

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT 2

New York City public library



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INTRODUCTION

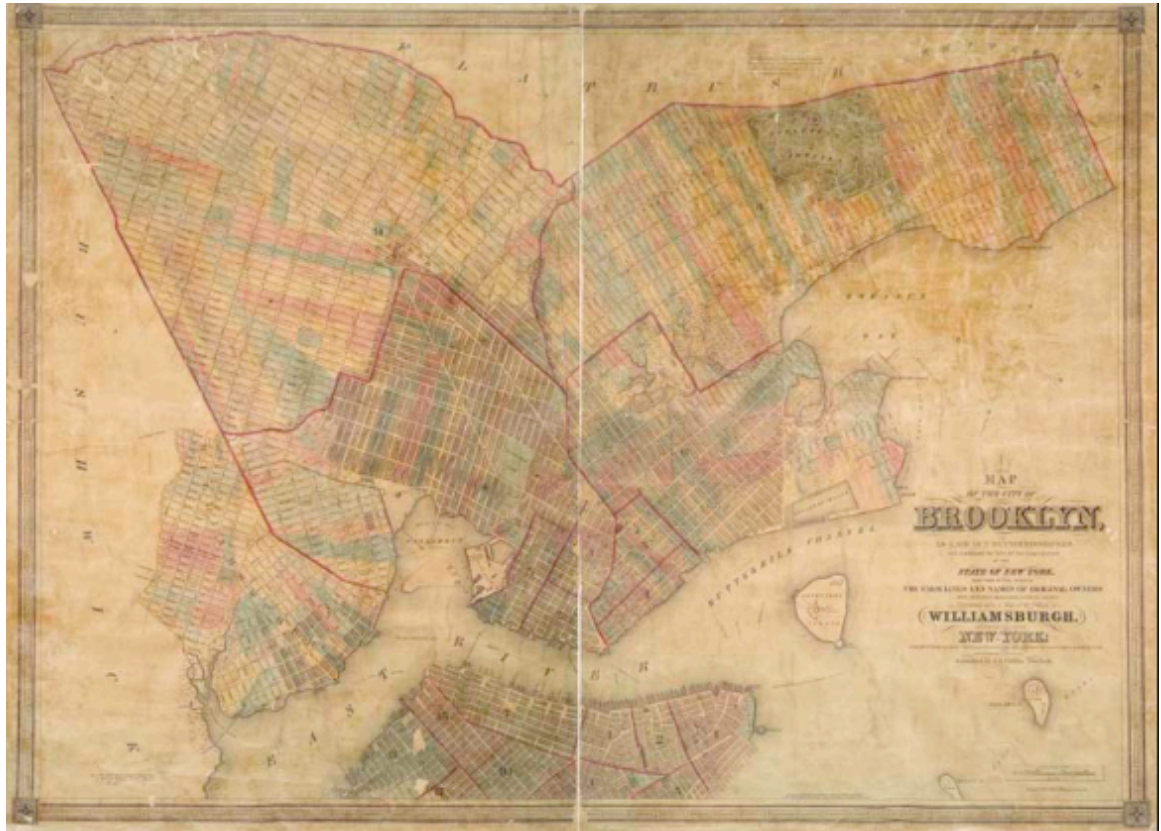
The New York City Public library is located, by Bryant park, the library was founded in 1895 and is one of the nation's largest library's. They have a large variety of archives from all over the world, even though we specifically were focused on Brooklyn. The maps we viewed were from the 1760's to the modern error.

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. I hope we look at more Sandborn maps, and learn more about the shaping of the neighborhood after it became part of New York City.

SOURCES found

- 1.) Title: "Plan of the town of Brooklyn and part of Long Island" 1767
Cartographer Bernard Ratzer
- 2.) Title: Map of the city of Brooklyn, as laid out by commissioners. Published by J.H Colton issued 1849



I chose this map as a source because of how specific it is to my personal research. This map is exactly the era I'm looking for for my final project. This map shows all the insurance sections of downtown Brooklyn in 1849, I was able to go to the Brooklyn Eagle Archives and find which fire insurance companies were sold in which of these sections. I haven't been able to find specific volunteer fire departments of the neighborhood yet but am still searching.



This map was the oldest the class looked at, it has settlers names on here. It all so note “his royal majesty” showing the British government still ruled while this was drawn up. This pictures is 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 see who owned what farms at this time and see how they were broken down and sublet over time. The older map from the 1760’s is very interesting because it can be interpreted now as to what was old farmland.

DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
 1. In 1765 there was eight farms in the area
 2. In 1849 there was 10 sections on a sanborn map because how populated it had gotten
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
3. a. 1776 The battle of Long Island the English storm through Long Island and take control of Brooklyn. The English take Patriot prisoners who are left to die in ships in Wallabout bay, eventually laid to rest in Navy Yard.
 - b. 1801 The Navy yard is officially establish, the Navy yard is big part of the neighborhood during the prime years of immigration. The Navy yard provided many jobs for the Irish immigrants who settled in Vinegar hill.

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c. 1834 The village of Brooklyn, is incorporated as a city

3. Key Players

a. John Sands

b. Patrick Keely

c. John Roebling

4. Relationship Key Players

a. Sands was politician who owned a large stake in Brooklyn in the 1760's

b. Patrick Keely was an architect who was essential in the designing of the neighborhoods of Brooklyn in the mid 19th century.

c. John Roebling was the designer of the Brooklyn bridge.

4. Public Perception of Key Events

a. Public loved addition of bridge, that made it easier to commute to work

6. Important Changes to Neighborhood

a. The Brooklyn Bridge changed roads and effective change travel through the boroughs Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens.

7. Other Observations

a. I noticed on some maps they noted warehouse with their business names on them b. I would like to look more into these businesses

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

Key words "Dumbo" & "Vinegar Hill"

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	The neighborhood is owned by Kings county
Number of Blocks	From front street to waterfront is about 18 blocks in 1849
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	There is about eight to ten building on a block in 1849

Materials	Brick, Clay, Stucco
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# of Stories of Buildings	Two to three stories
Residential Bldgs	There's about thirty residential buildings in Vinegar Hill in 1849
Empty Lots	Noticed five empty lots
Commercial Uses	Factories and warehouses
Industrial Uses	1828- The Navy yard ferry
Other Data	
Other Data	
Other Data	
Other Data	
Other Data	

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. How was the farmland in picture two broken up by families, who did they sell it to, and were these prominent families over the neighborhood?
2. What is a Rope walk how was it used as transportation?
3. What historic significance was the Navy yard during the mid-19th century?

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

1. Question 1
 - a. The Brooklyn Eagle may have some primary information
 - b. Look at old census to see how families may have handed land over to one another.
2. Question 2
 - a.) Wikipedia search Rope walk
 - b.) Look at more Sandborn maps to possibly find more Rope walks
 - c.) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ropewalk>
3. Question 3
 - a.) Find books in the city tech library on the Brooklyn Navy yard
 - b.) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn_Navy_Yard

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

The Brooklyn public library was very helpful in our classes research, and was beautiful public building. The library collection presented to the class was so extensive I don't think it could be

possible to thoroughly go through the collection. I personally specifically looked into the 1767, I found the age of the map so fascinating, the names of the old farm owners in the neighborhood. The 1767 map did not help my personal mission to find out more about the insurance maps. The 1849 which also focused one, did help my research alot . The insurance sections of Brooklyn in every decade we go up in sandborn maps change dramatically.