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many social service institutions located in the neighborhood.<sup>100</sup> These included the Salvation Army Industrial Home at No. 528 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street and a woodyard on west 28<sup>th</sup> Street that provided jobs for the unemployed and was run by the Charity Organization Society. The Hudson Guild on 28<sup>th</sup> Street, near 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue was organized to provide classes, clubs and activities for neighborhood children. A Colored Mission

---

<sup>95</sup> Bacon, 145.

<sup>96</sup> Edelblute, 115.

<sup>97</sup> Edelblute, 98, 114.

<sup>98</sup> Louise P. Mitchell and Amy Hewes, eds., *Chelsea, An Introduction to a Metropolitan Community*. Studies made by students of The Mills School, (1950), 3.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid, 116.

<sup>100</sup> These institutions (plus others) were listed in Dr. William Tolman and Charles Hemstreet, *The Better New York* (New York: The Baker and Taylor Co., 1904), 128-35.

developed at No. 225 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street, located in the area where the early free black community had developed before the Civil War. By 1946, Elliot Houses (public housing for 608 families) was erected facing Chelsea Park, a public park between 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Streets, near 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.<sup>101</sup> As the Hudson River waterfront was modernized to accommodate commercial ships, warehouses and distributors for food and other materials were built along the western edge of the area, as well as boarding houses for longshoremen and seamen who came ashore there.

During the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a small French ex-patriot community developed around West 29<sup>th</sup> Street with area signs appearing in French.<sup>102</sup> This was centered around a French-run boardinghouse and restaurant<sup>103</sup> and the French Hospital on West 30<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>104</sup> (These buildings are located outside the historic district.) To build its maternity wing on West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, the hospital demolished four of the original Torrey and Mason houses.<sup>105</sup>

By the 1960s, the small houses on the streets south of Lamartine Place had deteriorated significantly and the area between West 26<sup>th</sup> Street and West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues was redeveloped as the Penn South Houses, cooperative housing for members of the ILGWU.<sup>106</sup>

Throughout this period, Lamartine Place remained generally quiet and uneventful, although the street never experienced the cachet it attained during the 1850s and 60s. The Lamartine Place name fell out of common usage (in favor of West 29<sup>th</sup> Street) toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the houses on the north side of the street were updated with contemporary styles, often with an extra story added to the top. The 12 extant houses in the Lamartine Place Historic District continued in the shadow of these large neighbors, remaining mostly intact into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This section written by  
Virginia Kurshan  
Research Department

---

<sup>101</sup> Edelblute, 227.

<sup>102</sup> Baral, 82.

<sup>103</sup> William Michael Murphy, *Prodigal Father: The Life of John Butler Yeats (1839-1922)*, (Ithaca, Cornell Univ. Press, 1978), 509. The Petitpas boarding house was run between c.1904 and 1920 by three sisters who had come from Brittany, and it was the scene of many a lively evening of discussion. John Butler Yeats, father of William Butler Yeats and himself a well-known artist held court at a table at this restaurant for many years.<sup>103</sup> It was also frequented by John Sloan, a painter of the Ash Can School as well as many other artists and writers.

<sup>104</sup> The hospital was founded in 1881 and supported by the French Benevolent Society. In 1927-9 the hospital constructed its building on 30<sup>th</sup> Street. C. W. Bromley, *City of Manhattan Insurance Map*, v.2, Plate 15, 1928-61.

<sup>105</sup> This 1929 structure marks the eastern end of the Lamartine Place Historic District.

<sup>106</sup> International Ladies Garment Workers Union. These towers were designed by architect Herman Jessor according to Le Corbusier's ideas of "towers in the park" surrounded by broad green lawns that were set in their own street pattern, altering the city grid. They provided 2,829 units of moderate income housing for New Yorkers.

## THE ARCHITECTURE OF LAMARTINE PLACE

The Lamartine Place Historic District consists of 12 rowhouses set on the northern side of West 29<sup>th</sup> Street between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Designed predominantly in the Greek revival style, the four- and five-story brick buildings were constructed in the late 1840s and early 1850s. They are faced with brick, with stone door enframements, sills and lintels, high stone stoops, stone basements and front garden areaways. The buildings are unified by several details, including a repetition of two basic row house designs; Greek revival style with Renaissance revival style elements, and Renaissance revival style with neo-Grec style elements. Over time there have been alterations to all of the facades, the earliest in 1880. Later alterations raised the roofline a foot or more in some cases. Other alterations include rear extensions, Renaissance-inspired cornices, and the removal of some stoops with relocation of the main entrance to the lower level.

### The Evolution of the New York City Row House Design<sup>107</sup>

As the city of New York grew in the period after the Revolution, large plots of land in Manhattan were sold and subdivided for the construction of groups of brick-clad houses. Their architectural style has been called “Federal” after the new republic, but in form and detail they continued the Georgian style of Great Britain. Between the 1790s and 1830s, Federal style houses were constructed from the Battery as far north as 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The size of the lot dictated the size of the house: typically each house lot was 20-25 feet wide by 90-100 feet deep, which accorded with the rectilinear grid of New York City, adopted as the Commissioners’ Plan in 1811. The rowhouse itself extended for the full width of the lot, and was 35 to 40 feet deep. This allowed for a stoop and small front yard, or areaway, and a fairly spacious rear yard. During the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, several houses were often constructed together, sharing common party walls, chimneys, and roof timbering to form a continuous group. The houses, of load-bearing masonry or modified timber-frame construction, had brick-clad front facades.

Federal style rowhouses usually had a three-bay wide facade with two full stories over a high basement and an additional half story under a peaked roof with the ridge line running parallel to the front facade. The front facade was usually clad in red brick laid in the Flemish bond pattern, with stone trim, commonly brownstone. The planar quality of the facades was relieved by ornament in the form of lintels, entrances, stoops and areaways with iron railings, cornices, and dormers. The most ornamental feature was the doorway, which was often framed with columns and sidelights and topped with a rectangular transom or fanlight, with a wooden paneled door. The wood-framed sashes were double-hung and multi-light (typically six-over-six). A wooden cornice with a molded fascia extended across the front along the eave. Pedimented or segmentally-arched dormers on the front roof slope usually had decorative wood trim.

The Greek revival style was the first revival style to be introduced to American architecture and lasted several decades. It grew from an interest in Classical antiquities that began in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. International sympathy for the Greek War of

---

<sup>107</sup> Portions of this section adapted from: Charles Lockwood, “Greek Revival Style” in *Bricks and Brownstone: the New York Row House 1783-1929* (New York: Rizzoli, 2003), 57-60; New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), 354 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street House, *Designation Report (LP-2210)* (New York: City of New York, 2007), prepared by Jay Shockley; Ada Louise Huxtable, “Houses With Grecian Graces,” in *Classic New York: Georgian Gentility to Greek Elegance* (Garden City, NY: Anchor Bks., 1964), 89-107; LPC, *Rowhouse Manual* (n.d.).

