

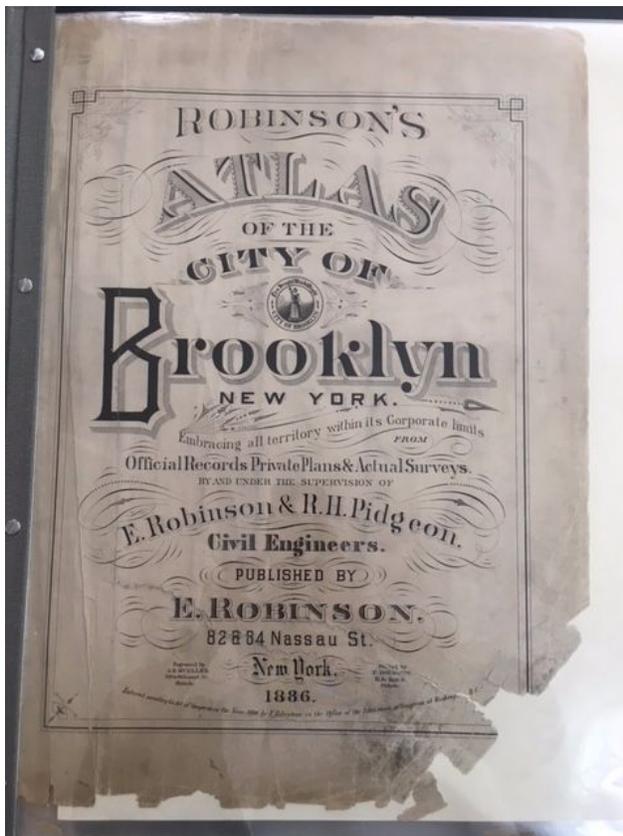
Learning Places Fall 2017

Library / Archive REPORT

BPL Central Branch

Asli Oney

10.05.2017



INTRODUCTION

Our class is visiting the BPL to become more acquainted as our research develops. We are researching about the Gowanus, and historical information that is held in this library can enlighten many questions the class has. From this visit I was able to find old tenants of the Gowanus canal that may have contributed to the toxic pollution of the superfund site.

SITE OBSERVATIONS

The BPL is located in the heart of a historical center facing the beautiful architecture surrounding the grand army plaza entitles the BPL to be as impressively spectacular. The huge grand entrance reminded me of how I felt when I was passing through the Sagrada familia doors. The super sized threshold made me be anxious to

learn as much as I can when I enter this building. The class was held in the Brooklyn collection room. Where we saw sections of the The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, City and telephone directories, yearbooks, digitized historic photos, atlas, maps, etc

What is the Genius Loci, or spirit, of this place?

