

Learning Places Spring 2016

SITE REPORT

Brooklyn Historical Society



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05.11.2016

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this site visit to the Brooklyn Historical Society Archive was to find tangible information that could serve as useful towards our final project. Any challenging question we may have had up to this point are sure to be answer; well partially answered by the end of this visit. For me personally, I think the maps here could more than serve as my tangible data.

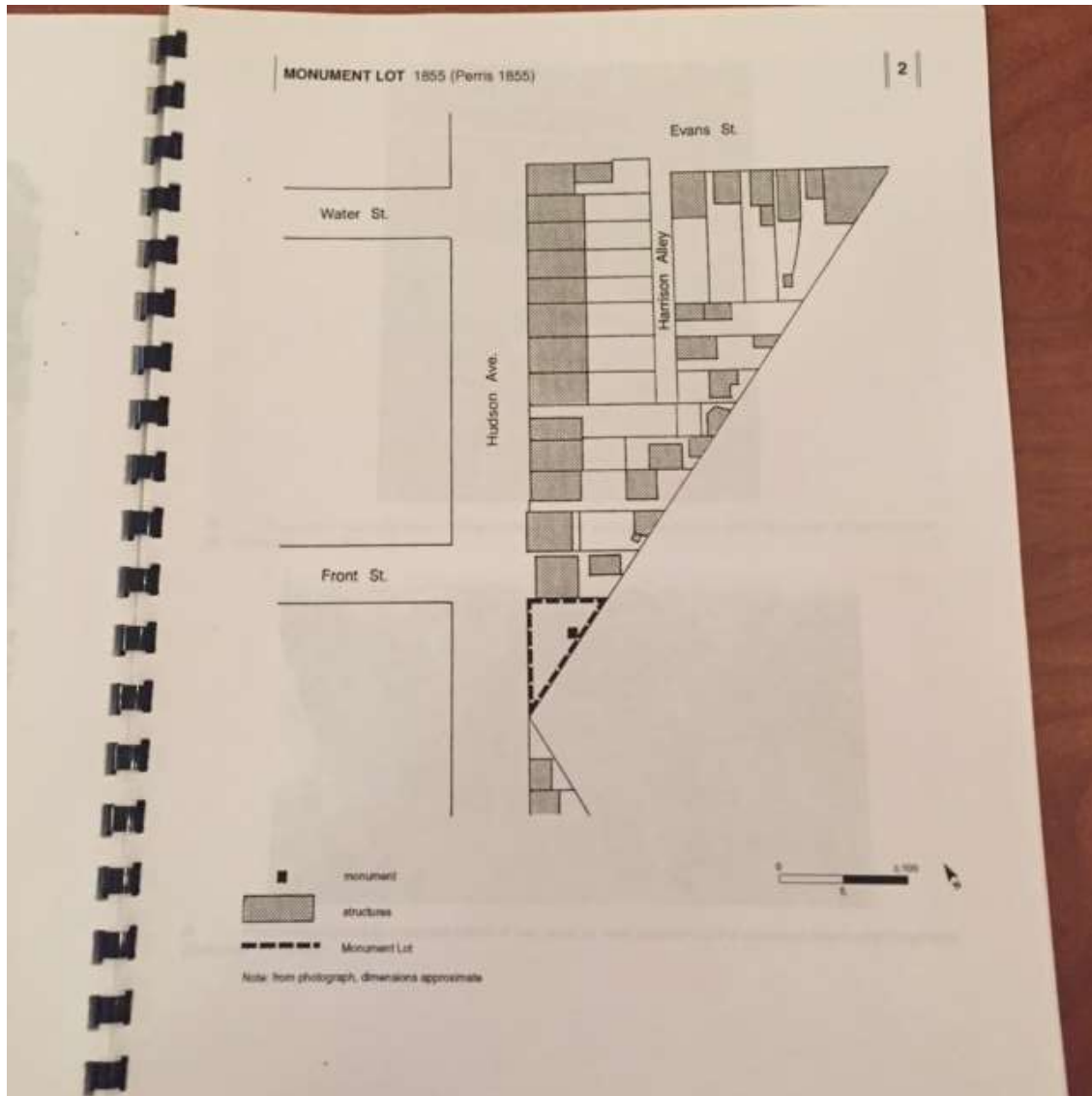
PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

