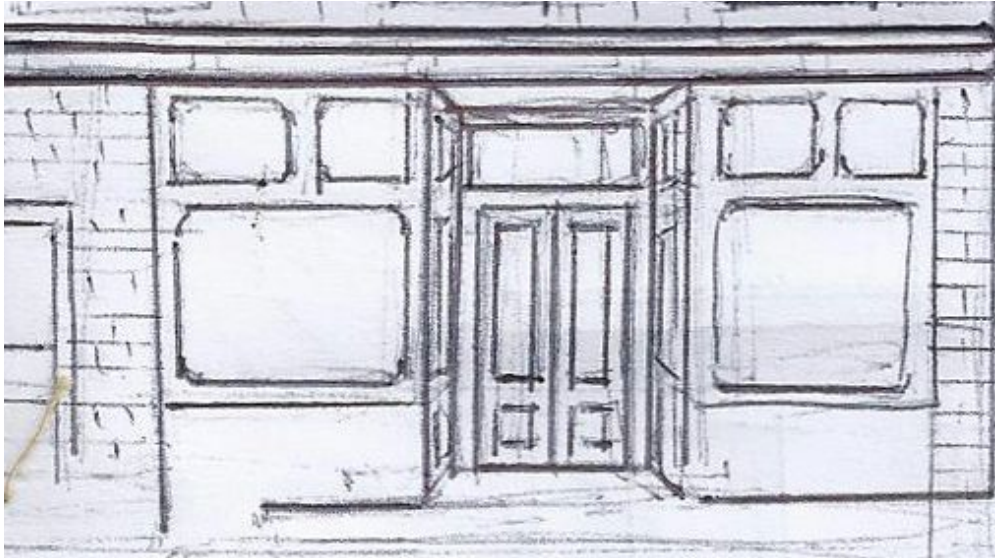


Learning Places Spring 2016

SITE REPORT #3

DRAWING OUT THE DETAILS



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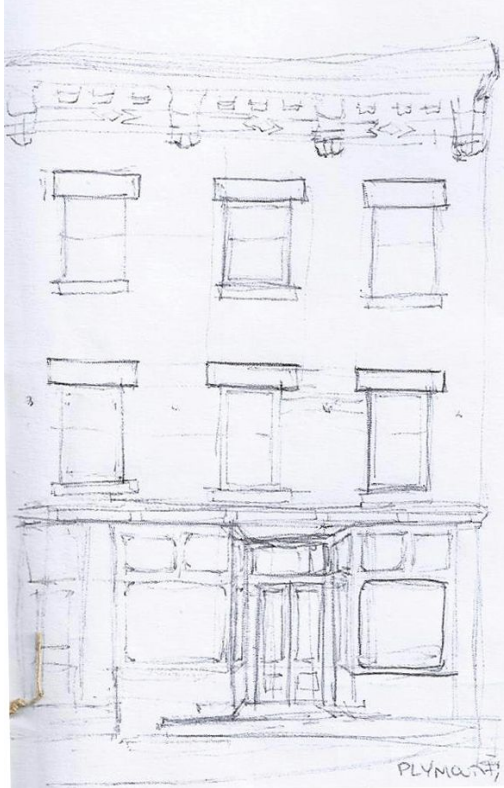
INTRODUCTION

During this field trip, we met at the corner of Plymouth and Hudson as we usually do. We proceeded into sketching, attentively drawing architectural elements which defy Forgotten NY's statement of "Vinegar Hill having greek revival architecture". The three buildings that were observed were within the bounds of Plymouth, Hudson, Gold, Water and Front streets.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I'm not entirely sure what we should be doing for this visit. I anticipate that each of us will make closer observations to our research spots. My group mates, or colleagues who share the same time period of interest with me hope to visit the Farragut Housing office to retrieve some information regarding Hudson street, and the schematic plans of the Farragut Housing Complex.

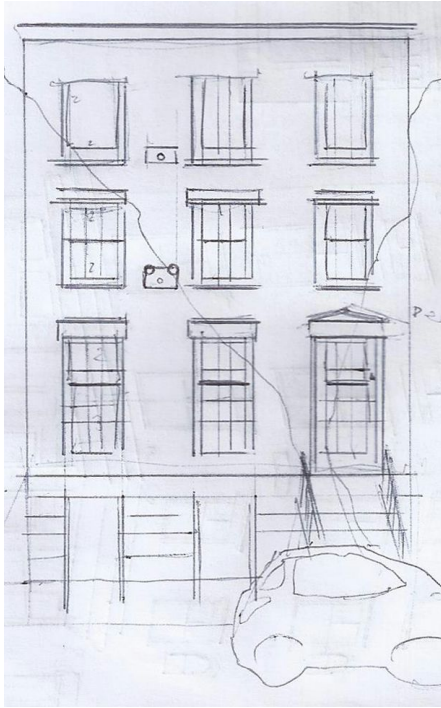
SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



The images above show the development of a development of an elevational view of a townhouse building on Plymouth and Hudson street, which is shown on the left. The top left image shows the sketch after sketching for about half an hour. The darker lines emphasize window lintels, and the inset detail of the storefront entrance door. The image on the top right a finished sketch which emphasizes the construction of the townhouse.



