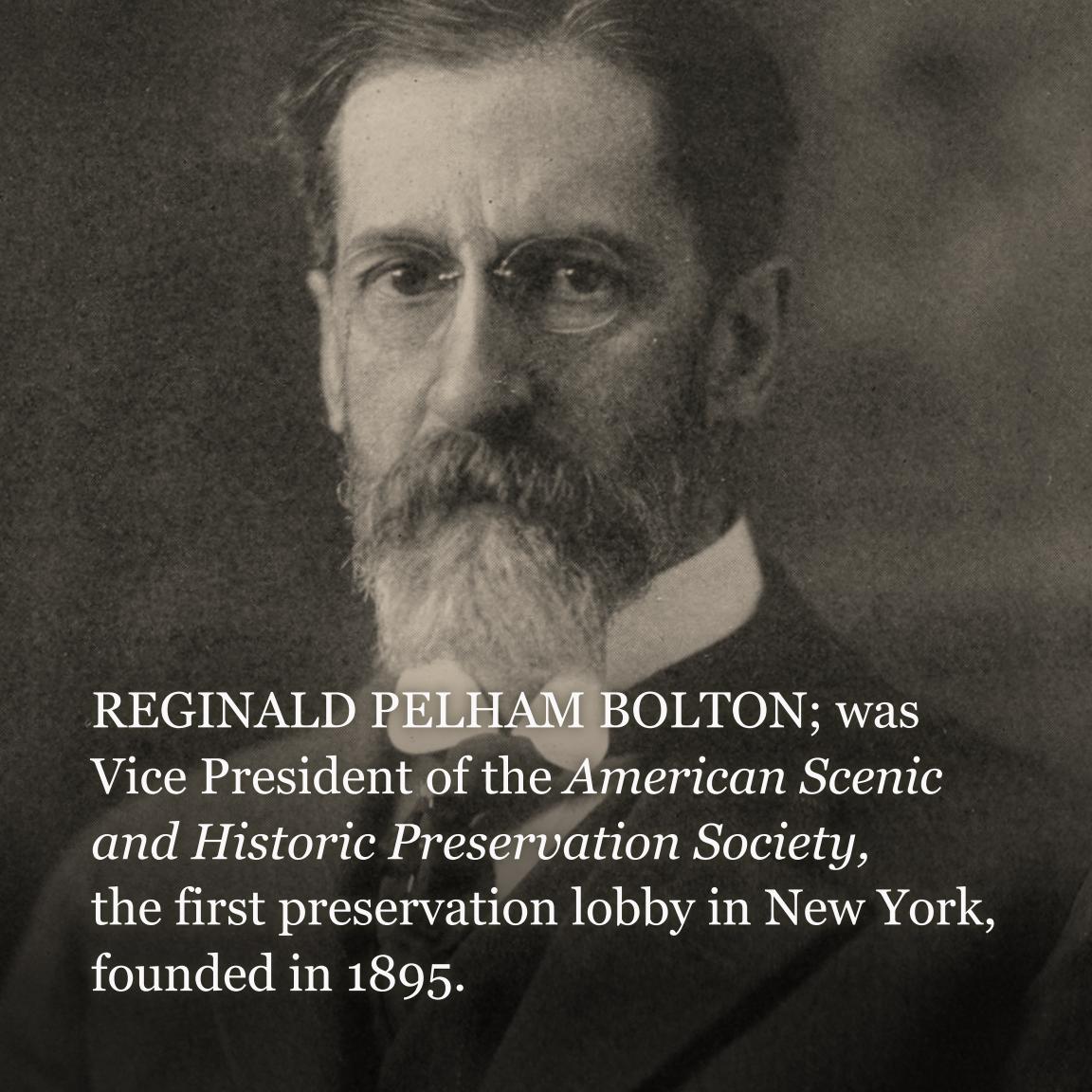


WELCOME
TO A NEW SERIES ABOUT THE
Expansion
OF
*Audubon Park
Historic District*



REGINALD PELHAM BOLTON; was Vice President of the *American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society*, the first preservation lobby in New York, founded in 1895.

In March of 1903, workmen in the Inwood section of northern Manhattan made a startling discovery.

On a hilltop, near the present intersection of 212th Street and Tenth Avenue, were discovered row after row of skeletons buried beneath crude stone markers.

The contractors were cutting away the southern part of the beautiful knoll lying immediately west of the line of Tenth avenue between 211th and 212th streets, for the purpose of securing grading material for Tenth avenue.

