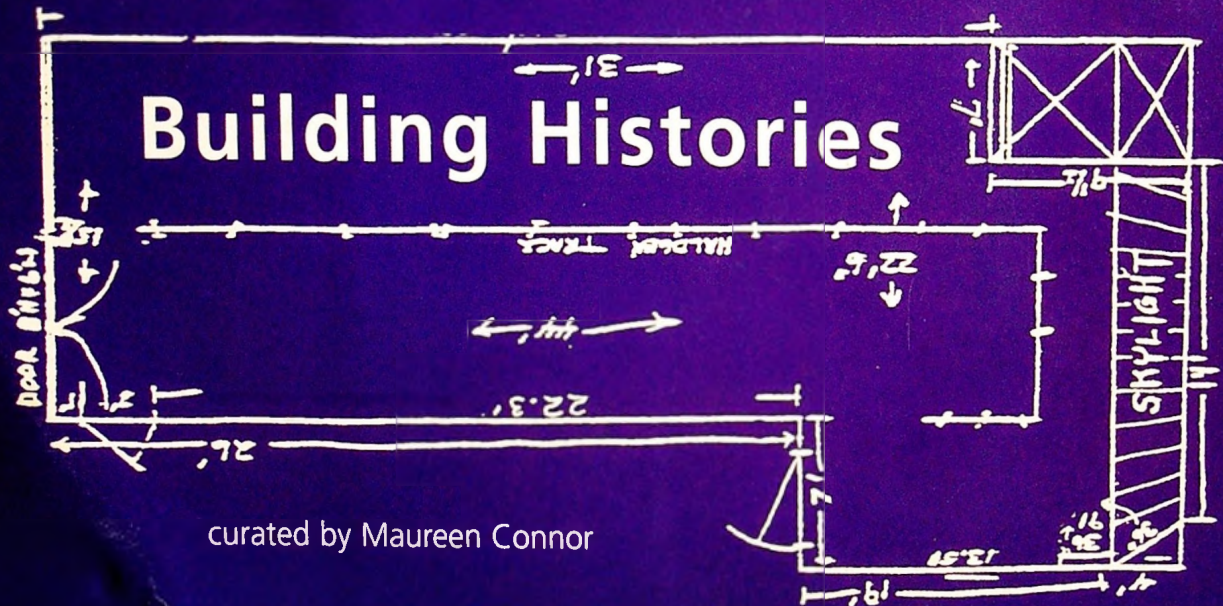


# Building Histories



curated by Maureen Connor

Chronology of 291 Church St. (originally 197, Street was renumbered in 1890s; number is still visible on front of building) and other related events.

1700 291 Church property part of large tract of land called Trinity Farms, sometimes called Kings Farms.

1702 Yellow Fever outbreak- more than 500 died

1711 Slave market opens at Wall St. and East River.

1734 Anthony Rutgers leases swamp/ wet-lands which contains 291 Church property.

1735 Rutgers granted title to lease land and swamp is drained for cultivation; mansion and formal grounds are constructed and named Ranelagh Gardens; 291 Church St. property is located within this mansion/ garden area; remaining property used as farmland.

1741 Great Slave Conspiracy. Thirteen slaves burnt at the stake; eighteen hanged; seventy others sold elsewhere.

1755 Rutgers' daughter Elsie marries Leonard Lispenard, leaseholder of a tract belonging to Trinity Church just adjacent to the Rutgers Estate and combined lands become Lispenard Meadows; continues as farmland.

1765- 1793 Opening of Ranelagh Gardens, the original Rutgers mansion and grounds, as a "resort" area where people could go for food, drink and music,



1776-1783 British Occupation of New York, three thousand prostitutes sent over for the troops; Ranelagh Gardens used as headquarters for British officers.

1784 John Jacob Astor arrives in New York and enters fur trade.

1792 Opening of Washington Market in Tribeca, an expansion of a market located further down-

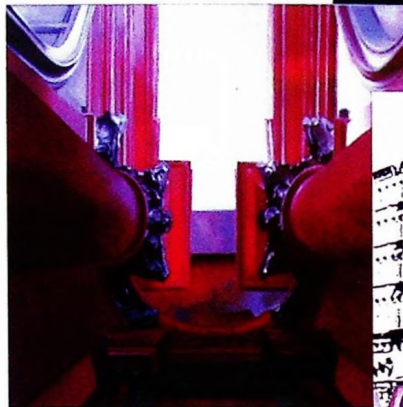
town. Became the city's dominant market until 1965.

