

Andrew S. Dolkart "Dumbo Historic District Designation Report"

http://www.neighborhoodpreservationcenter.org/db/bb_files/2007DumboHD.pdf

December 18, 2007

Dumbo was once one of the largest manufacturing business in New York. Around the early 1800's, Dumbo became to change from a residential community into a commercial community. Dumbo was loaded with factories and warehouses. Owners were attracted to the idea of having factories around the East River and having a possible ferry to carry shipments easily to New York City. Today, factories that are still standing and are a reminder of the early 1800's and late 1970's on Dumbo's historic factories and an example of America's early industrial developme

Donald G. Presa " Vinegar Hill Historic District Designation Report"

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/reports/VINEGAR_HILL_HISTORIC DISTRICT.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/reports/VINEGAR_HILL_HISTORIC_DISTRICT.pdf) January 14th, 1997

The first few people that just started to live in Vinegar Hill were the Canarsee Indians. There weren't much places to get goods around the late 1600's in Vinegar Hill. What the local natives that lived in Vinegar Hill did was fished on a nearby low-lying marshe. That marshe was once called Wallabout Bay and today, it is now the Navy Yard. Europeans eventually discovered Vinegar Hill and started trading with the local natives. Trades involving fur, food and other goods. Unfortunately, the local natives were struck with diseases while trading with the new coming Europeans. While the local natives were getting weaken by the diseases, the Dutch started to take over the land and the local natives had to sell Vinegar Hill to the newly owners.

Evans-Cato, Nicholas. "The Shrinking Smokestacks In Vinegar Hill - Dumbo NYC". *Dumbo NYC*. N.p., 2016. Web. 17 Apr. 2017.

In these two photos, we see the removal of the smoke stacks at the Hudson Avenue Con-ed power plant. According to various New York permits, the plant was ordered to shut down electrical generation due to the fact that the plant was creating too much pollution (around 23 tons per two years). The smoke stacks that were removed in 2006 were part of an exhaust system that was coal powered, and the heat itself generated the energy. These stacks were removed relatively quick and the plant is still closed and is taking up potentially useful space in vinegar hill. Con-ed offered to seel the land to New York, but there asking price was apparently too high for the land to be bought, but hopefully that can/will change soon.



Upadhye, Janet. "Latest Con Ed Fire Adds to Locals' Growing Concerns About 89 John St. Plant." *DNAinfo New York*. N.p., 10 June 2013. Web. 13 Apr. 2017. <<https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20130610/dumbo/latest-con-ed-fire-adds-locals-growing-concerns-about-89-john-st-plant>>.

Annotation: Looking at this article, it mentions that there was once a fire caused at the Con Edison Power plant. This is the third fire to occur at the plant in the last two years. Since hundred of families live near the power plant, they are scared for the safety of the neighborhood since this is not the first instance of a fire at the power plant. Because of the fires that have happened, it has caused nearby residents to run in fear and there have been smoke damages to the houses nearby. Con Edison has proposed a plan to sell a piece of land to Brooklyn Bridge Park, which relates to the possibility of having a park replace the plant.

<http://thesixthborough.weebly.com/vinegar-hill-the-history-of-irishtown.html>

<http://thesixthborough.weebly.com/dumbo-history-of-an-industrial-waterfront.html>

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.692.953&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

http://www.neighborhoodpreservationcenter.org/db/bb_files/2007DumboHD.pdf

Looking back through the history of Vinegar Hill and now, its easy to notice how much has changed over the period of time whether its been a positive/negative aspect to society itself. Vinegar Hill is now known to be an area that started from the East River waterfront all the way to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, even before the construction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway began in the 1950's, Vinegar Hill use to be larger.

The “Vinegar Hill, the History of Irishtown” article, we help our group explore more in depth into our topic and give us an idea of what exactly is the right move, is there a possibility for a park or something more beneficial for the future in the place of the con-ed plant in Vinegar Hill.

There is a compare & contrast analysis explaining of the last 2 centuries, how there were some positives and negatives that happen through out that era of time, for instance Vinegar Hill at first seemed to be a mixed and vital neighborhood but then fell to the decline of the lively waterfront, which is something as group we would like to figure out, on how can we make this right, so that everyone within the neighborhood could progress from that and start to change.

For example, in this article, it mentions how, in the year 1822 there were some occupants or household heads in the Vinegar Hill area, most of them were English and Irish. The most common occupation was laborer, mostly Navy Yard workers. 10 years later, there was an economic growth that happen. The industrial growth of the neighborhood known today as DUMBO also happen. Between the 1830's-1850's, a lot of row houses were built in Vinegar Hill, many of them following the Greek Revival Style. Within those years, there were many nationalities that migrated and started living in Vinegar Hill. In the 1880's they started having grocery and fish stores, bakeries, liquor establishments, shoe stores, barber shops, restaurants, and cigar shops. They had a range of jobs in the area, like riveter, iron model, stonemason, glassblower, and rope maker. People living in the area had access to jobs in the Navy Yard, as well as local shops, factories and warehouses located in this district. That was a time for citizens of Vinegar Hill, where they were able to strive and work hard, as well as benefit from the community.

The down side about all of this too was how in the 20th century, the construction for the Manhattan Bridge took a big affect, and main areas within the area had to be destroyed. The Industrial growth caused the replacement of many houses by factories and warehouses. A vital moment was the construction of a large power plant on the East River waterfront in the 1920s by the Consolidated Edison Company. The construction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE) and the Farragut Houses. These major changes happen till about 1961. The shutdown of the Navy Yard in 1966, ended up being a result of New York's shift from an industrial economy to a more service-oriented economy, it was an impending sign of decline and a clear demonstration of the lost relation with the waterfront. The people of Vinegar Hill moved away to the suburbs or other areas following employment and African-Americans from the southern United States and Puerto Ricans moved into the area.

So with that keeping in mind and relating it to our topic, its able to give off this expression of how all neighborhoods are not created equal and there's no such thing as the perfect neighborhood, everyone has different needs and desires. However, there *are* components common to all great neighborhoods. As you evaluate the best aspects of a community, you'll want to match them to your daily needs. So with that, we will know be able to clearly analyze and figure out if a park or something more beneficial for the future in the place of the con-ed plant in Vinegar Hill will truly bind within the community and whether or not it's a positive/negative that is put upon Vinegar Hill.