

Learning Places Spring 2017

SITE REPORT

Vinegar Hill



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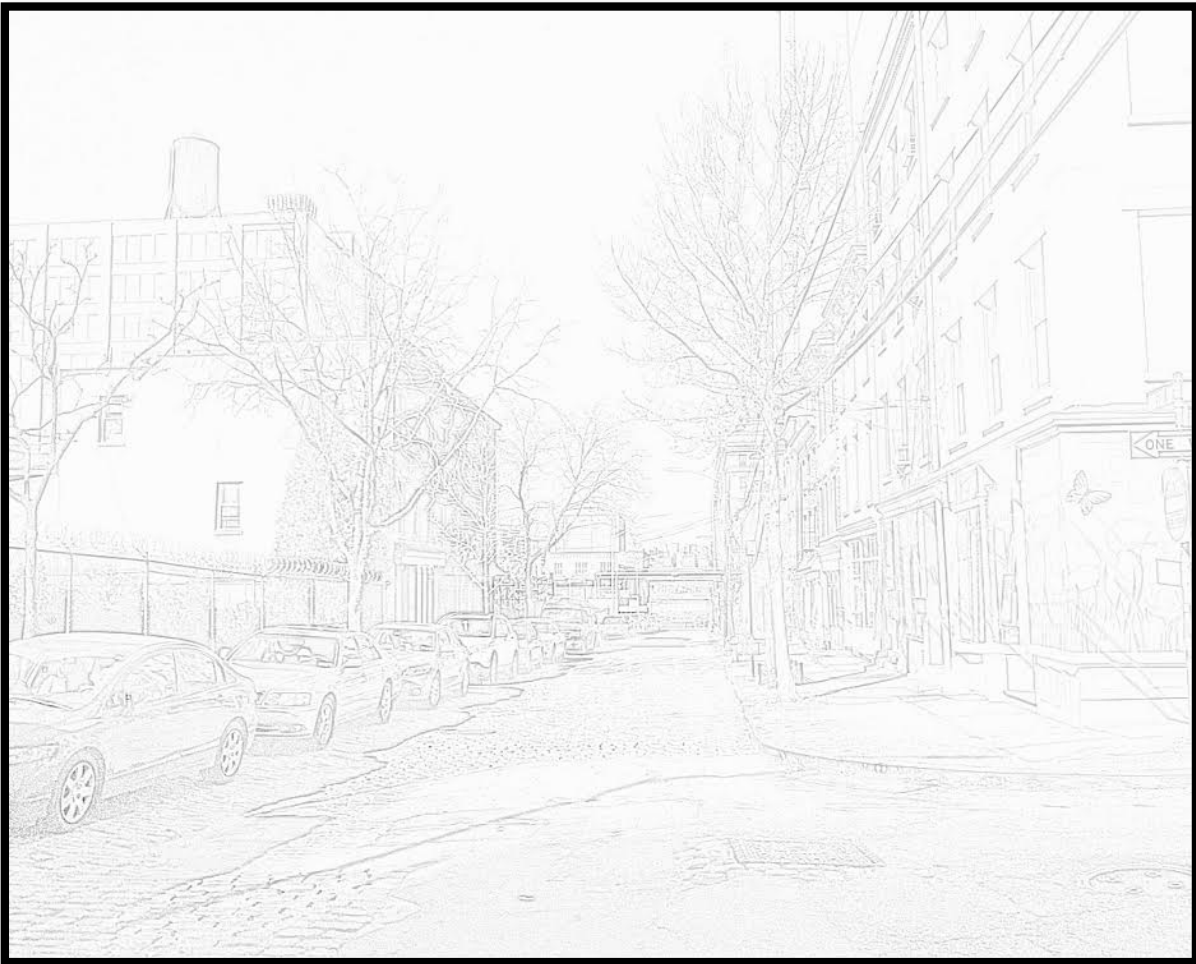
INTRODUCTION

