

Learning Places Spring 2016

SITE REPORT

Third Visit in Vinegar Hill



AISEL OMERBASHI

04.06.2016

INTRODUCTION

In this third visit in Vinegar Hill we were drawing the whole time there. We went from one building to another dedicating to each of them about 30 minutes of sketching. We drew the buildings in perspective and we included in the drawing their architectural details. We named some of the details as we were suggested to and some other details we named them the way we saw them.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Prior to the third visit in Vinegar Hill I was confused because we already stepped in every corner of that area and the professors covered the commenting and explaining the buildings in the area. The only think that was going in my mind was that in the previous visits was very cold and we didn't have the chance to draw anything, even though previous to the site and library visits we are asked to bring pen and paper to sketch we never got to do that. So for the third visit I kind of anticipated the plan, but wasn't sure. Another thing that was going through my mind was that we were going to learn more about Farragut Housing and maybe visiting the interior spaces.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



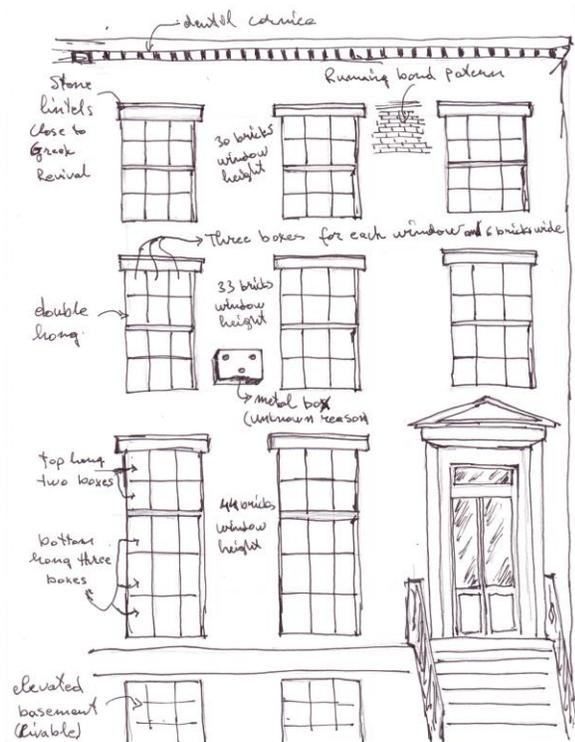
This was the first building that we started sketching. It is located on 55 Hudson Avenue, Vinegar Hill, Brooklyn, NY. Beside the picture is the drawing that I made that day, and the writings on it are the details of the building that I pointed out. This building looks like it was mixed used as a residential and commercial based on the big glass windows.



This is the second sketch that I made. For this building as well I pointed out some of details that I noticed in this building and I wrote on the side what I thought those details are.



This was the second building that we started sketching . It is located on 69 Gold Street, Vinegar Hill, Brooklyn, NY. It looks like this building now is residential, but its corner block location and the bid glass windows show that the building at one time was being used for commercial purposes. Corner blocks at that time were the highly prehered, thing that nowadays still remain.



This was the third and last building that we started drawing. I followed the same steps, I did the drawing and I pointed out some of the details that I noticed from this building. On this last one we suffered a little more than in the other drawings since out of the sudden the weather got really cold. The building is located on 239 Front Street, Vinegar Hill, Brooklyn, NY. This is a residential house and was the most modern building that we worked on, it makes you think that the owner of the building at that time was pretty wealthy.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Very quiet neighborhood with only one way streets.
 - b. Not sure where to place this area in terms of families income since you see some very well maintained houses and some others looks like haven't seen repairs in a long time.
2. Vitality of Neighborhood
 - a. General Description
 - i. This neighborhood looks like is lost in some corner of Brooklyn and there is not much traffic going on there, which make it very quiet area.

- b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. Few pedestrian activities
- c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. I noticed that the car traffic was more active than the pedestrian's activity.
- 3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)
 - a. The first building looks like is dated in mid-19th Century since is fully attached and maybe sharing the same wall. The simple lintels are also an evidence of the age on that time period.
 - b. The second building is more taken care of, but the detail like Greek revival cornice, and typical corner storefront entrance, which shows that they are in about the same age within the mid-19th century period.
 - c. In the third and last one miss leads you a little since this house is been renovated and many of the details on it have been redone. From what I have noticed this house is mostly Greek Revival style based on the lintels and the cornice.
- 4. Relationship Between Buildings
 - a. The building we visited were mixed in terms of relationship with other buildings.
 - b. The first one was sandwiched between two buildings.
 - c. The second was attached on one side and completely free on the other side
 - d. The third one was attached to the other building on one side and few feet away from the building on the other side.
- 5. Building Details
 - a. Greek Revival cornice
 - b. Double hang windows
 - c. Running bond bricks pattern
 - d. White brick meaning broad street
 - e. Curved corner windows
 - f. Storefront big glass windows
 - g. Dentil cornice
- 6. Relationship to the Waterfront
 - a. None of the buildings have relationship with the water since the streets that lead you to the waterfront are blocked from the Con Edison's implants.
- 7. Other Observations
 - a. Looks like the area had a boom in construction in the mid-19th century and it got populated by residents and stores.
 - b. Looks like in that time period the most populated construction style was Greek Revival

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	Hudson Avenue, Gold Street, Front Street, Water Street
Street Width	Mostly with sidewalks on each side, parking on both sides of the street and one way streets.
Street Pavement	Asphalt and cobblestone
Building Heights	3 – 3 ½ floors
Building Widths (Window Bays)	Three bay windows wide
Building Types/Uses	All of them are residential
Empty Lots / Gardens	No gardens or empty lots on them
Shops / Restaurants	No shops and no restaurants
Industrial Shops	No industrial shops neither

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Why they turned the stores into residential use?
2. Who was the architect who built the area?
3. Was the continues running bond brick work that had no separation line between buildings owned by the same person, or just for design purpose?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Wikipedia.org
 - b. Forgotten-ny.com
 - c. Brooklyn public library website
2. Question 2
 - a. Brooklyn Historical Society website
 - b. Wikipedia
 - c. Vinegar Hill history book's pdf
3. Question 3
 - a. Wikipedia
 - b. Nypost.com
 - c. Forgotten-ny.com

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

I enjoyed this site visit because it brought me back memories of the times I used to draw for hours every day. I noticed that I have lost the skill to draw since I stopped doing it from like 10 years ago. This sketching practice was helpful since we had to focus more on the building details since we had to draw them, even though the drawing of them didn't come out as we wanted to, but the focusing did happened. When drawing them you see that they have much more to offer, something that you don't notice when you walk buy or by just taking pictures of them.