



Westport Schools Collection RG 20

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Description is in English

Westport Museum for History & Culture

25 Avery Place

Westport, CT 06880

Business Number: (203) 222-1424

archives@westporthistory.org

URL: <https://westporthistory.org/>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Note	3
Scope and Content of Collection	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
General	5
Collection Inventory	5
General	5
Reports and records: Westport and region	5
Financial records	6
Histories, notes, and clippings	6
Photographs	7
Related to Specific Schools	7
Adams Academy - see also Record Group 9, Adams Family Papers	7
Bedford Elementary School	7
Bedford Junior High School	8
Mrs. Bolton's School	8
Bridge Street School – see also Record Group 9, Adams Family Papers – Dorothy Adams	8
Burr Farms School	9
Coleytown Elementary School	9
Compo Seminary for Young Ladies	9
Mrs. Gray's School	9
Green's Farms Academy	9
Green's Farms School	9
Hillspoint School	10
Kings Highway School	10
Saugatuck School	10
Select School for Boys	11
Shercrow District School House	11
Staples High School	11

Summary Information

Repository:	Westport Museum for History & Culture
Title:	Westport Schools Collection
ID:	RG 20
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/36/resources/1145
Date [inclusive]:	1797-2016, n.d.
Physical Description:	4.25 linear feet 10 boxes
Physical Location:	Westport Museum for History and Culture Archives Room
Language of the Material:	English.
Abstract:	This collection documents the history of schools and education in Westport, Connecticut.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], [Box no]., Westport Schools Collection, Westport Museum for History and Culture

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

The Town of Westport was officially incorporated on May 28, 1835, but the area was settled by colonists as early as the late 17th century and schools existed from the 18th century. Westport currently has eight public schools: one high school (Staples High School), two middle schools (Bedford and Coleytown) and five elementary schools. Private schools that have existed in the town include Adams Academy, which was operated by Ebenezer Adams from 1837 to 1867. For more detailed history about schools and education in Westport, see documents in Series I.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content of Collection

A detailed finding aid for the collection is available at the repository.

The development and history of schools in Westport, both private and public, is documented from the late 18th century onwards. Series I contains material related to education and schools in general in the town, arranged chronologically. Series 2 is organized alphabetically by the names of specific schools. For additional documentation related to the Adams Academy, see Record Group 9, Adams Family Papers.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The material is arranged in two series: Series 1: General Series 2: Related to Specific Schools

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

For copyright status, please contact the Westport Museum for History and Culture.

Acquisition Information

Acquired by the Westport Museum for History by donations and collecting over the years.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Westport (Conn.)--History.
- Schools
- Education

General

Collection guide written by:

Westport Museum for History and Culture staff

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

General

Reports and records: Westport and region

Title/Description	Instances	
Record of contributions of firewood by individuals for school started in southern district, Weston, 1798	Box 1	Folder 1
Reports of School Fund of Connecticut to General Assembly, 1819	Box 1	Folder 2
Record book of West School District of Westport, 1838	Box 1	Folder 3
Reports of Treasurer of West Saugatuck School District, 1860, 1865	Box 1	Folder 4
Memo to teachers in Westport Union School, 1872	Box 1	Folder 5
Record book of West Saugatuck School District, 1873-1894	Box 1	Folder 6

Westport Schools Collection RG 20

Treasurer's account book, Compo School District, 1885-1899	Box 1	Folder 7
Annual reports of the Board of School Visitors, 1877, 1886, 1888	Box 1	Folder 8
Copies of Teacher's Certificate for the town of Westport, 1888, 1894	Box 1	Folder 9
School record of William Clinton Welch, 1898-1912	Box 1	Folder 9
List of private schools in Westport, with teacher names, Undated	Box 1	Folder 9
Pamphlet: "Course of Study of the Elementary Schools of Westport" and miscellaneous notes re. curriculum, 1909, undated	Box 1	Folder 10
Report of Westport School Study Council, 1947	Box 1	Folder 11
Report of Social Studies Summer Curriculum Workshop – Grade 2, 1959	Box 1	Folder 12
Minutes of Board of Education, 1962 May 7	Box 1	Folder 13
Report: "Immediate and Long-Range School Building Program", 1964	Box 1	Folder 14
Report on new elementary school districts after closing of Bedford Elementary School, 1974	Box 1	Folder 15
Pamphlet: "Focus on Westport Schools"- prepared by League of Women Voters, 1980	Box 1	Folder 16
Preliminary design study for Westport schools additions, 1991	Box 1	Folder 17