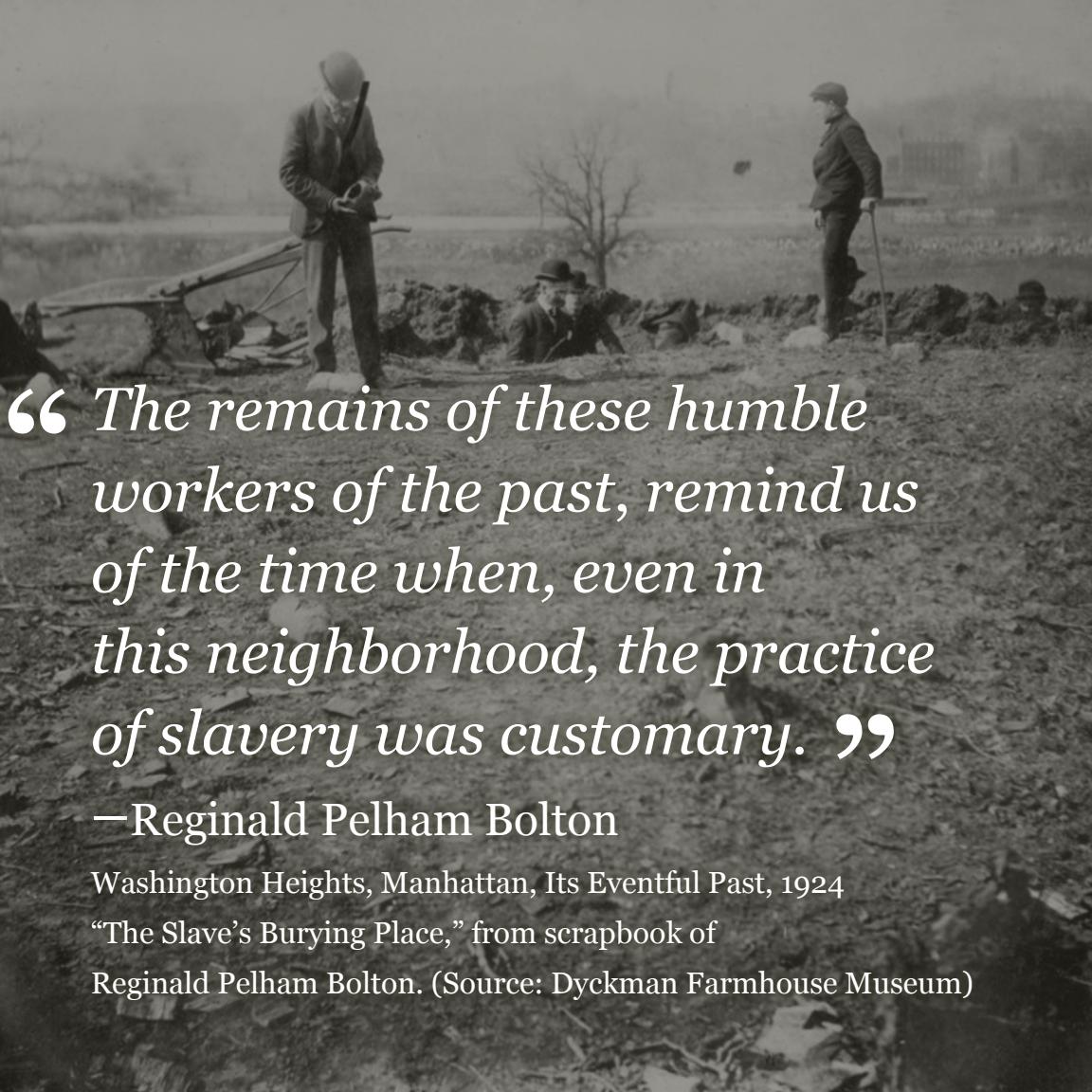
“Slave’s Burying Place,” from Scrapbook of Reginald Pelham Bolton.
(Source: Dyckman Farmhouse Museum)

Representatives of the *American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society* studied and photographed the site.

From the characteristics of the skeletons, they concluded that this was an ancient burial ground for slaves, either in connection with the British occupation or with the Colonial inhabitants of upper Manhattan Island.

