

**Guide to the Records of Howe, Manning &
Almy, Inc. and the Papers of Lois Lilley Howe,
Eleanor Manning O'Connor, and Mary Almy
MC.0009**

Finding aid prepared by Mary Jane McCavitt

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Summary Information

Repository	Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Almy, Mary, 1883-1953
Creator	Howe, Lois Lilley, 1864-1964
Creator	Howe, Manning & Almy
Creator	Manning, Eleanor, 1884-1973
Title	Records of Howe, Manning & Almy, Inc. and the papers of Lois Lilley Howe, Eleanor Manning O'Connor, and Mary Almy
Date [inclusive]	1883-1972
Extent	25.0 cubic feet (21 record cartons, 4 manuscript boxes, 1 half manuscript box, 5 flat storage boxes, 1 glass negative box, 1 roll, 54 oversize folders)
Location	Materials are stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use.
Language	English
Abstract	The firm of Howe, Manning & Almy is believed to be the first architectural firm in Boston founded by women and the second in the United States. Lois Lilley Howe (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, SB 1890), whose commissions began in 1894, established her own firm in 1900 and asked Eleanor Manning (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, SB 1906), one of her draftsmen, to be her partner in 1913, creating the firm of Lois Lilley Howe & Manning. In 1926, another draftsman from the office, Mary Almy (Radcliffe College, 1905, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, SB 1922) became a partner, assuming responsibility

for the business aspects of the firm. Manning focused on the technical architectural work and design problems, and Howe continued to concentrate on design. The firm dissolved in 1937 when Howe retired, and Manning and Almy started separate practices. The emphasis of the firm was on domestic architecture and the partners did both building and remodeling. They were interested in urban housing problems and worked with the Architects' Small House Service Bureau of Massachusetts and the Boston Housing Association throughout the 1920s and 1930s. They submitted small house designs to the Department of the Interior for the Subsistence Homestead Communities, remodeled apartments for the Lynn Slum Clearance Project, and developed housing in Mariemont, Ohio. Materials of the firm include correspondence, financial data, reports, specifications, photographs, blueprints, drawings, and research materials that document the firm's projects and commissions. The collection also includes personal papers of the three architects including illustrated travel diaries, watercolors, sketchbooks, and architectural scrapbooks. Records from Eleanor Manning O'Connor's private architectural work after 1937 and material from the Seventeen Associated Architects are included. There are a number of documents about the Howe family in the personal papers of Lois Lilley Howe.

Citation

Records of Howe, Manning & Almy, Inc. and the Papers of Lois L. Howe, Eleanor Manning O'Connor, and Mary Almy, MC 9, box X. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Institute Archives and Special Collections, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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Revision Description

Revised by Ewa Basinska and Elizabeth Andrews with the assistance of Joelle Burdette 2010

Access note

The collection is open for research.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Almy family papers, MC 235, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Architects Small Housing Bureau of New England
- Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States
- Boston Housing Authority

- Boston Society of Architects
- Housing Association of Metropolitan Boston
- Howe, Manning & Almy
- M.I.T. Women's Association
- Massachusetts Civic League. Housing Committee
- Massachusetts Federation of Planning Boards
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cheney Room
- National Housing Conference (U.S.)
- President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership (1931 : Washington, D.C.)
- Seventeen Associated Architects (Boston, Mass.)
- Simmons College (Boston, Mass.) -- General subdivision--Architecture; Chronological subdivision--1883-1972.;

Genre(s)

- Photographs.
- Sketches.

Geographic Name(s)

- Mariemont (Ohio)--History.

Personal Name(s)

- Almy, Mary, 1883-1953
- Emerson, William, 1873-1957
- Howe, Lois Lilley, 1864-1964
- Manning, Eleanor, 1884-1973
- O'Connor, Johnson, 1891-1973

Subject(s)

- Architecture and women.
- Poor--Housing.
- Women as architects.
- Women-owned architectural firms.

Bibliography

“An Alumna’s Architectural Career,” *Technology Review*, vol. 66, no. 2 (December, 1963), pp. 21, 38.

Cole, Doris. *The Lady Architects: Lois Lilley Howe, Eleanor Manning and Mary Almy: 1893-1937*. New York: Midmarch Arts Press, 1990. MIT Libraries: [NA737.H857.C65 1990](#).

Howe, Lois Lilley. *Details from Old New England Houses, Measured and Drawn by Lois L. Howe and Constance Fuller*. New York: The Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1913. MIT Libraries: [NA707.H856](#)

Collection Inventory

Series 1. Howe, Manning & Almy, Inc. Records

Scope and Contents note

A. Architecture Firm Records

Little remains of the firm's correspondence and legal data that does not directly relate to their commission work. These remaining general records and correspondence of the firm have been drawn together in this section. Correspondence and information from organizations that had at least two of the partners as members are also in the general files. These organizations reflect some of the firm's architectural interests. For example, solutions to the problems of low-cost and urban housing were sought by the Architects Small House Service Bureau and by the Boston Housing Association. Architectural organizations were not the only mutual interests of the firm members, however. All three women were active in MIT alumni groups, as well as in various professional women's clubs, such as the College Club, the Business Women's Club, and the American Association of University Women. More organizational records are in the personal papers series of this collection.

The general firm files also provide an idea of the publicity that the Howe, Manning & Almy architects received from both the public and their colleagues. There are reprints from professional journals as well as articles from local newspapers and clippings about architectural interests.

