

# Guide to the Westport Places Collection

## Collection Overview:

**REPOSITORY:** Westport Historical Society, 25 Avery Place, Westport, CT

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 3

**TITLE:** Westport Places Collection

**DATES:** 1827-2015, n.d.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 6.5 linear feet (18 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Westport Places Collection includes documentation of bridges, roads, cemeteries, churches, temples, historic houses, parks, waterways, and other sites in Westport.

## HISTORICAL NOTE:

Like many other towns in New England, Westport's roots are in the Native Americans who frequented this area years ago. Names such as Saugatuck, meaning mouth of the tidal river, and Compo (Compaug), the bear's fishing ground, come from the early Paugussett tribe.

The colonial settlers came from three surrounding towns – Norwalk, Fairfield, and Weston, parts of which comprised Westport. The river was the dividing line between Norwalk and Fairfield, and vital to farmers as a pathway to markets for their produce. A small community of wharves, warehouses, stores and a tavern grew up on both sides of the river to become the Village of Saugatuck. The first church built in Westport was the Green's Farms Congregational Church, in 1711, and it served as the focal point of all town activities, from running the schools to collecting the taxes.

After the Revolutionary War, the Village of Saugatuck began to grow as a shipping center. In the 1830s, Daniel Nash, a leading resident, together with 130 other villagers made an application to the Connecticut General Assembly to incorporate Westport as a town. The charter was granted May 28, 1835.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Westport Places Collection includes documentation of bridges, roads, cemeteries, churches, temples, historic houses and buildings, parks, waterways, and other sites in Westport. The documentation is primarily printed material collected by the Westport Museum for History and Culture over the years, but does include some original manuscript material, as noted in the finding aid. Records related to the Green's Farms Congregational Church are in a separate record group, RG 18. Records related to Westport public schools are found in Record Group 2, Westport Town Records. Records related to businesses in Westport, including mills, are found in Record Group 5, Westport Business and Commerce. Photographs of places documented in this record group may be found in Record Group 13, Westport Photographs.

## ARRANGEMENT

Series 1: Bridges and Roads

Series 2: Cemeteries

Series 3: Churches and Temples

Series 4: Historic Houses and Buildings

Series 5: Parks and Waterways

Series 6: Sites and Landmarks

Series 7: Surveys and Reports

## Series 1: Bridges and Roads

Box	Folder	.	Date
1	1	Detailed listing of box contents and copies of clippings related to various bridges	
1	2	King's Highway Bridge	
1	3	Sasco Creek Bridge	
1	4-5	Saugatuck Bridge (Bridge St.) – includes study report for Local Historic District Designation, Saugatuck River Swing Bridge	
1	6-7	State Street Bridge	
1	8	"The Merritt Parkway: Driving Fairfield County to Economic Prosperity" – paper by Paul J. Tupper	2012

## Series 2: Cemeteries

Box	Folder	.	Date
2	1	Assumption Cemetery (Catholic Church of the Assumption) – see also Box 2, Folder 3	
2	2	Burial Hill / Burying Hill	
2	3	Christ Church Cemetery and Assumption Cemetery	
2	4	Compo Colonial Cemetery	
2	5	Evergreen Cemetery – Saugatuck Society	
2	6	Gray's Cemetery	
2	7-8	Green's Farms Lower Cemetery	
3	1a	Green's Farms Upper Cemetery	
3	1b	Green's Farms – West Parish – Colonial Cemetery on Shore Road	
3	2	Old Burial Ground / King's Highway Cemetery	
3	3	Platt Cemetery	
3	4	Poplar Plain Cemetery	
3	5	Willowbrook Cemetery	
3	6	General: Photocopy of "Record of Returns made by Sextons of Cemeteries"	1886-1909
3	7	General: Photocopy from "Charles Hale Collection of Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions to approximately 1937 – Westport CT section, index of names	
3	8	General: Articles and notes re. Westport cemeteries. Copy of WHS publication "Buried in	

		our Past: A Historical Presentation of Westport's Burial Grounds"	
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### Series 3: Churches and Temples

