ABC's Manhattan-based operations will be reunited on Upper West Side as plans for complex are developed

Last May, Capital Cities/ABC, Inc. Chairman Tom Murphy and President Dan Burke announced plans to consolidate ABC's headquarters and many of its New York-based operations within several blocks on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. In an effort to keep all Capital Cities/ABC employees informed of the progress of this consolidation, Capital Cities/ABC Ink will present a series of articles in the coming months. We will give you a bit of history along with updates on real estate and construction plans.

Capital Cities/ABC, Inc. is preparing a major "homecoming." It was just over 20 years ago that a tide of development and expansion swept ABC's corporate and administrative management downtown from its initial berth on Manhattan's Upper West Side to its present mid-town mooring at 1330 Avenue of the Americas (on the corner of West 56th Street). Since then, various company operations have been anchored in over 30 locations throughout the borough, and a mile-long gulf has separated ABC management and those who plan and administer programming from those who produce it.

Last spring, Capital Cities/ABC, Inc. announced it was charting a new uptown course that, by the end of this decade, will reunite ABC's administrative and production capabilities in an interrelated complex in what is now known as the Lincoln Center vicinity of the Upper West Side.

Bringing ABC's headquarters and corporate management into closer touch with their product makes a great deal of sense for a firm whose business is rapid communications. It will also free the company from a number of current lease restrictions and rent increases. With the sale of 1330 Avenue of the Americas (see related story, Page 14), a new headquarters can be built to ABC's specifications on land the company already owns in close proximity to its broadcasting operations. For all these reasons, relocating most of ABC's New York operations within a few blocks of each other will be much more efficient, convenient and cost-effective.

For those employees who can still recall ABC's first years in a former horse stable and riding circuit on West 66th Street and Central Park West some 38 years ago, the uptown consolidation means "going home" again. ABC literally grew up on Manhattan's Upper West Side. In 1948-49, the Company built its first network television center in purchased space formerly used as the arena for the New York Riding Club. Today this block-long structure at 7 West 66th Street houses the production crew for ABC News' "Our World" and two studios, TV 1 and TV 2, used for Good Morning America, 20/20 and ABC's Wide World of Sports.

Over the years, ABC purchased or leased buildings and acquired parcels of land up and down West 66th and West 67th Streets (see map below). Many of these properties have been renovated or revitalized to meet the Company's growing needs, while preserving and enhancing the attractiveness of the Lincoln Center district.

The following pages offer a "before and after" look at the evolution of ABC's holdings in the neighborhood of its origins.

ABC UPTOWN FACILITIES/OCTOBER 1986

REAL ESTATE KEY

2060 Broadway.......................... News library, BO & E (broadcast operations and engineering) studio services, graphic arts

1980 Broadway.......................... Ansonia post office

37 Columbus Ave.......................... Corporate purchasing, news

35 W. 67th St.).......................... 20/20 documentary operations, 20/20

365 Broadway.......................... Good Morning America production offices, news on-air promotion

Lincoln Triangle.......................... Residential and retail space

7 Lincoln Square.......................... WABC/CV operations and administration

7 W. 66th St........................... Engineering maintenance, network operations, messenger center, editing facilities for "Our World"

57-67 W. 66th St......................... Under renovation

50 W. 67th St........................... Building services, credit union, communications, security, BO & E administration, video tape TOC (technical operation center), BO & E, engineers, studio and theatre maintenance, post production, SNAG (systems maintenance assembly group), central stores, engineering lab, network operations and scheduling

67 W. 66th St........................... BO & E executives, engineers, unit and tech managers, BO & E, telecommunications, graphics, news business administration, news producers and correspondents, news operations, high tech production offices, TV5 (News China Beijing TV) (offices), video tape library, central switching and master control, cardiac

BO & E engineering, World News Tonight/Today production offices, TV5, TV2 (20/20)

56 W. 66th St........................... BO & E control and studio support, TV5 (One Life to Live)

37 W. 66th St........................... Central stores, BO & E storage, science center, shop and supply

40 W. 66th St........................... Personnel

58 W. 66th St........................... Production services

57 W. 66th St........................... Operations

125 West End Ave....................... Radio network, film services, building services, entertainment feature film, BO & E, network training and publications, RF (radio frequency) maintenance, network ENG (electronic news gathering)

53 W. 66th St.......................... Building services, shipping and receiving, furniture storage

107 West End Ave........................ Vacant

80 West End Ave........................ Unoccupied—proposed Olympic village
56 West 66th Street

AFTER: With the restoration of its facade and a massive renovation of its interior, the armory has been home to ABC's daytime serial, "One Life to Live." It has been a TV Studio 27 since 1977. The building also houses Broadcast Operations and Engineering control and studio support personnel.

