

## 21. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

**Title:** Wheelock College Buildings and Grounds

**Date:** 1914 – on-going

**Quantity:** approximately 1.5 linear feet (1 document box, 2 oversized boxes)

**Collection Number:** 21

---

### Restrictions

**Access:**

Access to the collection is unlimited. Researchers are allowed to view all pieces of the collection. The archive is open by appointment only. Call the Reference Librarian at (617) 879-2222 to make an appointment.

**Copyright:**

Requests to publish material from the collection should be submitted to the Library Director.

---

### Administrative Information

**Acquisition:**

The collection was the donation of Wheelock faculty, staff, and alumnae.

**Processing Information:**

The collection was re-processed and updated by Adrienne Pruitt in 2005. The collection was initially organized by Theresa B. Davitt. The collection was rearranged based on archival principles. Accession correspondence as well as inquiries into information from the archives was removed from the collection. Acidic materials such as newsprint were photocopied onto acid-free paper and then discarded unless the original had some intrinsic value.

---

### Historical Note

Lucy Wheelock founded Wheelock College in 1888 to provide education for teachers of young children. The first School was located at Chauncy-Hall in Boston's Copley Square. In 1896, the School moved to 284 Dartmouth Street. The Marenholz house, named for Baroness Marenholz-Bulow, a student of Froebel, opened as a dormitory in 1898 and continued until 1914. In 1904

the school relocated to 134 Newbury Street, and in 1914 it moved to a new building at 100 The Riverway, with dormitories, a dining hall, a library, offices, and classrooms.

By 1926, one building no longer sufficed, and Wheelock Hall was built at 49 Pilgrim Road to provide space for plays and entertainments. Later known as “Rec Hall,” it served this purpose for nearly forty years. Four dormitories (besides 100 the Riverway) were also required to house students. In 1941 Colchester House was purchased and opened as a dormitory, and the Classroom Building opened at 32 Pilgrim Road with classrooms, art studios, and science labs. Pilgrim House was purchased in 1943, and Pilgrim House East and West opened as dormitories in 1944 and 1946, respectively.

Post-World War II, Wheelock’s expansion was fueled by a surge in enrollment. A new library, art studios, and administrative offices were installed at 132 The Riverway in 1947. The dormitories were unified in 1949, when four buildings – Longwood House, Riverway House, Pilgrim House East and West – were connected by a new dining hall, and 100 The Riverway was sold. The 1950s and 1960s saw an increased need for faculty and administrative space. In 1957, the Administration Building at 200 The Riverway was purchased. It became the home for administrative offices in 1961, and underwent an award-winning renovation and addition in 1988.

Elizabeth Peabody Hall opened as a dormitory in 1961, and at the same time Pilgrim House was converted from a dormitory to faculty offices, an infirmary, the Alumnae Association, and special functions rooms. President James E. Conner was the first to occupy the President’s House at 295 Kent St. in 1964. A much-delayed auditorium, originally proposed in 1949, was finally built in 1965, when the Lucy Wheelock Memorial Auditorium and Multi-Purpose Building (now known as the Activities Building) was dedicated at 180 The Riverway.

The Resource Center was established in 1967 in the Classroom Building for the development of curriculum activities, and was fully renovated in 2000. Renovation, rather than expansion, was the theme of the 1980s as the College approached its centennial. Mezzanine levels were added to the renovated Library, which re-opened in 1982. The College Center, with a student lounge, snack bar, and mailboxes, occupies the former dining hall, renovated in 1986. The auditorium, home to the Wheelock Family Theatre, was renovated and made fully accessible in 1988-1989. No major changes occurred until 1999, when Wheelock purchased the Brookline Campus at 43 Hawes Street from Hebrew College.

The Brookline Campus opened in May 2003 after a thorough restoration, and houses conference rooms, classrooms, and faculty, staff, and administrative offices.

---

## **Scope and Content**

Wheelock College Buildings and Grounds records are divided into two series: I. Buildings and grounds history; II. Images, Architectural Drawings, and Blueprints.

The collection consists of correspondence, memorandums, programs, invitations, newspaper clippings, and press releases relating to the history of Wheelock College buildings and grounds. The collection also contains blueprints, architectural drawings, floor plans, maps, postcards, pencil sketches, prints, and photographs depicting various campus buildings.

For further information on Wheelock dormitories, see Collection 13A. Student Life and Activities, Dormitories. See also PC40 for photos of building construction and library renovation, from a scrap book entitled “Sidney C. Wragge Art Center, May 10, 1981.”

---

## Cataloging Entries

The following catalog entries provide controlled subject access to the collection. All these entries are searchable in the Wheelock College Library’s online catalog to find materials of related interest.

Wheelock College – History.  
Wheelock School – History.  
Wheelock College – Buildings.  
Wheelock School – Buildings.  
Campus Planning – Massachusetts – Boston.  
College Buildings – Massachusetts – Boston.  
Teachers Colleges – Massachusetts.  
Universities and Colleges – Massachusetts.

---

## Container List

### Box 1

#### Series I. Building and Grounds History

- Administration Building, 200 The Riverway, clippings, 1988-1989
- Brookline Campus, 43 Hawes Street, 1902-2003
- Clippings, 1926-
- Lucy Wheelock Memorial Auditorium and Multi-purpose Building (now known as the Activities Building), 180 The Riverway, 1964-1965
- President’s House, 295 Kent Street, 1965
- The Wheelock School, 100 The Riverway, 1914-1949

#### Series II. Images, Architectural Drawings, and Blueprints

- Administration Building, 200 The Riverway, architectural drawings and renderings, ca. 1987-1988, Folder 7
- Chauncy Hall School, photocopies of illustrations, n.d.
- Classroom Building, 25 Pilgrim Road, negative, prints, and postcard of drawing, n.d.
- Kent, Monmouth, and Carleton dormitories, photographs, ca. 1940s

- Library renovations, photographs and architectural drawings, ca. 1976-1981
- Library renovations, drawings, plans, and timelines – Reference Room Renovation, 1996 (3 folders) (**photographs removed**)
- Lucy Wheelock Memorial Auditorium & Multi-purpose Building, (now known as the Activities Building), 180 The Riverway, architectural drawings, 1966
- Maps of the campus, ca. 1940s, 1956-1957, 1966-1967
- Former Wheelock School, 134 Newbury St., photograph presented in 1988 by the Class of 1931
- “The Wheelock School,” (prints of 100 The Riverway), n.d.

### **Box 1a**

- Guest Book : President’s House 1963-1964
- Guest Book : 47 Pilgrim Road.
- Institutional Master Plan – Campus Center and Student Residence, March 27, 2007
  - T-Shirt from Wheelock College Summer 2008, with image of the new CCSR building

### **Box 2**

- Activities Building furniture plan 2000
- Lucy Wheelock Memorial Auditorium and Multi-purpose Building, Science classroom floor plans, Carl Koch & Assoc. Architects, 1966
- Pencil sketches (6) of campus by Alice B. Tondel, n.d.
- Resource Center floor plans, Architectural Resources Cambridge, 1999-2000
- View of the campus from The Riverway, n.d.

### **Box 3**

- 100 The Riverway blueprints, Brainerd & Leeds Architects, 1914
- Library renovations/additions feasibility study drawings, James W. Freeman & Assoc. Architects, ca. 1976

### **Cabinet**

- Library floor plans, Architectural Resources Cambridge, 1979-1981
- Library floor plans, Architectural Resources Cambridge, 1996