Independence from the Turks (1821-24)<sup>108</sup> generated interest in ancient Greek civilization, especially in America, which had just successfully defended American independence in the War of 1812. Architects and government leaders saw in Greek architecture a more “democratic” style than the once highly favored and “British” Federal style architecture. Beginning in the 1820s, rapid population growth and prosperity stimulated construction, and the Greek revival style became fashionable throughout the country. Theaters, churches, institutional and commercial buildings and row houses displayed Greek ornament such as fluted Doric columns at entrances resembling temple porticoes. Examples of Greek revival motifs on commercial structures were found as early as 1825, including Martin E. Thompson’s Phoenix Bank on Wall Street and the Church of the Ascension built in 1827-29 on Canal Street (both demolished).

Around 1830, builders in New York City began to incorporate some Greek revival style features on grander Federal style houses, such as the Seabury Treadwell “Old Merchant’s” House, No. 29 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street (1831-32, a designated New York City Landmark). During the early 1830s, more and more fashionable rowhouses were constructed in the Greek revival style. With the increasing availability of pattern books, such as Asher Benjamin’s *American Builders Companion* (published in six editions between 1806 and 1827), local builders had access to drawings and instructions for exterior and interior plans and details.<sup>109</sup> Some examples were “high style,” such as the nine marble-fronted houses with a continuous Corinthian colonnade known as LaGrange Terrace or Colonnade Row, attributed to Seth Greer (Nos. 428-434 Lafayette Street, 1832-33, a designated New York City Landmark). Many rows of speculatively-built Greek revival style houses were constructed, particularly in the Greenwich Village and Chelsea neighborhoods, during the period of enormous growth and development in New York City during the 1830s and 40s.

Greek revival style rowhouses continued many of the traditions of Federal style houses, including three-bay front facades, brick cladding with brownstone trim, and raised stoops and areaways with iron railings. They differed, however, in stylistic details, such as their emphasis on flat planar surfaces and simple forms, and in scale, being taller and somewhat grander at a full three stories above a basement (with higher ceilings per story). Technological advances in brick making allowed for higher quality, machine-pressed brick. The brick was laid in a bond other than Flemish, such as stretcher bond. Ornamentation was spare, including simple, molded rectangular lintels and a flat roofline capped by a denticulated and molded wooden cornice (sometimes with attic windows). As in Federal style houses, the most ornamental feature was the doorway. The Greek revival style doorway was recessed, with a rectangular transom, sidelights, and a paneled (often a single vertical panel) door. On grander houses, the entrance featured a portico with Doric or Ionic columns flanking the doorway and supporting a prominent entablature. Examples of this type include “The Row” at Nos. 1-13 Washington Square North, part of the Greenwich Village Historic District, and the Samuel Treadwell Skidmore House, No. 37 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street (1845, a designated New York City Landmark). Greek-inspired rowhouses were not only for the wealthy. Similar, but more modest middle-class brick and brownstone row houses began to be built in the Chelsea and Gramercy Park areas of Manhattan. Featuring brick

---

<sup>108</sup> The Greek War of Independence, also known as the Greek Revolution of 1821, was a war against the Ottoman Empire for independence. Independence was finally granted by the Treaty of Constantinople in July 1832, when Greece was recognized as a free country. <http://www.mlahanas.de/Greece/History/GreekWarOfIndependence.html>.

<sup>109</sup> Local builders were influenced by the designs and builder’s guides of architects such as Asher Benjamin, Minard Lafever, and Alexander Jackson Davis.



facades with brownstone trim, the entrance to these houses exhibited a brownstone surround with wide pilasters supporting an entablature and brownstone lintels and sills.

#### The Neo-Grec Style and the Design of the Row Houses<sup>110</sup>

The neo-Grec style, popular until about 1890, is characterized by extremely stylized classical details, angular forms, and incised detailing formed by mechanical stonecutting; high stoops with massive, heavy, angular cast-iron handrails, fences and newels; massive door hoods and enframements with angular decorative elements resting on stylized brackets; double-leaf wood entrance doors with angular ornament; stylized, angular incised window surrounds; projecting angular bays; and projecting cornices resting on angular brackets.

#### The Renaissance Revival Style and the Design of the Row Houses<sup>111</sup>

The Renaissance revival style came into national prominence during the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. The Exposition played a major role in raising awareness of the grandeur of Renaissance architecture and large-scale planning, and led to a nationwide flurry of classically-inspired buildings on every social level and scale. The white neo-Classical style buildings of the Chicago fair were dubbed "the White City," and throughout the United States public and commercial buildings adopted white marble or limestone façades. The Renaissance revival style (popular from about 1880 to 1910), features lighter colored façades, classical columns, domes and elaborate ornament, including motifs of wreaths, baskets of fruit and garlands of flowers.

The 12 rowhouses on West 29<sup>th</sup> Street in the Lamartine Place Historic District have combined architectural styles. The predominant building style is the Greek revival style with Renaissance revival style elements. The rowhouses at Nos. 337 to 353 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street are examples of this type, which is expressed through brick-clad facades, iron fencing, shouldered stone door enframements with broad friezes and simple cornices. An example of the Renaissance revival style with neo-Grec style decorative details can be seen at No. 355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, which has angled bays, egg-and-dart detail above the windows, foliate panels, a molded stone string course, various lintel styles, a dogtooth course below the sills and at the lintel, and a denticulated, modillioned angled cornice with Renaissance-inspired fascia.

This section written by  
Theresa Noonan  
Research Department

---

<sup>110</sup> Portions of this section adapted from: LPC, *Prospect Heights Historic District Designation Report (LP-2314)* (New York: City of New York, 2009), prepared by Cynthia Danza.

<sup>111</sup> Portions of this section adapted from: Charles Lockwood, "The New York Row House, 1875-1929" in *Bricks and Brownstone: the New York Row House 1783-19* (New York: Rizzoli, 2003), 235-238.

## FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of this area, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Lamartine Place Historic District contains buildings and other improvements which have a special character and a special historic and aesthetic interest and value and which represent one or more eras in the history of New York city and which cause this area, by reason of these factors, to constitute a distinct section of the city.

