

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

LaGuardia Community College/Wagner's Archives



AISEL OMERBASHI

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INTRODUCTION

The scope of this library visit was to learn more about New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). We were introduced with the archivists and since our class was large to fit in one of the archive sitting area we spread in two groups and were given an archivist for each group. They explained to us situations of NYCHA in general where they were based on in the housing project in Uptown Manhattan, which was very similar to the Farragut Housing in Vinegar Hill. We were also introduced to a Wikipedia expert that gave us tips how to use Wikipedia and to be more active in it by editing pages that have to do with what

we are learning from this course.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

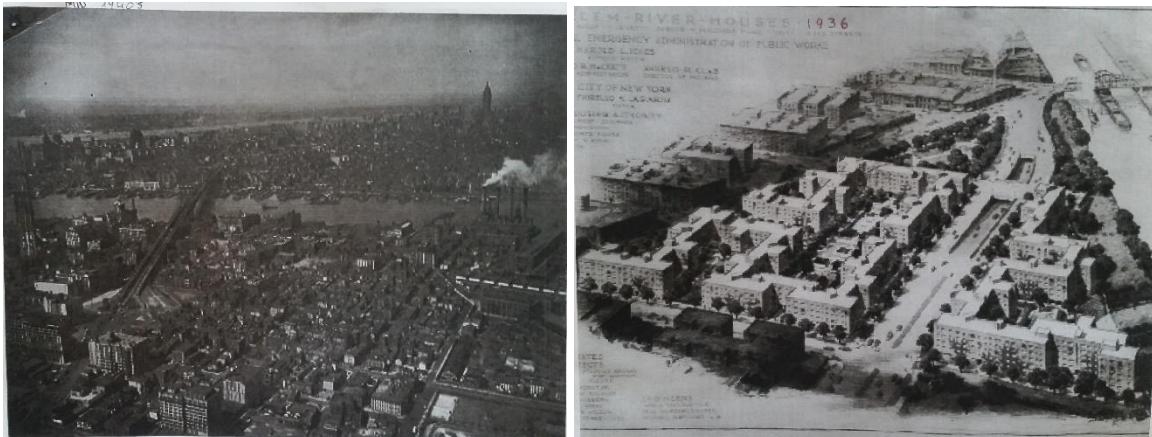
Prior to the visit to LaGuardia Community College I was very positive. This visit was different from the other visits since I have heard a little about this college and its archive from friends that go to LaGuardia and that have done research using their archives. I was about to visit the college and its archive for the first time. I knew that they have lots of interesting stuff about NYCHA collection. I expected to see but we didn't see any were floor plans from NYCHA buildings. I was curious to see how their houses inside are set up, how many rooms, how big the spaces were etc.

SOURCES found

1. Photographed by NYCHA , apartment's Interior living spaces shots: Tenant Harlem River Houses from 3.7.1939 / NYCHA Harlem River 9.23.1941 /
2. Created by NYCHA, Campbell's Delivery Service Moving and Trucking, July 23 1937.
3. Photographed by NYCHA, Pictures of exteriors: Parcel 276 from 12.10.1948 / Gold street from Prospect / Farragut 4.7.1948 Sand Street from Hudson Ave / Bird eye view of NYC from mid-1940's / NYCHA Harlem Houses from 5.19.1939 / Bird eye view Harlem River Houses from 1936