Visiting Vinegar Hill as our first field trip, was such an odd place to visit, but yet very interesting. Getting to learn and hypothesize as to why Vinegar Hill is the way it is. It is a curious place when visiting for the first time. For the most part, what was interesting about the site it self was that within the Vinegar Hill neighborhood, the neighborhood seems almost purposefully quiet. But there are areas that aren't far away and are always busy filled with people. For example, Dumbo, Brooklyn Heights and Fort Greene all offer plenty of shopping and dining. The spaces of Brooklyn Bridge Park are nearby, and a stroll across one of the bridges is always an option. Just within the community itself, most residences within the neighborhood are no more than a 10-minute walk from the York Street subway station, the first stop into Brooklyn on the F line. The trip to Midtown takes 15 to 20 minutes. Visiting Vinegar Hill is one of those neighborhoods that has a lot to do with historical Architecture facts & history about the site itself.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Having talked about the field trip in class, there were a couple of sites within the neighborhood that I knew we were going to visit. When going to the site, I didn't expect it to be the way it was. Even though the environment in the neighborhood was so peaceful, I at least expected to see a lot people walking around, but to me it just seemed like an abandoned area, no one lives in or even visits. And I also thought we were going to focus in doing a lot of hand drawing sketches, which was something I thought was going to be expected from us.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)



This sketch drawing is located in Hudson Ave. It is where the Power Plant is, next to the waterfront. I decided to draw out a long-shot view of this particular spot, because it allows the viewer to get a better perspective of what is seen in this area, it has a more open view space, and over sense of tone that is seen/felt in the neighborhood.



This is *The Commandant' House*, which was built in the early 19th century to accommodate the commandment of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. It is located at the intersection of Little St. & Evans St. The Vinegar Hill mansion served as the home of many Brooklyn Navy Yard commandants.



- 1) The office building was originally a factory building that constructed back in 1910. It is located between Bridge St. and York St.
- 2) This John Street building, seen from Hudson Avenue, is currently used as a self-storage facility.
- 3) The house on the corner is 70 Hudson Ave., whose incoming storefront tenant is Café Gitane.

OBSERVATIONS

1. Power Plant near the water front.
2. Lonely & quiet environment.
3. Old Buildings.
4. Couple of Fast Food chains.
5. A Public School.
6. An old rusty private lot, previously was a church.

QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
Public School	1
Restaurants	3
Community Garden	1

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. Why does the neighborhood feel so isolated?
2. How can we make this neighborhood more fam. friendly, possibly make it more touristic?
3. Why call it Vinegar Hills?

HYPOTHESIS:

1. It possibly has to deal with how there's not much going on, it's just a bunch old rusty factory buildings, not many people are seen, & it's not quite an attractive area someone would go and really appreciate.
2. We can try and make some areas around the neighborhood be as a place of interest

where tourists can visit, typically for it's natural or exhibited cultural value, historical significance, and natural beauty.

3. The neighborhood is nearby a Brooklyn Community Board and is policed by the NYPD's 84th Precinct. The name Vinegar Hill comes from the Battle of Vinegar Hill, an engagement near Enniscorthy during the Irish Rebellion of 1798.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

I was intrigued finding out about some of the history behind Vinegar Hill. I ended up learning quite a bit about Vinegar Hill, about it's past, some of the history within some of the locations I got to see, and to get a better understanding of the community's flow. But that being said, visiting and experiencing it, Vinegar Hill's neighborhood hopefully does improve and changes in the future, because right now to me it felt very empty, no living environment, just silent. While experiencing all of this, it made me question a lot about this neighborhood as to why it feels so distant from all other places around us.

REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESIS

1. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/07/realestate/07Living.html>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vinegar_Hill,_Brooklyn
3. <http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/2017/1/25/architectural-eye-candy-vinegar-hill>
4. <http://forgotten-ny.com/1998/04/vinegar-hill-brooklyn/>