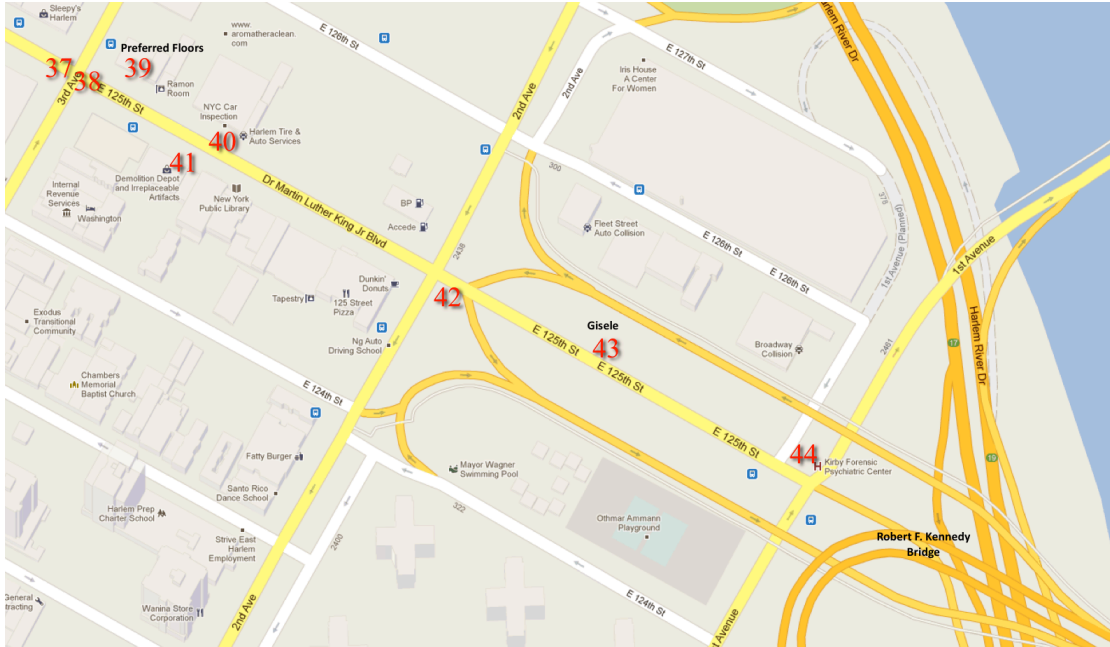


## Demolition Depot (3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenues)

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This final chapter of the Tale of 125<sup>th</sup> Street is titled “Demolition Depot,” after an actual establishment on the street, if only because everything between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues at least looks slated for the wrecking ball. Nothing may come in the way of gentrification’s relentless juggernaut.

At 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, on-ramps take vehicles up and away from Harlem, onto the Robert F Kennedy Bridge to New Jersey. There is a melancholy stillness here, as though the street itself is sad to leave Harlem – all glass and chiffon – behind.

A billboard with Gisele’s face on it looms high above street level. It lures incoming traffic with visions of the American Dream – a dream that has as its basis, freedom to consume, and the absolute negation of identity.

Goodbye Harlem! Hello America!



Fig. 37 – View East along 125<sup>th</sup> Street towards Robert F. Kennedy Bridge.



Fig. 38 – View West along 125<sup>th</sup> Street towards the 4, 5, 6 train subway.



Fig. 39 – Preferred Floors & Schmuckers.



Fig. 40 – Tire Repair shoppes.



Fig. 41 – The Demolition Depot – art from trash.



Fig. 42 – On-ramp to Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, during a moment of silliness.



Fig. 43 – Gisele, unattainable, high above Harlem.



Fig. 44 – Underneath the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, and the end of our journey.