

Learning Places Spring 2017

SITE REPORT

Location of site visit



Stephan Marc

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INTRODUCTION

In my time at Vinegar hill and DUMBO, I felt as though two areas were inversions of each other. But, as I walked through them, it seemed as though both spots have their parts of antiquated residences but there were other areas where there were renovations (more so in DUMBO).

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Before I reached Vinegar Hill, I thought it would just be some abandoned spot in New York that was never walked through or lived in. It seemed like it was at first glance, I simply thought it was a chunk of

land owned by the government.

SITE DOCUMENTATION (photos/sketches)





These pictures are both examples of the renovations that were done to Vinegar Hill and from what I've noticed from walking there is that the buildings get younger as you walk towards the more populated routes of downtown Brooklyn. Deeper within Vinegar hill is old aged stores and homes that appear to be vacant, but surprisingly there were people walking and driving through. However, I didn't see anyone living inside any of the houses in the area.



This picture here is the main example of how the buildings have aged over the years. As you could see from the front of the building, the earth has already started to grow over the building and the building itself has started to chip away and degrade. Also, upon further inspection, the interior of the stores were all old and empty as if they were abandoned.



This picture is in fact what a store looked like in Vinegar Hill before it started to age and degrade. As the picture shows, the store has very bright and vibrant colors as opposed to the more recent stores which appeared to have basically retired.

OBSERVATIONS

- 6 vacant stores
- Buildings in Vinegar hill have already aged but there are areas being renovated
- DUMBO has history based residences
- None of the stores in Vinegar hill are open
- Roads are broken and uneven
- DUMBO appears as the antithesis of Vinegar hill
- DUMBO seems more inviting than Vinegar hill

QUANTITATIVE DATA

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Data</u>
Stores	The stores in Vinegar hill seemed abandoned and was clearly not used by anyone now or in the past few months.
roads	The streets in both Vinegar hill and DUMBO looked broken and unleveled which conflicted with the renovated buildings.
Population	The people around Vinegar hill specifically were as lively as the buildings there. There was little to nobody around that area. DUMBO wasn't very crowded either but there were more there than in Vinegar hill.

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

- Why aren't the stores being used in Vinegar hill?

- If Vinegar hill's houses are so historically significant, then why do they appear as unwanted property?
- Why did DUMBO receive more attention towards renovation as opposed to Vinegar hill?

HYPOTHESIS:

- I simply think that the stores and houses were just abandoned because it is in a secluded part of Brooklyn.
- They are probably attempting to preserve the authenticity of the designs of the buildings from their respective times.
- Since DUMBO is closer to a more populated part of downtown Brooklyn, they probably renovated that area to attract more people to the area and receive more traffic and revenue to the properties.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

Overall, I didn't expect to get anything from going to Vinegar hill, but after going i actually got a lot more than I thought. I am in fact looking for property to buy and that location seemed to fit all my criteria for a store. Also, personally I felt as though DUMBO was trying too hard to look nice; I appreciated the antiquated appearance of Vinegar Hill.