

## **409 Edgecombe Avenue Apartments**

Individual Landmark

409 Edgecombe Avenue

Designation Date: June 15, 1993



*409 Edgecombe Avenue Apartments (Colonial Parkway Apartments). New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 409 Edgecombe Avenue Apartments Designation Report. Photo by LPC, Elisa Urbanelli.*

Considered Sugar Hill's most prestigious address from the 1930s through the 1950s, the apartment building at 409 Edgecombe Avenue portrays, through its illustrious roster of tenants, the achievement of African Americans "since the Harlem Renaissance."

The building, known simply as "409," was first opened to African Americans in the late 1920s and soon attracted numerous outstanding leaders in the fields of civil rights, politics, law, education, medicine, scholarship, music, and the arts. These included W.E. B. DuBois, Walter White, William Stanley Braithwaite, Aaron Douglas, Thurgood Marshall, and Roy Wilkins, among others.

Constructed in 1916-1917 to the designs of Schwartz & Gross, a prominent firm well-known for its apartment houses, 409 is an imposing 13-story structure with a curved, three-part facade, commanding a view of Jackie Robinson Park (formerly Colonial Park) and the Harlem River from its prominent hilltop site. The home of New York City's African American intellectual and cultural elite, 409 was long a center of Sugar Hill society.

[Read the full NYC LPC designation report here.](#)