



EAST 17TH STREET + UNION SQUARE

The visual tourguide of the history of the architectural shifts around Union Square and the impact they had on the community at the time.

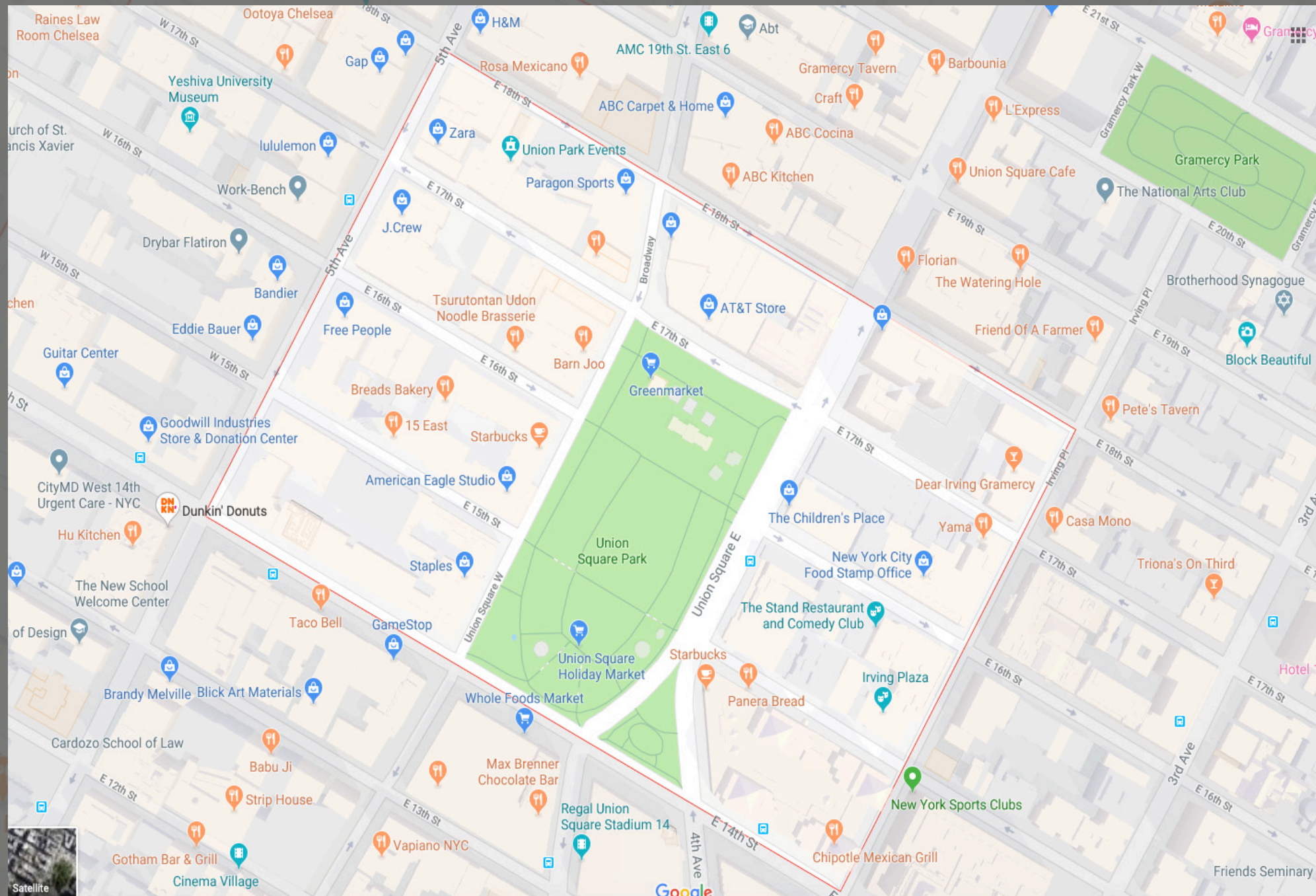


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Union Square Map
Image from Google Maps



UNION SQUARE HISTORY

The statue of George Washington at the entrance of the park was dedicated in 1856 on July 4th in commemoration of Washington reclaiming the city from the British.

The day the British evacuated their troops from New York was then known as Evacuation Day, November 25th, 1783

This is the oldest statue owned by the New York City Parks Department

Late 1790's – 1815 the land where Union Square was built was a potter's field, a burial ground for the poor or unclaimed.

The bodies were moved around often as land values improved with the city's grown and there was need for development.

By 1830 the bodies had been relocated to another park (i.e. Washington Square Park) and the park had been transformed into public grounds by developer Samuel Ruggles

Abraham Lincoln's statue in Union Square park was among the first to be dedicated following his assassination in 1865.

At the statues erection, The New York Times reported that;

"A frightful object has been placed in Union-square. It is said to be a statue of a man who deserves to be held in lasting remembrance as a true patriot, a sincere, unselfish, noble-hearted chief in times of great trouble and perplexity—Abraham Lincoln. But it does not resemble Mr. Lincoln."







Engr. for D. T. Valentine's Manual, 1833.

by A. Hayward, 150 White Street, New York.

JUNCTION OF BROADWAY & THE BOWERY 1831.

• New-York.









EAST 17TH STREET HISTORY

The Pavilion at Union Square finished construction in 1929 but even before the site was used as a gathering spot for activist rallies and protests.

