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Return to New York City (Y16A-2)

My return to New York continued, as my explorations took me beyond Lower Manhattan and Coney Island during the second half of my visit.



Marilyn Monroe's skirt billowed up when she stood over this subway grate on Lexington Avenue in *The Seven Year Itch*. I cropped this picture so you wouldn't see my shorts billowing up. I'm bashful, after all.

Wednesday I finished up my sightseeing in Lower Manhattan, followed by the Lower East Side as I walked north towards where I was staying.



A Statue of Liberty – one of many you'll see in New York City.



George Washington's Pew, St. Paul's Chapel



The South Street Seaport



Old warehouse district is a historical neighborhood at the South Street Seaport.



When New York City was a small settlement confined to the south end of Manhattan, the “Negroes Burial Ground” was outside of town to the north. As many as 15,000 people were buried at that cemetery. After it was closed in 1794, the cemetery itself was buried under 25 feet of fill, and the area was eventually developed and then redeveloped. Long forgotten, the burial ground was rediscovered in 1991, now near City Hall and other government buildings. A small amount of open land was set aside as the African Burial Ground National Monument. Remains found in the area were reburied at this site, and a memorial was built at the site. Historical markers and maps provide educational information about the burial ground and the history of this part of the city.



I walked through Chinatown...



... en route to Mulberry Street and Little Italy, where I had lunch. The neighborhood used to be densely populated by Italians, but today most of the Italians are gone. The surviving Italian restaurants and handful of shops are now more tourist attraction than heart of an Italian community.



Caffe Palermo claims to have sell the “Best Cannoli on Planet Earth”. I figured I’d put it to the test. Not that I know much about cannolis. But it certainly was good.



If pickles are more your thing, The Pickle Guys are just to the east.



The Lower East Side was a common initial destination for NYC immigrants, and its overcrowded tenements at one time made this the most densely populated area on the planet. The Lower East Side Tenement Museum occupies a 5-story tenement building, and tells the story of the neighborhood and the people who passed through here.



The headquarters of Hells Angels in NYC



Colonnade Row is a series of row houses that dates back to the 1830s. It was built for the John Jacob Astor and Cornelius Vanderbilt families. Former first lady Julia Gardiner Tyler and writer Washington Irving were past residents.



A sculpture at Madison Square Park – not Madison Square Garden. Last time I was here I watch the filming of a scene for a Spiderman movie. Not long before this visit, Hillary Clinton stopped nearby when she dropped in at daughter Chelsea’s apartment for some air conditioning and hydration.



The Flatiron Building, recognizable to anyone who’s watched a lot of New York-set TV shows.

Thursday was overcast, so I did my overcast options today. First was a Circle Line cruise that traveled around the entire island of Manhattan. I followed that with a visit to the Intrepid Air Craft Carrier, which is home to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

From the cruise...



The Statue of Liberty



Ellis Island



The United Nations headquarters (left) and Grants Tomb (right)



On the Hudson River nearing the end of our 3-hour tour. The Empire State Building pops in and out of view here as we head south. But according to the tour narrator, there's so much construction in Manhattan along the Hudson going on now that in a few years you won't be able to see the Empire State Building at all from this part of the river.

Aboard the Intrepid





I wonder if they'll let me take the Intrepid out for a spin?

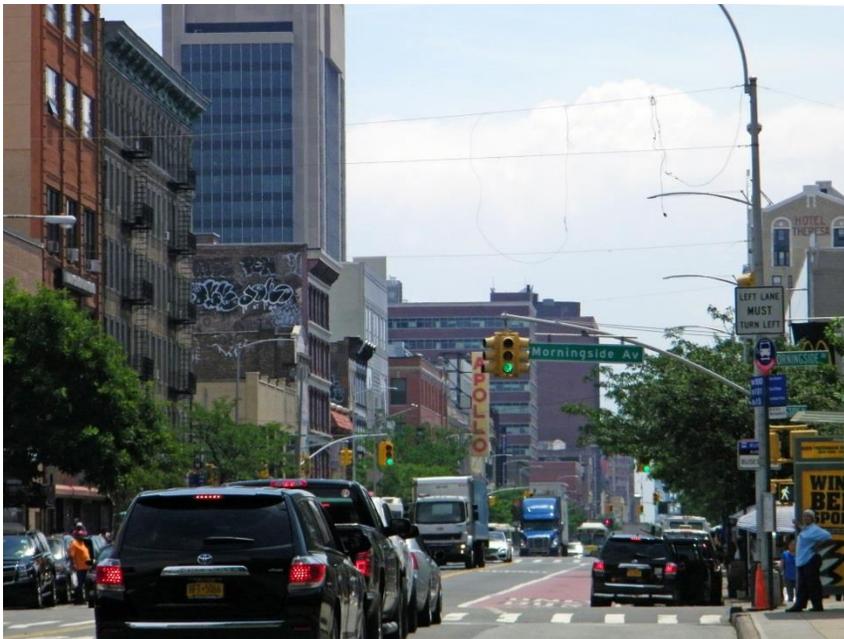
Friday I took the subway north to 145th, and from there I started walking south.



