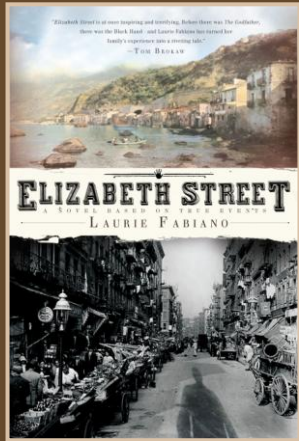


Elizabeth Street Walking Tour



Elizabeth Street

Publisher House: AmazonEncore

Author: Laurie Fabiano

Publish Date: May 2010

In *Elizabeth Street*, Laurie Fabiano tells a remarkable, and previously unheard, story of the Italian immigrant experience at the start of the twentieth century. Culled from her own family history, Fabiano paints an entrancing portrait of Giovanna Costa, who, reeling from personal tragedies, tries to make a new life in a new world. However, her new hometown in New York's burgeoning Little Italy is plagued by the terror of the notorious Black Hand, a gang of brutal extortionists. As Giovanna struggles to stay outside the fray, the stakes grow higher and higher, until she must desperately fight for—and finally save—that which is important above all other: family.

New!

Walking Tour of Little Italy

Old St. Patrick's Cathedral—St. Patrick's Church

Location: Entrance is on Mott Street between Prince and Houston
Page in Book: 244

This was the site of Lieutenant Giuseppe Petrosino's funeral on April 17, 1909. His funeral was an extraordinary event in New York City's history. An article spanning many pages in The New York Times read, "Joseph Petrosino, lieutenant of police, was buried yesterday with such honors as are given to the great, while a metropolis mourned and 250,000 persons watched the cortege (of 7,000), which bore him to his grave." It's astounding that a man who provoked a "Remarkable Demonstration Of Grief" is barely remembered today.

Old St. Patrick's was New York City's first Cathedral, designed by Joseph Francois Mangin and dedicated on May 14, 1815. (It became a church and had "Old" appended to its name when St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue was dedicated in 1879.) For nearly 200 years, this venerable church has cradled the immigrant populations of the lower eastside who helped to build America. Germans, French, Irish and Italian communities all made Old St. Patrick's their home as they sought to establish themselves in their new country. When you visit don't miss the spectacular organ, built by Henry Urban in 1852, that is still in use today.



Petrosino's Apartment

Location: 233 Lafayette
Page in Book: 192

In the novel, this is where Giovanna and Lucrezia visit. Lt. Petrosino in the summer of 1908 when he was ill with pneumonia.

Lt. Petrosino lived here with his wife Adelina and his infant daughter Adelina who was born just a few months before he was murdered.



Saulino's Restaurant

Location: Lafayette and Spring Streets
Page in Book: 157

Giovanna and Rocco have dinner with the lawyer, Signore DeCegli in Saulino's Restaurant. It also marks the first time that Giovanna sees Lt. Petrosino.

Adelina Saulino worked in her parents' restaurant and it was here, when he was in his late 40's, that Petrosino met his future wife, Adelina.



Consul General Massiglia's Office

Location: 226 Lafayette
Page in Book: 220

Italian immigrants flocked to the Italian Consul General's office desperate for information when the news broke about the catastrophic December, 1908 earthquake in southern Italy.

After the death of his first wife, Consul Massiglia met a married American woman, Frances Lloyd Paxton. She soon divorced and married the Consul General. Countess Massiglia then became infamous for being the target of Mark Twain's wrath and wicked tongue. The Twains rented the Massiglia's villa in Tuscany and Twain had furious public battles with his landlady. He wrote, "She is excitable, malicious, malignant, vengeful, unforgiving, selfish, stingy, avaricious, coarse, vulgar, profane, obscene, a furious blusterer on the outside and at heart a coward. ... It is good to be a real noble, it is good to be a real American, it is a calamity to be neither the one thing nor the other, a politico-social bastard on both counts."



Petrosino Square

Location: Diagonally south of the Consul General Massiglia's Office

Named in honor of Lt. Giuseppe Petrosino in 1987 and renovated in 2009/2010.

As a boy, Giuseppe Petrosino shined shoes outside Police Headquarters on Mulberry Street. At the age of eighteen, he began working for the Department of Sanitation (then under the jurisdiction of the Police Department). When he joined the Police Department in 1883, Petrosino was the city's shortest officer, at five feet and three inches tall. Police Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt personally promoted him to Sergeant of Detectives in 1895. While investigating anarchists in the United States, Petrosino warned President McKinley of threats against his life; however, the warning was not heeded and the President was assassinated in 1901. Within ten years, Petrosino was named lieutenant and given command of the new Italian Squad, a unit created to combat the Black Hand. Under his leadership, several thousand arrests were made, and more than 500 offenders were sent to prison. Petrosino was killed while on assignment in Palermo, Sicily.



