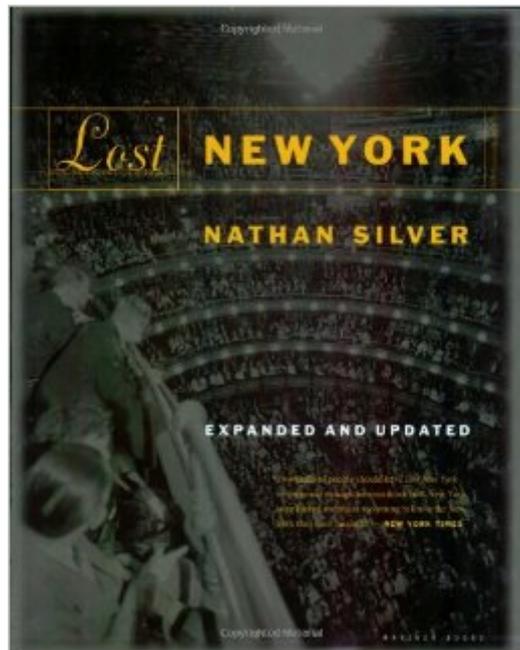


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Lost New York, Expanded And Updated Edition



Synopsis

When it was first published in 1968, the critically acclaimed LOST NEW YORK became an instant classic for the way it reawakened a lost city. Now expanded and updated, with 118 new photographs, the book reveals a fresh, true picture of New York as it has lived and grown, with startling reminders of how much that has vanished remains part of us. From the grandeur of the old Metropolitan Opera and Pennsylvania Station to the fabulous lost night clubs of 52nd Street and Harlem, from the opulence of the old Vanderbilt mansions to the Madison Square Garden rooftop where architect Stanford White was shot, this is both a unique testament to New York's past and a story of the vitality that makes the city continue to connect with us. Illustrated with rare and stunning photographs and marked by engaging, lively text, this new edition of LOST NEW YORK provides a unique and unforgettable look at the places in New York that are no more. Beyond that, it evokes the significant moments in time and memory that make us reflect on our passions about change and the reasons we remain concerned about the future of cities.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The original version of Silver's ode to New York City's architectural ghosts was compiled almost forty years ago, so it's nice that this revised edition was released in 2000, with a ton of new photos and revised text. It definitely belongs on the bookshelf of anyone with an interest in the modern history of Manhattan. That said, the book is very poorly designed and would benefit from a total makeover. The photo size and placement follow no discernable grid or system, and the text and

photos often don't match up, forcing the reader to flip back and forth. More annoyingly, there's no standard system for captioning or dating the photos, except for an "Illustrations and Sources" section at the back. So, I read this book with one finger permanently stuck in the back so I could flip back and forth to get a sense of the eras I was looking at -- very cumbersome. It also would have been really nice to have a map at the front with the photos matched to it. While the photos are obviously archival, the reproductions seem curiously flat and fuzzy. This may be due to the uncoated natural paper the book was printed on, but they would benefit from the contrast a bright white paper would provide as well as new scans and some careful retouching work. So, this is a neat book, but could become something really excellent in the hands of a good designer.

IF the reviewer below is really Nathan Silver, I congratulate him on the shift of gears from his 1968 version of LOST NEW YORK to this one. (Even if it's not him, I congratulate him anyway.) The first edition was heavy on the preservation/conservation debate while this one is more reflective and personal. In both instances, however, Mr. Silver has made an incredible contribution to the study of New York history--not just its architecture, but to the thinking that went into the creation of these lost structures, and the lack of thinking that destroyed them. Like Jane Jacobs, Mr. Silver shares a passion for the city and how its monuments, public buildings and spaces, and private residences have a direct and fortifying effect on its citizens. The photographs are stunning, as is the quality of the printing. Mr. Silver's text is equally powerful and just as relevant. At times the effect of seeing these representations of a lost time, and reading about their ends, can be upsetting; the sense of loss is very powerful. But there is a point to all of it beyond the seeming nostalgia: we had better start appreciating those gems of the past that are still rooted in the schist of Manhattan before they wind up in the next edition of LOST NEW YORK. One last note: As rebuilding begins on the site of the World Trade Center (a part of lost New York that wasn't our fault), this book indirectly compels New Yorkers to participate in some forward-thinking. It makes one wonder, not only what was lost to us, but what will we give to future generations? Rocco Dormarunno, author of THE FIVE POINTS

The book Lost New York by Nathan Silver is one of the best photo and information books ever written. Old photos and information on land marks in New York City which have been torn down. Shows you how beautiful a city is but also how little care some people can have for its treasures

Mr. Silver has a poetic prose style, revealing a most poetic soul, and frames his message of architectural conservation and adaptation through a highly effective personal lens of incredulity and

nostalgia, articulating what most readers subconsciously knew but probably never take the time to think about: that architecture is the most accessible and inescapable reminder of urban culture at a given moment; that while culture evolves and architecture becomes artifact, these artifacts can often continue - through thoughtful planning and incentives - to live and to serve without economic detriment to their owners; and that rapacious, self-serving obliteration of our architectural past is the obliteration of cultural evolution and memory. I would like to see Mr. Silver now produce a companion volume to LOST NEW YORK, a book about what has been saved.

Lost New York, Nathan Silver ; Weathervane Books ["Barre Publishing Co., Inc. by arrangement with Houghton Mifflin Co."] (1967 hardcover) Quite remarkable, for two reasons: Hundreds of NYC buildings should not have been torn down (that today would be worth much more than the garbage that replaced them & presently exists). And there were hundreds of hideous buildings back then, the disappearance of which did no harm & possibly some good, that are probably today remembered with misguided, indiscriminate nostalgia. Well worth a look, but first see if it's in your library before deciding to own your own edition. Attached as a comment is some first-rate commentary, originally appearing in New York magazine, on the subject of Things That Are Gone (the site from which it was obtained is "Brooklyn Tales"). The publication date is unknown, but judging from the excellence of the writing, I would suggest that it first appeared at least fifteen years ago.

This is a great book that provides an interesting, albeit incomplete history of some of the city's lost treasures. The locations are intuitively organized and some of the old photographs are truly stunning. It may not be as thorough or complete as similar books but it surpasses others on its visual strengths and its refusal to treat these lost locations with sentimentality or an overly nostalgic narrative.

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