

Imperial Order of Elks Lodge

Individual Landmark
160 West 129th Street



The Imperial Order of Elks Lodge. Photo: Lorraine Colbert

160 West 129th Street, now home to the Faith Mission Christian Church, was built in 1922 as the Imperial Elks Lodge. The building was designed by Vertner Tandy, New York's first licensed African American architect. Tandy designed many of Central Harlem's currently designated historic landmarks, including St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

The Imperial Lodge has a long and important history. It was home to the first national black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, founded by A. Philip Randolph, and the Lodge's dance hall was featured in the influential documentary, "Paris is Burning."