Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

117 St. Felix Street

245 Carlton Avenue

Jazz singer Betty Carter (born Lillie Mae Jones) moved to Brooklyn in 1972 and lived at 117 Saint Felix Street (c. 1859) in the **Brooklyn Academy of Music Historic District** until her death in 1998. Trombonist "Slide" Hampton owned an Italianate style brownstone (c. 1867) in the nearby **Fort Greene Historic District** at 245 Carlton Avenue (*at left*), where he rented rooms to musicians Eric Dolphy, Wes Montgomery, and Wayne Shorter.

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

284A Stuyvesant Avenue

In 1946, pianist James Hubert "Eubie" Blake moved from Harlem to 284A Stuyvesant Avenue (c.1881), part of the. **Bedford-Stuyvesant / Expanded Stuyvesant Heights Historic District** He lived in this neo-Grec row house for the rest of his life, until 1983. A musical revue, featuring his compositions, played the **Ambassador Theater** (1919-21, a designated Landmark Interior) on West 49th Street, during 1978-79. Drummer Max Roach moved to Brooklyn as a young boy and attended **Boys' High School (**1891-92, a designated Landmark) at 832 Marcy Avenue**.** He graduated in 1942, the same year he began performing with Charlie Parker.

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

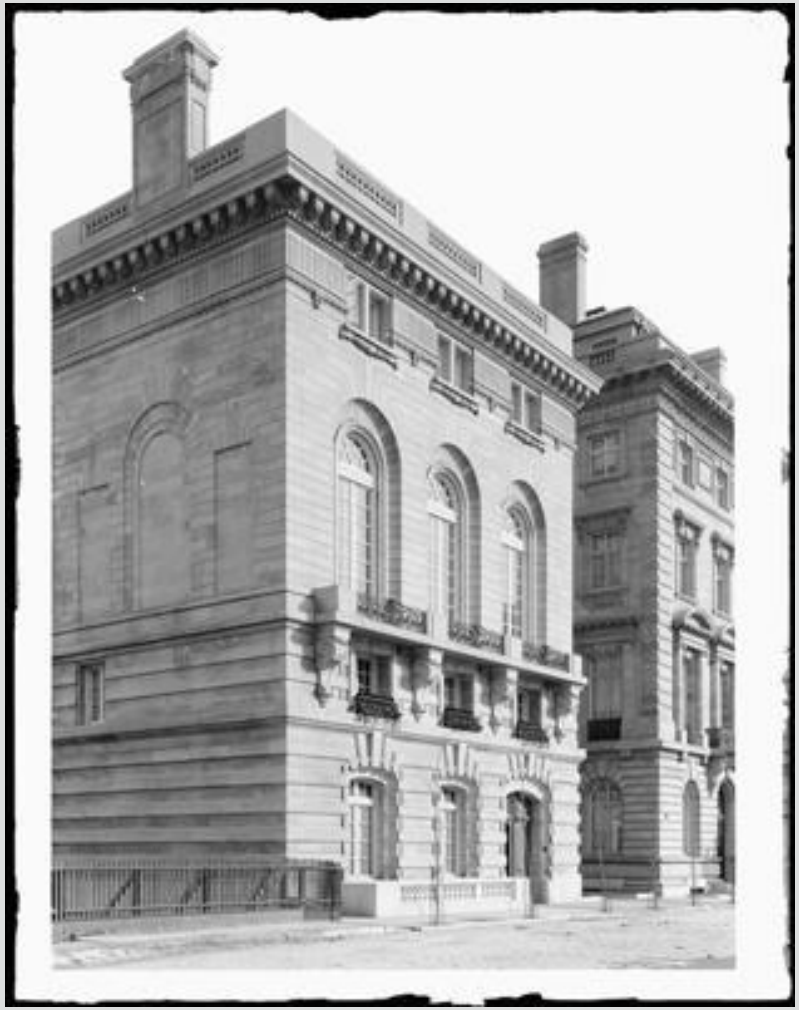


Photo: Museum of the City of New York

Record producer and music critic John Hammond (Jr.) was born at 9 East 91st Street the **John Henry and Emily Vanderbilt Sloane Hammond House** (1902-03, also part of the **Carnegie Hill Historic District**), a designated Landmark, in 1910. He helped discover Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, and Charlie Christian, as well as many leading folk and pop musicians. Alice Hammond Duckworth, his sister, married Benny Goodman in 1942. This limestone-faced neo-Renaissance building is now used by the Russian Consulate General.

