

A Visit to Gracie Mansion, the People's House

A Resource Guide for Teachers and Docents



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Introduction

As you will discover, Gracie Mansion and its surrounding land hold an important place in the history of both New York City and the United States well before the House was designated the official residence of the Mayor of the City of New York in 1942.

The House sits on land originally granted in 1646 to a Dutch settler who used it as a farm; although part of New York City today, its location then was considered to be upriver in the country.

In 1770, Jacob Walton, a British Loyalist, purchased the land, by then a part of the British-controlled colony of New York. He built a large house for his family on the property and, anticipating increased conflict between the British Loyalists and the Patriots, built underground tunnels for a quick escape. However, the Waltons never used these tunnels; they left peaceably but sadly in early 1776 when General George Washington's troops appropriated their home for use as a fortification during the American Revolution. (*When students tour the House, they will see a Revolutionary War-era cannonball unearthed during a 1980s excavation of the land on which Gracie Mansion now sits.*)

Archibald Gracie, a successful shipping merchant originally from Scotland, purchased the land on which the House was built in 1798-9. Building upon the Walton foundation, he constructed a country house for his family, Gracie Mansion. The area was also used by other prominent families of the day to build country retreats.

Changes to the land on which Gracie Mansion is located – and to the House itself – reflect the history of our City and nation. When you and your students visit Gracie Mansion, you will enter a truly historic house.

Philosophy behind the Guide

Field trips are planned to enhance curriculum content. The following pre-visit, on-site, and post-visit resources and activities are designed to insure that your students will have rich learning experiences before, during, and after their visit to Gracie Mansion.

Please note that when your students visit the House, they will be encouraged to:

- Use knowledge obtained from pre-visit activities
- Engage in conversations with their tour guide
- Ask questions

Besides the pre-visit activities, to further prepare your students for their visit, it is advisable to read the **On-Site Activities** Section of these materials *before* the trip.

A Note about Primary Sources

Much of the pre-visit information is in the form of primary sources. Along with learning about Archibald Gracie and Gracie Mansion through these resources, students will learn the universal value of using primary sources for any historic research. Included in this packet are:

- Maps
- Letters
- Newspaper articles
- Reproductions of works of art

Following are questions students should ask about primary sources:

- What type of document or artifact is it?
- Who wrote or created it? When? What evidence in these documents led you to this conclusion?
- What is its purpose? For whom was it created?
- What is the author's/creator's point of view?
- How does this primary source help us to understand the times from which it came?

Pre-Visit Activities

Note: **bold blue type** denotes items included in this packet; page numbers refer to Section 7, "Additional Materials and Illustrations".

1. GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE AREA: NEW YORK CITY THEN AND NOW

Beginning with the MTA Subway Map or a current street map, ask students to:

- Locate the Gracie Mansion site
- Note the bodies of water surrounding the site
- Discuss ways to travel to and from the site
- Note the boroughs and Long Island



Working with maps from different time periods, ask students to:

- Locate the Gracie Mansion site
- Locate bodies of water, current boroughs, Westchester and Long Island
- Discuss ways to travel to and from the site
- Note the subdivisions of land on **historian James Riker's 1879 map of Harlem (page 1)**; discuss what can be learned from this map

2. GRACIE AND HIS TIMES

Give each student a copy of the **shipping advertisements (pages 3 and 4)** that Archibald Gracie placed in the newspapers *The General Advertiser* and *The Commercial Advertiser*. What do these ads reveal about Gracie and the times in which he lived?



Ask students to study the painting **The Tontine Coffee House by Francis Guy (page 7)**, painted about 1797, from the collection of the New-York Historical Society. (*A copy of the painting is installed in the Museum Room of Gracie Mansion.*) The Tontine Coffee House – the building at left in the painting – was located on the northwest corner of Wall and Water Streets and was erected in 1792-93. (The building does not survive to the present day.) Archibald Gracie and other leading merchants conducted business there on a daily basis. The Gracie family's full-time residence was located nearby. Ask the following questions:

- What can we learn about the times from Guy's painting?
- What does the artist want us to know about New York City at this time?
- Imagine that you are in the painting. How would you describe New York from your perspective?

Using information they can obtain from the shipping advertisements and the painting, have students create a journal entry Archibald Gracie may have written.



Ask students to examine **Archibald Gracie's obituary (page 5)** and discuss what they can learn about Gracie from this primary source. Have students compare the page to a page from the current *Post*. They will be interested to know that the *Post* of today is in fact the

same newspaper founded in 1801 by a group of prominent New Yorkers, including Alexander Hamilton and Archibald Gracie. Ask students what connection there might be between the facts that Gracie was a founder of the *New-York Evening Post* and that it is this paper that published such a laudatory obituary for him.

Using the [first- and second-hand accounts from Mary Black's *New York City's Gracie Mansion: A History of the Mayor's House 1646 – 1942* \(page 6\)](#) ask students to write dialogue for vignettes recreating the drama surrounding the Waltons' departure from their home when Washington's soldiers claim the land for a Revolutionary War fort.

3. GRACIE MANSION TODAY: LEARNING ABOUT THE PAST

The following suggested activities and questions are based on the [color photographs of Gracie Mansion's interiors and objects \(pages 8-15\)](#) provided in the packet.

Students will have a greater appreciation of their trip to Gracie Mansion if they have some familiarity with the space and some of the artifacts prior to their visit. Discussing the photographs will give the students a sense of recognition as they enter these rooms and will result in a richer experience.

