

# Walking Tour of Medical Heritage Sites: Uptown on June 17, 2017

Sponsored by Friends of the Rare Book Room of the New York Academy of Medicine

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## 1. Meet in lobby of the New York Academy of Medicine to check in and receive handout.

*Restrooms are available. (10 min.)*

### Explain background and intentions for any who did not attend the lecture.

Note historic design features in the lobby and the entrance. Look into Hosack Hall, the auditorium, if the doors are open.

The building of the **New York Academy of Medicine** (York and Sawyer, 1926, Byzantine and Romanesque revival style). Lunette above entrance features Asclepius and his daughter Hygeia, with Galen and Hippocrates on the sides. Beamed and painted ceilings in lobby and main reading room with plants and animals important to medicine. Lobby's marble floor is inlaid with bronze animals and plants.

The building was expanded in 1932 by adding floors to the east above the auditorium.

## 2. Cross 5th Avenue and walk up 5th to above 105th St. (3 min.)

*Notice en route:*

- **Museum of the City of New York**, 1220 Fifth between 103rd and 104th. (Joseph Freedlander, 1928-1930; new pavilion by Polshek Partnership, 2008). Neo-Georgian style. Prior to moving here, the Museum had been in Gracie Mansion.
- **El Museo del Barrio** 1230 Fifth Avenue bet. 104th and 105th (1922 as the Heckscher Foundation for Children). El Museo moved into part of the building in 1977, with alterations for an expanded museum, including new courtyard, 2004 by Gruzen Samton.
- **Conservatory Garden** of Central Park.

## 3. Remarks on the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center (2 min.).

Between 105th and 106th Streets, formerly called the Flower Fifth Avenue hospital. Built in 1921 as Fifth Avenue Hospital by York and Sawyer, the same firm that designed the NYAM a few year later in an entirely different style. (Two floor plans attached below.)

Floor plan in the shape of a X stretched sideways. By a merger, later renamed Flower Fifth and then associated with New York Medical College before the college moved out to the suburbs. In 1978 the hospital closed, and in time it became a nursing home of the Catholic Archdiocese. A few years later it was named to honor Terence Cardinal Cooke. Currently part of the Archcare health system.

This was an unusual hospital design with only private rooms and no wards at all. Floor plans on p. 4 show that each wing has a single corridor with rooms along the exterior walls. Facilities were clustered at the core. Upper floors are a simple X, but this is the first floor with crossbars added for private doctors' offices. The filled in sections and the boxy endings of the arms of the X make it hard to see the building's true shape from the street.

## 4. Look NW across park to see tall glass building, our next site. Walk up 5th on the park side and turn left at 110th, continuing west along 110th for one long block to Malcolm X Blvd. Cross it and gather at the benches on the SW corner. (8 min.)

*Notice en route:*

- This body of water in the Park is **the Harlem Meer**. The old boathouse is now the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center, an environmental center that lends fishing equipment for catch and release.

- **Lincoln Correctional Facility** at 31-33 West 110th St. across the street, a minimum-security prison. Originally **Young Women's Hebrew Association (YWHA)** branch that housed immigrant women from 1914 to 1942. Then used by the US Army, then the experimental New Lincoln School, then the **Northside Center for Child Development**. This center was operated by Dr. Kenneth Clark, a professor of psychology at City College, and his wife, Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark. Their findings on the negative effects of segregated schooling played a role in the famous Supreme Court Decision of *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* (1954).
- **Look back across the Park's corner** toward the Cardinal Cooke Center, the Academy, and the buildings of Mt. Sinai Medical Center.

5. Remarks on the former **Parkway Hospital** (1929), 31-33 Cathedral Parkway or 123 W. 110th St., on the uptown side, and its new addition. We see the façade up-close later. **(2 min.)**  
This small, private hospital opened in 1929 on Cathedral Parkway. In an era when skyscrapers were taking over the design of hospitals, Parkway had only seven floors and about 70 patients. Later it was called the Italian Hospital (1950s), then Cabrini (1978). It was closed about 2008.

