

Learning Places Spring 2016

SITE REPORT

Site Visit # 3, Vinegar Hill



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INTRODUCTION

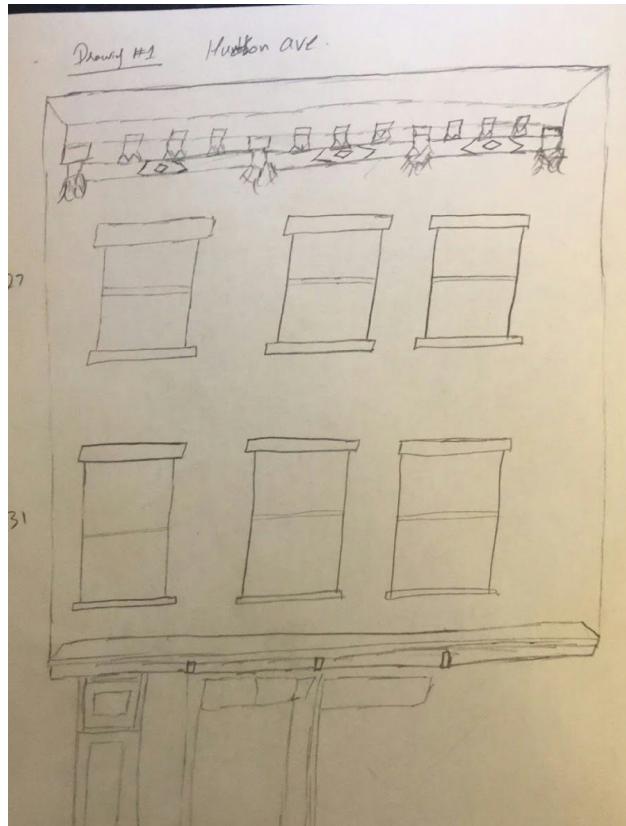
Third visit to vinegar hill was more detailed, class met at the usual spot plymouth and Hudson street. First thing we did was start sketching the third building on hudson ave, while we were sketching Prof Montgomery was telling us the detail of each part of the building. We did the same activity with the other two building which were located in the same area, second building was on Gold street and third one was on front street.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I expected that our third site visit will be more detailed and i was right, because

every site visit was more detailed than last one. On the other hand i was thinking maybe we will observe more like detail of the area or blocks how they changed with time, instead we observed building and there architectural details which was really interesting as well. Hopefully it will really help me for my final project of this class.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



This is a rough sketch of the third building on Hudson Ave, meanwhile while we were sketching this building our prof was telling us details of this building. One of the architectural details that separated this building from most of the other buildings in Vinegar Hill is the cornice. Unlike the simple cornices that can be found throughout the neighborhood, this one is much more ornate. This cornice is wide with brackets. It also appears to have more of a curvy shape than a Greek Revival cornice would. As you can see on the left of this sketch some numbers I wrote these numbers mean rows of bricks in each section of upper three windows and lower three windows. If it's hard to tell the difference in the height of the windows, instead of measuring with a measuring tape we can just count how many brick rows are there, it will tell us the height of the

window. In our case lower windows are larger than upper windows, because lower windows have 31 rows of bricks on the other hand upper one have 27 rows. On the right side is the original photo of the upper sketch, In which you can see the building had painted over the entire front of the structure. The top is a wooden detail but has since been painted a pink color. The stone lintels, wooden doors, and metal work of the window frames is the same shade of pink. The brickwork has also been painted with cream color, Under the paint, if you see little closer you will see that the bricks are a running with bond pattern. The running bond brickwork and the paint of the building clearly tell us that building had some renovations done.