Note: Direct students to keep the following question in mind as they explore each image: *Why is it so important that the House be preserved as it may have looked when Archibald Gracie lived here?*

I. Foyer: Compass Rose Motif/faux-marble painted floor (pages 8-9)

- Identify the following features: fireplace, mantel, mirror, chandelier, grandfather clock, and "marble" floor.
- You are visiting Archibald Gracie on a cold winter night in 1810. Mr. Gracie has just had his parlor enlarged into a foyer (an entrance hallway). How are you going to keep warm? How will light be provided?
- The mirror above the mantel is placed too high for a person of average height to use to reflect his or her likeness. What, then, is the mirror used for? Refer to the images from the Foyer and Wagner Wing Ballroom to clarify the idea.
- Direct students to look carefully at the images of the floor, and invite students to come up with their own questions or comments about these images.
- After students realize that the floor is not marble but actually made of wood to look like marble, introduce the concept of *trompe l'oeil* (literally meaning *to trick the eye* in French). Still-life paintings by 19th-century U.S. American artists William Harnett and John F. Peto, and the work of the contemporary muralist Richard Haas, incorporate *trompe l'oeil*. The following websites will give you images of their work:

- <http://www.nga.gov/feature/artnation/harnett/index.shtm>
- http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/peto_john_frederick.html
- <http://www.richardhaas.com/introfra.html>

II. The Library (pages 10-11)

Ask students the following questions:

- Where would light have come from in Archibald Gracie's time?
- Which item does not seem to belong in the room? Why is it there?
- Who is the figure on the right side of the mantel?
The maquette (see "Glossary" for definition of this term) is of George Washington. Discussing this piece may serve to remind the students that Gracie and Washington lived at the same time. In fact, Gracie was one of the many New Yorkers who organized a memorial procession after the first President's death.

III. Patent-Yellow Parlor (pages 12-13)

Ask students the following questions:

- What are some things you notice in this room?
- Would Archibald Gracie have kept a cannonball on the mantel of his fireplace?
- Why do you think the cannonball is placed there?
- A lot of work went into restoring this home to reflect how it may have looked while Archibald Gracie lived here. Have you been to similar places?

Review question:

Why is it so important that the House be preserved as it may have looked when Archibald Gracie lived here?

IV. Wagner Wing Ballroom (page 14)

The Susan E. Wagner Wing was added to Gracie Mansion in 1966 to provide space for large public functions, and to give the Mayor's family more privacy.

Ask students the following questions:

- Does this room look like a home, or does it seem more official?
- This part of Gracie Mansion was completed in 1966. What about it makes it feel newer than the historic house?
- What are some of the elements you notice in this room that you noticed in the historic house?

On-Site Activities with Docent

Students will be guided through the House by a docent familiar with the following activities:

As students enter the House, allow them several minutes to observe their surroundings. Discuss with them how they feel in this environment and ask for questions.

Review and discuss key points about Gracie Mansion:

- The House is on a site that was used as farmland over 350 years ago
- The land was strategically important during the Revolutionary War
- Archibald Gracie built his country house here in 1799
- Gracie Mansion has been the home of New York City mayors since 1942
- In 1966 the addition of the Wagner Wing expanded the House, providing space for public functions and large receptions
- In 2002, Mayor Michael Bloomberg transformed Gracie Mansion into the “People’s House,” providing increased accessibility to the public, including school groups

Invite students into the next room and ask them to carefully observe their surroundings, and think of questions or comments they have about the room. Respond, and encourage discussion. Ask students if they recognize any decorative elements they learned about in class or observed in the last room they visited.

Repeat this process in different rooms throughout the tour.

Students by now will understand that careful planning has gone into the restoration and decoration of Gracie Mansion, and will appreciate how restoring it to a historical likeness teaches us about the past. Allow students time to select an interesting feature (wallpaper or furniture design elements, flooring, architectural detail, etc.) and sketch it in pencil. Ask each student to note the colors and size of the chosen feature.

Note: *Students may complete their drawings at school (see Post-Visit Activities).*

Just as when they entered the House and silently reflected on the environment, once students leave Gracie Mansion and are outside of the building, allow them some time to observe the land and the water around Carl Schurz Park. Invite them to travel back in time and imagine:

- The view when Archibald Gracie lived here in the early 1800s
- The drama of the Walton’s leaving their home in 1776
- The atmosphere of a Dutch farm in the 1600s

Post-Visit Activities

Ask students to write about their impressions of their visit to Gracie Mansion. In small groups, invite students to discuss their pre-visit expectations and their post-visit observations.

Direct students to use the sketches they began at Gracie Mansion to create artwork reflective of their visit.

Note: *You can also use this time to complete the drawings they began at Gracie Mansion.*

Incorporating pre-visit information (including primary sources), on-site impressions, and their artwork, ask students to create a presentation that will teach others about Gracie Mansion and encourage their friends, family, and fellow students, to visit the “People’s House.”