1917 MAP BY REGINALD BOLTON WITH LOCATION OF SLAVE CEMETERY MARKED.

The site was not far from the neighboring old Dyckman Cemetery, and it is probable that the interments were contemporaneous with those of the Dyckman Cemetery.



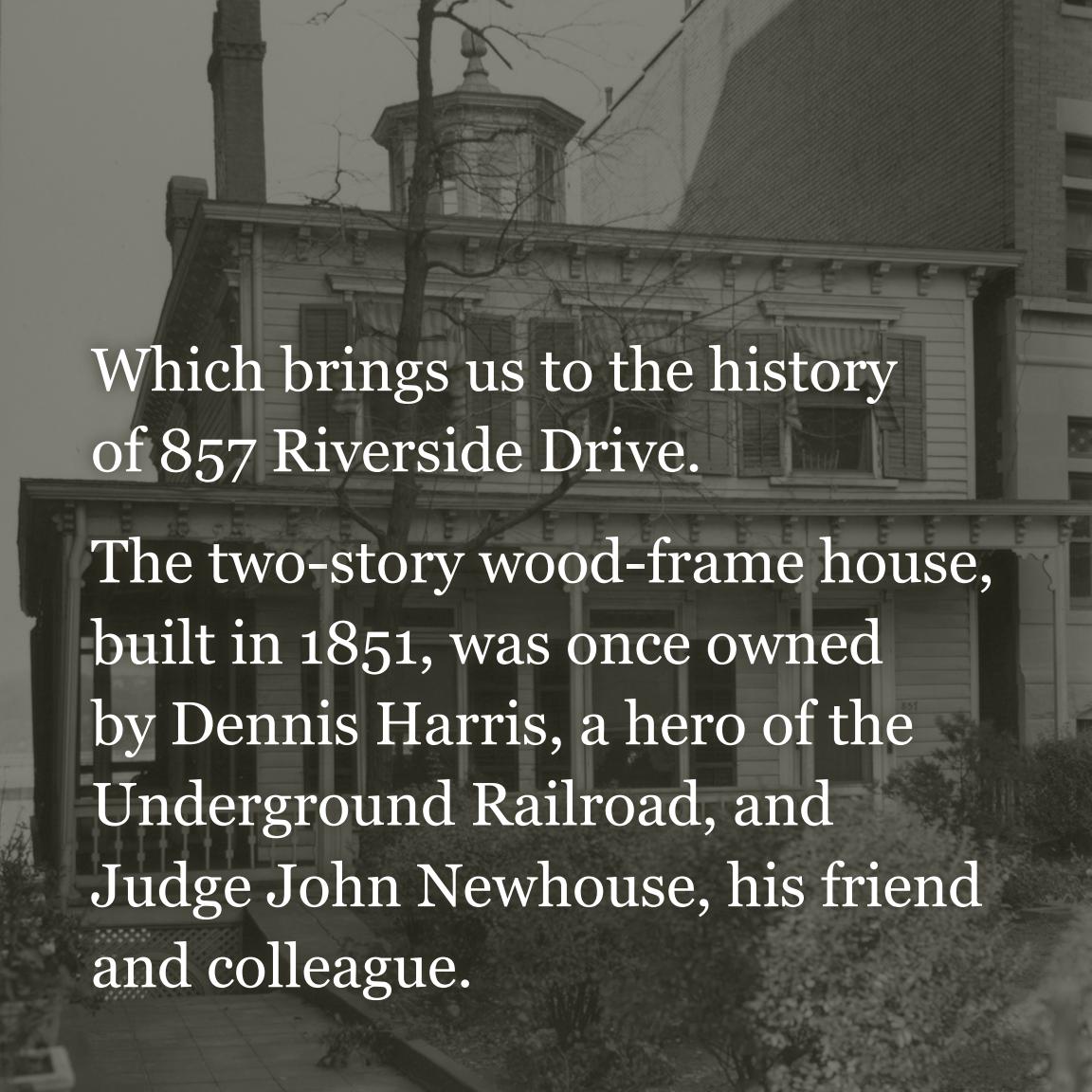
“The remains of these humble workers of the past, remind us of the time when, even in this neighborhood, the practice of slavery was customary.”

