

Harlem Alhambra

Individual Landmark

2116 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard



The Harlem Alhambra. Photo: Melanie Nanez

Built in 1905, the Harlem Alhambra originally contained a movie theater, known as the Vaudeville Theater, with a capacity of 1,650 seats. It was an important cultural center, but by 2000, the building's largest space could accommodate no more than 600.

The Alhambra played an important role in the Harlem Renaissance and jazz scene in the 1920s and 1930s. It staged performances by Billie Holiday, Bessie Smith, Jelly Roll Morton, Duke Ellington, and more. In recent years, it has showcased Joe Pesci, Al Pacino, and Michael B. Jordan. In 2003, the Alhambra Ballroom reopened on the top floor, and today hosts weddings, parties, and other events.