

Learning Places Spring 2017

SITE REPORT

Vinegar Hill, Dumbo Area



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INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this report is part of a class assignment for students to gain a better understanding, explore, observe, and identify the area of Vinegar Hill. Professors and students met on the corner of Plymouth and Hudson Street in the Dumbo area. Unfortunately, I was lost for about a half an hour and met up my classmates and professors on Water Street and Hudson Street for a walkthrough.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

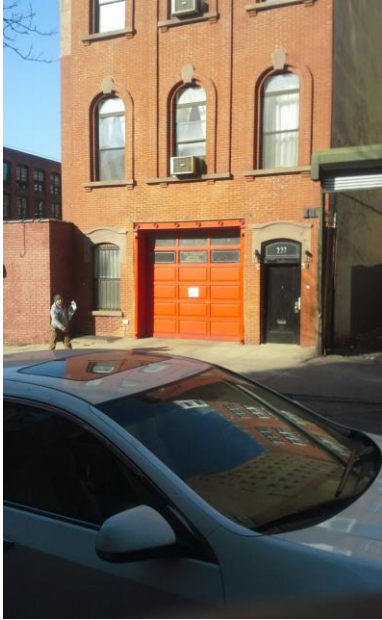
I spoke to an elderly co-worker who lived in the area. I was told that when he was a boy he used to visit the area with his dad. He stated that it was an industrialized area with factories and can clearly remember that on his visits he would smell black pepper and sometimes his eyes would burn. He also mentioned that there were many “sweat shops” with many immigrants living there. These “sweat shops” housed the immigrants with no windows and were very hot. Before I visited the area the thought of a bushy area came to mind with abandoned houses.

Tile Work



This picture shows a tile wall which looked like a factory house warehouse. The big red door with large hinges is a fire door.

Old Fire house



This photo shows a now renovated firehouse. From the big red door, you can see that ambulances and fire trucks were stationed here.

Residential Area



Photo shows classmates as we listened attentively to professor. On the left is residential houses.



Picture one shows the brick roads and the now modernized concrete roads. From my observation, the brick roads were built to accommodate the heavy-laden trucks as they transport to and from the factories

Picture two shows houses with the bay windows and the heavy beam door posts.

Picture three shows train tracks in the middle of streets clearly shows that trains moved products from factories to warehouses

OBSERVATIONS

1. No corner stores
2. No pedestrian crossing
3. No street lights
4. Few persons walking the streets
5. Old fashioned buildings
6. Cops on the corner street
7. Birds chirping

QUANTITATIVE DATA

Subject	Data
Armed forces	2
Schools	1
Churches	0

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. Why there are no churches in this area?
2. How is it that the roads are partly brick and concrete?
3. Where the name Vinegar Hill come from?

HYPOTHESIS:

1. Is it that he people who lived in this area are not religious.
2. The roads are kept this way to maintain the structure of the place.
3. A vinegar factory was originally in this area giving it its name.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

Site visit was very interesting as it reminded me of my island life in St Kitts in the Caribbean. I was very amazed of the railway which reminded me of the sugar factory and the locomotives that transported sugar cane to and from the factories to warehouse. I love the peacefulness of this area and the history. The Vinegar Hill area shared a wealth of information on the industrial side of New York City.

REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESIS

1. <http://nypost.com/2015/07/08/why-vinegar-hill-is-brooklyns-edgiest-enclave/>
2. <http://www.bigonion.com/tour/dumbo-vinegar-hill/>
3. <https://yourneighborhood.co/brooklyn/dumbo-vinegar-hill>