

# LANDMARKS DOOMED FOR NEW AVENUE

**Eleven Blocks to be Cut Through  
to Connect Seventh Avenue  
with Varick Street.**

**WORK WILL SOON BEGIN**

**Varick Street Widening Will Take  
St. John's Chapel and Some  
Commercial Structures.**

Property owners and residents within the line of the Seventh Avenue extension from Greenwich Avenue to Varick Street, are preparing for the demolition of the buildings within the condemned area. Not only will eleven blocks from Greenwich Avenue to Varick Street be ruthlessly cut through, destroying many curious old residences, flats, and business structures, but the entire easterly side of Varick Street south to West Broadway, will also be sliced off for thirty-five feet back of the building line. This means that practically all of the buildings on the east side of that thoroughfare will be destroyed, and it includes fifteen blocks.

In all, about 253 structures will be torn down for this 100-foot thoroughfare, which will give a wide straight avenue from the commercial district around the wholesale grocery district about Franklin Street to Seventh Avenue and the upper part of the city. Some one has said that this great municipal improvement will virtually cut the heart out of old Greenwich Village, and that is true. It will remove many landmarks, and occasion great changes. Among the historic places to go will be the Bedford Street Methodist Church on the corner of Morton Street. The ancient church has been there for over seventy years and it occupies the site of an earlier church erected there in 1810.

The greatest land owner to be affected by the forthcoming change will be Trinity Corporation. Several blocks of Varick Street buildings belonging to that corporation will be torn down. It is estimated that about forty-four Trinity buildings will go. The most important and valuable of these are in the block between Beach and Laight Streets. In the middle of the block is the historic St. John's Chapel, one of the oldest and architecturally beautiful churches in the city. The amount of space demanded by the city will take off not only the vacant space between the present street and the entrance of the church, but will encroach upon the entry itself taking away the fine tall columns. Despite the sentimental efforts to preserve the structure, nothing tangible has been done, and as the Trinity officers have taken no steps toward preserving the interesting building, its doom is accepted as final.

While the city has taken title to all of the necessary land, it will be some time before the awards for the property are made. Hearings on the values are now being conducted before the Commissioners appointed to condemn the land, of which Jacob A. Cantor is Chairman. The right to demolish buildings for a public improvement before their value is fixed by a commission is provided for in the city charter. Representatives from the commission have been examining the doomed structures during the past few weeks, and this work is now practically completed along the entire length of the improvement. When that is concluded, the Commissioners of Public Works will take charge and order the work of destruction to begin.

Probably the first portion to be torn down will be the lower blocks of Varick Street from West Broadway to Canal Street. This will involve the destruction of the seven-story Barrow business structure on the southwest corner of Franklin Street and West Broadway, a portion of the old Leggett grocery building on the northeast corner of Varick and Franklin Streets and the Hook and Ladder building on the southeast corner of Varick and North Moore Streets. Besides St. John's Chapel, some fine buildings will be sacrificed in the block between Beach and Laight Streets, including the Trinity Hospital north of the church and a six-story structure on the Beach Street corner.

The six-story Gray building at 54 and 56 Varick Street, adjoining Trinity Hospital will go and in the block above a large portion of the Crucible Steel Company of America's building will be sliced off. One of the curious little plots on the southeast corner of Varick and Canal Streets will be wiped out. This is a triangular lot, 24 feet on Varick Street by 41.05 feet on Canal Street, and has been used as a saloon.

Above this point most of the Varick Street buildings are ancient, two and three-story houses of little intrinsic value.

At the head of Varick Street, where the heavy work of slicing through solid blocks of buildings will begin, a small corner will be clipped from the city bath house, adjoining Hudson Park. The corners of Bleeker Street at Commerce and Barrow Streets will suffer. The two six-story flats on the northeast and northwest corners of Bleeker and Barrow Streets will go and both of the Commerce Street corners where they run into Bleeker will be ripped out. The entire Fourth Street front between Grove and Christopher Streets, 66.4 feet on Fourth Street will be torn out. This is occupied by a seven-story apartment, and it is one of the few doomed structures now entirely vacant. A part of the little park in front of the building will also go.

In the final block, bounded by Perry, Eleventh, Waverley Place, and Greenwich Avenue, two triangles will be left. The westerly section will have a frontage of 129.22 on Eleventh Street and 182.01 on Waverley Place, and the easterly portion will be 130.55 on Greenwich Avenue and 115.58 feet on Perry Street. The greatest sufferer in the demolition here will be the huge building on the Greenwich Avenue front at the foot of Seventh Avenue, formerly used by the Monahan Express Company, and which, when erected many years ago, was a famous Greenwich Village brewery.

Several odd pieces of land will be left, one of the peculiar triangle being on the southeast corner of West Tenth and Fourth Streets, where a three-cornered block will be created fronting 64.19 feet on Tenth Street and 90.34 feet on Fourth Street.