B. Commission Drawings and Files

Howe, Manning & Almy, Inc. commission work is reconstructed, when possible, in this section. Some of the drawings and written material are unidentified, and are placed in front of the numbered commissions. The identification of commissions is based upon the list of job numbers that was found in the papers. The commissions are numbered consecutively, starting with work from Lois Lilley Howe's private practice and continuing until the firm disbanded in 1937. The earliest commission files date back to about 1894. Only about ten percent of Howe's private work remains, consisting primarily of linen drawings and tracings. The commission files for about forty-four percent of Lois Lilley Howe & Manning's work and for almost sixty-

Howe, Manning & Almy, Inc. Records

five percent of Howe, Manning & Almy's work are in the collection. These percentages are sufficient to provide information about the firm's various types of architectural work.

The amount of information varies for each commission, and more data is present in the later commission files. Correspondence, financial data, specifications, reports, notes, drawings, tracings, blueprints, and photographs can all be found in the commission files. The files also include over five hundred rolled blueprints and tracings which have been cleaned, flattened, and placed in a map case. The folder list indicates the type of material available for each commission. Occasionally, assignment of a commission number was a guess. An annotated job list containing the dates for many of the firm's commissions is included in this series.

C. Reference Files

The reference files in the collection reflect the extensive research that the Howe, Manning & Almy firm made to insure accurate plans. The three architects kept architectural postcards, design patterns, photographs, and drawings for reference purposes.

The measured drawings are of houses' interior details, especially in the colonial style. These drawings are from homes that the firm worked on and historic houses that the architects visited. The measured drawings were filed alphabetically by the firm but were not always well identified. A list of names and, when possible, dates and addresses is in folder number 546.

The firm kept loose-leaf notebooks on the work they did for clients on various aspects of architectural design. The photographs and printed material were removed from these notebooks and are maintained in their original order. Photographs of work for clients is alphabetical, but some of the notebooks are missing. Photographs and printed material about architectural details, such as doorways and roofs, compose the remainder of the visual reference files. These details are alphabetical by subject.

The collection also included a considerable amount of printed material that the partners probably kept for reference use; their clipping files can be found in this series.

Historical note

Howe, Manning & Almy, Inc. is believed to be the first women's architectural firm founded in Boston and the second such in the country. The beginnings of the firm can be traced back to 1894 when Lois Lilley Howe started to receive commissions. The firm's commission numbers start at this time and are continuous until 1937 when the firm disbanded. In 1913 Howe asked Eleanor Manning O'Connor, one of her draftsmen, to be her partner; the firm of Lois Lilley Howe & Manning resulted. The firm was successful

Howe, Manning & Almy, Inc. Records

and another draftsman from the office became a partner; Howe, Manning & Almy officially began on April 1, 1926. Since Mary Almy assumed responsibility for the business aspects of the firm, O'Connor focused on the technical architectural work and on design problems. Howe continued to concentrate on design and to guide her partners as the senior member of the firm. While the firm continued for eleven more years, the depression had an economic impact on the firm. The number of commissions decreased and the firm did more renovating than building during the 1930s. When Lois Lilley Howe retired at the age of 73, on September 1, 1937, O'Connor and Almy started separate practices. The firm's connections did not dissolve, however; Howe occasionally worked for O'Connor's private practice.

Lois Lilley Howe's early work involved both the building and remodeling of houses. Throughout the firm's existence, this emphasis on domestic architecture continued. Most of their commissioned work was done on houses, and the architects were well known for their ability to do renovations and alterations. The work was usually in the Colonial Revival style and the Georgian Revival style--a reflection of contemporary taste. The firm's architects did extensive research into the historical veracity of the revival styles by using measured drawings, photographs, postcards, and printed material. An example of their revival work is the Louis C. Cornish house, built in 1916 at 15 Fayerweather Street, the first 17th Century Revival house in Cambridge.

Revival work was only one aspect of the firm's interest in domestic architecture. During World War I, the firm began to concentrate on smaller, more efficient homes for middle-income families. Although the smaller house was a new concept, it was becoming a necessity. Development of smaller house designs was part of the architects' interest in urban housing problems. The firm's architects worked with the Architect's Small House Service throughout the 1920s and 1930s. The firm also submitted small house designs to the Department of the Interior for the Subsistence Homestead Communities, especially those in Massachusetts, and remodeled apartments for the Lynn Slum Clearance Project.

The architects received recognition for their contributions to housing throughout their careers. A prestigious commission was for John Nolen, the town planner. He chose them to be among the architects commissioned to design houses for Mariemont, Ohio, one of the country's first planned communities. The firm designed the houses for Denny Place in Mariemont. These houses were built with stone from the area so that the buildings would blend into the environs and would be economical.

In 1913 *McCall's* magazine asked the firm to submit a design for their small house series. The design appeared in the March 1924 issue, and a book compiled by Marcia Mead also included the plan. In 1926, Howe, Manning & Almy won first prize in the Cape Cod home competition that the Cape Cod Real Estate Board sponsored. Because the small house was often used as a vacation home, the firm was familiar with Cape Cod design. In fact, Howe, Manning & Almy houses, including "Cape Cods," were built throughout

Architecture Firm Records

New England's summer resort areas. One of Howe, Manning & Almy's first commissions after Mary Almy joined was Mrs. Charles Almy's house, which later served as a temporary residence for Governor Joseph Ely. The Almy house was one of ten houses chosen from *House Beautiful's* Small House Competition. The plans appeared in the May 1929 issue and then were exhibited throughout the country.

Further published recognition came to the firm in the 1930s. The Frothingham house at 4 Grey Gardens, Cambridge, was included in an article titled "One Hundred Small Houses" in the October 1935 *Architecture* issue. The May 1937 issue of *American Architect and Architecture* showed the Lynn home of James Morgan that the firm built.

