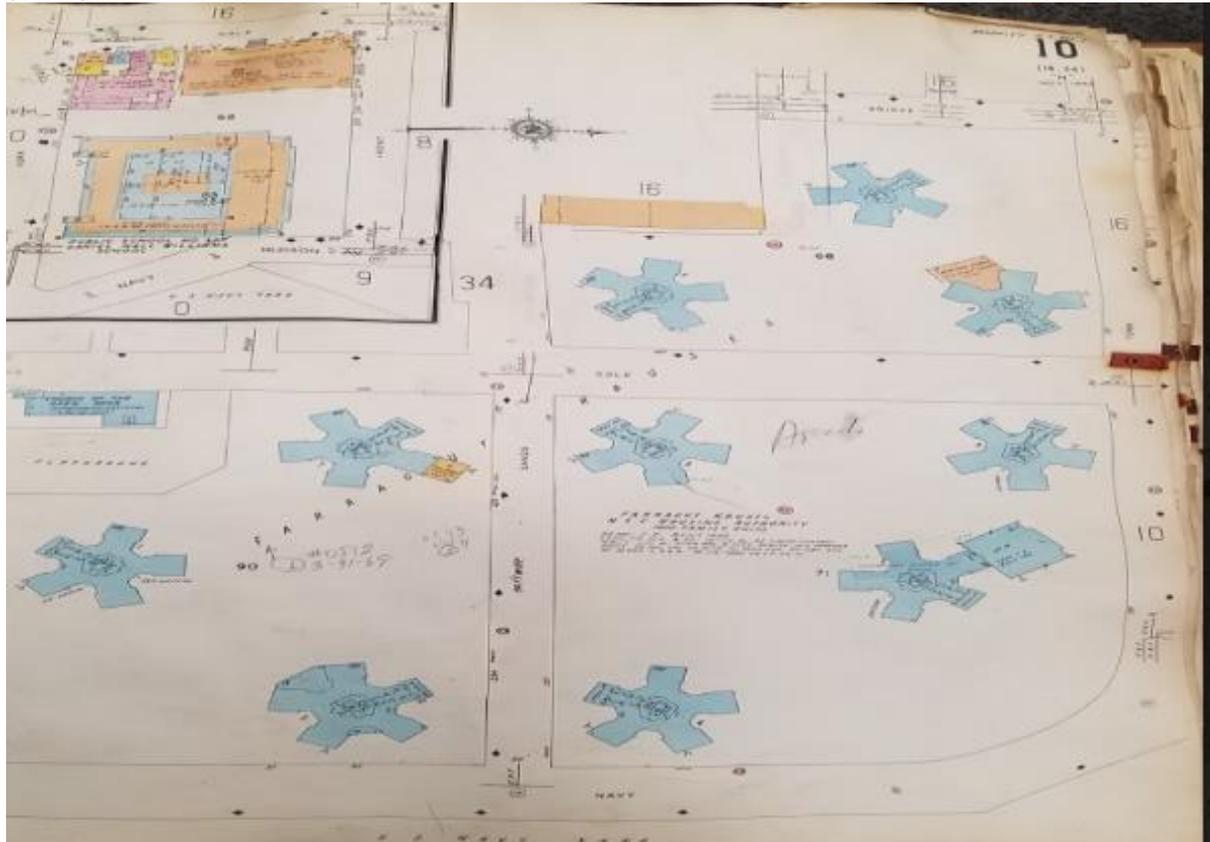


Learning Places Spring 2017

# SITE REPORT #4

COVER IMAGE: Farragut Houses Layout (1988)



Colin Grant

03.31.2017

## INTRODUCTION:

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, we visited the New York Public Library Map division to study maps and find evidence for our hypothesis about crime and location of Farragut Houses. This visit helped gather more data on construction of Farragut Houses during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