Diverse, Dynamic, Cultural, Community

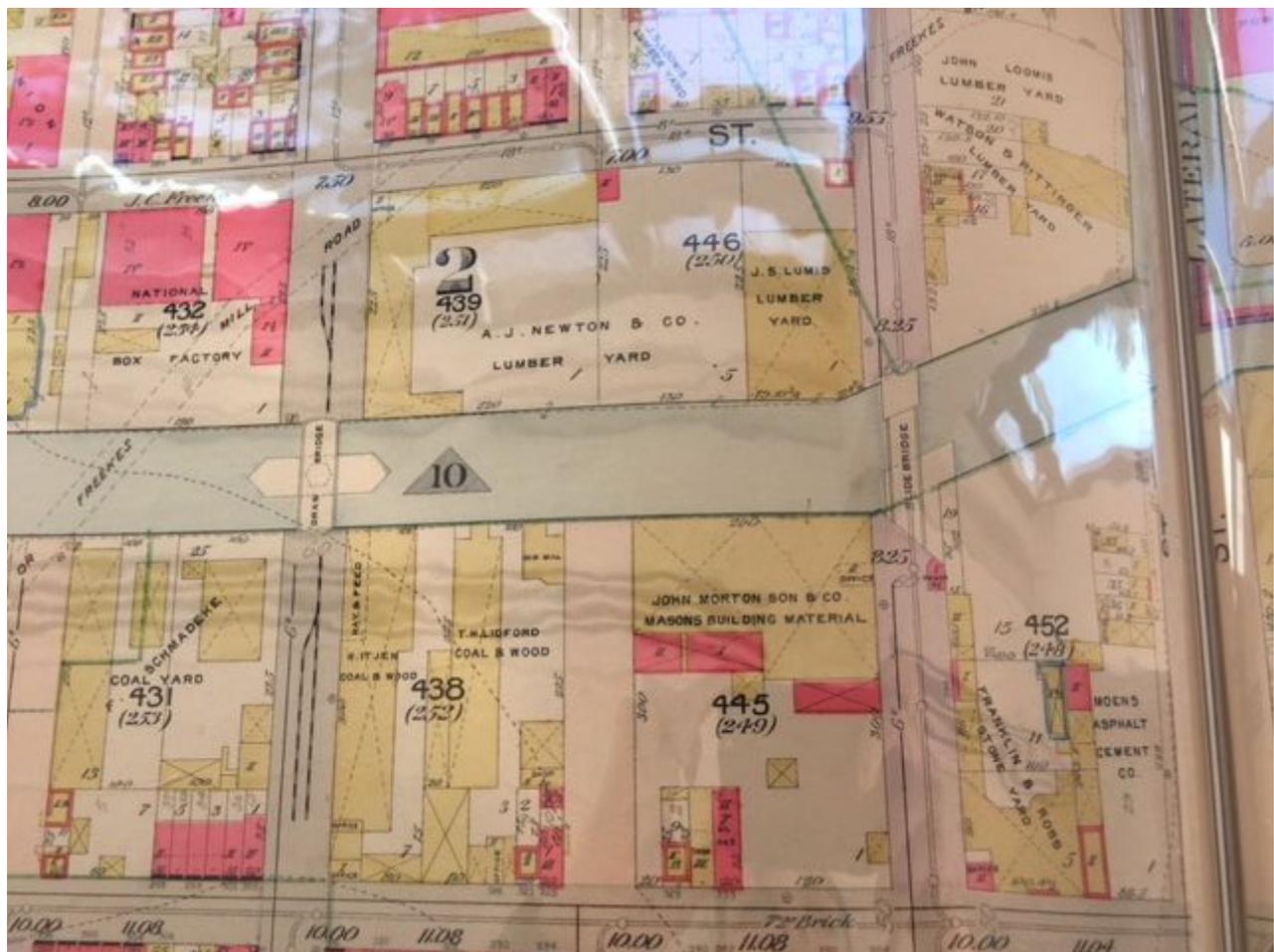
What kind of archive or library is this? What kinds of materials / sources does this place collect?

It is the Brooklyn Historical collection, they are collecting all printed, and digital matter from 1856 documenting every aspect of the borough's past.

Who might use this collection and for what purpose?

In our case, we are trying to understand the pollutants of the Gowanus canal. Others can research for architectural changes, insurance related, or for precedent research on historical matters. Anyone that wants to connect to the past conditions of Brooklyn.

Are there any special rules for using or accessing material? All material in the collection room that we visited are to be utilized in that room of the branch. Pictures are allowed. Here are some maps that we reviewed: the canal Robinson's Atlas of the City of Brooklyn, New York. The Official Records, Private plans and Actual Surveys by and under the supervision of E. Robinson and R.H. Pidgeon, 828 84 Nassau Street, New York, 1886:





SOURCE ANALYSIS (2 citations of sources found and a brief analysis of each source—photos optional)

SOURCE #1

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Brooklyn, New York. The Official Records, Private Plans and Actual Surveys by under the supervision of E. Robinson and R.H. Pidgeon, 828 84 Nassau Street, New York, 1886:

1. What is this source and what is its purpose?

To map the city lots and land owners through a period in history

2. Who created it and who was it created for?

Created by E. Robinson and R.H. Pidgeon for the city of Brooklyn

3. What does this source tell us about the place we are studying? What themes or subtopics does it relate to?

It allows us to understand the land use, operable conditions and the historical activity on the site.