Box	Folder	.	Date
4	1	Assumption Parish / Church of the Assumption	
4	2	Chabad Lubavitch Synagogue	
4	3	Christ Church - histories	
4	4-5	Christ Church – photocopies of parish records	1836-1890
4	6	Christ Church – photocopy of parish register	1853-1887
4	7-8	Christ and Holy Trinity Church	
4	9	Church of the Holy Trinity – including sermon by Rector Kenneth Mackenzie, 1901	
5	1	Church of St. Luke – history of church 1957-1982, postcards	
5	2	Conservative Synagogue	1998
		Green's Farms Congregational Church – see Record Group 18	
5	3	Methodist churches – Methodist Episcopal Church, Saugatuck – documents certifying annual meetings of church and election of trustees, 1867-1933; Westport Methodist Church – election of trustees, 1938; articles of merger of Westport Methodist Church and Saugatuck Methodist Church, 1947	1867-1947
5	4	Methodist churches – histories and reminiscences, including "Methodism in Westport 1790-1990," booklet published by United Methodist Church; history of Community Methodist Church; newspaper articles re. Methodism	
5	5	St. Paul Lutheran Church – illustration on notecard	
5	6	Saugatuck Congregational Church – church publications including Confession of Faith, Covenant, Ecclesiastical Principles, 1857; bulletins; historical sketch, n.d.; 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary booklet, 1957; restoration report, 1993	1857-1993
5	7	Saugatuck Congregational Church – historical sketch re. church and Jesup Mansion (parsonage)	
5	8	Saugatuck Congregational Church - newspaper articles; program for benefit concert for soldiers' families, 1865	1865
5	9	Saugatuck Congregational Church – newspaper articles and photographs re. move of church building across Boston Post Road	1950
5	10	Saugatuck Congregational Church – newspaper article re. fire at church	2011
6	1	Temple Israel – news articles re. 40 year anniversary, 1988; typescript history	1988, n.d.

6	2	Unitarian Church – brochure, articles about building; handwritten historical sketch; postcards	1988, n.d.
6	3	General: church and temples chronology, text from WHS exhibit “Houses of Prayer in Westport”	

#### Series 4: Historic Houses and Buildings

See also in Record Group 8, Box 3: “Some Colonial and Revolutionary Homes in Westport” (1900-1901) – papers by Margaret Backus

See also at repository: 2 sets of files related to historic houses, arranged by street address

Box	Folder	.	Date
7	1	Driftwood – re. auction of waterfront estate	1941
7	2	Dunn House, Myrtle Ave. – blueprints	
8		Emily McLaury House, 99 Myrtle Ave. Documentation prepared in collaboration with Wendy Crowther, member of Emily McLaury House Committee: genealogical information including re. Emma McLaury, John King family, property maps, info. on home	2007
7	3	Toquet Hall	
7	4	Town Hall – architect’s specifications for construction of Town Hall	1908
7	5	Westport Railroad Station – including design studies sponsored by WHS and Westport Historic District Commission	1993-1995

#### Series 5: Parks and Waterways

Box	Folder	.	Date
9	1	Aspetuck Land Trust – records of donation of land, maps	
9	2-4	Compo Beach – beach rules, 1939; historical sketch of Compo Beach Park and Cedar Point Yacht Basin, 1947; commemorative booklet for 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Compo Beach Improvement Association, 1978; newspaper articles, incl. re. dogs on beach, 1989, 2002	1939-2002
9	5	Jesup Green – news article re. founding	1966
9	6	Library Riverwalk and gardens brochure	1992
10	1	Longshore Club Park – copies of historical deeds	
10	2	Longshore Club Park – historical research and sketches	
10	3	Longshore Club Park – by-laws, report of Longshore Club Park Executive subcommittee, lease	1960-1966