6. Cross 110th and go down into a narrow subway station, noticing mosaics in the stairwell. Keep to right and take any uptown train #2 or #3 (5-minute trip, once it arrives, 3 stops). **(Allow 15 min.)**

7. Get off at 135th St., walking uptown on the platform for the stairs to the NE corner. Brief remarks. **Harlem Hospital** (1887) moved to this site in 1907. **(2 min.)**  
Notice the new Mural Pavilion's façade that extends to 137th St. (There is no 136th St. here.)  
The Mural Pavilion opened in 2012. Designed by the HOK architecture firm working with Harlem-based architect Jack Travis. (HOK is Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum.)  
The 195,000-square-foot facility connects the Martin Luther King Jr. Pavilion and the Ronald H. Brown Ambulatory Care Pavilion to create one integrated campus for the 286-bed Harlem Hospital Center. To build this, they demolished the old and new nurses' residences and the women's pavilion.  
To the right of the Mural Pavilion is the older Martin Luther King Jr. Pavilion that runs from 135th St. to where 136th St. would be. This 1965 building's entrance features a cast bronze sculpture by John Rhoden, "Untitled (Family)" over the entrance.

8. Enter the Mural **Pavilion** to look at New Deal Murals with introduction by a hospital staff member. Time to look at paintings on your own. *Restrooms available*. **(15 min. total)**  
The four artists who created **murals sponsored by the New Deal** at Harlem Hospital were:  
Charles Alston, *Magic in Medicine* and *Modern Medicine* (two tall panels, h 17 ft. x w 7 ft.).  
Alfred D. Crimi, *Modern Surgery and Anesthesia* (one tall panel, h 26 ft. x w 15 ft.).  
Vertis Hayes, *The Pursuit of Happiness* (a series of panels, six are h 8 ft. x w 16 ft.; one is 9 x 8 ft.; two archways are also 9 x 8 ft.).  
Georgette Seabrook, *Recreation in Harlem* (one long panel, restoration still in progress, mounted on the south wall of the main lobby, not inside the gallery, 108 sq. ft.).

9. Walk back down to the corner to cross the boulevard. Before entering the subway: look back at the Murals Pavilion, and also take note of the modern building of the **Schomburg Branch of the New York Public Library** (built and expanded in stages: 1969-80 by

Bond Ryder Associates; 1991 link by Davis Brody Bond; 2007 renovation by Dattner Architects). Also notice that the library's original building around the corner on 135th St. is a typical "Carnegie Library" of 1903-1905 in Italian Renaissance palazzo style by McKim Mead and White. **(5 min.)**

**10.** Descend to the **downtown** platform. While waiting for the train, take notice of the historical figures portrayed in the mosaic murals on both platforms. Take train back to 110th St. at Malcolm X Blvd. (5-minute ride on #2 or #3, 3 stops). **(Allow 15 min. for waiting.)**

**11.** Exit and turn west. Look at the **Parkway Hospital** and the building that surrounds it. Continue west for one long block to Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd. Cross 110th St, then walk the park's drive toward the SW. Be careful crossing the two-way bicycle lanes to use the two-way walking lanes. Proceed up a slight hill, and at the top take a pedestrian path heading down to 106th St. and Central Park West. Gather at benches on the park side, facing west along the unusually wide 106th St. **(10 min.)**

**12.** Remarks about the former **Cancer Hospital (5 min.)**

This former Cancer Hospital is possibly the city's oldest intact hospital structure. It is now an apartment complex, 455 Central Park West.

The initial section for women (1887) was in the NE corner. In 1890, the southern pavilions in the towers were added. All by Charles C. Haight. The design has some resemblance to the Chateau du Lude and to the Chateau Chambord, though many details are in English-Gothic rather than French-Renaissance style.

Early on, the institution was re-named Memorial Hospital. It was later re-located to the Upper East Side in 1939, and in time it came to be known as Memorial Sloan Kettering. This building was sold to a developer in 1949. From the 1950s to 1974, it was the Towers Nursing Home, which closed in a scandal, and the operator went to jail. Although declared a landmark in 1976, the building sat abandoned for over twenty-five years. Note the large chapel, which has become a living room.

Early in this century, a developer renovated the building into 17 apartments and erected a tower with 83 more units. The historic-preservation remodeling and the tower (2001) are by RKTB Architects P.C. (i.e. Rothzeld Kaiserman Thomson and Bee).

