

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

La Guardia & Wagner Archives



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INTRODUCTION

Our third library and archive field trip was to the LaGuardia and Wagner archives located at Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, Queens. The LaGuardia and Wagner archives established in 1982, collects and preserve valuable documents and materials about the social and political issues of New York City and makes it available to researchers, journalists, students, scholars, exhibit planners and policy makers. We had the opportunity to look through documents and explored areas of Brooklyn relating to the Farragut Housing and also the Harlem River Houses. It was a great experience especially the brief discussion with the archivist regarding the documents we were exploring and also the workshop we attended in the computer lab.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Even though I have driven by it many times, this was my first trip inside LaGuardia Community College. Also, beside the New York Public Library, I have never visited an archive area that was located inside a college. Upon entering the archive room at LaGuardia College, my first impression was how clean and neatly organized the documents were. I was eager to find new documents, maps, architectural sketching and geographical images with more information relating to the Urban renewal period and the Farragut Housing Project in Brooklyn that we are currently researching. I was also anxious to compare the timeline of Brooklyn's past with Brooklyn's present.

SOURCES found

1. "Farragut 4748 Fern Place from Fern Place. Towards South Side Street." A Photograph taken by NYCHA. 1947-1948
2. "Farragut 4748 Sand St. from Hudson Ave. toward W". A Photograph taken by NYCHA. 1947-1948
3. "Farragut inside shot ". A Photograph taken by NYCHA. Early 1950's

DOCUMENTATION of site & resources (maps/archival documents/photos)



This picture captures the spatial conditions of the neighborhood before the Farragut Housing Project was constructed. Numerous bars and grills occupied the street before Farragut Housing, it was a very lively and entertaining neighborhood.



During our site visit, we were able to view numerous photographs taken by the NYCHA. These photographs shows the condition of the neighborhood before the construction of Farragut Housing Project. This is a view of the cobblestone building and streets before the Farragut Housing Project was built.



The picture shows the inside of the Farragut Housing Complex and the type of living conditions of the residents. It looks like a studio apartment with everything in one big open space, the kitchen, dining room, bathroom and bedroom. The rope hanging from the door to the adjacent wall looks like a clothes line used to hang clothes, which means clothes were hand washed and hanged out to dry within this small space. This apartment looks old and run down with patched up walls and old wooden floors.



Enclosed within these volumes are numerous boxes which contain documents.

DISCOVERIES

1. History of the Neighborhood
 - a. Most of the pictures in this report are mainly about the Farragut Housing Project which is located on Nassau Street, Brooklyn. Geographical maps shows the streets around this area in the past and the current changes to what is there now. We were able to use materials and documents from our site visit to view the current changes in these areas and compare it to the condition it was in the past.
2. Specific Events / Historical Dates
 - A. Establishment within the New York City Housing Authority, dated 1935
 - B. The establishment of Farragut Housing Project, dated around 1951.

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

Faugguts Housing Project, New york city Housing Projects

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	NYCHA
Number of Blocks	4 superblocks converted from 10 city blocks
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	Numerous buildings to 12 buildings
Materials	Bricks
# of Stories of Buildings	Varying from 1-4 stories to 14 stories.
Residential Bldgs	Residential
Empty Lots	N/A
Commercial Uses	bars
Industrial Uses	Brooklyn Navy Yard

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. What were the top priorities and major issues that went into the planning for the construction and building of the Farragut Housing Project?
2. What group or organization was responsible for developing the name NYCHA?
3. Who or what did the NYCHA name the Farragut Housing Project after and why?

RESEARCH METHOD/ ADDITIONAL SOURCES NEEDED TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Library

- b. Google/Internet
 - c. Wikipedia
 - d. New York Public Library - Archives Division
- 2. Question 2
 - a. Library
 - b. Google/Internet
 - c. Wikipedia
 - d. New York Public Library - Archives Division
- 3. Question 3
 - a. Library
 - b. Google/Internet
 - c. Wikipedia
 - d. New York Public Library

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

I have driven by LaGuardia Community College many times. I had no idea what the inside looked like or what valuable information was stored within those walls. I must say that my visit to the Archives area at LaGuardia Community College was a great experience. The view upon entering LaGuardia college was filled with many colorful and decorated artifacts, and hallways. We had a long walk to the archives room and was amazed by the unique architectural design of the inside of the building. Once we entered the archive area our first view was of a small scale model of a housing unit. We were then split up into two groups, to view materials and documents with pictures of the Farragut Housing Project and other projects of NYCHA. I am eager to visit this site again to gather more information and view more documents and materials relating to the specific areas of Brooklyn that we are currently researching.