

Learning Places Spring 2016

SITE REPORT 2

Vinegar Hill 2



ALISON SEULING

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INTRODUCTION

This is the second visit to the Vinegar Hill site. The weather was a lot nicer today and there were more people walking around the area. Today's visit focused more on a certain spot of the neighborhood, and being able to sketch a scene from our perspective.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Because we already visited Vinegar Hill before, it was easier to get to and we knew what to expect. I assume we will be doing the same walking tour again, maybe end up by the bridges again for sketching, since we could not do them last time because of the weather. I'd like to go a bit more in depth about the history with the buildings and maybe more stories.

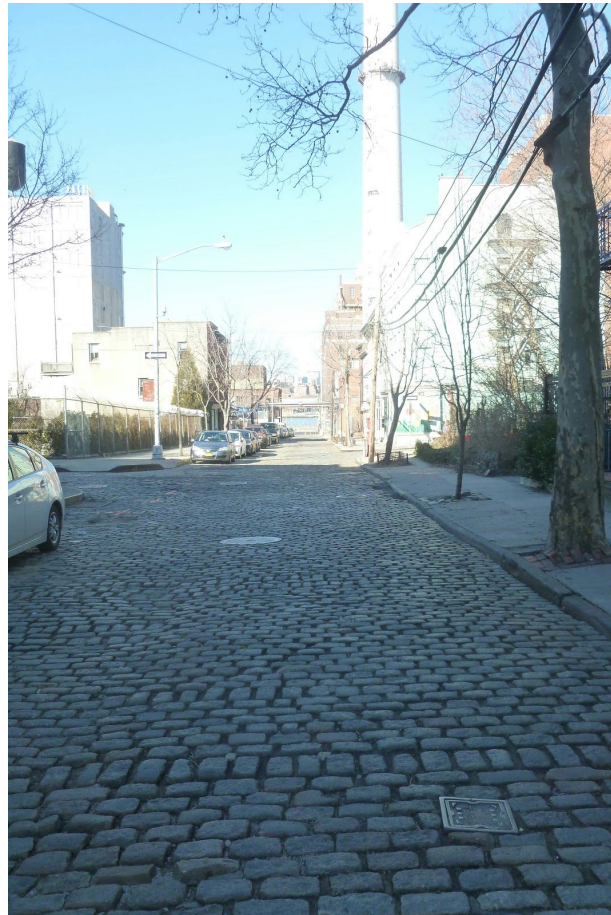
SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



Hudson Ave/Front Street, zone 7 of our maps



East River waterfront





Empty Lot



Gold Street. These buildings are more contemporary than the ones on Hudson Ave.



Manhattan from

Gold Street, Vinegar Hill

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Front Street: zone 7 of 1850s map.
 - b. Gold Street: more people walking around. Buildings looked newer.
 - c. Run down buildings, some empty lots where it looked like buildings were knocked down.
2. Vitality of Neighborhood
 - a. General Description
 - i. Between Dumbo and Brooklyn Navy Yard. The area itself was very quiet. Although there were a few businesses that were open at the time, the neighborhood gave off an aura of abandonment, like a ghost town.
 - ii. There is little to no public transportation in Vinegar Hill. There are some busses in walking distance, and the F train at York Street is nearby, but nothing in the vicinity of our tour.

- b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. Vinegar Hill had more pedestrian activity this time around, probably because the weather was much nicer so people were out and about. There were some people walking around with cameras, others with carts of groceries, possibly walking home from a day out.
 - c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. Very low vehicular traffic. Some cars drove by, as well as a few Con Edison trucks.
 - 3. Relationship Between Buildings
 - a. Some of the buildings looked newer and restored in recent years, while others still have that look as if it's untouched.
 - b. Mix of residential, commercial, and industrial.
 - 4. Building Details
 - a. Painted brick on some buildings.
 - b. Old wooden doors
 - c. Diagonal entrances that could have be.
 - 5. Relationship to the Waterfront
 - a. Con Edison building by the East River
 - b. Hudson Ave slopes downward toward the water.
 - c. Views of Manhattan from Gold Street near water

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	Plymouth St, Hudson Ave, Front St, Water St, John St, Gold St, Evans St.
Street Width	
Street Pavement	Cobblestone and asphalt
Building Heights	Ranged from two stories to four stories

Building Widths (Window Bays)	Three to four window bays
Building Types/Uses	Residential, Commercial, Industrial.
Empty Lots / Gardens	Some empty lots where buildings could have previously been. There is a public garden off York Street.
Shops / Restaurants	There is a restaurant on Hudson St but it is only open for dinner hours.
Industrial Shops	Con Edison building near waterfront

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did the name Vinegar Hill come from?
2. What were some of the buildings on the maps before they became what they are today?
- 3.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

I liked that today's visit had us focusing on specific spots of the area for observation rather than trying to cover a lot of ground at once. We were able to really look at certain buildings and get closer to their details.