

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

New York Public Library



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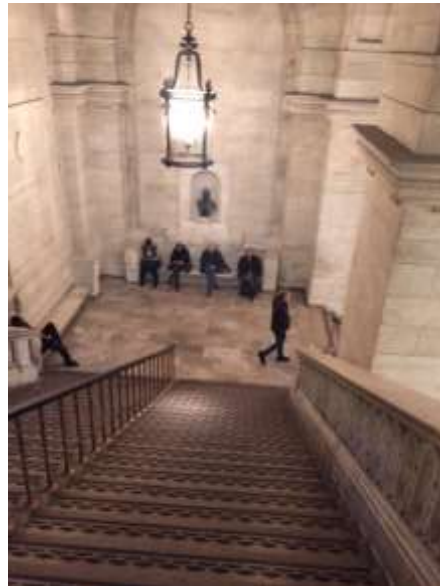
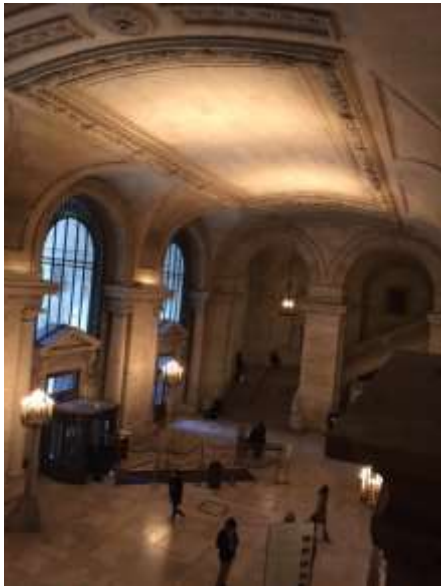
INTRODUCTION

Today's objective is to have a sit down with one of New York Public Library's Librarians. This meeting will be taken place in a conference style room which is off limits to the general public; unless otherwise directed. At this meeting we will have the opportunity to observe the maps of Vinegar Hill tracing back to the mid-18th century early 20th century.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

When I first approached the library I thought it resembled that of a Post Office. I thought that the library was absolutely beautiful on the outside it in a sense also resembles Brooklyn Central Libraries entrance. Both libraries in my opinion may roughly be around the same size; I could be wrong. However, at the New York Public Library, only the material that is sold in their retail store is the only material allowed off the premises. Its interior design is of literature in the United States. “Acquisitions bequests include influential architectural source books, an antiquarian-based collection of portfolio and plate-books, and early design periodicals.”

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



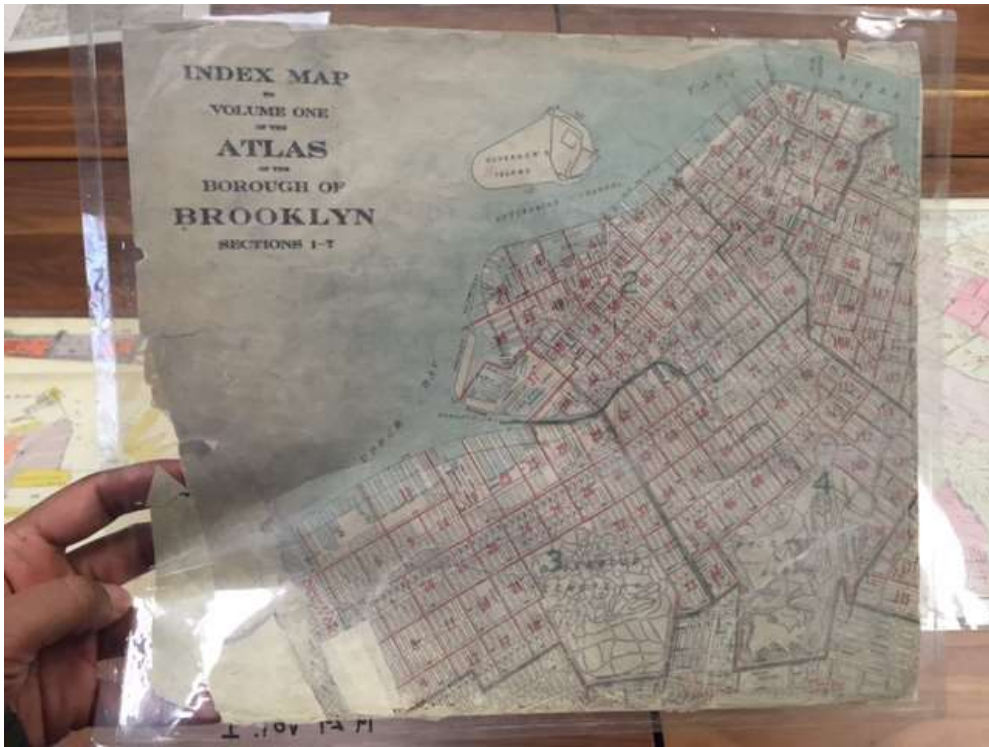
The pictures above are the interior of the NYPL both taken from the top of the staircase.



