

Bushwick: **A Neighborhood History and the Preservation Issues**

Prepared for: Make the Road by Walking / Se Hace el Camino al Andar

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Methodology

Bushwick has a diverse history

- How is the history of the neighborhood reflected in its buildings?
- Whose history are we preserving?
- What are the current community's perspectives on preservation?
- How does the condition of buildings affect our strategies?

Discovering that history through

- Site Surveys
- Documentary Research
- Community Outreach
- Analysis of Findings

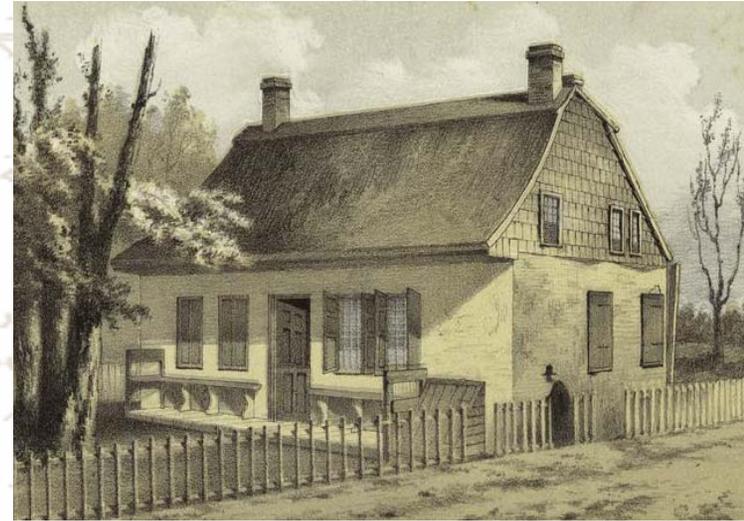


Milestones in the History of Bushwick

Early Beginnings



Source: H.S. Stiles

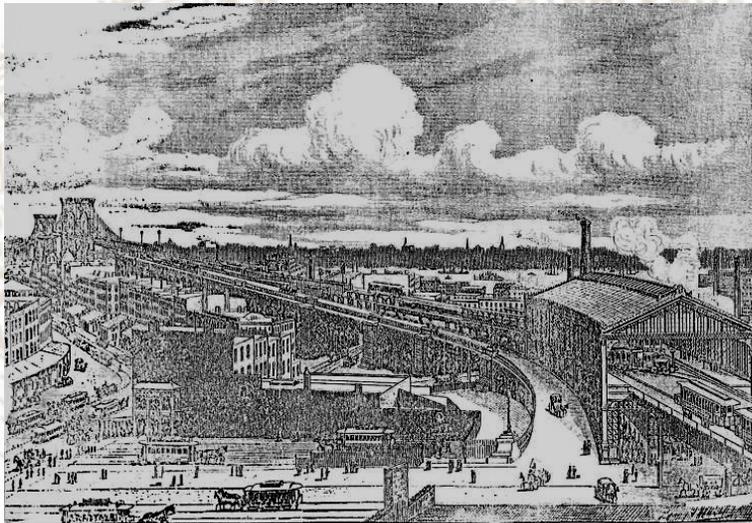


Source: H.R. Stiles

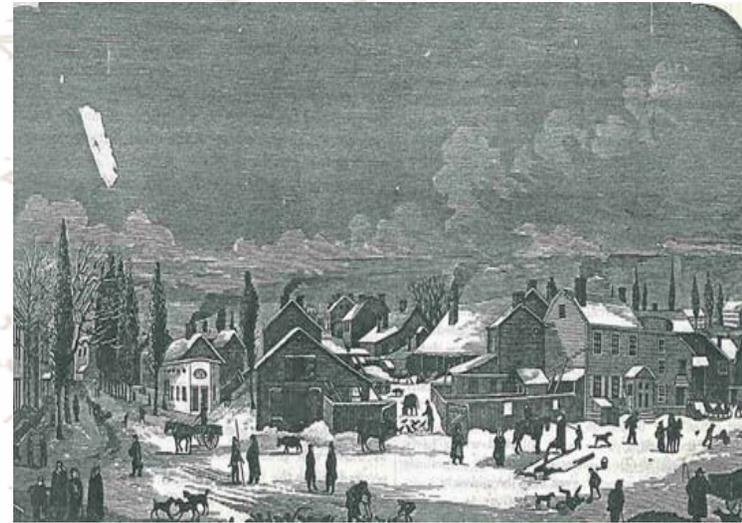


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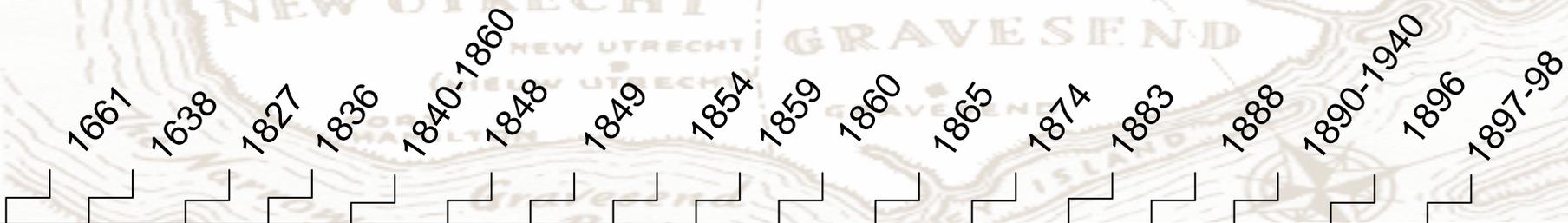
Growth of Bushwick



Source: H.R. Stiles



Source: H.R. Stiles



Milestones in the History of Bushwick

First Wave of Immigration



Source: www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com

1661

1638

1827

1836

1840-1860

1848

1849

1854

1859

1860

1865

1874

1883

1888

1890-1940

1896

1897-98

Milestones in the History of Bushwick

Developments in Transportation Infrastructure



Source: arnts-arrchives.com



Source: www.nycsubway.org

1661

1638

1827

1836

1840-1860

1848

1849

1854

1859

1860

1865

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Milestones in the History of Bushwick

