

Learning Places Fall 2017

Library / Archive REPORT

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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INTRODUCTION

Unlike the first visit to the Brooklyn Public Library I have been in the NYPL before however I have not been inside one of these specially designated rooms you can tell the area has much history to it like the Brooklyn public library everything is very vintage to the walls and windows and even the furniture. The map room we entered use to be for something else but was going to be under renovation. Surprising we saw a lot of interesting maps that we didn't see previously on our other visit.

SITE OBSERVATIONS





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

The library had this knowledge immersed environment.

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

The New York Public Library is one of the biggest library's in the world they hold many different Archives in the building. The library was built in 1895. The materials you can find these is many different maps we saw from the Map division. But the amount of archive on almost everything can be found there. The

room which we went to was previously for slavic and east european collections

Who might use this collection and for what purpose?

People who wish to do Housing planning, historians or trying to learn about their property would come into this collection to view the maps in their archive.

Are there any special rules for using or accessing material?

You would need to meet with someone to arrange a time and place to view these documents and special care would need to be taken to view these documents as they are very old and fragile due to how these books and documents were made out of. Also they are very rare and hard to come by.

SOURCE ANALYSIS



Sam Borne Map 1920-1970. New York Public Library

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

These maps were used to tell the material of which the buildings at the time were made out of for insurance purposes to tell how easily these buildings could potentially catch on fire.

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

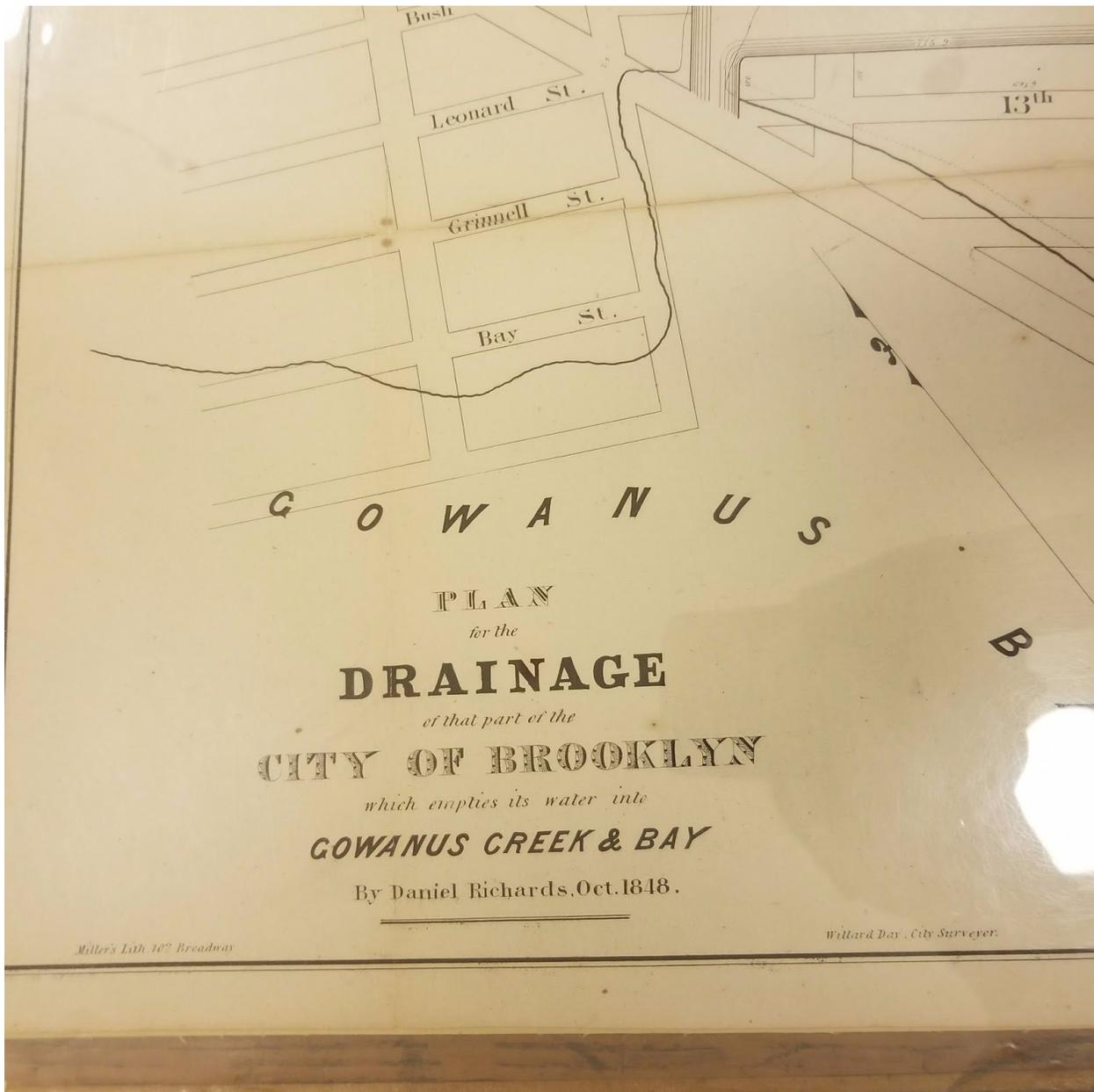
It was created by and for insurance companies to know how to evaluate insurance for certain buildings in the material they were made for.

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

The source tells us not only the material of the structure but you can tell the location the relative area the business took up and what they operated as. This would relate to what was in such areas in the past.

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

In a research project we can use this information to find out what kind of industries were located where in addition to what the businesses were at the time. We could know whether or not they contributed to the pollution of the Canal.



Daniel Richards OCT 1848. Plan for the drainage of that part of the city of brooklyn, New York
Public Library

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

This source is a map which details the planning of drainage for the canal.

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

Daniel Richards created this for the city as a plan for drainage.

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

This source gives us a idea of the plans they had for drainage and sewage of the Gowanus Canal we can see how they proposed the Gowanus area to be and how they were going to handle the drainage and sewage. This would go into people who are trying to research about the drainage and infrastructure we have now.

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

We can look at the plans and compare it to the infrastructure and sewage system we have currently installed. We can ask if such plans Daniels proposed would be more efficient than the system we have now. And why did he draw up his plans in such a way.

GENERAL NOTES:

- Seeing the types of businesses and seeing certain areas along the Gowanus had certain types of material for building such as wood was near the water.
- Seeing how they updated the insurance maps by gluing updated pieces of paper onto the pages as time progressed and things changed we saw the thickness of the books.
- From the early documented map of 1766 we saw the salt marshes documented into their maps and the connection to the modern Gowanus Canal we see some similar features

QUESTIONS for Further RESEARCH

1. Why certain area of the buildings used certain materials such as wood of concrete? And each area used certain types in groups
2. How these plans were created for the Canal were there more plans similar to Daniel Richard's?

3. How different is the modern community compared to the older community taking on the history of the Gowanus?

CITATIONS

- Plan of the city of New York in North America : surveyed in the years 1766 & 1767
- o Map Div. 01-314
- Map Div. (Sanborn Map Co. Insurance maps of N.Y.) Offsite
- Robinson's atlas of the city of Brooklyn, New York : embracing all territory within its corporate limits; from official records ... [1886] plate 29.
- Plan for the drainage of that part of the city of Brooklyn which empties its water into Gowanus Creek & Bay, 1848
- o Map Div. 01-1886 [Filed with Brooklyn. Related work in Map Div. 01-1887]