

Learning Places Spring 2017

# SITE REPORT #3

Maps of Brooklyn & Underground Tunnels



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## **INTRODUCTION**

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, we were assigned to go to the Brooklyn Public Library, in order to do research with each other's group. My team and I were looking through old periodic maps of Brooklyn, and started to notice the many differences it had through time as it progressed. As well as the past history of Brooklyn Bridge.

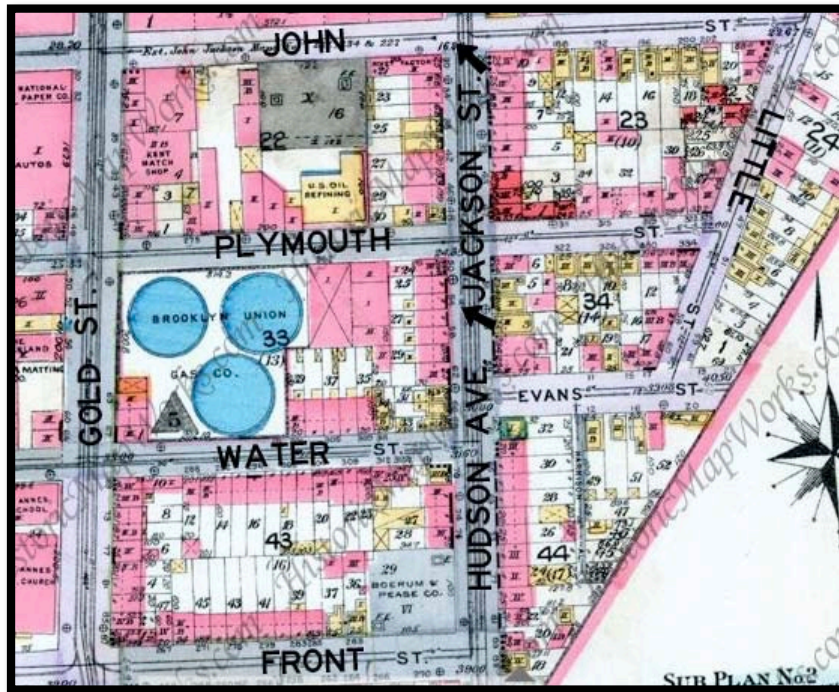
## **OBJECTIVES**

Our objective, was for my group and I, to find out exactly what was in the underground tunnels & pipelines within the waterfront. Why there were pipelines and tunnels going throughout the waterfront.

## **PRE-VISIT REFLECTION**

When visiting the Brooklyn Public Library, there was a ton of articles that we ended up finding just based alone on the underground tunnels. As well as site analysis of maps from different time periods.

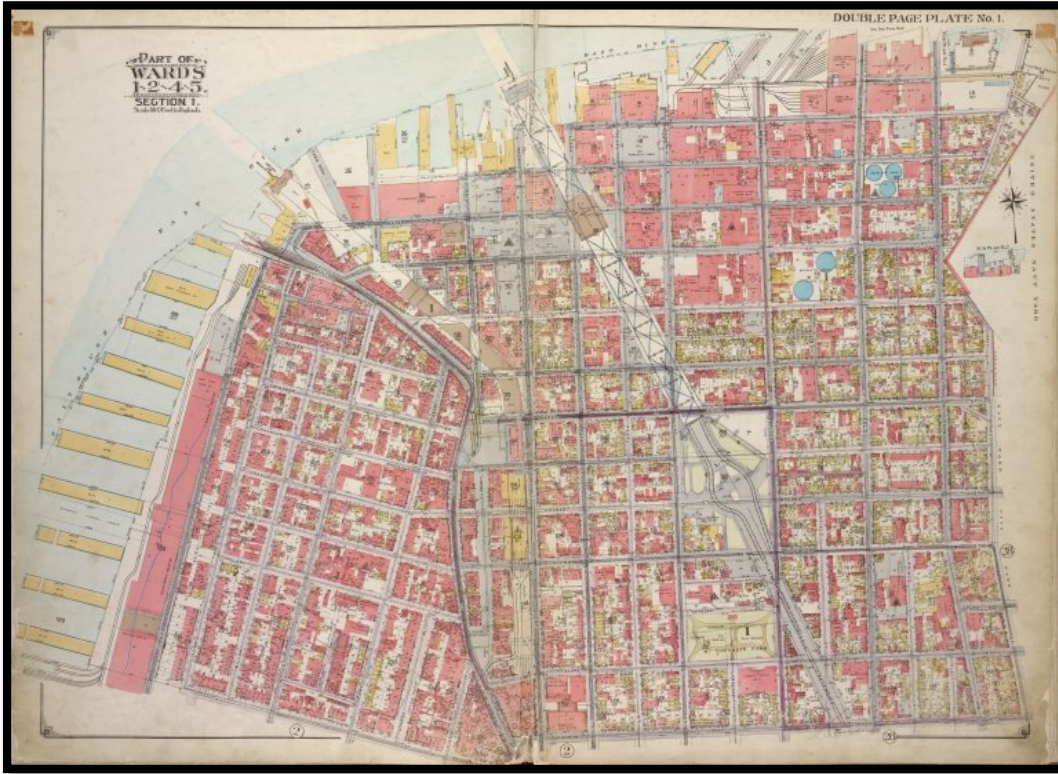
## SITE DOCUMENTATION:



The street layout of Vinegar Hill has changed quite a bit, mainly north of Front Street, from 1916-2009, throughout those years, a lot of buildings have been eliminated since 1916, including St. Ann's Church in 1992 at Gold and Front Streets and St. George's Church in 2009 at 109 Gold.



There are pipelines which lead to the waterfront on Hudson St. It seems as if these unused pipelines being used as underground tunnels.



Map Issued in 1880. Published by G.M. Hopkins & Co.-NYPL Digital Collections

**SITE OBSERVATIONS:**

1. News Articles
2. Railroad Map
3. Zoning Maps
4. Iron Founders
5. Waterfront Plan

**QUANTITATIVE DATA:**

Subject	Data
Newspaper Articles	10+
Maps	5
Zoning Diagrams	4

## **QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS**

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Were slaves using these underground railroads?
2. For what purpose were people using these underground tunnels for?

### **HYPOTHESIS:**

1. The Underground Railroad, were in a way used as a safety base, it helped slaves escape from captivity. These railroads ran through New York City. In fact, the New York stops were an important junction on the journey to liberty. Many New Yorkers helped African American slaves in order to escape to their freedom.
2. They used these tunnels possibly to make it easier for trade-offs, bringing in illegal goods, freedom, & migrating.

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

What I want to do is to be able to investigate the tunnels and go with the team to actually see if we can go in and see for our selves but that is likely not going to happen. What the team and I could do is look further on into the topic by searching more subject files through the Library digital archives and finding many more missing key links we would love to use for our project.

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

1. <https://www.walksofnewyork.com/blog/underground-railroad-new-york-city>
2. <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/12/arts/12expl.html>
3. <https://bklyn.newspapers.com/image/57534029/>
4. <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/>