

West Village

Meet at Hayden Hall

33 Washington Square West @ Washington Place

1. **33 Washington Sq. West – Hayden Hall.** This FYRE hall was originally built in 1957 as a Law student residence hall. An old hotel from the early 20th Century, Holley Chambers Hotel, is incorporated into the building and it is rumored that Theodore Roosevelt was once a guest there. There are other remnants of the hotel left with the building like an “HC” still engraved over the door and a letter chute that’s no longer working. Hayden also has one of NYU’s many purple flags attached to it. As you continue walking, you’ll notice that most NYU buildings also display the purple flag.

Turn left (west) down Washington Pl. to 6th Ave.

2. *Between Washington Sq. and 6th Ave:* **82 Washington Place** was the residence of Willa Cather from 1908 – 1912 and Richard Wright in 1945.

371 6th Ave. – St. Joseph’s Church was the sixth parish to be established in New York among those still in existence. Two fires, one in 1855 and 1885, caused widespread damage to the interior. The stained glass windows in the south wall remain as a legacy from 1879. In 1972, the interior underwent a restoration in order to give it a simpler look. It underwent another restoration in 1991. The Church offers services to NYU students.

Indian cuisine **Baluchi’s (361 6th Ave)** is 50% off at lunch time if you eat-in.

Follow Washington Pl. down to Sheridan Sq.

3. **Sheridan Square.** The park is named after Philip Sheridan who was a Civil War general for the north. In 1863, during the draft riots, rioters attacked a number of freed slaves in the square. Residents of nearby buildings helped the slaves to survive. Volunteers planted the **Sheridan Square Viewing Gardens** in 1982 to replace the bare traffic island.

Christopher Park is across the street. It is often mistaken for Sheridan Square because this is where the statue of Philip Henry Sheridan actually stands.

On the corner of Washington Pl. and Barrow St. is **1 Sheridan Square – Axis Company.** In the past, this site was the home of Café Society opened in 1938, a revolutionary club that was popular among the neighborhood. The opening night act was Billie Holiday, a then unknown singer. In the 1960s, it became the gay night club Haven which was illegally raided and destroyed. It is now a theatre space for original works with different plays being performed throughout the year.

Every Tuesday, the Axis Company has free movies at 8pm ranging from classic films to more recent ones.

Turn right (east) onto Grove St. to the intersection of Grove St. and Christopher St.

4. **53 Christopher Street – Stonewall Inn.** June 1969, over two nights, patrons of the gay bar fought the police after they conducted a raid. They trapped police inside and threw whatever they could at them. It became a worldwide symbol of the modern gay rights movement. The Stonewall bar that is there currently is not the original.

165 Waverly Pl. – The Northern Dispensary was built in 1831 to serve the medical needs of the poor. Its most famous patient was Edgar Allen Poe, treated for a head cold in 1837. After 1960, it became a dental clinic. In 1986, after he was refused care because he had AIDS, George Whitmore sued the clinic and it became bankrupt. It become empty until 1997 when it became a Hostel for the Disabled.

Turn left (west) onto Christopher St. Walk Christopher St. until Bleecker St.

5. **Christopher Street** was originally named Skinner Road after Col. William Skinner whose father-in-law owned most of the West Village at the time. Charles Christopher Amos then acquired the land and gave his names to three successive streets. Amos St. was later renamed 10th St.

84 Christopher St. between Bleecker and 4th St. is a former residence of actress Sally Kirkland. Robert DeNiro and Rip Torn used to rehearse scenes here.

337 Bleecker is the former residence of Lorraine Hansberry, the African-American playwright who wrote *A Raisin in the Sun*. She was the first black playwright to win the New York Drama Critics circle Award for Best Play of the Year.

327 Bleecker St., which is no longer around, contained the offices of the committee that designed Manhattan's grid plan in 1807-1809.

Turn left (south) onto Bleecker and continue until Grove St.

6. *On Grove St. between Bleecker St. and 7th Ave:* **59 Grove St.** is where Thomas Paine died in 1809. The downstairs space is **Marie's Crisis Café** named after Paine's "The Crisis" pamphlet. The original building Paine lived in burned down.