Stabile Bank (now the Italian American Museum)

Location: 155 Mulberry Street
Page in Book: 235

Giovanna, accompanied by Signore DeCegli, wires money from Bank Stabile to her family in Scilla following the Messina/Reggio earthquake and tsunami.

"Banca Stabile" was founded by Francesco Rosario Stabile in 1885. During its heyday, it was a de facto immigrant community center offering not only banking services, but translation, telegraph, insurance, notary and steam ship tickets. Vacant for decades, it became the home of the Italian American Museum in 2008. The museum has an original Black Hand letter on exhibit that was sent to the family of the museum's founder, Dr. Joseph Scelsa.



Church of the Most Precious Blood

Location: 109 Mulberry Street

Page in Book: 224

A mass for the earthquake victims and their families – many of whom were in New York – took place here on New Year's Day, 1909. In the novel, Giovanna and her family attend the service. It's painful to know that this devastating earthquake was just the opening salvo in a year of heartbreak.

The Church of the Most Precious Blood was established in 1888 by Vatican decree to serve the rapidly growing number of Italian immigrants. Prior to the establishment of Church of the Most Precious Blood and of St. Anthony's Church on Sullivan Street, masses for Italians were primarily relegated to church basements. Today, the Sons of Italy, Petrosino Lodge, meets regularly in this church and it remains the home of the San Gennaro Feast.



Mulberry Bend Park/Columbus Park

Location: Intersection of Mulberry, Worth, Baxter and Bayard Streets

Page in Book: 309

On October 2, 1909, Mulberry Bend Park was the site of a Hudson Fulton Celebration Children's Day Pageant. In the novel, Mary participates with thousands of children from the area's public schools. There has never been a public celebration on the scale of the two-week Hudson Fulton Celebration. It featured countless events including extravagant naval, historic tableaux, and electrical parades and the first glimpse of aeroplanes. Wry commentators at the time pointed out that the Hudson Fulton Celebration, coming at the peak of immigration, was also an opportunity to wow and indoctrinate America's newest residents through a grandiose display of patriotism.

In the old Five Points neighborhood, the most notorious section was Mulberry Bend. Jacob Riis, called it the "foul core" of New York, "unmatched in physical and moral destruction." Riis led the charge to use eminent domain to demolish the tenements and build a pastoral park. Mulberry Bend Park was opened in 1897 and renamed Columbus Park in 1911. Today it is primarily in use by the local Chinese community.



5th Police Precinct – Headquarters of the Italian Squad

Location: 19 Elizabeth Street

Page in Book: 160/185

Giovanna meets here with Lt. Petrosino at his headquarters.

The Italian Squad worked out of the second floor during the time that it was headed by Lt. Petrosino. Built in 1881, the 5th precinct is the oldest precinct house still in operation in New York City. Prior to the advent of aide societies, homeless people were often housed in police basements for the night. The 5th precinct was one of these early "shelters."



Teatro Villa Giulia

Location: 196 Grand Street

Page in Book: 139

In the novel, Giovanna and Rocco see a performance of Edward Migliaccio, the famed Italian performer known as "The Little Butterfly" here in 1905.

At the turn of the century, live theater was central to immigrants' lives – it wasn't only entertainment, but a window to the world for isolated communities. Unfortunately, most of the theatres, like Teatro Villa Giulia, are gone today.



DiPalo's Fine Foods

Location: 200 Grand Street

Di Palo's was the site of the book launch party for Elizabeth Street.

Savino Di Palo from the mountain village of Montemelone, Basilicata opened a latteria (dairy store) in 1910. In 1925, at this site, Savino's daughter Concetta opened a latteria of her own. Di Palo's is now one of the premiere Italian food stores in the country, still owned and operated by the Di Palos. It's a wonderful place to get many of the foods highlighted in *Elizabeth Street*.



Lombardi's Pizza

Location: 32 Spring Street

Page in Book: 275

This is where Giovanna promises to take Angelina to celebrate her 4th birthday.

Lombardi's is America's first pizzeria, opened in 1905 by Gennaro Lombardi. Gennaro started by selling tomato pies wrapped in paper and tied with a string for Italian workers. Most workers could not afford the entire pie, so Gennaro began to sell it by the piece. After nearly 80 years of operation, Lombardi's closed in 1984, but reopened under the ownership of Gennaro's grandson, Jerry, and John Brescio in 1994.



PS 21

Location: Corner of Mott and Spring Street

Page in Book: 250

In the novel, students are evacuated in a panic from P.S. 21 when they hear an explosion and assume it's a Black Hand bomb. There were so many Black Hand bombings during this period that people lived in constant fear. Bombs were central to the Black Hand's campaign of terrorism. In fact, the Italian Squad evolved into the NYPD's Bomb Squad.