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

995 Fifth Avenue
Museum of the City of New York

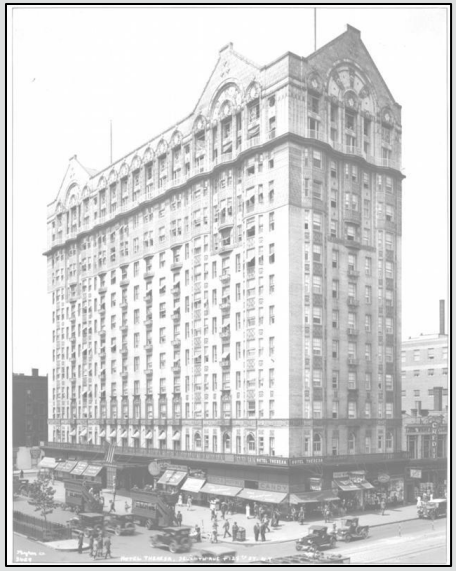
230 Central Park West

British-born Pannonica (Nica) de Koenigswarter, née Rothschild, sometimes called the "Jazz Baroness," in the 1950s resided at the Stanhope (1926), a hotel at 995 Fifth Avenue, by 80th Street, in **the Metropolitan Museum Historic District**. She was a close friend of Charlie "Bird" Parker, who died in her suite on March 12, 1955. She then moved to the Hotel Bolivar at 230 Central Park West, near 83rd Street, part of the **Upper West Side Historic District**. Bop pianist Thelonius Monk composed two songs to honor her: "Pannonica" and "Ba-Lue Bolivar Bal Lues Ares," named for her Central Park West residence.

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

Various important jazz figures stayed at the **Hotel Theresa** (1912-13) at 2090 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard and 125th Street, sometimes called the "Waldorf of Harlem." Located near the **Apollo Theater** (1913-14, 253 West 125th St. also an **interior landmark**), and other entertainment venues in central Harlem, this hotel frequently welcomed major performers, such as Nat King Cole and Dinah Washington. Since 1970, the former hotel has served as offices. Two legendary female jazz vocalists have won the Apollo's amateur night contest, 16-year old Ella Fitzgerald in 1934, and Sarah Vaughan, who presented "Body and Soul," in 1942. Vaughan reportedly won $10 and a week-long engagement at this legendary concert venue.



Hotel Theresa
Photo: Museum of the City of New York

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

377 Edgecombe Avenue

555 Edgecombe Avenue
Photo: Library of Congress

Within **Sugar Hill's** three contiguous historic districts **Hamilton Heights/Sugar Hill Historic District**, **Hamilton Heights/Sugar Hill Northeast Historic District**, and the **Hamilton Heights/Sugar Hill Northwest Historic District**, Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington lived with his family at 379 Edgecombe Avenue from 1929 to 1939, tenor saxophonist Coleman Hawkins resided at 8 St. Nicholas Place and 445 West 153rd Street, and "Saxophonist Colossus" Sonny Rollins grew up at 377 Edgecombe Avenue (1905-06), near 150th Street. Farther north in Washington Heights is **555 Edgecombe Ave.** (originally the Roger Morris Apartments, 1914-15, a designated Landmark), at 160th Street, where "Count" Basie (and other African American celebrities) lived before moving to Addisleigh Park in Queens.

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

The **Hamilton Heights Historic District**, between West 140th and 145th Street, attracted several significant jazz musicians. At 315 Convent Avenue (1887-90, *at right*), near 144th Street, lived composer and arranger Billy Strayhorn from 1939 to 1946, as well as blues vocalist and Count Basie alum Jimmy Rushing. For much of her adult life, pianist Mary Lou Williams lived nearby at 63 Hamilton Terrace (1911, *below*). Her small apartment served as an informal salon, with late night and early morning jam sessions frequented by up and coming jazz musicians.

