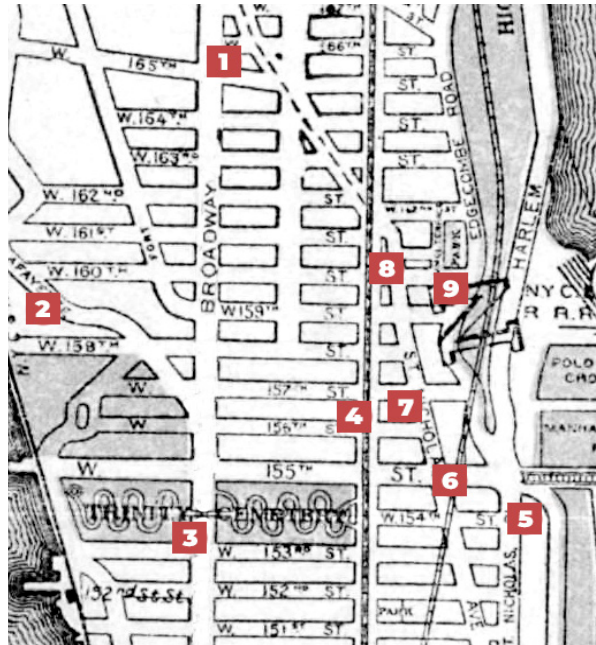


Exploring Black History

in Sugar Hill and Around Morris-Jumel Mansion

Time: 60–75 minutes | **Distance:** 2.5 miles



1 Audubon Ballroom (3940 Broadway) Built in 1912 as a theatre and ballroom, the Audubon Ballroom served as an entertainment center until the 1980s, featuring a diverse array of music and cultural events. In 1965, it became internationally known



Manhattan with known ties to the abolitionist movement. The house, owned by Dennis Harris and his friend Judge John Newhouse, is believed to be a stop on the Underground Railroad, and provided shelter to enslaved people before they



As the oldest surviving house in Manhattan, Morris-Jumel Mansion has borne witness to much of New York City's rich and diverse history. Situated on the border of Sugar Hill and Washington Heights, the museum and neighborhood have been shaped by Black history.

Tour Start—Accessible by the **1** train at 157th St or the BX 6 (156th St & Riverside Dr), M101 (158th St and Amsterdam Ave) M5 (166th St and Broadway)

Tour End—Accessible by the **A**, **C** or **1** train at 168th St

Note: The 168 St Station **1** and 155th Street **C** are not ADA-accessible

when Malcolm X, a former leader of the Nation of Islam, was assassinated inside during a speaking engagement. The building today is home to the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center, which serves to inform the public about the work of Malcolm and his wife, Betty.

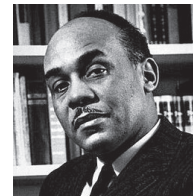
2 Underground Railroad Site (857 Riverside Dr, Southbound)

This 1851 house, originally built in the Greek Revival-Italianate style, is likely the only surviving house in Upper Manhat-

tan with known ties to the abolitionist movement. The house, owned by Dennis Harris and his friend Judge John Newhouse, is believed to be a stop on the Underground Railroad, and provided shelter to enslaved people before they

3 Ralph Ellison's Grave (Trinity Church Cemetery & Mausoleum, 770 Riverside Dr)

Writer Ralph Waldo Ellison (1913–1994) rests in Trinity Church Cemetery. Ellison moved to Harlem as a young man, where he interacted with other political writers, including Richard Wright and Langston Hughes. He is best known for his 1952 novel *Invisible Man*.



Ellison was buried here after passing away from cancer in 1994. Other notable burials include singer Estelle Bennett of The Ronettes and singer Cuba Gooding Jr. of The Main Ingredient. Enter the cemetery on 153rd Street between Broadway and Riverside and walk west to find Ellison's grave. *Please note at this entrance, visitors have to descend stairs for entry.*

4 Harry Belafonte's Residence (501 W. 156th St)

Singer and actor Harry Belafonte, known as the "King of Calypso," is credited for popularizing the Caribbean style of music in the 1950s and 60s. Belafonte was born in Harlem in 1927 and moved from Jamaica to 501 W. 156th in the 1940s. Belafonte has produced music that spans genres, including folk and blues, and he has starred in a number of films. Belafonte turned 94 in 2021 and currently resides on the Upper West Side. A proposal to name this street after Belafonte was rejected in 2016 due to legislation that honorees must be deceased for three years before a street can be named after them.



