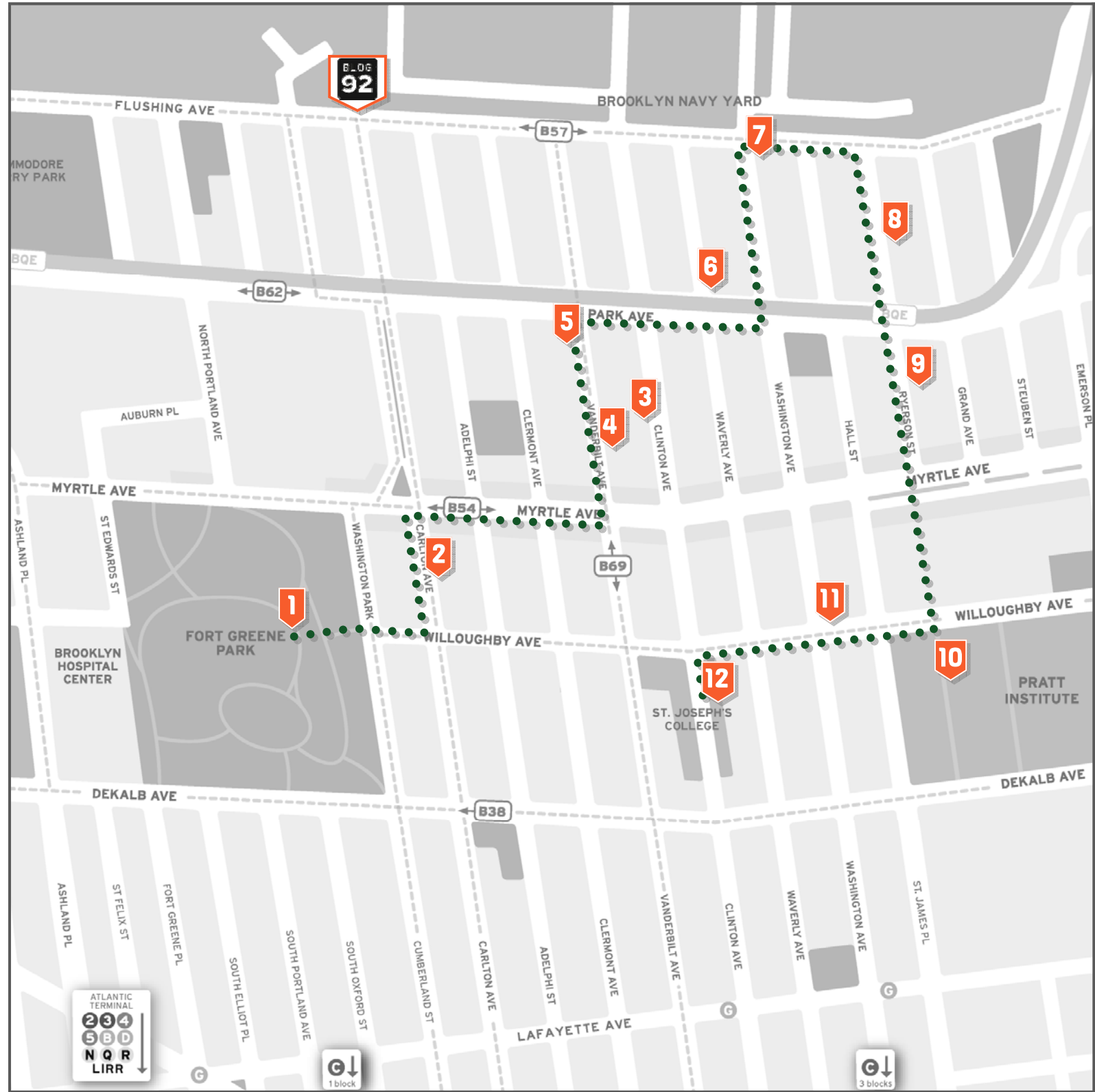


SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR

HISTORY
+
ARCHITECTURE

FORT GREENE
WALLABOUT
CLINTON HILL





1 Fort Greene Park & The Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument

Fort Greene Park was once used as a strategic fort during the Revolutionary War. It was then known as Fort Putnam and was later renamed to Fort Greene during the War of 1812. In 1850, the site of the former fort was turned into a public park. The famed landscape architect Fredrick Law Olmstead provided a proper plan for the park in 1867. Most of his plan was later altered in 1908 by McKim, Meade and White.