All my visits to Borough Hall have I never noticed the Brooklyn Historical Society which happens to be the same block I drive down on occasions whenever I'm looking for a place to park. I anticipate that the information we find here were be a mix of atlas, maps and books, as well as documents. I also anticipate that the buildings architecture would resemble that of the Ancient Time period. However, I am looking forward to looking at maps of the 1860's as well as a map from the 1850's. I strongly believe that the information for my entire project will heavily come from these two maps.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)

Sources Found

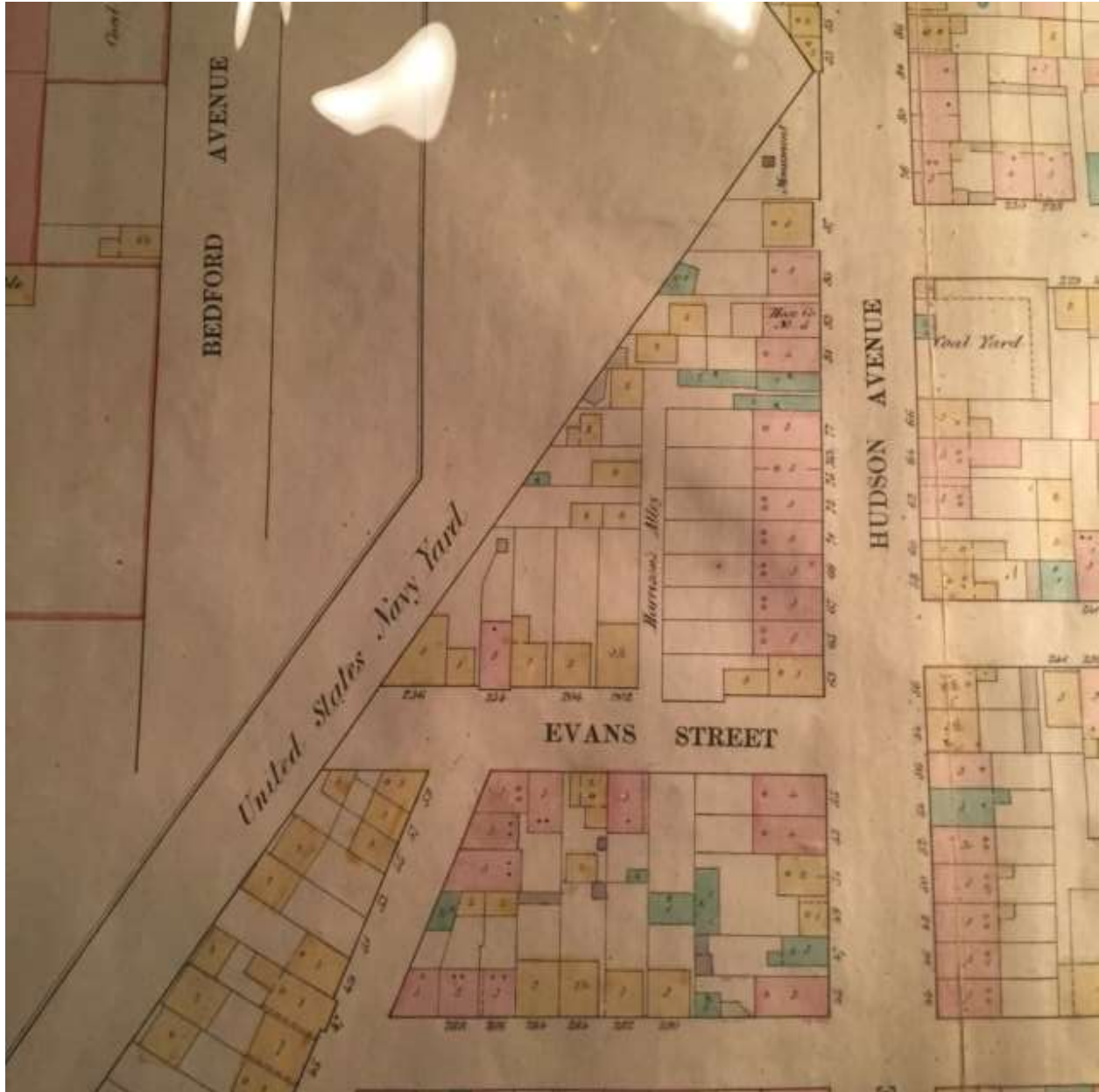
1. William Perris, Brooklyn 1855
2. Geismar (1996), Monument Lot: Hudson Avenue



