

Guide to the Boston City Hospital collection 7020.001

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Boston City Archives

201 Rivermoor St. West Roxbury, MA 02132 archives@boston.gov URL: http://www.cityofboston.gov/archivesandrecords

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Summary Information

Repository:	Boston City Archives
Creator:	Boston City Hospital.
Creator:	Boston City Hospital. Trustees
Source:	Boston City Hospital Medical Library
Title:	Boston City Hospital collection
ID:	7020.001
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1790-1996 (bulk, 1864-1996)
Physical Description:	67 Cubic feet (62 record cartons, 5 large flat boxes, 2 small flat boxes, and 1 large framed portrait)
Language of the Material:	English
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Historical note

Due to the need in the mid 1800's for a hospital to care for the sick poor, the city initiated plans for the construction of a city hospital. Chapter 113 of the Acts of 1858 established a City Hospital. Construction began in 1861 and the Boston City Hospital opened on June 1, 1864. The Hospital was under the charge of a Board of Trustees. Over time, besides the main hospital, the Trustees had charge of the South Department for contagious diseases, the Sanatorium Division at 249 River Street, Mattapan (for tuberculosis patients), Long Island Division (for chronic diseases) and East Boston Relief Station. Relief Stations were closed to patients on March 15, 1938; East Boston Relief Station was reopened on a twenty-four hour basis on October 15, 1945. The trustees were initially incorporated by Chapter 174 of the Acts of 1880 and authorized to receive and hold real and personal estate bequeathed or devised to said corporation to an amount not exceeding \$1,000,000. By the 1950s, the trustees were authorized to receive and hold real and personal estate begueathed or devised to receive and hold real and personal estate bequeathed or devised to said hospital corporation to an amount not exceeding \$1,000,000. By the 1950s, the trustees were merged as the Health and Hospitals Department by Chapter 656 of the Acts of 1965. The Board of Health and Hospitals by this same statute was incorporated as the Board of Trustees of Health and Hospitals.

From 1970 through the early 1990s, great effort was made to reorganize and modernize Boston City Hospital's physical plant, including building a new Boston City Hospital. However, in 1996, the Mayor's Special Commission on Health Care was formed to study the challenges of health care provision and administration in the twenty-first century and the Commission recommended that the Department of Health and Hospitals merge with Boston University Medical Center. The consolidation of the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Boston University Medical Center created the Boston Medical Center, which subsumed the former Boston City Hospital.

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Scope and Contents

This collection documents the history of the Boston City Hospital from 1864-1996. Parts of this collection were originally in the custody of the Boston City Hospital Library. The collection includes Board of Trustees minutes and records; published reports of the hospital; administrative files of the hospital and of the library; financial records of the hospital; historical files and news clippings compiled by the library over time; holdings of the library including medical texts dating back to the late 1700s; medical reprints of articles by many of the physicians employed at Boston City Hospital; an extensive photograph collection documenting the hospital and its staff; and a small collection of medical instruments. The collection also includes information on and yearbooks of the Boston City Hospital Training School for Nurses. A sampling of medical records are included, however these records are restricted. The collection also includes correspondence, etc. relating to the Cocoanut Grove Fire in 1942. The City Hospital treated many of the patients injured in the fire.

The collection has been arranged into nine series: Board of Trustees records; Published reports; Records; Financial records; Medical Library holdings; School of Nursing records; Photographs; Memorabilia; and Objects. Some files may be restricted due to private medical information. Please consult with archivist concerning restrictions. At the time of the merger of Boston City Hospital and the Boston University Medical Center, the BCH Library was transferred to the Boston Public Library where it remained until it was transferred to the City Archives in 2014. The City Archives merged this collection with Board of Trustees records that had been previously transferred to the City Archives from the Public Health Commission.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Public Health Commission Board records (#7000.001)

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Controlled Access Headings

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Nursing
- Nursing schools -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- Public Welfare -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- Poor -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- Hospitals
- Public hospitals
- Urban hospitals
- Hospital records
- Minutes
- Photographs
- Cocoanut Grove (Boston, Mass.) -- Fire, 1942
- Medical instruments and apparatus
- Social service
- Boston City Hospital .
- Boston City Hospital. Trustees
- Boston City Hospital Medical Library
- Boston City Hospital. Harvard Medical Unit
- Boston City Hospital. Training School for Nurses
- Boston City Hospital. Department of Medicine
- Folsom, A. H. (Augustine H.), 1800-1910
- Long Island Hospital (Boston, Mass.)

