

# SITE REPORT #3



credits to Google map images.

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## INTRODUCTION

On March 13 we visited the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn. We were researching for archived data that the librarians could offer to help us for the topics that we are researching as a group. The topic of my group is the development and preservation of Vinegar Hill.

## OBJECTIVES

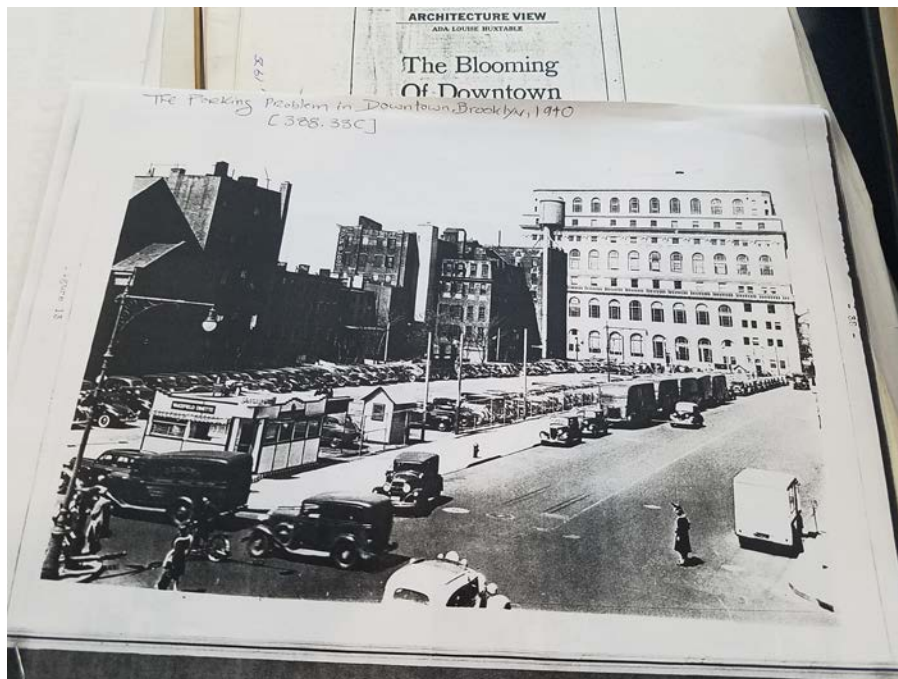
On March 8 my group and I were going to research the development and preservation on Vinegar Hill. We were supposed to find related archives from

the library such as article or even maps. I wanted to find the more information on why Vinegar Hill is a more isolated neighborhood when compared to its surrounding neighborhoods. We want to find possibly how the surrounding neighborhoods affect the development of Vinegar Hill. We want to find maps & article of previous development of Vinegar Hill. I personally was interested in finding how other neighborhoods around Vinegar Hill were developed

## PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I wasn't really sure what to expect as to what I would find and see in the Library. I was expecting to see article encased because maybe they were fragile or delicate and could not be touch. I also didn't expect to see many articles from the 20<sup>th</sup> century since those were time were technology wasn't that so advanced so people could save documents as easy as today in the modern world. I thought that we would be going through a small exhibition from a museum. When I was doing my blog post and trying to find online archives there wasn't many that I could find for Vinegar Hill.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION:



Downtown cars and Parking lot in 1940 Smith St and Livingston St

This picture is very shocking to me to see that this parking lot still exists even after 80 years. Also to think that in 1940 they also need parking lots for cars make me realize that downtown Brooklyn has always been very active by cars and people.



Development in Downtown Brooklyn in 1985

Its interesting to hear that in one year the plan to invest approximately 800 million in developing new structures in the downtown area. Based on the last paragraph states the effects that the new development would have on Downtown Brooklyn. Basically it would gentrify downtown Brooklyn and make people with lower income move out because rent would sky rocket similar to the prices in Manhattan. Maybe that is why from the displacement of residents from Downtown Brooklyn caused the developer and planners to make the Farragut housing next to Downtown Brooklyn in Vinegar Hill to move all the resident there and still make them feel at home because they are neighbors of the rapidly developing Downtown Brooklyn at that time.

*Downtown Brooklyn*

## Growth in Downtown Brooklyn Is Still Looking Up, Planners Say

By THOMAS J. LUECK

Just south of the Atlantic Avenue railway station, where city-owned urban renewal property sat vacant for 30 years, a new complex of oversized suburban-style stores is to open next week.

Six blocks away on Adams Street, workers just broke ground for Brooklyn's first new hotel in 30 years.

Across from the hotel site, which is still just a hole in the ground, the huge Metrotech office complex, begun in 1986, covers 10 blocks of long-blighted property. That project continues to grow, with an eight-story headquarters for the Fire Department expected to be completed next summer.


So goes the rebuilding of downtown Brooklyn, which over the last 10 years has quietly transformed the aged urban core of New York City's most populous borough into what experts have begun calling a model for big-city downtowns across the nation. And the resurgence — which has transcended the sluggish economy that has derailed development in most cities — appears for now at least to be continuing in high gear.

"Few downtowns in America can claim this amount of investment and job creation," said the Regional Plan Association in a report to be released today, which calls Brooklyn's revitalization over the last decade "a sign of optimism for the entire country, a direction marker for the future."

Nonetheless, the report cautions that continued improvements could become more difficult for Brooklyn's commercial core, from the Brooklyn Bridge to the Brooklyn Academy of Music and from Brooklyn Heights to Park Slope. Among the obstacles, the report says, is the legacy of incoherent development patterns and failed renewal programs that left large swaths of rundown buildings and vacant lots adjacent to newly revitalized commercial strips and elegant 19th-century residential blocks. Moreover, the planning group says, the area is hindered by its lingering image as an "old inner city" and by a city government "that has not demonstrated that it recognizes the economic importance and potential of downtown Brooklyn."