This is a close up diagram used to illustrate monuments, structures and monument lots. Although it may appear neat it is however, a rough sketch of how this particular area looked according to Perris, in the year 1855. If you take a closer look you can spot Harrison Alley on this triangular looking block. In this photo above Harrison Alley appeared to be a dead-end Alley having only one entrance.

Sources Found

1. William Perris, Harrison Alley 1860

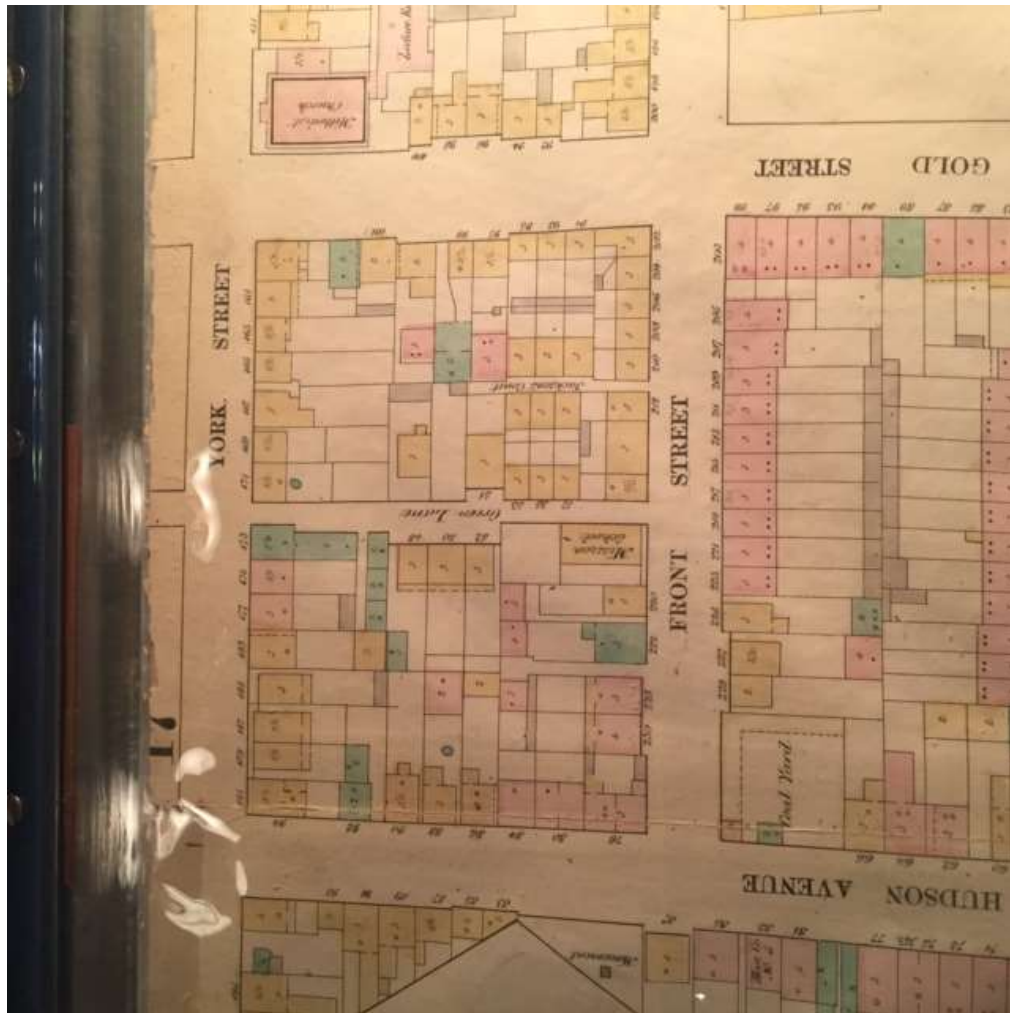


