

Real to Reel:
How the real-life locations
of New York City
were portrayed on screen
in
Beneath the Planet
of the Apes

As we know at the end of Planet of the Apes astronaut George Taylor finds out that he is not on an alien planet but, is in fact back on Earth. He of course realizes this when riding along the shoreline with Nova and comes across the remains of the Statue of Liberty.

Beneath the Planet of the Apes takes up where Planet left off and we are introduced to a new astronaut...Brent who was sent to find out what happened to Taylor.

Brent of course meets up with Nova, who leads him to, a city of Apes after which into the Forbidden Zone where he finds out that he also is back on earth and more specifically a nuclear ravaged New York City.

So, how does the movie locations of New York City compare with the real locations?

Let's take a look at this journey...Beneath the Planet of the Apes.

As we know Brent and Nova first make their way into NYC by entering the Queensboro Plaza Subway station and then from there they make their way by tunnel to Manhattan.

They enter Manhattan from Queens via a tunnel and come out at 5th Ave and E. 41 St outside the main branch of the NYC Public Library.



In the reel picture above we don't see much of the surrounding area but we do know that from the lion and stairs that it is the main branch of the library. We see that the tunnel actually takes up most of 5th Ave, which we can only assume was done sometime before or maybe after the nuclear war. Looking south on 5th Ave.

The pictures on the right are the real locations of the area. Accuracy between the reel and real is low but close enough to portray where the two are.

**Location: New York City Main Library Branch
476 Fifth Ave NY, NY**





The picture above shows the front of the main branch of the library from the movie.

And it lines up pretty well with the actual look of the main library branch below.



For those interested the two lions in front of the library are named Patience, which guards the south side of the library's steps and Fortitude which guards the north.

Brent and Nova continue their journey and come upon Radio City Music Hall.
Located at the corner of 6th Ave and W. 51 Street.

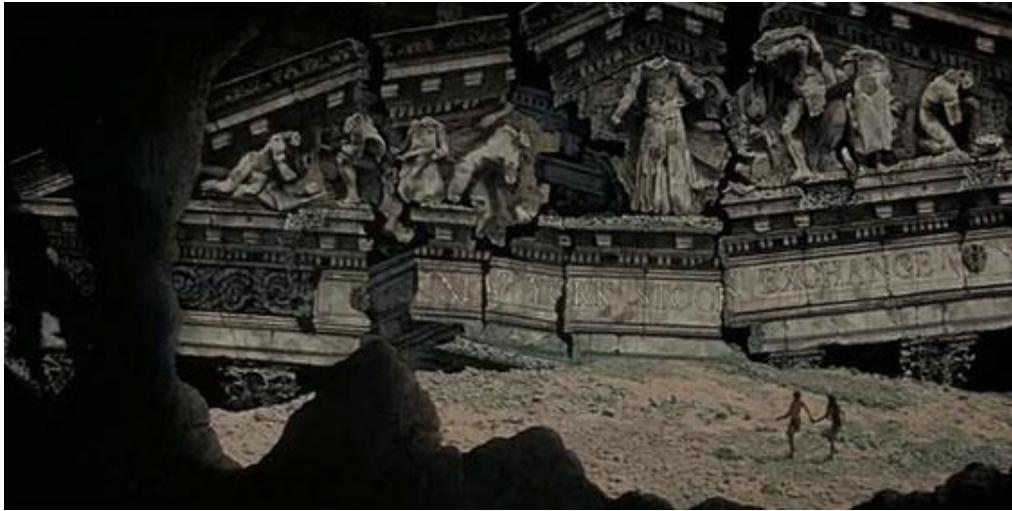


Above is the movie version of Radio City Music Hall.

Below is the real location.



Accuracy is pretty decent especially with the façade showing that it is Radio City Music Hall.
Radio City Music Hall location: 1260 6th Ave NY, NY



On the left photo we then see Brent and Nova walking by the NY Stock Exchange.

The photo on the right is the real location and the upper façade are pretty close to the movie version.



The photo on the left, Brent and Nova are walking towards the viewer.

New York Stock Exchange
location: 11 Wall Street NY, NY





Brent and Nova make their way back north to the area of Rockefeller Center. In the back is the statue of Prometheus which is located at the skating rink.

At right is the real Prometheus which is slightly different but very close.



Rockefeller Center location: 45 Rockefeller Plaza between W 49 St. and W 50 St.



On the left we see Brent and Nova approaching the entrance of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Location is 5th Ave between E. 50 and E 51 Streets and 5th Ave and Madison Aves.

