

SITE REPORT 1 Part A: Time Square



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INTRODUCTION

We went to Time Square 42nd street to all observe the buildings and special events happening at Time Square. The objective was to see what encouraged performances. We were told to pay close attention to space, where and how things were located.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Prior to the site visit I was excited to go to Time Square and take note of things the way a tourist would. I was eager to work on a report on Time Square because it would give me the opportunity to learn more about the area and its history. In addition to viewing Time Square from my tourist lens and learning more about the history I was also thrilled about photographing/ sketching the things that stood out to me.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos)

Below is a photo of the location where the New Year ball drop in Time Square New York.



This image is important because It give me a feeling of new beginnings. I also think it is a very important image because in a few month the number 2016 will be changed to 2017. It is almost as if I captured history because next year it will be different.



This is an photo of Time Square back in the early 1900s.



This is also an image from the early 1900s. Of the Times Building where the famous ball drop New Year event happens every year.



As I look around my surroundings I spotted this street name that I normally would've overlooked. This street sign name was "Actors' Equity Corner". This was extremely interested to me because I found it ironic that our class was at Time Square to observe what encourage performances in Time Square and that was an encouragement within itself. After seeing this street name I was curious to research the meaning behind it. After researching the name I found out that the Manhattan Community Board gave that street that name to honor the many contribution the union has made to the theatrical industry, Time Square and New York City.

QUALITATIVE SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Neighborhood / Street Character
 - a. Time Square
 - b. Wide side walks with lots of tourist, billboards, advertisements and businesses.
2. Vitality of Place
 - a. General Description
 - i. Very busy with human activities for both New Yorkers and visitors.
 - b. Pedestrian Activity
 - i. Extremely Crowded
 - c. Vehicular Traffic
 - i. Traffic Jammed all around.
3. Age of Buildings (provide evidence for prediction)
 - a. About 100 years old (www.nyc-architecture.com)
 - b. Some were built back in 1904
4. Relationship Between Buildings (urbeme)
 - a. All the buildings were big with really big billboards on them.

- b. They were either shopping stores or tourist attractions.
- 5. Building Details (historical/architectural styles, morphemes)
 - a. Most of the buildings in the area were used for X-rated movies.
 - b. Most buildings had large advertisement screens.
 - c. Bright lights to attract attention from spectators.
- 6. Building Uses
 - a. Retail stores (H&M, Forever 21, The Gap etc.)
 - b. Tourist attraction (Comedy shows, Hotels)
- 7. Other Observations
 - a. Dressed up cartoon characters/ bus tours
 - b. Statues
 - c. The Red Stairs

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Street Names	42nd Street to 47th Street "Time Square"
Street Width	N/A
Pavement Type	There were different pavement types in Time Square
Building Heights	Time Square Tower is about 724 ft tall
Building Widths (Window Bays)	N/A
Building Types/Uses	offices, hotels, retail stores and other attractions

Empty Lots / Gardens	N/A
Shops / Restaurants	Time Square Diner, Buffalo Wild Wings, Tad Steaks
Industrial Shops	Double Tree Suites, New York Marriott, Renaissance New York Times Square Hotel, RIU Plaza New York
Other Data	The ball drop began in 1907, however the New Year celebration started in 1904
Other Data	

QUESTIONS TO RESEARCH FURTHER

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is that particular area chosen for the New Year ball to drop each year?
2. Why are the side walks so wide?
3. Why are the dressed up cartoon characters limited to specific areas?

RESEARCH METHOD/SOURCE FOR EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. www.timesquarenyc.org
 - b. www.wikipedia.com
2. Question 2
 - a. www.NYC.gov
 - b. www.nyc-architecture.com
3. Question 3
 - a. New York Daily News
 - b. The New York Times
 - c. Pix11.com

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

The visit to Time Square enlighten me alot. I noticed so much more than I would on a normal trip to Time Square.I was able to take lots of photos at the site. I was also able to go home and research the whys. I look forward to understand more about the history of Time Square. My overall interest is to focus on the New Year Ball Drop celebration. It was awesome to find old pictures of the building that caught my attention the most.