"Brooklyn has come along much further in reality than in perception," said H.

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Monica Almeida/The New York Times

Bruce C. Ratner, whose Atlantic Center in downtown Brooklyn has large suburban-style stores, calls Brooklyn "probably the most under-retailed place in the country."

NYT  
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30, 1996

Developing expanding south of Downtown Brooklyn to Atlantic avenue in 1996.

*Downtown Brooklyn*

DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN



### Downtown Brooklyn renaissance underway

March 26, 1994 p. 11 Business  
By ROKANNE TAMARKIN

IN THE NEXT five years, Downtown Brooklyn will see more construction than it has in the last 50.

When the dust settles, about \$4 billion in investments, most of it private money, will have been spent, 30,000 employees and at least 1,000 families will move into the neighborhood, and six huge developments will form a new skyline.

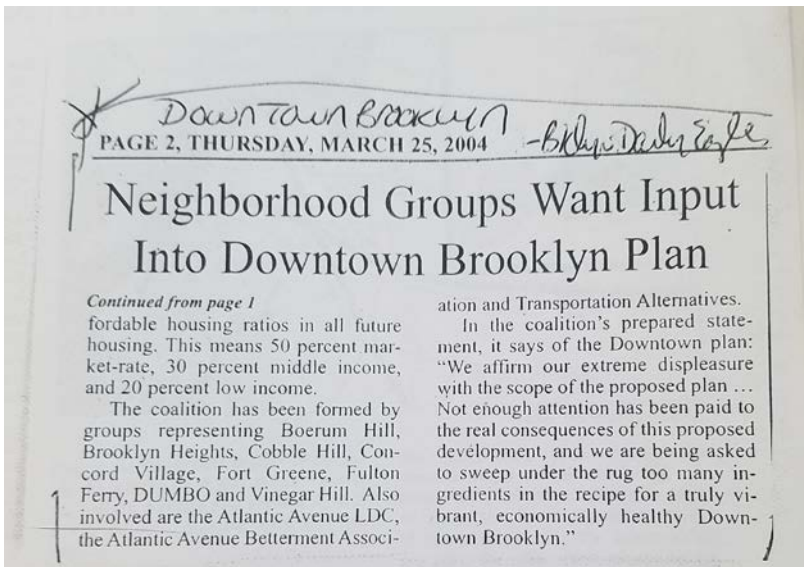
MetroTech, the mammoth \$1 billion office and research complex (at 4.7 million square feet, larger than two Empire State Buildings), is now under construction and is considered the linchpin to Brooklyn's renaissance. Already more than half leased by prestigious tenants, MetroTech is the success story inspiring many other projects

Developing expanding south of Downtown Brooklyn to Atlantic avenue in 1996.





The Daily news promoting that Downtown Brooklyn needs to be more recognized and has the potential to be similar to Manhattan. States that Brooklyn is looked as decline due to the poor subway conditions and state entries its referring to main highway and interstates and a connection to the long island rail road. This makes me also realize that development and the popularity of a neighborhood is always by word of mouth or mainly by media. If the media publishes an article stating what it's lacking and proposal then people can start developing. I have already started to see article on development in Vinegar Hill it's only a matter of time before developers move into Vinegar and try to bring new ideas.



Resistance from communities of different downtown Neighborhood trying to propose the percentage of how housing should be split up in March 2004.

## SITE OBSERVATIONS:

1. 1 small folder that doesn't really have much information on the preservation and development of Brooklyn topic.
2. Organized physical collection of articles and zoning books.
3. I really found interesting information on the Development of downtown Brooklyn from the early 20 century to the early 21 century.
4. There was bit and pieces of different information that can be explored and helped for my topic. Maybe talking to the other groups and seeing and talking about their findings for their topics can help my group learn more things.
5. The zoning books was a interesting finding. The librarian said that architects used that book to find the zoning instead of using the computers and internet as we do now.

QUANTITATIVE DATA: under "subject" list the topic; Under "data" describe your findings and the quantity found

Subject	Data
Downtown Brooklyn articles on development	I found about 10 articles only on the development of Downtown Brooklyn
Zoning Book	A collection of different zoning books for different years
21 century articles on the development Brooklyn	I found about 4 articles.

## QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

### QUESTIONS:

1. How does development around a neighborhood affect other neighborhoods?
2. How does Gentrification around a neighborhood affect other neighborhoods?
3. Does the demographics of the resident affect the development?

### HYPOTHESIS:

1. Development displaces people from their home. The people that are displaced have to be placed in a new environment.
2. It adds to the development but has a negative affect to current residents forcing them to be displaced.

3. The demographics do affect the development. Developers can sometimes use their money to surpass the community authority. If the community is a working class they might not have the time to resist and fight back on the development.

## SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION / NEXT STEPS?

The visit to the library was interesting. It was interesting to see the piles of articles in folders that were already planned for our visit. I was amazed to see the documentation that was provided for Vinegar Hill and Downtown Brooklyn. I am not sure if most of the articles, maps and photos were preserved with the intention to preserve the history or an event of Vinegar Hill. I was expecting to see much information because I didn't think those records were stored and was astonished to see the amount of information from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Next step is to use some of the information possibly and link it to our hypothesis that we proposed for our topic. If we can't use this information then we will have to continue on our research to help formulate a response to our hypothesis.

## PRELIMINARY REFERENCES FOR PRIMARY SOURCES:

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