BEFORE: ABC purchased a U.S. armory at government auction in 1976. Located across the street and down the block from ABC's original site at 740 West 66th Street, the armory was erected in 1927 and had been used by the 302nd Medical Battalion before its acquisition by ABC.

7 Lincoln Square

AFTER: The warehouse now serves as an event venue for 7 Lincoln Square, home of WLFS/TV, the Capital Cities/ABC owned television station in New York. The station facility was opened in 1979.

BEFORE: The Atlas and Columbia warehouses on the southeast corner of West 66th Street and Columbus Avenue were purchased by ABC in 1979. The two-story building to the right of the warehouses, 77 West 66th Street, had been acquired by ABC in 1957. ABC also owns the land on 67th Street behind the old warehouse site.

320 West 66th Street

BEFORE: An old powerhouse overlooking the Hudson River was purchased by ABC in 1983 as part of the 125 West End Avenue building and site acquisition. It was subsequently torn down. In the photo, the old printing plant on West End Avenue sits near the left corner of the powerhouse.
30 West 67th Street

BEFORE: A parking lot adjacent to the west side of 7 West 66th Street's "K" building which houses TV Studio 5 and TV Studio 2 for "Good Morning America and ABC's Wide World of Sports" was acquired by ABC as part of a phased purchase of property from 1989 to 1991. It became the site of the major portion of the company's "Phase 1" construction project.

30 West 67th Street

AFTER: "Phase 1," a 14-story glass-enclosed walk, steel and concrete structure, was occupied by Broadcast Operations and Engineering in late 1979. It houses the facilities for RO & E laboratories, post-production, engineering, maintenance, scheduling and other services. The back entrance to 7 West 66th Street can be seen to the immediate left of 30 West 67th Street.

125 West End Avenue

BEFORE: ABC bought the seven-story building and site on the corner of West End Avenue and West 66th Street in 1982. Originally the home of The New York Times printing plant, it later was occupied by a small private printer, an auto dealership, a clothing shop warehouse and an auto parts store.

125 West End Avenue

AFTER: A massive interior and exterior renovation by ABC's Real Estate & Construction Department has made the original structure home for electronic news gathering (ENG), film services, RF maintenance, building maintenance, RO & E technical training and publications, entertainment feature film and radio network operations. Production services and radio administration are slated to move in next year.

320 West 66th Street

AFTER: Groundbreaking for TV Studios 23 and 24 took place in October 1982. ABC's daytime serial "One Life to Live" moved into TV-23 in August 1984. A little less than a year later, another ABC soap, "Ryan's Hope," moved to TV-24 to celebrate the serial's 10th anniversary.
A 47 West 66th Street

**BEFORE:** With the purchase of the small garage at 51 West 66th Street in 1981 and a subsequent purchase in 1985, ABC became the sole owner of all property on the north side of West 66th Street from 7 West 66th Street to Columbus Avenue. The company relocated employees and operations housed in four of these buildings (19 West, 19 West, 65 West, and 71 West) and, in 1982, tore down these structures to clear the site for **“Phase II.”**

A 47 West 66th Street

**AFTER:** Informally known as **“Phase II,”** the 240,000 gross square foot structure at 47 West 66th Street is joined at each floor to 30 West 77th Street **(“Phase I”),** the building directly behind it. ABC News and Broadcast Operations and Engineering moved into the facility in early 1986. ABC Sports will follow in 1987. TV Studio 3 (the anchor news and anchor desk for World News Tonight, with Peter Jennings) is located here, along with the flagship employee cafeteria.

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1330 Avenue of the Americas sold to the Shuwa Corp. of New York; ABC to stay for three more years

As the first major step in Capital Cities/ABC, Inc.'s plans to consolidate ABC's Manhattan facilities on the Upper West Side, the company announced on September 17 the sale of ABC's current headquarters building at 1330 Avenue of the Americas in New York.

The 40-story structure, ABC's "main office" since 1964, is being purchased by the Shuwa Corp. of New York. Although the closing occurred in October, Capital Cities/ABC is remaining as a tenant at 1330 for three years while a new building is designed and constructed on an ABC-owned site in the Lincoln Center area of the city.

Shuwa Corporation of Japan, the parent company of Shuwa Corp. of New York, is one of the largest real estate developers in Japan, with over $6.7 billion in assets. Its Shuwa Investments Corp. subsiduary owns 35 office buildings and residential properties throughout the U.S., including 1900 and 1901 Avenue of the Stars, located a block away from ABC's West Coast offices in Century City, CA. 1330 Avenue of the Americas was sold for $775 million, considered to be a high watermark for midtown real estate. The Shuwa Corp. of New York has not yet announced long-term plans for the building.