10	4	Longshore Club Park – correspondence and reports	1976-1977
10	5	Longshore Club Park – correspondence and reports, including re. Longshore Inn	1981-1982
10	6-7	Longshore Club Park – brochures and event announcements, incl. for Longshore Inn, Longshore Beach and Community Club	1931-1933, n.d.
10	8	Longshore Club Park – rules and regulations	1981-1982, n.d.
10	9	Longshore Club Park – 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations	2010
10	10-13	Longshore Club Park – newspaper clippings	1960s – 1990s
10	14	Longshore Club Park – issue of “Longshore News”	1936
10	15	Longshore Club Park – towel with Longshore C.C. logo	
10	16	Longshore Club Park – sheet music for “Longshore Moon” – words by Fred Phillips, music by Emil Velazco	
10A	1-3	Longshore Club Park – additional documentation re. town purchase of park	
9	7	Grace K. Salmon Memorial Park	
9	8	Saugatuck River – including “Report and Map of the Survey of Saugatuck Harbor and River”, 1827	
9	9	Saugatuck River – copies of historical documents about Westport Harbor and Saugatuck River, from Westport Harbor Committee	
9	10	Saugatuck River - re. restoration of river and booklet “Fishing the Saugatuck” by Dick Alley	
11	1	Sherwood Island State Park – brochures, newspaper clippings	
11	2	Sherwood Island State Park – Report of Stage 1 Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the Arthur Sherwood, Folly Farm, and Sherwood Point Sites	2013
11	3	Sycamore Park – newspaper clipping	1987
11	4	Wakeman Park – newspaper clipping	1996
11	5	Westport Park and Athletic Field – records of the Supervising Committee	1926-1936
12	1	Winslow Park – historical sketches of Winslow Park and Richard Henry Winslow	
12	2	Winslow Park – town documents re. purchase and development of park, Planning and Zoning documents	1966-1968
12	3	Winslow Park – re. acquisition of park land, Phelps vs.. Baron purchase and development – clippings	1968-1970
12	4	Winslow Park – League of Women Voters documentation re. Baron’s properties (Evan Perfumes, Inc.), referendum on purchase of land	1985, 1987
12	5-6	Winslow Park – town Planning and Zoning documents, League of Women Voters report on land use	1990-1995

12	7	Winslow Park – purchase of Precious property adjacent to park	1988-1999
12	8	Winslow Park – naming of park	1993-1995
13	1	Winslow Park – dog park	1994-1995
13	2-3	Winslow Park – newspaper clippings re. controversies related to park	1968-2007
13	4	Winslow Park – Friends of Winslow Park by-laws	1997
13	5	Winslow Park – property survey maps	
13	6	Winslow Park – maps of Precious property	
13	7	Winslow Park – related to park property	

## Series 6: Sites and Landmarks

Box	Folder	.	Date
14	1	Baron's Property South – including re. possible use of mansion as Museum of Westport History	1999
14	2	Cockenoe Island – Recreation and Resource Protection Plan	1982
14	3	Cockenoe Island – historical notes	
14	4	Cockenoe Island – 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of beginning of successful two-year campaign to keep United Illuminating Co. from building a nuclear plant on Cockenoe Island – plans and programs	1997
14	5-6	Cockenoe Island – Victory celebration clippings, entertainment script	1997
14	7	Nike site (Bayberry Lane) - correspondence, memos, clippings re. purchase of land from Aaron Rabinowitz by federal government to establish site for Nike surface to air guided missiles to protect Bridgeport industrial sites during Cold War (decommissioned 1960-1964)	1954-1957
14	8-9	Nike site – correspondence re. repossession of land by Rabinowitz and gift to town	1962-1964
14	10	Nike site – clippings re. repossession of site, Rabinowitz's proposal to establish branch library as memorial to Lillian Wald	1964, n.d.
14	11	Nike site – clipping re. clean-up of site	1992
14	12	Saugatuck Historic District – miscellaneous, including map showing residences in area in 1914	
14	13	Village Square – documentation re. controversy surrounding demolition of buildings and development	1996
14	14	General: maps related to traffic patterns and parking in town center	n.d.
14	15	General: clippings re. Tar Rock, Deerfield Park, presentation re. Town Owned Residence Properties, 2015	

## Series 7: Surveys and Reports

Box	Folder	.	Date
15	1	Historic District Commission – general information incl. Report of Westport Historic District Study Committee	1972
15	2	Saugatuck: An Architectural and Historic Resource Survey sponsored by Westport Historic District Commission	1987
16		Historical and Architectural Survey of Westport sponsored by Westport Historic District Commission, the Town of Westport, and Connecticut Historical Commission – report and forms filed by address	1988
17	1	Westport Historic District and Properties Handbook – sponsored by National Park Service, Connecticut Historical Commission, Westport Historic District Commission	1996
17	2	Westport Historic District and Properties Handbook, Second edition	1998
17	3	Town of Westport Historic Resources Inventory and Survey Locator Key, submitted by Westport Historic District Commission	1998
17	4	Historic Architectural Survey Update – Early Twentieth Century Resources, Town of Westport	2004
17	5	Study report: Proposed Local Historic Property Designation for the Lower Green’s Farms Colonial Burying Ground	2008
17	6	Study report: Proposed Evergreen Avenue Historic District	2008