Some of their other commissions included factory alterations, plans for barns and stables, and even an ice house. In 1916, the Concord Art Association house was remodeled, and in the 1920s the firm worked on the Art Center in Fitchburg. The architects also helped to plan both the Lynn Boy Scout Camp and the Fleur-de-Lis Camp. All three women were involved in many activities, and they did architectural work for their clubs and schools, including the College Club, the Business Women's Club, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Simmons College, and Radcliffe College.

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General correspondence 1912-1938	1	1-2
Correspondence, Elizabeth L. Strang undated	1	3
Correspondence, E. Sohier Welch undated	1	4
Christmas cards 1932-1958	1	5
Correspondence, addresses undated	1	6
American Association of University Women 1922-1926	1	7
American Institute of Architects (AIA) convention reports 1925	1	8
Architects Housing Bureau of New England and The Housing Company circa 1919-1920	1	9
The Architects Small House Service Bureau 1921-1928, 1932	1	10

Architecture Firm Records

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Boston, Society of Architects 1921-1935	1	16
Business Women's Club, correspondence, pamphlet, and membership list undated	1	17
Business Women's Club, calendar of events 1914-1922	1	18
College Club, Finance Committee and general information 1931-1934	1	19
Housing Association of Metropolitan Boston 1935-1943	1	20
MIT Alumni Association undated	1	21
MIT Women's Association, correspondence and reports 1907-1937	1	22
MIT Women's Association, Housing Committee 1918, 1946	1	23
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MIT Women's Association, Women's Municipal League, Housing Department circa 1919	1	27
Partnership Agreement, Lois, Lilley, Howe & Manning 1913	1	28
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American Institute of Architects, standard forms 1925	1	33
Bibliography, architecture undated	1	34
<i>The Small House</i> , by Marcia Mead 1924	1	35
Howe, Manning & Almy house, <i>House Beautiful</i> 1929	1	36
Reprints, Howe, Manning & Almy houses, <i>Architecture</i> , 1925, <i>American Architect</i> , 1937 1925, 1937	1	37
Draft of Home Planning Handbook 1931	1	38
Articles about small houses undated	1	39
Newspaper clippings, Howe, Manning & Almy 1911-1937	1	40
Newspaper clippings, housing and urban planning 1910-1961	1	41-42
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Commission 22: Hale, Richard W. 1897	2	59
Commission 24: Pierce, H. Winthrop 1898	2	60
Commission 25: Hale, Mrs. G. S. undated	2	61
Commission 29: Vaughan, Mr. A. A. 1899	2	62
Commission 31: Hale, Mrs. G. S. undated	2	63
Commission 32: White, H. S. undated	2	64
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Series 2. Mary Almy Personal Papers**Biography**

Mary Almy, 1883-1967, BA 1905, Radcliffe College; SB in architecture, 1922, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Mary Almy was born at Beverly Farms, Massachusetts, to Judge Charles Almy and Helen Jackson Cabot Almy. After graduating from Radcliffe College in 1905, Almy taught at the Boardman School in Cambridge until 1917, when she started to study architecture at MIT. Her course work was finished in 1920, although her SB degree was not awarded until 1922. Her thesis was titled "Design for an Office Building." After MIT, Almy worked in London at the architectural firm of Collcut and Hamp for two years. When she returned to the United States, she was a draftsman for Ellwell and Rachall and for the Lois Lilley Howe and Manning architecture firm. She was also associated with the Small House Service Bureau of *House Beautiful* for a short time.

Mary Almy Personal Papers

Mary Almy became partners with Lois Lilley Howe and Eleanor Manning O'Connor in 1926, the same year that she was admitted to the American Institute of Architects. She assumed responsibility for much of the correspondence and other business matters when she joined the firm. Mary Almy's family connections helped to gain commissions for the firm. For example, many of the houses at the Almy vacation complex in Cotuit were designed by the Howe, Manning & Almy firm.

After the firm disbanded in 1937, Mary Almy went into architecture practice with Henrietta Pope, a landscape architect. She later started a private practice in her own home. Almy's other activities gradually superseded her architecture work. During World War II, she served as an administrator for the Red Cross. From 1947 until 1949, she was social secretary to Rebecca Bradford, wife of Governor Robert Bradford, during his term in office.

Mary Almy was active in many clubs and organizations, such as the Cambridge Historical Society, the Cambridge Social Dramatic Club, and the MIT Women's Association. After working on the Membership Committee, she was the College Club's director from 1932 to 1934. For ten years, starting in 1938, she served as secretary to the Board of the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. Her most active participation was with Radcliffe alumnae. In 1933, she designed the Radcliffe Booth for the Century of Progress building at the International Exposition in Chicago. Three years later she helped to create the Radcliffe Exhibit for the Harvard Tercentenary. Throughout her life she remained active with Radcliffe alumnae; in 1961, she served on the board of the *Radcliffe Quarterly*.

Scope and Contents note

This series contains a small number of personal papers of Mary Almy, an architect in the firm of Howe, Manning & Almy, Inc. Other personal papers of Mary Almy can be found at the Schlesinger Library of Radcliffe College, where the Almy Family Papers are housed.

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Lois Lilley Howe Papers

Series 3. Lois Lilley Howe Papers**Scope and Contents note**

This series are personal papers of Lois Lilley Howe, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who earned the SB degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1890. A few of her sketchbooks contain drawings she made at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where she studied design. Sketchbooks, sketches, watercolors, photographs, and portraits of a later period are also present. Family papers including genealogical notes, family and personal correspondence (1826-1959), a scrapbook, and photographs are part of this series. It also includes a small amount of material from some of the public organizations with which Lois Lilley Howe was involved, including the Old Cambridge Shakespeare Association and the Cambridge Historical Society.