The Commission further finds that, among its special qualities, Lamartine Place was developed as a distinctive middle-class enclave in the north Chelsea section of Manhattan in the 1850s; that it was created by William Torrey and Cyrus Mason, who were active developers in the period when Chelsea was evolving from a rural landscape to an urban one; that Lamartine Place attracted middle-class families to the block-long enclave that was originally located across from a small park provided by the developers; that the Lamartine Place Historic District was the site of a significant event on the second day of the New York Draft Riots in 1863, when mobs attacked and burned the home of Abby and James Gibbons; that Abby and James Gibbons were active abolitionists who used their home to help and shelter runaway slaves escaping to Canada, thus making it a documented stop on the Underground Railroad; that Abby and James Gibbons hosted participants in the New York Anti-Slavery Convention, including African-American leaders; that Abby and James Gibbons had become active in this cause because of their Quaker beliefs and the example of Abby's father Isaac Hopper who had been famous in Philadelphia for the help he provided to blacks in that city; that Abby Gibbons and her oldest daughter were working at an army hospital in Maryland when the attack occurred, leaving James Gibbons and their two other daughters at home; that they heard rumors of an attack and began removing certain possessions over the rooftop to the home of relatives, two doors away; that the daughters were at this relative's house when the mobs arrived and they witnessed the activities from a nearby window; that the Gibbons' friend, lawyer Joseph Choate led the daughters to safety over the rooftops of their neighbors; that the group descended through the home of Henry and Esther Herrman, owners of No. 355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street to a waiting carriage on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue; that West 29<sup>th</sup> Street was part of the artistic neighborhood that developed in Chelsea during the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; that No. 339 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street is one of the few documented underground railroad sites in New York City; that this block of Lamartine Place retains its distinctive sense of place; that the 12 houses in this historic district provide a rare reminder of the dramatic and momentous Draft Riots of 1863 and.

Accordingly, pursuant to Chapter 21 (formerly Chapter 63) of the Charter of the City of New York, and Chapter 8-A of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as an historic district, the Lamartine Place Historic District, Borough of Manhattan, consisting of the property bounded by a line beginning at the southeast corner of the lot of No. 333 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, extending northerly along the eastern side of the lot to the northern property line of No. 333 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, then extending westerly along the northern property lines of Nos. 333-355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street,

then extending southerly along the western property line of No. 355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, to the southern curb line of West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, then easterly along the southern curb line in front of Nos. 355-333 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, to a point in said curb line formed by a line extending southerly from the eastern property line of No. 333 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, then northerly across the sidewalk, to the point of beginning.

Commissioners:

Robert B. Tierney, Chair

Pablo E. Vengoechea, Vice-Chair

Frederick Bland, Diana Chapin, Roberta Brandes Gratz,

Christopher Moore, Margery Perlmutter

## BUILDING ENTRIES

### NOS. 333 - 355 WEST 29<sup>TH</sup> STREET BETWEEN EIGHTH AVENUE AND NINTH AVENUE, NORTH SIDE

**333 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street** (16 Lamartine Place)  
Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/19

Original date of construction: 1846-47  
Altered: 1921; architect, Abraham Grossman  
Style: Renaissance revival style with alterations  
Material: Brick, Stone  
Stories: Four and basement

#### *Ownership History to 1950:*

1847 Cyrus Mason  
1848 Henry Solomon  
1849 Thomas Garrison  
1878 Isabel Tripler  
1892 Arthur L. Davis  
1918 Lorenzo Tripler  
1920 Theresine Poffet  
1921 Giuseppe Perisco  
1939 Harry Gerson

#### *History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. The brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 and were developed by William Torrey in association with Cyrus Mason. In 1848 Mason sold this property to Henry Solomon (Liber 502, p. 538, April 6, 1848).

#### *Description*

Three bays; brick; stone base with reconfigured ground floor entry; two one-over-one double-hung windows; main entry, with multi-paned wood-and-glass door; bays are separated by pilasters that extend from the first to the third floors; first floor contains three one-over-one double-hung windows, two with arched stained-glass transoms and metal infill panel below; second through fourth floors contain three one-over-one double-hung windows; stepped parapet wall. **Site features:** stone retaining wall topped with iron fencing. **Alterations:** 1921 alteration (ALT: 857-21, 1921) consisted of the erection of a new roof, raised eight feet, a new parapet, and construction of a rear addition; removal of the stoop with the main entrance moved to ground level; removal of all ornament; façade resurfaced and painted; windows replaced; wrought-iron fire escape installed from second to fourth floors; non-historic electrical conduit and light fixtures; non-historic iron security grill at one basement window.

#### *Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alteration Applications. New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.



**335 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (17 Lamartine Place)**  
Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/18

Original date of construction: 1846-47  
Altered: 1892; architect, C. Powell Karr  
Style: Renaissance revival style with alterations  
Material: Brick, Stone  
Stories: Four and basement

*Ownership History to 1950:*

1846 Cyrus Mason  
1847 Henry Solomon  
1848 Margery Dill  
1865 Erastus Lyman  
1871 Abigail W. Lyman  
1903 John H. Woods  
1904 Anna F. Bullock  
1920 David Cohn  
1924 James Davies  
1936 Ryson Realty Corp.



*History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. The brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 and were developed by William Torrey in association with Cyrus Mason. The first owner was Henry Solomon who purchased this property in 1847 (Liber 495, p. 340, December 31, 1847). The property was owned by members of the Lyman family between 1865 and 1873 (Liber 926, p. 592, May 2, 1865, and Liber 1263, p. 683, September 23, 1873). Samuel and Rachel (Hopper) Brown (sister of Abby Hopper Gibbons) rented No. 17 Lamartine Place from the Lyman family for a short period. The Gibbons' daughters initially fled to this house during the 1863 Draft Riots.

*Description*

Similar to 333 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street; three bays; brick; stone base with reconfigured ground floor entry; two one-over-one double-hung windows; main entry of metal-and-glass door with granite enframements; bays are separated by pilasters that extend from the first to the third floors, topped by a central blind arch flanked by two arched one-over-one double-hung windows. **Site features:** stone retaining wall topped with iron fencing. **Alterations:** Alteration of 1892 raised the roof eight feet; removed the stoop and moved the main entrance to ground level; removed all ornament; brownstone façade resurfaced and painted; granite entablature surrounds non-historic metal-and-glass door; central bay windows infilled from first through fourth floors; through the wall air-conditioners; non-historic iron security grill at basement windows; wrought-iron fire escape, from second to fourth floors; stone retaining wall topped with iron fencing (ALT: 680-92, 1892).

*Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alteration Applications. New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.

**337 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (18 Lamartine Place)**  
Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/17

Original date of construction: 1846-47  
Altered: 1903; architect, Joseph Kelly  
Style: Greek revival style with Renaissance revival style elements  
Material: Brick, Stone  
Stories: Four and basement

*Ownership History to 1950:*

1846 Cyrus Mason  
1847 Enoch Mettler  
1851 James S. Gibbons  
1864 Samuel Underhill  
1865 Nancy Dwight  
1869 James Pyle  
1884 James D. Hall  
1892 Thekla Rohe Hall  
1893 Elizabeth Woods  
1900 John H. Woods  
1903 Anna F. Bullock  
1918 George Marshall  
1921 Camborile Laurent



*History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. The brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 and were developed by William Torrey in association with Cyrus Mason. No. 337 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (17 Lamartine Place and lot 64 directly behind at No. 338 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street) was acquired in 1851 by James S. Gibbons, a banker and financial writer, and supporter of an abolitionist newspaper (Liber 569, p. 466 April 26, 1851). He and his wife Abigail Hopper Gibbons were active in the abolitionist cause.