Collection Inventory

Series I: Board of Trustees proceedings

Physical Description: 12 Cubic feet

Physical Description: 48 Volumes

Minutes, 1880-1954

Title/Description	Instances
1880-1887	Volumes 1
1887-1892	Volumes 2
1892-1896	Volumes 3
1896-1898	Volumes 4
1898-1900	Volumes 5
1900-1902	Volumes 6
1902-1904	Volumes 7
1904-1906	Volumes 8
1907-1908	Volumes 9
1908-1909	Volumes 10
1909-1910	Volumes 11
1910-1912	Volumes 12
1912-1913	Volumes 13
1913-1914	Volumes 14
1915	Volumes 15
1916-1917	Volumes 16
1917-1918	Volumes 17
1919-1920	Volumes 18
1920-1922	Volumes 19
1922-1924	Volumes 20
1924-1927	Volumes 21
1927-1928	Volumes 22
1928-1929	Volumes 23
1929-1930	Volumes 24

1930-1931	Volumes 25
1931-1932	Volumes 26
1932-1933	Volumes 27
1933-1934	Volumes 28
1934-1935	Volumes 29
1935-1936	Volumes 30
1936-1937	Volumes 31
1937-1938	Volumes 32
1938-1939	Volumes 33
1939-1940	Volumes 34
1940-1941	Volumes 35
1941-1942	Volumes 36
1942-1943	Volumes 37
1943-1944	Volumes 38
1944-1946	Volumes 39
1946-1947	Volumes 40
1947	Volumes 41
1948-1949	Volumes 42
1949	Volumes 43
1950	Volumes 44
1951-1952	Volumes 45
1952	Volumes 46
1953	Volumes 47
1954	Volumes 48

Records, 1872-1930 with gaps

Title/Description	Instances
1872-1875, 1877-1889	Box 1
1890-1899	Box 2
1900, 1902-1907 September	Box 3
1907 October-1908 October, 1909 January-1910 March	Box 4
1910 March-December, 1911 March-1913 January	Box 5
1913 February-December, 1914 May-1916 February	Box 6

1916 March-1919 August	Box 7
1919 September-1922 December	Box 8
1923 January-1926 October	Box 9
1926 November-1929 April	Box 10
1929 May-1930 September	Box 11
1930 October-December, Loose documents (misc. years)	Box 12

Series II: Published reports

Physical Description: 3 Cubic feet

Annual reports

Title/Description	Instances
1865-1908	Box 13
1909-1915, 1917-1957, 1965	Box 14

Medical and Surgical reports

Title/Description	Instances
1870-1913	Box 15
Statistics	
Title/Description	Instances

Box 15

1864-1899

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Series III: Records

Physical Description: 6 Cubic feet

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Records of the Senior Staff

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

These records may be restricted due to personal medical information or personnel information. Consult with Archivist.

Title/Description	Instances
1864 February 24-1954 April 22	Box 16

Administrative Board - Executive Committee records

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

These records may be restricted due to personal medical information or personnel information. Consult with Archivist.

Title/Description	Instances
1915 February 11-1954 December 23	Box 17

Records of the Surgical Staff

Conditions Governing Access: Conditions Governing Access

These records may be restricted due to personal medical information or personnel information. Consult with Archivist.

Title/Description	Instances
1906 December 31-1955 April 20	Box 17

Instances

Records of the Medical Staff

Conditions Governing Access: Conditions Governing Access

These records may be restricted due to personal medical information or personnel information. Consult with Archivist.