Glossary of Terms

PRIMARY SOURCES

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| artifact | object created by humans for a useful purpose, such as a cannonball, a plate, or a piece of furniture; especially an object remaining from a particular period |
| document | an original or official paper relied on as the basis, proof, or support of something |
| primary source | document or artifact that gives information about the time in which it was written or created |

GEOGRAPHY

| | |
|------------------|---|
| grid plan | In 1811, New York City government officials decided to implement a “grid plan” over Manhattan island that would allow for the organized development of streets and buildings. Many civilizations, dating from the Egyptian and Roman periods, used grid plans to organize their cities. See map of 1811 Grid Plan (page 2) included in packet. |
| harbor | sheltered body of water deep enough for ships to drop anchor |
| inlet | narrow body of water between two islands |

STRUCTURES

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| battery | fortified site prepared with a set of guns or other heavy artillery |
| fort | structure built for housing soldiers to protect a site |
| foundation | architectural support for a building |
| wing | structure attached to a house or other building; it may be added on to the original construction |

ARCHITECTURAL DECORATION

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| chandelier | branched fixture usually hung from a ceiling and holding a number of candles or light bulbs |
| convex mirror | mirror with a surface that curves outward, and which is used to reflect light produced by a chandelier in order to increase the amount of light reflected into a room |
| garland | wreath or chain of flowers and leaves hung as decoration; or a recreation of that design in another material like wood, plaster, or marble |
| looking-glass | mirror with a flat surface; used both to reflect light and likeness |
| mantel | decorative architectural element surrounding a fireplace |
| maquette | small preliminary model of a sculpture or building |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| molding | architectural ornament in the form of a decorative strip, often formed where the top of a wall meets the ceiling, or around windows and doors |
| reproduction | exact copy of an object |
| to restore or restoration | to return a house or object to its original state; the act of returning something, such as a building or a piece of furniture, to its original state |
| trompe l'oeil | translation from the French: to trick the eye; an art technique where surfaces are painted to imitate another type of surface or texture, such as wood painted to appear as if it is marble |
| urn | a circular vase that is often used for decorative purposes; and the form of which is a popular design motif for architectural adornment |

PEOPLE

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Federalist | a member of the Federalist Party (active in the early years of the United States) favoring a strong central government; members of the Federalist Party included Archibald Gracie, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Richard Varick, and Rufus King |
| immigrant | a person who comes into a country of which one is not a native, for permanent residence |
| Loyalist | Colonial American who was loyal to the English government and King during the American Revolutionary period |
| merchant | person who earns a living by purchasing and selling goods for profit |
| Patriot | Colonial American who sought independence from England |

OTHER HISTORICAL TERMS

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Colonial Period | time in U.S. History, from the early 1600s until the Revolutionary War, during which foreign authorities, including the Dutch West India Company and the English monarchy, ruled areas located on the East Coast of the U.S. |
| colony | a territory under the immediate political control of a geographically-distant government |
| Federalism | a system of government, like that of the U.S., in which power is constitutionally divided between a federal government and the states; the Federalist period in U.S. history lasted from about 1789 (George Washington's first year as U.S. President) through to about 1820, when, in that year's Presidential election, there was no Federalist party candidate |

Selected Biographies

Archibald Gracie born 1755 in Dumfries, Scotland; died 1829 in New York City. In 1799, Archibald Gracie, a shipping merchant, built a summer home for his family, Gracie Mansion, on the shore of the East River, five miles north of what was then New York City. Gracie and his wife hosted elegant dinner parties at their country estate. Visitors to the House included civic and artistic leaders of the day, including Alexander Hamilton, Rufus King, Joseph Bonaparte, and Washington Irving. Gracie was one of the most prosperous businessmen in New York, until he lost much his fortune due to the adverse effects on shipping businesses during the events surrounding the War of 1812, and failed cotton speculation. During his prolific career, Gracie was involved in many important civic and philanthropic organizations: he was a founder of the *New-York Evening Post*, the Tontine Association – the City's earliest stock exchange – and the Free School Society, a society founded to educate children who could not afford a private education, which at the time was the only avenue for obtaining proper schooling.

Carl Schurz born 1829 in Germany, near Cologne; died 1906 in New York City. Carl Schurz emigrated from his native Germany to the United States in 1852 and soon became a devoted supporter of Abraham Lincoln, campaigning for him in both German and English. Lincoln appointed Schurz as U.S. minister to Spain in 1861. As an ardent opponent of slavery, Schurz resigned this post and served in the Civil War; he became a Major General in the U.S. Army in 1863, and fought in the battles of Gettysburg and Chattanooga. In 1869 Schurz was elected to the United States Senate from Missouri, becoming the first German-born U.S. Senator; he served until 1875. From 1877-81 Schurz was Secretary of the Interior in President Hayes's cabinet. Later in his career, Schurz worked as an editor of the *New-York Evening Post* from 1881-83 and wrote editorials on contemporary politics for *Harper's Weekly*. East River Park, located in a neighborhood that was once known for being home to many German immigrants, was renamed for Carl Schurz in 1909 in recognition of his unsurpassed dedication to his adopted country.

Robert Moses born 1881 in New Haven, Connecticut; died 1981 in West Islip, NY. Moses was New York City Parks Commissioner from 1934-60, and is known for fundamentally altering the infrastructure of New York City. Among Moses's notable additions to the City are: the Triborough Bridge (which can be seen from Gracie Mansion); the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge; the West Side Highway; and the East River Drive, now called the FDR Drive, named for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt after the President's death in 1945. It was during the construction of the East River Drive that Moses made the proposal to Mayor LaGuardia that Gracie Mansion become the official residence of the Mayor of the City of New of New York. Moses also played a major role in the construction of both Lincoln Center and Shea Stadium, and brought the 1939 and 1964 World's Fairs to New York City.

