



Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives  
Guide to the Brooklyn Navy Yard Artifacts collection  
1876-2012  
SC/2

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives  
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Finding aid produced on: 2018-01-08  
Finding aid updated on: 2022-06-22  
Description is in English.

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## Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Brooklyn Navy Yard Artifacts collection

**Creator:** BNYDC Archives

**Date(s):** 1876-2012

**Quantity:** 24 boxes

**Language of Materials:** English

**Call Number:** SC/2

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## Administrative/Biographical History

The Brooklyn Navy Yard, officially known as the New York Naval Shipyard, has its origins in the Federal government's purchase of the land adjacent to Wallabout Bay for \$40,000 in 1801, and the subsequent conversion of the land into an active U.S. Navy shipyard five years later in 1806. Over the course of its history, more than 230 naval warships and auxiliary vessels were built at the Yard. Additionally, during World War II alone, more than 5,000 ships were repaired, overhauled, or converted at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The first ship built was the USS Ohio, launched in 1820, while the last ship launched was the USS Duluth (LPD-6) in 1965. Other historic vessels constructed or launched at the Navy Yard include Robert Fulton's steam frigate, the Fulton, the USS Arizona, the USS Missouri, and the USS Antietam.

In 1824, the Navy purchased an additional 25 acres near the Yard on which it established the Brooklyn Naval Hospital. The main hospital building was completed in 1838, and functioned until it was eventually closed in 1948. By 1850, the Hospital Annex was a self-contained parcel of land, walled-in, with a

gatehouse, a laboratory, and a cemetery. In 1864, the Surgeon's Residence was constructed. When the shipyard expanded during World War II, it took over the land of the former Wallabout Market and the physical separation between the Yard and the Hospital was eliminated.

During the Civil War, the Navy Yard employed about 6,000 people and by 1938 it provided jobs for over 10,000 people. During World War II nearly 70,000 people were employed at the Yard. By the end of the war, it had grown to encompass 291 acres with 270 major buildings, 24 miles of railroad tracks, 23,278 linear feet of crane tracks, 18 miles of paved roads, 16,495 feet of berthing space, 9 piers, 6 dry docks, and 22 shops housing 98 different trades.

In 1966, the Navy decommissioned the Yard and closed its active shipbuilding presence in Brooklyn, but retained residual administrative support functions as part of Naval Station New York, which occupied the former Hospital Annex and some adjacent buildings until it too was closed in 1989. In 1967, the City of New York acquired the Brooklyn Navy Yard for private commercial use, and eventually also acquired the former Naval Station Annex in 1993.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard industrial park was first managed by the Commerce Labor and Industry Corporation of Kings (CLICK), and later, in 1982, by the current Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC). A private, non-profit local development corporation, BNYDC operates the Yard on behalf of the City with the aim of maintaining an industrial manufacturing base in Brooklyn.

Seatrains Shipbuilding was the main tenant under CLICK and was in operation at the Brooklyn Navy Yard from 1969 to 1979. During its operation the company produced four Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs), eight barges, one icebreaker barge and two roll-on/roll-off ferries (Ro-Ros). Another important, early tenant was Coastal Dry Dock & Repair Corporation which leased space at the Yard between 1971 and 1987 and continued to service Navy ships as a private contractor. Starting in the 1980s, BNYDC began a long-term effort to diversify the tenant base at the Yard. By 2001, under BNYDC, the tenant base had expanded to 275 companies that employed over 6,000 people.

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## Scope and Content

The Brooklyn Navy Yard Artifacts Collection contains three photographs and 91 artifacts. These items came to the Brooklyn Navy Yard archives over the course of multiple years through various donations and collection efforts. The artifacts consist of a variety of items that tell the history of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, including but not limited to tools, pottery, safety equipment, model ships and trains, personal items, uniform pieces, a training shell for Howitzer cannon, a signal pistol from the 1890s, 44-star American flags, and cannon balls. The photographs depict various ships in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Some pieces tell the history of the yard, such as various groundbreaking plaques or awards given to the Yard. One series is dedicated to items that have been salvaged from the Yard over the years. There are also multiple items that tell a more recent history, including groundbreaking plaques, awards, and certificates of appreciation from the 1990s and 2000s.

