

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

Laguardia Archives



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INTRODUCTION

This library/archive visit had a focus on Vinegar Hill and an exploration in the archives. Later, there was a Wikipedia lesson.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I am unsure about my expectations about this library/archive visit. I had many questions: Would there be a significance in the differences that are unique to archives? What type of information would be made available to me? Would there be privileged items from the archival collection that would be accessible? What type of information is unique to this archive collection?

SOURCES found

1. None

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



The office at the Laguardia archives



A guided tour and exploration of the LaGuardia archives



Storage system of artifacts at the Laguardia archives

DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
 - a. The building was previously a factory
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
 - a. The time frame from the late 1800s up until the mid 1900s
3. Key Players
 - a. New York City developers
 - b. Displaced homeowners
4. Relationship Key Players
 - a. City officials
 - b. New York City residents
5. Public Perception of Key Events
 - a. Relocation/removal of residents

- b. Street cut off at Hudson Avenue
- c. Humble lifestyles
- 6. Important Changes to Neighborhood
 - a. Urban renewal with highways and bridges being developed
 - b. New public housing complex

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

Brooklyn Navy Yard, Hudson Avenue AND York Street, Public School 307, Vinegar Hill, Urban Development, Eminent Domain, etc.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	once private but later public
Number of Blocks	assorted
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	unspecified
Materials	brick and wood frame
# of Stories of Buildings	various
Residential Bldgs	unspecified
Empty Lots	unspecified
Commercial Uses	none apparent from map
Industrial Uses	none apparent from map

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Who exactly made the plans for the urban renewal development?
2. What happened to all of the people who were displaced?
3. What was the driving force behind the urban renewal project?

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

1. Question 1
 - a. Wikipedia
 - b. Google
 - c. State documents
 - d. Library
2. Question 2
 - a. Wikipedia
 - b. Google
 - c. State documents
 - d. Library
3. Question 3
 - a. Wikipedia
 - b. Google
 - c. State documents
 - d. Library

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

This archive visit was very enjoyable. It consisted with a more general exploration of the collections within the archive. This was a very unique experience for me. I have never before been able to actually put my hands on the handle of a collapsing/folding wall of an archive. This archive seemed more like a museum than a library. There were artifacts in the collections that I didn't expect to see, such as sports memorabilia, political items such as a stepping briefcase for a short politician, etc. Although I was unable to do much research on my topic and to take more relevant report specific photos, this archive visit was priceless and very relevant to the LIB 2205 course.