

Guide to the Elizabeth Mills Brown Files on New Haven Architecture

MS 1946



compiled by Laura Tatum

September 2009

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1946

CREATOR: Brown, Elizabeth Mills

TITLE: Elizabeth Mills Brown files on New Haven architecture

DATES: Circa 1919-2001

BULK DATES: 1967-1976

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Elizabeth Mills Brown was an architectural historian whose life work focused on the architecture of New Haven, Connecticut, and surrounding areas. This collection consists of writings, maps, photographs, reports, and notes that she created and amassed in the course of her extensive research on the architecture and built environment of New Haven and Connecticut. It includes her Yale master's thesis on Center Church on the Green in New Haven; early, annotated drafts, "itineraries," and notes on her book, *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design*; and reports that she wrote on Wooster Square in cooperation with the New Haven Trust for Historic Preservation. The collection also includes a number of research files for unrealized articles, as well as drafts of several unpublished manuscripts.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1946>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1946>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Lauren Brown, 2009.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Mills Brown Files on New Haven Architecture (MS 1946). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Elizabeth Mills Brown was born on November 28, 1916. She received a bachelor of fine arts degree from Bennington College in 1939, and a master's degree in art history, specializing in architectural history, from Yale University in 1963 (advised by Carroll L. V. Meeks). Her major work, *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design* (Yale University Press, 1976), is the authoritative manual on significant New Haven buildings. Brown also researched and wrote several historic survey reports on New Haven neighborhoods, most significantly Wooster Square; wrote a number of articles on Connecticut architects and buildings for various encyclopedias and other publications; and gave regular lectures at the New Haven Colony Historical Society on the history of New Haven's built environment. She was a charter member of the New Haven Preservation Trust, a founding member of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and the Guilford Preservation Alliance, and a member of the Society of Architectural Historians. She received many awards, including the Connecticut Society of Architects/American Institute of Architects Lay Person Award. At the time of her death, on December 27, 2008, she was compiling an architectural survey of the state of Connecticut as part of the Society of Architectural Historians' series *Buildings of the United States*.

Scope and Contents

Elizabeth Mills Brown was an architectural historian whose life work focused on the architecture of New Haven, Connecticut, and surrounding areas. This collection consists of writings, maps, photographs, reports, and notes that she created and amassed in the course of her extensive research on the architecture and built environment of New Haven and Connecticut. It includes her Yale master's thesis on Center Church on the Green in New Haven; early, annotated drafts, "itineraries," and notes on her book,

New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design; and reports that she wrote on Wooster Square in cooperation with the New Haven Trust for Historic Preservation. The collection also includes a number of research files for unrealized articles, as well as drafts of several unpublished manuscripts.

Brown's style of notetaking is exhaustive, including extensive bibliographical references, and there is a great deal of internal cross-referencing between research files. The small amount of correspondence in the files is primarily between Brown and her publishers, with occasional letters of appreciation from readers.

Arrangement

Arrangement of the papers is in two series: I. Writings. II. Files, Lectures and Notebooks.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1959-1999

Consists of drafts, unpublished manuscripts, articles, and other writings, including research notes and itineraries for *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design*, as well as Brown's master's thesis, written under the advisement of Carroll L. V. Meeks in the Yale Department of Art History. Also includes research notes and drafts for manuscripts on Wooster Square and various other publications.

Master's Thesis: "The Architects of Center Church"

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence	1959-1960
b. 1, f. 2-3	Research notes	Circa 1960
b. 1, f. 4	"First version for CLVM" English	Circa 1960

New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design

b. 1, f. 5	Corrections	Circa 1977
b. 1, f. 6	Correspondence	Circa 1976
Draft itineraries		
b. 1, f. 7	Topographical and architectural note	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 8	"Interstate" English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 9	"Middletown-State" English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 10	"Hartford Turnpike-Whitney" English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 11	"Derby" English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 12	"Mfd Turnpike-Post Road" English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 13	"The Green and Downtown" English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 14	"Yale" English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 15	"Hillhouse Ave." English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 16	"Orange St. and vicinity" English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 17	"Prospect Hill" English	Circa 1970-1976

New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design > Draft itineraries (continued)

