

Learning Places Spring 2017

SITE REPORT

Farragut Houses/Vinegar Hill Visit



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INTRODUCTION

A visit to Farragut Houses in Vinegar Hill opens up my eyes about New York City and its history of the neighborhoods. I also learned the Architecture of different times and zoning of the places within the neighborhoods as the way neighborhoods are separated, isolated and having different atmospheres.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I have never really been to this part of brooklyn, so i was kind of excited to see a new neighborhood when we were scheduled to visit. I thought brooklyn by the water side will be filled with fancier, stronger, newer building. The other thing I was worried about was sketching since i don't really draw much.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



This picture above is just a basic sketch i did while i was at Vinegar Hill neighborhood. It was at the corner of Hudson Ave and Water St looking towards the river side con-ed power plant. The street was filled with Belgium Blocks and the left side has some trees and an empty lot ended with red-brick town house buildings facing the street. On the left-side of the street are also town house buildings of variable colors that has storefronts which all seems to be closed down.



The picture above is the Commandant's House located at the intersection of Little St and Evans St. This big white 3-story house is a part of Navy Yard and known to belong to the commander of the Navy. This was built in early 19th century and announced to be a national historic landmark in 1974.



The picture above was taken at the intersection of Bridge St and Front St. This street is the border that divides Vinegar Hills and Dumbo. This area is filled with filled with office/ factory/ loft type of buildings comparing to the Vinegar Hills neighborhood which is mostly filled with town house building of Greek Revival Architecture. It is important to see how you can easily compare the history and architecture of the neighborhoods within a few blocks from this point.



This office building was built as a factory in 1910 and located at the corner of Bridge St and York St. This building is quite good looking comparing to other factory buildings in the neighborhood since it was built with artistic taste comparing to others in the neighborhood which are all plain, simple. We can learn a lot about the art and architecture from the early 20th century.

OBSERVATIONS

- 1. It is really sad to see the church was demolished and ended up with the empty parking lot at the corner of Gold St and Front St
- 2. I wish Vinegar Hill Community Garden would be bigger, greener and more open to public instead of being locked up.
- 3. The city should bring in some project into Vinegar Hill neighborhood which can bring more business to the area, so more people will get involved which could also lead to bigger community.
- 4. Maintenance of the old town house buildings

QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
Empty Lot between buildings	2
Public School	1
Loft Building with Train Track	1

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it called Vinegar Hills?
2. Why is it called Farragut Houses and the population of the project?
3. What does Vinegar Hill offer as in Historical and Architectural point of view?

HYPOTHESIS:

1. Vinegar Hill was named after the battle of Vinegar Hill, an engagement near Enniscorthy during the Irish Rebellion of 1798.
2. The project is named after David Glasgow Farragut, the first admiral in the United States Navy, was completed in 1952 and the population is about 3,440 in 10 buildings .
3. Vinegar Hills offers the best experience for history and architecture lovers because it offers the various designs of buildings in history and quiet neighborhood as well as more modern designed building as it get closer to Dumbo.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

It was a really great experience visiting there to Vinegar Hill and see the architecture of the few century back in time and learn about the neighborhood and history of it was very interesting part of the tour. It was good to see how some street blocks are being maintained as Historic Sites and how zoning of the place keeps things grow but maintain the balance ,so the change will not to be too dramatic to this neighborhood.

REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESIS

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vinegar_Hill,_Brooklyn
2. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/31/realestate/if-you-re-thinking-living-vinegar-hill-brooklyn-cobblestone-streets-history.html>
3. <http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/2017/1/25/architectural-eye-candy-vinegar-hill>