

Mount Morris Park Historic District

Historic District

West 119th-124th Streets between Fifth and Lenox (now Malcolm X Boulevard) Avenues

Designation Date: November 3, 1971



266-262 Lenox Avenue in the Mount Morris Park Historic District. Photo by Lorraine Colbert

The Mount Morris Park Historic District is a relatively level area, extending generally from Mount Morris Park on the east to Lenox Avenue (now Malcolm X Boulevard) on the west, and from West 119th Street on the south to West 123rd Street on the north. It faces, but does not include, Mount Morris Park itself, in which a notable outcropping of rock rises to considerable elevation. Mount Morris Park interrupts Fifth Avenue, which extends south from the south side and north from the north side of the Park.

The Mount Morris Park Historic District is a fine residential area which has maintained its attractive, late 19th century architectural character remarkably well. This part of the city was largely built up during the latter part of the 19th century, with rows of unusually handsome townhouses, and several notable churches. Some of the most stately residences are to be found along Mount Morris Park West.

The buildings in this District represent many architectural styles, including the Romanesque Revival, the French neo-Grec, the Queen Anne, and a number of structures designed in the classical and Renaissance traditions popularized by the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago.

In the Romanesque Revival style are the Bethel Gospel Pentecostal Church, built originally for the Harlem Club, and St. Martin's Episcopal Church, both on Lenox Avenue (now Malcolm X Boulevard). St. Martin's (formerly Holy Trinity) Church, with its noted carillon, is undoubtedly the handsomest example of this style of architecture remaining in Manhattan today. On the southwest corner of Mount Morris Park West and West 122nd Street is the fine Mount Morris Presbyterian Church, designed in modified classical style. The Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church at the northwest corner of Lenox Avenue (now Malcolm X Boulevard) and West 123rd Street is also notable architecturally, and its lofty spire is itself a landmark.

A large townhouse at the northwest corner of West 123rd Street and Mount Morris Park West is a particularly fine example of the neo-Renaissance style introduced by the architects McKim, Mead & White. Among townhouses in the District, the brownstone rectory of the Mount Morris Presbyterian Church on West 122nd Street is one of the handsomest and best preserved residences in the city. Here one finds the original interiors unchanged since the day they were built, furnished in complete harmony in Victorian style. The bold, decorative detail of the residences in the District runs the gamut from the neo-medievalism of Viollet-le-Duc to the classical traditions of the turn of the 20th century. The love and care lavished on these fine houses bears witness to the pride of both their original owners and their present occupants.

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