

Learning Places Spring 2016

SITE REPORT

Vinegar Hill



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INTRODUCTION

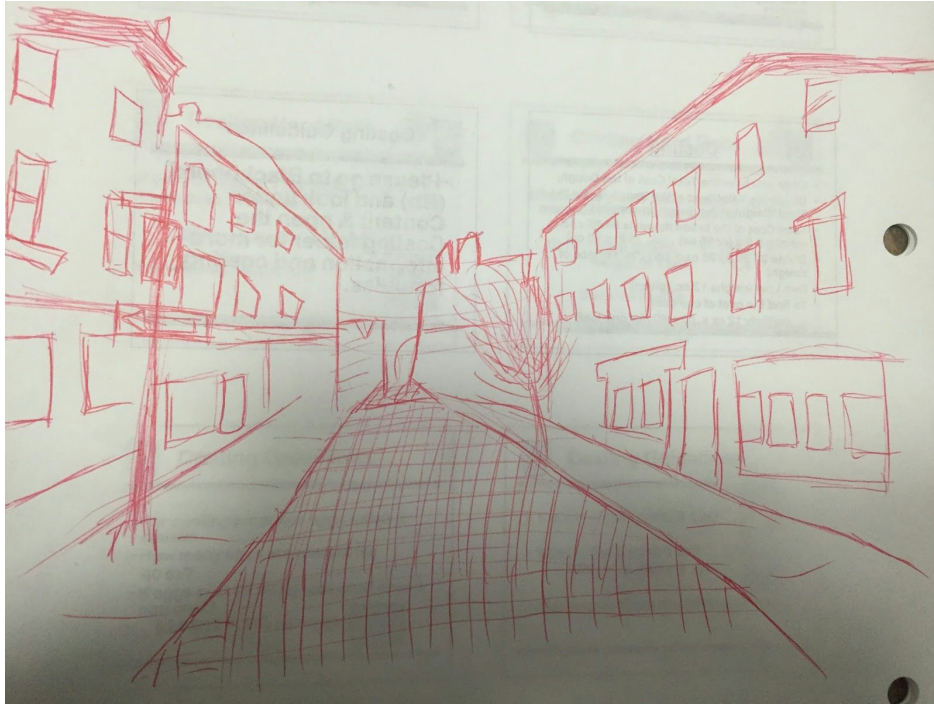
On February 10th, our class visited the beautiful area of Vinegar Hill. Before seeing this place with my own eyes, we did some research about the area. While visiting I was not disappointed. It felt like a completely different world. Very quaint and quiet. It didn't seem like you were in Brooklyn, NY.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Before visiting this site, I anticipate to see stone streets, short buildings, maybe some revamped stores. After reading the article on the Whiskey Wars I also hope to see some old distilleries and other remnants of what was once Irishtown. I'm excited to see what kind of people live in this

area, what surrounds this area and to see how accurate the information that has been given to me about this area is!

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



This sketch is of the corner of Hudson and Plymouth. There was so much character just within this small area. With my drawing skills I had a very difficult time portraying the extent of this corner. There were cobblestone streets, businesses, trees etc. that I unfortunately could not put to paper correctly. This was my favorite spot while visiting this site due to its quaint personality and quietness. Even though you knew you were in brooklyn one could easily be convinced that they were not.



This picture is an actual picture of the area I sketched. On the corner on Plymouth and Hudson, you can see the different residential areas within. Also if you take a closer look at the design of the buildings you can see that they touch each other and are very short. Also there are buildings consisting of both brick and wood

siding. We saw all the different brick bonds that we discussed in class throughout this neighborhood

including flemish, running and common.



This picture is of a residents garage or storage area. I was unsure what it was for but it definitely contributed to the cute, quaint environment! The condition of the building is pretty rundown, it doesn't seem to have been touched up in quite some time. There is a frame of brick consisting of a running bond while the doors to the facility are wood and seem to be very aged. It is very short which fits in with the already small buildings of Vinegar Hill.



Some shots taken while walking around Vinegar Hill. Shows layout of neighborhood and the design of the different buildings throughout.



These shots show the quietness and quaintness of the neighborhood. Cute artwork on some buildings,

minimal cars on the road and a nice outdoor area for the local school.



These pictures show little things about this neighborhood. There is a cool sculpture made of homemade trinkets, a map of the Vinegar Hill Historic District, an old fashioned emergency station and Hudson St.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Residential
 - b. Cobblestone streets, apartments on top of businesses
2. Vitality of Neighborhood
 - a. General Description
 - i. Quiet, quaint, secluded
 - b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. Very little activity, occasional person coming out of apartment
 - c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. Occasional vehicle, couple of trucks for delivery
3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)
 - a. Flemish, Common and running brick bonds
 - b. Many seemed to be revamped
 - c. Wood siding used on some showing older age of buildings
 - d. Off of Hudson St become modern
4. Relationship Between Buildings
 - a. Close together

- b. Some shown to be demolished
- 5. Building Details
 - a. Many contain different brick types (flemish, common and running)
 - b. Wood siding
 - c. Modern buildings farther south of Navy Yards
- 6. Relationship to the Waterfront
 - a. Walking distance to waterfront
 - b. Brooklyn Bridge park extremely accessible
- 7. Other Observations
 - a. Atmosphere seems unlike NYC/Brooklyn
 - b. Has a mix of old and new characteristics

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	Hudson, Plymouth, Sands, York, Gold, Harrison Aly, Evans, Water
Street Width	A lot of one ways, room for parking on street
Street Pavement	Asphalt, Cobblestone
Building Heights	Short, unlike usual NYC buildings
Building Widths (Window Bays)	Short all around
Building Types/Uses	Residential, Some businesses
Empty Lots / Gardens	Pop-up playgrounds near schools, occasional backyards/front yards
Shops / Restaurants	Some restaurants, no retail shops.

Industrial Shops	Next to Navy Yard, Boorum & Pease Company

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. When did it get its name, Vinegar Hill?
2. Why were some street name signs different colors but have the same name?
3. Are the residential buildings rent controlled?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Named after the site of a battle during the Irish Rebellion of 1798
 - b. Website
 - c. <http://forgotten-ny.com/1998/04/vinegar-hill-brooklyn/>
2. Question 2
 - a. Sometimes one side of a street can be part of a historic district, while the other is not. This can lead to two sides of the street having different colors signs
 - b. Website
 - c. <http://untappedcities.com/2013/09/13/cities-101-why-are-some-street-signs-brown-and-others-green/>
3. Question 3
 - a. Most are, but those built before 1947 or after 1974 are not
 - b. Website
 - c. http://www.nycrgb.org/downloads/resources/sta_bldngs/2014BrooklynBldgs.pdf

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

I thoroughly enjoyed this trip! Professor Montgomery had so many things to explain and show making it very interesting. I would not know how much I do now if I had gone by myself. Actually going to the site that we were researching allowed me to truly understand and see the history within it. I hope to make more trips like this one in the future!