Columbia University moves to its present home in Morningside Heights. The
land grant from Trinity Church sets as a condition for its land grant for the new college a
land grant in perpetuity, which has a time limit of 99 years.
1784
The college is renamed Columbia College.
1785
Benjamin Moore (Kings College 1768), recently ordained an Anglican min-
ister, is appointed president of King's College.
1786
Myles Cooper, a 28-year-old Oxford University-trained minister, is appointed
college president.
1787
The college is chartered as Columbia College.
1790
The second Trinity Church is consecrated on March 5.
1792
The cornerstone is laid for King's College on the land granted by Trinity Church
and the city of New York, with Governor George Clinton as chancellor. The college's governors are
eliminated from the charter.
1794
A new charter vests Columbia's governance in a self-perpetuating 24-member board, which is re-designated "the Trustees of Columbia College in the City of
New York, with Governor George Clinton as chancellor.
1801
The second Trinity Church is consecrated on March 5.
1804
Benjamin Moore (Kings College 1768), recently ordained an Anglican min-
ister, is appointed president of King's College.
1805
Queen Anne of England gives land on the west side of Manhattan known as the
waterfront property bounded by the Hudson River, Bank Street, and West
Street, to the city of New York for the "education and support of a college or school for young
men of learning and worth.
1804
Alexander Hamilton's lease on the land expires.
1806
A new charter vests Columbia's governance in a self-perpetuating 24-member board, which is re-designated "the Trustees of Columbia College in the City of
New York, with Governor George Clinton as chancellor.
1807
Columbia University presents King's College with a parcel of land bordered by
Church Street, Barclay Street, Murray Street and the Hudson River, and inter-
sected by Park Place.
1808
The cornerstone is laid for King's College on the land granted by Trinity Church
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1811
The college is chartered as Columbia College.
1812
The college is renamed Columbia University.
1815
Columbia University moves to its present home in Morningside Heights. The
49th Street campus is old and its buildings demolished.

On Nov. 13, in a primal sort of pilgrimage, Columbia University returned to its origins in Lower
Manhattan. Faculty, alumni, students and staff joined with lead-
ergens and congregants of Trinity Church to celebrate the 250th
anniversary of the founding of King's College by royal charter of King George II in 1754. A civic service of com-
memoration and anniversary lun-
cheon celebrated Trinity's role in the birth of King's College, colo-
nial forebear of one of the world's great research universi-
ties.
In opening the ceremony, Trin-
ity's Rector, the Reverend Daniel Paul Matthews, invited cele-
brate to take "a sacred pause, to re-
flect on the significance of begin-
ing and the importance of history." Among those reflecting were Columbia President Lee C. Bollinger and Dr. Louis ullman. At the next secret the bonds between the two institu-
tions and their shared commit-
ments to spiritual life, the search
for truth and leadership in the city. Expressing pride in Colum-
bia's role in building New York, Bollinger quipped that the Uni-
versity had provided "everything from the sewers to the towers.
Everyone wants to know his birthplace to see where he came from." President Bollinger
Further perspectives came from Kenneth Jackson, president of the New-York Historical Soci-
ey and the Jacques Barzun Pro-
Fessor in History and the Social
Sciences at Columbia. Jackson is
co-Chair of Columbia 250 along
with Trustee Chair Emeritus
Henry King. also in attendance.
Jackson is currently a Trinity vestryman and has also served on the Trinity vestry.
The story of the College's founding and early growth was elaborated by Robert M.
McCaughhey, Ann Whitney Olin
professor of history at Barnard
College. McCaughey has just
published Stand Columbia, a sin-
gle-volume interpretive history of the University. As the Trinity Choir sang a medley of works by
alumni, Richard Rodgers, Lorenz
Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II,
even "My Funny Valentine," sounded almost hymn-like in the
layered harmonies of the arrangement and the resonance of the nave.
Matthews and Bollinger then
presented to the City a plaque designating the site of the origi-
nal campus of King's College.
Soon to be installed in the wall
surrounding Trinity's church-
yard, it replaces a plaque created for Columbia's bicentennial in 1954, which disappeared during
student protests in the early
for the modern world.
It was a day of welcome oppor-
tunities in a historic setting, a chance for both Columbia and Trinity to celebrate a common her-
tage older than the nation, and for
Columbians to deepen their collec-
tive self-understanding in the midst of the 250th anniversary year. After all, as President Bollinger said, "Everyone wants to know their birthplace, to see where he came from.
For the full text of Ric Burns' remarks entitled, "Some Thoughts on Lower Manhattan on the Occa-
sion of Columbia University's 250th Birthday," visit the C250 Website, at www.c250.colum-
bia.edu

Timeline: The Birth of Columbia University in Lower Manhattan

1705
Queen Anne of England gives land on the west side of Manhattan known as the
waterfront property bounded by the Hudson River, Bank Street, and West
Street, to the city of New York for the "education and support of a college or school for young
men of learning and worth.
1735
On May 7, President John Adams attend the Columbia Commencement at St. Paul's
Chapel.
1754
President John Adams attend the Columbia Commencement at St. Paul's
Chapel.
1775
On Sept. 21, a fire sweeps through New York City north to King's College,
destroying Trinity Church and Charity School. St. Paul's Chapel is saved, but
the British ship Asia bombards the Battery, causing New Yorkers to fear for
their lives and homes.
1776
Benjamin Moore (Kings College 1768), recently ordained an Anglican min-
ister, is appointed president of King's College.
1783
The British ship HMS Kingfisher. He is believed to have been partly responsible
for the death of Moses Hazen, a 19-year-old Columbia student who offered,
a sin-
mear lynching, was murdered by a group of
students and staff.
1784
King's College relocates to its own building at Park Place, overlooking the
Hudson River, which will remain the institution's home until 1857.
1789
Following his inauguration at Federal Hall, President George Washington
attends a Thanksgiving service presided over by Bishop Provost at St. Paul's
Chapel.
1790
The college is chartered as Columbia College.
1791
A new charter vests Columbia's governance in a self-perpetuating 24-member board, which is re-designated "the Trustees of Columbia College in the City of
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Timeline courtesy of the Archives Department of Trinity Church

By Jerry Keilinger

Reverend Daniel Paul Matthews and President Bollinger presented to the City a plaque designating the site of the original campus of King's College.

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1804
Benjamin Moore, rector of Trinity Church and bishop of New York, becomes
Columbia's fifth president.
1804
Alexander Hamilton dies of wounds received in a duel with Aaron Burr. Hamilton
attended King's College from 1773 to 1775, when he left to join the
Continental Army. He later served as Trustee of Columbia College, from which he
resigned in 1788. Hamilton's body was laid at Trinity Church, but was
widely attended. He was buried on the south side of the churchyard, where
a monument was erected in 1806.
1838
John Watts dies and is buried in the family vault in the south side of Trinity's
yard, it replaces a plaque created
for the modern world.
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