In 1908, this architectural trio was commissioned to design a proper memorial for the 11,500 people who died in nearby Wallabout Bay on British Prison Ships during the Revolutionary War. The remains of some of these patriots, most who died from starvation or disease aboard the ships, can be found in a crypt below the monument.

2 Richard Wright Residence

Famed African-American author lived at 175 Carlton for a brief period in the 1930's where he penned *Native Son*, his most influential work that thrust modern racial issues into mainstream American literature.



3 Lefferts-Laidlow House

Built in 1850, this home is one of the oldest structures in Wallabout. Clinton Avenue was originally laid out as a wide boulevard (note how wide the space is still today between the buildings) and this

house was one of the many free-standing "villas" built in Clinton Hill, when it was a suburban retreat. Eventually, the larges homes with their yards were replaced with rowhouses and the backyards were turned into new streets. If you travel one block east to Waverly you'll find many carriage houses, which had once been built in the "back-yards" of the Clinton Avenue homes.

4 Wallabout Historic District (part 1)

This block of Vanderbilt Avenue is designated by New York City as the Wallabout Historic District because of its rare collection of pre-Civil War homes, including many wood frame homes.



In 1852, Brooklyn banned wood frame homes due to fire hazard. Many of the homes in Wallabout are smaller, wood-frame or simple masonry rowhouses. Many of these were originally built as single-family homes but quickly turned into apartments in the years following the Civil War when Brooklyn's population soared, the neighborhood saw more reliable transportation, such as the Myrtle Avenue El train in 1888, and the growth of the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Most homes on this block were once home to workers from the nearby Navy Yard. Take special



note of 123 Vanderbilt, former home of Lip Pike, America's first Jewish professional baseball player.

5 Wallabout Historic District (part 2)

As you walk through the district, you'll pass a large variety of architectural styles, including Greek Revival (187 Vanderbilt), Gothic Revival (111-111) and Italianate (127-129). There will also be a variety of sizes. Note the extremely narrow homes at 104 & 104 1/2. These homes were built just after the Civil War when housing was in high-demand and land prices were extremely high in New York City, hence why builders

started to build narrower and taller. Developers were very active in Wallabout in the later 1800's, including Charles Pratt. Mr. Pratt, the founder of Pratt Institute, was an active speculative builder and completed his first project at 85-89 Vanderbilt. Lastly, before turning onto Park Avenue,



note 69-71 at the corner, the two oldest homes on the block, built in 1849-1850.

6 Industrial Wallabout

As you walk along Park Avenue, take note of the striking

building at the corner of Waverly Avenue. Now home to Benjamin Banneker High School, the building was built originally as a Drake's Cake factory. This was quite at a home in an area rich with sweets and food manufacturers. The area began to become predominately industrial in the late 19th century with the construction of many grocery warehouses. These businesses located in Wallabout to be close to the Wallabout Market, one of the world's largest and busiest markets, lasting from 1888-1940. One of the first grocery warehouses building (1890) was that of the van Glahn Brothers at the corner of Washington & Park (where you'll find Fresh Fanatic grocery store today). The building was eventually converted to manufacturing chocolate for the Rockwood Chocolate Factory, the 2nd largest chocolatier in America (second to Hershey's). After WWII, the factory briefly made Tootsie Rolls.

6 The Brooklyn Navy Yard

At the corner of Washington and Flushing, the expansive 300+ acre Brooklyn Navy Yard stretches





north. The Navy Yard began in 1801, after the young Federal government purchased the land around Wallabout Bay. At its height during WWII, the Yard had more than 70,000 employees. After closing in 1969, the City of New York took control and for decades it sat underutilized. Today, it is home to more than 300 companies, employing over 6,500 people. Tenants produced

everything from Sweet 'n Low to bulletproof clothing to producing the most television shows and films at Steiner Studios. Learn more about the Navy Yard at their visitor's center, **BLDG 92**.

