

Learning Places Fall 2015

SITE REPORT #1

Farragut Houses



Bibi Rozario

09.15.2015

INTRODUCTION

As a class we visited the Farragut Houses which is a city housing project located in northwest Brooklyn. As part of our project we ought to examine and document the differences and similarities between the more fancier apartments of Dumbo to the west to the historic houses of Vinegar Hill to the east.

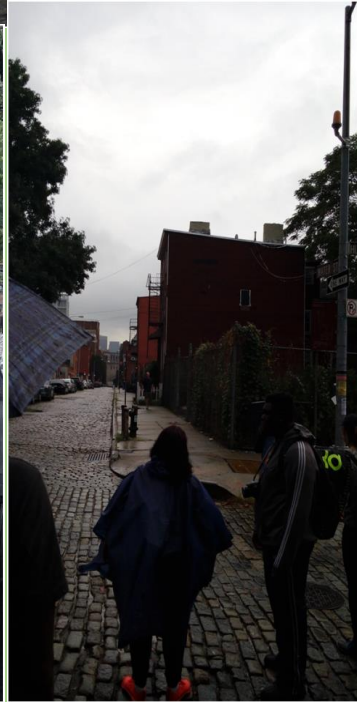
PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I am very excited to visit the Farragut houses to gather firsthand information and to carefully observe the surroundings and the culture of the people that live there without intruding their privacy. I am also very excited about sketching important details that I think might mean something. On the other hand I am nervous about making the residents that live there feel uncomfortable by seeing a bunch of strangers walking around with sketchbooks and cameras as though we are documenting their lives. I expect to discover why the houses were built in that particular location and how the area has changed over the years such as what was demolished and torn down to what was newly built. Lastly, I am very eager to use the technique of sketching or recording what I saw and on the other column writing what I think it may mean because I think that is very important so as to not alter the primary source.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)







SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. The residents know very little about their neighborhood.
2. There is very few supermarkets.
3. The senior center is separated from the houses.
4. The park is fenced all around.
5. The neighborhood isn't very busy.
6. There were many NYCHA workers all around the houses.
7. The architectural style was very ancient e.g. the brick roads.
8. Although it was raining, many residents around the neighborhood were out walking their dogs.

QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
Number of apartments	1,390
Height of the buildings	14 stories
Number of residents	3,440
Opened	1952
Land size	16.61 acre complex
Number of buildings	10
Section 8 vouchers	90,000

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did NYCHA pick this location to build the Farragut houses?
2. How many houses were first built?
3. Who/What inspired the architecture style?
4. Was there a community before the Farragut houses were built?
5. What are the requirements to live in one of the Farragut houses?
6. Why wasn't there any shops or commercial activity on NYCHA's property?
7. Why was the senior center separated and poorly maintained?
8. How much is it to rent an apartment?
9. Do they accept section eight vouchers?
10. What is the crime rate in the neighborhood? Is the area safe at night?
11. Is food prices affordable in the neighborhood
12. Why is the people within the community so secluded from their community?
13. Is food in the community affordable? Prices?
14. Why is this community made up of majority minority? Is it because of inequality and income or racism and segregation?
15. Why did Hutson Avenue get cut off?
16. Where did the name Farragut come from?

HYPOTHESIS:

1. The residents are so secluded from their community because they are not very optimistic that change will come.
2. The deli's and grocery stores are very costly because there is very limited access to fresh food and vegetables so residents usually settle for what is available to them.
3. The center is in poor condition because there is no funding available to get it fixed.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

After visiting and carefully observing the Farragut houses and the neighborhood I realize it is completely different from my community. However although I didn't do much research before the site visiting it was very similar to what I anticipated. The houses were very close to each other and I'm guessing that the apartments are also very small. The people in the community also reacted the same way that I thought they would, wondering why a group of strange people is doing in their neighborhood and what we are so fascinated about. Moreover I think actually speaking to someone that live in one of these houses will provide us with very useful primary source data to know how these buildings are maintained and how had been changed over the years and also the challenges these residents face on a daily basis.

REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESIS

1. New York City Housing Authority, "Farragut Houses":
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycha/html/developments/bklynfarragut.shtml>
2. NYCHA housing developments.
3. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/19/nyregion/promised-a-supermarket-five-years-ago-a-housing-project-is-still-waiting.html?_r=0