



Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives

Guide to the BNYDC Archives' Reference collection

1840-2008

SC/5

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
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Description is in English.

Descriptive Summary

Title: BNYDC Archives' Reference collection

Creator: Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation

Date(s): 1840-2008

Quantity: 9 linear feet, 6 boxes.

Language of Materials: English

Call Number: SC/5

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.

Seatrain 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.

Scope and Content

The BNYDC Archives' Reference collection contains a selection of materials relating to the history of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The collection covers the history from the opening of the Yard up until present day. The items came to the Brooklyn Navy Yard in a variety of ways over the course of many years, so there is no provenance of donation information available. The collection consists of a variety of items that tell the history of the Yard, including magazines, newspapers, books, vertical files, publications, ephemera, and more. Some of the items tell the history of specific events at the Yard, such as ship launchings, a change in command, or an open house. Other items tell the story of daily life at the yard, such as the first aid pamphlet, closure actions briefing books, and safety publications.

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.

System of Arrangement

This collection contains 6 series: Publications, Newspapers, Ephemera, Clippings, Vertical Files, and Books.

Access Points

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation
Brooklyn Navy Yard
Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)
Industrial buildings
Navy-yards and naval stations--United States
New York Naval Shipyard
Newspapers
Reference
Ships
Ships--Launching
Shipbuilding--United States

Administrative Information

Accession Number(s): N/A

Acquisition Notes: N/A

Accruals: BNYDC Archives continues to add materials to this collection on a regular basis.

Processing Notes: This collection was processed by Chelsea Reil, Archives Assistant, in April 2018.

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 see the BNYDC Archives' Policy on Access and Use for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish. Any material used for academic research or otherwise should be credited using the citation below.

Preferred Citation: Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known), BNYDC Archives' Reference collection; SC/5; Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives, Brooklyn, NY.

Container List

Series 1: Publications

Scope and Contents Note: This series contains all items that can be considered full publications (not clippings), excluding newspapers, which is its own series. This series includes multiple NYNS Buildings historical reviews, multiple closure actions briefing books, and safety publications.

Arrangement Note: This series is arranged chronologically.

Box 1 (3-B-1-1)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 1	U.S. Congressional documents re: Navy Yard (includes 1903 fold-out map)	1840-1903	
	Memorial of the Mechanics, Navy Yard, Brooklyn, New York, for Employment	1840	13921
	Deeds for Brooklyn Navy Yard Property	1870	13922
	Report of the Special Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York on the Removal of the Brooklyn Navy Yard	1882	13920
	Report Made by the Board Appointed by the Commandant of the Navy Yard, New York, to Consider and Recommend What Improvements Are Necessary on the Waterfront at the Navy Yard, Brooklyn, NY, for the Berthing of Battleships and Fleets	1903	13923
Folder 2	Wellman-Seaver-Morgan Co. product bulletins	1920	
Folder 3	Passenger ships owned by the US government	1923	
Folder 4	Electrical publications	1925 - 1981	
Folder 5	United States frigate "Constitution"	1932	
Folder 6	Handbook of first aid	1942	
Folder 7	The story of you in navy blue circa	1944	
Folder 8	"Colossus of Brooklyn" Popular Mechanics	Sept. 1945	
Folder 9	"Staging area Brooklyn" Brooklyn Daily Eagle December	1945	
Folder 10	National Board of Fire Underwriters publications,	1947 - 1960	
Folder 11	Fire protection publications	1951-1979	
Folder 12	Soil publications	1959 - 2002	
Folder 13	Safety in industry, US Dept of Labor	1962-1965	
Folder 14	General Electric Machine manual and inspection for New York Naval Shipyard	1942	
Folder 15	Souvenir journal sesquicentennial anniversary	1951	