7 Mergenthaler Linotype Complex

After the turn of the 20th-century, the industrial Wallabout district became home to a small company that produced linotype machines founded by a German immigrant. Mr. Mergenthaler invented a new machine that significantly sped up the time automated printing presses operated, revolutionizing printing. Eventually, almost every newspaper and commercial printers owned a Mergenthaler Linotype machines. All of these machines were produced in their large complex along Ryerson Street in Wallabout. In 1909, the first building was constructed, designed by Albert Kahn, one of the most famous industrial architects in America, ushering in a new style of reinforced-concrete structures that accommodated 20th century industry.



8 Walt Whitman Residence

99 Ryerson is Whitman's only remaining home in NYC, a city in which he had more than a dozen addresses. Fortunately, this

home may also be the most significant, as it is where he wrote the first edition of *Leave of Grass*, his most famous work. He lived here for a brief time in 1855.



Hungry? Myrtle Avenue has dozens of options for a meal or a snack. To find a restaurant, visit myrtleavenue.org/dine

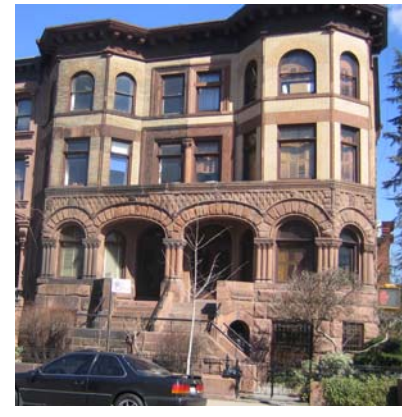


9 Pratt Institute

Started by oil tycoon Charles Pratt in 1887, Pratt has been in Clinton Hill for more than 125 years. Their 25-acre campus is filled with historic buildings, beautiful landscaping and an ever-growing world renowned sculpture garden. Architectural highlights include the campus' oldest building, Main Hall, a Romanesque-Revival building from 1888. Popular 19th-century Brooklyn architect William Tubby designed several buildings, including the Student Union, South Hall and the Library. The library also boasts an interior designed by Tiffany Glass company. Be sure to peek in at the stacks to view their impressive work. For some impressive modern architect, step off the main campus to visit Higgins Hall on St. James Place to see a modern addition by Steven Holl that connects two 19th-century school buildings.

10 Henry & John van Glahn Houses (1892)

The twin houses at 229-231 Washington help to perfectly summarize how the neighborhood developed in the late 19th century. The van Glahn brothers owned a large wholesale food distribution company (see stop #6 for more details). Their company's headquarters, at Washington & Park, was designed by John Glover, who also designed the brothers' homes two blocks up the hill. Like many other successful business owners, they chose to have their house at the "top of the hill," between Myrtle and Lafayette. North of Myrtle, the topography begins to slope towards Wallabout Bay. On these blocks, lower-income



families lived in more modest homes, typically constructed of wood or basic masonry. Further down the hill, adjacent to the bay and the Navy Yard, were the places of work and industry that provided jobs for those who lived up the hill and were owned by those who

lived at the top (figuratively and literally).

11 Charles Millard Pratt Mansion

As part of a Clinton Avenue's "Millionaire's Row," the Charles Millard Pratt mansion was built by the institute-founding Charles Pratt's son. The mansion, one of the finest examples of Romanesque Revival architecture in Brooklyn, was designed by William Tubby (the family's favorite architect), and built in 1893. Other Pratt family mansions still exist at 232 Clinton (Charles Pratt, Sr., 1874), 229 Clinton (Caroline Ladd-Pratt, 1895) and 245 Clinton (George Pratt, 1901).

Although many mansions along Clinton Avenue were lost during urban renewal projects of the mid-20th century, the Pratt Mansions still exemplify the grandeur and suburban nature that Clinton Hill once had in the late 19th century.



To learn more about local history, visit **BLDG 92**, the Brooklyn Navy Yard's visitor's center and museum.