**13.** Walk around to see all three sides of the building **(5 min.)**

**14. End of tour at 2:30.**

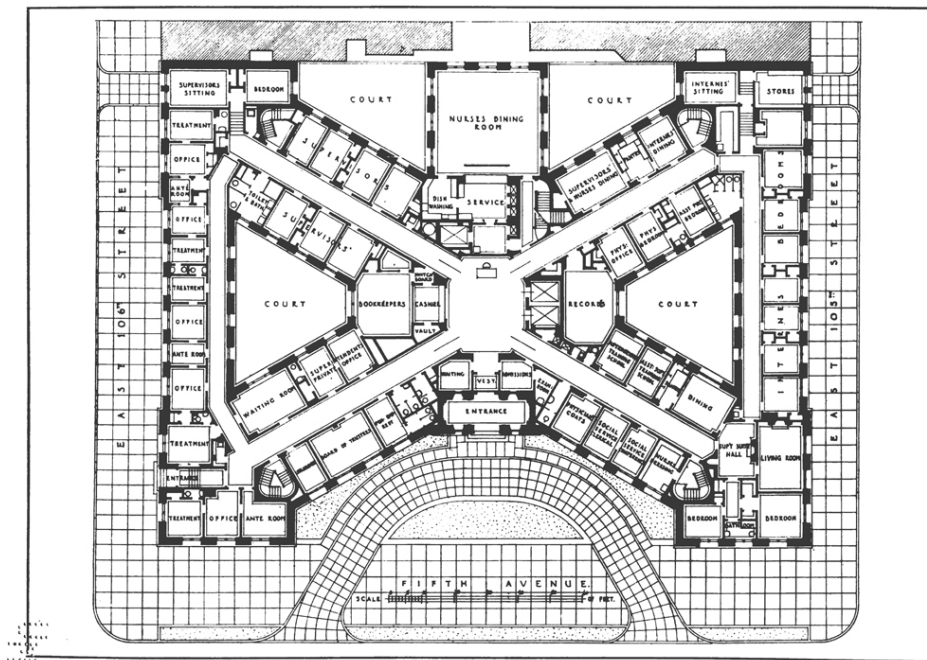
#### **Individual options after we disperse.**

*Restrooms are available* at the Bloomingdale Branch of the NYPL on 100th between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues.

Stations for the **#1 train** on the Broadway-7th Ave Line are on Bway at 103rd and 110th. For **C and B trains** on the 8th Avenue Line, enter on CPW at 103rd or 110th.

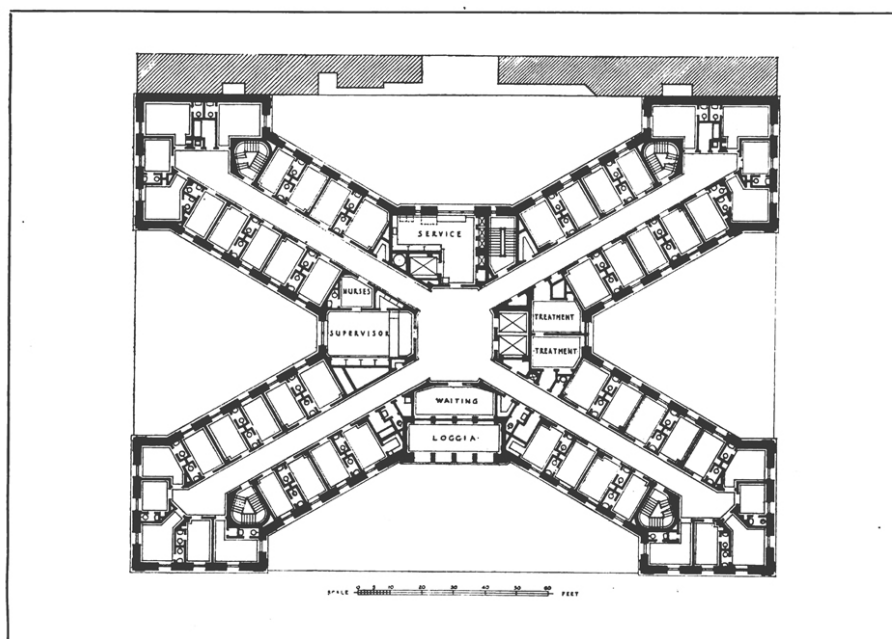
Walk to look at **St. Luke's Hospital** on 113th St., between Morningside Drive and Amsterdam. The Plant and Scrymser Pavilions at 401 W. 113th and 400 W. 114th (Ernest Flagg, 1904-1906 and 1926-1928). The pavilions to the west of these along Amsterdam Ave. were later replaced by modern buildings. Also they removed the original dome, but not its drum.

