

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society Records
1895-1971**

**Julie Miller
July 1987**

Table of Contents

Summary	iii
Historical note	iv
Arrangement note	v
Series descriptions and container list	1
SERIES I. MINUTES, 1911-1971	1
SERIES II. RECORD BOOKS, 1898-1926	1
SERIES III. COMMITTEE RECORDS, 1900-1939	2
SERIES IV. GENERAL FILES, 1930s-1960s	2
SERIES V. RESERVE FILES, 1951-1968	2
SERIES VI. FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1895-1919; 1930s-1960s	3
SERIES VII. ANNUAL REPORTS, 1895-1927	3
SERIES VIII. SCENIC AND HISTORIC AMERICA, 1929-1938	3
SERIES IX. BOOKS	4
SERIES X. STATE COUNCIL OF PARKS (N.Y.) , 1924-1930	4
SERIES XI. ARTIFACTS AND OVERSIZED MATERIAL	4

Summary

Main entry:	American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society
Title:	American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society Records, 1895-1971
Size:	14 linear feet (14 cartons)
Source:	American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, July, 1979
Abstract:	The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society was founded in 1895 to preserve scenic and historic sites. The records contain correspondence, minutes, reports, photographs and printed material documenting the Society's work, chiefly in New York State.
Access:	Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
Copyright information:	No photocopying from annual reports or the bulletin of the Society. Copies may be made from microfilm and hardcopies available elsewhere in the Library.
Preferred citation:	American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
Special formats	Blueprints, Maps, Photographs.

Historical note

The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society (ASHPS), originally called the Society for the Preservation of Scenic and Historic Places and Objects, was founded in 1895 by Andrew Haswell Green (1820-1903), New York City civic leader and conservationist. Active largely in New York State, with headquarters in New York City, the Society's purpose was to protect scenic and historic sites. Its chief method was to act as custodian for scenic areas and historic sites, acquiring them, maintaining them, and keeping them open to the public free of charge. Such sites included John Boyd Thatcher Park, near Albany; Battle Island Park, between Fulton and Oswego; Stony Point Battlefield REservation, on the Hudson; Fort Brewerton, on the Oswego River; Letchworth Park, on the Genessee River; Watkins Glen, near Seneca Lake; Philipse Manor Hall, Yonkers; Hamilton Grange, Nw York City; and John William Draper Memorial Park, Hastings-on-Hudson. Some of these sites, all of which were located in New York State, were eventually put into the care of the state or federal government.

In addition, the Society worked on behalf of numerous sites not specifically under its care, supporting or opposing legislation; working on behalf of endangered sites; acting as an advisor; working for the improvement of cities through the protection of parks and historica buildings and districts; erecting monuments and plaques; helping to establish parks; and pushing for the creation of the New York State Conservation Department. While most of this concerned sites in New York State, the Society was also active on behalf of sites throughout the United States and in Europe. Some sites that benefitted from these efforts include: Niagara Falls; Palisades Interstate Park; the Octagon House, Washington, D.C.; Storm King Mountian in the Hudson Highlands, where Consolidated Edison planned to build a power plant; Washington Square, Inwood Park, Fort Washington, Fraunces Tavern, and the Morris-Jumel Mansion, all in New York City; reconstruction efforts in France after World War I; cemeteries in France for American soldiers, following World War I; and many others.

Presidents of the Society included Andrew H. Green, Walter S. Logan, George Frederick Kunz, George McAneny, and Maj. Gen. Alexander Hamilton.

Arrangement note

The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society Records are organized in the following series:

- Series I. Minutes, 1911-1971
- Series II. Record Books, 1898-1926
- Series III. Committee Records, 1900-1939
- Series IV. General Files, 1930s-1960s
- Series V. Reserve Files, 1951-1968
- Series VI. Financial Records, 1930s-1960s
- Series VII. Annual Reports, 1895-1927
- Series VIII. Scenic and Historic America, 1929-1938
- Series IX. Books
- Series X. State Council of Parks (N.Y.) , 1924-1930
- Series XI. Artifacts and Oversized Material

Series descriptions and container list

Series I. Minutes, 1911-1971

Five boxes.

Minutes, 1911-1971 (typed, with published minutes for 1911-1927), of regular monthly meetings of the Society's Board of Trustees and annual meetings of the Society. Minutes of various committees are included.

Box

1	1911-1927
2	1913-1943
3	1918-1932
4	1933-1938
5	1939-1943; 1951-1955; 1959-1971

Series II. Record Books, 1898-1926

Nine boxes.

The series consists of seventeen record books, numbered one through eighteen. There is no gap in the records although volume 18 is missing. The volumes contain minutes of trustees' monthly meetings, annual meetings, and meetings of various committees; lists of officers and trustees; by-laws and charters; correspondence of secretaries and presidents (including the founder and first president, Andrew H. Green); reports; New York State legislative documents; clippings; circulars; brochures; dues and membership forms; blueprints, maps, photographs showing scenic and historic sites with which the Society was concerned; and accounts. These relate to the administration of sites under the Society's custodianship, sites not under its custodianship, but with which it was concerned, and a wide variety of other Society matters.

