

## 42 Historic Markers for Lower Manhattan

## Sidewalk Tutorials for Downtown Strollers

City Hall was built by Joseph Francois Mangin and John McComb Jr. in 1812. Abraham Lincoln lay in state there on April 24 and 25, 1865. Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia became the mayoral shoo-in in 1933 after he got the backing of the city's master-builder, Robert Moses.

These are among the bits of history that will be found by readers of the Heritage Trails Site Marker that is to be unveiled at City Hall Park on Thursday at 11 A.M. It is among the first group of four cast-iron markers — there will eventually be 42 — providing on-the-spot history on one side and a colorful map of Lower Manhattan on the other, that are being placed at historic locations around the area.

"We are in the process of trying to create a community downtown," said Alexia Lalli, executive director of Heritage Trails New York, a two-year-old nonprofit group providing visitor services in Lower Manhattan. "About 400,000 people used to come to work here and leave every day," she said. "Now that's changing. People are staying to live and eat."

All the site markers, costing \$10,000 each, are to be in place by year's end, along the already established orange,



Chermayeff &amp; Geismar

## Front and back of Heritage Trails marker for City Hall.

red, blue and green Heritage Trails on 4.5 miles of Lower Manhattan's streets. The trails radiate from Federal Hall National Memorial, 26 Wall Street. The guideposts, which are three feet wide and seven feet high, feature two panels supported by cast

iron tubes painted subway green.

The text was written by Anthony W. Robins, an architectural historian; the graphics were designed by Chermayeff & Geismar, and maps were done by Stephen Van Dam. "This is really a process of making people

aware of their surroundings," said Ms. Lalli. "We're not known as a history town, but this is where it all began — George Washington's first cabinet and the first Supreme Court."

Among the 17 sites featuring markers by spring will be the African Burial Ground and the U.S. Custom House/Museum of the American Indian. Another will be placed in front of 85 Broad Street, the 30-story office building completed in 1982 for Goldman, Sachs & Company, which occupies the site of the first City Hall, used by the Dutch settlers. Markers will appear this week at the New York Information Technology Center, 55 Broad Street; the four-story 1913 J. P. Morgan building at 23 Wall Street, pockmarked by an anarchist's bomb in 1920, and at William Barthman Jewelers, 174 Broadway at Maiden Lane, founded in 1884 and distinguished by a clock embedded in the sidewalk.

Maps of the trails are available, free, at tourist spots as well as at the Heritage Trails booth at Federal Hall, Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 P.M.; from April, also Saturday and Sunday, 9 to 5 P.M.

For information, call (888) 487-2457.