Title/Description

1918 January 25-1940 December 11	Box 17

Chief Residents' reports

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

These records may be restricted due to personal medical information or personnel information. Consult with Archivist.

Title/Description	Instances
1975-1976	Box 18

1979-1980

	Box 18	
1981-1982	Box 18	
1984-1985	Box 18	
1985-1986	Box 18	

Medical records

Conditions Governing Access: Conditions Governing Access

These records are restricted due to personal medical information. Consult with Archivist.

Title/Description	Instances	
1897	Box 19	
1913 November 15-December 3	Box 19	
1914 January 9-24	Box 19	
1914 August 14-September 3	Box 19	
1915 February 3-December	Box 19	
Surgical records, 1922 January 21-29	Box 19	

Miscellaneous records

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Title/Description	Instances
Letter-copy book, circa 1870-1878	Box 20
Record of valuables, 1875-1885	Box 20
Autograph book signed by doctors and nurses, circa 1877-1882	Box 20
House Officers on duty, 1884-1930	Box 20
Physical Description: 2 Volumes	
House Officers acknowledgement of receiving rules, 1938	Box 20
House Officers handbook (copy), 1947	Box 20
House and Standing orders, 1933-1950	Box 20
List of employees, circa 1910-1920	Box 20
List of employees, 1937-1939	Box 20
Library records	
Title/Description	Instances
Accession book, 1891-1931	Volume 49
Record book of charges, 1922-1931	Box 31

Library "Bulletin", circa 1890-1900

Box 31

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Physical Description: 6 Volumes		
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Medical records cashier books, 1930 March-1964 September	Box 21-22	
Contracts, 1907-1909, 1911-1943	Box 22	
Physical Description: 3 Volumes		
Contracts ledger, circa 1922-1933	Box 22	
Physical Description: 1 Volume		
Cashbook index, 1894-1903	Box 23	
Physical Description: 1 Volume		
Cashbooks, 1894-1948	Box 23	
Physical Description: 9 Volumes		
Cashbooks, 1958-1961	Box 27	
Physical Description: 2 Volumes		
P.P. Cashbook (Paying Patients?), 1929-1934	Box 27	
Physical Description: 2 Volumes		
Cashbook, 1935-1938	Box 26	
Physical Description: 1 Volume		
Appropriations, 1904-1917	Box 24	
Physical Description: 1 Volume		
Trust Fund ledgers, 1911-1957	Box 25	
Physical Description: 10 Volumes		
Trust Fund journals, 1935-1948	Box 25	
Physical Description: 3 Volumes		
Trust Fund cashbooks, 1901-1934	Box 25	
Physical Description: 4 Volumes		
Trust Fund trial balance, 1923-1954	Box 25	
Physical Description: 2 Volumes		

Physical Description: 1 Volume	
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Physical Description: 4 Volumes	
Petty cash, 1941-1946, 1948-1960	Box 26
Physical Description: 4 Volumes	
Special appropriation, 1930-1944	Box 26
Physical Description: 1 Volume	
West Department expenses, 1915-1927	Box 26
Physical Description: 1 Volume	
Hospital Department Sanatorium Record of money received, 1927-1943	Box 26
Physical Description: 2 Volumes	
Insurance, circa 1905-1915	Box 26
Physical Description: 1 Volume	
Maternity patients admitted to new maternity building, 1926-1928	Box 26
Physical Description: 1 Volume	
Haymarket Relief Station ledger, 1928-1938	Box 26
Physical Description: 1 Volume	
Car tickets, 1939-1951	Box 26
Physical Description: 3 Volumes	
Record of abatement of Board per Trustees records, 1911-1928	Box 26
Physical Description: 1 Volume	
Subscription book, 1915-1936	Box 26
Physical Description: 1 Volume	
Collection on X-Ray for affiliations, 1939-1948	Box 26
Physical Description: 1 Volume	
Requisitions for General Stores, Furnishings, Dry Goods, Etc., 1894-1896	Volume 50
South Department Requisitions for General Stores, Furnishings, Dry Goods, Etc., 1895-1896	Volume 51
Disbursements according to Budget Assignments, 1916-1920	Volume 52
Trial Balances, 1918-1943	Volume 53
Payroll 1940-1943	