Folder 16	U.S. Navy "Maintenance Management of Public Works and Public Utilities" technical publication	November 1956	
Folder 17	"Operation and Maintenance Manual for the Cathodic Protection Systems of the New York Naval Shipyard"	December 10, 1957	
Folder 18	New York Naval Shipyard "Fire Protection Manual"	1959	
Folder 19	New York Naval Shipyard "Information for Ships" booklet	March 1959	
Folder 20	Navy civilian personnel instructions 790-5340	1960-1965	
Folder 21	US Navy Safety Division pamphlet- "Hey we're going to Brooklyn"	May 1961	
Folder 22	Navy civilian personnel instructions 630-770	1961-1964	
Folder 23	New York Naval Shipyard operations briefing book (65-350-PE)	1964	
Folder 24	New York Naval Shipyard operations briefing book (65-350-PE)	1964	
Folder 25	New York Naval Shipyard operations briefing book (65-350-PE)	1964	
Folder 26	METCO "Flame spray handbook: Volume II, Powder Process"	1964	
Folder 27	NYNS Buildings- historical review- Quarters	1964	
Folder 28	NYNS Buildings- historical review- Drydocks	1964	

Box 2 (3-B-1-5)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 1	NYNS Buildings- historical review- BLDG 30- BLDG 81	1964	
Folder 2	NYNS Buildings- historical review- BLDG 90- BLDG 298	1964	
Folder 3	NYNS Buildings- historical review- Buildings- General- BLDG 81	1964	
Folder 4	NYNS Buildings- historical review- Misc. structures (buildingways, piers)	1964	
Folder 5	NYNS Buildings- historical review- BLDG 305- Misc. BLDGs	1964	
Folder 6	Navy civilian personnel instructions 531-610	1964-1965	

Folder 7	NY NY closure actions briefing book (54-350-EM) Codes 100-149	1965	
Folder 8	NY NY closure actions briefing book (54-350-EM) Codes 100-149	1965	
Folder 9	NY NY closure actions briefing book (54-350-EM) Codes 100-149	1965	
Folder 10	NY NY closure actions briefing book (54-350-EM) Codes 100-149	1965	
Folder 11	NY NY closure actions briefing book (65-350-EM) Codes 150-195, 100, and 300	1965	
Folder 12	NY NY closure actions briefing book (65-350-EM) Codes 150-195, 100, and 300	1965	
Folder 13	NY NY closure actions briefing book (65-350-EM) Codes 400-486, 500-592 (D)	1965	
Folder 14	NY NY closure actions briefing book (65-350-EM) Codes 600, 700, 800, 1000, 2235, 2390 and committees	1965	
Folder 15	NY NY closure actions briefing book (65-350-EM) Codes 600, 700, 800, 1000, 2235, 2390 and committees	1965	
Folder 16	Occupational safety publications	1979-1990	
Folder 17	"Brooklyn Navy Yard converting to gas and heat via infra-red" sendout, Brooklyn Union Gas	November 1981	
Folder 18	Environmental assessment for base closure naval station New York	May 1990	
Folder 19	Cultural resources survey for base closure Naval Station New York	February 1994	
Folder 20	Base reuse implementation manual [DOD 4165.66-m]	July 1995	
Folder 21	Base reuse implementation manual [DOD 4165.66-m]	July 1995	
Folder 22	"Brooklyn Navy Yard: A portfolio" City Journal	Summer 1997	
Folder 23	Dumbo, Fulton Ferry Landing, Vinegar Hill neighborhood history guide	2001	13927

Box 3 (3-B-1-7)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 1	Life magazine	1942	

Series 2: Newspapers

Scope and Contents Note: This collection contains full newspapers with articles or inserts relating to news at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Some of the newspapers included in this series are The New York Times, The New York Daily News, and The Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

Arrangement Note: This series is arranged chronologically

Box 3 (3-B-1-7)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 17	Newspapers	2003-2006	
Folder 18	Newspapers	2006-2008	

Series 3: Ephemera

Scope and Contents Note: This series contains several pieces of ephemera relating to the history of the Yard, including ship launching ceremony programs, tenant advertisements, and marketing materials.

