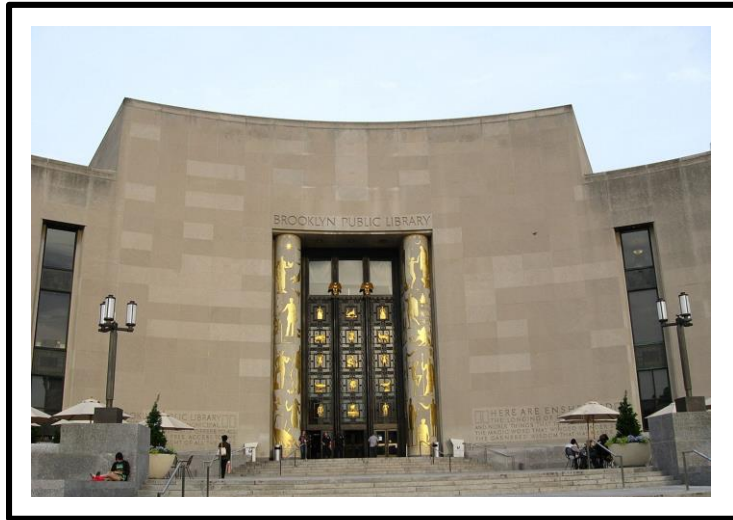


Learning Places Fall 2018

SITE REPORT #2 - Brooklyn Collection



The entrance to the Brooklyn Collection building. Huge tall stone walls and grand entrance. The two columns both sides, attractive with golden painted engravements on it really makes it stand out and easy for eyes to catch.

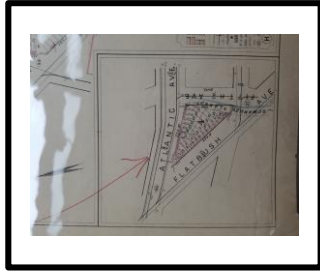
STUDENT NAME: Davit Khomasuridze

DATE: October 11

INTRODUCTION

My expectation of this site was completely different. I drive by the building 3 times a week to go to navy yard where I work, and I have never thought about the purpose of that building. Turns out it is a Brooklyn Collections building. From the outside look, building looks massive with these huge solid stone walls and very tall entrance, but once you step in, it is divided into sections and it is pretty packed with rooms, so it does not look as big as before.

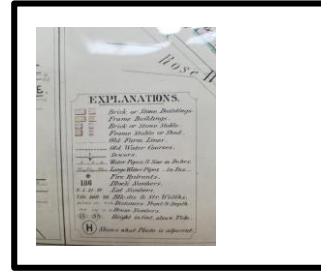
ARCHIVE OBSERVATIONS



Barclays Center
Location (YYYY)



Barclays Center
Location (1916)



LEGEND

The first and the second pictures are locations of present Barclay's Center, where used to be residential buildings. And the third picture is legend for the first picture. The reason why I picked these pictures is the change overtime, where on the first picture the block is full of residential buildings and on the second picture, some of them are gone, or vice versa (I don't remember the date for the first picture). But the change is still big.

I examined copies of some old newspapers about Atlantic Yards development and maps of different times. I think they are pretty helpful for people like us who is trying to investigate the location history and answer some questions. In fact the purpose could be the same for the time when they were published. Libraries map today's history and changes too for next generations.

The place itself was pretty organized. It definitely is wheelchair accessible. There were escalators on both stairs. In the room where we went there were so many outlets to change phones. Subway and bus stops were nearby. The thing I found really thoughtful was the huge "porch" in front of the building with so much sitting area, where people had lunch, could read books etc. But there was one thing missing. Even though there was a small cafeteria, they did not have anything in there, so I had to go couple blocks away to get lunch before the class started. Luckily I was not late.

I think the interior looks like a typical library. Nothing really special design wise. The material, I'm pretty sure they have way more then we saw there. But the exterior is really amazing as I described above. The location itself is pretty reasonable to have this kind of building. The place is open and a normal pedestrian will see the building from anywhere around Grand Army Plaza.

As it is in every library, rules are not to ruin library property and don't make noise. Obviously quiet conversation is allowed with respect to other users. Another rule was no pens or markers. We had examined some old newspaper copies and we were only allowed to make notes on it with a pencil. Pretty reasonable. I have not noticed anyone violated rules there, it was just us making a little noise.

I had very good experience at both libraries. Both places made me feel really comfortable. But obviously there was difference. At the New York Public Library Map Division, our guide had explained detail by detail what we would find in each atlas or a book. In Brooklyn Collection, the lady was very nice, but I think she could give us more information and more key papers. In my folder some of the papers were mixed up from other folders. Made me feel like something important was missing from my folder, I would definitely check all the folders to find something more, but I realized all these during writing this site report...

ANALYSIS/DISCOVERIES

Use this section to reflect on your observations. Remember to refer to your observations when drawing general conclusions.

The neighborhood around Barclays Center is pretty mixed compared to what it was before. The block itself is pretty mixed. There is the Barclays Center itself which is commercial place and two residential buildings behind it. Across the Atlantic Avenue there is Atlantic Mall, so many stores inside, and across the Flatbush Avenue, it gets more residential with small businesses.

I think all these articles, maps and information is preserved for people like us, who had a class and has to do research about history of a specific location, or anyone who is interested in what happened in the past on this location. Even the maps show everything from years to years in colors to see how place changed overtime. I'm not sure how much of this information is digitally posted but at least it's in a physical form in the library. I had a good experience examining the materials in Brooklyn Collection. My folder was Atlantic Yards and I mostly read papers about the time when Ratner was trying to create superblock at Atlantic Yards location and build towers. We also watched movie about this situation. So many people were against it they protested days and days and I was surprised Ratner really made it. I remember reading one of the articles, where Deborah Kolben called him money loser, because his high rise plan would cost city and state more than half a billion dollars using taxpayer money. He purchased New Jersey Nets and planned to bring them to Brooklyn. This was part of his plan of rebuilding Atlantic Yards.

QUESTIONS for FURTHER RESEARCH. Write down **THREE** questions that **require further research to answer.** These should follow directly from your analysis section and be complex and specific enough to serve as the basis of a research project; do not use questions you can answer with a quick google search.

1. What steps Ratner took and how exactly he won against people?
2. What it took people to leave their houses and move out and what do they do today?
3. What was Ratner's building strategies for the arena?