San Juan Hill

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widespread belief that decaying filth emanated poisonous vapors disease, led to the formation of the Board of Health in 1866. It assumed control of street cleaning and also won the cooperation of the courts and the police in enforcing a law prohibiting slaughterhouses 1870 the board was absorbed into the Department of Health, which in 1875 banned all slaughterhouses in certain areas, and by 1877 had limited fifty-two of these establishments to two areas, one bounded by 41st Street, 10th Avenue, 40th Street, and the Hudson River, the other by 49th Street, the East River, 43rd Street, and 1st Avenue. In 1872 the first chemically treated wastewater facility in the United States opened at Conner Island.

Waste collection and street cleaning were handled by the Metropolitan Board of Police from 1872 until the Department of Street Cleaning was formed in 1889. Political patronage remained an obstacle to effective service until 1895, when George E. Waring Jr. was appointed commissioner. He reorganized the department along military lines, minimized political influence in employing workers, resumed sweeping by hand rather than with machines, and dressed street sweepers in white duck uniforms, earning them the nickname "whitewings." Waring also revolutionized waste disposal and temporarily suspended ocean dumping. Although experiments with incineration and the landfilling of garbage had been conducted as early as 1870, only in 1896 did Waring implement a system of salvaging solid wastes; garbage was boiled down for greases and fertilizers by a private firm on Borden Island, ash and street sweepings were used as fill in dumps and low-lying areas, and rubbish (wood, paper, rags, bottles, and metals) was reclaimed by scavengers for a fee paid to the city. Sanitary conditions improved steadily. Manure and dead horses disappeared from the streets as automobiles became popular, and public education campaigns helped to make littering socially unacceptable. After the First World War salvaging became less profitable as inflation rose and synthetic materials were introduced. San Juan Hill. Former neighborhood on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, bounded to the north by 64th Street, to the east by Amsterdam Avenue, to the south by 57th Street, and to the west by the Hudson River. Dutch settlers named the area Bloemendael or Bloomingdale, which was changed to Bloomingdale by the English after 1664. Shantytowns built by Irish immigrants covered some parts by the middle of the nineteenth century. The name San Juan Hill may refer to the black veterans who moved to the area after the Spanish-American War, or to the street brawls that often erupted there, many of them interracial. In the early twentieth century the neighborhood became the center of black life in New York City, and its theaters and clubs played an important role in the development of ragtime and early jazz. Several musicians lived there, including the bandleader Benny Carter and the pianist Thelonious Monk, after whom the intersection of 63rd Street and West End Avenue is named. The neighborhood was also the setting for Leonard Bernstein's musical "West Side Story" (1957). In 1956 it was designated the site of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Construction of the complex displaced more than fifteen hundred families, most of them black and Puerto Rican, and other tenements were demolished to make way for a branch of Fordham University, expensive new housing near Broadway, and new housing for the elderly farther west. The area attracted a number of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, the United Kingdom, China, Israel, and France in the 1980s, by which time the southern reaches were considered part of Clinton and the name San Juan Hill was disused. Peter Salwen: "Upper West Side Story: A History and Guide" (New York: Abbeville, 1989) 

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