

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

Brooklyn Historical Society



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INTRODUCTION

This visit to Brooklyn Historical Society was really interesting and informative. For this visit we had to go there into one group at a time, and we had email the archivist in advance to order the documents we were interested. The day we went in Brooklyn Historical Society, archivist had all the material we requested displayed on the tables for us not only online databases were ready to use as well.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

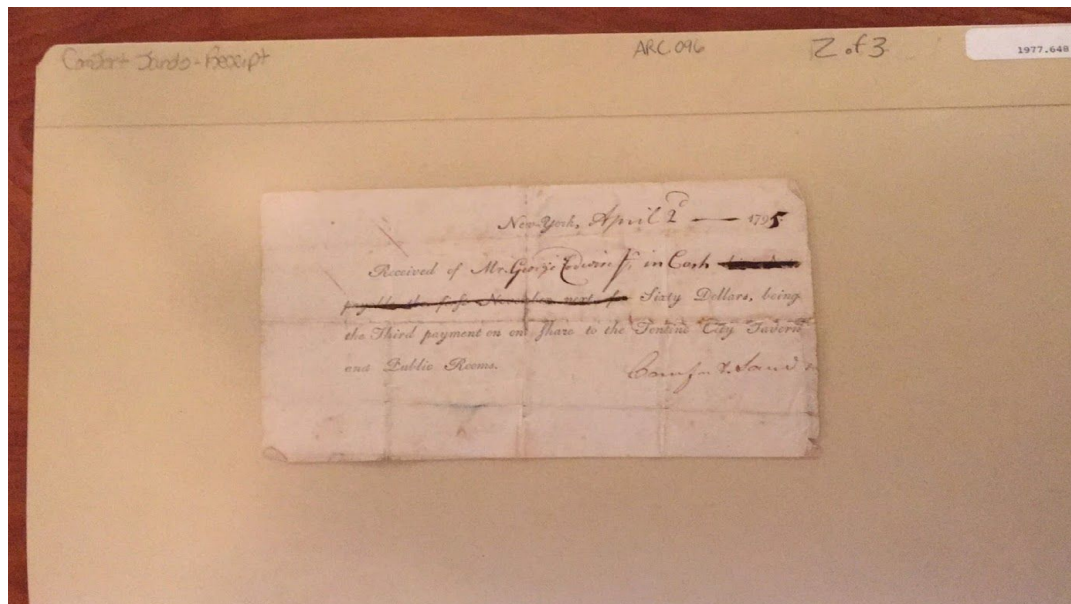
I feel like this visit to Brooklyn Historical Society will be more explanatory and

educational. First of all I learned how to request materials from the archives which is really helpful tool to have it. Now I am hoping to see some related documents for my specific topic of research.

SOURCES found

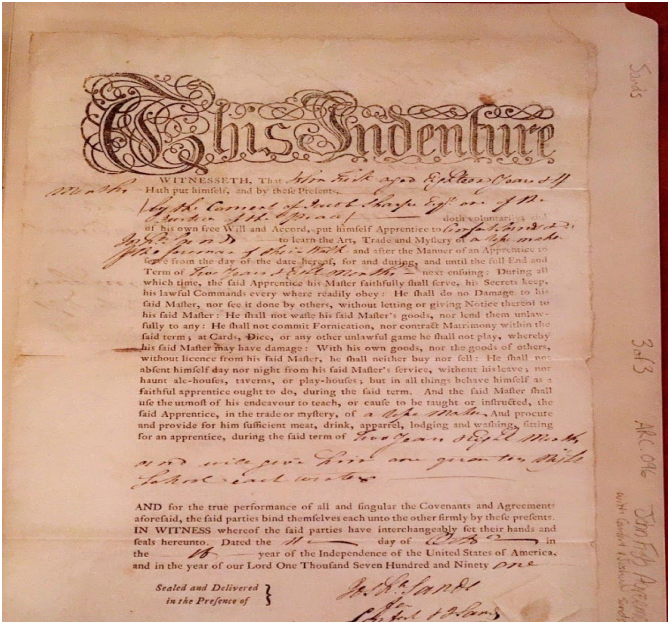
1. William Hooker, Hooker's New pocket plan of the village of Brooklyn, Map, No 202, 1827
2. Jas. Bleecker & Sons, Peremptory sale Valuable Property in the city of Brooklyn near the navy Yard, Map of Blocks, Page # Non, 10 January 1838.
3. Richard Anthony Mauro, Guide to the legends & mystery of Brooklyn, Volume 1: Old fulton street & fulton street, Brooklyn historical society.

