

# Facts on the History

## GREENPOINT BROOKLYN REMEDIATION PROJECT

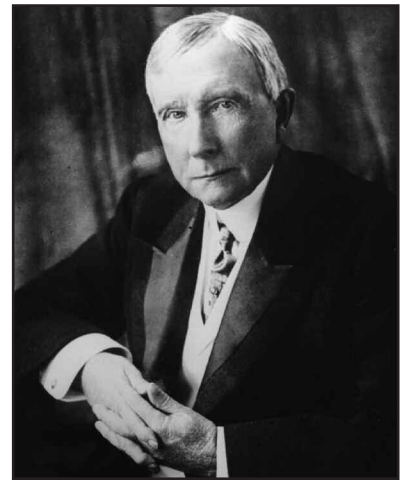
### Heavy industry in Greenpoint since the mid 1800s

Dating to the 1840s, the earliest industries in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn included shipbuilding, ironworks, coal yards and coal oil production. Petroleum refining operations in the northeast section, between North Henry Street, Norman Avenue and Newtown Creek, began in approximately 1866.

- By 1870, more than 50 refineries were located along the banks of Newtown Creek.
- In 1892, the Standard Oil Trust purchased many of the refineries along the Creek. In 1911, the Standard Oil Trust was dissolved, resulting in the spin-off of 34 companies, including Standard Oil of New York, which later became Mobil Corporation.
- Refinery operations at Mobil's Brooklyn refinery ended in 1966, and the refinery was demolished. Mobil used the property as a petroleum bulk fuel storage and distribution terminal until 1993.
- ExxonMobil was formed with the merger of Exxon Corporation and Mobil Corporation in 1999.

### Plume Discovery and Recovery

- The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) on routine helicopter patrol in September 1978 discovered a petroleum oil leak entering Newtown Creek from the bulkhead located at Meeker Avenue. A study commissioned by USCG and conducted by the consulting firm of Geraghty & Miller reported its findings in 1979.
- Following the discovery of petroleum products seeping into Newtown Creek, the Meeker Avenue Task Force installed product recovery sumps at the foot of Meeker Avenue.
- In 1979, Mobil began operation of its On-Site Recovery System at its Brooklyn Terminal property, using product recovery pumps.
- In 1981, a dual-pump petroleum recovery system was installed on-site to begin recovery of petroleum products located generally 20-30 feet below the earth's surface.
- Between the years of 1991-1993, Mobil designed an Off-Site Recovery System utilizing dual-pump technology which became operational in 1995.
- By May 2000, petroleum seepage at the foot of Meeker Avenue was eliminated.



**John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937), the American oil magnate and philanthropist.**

*The Center for American History The University of Texas at Austin.*



**Brooklyn Refinery 1931**

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**ExxonMobil**

For more information: 718.389.8987  
[www.exxonmobil.com/greenpoint](http://www.exxonmobil.com/greenpoint)