

Learning Places Fall 2015

SITE REPORT

Farragut Houses and Vinegar Hill Visit



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INTRODUCTION

For this site visit, we inspected the Farragut Houses, as well as taking a look at the neighboring historical district named Vinegar Hill. Starting off in Vinegar Hill, we discovered the different buildings and their architecture; we looked at not only the essential aspects but the decorative and subtle architectural decisions that made them unique. We moved on to the Farragut Housing buildings, and together discussed what we could observe from our vantage point.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I think this should be an interesting visit. I've been by the Farragut housing buildings, but this would be the first time I'd be going specifically to observe the building and to document those observations. I'm not necessarily excited about this trip, but my curious side is intrigued at the prospect of attentively inspecting the Farragut Houses and possibly revealing some information about it I would never have been able to reveal otherwise. I don't want to presume to know exactly what I would discover at the site, but based on what little knowledge I have about project buildings I'm not too optimistic about the conditions.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)





SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. There is a school near the buildings
2. There was a small playground and basketball court on the property.
3. There are small delis and a supermarket near to the buildings.
4. The gate surrounding the buildings is small.
5. The windows of the building are small.
6. The front doors of the building are kept open.
7. All the buildings are built the same.

QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
Height	13-14 Floors High
Number of Buildings	10 Buildings
Number of Apartments	1,390 Apartments

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. What are the conditions like inside the apartments?
2. Who built the Farragut Buildings?
3. How is the crime in this area?

HYPOTHESIS:

1. The conditions are not the best, lack of maintenance keep the building in poor status.
2. The architect(s) that did this were contracted by NYCHA.
3. The open doors suggest crime is not too rampant, but there could be a lot.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

This visit was a lot more interesting than I thought it was going to be. Not only did we go to the site, but we also visited the nearby neighborhood which turned out to be a historic district. I thought it was cool to know that the Farragut houses were not only near the Navy Yard but also nearby a landmark district. This means that, whether good or bad, this area seems to get a decent amount of traffic by tourists, students, photographers and amateur filmmakers; information which was gotten from an unhappy and apparently fed-up resident of the area. The site itself was about what I expected it to be, similar buildings multiplied a couple times, a small park nearby, an "inviting" sign...etc. However, the most interesting thing about the visit was the people's reaction to our presence. A lot of them seemed curious about what we were doing there and questioned us, but in a friendly manner. It was interesting to know that our presence was that greatly felt.

REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESIS

1. NYCHA Official Website
2. Skyscraper page Website
3. Daily News