

Learning Places Fall 2015

SITE REPORT #3

NYPL MAP COLLECTION



*property of Wikipedia.org

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INTRODUCTION

Starting from our multiple site-visits to the Farragut Houses in Vinegar Hill, to now visiting the New York Public Library for more information, we're digging more into tangible artifacts and primary sources to further honing in on our research. Out of the half-a-million analogs and thousands of digital copies of maps from all around the world, not just New York alone, we will be presented with Sanborn fire insurance maps and books pertaining to our area of interest. We hope to gain a clearer perspective and understanding of what were the conditions of the infrastructure in the 1800's. In the 1920's? And up to the most recent maps, 1950's? How do they all compare with one another. What were some of the changes? Why?

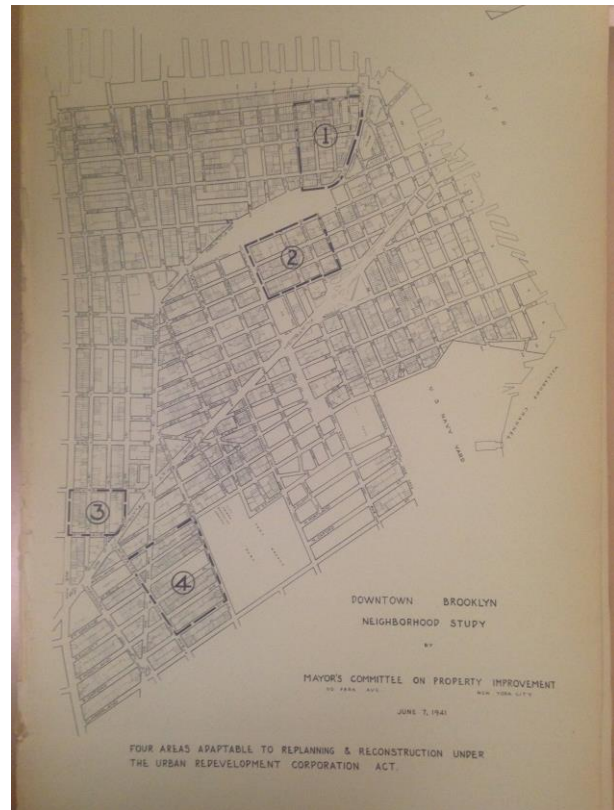
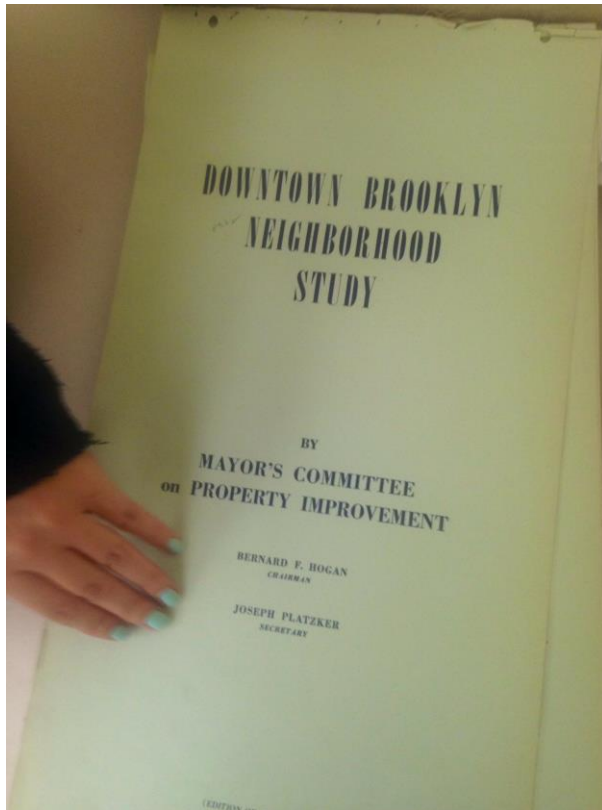
PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