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## System of Arrangement

This collection contains 12 series: Framed and Mounted Objects, Devices, Guns and Ordnance, Hand Tools, Plates and Bottles, Safety Equipment, Salvaged Items, Uniforms, Personal Effects, Flags, Models, and Commemorative Items and Awards.

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## Related Materials

**Location of Copies:** Items in this collection may have been digitized and if so, are featured in [BNY Collections](#), the BNYDC Archives' digital library. Only those items that have digital reproductions contain an Object ID listed in the Container List below. Use the Object ID or title of the item when searching BNY Collections.

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## Access Points

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation  
Brooklyn Navy Yard  
Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)  
Industrial buildings  
Laborers  
Navy-yards and naval stations--United States  
New York Naval Shipyard  
Ordnance, Naval  
Ordnance  
Sailors--United States  
Ships  
Ships--Launching  
Shipbuilding--United States  
Shipbuilding industry--Employees  
United States. Navy (n79059051)  
Waterfronts

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## Administrative Information

**Accession Number(s):** N/A

**Acquisition Notes:** These items were accessioned into the BNY Archives, circa 2010-2015, through several donations. These items were never given accession numbers. There are multiple donors and multiple deeds of gift (or signed letters of acknowledgement). In November 2018, BNYDC moved their corporate offices from Building 292 to Building 77. As a result of this move, the Archives acquired many more items that are being added to this collection. All new items are being treated as a second accession. Items are being added to series in new boxes following the existing boxes. This collection has a collection documentation folder. In Winter 2022, a Vice President working in the Department of Design & Construction at BNYDC donated a telephone found on site. It was accessioned into the collection in June 2022.

**Accruals:** Further accruals are expected.

**Processing Notes:** Processed by Chelsea Reil, Archives Assistant, from July 2017 to January 2018. Material was rehoused and moved to the Archives' stacks. This collection has been digitized. Material that was removed from the collection includes: two loudspeakers, four pipe fittings, one lightbulb, one telephone box, one box of sticks, two ceramic plates, three wooden wall hooks, two wooden blocks, five cannon balls, 15 pieces of grapeshot, 48 gouging rods, one groundbreaking ceremony shovel, one flag, one cutting torch, one pair of clippers goggles, two lightbulbs in metal cages, one metal embellishment for a security uniform, three helmets, one wooden stool, one wrench, one drill, one wooden coaster, one framed map, and one framed painting.

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## Access and Use

**Access Restrictions:** This collection is open for research.

**Use Restrictions:** Material in this collection is made available for use in research, teaching, and private study, pursuant to U.S. Copyright law. The use must assume full responsibility for any use of the material, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced material. Please

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**Preferred Citation:** Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known), Brooklyn Navy Yard Artifacts collection; SC/2; Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives , Brooklyn, NY.

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## Container List

### Series 1: Framed and Mounted Objects

*Scope and Contents Note:* This series contains all framed and mounted objects in this collection, including a framed blueprint of the fan system in Building 291, photographs of unidentified ships, and photo collages of Building 294 on foam board.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

<b>Box 1 (3-A-1-4)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Folder 1	Building 294 photo collages (2)	undated	ART.0000.35	15520
Folder 2	Iowa, New Jersey, Missouri, and Wisconsin	1954	PH.1954.1	15524
Folder 3	Photograph of ship, unidentified	1897	PH.1897.4	15521
Folder 4	Photograph of ship, unidentified	undated	PH.0000.17	15522
Folder 5	Plan of the U.S. Navy Yard	undated	ART.0000.33	15486
Folder 6	To Many Kisses advertisement	undated	ART.0000.34	15519
Object 1	Framed blueprint for control fan system	undated	ART.0000.10	12404
Object 2	USS Austin LPD4 plaque	undated	ART.0000.36	15523