53-63 Hamilton Terrace (1974)

315 Convent Avenue (1974)

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

Photos: c. 1940s, lisaltzman.com

Trumpeter and band leader Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, a central figure in 20th century jazz and popular music, lived in a modest brick residence at **34-56 107th Street** (1910) in north Corona, Queens, from 1943 to 1971. Now a public museum offering tours, plans are currently being developed to erect an education center across the street. For more information about the house and Armstrong archives, see http://www.louisarmstronghouse.org:

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

In the years after the Second World War, **Addisleigh Park** ,an enclave of single-family residences in eastern Queens, rivaled Harlem as a home to jazz musicians. Some of the better-known figures who dwelled in the historic district included “Count” Basie, Mercer Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Milt Hinton, Lena Horne, “Illinois” Jacquet, “Slam” Stewart, “Cootie” Williams, and pianist Thomas Wright “Fats” Waller, who began this trend, moving to 173-19 Sayers Avenue (1931, *at right*) in 1940.

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

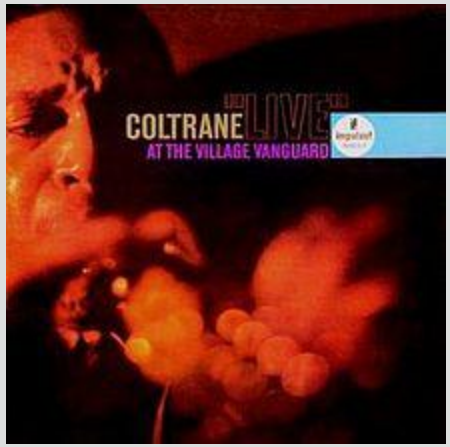
c. 1969

Jazz has always been at home in Greenwich Village. Barney Josephson's Café Society, at 1 Sherdian Square (c. 1834, altered 1920s) in the **Greenwich Village Historic District**, between Washington Place and West 4th Street, was an important music venue from 1938 to 1950, booking, among others, Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, and Art Tatum. It has often been described as the city's first "racially integrated" nightclub. John Hammond, who living in the vicinity, helped choose the performers.

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

Also located in the **Greenwich Village Historic District**, designated 1969, is the Village Vanguard, a nightclub at 178 Seventh Avenue South. Founded by Max Gordon in 1938, and now operated by his widow, Lorraine Gordon, more than 100 jazz recordings have been produced in the club's subterranean space, including works by John Coltrane, Bill Evans, Dexter Gordon, Wynton Marsalis, and Sonny Rollins. Franks Driggs, an acclaimed photographer of jazz musicians and concert performances, lived at 19 Charlton Street (*bottom right, #19*) in the **Charlton-King-Vandam Historic District**. His photo collection, said to be the finest in the world, was acquired by Jazz at Lincoln Center in 2013.



1961

Charlton Street, c. 1966
Photo at top: wikipedia.com

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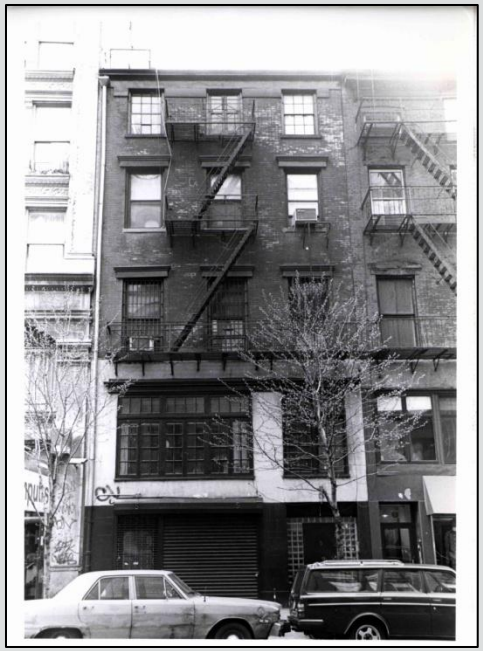
Jazz & the Big Apple



