

Learning Places Spring 2017

SITE REPORT #3



Exterior view of an African American family of nine sitting on a Crown Heights stoop. The exact location is unknown. By Jamel Shabazz.

SVETLANA BELOPUKHOVA

3.19.2017

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of our Visit to Brooklyn public library was to introduce ourselves to newspaper articles, photographs, books, historic maps in order to find more information about Farragut Houses in Vinegar hill.

OBJECTIVES

1. General research about public housing in NYC.
2. Maps, photos and data of the previous history of land use of Farragut Housing land. (Wall and high way influences).
3. Economic and demographic data.
4. Data about the projects that was done in the past to improve the community.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I couldn't wait to see non-digitalized antic maps, photos, and articles and find out some new gen about Farragut Housing (FH). I anticipate learning how to search for digital information and photos and navigate on the old atlases of NYC. During the visit, I have learned more about Public Housing in NYC, historical land use of Vinegar Hill, from old articles, archives, and documentation on FH, what I couldn't do on our previous site visits.

SITE DOCUMENTATION:

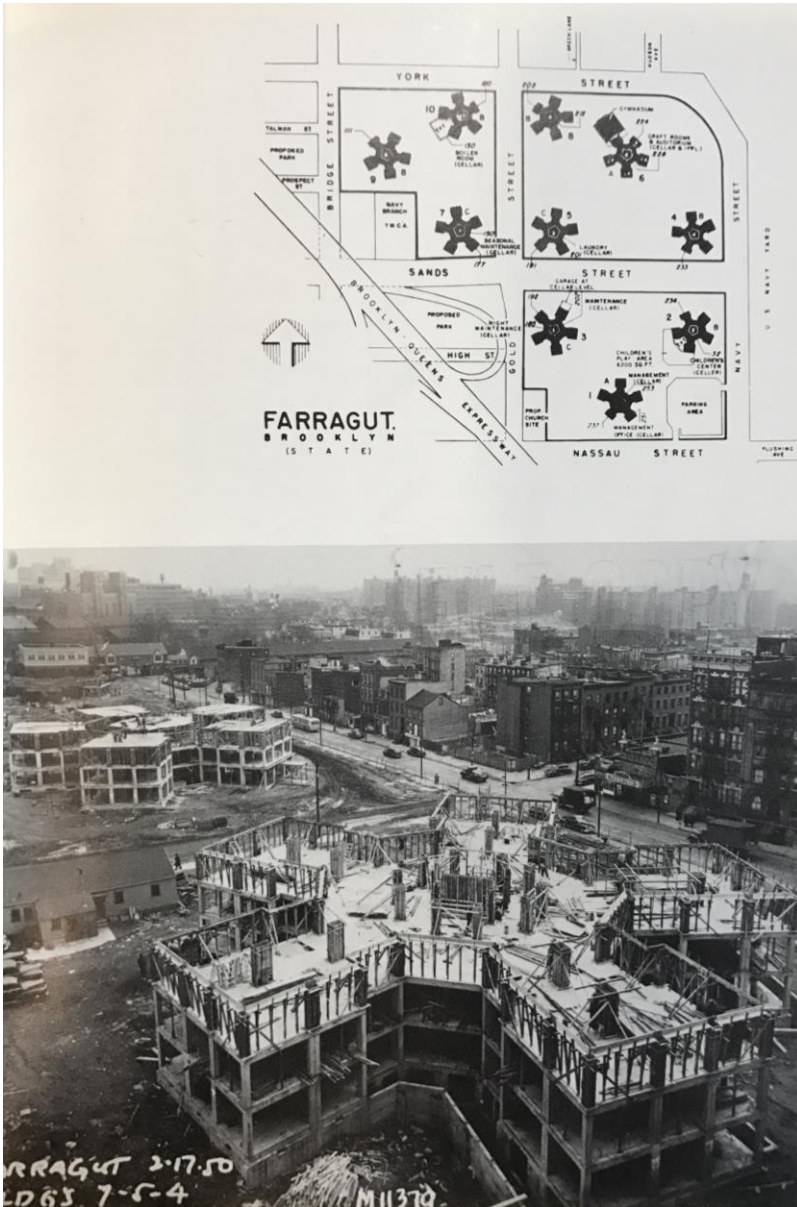


Figure 1. Fellheimer, Wagner, and Vollmer. Farragut Houses public housing site plan, completed in Brooklyn in 1952, the second and last public housing project in New York City to use asterisk-type towers, which floated randomly in a sea of green space.

