

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, MA Collection Finding Aid

Prepared by Nancy C. Barthelemy
Provincial Archivist
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
30 Jeffrey's Neck Rd.
Ipswich, MA 01983

Collection Summary

Title: Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, MA Collection

Accession Numbers: 2017.26

Dates: 1909-2017

Bulk Dates: 1909-2000

Location: East West Province Archives, Ipswich, MA

Physical Description: 6 boxes and 50 volumes

Abstract: While the Academy of Notre Dame was founded in 1927 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, the property was purchased by the Congregation in 1908. For the next 28 years, the property was used as a retreat for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, as well as for other congregations. In 1925, the ground was broken for the construction of the Academy and the work was completed on November 22, 1927. The collection contains convent annals and journals documenting the history of the property and school, vow renewals, convent council minutes, scrapbooks created by the students, student publications, school yearbooks, school studies and blueprints of property. School papers contain correspondence, property information, school event brochures, alumni papers, student newsletters, and corporation papers.

Search Terms:

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur - History

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur - Massachusetts

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur - Massachusetts - Tyngsboro

Provenance: The papers were transferred to the archives during the 1980s and 1990s. The archives continues to collect newsletters and other papers from the Academy.

Processing: The collection was arranged and processed in 2017.

Conservation Work: Papers were unfolded, boxes created for fragile volumes, rusty paper clips removed and news clippings digitized and copied onto acid free paper.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions for this collection.

Scope and Content Note: In 1907, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur were told of a property up for sale in Tyngsboro, MA, which seemed ideal for a retreat home for the sisters. The property, owned by stage actress, Nance O'Neill, had 194 acres, which included the racetrack, a trout pond, several outbuildings and an estate that boasted 22

rooms and 5 bathrooms. After some negotiation, the congregation finalized the sale of the land in 1908. And in 1909, the first Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur arrived to take charge of the property.

Despite the fact the estate was bought to be a retreat for sisters, the sisters had other plans as well, from that very first summer, to build an academy. But the promise of an Academy was almost 2 decades away, so for the next several years, the estate continued to be used as a retreat for Notre Dame, as well as for other religious orders. Finally, on April 25, 1925, the sisters in Lowell hired Boston architect Maurice P. Meade (1882-1954) to design and build the Academy. On June 13th, 1925, during a Federation of Notre Dame Alumnae Picnic at Tyngsboro, the sisters held the groundbreaking ceremony. Digging for the foundation began on October 1st of 1925.

Construction of the school continued into 1927. As with all construction, there were problems but on September 8th the cross was hoisted to the tower. The altar for the chapel came from the original chapel of the Plantation Street convent in Worcester and was installed on September 17th. The building was mostly completed by September of 1927 but workers continued painting the inside while the sisters began washing the windows, cleaning the rooms and chapel. At last not long before Thanksgiving, the school was ready. The first boarders slept in the new dormitories on Nov. 22, 1927 and classes began on Monday Nov. 28, 1927 for grades 1, 5 to 8 and for the first year of high school.

The collection includes convent annals and journals, beginning with that first summer of 1909. They continue until 1971. Also with these papers are the convent council records and vow renewals for sisters. The school papers include correspondence, school history, appraisals of the land and property, land assessments and blueprints, any property papers regarding construction, school information, calendars, brochures for events, flyers for commencements, alumni papers, sodality papers, student information, student newsletters, scrapbooks, and publications, PTA papers and faculty handbooks. The collection also has the academy's corporation papers, including incorporation papers, minutes, and correspondence; also the Board of Director's papers which contain minutes of meetings, assessments and evaluations.

Organization and Container List

The collection has been divided into three series:

Convent Papers

Student Papers

Corporation Papers

Convent Papers

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Annals, 1934-1972.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Vow Renewals, 1927-1933.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Vow Renewals, 1923-1976.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1909, July.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1909, August.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1910, July-August.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1913, June-August.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1913, Summer.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1914-1915.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1927-1928.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1928-1929.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1929-1931.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1939-1953.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1954-1964.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Journal, 1965-1971.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Council Minutes, 1933-1941.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Council Minutes, 1942-1951.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Council Minutes, 1951-1958.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Council Minutes, 1958-1965.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts Convent Council Minutes, 1965-1970.

