

# HARLEM

Founded in the 17th century as a Dutch military outpost, Harlem has been a farming village, revolutionary battlefield, industrial suburb, commuter town, symbol of urban decay, and world-renowned center of African-American culture, from Langston Hughes to Dizzie Gillespie. Its gorgeous housing stock—brownstone and limestone facades, mansard roofs, gables and gargoyles on tree-lined streets—had been revived from a years-long slumber to take its place among one of the most desirable areas in Manhattan.

What is referred to as Harlem covers a large geographic area comprised of West Harlem, Central Harlem and East Harlem, each with their own distinctive history and characteristics.

Interested in a brownstone in Harlem? Iconic Central Harlem was formed around the historic landmarked Mount Morris Park District. This area is known for beautiful tree line blocks. Harlem brownstones here were built around the 1900s. Over the past few decades many of these homes have been exquisitely restored.

Homes for sale in Harlem NY include condos, of course. A number of condos in Harlem have been built on empty lots; some blending seamlessly into the historic backdrops while others are more striking glass and steel monoliths. The combination of wide boulevards with planted malls and zoning restrictions, keeping most buildings under 12 stories tall, along with wide sidewalks, creates a greater sense of space and ease than other congested parts of the city. It is even noticeably cooler in the summer months than it might be in Midtown.

Central Harlem is known for its magnificent, historic churches drawing international tourists year-round for Sunday gospel sermons. Mount Olivet Baptist Church is a striking limestone building located on Lenox Avenue and 120th St. Just a few blocks away on Lenox and 123rd St. is the landmarked Esphesus Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The neighborhood is graced by three parks including Central Park, Morningside Park and Mount Morris Park. Mount Morris Park boasts the newly renovated Richard Rogers Amphitheater hosting Shakespeare in the park every summer. a public swimming pool and the Harlem Fire Watchtower. This watchtower is the only surviving one of eleven cast-iron towers placed around the city beginning in the 1850's.