Fiorello LaGuardia born 1882 in Greenwich Village; died 1947 in Riverdale, the Bronx. The son of immigrants of Italian and Jewish ancestry, Fiorello LaGuardia, or "Little Flower," was the first mayor to make Gracie Mansion his home, though he preferred calling the House "Gracie Farm." Before becoming New York City's 99th Mayor, LaGuardia worked as an interpreter for the United States Immigration Service at Ellis Island and studied law. LaGuardia was elected Mayor in 1933 on an anti-corruption

ticket. He worked closely with the New Deal administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt to secure funding for many major public works projects in New York City, most of which he worked on with NYC Parks Commissioner Robert Moses. These federal subsidies enabled the City to create a transportation network that rivaled any in the world; and to build parks, low-income housing, bridges, schools, and hospitals. LaGuardia presided over the construction of New York City's first municipal airport on Flushing Bay, later fittingly named LaGuardia Airport. Mayor LaGuardia loved to surprise his constituency, frequently making unannounced visits to local city offices and once reading the comics to New Yorkers over the radio from Gracie Mansion's Library during a City-wide newspaper strike

Susan Wagner born 1909 in Greenwich, Connecticut; died 1964 in New York City. When Susan Wagner and her husband Mayor Robert Wagner moved into Gracie Mansion in 1954 with their two children, Mrs. Wagner quickly became aware of the high volume of traffic that the House received every day; Mayor Wagner was known for welcoming his staff, visiting dignitaries, and City officials to the House at all hours. Mrs. Wagner began a campaign to raise money for the construction of an addition to Gracie Mansion that would be used for large, public functions. The Susan E. Wagner Wing, completed in 1966, became the reception wing of the House, thus relieving the historic house of wear and tear, and providing living quarters that afforded more privacy for mayors and their families. Mrs. Wagner believed Gracie Mansion belonged to the residents of New York City and opened the House to school tours, local civic groups, and charities. Like the first occupant of Grace Mansion, Archibald Gracie, Mrs. Wagner was noted for her exceptional graciousness when welcoming visitors to her home.

A Selected Chronology of the Development of New York City

This chronology has been created to provide students with information that will help them contextualize their experiences at Gracie Mansion. The years included in this chronology were selected because they mark:

- Events relating to the history of Gracie Mansion, the life of Archibald Gracie, and other residents of Gracie Mansion (***these events are marked below with an asterisk ****)
- The development of the City's transportation systems, and its streets and avenues
- Major events and technological advances in United States and World History

Information was taken from the following sources:

New York City's Gracie Mansion: A History of the Mayor's House 1646-1942 by Mary Black (J.M. Kaplan Fund, New York, 1984)

New York: An Illustrated History by Ric Burns and James Sanders with Lisa Ades (Knopf, 2003)

The New York Chronology by James Trager (Harper Resources, 2003)

A Short and Remarkable History of New York City by Jane Mushabac and Angela Wigan (Fordham UP, 1999)

- 1624 30 Dutch families (110 people) begin to settle the island of Manhattan. New Amsterdam is established as a colony based on business; its first colonists are employees of the Dutch West India Company, the corporation that owns and operates the colony until 1664.
- 1626 To buy Manhattan, the Dutch trade approximately 60 guilders worth of goods in a land deal with the Lenapes. The Europeans have no concept of unclaimed land and the Lenapes (who think the deal is temporary) have no concept of private property.
- Construction begins on Fort Amsterdam at the southern tip of the island. New Amsterdam is a town of wooden structures.
- 1646 *A Dutch man, Sybout Claessen, is granted land 5 miles north of the tip of Manhattan, which he cultivates as farmland. It is the land that Gracie Mansion stands on today.
- 1664 Under the orders of King Charles II, New Amsterdam becomes New York as 300 English soldiers take the town from the Dutch. The Dutch surrender without a battle.
- 1702 *Land where Gracie Mansion sits today is sold to Samuel Waldron.
- 1755 *Archibald Gracie is born in Scotland.
- 1770 *Walton family buys the land from Waldron family.
- 1776 The Declaration of Independence is signed; the Revolutionary War begins.

*Archibald Gracie moves to Liverpool, England, and works for a Dutch West India Company firm.

*Walton's home and land are appropriated by George Washington's troops, and the site is fortified.

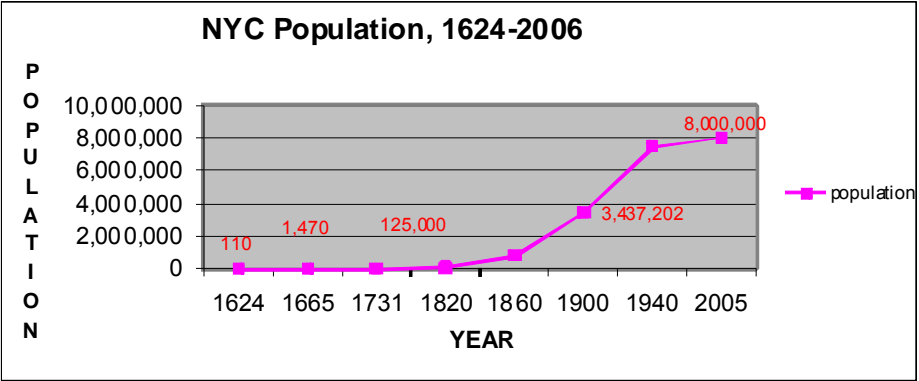
- 1776-83 British troops take control of the fort on Walton's land, and occupy all of Manhattan for the duration of the Revolutionary War.
- 1783 The Treaty of Paris is signed, which ends the Revolutionary War.
- 1784 *Archibald Gracie arrives in New York from Liverpool, England; he begins his shipping business by trading the goods that he had brought with him from abroad.
- 1788 The U.S. Constitution is ratified; one year later George Washington becomes new Republic's first President; John Adams is Vice President.
- 1793 *Gracie and his family establish a permanent home in New York at 110 Broadway. He becomes active in New York society with such activities as forming the Tontine Association, a forerunner of the New York Stock Exchange.
- 1793-1807 *Gracie's shipping business flourishes as U.S. ports prosper due to war between France and England. Gracie trades with Russia, China, and India in items such as tobacco, flour, and cloth.
- 1795 There is a large yellow fever epidemic in New York; many families flee north of 14th Street to escape risk of infection.
- 1798-9 *Gracie buys two parcels of land from the Walton family heirs, who had retained rights to the property throughout the Revolutionary War. His total purchase costs \$5625 for approximately 11 acres. Gracie builds his country estate after razing the remnants of the fort.
- 1799 *After George Washington's death this year, Gracie is one of many prominent New Yorkers who help to organize a memorial procession for the first U.S. President.
- 1801 *Along with Alexander Hamilton and Richard Varick, Gracie is a founder of *The New-York Evening Post*.
- 1807 Jefferson's Embargo Act restricts trade with France and Britain. This severely cripples shipping merchants like Gracie, who depend on open ports for the success of their businesses.
- 1805-10 *Gracie enlarges his country house, changing the entryway from facing the East River to Hell Gate.
- 1812-15 The War of 1812 further reduces shipping merchants' ability to profit.

