

Learning Places Spring 2016

SITE REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

Our first site visit was to Vinegar Hill, Brooklyn. Vinegar Hill is located between Dumbo and the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Our mission there was to study the current neighborhood and community and compare it with the past neighborhood and community. We were required to pay close attention to the details and designs of the structure of the buildings and streets.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I never knew about the history of Vinegar Hill and its community. Until now, I have ever walked around and explored areas in Brooklyn. I never really focus on the different type of buildings and the way they are build and structured. I am definitely keeping an open mind and I can hardly wait to visit the site and explore more of the area.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



This is the Farragut Houses located on York Avenue and Navy Street. It was constructed between 1951 and 1952 in Vinegar Hill, Brooklyn. This building is next to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. This is where sailors and tourists who came to Brooklyn came to have fun and enjoy themselves, met new people and went for entertainment.



This is the view is from the Brooklyn Park. In front is lower Manhattan. This is a Wonderful view to see and sketch.



This is The Brooklyn Bridge that connects Brooklyn to lower Manhattan. This bridge is a magnificent site to view. You can actually see all the details and unique structure that went into building this bridge.



This building was not re-model for modern time. It still has the same exact doors it had in the 80s. As you can see these doors were very strong and durable.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Peaceful
 - b. Historical
2. Vitality of Neighborhood
 - a. General Description
 - i. Quite, and very busy

- b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. A little bit not too much
- c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. A little bit not too much
- 3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)
 - a. The Farragut house is around 64 years old (Wikipedia page)
 - b. The commandant mansion was roughly build over 210 years ago (New York times)
 - c. The Brooklyn navy yard was build around 214 years (Wikipedia page)
- 4. Relationship Between Buildings
 - a. The buildings around Jay Street was made for business and for people to live
 - b. The building that was updated for modern time was falling apart so they have to change
- 5. Building Details
 - a. Brick bonds around the building to help keep them up
 - b. Different design on the building gave a more divert look
 - c. Strong and heavy doors on the old building
- 6. Relationship to the Waterfront
 - a. Give people access to the river to move and get their goods from the boats
 - b. A path was made so people could see the view of Manhattan
- 7. Other Observations
 - a. Some roads had tracks for carts for transport
 - b. Building was rebuilding so they would lose their design and their history
 - c. Some areas are close to the public and weren't like how people saw them before

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	Hudson Avenue, York Avenue, Navy Street, Gold Street, Plymouth street , Jay street, Water street , Front street, Little street, Evans street, John street

Street Width	Between 8 to 10 feet
Street Pavement	Stones and tar
Building Heights	Around 11 feet
Building Widths (Window Bays)	Somewhere Between 15 to 30 feet
Building Types/Uses	Residential, Commercial ,
Empty Lots / Gardens	Harrison alley
Shops / Restaurants	Brooklyn Roasting Company
Industrial Shops	None that I know

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the story behind the Brooklyn navy yard?
2. What material did the people use to make these building?
3. Why did they make the commandant mansion?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Look online
 - b. Go to the library
 - c. Go to the Place and ask around
2. Question 2
 - a. Look online
 - b. Talk to the building company who created the building

- c. Go to the library
3. Question 3
- a. Look online
 - b. Find the history behind the house

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

After Visting this site in Vinegar Hills, I have learned a lot about the past in one of Brooklyn's community. Also, I have seen many building and areas that I have never seen before. This is the first time I have visited a site that has such a tremendous history behind it. It's amazing that such a small area could have such an impact on the history of this neighborhood. I was surprise to see how busy and developed this area was with so many office buildings and people just having a great time by the river.