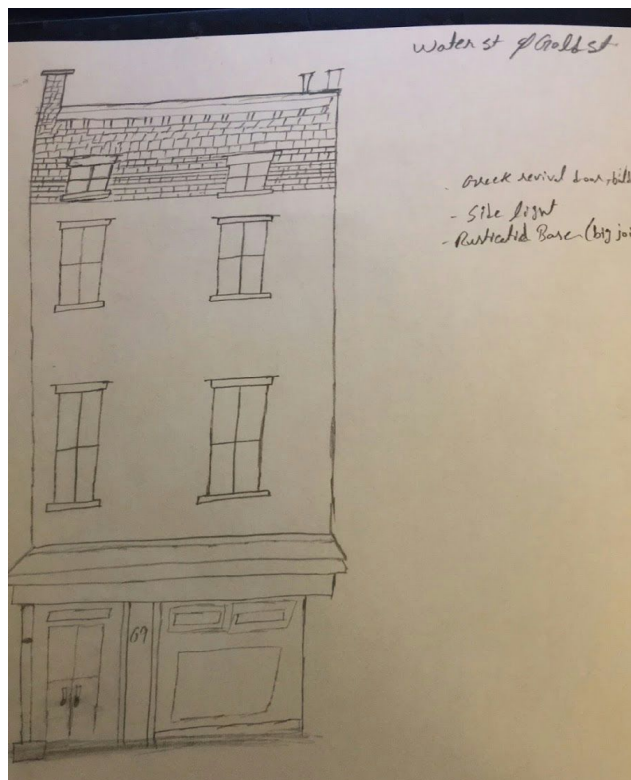


Photo on the left is sketch of the second building which was on the corner of water street and Gold street. As you can see this building is combination of both residential and commercial. This building was also built in 19th century but by looking at this building today i could tell i had some modern touches on it, for example windows, glass and security cameras. One thing you can notice in this building very clearly is the different size of all floor windows, looks like first 3rd floor is not an actual residential floor it looks more like storage room because windows are really

small. The brickwork has been redone to showcase a running bond pattern.



These both photos are taken on the front street almost in the middle of the block. This house is the most modern looking building at off all three buildings we looked so far. The windows and doors are really fancy looking, feels like residents of this house are pretty wealthy. If you look closely at the windows of the building on the left you will see all windows in this building are different sizes as well like other two buildings. Secondly it looks like amount of rectangles in these are almost same, but actually they are not same. Top two floor have 12 rectangles in the windows and window have divider in the middle but the last window on 1st floor have 15 rectangle that's why the divider is not in the middle, i couldn't see this detail until i really focused. Photo on right side is door of another building which was really next to it. The lintels of the first photograph are simpler than the second building, The design of the lintels is not Greek Revival. The lintels above the door in the right photo is Greek

Revival. This is made out of stone.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Most of the area is quiet, but mostly morning time is louder because of business and some commercial buildings.
2. Vitality of Neighborhood
 - a. General Description
 - i. On this last visit feels like vinegar hill was more live as compare to other two visits.
 - b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. Normal amount of people were around this area at this time, looks like vinegar hill is getting crowded little by little.
 - c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. On every site visit i seen lot of tow trucks around this area, i think it's because of navy yard, NYPD uses navy yard as tow pond now.
3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)
 - a. The first building that we sketched on Hudson Avenue was probably one of the original mid 19th Century buildings.
 - b. The second building that we sketched that was on the corner of Water Street and Gold Street is most likely one of the original mid 19th Century buildings.
4. Relationship Between Buildings
 - a. Almost all the buildings we visited were attach to other buildings none of them were free standing buildings or had any space between them.
5. Building Details
 - a. A mid 19th Century brick building would have a bond pattern, but the buildings had a running bond, The brickwork on all three buildings had been redone at some point probably in the 20th Century.
 - b. The third building, on the front street which was only residential, had a stoop of nine steps leading up to the front door. This building also had some sort of boxes on front seems like some sort of ventilation systems.
6. Relationship to the Waterfront
 - a. This whole neighbourhood have some relationship to waterfront, feels like distance to waterfront is almost same from any where you are in vinegar hill.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	Water Street, Front Street, Hudson Avenue, , Gold Street.
Street Width	Almost 30-35 feet
Street Pavement	Almost all of the street had combination of Belgian block and asphalt pavement.
Building Heights	Most of them were 3 story building, so roughly i will say around 33 to 35 feet.
Building Widths (Window Bays)	More like 3 to 4 feet
Building Types/Uses	Mostly residential, but one of them had some commercial uses as well.
Empty Lots / Gardens	None of them
Shops / Restaurants	None
Industrial Shops	None blocks down

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Are Four same buildings on Hudson ave have one owner?
2. Why the building on Gold street is commercial and residential combine?
3. Who were the actual Architect of the all three buildings we visited?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Brooklyn Eagle Newspaper

- b. Brooklyn Historical Society
 - c. Brooklyn Public library/ archive
2. Question 2
- a. DUMBO – From No Man’s Land to King’s Estate By Theresa Abrassart
 - b. VINEGAR HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION REPORT Report prepared by Donald G. Presa
 - c. Brooklyn Historical society Archives
3. Question 3
- a. VINEGAR HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION REPORT Report prepared by Donald G. Presa
 - b. History of the Fulton Ferry Landing By Beatriz Pineda Revilla
 - c. Brooklyn Public library/Archives

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

This visit to vinegar hill was much more informative than last two visits we did, at least now i know some of actual term of architecture which being used in the buildings of vinegar hill. Secondly and most importantly now atleast i know some of the history of this neighborhood. How this area of brooklyn changed by time not only how it changed, also why and who were the key people in this urban renewal.