

Learning Places Spring 2017

SITE REPORT

Vinegar Hill



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INTRODUCTION

A walkthrough around the neighborhood also known as Vinegar Hill, located in Brooklyn, New York which included numerous of observations of modern and early architectural structures. The purpose of this walk was to understand how highly early architectural structures are preserved and valued and how it can cause a disturbance in certain neighborhoods. Furthermore, it brought us back through time to show us how this architectural modernizing started, which later evolved to what we know as New York City today as a whole.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

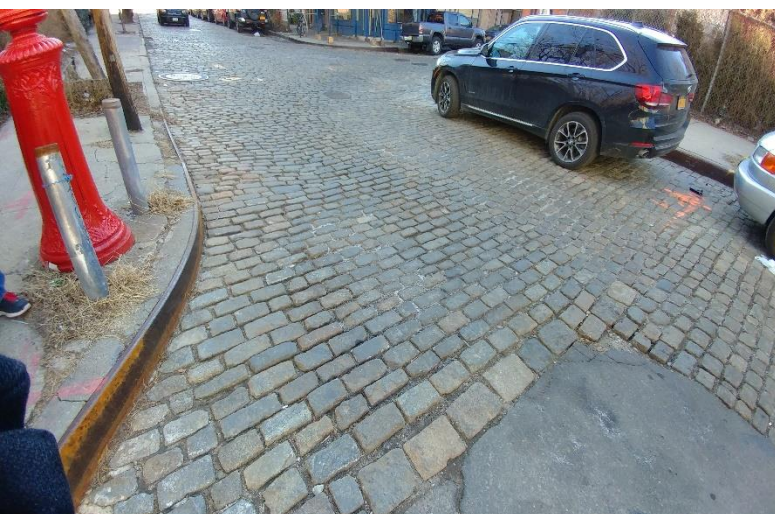
Seeing how commercial oriented Jay St is I figured the neighborhood jump would not be such a drastic change. In fact, Vinegar Hill is the complete opposite, in comparison to Jay St where you see huge architectural pieces of building, Vinegar Hill takes prices in its history.

Here we can see the neighborhood and its expression of the 19th century. But off to the distance we can see the disturbance the power plant owned by Con Edison causes. It's interesting from this point of view because the tall structure on the right stands out when we look at this point of view. The power plant of the distance causes the concern of whether it's safe or not because of recent fire incident. It's something the people of the community seek to remove.





As you can see this new structure style is a completely different in comparison even to the structures around it. You can see how the 2nd floor of the structure stands out and you can also tell that the material that hold this structure is different. The windows are much wider and has a 2nd and 3rd floor porch. This structures can be important because it brings more people in the neighborhood. With more people and buildings, the residents have stated that “new apartment buildings has made streets feel safer, and foot traffic likely to increase further”.



A representation of the level of preservation and pride the neighborhood has towards its history. To the left, you can see that some of the roads were paved with Belgium bricks. Formerly used in steeper streets because it provided horses hooves with better grip, nowadays stands as part of history even with all the inconvenience towards vehicle and bikes. To the right, you can see a renovation of a structure that seems to built in the range of 1820s and 1850s. It reflects a Italianate style and Brooklyn in the mid-19th century.

OBSERVATIONS

1. Not many people, abandoned
2. Not many businesses
3. Mixture of early and modern times
4. Some roads are poor
5. Poor conditions of some structures
6. Doesn't look like a safe neighborhood
7. Odd location

QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
New Apartments	2 new apartments that stand out in comparison to everything else around the neighborhood. Mixed into the neighborhood.
Roads	3 types of roads still in use which include the old Belgium bricks, flat surfaces and some roads with old train tracks markings.
Garden	1 Garden maintained by the community.

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. What are they doing to improve the area?
2. What are they doing about the power plant?
3. What is the purpose of the garden?

HYPOTHESIS:

1. To improve the area and make it feel safer they must renovate and bring in more people. How?
Construction of new modern apartments and new business to start populating the area.
2. Still going to operate and will not be shut down or moved or converted into a park.
3. Garden is used for the community and to bring people together but as well as growing community fresh own crops

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

Before visiting Vinegar hill I was unsure of what to expect. After this visit I am presently surprised to see the kinds of mixtures a neighborhood has managed to preserve. It's interesting because of those preservations are part of that community's history. It has a similar value as a piece of art. Sure the painting color might be odd or it might start to wear down but it brings a value of uniqueness to that community. What people should do in that community and are doing is renovation and increasing the population because it felt like it was dying during the visit. Enough to populate and make it feel safer because the quiet environment is another quality this community has. Especially compared to the fast paced movement not too far in Jay St.

REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESIS

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sett_\(paving\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sett_(paving))

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