Walk to Columbia University campus, entering on Amsterdam at 116th to see the **Macy Villa** (Columbia's Buell Hall), **built in 1885** as part of the Bloomingdale Asylum.



THE FIFTH AVENUE HOSPITAL (FIRST FLOOR), NEW YORK CITY

YORK &amp; SAWYER, ARCHITECTS



THE FIFTH AVENUE HOSPITAL (FOURTH AND FIFTH FLOORS), NEW YORK CITY

YORK &amp; SAWYER, ARCHITECTS

## FINDING HEALTH CARE'S HISTORICAL SITES AND SIGHTS: NYC AND FARTHER AFIELD

Bert Hansen PhD, May 11, 2017, lecture at NYAM

### Just for New York City

*AIA (American Institute of Architects) Guide to New York City* by Norval White and Elliot Willensky with Fran Leadon, 5th ed. (2010).

Daytonian blog posts at <http://daytoninmanhattan.blogspot.com/> some of which the author compiled into a book, *Seeking New York: The Stories behind the Historic Architecture of Manhattan—One Building at a Time* (Universe, 2015) by Tom Miller.

Himetop, or History of Medicine Topographical Database. For New York City at

<http://himetop.wikidot.com/new-york>

Living New Deal, NYC panel at Museum of the City of New York, May 18, 2017.

<http://www.mcny.org/newdeal> .

New York Songlines: Virtual Walking Tours of Manhattan Streets at <http://www.nysonglines.com/> .

Open House NY, October 14-15, 2017. See <http://www.ohny.org/weekend/overview>

“Streetscapes” columns in the *NY Times* by Christopher Gray, such as “A Stroll along Bedpan Alley,” June 3, 2010.

Wikipedia list of New York City hospitals (with a long list of closed hospitals)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_hospitals\\_in\\_New\\_York\\_City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_hospitals_in_New_York_City)

### Neighboring Areas

*Philadelphia Medica: Being a Guide to the City's Historical Places of Health Interest* by John Francis Marion (SmithKline Corporation, 1975).

*Pictures of Health: A Photographic History of Health Care in Philadelphia, 1860-1945* by Janet Golden and Charles E. Rosenberg (U. Penn. Press, 1991).

*A State of Health: New Jersey's Medical Heritage* by Karen Reeds (Rutgers U. Press, 2001).

### National and International

*Medical LandmarksUSA: A Travel Guide* by Martin R. Lipp (McGraw-Hill, 1991), NYC pp. 102-150.

*Pharmacy Museums and Historical Collections in the United States and Canada* by George Griffenhagen and Ernst W. Stieb (Amer. Inst. of the Hist. of Pharmacy, 1988).

*The Scientific Traveler: A Guide to the People, Places, and Institutions of Europe* by Charles Tanford and Jacqueline Reynolds (Wiley, 1992).

*Walking London's Medical History* by Nick Black (Royal Society of Medicine Press, 2006).

### Historical Background

*Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital* by David Oshinsky (Penguin/Random House, 2016).

*The Care of Strangers: The Rise of America's Hospital System* by Charles E. Rosenberg (Basic Books, 1987).

“The Design of Reform: The Public Bath Movement in America” by David Glassberg in *American Studies* 20:2 (Fall 1979), 5-21.

*In Sickness and in Wealth: American Hospitals in the Twentieth Century* by Rosemary Stevens (Hopkins U. Press, 1999).