The photo above was taken from the William Perris 1860 Map of Brooklyn. In this photo Harrison Alley appears to be L-shaped whereas in the 1855 diagram, Harrison Alley appeared to be a dead-end. It could be entered from either Evans Street or Hudson Avenue. In this photo I also noticed how much narrower than the

entrance off Hudson Avenue. It is possible that stores could have possibly run into the Harrison Alley off Hudson during the 1860.

Sources Found

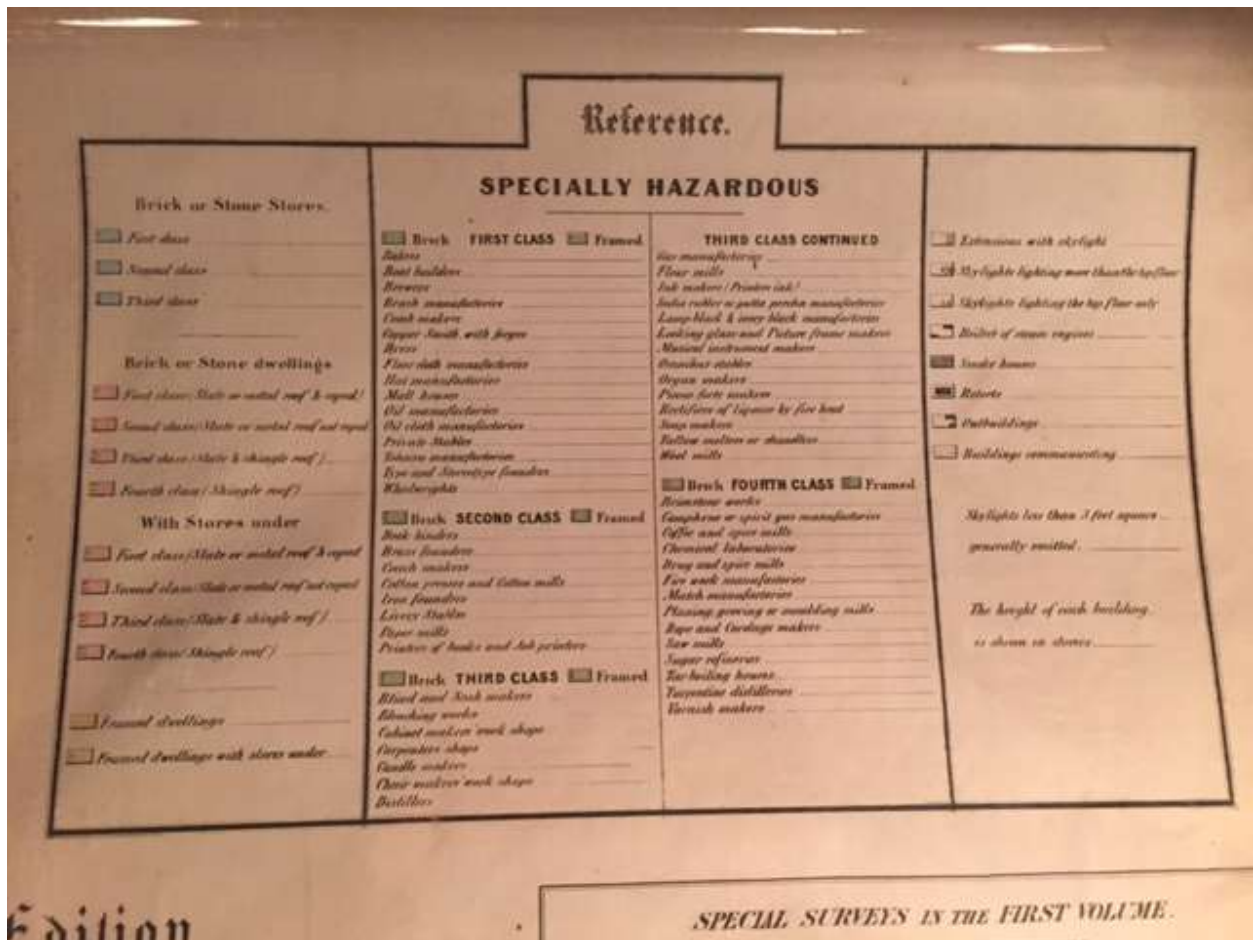
1. William Perris, York Street & Front Street 1860



