

SITE REPORT #2 - Brooklyn Collection



This is an old Brooklyn map that I found in the Brooklyn Public library. In this map, it shows the canals and the transportation routes and the old constructions several years ago. By comparing this old map to the new map we have so far, you may see many changes under the developments around this area recent years.

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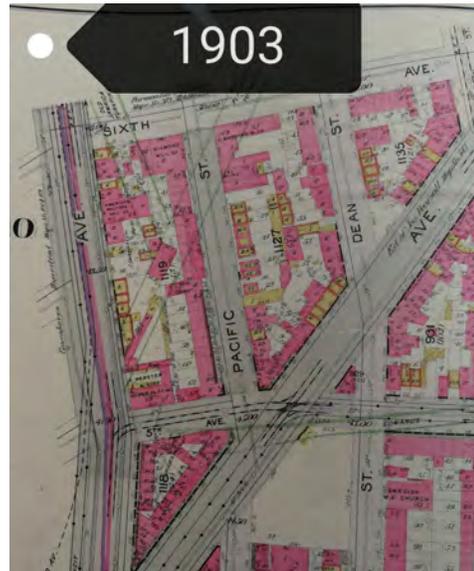
INTRODUCTION

I was expecting to have a farther exploration on how the transportation routes and constructions been changed under the developments of New York City recently year through many historical pictures and models. However, what I was facing during the outside research in the New York public library and the Brooklyn Collection was a bunch of documentations and architectural maps. I felt a bit lost in the beginning since I've never have the experiences on reading this type of stuff. Under the explanations, I started to understand what had been told in the maps, through reading several old Brooklyn maps, I found there were many changes around the Barclay Center which was an area I mostly concerned about for this field trip.

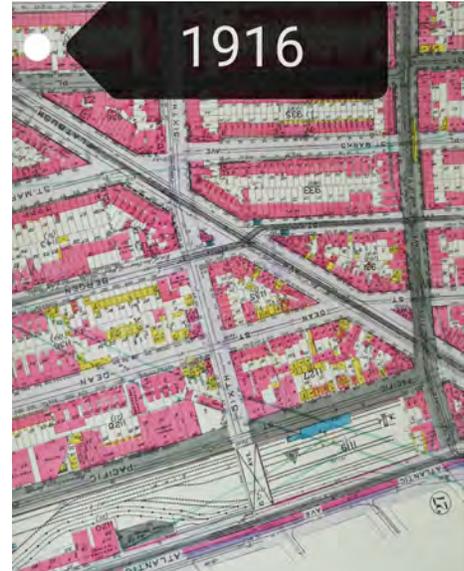
ARCHIVE OBSERVATIONS



Barclay Center Map of 1886



Barclay Center Map of 1903



Barclay Center Map of 1916

Why did you choose these images? Do they summarize a feeling you have for the place? Do they focus on prominent objects or features of the place? Explain.

I chose these three pictures because I could obtain a lot of information about the construction changes and the developments of New York City's subway system under the development of New York City in the past 100 years. As we see in the maps above, the buildings around the Barclay Center had changed a lot under the city planning, more and more commercial buildings were built along with it, and the residential buildings were slowly moved to the side. Another important piece of information was the development of the underground subway system. Through reading the map, we could see that the initial routes were planned and the shape of the routes started to appear in the map of 1903 and 1916. As we know, the subway system was another iconic object for New York City, so it is interesting to learn about the developing history of it.

Describe a few of the archival documents you examined. What purpose do they serve now? What purpose do you think they served when they were published or created?

The archival documents I examined were basically the historical maps of Brooklyn and several articles about the subway developments. They are serving as the documentary for student research now. I think they were served as the city planning draft or reference for the new architecture's planning when they were published or created.

Consider that the Brooklyn Collection is part of the Brooklyn Public Library, Central Library. What public amenities are offered to users of the space? What public amenities are missing?

