

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT 1

Brooklyn public library



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INTRODUCTION

The Brooklyn Public library is located, by prospect park. The library as a beautiful entrance, with great stairs. The class took part in looking maps of the downtown Brooklyn area to further understand what we've been doing in class, these maps were from a variety of different years some of them over a century old.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I'm excited to look into old maps, I think these maps will give me and my peers better understanding of the Dumbo/Vinegar Hill area, and see some changes and similarities the architecture of the area.

SOURCES found

1. A.E C'Ostello, Our Firemen The History of the New York Fire Departments

2. Leonardo Bernardo & Jennifer Weiss, Brooklyn By Name



1

This is a Sandborn map made in 1900 it shows the insurance districts of Brooklyn, It shows the Navy yard and all of its land holding at the time, you can see how the Bridge has drastically changed the face of downtown Brooklyn, and how cars have started to take over the way have commuting for the average man.



This Sandborn map was made in 1920, I'm not sure who the author is, but its extremely interesting, because it shows through color what the buildings are made out of, The re buildings are made of Brick which happen to be the older buildings on the map. The yellow buildings are made of clay and wood finish.

These pictures are important because they don't just note street changes over times, they give you the reader a little extra information. As a for instance we can now go to the building noted in the second map and check if the buildings have been renovated, are have stay very much made of the same integral make up. The first map can show us the readers, fire districts that have defiantly changed over time

DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
 1. Irish immigrants settle the neighborhood
 2. Working class history, that is being gentrified into more residential neighborhood
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
3.
 - a. The being acquired by New York City
 - b. The Brooklyn bridge changing the shape of the neighborhood
 - c. St.Anne's church
4. Key Players
 - a. Joshua Sands b.Comfort Sands c. John Roebling
5. Relationship Key Players
6.
 - a. Joshua Sands and Comfort Sands first to settle the neighborhood
 - b. John Roebling designed the Brooklyn bridge which shaped the whole neighborhood
7. Public Perception of Key Events
 - a. New way of transportation to work b. help make downtown Brooklyn a thriving neighborhood c. Church that was made for Joshua Sands wife
8. Important Changes to Neighborhood
 - a. The Brooklyn bridge revamped the whole neighborhood bringing a whole new aesthetic look
 - b. The Brooklyn becoming part of New York city and losing its independence
9. Other Observations
 - a. I noticed on some maps they noted warehouse with their business names on them
 - b. Their were a lot more churches in the neighborhood on the maps in the 19th century
 - c. A lot more allies in the neighborhood that I don't see now

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

Key words “Dumbo” & “Vinegar Hill”

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	Kings County
Number of Blocks	Atleast 20
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	30
Materials	Brick, Clay, Stucco
# of Stories of Buildings	Two to three stories
Residential Bldgs	About 20
Empty Lots	About 14
Commercial Uses	Factories and warehouses
Industrial Uses	
Other Data	

Other Data
Other Data
Other Data
Other Data

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Why how did the Brooklyn bridge change Vinegar landscape?
2. What is the history of the Sandborn maps?
3. Do the streets on these maps still exist?

RESEARCH METHOD/ ADDITIONAL SOURCES NEEDED TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION ABOVE: 1.

Question 1

- a. The Brooklyn Eagle may have some primary information
- b. Look more at the maps to notice street changes and buildings that had to be destroyed to make highway for bridge
- c. See if there any books on the subject of the construction of the Brooklyn bridge

Question 2

- A.) Look on Wikipedia to read about the history of Sandborn maps
- B.) Read about how insurance companies use the districts noted on the maps

Question 3

A.) Follow the maps by the years they've changed and look at the difference in how certain streets have been made long, and how some streets names were changed.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

The Brooklyn public library was very helpful in our classes research, and was beautiful public building. I really like how the archive room was apart from the rest of the library the archives had some much information on what the class was researching. The research raised a lot more questions, about how the neighborhood changed throughout the years. The maps with it's insurance sections was really what sparked my interest, because of how it relates to the firefighting the neighborhood.