Financial records

Title/Description	Instances	
School Districts Real Estate Assessments, 1858-1895	Box 1	Folder 18a, 18b, 19
Compo School District Abstract, 1887-1888, undated	Box 1	Folder 20
Grand list of 10 School Districts, Undated	Box 1	Folder 20

Histories, notes, and clippings

Title/Description	Instances	
Typescript history of Westport schools – 43 pp., undated	Box 2	Folder 1
Handwritten histories: E.C. Birge, "The Hut" – re. Long Lots School (7 pp); unidentified author (8 pp), 1924, undated	Box 2	Folder 2
Notes	Box 2	Folder 3
Newspaper clippings and articles	Box 2	Folder 4

Series of articles for Reminiscent Westport column - "Early Schools" by Mrs. T. C. Stearns, 1903	Box 10	Folder 1
Pamphlet "Progressive Westport", 1933	Box 10	Folder 2
Brochure for Adult Education program, 1966-1967	Box 10	Folder 3
Newsletter of Board of Education - "School Days", 1970	Box 10	Folder 4
Newspaper clipping re. Project Concern - inner city children from Bridgeport coming to Burr Farms School, 1971	Box 10	Folder 10
Pamphlet: "Focus on Westport Public Schools" - by League of Women Voters, 1980	Box 10	Folder 6
Westport Schools Permanent Art Collection catalogue, 2000	Box 10	Folder 7
History of Westport school names, prepared by Alice Shelton, undated	Box 10	Folder 8

Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Unidentified class groups and teachers	Box 2	Folder 5

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related to Specific Schools

Adams Academy - see also Record Group 9, Adams Family Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
Narrative histories of Adams Academy, including by Joan L. Ross, 1961, undated	Box 2	Folder 6
Information re. painting of the Academy by artist John Ludlow Morton	Box 2	Folder 7
Newspaper clippings and notes	Box 2	Folder 8
Correspondence with Westport Historical Society, 1965-1987	Box 2	Folder 9
Clippings and articles re. restoration of Adams Academy, 1958-1977	Box 2	Folder 10-11
Letters and reports re. restoration, 1958-1964, 1983	Box 2	Folder 12
Flyer re. restoration effort; land survey	Box 2	Folder 13
Notebook listing contributors to restoration, 1962	Box 2	Folder 14

Bedford Elementary School

Title/Description	Instances	
Notice re. building of Bedford School, 1916	Box 3	Folder 1
PTA meeting notebook, 1923-1929	Box 3	Folder 1
PTA minutes and records, 1935-1937, undated	Box 3	Folder 2
PTA correspondence and records, 1951-1966	Box 3	Folder 3
PTA Parents' Handbooks, 1965-1974	Box 3	Folder 4-5
"Bedford Buzz" – PTA newsletter, 1962-1974	Box 3	Folder 6-7
Program from school theater event, 1931	Box 3	Folder 8
"The Inky Press" – student literary publication, 1973, 1974	Box 3	Folder 8
Clippings re. school, 1956-1979	Box 3	Folder 9
Photo of teachers and school staff, undated	Box 3	Folder 10
Class photo, 1944	Folder OV-1	

Bedford Junior High School

Title/Description	Instances	
Yearbooks, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1964, 1974, 1976	Box 3	Folder 11-12
Student literary magazines and event programs, 1932, 1935, 1976, undated	Box 4	Folder 1
Parent handbooks and memos, 1975-1976	Box 4	Folder 2
Clippings, 1951-1993, undated	Box 4	Folder 3