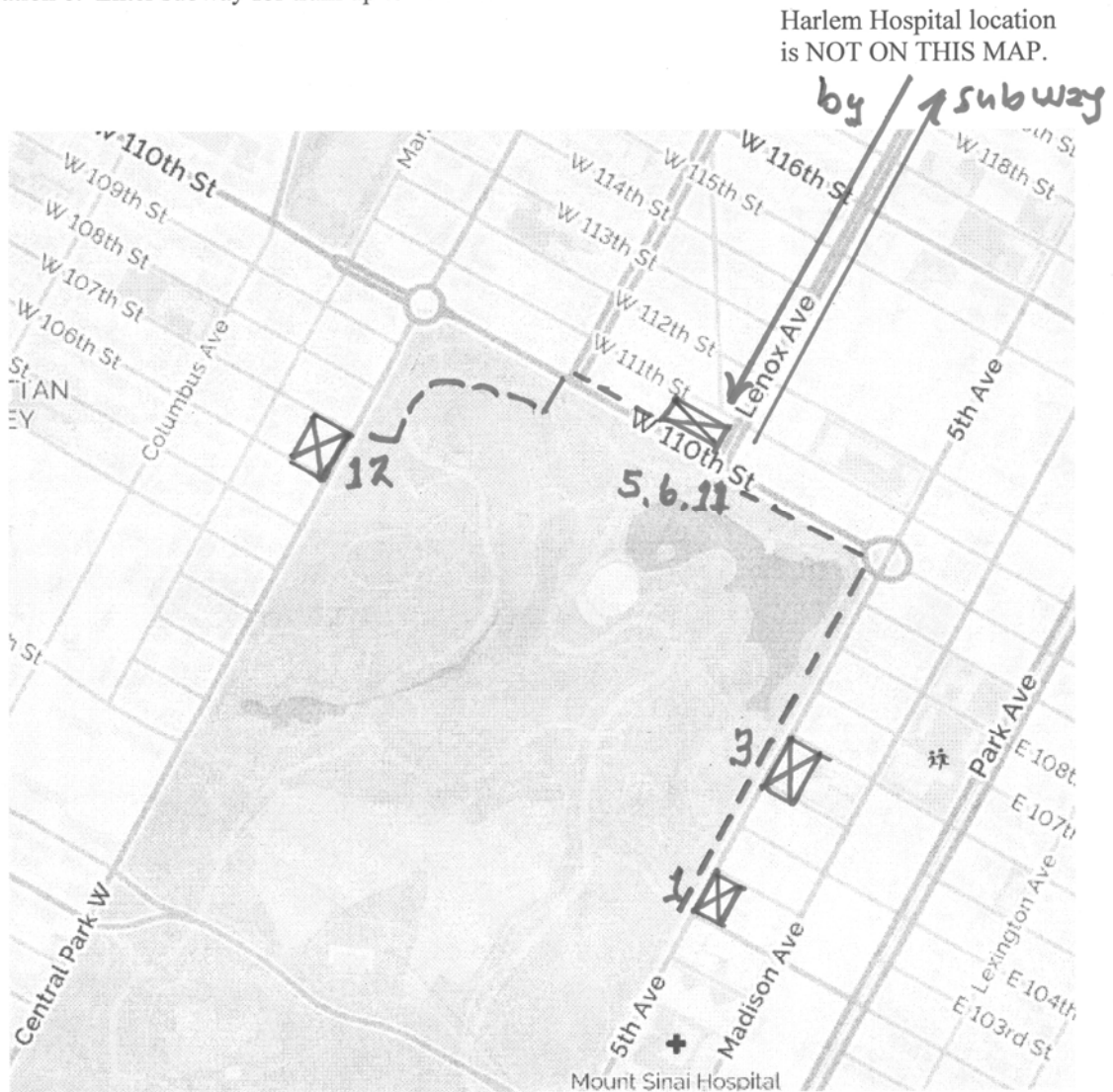
*The Rise of the Modern Hospital: An Architectural History of Health and Healing, 1870-1940* by Jeanne Kisacky (U. Pitt. Press, 2017).

“Social Class and Medical Care in Nineteenth-Century America: The Rise and Fall of the Dispensary” by Charles E. Rosenberg in *J Hist Med Allied Sci* 29:1 (January 1974), 32-54.

*The Social Transformation of American Medicine* by Paul Starr (Basic Books, 1982).

## MAP OF UPTOWN WALK (June 17, 2017)

- Location 1. New York Academy of Medicine on 103rd St. at 5th Ave.  
Location 3. Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center, formerly Flower Fifth Ave. Hosp.  
Location 5. Former Parkway Hospital.  
Location 6. Enter subway for train up to 135th St.



- Location 11. Parkway Hospital for a closer look. Walk west on 110th and then walk the roadway through the corner of Central Park, emerging at 107th St.  
Location 12. 455 Central Park West, formerly Cancer Hospital. END OF GROUP WALK.

Nearby subway entrances are listed on p. 3.

Restrooms are available at Bloomingdale Branch of NYPL on 100th St., bet. Columbus and Amsterdam. See p. 3 for two optional destinations within walking distance: St. Luke's Hospital and the Macy Villa.