

Learning Places Spring 2017

# SITE REPORT 1

## Vinegar Hill



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02.06.2017

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of our Vinegar Hill site visit was to observe the unique mix of old and modern architectural aesthetics. Vinegar Hill is known for its preservation of history with its power plant next to the east river, belgium brick roads and railroad tracks in the streets and sidewalks.

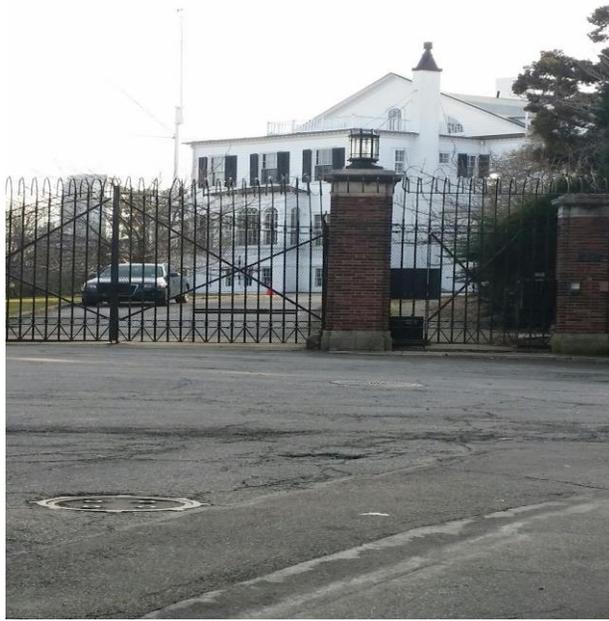
## PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

What I initially thought about Vinegar Hill was that it would be more of a “green” neighborhood. I was only familiar with the DUMBO area. I expected to see coffee shops, botany shops and bars.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



I drew this sketch of the street from the middle of the road on Hudson St. It's an important viewpoint because it shows the neighborhood progression over the years. The power plant used to routinely operate but now it has a rather miniscule task. All buildings are of different shapes and sizes; Some were built in the 1960s while others are current.



This is what I would assume to be the largest house on Vinegar Hill. It was a surprising site to see because I never knew such a large house can be hidden so well. Most civilians tend to not travel into this neighborhood due to the lack of shops and scenery.



This is PS 301, it's undergoing construction on both sides. It's not visually pleasing for the neighborhood but that's only temporary. Its located across the street of Farragut Houses, also known as the "Towers in the Park."



The picture on the left is a mural symbolizing the shutdown of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Most residents would say it was the heart of the neighborhood as it employed thousands at a time. It closed in 1966 and later reopened 3 years later. Employment has steadily increased and the facilities have changed as well. The picture on the right is the Vinegar Hill community garden that hasn't been attended to lately due to the winter season.

## OBSERVATIONS

1. Most of the roads are paved with Belgium bricks
2. The neighborhood is quiet and secluded away from commercial areas
3. Some factories were made into residential homes
4. Some houses are boarded up
5. There are weeds growing on some of the houses
6. Some sidewalks had railroad tracks in them
7. There aren't enough stores to bring in consumers and residents

## QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
Cars	There were new cars, old cars and 5 cars with broken windows
Housing	There were about 10 houses that were boarded up
Roads	About 8 streets were paved with Belgium bricks

## QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

### QUESTIONS:

1. Does the power plant still function?
2. What type of stores should be open there?
3. What can be done to make the community more social?

### HYPOTHESIS:

1. The power plant might support already established energy resource companies such as Con Edison.
2. There should be more coffee shops, bars and a hardware store.
3. A redesign and reconstruction of the parks and possibly use one of the empty warehouses to create a Community Center which will have recreation, employment help and medical help.

## SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

After the site visit, I learned many interesting facts. Sands Street honors Joshua Sands who was the architect of Vinegar Hill. DUMBO stands for Down Under the Manhattan Bridge. The area may be quiet and isolated now, but it has the potential to be a very popular neighborhood. New York has an interesting way of preserving history even when thousands of residents are oblivious of it; I was one of them until now.

## REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESIS

1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vinegar\\_Hill,\\_Brooklyn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vinegar_Hill,_Brooklyn)
2. <http://brooklynnavyyard.org/the-navy-yard/history/>