The photo above was taken from that of William Perris, 1860 Map of Brooklyn. Since my topic stems from an alley, I figured I'd just focus on all the alley throughout Vinegar Hill instead. By viewing this map alone, I was able to locate a handful of Alleys, Lanes and Courts I had no idea even existed. I believe that this map is extremely useful and extremely tangible.



This photo here is a brief snapshot of the Legend Key that I found on The William Perris, 1860 Map of Brooklyn. This key could be used to bring a much clearer understanding to the map. The map above and the map below come from the same Atlas and the Legend Key is color coded letting you know exactly what it is that you are viewing.



QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Brooklyn Heights
 - b. Cadman Plaza West
2. Vitality of Neighborhood
 - a. General Description
 - i. Historical
 - b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. Moderate

- c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. Busy
- 3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)
 - a. Founded in 1863
 - b. Opened in 1881
 - c. Name changed 1885
- 4. Relationship Between Buildings
 - a. Separated
 - b. Located on the corner of the block
- 5. Building Details
 - a. 19 Century Architecture
 - b. Architectural Historians
 - c. Significant Innovations
- 6. Relationship to the Waterfront
 - a. No relation
 - b. Not located in Vinegar Hill
- 7. Other Observations
 - a. xx
 - b. xx
 - c. xx

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	Clinton Street, Pierrepont Street, Montague Street
Street Width	

Street Pavement	Black Top Pavement
Building Heights	2-3 Stories Tall
Building Widths (Window Bays)	Average
Building Types/Uses	Brick Placements
Empty Lots / Gardens	No.
Shops / Restaurants	I'm sure there were a couple shops but I don't recall the names.
Industrial Shops	No.
Other Data	

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. How many Alley were they in total throughout Vinegar Hill?
2. Why did Harrison Alley appear differently on one map and not another?
3. Was Harrison Alley a dead-end or was it an L-shaped Alley with two entrances?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. William Perris, 1855 & 1860 Map of Brooklyn
 - b. Municipal Archive
 - c. Brooklyn Daily Eagle
2. Question 2
 - a. William Perris, 1855 & 1860 Map of Brooklyn
 - b. NYPBL.org

3. Question 3

- a. William Perris, 1855 & 1860 Map of Brooklyn
- b. Municipal Archive

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

I thought my visit to the Brooklyn Historical Society was great. I was able to view the William Perris 1860 Map of Brooklyn which provided me with information I didn't have before. The map was clear therefore they were easy to view and read. I'm still not sure how I figure out exactly what purposes these alleys served however what I do know is that at some point in time these alleys changed greatly, especially Harrison Alley.