Figure 2. Fellheimer, Wagner, and Vollmer. Farragut Houses construction photo, showing the ultimate special pathology between a public housing project and the surrounding context.

Buildings are posted on the site without systematic justification. FH floats at random in the grass area with a coverage of 13.9% (with 20% available according to Richard Plunts). Isolation of public residential facilities excluded commercial areas from the project.

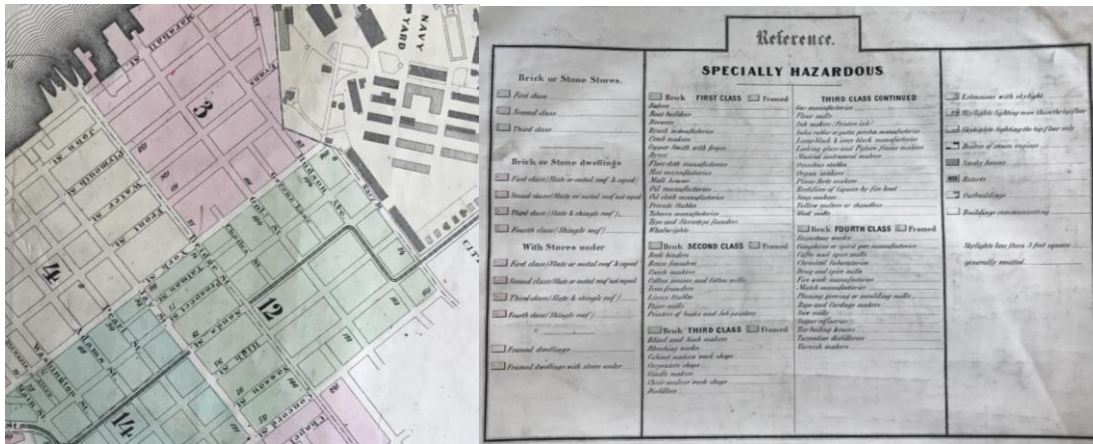


Figure 3. Map of the city of Brooklyn by William Perris, civil engineer and surveyor 1855. The map shows all type of material that been used in the past in Vinegar Hill area today.

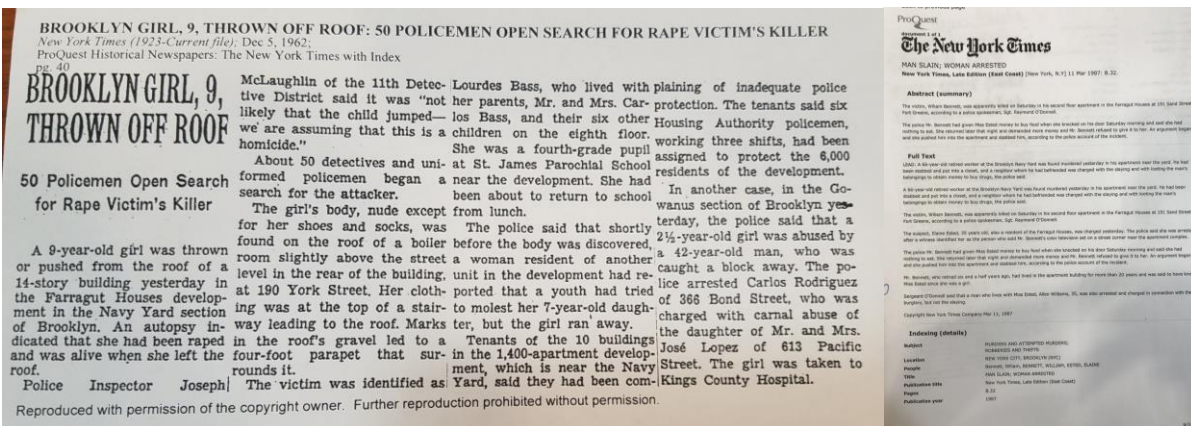


Figure 5. Some of the most common articles talking about crime at Farragut Houses.

