



In 1900, the New York Dock Company consolidated almost all of the waterfront property between Fulton Street and Erie Basin. At its peak, the New York Dock Co. owned or managed over 40 piers and approximately 150 stores and warehouses, making it the largest private freight terminal in the world.

The site of Brooklyn Bridge Park was a thriving public waterfront through the first half of the 20th Century. However, in the 1950's, shipping in the area began a steady decline in use as New York's older port areas lost ground to container shipping and to competition from other east coast cities. In addition, in the 1950's the construction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway created an approximately 60-foot-high elevated structure parallel to Furman Street that fully separated the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood from the waterfront. By the late 1970's, Piers 1-6 were primarily serving as warehouses and generating only modest levels of revenue for the Port Authority. In 1983, the Port Authority ceased cargo ship operations on Piers 1-6.