*Description*

Three bays; brick-clad facade; raised brownstone stoop with under stair entry, possibly historic railings shouldered stone door enframements with broad frieze, followed by a simple cornice; double-leaf wood-and-glass paneled door, with wood reveal and segmentally-arched transom; brownstone base with two, six-over-six double-hung windows, with iron security grilles; two first floor casement windows with segmentally-arched transoms, with shaped lintels and wrought-iron balconet; six-over-six double-hung windows with molded stone lintels and sills; topped by wood modillioned cornice with raised panel fascia. **Site features:** areaways with possibly historic iron fencing. **Alterations:** 1903 alteration (ALT: 412-03, 1903) raised the roof eight feet; replaced windows; altered lintels at first floor windows; through-the-wall air conditioner openings at second through fourth floors; non historic light fixtures at main entrance and secondary entrance; wood refuse shed in areaway.



### *Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alteration Applications. New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.

### **339 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (19 Lamartine Place)** Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/16

Original date of construction: 1846-47  
Altered: 1951 architect: Harry Gerson  
Style: Greek revival style with Renaissance revival style elements  
Material: Brick stone  
Stories: Four and basement

### *Ownership History to 1950:*

1846 Cyrus Mason  
1847 Peter McLaughlin  
1848 Harrison Jones  
1852 James S. Gibbons  
1858 John Hopper  
1865 James C. Carter  
1867 Adolph Werner  
1911 Theresa/Maggie Mahon  
1950 Granbatlesta Sassarina



### *History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. The brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 and were developed by William Torrey in association with Cyrus Mason. In 1852, No. 339 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (19 Lamartine Place) was acquired by James S. Gibbons, a banker and financial writer, and supporter of an abolitionist newspaper (*Liber* 608 p. 152, June 4, 1852). He and his wife Abigail Hopper Gibbons were active in the abolitionist cause. This house was attacked by mobs during the Draft Riots of 1863.

### *Description*

Obscured by construction netting and scaffolding

**Alterations:** Previous alterations; (ALT: 3007-34; ALT: 274-51, 1951; ALT 758-58).

At time of designation No. 339 West 29<sup>th</sup> street was under renovation, ALT: No. 103915694: "Install a new convenience door in the basement leading to the front garden;" ALT: No. 103907337: "Proposed to vertically and horizontally enlarge existing four-story building, add a new penthouse;" ALT: No.104696919: "Proposed replace front façade face brick and install AC sleeves with metal."

### *Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alteration Applications. New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.

### 341 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (20 Lamartine Place)

Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/1001, 1002 (formerly lot 15)

Original date of construction: 1846-47

Altered: 1925; architect, Irving Kudroff

Style: Greek revival style with Renaissance revival style elements

Material: Brick, Stone

Stories: Four and basement

#### *Ownership History to 1950:*

1846 Cyrus Mason

1847 John Flannigan

1854 Theodore Martine

1855 Dermann /Gertrude Ornsby

1865 Hannah Smith

1880 Marian T. Fortescue

1884 Edward Johnes

1890 Ascher Weinstein

1891 Michael Curran

1895 Finley Foster

1902 Amelia Olms

1907 Alanson J. Prime

1912 William Olms

1925 Solomon Farlaw

1935 Solan Holding Corp

1938 Louis Wool



#### *History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. The brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 and were developed by William Torrey in association with Cyrus Mason. The first owner of this property was John Flannigan (Liber 493, p. 604, October 6, 1847). Theodore Martine purchased the property sometime before 1855 when he sold it to Dermann Ornsby, (Liber 699, p. 113, October 31, 1855). He was Commissioner of Deeds for the City of New York. Mr. Martine also owned 345 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street for several years.

#### *Description*

Similar to No. 337 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street; three bays; brick-clad facade; raised brownstone stoop with under stair entry; possibly historic railings and areaways with non- historic iron fencing; shouldered stone door enframements with broad frieze and decorative garland ornament, capped by a simple cornice; six panel wood door with transom and carved wood side panels; one-over-one double-hung windows with molded stone lintels and sills; denticulated modillioned cornice with Renaissance-inspired fascia. **Site features:** non historic iron fencing. **Alterations:** 1925 alteration raised the roof eight feet; non-historic iron security grilles at basement windows; through the wall air-conditioner units at first floor; non-historic door at main entrance; windows replaced; non-historic light fixtures at main entrance (ALT: 372-25, 1925).



### *Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alteration Application. G.W. Bromley, *Atlas of City of Manhattan Owners Names 1908*, Block 753; New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.

### **343 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street** (21 Lamartine Place) Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/14

Original date of construction: 1846-47  
Altered: 1893; architect, George W. Greibel  
Style: Greek revival style with Renaissance revival style elements  
Material: Brick, Stone  
Stories: Four and basement

#### *Ownership History to 1950:*

1846 Cyrus Mason  
1847 Robert Mc Murray  
1849 Daniel Wilson  
1890 Harvey S. Johnston  
1893 William Wilson  
1897 Margaret Wilson  
1899 Harvey Johnston  
1906 William C. Pommerer

#### *History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. The brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 and were developed by William Torrey in association with Cyrus Mason. The first owner of the property was Robert McMurray (Liber 493, p. 609, October 6, 1847). Daniel Wilson, purchased No. 339 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (21 Lamartine Place) from McMurray in 1849 (Liber 531, p. 165, December 5, 1849) and his family owned the property until 1890. Mr. Wilson was attacked by rioters while trying to prevent the burning of the Gibbons' home during the 1863 Draft Riots.

#### *Description*

Similar to No. 337 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street; three bays; brick-clad facade; brownstone base with two one-over-one double-hung windows with iron security grilles; possible historic raised brownstone stoop with under stair entry; shouldered stone door enframements with broad frieze, capped by a simple cornice; possibly historic double-leaf glass-and-wood paneled door; first floor has two, four-over-four double-hung windows with molded stone lintels and sills; second through fourth floors have one-over-one double-hung windows with molded stone lintels and sills; topped by denticulated modillioned cornice with renaissance-inspired fascia. Site features: possibly historic railings. **Site features:** small areaways. **Alterations:** 1893 alteration party wall extension shared with 345 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street; windows replaced; non-historic light fixtures at main entrance and under stair entrance; non-historic iron fencing, metal refuse box in areaway (ALT: 1062-93, 1893).