This was the site of Public School 21, which was demolished.



Nunzio's Apartment

Location: 176 Elizabeth Street

Page in Book: 40

This is the building that housed Lorenzo Costa and his family and where Nunzio stayed during his time in New York City.



Manzella's (former address)

Location: 196 Elizabeth Street

This address was once Manzella's store for wine and produce. Manzella went bankrupt after being extorted by Lupo. He was forced by creditors to tell his story, but Manzella didn't show for the trial on November 23, 1909. Lupo was released and quickly rearrested for counterfeiting, however this charge didn't stick either. Lupo was finally arrested for counterfeiting on January 8, 1910 in Brooklyn and sentenced to 30 years.



Siena Family Home

Location: 202 Elizabeth Street

Page in Book: 125

Angelina would always proudly reference the fact that her family were "lease-owners." There was status in having a lease as so many people were boarders in other peoples' rented apartments. The crimes committed at 198-202 Elizabeth Street were not isolated to the Siena family. Angelina remembered a murder in 198, "A handsome doctor was shot in the vestibule."

198-202 Elizabeth Street was one of the first tenements on the block to have a toilet in each of the apartments, as opposed to one for each floor or privies in the backyard. 202 Elizabeth Street is still an apartment building today and houses many of the areas Chinese immigrants.

Angelina's Release

Location: Corner of Bowery and Spring Streets

Page in Book: 361

Where Angelina was released by her kidnapers.

Angelina had an extraordinary memory of her kidnapping. All the details in the novel about the manner in which she was taken, where she was taken to, and how she was returned came directly from her recollections. She spoke of recognizing the black marble columns of the Germania Bank building opposite the building holding an ice cream cone and realizing she was home. When she told the story she would smile with both relief and pride when she recounted being able to identify the corner of Bowery and Spring and knowing how to back to her family.

Pietro Inzerillo's Café Pasticceria

Location: 226 Elizabeth Street

Inzerillo offers his "help" when Giovanna and Rocco are first blackhanded. Later, Giovanna confronts Inzerillo in his café numerous times during the kidnapping.

Pietro Inzerillo was a member of the Morello gang and Café Pasticceria served as one of their hangouts. Lupo is the focus in *Elizabeth Street* as his name was associated with Angelina's kidnapping, but in actuality, Lupo was in partnership with his brother-in-law Giuseppe Morello who was the leader of the gang. It was determined that the infamous Barrel Murder of 1903 was the work of the Morello gang and committed here in Inzerillo's store.

Bank Pati

Location: 240 Elizabeth Street

Page in Book: 317

In the novel, Teresa overhears people talking about Lupo being behind the bombing of Bank Pati. Giovanna uses this information in her campaign to frighten the kidnapers.

Pasquale Pati's Italian Bank was the site of much Black Hand violence. On January 23, 1908 a bomb was set in the bank's doorway killing a teller. In early March, the bank was invaded by Black Handers but the Pati fought back and killed a man. In March, in fear of his life, Pati and his family fled causing a near riot of depositors and a run on his bank and the area's other small Italian banks.



Siena's Fruits and Vegetables (Basement)

Location: 242 Elizabeth Street

Page in Book: 167

This is the site of Giovanna and Rocco's store, Siena's Fruits and Vegetables that was bombed in early 1908.



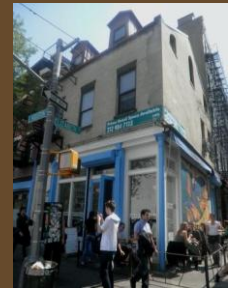
Star of Italy

Location: Corner of Elizabeth and Houston

Page in Book: 155

Clement is having a beer here when Lt. Vachris from the Italian Squad enters the bar to try and get information on the disappearance of a young boy, Mario Palermo.

The Star of Italy was a notorious Black Hand hangout. People would literally cross the street to avoid walking past its doors. Most Italians didn't want these men to know they existed so they feared calling attention to themselves.



Our Lady of Loreto Church

Location: 303 Elizabeth Street

Page in Book: 220, 327

Giovanna and Lorenzo go to the church after receiving news of the earthquake. It is also the site of a dramatic scene where Giovanna confronts one of the kidnapers.

Our Lady of Loreto, the neighborhood church for most Italians, was a massive edifice, holding 1000 parishioners. In August of 1921 a requiem mass was held in Our Lady of Loreto for Enrico Caruso.



Police Headquarters

Location: 300 Mulberry Street

Page in Book: 168

Lt. Petrosino meets with Police Commissioner Bingham here.

This was the site of the New York's first police headquarters, and is where Theodore Roosevelt served as Police Commissioner. In late 1909 headquarters were moved downtown to a monumental Beaux-Arts building at 240 Centre Street. (Headquarters moved further downtown in 1973 and 240 Centre Street was turned into condos.)