1799 Passage of gradual emancipation law

1804 First record of transfer of 291 Church St. property.

1805- 1809 291 Church listed in NY directory as occupied by Abraham Moore, a carpenter, probably used as workshop. During this period people usually lived and worked in the same place.

1812 William Maxwell listed in New York directory at 291 Church; listed in tax records as a two story wood



clockwise from left: **David Wells** 1900's lighting repair man declines interview while working near 291 Church Street in 1932 1999 set up photo 11"x17"x3"; **Arthur Cohen** Baroque Chapel #3 1972 Oil on canvas 108" x 104"; **REPOhistory** John Jacob Astor and Native Americans 1992 two-sided screened metal streetsigns; **Martha Wilson** - in front of 112 Franklin St. post Franklin Furnace 1998 10" x 8" b/w photograph

frame house

1813-16 Abraham S. Moore- 291 Church

1819 Abraham S. Moore, Isaac Locus Depression, value on New York real estate and personal property declines.

1820 Property transfer books say property was bought by Naomi Edsall in 1820 but tax listings and NY directory say Isaac Locus, probably a lease with agreement to pay taxes, probably similar to bankruptcy sale

1822-1826 291 Church becomes boarding house.

This became common practice in the neighborhood after the depression. Rineer Wortendyck, Amos Ketchum, Abraham Mills lease rooms.

1825 First gas pipes laid in New York

1829-1831 Wortendyck running boarding house

1832- 1836 Wortendyck and F.S. Gozzens; new business venture, combines boarding house with public restaurant

1836-1840 Tableau Vivants enacted by prostitutes ("Art" themes usually biblical or classical) become the preferred form of entertainment for men 1841 John

and Gertrude Edsall, Rineer and Catherine

Wortendyck, Samuel E.

and Mary A. De Groot,

Edwin and Naomi Wright

are all listed as "Grantors"; actually boarders

1843- 1844 Estate of R. Wortendyck

1845- 1850 land transferred to Naomi Vreeland, daughter of Naomi and Edwin Wright, married to Sylvester Vreeland 1840; S. Vreeland dies 1842, Naomi Vreeland uses inheritance

to purchase 291 Church, opens bordello

1848 A.T.Stewart's

Department Store opens

designed by architect John Butler Snook; store became celebrated for its spectacular, neo-baroque interiors. also designed 291 Church St. when it was rebuilt in 1877.

1849 First Cast Iron Building erected at corner of



**Margaret Morgan** untitled bathroom 990924, 1999, Cibachrome with plex and sintra mount





Carrie Cooperider *Diana Leaving the Bath* 1999  
wood lightbox with transparency 19" x 19" x 14"

Duane and  
Center Sts.  
1849-50 A.T.  
Stewart's man-  
agers report a  
number of inci-  
dences of  
shoplifting by  
bourgeois  
"ladies"  
1853 Textile  
markets move to  
Tribeca, also dry  
goods stores-  
wholesale &

retail, need for larger buildings develops.

1857- 1873 Land transfer lists as sold to Williams Adams  
but actually sold and then leased again to Naomi  
Vreeland who continues, her bordello under alias after  
police raid in 1850

1861 Attack on Fort Sumter, beginning of Civil War

1863 Draft Riots in New York

1868 Harpers Bazaar founded, later to be edited by great  
granddaughter of Naomi Vreeland (Diana Vreeland).

1873

Depression due  
to real estate  
speculation  
1875

Condemnation  
of 291 Church  
St. by Anthony  
Comstock and  
his associates,  
anti-pornogra-  
pher, anti-abor-  
tionist, deter-  
mined to rid  
New York of  
prostitution.  
Also con-  
demned many  
other buildings  
in the area with  
related uses.  
Responsible in  
part for the

enactment of anti-abortion laws in New York.