### *Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alteration Applications; *Doggett's New York City Directory*, 1849-1850, 457; G.W. Bromley, *Atlas of City of Manhattan* Owners Names, 1897 Block 753; New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.

### **345 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street** (22 Lamartine Place) Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/13

Original date of construction: 1846-47  
Altered: 1893; architect, George W. Greibel  
Style: Greek revival style with Renaissance revival style elements  
Material: Brick, Stone  
Stories: Four and basement

#### *Ownership History to 1950:*

1846 Cyrus Mason  
1847 Theodore Martine  
1849 Edmund J. Porter  
1853 Hamilton Robinson  
1873 James L. Hastie  
1881 Daniel Halloran  
1882 George Vick  
1891 David Sharpe  
1892 Harvey S. Johnston  
1895 Annette G. Young  
1902 Finley M. Foster  
1912 Lorenzo /Rosa Rosario



### *History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. The brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 and were developed by William Torrey in association with Cyrus Mason. Theodore Martine, Commissioner of Deeds, purchased No. 345 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (22 Lamartine Place) in 1847 (Liber 493, p. 606, October 6, 1847) and resided there until 1849. Mr. Martine also owned No. 341 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street for a short time.

### *Description*

Similar to No. 337 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street; three bays; brick-clad facade; brownstone base with two one-over-one double-hung windows with iron security grilles; raised brownstone stoop with under stair entry, possibly historic railings; shouldered stone door enframements with broad frieze, followed by a simple cornice; possibly historic double-leaf glass-and-wood paneled door with transom; one-over-one double-hung windows with molded stone lintels and sills throughout; topped by denticulated modillioned cornice with Renaissance-inspired fascia. **Site features:** small areaway;

**Alterations:** 1893, party wall extension shared with No. 343 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street; façade resurfaced; through-the-wall air conditioner openings at middle bay from base to fourth floors; windows replaced (ALT: 1062-93, 1893).

*Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alteration Applications. New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.

**347 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street** (23 Lamartine Place)  
Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/12

Original date of construction: c.1852  
Altered: 1903; architect, John H. Kimble  
Style: Greek revival style with Renaissance revival style elements  
Material: Brick, Stone  
Stories: Four and basement

*Ownership History to 1950:*

1846 Cyrus Mason  
1847 Melacanton W. Brown  
1853 Albert Horn  
1862 Joseph Holden  
1864 Judah Abraham  
1870 Caroline Adler  
1873 Jacob Becker  
1890 Louisa Cook  
1903 Stanislaus Rosario

*History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. Although most of the brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 by William Torrey and Cyrus Mason, several buildings, including this one, near the western end of the block were constructed later. This property was originally sold to Melacaton W. Brown (Liber 493, p. 218, November 13, 1847).

*Description*

Similar to No. 337 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street; three bays; stone base with reconfigured ground floor entry with simple stone enframements; main entry with multi-paned wood-and-glass door; two one-over-one double-hung windows; brick-clad facade; brownstone base with two windows; one-over-one double-hung windows throughout; topped by denticulated modillioned cornice with Renaissance-inspired fascia. **Site features:** stone retaining wall and iron fencing surrounding small areaway **Alterations:** 1903 alteration raised roof nine feet; and shared party wall; stoop removed and main entrance moved to ground level; window opening altered at first floor; façade resurfaced; through-the-wall air conditioner openings at middle bay from base to fourth floors; windows replaced; non-historic light fixtures over main entrance (ALT: 1581-03, 1903).





### *Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alteration Applications. New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.

### **349 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street** (24 Lamartine Place) Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/11

Original date of construction: c.1852  
Altered: 1924; architect, Van F. Pruitt  
Style: Greek revival style with Renaissance revival style elements  
Material: Brick, Stone  
Stories: Four and basement

#### *Ownership History to 1950:*

1846 Cyrus Mason  
1847 Ruben Wood  
1852 Philo Y. Beebe  
1853 Jeremiah Sherwood  
1854 Samuel Thompson/ Levi Onderdank  
1857 Martha Thomson  
1865 Samuel Thomson  
1873 Joseph Farrington  
1875 Zachariah Acker  
1902 Joseph Doehler  
1924 David Cohn



#### *History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. Although most of the brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 by William Torrey and Cyrus Mason, several buildings, including this one, near the western end of the block were constructed later. The first owner of this property was Ruben Wood (Liber 493, p. 216, November 13, 1847).

#### *Description*

Similar to No. 337 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street; three bays; stone base with reconfigured ground floor entry with simple stone enframements; main entry, with multi-paned wood-and-glass door; two six-over-six, double-hung window with cast-iron security grilles; brick-clad facade; six-over-six double-hung windows throughout; topped by denticulated modillioned cornice with Renaissance-inspired fascia. **Site Features:** brick retaining wall and iron fencing surrounding small areaway. **Alterations:** 1924 alteration raised roof 2'6"; rear extension raised 36 feet; stoop removed and main entrance moved to ground level; façade painted; first floor window openings reconfigured to accommodate air-conditioners; through-the-wall air conditioners under windows at second and third floors, in first and third bays; lintels and sills removed; brick enclosed areaway; non-historic light fixtures at main entrance (ALT: 2199-24, 1924).

### *Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alteration Applications. New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.

### **351 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (25 Lamartine Place)**

Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/10

Original date of construction: c.1852

Altered: 1888; architect, George B. Pelham

Style: Greek revival style with Renaissance revival style elements

Material: Brick, Stone

Stories: Four and basement

### *Ownership History to 1950:*

1846 William Torrey

1847 Asa Denman

1848 Thomas Garrison

1849 Sophia Smith

1851 Alexander McGuire

1852 James Boyd

1855 Maria Fash/Phoebe Mariette

1860 Nelson J. Waterbury

1887 William Mulry

1888 Harvey S. Johnston

1890 Alexander Algee

1895 Paul Erhart

1941 New York Savings Bank

1942 Antar Realty Corp



### *History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. Although most of the brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 by William Torrey and Cyrus Mason, several buildings, including this one, near the western end of the block were constructed later. The first owner of the property was Asa Denman (Liber 488 p. 347, April 29, 1847). New York City District Attorney Nelson J. Waterbury purchased No. 351 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (25 Lamartine Place) in 1860 (Liber 801 p. 600-02, April 18, 1860) and resided there until 1887.

### *Description*

Similar to No. 337 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street; three bays; stone base with reconfigured ground floor entry with stone enframements topped by broken pediment; metal-and-glass door; one-over-one double-hung windows throughout; topped by denticulated modillioned cornice with Renaissance-inspired fascia. **Alterations:** 1888 alteration raised roof one foot; stoop removed and main entrance moved to ground level; façade resurfaced and painted; windows reconfigured and stone lintels and sills removed; non-historic light fixture above main entrance; wood planting box serves as fencing; non-historic brass numeral above entrance (ALT: 347-88, 1888).