My first stop was Hamilton Grange National Memorial, the one-time home of Alexander Hamilton. I've been to the house before – it was about to be relocated when I stopped there a second time in 2006. Here the house is at its now-not-so-new location on 141st Street.



I continued south along St. Nicholas Avenue through Harlem. Nice use of old bath tubs as small gardens.



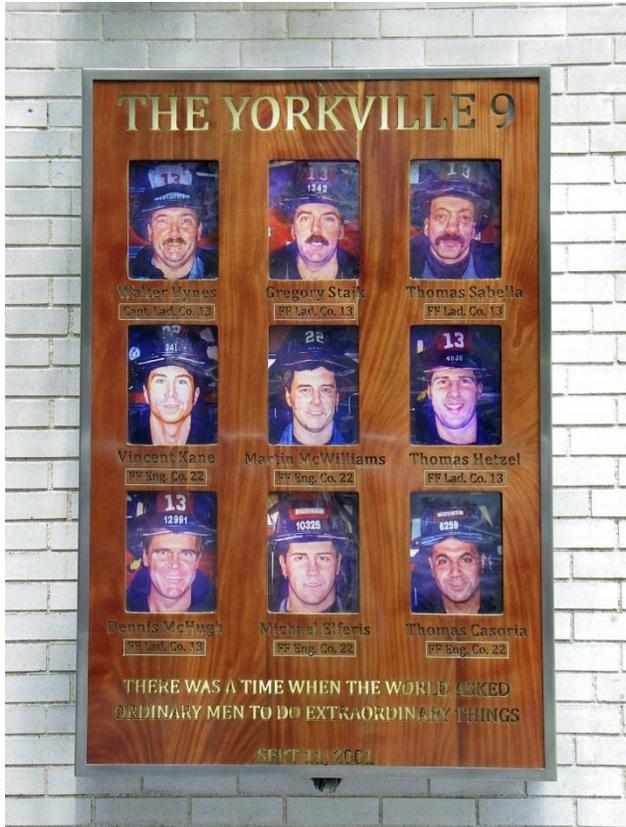
125th St – now co-named Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd – is essentially downtown Harlem. I first visited Harlem and 125th St in 1996, but it seems to have lost a lot of its character since I was last here in 2006.



The Apollo Theater is still active, however. Built in 1914, it was renamed the Apollo in the 1930s when the formerly whites-only theater was opened to African-Americans. Beginning with the Harlem Renaissance, a who's who of African-American musicians and entertainers have performed here, and more than a few got their start here. Performances continue, and the theater is also home to the Apollo Theater Legends Hall of Fame.

Here's a little-known New York City geological tidbit. There's a fault that runs from the East River to New Jersey that follows 125th Street through Harlem. Known as the 125th Street Fault, it is responsible for the valley to the west of downtown Harlem – the valley crossed by the raised train trestle bridge and raised Riverside Drive. It is believed that this fault caused a magnitude 5.2 earthquake in the 1730s.

After checking out Harlem and getting lunch there, I continued south, bouncing back and forth between Madison Avenue. Park Avenue and Lexington Avenue as I picked off various photo stops on my list, many of which were buildings whose exteriors were featured on TV as homes for the likes of *The Jeffersons* and *The Odd Couple*.



A fire station on 85th Street. A number of fire stations I came across in my explorations of the city had similar signs honoring the memory of firefighters from the stations lost at the World Trade Center.



Along Park Avenue



Finishing touches on the rather nifty Art Deco style General Electric Building on Lexington.



Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site – still closed for renovations. I think that every time I've tried to visit this place over the years it's been closed for renovations or repainting. It reportedly reopens this October.

On Saturday I focused on Central Park and the Museum of City of New York. I took a subway up to 110th Street, the north edge of Central Park, and worked my way south.



Harlem Meer (the lake) and some hills that were once home to some British forts along what was once a country road that connected the settlements at the south end of Manhattan to the then distant Bronx.



Inside the Museum of the City of New York. The sign was right about the stairwell. I'd tell you what made it so exciting, but I've been sworn to secrecy.



The view south across the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Reservoir towards the Midtown skyline



Central Park is Manhattan's backyard, especially popular on warm, sunny, summer weekends.

Sunday was my leftovers day as I was returning to Las Vegas on Monday. But most of my leftovers were museums, and I didn't want to spend a nice day mostly inside. So I checked out a local festival in Chelsea and then walked around for a while.



The flagship Macy's store – the world's largest department store until 2009 when a South Korean store took the title.



The Empire State Building is just down the street from Macy's. I skipped it this time as I had already been to its top a few times, and I visited both the top of Rockefeller Center and the Freedom Tower on this trip.



I had initially considered checking out The National Museum of Mathematics, but I dropped those plans. Apparently it's not as interesting as the name suggests. Reviews indicate that it's essentially a bunch of kid-oriented basic science "hands on" exhibits.



Alas, no "hands on" exhibits around the corner at the Museum of Sex.



Lake Mead at Hoover Dam, near the end of my flight home.

The so-called white “bath tub ring” around Lake Mead is more than 100 feet tall, as the lake’s water level is at near record lows.