

St. Nicholas Historic District

(aka Strivers Row)

Historic District

West 138th -139th Streets between Seventh and Eighth Avenues (now Adam Clayton Powell Jr. and Frederick Douglass Boulevards)

Designation Date: March 16, 1967



North side of West 139th Street. Photo by Solana Lynn Mahabeer.

The St. Nicholas Historic District, consisting of four rows of houses built by David H. King Jr., appears much the same as it did when it was built in 1891. Both then and now, it has been a source of pride not only to its residents, but to all the people living in its vicinity.

These houses are a fine example of 19th century urban design, influenced by English antecedents. The sense of forethought and consideration in land development seen here is much sought after today, and often today's results are not as successful. A high degree of architectural continuity is maintained, while taking into consideration even such problems as house service. This problem is successfully resolved by the use of a main cross alley extending through the block, from avenue to avenue, with two shorter transverse alleys between the streets.

The Historic District, designed by three of the most prominent architectural firms of the day, was one of the most prestigious sections of Harlem, and is still considered as such. The fact that these houses have been well maintained through the years is most unusual in New York City. Obviously, its reputation as a fashionable area has contributed to the residents' desire to preserve their homes, and to their tremendous sense of pride in them.

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