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

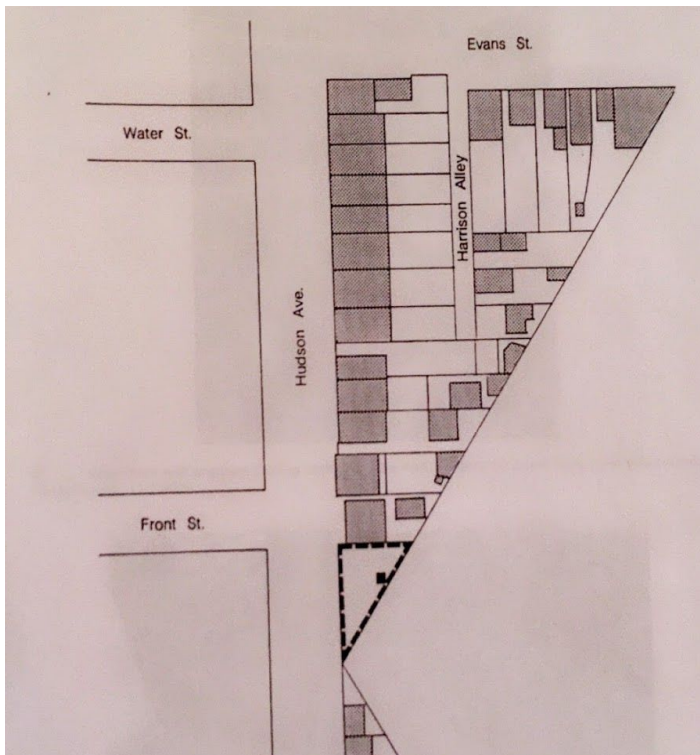


This is the photograph of an actual hand written receipt by Mr Comfort Sand to Mr George, by looking at it you can see the date and place mentioned on top of the receipt. This receipt was made in New York on april 2nd 1795, it's really hard to read

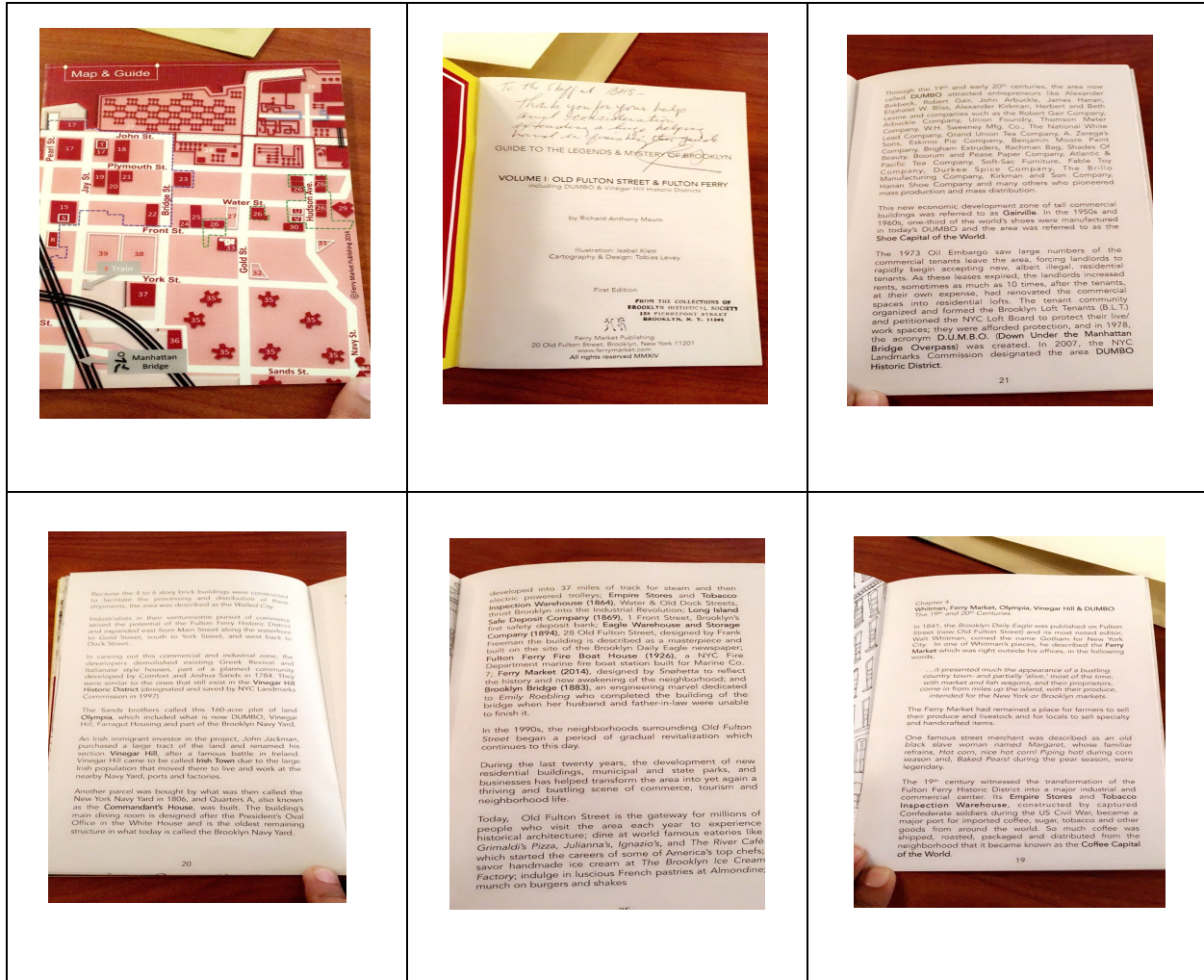
but so far i figured that this was the receipt of sixty dollar which were paid in cash by Mr Comfort Sand to Mr George as a third payment of a public room.



