

Learning Places Fall 2016

# **SITE REPORT #1**

## **Brooklyn, New York**



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## INTRODUCTION

Time can change more than just the look of a place, it can change its overall culture. The purpose of visiting different historical locations and researching its past is to see the key differences and evaluate how the surrounding neighborhood has been effected by its changes. The site visits allow us to have a perspective of these changes so that we can look for specific details such as building designs or street irregularities that help pinpoint what and when these changes have occurred.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION (Images)



This is a picture that I took on my phone. It is of the main entrance to the Barclays Center, which has been built in 2012 in the controversial location of gentrified Brooklyn. Some would argue that this site has taken away from the local culture of the area and has brought in unwanted attention. Nonetheless, this is a location which hosts many events such as the NY Islanders ice hockey, boxing, concert shows and many others. This Arena can hold up to 19,000 Guests depending on the event.



This is another image that I took during the site visit. It is just one example of many of the luxury high rise buildings that are being built to accommodate the upper class individuals willing to live in these high cost areas. As a result of all this development, many original Brooklyn residents are being almost forced to move to a more affordable or cope with the exponentially increasing cost that is required to live in said neighborhood.

## SITE DOCUMENTATION (Sketches)



This is a sketch that I made at our first stop at the corner of Fulton St. and Red Hook Lane\ Pearl St. This area is significant because this is one of the major community areas which brought in people from all over Brooklyn and all over New York to shop at one of NYC's biggest malls. There are many high end stores and many small shops, some of which are the original family owned stores for a long time.



This is another sketch that I took in front of the Barclays center Arena. One major advantage to this stadium is that there is ample ways to getting to this location, for example the uniquely disguised subway entrance which is hidden under an artificial grass hill, as well as bus stops all around the area. This combined with public seating, makes this a major community spot, which also brings in a lot of attention from visitors from further away.



Here are some more sketches that I took based off some of the pictures that have been posted to the shared folder. I chose these two pictures as they depict historic architecture into a modern time. For example the Brownstone apartment houses. As expensive as it is to live in one of these homes, it is important as well to preserve the design and the architecture of the buildings, and in my opinion, this holds a lot of value in terms of uniqueness and aesthetic of an area. In addition to

the Williamsburg Savings Bank Clock tower. This is a great example of preserving historic architecture while creating a moderately high-rise building.



## INSIGHTS/DISCOVERIES

One thing I learned from this site visit is that there is a constant push for modernization that is being pushed by certain people, which may or may not coincide with the ideals of the individuals who actually reside in these areas. Being that I have only been on the first site tour, I have only been able to personally experience some of the locations that have been visited, nonetheless, I have been able to use the images provided and Google Maps to view these areas. I have discovered that not only is there many changes in this area throughout history, there is much more to understand about area when you are presented with historic evidence, and reference images. Therefore I can Brooklyn is very dynamic as it is undergoing consistent change, from multi-story buildings, to small brownstone houses.

## KEYWORDS/VOCABULARY & DEFINITIONS

Brownstone: Townhouse in an urban area that is consistent in aesthetic with its neighboring buildings, usually taking full blocks.

Cornice: Design element that is used on the upper edges of buildings.

Mason: Use of bricks or stone in the architecture of a building.

Architecture: The structural and aesthetic design of a building.

Facade: The front face of a building

## QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. When can we consider Brooklyn to be a completely developed area?
2. Are there more parts of Brooklyn, Queens, or any part of NYC that deals with similar situations of mass development?
3. What can the average Brooklyn resident do to push for preservation of the historic architectures that remain in the location?