

Learning Places Spring 2017

SITE REPORT #4

NYPL Map Division



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INTRODUCTION

On March 22nd, as a class we were assigned to meet up at the New York Public Library, located at 476 5th Ave, New York, NY 10018. We went there to see a couple of their document files and map collections, in which consisted to our research topic.

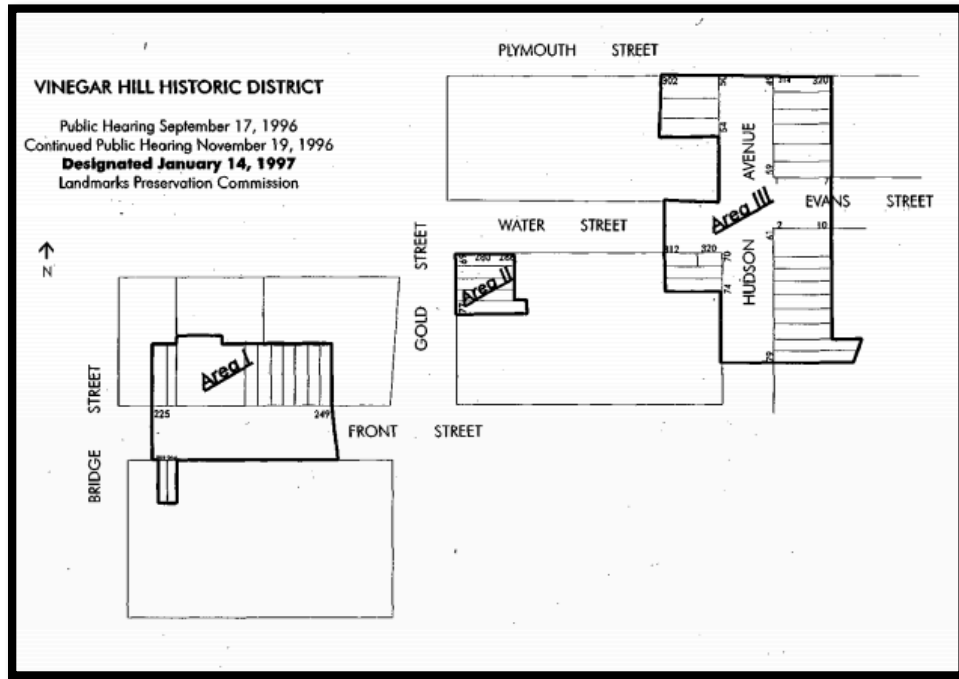
OBJECTIVES

Our objective, was for my group and I, to find any new data of information that we can use and reference to into our research. We hope to find more history based on Vinegar Hill, any new map site changes in regards to what happen around the waterfronts in Dumbo and Vinegar Hill, any zoning changes, as well as any historical facts between both neighborhoods.

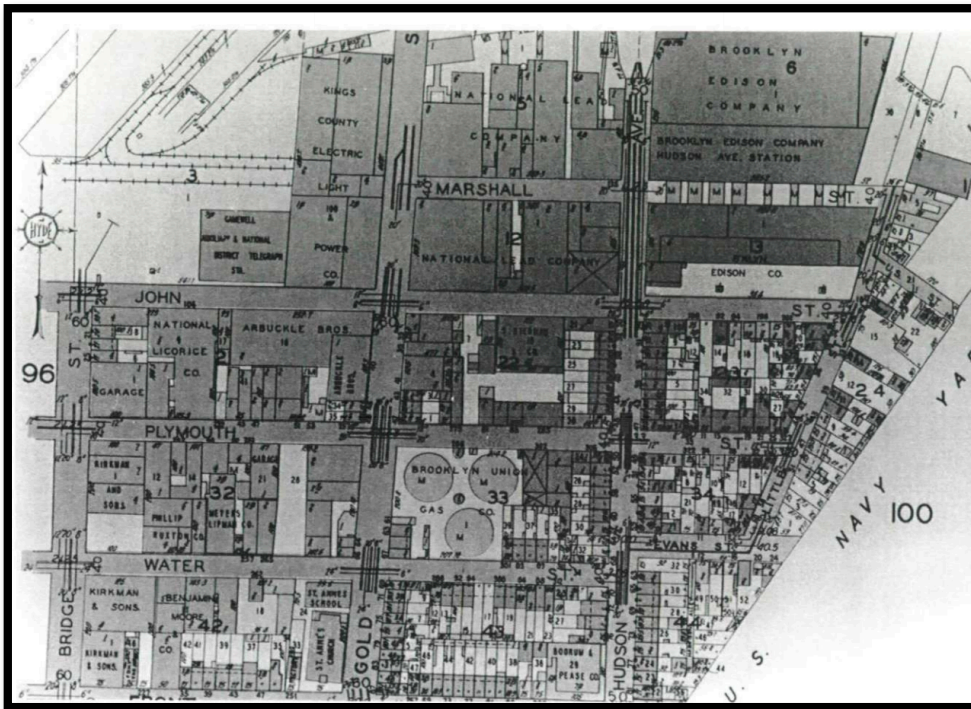
PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

Prior to going to the NYPL as a class for research purposes, this was actually my first time going into this library, looked very fancy, very modern. That being said, I thought that we were going to be getting new info. that we could use into our research compared to the Brooklyn Library, since visiting that site, we had more of an experience with what we could look for in regards of our research, how to find precise files through their web now. I just thought that going into this library, maybe the experience would've been somewhat the same as in Brooklyn Library, maybe we would've have been able to use their data base and their helpful collection of topics to use for our project.

SITE DOCUMENTATION:



On September 17, 1996, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of this historic district.



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Site Map Analysis of Borough of Brooklyn-Vinegar Hill from 1929.

