

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

Howard Golden Reserve Room-Brooklyn Central
Public
Library



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INTRODUCTION

The objective here is meet with an employee of the Brooklyn Central Public Library. At this visit I will be taught how to use the library database to locate archival information about Vinegar Hill and much more.

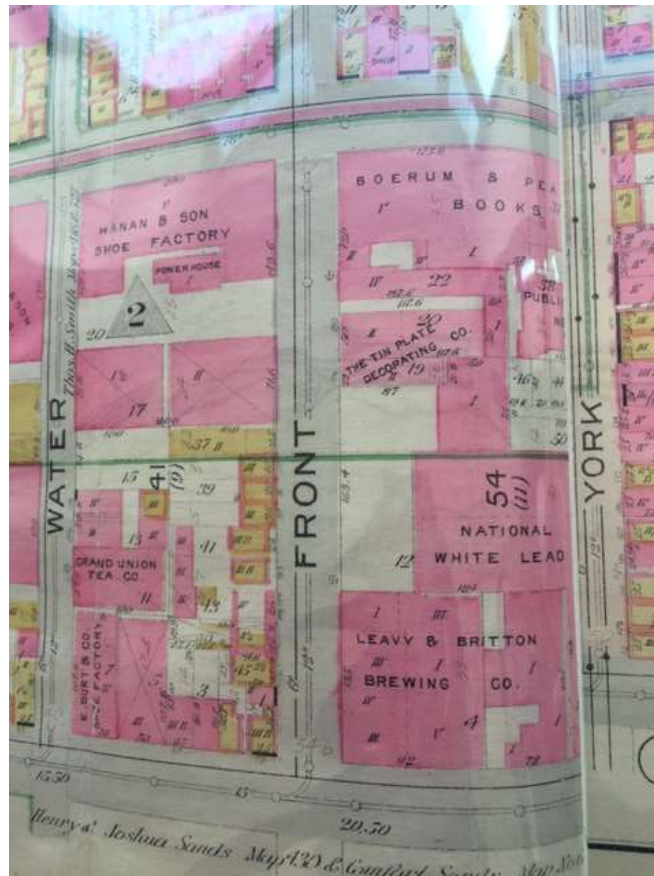
PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I am a true fan of Central Public Library, here is where I rent most of the books I read. Central Public Library offers a variety of books in a calm, cool, and most of the time quite atmosphere. This library is tremendous in its size and is visual breath taking on both the inside and out. When visiting this library was mentioned I was absolutely thrilled. In my opinion Central Public Library is by far is of my top three best libraries to visit.

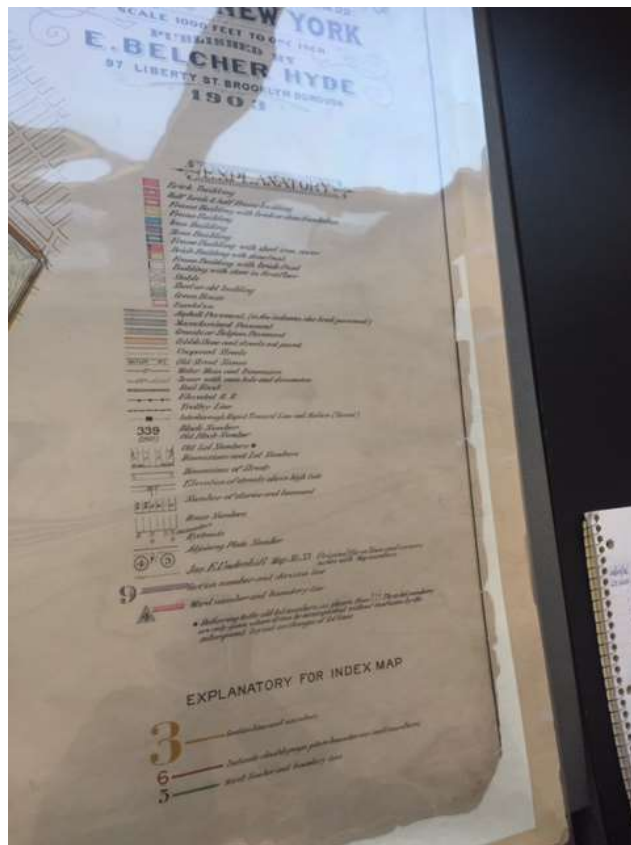
SOURCES found

1. Atlas of Borough of Brooklyn, Volume One, 1903

DOCUMENTATION of site & resources (maps/archival documents/photos)



