

6 | 201 PARK AVENUE SOUTH (1911)
FORMER GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING

With its extraordinary four-story mansard roof, this building was erected to cater to the insurance needs of German immigrants. Hence its original name, the Germania Life Insurance Company. Along came World War I, though, and the battle against the German enemy. So the company cast about for a name with the same number of letters as Germania. They settled on Guardian. Now it has been renamed again, as W Union Square (hotel).



7 | 105 EAST 17TH STREET (1963)
FORMER GUARDIAN LIFE ANNEX

Considered a compelling example of post-World War II architecture, this low-rise midblock building, which goes through to East 18th Street, is a product of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, one of the world's leading architecture firms.

The wide windows of the Annex reflect the historic houses opposite, in the East 17th Street/Irving Place Historic District, designated in 1998.



8 | 44 UNION SQUARE EAST (1928)
FORMER TAMMANY HALL

Built for the famous (and infamous) political club, and designed to emulate the respectability of the old Federal Hall on Wall Street, where George Washington took the oath of office. In 1943, Tammany sold the building to the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, which used the interior theatre space for labor rallies that often spilled out into the North Plaza of Union Square. Landmarked in 2013, the building was recently approved for a controversial rooftop expansion, allegedly inspired by the dome of Monticello, the Virginia home of Thomas Jefferson.



9 | 20 UNION SQUARE EAST (1907)
FORMER UNION SQUARE SAVINGS BANK



This Classical design, by architect Henry Bacon, has the solidity of an ancient Greek temple, meant to give depositors a sense of security for their funds. Bacon went on to design the imposing Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The bank is currently the Daryl Roth Theatre.

10 | 109-111 EAST 15TH STREET (1869)
FORMER CENTURY ASSOCIATION CLUBHOUSE



In the Gilded Age of what some call Union Square's heyday, before it became the theatrical equivalent of today's Broadway, this building was the ultimate private club for gentlemen, many of whose mansions were nearby.

11 | 4 IRVING PLACE (1911-1929)
THE CONSOLIDATED EDISON BUILDING

Covering an entire city block between Irving Place and Third Avenue from East 14th Street to East 15th Street, this complex of structures built over almost two decades is perhaps most celebrated for its clock tower, illuminated nightly and visible from afar as the tallest building in the Union Square area.



12 | 126-128 EAST 13TH STREET (1904)
FORMER HORSE AUCTION MART

Before the days of automobiles, this is where the gentry bought their carriage horses. Built by Van Tassel & Kearney, it is one of the few such structures remaining from the Gilded Age that is also architecturally notable for its Beaux-Arts style. It now provides space for various dance companies.



13 | 34½ EAST 12TH STREET (1855)
POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE BUILDING



This was one of the first all-girls public schools and a benchmark for the education of children in New York City. As city-owned property, it still provides free activity space for juveniles from all five boroughs.

14 | 22 EAST 14TH STREET (1881)
FORMER BAUMANN BROTHERS STORE



But for intervening buildings of lesser commercial or architectural merit, this former furniture-and-carpet emporium might well have been included in the nearby Ladies' Mile Historic District, designated in 1989. Three lots wide, the Baumann facade above the ground floor is an elaborate cast-iron composition of sunbursts, garlands, and huge fenestration.