

School Photograph Collection

Overview of the Collection

Repository: South County History Center 2636 Kingstown Road Kingston, Rhode Island 02881
Tel: 401.783.1328, website: southcountyhistorycenter.org

Title: School Photographs Collection

Dates: 1880-1980

Media: Prints, Photographic; Glass Plate Negatives

Quantity: 7 boxes, 6 linear feet

Identification: 2023.500

Language: English

Historical Note

The Barnard School Act of 1845 established the basic structure of the modern Rhode Island Public School system. Schools were organized as a quasi-state system, with school districts reporting to school committees, which in turn reported to both the town governments and the Commissioner of Public Schools. The Act required the certification of all public school teachers, set limits on the size of classes, and provided for an appropriation of state funding to be used for teachers' wages. It also contained a provision for free education for impoverished children.

South Kingstown's history of public schooling is similar to that of other towns in South County. In South Kingstown there were twenty-one different schoolhouse districts, each with its own trustee, clerk, and treasurer. The South Kingstown School Committee, an elected board of six individuals, appointed a superintendent to oversee the operation of these districts. The South Kingstown High School was established in 1877. The various school districts were ultimately consolidated into the structure that exists today.

Scope and Content

The School Photograph Collection includes photographic prints and glass plate negatives. The collection is an accumulation of multiple acquisitions that took place between 1963 and 2023. It consists of approximately 175 distinct photographs as well as albums of individual school portraits. The dates of the collection range between 1880 and 1980.

Administrative Information

Access: Any qualified person doing personal or scholarly research is permitted to utilize materials in the South County History Center collections.

Preferred Citation: Item, Box Number, School Photograph Collection, South County History Center

Provenance: These records have undergone processing at many points in the previous decades. Due to the number of times these documents have been rearranged, the original identification, provenance, and organization of some of the documents have been lost. The collection reflects acquisitions from multiple sources. When available, a catalog number is provided that may give more insight into the provenance of individual items.

Processed by: Caleb Goodhouse, with generous support of Shantia Anderheggen and Stephen White

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Subject Terms

South Kingstown (R.I. : Town); South Kingstown (R.I. : Town)--Buildings, structures, etc.; South Kingstown (R.I. : Town)--Education

Related Materials

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following sources in the South County History Center holdings:

Archival Collections – South Kingstown Photographs

Archival Collections – South Kingstown Town Records

Reference Library – “South Kingstown curriculum studies – 1942” published by the South Kingstown School Committee

Reference Library – “A history of public education in Rhode Island up until 1918” by Charles Carroll

Contents Listing

Within this collection, a single Object ID has been used to catalog photographs of the same subject of similar sizes.

Box	Object ID	Description	Date
1	2023.500.0001	Wakefield Grammar School (South Kingstown)	1890 - 1920
1	2023.500.0002	Curtis Corner Grammar School (South Kingstown)	1890 - 1910
1	2023.500.0003	Saunderstown Grammar School (Originally South Kingstown, now Narragansett)	1915
1	2023.500.0004	Matunuck Grammar School (South Kingstown)	1880 - 1950
1	2023.500.0005	Peace Dale Grammar School (South Kingstown)	1900 - 1930
1	2023.500.0007	Rocky Brook School (South Kingstown)	1880-1910
1	2023.500.0012	Stepping Stones Kindergarten (South Kingstown)	1890-1910
2	2023.500.0015	Kingston Grammar School (South Kingstown)	1880 - 1960
2	2023.500.0017	South Kingstown Grammar School	1880 – 1930
2	2023.500.0020	Unidentified Schools	1880 – 1930
2	2023.500.0021	West Kingston Grammar School (South Kingstown)	1880 – 1960
2	2023.500.0022	Hazard School (South Kingstown)	1950 – 1980
2	2023.500.0025	Green Hill School (South Kingstown)	1890 – 1900
2	2023.500.0026	Perryville School (South Kingstown)	1890 – 1900

2	2023.500.0027	Glen Rock School (South Kingstown)	1895
3	2023.500.0008	Mooresfield School (South Kingstown)	1880 – 1920
3	2023.500.0009	Sugar Loaf School (South Kingstown)	1890 – 1900
3	2023.500.0010	North Road School (South Kingstown)	1900
3	2023.500.0011	Stepping Stones Kindergarten (South Kingstown)	1900 – 1950
3	2023.500.0019	Unidentified School	1880 – 1930
3	2023.500.0023	Tuckertown School (South Kingstown)	1900 – 1930
3	2023.500.0024	South Kingstown High School Graduation Portraits	1900
3	2023.500.0030	Beaver River School House, District No. 11 (Richmond)	1890 – 1910
4	2023.500.0006	Peace Dale Grammar School (South Kingstown)	1900 – 1920
4	2023.500.0013	Stepping Stones Kindergarten (South Kingstown)	1890 – 1910
4	2023.500.0016	Kingston Grammar School (South Kingstown)	1880 – 1960
4	2023.500.0018	South Kingstown Grammar School	1880 – 1930
5	2023.500.0028	South Kingstown Schools – Glass Plate Negatives	1905
6	2023.500.0014	Stepping Stones Kindergarten Photo Album (South Kingstown)	1950 - 1980
7	2023.500.0029	Wakefield Grammar School Class of 1939 (South Kingstown)	1939