### *Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alterations Applications; *Phillips Elite Directory Private Addresses and Carriage*, (1874-75), 106; (1875-76), 108-09; New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.

### **353 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (26 Lamartine Place)** Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/8

Original date of construction: c.1852  
Altered: 1889; architect, George B. Pelham  
Style: Greek revival style with Renaissance revival style elements  
Material: Brick, Stone  
Stories: Four and basement

#### *Ownership History to 1950:*

1846 Cyrus Mason  
1847 John Flannigan  
1851 Elias H. Day  
1853 Samuel Sinclair  
1865 Samuel Friedson  
1866 Augustus Strause  
1889 Harvey S. Johnston  
1890 Rudolph Lagai  
1926 Leva Schachtel  
1929 Louise Gard



### *History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. Although most of the brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 by William Torrey and Cyrus Mason, several buildings near the western end of the block were constructed later. No. 353 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (26 Lamartine Place) was built c. 1852 and was purchased in 1853 by Samuel Sinclair, a relative of renowned abolitionist Horace Greeley (Liber 626 p.194, February 8, 1853). The Sinclair family resided at the building until 1865.

### *Description*

Similar to No. 337 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street; three bays; brownstone base with reconfigured ground floor entry with stone door enframements with broad frieze, followed by a simple cornice; base has two, one-over-one double-hung windows with iron security grilles; six-over-one double-hung windows throughout upper floors; topped by denticulated modillioned cornice with Renaissance-inspired fascia. **Alterations:** 1889 alteration raised the roofline to fifty-four feet, removed rear wall for basement extension; stoop removed and main entrance moved to ground level; façade resurfaced and painted; lintels from first through the fourth floors altered; areaway iron fencing removed and replaced by brick fencing with pillars with iron fencing on top (ALT: 300-89, 1889).



### *Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alteration Applications; New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.

### **355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (27 Lamartine Place)** Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block/Lot: 753/8

Original date of construction: c.1852  
Altered: 1896; architect, M .V. B. Ferdon  
Style: Renaissance revival style with neo-Grec elements  
Material: Brick, Stone  
Stories: Four and basement

#### *Ownership History to 1950:*

1846 Cyrus Mason  
1847 John Flannigan  
1851 Elias H. Day  
1852 Ester Herrman  
1884 Clara Hellman  
1894 Mary Emma Harris  
1896 Elizabeth Sorenson  
1900 John C. Benham  
1903 US Trust Co. of NY  
1907 George Doty  
1920 Edmund Elsbach  
1921 Benjamin Katz  
1924 Louise Gard  
1929 Artclaud Realty Corp.  
1942 Lucy W. Curtis  
1943 Viola Warren



### *History*

Lamartine Place was originally part of the Cornelius Ray farm; the area was divided and sold as lots starting in 1833. Although most of the brick rowhouses of Lamartine Place were constructed between 1846 and 1847 by William Torrey and Cyrus Mason, several buildings, including this one, near the western end of the block were constructed later. This property, No. 355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street (27 Lamartine Place) was first purchased by John Flannigan (Liber 489 p. 322 May 19, 1847). In 1852 it was sold to the Herrman family (Liber 613 p. 570, October 15, 1852) who resided there until 1884. The Herrmans were instrumental in helping the Gibbons daughters escape during the 1863 riots by providing safe passage through their house so they could reach a waiting carriage.

### *Description*

Four angled, projecting bays; four stories and basement; brick façade; reconfigured ground floor entry with simple stone door enframements; at base, molded stone band runs the width of angled bay with two six-over-one double-hung windows featuring egg-and-dart detail above windows; foliate panels followed by molded stone string course that serve as sills for first floor windows; six-over-one double-hung windows throughout rest of façade with various lintel styles at

each level; first floor features bracketed, molded stone lintels with segmentally-arched crown topped by a guilloche band and molded stone cornice that runs the width of the building; a foliate stone panel below each window at the second level followed by a molded stone string course that runs the width of the building at each level; third floor lintels feature egg-and-dart detail above window-wide frieze with molded stone lintel; dogtooth course below the sills and at the lintel of the third and fourth stories, panel of dogtooth brickwork just below cornice; denticulated, modillioned angled cornice with Renaissance-inspired fascia. **Alterations:** 1896 alteration raised roofline eight feet; stoop removed and main entrance moved to ground level; façade resurfaced and painted; areaway iron fencing removed and replaced by brick fencing with pillars and iron fencing on top; non-historic light fixtures at main entrance (ALT: 504-96, 1896).

*Significant References*

New York City Department of Buildings, Borough of Manhattan, New Buildings (NB) and Alteration Applications. New York County, Office of the Registrar, Deeds and Conveyances.