The collection also has some of Howe's architectural scrapbooks which contain many drawings from her early work. The scrapbook's original order is intact. Few dates and no commission numbers are on the drawings; a client's name is usually present, however.

Biographical note

Lois Lilley Howe, 1864-1964, was born into the Cambridge, Massachusetts, family of Estes and Lois Lilly White Howe. In 1882, she entered the Museum School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, concentrating on design, and finished the program in 1886. Her later architectural work reflected this artistic training, and she maintained contacts with artists throughout her life. She became a member of the Copley Society of Boston, an association of artists, in 1883. She joined the Council of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in 1897; later the Museum School named her an annual "Visitor to the School." She also served as director of the Boston Society of Arts and Crafts from 1916 to 1919.

As a result of her alteration of a stairway for the Reverend Francis G. Peabody's home, she gained the admiration of architect Robert Swain Peabody, and he became her mentor. In 1888, she entered the School of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and took the two-year course in "Partial Architecture," earning an SB degree in 1890. At MIT she was a founding member of the women's group Eta Sigma Mu; this sorority later became Cleofan.

With Peabody's help, Lois Lilley Howe was hired as a draftsman with the firm of Allen and Kenway after finishing at MIT. Peabody also told her of the competition for a Women's Building at the Columbian Exhibition of 1893 in Chicago. She and her classmate Sophia Hayden Bennett (also MIT class of 1890) both

Lois Lilley Howe Papers

entered. Hayden won and Howe placed second. The prize money made it possible for Lois Howe to take her mother and sisters to Europe. After fifteen months Howe returned to Boston and worked as a part-time librarian in the MIT School of Architecture. She received her first commission to build a house in 1894 and worked alone and with various partners until 1900. She then established her own firm.

Lois Lilley Howe concentrated on domestic architecture from the beginning of her career. This emphasis continued when her firm added as partners Eleanor Manning in 1913 and Mary Almy in 1926. Howe's work with houses was often innovative. For example, an article about her experimental plaster work appeared in a 1907 issue of *Architectural Review* and *Architectural Record*. In another 1907 issue she gave advice about designing serving pantries for small houses. Lois Lilley Howe initiated Howe, Manning & Almy's use of the Colonial Revival style for both building and renovating and stressed the need to research architectural details. *Details from Old New England Houses* was published in 1913 by Howe and Constance Fuller (MIT class of 1914).

The problems of urban housing concerned Howe enough to steer the Howe, Manning & Almy firm towards the development of small houses and of urban planning. Howe was on the Planning Committee for the Architect's Small House Bureau and was a member of the Boston Society of Architect's Small House Service Bureau of the American Institute of Architects. She also participated in the Committee on Small Houses for AIA and was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Housing Association of Metropolitan Boston. The housing committees of both the MIT Women's Association and the Business Women's Club were chaired by her as well.

Organizations concerned with housing problems represented only part of Lois Lilley Howe's activities. She supported women's educational opportunities as a member of the American Association of University Women and as the MIT representative for the general committee of the "Naples Table," which later became the Association to Aid Scientific Research by Women. In 1918, Howe was elected vice-president of the MIT Women's Association and subsequently president. Firm partner Eleanor O'Connor became the next president. Howe helped to found the Business Women's Club, and she was part of the Organizing Committee for Technology Architects.

Professionally, Howe was a leader since there were few women architects at that time. In 1901, she became the first woman to be officially elected when Robert Swain Peabody sponsored her for membership in the AIA. She was also one of the first women admitted to the Boston Society of Architects. Perhaps her greatest honor came in 1931, when she was elected a Fellow of the AIA, the first woman to be chosen.

Lois Lilley Howe Papers

Lois Lilley Howe retired and the firm Howe, Manning & Almy disbanded in 1937, but Howe never stopped working. After retirement, she occasionally worked on commissions for Eleanor O'Connor's private practice. Howe was also treasurer of the Old Cambridge Shakespeare Association, president of the Cambridge Plant Club, vice-president of the Cambridge Historical Society, a member of the Cambridge Social Dramatic Club and other organizations in Cambridge, Massachusetts. When she died in 1964, she was twelve days short of her hundredth birthday.

	Box	Folder
Autobiographical information by and about Lois Lilley Howe, 3 folders 1888-1954	1	1-3
100th birthday message from President Lyndon Johnson (1964); "Massachusetts Women of Accomplishment" (1921)	1	4
"Lois Lilley Howe, M.I.T. '90, 1864-1964" 1964	4	1
White family genealogy 1752-1867	4	2
Descendants of Abijah and Anna Maria Howard 1844-1936 (Bulk, 1924-1936)	1	5
Abijah White and Anna Maria Howard, daughter of Ann Lillie and Samuel Howard 1848-1885, undated	1	6
Obituaries and histories 1851-1954	1	7
Anna Lillie Howard, children of Samuel, Charles, Harriet (Fay), Anna, Marie (White), Caroline (Gilman), George 1868, undated	1	8
List of students in Clara Howe's school; note and photo of Professor Ko's children, Helen and Dabney Horton 1878-1891	1	9
Sara R. Howe and Dr. Estes Howe wills, financial affairs, burial lots 1886-1917	1	10
Scrapbook, "Log of McAndrews Clan 'Fugo Igo'." 1899	1	11

