

Big Apple Greeter welcomes you to New York City!



bigapplegreeter.org



The Big Apple Greeter Guide to

Hamilton Heights

NAMED FOR FOUNDING FATHER AND LOCAL RESIDENT ALEXANDER HAMILTON,

Hamilton Heights has long been an important part of City history. This western section of Harlem contains numerous landmarked buildings and churches, as well as blocks of historical row houses along tree lined streets.

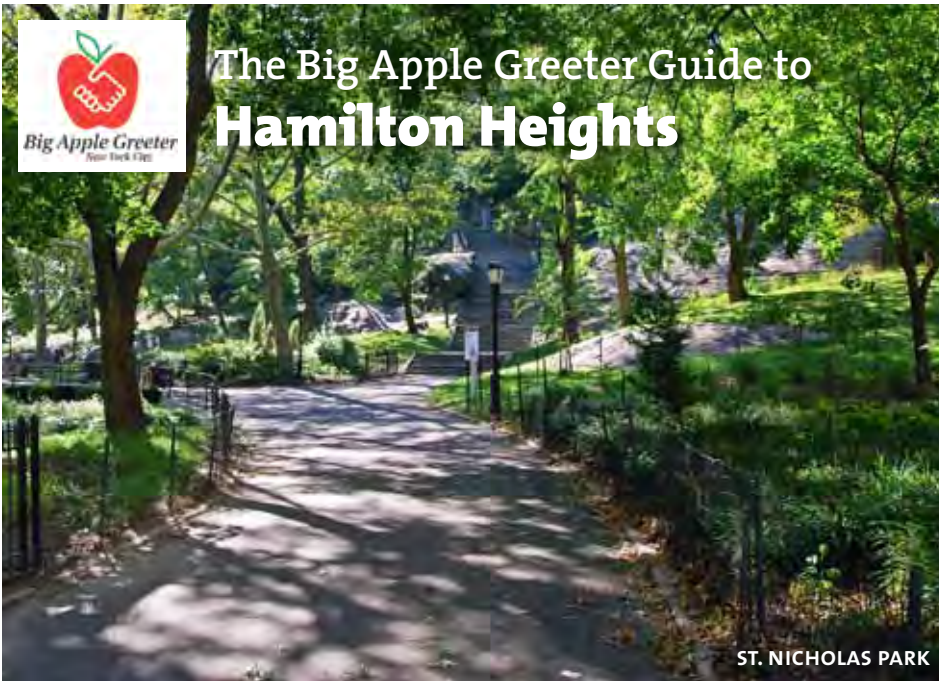
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The Big Apple Greeter Guide to Hamilton Heights



ST. NICHOLAS PARK



LIMESTONE ROW HOUSES

Where is Hamilton Heights?

Located in northern Manhattan, Hamilton Heights lies between W. 135th and W. 155th Streets to the south and north and between Edgecombe Avenue and the Hudson River to the east and west.

About Hamilton Heights

The Battle of Harlem Heights gave George Washington and the Continental Army their first battlefield victory against the British near what is now W. 145th Street. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, local gentry built their country estates in the area. When the IRT subway line opened in 1904, the estates were sold and sub-divided into brownstone and limestone row houses in a variety of styles. Early residents included artist Norman Rockwell and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein. George Gershwin wrote his first hit song *Swanee* at his home on W. 144th Street in 1919. When the Harlem Renaissance was in full swing, residents included W.E.B. DuBois, founder of the NAACP, and Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American U.S. Supreme Court Justice, who lived at 409 Edgecombe Avenue and musicians Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Lena Horne, who lived at 555 Edgecombe Avenue.



ST. LUKE'S

It's Easy to Get to Hamilton Heights

M BY SUBWAY: **A, B** or **C** trains to 135th Street, 145th Street or 155th Street. **D** train to 145th Street or 155th Street. **1** train to 137th Street or 145th Street.

BY BUS: Bus lines that service Hamilton Heights include the **M3, M4, M5, M11, M18, M100, M101, Bx6, Bx19** and **Bx33**.

Things to See and Do in Hamilton Heights

1 ST. NICHOLAS PARK at St. Nicholas Avenue between W. 128th and W. 141st Streets was built in 1906 on a rugged mass

of rock, following the irregular topography of northern Manhattan, and features walking trails, gardens and picnic areas. To learn more, see their website at stnicholaspark.org.