1876 Land transfer lists as sold to Henry G. Muller who  
hired John Butler Snook to design a new building. (pre-  
sent 291 Church structure)

1876 Alexander Graham Bell demonstrates the telephone.

1877 New, four story loft building with one story, cast  
iron base and brick-fronted upper section trimmed in  
stone opened as the Emma Rich Restaurant, patrons were  
textile and other workers in the area.

1877 Herman Melville visits the Emma Rich Restaurant.

1883 Edison Electric Company provides electricity for its  
first customers.

1925 George A. Muller (single ) and Emma Muller sold to  
Henry and Minnie Koener who started importing sponges  
1929- 1948 Atlas Sponge Co., Schroeder and Tremayne,  
Inc. Sponges and Chamois

1949-1951 D. Rich & Co.

1952-1962 Carbon & Graphite Products Co.

Chicago Commutator Co., D. Rich & Co., Seager Carbon  
Co., George Antoniello

1964- 1966 Carbon & Graphite Products Co., Kelly Girl,  
Services, Inc. , Labor Aide Division, Martindale Dust  
Masks, Seager Standard Carbon Co.

1967-1972 Carbon & Graphite Products Co., Martindale

Dust Masks,  
Seager  
Standard  
Carbon Co.,  
Fil-Amer  
International  
Co.,  
Mallmont  
Int'l, Inc.,  
Seager  
Standard  
Carbon Co.  
1969 New  
York City  
Planning  
Department  
decides to  
call "triangle  
below Canal  
St." Tribeca.  
1973-75  
George  
Antoniello,



Haim Steinbach *The Trial* 1997 scaffolding, clothing, glass shelves, Ludwig Museum of Modern Art Vienna, Austria 240" x 1103" x 32"

Carbon & Graphite Products Co., Martindale Dust Masks,  
Seager Standard Carbon Co.

1975 Baby Doll Lounge opens on White St. in Tribeca

1976 F. Antonello

1976 Martha Wilson, Willoughby Sharp, Virginia Piersol,  
Duff

Schweninger  
move into 112

Franklin

St.1977-1979

K. Cox,

Nicholas

Hollander, P. R.

Mazur , B.

O'Sullivan,

Pola Rapaport

1979 Opening  
of the Mud

Club

1980- 1 F.

Antonello, K.

Cox, Delahanty

Gallery

1982- 1985

Delahanty

1985-6

Chanterelle

Restaurant(4\*)

opens in Tribeca.

1986- 1987 Delahanty P. Kolansky

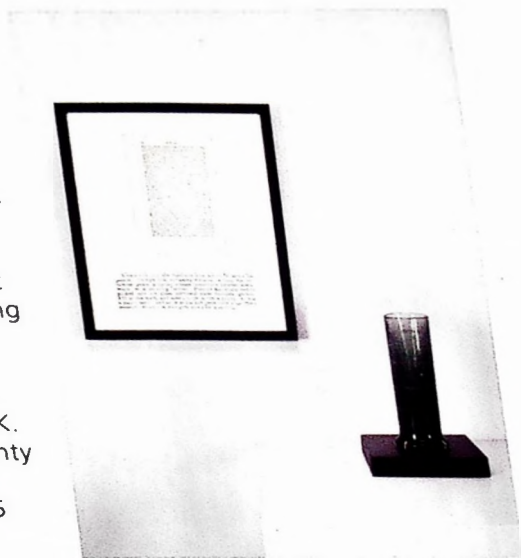
1988-89 R.J. Rosen, P. Kolansky

1989-1992 J.L.Auerbach, Ann Luce

1993- Apex

1995 -Baby Doll lounge changes from "Topless Dancers"  
to "Stopless Dancers" in response to Mayor Giuliani's  
crackdown on pornography and sex clubs.

1999 property values reach unprecedented heights, in  
some cases more than double their value of two years  
before.



Josiah McElhenny *The Abominable Tumbler* mixed  
media 1998

Maureen Connor ©1999

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Arthur Cohen  
Carrie Cooperider  
Josiah McElhenney  
Margaret Morgan  
REPOhistory  
Haim Steinbach  
David Wells  
Martha Wilson

Curated by  
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