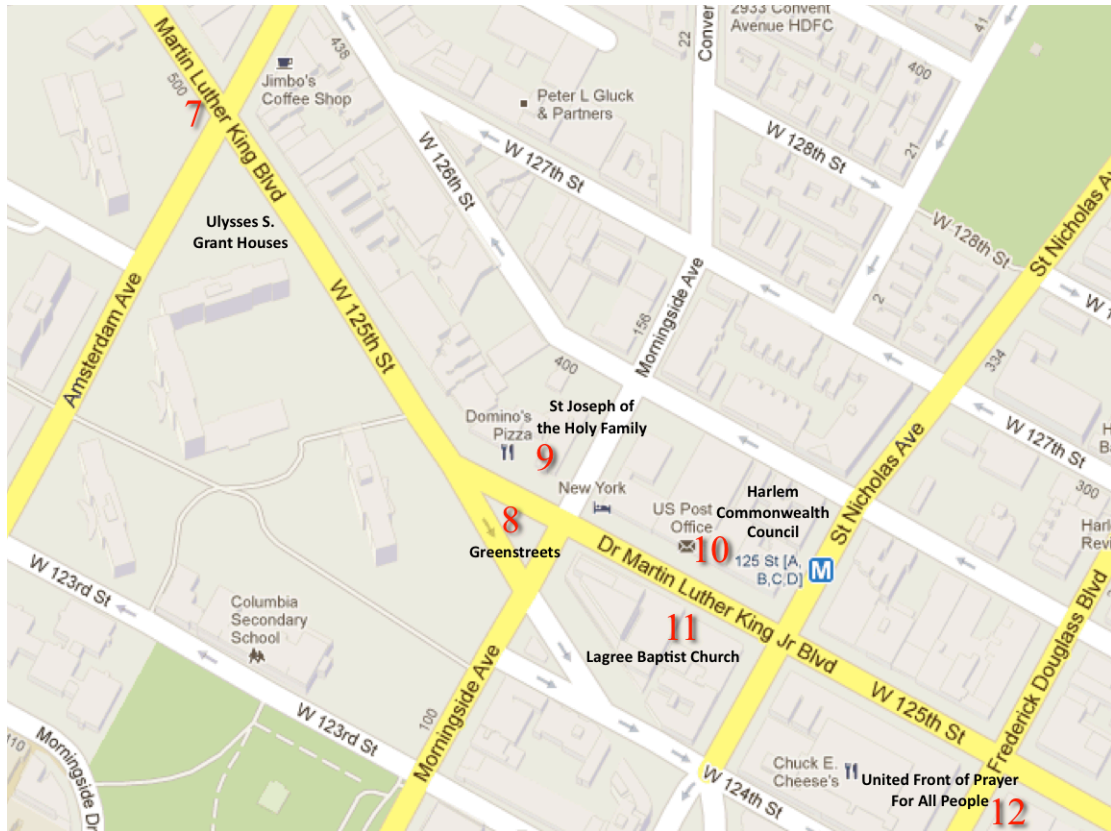


Greener Pastures (Broadway to 8th Ave)



Past Amsterdam Avenue, 125th Street reverts to a village, reminding one of the the days of *Nieuw Haarlem*, the farming village established by Dutch colonisers in 1658, and occupied by the British very shortly in 1664.

Spiritually, this section of the street is rich, with half a dozen churches dotting a very short stretch, and the presence of the Harlem Commonwealth Council, a start-up fund supporting businesses and economic development in Harlem.

The highlight of this section is St Joseph of the Holy Family, the oldest church in Harlem, established in 1860 to serve a German Catholic diocese. A beautiful, red-brick building in a simple Romanesque style, it again channels the days when Harlem was a rural community, with green pastures in place of crowded streets. The only spot of greenery here today, however, is the small patch of urban parkland located in a tiny triangular “square” called Hancock Place. Around it, Harlemites and visitors go about their daily lives, oblivious to the history around them.



Fig. 7 – Junction of Amsterdam Avenue, with the General Ulysses S. Grant houses to the right.



Fig. 8 – Greenstreets, a small park occupying tiny Hancock Place.



Fig. 9 – St Joseph of the Holy Family, harking back to the area’s Dutch roots. Junction of Morningside Avenue.



Fig. 10 – The Harlem Commonwealth Council, a start-up fund for businesses in the community.



Fig. 11 – Lagree Baptist Church.



Fig. 12 – The United House of Prayer For All People, a storefront church on 8th Ave, also known as Frederick Douglass Blvd. Apollo Theater peeks out just beyond.