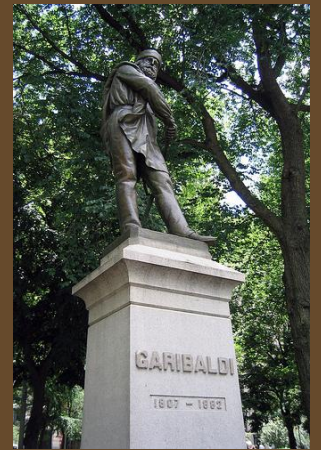
Additional Sites of Interest in New York City

Giuseppe Garibaldi Monument

Location: Washington Square Park
Page in Book: 293

Giovanna is instructed to bring the first ransom payment to the Garibaldi statue. There are numerous references to this monument being a meeting point for Black Hand activity. The horrible irony is that Garibaldi was an Italian patriot that unified the Italian people.

General Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807–1882) was a patriot who crusaded for a unified Italy. He lived for a few years in exile in Staten Island, but returned to Italy to fight for unification in 1854. The statue was designed by Giovanna Turini and paid for by New York's Italian American community. It was dedicated in 1888, six years after Garibaldi's death. In 1970, when the statue was moved 15 feet, a glass vessel from the 1880s containing documents about Garibaldi was found under the base.



Astor Library

Location: 425 Lafayette Street
Page in Book: 112

Told by Lucrezia to check the newspapers for information concerning Nunzio's death, Giovanna goes to the Astor Library with her nephew Domenico. It was here that Giovanna learned the details of the dreadful accident.

The Astor Library was established with a bequest from John Jacob Astor and was built in 1854. Designed by Alexander Saeltzer, it was a reference library, not a circulating library. In 1910, The New York Public Library was completed and it took a year to move all the books from the Astor and Lenox Libraries to the shelves of the new library, which was dedicated on May 23, 1911. The Astor Library building was bought by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, later fell into disrepair, and was resurrected as The Public Theater in 1967 opening with the world premiere of *Hair*.

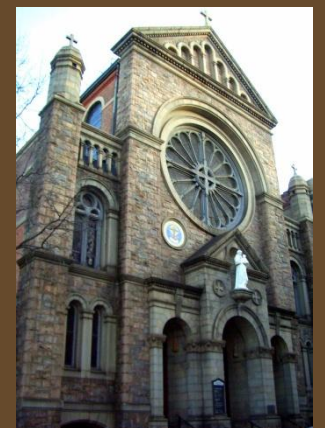


St. Anthony's Church

Location: 154 Sullivan Street
Page in Book: 331

One of the ransom notes, instructs Giovanna to deliver a payment to the confessional of St. Anthony's. Black Handers often directed meetings or payments to be made in churches.

Founded in 1866, St. Anthony's Church was the first church established to minister to Italian immigrants. Run by Franciscan Friars, it is one of the most beautiful churches in New York.



Walking Tour Directions

The tour will start in front of Old St. Patrick's Cathedral at 32 Prince Street (however front entrance is on Mott Street)

- Walk south on Mott street
- Make a RIGHT onto Prince street till you hit Lafayette Street (two blocks)
- Turn LEFT onto Lafayette and continue south until you hit 233 Lafayette (location of Petrosino's apartment and his wife's family restaurant at the corner).
- From the corner walk across the street to 226 Lafayette (Consul General Massiglia's Office)
- Walk diagonally south to the triangular park, Petrosino Park.
- Continue south on Centre Street
- Make a LEFT onto Broome Street
- Make a RIGHT onto Mulberry Street and continue south till you hit 155 Mulberry (Bank Stabile)
- Continue walking south on Mulberry till you hit 109 Mulberry Street (Church of Most Precious Blood)
- Continue walking south on Mulberry till you hit the corner of Mulberry Street and Bayard Street (Mulberry Bend Park, today called Columbus Park)
- After exploring the park exit the way you came in and make a right onto Bayard Street
- Make a LEFT onto Elizabeth Street and walk north till you hit 19 Elizabeth Street (5th Police Precinct)
- Continue walking north on Elizabeth street then make a LEFT onto Canal Street
- Make a RIGHT onto Mott Street and walk north to Grand Street where you will hit DiPalo's Fine Foods and the location of where Teatro Villa Giulia used to be.
- Continue north on Mott Street 3 blocks until you hit Lombardi's Pizza on the corner of Mott and Spring. Enjoy lunch!
- Diagonally across on the corner you will see the location of where PS 21 used to be.
- From Lombardi's take a RIGHT onto Spring and walk east one block to Elizabeth Street
- LEFT onto Elizabeth Street where you will continue on till then end of the tour.

Enjoy!!