The Riots at New York. The rioters burning and sacking the Colored Orphan Asylum, Courtesy of the Library of Congress.
Lesson 18, Worksheet 2, con’t
Riots and Refuge

Document #2

From the *Report of the Committee of merchants for the relief of colored people, suffering from the late riots in the city of New York, 1863*

BROOKLYN. On the Monday succeeding the riot, we visited Weeksville, a settlement of colored people, situated some three miles from the ferries, where we found a large number of refugees from the city of New York, and many that had been driven out from their homes in Brooklyn, the inhabitants having furnished them such shelter as they were able, with their limited means and small facilities for accommodating several hundred strangers thrown upon them. We found not only Weeksville, but Carsville, New Brooklyn, and the whole vicinity extending to Flatbush and Flatlands, had more or less refugees scattered in the woods and in such places as they could find safety and shelter.
During the Draft Riots in Manhattan, African Americans sought refuge throughout Brooklyn. One safe haven was the Turn Verein Hall, a German community center located at Meserole Street (near Union Avenue) in Williamsburg. The area’s German community “assembled in great force,” determined to assist and protect people in Williamsburg.