Arrangement Note: This series is arranged chronologically.

Box 3 (3-B-1-7)	Title	Date	Object ID
	Pay Voucher for Mathew C. Perry	1856	15355
	USS Brooklyn (CL-40) Keel Laying Commemorative Envelope	1935-03-12	13926
Folder 2	Ship ceremony programs	1936-1965	13836, 13914, 13919, 13915
	U.S.S. Missouri Launching Commemorative Envelope	1944-01-29	13835
Folder 3	Welcome aboard USS Hoe (SS-258)	circa 1956	13917
Folder 4	New York Naval Shipyard change in command ceremony	June 1956	13916
Folder 5	Constellation (CVA-64) <i>Shipworker</i> Issue; keel laying and open house programs	1957-1961	13918
Folder 6	Coastal Dry Dock and Repair Corporation stationery	circa 1972-1984	14361
Folder 7	Seatrains Lines Inc. stock certificates	1973-1974	14288, 14289
Folder 8	BNYDC development pamphlets	circa 1984	14360, 14362
Folder 9	"On The Town" playbill	November 1988	13913
Folder 17	Naval Station NY Pass	1989-02-09	15224
Folder 10	Success Trimming/Binding Corporation marketing materials, folder 1 of 3	circa 1991	15223

Folder 11	Success Trimming/Binding Corporation marketing materials, folder 2 of 3	circa 1991	15223
Folder 12	Success Trimming/Binding Corporation marketing materials, folder 3 of 3	circa 1991	15223
Folder 13	BNYDC holiday card	2000	14975
Folder 14	Sheet music	undated	
Folder 15	Seafares Jeans & Casuals Ltd. Advertisement	undated	
Folder 16	Ephemera	undated	
	List of Names on U.S. Navy Pay Vouchers	undated	15244

Series 4: Clippings

Scope and Contents Note: This series contains clippings from a variety of publications relating to the Brooklyn Navy Yard throughout the years. Many of the earlier clippings, such as those from Frank Leslie's, contain detailed drawings of daily activities at the Yard.

Arrangement Note: This series is arranged chronologically.

Box 4 (3-B-1-8)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 1	Gleason's Pictorial	1851	
Folder 2	Frank Leslie's	1857-1898	12345, 12348, 12347
Folder 3	Harper's	1859-1889	
Folder 4	New-York Tribune	1861	
Folder 5	Scientific American	1898-1903	
Folder 6	"The Navy Yard New York May Lose," (Extremely fragile)	circa 1911	
Folder 7	Various clippings	1927-2009	
Folder 8	Life	1941	
Folder 9	New York Times and New York News advertising supplement: "The NEW Brooklyn Navy Yard"	circa 1982-09	
Folder 10	Iconographic Encyclopedia of Naval Sciences	undated	
Folder 11	Various clippings	undated	
Folder 12	Various clippings	undated	

Series 5: Vertical Files

Scope and Contents Note: The vertical files have been compiled by the Archives over many years and are organized by topic alphabetically. Some of the topic files available are Ships Built at Navy Yard, Women Employees, Building 77, and Commerce Labor and Industry Corporation of Kings (CLICK), the organization that precedes BNYDC.

Arrangement Note: This series is arranged alphabetically.

Location Note:

Box 5 (3-B-1-2)	Vertical files, A-N
Box 6 (3-B-1-6)	Vertical files, O-Z

[A list of folders may be found here.](#)

Series 6: Books

Scope and Contents Note: This series contains all the books in the reference collection. There are over 200 books in this series, covering topics relating to naval history, Brooklyn history, shipyard architecture, and more. There are both fiction and non-fiction titles in this series.

Arrangement Note: This series is arranged alphabetically by author.

Box ()	Books, A-N
Box ()	Books, O-Z

[A list of books may be found here.](#)