

Historic Street Lamp Posts (060, 061, 063, 064, 065, 066, 067, 068)

Individual Landmark

Southeast corner of West 139th Street and Edgecombe Avenue

Intersection of Amsterdam Avenue, Hamilton Place, and West 143rd Street

Colonel Charles Young Triangle, Intersection of West 153rd Street and Macomb's Place

Harlem River Drive on Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard, south of West 153rd Street

Designation Date: June 17, 1997



fig. 30. Special Iron Twin Standard. A special post, used only in this location at the entrance to the Harlem River Drive at Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. The original luminaires were octagonal lanterns. Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Approximately 100 historic, cast-iron streetlamp posts are known to survive in New York City. The earliest, dating from the mid-19th century, are two gas lamp posts. Electric lights first appeared in 1880, on Broadway.

The first installation of truly ornamental electrified cast-iron lamp posts occurred on Fifth Avenue in 1892. By the 1930s, New York streets were lit by an extraordinary variety of lampposts, brackets, and pedestals. During the 1950s and 1960s most of these lamp posts were replaced by "modern" steel and aluminum types.

Approximately 100 old iron lamp posts and brackets have been identified; some have survived by accident, while others have been preserved by the special efforts of the Friends of Cast-Iron Architecture. Now, often standing in forgotten urban spaces, or oddly quaint in their juxtaposition to modern buildings, these lamp posts reflect the variety and exuberance of the city's architecture.

Those which survive continue to grace (and, in most cases, light) the city's streets, and are maintained under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation. Sixty-two lampposts and four wall bracket lamps are included in this designation. The remainder are already protected within designated historic districts or are on designated landmark sites.

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