- 1819 *Archibald Gracie is forced to close his business interests due to the compounded effects of the War and failed business investments.
- 1823 *The Gracie family is forced to sign over the rights to Gracie Mansion to Rufus King, who sells the property to the Foulke family.
- 1823 First gas streetlights appear in New York City; the gas used is manufactured by extracting it from coal
- 1826-38 The area around Gracie Mansion changes as it becomes more accessible to New Yorkers. The Old Post Road (which followed some of what is now Broadway) reaches from 28th Street up to Harlem. 5th Avenue reaches from 6th to 120th Streets. In 1827 the city has its first public transit: a horse-drawn bus that seats 12. In 1832, the New York Harlem Railroad goes into service; it is comprised of 2 horse-drawn carriages, each carrying 40 passengers and travels 12 miles per hour. A ride costs 25 cents.
- 1834 Despite development, farms and gardens account for up to 5/6th of Manhattan's land area.
- 1853 New York has 683 horse-drawn omnibuses that carry more than 100,000 passengers per day.
- 1855 More gas companies are formed to meet the City's growing demand for modern illumination to replace candles.
- 1857 *Noah Wheaton buys Gracie Mansion for \$25,000 from Foulke's heirs.
- 1861-65 The Civil War
- 1879 Thomas Alva Edison invents the electric light bulb and announces his goal; to make New York the first electrically lit city in the world. In lower Manhattan, just north of Wall Street, ½ square mile is the first area to receive lighting. Four years later JP Morgan offers Edison financial assistance to expand his new lighting system across the city.
- 1896 *Noah Wheaton dies and the New York City Parks Department appropriates Gracie Mansion and its land, incorporating it into East River Park, named for Carl Schurz in 1910.
- 1896- 1920 *Gracie Mansion serves as a concession stand for the park.
- 1904 The IRT runs its first subway train; within five years subway service extends to the outer boroughs.
- 1907 The first taxicabs powered by gasoline are driven in New York.

- 1914 World War I – “The Great War” – begins in Europe; the United States enters the war three years later. The War ends in 1918.
- 1923-32 *Gracie Mansion serves as the first home of the Museum of the City of New York.
- 1929-41 The Great Depression begins in 1929, after a stock market crash in October leads to a 25% unemployment rate and a 50% drop in national income. Under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, new policies are legislated to ease the effects of the Depression, which collectively become known as the “New Deal.”
- 1934-42 *New York City Parks Commissioner Robert Moses, recognizing the historic importance of Gracie Mansion, hires artists under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to rehabilitate the House.
- 1941-45 World War II begins in Europe. The United States enters the War on Dec. 11, 1941, when Congress declares war on Japan after that country’s surprise attack at Pearl Harbor. The War ends with Japan’s surrender on Aug. 14, 1945, after the U.S. drops two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- 1942 *Gracie Mansion becomes the official home of the Mayor of the City of New York; Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia moves in with his wife, Marie.
- 1966 The Susan E. Wagner Wing is completed, providing a public reception space for civic functions at Gracie Mansion.
- 1981-4 *The Gracie Mansion Conservancy is established, and under its guidance the first major restoration of the House in forty years is undertaken.
- 2002 *Gracie Mansion is again restored and declared the “People’s House” by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. The public is given increased access to the House.

List of Mayors since 1942

- 1934 – 1945:** Fiorello H. LaGuardia
1946 – 1950: William O’Dwyer
1950 – 1953: Vincent R. Impellitteri
1954 – 1965: Robert F. Wagner
1966 – 1973: John V. Lindsay
1974 – 1977: Abraham D. Beame
1978 – 1989: Edward I. Koch
1990 – 1993: David N. Dinkins
1994 – 2001: Rudolph W. Giuliani
2002 – 2013: Michael R. Bloomberg
2014 – Present: Bill de Blasio

