

Learning Places Spring 2017

SITE REPORT #3



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INTRODUCTION

On March 22nd, our class went on a site visit to the New York Public Library to see their map collection.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives my group had as we approached the library were to obtain any new information on the waterfronts in the Dumbo and Vinegar Hills areas, to find any changes that may have occurred in these areas over time, and we wanted to find any historically significant facts and events that may change the way the public eye looks at these areas of Brooklyn.

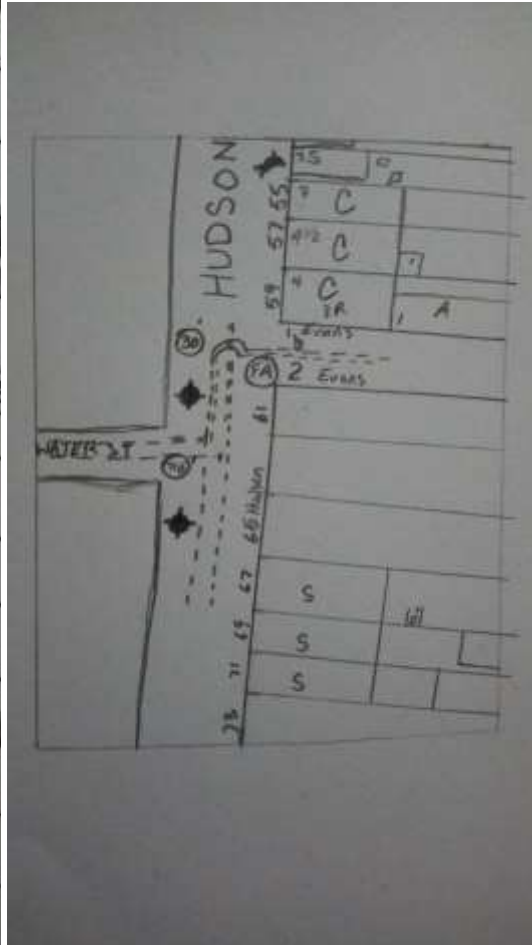
PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Prior to this site visit, I did not know what to expect from this library, nor their map collections because I had never been to this establishment. However, because of the reputation of this institution I was expecting to see a vast and helpful collection which would have greatly aided our research topics.

SITE DOCUMENTATION:



This image above is a panorama shot of the New York Public Library, which clearly shows the grand Greek inspired architecture. This class of architecture was very popular during the designing and construction of the library, in the year of 1895.



The two images above are of the same intersection of Hudson and Evans streets. The image on the left is the actual map see at the map collection, and the one on the right is my hand drawn perspective of this section of map.



This image is of the room we were at while we viewed at the maps separated for us to use by our "tour-guide"

SITE OBSERVATIONS:

1. I noticed that the room we were in was empty and was not being used for its intended purpose: Holding books
2. We had very little materials to work with, I felt that our site visit to the Brooklyn public library was more productive because they had more resources for us to use.
3. The New York Library was also limited on their online resources because they only had 1.5% of their entire collection (7,000 documents) online, which made it harder to get a good grasp on the information the maps were giving us because we were only able to look at them, at the library for that short amount of time because we were asked to leave that room after our time was finished.

QUANTITATIVE DATA:

Subject	Data
Maps related to our subject area	5, including one featuring the Farragut houses
Entire collection of maps at this library branch	500,000
Maps scanned and made available online	7,000

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was the room we were in, empty?
2. Why were given access to a very small selection of documents from the library?

HYPOTHESIS:

1. Most likely that particular room was repurposed, because I noticed a large TV screen in the corner of the room right near the window.
2. Perhaps the library gave us everything they had on the topics we were studying, they only have a collection of ½ a million, which is based on other areas besides Brooklyn.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION / NEXT STEPS?

To be honest, I was disappointed with the content this institution had regarding our group and it left me wanting the same “content experience” I had at the Brooklyn library branch. However, the information I was able to obtain at this library provided me and my group with clear close-up images and maps of our main areas of focus. We will be using these maps to match building and landscapes in the past and see the “evolution” DUMBO and Vinegar hills has gone through.