

Learning Places Fall 2015

SITE REPORT

FARRAGUT HOUSING/VINEGAR HILL VISIT



KEVIN HACKETT

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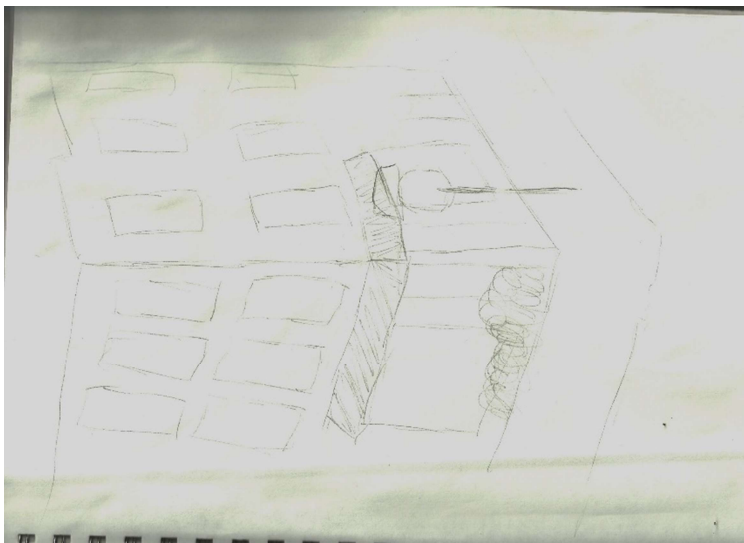
INTRODUCTION

During this site visit, we explored the Farragut Housing, along with the surrounding area of Vinegar Hill. We started off in Vinegar Hill, observing the buildings and layout. On part of Hudson Avenue, was a historic town where some buildings could date back to the 19th Century. We walked by the Farragut Housing buildings, and made as many observations as we could from the street.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I have never heard of the Farragut Housing buildings before this class nor have I ever been to any low income housing. I am not very familiar with Brooklyn, so my mind is open on what to expect. Since it is the projects, I don't expect to see very many exciting things, but I hope to capture some important observations that will help my research. I feel excited to learn about the history of the buildings, and why they are the way they are now. I am not very good at drawing, but I will do my best, and take pictures to capture my observations

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)





SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. All of the Farragut buildings have the same general shape
2. The buildings were surrounded by small fences, near the sidewalks of the streets
3. Playgrounds and sports courts on the property
4. It was raining slightly, so not many people were outside
5. The housing grounds cut off the historic Hudson Ave, causing it to be re-routed
6. There is a school across the street from the housing buildings
7. There was a lot of grass area within the fences

QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
Number of Buildings	10
Number of Apartments	1,390
Size of Housing Property	16.61 acres

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. Why were the buildings named after David Glasgow Farragut?
2. What are the living conditions like inside the apartments?
3. Why did they only build 10 buildings in that area, and leave so much “park” area in between buildings?

HYPOTHESIS:

1. They were named after him because he was a Hispanic man who was the first Admiral in the US Navy, and the building are across from the Brooklyn Navy Yard.
2. There are many maintenance issues within the building and the apartments are becoming out of date with poor conditions.

3. The developers wanted to give the housing grounds a welcoming, community feel with a lot of area for sitting around or playing sports.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

While visiting Vinegar Hill and the Farragut buildings, I recorded many observations along the way. My mind was completely open upon arrival, and I saw a lot more than I expected. The area was actually somewhat nice, and not as dirty as I anticipated. There were updated sports courts and playgrounds right on the property, which I did not expect either. The visit opened the door to many questions that I will enjoy trying to answer. This site visit has made me look at Brooklyn in a complete different way as I walk through it. I now try to make as many observations as I can and understand why things are the way they are.

REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESIS

1. NYC NYCHA official website
2. Farragut Housing Facebook page, DNAinfo.com
3. NYC NYCHA official website