Mrs. Bolton's School

Title/Description	Instances	
Programs for plays, 1933,1935	Box 4	Folder 7
Photo from Shakespeare play, 1932	Box 4	Folder 7
Clippings, including re. Kathleen Laycock Country Day School (offshoot of Mrs. Bolton's), 1964, undated	Box 4	Folder 7

Bridge Street School – see also Record Group 9, Adams Family Papers – Dorothy Adams

Title/Description	Instances	
Related to curriculum and testing; article about school, 1929-1930s, undated	Box 4	Folder 4
Teacher roll and marking books (belonging to Dorothy Adams?), 1929-1930s	Box 4	Folder 5
Student composition book and "Language Creed and Pledge", undated	Box 4	Folder 6

Burr Farms School		
Title/Description	Instances	
PTA newsletter, 1966	Box 4	Folder 8
Coleytown Elementary School		
Title/Description	Instances	
History as told by Carrie Bradley, undated	Box 4	Folder 9
Dedication, 1953	Box 4	Folder 10
Memo re. history of school, undated	Box 4	Folder 11
Yearbooks, 1968, 1970, [1972]	Box 4	Folder 12
Compo Seminary for Young Ladies		
Title/Description	Instances	
Prospectus, undated	Box 4	Folder 13
Mrs. Gray's School		
Title/Description	Instances	
Program from entertainment event, 1872	Box 4	Folder 14
Program from school reunion, 1883	Box 4	Folder 14
Student essays, undated	Box 4	Folder 15
Green's Farms Academy		
Scope and Contents		
Ebenezer Adams sold Adams Academy to Green's Farms Academy Association in 1868; the school foreclosed in 1882.		
Title/Description	Instances	
Prospectus, undated	Box 4	Folder 16
Green's Farms School		
Title/Description	Instances	
Early financial record: "dividend of school money due", 1797	Box 4	Folder 17
Notices of annual meetings of Green's Farms School District; Treasurer's report, 1893, 1894, 1895	Box 4	Folder 18
Notices of annual meeting and special meeting, 1898	Box 4	Folder 19
Newspaper clippings – "Beginners" – Alba Allard Collection, 1945	Box 5	Folder 1

Westport Schools Collection RG 20

Newspaper clippings – incl. re. school addition and school closing, 1950s-1983	Box 5	Folder 2-3
6th Grade scrapbooks, memory books, photos – Alba Allard Collection, 1970s-1980	Box 5	Folder 4-7
School alumni party, 1995	Box 5	Folder 8
Helen Weinstein (teacher) papers, 1958-1967, undated	Box 6	Folder 1
Event and play programs, photos, notices, 1935-1940	Box 6	Folder 2
PTA Cookbook, 1962	Box 6	Folder 3
Article: "The Evolution of Greens Farms School" by Bob Weingarten, from Greens Farms Living; history of school from 250th anniversary, 2016	Box 6	Folder 4
Class photo, 1944	Box 6	Folder 4a

Hillspoint School

Title/Description	Instances	
Parent Bulletin, article about plans for school, Hillspoint Newsletter from time of closing of school, 1960, 1980	Box 6	Folder 5

Kings Highway School

Title/Description	Instances	
Letter containing school facts, 1980	Box 6	Folder 6

Saugatuck School

Title/Description	Instances	
Dedication and renovation of school, 1931, 1953	Box 6	Folder 7
Miscellaneous correspondence and notes, incl. to Dorothy R. Adams, Principal, 1932-1952	Box 6	Folder 8
Documentation of Junior Red Cross program at school, 1931-1932	Box 6	Folder 9
Documentation of Junior Red Cross program at school, 1933-1936	Box 6	Folder 10
Junior Red Cross News – magazine issues, 1922, 1931, 1955	Box 6	Folder 11
School plays and event programs, 1932-1958, undated	Box 6	Folder 12
Student essays on Connecticut history, undated	Box 6	Folder 13
Unidentified notebook	Box 6	Folder 14
"Milestones of Saugatuck" – student publication; "Saugatuck Crier", 1935-1936, undated	Box 6	Folder 14
PTA newsletters, 1964-1977	Box 6	Folder 15