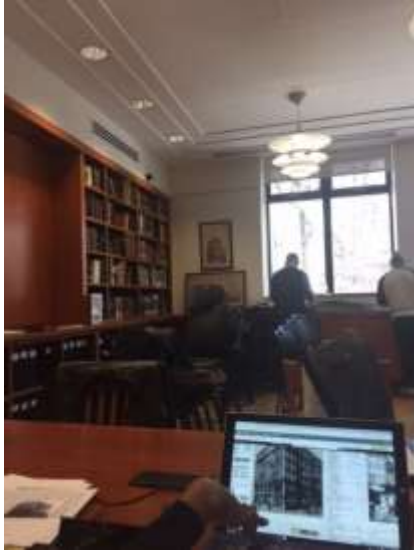
This photo shows the many Industry's that existed during the early 19th Century. I took this photo because it helped me to clarify the information I had gathered, prior to this visit such as Hanan & Son Shoe Factory which today happens to be Luxury Residential Apartments.



The picture above is of The New York Explanatory, which was published by E. Belcher Hyde, 97 Liberty St. Brooklyn Borough, 1903. This Explanatory index is used as a guide to show for example what was an empty lot as opposed to brick buildings. It was also used to locate hydrants and etc.



The view from inside of the Reserve Room. The books alongside the wall are not to be removed from this room; you however can take as many notes as you like.



The photo on the left is also a picture taken from inside the Howard Golden Reserve Room. Alongside the windowsill where Atlas' with maps of Vinegar Hill. These Maps were pre-selected for us by the woman who works in the Reserve room, she was very helpful and nice.



To the right is a photo of the entrance to the Howard Golden Reserve Room. I thought it was beautiful; and sort of wish our classroom more resembled this room.

DISCOVERIES

- 1. Neighborhood History
 - a. Located at Grand Army Plaza, which is visited by people of all five boroughs.
- 2. Key Events / Historical Dates

- a. The building’s history dates to 1889, when the Brooklyn Park Commission was authorized to select a location for the library.
 - b. In 1912, ground was broken on architect Raymond F. Almirall’s imposing Beaux-Arts design, but construction slowed and eventually ceased in the following years as the nation and the borough endured economic difficulties brought on by World War One and the Great Depression.
 - c. Construction resumed on a reimagined Central Library in 1935, and the building finally opened to the public on February 1, 1941.
3. Visitors Activity
- a. An annual door count of 1.3 million visits, Central is Brooklyn’s home library, and one of New York City’s foremost cultural, civic and educational institutions.
4. Latest Technology
- a. Kiosk Machines for Checking-In & Checking-out books.
5. Other Observations
- a. Coffee Shop
 - b. Application for NYC ID’s are available and done on premises.

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	Land is owned by the city of New York established in 1857.
Number of Blocks	Approximately 2-3 miles.
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	778 acres of city owned land.
Materials	More than 1.7 million.

# of Stories of Buildings	About 7-8 stories tall.
Residential Bldgs	Located directly across the street .
Empty Lots	None.

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Is this location considered historic?
2. How long did Central Library take to build?
3. How did they decide on the structuring of the building?

RESEARCH METHOD/ ADDITIONAL SOURCES NEEDED TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Wikipedia
 - b. Library Archives
2. Question 2
 - a. Wikipedia
 - b. Library Archives
 - c. Nyp.com
3. Question 3
 - a. Architectural Archives

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

The Brooklyn Central Library is visually breath taken. From the time you enter through those front doors, you feel a sense of joy. All the years of been coming to this library today was my first time visiting the Howard Golden Reserve room. I thought it was well put together appearance wise and in my opinion was filled with really great information. I also thought that the Map Atlas' were

really neat and well preserved. The lady that works in the reserve room was very nice, helpful and I thought she knew exactly what we needed to help us with our project. She was so kind to pull out as much information as she could; it was there ready and waiting for us to look at.