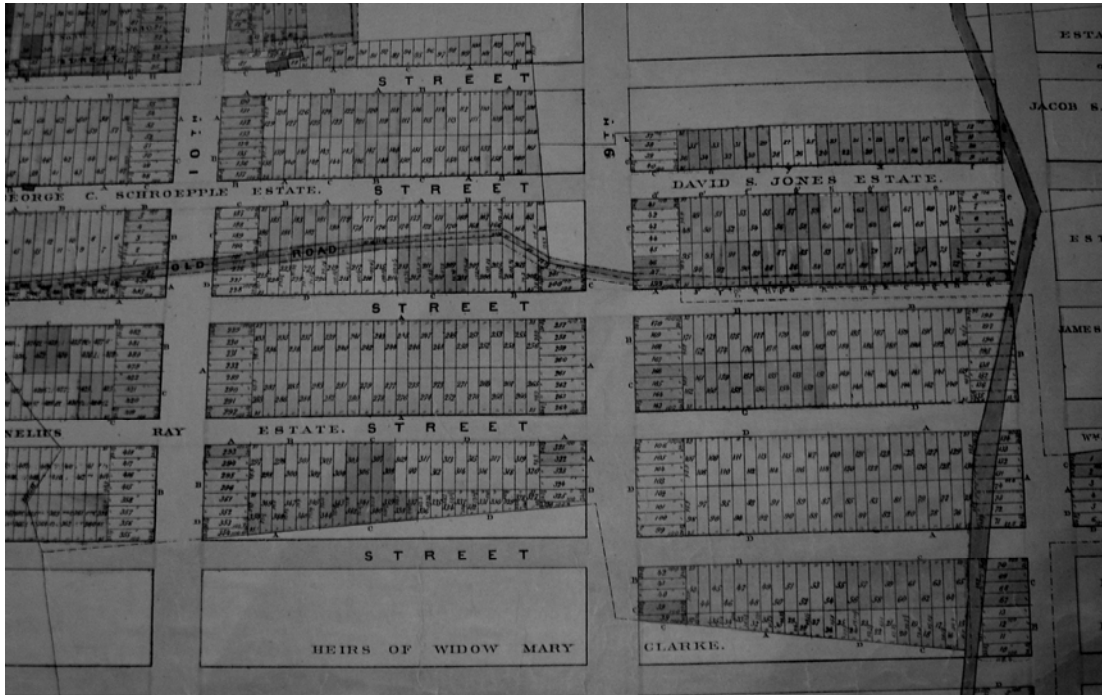




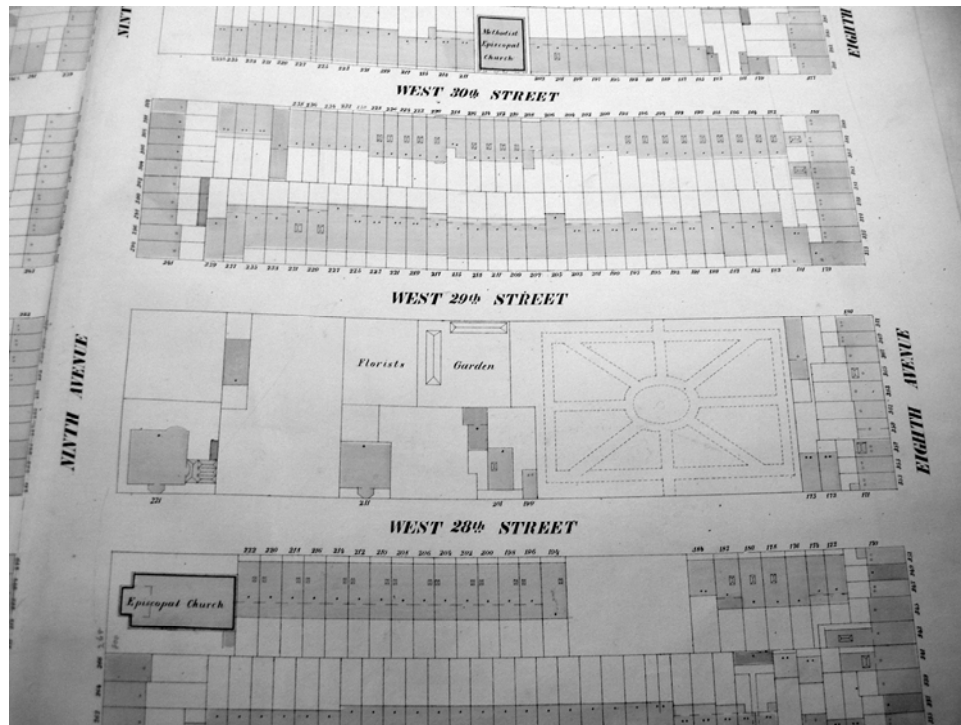
Lamartine Place, north side of West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, c. 1930  
Photo Courtesy of The New York Public Library



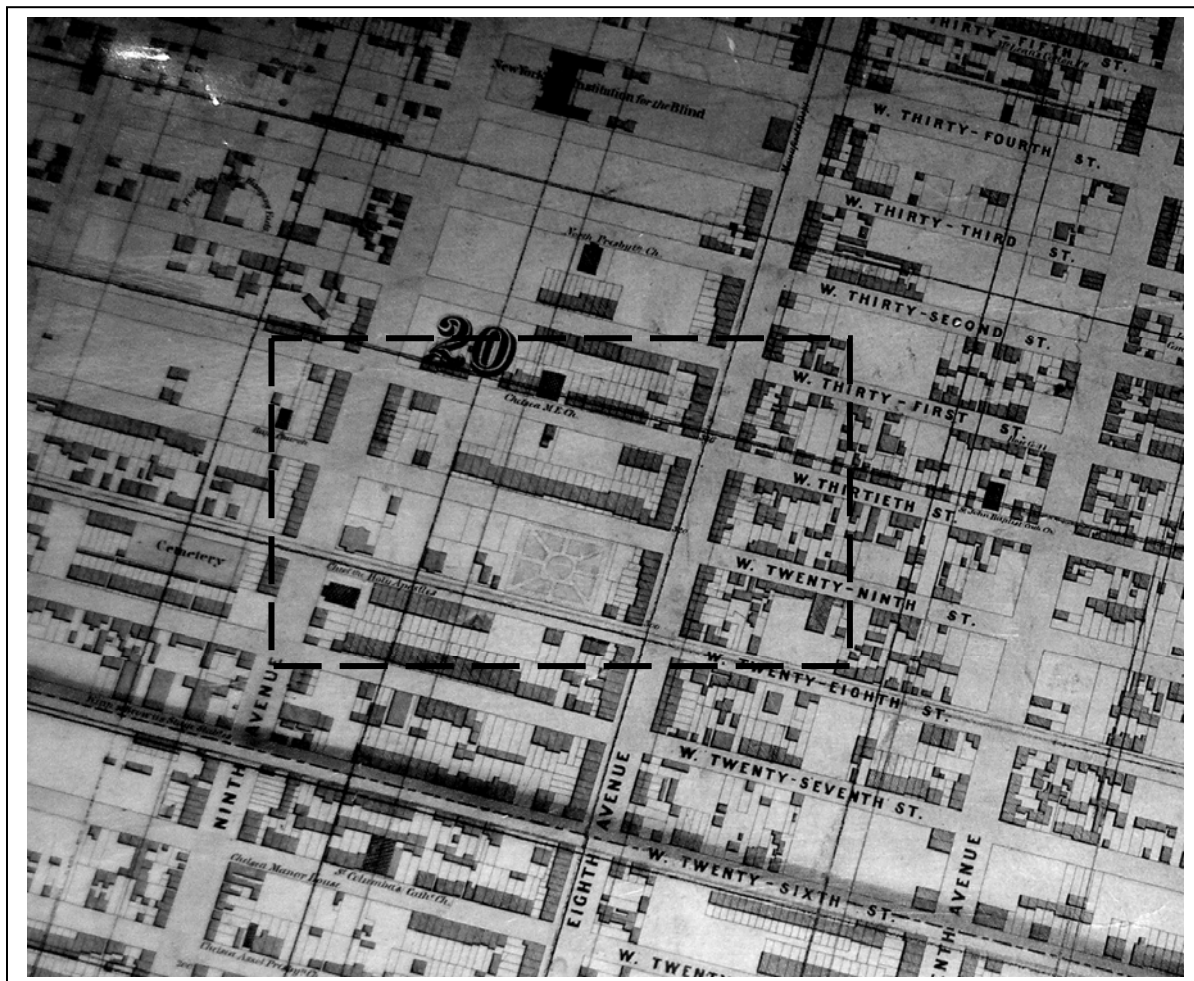
Abby Hopper Gibbons



John Bute Holmes, Map of the Franklin & Robinson, Janet DeKay, Henry Eckford,  
Mary Clarke, and Clement C. Moore Estates, 1869, Plate 3  
Showing original ownership by Cornelius Ray  
Map courtesy of The New York Public Library



