

Home of New York Age Newspaper

Individual Landmark
230 West 135th Street



Home of the New York Age Newspaper. Photo: Melanie Nanez

The New York Age was a weekly newspaper established in 1887. It was widely considered one of the most prominent African American newspapers of its time.

The New York Age began as the New York Globe, an African American newspaper that was published weekly from at least 1880 to November 8, 1884. The newspaper became the New York Freeman from November 22, 1884, to October 8, 1887, and was published six times a week. It was edited by Timothy Thomas Fortune, a former slave, and co-owned by Jerome B. Peterson, who in 1904 was named the American consul to Venezuela.

On October 15, 1887, the newspaper officially became the weekly New York Age. Fred R. Moore bought the paper in 1907. From 1953 to 1957, it was titled the New York Age Defender. Gertrude Bustill Mossell worked at the New York Age from 1885 to 1889, and W. E. B. Du Bois also worked there.

The New York Age, a firebrand fighter for racial injustice that died in the 1950s, was born again with its demeanor changed, but its goal primarily the same. Adam Clayton Powell Jr., the executive editor, said that the paper would attempt to regain the eminence of the old New York Age, which was known during its heyday as the “distinguished black newspaper of opinion.” The initial press run of the paper in 1974 was 100,000 copies and it was sold at newsstands for 25 cents.