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Learning Places

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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

William Perris Maps of the City of Brooklyn: Civil Engineer and Surveyor 1855, Volume I

The Map of the City of Brooklyn (Volume I), serves as an Atlas. This Atlas comes completed with wards 1 through 18 and a key which I was able to use to locate the infamous Harrison Alley. However, Harrison Alley in this particular photo did not yet exist at this time. The key identifies the difference between industrial buildings, apartment building, railway and railroad tracks, fire hydrants, the dimensions and street width and the many Alleys throughout Vinegar Hill. I am particularly interested in ward 12, which is where Harrison Alley is located. However, Harrison Alley cannot be determined from this map. From our very first site visit Harrison Alleys entrance is located on Evans Street and Hudson Avenue. However, according to this map there is no indication of an alley anywhere between Evans Street and Hudson Avenue. According to the 1860 map of the City of Brooklyn, Harrison Alley is on a triangle of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. In this picture its quite easy to locate the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Evans Street and Hudson Avenue, but no Harrison Alley. According to this map I can only assume that Harrison Alley didn't exist in 1855. It was possible first introduced sometime after. Therefore, Harrison Alley wasn't always an alley, but a first class brick or stone dwellings. I believe that my observations can be proven through compare and contrast of the 1860 City of Brooklyn Map.

William Perris Maps of the City of Brooklyn: Second Edition, Volume I, 1860

The Map of the City of Brooklyn, Second Edition, Volume One 1860, also serves as an Atlas. Both the 1855 and 1860 Map Atlas comes completed with plates 1 through 18 and a key which I was able to use to locate the infamous Harrison Alley. Unlike the 1855 map of Brooklyn, on the 1860 map Harrison Alley is much more visible to the eye. On this map Harrison Alley can be pin pointed in ward 1, on the face of Evans Street. Although the name is not written out on this map, I know that the narrow pathway

between what seems to be buildings is in fact; Harrison Alley. Harrison Alley during this point in time resembles a driveway or backyard to an upper class citizen. I also realize that according to this map Harrison alley has only one entrance. The overview of this map in my opinion differs from viewing each ward individually; and that's because only when viewing the wards separately are you better able to understand much more in detail. I'm not quite sure why but when the wards are viewed individually rather than being in ward 1, Harrison alley is located in ward 17. In ward 17, Harrison Alley is an L-shaped alley on a triangular shaped block. According to this view of the map, Harrison Alley is showed to have two entrances, the entrance on Evans Street and an entrance from Hudson Avenue. However, the Hudson Avenue entrance was much narrower and could have possibly been two to three small boutiques whereas the Evans Street entrance could have been owned by one person or maybe even a family. I also notice with the help of my professor that behind the house alongside Harrison Alley were smaller houses that could have possibly been were the uppers kept their slaves or maybe not. I can only make an assumption because there really isn't much that I can go off of.

William Perris Maps of the City of Brooklyn: Second Edition, Volume I, 1860

From this map I was also able to locate each and every single alley in throughout Vinegar Hill. However, I noticed that Green Lane is located between Sands Street and Prospect as well as between York and Front Street. According to this map I can only assume that there was possibly a Green Lane I and a Green Lane II. I highly doubt that Green Lane was moved or replace simply because what I've mentioned thus far comes from the same map. Green Lane I & II and Harrison Alley are just two of many Alleys in Vinegar Hill. Some of the places I'm about to list all fall a Alley category, even if they do not end in Alley they are alley they are all of the same. There is Harrison Alley, Green Lane, Smith Alley, Nassarr Place, Dickenson Alley, York Street Alley, Leech Alley, Concord Place, Harts Alley and Independent Alley. According to the map some Alleys where dead ends, others served as a pathway to another side, some were narrow and others were wide.

Dictionary.com: Definition of an Alley

An Alley is a passage, as through a continuous row of houses, permitting access from the street to backyards and garages. It is a narrow back street. An Alley can be defined as a variety of things due to the various variety of dictionaries. An Alley can be defined as a narrow street, a thoroughfare through the middle of a block giving access to the rear of lots or buildings or even a garden or park walk bordered by trees or bushes. Some Alleys can be narrow, wide, short or long. Depending on the location some Alleys are dead ends. There are many Alley's in Brooklyn they are Howard Alley, Harrison Alley and Grace Court Alley just to name a few. However, although I think their all great my main focus is Harrison Alley. I choose Harrison Alley because according to what I observed at the first site visit I noticed a single street sign in the middle-center of an apartment complex which read Evans Street and Harrison Alley. That sign alone in my opinion is questionable enough. Harrison Alley could have been a place where people hung out or it could have been a place where those who were much less fortunate lived; therefore, kept behind the scenes. It is most certain that slavery was prominent back then however although it was prominent; I cannot at all assume that slaves were kept in back houses because I have no proof of that.

Martyrs Monument/ Monument Lot Block 44, Lot 14, Brooklyn Memo Report on Archeological Investigation by: Joan H. Geismar,Ph, D. Prepared through: The NYC Landmark Preservation Commission. The J.M. Kaplan Fund December 19, 2003.

The main focus of this document is "monument lot". However, in this document because it's on the same triangular block as Harrison Alley. In this document Harrison Alley appears to be a complete dead-end whereas on the 1860 Map of the City of Brooklyn is Harrison Alley shown having two possible entrances, one on Evans Street and the other on Hudson Avenue. It is possible that this drawing of Harrison Alley is false however it appears to be a dead-end on the 1860's map of Brooklyn.