

Learning Places Fall 2015

# SITE REPORT

## New York Public Library



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STUDENT NAME

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## INTRODUCTION

On Wednesday October, 21<sup>st</sup> our class visited the New York Public library map room located on 42<sup>nd</sup> street. The purpose of this visit was to gather primary source information for our research project on the Farragut houses located in Vinegar Hill Brooklyn. We utilized the library's map room in room 215 to find us as much as we could about urbanization in the area and what was the use of the land before everything was demolished.

## PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I am looking forward to Visit the NYPL map room and the library in general since I have never been there and I think will be a great learning experience. I think the idea of focusing on old maps to figure out what was on the piece of land where the Farragut houses were built is a very brilliant idea. Although everything is online and digitized many people would not see the purpose of visiting a library map room but like Professor mentioned when you have something in front of you it is important to block everything out of your head that you may be thinking about before and just focus on what's in front of you to see what's there to discover and appreciate the preservation of history. I imagine the library to be a very busy touristic place with a lot of people going in and out. I personally, always enjoy spending time in a library because it is always very peaceful and quiet and it allows me to refocus in order to finish any school work I may still have pending. In addition this visit will also allow us to access maps that may not be found online since they may be very old and fragile. Lastly in the article, " Unbinding the Atlas; Moving the NYPL map collection beyond digitization" it basically speaks of how maps go to the web as scanning images which makes it easier for information seekers to share the common desire to better understand a place through time and space as represented on a map and as a result most map libraries are converting their map collection into a digital world to make it more time consuming and accessible to the public and people who share common desires to discover places.

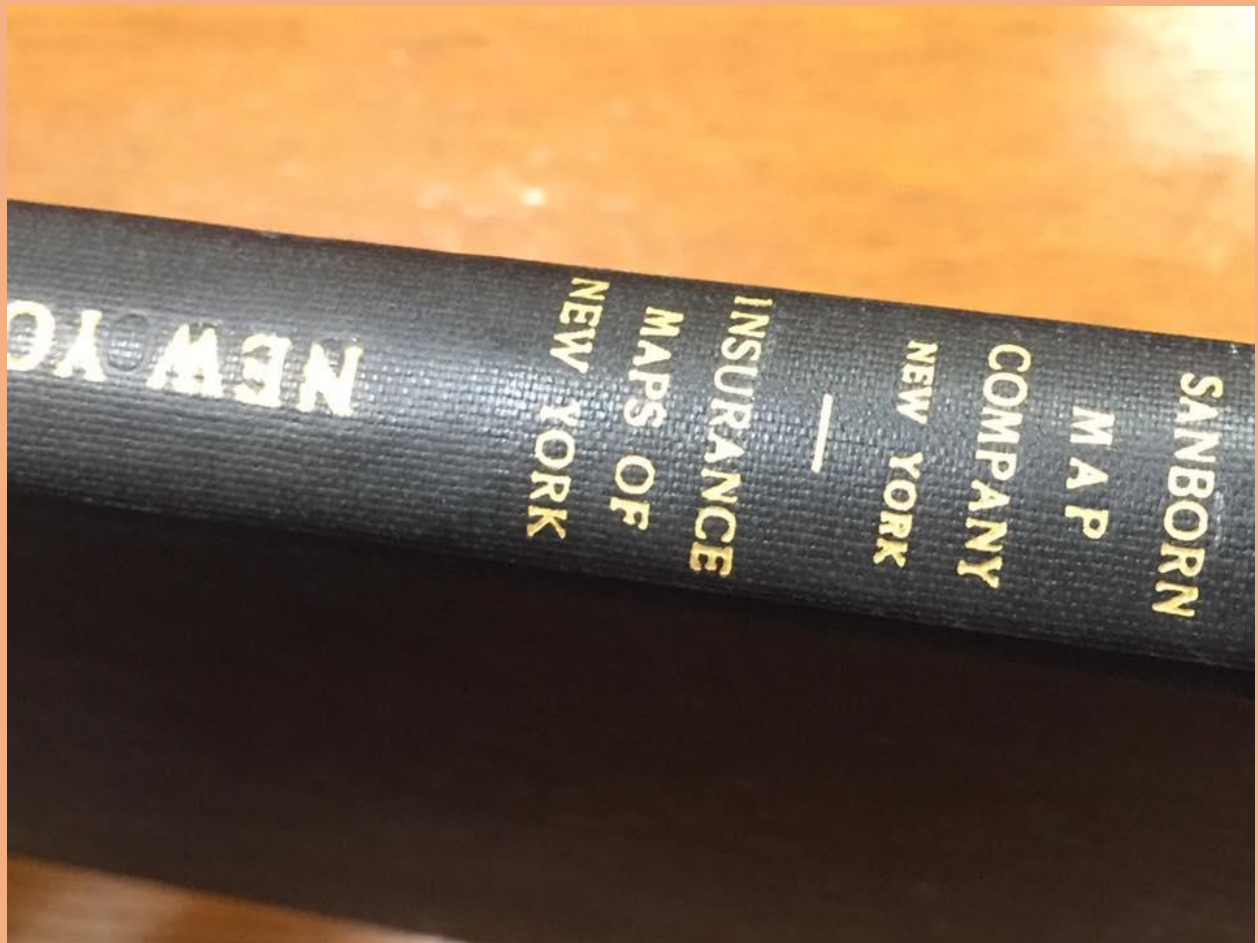
## SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)





