

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: 1827-2018, n.d.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8.5 linear feet (22 boxes; + oversize)

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 8: Maps

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
1	9	Merritt Parkway – clippings, photos	

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 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 th 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
7	6	Wakeman-Gray-Couch House	

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 th 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 th 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
18	1-11	Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve <i>The Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve is located at 191 Hillspoint Road on the site of the former Allen’s Clam House Restaurant. When Captain Allen’s century-old shellfishing business and eatery closed, the property was put up for sale. To protect the site from developers, the town of Westport bought the property with the help of many local residents who donated nearly half the funds necessary to complete the purchase.</i> Real estate and tax information, Bill Fern’s files, correspondence, Westport Conservation Department Water Quality Studies, list of pledges, Allen’s Clam House reports and correspondence, etc.	1985-2013
19	12-22	Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve Correspondence, plans dredging and outlet work, phragmites	1988-2007

20	23-32	Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve Allen's Clam House, phragmite, rehabilitation project, correspondence, reports	1986-2010
21	33-44	Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve Property value reports, Bill Fern files: assessment study, contributions, flyers and handouts, fact sheet, right of way access, reports, correspondence, publicity	1985-1988
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	3a	Letter from Baron von Langendorff (Dr. W. Langer) to Barbara Elmer, President, Westport Historical Society	1979 July 24
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 th anniversary celebration of beginning of successful two-year campaign to keep United Illuminating Co. from building a	1997

		nuclear plant on Cockenoe Island – plans and programs	
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	2002, 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
17	7	Study report: Proposed Maplewood Avenue Local Historic District	2014
17	8	Study report: Proposed Cable’s Landing Extension, Kings Highway Historic District	2018

Series 8: Maps

22	1	Map of New York – Boston Post Road in 1776 (prepared in 1976 for Bicentennial)	
22	2	Early maps of Westport (photocopies of maps and drawings from 1700s-1921, including some from Christopher Colles collection of early maps, 1789)	
22	3	Street map of Westport and Wilton	1930s
22	4	Street map of Westport	1947
22	5	Street map of Westport	1950s
22	6	Pocket Directory and Indexed Map of Westport	1962
22	7	Maps of Westport and surrounding towns	1970s
22	8	Maps of Westport and Weston	1980s
22	9	Maps of Westport and Weston	1990s
22	10	Maps of Westport	2000-2005
22	11	Maps of Westport	2009-2015
22	12	Maps of Westport and area	n.d.
22	13	Map of Connecticut issued for Tercentenary, illustrated by Westport resident John Held, Jr.	1935
22	14	Miscellaneous maps of Connecticut	1950s-2000s
22	15	Maps of Bridgeport (1933), Norwalk (n.d.), Fairfield in 1779	
22	16	U. S. Coast Guard map – Approaches to New York	1913
22	17	Oyster grounds: Darien-Norwalk-Westport	1954
22	18	Map showing travels of George Washington 1732-1799	
22	19	Map of Sherwood Point	
		Maps in map chest	
Drawer 6		Clarks map	1858
		Beers Atlas map	1867
		Bailey Aerial View of Westport	1870
		School District boundaries	1875
		Hurd map	1893
		Westport, Green’s Farms and Saugatuck 1648-1933	
		Fairfield County map, League of Women Voters	1934
		Coley book map, Westport 1803	

		Map for frontispiece of Edward Coley Birge book	
		Historic houses in Westport in 1935 – Dort book	
Drawer 7		Hopkins maps	
		Jenning Trail map	
		Freehand sketch of roads prior to 1835 by Irving F. Putney	
		Price & Lee map of Westport, Saugatuck and Green's Farms	1927
		Dolph & Stewart map – Towns of Westport and Weston	Circa 1935
		Map of Westport drawn by Edwin L. Howard	1947
		Zoning map	1984
Drawer 8		Sanborn maps	1885, 1891, 1896, 1901, 1910, 1923, 1931, 1940
		Leachate and Wastewater Sources	1984
		Water Quality Classifications	1985
		Proposed compost site	1992
Drawer 9		Saugatuck	1835, 1893, 1918
		Westport bridge	1869
		Westport shipyard drawn by N. M. Belden	1891
		Compo Beach map by W. H. Burr	1905
		Henry Minor survey	1911
		Post Road	1931
		Main Street	1935
		Westport in 1842 – map prepared by Dorothea Malm and Barbara Raymond	2000
		U. S. Coast Guard map with King's Highway marked	
		Miscellaneous maps of Long Lots, including showing owners in 1867	
		3 aerial photos of roads and bridges	
Drawer 10		Property survey Compo Rd, Soundview Dr, Hillspoint	1948
		Map from Aaron Rabinowitz file re. purchase by U.S. Government for Nike site	1957
		Long range plans for Longshore Club parking	1960
		Plans of Development and Zoning	1961
		Harvest Commons	1979
		Assessor's maps and map key	1990
		Property surveys for Leon C. Hirsch	1991
		Official Building Zone map of Westport, amended	1997
		Maps of property of Lois Sherwood, Gertrude Fitzpatrick, Helen Brooks, Annette Vail Schlaet, Stauffer Chemical Co., Henry Peacock, Charles C. Wakeman, Stephen Novak and A. C. Knorr, Edwind Squires	
		Proposed Jesup Road Historic District	
		Map labeled "Riteway"	

Drawer 11		Miscellaneous U.S. Coast Guard and Geodetic maps of Westport/Norwalk/Fairfield	
		Maps related to wetlands	
Drawer 12		Hartford and Harlem Railroad map	1884
		Oyster grounds	1912, 1920
		Rand McNally Road Atlas distributed by Embalmers Supply Co.	1956
		Westport Center Planning District Historic Resources Inventory	2012
		Riverside-Post Road Historic District	
		North Main-Canal Historic District	
		Myrtle-Avery Historic District	
		Map showing town property near River, Redcoat, and Ford Roads	
		Westport voting districts	
		Miscellaneous maps of Westport	
		Miscellaneous maps of Connecticut	
Drawer 13		Birdseye view of Westport, O.H. Bailey & Co. Publishers	1878
		Section of Westport Fire District	1920
		Baron's Property, South	2007
		Birdseye view of Green Orchard – Farnham Estate, Westport	
		Maps from George Penfield Jennings book <i>Greens Farms, Connecticut, the old West Parish of Fairfield</i>	
		Miscellaneous maps of Westport	
Drawer 15		Library building plans	
		Other building sites and blueprints	