

# HAIR BRAIDING SALONS

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March 2022



August 2022



March 2023



September 2024

126 St.&Morningside av.



## Abstract

During my couple of days exploring the street where the photo was taken, I couldn't help but notice the vibrant scene at the hair braiding salon. Women were braiding each other's hair, laughing, and chatting, creating a lively atmosphere. They embodied the essence of the community, and to me, this scene reflected the heartbeat of the entire street. It beautifully illustrated the rich tapestry of Harlem's culture. While hair braiding salons are tangible spaces, their true value lies in their intangible significance. They embody the preservation of culture and heritage, ensuring the continuity of traditions and the meanings they carry.

## INTANGIBLE HISTORY

Hair braiding salons play a vital role in the African American community, serving significant cultural, social, and economic functions. Deeply rooted in African heritage, braiding reflects artistic expression and fosters cultural pride, reinforcing community bonds. These salons also serve as educational spaces, teaching younger generations about their heritage and the importance of hair care. Additionally, they function as social hubs where individuals can connect, share experiences, and discuss local issues. Owned by local entrepreneurs, these establishments create jobs and contribute to economic empowerment within the community. Furthermore, hair braiding offers a means of self-expression, allowing individuals to showcase their identity and personal style. Through hair braiding, salons have opened a doorway that allowed narrating a story about Black culture, history, art, renaissance, rebel, resistance, perseverance and unity.