

ArMs 1987.002
3 boxes (ArMs A0563-document
box, 1 record carton, 1 oversized box)
2.25 cubic ft.
4C: 7.2.C; 7.3.E; 4.6.C

Brooklyn (N.Y.) Neighborhood Renewal and Development Collection
1962-1987
Robert H. Vadheim, M.D., Compiler

Brooklyn Historical Society
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Introduction

The Brooklyn (N.Y.) Neighborhood Renewal and Development Collection contains 2.25 cubic feet of materials dating from 1962 to 1987, compiled by Robert H. Vadheim, M.D., a physician and long-time resident of Brooklyn Heights. The collection focuses on revival, renewal, and renovation efforts within Brooklyn's diverse neighborhoods and cultural institutions. These changes are reflected in newspaper clippings, magazine articles, social announcements, invitations, neighborhood tour pamphlets, and other memorabilia. The collection also includes ephemera relating to the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Bridge - including the 1983 Brooklyn Bridge Centennial - and other notable subjects, including brownstones and building restoration. Select publications (particularly magazines) acknowledging specific observances or general occasions of change in New York City as a whole are also included.

The collection was donated by Dr. Vadheim to the Brooklyn Historical Society in 1987. There are no access restrictions. Acceptance of a collection of clippings and ephemera was unusual, but this collection is one of only a few late twentieth century collections at BHS, and as such may become important in understanding the rationale and development of "the brownstone movement" in Brooklyn.

Historical and Biographical Note

The borough of Brooklyn, N.Y. began experiencing significant surges of change and renewal in the 1960's. Efforts to renovate and preserve Brooklyn's diverse landscapes were sparked by local concern for neighborhoods suffering from neglect or in need of preservation, and by general interests in Brooklyn's history, architecture, and geographic location. Proposals for "urban renewal" and "gentrification" garnered support not only from Brooklynites, but from outside land developers, business investors, and potential home owners attracted by the intact federal and Victorian houses in Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Boerum Hill, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Ft. Greene, Flatbush, and Crown Heights. The steady renewal of buildings and physical landscapes in the 1970's and 1980's drew new attention and financial interests to Brooklyn as new resident populations and businesses began moving into the borough's various neighborhoods. As renewal efforts continued, property values rose in spectacular leaps and continued to rise as revitalization continued.

Dr. Vadheim is a longtime resident of Brooklyn Heights and active member of the Brooklyn community. He is recognized as a medical doctor, family man, and philanthropist. His donations to the Brooklyn Historical Society include works of art and collections of papers that document his observance of change in Brooklyn and its surroundings.

Scope and Content

The materials in this collection range from 1962 to 1987, with the bulk of the collection dating from the 1970's. Materials cover a broad range of topics, but adhere to the common theme of the city's changing landscape - specifically: revival, renewal, and renovation. The collection is arranged in five series:

- Series 1: Brooklyn Neighborhoods, 1962-1987 with some undated;
- Series 2: Brooklyn Renewal, 1969-1987 with some undated;
- Series 3: Brooklyn Institutions, 1966-1987 with some undated;
- Series 4: Brooklyn Newspapers, 1973-1983;
- Series 5: New York City Interests, 1974-1986.

Series One through Four pertain specifically to the borough of Brooklyn, N.Y., while Series Five contains similar materials relevant to New York City as a whole.

Many of the newspaper clippings are yellowed and brittle, and all are in need of preservation photocopying. Materials not printed on newsprint range from good to excellent condition, and do not currently require further preservation measures. In an effort to deter further acidic deterioration of materials, all original folders that were not acid-free have been discarded and replaced with acid-free folders. Additionally, newsprint materials have been separated from their original groupings and arranged in separate folders. Eleven newspaper clippings were severely brittle and were thus photocopied for the collection and the originals discarded. All other original materials remain in the collection, and original folder titles were transferred when applicable. Full newspapers were interleaved with acid-free bond paper and promotional buttons were wrapped with acid-free tissue paper.

Boxes 1 and 2 contain legal-sized folders and Box 3 is oversized. All dated items within folders are arranged chronologically, with the earliest materials in front. Folders containing undated items are labeled as such, and the undated items are filed in the back of their respective folders.

Series 1: Brooklyn Neighborhoods, 1962-1987 and undated

This series contains news clippings and ephemera regarding changes to, renovation of, and restoration within specific Brooklyn, N.Y. neighborhoods. Notable subjects include printed items produced by local philanthropic organizations throughout Brooklyn, including: The Annual Fort Greene House Tour announcements, Magnolia Tree Earth Center materials, and a booklet produced by The Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant History (entitled *Weeksville: Then & Now*) containing a handwritten note from Weeksville Executive Director Joan Maynard to Dr. Vadheim. The bulk of Series 1 consists of newspaper clippings, articles, and printed announcements in 27 legal-sized folders arranged alphabetically by neighborhood name.

Series 2: Brooklyn Renewal, 1969-1987 and undated

This series consists of materials documenting renewal activities, challenges, and generations of “renewed” awareness of and in Brooklyn, N.Y. Specific subjects include surging interests in Brooklyn brownstone properties as evidenced by paraphernalia found in the folders entitled “Brooklyn Brownstone Conference” and “Redlining.” “Redlining” information focuses on Brooklyn brownstones that were redlined by banks in certain neighborhoods, preventing many would-be buyers from securing mortgages. Series 2 includes newspaper clippings, foldable maps and guides, and magazine articles in nine legal-sized folders arranged alphabetically by folder name. Also included are ten promotional buttons (seven different designs/slogans) which are enclosed in one envelope and housed in a legal-sized folder.