In 1882, the first Labor Day Parade was held in Union Square on September 5th. The demonstration was so successful the Central Labor Union of New York decided Labor Day to be held across the nation.

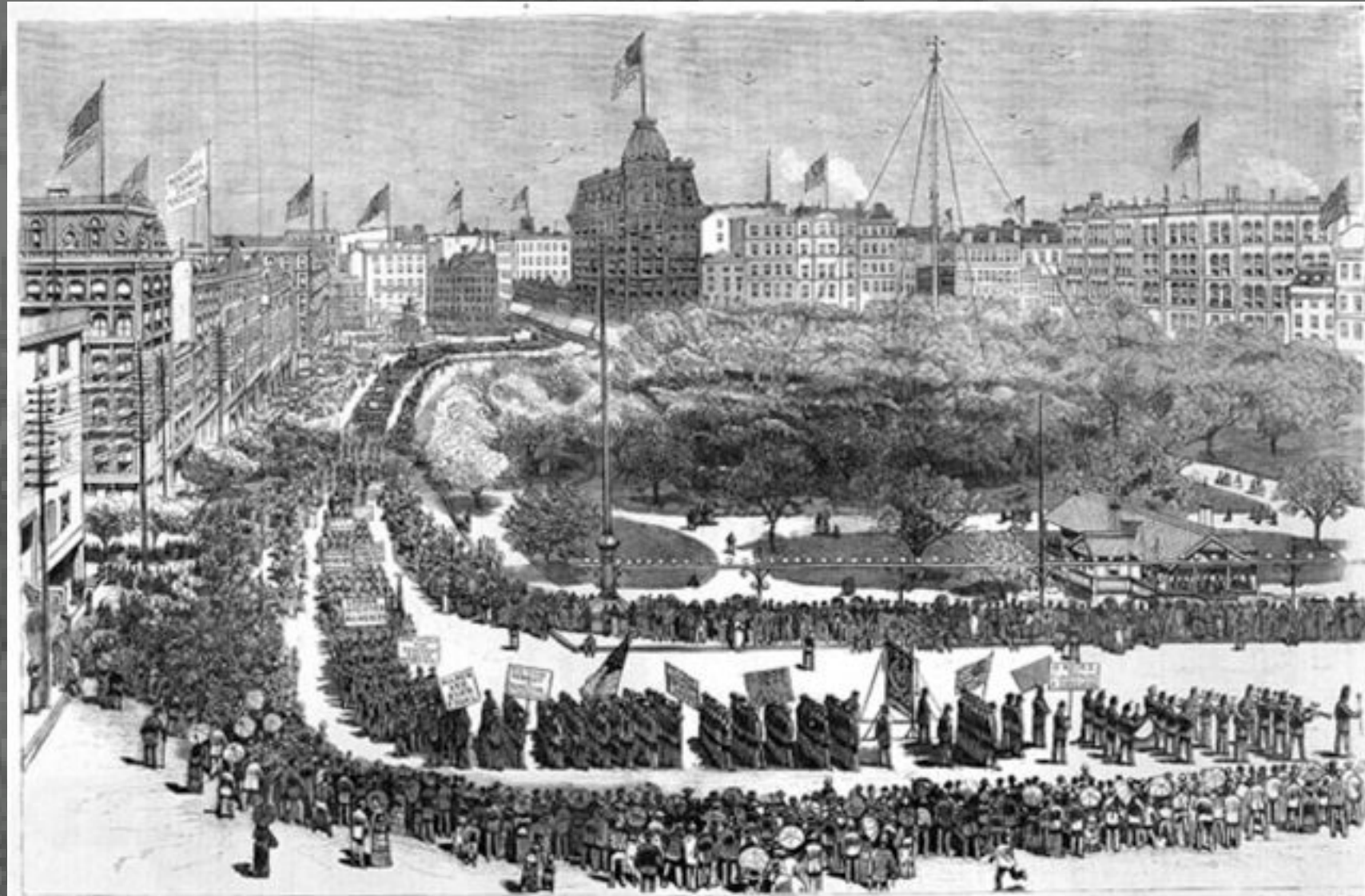
On East 17th on the north side of Union Square was Andy Warhol's last factory from 1974 – 1987. Next door is the red brick Century Building, now a Barnes and Nobles was once the shared building for Century Magazine and St Nicholas Magazine for kids.

At Union Square's northeast end, East 17th and Union Square East, is the last version of Tammany Hall, constructed in 1928. Tammany Hall was an organization associated with the Democratic Party that dominated NYC politics for about a century, from the 1830s through the 1930s. Standing here now is the New York Film Academy

The 19th Century Slave Market

Desperate actors from 1860 to 1880 looked for work around Union Square as this was once the city's theatre district. Managers and theatre agents would come look for actors to fill their cast here, it came to be known as "the Slave Market"

"An actor out of engagement would stand around waiting, as the saying was, to 'sign up' for the next season. As soon as he had 'signed up' he would convey the tidings to his associates and then would be seen no more—until the next season."



NEW YORK CITY—GRAND DEMONSTRATION OF WORKINGMEN, SEPTEMBER 1st.—THE PROCESSION PASSED THE REVIEWING-STAND AT UNION SQUARE.—FROM A SKETCH BY A STAFF ARTIST.—SEE PAGE 12.











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