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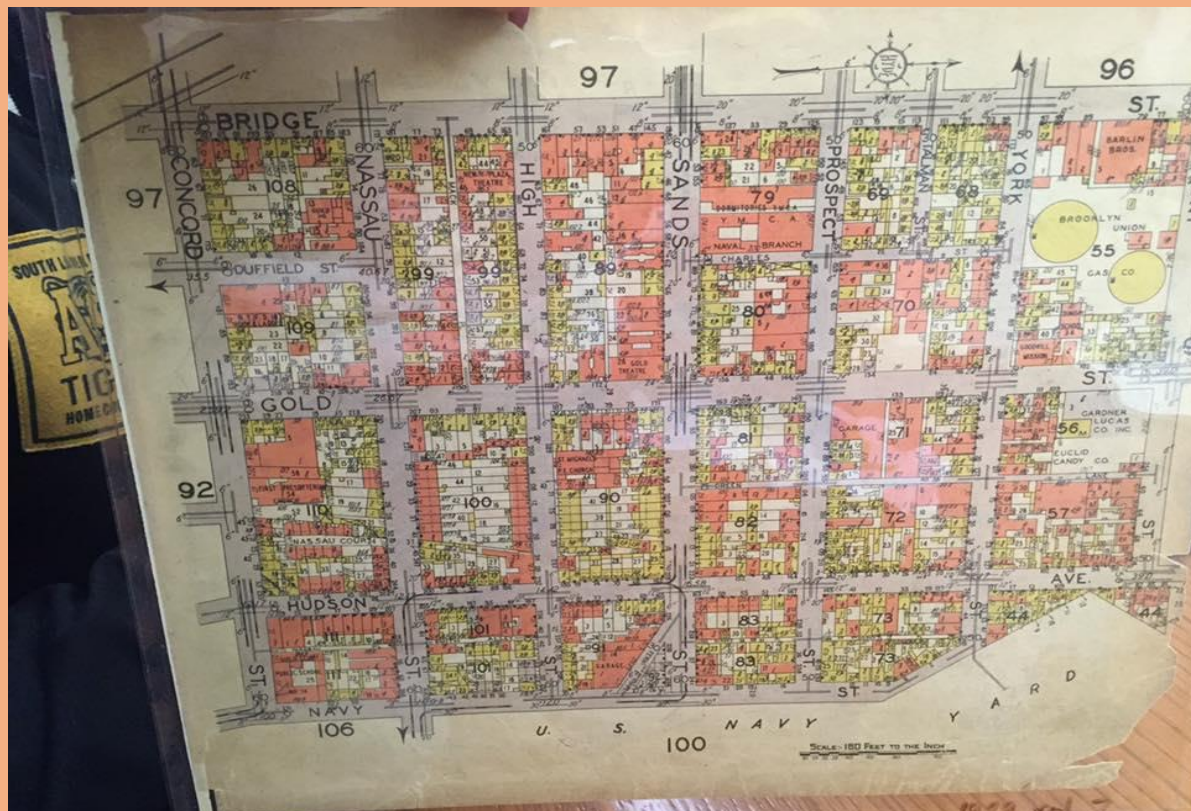
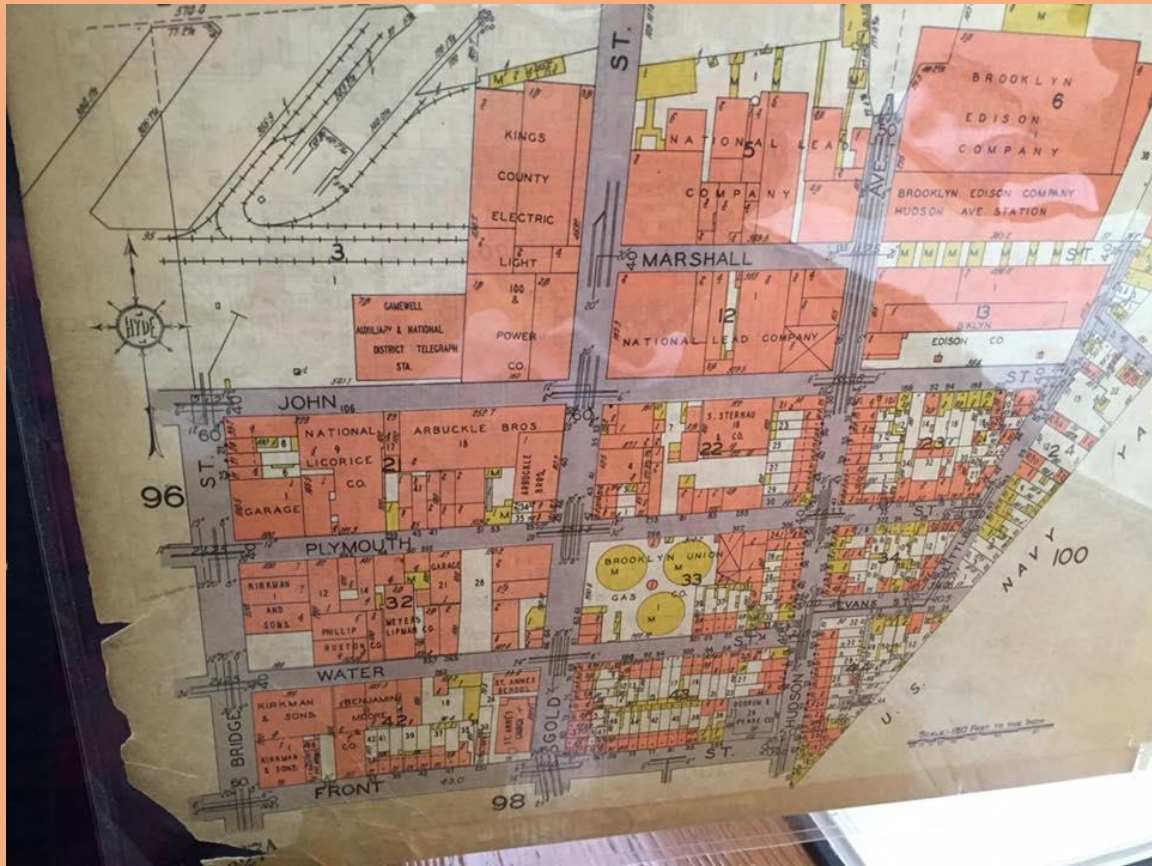