Series 3: Brooklyn Institutions, 1966-1987 and undated

This series consists of news clippings and ephemera regarding the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Brooklyn Bridge, including numerous articles regarding the 1983 Brooklyn Bridge Centennial. Materials are separated and filed in eight legal-sized folders and one over-sized folder arranged alphabetically by institution name.

Series 4: Brooklyn Newspapers, 1973-1983

This series consists of twelve editions of local Brooklyn newspaper The Phoenix and five editions of Brooklyn Heights Press & Cobble Hill News. Highlight articles include news regarding

renewal and renovation. The editions are organized chronologically and stored horizontally in three folders in an oversized box.

Series 5: New York City Interests, 1974-1986

This series consists largely of New York published magazines and other printed matter regarding various New York City topics, including redevelopment, socially notable occasions (e.g. gallery openings, parties, etc.), and the Statue of Liberty centennial. Materials are organized into two legal-sized folders and two oversized folders.

Processing Note

At the time of accession in 1987, approximately half of the materials in this collection had been sorted into folders by Robert H. Vadheim, M.D. according to neighborhood or institution. In 2006, the full collection was processed to folder level by Tiffany Tyau-Wong, an intern participating in Pratt Institute's GATEWAI program.

Related Collections at Brooklyn Historical Society

Downtown Brooklyn Development Association Records, 1929-1970 (1979.021)

Brooklyn Bridge Collection, 1896-1983 (1977.259)

Brooklyn Bridge Centennial Collection (1994.015)

H. Dickson McKenna Collection (1994.001)

Access Points

Brooklyn Museum

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

The Phoenix

Brooklyn Heights Press & Cobble Hill News

Urban renewal

Renovation (Architecture)

City planning

Brownstone buildings

Brooklyn Bridge (New York, N.Y.)

Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

Periodicals

Printed ephemera

Container List

Series 1: Brooklyn Neighborhoods, 1962-1987 and undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Atlantic Avenue	1973-1983 and undated
	2	Atlantic Avenue (newspaper clippings)	1972-1975 and undated
	3	Bedford-Stuyvesant	1971-1983 and undated
	4	Bedford-Stuyvesant (newspaper clippings)	1970-1985 and undated
	5	Boerum Hill	1970-1972
	6	Boerum Hill (newspaper clippings)	1966-1984 and undated
	7	Brooklyn Heights (1 of 2)	1962-1980
	8	Brooklyn Heights (2 of 2)	1982-1983 and undated
	9	Brooklyn Heights (newspaper clippings – 1 of 2)	1965-1969
	10	Brooklyn Heights (newspaper clippings – 2 of 2)	1970-1986 and undated
	11	Bushwick (newspaper clippings)	1974-1983
2	12	Carroll Gardens/Red Hook	1974
	13	Carroll Gardens/Red Hook (newspaper clippings)	1973-1977 and undated
	14	Clinton Hill	1970-1976 and undated
	15	Clinton Hill (newspaper clippings)	1972-1987
	16	Cobble Hill	1971-1983 and undated
	17	Cobble Hill (newspaper clippings)	1976-1983
	18	Flatbush	undated
	19	Flatbush (newspaper clippings)	1976-1985
	20	Fort Greene	1972-1978 and undated
	21	Fort Greene (newspaper clippings)	1973-1984 and undated
	22	Fulton Ferry District	1975-1985
	23	Fulton Ferry District (newspaper clippings)	1972-1984 and undated
	24	Greenpoint (newspaper clippings)	1974

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2	25	Park Slope/Prospect Park	1971-1976 and undated
	26	Park Slope/Prospect Park (newspaper clippings)	1967-1985 and undated
	27	Williamsburg (newspaper clippings)	1973-1983

Series 2: Brooklyn Renewal, 1969-1987, and undated

2	1	Brooklyn Brownstone Conference	1968-1987, and undated
	2	Booklyn Brownstone Conference (newspaper clippings)	1969-1976 and undated
	3	Brooklyn Renewal (1 of 3)	1969-1974
	4	Brooklyn Renewal (2 of 3)	1976-1978
	5	Brooklyn Renewal (3 of 3)	1983-1986 and undated
	6	Brooklyn Renewal (newspaper clippings)	1970-1986 and undated
	7	Folded Maps and Guides	1974-1984 and undated
	8	Promotional Buttons	undated
	9	Redlining	1976-1977

Series 3: Brooklyn Institutions, 1966-1987, and undated

	1	Brooklyn Botanic Garden	1966-1987
	2	Brooklyn Botanic Garden (newspaper clippings)	1973-1978 and undated
	3	Brooklyn Bridge (1 of 2)	1973-1982
3	4	Brooklyn Bridge (2 of 2)	1974-1983
2	5	Brooklyn Bridge (newspaper clippings)	1966-1986 and undated
	6	Brooklyn Bridge Centennial	1982-1983
	7	Brooklyn Bridge Centennial (newspaper clippings)	1983
	8	Brooklyn Museum	1974-1983 and undated
	9	Brooklyn Museum (newspaper clippings)	1974-1986

Series 4 : Brooklyn Newspapers, 1973-1983

3	1	<u>Brooklyn Heights Press & Cobble Hill News</u>	1982-1983
	2	<u>The Phoenix</u>	1973-1982
	3	<u>The Phoenix</u>	1983

Series 5: New York City Interests, 1974-1986

2	1	New York City Interests (newspaper clipping)	1974, 1983
	2	New York City Publications (1 of 2)	1974-1979
3	3	New York City Publications (2 of 2)	1984-1986
	4	The Statue of Liberty Centennial	1986