Payroll, 1940-1943

Volume 54-55

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Series V: Medical Library holdings

Physical Description: 17 Cubic feet

Physical Description: 3 Volumes

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Administrative directives, policies and procedures, circa 1951-1964	Box 28	Folder 4-5
Administrative records: Famous surgeons and acknowledgements, 1941-1951	Box 28	Folder 6
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Administrative files; Progress reports, 1959-1972	Box 28	Folder 8
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Boston City Hospital: Description of, 1876	Box 28	Folder 19
Boston City Hospital: Employees Association newsletter, 1942	Box 28	Folder 20
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Boston City Hospital: One Hundredth annual report galleys, 1963	Box 28	Folder 22

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Title/Description	Instances	
Theses	Box 43	
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Title/Description	Instances	
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News clippings, 1971	Volume 57	
News clippings, 1977	Volume 58	
News clippings (fragile), 1954	Box 45	
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1957	Box 65
1968	Box 62

School of Practical Nursing

tle/Description	Instances
Yearbook, 1969	Box 44
Long Island Hospital School of Practical Nursing Class photograph, 1933	Box 62
Class photograph, 1972	Box 62
Class photograph, 1979	Box 62
Class photograph, 1980	Box 62
Class photograph, 1981	Box 62
Graduation program, 1976	Box 69
Long Island Hospital School of Practical Nursing diploma, 1963	Box 69
Council of Practical Nursing certificate, 1978	Box 69
Long Island Hospital School of Practical Nursing Graduation invitation, 1966	Box 69

Title/Description	Instances	
Two nurse's hats	Box 67	
Lantern candle holder	Box 67	
School of Practical nursing pin, circa 1967-1985	Box 67	

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Series VII: Photographs

Phys	ical Des	cription	5 (Cubic	feet

Physical Description: 3 Flat boxes

Physical Description: 1 framed photograph

Title/Description	Instances
Aerials	Box 46
Exteriors (1)	Box 46
Exteriors (2)	Box 46

Wards, Clinics, Ambulances	Box 47
Staff	Box 47
Doctors	Box 47
People	Box 47
Behind the Scenes	Box 48
War	Box 48
Memorial Plaques	Box 48
Slides of Photographs	Box 48
Nurses	Box 49
Index-Buildings, Grounds and Wards	Box 50
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House Officers	
Title/Description	Instances
Group portraits, circa 1880-1950	Box 63-64
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Title/Description	Instances
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Wallace Bryant portrait, 1896	Box 65
Dinner in honor of Abraham Shuman at Algonquin Club, 1910	Box 65
Surgical ward, circa 1900	Box 65
Pavilion III before and after shots, 1901, 1903	Box 65
3 photographs of operating and lecture room on board	Box 65
Aerial view of Boston City Hospital, circa 1950	Box 65
Aerial view of Boston City Hospital	Box 65
Topping off, 1991 December 6	Box 65
Tents on grounds during Spanish American War, 1898	Box 65
Model of hospital building, circa 1990	Box 65
Allen Greenwood portrait	Box 65
Herbert L. Esterberg portrait	Box 65
James J. Regan portrait	Box 65
Harvard Medical School dinner at New American House, 1906	Box 65

