

Farragut Houses & Vinegar Hills

SITE REPORT

Farragut Houses Sign Image: The Sign that differentiate this housing apart from other buildings around the neighborhood aside from huge chunk of red bricked tall buildings looking different from mostly townhouses occupied neighborhood.



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INTRODUCTION

We revisited Farragut Houses and its neighborhood to see how environment is different from DUMBO and to take a closer look at the lives of those that are living there.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

PRIOR to site visit, I hoped to see more people around the houses as we didn't see much in our last visit and to cover more ground and to see if we missed out anything during our previous visit.

Route to Farragut Houses and its neighborhood →



1st Stop – Corner of Jay St and Front St

It's interesting to see this kind of small, artsy, inexpensive looking Mexican restaurant in this neighborhood of DUMBO which is mostly occupied by tall and new industrial turned lofts, residential and offices. This small place is surrounded by all the tall buildings, a new residential construction site next to it and the big empty lot of construction across the street from it.



2nd Stop – Corner of York St and Gold St

Maybe it was a trash day as we witnessed a huge mess of trash bags spread across the backyard of Farragut Houses and this was the first time I have seen a men controlled mini trash truck in any neighborhood of NYC. This mini truck was carrying the trash bags from all the buildings to this trash by the backyard.



3rd Stop – Corner of Sands St and Navy St

During my first visit, I thought transportation for the people living in Farragut Houses is a big problem as we didn't really go through the housing but we found out that they have bus stops almost every corner of the streets and they also have Citi bike stand right by the corner of Navy St and Sands St. So, my assumption of troubled transportation for Farragut houses' residents is a mistake.



4th Stop → Navy St and Sands St

As we walked deep through the neighborhood, we saw many open spaces and playgrounds and parks but they were all empty especially the playground by the corner of Navy St and Sands St as it looked more like a big empty lot full of concrete rather than a park.



5th Stop → Farragut Houses Playground by York St and Hudson Ave

We saw about 6,7 people sitting and chatting by the entrance of one of the building and also saw dead gardens around every blocks of the housing as well as empty playgrounds right after we walked by the empty huge park not far from it. As we know there are many residents here in the housing, the question is where did all the kids and young adults go?



SITE OBSERVATIONS:

1. We saw more people in the neighborhood this time comparing to the last visit.
2. We saw a group of men biking on Citi bikes around the neighborhood and it was great to see that, and it gives me the feeling of a community that is same as many other communities in NYC.
3. Saw some people smoking and chatting outside of a neighborhood deli store as well.

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

Subject	Data
Dead Garden	4: all over the blocks of Farragut houses, maintenance is low to none
Empty Playground/park	3: 2 within the housing and 1 across the street from it
Bus Stops	4: 1 at each corner of the neighborhood

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. Residents at Farragut Houses has access to many recreational facilities, but why are they not using them?
2. Does Navy yard wall separate the Farragut Houses apart from the neighborhood of vinegar Hill?
3. Dead gardens in Farragut housing does not seem to be maintained or water as it might well be part of the reason why people don't go to these places around its own neighborhood as it doesn't look clean and inviting. What should we do to bring more people to community and maintain the neighborhood?

HYPOTHESIS:

1. Maybe they are busy working and going to school or they are not interested to do anything related to the recreational facilities like playing video games instead.

2. It's is just a wall to separate navy yard facilities from public access, and it doesn't feel like the housing and its residents are separated even thou the crowd of Vinegar Hills/ Farragut Houses are different from DUMBO.
3. I believe we should try to change mindset of the people of Farragut housing residents starting with giving more opportunities to the F.H residence students around the neighborhood, to spend more time in sport at school and after school practices taking place at school yard and sometimes at those playgrounds within the housing to bring more people out at least to watch the game and chat. And that kind of community events could lead to more people involving in making the neighborhood cleaner and maintaining it.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION / NEXT STEP?

The next step is trying to visit there again hopefully in an evening or a weekend and see how people are comparing to the day time of the weekdays as we visited. The visit was great, improved the vision of our view about the Farragut houses and its neighborhood as we saw more and observed part of it.

PRELIMINARY REFERENCES TO EXPLORE HYPOTHESES:

<http://www.wnyc.org/story/community-s-watched-change-unfold-along-brooklyn-waterfront/>

<http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/goodness-new-brooklyn-article-1.2938132>

<http://brooklynrail.org/2015/07/field-notes/brooklyn-heights-blows-it-the-untold-story-of-cadman-plaza>