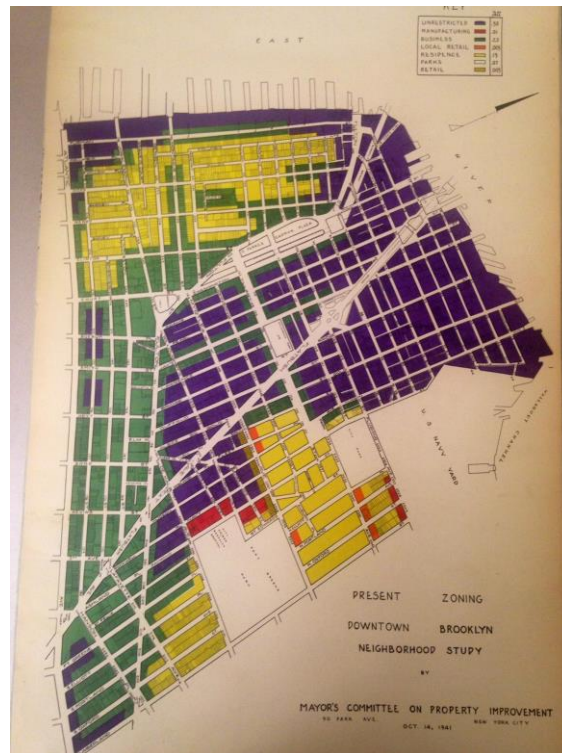
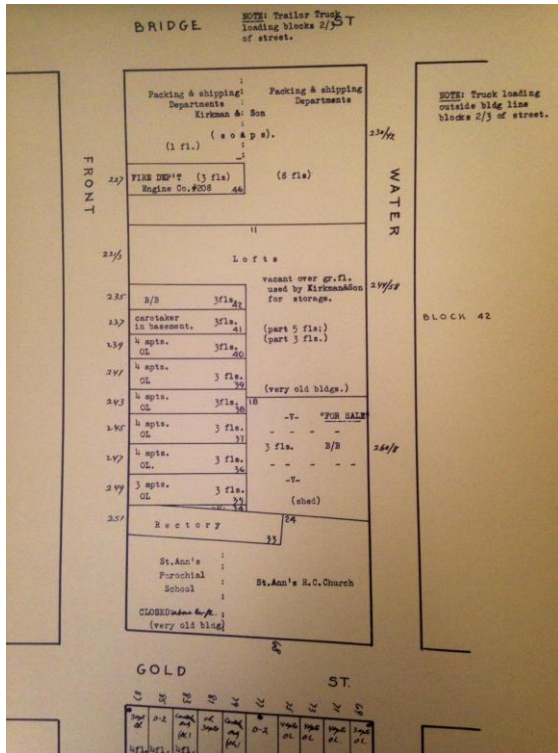
It will be an exciting visit to the NYPL Map Room- to be able to physically touch the maps is fascinating. Prior to this, I never knew this was open to the public nor did I know of this at all.

A couple questions I would like to answer post site-visit are:

1. What was the demographic like pre-1940s and post-1940s in the Vinegar Hill/Navy ard area?
2. First sign of public schools in the area?
3. population density
4. conditions of the area?
5. Green space. Any parks visible on the maps?
6. Walking/pedestrian friendly? How wide/narrow were the streets pre-1940s and post-1940s?

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)





SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. Vacant areas
2. Alley streets in between each block
3. A huge unrestricted area pre-Farragut Housing
4. Businesses all along south of Fulton Street
5. Suggested rezoning hopes to bring a mix of residential, business, and retail scattered Vinegar Hill

QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
Number of analog maps	half a million
# of schools within in Vinegar Hill 1929	3 schools
Churches in 1929 in Vinegar Hill	4
Recreation center/community Center	2

QUESTIONS:

1. How much money does the DOE receive yearly?
2. How much of this funding goes directly to enhancing special programs for children?
3. What happened to P.S 14, or schools from the 1930s?
4. What happened to the churches?
5. Why was the YMCA created? How did that benefit the children in the area?

REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESIS:

1. Insurance Maps of New York City, Brooklyn -2, #68. Sanborn Map Company, New York, 1939
2. Land Map Section No.1 Volume 1 Brooklyn Borough, New York City, 1898 Wards 2&5 and part of 1&4 4. New York City Property Improvement. Mayor's committee. Downtown Brooklyn Neighborhood study, 1941
3. Insurance Maps, borough Brooklyn, New York. Volume 2, 1915. Published by Sanborn Map Company
4. New York City Property Improvement Mayor's Committee Downtown Brooklyn Neighborhood Study Map DIV
5. "First Farragut Tenants move in Tuesday." The Brooklyn Eagle, March 25, 1951

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

It was fascinating to see the meticulous work that went into marking each detail of the Sanborn fire insurance maps. A typical person looking at the maps would not be able to effectively dissect the different components. Myself included has only scratched the surface of each map, from the maps dating back to 1800's to 1929 to the most recent maps presented, 1950's.

One of the most significant piece of document that stuck out to me was the Downtown Brooklyn Neighborhood Study by the Mayor's Committee on Property Improvement. The text and maps shown throughout the book studies the current conditions in the 1940's when the study was conducted to the potential and outlook the mayor committee had on the area. There were four areas of focus that were adaptable to re-planning and reconstruction under the urban redevelopment corporation act.

Aside from educational purposes, The Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map is a valuable source of information readily available for anyone for personal interest- as long as we are willing to look, information is there.

