

Learning Places Fall 2015

# **SITE REPORT**

## **Brooklyn Public library**



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### pre site visit reflection

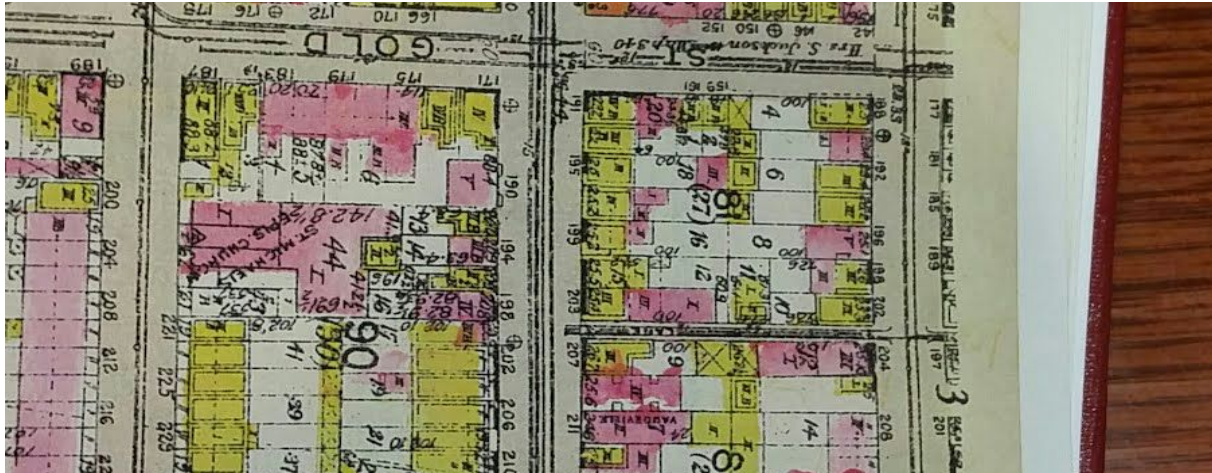
I have never been to the brooklyn public library but after seeing the NYPL, i assume it would be much smaller and with less resource than the NYPL but the brooklyn public library will probably have stuff focused more in the area so this will be better for our research. .

### site visit reflection/summary

After going to the brooklyn public library i feel like i came out with more information on our site then when we left the NYPL. Me and some of the first people who got there were able to go down into the "morgue" that they hold all the old news articles and pictures in. i was able to find much more information on the transportation system in this site visit with the files they had on all newspaper articles on transportation in brooklyn.

### SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)





**THE BROOKLYN NAVAL HOSPITAL**

The Brooklyn Naval Hospital was constructed from 1830 to 1839. When it closed down, it was one of the oldest naval hospitals in the United States. The entire 60,000 square foot complex was designed by Martin E. Thompson.

It was rebuilt in 1841 to 1843 and the hospital was active between the Civil War through World War II. The Navy Surgeon General reported in 1864 that the hospital treated 2,135 treated during the year. It was decommissioned in the mid-1970s. The current state of the Brooklyn Naval Hospital is that it is abandoned as of today.

The Navy Yard was landmarked in 2014 and the hospital was as well. Many controversial remarks have been said about the landmark status of the Brooklyn Naval Hospital. Some are striving for the building's landmark status to be revoked and torn down because it is "neglected". The landmark law states that a landmark cannot be demolished by neglect, however, if it is abandoned the status of the building can be removed and therefore can be demolished.

The reason it should be restored is because it is a primary source which helps to educate more people about the history of the Brooklyn Naval Hospital and Brooklyn Navy Yard. They should refurbish the naval hospital to preserve it to show the historic background of the Brooklyn Naval Hospital. If the Brooklyn Naval Hospital were to be reopened it could be used for creative businesses. I would use the building for educational uses to educate people about the hospital's past.

*Sydney Pearson, George Westinghouse High School*

**PROPOSED**



**BETSY HEAD PLAY CENTER**  
Dumont Avenue, Brownsville

Built: 1915, renovated in 1936  
Landmarked: 1996

Upon her death, Betsy Head, a wealthy widow, left the city of New York \$190,000 to build recreational structures for young city dwellers. With that money, the city constructed the Betsy Head Playground and Pool in 1915. Serving Brownsville, one of the most crowded communities in New York City, the park had a rest pavilion, wading and swimming pools, a track, tennis court, bathhouses, and a school farm building. A model of the facility was displayed at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco to highlight cutting edge projects and growth in New York City.

In 1936, using WPA money, New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and Parks Commissioner Robert Moses built or renovated 11 pools around New York City. The Betsy Head Play Center that we know today is a result of this 1936 renovation, though some features remain from its 1915 incarnation.

In 1983, the pool underwent another renovation, improving the facility's relevance to the community. Though the play center does not retain the same breadth of features as it did in its heyday, it continues to play a vital role in the community of Brownsville.

Though landmarking a pool and playground is not common, it encourages the public to reflect on the history of Brownsville, as well as to recognize the importance of public spaces. This play center inspired hundreds of thousands of memories, and will create hundreds of thousands more.

**LANDMARKED**

## SITE OBSERVATIONS

1. similar maps to NYPL
2. 4 computers and room kept at temperature to conserve the maps.
3. had files of old newspaper articles
4. the back room was not open to the public

## QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
computers in the room	4

## QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

### QUESTIONS:

1. at what temperature do they keep the room for the maps and computers?
2. when do they decide to put a book or article in the morgue

### HYPOTHESIS:

1. most likely around 60 degrees fahrenheit.
2. most likely after a year if no one takes it out.