On Grove St. between Bleecker St. and Bedford St.: **45 Grove St.** is where John Wilkes Booth supposedly plotted the Lincoln assassination with his co-conspirators. The building also served as a hospital during the Spanish-American War. In the movie *Reds*, it was used as Eugene O'Neill's house.

42 Grove St. is the **Pink Teacup**, southern cuisine enjoyed by celebrities like Oprah Winfrey, Denzel Washington, Michael Jordan, and Pee-Wee Herman. And everything inside is really pink.

311 Bleecker St. – Strawberry Fields Supermarket is a health foods supermarket, carrying specialty items.

Continue down Bleecker to 7th Ave. South.

7. In the 1910s, it was decided to extend the Seventh Avenue subway line below 14th St. to Houston St. Since the subway extended, it was decided that Seventh Ave. should extend as well. This created what is now **7th Ave. South**. All the buildings in the way were knocked down. This extension is what created all the triangular blocks surrounding 7th Ave. South.

Bleecker St. Pizza (69 7th Ave.) has thin crust, Tuscan-style pizza for affordable prices. *Further down on Bleecker* is **John's of Bleecker St. (278 Bleecker St.)** said to be some of the best pizza in New York. But they don't sell by the slice!

Turn right (south) onto 7th Ave. South until Barrow St. Turn right (west) onto Barrow St. until Bedford St.

8. *On Barrow St. between 7th Ave. and Bedford St.:* **52 Barrow St.** was used as the entrance to Jackson Pollock's studio in the movie *Pollock*.

On Bedford between Barrow St. and Grove St.: **86 Bedford Street – Chumley's.** This unmarked restaurant was once a speakeasy during the Prohibition. Visitors had to identify themselves through a tiny window before being able to enter. Past patrons included Eugene O'Neill, Anais Nin, and Orson Wells. The entranceway has four steps up and four steps down designed to slow police officers during a raid. It allegedly has an underground tunnel that leads to **58 Barrow St, Pamela Court.**

90 Bedford St. has been used as an exterior to an apartment on *Friends*.

On Bedford between Barrow St. and Commerce St.: **77 Bedford St.** is the oldest house in the Village having been built in 1799.

Continue on Barrow St. until Commerce St.

9. **50 Commerce St. – The Blue Mill Tavern** was a hangout for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, accused of spying for the Soviet Union and playwright Eugene O'Neill. It has been featured in *The Brothers McMullen*, Woody Allen's *Anything Else* and the final episode of *Sex and the City*.

Turn left (south) onto Commerce St. and follow it around the bend until Bedford St.

10. **38 Commerce St. – The Cherry Lane Theatre** was constructed in 1924. The building itself was built in 1817 as part of a farm. It was transformed into a brewery and a box factory until 1924 when it was transformed into the current theatre. It is a theatre that performs new material and has new play development programs geared towards fostering this talent. Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* had its American premiere here. Tickets are available for these performances at affordable prices. The bend in the street follows the bend of Dutch Governor Wouter Van Twiller's farm in the 1630s. If you call or e-mail the theatre a week to a month in advance, you can be a volunteer usher and see a show for free. For more information visit www.cherrylanetheatre.com.

75 ½ Bedford – The Narrowest House in the Village was once an alley for carriages to enter through for the bigger house next door. It is 9 ½ feet wide by 35 feet tall. Edna St. Vincent Millay, a prominent poet, once lived here for a year. Cary Grant also lived here at one point with two other people.

Numbers 1 – 7 Commerce St. are now below Seventh Ave. South, built over during the extension.

Turn left (north) onto Bedford St. Continue on Bedford St. until Christopher St.

11. **121 Christopher St. – The Lucille Lortel Theatre** opened in 1954 and is one of the oldest Off-Broadway playhouses. It was known as the Theatre De Lys until 1981 when it was renamed to the Lucille Lortel. Kurt Weil's *Three Penny Opera* had its New York premiere here. Volunteer ushering can also be done here. Just call a few days or weeks in advance with two available dates. For more information, visit www.lortel.org.