Box 01

- Folder 01 Convent Council Papers, 1927-1930, 1970.
- Folder 02 Convent Correspondence, 1926-1940, 1958-1959.
- Folder 03 School History, 1958-1980.
- Folder 04 School History Memories by Sr. Vincent de Paul Curran, c. 1970.
- Folder 05 School History on Camp Wannalancet, c. 1945.
- Folder 06 Property Appraisal, 1935.
- Folder 07 Archeological Assessment of the Tyngsboro Elderly Housing Project, 1980.
- Folder 08 Construction Papers, 1987.
- Folder 09 Property Correspondence, 1982.

School Papers

- Folder 10 School Brochures, 1940-1980.
- Folder 11 School Information, 1964-1999.
- Folder 12 School Calendars, 1898, 1991.
- Folder 13 School Events, 1940-1965.
- Folder 14 School Events, 1968-2000.
- Folder 15 School Commencements, 1929-1930, 1971, 1999.
- Folder 16 School Anniversaries, 2003-2005.
- Folder 17 School Jubilees, 1940-1949.
- Folder 18 Alumni Papers, 1946-1947.
- Folder 19 Student Information, 1985-1989.
- Folder 20 Sodality Information, 1965.
- Folder 21 Student Newsletters, 1964.
- Folder 22 Student Newsletters, 1979.
- Folder 23 Student Newsletters, 1979-1980.
- Folder 24 Student Newsletters, 1979-1980.
- Folder 25 Student Newsletters, 1980-1981.

Box 02

- Folder 01 Student Newsletters, 1980-1981.
- Folder 02 Student Newsletters, 1981-1982.
- Folder 03 Student Newsletters, 1981-1982.
- Folder 04 Student Newsletters, 1982-1983.
- Folder 05 Student Newsletters, 1982-1983.
- Folder 06 Student Newsletters, 1996.
- Folder 07 Student Newsletters, 1980-1988.
- Folder 08 Student Newsletters, 1994-2000.
- Folder 09 Student Newsletters, 2011-2012.
- Folder 10 PTA Papers, 1940-1941, 1965.

Folder 11 Faculty Handbook, 2001-2002.

Corporation Papers

Folder 12 Corporation Papers, By-Laws, 1990-2003.
 Folder 13 Corporation Papers, By-Laws, 2004-2006.
 Folder 14 Corporation Papers, 1967-2005.
 Folder 15 Corporation Papers, 2003.
 Folder 16 Corporation Papers, Meetings, 2002-2003.
 Folder 17 Corporation Papers, 2003, June, part 1.
 Folder 18 Corporation Papers, 2003, June, part 2.
 Folder 19 Corporation Papers, 2004, May, part 1.

Box 03

Folder 01 Corporation Papers, 2004, May, part 2.
 Folder 02 Corporation Papers, 2005, May, part 1.
 Folder 03 Corporation Papers, 2005, May, part 2.
 Folder 04 Corporation Papers, 2006, May, part 1.
 Folder 05 Corporation Papers, 2006, May, part 2.
 Folder 06 Corporation Papers, 2007, May, part 1.
 Folder 07 Corporation Papers, 2007, May, part 2.
 Folder 08 Corporation Papers, 2007, May, part 3.
 Folder 09 Corporation Papers, 2008, May, part 1.
 Folder 10 Corporation Papers, 2008, May, part 2.
 Folder 11 Corporation Papers, 2008, May, part 3.
 Folder 12 Corporation Papers, 2010, May.
 Folder 13 Corporation Papers, Assessment, 2006, part 1.
 Folder 14 Corporation Papers, Assessment, 2006, part 2.
 Folder 15 Corporation Papers, Consultation, 2006, part 1.
 Folder 16 Corporation Papers, Consultation, 2006, part 2.