Related to mural in school by Robert L. Lambdin, 1935	Box 6	Folder 16
Newspaper clippings and re. scholarship fund honoring Dorothy R. Adams, 1945-1956, undated	Box 6	Folder 17
Postcard and drawings of school, undated	Box 6	Folder 18
Photographs of school building, 1931, undated	Box 6	Folder 19
Class photos and activities, 1928, undated	Box 6	Folder 20
Photo of teachers and Principal Dorothy Adams, undated	Box 6	Folder 21

Select School for Boys

Title/Description	Instances	
Prospectus, Rev. J.E. Coley, Principal, 1881	Box 7	

Shercrow District School House

Title/Description	Instances	
Notes re. school house, 1985	Box 7	Folder 2

Staples High School

Title/Description	Instances	
Contents of school cornerstone, 1884	Box 7	Folder 3-4
Reports (photocopies), 1886-1887	Box 7	Folder 5
Prospectus, 1890	Box 7	Folder 6
Graduation essay by Edith Wakeman, 1892	Box 7	Folder 6
Founders Day address by William J. Jennings (d. 1894), undated	Box 7	Folder 6
Salutary Address by Thomas D. Adams, 1896	Box 7	Folder 7
Financial document, 1900	Box 7	Folder 7
Program of study, 1903-1904	Box 7	Folder 7
Founder's Day program, 1904	Box 7	Folder 7
Textbook used at SHS: Chardenal's Complet French Course, 1907	Box 10	Folder 10
Documents re. sale of land, 1924	Box 7	Folder 8
Poster for basketball game at school, 1933	Box 7	Folder 8
Poster / program for Staples vs. Fairfield football game, circa 1953	Box 10	Folder 12
Address and published letter by Connecticut Governor Wilbur Cross, who was the second Principal of SHS (1885-1886), 1938, undated	Box 7	Folder 9

Westport Schools Collection RG 20

Re. school building and renovations, 1946-1981	Box 7	Folder 10
John F. Kennedy Memorial at SHS, 1964	Box 7	Folder 11
Miscellaneous notes re. history and list of graduates 1887-1977, undated	Box 7	Folder 12
Commencement exercises and receptions programs and invitations, 1884-1968, 1987	Box 7	Folder 14
Reunion, Class of 1977	Box 7	Folder 15
Documents re. centennial of SHS, 1984	Box 10	Folder 8-9
Compiled newspaper clippings (photocopies) , 1890s-1917	Box 7	Folder 16
Diploma and pin	Box 7	Folder 17
Miscellaneous photos, 1890s-1982	Box 7	Folder 18
Miscellaneous newspaper clippings	Box 8	Folder 1
Article: "The Occupations Course I taught in 1908" by George H. Boyden, 1956-1957	Box 10	Folder 13
Article in Saturday Review: "What Happened When a High School Tried Self-Government", 1972	Box 10	Folder 14
Publications: "The Bugle" (1898), "Student News" (1924-1925)	Box 8	Folder 2
Publication: "Inklings", 1932-1963	Box 8	Folder 3
Publication: "Soundings – the best of Twenty Years", 1947-1966	Box 8	Folder 4
Programs and notices of theatrical and music events, 1988-1976, undated	Box 8	Folder 5
Re. Masque & Wig Club productions, 1949-1951	Box 8	Folder 6-7
Staples Players, circa 1983, 1991	Box 8	Folder 8
SHS Yearbooks, 1911, 1912, 1924, 1935, 1943	Box 8	Folder 9-11
SHS Yearbooks, 1971, 1987, 1998, 2010	Box 9	
SHS Junior Annual, 1912	Box 10	Folder 11
Booklet compiled by SHS Social Studies class that visited Westport Historical Society, 1989	Box 10	Folder 15
Fact sheet re. SHS seal, undated	Box 10	Folder 16

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)