Perris Map, 1854, plate 91  
Showing original development on West 29<sup>th</sup> Street and Lamartine Park  
Map Courtesy of The New York Public Library



M. Dripps, *Map of the City of New York*,  
 (New York: M. Dripps, 1852), plate 8  
 Showing the development of Lamartine Place and Lamartine Park  
 Map Courtesy of The New York Public Library



Lamartine Place Historic District  
 Nos. 333- 355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, north side  
*Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2009*



Lamartine Place Historic District  
 Nos. 333- 355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street, north side  
*Photo: Christopher D. Brazee, 2009*





No. 333 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street  
 New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photos c.1939-40



No. 335 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street  
 New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photos c.1939-40



No. 337 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photos, c.1939-40



No. 339 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photos, c.1939-40



No. 341 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photos c. 1939-40



No. 343 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photos c. 1939-40



No. 345 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photos, c. 1939-40



No. 347 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photos, c. 1939-40





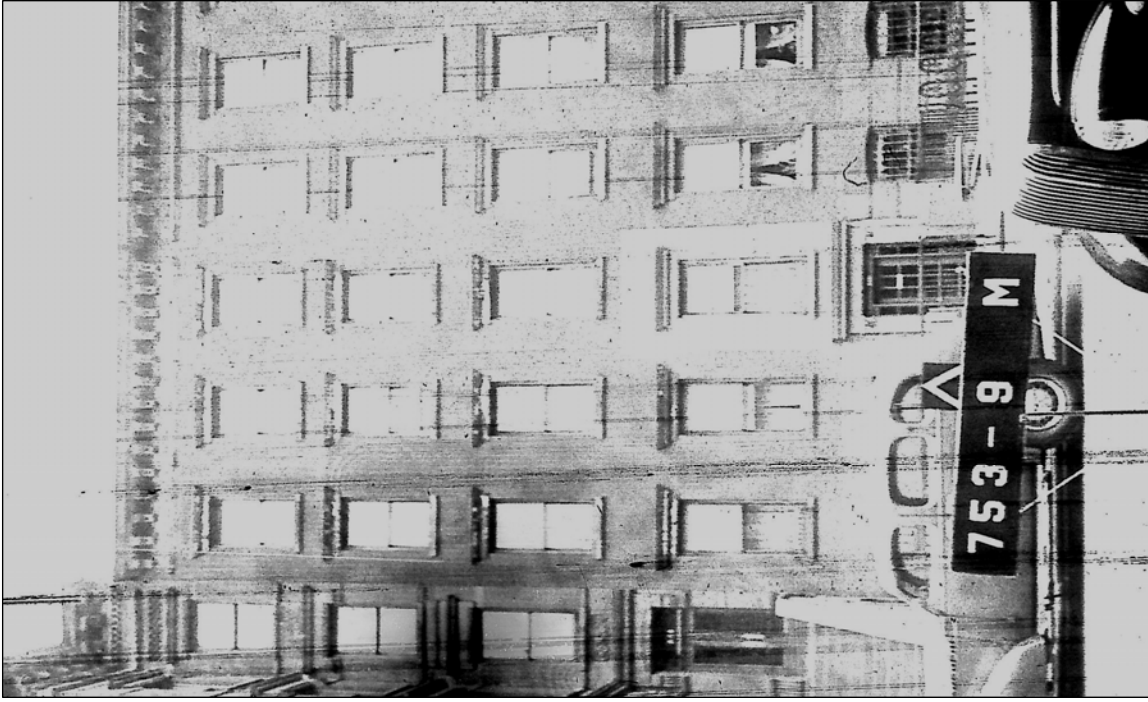
No. 349 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photos, c. 1939-40



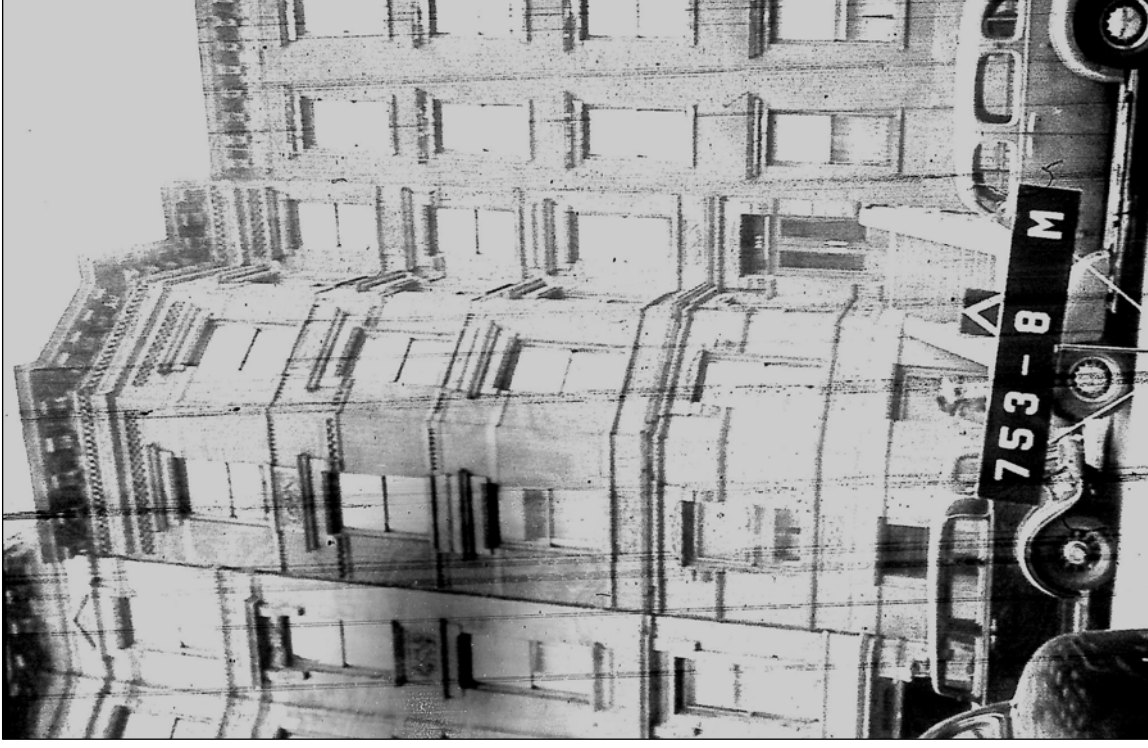
No. 351 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photos, c. 1939-40



No. 353 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photo c. 1939-40



No. 355 West 29<sup>th</sup> Street

New York City Department of Finance, Tax Photo c. 1939-40