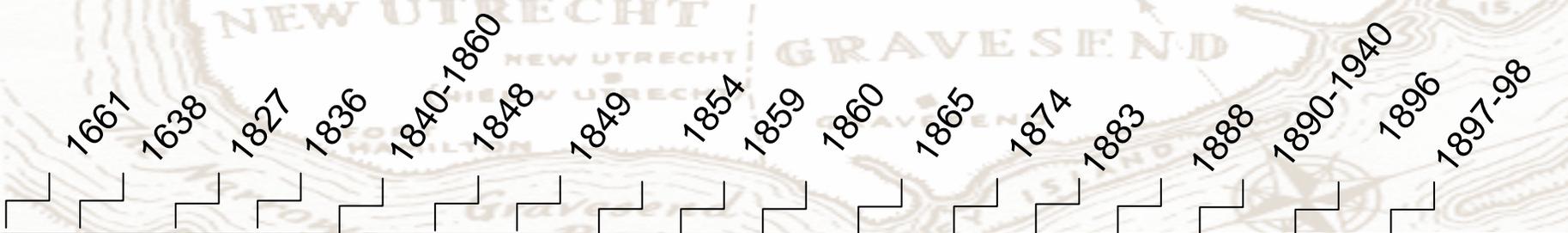
Growth of Industries



Source: www.beerhistory.com



Source: www.nyc.gov/html/hpd



Milestones in the History of Bushwick

Second Wave of Immigration



Source: www.nypl.org/digital



Source: www.nypl.org/digital

1880-1940
1901

1917

1913-1915

1914-1918

1920-1933

1929

1939-1945

1949

1960-1980

1960

1974

1977

1982

1980-2000

1997

2003

Milestones in the History of Bushwick

Continued Development of Transportation and Amenities



Source: upload.wikimedia.org



Source: cinematreaasures.org

1880-1940
1901

1917

1913-1915

1914-1918

1920-1933

1929

1939-1945

1949

1960-1980

1960

1974

1977

1982

1980-2000

1997

2003

Milestones in the History of Bushwick

Blows to Bushwick Industries



Source: www.sheppardsoftware.com/images



Source: www.hugosubarchitects.com

1880-1940
1901

1911

1913-1915

1914-1918

1920-1933

1929

1939-1945

1949

1960-1980

1960

1974

1977

1982

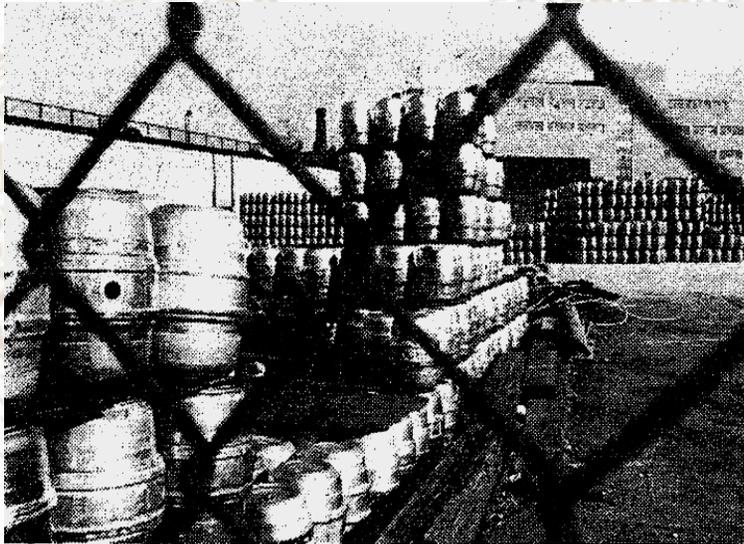
1980-2000

1997

2003

Milestones in the History of Bushwick

Breweries Close



Source: New York Times



Source: www.baseball-fever.com

1880-1940
1901

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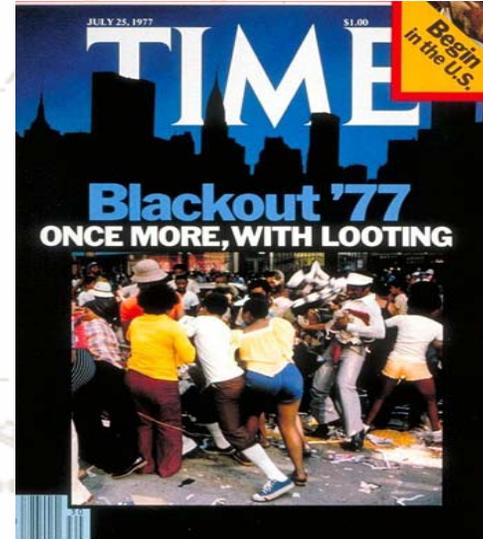
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Milestones in the History of Bushwick

