

Masjid Malcolm Shabazz (Mosque No. 7)

Individual Landmark

102 West 116th Street



The Masjid Malcolm Shabazz. Photo: Ajay Suresh, Wikipedia

Constructed originally in 1905 by architect Lorenz F.J. Weiher as the Lenox Casino, the first floor was occupied by Muhammad's Temple of Islam No.7 in 1956. The building's bold roof dome and yellow arched window panel design was part of a redesign of the temple space in 1965 by Sabbeth Brown, who trained in New York City as an architect and was a member of the Nation of Islam.

The building has housed other organizations that aided the African American community, such as Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) on the building's third floor, and Noble Drew Ali's Science Temple Movement. Malcolm X helped Minister Muhammad's Temple of Islam No.7 during its early years.

The building sustained fire damage on its top floor on February 21, 1965, after Malcolm X's assassination. However, Malcolm X's original office space remains intact today. In 1976, the minister of the temple, Imam W.D. Mohammed, renamed the building Masjid Malcolm Shabazz, in honor of Malcolm X for his contributions to the Nation of Islam, and the country's African American community.