At right is the view of the real St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Location: 5th Ave between E. 50 and E. 51 Streets

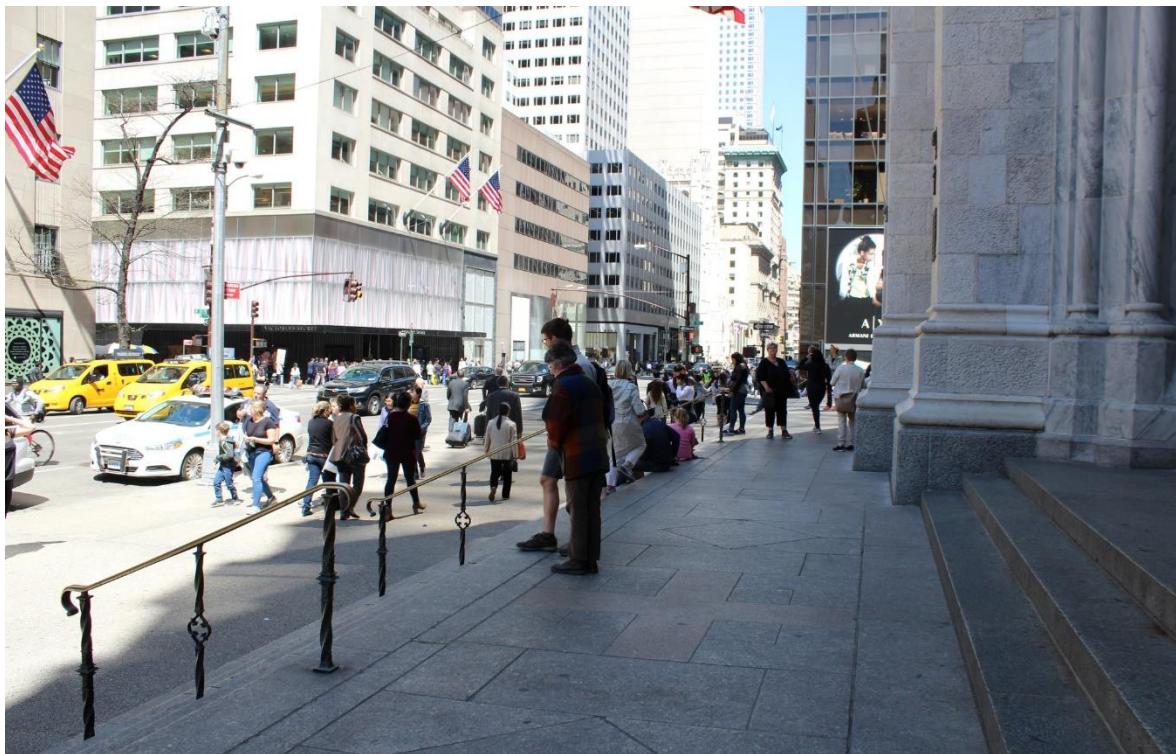


As with the top photo from the movie, depending on your point of view or position, either of the above street signs would work. 5th Ave is the dividing point for East and West streets.



Above is the view from the film in front of St. Patrick's looking north on 5th Ave towards E 51 St.

Below the same view looking north on 5th Ave

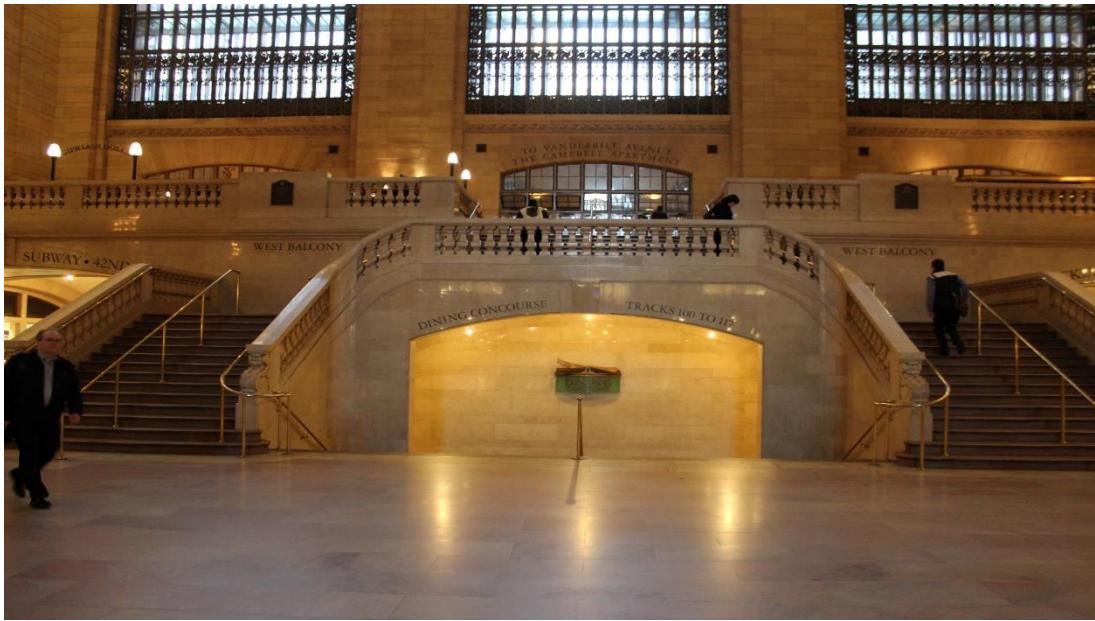


Brent meets his interrogators in Grand Central Terminal



Below one of the real stairways located within the Terminal.