The photos above show the interior of the Archives' room at the NYPL. I thought that these two photos could show the similarities as well as the differences between this library and the Brooklyn Central Library that we visited prior. The similarities I noticed was that they both had books along the walls and they both had windows, however at this location there is also a mezzanine level of books as well. The differences would be that at Brooklyn Central Public Library there was an accessible computer where you could easily search information from the library database and about 4-5 tables for you to relax and do your research. Whereas at the New York Public Library there were no computers and just one long conference table with two tables off to the side (as shown up above).



Ward Lines (Green), Stitched Lines (Steam Railroads), Pink Color (Brick or Stone Buildings), Yellow Color (Frame Buildings), X's (Stables or Sheds), Circle w/ + (Fire Hydrants), Straight Lines (Street Railways) etc. I think these photos are important because it helps us to better differentiate what we are observing.



DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
 - a. Railways
 - b. Old Farm Lines
 - c. Industrial Companies
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
 - a. Early 17th Century
 - b. Mid-18th Century (1855)
 - c. Early 19th Century (1908-1929)
 - d. 20th Century
3. Key Players
 - a. Hyde
 - b. Bromely
 - c. Perris
4. Relationship Key Players
 - a. Maps
 - b. Explanatory Index
5. Important Changes to Neighborhood
 - a. Brooklyn Bridge
 - b. Manhattan Bridge
6. Other Observations
 - a. The variety of maps
 - b. The condition of the maps

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

Archives' Database

Wikipedia

Archival Architecture

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	City Owned founded 1895.
Number of Blocks	An endless amount.
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	Every city block.
Materials	51 Million.
# of Stories of Buildings	2 Stories
Residential Bldgs	Of Course, its 5 th Avenue. There are lots of them.
Empty Lots	None.
Commercial Uses	Everywhere.
Industrial Uses	None.

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the weight of the library?
2. How long did it take to build?
3. What was it before it before it was a library?

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

1. Question 1
 - a. Library archives
 - b. NYPL.org (maybe)
2. Question 2
 - a. Architectural Archives'
 - b. NYPL.org
3. Question 3
 - a. Library Archives'

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

It was a pleasure visiting the New York Public Library because at this visit we were given really great information about Vinegar, through maps. I thought the librarian was extremely helpful and very knowledgeable about all the information that was provided to us. The Archive room was nice and spacious and it had windows which allowed the sun to shine through. I was a bit surprised that it didn't have a computer in the room which we could use; but overall it was okay. I thought the art on both the interior and exterior of the building were visually breath taking; I think it's a wonderful place for anyone getting married to take wedding photo, but only if they are allowed of course. Last but not least I visited the book shop before as well as after the meeting, I thought it was extremely inviting and had a lot of really great things.