Lois Lilley Howe Papers

"Celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of James Russell Lowell by the Cambridge Historical Society, February 22, 1919." <i>Proceedings of the Cambridge Historical Society</i> . 1919	1	12
Tract on Warren Delano (born 7/11/1852) by his brother Frederic A. Delano (belonged to Clara Howe) 1920	1	13
Genealogical notes of Dr. Estes Howe; handwritten copies of deeds and wills by Dr. Estes Howe undated	1	14
Album of handwritten poetry, pressed flowers and fern wreaths undated	2	1
Photograph undated	9	
		Box
Glass plate negatives undated		8
	Box	Folder
Letters from Grandmother, Aunt Lucy, Aunt Marci, Aunt Caddy, five folders 1826-1855	2	2-6
Howe letters to Lois from William, to Sallie Horton from O. Pomeroy, to Estes from Lois Lilley Howe 1853-1869	2	7
Correspondence 1897-1955 (Bulk, 1903-1955)	4	3
Assorted letters 1910-1920	2	8
Correspondence between Lois Lilley Howe and Howard Elliot, relation to Lois Lilley White family 1927, undated	2	9
Lois Lilley Howe correspondence with the Museum of Fine Arts 1957-1959	2	10
Letters to Lois Lilley Howe from various Horton relatives 1940-1948	2	11
Correspondence between Lois Lilley Howe and Radcliffe Alumnae Association regarding Clara Pomeroy Folsom, Mabel Granger Howe Kerrisin, Katherine Coolidge Howe, and Clara Howe 1941-1944	4	4

Lois Lilley Howe Papers

Cambridge Gas Light bill 1887	4	5
Odd Volume Club 1906-1908	4	6
<i>Notes on Colonel Henry Vassall (1721-1769) his Wife Penelope Royall, his House at Cambridge and his Slaves Tony and Darby, by Samuel Francis Batchelder, Cambridge, Massachusetts. 1917</i>	2	12
Report on showing historic houses 1930	4	7
"How Cambridge People Used to Travel," by Lois Lilley Howe. Cambridge Historical Society. 1936 October 27	2	13
"The History of Garden Street," by Lois Lilley Howe. 1949 April 25	2	14
"Cambridge Trees," by Lois Lilley Howe 1950 January 25	2	15
Lois Lilley Howe "Saturday Morning Club: Early Recollections" 1951 November 17	2	16
"Old Cambridge Shakespeare Association: 1900-1901" 1942-1951	2	17
"Old Cambridge Shakespeare Association, reminiscences of Lois Lilley Howe 1930-1955" 1955	2	18
<i>The Old Cambridge Shakespeare Association, 1880-1940. Cambridge: Cosmos Press, 1940.</i>	2	19
"Miss Howe's Reminiscences of the Early Years of the Old Cambridge Shakespeare Society," at the 75th anniversary 1957	2	20
"The meeting houses of First Congregational Society of Waltham Masschusetss," by Moseetta Vaugh. Historical Society of Watertown. 1942 September 30	2	21
"The Story of A Lost Brook," by Lois Lilley Howe. Cambridge Historical Society. undated	2	22
Lectures, Garden Club and others undated	4	7
<i>The Purple Cow</i> 1895	2	23

Lois Lilley Howe Papers

<i>The Lark</i> , number 7 1895	2	24
<i>The Lark</i> , number 8 1895	2	25
<i>The Lark</i> , number 9 1896	2	26
<i>The Lark</i> , number 10 1896	2	27
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<i>The Lark</i> , number 14 1896	2	29
Newsclippings showing images of Harvard Square 1859-1949	2	30
Photograph "On the Hallowell's Porch, Osterville" 1884	7	1
Portrait, "To Mrs. Edward Brooks, Christmas 1887"	7	2
Two photographs of Lois Lilley Howe undated	7	3
"Old New England Door Yard," Francis E. Getty 1925	7	4
"Steps at Bosworth Street from Provence Street Boston," Francis E. Getty 1927	7	5
"Hancock House built 1737," Francis E. Getty photograph 1927	7	6
"Law Office of E. H. Robbins," photograph undated	7	7
"Gooch House Now Called Churchill House," photograph undated	7	8
"Parson Robbins' House," photograph undated	7	9
Humphrey House, Dorchester, envelope	7	10a
Humphrey House, Dorchester, photographs and clippings	7	10b
Humphrey House, Dorchester, plans	7	10c
Humphrey House, Dorchester, plans	7	10d
Humphrey House, Dorchester, plans	7	10e
Humphrey House, Dorchester, plans and correspondence	7	10 f

Lois Lilley Howe Papers

"Lois Lilley Howe Sketchbook , M.F.A. April 10, 1883" 1883	3	1
"Lois Lilley Howe Sketchbook, Osterville August 1884" 1884	3	2
"Lois Lilley Howe Sketchbook, Museum of Fine Arts November 1884" 1884	3	3
Sketchbook 1890-1891	3	4
Art notes circa 1909	3	5
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Watercolors and drawings 1933-1936	3	7
Watercolors undated	22	667
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Architectural drawings for Pratt	6	672a
Architectural drawings for Underwood	6	672b
Architectural drawings for Underwood	6	672c
Architectural drawings for Needham and unidentified	6	672d
Architectural drawings for Davis	6	672e
Architectural drawings for Donald and unidentified	6	672 f
Architectural drawings for Donald	6	672g
Architectural drawings for Morse	6	672h
Architectural drawings for Parker	6	673a
Architectural drawings for Foster	6	673b
Architectural drawings for Brewster	6	673c
Architectural drawings for Brewster	6	673d
Architectural drawings for Morisson	6	673e