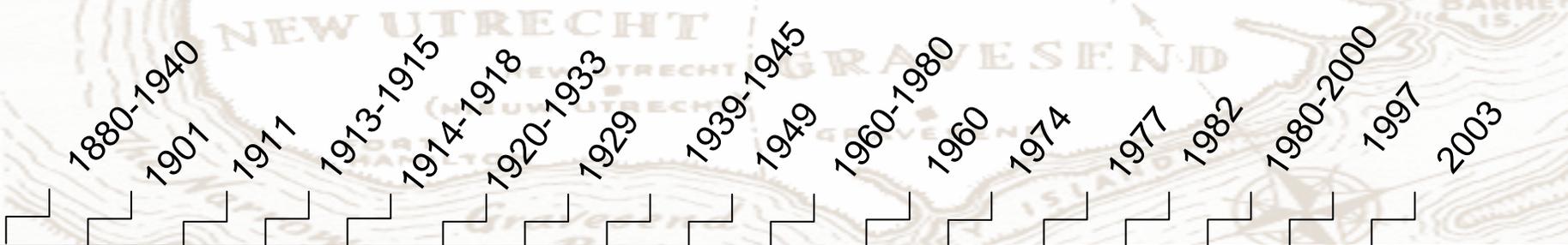
Blackout of 1977



Source: Jonathan Mahler



Source: www.time.com



Milestones in the History of Bushwick

New Investments and Revitalization



Photo by Shannon Haltiwanger



Photo by www.nyhomes.org

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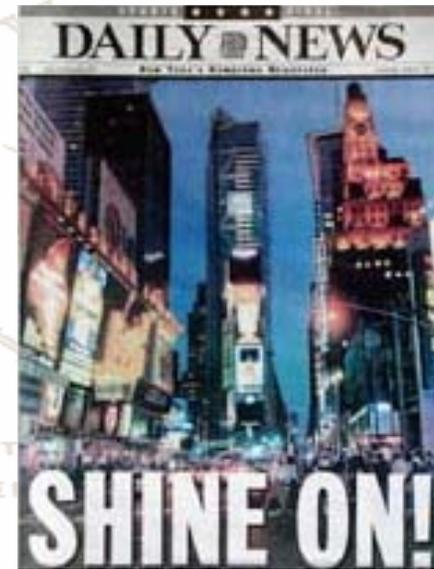
2003

Milestones in the History of Bushwick

The Changing Neighborhood



Photo by Elly Goetz



Source: www.metropoleparis.com

1880-1940
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1917

1913-1915
1914-1918

1920-1933
1929

1939-1945
1949

1960-1980
1960

1974

1977

1982

1980-2000
1997

2003

Building Typologies

Residential



Photo by Jennifer Moon



Photo by Shannon Haltiwanger

- Single Family Homes
- 1 to 4 Family Rowhouses
- Multi-unit apartment buildings
- Public Housing

Building Typologies

Mixed Use



Photo by Katie Nolan



Photo by Katie Nolan

- Knickerbocker, currently GNC on ground floor and 6 units on upper floors (1906)
- Knickerbocker, currently Met Foodmarkets on ground floor, upper floors vacant (1910)

Building Typologies

Industrial



Photo by Ege Yildirim



Photo by Keenan Hughes

- Former William Ulmer brewery (1872), currently commercial and light manufacturing with artists' studios
- Former Oakland Knitting Mills (c1910), one of the first "industrial loft" conversions