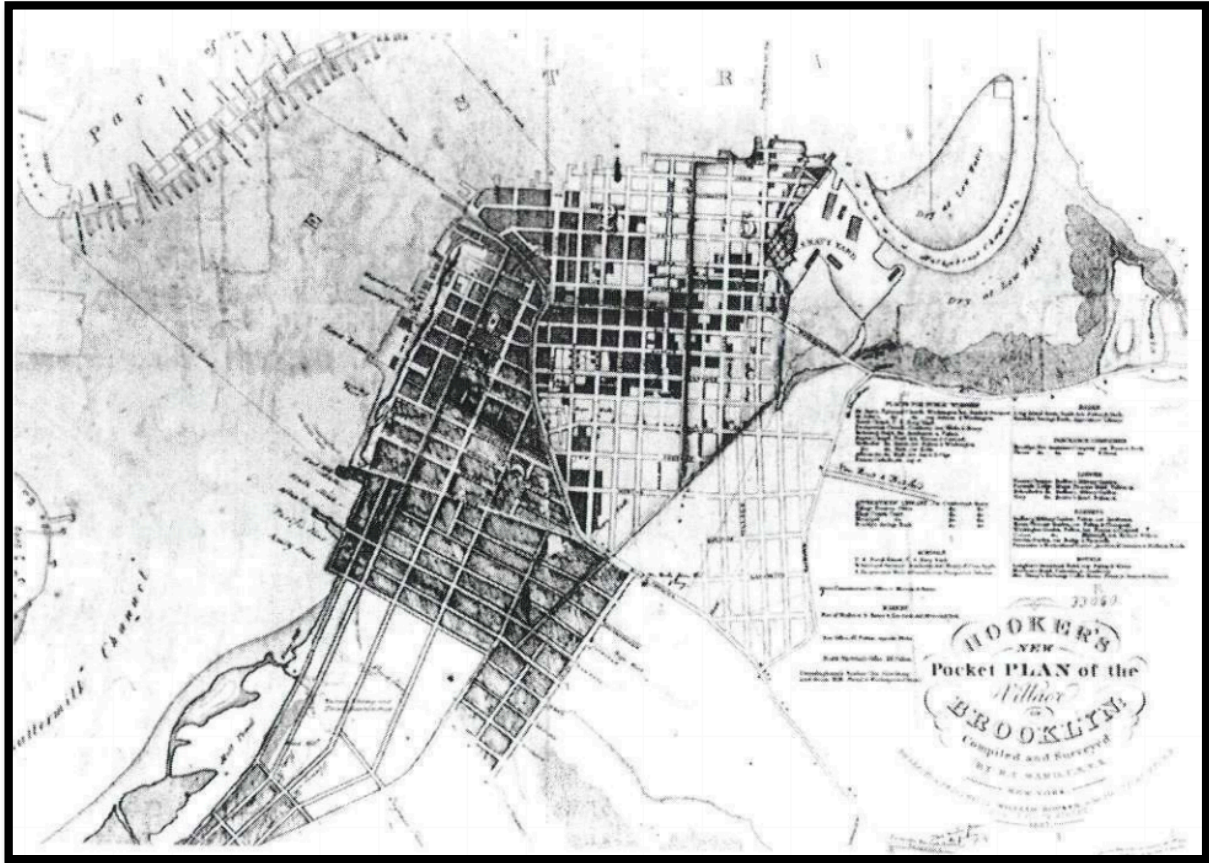


Diagram of present-day Vinegar Hill Historical District located on the West side of the Navy Yard.

SITE OBSERVATIONS:

1. I saw a Study Hall in the second floor, with a couple of people reading and in their laptops quietly concentrating, doing their own work.
2. The room we were held in seemed very empty and it seemed as if that particular room might've been going through some renovations or they just don't use that room very often.
3. Vinegar Hill Historical Maps sites from Designation Report

QUANTITATIVE DATA:

Subject	Data
Maps	Maps based on Vinegar Hill & Dumbo Commission Planning.
Zoning	Zoning Map Book
Book	There was a book that mainly focused on the history of Vinegar Hill.

QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONS:

1. Why was the room we stayed in very empty?
2. How come we only got to use very limited sources, specifically those main selected of docs.?

HYPOTHESIS:

1. Most likely it seems that room might possibly be going through some renovation. It was noticeable that most of the book shelves were ruin so maybe that's why there was nothing inside, maybe is a room that is not commonly use, or is just a simple conference room they might rarely use.
2. My guess is that those were the best docs. that contain in the NYPL, and were use to help us out in our research topics or maybe that was all they could offer in such little time, or maybe they don't have much based on the topics we are investigating.

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION / NEXT STEPS?

Visiting NYPL was just okay, I didn't mind visiting the site since it my very first time setting foot into that library, it was very nice, good experience for me, but it was also a bit of a let down as well, since it felt repetitive with some of the previous works we found in Brooklyn Library already but better, also I was hoping to find new portions of work that would help us for our project. My team and I were able to document new maps that we could use into our research. Although what was layout for us, to me it seemed somewhat the same but yet new, but also a lot less, and at times it just felt like there wasn't to much sources for us learn from even more or even expand from what we already know, I just thought that going into this library, maybe we might've been able to have access to their data base and their collection of topics to use for our project. The next step would be, for us as a team to use the information that we had found and piece it together to find the changeover between both Vinegar Hill and Dumbo. With the search we did on NYPL, we can compare those diagrams with the ones we found in Brooklyn Library and find some similarities or differences with the neighborhoods, with the history, and purpose.

PRELIMINARY REFERENCES FOR PRIMARY SOURCES:

1. <http://nyhistory.org/library/digital-collections>
2. http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/reports/VINEGAR_HILL_HISTORIC_DISTRICT.pdf
3. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e2-49e7-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>