24 Bond Street; 5 Great Jones Street

During the 1970s, experimental jazz thrived in the lofts of lower Manhattan, particularly in the SoHo-Cast Iron and NoHo historic districts. Of particular note was saxophonist Ornette Coleman's "Artists House" at 131 Spring Street, near Wooster Street, where he lived and performed during the early 1970s, and multi-instrumentalist Sam (and Bea) Rivers' Studio Rivbea, a performance space at 24 Bond Street, near Lafayette Street, from c.1969 to 1978. Earlier, double bassist Charles Mingus lived with his family at 5 Great Jones Street. They were evicted by city marshals in 1966.

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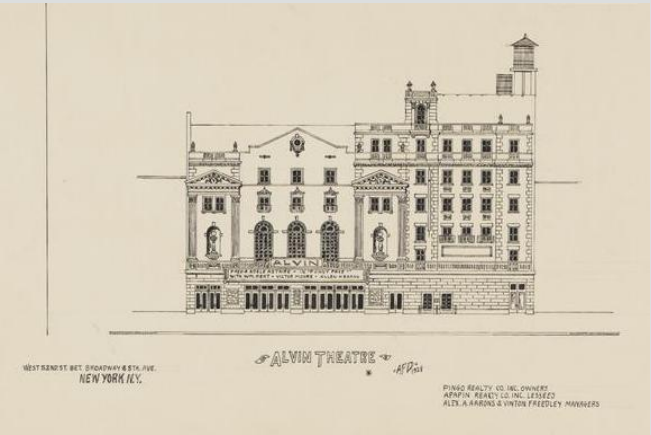
Jazz & the Big Apple

At the height of their creative partnership, from 1929 to 1933, composer George Gershwin and his brother lyricist Ira Gershwin had adjoining penthouses at 33 Riverside Drive (1928), near West 75th Street, in the West End-Collegiate Historic District .Several notable Gershwin productions debuted at the Alvin Theater (1926-27, now the Neil Simon Theatre, a designated Landmark and Interior) at 250 West 52nd Street during this era, such as the musicals *Funny Face* (1927) with Fred and Adele Astaire, *Girl Crazy* (1930) with Ginger Rogers, and *Porgy and Bess* (1935).

33 Riverside Drive



Alvin Theater
Image: Museum of the City of New York

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

312 West 77th Street, c. 1984

The influential trumpeter Miles Davis also lived in the **West-End Collegiate Historic District**. He purchased a row house at 312 West 77th Street in the late 1950s and lived here for about 25 years. During this era, he produced some of his more memorable recordings, including *Kind of Blue, In A Silent Way, and Bitches Brew.* In 1958, Davis and his Sextet performed at the Persian Room of the **Plaza Hotel** (a designated Landmark and Interior), resulting in the 1973 recording "Jazz at the Plaza."

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

Though most buildings in midtown Manhattan associated with jazz have been lost, during the 1940s and 1950s a succession of popular nightspots were located in the Art Deco-style **Brill Building** (1930-31), 1619 Broadway, at West 49th Street in Times Square. These spacious second-floor venues included the Hurricane, Club Zanzibar, and Bop City. Among the well-known artists to perform here were Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Nat King Cole.

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple

Photo: Museum of the City of New York

Clarinetist and big band leader Benny Goodman lived during his last decades at **Manhattan House**, a designated Landmark, at 200 East 66th Street (1947-51) in Manhattan. Known as the "King of Swing," he once held a jam session with the King of Thailand, saxophonist Phumiphol Aduldet, in the penthouse. Goodman is also credited with introducing jazz to **Carnegie Hall** (1891, a designated Landmark) in January 1938. During this concert, he performed with Count Basie, Gene Krupa, Cootie Williams, and Lester Young, among others. Goodman died in this white brick apartment house in 1986.

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Jazz & the Big Apple was prepared as part of
Jazz Appreciation Month 2013

All photographs are from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, except where noted.

For further information on the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and to read the various reports on Historic Districts, please see:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/home/home.shtml
http://neighborhoodpreservationcenter.org/designation_reports/index.php

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