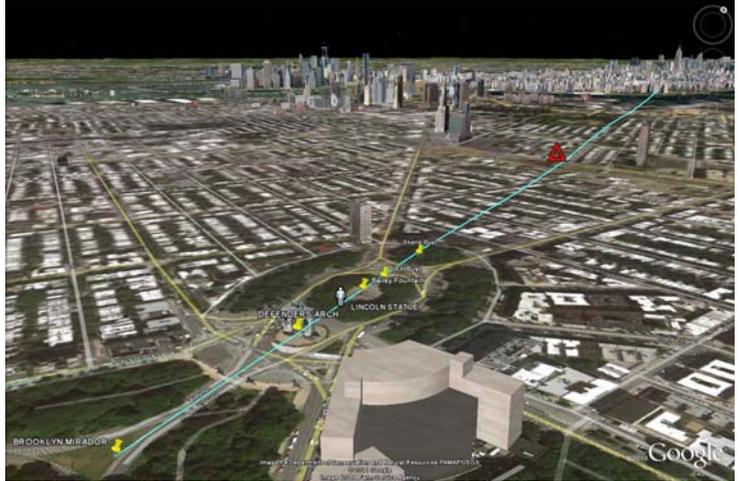


A BROOKLYN TRAGEDY

This is the “View.” The Empire State Building bisects Grand Army Plaza’s Civil War Arch.



This view is threatened.



Building 6 (red delta) in Atlantic Yards, will be 219 feet tall.

The “View” is symbolic and beautiful. As a work-in-progress, this evolving alignment is constructed over a framework planned by Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted before the Civil War ended.



Lincoln faces North

Arch frames Lincoln

Lincoln is gone

Arch frames Empire State Building

Bailey Fountain



Bailey Fountain, also bisected by the Tower, was built at the same time as the Empire State Building, 1929-1931.

A family leaves the Park by boat and sees the Tower. Felicity smiles at the splendor. Wisdom ponders its meaning as he steers the course. Neptune powers the ship forward.

The Lincoln statue is to return to Grand Army Plaza soon. It will face south. South!?

The statue faced north for the 26 years Brooklyn honored Lincoln’s legacy.

Lincoln should face North (see map). Building Six must not eclipse the “View.”



350 Fifth Avenue, Manhattan

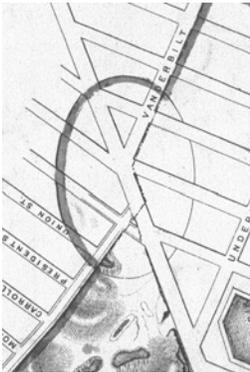
1931 - The Empire State Building

1897 - The Waldorf Astoria

1862 – Mansion of William B. Astor

Empire State Building is built by Democrats Al Smith and John Jakob Raskob. Opposed to FDR and the New Deal (Social Security), they later joined the American Liberty League, promoting property rights

William Astor opposed Lincoln and the Civil War. For business as usual, his group supported amending the Constitution to permanently protect slavery, people as property.



Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn

1865 – Calvert Vaux designs an elliptical plaza. Its axis is aligned with the Astor mansion.

Lincoln assassinated.
Civil War Ends.
Slavery abolished.

Frederick Law Olmsted joins Vaux in the design of Brooklyn (Prospect) Park. Both dedicated to Lincoln and to improving American society by creating environments where the different classes might easily mix, helping our democracy to develop.



1869 – Lincoln statue, dedicated at north end of plaza’ axis, is facing north, towards the unseen mansion.

First Lincoln statue dedicated holds the Emancipation Proclamation

1873 – Vaux Fountain

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch honors the Union victory. “To the Defenders of the Union 1861-1865”

1892 – Defender’s Arch, dedicated at the south end of plaza’s axis, framed the fountain and Lincoln’s back as he faces north.

The year before the Supreme Court ruled racial segregation Constitutional, “Separate but Equal,” Olmsted retired. The Lincoln statue was moved into Prospect Park facing Gravesend Bay, where Vaux drowned four months later. Lincoln’s legacy was being erased.



1895 – Lincoln statue removed

1896 – “Separate but equal.”

1897 – Waldorf replaces mansion

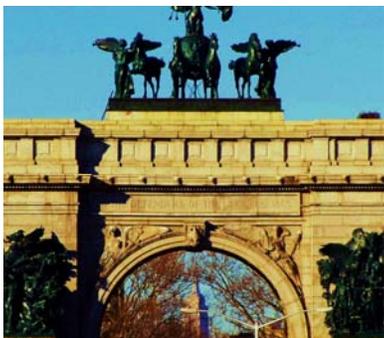
Today, 116 years later, the Lincoln statue is to return to Grand Army Plaza. It will face south, not north. The evolution of the elements along the axis of the Plaza has chronicled America’s struggle to balance the rights of property versus civil rights. The position of the Lincoln statue is the visible symbol of this continuing and historic struggle for freedom. The statue should face NORTH, the legacy of Vaux and Olmsted’s intent.

1931 – Empire State Building replaces Waldorf-Astoria

1932 – Bailey Fountain

1965 – JFK Bust

1970 – A vantage point in Prospect Park is built. It provides a view of the Empire State Building’s Tower perfectly bisecting Defenders Arch in Brooklyn’s Civil War Memorial, Grand Army Plaza.



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