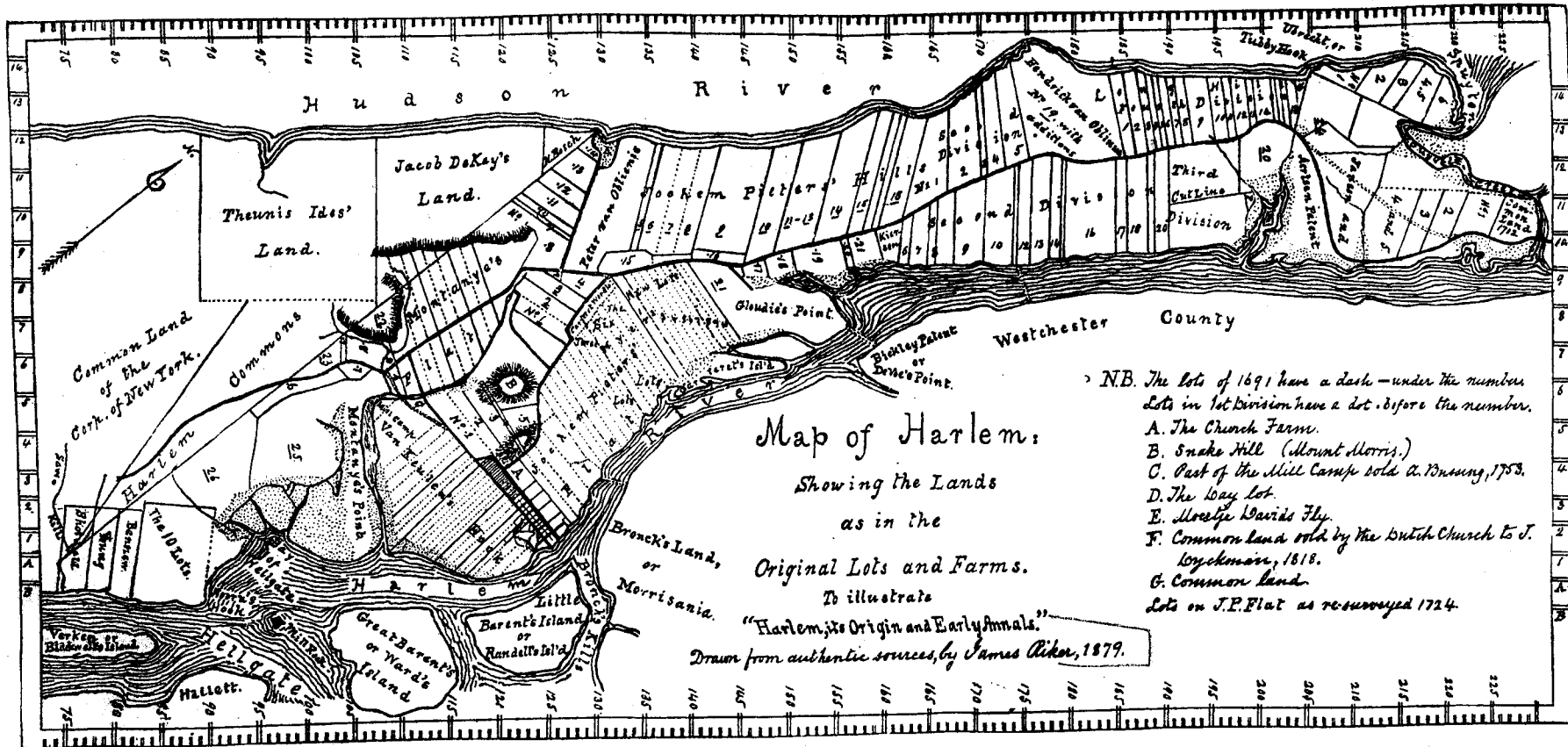


DATA TABLE

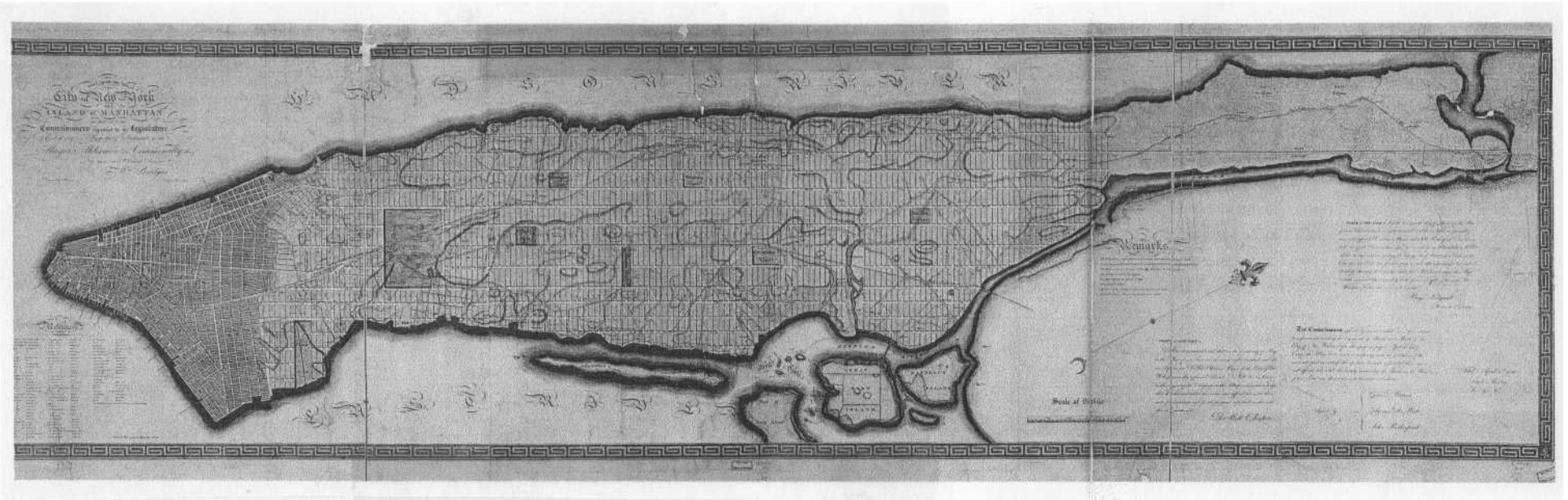
| Year | Population |
|------|------------|
| 1624 | 110 |
| 1665 | 1,470 |
| 1731 | 9,000 |
| 1765 | 12,500 |
| 1771 | 21,800 |
| 1790 | 32,000 |
| 1801 | 60,000 |
| 1820 | 125,000 |
| 1840 | 300,000 |
| 1860 | 800,000 |
| 1900 | 3,437,202 |
| 1940 | 7,454,995 |
| 1960 | 7,781,984 |
| 1990 | 7,300,000 |
| 2005 | 8,000,000 |