Harvard Medical School dinner at New American House, 1906 Box 65

Administration Building Architect's drawing, 1934	Box 65
Entryway and staircase (A.H. Folsom), circa 1890-1900	Box 65
Nurses and patients in ward (A.H. Folsom), circa 1890-1900	Box 65
Doctor's office (A.H. Folsom), circa 1890-1900	Box 65
Medical equipment? (A.H. Folsom), circa 1890-1900	Box 65
Examination room (A.H. Folsom), circa 1890-1900	Box 65
Man in hospital corridor (A.H. Folsom), circa 1890-1900	Box 65
Room with patients and nurse (A.H. Folsom), circa 1890-1900	Box 65
Hospital sink (A.H. Folsom), circa 1890-1900	Box 65
Table for applying plaster of Paris bandages	Box 65
Medical Service group portrait, 1974-1975	Box 65
Large framed portait of two women in military regalia	Oversize 1

Series VIII: Memorabilia

Physical Description: 1 Cubic feet

Physical Description: 2 Flat boxes

Title/Description	Instances
Long Island Nursing School World War I and II honor roll	Box 70
Membership certificate of Daniel Francis Maguire for Massachusetts Medical Society, 1907	Box 70
Certificate of Daniel Francis Maguire for service at East Boston Relief Station, 1909	Box 66
Certificate of Daniel Francis Maguire for service as a Surgical House Officer, 1908	Box 66
Print of Boston City Hospital	Box 70
Training School for Nurses diploma of Gertrude Thresher, 1894	Box 70
Photocopy of Training School for Nurses diploma of Laura Belles with picture, 1903	Box 70
Two framed copies of Address of Rev. Robert A. Hewitt at Military Mass for Boston City Hospital War Unit	Box 66
Certificate of Otto Hermann for Medical Advisory Board , 1940	Box 51
Certificate of Otto Hermann for Massachusetts Medical Service, 1942	Box 51

Otto Hermann Presidential Certificate of Appreciation for Selective Service, 1943	Box 51
Otto Hermann Presidential Certificate of Appreciation for Selective Service, circa 1945	Box 51
Certificate of Otto Hermann for American College of Surgeons Fellow, 1929	Box 51
Hippocratic Oath plaque	Box 51
Boston Medical Center timeline, 1996	Box 70
Mug with City Hospital seal	Box 51

Series IX: Objects

<u>Physical Description</u>: 10 Cubic feet <u>Physical Description</u>: 1 Flat boxes

Medical instruments, etc.

tle/Description	Instances
Dr. Forbes bath thermometer in oak mount, late 19th century	Box 52
Pelvimeter (use to obtain pelvic measurements for obstetrics), early 20th century	Box 52
Nickel plated sound for urethrel dilation (marked BCH OR), circa 1930	Box 52
Tonsilotome possibly American, circa 1900	Box 52
Nickel plated dilating sounds, circa 1920-1930	Box 52
Silver biopsy curette, circa 1930	Box 52
Pessary, hard ruther?, circa 1930	Box 52
Thoracentesis trocar and canula, unknown	Box 52
Large nickel plated sound/dilator, unknown	Box 52
Curved sound/dilator, early 20th century	Box 52
Sample of splint wood medium, unknown	Box 52
Clinic side room laboratory test-tube holder, circa 1900-1950	Box 52
Steam radiator valve control handle for wall unit, circa 1920-1930	Box 52
Two unidentified ladles	Box 52

Clay relief masks

Title/Description	Instances
Freud	Box 53
Galen	Box 54
Harvey	Box 55
Hippocrates	Box 56
Imhotep	Box 57
Lister	Box 58
Maimonides	Box 59
Osler	Box 60
Pare	Box 60
Roentgen	Box 61
Vesalius	Box 61

Miscellaneous objects

Printing Plates

Title/Description	Instances
Dr. McCallum	Box 68
Hospital buildings	Box 68
Haymarket Relief Station	Box 68
Old Administration buildings	Box 68
Tent wards	Box 68
Aerial of Hospital	Box 68
Unidentifed man	Box 68
Large steel printing plate for Hospital certificate	Box 66
Medals	
Title/Description	Instances
Selective Service medal of Otto Hermann, circa 1945	Box 51
Leonard Wood Award presented by Alumni to Otto Hermann,	Box 51

1954 Competitive Drill 1st Prize, 1900

Box 51