

Learning Places Spring 2016

SITE REPORT # 3

vinegar Hill architectural Detail



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INTRODUCTION

One of the most historical place in Brooklyn is vinegar hill. This is our third visit to this neighborhood. Every visit of vinegar hill taught us something new. In this visit we will be focusing on Architectural detail in buildings , street pavement, street width.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

It is very surprising that every time we visit vinegar Hill, we get new information about this neighborhood . We will be sketching buildings in this visit which will help us to focus on architectural details. We also have to compare how each building has different detail from one another.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



55 Hudson ave one of the oldest building in this neighborhood. It is a three story brick building with unused storefronts. The houses are built with very decorative cornice (A **cornice** is generally any horizontal decorative molding that crowns a building or furniture element) at top of the house.

The height of the windows are different in second floor from first floor.
This building was made with wooden door and stone lintels, sills on the upper window.



This is a four story brick building located at the corner of Water and gold street. This picture was taken from a corner view for clear observation. There is a Dentil moulding at the top of the house . The measurements of the windows are different in each floor with thick window lintels . It has two sided wooden door as well as with storefronts.



Like every other old buildings of this neighborhood, this is also a four story brick building over a storefront. its located at Front Street. This building has plain and simple cornice then the previous ones. The difference between this building and the other two is this building has staircase leading to the second floor instead of a storefront. The window measurements are similar in top two floor then the first floor. it also has different construction style in the first floor which makes it look separated from the top three floor.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character

- a. streets are two lane wide excluding the sidewalk
- b. Brick buildings with decorative cornice

2. Vitality of Neighborhood

- a. General Description
 - i. quiet neighborhood
- b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. very rare in water and Gold Street
- c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. few vehicle in Front Street

3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)

- a. 1828-1831 (Building of the Day: 50-54 Hudson Avenue, Old Brooklyn in Vinegar Hill)

4. Relationship Between Buildings

- a. most of the buildings in Hudson Ave has storefronts
- b. Front Street buildings are mostly with decorative staircase in the front

5. Building Details

- a. wooden cornice
- b. stone lintels
- c. storefront

6. Relationship to the Waterfront

- a. view from Hudson ave

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

| Subject | Data |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Street Names | Hudson St, Gold St, Front and Water Street |
| Street Width | two lane space without the sidewalk |
| Street Pavement | Cobble Stones |
| Building Heights | mostly three story tall |
| Building Widths (Window Bays) | three window Bays |
| Building Types/Uses | Brick buildings , most of the buildings are residential |
| Empty Lots / Gardens | One in Hudson Ave |
| Shops / Restaurants | Damascus bakeries |

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Why these houses called Greek Revival houses ?
2. Is there any change in these building since it was built?
3. Where was the decorative details inspired from?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Online
 - b. library sources
 - c. “Brooklyn by name”
2. Question 2
 - a. maps
 - b. online
3. Question 3
 - a. online
 - b. library sources

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

Vinegar hill is one of the oldest neighborhood in Brooklyn. This visit was a great help for me because its very similar to my research topic. From this visit we learn some architectural glossaries such as cornice, lintels , sills. We also get to know how sketching help us to have a clear observation in detailing rather than taking a quick snap shot.