<b>Box 24 (4-D-1-2)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	Appreciation of support from the Roberto Clemente Little league	1998		
Object 2	NYSERDA High Performance Building	2011		
Object 3	Quartermaster electrician appointment	Undated		
Object 4	St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation salute	October 30, 1998		

<b>Box 25 (4-D-1-8)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	Black and white photograph on stretched canvas	undated		
Object 2	Cranes in the Brooklyn Navy Yard	undated		
Object 3	King's County Distillery print	undated		
Object 4	The City of New York	undated		

Object 5	Tugboat in the Harbor	undated		
Object 6	U.S.S. Atlanta's Visit to the Brooklyn Navy Yard	undated		

### Series 2: Devices

*Scope and Contents Note:* Series 2 includes various devices from a range of time periods, including a Woodsman speed tachometer from 1876 used to measure belt speed/accuracy on machinery. Other objects include a water pressure reader, a vacuum tube, and a set of headphones.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 2 (3-A-1-11)	Title	Date	Legacy ID	Object ID
Object 1	Headphones	undated	ART.0000.6	12393
Object 2	Loudspeaker	undated	ART.0000.37	15525

Box 3 (3-A-1-12)	Title	Date	Legacy ID	Object ID
Object 1	Allen ground detector	undated	ART.0000.5	12392
Object 2	Loudspeaker	undated	ART.0000.38	15526
Object 3	Telephone	undated	ART.0000.39	15528
Object 4	Vacuum tube	1943	ART.1943.1	12395
Object 5	Woodsman speed tachometer	1876	ART.1876.1	15530

Box 4 (3-A-1-13)	Title	Date	Legacy ID	Object ID
Object 1	Indoor scanner	undated	ART.0000.41	15531
Object 2	Metal light with bulb	undated	ART.0000.40	15529

Box 5 (3-A-1-16)	Title	Date	Legacy ID	Object ID
Object 1	Water pressure reader	undated	ART.0000.42	15532

Box 11 (3-A-2-6)	Title	Date	Legacy ID	Object ID
Object 1	Grey cage light with bulb	undated	ART.0000.64	15550
Object 2	Metal telephone box	undated	ART.0000.65	15549
Object 3	Yellow flashlight	undated	ART.0000.66	15551

### Series 3: Guns and Ordnance

*Scope and Contents Note:* The guns and ordnance series contains four objects: the signal pistol from the 1890s, three cannon balls of various sizes, grapeshot, and a wooden training shell for Howitzer cannon.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 16 (3-A-1-8)	Title	Date	Legacy ID	Object ID
Object 1	Signal pistol	ca. 1890-1900	ART.0000.7	12394

Box 17 (3-A-2-4)	Title	Date	Legacy ID	Object ID
Object 1	Cannon balls (3)	undated	ART.0000.90	15576
Object 2	Grapeshot	undated	ART.0000.91	15577
Object 3	Training shell	undated	ART.0000.92	15578

#### Series 4: Hand Tools

*Scope and Contents Note:* The hand tools series contains a variety of tools, including three calibrated micrometer calipers of different sizes in wooden cases, a cutting torch, and a wooden toolbox full of tools such as a carborundum sharpening stone, a vise, scraping planes, and a rasp file.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

<b>Box 6 (3-A-1-5)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	Calibrated micrometer caliper	ca. 1940	ART.0000.50	15539
Object 2	Calibrated micrometer caliper	undated	ART.0000.51	15540
Object 3	Calibrated micrometer caliper	undated	ART.0000.52	15541
Object 4	Wooden toolbox	undated	ART.0000.49	15538

<b>Box 7 (3-A-1-6)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	Caulking hammer	ca. 1940	ART.1940.1	12405
Object 2	Chisels	undated	ART.0000.44	15534
Object 3	Cutting torch	undated	ART.0000.45	15535
Object 4	Gouging rod	undated	ART.0000.47	15536
Object 5	Hammer	undated	ART.0000.48	15537
Object 6	Wrenches	undated	ART.0000.43	15533