This is the photograph of John Fish agreement with Comfort and Jaushua Sand.

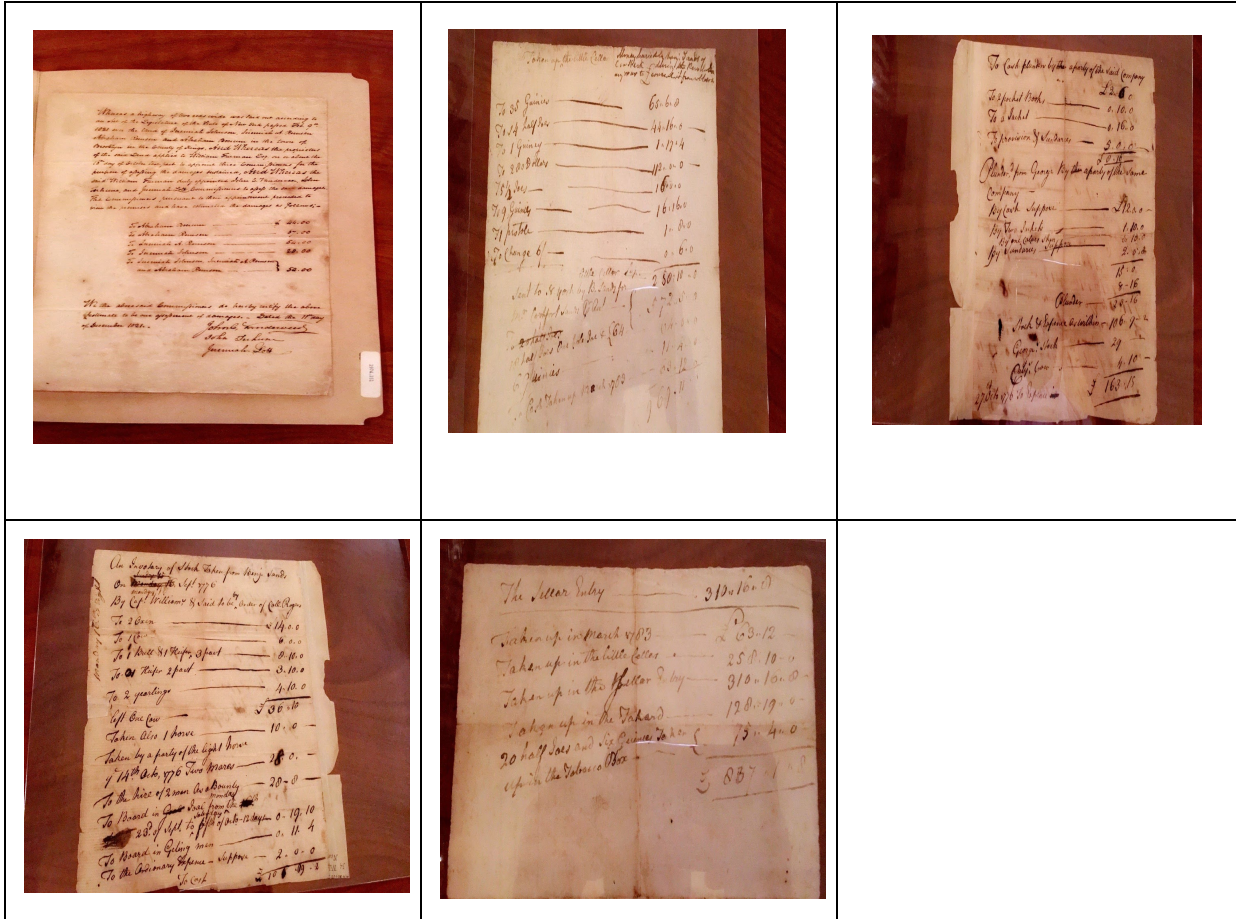


This is the photograph of vinegar hill area where Monument lot is existed. As you can see at the end of hudson ave triangle shape highlighted area is Monument lot. According to the memo of this monument, “the triangular lot on hudson ave (formerly jackson street named for an early landowner and the donor of the Monument lot in 1808) is scheduled for the development”.



Photographs above are taken from the “Guide to the legends & mystery of Brooklyn” in which author talked about whitman, Ferry Market, Olympia, vinegar hill and Dumbo. “In 1841, The Brooklyn eagle was published on Fulton street and its most noted editor walt whitman, coined the name of Gotham for new york city. In one of the whitman’s pieces”, he mentioned about Ferry Market, which was place for farmers to sell their products and handcrafted items. In this book on page 20 “In carving out this commercial and industrial zone, the developers demolished existing Greek Revival and Italianate style houses, part of the planned community developed by Comfort and

Joshua Sands in 1784". The Sands brothers called this 160-acre plot of land Olympia, which included what is Dumbo, Vinegar Hill, Farragut housing and part of Brooklyn Navy Yard.



These photograph are some of the receipts which Brooklyn historical society had in the box of sand's family. It was really hard to read but i did find some of the information about these receipts most of them are pay's of the workers of company own by sand's family. Some of these receipts had shown money and the name of the people who owe money to sand's family. It is disappointing to see that all these artifacts i found in Brooklyn Historical Society are still not enough for my research,

because i was looking for how and when sand's brother sold the land and who bought the land.

DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
 - a. Developed in 1784
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
 - a. Agreement 1974-86
 - b. Olympia 1784
 - c. Monument lot 1808
3. Key Players
 - a. Comfort sand
 - b. Joshua sand
4. Relationship Key Players
 - a. Owner of the most of the land