Box 04

Folder 01 Board of Directors Papers, Minutes, 2001-2003.
 Folder 02 Board of Directors Papers, Minutes, 2004-2005.
 Folder 03 Board of Directors Papers, Minutes, 2005-2006.
 Folder 04 Board of Directors Papers, Report, 2002.
 Folder 05 Board of Directors Papers, Handbook, 2002, part 1.
 Folder 06 Board of Directors Papers, Handbook, 2002, part 2.
 Folder 07 Board of Directors Papers, Reports, 2003, part 1.
 Folder 08 Board of Directors Papers, Reports, 2003, part 2.
 Folder 09 Board of Directors Papers, Academic Affairs, 2002, part 1.
 Folder 10 Board of Directors Papers, Academic Affairs, 2002, part 2.
 Folder 11 Board of Directors Papers, Faculty List, 2002.
 Folder 12 Board of Directors Papers, Course of Studies, 2003-2004, part 1.
 Folder 13 Board of Directors Papers, Course of Studies, 2003-2004, part 2.

Folder 14	Board of Directors Papers, Assessment, 2002.
Folder 15	Board of Directors Papers, 2003, part 1.
Folder 16	Board of Directors Papers, 2003, part 2.
Folder 17	Board of Directors Papers, 2003, part 3.
Folder 18	Board of Directors Papers, 2004, part 1.
Folder 19	Board of Directors Papers, 2004, part 2.
Folder 20	Board of Directors Papers, 2004, part 3.
Folder 21	Board of Directors Papers, 2004, part 4.

Box 05

Folder 01	Board of Directors Papers, Part 1, 2004.
Folder 02	Board of Directors Papers, Part 2, 2004.
Folder 03	Board of Directors Papers, Part 3, 2004.
Folder 04	Board of Directors Papers, Part 4, 2004.
Folder 05	Board of Directors Papers, Part 1, 2005.
Folder 06	Board of Directors Papers, Part 2, 2005.
Folder 07	Board of Directors Papers, Part 3, 2005.
Folder 08	Board of Directors Papers, Part 4, 2005.
Folder 09	Board of Directors Papers, Part 5, 2005.
Folder 10	Board of Directors Papers, Part 6, 2005.
Folder 11	Board of Directors Papers, Part 7, 2005.
Folder 12	Board of Directors Papers, Part 1, 2006.
Folder 13	Board of Directors Papers, Part 2, 2006.
Folder 14	Board of Directors Papers, Part 3, 2006.
Folder 15	Board of Directors Papers, Part 4, 2006.
Folder 16	Board of Directors Papers, Part 5, 2006.

Box 06

Folder 01	Board of Directors Papers, Part 7, 2006.
Folder 02	Board of Directors Papers, Part 8, 2006.
Folder 03	Board of Directors Papers, Part 9, 2006.
Folder 04	Board of Directors Papers, Part 10, 2006.
Folder 05	Board of Directors Papers, Part 1, 2007.
Folder 06	Board of Directors Papers, Part 2, 2007.
Folder 07	Board of Directors Papers, Part 3, 2007.
Folder 08	Board of Directors Papers, Part 4, 2007.
Folder 09	Board of Directors Papers, Part 5, 2007.
Folder 10	Board of Directors Papers, 2008.
Folder 11	Board of Directors Papers, Evaluation, 2002.
Folder 12	Board of Directors Papers, Evaluation, 2002.
Folder 13	Board of Directors Papers, Evaluation, 2002.
Folder 14	Board of Directors Papers, Evaluation, 2002.

Folder 15	Board of Directors Papers, Evaluation, 2002.
Folder 16	Board of Directors Papers, Evaluation, 2002.
Folder 17	News Clippings, 1968-2014.
Folder 18	News Clippings, 1968-2014.

School Papers

Shelf

- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1935-1936.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1936.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1939.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1941.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1959-1960.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1962-1963.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1964-1965.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1965-1966.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1968-1969.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1970-1976.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1977-1978.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1978-1979.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1979-1980.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1980-1981.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1982-1983.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Scrapbook, 1981-1982.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Brochures, c. 2000.
- Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Student Publication, La Muse, 1986.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, Student Publication, The Gateway, 2003-2011. [8 newsletters]

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Yearbooks, 1944-1947.
[3 yearbooks]

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro, School Yearbooks, 1964-1983, 1996.
[15 yearbooks]

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro Alumnae Directory, 1990.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro Evaluation Report, 1972.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro Educational Self Growth Study, 1980.

Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro School Evaluation, 1990.