b. 1, f. 18	"Winchester" English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 19	"Wooster Square" English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 20	"Fair Haven" English	Circa 1970-1976
b. 1, f. 21	Prospectus	Circa 1970
b. 1, f. 22	Reviews and publicity	Circa 1976-1977
Wooster Square		
b. 1, f. 23	<i>The Historic Houses of Wooster Square: An Introduction to the History of Wooster Square and its Architecture: A Portfolio of Houses Built Before 1880</i> , New Haven Preservation Trust English	1969
b. 1, f. 24	Draft manuscript, <i>The Historic Houses of Wooster Square</i>	Circa 1969
b. 1, f. 25	<i>An Introduction to the History of Wooster Square and its Architecture, 1825-1880</i> , New Haven Preservation Trust English	1969
b. 1, f. 26	Draft chapter on Abraham Bishop/Wooster Square land	Circa 1969
b. 1, f. 27	Draft Wooster Square article	1969
b. 1, f. 28	Research files	Circa 1969
b. 1, f. 29	Historic designation survey on Wooster Square	1967
Articles		
b. 2, f. 1	<i>Macmillan Encyclopedia of American Art Before 1914</i> , drafts of entries English	1999
b. 2, f. 2	<i>Praeger Encyclopedia</i> , drafts of entries English	1968
b. 2, f. 3	Brockett article drafts and correspondence	1980-1981
b. 2, f. 4	<i>Journal of the New Haven Colony Historical Society</i> , "John Brockett of New Haven: The Man and the Myth" English	1980
Unpublished manuscripts and manuscript fragments		
b. 2, f. 5	Manuscript fragments: Federal - Urban	Undated
b. 2, f. 6	Manuscript fragments: Jacksonian period	Undated
b. 2, f. 7	Manuscript fragments: Edwardian	Undated
b. 2, f. 8-9	Notes on unpublished New Haven Colonial manuscript	Undated
b. 2, f. 10	Draft, "Architecture and Urbanism in New Haven"	Circa 1960

Unpublished manuscripts and manuscript fragments (continued)

b. 2, f. 11	Unpublished "Blue Manuscript"	Undated
b. 2, f. 12	Unpublished manuscript: "The Colonial Period: A New Plantation Whose Design is Religion"	Undated
b. 2, f. 13	Notes and unpublished Hillhouse draft	Undated
b. 2, f. 14	Unpublished manuscript: David Hoadley	Undated
b. 2, f. 15	Unpublished "London Manuscript", written with George Hersey [includes EMB note on all unpublished manuscripts]	Circa 1968
b. 2, f. 16	Unpublished "Ozzie Manuscript" [Colonial Urban]	Undated

Series II: Files, lectures and notebooks, Circa 1919-2001

Consists of Brown's research files (which she compiled in notebooks), lecture files, correspondence, and general notes. Most of the folder names in this series are drawn directly from Brown's own folder titles. The notebooks represent various projects and ideas Brown continued to work on throughout her career, and served as her own idiosyncratic but exhaustive historical reference works. The notebooks on *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design* end abruptly with "O."

b. 3, f. 1	Correspondence, general	1976-2001
b. 3, f. 2	Curriculum vitae	Undated
	Files, notes, and lectures	Circa 1970-1990
b. 3, f. 3	Edgehill Includes slides.	Undated
b. 3, f. 4	New Haven Architectural Club historical exhibition programs	Circa 1919-1929
b. 3, f. 5	Chaplin Street (Chaplin, CT) and others, for talks at Guilford Library and Connecticut League Includes slides.	1996
b. 3, f. 6	Connecticut League, Guilford Library, and Whitney Center talks	Circa 1994-1996
b. 3, f. 7	Hartford research material	Circa 1970-1990
b. 3, f. 8	Moore-Grover-Harper, notes and illustrations	1981 April 13
b. 3, f. 9-11	Preservation movement in Connecticut	1978-1979
b. 3, f. 12	Rochester talk on preservation movement	1981 May 21
b. 3, f. 13	Society of Architectural Historians meeting in New Haven	1982 April
b. 3, f. 14	John Trumbull lecture at Yale Art Gallery	1982 November 14
b. 3, f. 15	Dorothy Whitfield-Hyland House talk, Guilford Includes slides.	1983 June 1
b. 3, f. 16-20	General files and lectures	1972-1995
b. 3, f. 21	Files and tours	Circa 1993
b. 4, f. 1	Notes on planned Guilford survey	Undated
	Notebooks	
b. 4, f. 2	Bibliography	Undated
b. 4, f. 3-4	Churches paper for Meeks	Undated
b. 4, f. 5	Colonial	Undated
b. 4, f. 6	Federal (Early Republic)	Undated
b. 4, f. 7	Jacksonian	Undated

Notebooks (continued)

b. 4, f. 8-9	Lost New Haven	Undated
b. 4, f. 10	<i>New Haven</i> , preface-introduction, A-D English	Circa 1970
b. 4, f. 11	<i>New Haven</i> , E-F English	Circa 1970
b. 4, f. 12	<i>New Haven</i> , G English	Circa 1970
b. 4, f. 13	<i>New Haven</i> , H English	Circa 1970
b. 4, f. 14	<i>New Haven</i> , I English	Circa 1970
b. 4, f. 15	<i>New Haven</i> , J English	Circa 1970
b. 4, f. 16	<i>New Haven</i> , K English	Circa 1970
b. 4, f. 17	<i>New Haven</i> , L-M English	Circa 1970
b. 4, f. 18	<i>New Haven</i> , N English	Circa 1970
b. 4, f. 19	<i>New Haven</i> , O English	Circa 1970
b. 4, f. 20	NYC Churches	Undated
b. 4, f. 21	Town, Ithiel	Undated
b. 4, f. 22	Miscellaneous notes and do's	Undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Architecture -- Connecticut -- New Haven

Geographic Names

Wooster Square (New Haven, Conn.)

Names

Brown, Elizabeth Mills
Town, Ithiel, 1784-1844

Corporate Body

First Church in New Haven (New Haven, Conn.)