**MORRIS
JUMEL
MANSION**

5 409 Edgecombe (409 Edgecombe Ave)

The landmarked 409 Edgecombe Avenue became a hub for Black culture during the middle of the 20th century. "409" was the residence of scholar and activist W. E. B. Du Bois, writer and activist James Weldon Johnson (famous for penning the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing"), Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, artist Aaron Douglas, playwright Shirley Graham, poet Safiya Henderson-Holmes, and professor and civil rights organizer Louise Thompson Patterson.



6 Jackie Robinson Park (155th St and Edgecombe Avenue)

Formerly known as Colonial Park, this park was renamed after legendary baseball player Jackie Robinson (1919–1972) in 1978. Robinson is known for breaking the color barrier in the sport, becoming the first African-American to play in Major League Baseball when he started for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. The park is a NYC landmark and is one of four "Historic Harlem Parks." Robinson played at the nearby Polo Grounds, along with other African-American teams, such as the New York Cubans.



7 Duke Ellington Residence (935 St. Nicholas Avenue)

The great jazz pianist and composer Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1914–1974) lived in Apartment 4A of this building from 1939 to 1961. During his residence here, Ellington produced some of his most famous and creative work, much of it inspired by Harlem. In Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald's "Take the A Train," Fitzgerald references the neighborhood, singing, "All aboard, get on the 'A' Train/Soon you will be in Sugar Hill in Harlem." Ellington referred to the Morris-Jumel Mansion as the "jewel in the crown of Sugar Hill."



8 The Washington Heights Library (1000 St. Nicholas Avenue)

Regina M. Andrews (1901–1993) served as Supervising Librarian at the Washington Heights branch of the New York Public Library from 1949 until her retirement in 1967. In 1938, Andrews broke the color barrier when she became the first African-American to head an NYPL branch. Andrews was also a writer and engaged in the arts during the Harlem Renaissance. During the 1920s, she and W. E. B. Du Bois founded the Krigwa Players, a Black theatre group which performed in the basement of the library.



9 Paul Robeson Residence (555 Edgecombe Avenue)

In honor of musician, actor, and activist Paul Robeson (1898–1976), this building was designated a National Historic Landmark and renamed the Paul Robeson Residence in 1976. A number of prominent Black artists and intellectuals resided at 555 Edgecombe, including anthropologist Eslanda Goode Robeson, boxing champion Joe Louis, psychologist Kenneth Clark, politician Bessie Buchanan, singer-dancer Lena Horne,

and a score of famous musicians, such as Count Basie, Coleman Hawkins, and Johnny Hodges. Today, the musical tradition of the building, formerly known as the "Triple Nickle," is kept alive by Marjorie Eliot, a resident who has opened her doors for free jazz concerts in her living room every Sunday since 1995. ■



Morris-Jumel Mansion is a proud member of the Historic House Trust of New York City and partner of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. The museum is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with City Council and Borough President, Gale Brewer, and Councilman, Ydanis Rodriguez. Programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Support is also provided by The New York Community Trust, City Parks Foundation, and Humanities New York. Promotional support provided in part by the NYC & Company Foundation. The Morris-Jumel Mansion is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

For more information about these sites and destinations in the area, visit morrisjumel.org/neighborhood. Due to on-going construction in the area and the COVID-19 pandemic, please verify routes and public hours for tour stops before planning your trip.

Visit the Morris-Jumel Mansion museum! Learn more about admissions options at morrisjumel.org

Images courtesy of: Library of Congress, Nadya Ali, New York City Municipal Archives, New York Public Library, and Wikimedia Commons