Building Typologies

Religious



Photo by Mark Davison

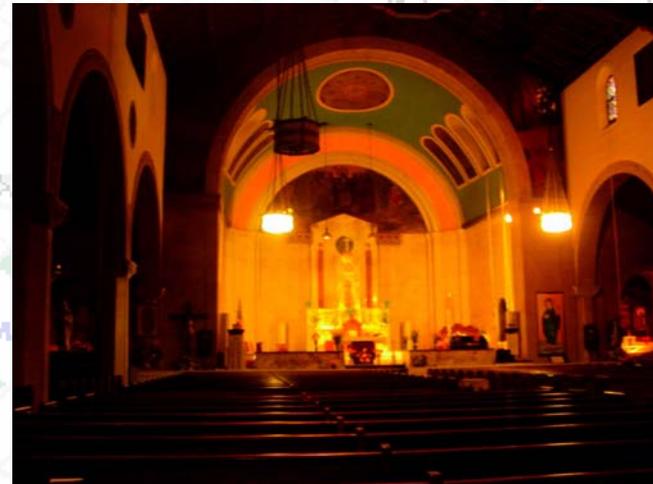


Photo by Mark Davison

- Bushwick has over 100 churches
- St. Barbara's Roman Catholic Church (1910), named after a brewer's daughter

Building Typologies

Community Facilities

Ridgewood



Photo by Ege Yildirim



Photo by Keenan Hughes

- Brooklyn Public Library, DeKalb Branch (1905)
- Grand Street Settlement Day Care Center, former Alhambra Theatre (1918)

Present Values of the Community

Ridgewood



Photo by Ege Yildirim



Photo by Katie Nolan

- Historic buildings like the Cook Mansion should be preserved
- The home is a meeting place for friends and family
- Maria Hernandez Park, train stations

Present Values of the Community



Photo by Keenan Hughes



Photo by Ege Yildirim



Photo by Ege Yildirim

- Churches, local businesses on Knickerbocker and Myrtle, graffiti art
- Sense of community and the character of the neighborhood, identified with the vibrant street life on low-rise streets

Preservation Strategies and Tools

Existing Designated City Landmarks



83rd Precinct Station House



Brooklyn Public Library DeKalb Branch



FDNY Squad Company 252



PS 86



PS 116



Reformed Church of South Bushwick

Photos by Keenan Hughes, Ege Yildirim, Katie Nolan

Traditional Preservation Tools

Example of Possible Buildings to be Protected



74 Cornelia St

Photo by Shannon Haltiwanger



Cook Mansion

Photo by Ege Yildirim

- Local NYC Landmark Designation
- State and National Register Listing

Traditional Preservation Tools

Potential Historic Districts



Sunset Park

Photo by Katie Nolan



Bushwick

Photo by Walter South

- National Historic District exists: Willoughby-Suydam HD (1983)
- Historic District expansion possibility – eg. Sunset Park HD

Traditional Preservation Tools

Adaptive Reuse



Source: www.forgotten-ny.com



Photo by Keenan Hughes

- Former RKO Vaudeville Theater
- Current Acorn School for Social Justice

Non-Traditional Preservation Tools

Zoning Adjustments

- Upzoning on main commercial avenues
- Contextual zoning on low-rise side streets

Community Empowerment for Preservation

- Organizing a neighborhood preservation association
- Community-based landmark and HD recommendations

Interpretation and Celebration of Bushwick History

- Cook Mansion as Bushwick History Museum
- Markers and Art installations

Leveraging Private Real Estate Development

- Housing Trust model
- Neighborhood Homes Program
- Funding options (government grants, tax credits, bank loan credits, private donors)

Conclusion

Preservation as a Positive Agent

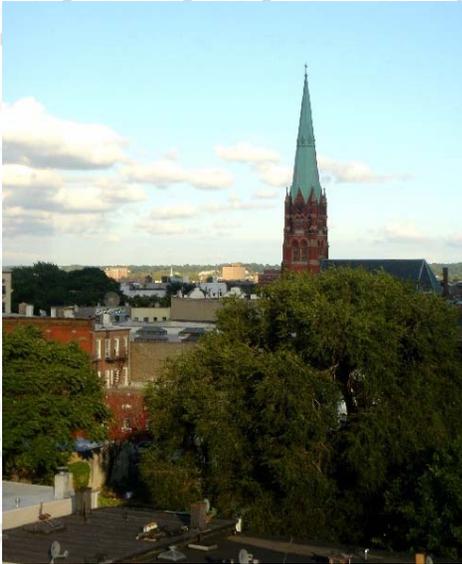


Photo by: Mark Davison

- Measures that improve the neighborhood for residents
- Supporting community pride, identity and ownership