Additional Materials and Illustrations

1. 1879 Map of Harlem
2. 1811 Grid Plan for Manhattan
3. Advertisement from *The General Advertiser*, June 9, 1784
(This advertisement lists the goods Archibald Gracie wanted to sell when he first arrived in New York from Liverpool.)
4. Advertisement from *The Commercial Advertiser*, February 4, 1799
(This advertisement announces the availability of space for passengers or merchandise aboard one of Archibald Gracie's ships, the *Alexander Hamilton*.)
5. Archibald Gracie's obituary from *The New-York Evening Post*, April 13, 1829
6. Excerpt from New York City's Gracie Mansion: A History of the Mayor's House 1646-1942
7. Reproduction of The Tontine Coffee House by Francis Guy
- 8.-15. Color Photographs of Gracie Mansion's Current Appearance



Map of Harlem published by James Riker in Harlem and its Origins and Early Annals, 1879, Collection of the New-York Historical Society



John Randel, Jr., Map of New York City and Island of Manhattan as Laid out by the Commissioners in 1811.

ARCHIBALD GRACIE, and Co.

No. 224, QUEEN-STREET,

Opposite the Fly-Market,

Have imported in the Ship *JEANIE*, from
LIVERPOOL,

A very extensive assortment of

D R Y G O O D S,

Particularly adapted for the season, purchas-
ed from the very best Manufacturers,
which will be disposed of on the most
moderate terms, by the package or piece,
for CASH; among which are the fol-
lowing articles, viz.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>SUPERFINE, fe- ced, & coarse Broad Cloths, Shalloons and Calli- mancoes; Lastings and Cam- blets, Corduroys and Vel- verets, Queens and Dutch Cord, Mens Beaver, Cashor and Felt Hats, A small assortment of Hatters Trim- mings, Mens, womens and childrens Cotton, Thread and Wer- sted Hufe, Womens Silk Mitts, A neat assortment of Plated Goods, Silver Watches and Toys, Calicoes & Printed Cottons,</p> | <p>Fustians and Jeans, 7-8 and yard wide Irish Linens, 7-8, 4-4, 11-8, and 6-4 Cotton Checks Plain and figured Keatings, Durants & Tammys Long Lawns and Cambricks, Printed Linen Hand- kerchiefs, Kerchief & Check do; Blue Fustic ditto, Bandana ditto, Coloured and white Threads, An assortment of Tin and japanned Ware, Pewter dishes, Plates, Basons, Spoons, & Wine Measures, Brassia, English China, Hardware assorted, in small packages.</p> |
| <p>A L. Earthen and Glass Ware in Crates, well assorted, Bottles and Pots, loose, Mould Candles, and Seap, Nails, 4d. to 20d.</p> | <p>S. O. Single and double refined Sugar, Cteshire and Glou- cester Cheese, Short and long Pipes, Iron Pots, from one to twelve gallons.</p> |

A N D.

A few Casks of very fine London Porter,
and Liverpool Beer. 52 cf.

As seen in this advertisement Gracie published to sell the merchandise he brought with him from Liverpool, England, 18th-century typeset for the lowercase letter "s," when it appears in the beginning or middle of a word, looks very similar to the letter "f."

(See * lines for examples.)



FOR LONDON,

The arm'd Ship

ALEXANDER HAMILTON,

Has began to load, and the greatest part of her cargo being engaged, will positively sail in fourteen days, she has elegant accommodations for passengers—For freight or passage apply to

ARCHIBALD GRACIE.

WHO HAVE FOR SALE,

Virginia fine and superfine Flour

Richmond Tobacco—and

1100 bushels Wheat

Feb 1.

2w

1829
A GAZETTE OF MUSIC ACT.
"When cadence is, 'tis Spring, 'tis Spring,
'Tis Spring my pulses about.

ARION.

EVENING POST.

MONDAY, APRIL 13.

Banks.—In an uncandid and extremely unfair editorial article under this head in the *Morning Herald* of today, an ungenerous and unmerited attack is made upon Mr. Van Buren. The writer after justly condemning what he very properly calls the new fangled system of banking adopted by the legislature, insists that no small degree of the blame of introducing and recommending one of the greatest humbugs ever imposed upon any people attaches to Mr. Van Buren. But he had just before observed very truly that the solemn declaration of such a body of men as the Presidents and Cashiers of the Banks of this city was entitled to no little weight—now what will this honest gentleman think when we tell him that these Presidents and Cashiers will all say, for they have all said, that they would very gladly have received such a Bill as Mr. Van Buren recommended in his Message. It was not such a bill but the very different one which Mr. Paige reported that deserves the epithets of new fangled and humbug with which the *Morning Herald* has deservedly stigmatised it.

