



140 Tax Block/Lot # 893-63

142 Tax Block/Lot # 893-62

144 Tax Block/Lot # 893-61

146 Tax Block/Lot # 893-60

East 38th Street *Lexington Ave to Third Avenue*

A group of four three-story-and-basement Italianate brownstone row houses (Joseph Whitehead and Benjamin Wise, Jr., builders, 1860-61). Intact cornices and window surrounds; all but No. 146 have lost their stoops. Neo-classical porch added to No. 142. Mr. and Mrs. John French lived at No. 142 during the early 20th century. "John French, New York lawyer ... had been a member of the firm of Appleton, Rice & 8 and Rice" (NYT). "The marriage of Miss Elizabeth French, daughter of Mrs. John French of 142 East Thirty-eighth Street... Miss French has chosen her sister, Mrs. Laurence S. Rockefeller, for her matron of honor" (NYT). "Mrs. John French, former president of the national board of the Young Women's Christian Association...had been a member of the national board of the Y.W.C.A. since its organization in 1906, when she was elected as its head in 1938.... She was the daughter of Frederick Billings, one-time president of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Billings, Mont., was named for him" (NYT). No. 140 had become a rooming house by 1933. No. 146 was once home to "Thomas Curtis Clarke ...one of the most widely known civil engineers in America" (NYT). Source: New York County Registers Office, Liber Deeds, L. 837 P. 100, L. 833 P. 584; New York tax assessments, Ward 21, 1859 to 1863. NYT 11-28-1933 p.3, 9/5/1935 p.26, 6/17/1901 p.7.