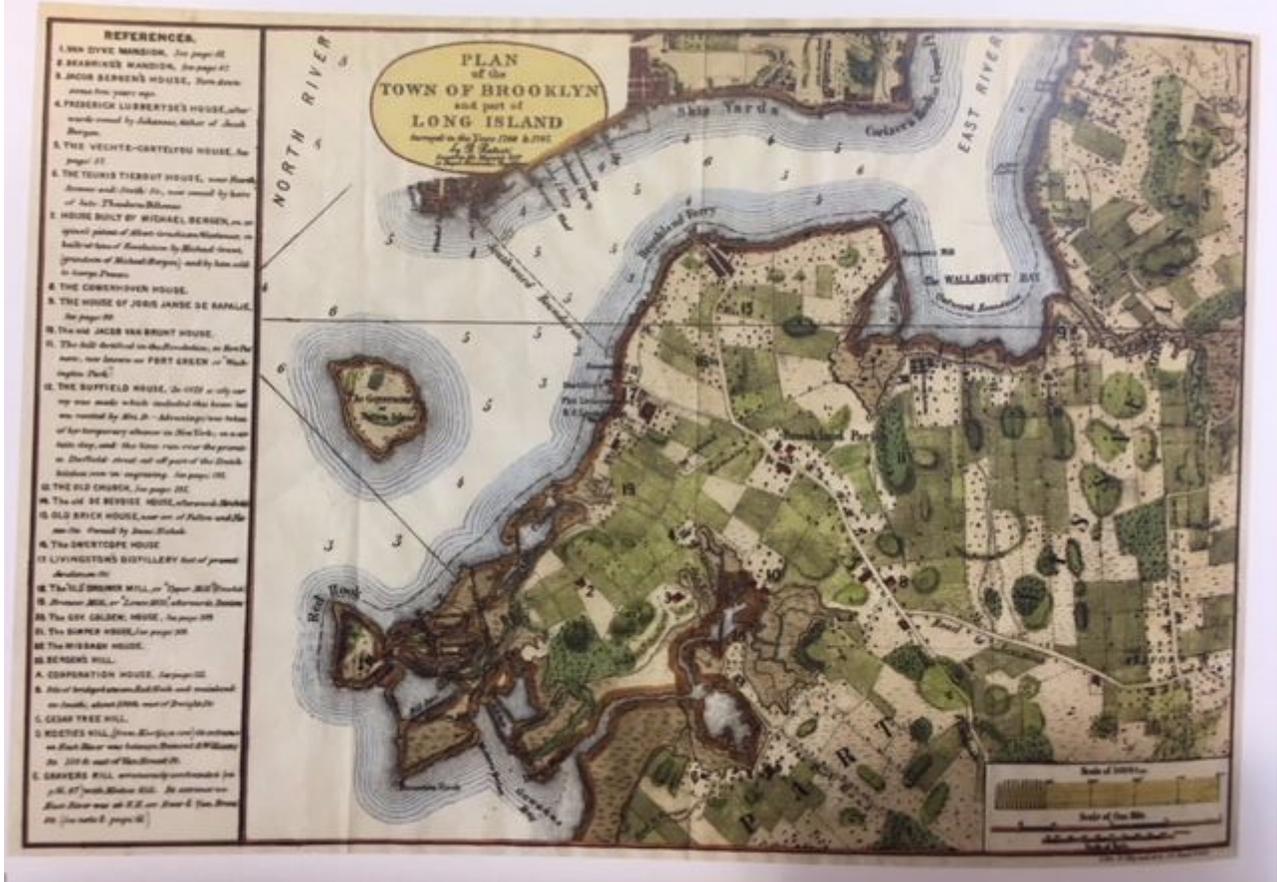
4. How might it be integrated into a research project? What question could it be used to help answer?

It is solid facts of the landowner's contribution to the pollution of this site.

GENERAL NOTES:

- The maps and landowners changes were more of my interest
- The amount of Fuel site operated companies, LNAPL's, DNAPL's, that operated on the water front
- The amount of metal Companies through history that operated on the water front
- Dissolved contaminants: SALT, fertilizers, pesticides, found in the water
- Other maps, proposals, especially from COlumbia MSAUD, books title: *New Urbanism, Eco-Gowanus: Urban Remediation by Design* are very interesting

Gowanus watershed [1767]



QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. What strategy is most effective for the brownfield redevelopment?
2. What are industrial companies that can work on this waterfront and reverse the pollution effect with their green infrastructure? Can there be an infrastructure that can reverse toxic sites?
3. How can these the old and new landowners help the transformation of the ecology?