

THE SOUTH END HOUSE ASSOCIATION

Records, 1909-1944 (with gaps)

Charities Collection - CC 14

1 manuscript box	Processed November 1996 by Meg Moughan
2.5 linear inches	Supervising Archivist: Joan Gearin
Accession number: 1996.050	

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.

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY:

Part of a national settlement house movement during the Progressive Era in America, the South End House opened its doors in Boston, Massachusetts, as the Andover House in 1891. Its founder, Dr. William J. Tucker, was a Congregational minister and social reformer who taught at the Andover Theological Seminary located in Andover, Massachusetts. Dr. Tucker immediately hired Robert A. Woods to act as the house's director. Woods was very involved in progressive reform movements on the national level and in the settlement house movement in Boston. One of the first things Woods did was to change the organization's name to the South End House as its original name

reflected an association with the Andover Seminary; the new name evoked more of a connection to the community it served.¹

As the organization's by-laws state: "the object of the Corporation shall be to establish and maintain a House in the City of Boston as a residence for college graduates and others engaged in work for social and moral betterment with particular reference to the neighborhood in which it is located."² Workers and volunteers under Woods' guidance lived in the South End House and interacted on a daily basis with residents of Boston's impoverished South End neighborhood. As many of the neighborhood's residents were immigrants, much of the workers' efforts were aimed at assimilating these individuals to American life.

Settlement house workers hoped to preserve family life, promote cultural and intellectual development in the neighborhood, provide employment counseling, daycare, and tutoring in the English language. The association sponsored clubs and classes for all ages, lessons in citizenship, and excursions outside of the city. For the immigrant residents of the South End, the settlement was intended to be a unifying community center. For the workers and volunteers, many of whom were recent college graduates interested in reform and social services, the South End House represented a center for social study and a laboratory in which they put new social science theories into practice.

In 1938, the South End House Association owned five pieces of property, including houses at 20 Union Park (headquarters), 48 Rutland Street, and 640 Harrison Avenue in Boston. A fourth house was located in Woburn where the Association ran a summer program -- Winning Farm Camp. The Association also owned a facility in Poland Springs, Maine, (and later in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire); in the summer months, the South End House operated a boy's caddy camp in mountain resort areas.³

In 1960, the South End House merged with the Harriet Tubman House, the Children's Art Center, the Hale House, and the Lincoln House to form the United South End Settlements.⁴ By joining forces, the five area settlement houses were able to pool resources, share programs and space, and reach a larger community. Today the United South End Settlements/Harriet Tubman Gallery is an active neighborhood center still very much involved in youth programs, local art, and community outreach.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

¹ Allen F. Davis, *Spearheads for Reform: The Social Settlements and the Progressive Movement, 1890-1914*. (New York: University Press, 1967) 15.

² South End House Association, *By-Laws of the South End House Association*, n.d.

³ South End House Association, *Annual Report*. (1938)

⁴ Guadulesa at the United South End Settlement/Harriet Tubman Gallery provided the organization's "modern" history.

The records of the South End House Association (1909-1944) constitute 2.5 linear inches. The information is divided into two series: Administrative/Finance and Publications.

The Administrative/Finance Series contains the organization's by-laws, an annual report for 1937-1938, and balance sheets for the years 1909, 1917, and 1918. These sheets provide an account of funding the Association received and how it was allocated. They also include summaries of long-range financial planning. Generally, funds were received from individual donations, special funds, and endowments.

The Publications Series includes two informational pamphlets on the South End House (published by the Association), as well as an article written by William Jewett Tucker and published in *The Atlantic Monthly* (May, 1917). Also found in this series is a book published in 1923 and written by Robert Woods, *The Neighborhood in Nation-Building*. This volume includes a frontispiece portrait of the author, a detailed index, and several appendices regarding the settlement house movement.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS
		<u>Series I Administrative/Finance</u>
1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ By-Laws, n.d. ◆ Report, 1937-38 ◆ Annual Balance Sheet, 1909 ◆ Annual Balance Sheet, 1917 ◆ Annual Balance Sheet, 1918
		<u>Series II Publications</u>
	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ "South End House - A University Settlement, 1892-1899," n.d. ◆ "The South End and South End House Today and Tomorrow," 1944 ◆ "Twenty-Five Years in Residence," William J. Tucker, 1917
	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>The Neighborhood in Nation-Building: The Running Comment of Thirty Years at the South End House</i>, Robert A Wood, 1923