Lois Lilley Howe Papers

Architectural drawings for Vining	6	673 f
Architectural drawings for McIntre/Howe and unidentified	6	673g
Architectural drawings for Rand	6	673h
Architectural drawings for Farlow	6	674a
Architectural drawings for Farlow	6	674b
Architectural drawings for Baker	6	674c
Architectural drawings for Storrow	6	674d
Architectural drawings for Whitwell	6	674e
Architectural drawings for Needham	6	674 f
Architectural drawings for Needham	6	674g
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Architectural drawings for Davis	6	675b
Architectural drawings for Heath	6	675c
Architectural drawings for Heath	6	675d
Architectural drawings for Handy	6	675e
Architectural drawings for Prudden	6	675 f
Architectural drawings for Stowell, Balch, and Nutter	6	675g
Architectural drawings for Parker and unidentified	6	675h
Architectural drawings for Abbot and Harvard Law School	6	675i
Architectural drawings for unidentified	6	675j
Notes approximately 1908-1916	3	8
		Box
Photographs of L.L. Howe and family undated		9

Eleanor Manning O'Connor Papers

	Box	Folder
Unidentified photographic negatives undated	9	1
Unidentified photographic negatives undated	9	2
Unidentified photographic negatives undated	9	3
Unidentified photographic negatives undated	9	4

Box

10

Photograph in case, unidentified subject undated

Series 4. Eleanor Manning O'Connor Papers

Biography

Eleanor Manning (later O'Connor), 1884-1973, earned the SB in architecture in 1906 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Eleanor Manning was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, to Delia Josephine Grady and James Manning, a building contractor. Unlike Lois Lilley Howe and Mary Almy, Eleanor Manning started studying at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) School of Architecture after she finished high school. Upon completion of a thesis titled "Design for a Country Residence," she received her degree in 1906. During her senior year, she served as president of Cleofan, the Institute's club for women.

Two years after graduation Eleanor Manning started to work as a draftsman for Lois Lilley Howe. While in this position, she also did some private architectural commissions. Her classmate Eliza J. Newkirk Rogers (MIT class of 1905) helped with these commissions, and they may have entered into an informal partnership for a short period. When Manning took an extended leave of absence from Howe's office in 1912, she went to Europe with Eliza Newkirk Rogers. Eleanor Manning cut her trip short in order to accept Howe's offer of partnership.

During World War I, Eleanor Manning served on the Mayor's Committee for an Open Air Canteen and on several committees for the Boston Army and Navy Canteen, a facility that Lois Lilley Howe & Manning built. She also chaired the Business Women's Club's Social Committee and was on the Ways and Means Committee for the Massachusetts Women's Suffrage Association.

Eleanor Manning O'Connor Papers

Eleanor Manning started teaching after World War I. She was a special instructor of architecture and then of housing at Simmons College for fifty years. During the 1930s she also began to teach at three other schools: Pine Manor Junior College, Chamberlain School for Retailing, and Garland College. She was also involved in the College Club and the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Throughout her career, Eleanor Manning O'Connor was a frequent lecturer and guest instructor in the New England area. In the 1940s, one of her major tasks as housing chairman of the Massachusetts Civic League was the development and implementation of one of the country's early Housing Management courses for housing specialists.

Eleanor Manning O'Connor's major professional concern was housing and urban planning. After World War I, the rise of middle-income families and the growth of the urban population created a need for more compact, less expensive, housing. In addition to her work with the Howe, Manning & Almy firm, she was on both the Committee to Reclaim Areas for Better Housing and the Women's Committee on Membership for the Boston Housing Association. In her home town of Lynn, she served on the City Planning Board for seven years starting in 1923; this position led to her role as secretary for the Massachusetts Federation of Planning Boards. She also attended the 1931 President's Conference on Home Building and Ownership, where she served on both the Design and the Kitchen Committees. In 1941, she served on the Committee on Housing the Family for the White House Conference on Children in a Democracy. Because of her ten-year chairmanship of the Housing Committee for the Massachusetts Civic League, she was appointed to the Executive Committee of the New England Regional Council of the National Association of Housing Officials in 1944. She belonged to the Housing Association of Metropolitan Boston and to the Architect's Small House Service Bureau and served on Housing Committees for her non-architectural clubs, such as the AAUW and the Business Women's Club.

One of O'Connor's greatest honors as a housing expert was her partnership with the Seventeen Associated Architects. This select group of architects planned Old Harbor Village, the first low-cost housing project in Boston, with funding from the Public Works Administration. O'Connor worked with the Seventeen Associated Architects from 1933 to 1938, while continuing as a partner of Howe, Manning & Almy.

After the Howe, Manning & Almy firm dissolved, Eleanor O'Connor went into private architectural practice. Her practice continued until at least 1959. Home-building and renovating predominated, but she also designed for Providence Gas, the Garland School, the William Lawrence Camp, and the Fleur-de-Lis Camp.

Eleanor O'Connor kept close ties with architectural colleagues. She became a member of the American Institute of Architects in 1923 and the following year attended the AIA convention as a delegate from the Boston Society of Architects (BSA). She participated in various committees for the BSA such as the

Eleanor Manning O'Connor Papers

Entertainment Committee and the Rogers Building Exhibit Committee, as well as serving as secretary for the Education Committee. She was also a member of the Massachusetts Association of Architects and the Society of Technology Architects.

Eleanor Manning O'Connor also continued her connections with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From 1924 to 1926, she served as president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Women's Association. Later, she was a member of Tech Dames and worked on the Rotch Scholarship Committee for the MIT Alumni Association.

In 1931, Eleanor Manning became Johnson O'Connor's second wife; they died within days of each other in 1973. Johnson O'Connor founded the Human Engineering Laboratory and the Johnson O'Connor Research Foundation. Eleanor O'Connor traveled around the country with him visiting laboratories and served on the Board of Directors and as treasurer. She also designed laboratories and compiled architectural vocabularies for the Human Engineering Laboratory.

Scope and Contents note

A. General Materials

Eleanor Manning O'Connor's personal papers form a large part of the collection. The first subgroup in her section consists of general material, including correspondence, engagement calendars, organizational data, notes, and newspaper clippings. The correspondence and the engagement calendars are in chronological order. The organizational data does not relate to O'Connor's architectural concerns.

