“Crown Heights? --- It's a bad neighborhood.” *

An amateur attempt to grapple with the ostensible ephemerality of homesteads of certain groups of people in Crown Heights

Intro Sound, Frank Sinatra
“There used to be a ballpark”:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgPPLHPx8PU

* Interlocutors' response time and again, when I said where I lived.
What to expect:
An introduction with anecdotes
A look at ephemerality in history
A look at the present
approx. 10,000 BC

Algonquian speaking tribes, that call themselves “Lenape” and are called Delaware Indians by Europeans, move to Long Island.

Rockaway is still named after their name for it “Rechqua Akie”.

Canarsee is the English pronunciation for the Lenape's word for “fort” or “fenced land”.

1600s – 1800s A.D.

Dutch buy the land from Lenape. (bought Manhattan for ). A document exists that shows how Pieter Stuyvesant (governor of that area of Long Island) awards some land to settlers in 1637. Village of Breuckelen in 1646

English conquer the territory in 1664.

Lenape decimated by measles and smallpox. Signed treaty of Easton 1758, moved to Ohio. On to Oklahoma in 1860.
19th century

Population Brooklyn

2012: 2.5 million
Crown Heights: End of 19\textsuperscript{th} century beginning of 20\textsuperscript{th} century

Crown Heights becomes a fancy neighborhood:

Eastern Parkway completed in 1874, built for “expressly for pleasure riding and driving' or scenic access to Prospect Park

IRT Eastern Parkway Line was built from 1915 to 1918
Excourse: Ebbets Field, 1913-57

On opening day, April 9, 1913.
Since 1920s: Caribbean newcomers
Since 1940s: Lubavitch Jewish newcomers

770 Eastern Parkway.
1991: A Riot
2000s: White newcomers
Status quo (if any):

As of 2010, of the approximately 150,000 residents in Crown Heights, 74.7% were Black, 19.1% were White, 4.2% were Hispanic, and 2% were Asian and other ethnic groups.
Gentrification:

Merriam Webster says: the process of renewal and rebuilding accompanying the influx of middle-class or affluent people into deteriorating areas that often displaces poorer residents (Merriam Webster), first known use 1964,

Gentry: 1 a) upper or ruling class; b) a class whose members are entitled to bear a coat of arms though not of noble rank; especially : the landed proprietors having such status. 2 people of a specified class or kind

Wikipedia says: British sociologist Ruth Glass coined the term "gentrification" in 1964 to describe the influx of middle-class people displacing lower-class worker residents in urban neighborhoods; her example was London, and its working-class districts such as Islington
Some Recent Violence in Crown Heights

A fatal stabbing on Aug 4, 2013 right around the corner.
Three men and a woman were hit in an apparent drive-by shooting in Crown Heights on July 22, 2013
Two shootings and one stabbing before the 2013 parade.
Lots of media attention.

Funny (till 1:28):
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nc2Uv0wEUWs

Not so funny (till 1:27):
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3ODWh7c3O4

A documentary with a mission (1:16 till 2:17):
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iP5ukioKB9U

Three movies on the topic:
Brooklyn Boheme (recent)
My Brooklyn (recent)
And a classic: Do the right thing

Any conclusions?
Literature and videos:


Merlis, B. 1995. Brooklyn the way it was : over 200 vintage photographs from the collection of Brian Merlis. Israelowitz Publishers.


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A visit to the Brooklyn Historical Societa exhibit and library (in Brooklyn Heights)

Numerous newspaper articles from 2011-2013, and several wikipedia entries “Brooklyn”, “Lenape”, “Ebbets Field”, talks with people around the hood, living there for two years...