



Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Guide to the BNYDC Photographs collection
1846-2009
SC/9

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Building 77
141 Flushing Avenue, Suite 801
Brooklyn, NY 11205
718-907-5982
<https://brooklynnavyyard.org/about/archives>
archives@bnydc.org

Finding aid produced on: 2019-08-14
Description is in English.

Descriptive Summary

Title: BNYDC Photographs collection

Creator: Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation

Date(s): 1846-2009

Quantity: 5 boxes, 1 oversized folder

Language of Materials: English

Call Number: SC/9

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 historic and contemporary photographs – in various formats and sizes -- of both the Brooklyn Navy Yard site and BNYDC corporate activities. Buildings and facilities are well represented in the collection, while there is more a modest amount of content relating to BNYDC staff and events.

Historic photographs are duplicative of photographs taken by the US Navy for either publicity or construction progress purposes. The complete collection of originals are under the custodianship of the National Archives and Records Administration. The photographs in this collection range from vessels built at the Yard to components of the Dry Docks constructed in the 1940s.

Contemporary interior and exterior photographs of buildings and structures were taken by BNYDC project managers during construction projects and are in poor condition. Most of the staff and event photographs are from the Mark Rosenbaum administration in the early 2000s.

This collection at present is a potpourri of photographs that made their way to the Archives over time. In the future, more material will be added to this collection to give a more robust representation of the site and its current activities.

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 4 series: New York Naval Shipyard; Buildings and Structures; BNYDC Staff; BNYDC Events. Each series is arranged chronologically.

Access Points

New York Naval Shipyard
Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation
Buildings--Repair and reconstruction
Dry docks
Employees
Events
Historic buildings--New York (State)--New York
Photographs
Ships--Launching

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 Dennis Riley, Assistant Director of Archives and Records Management, and Elizabeth Mc Gorty, Archivist & Records Manager, in 2015 and July 2019, respectively.

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 Photographs collection; SC/9; Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives, Brooklyn, NY.

Container List

Series 1: New York Naval Shipyard

Box OS1 (3-B-2-5)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 11	Historic photographs of buildings, facilities, vessels	1846-1961	

Series 2: Buildings and Structures

Box 1 (4-D-4-8)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 1	Dry Dock 2 Survey Photos	1988-10 – 1988-11	
Folder 2	Dry Dock 2 Pumpwell (BLDG 125)	1988-10 – 1988-11	
Folder 3	Dry Dock 2 Caisson Photos	1988-10 – 1988-11	
Folder 4	Dry Dock 3 Survey Photos	1988-10 – 1988-11	
Folder 5	Dry Dock 3 Caisson Survey Photos	1988-10 – 1988-11	
Folder 6	PCB Transformers (BLDG 7, 8, 301?)	ca. 1993-1994	
Folder 7	BLDG 132	1995-1996	
Folder 8	BLDG 5	1996-01-30	
Folder 9	Pier J	1996-03-29	
Folder 10	BLDG 275	1996-04-22	
Folder 11	BLDG 408 Demolition	1996-05-21	
Folder 12	Polaroids 1 – 9	1996-05-03	
Folder 13	BLDG 292	1996-06-13	
Folder 14	BLDG 131	1996-07-17	
Folder 15	BLDG 234	1996-07-30	
Folder 16	Pier D	1996-09-03	
Folder 17	BLDG 292 Interior	1998	
Folder 18	BLDG 5 Freight Loading Dock	1999-07 – 1999-08	
Folder 19	Admirals Row Part I	2005-06	
Folder 20	Admirals Row Part II	2005-06	
Folder 21	BLDG 128 Part I	2005-06	
Folder 22	BLDG 128 Part II	2005-06	
Folder 23	Naval Annex (Hospital)	2005-06	
Folder 24	Dry Dock 1 and Miscellaneous Photos	2005-06	
Folder 25	Misc. Photos Part I	2005-05	
Folder 26	Misc. Photos Part II	2005-05	
Folder 27	Misc. Photos Part III	2005-05	

Box 2 (4-D-4-9)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 1	Misc. Photos Part IV	2005-05	
Folder 2	Misc. Photos Part V	Undated	
Folder 3	BLDG 92 Radio Tower	ca. 2006	
Folder 4	Cumberland Gate	Undated	

Folder 5	BLDG 77	Undated	
Folder 6	BLDG 62 Roof	Undated	
Folder 7	Cumberland Gate	Undated	
Folder 8	Unidentified	Undated	

Box 3 (4-D-4-10)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 1	Red Hook Water Pollution Control Plant Part I	1984-1987	
Folder 2	Red Hook Water Pollution Control Plant Part II	1984-1987	
Folder 3	Misc. Photos Part VI	Undated	
Folder 4	BLDG 305	Undated	

Series 3: BNYDC Staff

Box 4 (4-D-4-12)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 1	BNYDC Staff	ca. 1990-2000	
Folder 2	BNYDC Staff	ca. 1990-2000	
Folder 3	BNYDC Staff	ca. 1990-2000	

Series 4: BNYDC Events

Box 5 (4-D-4-11)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 1	Blood Drive	1991-06	
Folder 2	Brokers Luncheon	1993-10	
Folder 3	Secretary's Day	1993	
Folder 4	Holiday Party	1994	
Folder 5	Award to Rudy Washington	1999-10-22	
Folder 6	NYPD Tow Pound Ribbon Cutting	2009-06-12	
Folder 7	Council Member Tour	Undated	