

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

Howard Golden Reserve Room-Brooklyn Central
Public
Library



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INTRODUCTION

The objective here is meet with an employee of the Brooklyn Central Public Library. At this visit I will be taught how to use the library database to locate archival information about Vinegar Hill and much more.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

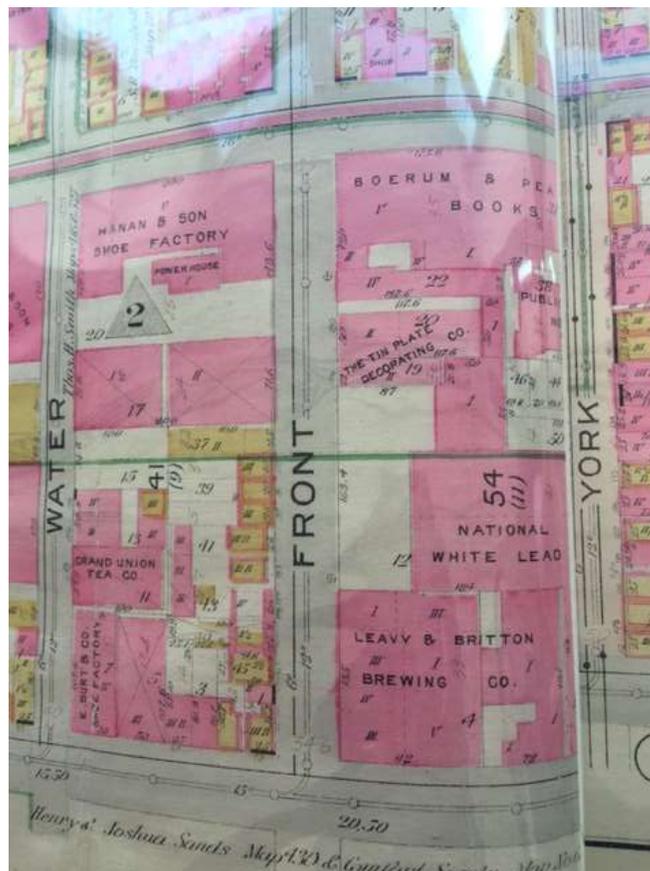
I am a true fan of Central Public Library, here is where I rent most of the books I read. Central Public Library offers a variety of books in a calm, cool, and most of the time quite atmosphere. This library is tremendous in its size and is visual breath taking on both the inside and out. When visiting this library was mentioned I was absolutely thrilled. In my opinion Central Public Library is by far is of my top three best libraries to visit. I'm interested in finding information which could possibly help me with my paper. I hope to look at more maps to grasp a better understanding of the before and after. I am most interested in finding information about Harrison Alley and the many other Alley throughout

Vinegar Hill.

SOURCES found

1. Atlas of Borough of Brooklyn, Volume One, 1903
2. Henry & Joshua Sands Map 430 & Comfort Sands Map

DOCUMENTATION of site & resources (maps/archival documents/photos)



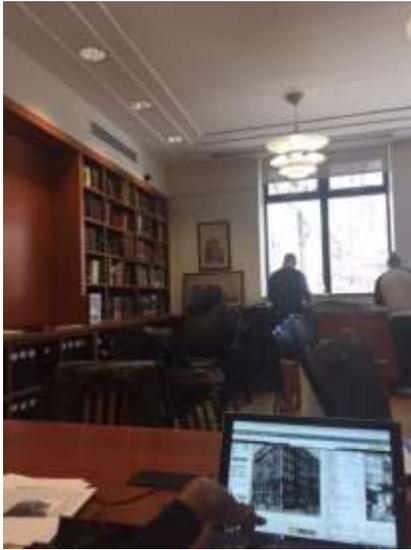
This photo shows the many Industry's that existed during the early 19th Century. I took this photo because it helped me to clarify the information I had gathered, prior to this visit such as Hanan & Son Shoe Factory which today happens to be Luxury Residential Apartments.



The view from inside of the Reserve Room. The books alongside the wall are not to be removed from this room; you however can take as many notes as you like.

The books in this room are used for research purpose. In it comprises of Maps/Atlas, Books, Newspaper Articles and a Digital Collection which can be accessed from the libraries database. All the material within this room are

extremely delicate and should be handled with care.



The photo on the left is also a picture taken from inside the Howard Golden Reserve Room. Alongside the windowsill where Atlas' with maps of Vinegar Hill. These Maps were pre-selected for us by the woman who works in the Reserve room, she was very helpful and nice. The books alongside the wall are huge Maps Atlas's of the City of Brooklyn. Theses maps will come in handy when doing a compare and contrast for a future site visit.



To the right is a photo of the entrance to the Howard Golden Reserve Room. I thought it was beautiful; and sort of wish our classroom more resembled this room. Both the room above and this section is also a part of the Reserve Room. Most of what was pulled from the shelves came from this area.

DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
 - a. Located at Grand Army Plaza, which is visited by people of all five boroughs.
 - b. Tourism Attraction
 - c. An annual door count of 1.3 million visits, Central is Brooklyn’s home library, and one of New York City’s foremost cultural, civic and educational institutions.
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
 - a. The building’s history dates to 1889, when the Brooklyn Park Commission was authorized to select a location for the library.
 - b. In 1912, ground was broken on architect Raymond F. Almirall’s imposing Beaux-Arts design, but construction slowed and eventually ceased in the following years as the nation and the borough endured economic difficulties brought on by World War One and the Great Depression.
 - c. Construction resumed on a reimagined Central Library in 1935, and the building finally opened to the public on February 1, 1941.
3. Latest Technology
 - a. Kiosk Machines for Checking-In & Checking-out books.
4. Other Observations
 - a. Coffee Shop
 - b. Application for NYC ID’s are available and done on premises.
 - c. Kiosk machines for checking-in and checking-out books.

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

Water Street, Front Street, York Street, Evan Street, Harrison Alley, Hudson Street, Brooklyn Alleys, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Little Street.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	Land is owned by the city of New York established in 1857.
Number of Blocks	Approximately 2-3 miles.

# of Buildings on a Typical Block	778 acres of city owned land.
Materials	More than 1.7 million.
# of Stories of Buildings	About 7-8 stories tall.
Residential Bldgs	Located directly across the street .
Empty Lots	None.

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Is this location considered historic?
2. How long did Central Library take to build?
3. How did they decide on the structuring of the building?

RESEARCH METHOD/ ADDITIONAL SOURCES NEEDED TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
 - a. Wikipedia
 - b. Library Archives
 - c. Bklynpl.org
2. Question 2
 - a. Wikipedia
 - b. Library Archives
 - c. Nypbl.com
3. Question 3
 - a. Architectural Archives
 - b. Historical Archives
 - c. Bklynpl.org

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

The Brooklyn Central Library is visually breath taken. From the time you enter through those front doors, you feel a sense of joy. All the years of been coming to this library today was my first time visiting the Howard Golden Reserve room. I thought it was well put together appearance wise and in my opinion was filled with really great information. I also thought that the Map Atlas' were really neat and well preserved. The lady that works in the reserve room was very nice, helpful and I thought she knew exactly what we needed to help us with our project. She was so kind to pull out as much information as she could; it was there ready and waiting for us to look at.