6	Volumes 1-2
7	Volumes 3-4
8	Volumes 5-6
9	Volumes 7-8
10	Volumes 9-10
11	Volumes 12-13 The records are continuous, even though no volume 11 exists.
12	Volumes 14-15
13	Volumes 16-17
14	Volume 18

Series III. Committee Records, 1900-1939

Four boxes

Committees were charged with the oversight of the administration of scenic and historic sites for which the Society was acting as custodian. Records consists of committee minutes; monthly reports from park directors, superintendents, or caretakers; and related correspondence, photographs, maps, blueprints, visitor statistics, legal documents, and printed material. Generally, these relate to the maintenance and operation of the sites and, to a lesser extent, to the acquisition of sites. Some records from other, similar, committees can be found scattered throughout the collection.

- 15 Letchworth Park Committee, 1911-1929
- 16 Letchworth Park Committee, 1924-1929
Battle Island Park Committee
Diamond Island Committee, 1922-1939
Fort Brewerton Committee, 1921-1927
- 17 Stony Point Committee, 1900-1930
- 18 Thacher Park Committee, 1915-1930

Series IV. General Files, 1930s-1960s

Six boxes

These files are arranged alphabetically by subject and consist largely of correspondence. Clippings, printed materials, and miscellaneous documents are also included. The files concern a wide variety of topics of concern to the Society.

- 19 A - C
- 20 D
- 21 D - J
- 22 L - N
- 23 N - P
- 24 P - W

Series V. Reserve Files, 1951-1968

One box

This series consists of files found with the heading "reserve" on the folders. These files contain basically the same types of documents on the same general range of topics as the general files.

- 25 1951-1968

Series VI. Financial Records, 1895-1919; 1930s-1960s

Four boxes

This series contains auditors' reports, drafts of financial statements, ca. 1959-1960s; and miscellaneous correspondence, accounts, notes, tax documents, bills, and invoices, ca. 1930s-1960s. These relate to contributions to the Society, purchases made by and from the Society, taxes, city and federal tax-exempt status, and general financial matters. Two mailing books, listing recipients of insured mail, 1965-1966, and a cash book, 1895-1900 compiled in August 1901 from membership dues receipts, check book stubs, receipted bills and reports to trustees, are also included.

- 26 Auditors' Reports, 1934-1935; 1966-1967
- 27-28 1930s - 1960s
- 28A Cash book, 1895 Apr 8 - 1910 Oct 1

Series VII. Annual Reports, 1895-1927

Five boxes

The series includes published annual reports, 1896-1925; typescript annual reports, 1926-1927. The report form 1922 is missing. More annual reports can be found scattered throughout the collection. At the front of the first volume is material from 1895 including a memorial to the New York State legislature from the Society's trustees; act of incorporation; by-laws; minutes of an April 6, 1895 meeting at which the first president, Andrew H. Green, and officers were elected.

A complete run of the annual reports is available in the Library on microfilm *ZAN-H349 [1st]-30th; [1896]-1930.

All photocopies from the annual reports must be made from the microfilm in the Microforms Division.

- 29 1895-1910
- 30 1911-1914
- 31 1915-1918
- 32 1919-1925 (There is no annual report for 1922.)
- 33 1926-1927 (Typescripts)

Series VIII. Scenic and Historic America, 1929-1938

One box

Nine issues of the Society's bulletin, which came out several times a year, 1929-1938.

No photocopying of this bulletin. Photocopies may be requested from the volumes in the Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy.

IAA (Scenic and historic America) Library has: v.1, no.1 (Jan., 1917)
IAA (Scenic and historic America) Library has: v.1-5 (Mar. 1929-1940)

- 34 1929-1938

Series IX. Books

One box.

The series contains two books: *A Narrative of the Life of Mary Jemison: the white woman of the Genessee*, by James Everett Seaver (New York: American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, 1918) and *Philipse Manor Hall at Yonkers, N. Y. : the site, the building, and its occupants* by Edward Hagaman Hall (New York: American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, 1912). Both volumes contain many revisions made in preparation for their 1925 editions. The 1925 edition would be the 22nd edition of the Mary Jemison book and the second edition of the Philipse Manor Hall book.

- 35 *A Narrative of the Life of Mary Jemison*
 Philipse Manor Hall at Yonkers, N. Y.

Series X. State Council of Parks (N.Y.) , 1924-1930

Two boxes

The State Council of Parks, a New York State body, was composed of representatives of New York State park commissions, the State Historian's office, the Conservation Commission, and the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society. Robert Moses, as President of the Long Island Park Commission, was chairman of the Council during the period of these records.

Included are minutes, with related correspondence (including letters to and from Moses), reports, New York State legislative documents, clippings, accounts, and printed material.

- 36 1924-1925
37 1925-1930

Series XI. Artifacts and Oversized Material

One box and one oversized folder

The series consists of an embosser, a plate from a framed portrait of Andrew H. Green, and a copy of a photographic portrait of Green.

- 38 Artifacts
Map
Case Portrait of Andrew H. Green
200-D-1