

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

NYCHA LaGuardia Archive



Mariam Kamagaté

04.15.2016

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of going to this Archive was to first and foremost be able to have access to a university archive and see how things differ from the previous archives we've visited. We were also supposed to obtain some information on their NYCHA collection. We were also taught how to edit in Wikipedia.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I am eager to visit this archive. I have been to Queens before but I have not been to LaGuardia Community College. I have also never been in a university archive, so I am also looking forward to that as well. Even though my final project is not based around NYCHA Housing, I still hope that we find out a lot of information on NYCHA. I am a little sad that I will not benefit from this visit, but I am pretty sure that my classmates will. I am also looking forward to learning how to edit in Wikipedia.

SOURCES found

1. Campbell's Delivery Service, Official Complaint, NYCHA, Page 1, July 22, 1937.
2. NYCHA, Harlem Houses, NYCHA, 2281, May 19, 1939.

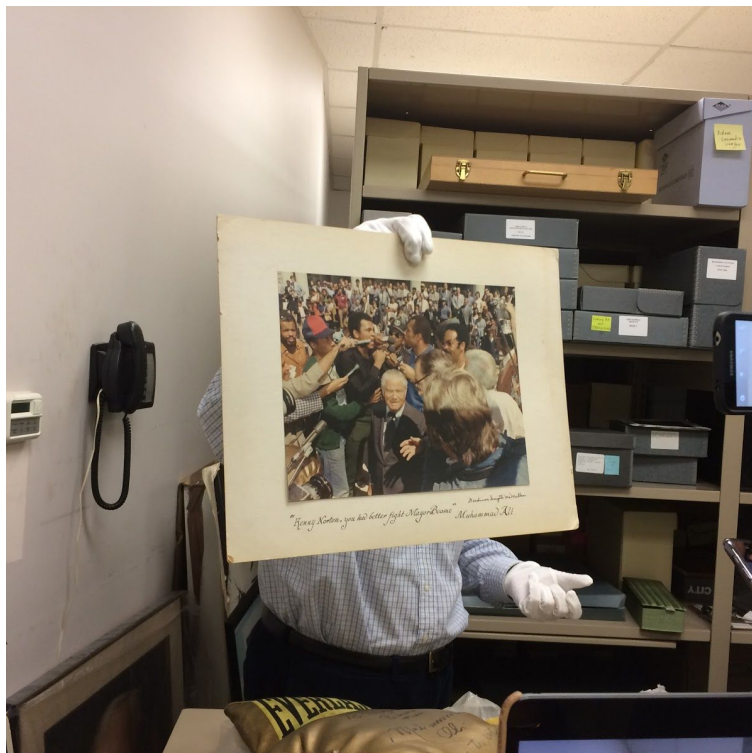
DOCUMENTATION of site & resources (maps/archival documents/photos)



Although not depicted here, this is a map of Queens. And what this map shows is a color coded outline of Queens in the 1930's. And in the top left corner of the map, there is some sort of legend. And in the legend, a colored box is followed by information on what that color represents, what kind of housing that is, and also the price of a place in that building or area. It's important, because it documents a time in Queens where the rent is what we now consider to be very cheap, and in terms of urban development, pricing, income, and so many other factors, this is some important information to have under your belt.



This Gold Boxing glove was one of the props used during the match between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, known as the fight of the century . It was signed and gifted to Mayor Abraham Beame who was the mayor of New York at the time this grand event took place and Muhammad Ali signed this glove for Mayor Beame. And this glove was kept and stored in the LaGuardia Archives for all to awe at.



This photo is in relation to the glove pictured above of the golden glove. This picture is a visual representation of what went down that day prior to the big boxing match. In the photo there is a clear view of Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, as well as Mayor Beame. This was definitely something for not only the borough of Queens to remember, but his was for the whole of New York to remember and witness.



This picture depicts the floor plan if what the agreed upon layout of the NYCHA apartments should take on. Everything in detail ranging from the size of the rooms, how many rooms should the apartment have, the amount of windows, the flooring. Also the “outside” of the apartment seems to have some brick work, maybe suggesting that the building will be framed with brick. And even the location if the front door is noted here. I’m going to assume that this diaporama, if you will, so to say, was a proposal that had to be approved by a board of people before this layout plan could be made into a reality.



This is a photo of the famous Steinway Square Piano. This Steinway piano was donated to the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives in the 1990s. The restoration of this piano took place in 1994. Believe it or not, but this piano has been through a lot. It survived the Civil War when it resided in Kentucky, where it was kept in a barn and luckily wasn’t burned down as Confederates soldiers patrolled the area. Steinway even donated its old documents to LaGuardia and Wagner Archives about thirty-one years ago. Prior to the restoration, it can be seen that mice or rats chewed on the lower keys of the piano on the left hand side.

DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
 - a. Racial Segregation was rampant
 - b. Issue with drug usage
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
 - a. 1939
 - b. 1986
 - c. 2000
3. Key Players
 - a. W.F.R. Ballard
 - b. Henry S. Churchill
 - c. Frederick G. Frost
 - d. Burnett Turner
4. Relationship Key Players
 - a. Architects
 - b. Designers of the Queensbridge houses
5. Public Perception of Key Events
 - a. New Housing being available
 - b. Renovations of bathrooms done that were needed
 - c. Serious updated renovation
6. Important Changes to Neighborhood
 - a. Provided affordable housing for many Queens residents
 - b. Recreational Spaces
7. Other Observations
 - a. Racial segregation
 - b. Low-Income minorities were replacing white middle class families
 - c. Crime rates

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

NYCHA, NYCHA Housing, Queens, Long Island City, Housing Projects, Housing, LaGuardia, Jamaica Queens, Queens Census, Queens Population, Mayors of Queens, Steinway, Steinway Piano, Muhammad Ali in Queens, Boxing matches in Queens.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	The land belongs to NYCHA
Number of Blocks	Roughly six, approximately 60 acres
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	4 to 6
Materials	Brick
# of Stories of Buildings	Six Stories
Residential Bldgs	Twenty-Eight buildings
Empty Lots	About six major lots
Commercial Uses	Stores, offices, library, community center
Industrial Uses	Boiler
Building Designs	The buildings are connected in a “Y” shape fashion
Building Color(s)	Worn grayish brown, and red about five feet above the ground.
Year Opened	1939-1940 time period
Residents	6,907
# of Apartments	3,142

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. What impact did NYCHA have on the community when they were first established?
2. Where their any controversies about NYCHA Housing?
3. Is there a difference between present-day NYCHA and NYCHA in the past?

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

1. Question 1
 - a. Look into the history of NYCHA
 - b. Find any NYCHA documents, even building plans, proposals
 - c. Locate any residential complaints
2. Question 2
 - a. Look into who the plans of this company were made for
 - b. Look into whether or not housing was segregated
 - c. Find documents about any controversial topic
3. Question 3
 - a. Get information on the same topics and compare them
 - b. Look at the housing layouts of present-day NYCHA and past NYCHA
 - c. Look into what communities they were located in before versus now.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

Unfortunately I arrived late, which I was a little bummed out about, but I am glad that I was still provided with information and documents, even if it was on a smaller scale than what my fellow classmates had received. I was happy to learn and see information on NYCHA. It was interesting to learn about their relationship with the community over the years, and even how things have changed over time. I wish I came earlier to be armed with more knowledge. As for the Wikipedia editing, unfortunately, I was not able to stay and edit anything but I did learn a really cool trick for citing a reference on a wikipedia page.