B. Travel Albums, Diaries, Sketches, and Notes

Eleanor Manning O'Connor traveled extensively and recorded the trips through diaries and sketches. Her interest in architecture is reflected in the drawings and notes that are in this section. The material is arranged chronologically. Besides diaries and sketches, the travel section includes letters to her family during her first trip to Europe and information from later trips.

C. Seventeen Associated Architects Records

Eleanor Manning O'Connor's partnership in Seventeen Associated Architects is an important aspect of her career. The architects used blueprints to disseminate information, such as financial data, and these copies are in this section along with correspondence, reports, contracts, and a newspaper clipping file about the

Eleanor Manning O'Connor Papers

group. O'Connor remained with Howe, Manning & Almy, Inc. while working with Seventeen Associated Architects; their agreement about this arrangement is also in this section.

D. O'Connor's Office Records

Eleanor Manning did some private commission work before she became partners with Lois Lilley Howe, and went into private practice after the firm disbanded. O'Connor's records include general correspondence, addresses, notes, and a ledger.

E. O'Connor's Commission Drawings

The bulk of Eleanor Manning O'Connor's records consists of identified and unidentified commission files. The unidentified files include a few drawings by other architects that O'Connor probably referred to for her own work. Both a report and drawings for various Human Engineering Laboratories are also in the unnumbered group. The numbered commissions start with three examples of O'Connor's earliest work. In her later practice she continued with Howe, Manning & Almy's numbering system for the commissions; the firm stopped at number 946 and O'Connor starts with commission 1000. The commission files include photographs, financial data, notes, reports, specifications, correspondence, tracings, blueprints, and printed material. The folder listing indicates the contents for each commission.

There was no complete job listing for O'Connor's private practice included in the collection. As a result, the exact commission number and the client's full name are not always available.

F. Professional Affiliation Files

Eleanor Manning O'Connor was active in many organizations. Her predominant affiliations were with groups concerned about housing. Her work for better housing and urban planning is well documented and shows her involvement on both the local and federal levels. This section also contains articles and notes from O'Connor's research on housing solutions. The associations are in alphabetical order and the general housing information and notes are at the end. Other records concerning organizations are in Series 1.

G. Articles, Lectures, and Teaching Information

O'Connor's educational activities are documented in this section. Her articles and lectures are about architecture and housing. She taught at women's colleges in the Boston area, and her course outlines, notes, lectures, exams, grades, reports, and correspondence are in this section of her personal papers. Her articles and lectures precede the unidentified course information and her teaching material from Chamberlain, Garland, Pine Manor, and Simmons College.

General Materials**G. Book Drafts**

Eleanor Manning O'Connor wrote a book that is an in-depth discussion of house-building. She included chapters on the history of housing, how to choose a site and obtain a plan, as well as details about excavating, plumbing, furnishing, etc. Essentially a "how-to" book, it was probably started in 1928, and it was still being revised in 1942. The book was never published.

This section also includes the architectural vocabulary booklets that O'Connor compiled for the Human Engineering Laboratory.

H. Watercolors and Oil Paintings

The collection includes watercolors and oil paintings that Eleanor Manning O'Connor painted, usually during her trips to Europe. These paintings are of buildings and landscapes.

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Engagement calendars 1916-1918, 1937-1938, 1942-1947, 1959	15	704-711

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O'Connor's Office Records

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Massachusetts State Industrial School for Girls, new dormitory, W. G. Preston, Architect undated	6	753
	Box	Folder
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Human Engineering Laboratory, Hoboken 1932, 1939-1940	17	755
Human Engineering Laboratory, Fort Worth, Texas 1947, 1951	17	756
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O'Connor's Commission Drawings

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Human Engineering Laboratory, Office Plans undated oversize	6	759
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Commission 8: Logan, T. H. 1911	17	762-763
Commission 9: Harney, J. W. 1912	17	764
Commission 1000: Hickey, Henry J. (includes photographs and written material) 1937-1938	17	765-768
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Commission 1000: Hickey, Henry J. 1937-1938 oversize	6	769
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Commission 1001: Marble, Alexander (includes written material) 1938	17	770-771
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Commission 1001: Marble, Alexander 1938 oversize	6	772
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Commission 1002: Hanson, the Rev. Miles (includes written material) 1938	17	773-775
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Commission 1004: Winant, John G. (includes photographs and written material) 1937-1938	18	778
Commission 1005: Hindle, Winston R. (includes photographs and written material) 1937	18	779

O'Connor's Commission Drawings

Commission 1006: Goell, Blanche (includes photographs and written material) 1937-1938	18	780
Commission 1007: McLane, Mrs. John R. (includes written material) 1937-1940	18	781
Commission 1008: Dow, Ula M. (includes photographs and written material) 1939	18	782-783
Commission 1009: Pine Manor (includes photographs and written material) 1939	18	784
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O'Connor's Commission Drawings

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Commission 1031: Savage, Mrs. Henry W. (includes written material) 1946	18	801
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Commission 1032: Human Engineering Laboratory, Tulsa 1946 oversized	6	803
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Commission 1034A: McLane, John R. 1948-1950 oversized	6	807
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Commission 1040: William Lawrence Camp (includes photographs and written material) 1948	18	808
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Commission 1040: William Lawrence Camp 1948 oversized	6	809
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Commission 1042: Garland School (includes written material) 1949	18	810
	Map-case	Folder