<b>Box 8 (3-A-1-2)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	Oil can	ca. 1940 - 1950	ART.0000.12	12406
Object 2	Telephone	undated		

#### Series 5: Plates and Bottles

*Scope and Contents Note:* The plates and bottles collection contains one ceramic plate, four intact glass bottles, two intact pottery bottles, as well as shards and fragments of various pieces.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

<b>Box 9 (3-A-1-15)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	Blue glass bottle fragment	undated	ART.0000.46	15544
Object 2	Ceramic plate	1928	ART.1928.1	15542
Object 3	Glass bottle	undated	ART.0000.45	15535
Object 4	Glass bottle	undated	ART.0000.47	15536
Object 5	Glass bottle	undated	ART.0000.48	15537
Object 6	Glass bottle	undated	ART.0000.43	15533
Object 7	Pot shards	undated	ART.0000.57	15543
Object 8	Pottery bottle	undated	ART.0000.58	12420
Object 9	Pottery bottle	undated	ART.0000.59	12421

## Series 6: Safety Equipment

*Scope and Contents Note:* The safety equipment series contains all items related to safety in the yard. All items are undated. Highlights of the series include a set of chippers goggles and two distinct fire extinguishers.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 10 (3-A-2-7)	Title	Date	Legacy ID	Object ID
Object 1	Chippers goggles	undated	ART.0000.32	13361
Object 2	Fire alarm	undated	ART.0000.60	15545
Object 3	Fire extinguisher	undated	ART.0000.61	15546
Object 4	Fire extinguisher	undated	ART.0000.62	15547
Object 5	Helmets	undated	ART.0000.63	15548

## Series 7: Salvaged Items

*Scope and Contents Note:* The salvaged items series includes all items found in the Yard. Because of this, all items are undated. Included in this series are multiple brass and metal stencils, two windows from unidentified ships, and a set of wooden pulleys attached by rope.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

*Separation Note:* Oversized materials from this series have been removed from Box 13, Folder 4.

Box 12 (3-A-1-14)	Title	Date	Legacy ID	Object ID
Object 1	Armamann & Colling brass stencil	undated	ART.0000.67	15552
Object 2	Chas. Armamann brass stencil	undated	ART.0000.68	15553
Object 3	Horseshoes (2)	undated	ART.0000.30	13354
Object 4	John Braun & Son brass stencil	undated	ART.0000.69	15554
Object 5	Key	undated	ART.0000.70	15555
Object 6	Metal nail	undated	ART.0000.72	15556
Object 7	Millinery Goods metal stencil	undated	ART.0000.73	15557
Object 8	Oyster shells	undated	ART.0000.74	15558
Object 9	Unidentified objects (2)	undated	ART.0000.75	15559
Object 10	Railroad spike	undated	ART.0000.76	15560

Box 13 (3-A-2-5)	Title	Date	Legacy ID	Object ID
Object 1	Air horn from Building 268	undated		
Object 2	Flagpole ornament	undated		
Object 3	Metal door	undated	ART.0000.71	15561
Object 4	Ship's window	undated	ART.0000.77	15562
Object 6	Ship's window	undated	ART.0000.78	15563
Object 6	Wooden pulleys attached by rope (2)	undated	ART.0000.79	15564
Folder 1	Admiral's Row wallpaper	undated	ART.0000.3	13662

## Series 8: Uniforms

*Scope and Contents Note:* The uniform series consists of 5 objects that relate to the clothing worn by various employees of the yard. The series includes three patches, one linen cap, and one metal embellishment for a security uniform.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

<b>Box 14 (3-A-1-7)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	Brooklyn Boid patch	undated	ART.0000.80	15565
Object 2	Explorer Day leather patch	1957	ART.1957.1	15566
Object 3	Linen cap	1964	ART.1964.1	15138
Object 4	Metal embellishment for security uniform	undated	ART.0000.82	15567
Object 5	U.S.S. Brooklyn patch	undated	ART.0000.83	15568