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



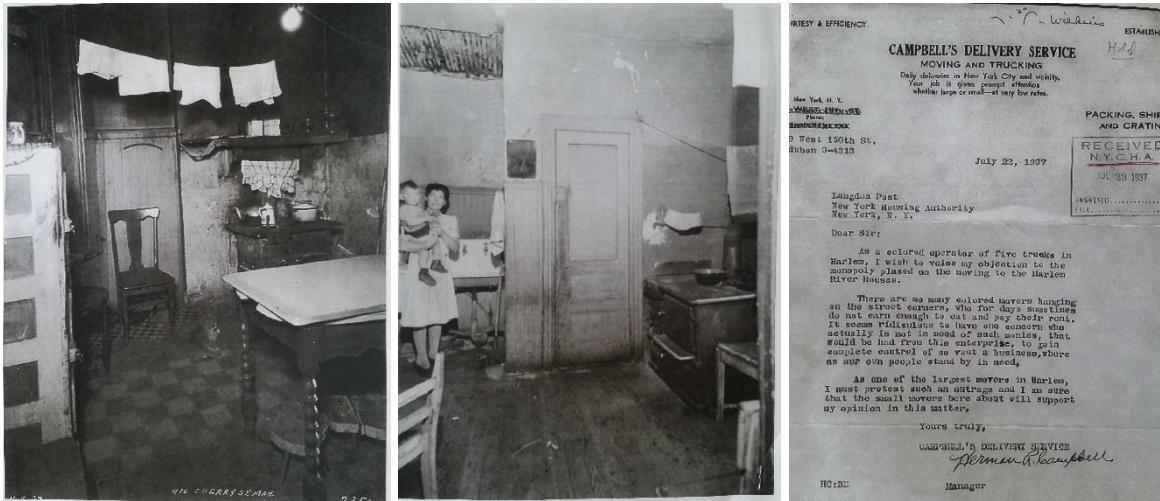


These pictures were shared with us at the LaGuardia Community College, and they introduce us with the surroundings and the inside situation at time of Great Depression period. This pictures help us better understand the poverty at that time by just looking at the empty streets without vehicles or people walking around.



Interior Living Spaces in Farragut Housing





This part of the LaGuardia's visit was surprising because I learned that archiver don't just have maps, photographs, diaries or testaments, they also have artifacts from the peoples lifes as shown in the pictures above and below. All these archives were well saved and well taken care off. On the bottom right picture is shown the place were all the stuff is being saved.



DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
 - a. Farragut Housing were planned to be built in Vinegar Hill.
 - b. After the building of Con Edison in the area felt like Vinegar Hill was forgotten.
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
 - a. The creation of NYCHA in 1934
 - b. The great depression in 1929 - 1939
 - c. Low income apartments Harlem River Houses in Manhattan from 1930s – 1940s
3. Key Players
 - a. NYCHA
 - b. Mayor LaGuardia
 - c. City planner Robert Moses
4. Relationship Key Players
 - a. The teaming up of NYCHA with Robert Moses
 - b. NYCHA working on making NYC government approve their plan.
5. Public Perception of Key Events
 - a. Affordable housing for low income families.
 - b. Effects of the urban renewal

6. Important Changes to Neighborhood
 - a. Brooklyn Queens Expressway was built
 - b. Farragut Housing effected some of the streets since it took 4 blocks for it to be build.
 - c. Newer larger streets were being build and alleys were disappearing.
7. Other Observations
 - a. What I have seen from the map looks like Farragut Housing is outside the Vinegar Hill's borders.
 - b. The Farragut Housing projects have never been moved from their actual spot even though now the area where they are located is really expensive.

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

NYCHA, Farragut Housing, Vinegar Hill, Great Depression, affordable housing, Urban Renewal, Harlem River Houses, Harlem Houses, Mayor LaGuardia

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	NYC, NYCHA
Number of Blocks	14 blocks
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	21 buildings
Materials	Wood, brick, metal
# of Stories of Buildings	2 – 4 floors high residential, 4 – 6 floors high industrial
Residential Bldgs.	Mostly residential buildings, even the ones that were stores turned mostly into residential.

Empty Lots	A few remain still empty
Commercial Uses	Yes, mostly offices
Industrial Uses	Yes, is seen a growth in industrial use of spaces

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Who proposed NYCHA as a plan to solve the Great Depression situation?
2. Where the name Farragut Housing come from?
3. Was the area effected by having Farragut Housing in it?

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

1. Question 1
 - a. Wikipedia
 - b. LaGuardia Community College website
 - c. Nyc.gov/nycha
2. Question 2
 - a. Wikipedia
 - b. Brooklyn Historical society
 - c. Nydailynews.com
3. Question 3
 - a. Wikipedia
 - b. Nycppf.org
 - c. Brooklyn Daily Eagle

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

The experience was as great as I expected it. The visit was very informative and the archivists were ready to show us every little thing in that archive. The archivist was pretty funny, whenever he was

introducing the artifacts he was including also funny facts from each assortment of artifacts. After the archive we went downstairs at the computer lab to have an introduction of how to edit Wikipedia pages. The Wikipedia expert was really nice and easy to understand. Now that I think back, we have been contacting very great people on our library visits, lovely experience and memories. We learned a few steps on how to edit the Wikipedia pages and we ended the visit there.