

Object Spotlight: BRT Brooklyn Union Elevated Car 1407



Black Paw Photo

What is this made of?

Composite of wood and steel

Who made it?

Jewett Car Company
(Newark, Ohio), 1907

Who used it?

Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company

Which routes did it serve?

Brooklyn elevated lines
(1908-1938), Q Car on Astoria
and Flushing lines (1939-1949),
Third Avenue Elevated,
Manhattan (1950-1955)

Car 1407 ran on elevated tracks in Brooklyn for about 30 years. During that time, it was part of a four-car passenger train. To board one of these trains, a conductor would have manually opened the door for you and even told you where to sit! If you were riding to the end of the line, you'd get seated in the middle of the train car. But if you were getting off sooner, you'd get to sit closer to one of the doors. Conductors did this because there were only two doors on each train car and they needed to keep the train on schedule. Once everyone was safely on board, the conductor would ring a ceiling-mounted bell to signal the motorman to start moving.