### **Series 9: Personal Effects**

*Scope and Contents Note:* The personal effects series includes various items that belonged to personnel in the yard, many of which relate to ships built in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, including the USS Arizona, the USS Austin, and the USS Missouri.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

<b>Box 15 (3-A-1-9)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	Packet of sail needles	undated	ART.0000.81	15569
Object 2	US Coast Guard ID card	1942	ART.1942.5	15570
Object 3	USS Arizona pendant	1915	ART.1915.1	15571
Object 4	USS Austin LPD4 lighter	undated	ART.0000.85	15572
Object 5	USS Austin LPD4 lighter	undated	ART.0000.86	15573
Object 6	USS Missouri Compact makeup mirror	undated	ART.0000.87	15574
Object 7	Wooden pipe	undated	ART.0000.88	15575
Object 8	Second Barbary War Logbook	1814	ART.1814.1	13386

### **Series 10: Flags**

*Scope and Contents Note:* This series contains two 44-star American flags from the 1890s that were made at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

<b>Box 23 (3-A-2-1)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	American flag	1893	ART.1893.1	13768

<b>Box 24 (3-A-2-2)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	American flag	1898	ART.1898.1	12410

### **Series 11: Models**

*Scope and Contents Note:* The models series consists of three items: a Lionel Train model of a Navy Yard switcher car, and two different models of the USS Missouri.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

<b>Box 20 (3-A-1-17)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	Lionel train switcher mode	undated	ART.0000.13	12413

<b>Unboxed (Stacks)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	USS Missouri ship model	1999	ART.1999.1	15583

<b>Unboxed (Stacks)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	USS Missouri ship model	2012	ART.2012.1	13657

### **Series 12: Commemorative Items and Awards**

*Scope and Contents Note:* The commemorative items and awards series is dedicated to those items that honor a specific event or happening in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. There are multiple groundbreaking plaques, four medallions, a plaque dedicated to the USS America, and a certificate presented to the Brooklyn Navy Yard from the New York Technical College in appreciation for its work in providing access to women.

*Arrangement Note:* This series is arranged alphabetically.

<b>Box 18 (3-A-2-3)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	America LHA 6 Plaque	2009	ART.2009.3	15579
Object 2	Brooklyn Navy Yard powerhouse re-dedication plaque	1982	ART.1982.1	12389
Object 3	Certificate of appreciation for providing access to women	1996	ART.1996.1	15580
Object 4	Groundbreaking ceremony plaques (2)	1995	ART.1995.1	12385
Object 5	History Channel Club collector's medallion	2006	ART.2006.2	12387
Object 6	History Channel Club medallion	2006	ART.2006.3	12388
Object 7	Prison ship martyr medallion	1976	ART.1976.1	12386
Object 8	USS Constellation CVA-64 medallion	undated	ART.0000.89	15581

<b>Box 19 (3-A-1-10)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	Groundbreaking ceremony shovel	2006	ART.2006.4	15582

<b>Box 21 (4-D-1-6)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Folder 1	Annual Archives Award	2008		
Folder 2	Building Brooklyn Awards National Grid Award	2009	ART.2009.1	15517
Folder 3	Building Brooklyn Awards Office Building winner	2009	ART.2009.2	15518

Folder 4	Building Brooklyn Awards Office Building winner	2019		
Object 1	ASEC New York Engineering excellence Award	April 8, 2018		
Object 2	Engineering Excellence National Recognition award	April 2012		

<b>Box 22 (4-D-1-1)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	U.S. Green Building Council LEED Gold award	2011		

<b>Box 23 (4-D-1-7)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	U.S. Green Building Council LEED Gold award	2009		

<b>Box 26 (4-D-1-3)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Legacy ID</b>	<b>Object ID</b>
Object 1	Dock 72 groundbreaking shovel	May 5, 2016		