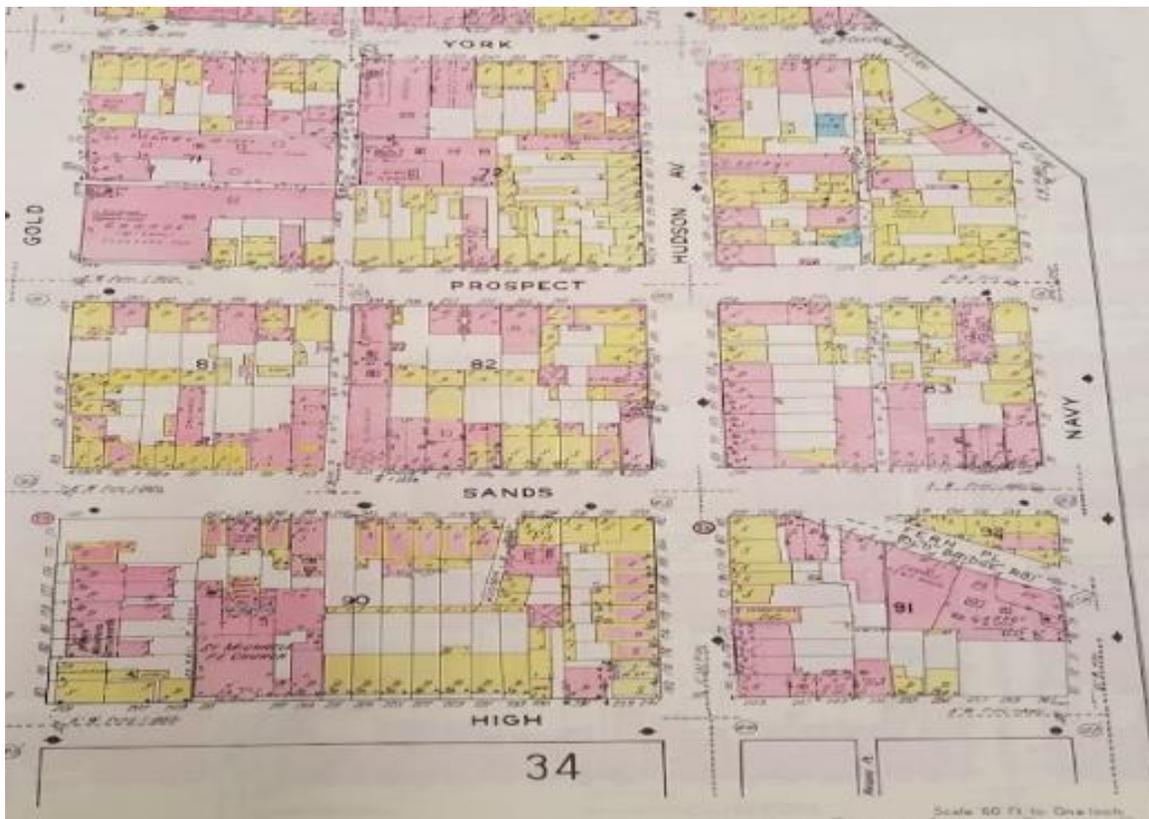
## OBJECTIVE:

Our objective was to find more maps of what buildings were replaced by Farragut Houses and how did this effect the area.

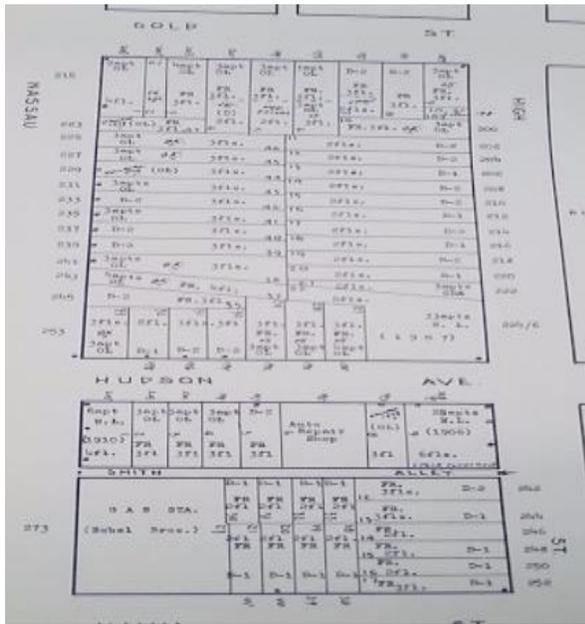
## PRE-VISIT REFLECTION:

PRIOR to site visit, I went through the digital archives and notice that most of the information were maps and news articles in Vinegar Hill. But our focus was on the area that was replaced by this new Farragut Housing Complex.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION:



This photo was a design of a fire insurance map found in one of the Brooklyn Volumes provided for us. Many of these buildings were a brick layout or wooden frame structure. There were also businesses that had to be moved and lots of demolition that followed to meet the 1952 deadline. This image is significant to my exploration because it gives a good background on how the neighborhood looked before.



Most of the information gathered from this visit were map outlines of the past buildings frame designs. But we were lucky enough to find and image showing local businesses that occupied Nassau Street. It also provided information of the number of floors and apartments on the two blocks provided. You can also notice small alleyways like Smith Alley which was taken out during the construction. This helped me realize that Vinegar Hill had more of a business-like aspect developing in the area like DUMBO, but maybe due to the depression it must have been hard to maintain them.



This photo was of the Church of the Open Door being placed in what used to be a neighborhood playground for the area. It was explained that many buildings are added to the volumes and to see what was placed before raises questions.

**SITE OBSERVATIONS:** One or 2 general notes about the Brooklyn Collection, and 2-3 specific observations about how the primary sources you found are connected to the topic of your investigation

1. The New York Public Library’s Collection has many maps of historic layouts of Vinegar Hill
2. The area of Farragut Houses was occupied by businesses and brick frame homes in most of the maps provided.

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

Subject	Data
Fire Insurance Map	1, was found in the Brooklyn Volume 2 Map Book that was provided
Apartment Layout	1, map was found with information regarding businesses and apartments that were around before Farragut Houses.
Population Demographic	2, images were found showing the Puerto Rican and African American population during the 1940’s and 1950’s. In the 1950’s the population grew tremendously.

**QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS** Consider the primary sources found during your visit and review the material you included so far in this report.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. How did people in the area feel about the change in the area of the new development, Farragut Houses?
2. Did the creating of the complex take the history away from Vinegar Hill’s rich past?
3. How did the creation of the Church of the Open Door affect the neighborhood?

**HYPOTHESIS:** From the questions, you wrote above, select the most important question for your own research topic. Propose an explanation made on the basis of the evidence you have so far as a starting point for further investigation.

1. I feel like most of the people did not want this change to their beloved neighborhood. Many businesses and homes were destroyed and complaints were made but not answered to as stated by newspaper articles collected from our visit to the Brooklyn Public Library.
2. I do not feel like the history was taken away, but I do feel like there is a separation among the older style of Vinegar Hill and Farragut Houses. The crime in the area of Farragut keeps bringing down people's interest in the area. I feel like most folks are attracted towards the water front because of DUMBO and sudden change in gentrification.
3. Before the visit, I did not know that there was a playground in the spot where the church was. I feel like people were eager for the church to open but as time went on, people felt like there was no area for kids to play.

### **SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION / NEXT STEPS?**

I feel like this visit really shined some light on the past area of Farragut. I learned more about the area's apartments and building structures and the many businesses that were placed on Nassau St. My next step is to see how the creation of Farragut played into the separation of the neighborhood of Vinegar Hill. I can see the divide of business being built more towards the water front while Farragut is left to suffer. How does this play a role in the area's appearance to people living near the water front? How can this be changed?

### **PRELIMINARY REFERENCES FOR PRIMARY SOURCES:**

1. Index Vol 1-3, 1988. Map Division 88-203
2. Fire Insurance Atlas of Brooklyn, NY – Vol 2: 1972