

Learning Places Spring 2016

SITE REPORT

St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church



Interior of the church, taken in the 1850s⁴

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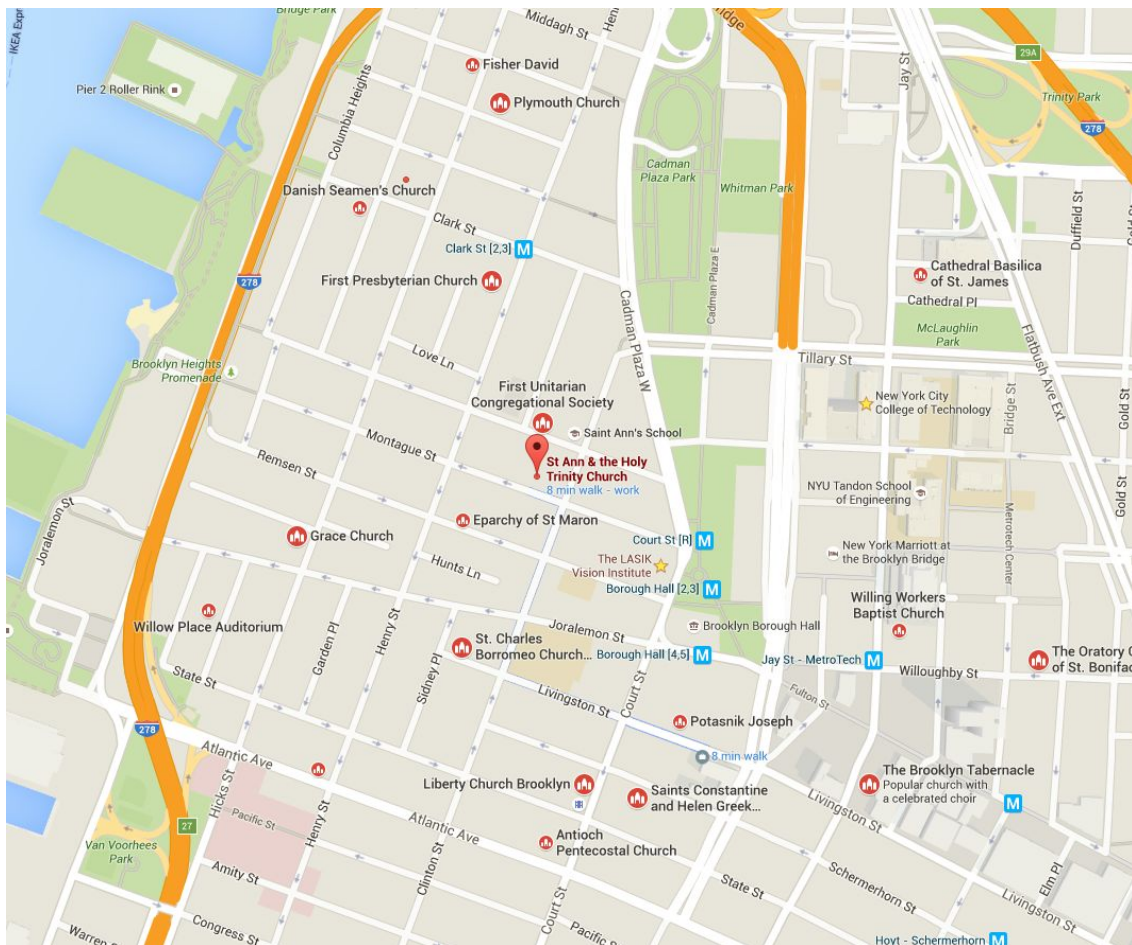
02.15.2016

INTRODUCTION

I explored the general vicinity of St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church, which is located at 57 Montague St, Brooklyn, NY 11201. I was curious of the religious influence on Brooklyn Heights, not only of the Episcopal denomination (like St. Ann & the Holy Trinity), but of other faiths as well.

