

Learning Places Spring 2016

SITE REPORT 1

Trip To Vinegar Hill



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INTRODUCTION

Trip to vinegar hill was a breathtaking experience. I mean by looking at this picture it's hard to tell that if you are in Brooklyn or some suburban area of New Jersey. The combination of some two hundred years old buildings and twentieth century architecture at this area was really beautiful. Than going down from vinegar hill to Dumbo took me to back in 1870's where I could see those old trolleys running around taking people back and forth. All that business going on between Brooklyn to Manhattan was all in front of my eyes.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I am pretty excited about this trip because I never really heard about this neighborhood. Funny thing is after looking at Google maps, I realized that I park my

car everyday in this neighborhood but don't know the name of it. When I go there I feel like most of that area is industrial because, I see mostly delivery truck are entering and leaving. Secondly I am curious about that Con Edison plant that, why it is really on the edge of the water, I feel like it not safe.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



This power plant of Co Edison at the corner of Plymouth and Hudson, is really a strange land mark in vinegar hill. When i was passing by this street i could hear some strange voices feels like electricity was passing through these giant wires, i could hear them only because this area is really quit. Secondly i was curious about this huge concrete block which is inside of this electric jungle. Top three floors of this building has no windows looks like nobody lives here anymore or this building is not in use anymore, but last 6 floor of the building had some windows and they had different color than top three floor as well which was the indication that building is still in use.



New building in between old buildings and most of them with different colors. Modern architecture with lots of wide open windows an example of perfect ventilation system on the other hand old were buildings not really good with ventilation systems.



Three story house with the retail space on the first floor, almost every building space between them as well.



These buildings are right across the Con Edison power plant. Building in the middle has two windows but their size were really small, I think they were made for a ventilation system. By looking at these buildings I could tell they are really old, the red brick building on the corner looks like it will fall any time soon.



This is the view which everyone knows already, the view of the Brooklyn Bridge from Dumbo. Where today all businesses are going on, this is the area where the first ferry landing opened in 1642, because before the bridge all traveling between Manhattan to Brooklyn was happening by ferries. Then later on in the same location the Brooklyn Bridge was built.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Vinegar Hill
 - b. Con Ed plant, Industrial
2. Vitality of Neighborhood
 - a. General Description
 - i. Historical quiet and beautiful vinegar hill.
 - b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. not much
 - c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. more than expected
3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)
 - a. 1800 to 1900, pre world war 11 description
 - b. some new buildings as well more like 21st century
4. Relationship Between Buildings
 - a. All are attached to one another.
 - b. Mostly are in same style of architecture.
5. Building Details
 - a. similar window shapes
 - b. small ventilation windows
 - c. Running Brick Bonds, Common Brick Bonds, and Flemish Brick Bonds.
6. Relationship to the Waterfront
 - a. Buildings on Hudson and Water Street may get more busy soon.
 - b. Looks like in future lot of business and residential building will take over this area.
7. Other Observations
 - a. will be same like downtown manhattan soon
 - b. More skyscraper will built

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	Bridge Street, Gold Street, Hudson Avenue, Little Street, John Street, Plymouth Street, Evans Street, Water Street, Admiral Perry Plaza, Front Street.
Street Width	Hudson Street and Gold Street were wide enough to be two-ways and allow parking on both sides of the road. Plymouth Street and the rest of the streets were more narrow and appeared to be one-way.
Street Pavement	cobblestones and mixture of new roads
Building Heights	3 to 5 stories old buildings, but new ones varies
Building Widths (Window Bays)	Residential / Commercial: 3-4 bays Industrial: 5-6 bays
Building Types/Uses	Mixed uses, varying from minimal commercial, to residential and undertones of industrial.
Empty Lots / Gardens	Several empty lots, new constructed streets
Shops / Restaurants	not much but more on jay street and Gold street.
Industrial Shops	few chinese shops,

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. How the future of this area will be like?
2. Will con edison power plant still be the part of vinegar hill after 10 years?
3. What we will do to prevent from sandy?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. News
 - b. Articles
 - c. Media
2. Question 2
 - a. Research
 - b. Magazine
 - c. News
3. Question 3
 - a. American Society of Civil engineer
 - b. Engineers without borders
 - c. Research

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

I liked that Vinegar Hill is away from the rest of Brooklyn. The quiet atmosphere was beneficial to observing the neighborhood. Old buildings of neighborhood are keeping the soul of old brooklyn alive. The buildings that are now mostly used for solely residential purposes were at one time shops. The East River was at one time accessible to pedestrians. I was thinking that vinegar hill will be more industrial area but feels like i was wrong didn't know its rich history. I think now own future of this area will be totally different, so far i know soon downtown brooklyn will be converting into downtown manhattan. i hope i am wrong because this neighborhood looks really great in its original form.