It is not often that the decease of a private citizen excites so general a regret in any community as the recent death of Archibald Gracie, Esq. has called forth in this city. Mr. Gracie was for many years the most eminent shipping merchant in New-York. He was as distinguished for the extent of his mercantile intelligence and information as for the greatness of his enterprizes; and the strict and unimpeachable integrity of his dealings marked him out as an example for all who followed his profession. His immense wealth was employed as honorably as it was acquired. No man could exceed him, in the days of his prosperity, in readiness to contribute to all useful and benevolent purposes, or in kindness to those whom he esteemed deserving. Mr. Gracie was a Scotch gentleman of the old and good school, and the urbanity of his manners gave an additional grace to the liberality of his conduct. He was a benefactor to many of our best charitable institutions, and until a short time past held the place of Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Cases.—Our paragraph on this subject in our paper of Friday last, is calculated to produce an erroneous impression which we hasten to correct. It may be inferred that we meant to contradict the statement extracted from the *American*, but such was not our intention.

It is true that the late President shortly before his retirement from office, authorized the discontinuance of the suits brought for the recovery of the duties on certain teas belonging to Edward Thompson, improperly withdrawn from the public stores in Philadelphia. We believe that those suits have accordingly been discontinued, and that with them the whole controversy on

JOHN WILLIAMS.

Jonesborough, March 10, 1829.

Case of Johnson.—We have perused with earnest and impartial attention a small pamphlet which has lately fallen in our way, containing the particulars of the case of this unhappy young man, who has been convicted by the verdict of a jury of the murder of Ursula Newman, for which he has been sentenced to be hanged, and the day has been fixed for his execution. We are far, very far, from being inclined to interfere between the law and the convicted felon, and we think the instances are rare indeed where this interference is justifiable; excepting always those of insanity. But such a case we cannot but believe is now presented in the person of Johnson. This individual we do not personally know, nor even did we ever hear any thing respecting him, but what is told in the history we have now perused; but admitting the facts there stated to be given correctly, we do then say that in our opinion the verdict ought to have been one of acquittal, on the ground of insanity; temporary insanity when he committed the act. Had we been one of the jury who tried him we could never have consented to a verdict of guilty against a man, where reason had clearly departed from its throne; to whose actions, therefore, neither guilt nor innocence were imputable, any more than to the inanimate automaton.

We have New-Orleans papers to the 21st ult. The sloop *Huron*, which was fitted out at Matanzas for the purpose of pursuing and capturing the pirates who have recently committed so many and such horrible acts of murder and robbery off the island of Cuba, arrived at New-Orleans on the 20th of March, without having fallen in with the objects they were in quest of. She is well armed and equipped, and manned with upwards of sixty American seamen, a considerable portion of whom are masters and mates of vessels. Though these brave men have been unsuccessful in their cruise, yet they are entitled to the highest praise for their spirited and arduous enterprize.

Some changes are to be made in the editorial department of the *Mercantile Advertiser* as appears from that paper this morning. Mr. Amos Butler, the proprietor, announces that Mr. John I. Mumford will be associated in the editorial management with himself and his brother, Mr. Etihu Butler, for some years past assistant editor. The size of the paper is to be enlarged, and its contents no longer to be limited to the "details strictly belonging to a commercial journal." Party politics are, however, to be excluded. We wish it all success.

New York Mirror.—In noticing the other day the embellishments of the *New York Mirror* for last week we neglected to speak of the literary contents of the number. These, as we have since observed, are without an exception original, and several of them give evidence of having proceeded from pens whose productions have already gained no small favour with the public. The mechanical execution of the work and the embellishments with which it is adorned

Archibald Gracie's from obituary *The New-York Evening Post*, April 13, 1829.

tion with the fraudulent removal of the teas from the public stores. They grew out of a transaction entirely

of those pathetic subjects which are the favorites of the writer. The History of the Heart is a

Excerpted from page 10 of New York City's Gracie Mansion: A History of the Mayor's House 1646-1942 by Mary Black (J.M. Kaplan Fund, New York, 1984)

The following is a quote from someone who witnessed Washington's troops evicting the Waltons from their home:

"...you may recollect a sweet situation at Horne's Hook* that Jacob Walton purchased, built an elegant house, and greatly and beautifully improved the place.

He was obliged to quit as troops took possession and fortified there. When Mrs. Walton received the order to go out of her house she burst into tears, for she was fixed to her heart's desired."

** The term "Horne's Hook" has been used to describe the location of Gracie Mansion. It was given this name by the Dutch farmer who first settled the area in 1646, after his hometown in The Netherlands, Hoorn.*

The Tontine Coffee House
by Francis Guy
oil on linen, about 1797



From the Collection of the New-York Historical Society

Detail of Compass Rose Motif on Trompe-L'oeil painted floor in Historic Foyer



The floor's pattern is based on a design from about 1800

Historic Foyer



Please note the following elements:

- Fireplace and mantel
- Urns on mantel
- Looking-glass
- Chandelier

Library



Please note the following elements:

- Fireplace and mantel
- Maquettes (see glossary for definition of this term) on mantel
- Chandelier

Detail of George Washington Maquette in Library



This 1883 maquette, by sculptor John Quincy Adams Ward, is a study for the life size sculpture outside of Federal Hall, built on the site where Washington took his oath of office as the first U.S. President in 1789.

Patent-Yellow Parlor



Please note the following elements:

- Fireplace and mantel
- Urns on mantel
- Convex mirror
- Cannonball

Detail of Cannonball in Patent-Yellow Parlor



This cannonball, excavated from the land surrounding Gracie Mansion, dates from the Revolutionary War.

Wagner Wing Ballroom



Please note the following elements:

- Fireplace and mantel
- Urns on mantel
- Garland pattern on mantel
- Convex mirror
- Chandelier

Detail of Convex Mirror in Wagner Wing Ballroom



Please note the eagle decoration at the top of the mirror.