Probably the closest to where he would have been.
This stairway is located on the Vanderbilt Ave exit on the west side of the Terminal.



**Grand Central Terminal location:
89 E. 42nd Street between Vanderbilt Ave and Lexington Ave**

Over the entranceway from which Brent is escorted in we see
TRACKS 19-11 LEXINGTON AVE SUBWAY TELEPHONES
This would put his interrogation on the main floor of the Terminal.



The above is based on the real photo below but combined
using two different archways in the film.



This area is on the west side of the main floor of the Terminal.

We now get to the worshipping of the Alpha Omega bomb which takes place inside of the ruins of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

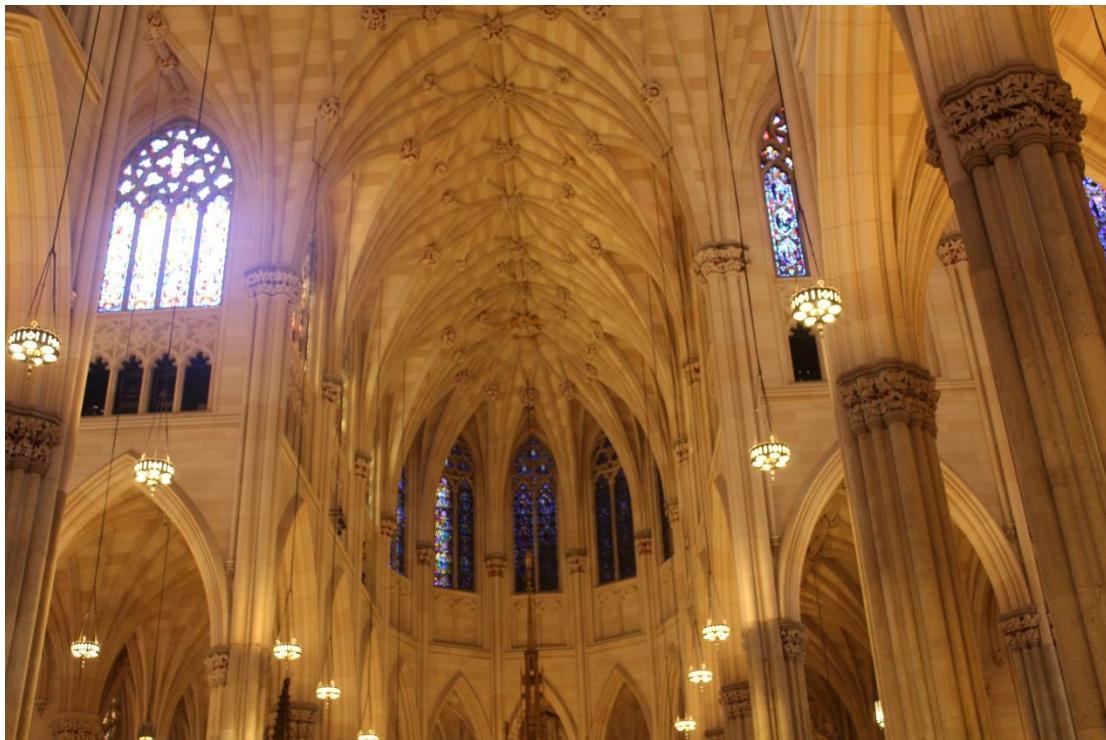
Below is when Brent first enters the cathedral and meets Verger.



Below is the real location of where the Alpha-Omega bomb would be located.



The below picture is looking up to where the Alpha-Omega bomb would have been launched.



Below Taylor is looking from his hiding spot as Ursus prepares his destruction of the Alpha-Omega bomb while Zaius warns him of its potential destructive force.



Below: the real direction from which Taylor would have been.



Below are the web sites associated with the locations shown in the movie.

NY Public Library: www.nypl.org/locations/schwarzman

New York Stock Exchange: www.nyse.com/index

Radio City Music Hall: www.radiocity.com

Rockefeller Center: www.rockefellercenter.com

St. Patrick's Cathedral: www.saintpatrickscathedral.org

Grand Central Terminal: www.grandcentralterminal.com

NYC Subway: www.nycsubway.org

