The background image shows a street scene. On the left, a grey utility pole holds a green street sign that reads "Ed Koch Queensboro Br Upper Rdwy" with a white arrow pointing up, and a yellow sign below it that says "CARS ONLY". A smaller green sign on the pole indicates "41 St". A traffic light is visible on the pole, showing a red light. In the background, there is a multi-story brick building with several windows, some of which have air conditioning units. Large trees with yellow and green leaves are in front of the building. A white informational sign is posted on a fence in the lower right. The text "QUEENSBORO BRIDGE SOLID HEAVY" is visible on the fence. The overall scene is an urban setting with autumn foliage.

Historical Overview of the Developments at the Queensbridge Houses 1939 to 2018

Jake Anderson

Purpose of this Project

- Briefly talk about the history of how the buildings came to be.
- Look at how the different groups of people have changed over the decades with information gathered from the Executive Director of the Jacob A. Riis Houses Christopher Hanway .
- Finally, we take a look at the events in Long Island City in 2018 to see what is happening in the community.



History of Queensbridge

One of the most important public housing structures built in the 20th century, the New York Housing Authority (NYCHA) was seen as a monumental triumph for government intervention in assisting the poor with adequate living arrangements. Queensbridge Houses was one of the most important public housing units in the city of New York and was built under the National Housing Act of 1934. The architect was William F.R Ballard



Layout of the buildings consisted of “Y” shaped units to maximize efficiency while reducing overall costs. However it greatly limited the view of the street for the occupants.

