

Excerpts from the Weston Historical Society Collections Policy

The society's collecting activities support mission-based, **interpretive themes** that allow us to show that history happened and happens at the local level through the actions of ordinary citizens, and to show how local Weston history is tied to the broad context of American history. Those themes include but are not limited to the following:

Agriculture: farms and farming practices, dairying, orchards, market gardening

The Estate Era: gentleman farmers, establishment of country estates, Weston as a summer resort

Land Use and Open Space: parks, town forest, conservation land

Recreation: boating along the Charles River, Riverside Recreation Grounds, golf, private clubs and town facilities

Transportation: importance of Boston Post Road, stage coaches, railroads, automobiles, road development including Route 128 and the Mass Pike

Education: public and private schools and informal educational organizations for both children and adults

Community: civic and social life; organizations, churches, fraternal organizations, the grange, etc.

Commerce: stores and businesses, mills and factories, hotels and taverns

Immigration: ethnic groups, cultural and religious diversity

Community Development: development of public services and utilities, construction of municipal buildings and public improvement projects

Architecture: type, style, materials and construction techniques

Suburban development and suburban living: proximity to Boston, the family and home, subdivision, zoning and land planning

Social change: social movements, civil rights, women's rights, political protest. Larger social movements as evidenced locally

Types of items collected by the Society collected but are not limited to the following:

Three-Dimensional Objects

Tools and equipment including artifacts associated with local artisans, organizations, businesses, industries, labor, and individual households.

Art objects created by or about local places or people for aesthetic purposes, or as a demonstration of creative skill and dexterity with no apparent utilitarian purpose.

Personal artifacts created to serve personal needs of individuals including clothing, adornment, grooming aids, or symbols of beliefs or achievements. Recreational artifacts including items originally created to be used as toys or in carrying on the activities of sports, games, or public entertainment.

Textiles including artifacts originally created to be used in the making of thread, yarn, or cordage, or in the creation of objects from natural fibers or from cloth. Specific collections include quilts, samplers, and lace.

Objects relating to suburban development.

Books

Books on local history, including the history of other Massachusetts cities and towns as it may relate to the history of Weston, town directories, and other public documents.

Books produced by Weston institutions, such as cookbooks and directories.

On a case-by-case basis, early books belonging to Weston residents.

Archives

Personal papers including correspondence, journals, diaries, letterbooks, sermons, speeches, genealogies, and like materials.

Records and institutional histories of organizations and businesses in Weston.

Manuscript and printed material relating to social, cultural, religious, political, educational developments in Weston, including pamphlets, programs, posters, yearbooks, directories, and ephemera.

Documents and visual materials relating to suburban development.

Maps and plans.

Photographs

Audio and/or visual materials including, without limitation, photographs, negatives, slides, posters, postcards, graphic ephemera, movies, cassettes, tapes and videos of, or relating to, individuals, families, organizations, events, the natural and the built environment.