This images above show the development Of a sketch on a townhouse building on Water and Gold street. Unlike the previous building, this townhouse was built on a corner lot. Evidence is on the column, which is sandwiched between the ground and the first floor. The corner is made much more elaborate this way, along with the change of materiality. The column sits below a much more ornate detail, which frames the storefront inspired window. Different scales of windows are evident here, as well as different shapes, such as the arch on the left side.



This images above show the development of a sketch on a townhouse building on Water and Gold street. Similar to the second building observed, the windows exhibit different scales. This building also has a staircase, and a pediment above the door. This suggest that the first floor sits above the ground, and is then separated by a faux rusticated base, which was probably made out of brick with exterior cladding or exterior plaster which would cover the facade.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Vinegar Hill, still quaint
2. Vitality of Neighborhood
 - a. General Description
 - i. Vinegar Hill did not exhibit any new behaviors today. However, we were pleasantly surprised with much more active pedestrian activity.
 - b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. Despite the weather, we constantly intersected paths with old and current tenants or workers from the neighborhood.
 - c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. Vehicular traffic was almost absent here, as this condition emphasizes the silent and peaceful quality of the neighborhood.
3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)
 - a. Each of the townhouse buildings were probably built in the mid 19th century. The age of the buildings are given by numerous building details: window frames, window sills, window lintels, brick bonding pattern, door details and building height.
 - b. The details mentioned above are described below in the “building details” section.
4. Relationship Between Buildings
 - a. The buildings exhibit no direct physical relationship between each other.
5. Building Details
 - a. Carved in or inset doors, that can be described as pushed in from the building envelope.
 - b. Window sizes and window details vary amongst all of these buildings. The first building has the simplest window type, which vary least and scale and have no muttons. The sill is exaggerated, as the lintel is minimal and incredibly simplistic. The second building however, exhibits a much more sophisticated window type, with elaborate lintels and a mullon that splits the double hung window into two sections. The second building shows the most variation within window types and window scales. The largest windows are housed in the first floor, as the smallest (excluding the arched windows) are on the third floor. The last building’s windows are also double-hung, *but much more muttons on the window pane.*
 - c. Each building exhibits the same type of brick bond, known as the common running bond. The first however, appears to look the oldest, as evidence of craftsmanship in

the mortar is sloppy. The first also has a layer of painted brick, which is not evident in modern times. Modern colored bricks are pigmented before the baking process, or include other ingredients within the clay. These bricks, however, have a thick layer of light yellow on them. The second building feels well kept and well constructed, as the mortar between bricks was applied more precisely and uniformly. Evidence of brick replacement is evident within the discolored patches scattered below windows. The last building also feels more carefully constructed, or restored.

6. Relationship to the Waterfront

- a. These buildings exhibit next to no relationship to the waterfront.

7. Other Observations

- a. These buildings probably described the spectrum of socioeconomic conditions. The last building emphasizes the living conditions of someone who was on the higher spectrum of the economy, whereby the architectural notion of moving up from the ground floor, and having material separation from the ground to the first floor. The other two buildings don't exhibit these conditions, although the entrance conditions are much more elaborate on the second building.
- b. The bulk of these buildings exhibit the same quality as their neighbors. The quality of detail transcends with it's neighboring buildings (i.e tooth capital, running bond etc.) which probably suggests a major landowner per block.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	Gold, Water, Plymouth, Hudson and Front streets.
Street Width	Varies between each street. From curb to curb, the street measures about 3 car lanes, which is less than 30'
Street Pavement	The street pavement varies within interior and exterior of the complex. Within the street complex, walkways are paved but are not as smooth or wide as the asphalt on the roadways.
Building Heights	The buildings share a similar height, as they are all only 3 stories high.

Building Widths (Window Bays)	Each building is 3 bays wide, with the exception of the second building on Gold Street
Building Types/Uses	All of the buildings are residential
Empty Lots / Gardens	None of the buildings exhibit empty lots, or have gardens.
Shops / Restaurants	Not present
Industrial Shops	Not present

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the motivator for the columns built and preserved on corner buildings within Vinegar Hill?
2. What was the motivator for the color scheme on the first building?
3. Why is the running bond a common brick bond in Vinegar Hill?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Understand the conceptual and structural idea of column.
 - b. Conduct a search to find where columns were located and are still present. Continue the search to find any written documents regarding the purpose of these columns.
 - c. Analyze documents that were collected. Were any of the previous analyses informative or conclusive?
2. Question 2
 - a. Understand the color implications of the building in modern and built (historic types)
 - b. Find supporting texts or photographs that reinforce that the building was intentionally designed to be colored that way.
 - c. Analyze the documents that were collected. Were any of the previous analyses informative or conclusive?
3. Question 3
 - a. Understand the implications of having a running bond on a building facade.
 - b. Research and understand what other bonds were common around the time period.

- c. Were any of the previous analyses informative or conclusive?

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

The idea of dissecting the history of buildings and each block is widely rich when explored through drawing. Drawing requires a much more selective process, which lends itself to a focused moment in time. A photograph on the other hand, can be arguably objective but offers a wide array of physical information. Photographs can often oversaturate the viewer, whereby drawings can finetune the eye and the brain to focus on an array of questions regarding building technologies and neighborhood trajectories. Drawing fragments of Vinegar Hill merits a holistic understanding of building technologies and land ownership and the time, when analyzed and researched properly.