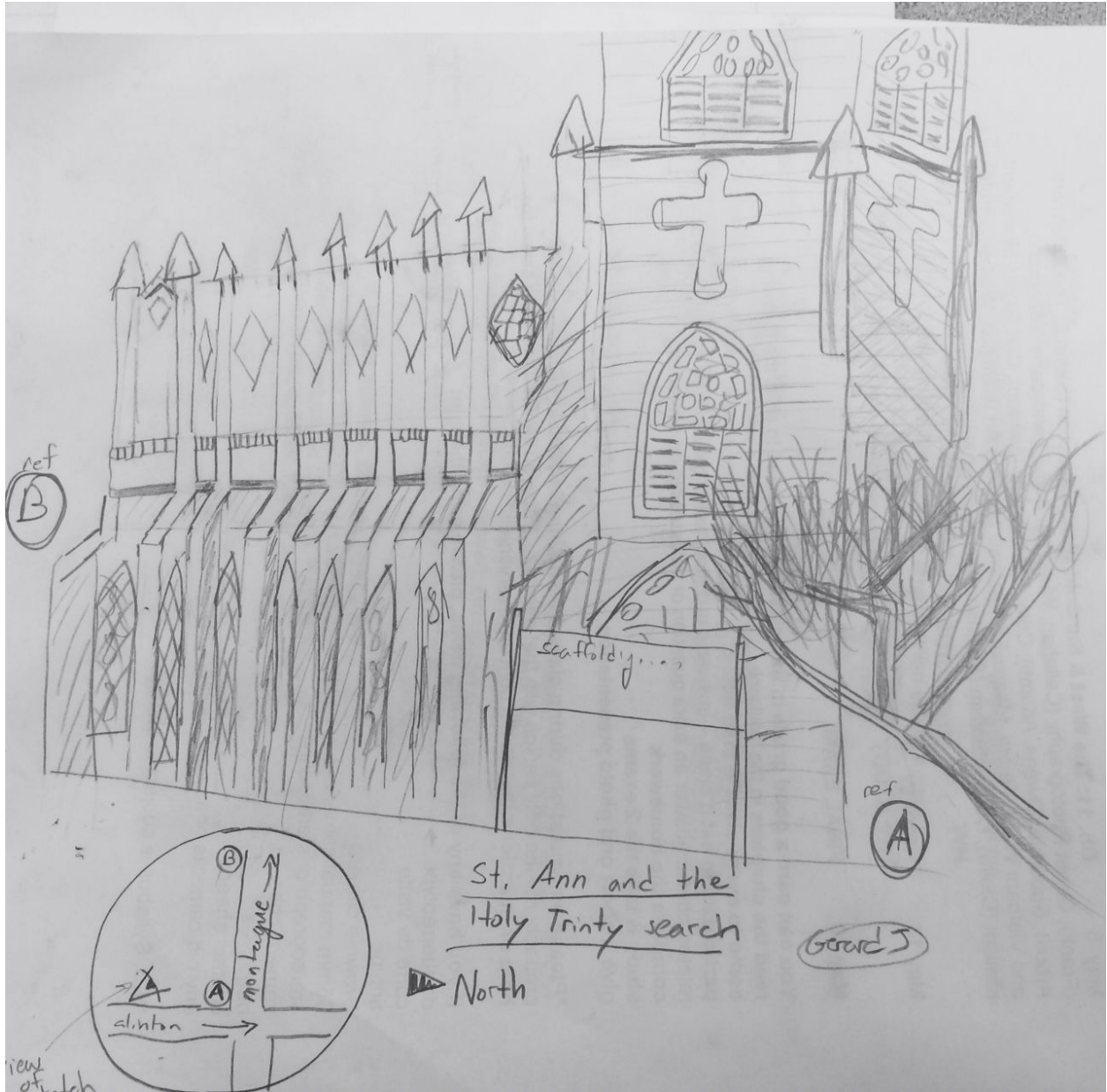
PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I anticipate to learn about the planning strategy early city designers had when constructing churches in the area. Through google maps, I saw that there are, in excess of, thirty churches within a 1 mile radius of St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church. The aforementioned church will be the center of my exploration; I will compare and contrast it to some other churches in the vicinity.