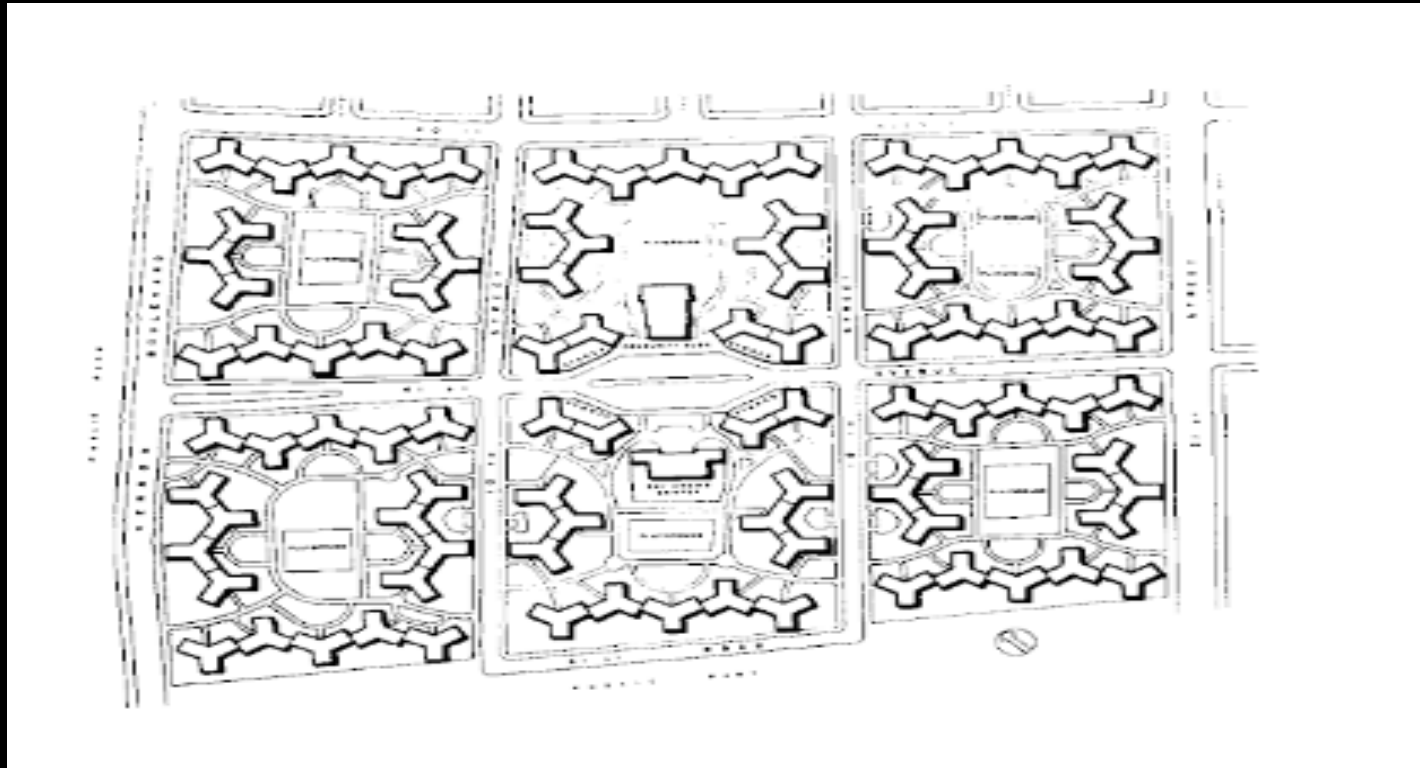


Image from *A History of Housing in New York City* p 240

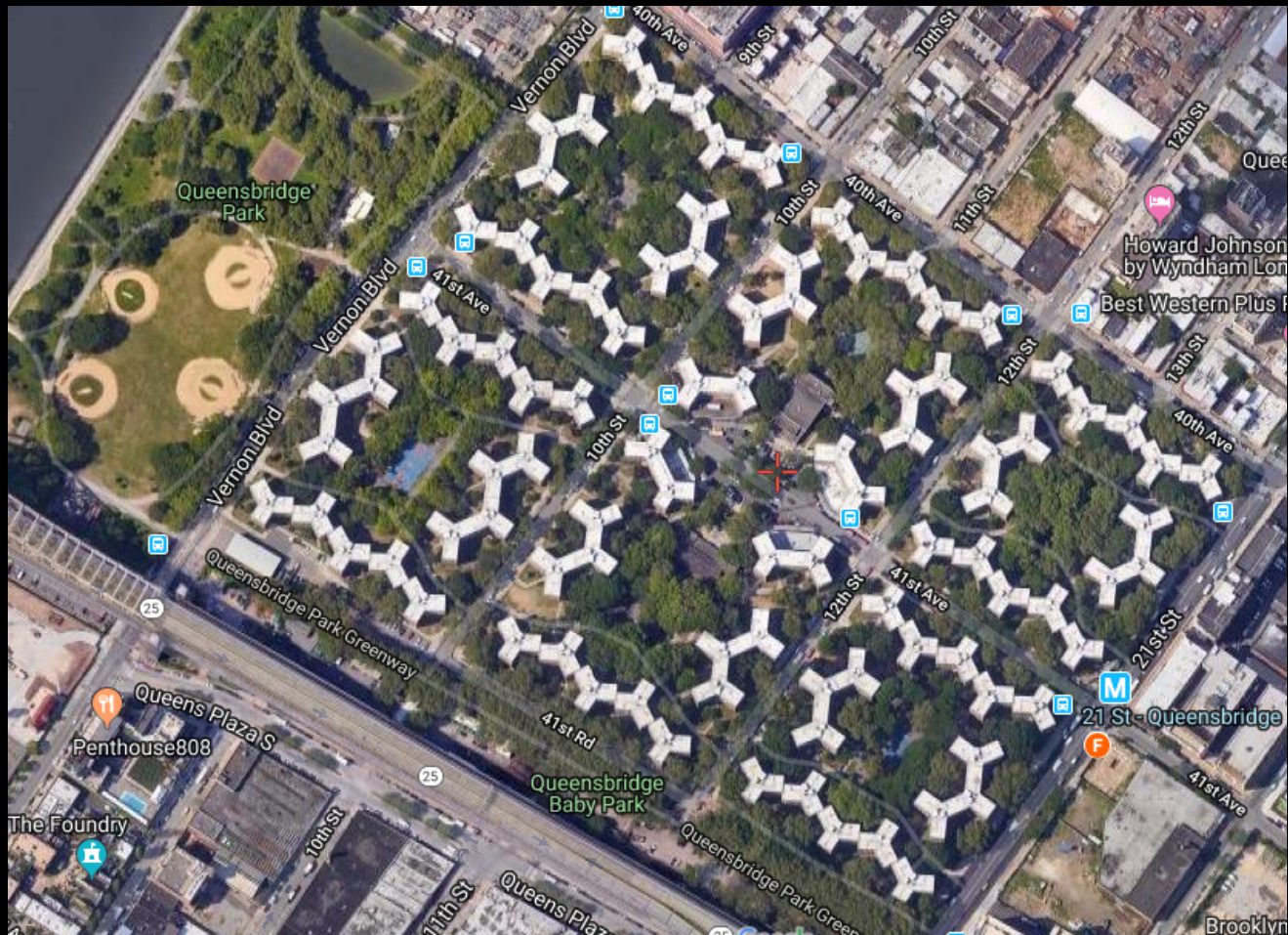
Physical Descriptions:

The houses are made up of six structures starting from Vernon Blvd to the west, 21st Street to the east, 40th Ave to the north, and finally 41st Road along with the Queensboro bridge in the south

Picture from Google Maps



Closer look at the Queensbridge Houses



Snapshot of Queensbridge

Unemployment rate is currently hovering around 25 percent. This is an unfortunate number that has beleaguered the area for some time. Fortunately crime has been greatly reduced from the 70s, 80s and 90s.

Currently, NYCHA is in the middle of a public relations problem with the recent problems but it is looking hopeful that things will be better with more sufficient funds coming from Albany.

Makeup of residents living in Queensbridge Houses

According to stats given during my interview with the Director of the Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Christopher Hanway the racial makeup is about 75 percent African American, 15 percent Latinx, and 10 percent “Other” which is comprised of South and East Asians.

Changing Demographics

From the 90s onward, the demographics have shifted from the historical African American population towards people from Asia (Bangladesh, Korean peninsula, China, Pakistan and other Arab speaking countries.

The Arrival of Amazon in Long Island City



The Arrival of Amazon in Long Island City

Like many things in the world compromises have to be made despite making things more complicated for some people. The arrival of Amazon is no different.

Some political figures have praised it for its prestige and perceived economic benefits to the Long Island City region while more cynical members of the area claim increased noise and traffic pollution and jobs that have traditionally been out of reach for most of the individuals that live in the Queensbridge Houses.

Sources

Punz, Richard (2016) *A History of Housing in New York City*. Columbia University Press, New York

**Hanway, Christopher (2018, November 15)
Phone Interview.**