



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

Guide to the Boston Housing Authority records

Reports and publications relating to public housing

Finding aid prepared by Kristen Swett
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

Repository:	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
Title:	Reports and publications relating to public housing
Collection No.:	9000.018
Dates:	1942-1978
Quantity:	1.0 Cubic feet (1 record carton)

TABLE OF CONTENTS SERIES LIST

[Historical note](#)

[Series I: Reports and publications](#)

[Scope and Contents note](#)

[Administrative Information](#)

Historical note

The Boston Housing Authority (BHA) was established by order of the Boston City Council on October 1, 1935, pursuant to St. 1935, c. 449, s. 5 which empowered cities and towns of Massachusetts to establish housing authorities. Such a body is responsible for providing decent, safe and sanitary housing for families unable to afford housing without public subsidies and for clearing substandard, decadent or blighted open areas under the provisions of MGLA c. 121B. To carry out these responsibilities BHA develops and manages housing projects and leases housing when necessary. It also performed the functions of an urban redevelopment authority until such a body was established separately pursuant to St. 1957, c. 150.

The management and governance of the BHA has deviated from that of other housing authorities since 1975, when BHA was sued in Boston City Housing Court by a group of BHA tenants, represented by Greater Boston

Legal Services, over poor conditions in housing projects under the authority's control. As a result of the ruling in favor of the tenants, a court-appointed master prepared a report listing recommendations that provided the basis for a consent decree signed in 1977 by BHA, Greater Boston Legal Services and the Boston Public Housing Tenants Policy Council. The decree detailed a series of improvements that BHA was to make over the course of three years. The master, responsible for monitoring BHA's compliance with the consent decree, gave approval for all major decisions made by the BHA board and administrator. In 1979, the judge ruled that BHA had failed satisfactorily to fulfill the terms of the consent decree and BHA was placed in receivership, with its board of commissioners and administrator replaced by a court-appointed receiver. Since 1990, when the receivership ended, BHA has been directed by an administrator whose activities are reviewed by a nine-member monitoring committee appointed by the mayor of Boston.

Source: Massachusetts State Archives catalog record

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents note

This series is a collection of reports and publications relating to public housing kept with the Boston Housing Authority central files. This series includes handbooks, pamphlets, reports, articles, newsletters, etc. The publications are arranged chronologically with undated material at the end.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

The records of the Boston Housing Authority were transferred from the Massachusetts State Archives to the City of Boston Archives on January 26, 2010.

[Return to the Table of Contents](#)

Series I: Reports and publications

Box

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Standards for Defense Housing: Lanham Act Projects, 1942 February 1 |
| 1 | Report Cow Pasture Land Development Dorchester, Massachusetts, 1946 March 2 |
| 1 | Brief Submitted by Boston Housing Authority to Joint Congressional Committee, 1947 November 13 |
| 1 | Slum Clearance and Urban Redevelopment Title I, Housing Act of 1949: Report of Operations as of September 30, 1953, 1953 October 21 |
| 1 | Journal of Housing, 1958 April |
| 1 | Housing in Large Cities in the U.S. by A. A. Bellamy, 1958 October |
| 1 | U.S. Housing Act - September 1, 1937: 25 Years of Progress in Housing, 1962 |
| 1 | Safety Manual by Charles W. Capraro, 1964 |
| 1 | Public Housing Administration Engineering Survey Report for Boston Housing Authority Projects - Mass 2-1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14, 19, 20, 23, 24, 1965 March 10-April 30 |
| 1 | Public Housing Week Boston Housing Authority program, 1965 |

- 1 Resolution Establishing Policies and Standards Governing Occupancy of Federally-Aided Developments, 1965 October 28
- 1 Situation Report Boston Housing Authority, 1969 January 8
- 1 Preliminary Report: The Modernization Program Boston Housing Authority, 1969 August
- 1 Human Relations Training Program for Boston Housing Authority, 1969-1970
- 1 Final Report Regarding the Feasibility of Tenant Management At Bromley-Heath Development, 1970
- 1 Tenant Voice, 1970
- 1 Bromley Park Power Study, circa 1970
- 1 Proposal: New Designs for Management Part I: Technical and Management Proposal, 1971 October 26
- 1 Bromley-Heath Tenant Management, 1971 (2 folders)
- 1 Tenants Outlook, 1971
- 1 Comprehensive Consolidated Management Review Report of the Boston Housing Authority, 1972 March
- 1 Part A Application to Participate in Target Projects Program for Columbia Point, Mission Hill and Mission Hill Extension, 1974 June 17
- 1 Part B Application to Participate in the Target Projects Program (TPP)for Columbia Point 2-20, 1975 January 16
- 1 A Proposal for Funds to Establish the Boston Housing Authority Energy Conservation Program, 1976 July
- 1 Boston Housing Authority 1978-1979 CETA Title VI Boston Public Housing Service and Support Program, 1978 June 12
- 1 Urban Initiatives Program: Boston Housing Authority Proposal, 1978 August 10
- 1 Housing Problems with Particular Reference to Massachusetts by J. Laurence Phelan, undated
- 1 Handbook for Housing the Handicapped in Public Housing Facilities, undated
- 1 Tenant Selection Office pamphlets on Housing Developments, undated
- 1 Establishment of the State Board of Housing, undated
- 1 Public Housing at the Crossroads: The Boston Housing Authority, undated
- 1 The Tenant Handbook, undated

[Return to the Series List](#)