

Learning Places Fall 2015

SITE REPORT

Vinegar Hill and Farragut Housing



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INTRODUCTION

During your trip to one of the areas in Vinegar Hill in Brooklyn we were looking at the old part of a city with beautiful brick houses and cobbled roads. From the world from the old maps we went to objects of a 1950s renewal - Farragut Housing Project. Many questions came up in my mind. How did they build such a different from the rest of the area community?

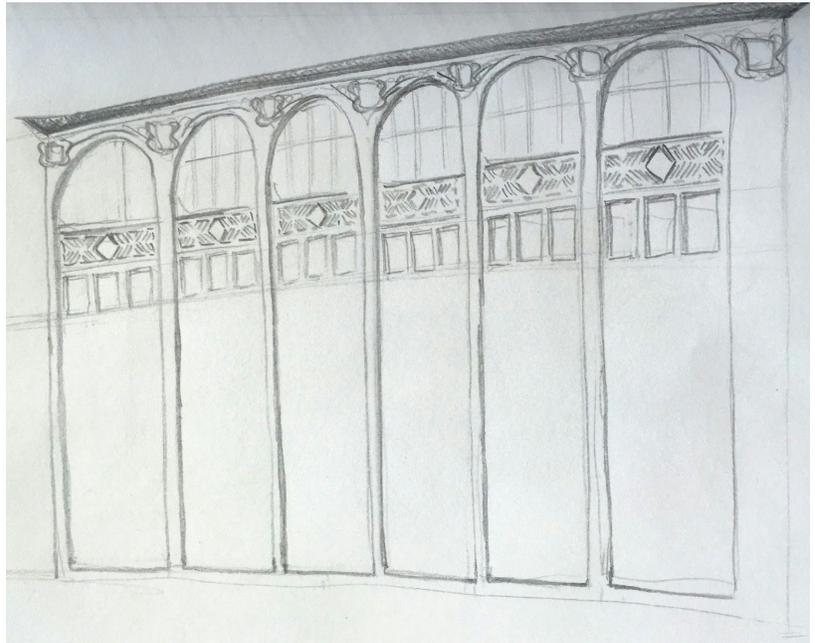
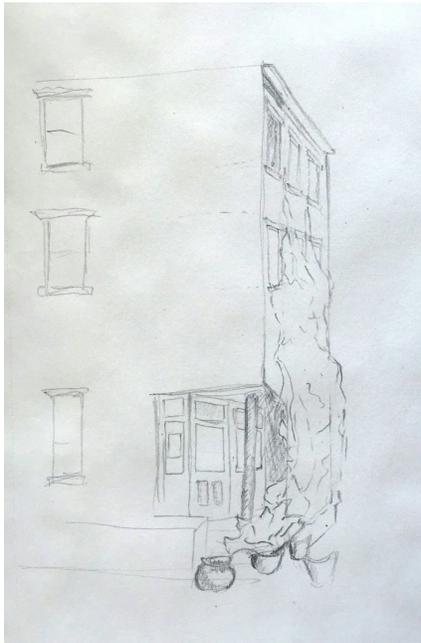
PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I live in New York just for three years but all this years I was walking through it's streets, driving car and biking. I was studying the photography and it was very interesting for me to walk on the streets and take pictures of the beautiful buildings and parks. As I'm also working in real estate I love to observe what people live in what area and the history of the buildings, how they are look inside and predict the market trends. I was thinking about fair housing for few years for now but I didn't have a chance to go deeper into this category of buildings in New York.

I'm expecting to see the lower class area because it's close to Navy Yard and too close to BQE which means that it's probably noisy there. There are not so many stores in that area and the closest station is just York street F train. I think that streets will be older closer to the river, older buildings and older roads. There were many factories before I think some of that factory buildings are still there but they probably transferred into residential buildings. I'm expecting to see some empty buildings.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)





SITE OBSERVATIONS

Vinegar Hill:

- 1. Streets are very quiet and there are not so many people. But back at the old time the Hudson street definitely was very popular and alive.
- 2. The Hudson street goes down to the river and all factories and warehouses are located closer to it for easier transportation of the goods, because at that time river was the only way to Manhattan.
- 3. Close location of the residential and commercial buildings.

Farragut Housing:

- 1. Fair Houses on one side and rich houses on the other.
- 2. Public school right cross a street.
- 3. Streets are more spacious.
- 4. Close to the Navy Yard.
- 5. The size of a block is much bigger even maybe double bigger than a normal block size.
- 6. A lots of open space comparing to the rich Vinegar Hill old area.
- 7. The fence probably is not the same as it was in the beginning.
- 8. The Logo of the Farragut Houses is completely different from the houses themselves.
- 9. Looks more like public entrances to the building.
- 10. No parking places built there. They have just a public transportation.
- 11. The space of a Farragut Houses is looks like University Campus and a park.
- 12. Rule of the 6 bricks.

QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
Number of the buildings	10
Number of floors	14
Number of apartments	1390

Buildings were completed	April 30, 1952
Approximate number of residents	3440
Land area	16.61 acres

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did they decide to build the Farragut Housing at this location?
2. Why didn't they choose to build it in the same size of a block as everywhere?
3. Why did they choose to make it with big parks?
4. Are the roads on a territory of Farragut Housing Community private or public?
5. Why entrances are so distanced from the roads?
6. Is there any relationship between structure of a Farragut Housing and university campus?
7. What architecture style and person it was based on?
8. Why did they give such a big and expansive space for this project?
9. Did they building the public school at the same time with Farragut Houses?
10. Why did they sacrificed Hudson ave if it was so important street?
11. What is a crime rate at Farragut Houses area?

HYPOTHESIS:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESIS

1. New York City Housing Authority

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycha/html/developments/bklynfarragut.shtml>

2. Farragut and Ingersoll Houses

<http://ariburling.com/1029/farragut-and-ingersoll-houses/>

3. Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City_Housing_Authority#Brooklyn