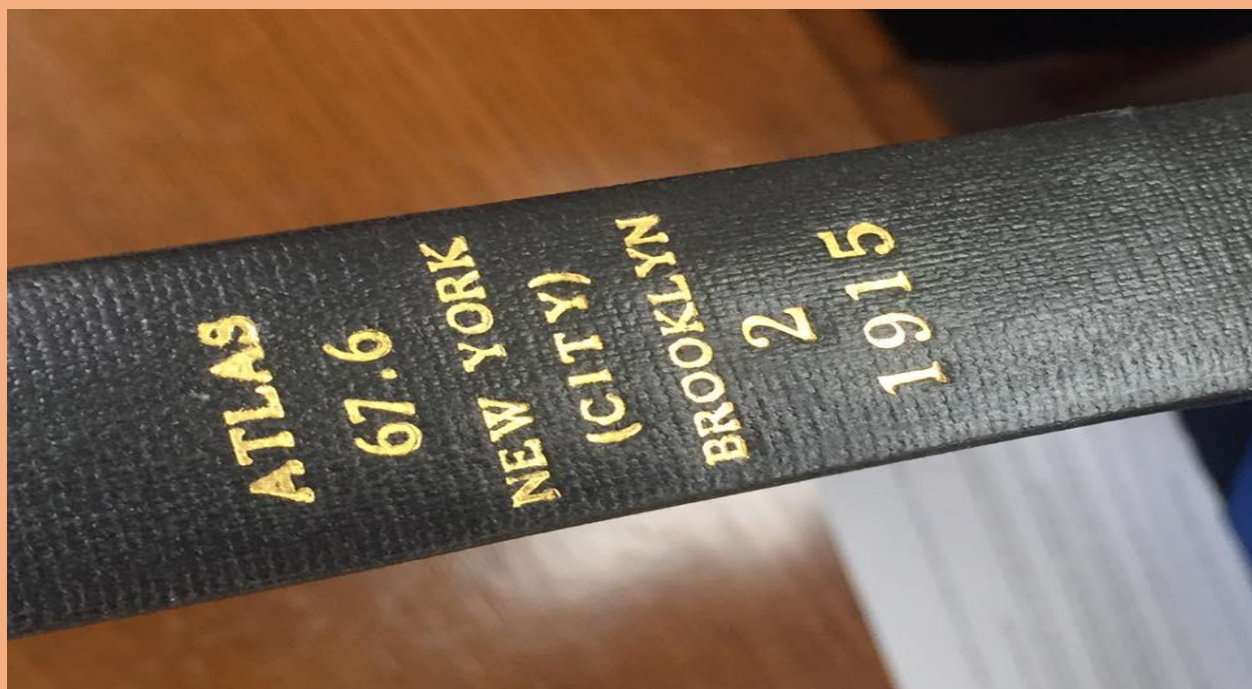














## SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. It was a very busy and beautiful surroundings.
2. There was a gift shop.
3. It was a very huge building  
There was a food court/ coffee shop
4. They were three floors



5. Some of the maps were really old and fragile.
6. Some of the maps were in very large books.
7. Some of the maps were also new and laminated
8. It is a historic landmark that attracts a lot of tourists.
9. The library preserved its old architecture.

## QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
#of items	53 million
#of floors	3
size	2 <sup>nd</sup> largest library in the US.

## QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

### QUESTIONS:

1. Is every allowed to visit the map room or only students conducting research?
2. What is the oldest map collected by the library?
3. How many maps are available on Brooklyn and the Farragut area?
4. What is the significance of the two stone lions guarding the entrance of the building?
5. What was the significance of the names Patience and Fortitude?

### HYPOTHESIS:

1. Given that it is a public library everyone should be able to have access to the map room.
2. The lions were nicknamed Patience and Fortitude by the major at that time because he felt that the people of the United States would need to possess those qualities to survive and recover from the great depression.

## SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

Unfortunately my classmate and I ended up at another library and not the main branch located on 42nd street. After we got to the China Town public library as Google maps directed us the

librarian there gave us directions as to where we can access the F train that would lead us to the main branch on 42nd street. Even though we did not get to look at any of the maps in the map room (room 215) I did manage to gather some information about the Farragut houses in the remaining class time at the NYPL. I asked the librarian for assistance and was escorted to a section where I saw one map of the area where the Farragut houses were built in a book titled, "BROOKLYN NY VOL 12". Although this visit wasn't a huge success for me I do plan on revisiting the library sometime soon to look at as many maps as possible in order to better understand what that piece of land was used for before everything was completely demolished and to also gain a broader perspective of the current and future of NYC Public housing. In addition although my research would be based primarily on reading reports on NYCHA I still think having an insight of what this piece of land was used for is very helpful.

## REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESIS

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New\\_York\\_Public\\_Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Public_Library)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2015/06/the-new-new-york-public-library/397322/>

<http://www.nypl.org/help/about-nypl>