



Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Guide to the Brooklyn Navy Yard Buttons and Pins collection
1914-2008
SC/7

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Description is in English.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Brooklyn Navy Yard Buttons and Pins collection

Creator: N/A

Date(s): 1914-2008

Quantity: 1 box

Language of Materials: English

Call Number: SC/7

Administrative/Biographical History

The Brooklyn Navy Yard, previously known as the New York Navy Yard and later 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. 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. The first ship built was the USS Ohio, launched in 1817, while the last Navy ship launched was the USS Duluth (LPD-6) in 1965. Other historic vessels constructed at the Yard include USS Brooklyn, the USS Arizona, and the USS Missouri, the latter two of which bookended World War II.

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. By 1850, the hospital annex was a walled-in, self-contained parcel of land with a gatehouse, a laboratory, and a cemetery. In 1864, a surgeon's residence was built. When the shipyard expanded during World War II, it took over the land of the former Wallabout Market, located between the Yard and the annex, and the physical separation between the Yard and the Hospital was eliminated.

During the Civil War, the Yard employed about 6,000 people, and by 1938 it provided jobs for over 10,000. At the height of World War II, nearly 70,000 people were employed at the Yard, and 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 a year later most of the property was sold to the City of New York. While the Yard lost its naval shipbuilding presence, it 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. The City eventually acquired the former naval station annex and the row of admiral's quarters at the south western tip of the site, taking full control over the 300-acre property by 2012.

The City delegated the Yard for private commercial use. It was first administered by the Commerce Labor and Industry Corporation of Kings (CLICK), then by the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation (BNYDC), a private, non-profit development corporation that manages and develops the Yard on behalf of the City with the aim of growing and maintaining an industrial manufacturing base in Brooklyn.

From 1969 to 1979, Seatrain Shipbuilding was the main tenant under CLICK. During its operation, the company produced four Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs), eight barges, one icebreaker barge, and two roll-on/roll-off ferries. Another important early tenant was Coastal Dry Dock & Repair Corporation, which leased space in the Yard between 1971 and 1987.

In the 1980s, BNYDC began a long-term effort to diversify the tenant base at the Yard, and by 2001 nearly 275 companies employing over 6,000 people were in residence. BNYDC undertook sustainability initiatives to support a rapidly growing cluster of green manufacturers, and large spaces were updated to accommodate small industrial enterprises that reflected the diversity, energy, and creativity of the community. BNYDC's Employment Center expanded, a Summer Youth Program was established, and a shuttle service to the subway is launched to provide better access and encourage the use of mass transit. The City took note of BNYDC's success and funded major upgrades to the Yard's basic infrastructure, some of which dated to the Civil War era. The Yard's largest expansion since WWII was underway.

The Yard is now home to over 400 businesses employing more than 7,000 people and generating over \$2 billion per year in economic impact for the City. With the openings of Building 77 and Dock 72, redevelopment of Admirals Row, expansion of Steiner Studios, and other projects, employment at the Yard will more than double in the next few years, jumping from 7,000 to 17,000+ by 2020. Building on the Yard's history as the economic heart of Brooklyn, the 300-acre waterfront asset offers a critical pathway to the middle class for many New Yorkers.

Scope and Content

This collection contains buttons and pins, created by and for the Brooklyn Navy Yard, related to various activities and events that occurred during the shipyard era; including ship launchings, as well as shipbuilding and repair. Pins created for the saving of the Admiral's Row site round out the collection.

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 is not arranged.

Access Points

New York Naval Shipyard
Admiral's Row
Buttons
Pins
Pratt Institute
Shipbuilding—United States
Shipworkers
USS Bonne Homme Richard
USS Iowa
USS Kearsage
USS New Orleans
USS Oriskany
YMCA

Administrative Information

Accession Number(s): N/A

Acquisition Notes: N/A

Processing Notes: This collection was processed by Elizabeth Mc Gorty, Archivist & Records Manager, in June 2019.

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation: Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known); Brooklyn Navy Yard Buttons and Pins collection; SC/7; Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives, Brooklyn, NY.

Related Material at the BNYDC Archives: N/A

Container List

Box 1 (4-D-1-4)	Title	Date	Object ID
Object 1	National Maritime Historical Society Pin	2006	12372
Object 2	Admiral's Row Button – Timber Shed	2008	12373
Object 3	Admiral's Row Button – Quarters K and L	2008	12374

Object 4	Admiral's Row Button – Quarters H and C	2008	12375
Object 5	Admiral's Row Button – Quarters B	2008	12376
Object 6	Admiral's Row Button – Quarters D	2008	12377
Object 7	Admiral's Row Button – Quarters E, F, G	2008	12378
Object 8	Admiral's Row Button – Quarters I	2008	12379
Object 9	Word War I ID Badge	1914	12380
Object 10	Navy Yard ID Badge	ca. 1940-1950	12381
Object 11	Press Button, Navy Day	1945	12382
Object 12	New York Navy Yard Buttons (3)	ca. 1940-1950	12383
Object 13	Navy "E" Pin	ca. 1942	12384
Object 14	Launch USS Iowa On Ways Pin	1942-08-27	13350
Object 15	Launching USS Bennington Observer	1944-04-28	13351
Object 16	Launching USS Bon Homme Richard On Ways Pin	1944-04-29	13352
Object 17	Launching USS Kearsarge On Ways Pin	1945-05-05	13353
Object 18	Navy YMCA Pendant	1947	14783
Object 19	Pratt Institute Navy Pin	1917	14785
Object 20	Landing Ship Tank (LST) 311-314 Launching - On Ways	1942-1230	14786
Object 21	Third Liberty Loan Pin	1918	14787
Object 22	Launching USS Helena Pin	1939-08-27	14788
Object 23	Launching USS Oriskany On Way Pin	1945-10-13	14789
Object 24	Launching USS New Orleans Pin	1943-04-12	14790
Object 25	Navy Yard New York Instructor Pin	ca. 1940-1950	14795
Object 26	Quartermen, Machinery Division, Navy Yard, New York	ca. 1940-1950	14797
Object 27	NCS 517 Launching Ways Button	ca. 1940-1950	14799
Object 28	Industry Union of Marine & Shipbuilding Workers of American Pin	1944	