 - b. Dumbo, Vinegar hill, Ferry Market
5. Public Perception of Key Events
 - a. Commissioner of the area was involved during the agreement between John Fish and Sand's family.
6. Important Changes to Neighborhood
 - a. Urban renewal (demolished almost the whole area and redeveloped)

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

“Joshua Sand”, “comfort Sand”, “Sand’s Family”, “Redevelopment of Downtown Brooklyn 1940’s”, “Urban Renewal”, “New York City Housing Authority”, “Urban Renewal”, “Brooklyn Navy Yard”, “Old Ferry”, “Fulton Street Ferry”, “Olympia”, “Vinegar Hill”, “Dumbo”.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	Sand’s Family (Comfort Sand, Joshua Sand)
Number of Acres	160 Acres
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	15 to 20
Materials	Brick, Wood and Steel
# of Stories of Buildings	3 to 4
Residential Bldgs	Most of them
Empty Lots	Few of them
Commercial Uses	Empire store, Coffee shop
Industrial Uses	Most of them

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Why there is not much of information about Sand’s family?
2. What did people say when sand’s family the area of olympia?
3. Who were the contractors and architecture of the project?

RESEARCH METHOD/ ADDITIONAL SOURCES NEEDED TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION

ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Brooklyn Library & Archives
 - b. Google
 - c. Brooklyn Eagle newspaper
2. Question 2
 - a. Brooklyn Eagle Newspaper
 - b. Brooklyn Historical society and Archives
 - c. Google and other search engine
3. Question 3
 - a. Brooklyn Architectural community
 - b. New york department of buildings
 - c. Brooklyn Eagle Newspaper

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

This trip to the Brooklyn Historical Society did clear and showed new picture of the redevelopment of Dumbo, Vinegar Hill and Olympia which was the original name of this area of Downtown Brooklyn. Almost all of the documents in Brooklyn Historical Society were in good shape even though they were really old. After looking at these artifacts i realized the importance of archives and historical societies like brooklyn Historical society and Laguardia community college archives.