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. Why FH emphasizes the negative of NY neighborhoods.
2. How is maintains works in the towers of FH?
3. Why after all recreation projects trying to improve the community, FH project still doesn't present the pleasant place to live?

HYPOTHESIS:

1. A property value that effected by crimes and location of public housing.
2. Poor service in the past, but I think it much better situating in our days.
3. Some of the residents of FH have poor education, different Interest and culture, lifestyle.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION?

After visiting the site and my own research, I have some hypothesis.

If we think of the history of African Americans in the twentieth century as a history of immigrants. Because the transition from rural to urban areas is one of the largest migrations in the history of the world.

When blacks came out of slavery they were concentrated in the south in farming type jobs. During the Great migration, as an industry were expanding in the North, they were pushed to work in factories. This leads to a large migration of blacks moving to urban areas.

All these People thought that moving to the north will make a very different from unpleasant life on south full of violence. But, unfortunately, many of these families came to the conclusion that they really did not accelerate, but found themselves in the new system of racial control. "Racial discriminatory laws across America, securing that the poor colored people migrating from the south can find areas of the city that we can now regard as ghettos".

It hard to notice, but if we look at how African-American housing models were created in the 1940s, even later. The FHA (Federal Housing Administration), which was a new democratic new program to inspire homeownership practice, originated from the owners of middle-aged depressed states – most suited to create ghettos than any other federal program before. Because when they created a culture of homeownership in America, they were an exception for black people. They put them in the area of the heavy leased ship. And they red-aligned these areas on the map (zoning) and they wouldn't write FHA mortgages in these areas. Once the "0" was a redlined - they basically designed for the ghetto.

In the 1950s, people in these areas were poor, but they had a job, by 1960 they were unemployed poor. Because industry said to move out of our city. Leaving behind the concentration population of poor people faced the problem of drugs and all other problems associated with joblessness.

And In sociality, what can happen when the groups denied access to the main economic engine - they create them from prohibited countries! This happened with the Italians, Jews, and Irish in the previous generation.

NEXT STEPS?

1. Economical RED lining map of Brooklyn
2. Economical job-based maps
3. Demographic maps (education, age)
4. Transportation maps
5. Information: what people do after finishing school(do they stay, do they leave), where do they work, what kind of transportation people need for they jobs, what they do on their free time (interests)

PRELIMINARY REFERENCES FOR PRIMARY SOURCES:

1. Jamel Shabazz. Crown Heights family. Photographic black & white.
Brooklyn Collection at Brooklyn Public Library.
<http://catalog.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/search~S63?/tJamel+Shabazz+Collection/tjamel+shabazz+collection/-3,-1,0,B/browse>
2. 1938 Brooklyn Redline map. UrbanOasis.org via National Archives (NARA II RG 195 Entry 39 Folder "Brooklyn (Kings Co.)" Box 58). Edited by ASommer, PlaNYourCity.
<https://planyourcity.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/bk-map.jpg>
3. Robert J. Norrell "The House I Live In" Race in the American Century. 14 April 2006. Paperback. P. 167.
4. Richard Plunz. A history of Housing in New York City. Columbia University Press. October 2016. Paperback. P. 268.
5. Dan Kopf "The Great Migration: The African American Exodus from the South". Jan 28, 2016.Web.

<https://priceconomics.com/the-great-migration-the-african-american-exodus/>

6. Suzanne Spellman "From Redlining to Predatory Lending: A Secret Economic History of Brooklyn". Brownstoner. Mar 30, 2016, 10:00am. Web.

<http://www.brownstoner.com/history/redlining-racism-brooklyn-neighborhoods-bed-stuy-williamsburg-2/>

7. Federal Housing Authority. FHA Government Loan.

<https://fhagovernmentloans.org/index.php>