

HOME FOR AGED WOMEN (GODDARD HOUSE)

Records, 1873-1972

Charities Collection - CC 13

2 manuscript containers	Processed June 1996 by Angela Reddin
10 linear inches	Supervising Archivist: Joan Gearin
Accession number: 1996.019	

ACQUISITION: In 1911 the Boston Children's Aid Society gave its entire library to the Simmons College School of Social Work Library. This library included the annual reports of many local and international welfare and charitable organizations. With the passage of time this collection took on historical significance and in 1991 it was transferred to the Simmons College Archives.

As part of donations in 1988 and 1989, Donald Moreland, a local social worker and collector of social work history, gave the Simmons College Archives a large number of annual reports, pamphlets and other materials related to various welfare and charitable organizations. Because neither of these donations is a discrete collection, the materials transferred in 1991 from the School of Social Work Library and related materials donated by Donald Moreland were combined to form the Charities Collection. The Simmons College Archives Charities Collection consists of numerous small collections. Accession numbers for the individual collections are assigned during processing.

ACCESS: Unrestricted

COPYRIGHT: Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the College Archivist.

HISTORY:

The Home for Aged Women was founded in 1849 and was originally named the Association for Aged Indigent Females. The objective of the founding charity administration was to provide for respectable women in the Boston area who needed help or depended entirely on the benevolence of charitable groups for shelter and support. Women were allowed to apply for residency based on their status within the community as defined by the charity, "both widowed and single, who are dependent for assistance, in whole or in part, upon a helping hand of charity, and whose chief solicitude... is how they may retain a certain home for themselves, and secure thereby a permanent shelter in the

winter of their age.¹" The first residence was opened on Charles Street in Boston in 1850 and housed 36 women. The name was also changed to Association for the Relief of Aged and Indigent Females. It soon expanded and moved to three nearby buildings on Charles Street.

In 1863, the Home was moved to 108 Revere Street which accommodated 60 residents, and in 1872 the legislature changed the name of the corporation to the Home for Aged Women (HAW). The Home expanded by purchasing part of the land of the New England Home for Little Wanderers at 205 South Huntington Avenue, occupying the site in 1927 and increasing its capacity by 15%. In 1931, the Winchester Home in Charlestown was merged into HAW, and 29 more women thus "joined our family." HAW accommodated this increase in population by adding a new wing which later became the infirmary.

Over the course of one hundred and fifty years the Home changed location and name, as well as charitable responsibilities and residence rules. The Home for Aged Women has also been known as the Association for Aged and Indigent Females, the Association for the Relief of Aged and Indigent Females, Winchester House, and Goddard House (1980). Throughout the history of the Home the corporation maintained strict rules as to the requirements of applicants including limiting enrollment to those of the female gender, those with financial and medical need, and those of a respectable status (to be defined by the corporation and staff). The Home originally provided residents with full room and board, but over time the residents were required to provide for a portion of the costs. Eventually the rules of admission were extended to those in need of medical care, admitting men as well as women (1980's).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The records of the Home for Aged Women [Goddard House] (1873-1972) (formerly the Association for Aged Indigent Females and the Association for the Relief of Aged and Indigent Females Winchester House), constitute two manuscript boxes of .8 linear feet. The entirety of the collection consists of the Home for Aged Women annual reports 1873-1972 (with gaps) and a special pamphlet entitled *A Brief History of The Home for Aged Women: One Hundredth Anniversary (1849-1949)*, published in 1949. These annual reports summarize events in which the residents participated, and include a complete list of residents (by married name) with their age and admittance date. The annual reports also include statistics regarding the financial accounts of the Home. The annual reports summarize the administrative activities and structure of the Home and recognize valuable members of the staff and administrative community. An 1863 *Address at the opening of the new home for aged indigent females* is bound into the first volume of annual reports (1873-1879).

¹A Brief History of the Home for Aged Women: One Hundredth Anniversary (1849-1949), (n.p., n.d.).

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS (Bracketed dates are missing)
		Series I. Annual Reports
1	1	1873-1879 and an Address, 1863
	2	1873-1879 (1874)
	3	1880-1886
	4	1887-1892
	5	1893-1900 (1894, 1896)
	6	1901-1905
	7	1906-1911
2	1	1912-1916
	2	1917-1922 (1923, 1924)
	3	1925-1931 (1927, 1928)
	4	1932-1938 (1935)
	5	1939-1944
	6	1946-1953 (1945, 1948, 1949)
	7	1953-1960 (1954)
	8	1961-1966
	9	1967-1972
		Series II. Other Publications
10	A Brief History of the Home for Aged Women, One Hundredth Anniversary, 1849-1949.	