

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

New York Public Library



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03.02.2016

INTRODUCTION

This was one of our first library visits and being introduced to such delicate and unique archive. I personally didn't know what to expect since I have never done anything like this before. I felt good and excited when we were about to get into the room that was private from other visitors. We were about to experience something unique and to achieve the scope of the activity, to view different map types from different time periods.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I really didn't know what to expect prior to this library visit since I don't really frequent much this type of places, even though I would like to go there more often if I have free time. Before this library visit I expected to do something similar to what we did in school, but deeper research. I thought that we would do that since professor Almeida mentioned that our school library has a different way of finding the books into the shelves compare to public libraries, so I thought we were going to learn the new way as well. I expected to view maps as well similar to the prior visit at the Brooklyn Public Library. PRIOR to site visit, reflect on what you anticipate learning or seeing during the visit.

SOURCES found

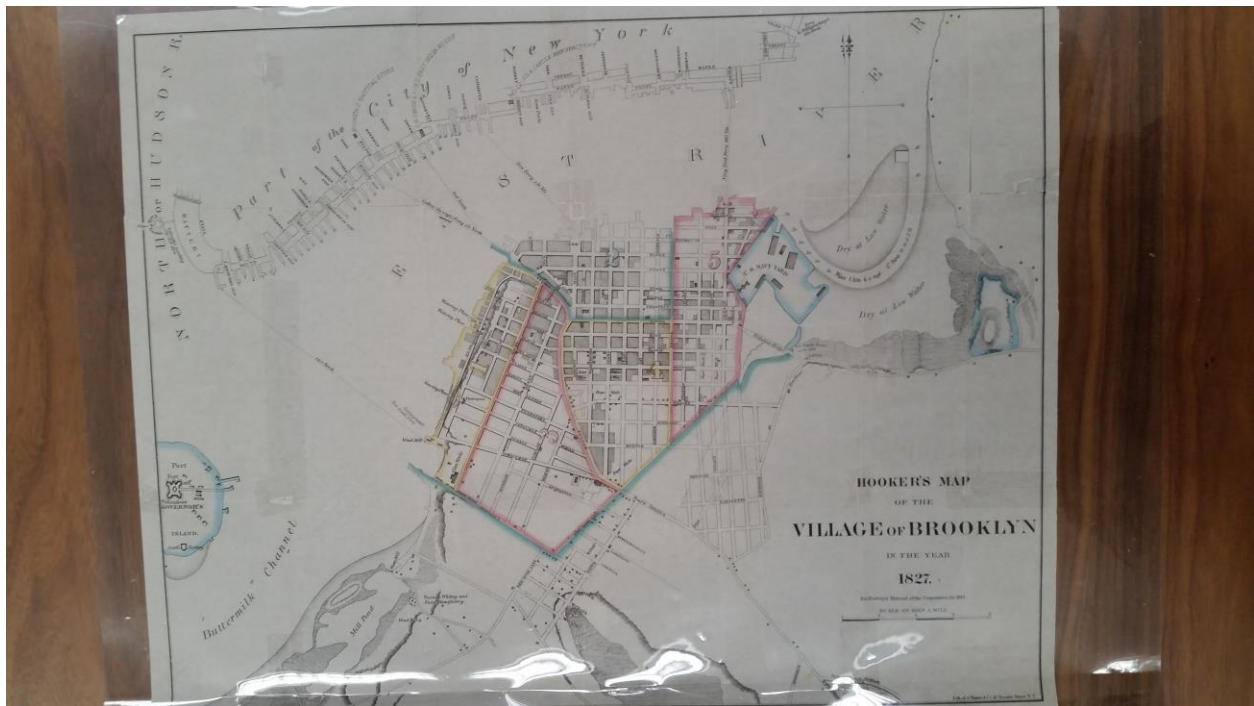
1. William Hooker, Hooker's Map 1827 of the Village of Brooklyn.
2. Bernard Ratzer, Ratzer's Map 1766 & 1767 Plan of the Town of Brooklyn and part of Long Island.
3. William Perris, Map of the City of Brooklyn 1855, Volume 1.



I took picture of this map since I was interested of studying it in more details and make project out of it. It attracted me since it is well organized and clean considering that time and the tools they were using.



This was another map that I was interested on and that I wanted to study. I liked this map because it showed the study of the area in details about Specially Hazardous. This insurance map is based on the fire rating houses.



This map was my favorite of all, I was more tempted to know about this map. The guy at the library introduced this map differently from the other ones and it made me wonder

why this map is specially introduced and why so many questions about this particular map. From that moment I decided to study it deeply and find out what this color coded lines mean, what the hatched areas are.



I took pictures of this map because I found it interesting, but the only thing with it was that isn't enough to make a research project. I have to say though that the map it's pretty detailed for the specific area that is made for considering the time period that it was made (in 177?). The question mark is because there isn't an exact year for this map.

DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
 - a. From 1766 to 1855
 - b. Looking it from the 1766 it was just open land, meanwhile in 1855 the land has blocks and lots to build houses
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
 - a. Efficiency of the land use
 - b. Navy Yard
 - c. Urban renewal
3. Key Players
 - a. J. Rapalje
 - b. Benjamin Sands
 - c. William Perris
4. Relationship Key Players
 - a. Sands brothers
 - b. Jackson brothers
5. Public Perception of Key Events
 - a. The growth of the area financially
 - b. Easier transportation
 - c. Growth of the population
6. Important Changes to Neighborhood
 - a. The separation of the land in blocks
 - b. The addition of multiple ferry line connecting with Manhattan
7. Other Observations
 - a. The empty lots being filled with residential and commercial buildings.
 - b. Waterfront line being changed
 - c. The importance of Fulton Street

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

The B. Ratzler's Plan of the Town of Brooklyn 1767, Part of Wards 1,2 &4 City of Brooklyn, Vinegar hill, Irish Town, William Perris 1855 The Maps of the City of Brooklyn Volume 1, Hooker's Map 1827 The village of Brooklyn.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	Sands Brothers,
Number of Blocks	120 and more that I counted
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	30 buildings
Materials	Wood, Brick and combined
# of Stories of Buildings	1-4 stories
Residential Bldgs.	Yes, mostly in mid blocks areas
Empty Lots	Yes, mostly away from the primary streets
Commercial Uses	Yes, in corner blocks and others
Industrial Uses	Yes, near the waterfront and in the country side
Rope Walks	High demand for rope since the transportation via ships grew
Mills	Mostly located near the waterline where the wind is stronger

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Where were they based on about specifying the fire rating on a house?
2. Why in the Hooker's map there are not so needed details like shadows and there are no public places assigned that are helpful to the community?
3. Was there ever a collaboration between map makers?

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

1. Question 1
 - a. Brooklyn Public Library website
 - b. Wikipedia
 - c. Schools Library
2. Question 2
 - a. Brooklyn Historical Society website
 - b. Google
 - c. Wikipedia
3. Question 3
 - a. Google
 - b. Schools Library
 - c. Brooklyn Museum

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

The New York Public Library was a unique experience for me since I have never even been inside that place, and thinking that I passed by it hundred times. This time I didn't just go inside it, but I went inside a reserved area were not every visitor can enter. It was also great to see all this maps made with care by this mapmakers that were trying to give to the habitants and visitors of this city a sense of orientation. The speaker made the experience even more memorable since he explained the maps in details. It's another thing to see an old map and assume and is another thing being told exactly what the map meant and what was used for. I would definitely do it again and I will suggest it to friends and will talk about the unique experience I went through.