2 HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL within St. Nicholas Park facing W. 141st Street was home to Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, who commissioned the two-story wooden clapboard house. Completed in 1802, it was named "The Grange" after the family's ancestral home in Scotland. To learn more, see the website at nps.gov/hagr/index.htm.

GREETER'S SECRET
W. 145th to W. 155th Streets between Amsterdam and Edgecombe Avenues is known as Sugar Hill. The name originated in the 1920s, when the Harlem Renaissance attracted affluent, professional African-Americans to the "sweet life" they would find there.



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HAMILTON GRANGE



RIVERSIDE PARK

3 CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK at Convent Avenue between W. 130th and W. 141st Streets is filled with landmarked buildings constructed of Manhattan schist, the stone that was excavated from the construction site and the nearby subway construction. The buildings are decorated with hundreds of gargoyles and grotesque figures protruding from every cornice and archway. Ranging from a few inches to nine feet tall, the figures are related to each building's academic function. Most are reading books, but the ones decorating the gym are lifting weights.

4 ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH at 435 W. 141st Street between Convent Avenue and Hamilton Terrace is a lovely 1892 church with a wide porch decorated with a series of half-round arches. Architectural historian Andrew Dolkart called its rear façade "one of the most powerful architectural statements in New York."

5 HAMILTON TERRACE is a semi-private street with no intersections between W. 141st and W. 144th Streets. Most of the lovely town houses date from 1890s, except #51, a Georgian Revival house built in 1909.

6 Hamilton Place intersects Amsterdam Avenue at a small triangle near W. 143rd Street called **JOHNNY HARTMAN PLAZA**, dedicated to the jazz singer famous for romantic

ballads like *Lush Life*. The park features a vintage cast iron street lamp, with a large base and two lamps rather than one.

7 OUR LADY OF LOURDES at 472 W 142nd Street between Amsterdam and Convent Avenues was completed in 1904 incorporating salvage from three famous 19th century buildings—the National Academy of Design, St. Patrick's Cathedral and the A.T. Stewart mansion. Considered one of the most eccentric Catholic churches in New York, it is a designated city landmark.

8 CONVENT AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH at 420 W. 145th Street at Convent Avenue was built in 1897. Blocks of white marble alternate with stone to form a checkerboard effect. The church holds an annual commemoration of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose last public appearance in New York was held here in March 1968, days before his assassination. To learn more, see their website at conventchurch.org.

9 28-acre **RIVERBANK STATE PARK** stretches from W. 137th to W. 145th Streets between Riverside Drive and the Hudson River. This multi-level landscaped recreational facility rises 69 feet above the Hudson River with spectacular views of the New Jersey Palisades and the George Washington Bridge. To learn more, see the website at nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/93/details.aspx.



CITY COLLEGE



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TRINITY CEMETERY



GLOBETRIPPIN COFFEEHOUSE

10 RIVERSIDE PARK runs the length of Hamilton Heights between Riverside Drive and the Hudson River. Designed by famed duo Olmstead and Vaux, it is filled with tree-lined drives and rock outcroppings. Within, at W. 150th Street, is a memorial honoring author **RALPH ELLISON**, who lived and worked nearby. The cut-out silhouette of a striding man on the 15 foot high by 7½ foot wide rectangular bronze slab is a literal allusion to Ellison's groundbreaking 1952 novel, *Invisible Man*. To learn more about the park, see the website at nycgovparks.org/sub_your_park/vt_riverside_park/vt_riverside_park.html.

11 BAILEY MANSION at 10 St. Nicholas Place at W. 150th Street was built in 1888 by James Bailey, circus entrepreneur and partner of Phineas T. Barnum. The 12-bedroom stone house has gables, turrets and a spacious back garden. The house boasts animal-themed stained-glass windows designed by Joseph Burr Tiffany.

12 TRINITY CEMETERY AND MAUSOLEUM straddles Broadway between 153rd and 155th Streets on land that was purchased by Trinity Church near Wall Street from John James Audubon, the naturalist and artist. Created in 1842, it is the largest cemetery in Manhattan and sits on one of the highest hills in the area. Famous people buried here include Audubon, Alfred Tennyson Dickens, son of Charles Dickens, John Jacob Astor and beloved local actor Jerry Orbach.