The public amenities that be offered in the library were the charging stations, water fountains, wheelchair access, map guider and the guider for searching book resources. Things that still missing was the stronger security in the front door since they don't have a metal detector being set up and avoid the danger came in. Also we were missing a machine that which we may look up for more materials required for research but only can count on the library guider to look it up.

How have the planners, designers, and architects communicated the purpose of the place, via signage or design elements?

The place was designed so well and it was comfortable to stay in for reading or doing your research. The thing that impressed me was the ceiling of the room we stayed in, it was decorated with some golden chandeliers and painting arts which made it so magnificent. The signage was okay which clearly indicate the exact way to go so you won't be lost even without a guide.

Are there any restrictions or rules (either explicit or implied) about how to use the space or interact with other people? Do you see anyone using the space in a manner that exceeds or violates the intentional design? Describe.

The library was already clear on the separated zones, the zone downstairs was free zone, you can enjoy walking around and share your opinions with your friends by saying it out. However, if you go to the room located in the second floor, you have to be silent since people are focusing on studying or busy reading. I am glad to see all people were using the place in manner and enjoying their stay in the library which satisfied what they need.

What is your personal experience of the place? Think about sound/smell/touch, your body's movement, contact with the ground and physical comfort. How does the place make you feel? Briefly compare your experience visiting the Brooklyn Collection to your experience visiting the Map Division of the New York Public Library.

This is actually my first visit of the Brooklyn Collection, honestly I like the design of it, it was separated into two floors which were used for different purposes. It was quite big and smell fresh. The ground was partial covered by the carpet so it won't be too slippery. I really like the front gate of the Brooklyn Collection since it was painted with some Greece art in gold color which make it look solemn and beautiful. This is similar to the Map Division of the New York Library, but the second was decorated with the statues and giant stone pillars. In front of the Brooklyn Collection, they placed some chairs and tables there so you could enjoy your lunch and taking your rest. However, in the front gate of the Map Division of the New York Library, you could only see a long stairs which you could sit there and take a rest. Personally I prefer the atmosphere of Brooklyn Collection since it was next to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden which means it has more green nature close by, that make it more comfortable place to go which you get tired in reading and you may head out to enjoy the beauty of nature afterward.

ANALYSIS/DISCOVERIES

Thinking about the neighborhood in which the place is embedded, who is this space designed for and for what general purpose?

In my opinion, this place is basically built for every resident, they collected all type of historic resources and some other useful documentations for everyone of us. Whenever we need it, we can always go to any public libraries and take the use of them, and they will be always available there. We can either spend our free time by reading books when waiting for people over there, or obtain our required documentary and archives for studying. It was very useful for me since I've always been a heavy user of the public library since I always need to find out some resources which help me on my research, I will always find out some useful first-hand resources which were suitable for me.

Reflect on your experience examining and studying the materials from the Brooklyn Collection. Did you encounter anything unexpected or surprising, and if so what and how? Why do you think the articles, maps, books, and other information is preserved, if so much information is available in digital form? Who is it preserved for?

The things that surprised me were the massive amount of maps which left over from the great fire, they were partially damaged and a little fragile because of the age of it, they used the plastic to cover the paper map in order to protect them from accidental destruction. In the beginning, I was having troubling reading those maps since I was not that familiar with reading the map in architectural use, I couldn't recognize the use of specific symbols and find out certain areas quickly. I found out part of the resources were available Online which showed as the digital form. I think those paper form materials such as the articles, maps, books and other information are preserved for teachers, students and researchers on studying about certain area, because these paper data was already being organized and easy to use, they may find out what they need quickly.

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 will the remarkable building, the Barclay center affect the development of the surrounded buildings and the traffic routes?
2. We've seen that there were many changes around the Barclay Center area, how we are going to protect or are we able to protect those historical buildings from being abolished under the great development of New York City?
3. Since more and more commercial buildings were built around the Barclay Center, will it be a risk of increasing criminal activities and affect the safety around this area?