

Map art by Barbara MacFarlane, represented by Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery

50th Anniversary of
the Greenwich Village
Historic District



Proud Partner

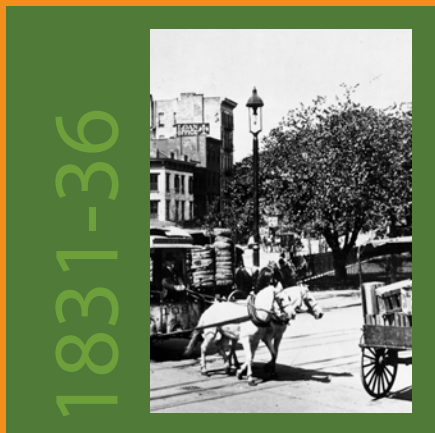
Abingdon Square and Abingdon Square Conservancy *A Rich History*



Sir Peter Warren, a vice-admiral in the British Navy, purchases a 300-acre farm known as Greenwich. His daughter Charlotte marries Willoughby Bertie, the Fourth Earl of Abingdon, and a share of the estate, which includes the land that will come to be known as Abingdon Square, is part of her dowry.



The City Council changes the designation of streets and places carrying British names to reflect American independence. However, the name Abingdon Square is preserved, because the Earl of Abingdon and his wife had sympathized with the American patriots and he had argued in Parliament against British policy in the colonies.



The Common Council resolves that the ground called Abingdon Square should be enclosed as a public park and appropriates today's equivalent of about \$85,000 for the expense. The City acquires the parcel and encloses it with the current cast iron fence, thus creating the third oldest park in New York City.



Central Park architect Calvert Vaux and Samuel Parsons, Jr. execute the Square's first formal landscape design, which is based on the picturesque English style garden.



Ten thousand spectators gather in and around the Square for the dedication of the Abingdon Doughboy, in memory of local men who fought in World War I.



The Square falls on hard times and becomes a dilapidated and forgotten spot.



That began to change in 2000, with the creation of the Abingdon Square Conservancy and the relentless efforts of local residents to save and revive the park. As a result, the Square reopens in 2004 after a yearlong renovation funded by the NYC Department of Parks.



Abingdon Square Conservancy forms its first board of directors and secures its status as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity.



Abingdon Square is predominantly sustained by the efforts and financial support of neighborhood residents, local communities and businesses.

What Abingdon Square is now and what it will be, is shaped by the people who visit the Square, donate to its upkeep and become involved with the Conservancy. Your participation truly matters – to the Square and the community.