13 On the east side of Broadway at W. 155th Street is the **CHURCH OF THE INTERCESSION**. Built in 1914, this landmark Gothic revival church houses one of the only cloisters in North America.

Shopping

14 HARLEM TEXTILE WORKS at 1677 Amsterdam Avenue at W. 143rd Street offers classes in silk screening and a shop with lovely hand printed fabrics. To learn more, see their website at harlemtextileworks.org.

15 SWEET CHEF SOUTHERN STYLE BAKERY at 122 Hamilton Place between W. 141st and W. 142nd Streets is famous for its pecan and sweet potato pies in all sizes. Be sure to sample the coconut pecan cookies.

16 GLOBETRIPPIN COFFEEHOUSE-BOOKSTORE at 1689 Amsterdam Avenue near W. 143rd Street is a cozy store featuring a thoughtful selection of books. Coffee and an assortment of food and baked goods are all made and served by owner Georgia Scott.

When It's Time to Eat

17 COVO TRATTORIA PIZZERIA at 701 W. 135th Street at 12th Avenue is housed in a former railroad station. Known for its warm, welcoming atmosphere and delicious pastas and individual pizzas, it is open for lunch and dinner 7 days a week. To learn more, see their website at covony.com.

GREETER'S SECRET
Church of the Intercession hosts the annual Clement Clarke Moore festival, the oldest continuing Christmas tradition in New York. On the last Sunday in Advent, participants read Moore's poem *A Visit from Saint Nicholas* and then visit his nearby grave in Trinity Cemetery.





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RIVERBANK PARK



ST. NICK'S JAZZ PUB

18   **TONALLI CAFE & BAR** at 3628 Broadway near W. 150th Street is a charming spot with a friendly wait staff and good casual dining. To learn more, see the website at tonallicafebar.com.

19  **TRUFA** at 3431 Broadway near W. 140th Street is a cozy cafe that serves international plates using only organic ingredients. Be sure to try the desserts. To learn more, see the website at trufarestaurant.com.

Culture

20 **AARON DAVIS HALL** located on the south campus of City College between W. 133rd and W. 135th Streets on Convent Avenue has hosted the City Opera, Alvin Ailey Dance Company and the Boys Choir of Harlem. To learn more about performance schedules, see the website at cny.cuny.edu/aboutus/campus/aarondavisoo.htm.

21 **135TH STREET GATEHOUSE** at 150 Convent Avenue was built in 1890 to regulate flow from the Croton Aqueduct system, a complex water distribution system that ran along present day Amsterdam Avenue. The granite and brownstone gatehouse was designated a New York City landmark in 1981 and has recently been transformed into the **HARLEM STAGE AT THE GATEHOUSE**, a state-of-the-art home for musical, dance and theatrical performances as well as films. To learn more about performance schedules, see their website at harlemstage.org.

22 **ST. NICK'S JAZZ PUB** at 773 St. Nicholas Avenue at W. 149th Street is the oldest continuously operating jazz club in Harlem. It's hardly changed since 1940, when it was called Lucky's Rendezvous and owned by Duke Ellington's piano player, Lucky Roberts. The club features live jazz 7 nights a week. To learn more, see their website at stnicksjazzpub.net.

GREETER'S SECRET
Learn more about
Hamilton Heights
by checking
the website at
westharlemcpo.org

