
The Hooker’s Map is one of the earliest detailed maps of Brooklyn. It was originally published in 1827 and shows the streets and their relevant names, U.S. Navy Yard, Wallabout Bridge, rope walk manufactures, detailed wards, elevated areas, ferry lines, et cetera. This map was reproduced in 1861 for the Manual of the Corporation by Henry McCloskey. The greatest growth of the area came after lots were subdivided and row houses were built in Vinegar Hill. During those years many different communities were living together and churches were
important anchors to keep them together.

William Hooker was a Hydrographer and an Engraver. He complied and surveyed two versions of the 1827 map, the one with hand-coloring featured that shows in the picture above and one without, as well as the 1861 reprint. He wanted to place all the places of interest at that time except the places of worship in Brooklyn. Although William Hooker also printed Hooker’s New Pocket Plan of the City of New York in many editions with many surviving to this day, these Village of Brooklyn maps are relatively rare.

In the first half of the 19th century Vinegar Hill experienced an urban growth because of Navy Yard, one of the largest and most important industries. This area had some drastic changes from a few ropewalks and shipyards, in a powerful industrial center. In 1817 was founded a ferry from the foot of Little Street to Jackson Street in Manhattan to provide transportation to the Navy Yard workers.

In July 4th 1827 was a favourable period for Brookynites since New York State ended slavery. With courage and consistence Brooklyn neighborhoods including Vinegar Hill insisted on an immediate end to slavery and demanded legal and political equality for all Americans. This map provides to the researcher information about this neighborhood buildings and their functionality. The hatched areas on this map shows residential and commercial density. We notice that the most of the hatched areas are in Vinegar Hill and Dumbo neighborhoods and on the streets that lead to them. Almost all the commercial and industrial buildings are named by their function, it provides them with the busiest area and streets at that time. It is helpful to people that are interested in a research about urban renewal, changes in maps between different periods of time, residential and commercial density before and after.


Source 2. Historic maps earlier with later comparison.

Historic maps indicate a unique view of the development of the neighborhood, city or state. As you view on the old maps changes of this areas you can take whatever information is helpful to you. It shows the roads changes, population density, ways of transportation, and how close they were staying around their home land. They are connected to each other and they grow simultaneously. In Vinegar Hill we see huge changes between the maps of 1776 and 1827. The first big changes you see on these maps is the organization of the wards and blocks compared to a single street that leads you to the city. The 1776 map was made by the most authentic
military maps and topographical surveys, the 1827 map was made by William Hooker. This source helps historians, students, teachers, collectors and any other surfer that need to do research on the changes in specific areas. In many times this cities and towns are indistinguishable due to the drastic changes during the years.

http://www.nypl.org/collections/nypl-recommendations/guides/historical-nyc-maps-atlases
http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~1857~190092:Hooker-s-New-Pocket-Plan-Of-The-Cit?sort=Pub_Date&qvq=q:author%3D%22Hooker%2C%22%22William%22;sort:Pub_Date;lc:RUMSEY~8~1&mi=5&trs=6

Source 3. The history of cartography.

Cartography is the science and art of making maps. Maps depending on the time period have been made from different materials like clay tablet, wooden blocks, engraved copper plates, leather, paper, and nowadays on computers. Until this point of time the oldest map found is on clay tablet from about 2300 before Christ (B.C.). In ancient Greece the cartography was advanced since the Greek philosophers had the concept of a spherical earth. This concept was accepted since then and served all the geographers. The biggest advanced cartography happened in the period of exploration in 15th and 16th centuries. The mapmaking advanced with showing rivers, islands, navigation charts, harbors and coast lines. This was useful to water and land travelers. The first appearance of the true world map was in 1507 by Martin Waldseemuller, and it was followed by Columbus and others.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cartography_of_the_United_States
http://bklyn.newspapers.com/image/57551548/?terms=cartography

Source 4. Fulton Ferry effecting Vinegar Hill in commercial, industrial and residential matters.

The area of Fulton Ferry Landing can be considered the origin of Brooklyn. The ferry service begun in mid-17th century between Brooklyn and Manhattan. Fulton Ferry played a crucial role in the growth of the activity in Vinegar Hill neighborhood. This neighborhood was at its height
of commercial, industrial and residential activity in 19th century. In 1814 Old Ferry Road was renamed Fulton Street after Robert Fulton and soon it became Brooklyn’s center of commerce and finance. Along the Fulton Street commercial enterprises were blooming. In 1816 the Brooklyn charter was approved and New York officially incorporated the village of Brooklyn. Because of this charter the official boundaries of the village were established and improvements were made. Streets and sidewalks were extended and repaired, houses had numbers and addresses, the fire protection system was designed, and the first maps were made.

http://bklyn.newspapers.com/image/50333707/?terms=%22vinegar%2Bhill%22
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulton_Ferry,_Brooklyn
http://bklyn.newspapers.com/image/50333279/?terms=fulton%2Bferry

Source 5. Land owners and developers.

The first owner of Vinegar Hill and all its surroundings was Joris Jansen Rapelje. He bought 335 acres of land in 1637 which now is called Brooklyn. After his death Commissioners of Forfeiture took hold of the land and sold the area of Gold Street to the Sands brothers in 1784. John Jackson a shipbuilder and developer purchased 100 acres by Vinegar Hill’s waterfront. He sold 40 acres of waterfront to US government which became the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Jackson built in most of that area houses for his shipyard workers and for Navy Yard personnel. John Jackson also named the land Vinegar Hill.

http://focus.nps.gov/nrhp/Download?path=/natreg/docs/All_Data.html
http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/boroughs/vinegar-hill-city-landmark-article-1.750953