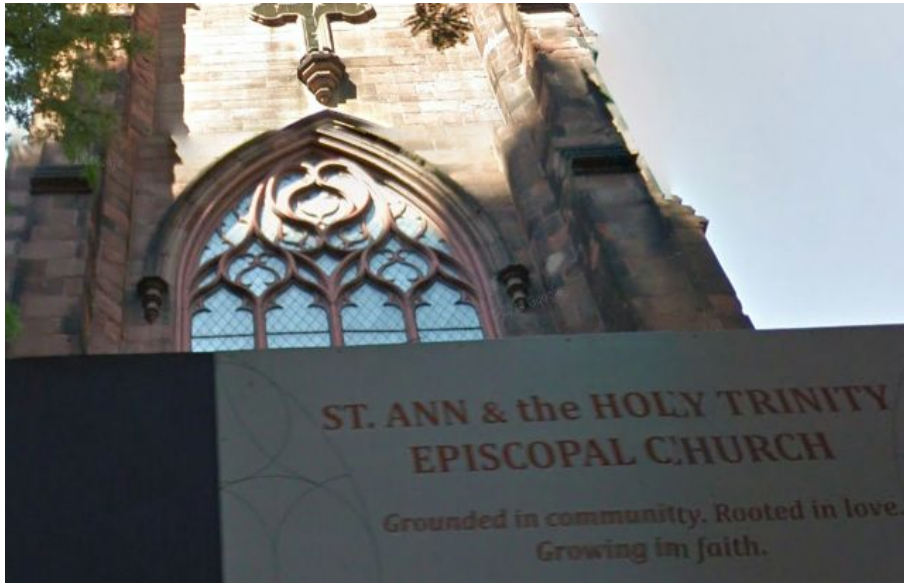


Red locations denote churches³

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



This is a sketch, composed by myself, of the church. It was taken 200ft away from the church, on a SE heading, standing on Clinton St. My sketch does not do justice to the beautiful stained glass windows evident in the bright sunlight.



This is the east facing side of the main tower. The large stained glass window is better seen.



This is the south facing side of the church seen from Clinton St. The brownstone masonry can be seen well in this photograph.



This is a 3D representation of the south-facing (Montague St.) from Gogle maps.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Urban, but with limited high-rises
 - b. Busy, in terms of pedestrian traffic
 - i. many businesses in the direct vicinity.
 1. 3 banks, pharmacy, various cafes.
 2. major subway hub adjacent to the church
 - c. The vitality of the neighborhood is active
 - i. Adults and children seen midday
 - d. General Description

- i. “Old” looking church. Contrasts with surrounding architecture (with a few exceptions)
 - e. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. There is significant activity on the street. However, I cannot comment on people entering the church.
 - f. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. There is traffic consistent with an NYC urban intersection
- 2. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)
 - a. Originally built in 1847¹ from the original St. Anne’s church established in 1787
 - b. Restored in 1979²
 - c. Declared National landmark in 1987¹
- 3. Relationship to the Waterfront
 - a. Close to the location of the original Fulton St.
 - b. Close to East river estuary

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names and Width	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Montegue St width = 32ft ● Clinton St. width = 23 ft
Street Pavement	Asphalt
Building Heights	High rises seem to end with the border at Clinton St. Buildings surrounding the church are no higher than 100ft.
Building Widths (Window Bays)	Stained Glass. Arched windows
Building Types/Uses	Church. Congregation

Empty Lots / Gardens	Possible internal garden, unsure.
Shops / Restaurants	In the vicinity. Various cafes, restaurants, opticals, boutiques
Transportation	“Court St.” station is adjacent to the church. Active motor vehicle intersection around the whole block.

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Is there a correlation between the era the churches were built, and the importance of the area.
2. Why was the church restored in 1979? Does it have to do with the subway that is under the church.

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Time lapse of churches built. Plot on map, color-code by decade
 - i. Public GIS data, combined with statistical analysis via R. Plotting with ggplot2 package
 - ii. Create tables of church name, location, and construction date (or date range).
2. Question 2
 - a. Look at public NYC Department of Buildings data.
 - i. See what restorations were made.
 - ii. Compare to public MTA data on the construction of the Court St. station.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

With the multitude of churches in the area, I can hypothesize that the high concentration of churches in the area is correlated to the historically significant area the church is located. The area used to be the heart of industrial Brooklyn, since its settlement until the early 20th century. It makes sense that places of congregation would be concentrated near the then busy Fulton St. The gentrification of the area, in conjunction with efforts of the Landmarks committee, have permanently situated and preserved churches in the area, such as St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church.

Sources

1. ["St. Ann and Holy Trinity, Brooklyn"](#). *National Historic Landmark summary listing*. National Park Service. 2007-09-18.
2. Tomian, Michael (November 21, 2014). [Historic Preservation: Caring for Our Expanding Legacy](#). Springer. p. 344. Retrieved 13 November 2015.
3. Google Maps
4. The Building | St. Ann & the Holy Trinity. (n.d.). Retrieved February 15, 2016, from <http://www.stannholylrinity.org/building/>