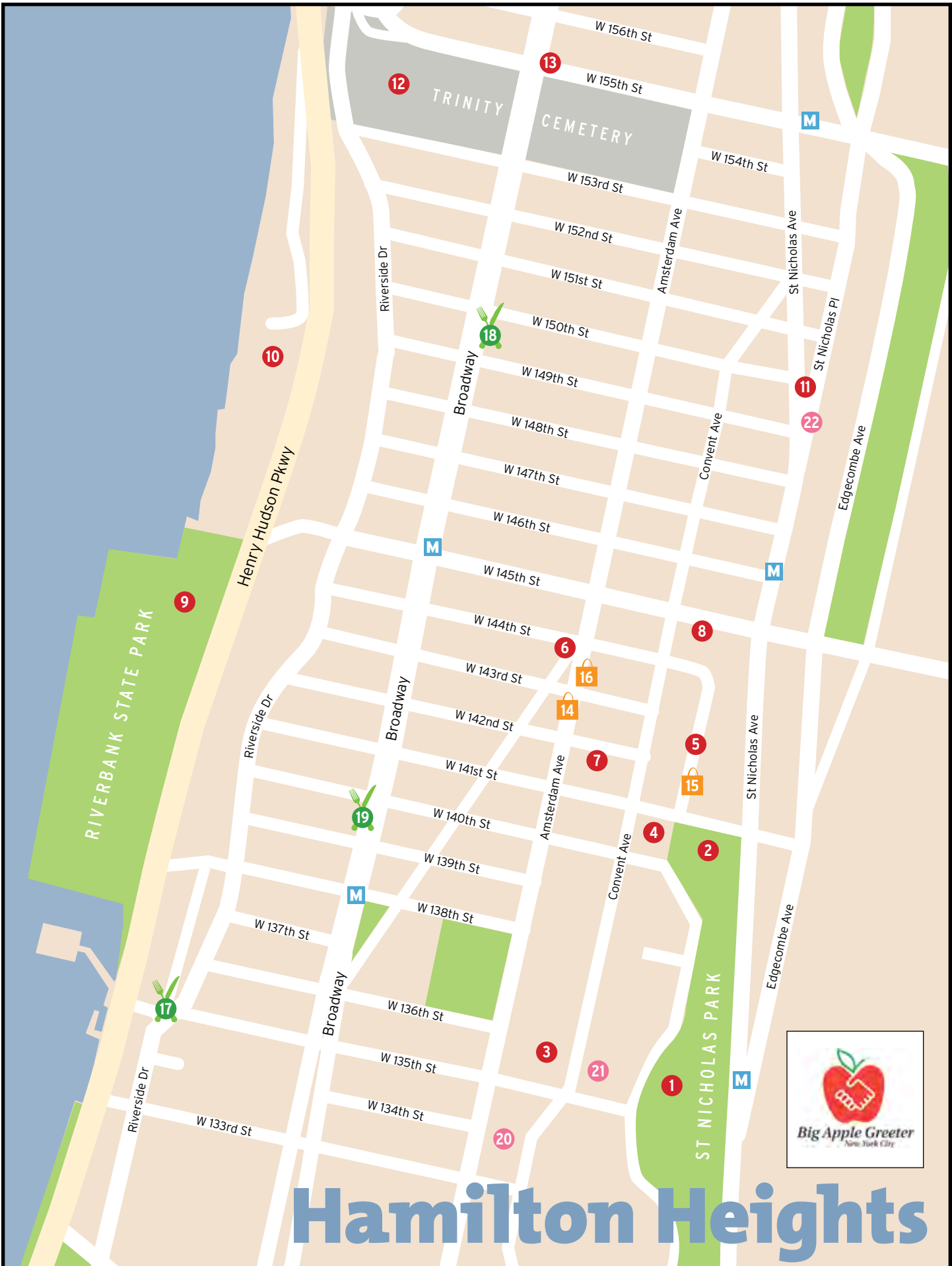
About Big Apple Greeter

Founded in 1992, Big Apple Greeter's mission is to enhance New York City's worldwide image while enriching the city experience for its visitors. Connecting with business and leisure travelers from all over the US and the world, Greeters take visitors on informal, unscripted walks through one or more neighborhoods in any of the five boroughs, promote tourism throughout the city, and help visitors discover the ease of using public transportation. Over 300 volunteer Greeters speak collectively almost 25 languages and enjoy giving their time and energy back to their hometown. Since its founding, Big Apple Greeter — a free public service — has welcomed nearly 100,000 visitors and been featured in thousands of newspapers, magazines, and television and radio programs all over the world, reaching an audience of over one billion potential visitors to New York City. Big Apple Greeter is proud to partner with NYC & Company, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Metro New York.



Big Apple Greeter is a proud member of the **Global Greeter Network**, operating on five continents, including North America, South America, Australia, Europe and Asia. Click on the link to find a Greeter program where you are traveling next: globalgreeternetwork.info/

You may learn more about Big Apple Greeter and its many services on our website: bigapplegreeter.org or by emailing us at information@bigapplegreeter.org



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