O'Connor's Commission Drawings

Commission 1042: Garland School 1949	oversize	6	811
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Commission 1043: Providence Gas (includes written material) 1949		18	812-813
Commission 1044: Brown, Daniel L. (includes photographs and written material) 1949		18	814
Commission 1051: Scott, Miss Marion 1950		18	815
Commission 1054: Trickey, John Jr. (includes written material) 1952		18	816
Commission 1055: Lee, the Misses (includes written material) 1952		18	817
Commission 1057: unidentified (written material only) circa 1952		18	818
Commission 1058: O'Connor, Johnson 1953		18	819
		Map-case	Folder
Commission 1058: O'Connor, Johnson 1953	oversize	6	820
Commission 1060: Human Engineering Laboratory, Tulsa 1953	oversize	6	821
		Box	Folder
Commission 1061: Hall, John M. (includes written material) 1954		18	822
Commission 1062: Lebenbaum, Paul (includes written material) 1953		18	823
		Map-case	Folder
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Commission 1063: Scott 1954	oversize	6	825
		Box	Folder
Commission 1064: Ferris, Richard S. 1954		18	826
		Map-case	Folder
Commission 1064: Ferris, Richard S. 1954	oversize	6	827
		Box	Folder

O'Connor's Commission Drawings

Commission 1065: Casey, Paul (includes written material) 1954-1955	18	828
	Map-case	Folder
Commission 1065: Casey, Paul 1954-1955 oversized	6	829
	Box	Folder
Commission 1066: Smith, J. Verity (includes written material) 1954	18	830
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Commission 1066: Smith, J. Verity 1954 oversized	6	831
	Box	Folder
Commission 1067: Randall, Donn 1955	18	832
Commission 1068: McLane, John R. (written material only) 1954	18	833
Commission 1069: MaKanna, Mrs. C. 1955	18	834
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Commission 1069: MaKanna, Mrs. C. 1955 oversized	6	835
Commission 1070: Logan 1956 oversized	6	836
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Commission 1071: Sater, Chester W. (includes written material) 1956	19	837-838
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Commission 1071: Sater, Chester W. 1956 oversized	6	839
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Commission 1072: Randall, Donn S. (includes written material) 1956	19	840
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Commission 1072: Randall, Donn S. 1956 oversized	6	841
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Commission 1073: Hyde, George (written material only) 1957-1958	19	842
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Commission 1073: Hyde, George 1957-1958 oversized	6	843

Professional Affiliation Files

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Commission 1074: Hannan, Mrs. John Lennox 1957 oversized	6	845
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Subseries 4G. Articles, Lectures, and Teaching Information		
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"Modern Houses from Old Ones" 1933	19	870
"Architecture as a Profession for Women" 1934	19	871
"Housing as the Architect Views It" 1938	19	872
Articles on housing undated	19	873
Articles on kitchens undated	19	874
Correspondence regarding lectures undated, 1935-1950	19	875
Lecture, "Houses in Town, Village and Country" circa 1928	19	876
Lecture, "Small Houses for Families to Live in," Fitchburg Summer School 1939	19	877
Lecture, "Impressions of Modern Italy" undated	19	878
Lecture, "What is Architecture?" undated	19	879
Lectures on gardens undated, 1926, 1939, 1950	19	880

Articles, Lectures, and Teaching Information

Lectures on housing for families undated	19	881
Lectures on housing undated	19	882
Lectures on housing undated	20	883
Lectures on interior decoration and homes undated	20	884
Panel discussion: American Institute of Pioneers 1947	20	885
Correspondence and general information regarding teaching undated	20	886
Course outlines undated, 1934-1942	20	887
Course notes, lectures undated	20	888
Course examinations and projects undated	20	889
Grades and lists of students undated, 1968	20	890
Women's history course for Massachusetts Women's Suffrage Association undated	20	891
Interior decoration course undated	20	892
Color charts undated	20	893
Chamberlain School 1938-1972	20	894-895
Garland School 1936-1950	20	896
Pine Manor, correspondence undated	20	897
Pine Manor, lecture notes, course outlines, exams, grades undated	20	898
Pine Manor, house building bluebooks 1938, 1943	20	899-900
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Simmons College, course outlines 1926-1947	20	902
Simmons College, course lectures and notes circa 1940s	20	903
Simmons College, exams and projects 1924-1965	20	904

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Simmons College, housing bluebooks 1938	20	905
Simmons College, student drawings 1923	20	906
Simmons College, list of students and grades 1936-1962	20	907
Simmons College, reports 1941	20	908
Subseries 4H. Book Drafts		
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Notes for book undated	20	909
Book undated	20	910-915
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Architectural Vocabularies for Human Engineering Laboratories, 1938-1956 1938-1956	21	937
Subseries 4I. Watercolors and Oil Paintings		
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Watercolor paintings 1934	21	938
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Watercolor sketchbook circa 1936	21	941
Paintings undated	21	942-944

Series 5. Photographs**Scope and Contents note**

Whenever possible, photographs of a specific commission of the Howe, Manning & Almy architecture firm are in the appropriate commission file. Some photographs could not be identified according to commission number, however, and those photographs constitute this series. Some photographs are labeled; completely unidentified photographs of houses and other buildings are at the end of this series. Some of these may

Photographs

be pictures from the firm's own work, but most of them are historical houses or tourist shots of foreign buildings. These snapshots were probably used by the Howe, Manning & Almy, Inc. firm for reference purposes.

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Bates undated	21	946
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Chapman undated	21	948
College Club undated	21	949
Collingwood 1923	21	950
Dawson undated	21	951
Fuller undated	21	952
Glynn undated	21	953
Howe, Manning and Almy, doorways undated	21	954
New York World's Fair 1938	21	955
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Howe, Manning and Almy house undated	21	961
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Photographs

Historical houses undated	21	964
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On the Hallowell's Porch – 1884, Osterville 1884	7	1