—Reginald Pelham Bolton

Washington Heights, Manhattan, Its Eventful Past, 1924

“The Slave’s Burying Place,” from scrapbook of

Reginald Pelham Bolton. (Source: Dyckman Farmhouse Museum)

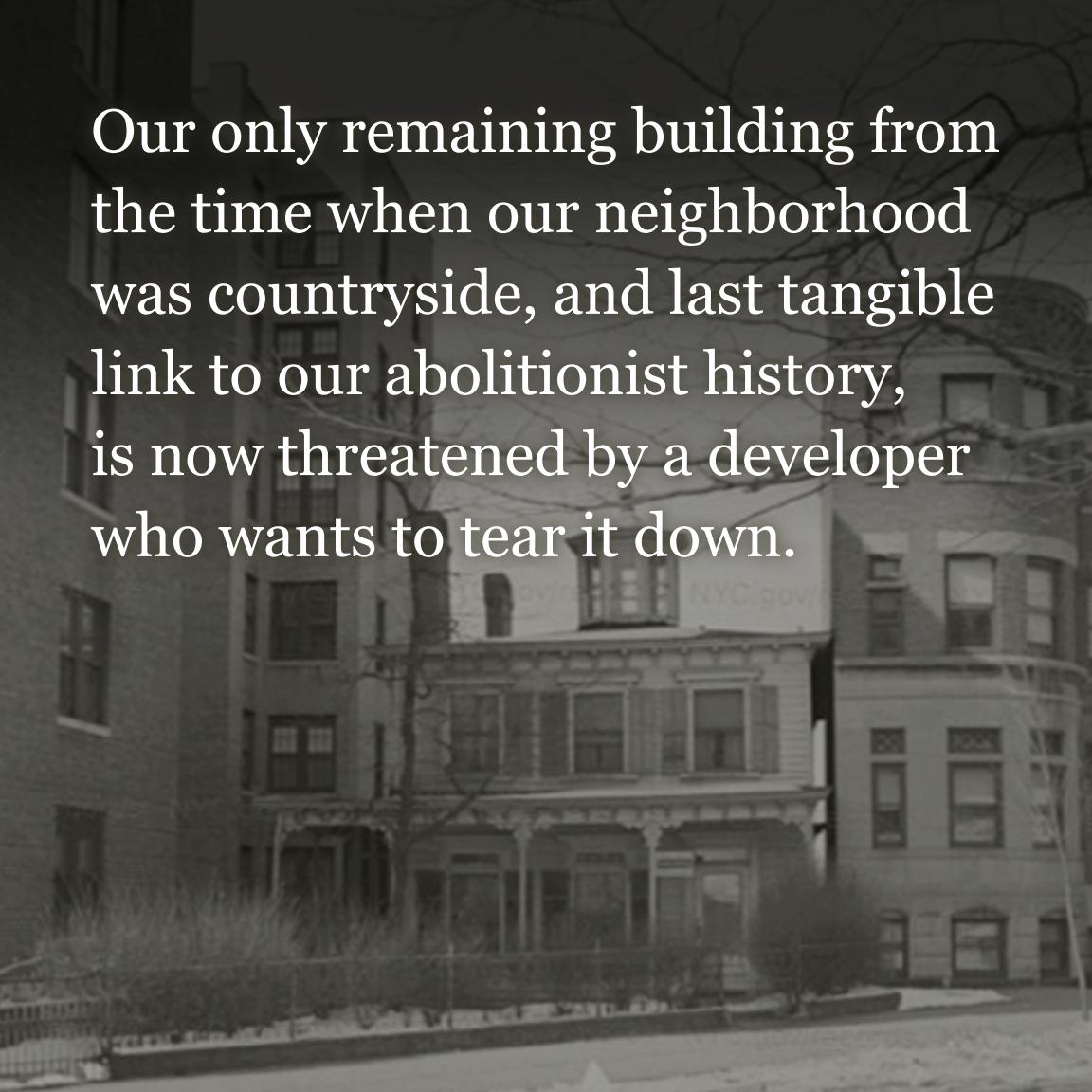


Which brings us to the history
of 857 Riverside Drive.

The two-story wood-frame house,
built in 1851, was once owned
by Dennis Harris, a hero of the
Underground Railroad, and
Judge John Newhouse, his friend
and colleague.

Both men were ardent abolitionists, civic-minded entrepreneurs, and pivotal figures in the growth of Washington Heights.

Sites related to abolitionists and the Underground Railroad are rare in New York, and this Greek Revival –Italianate house is arguably the only one known to survive north of 96th Street in Manhattan.



Our only remaining building from the time when our neighborhood was countryside, and last tangible link to our abolitionist history, is now threatened by a developer who wants to tear it down.