

# The Peak House Institutional Records Collection

1839-2020, undated

3 linear ft.

Accession no.: 2019.001 – 2019.002

## Overview

### Historical note

The Peak House is an architecturally significant colonial-era building in Medfield, Massachusetts. It is one of the earliest surviving examples of post-medieval English (Elizabethan) architecture, as well as being the only free-standing structure of its kind in the United States. The Peak House's most striking feature is its exceptionally steep pitched roof, which is the highest on record in Massachusetts, and this distinction is noted by its name. In 1975, the Peak House became listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This second Peak House was built by Benjamin Clark sometime in between 1677 to 1680 as his replacement house to the one which burned when King Philip's War landed in Medfield on February 21, 1676. This second house received an addition around 1713. When the original house began to decay, Benjamin's son Seth Jr. removed an ell from it and relocated it to its present location. The Peak House remained under numerous ownerships until 1924, when Frederick Mason Smith deeded it to the Medfield Historical Society. In January 2019, complete management of the house was transferred from the Medfield Historical Society to the Peak House Heritage Center.

The Peak House Heritage Center is a nonprofit charitable corporation whose mission is to engage, inform, inspire visitors as they learn about this historic house, the events that occurred here, and the diverse residents who shaped its legacy.

### Scope of collection

This collection contains institutional records which document the study and management of the Peak House. Materials include photographs and negatives; newspaper clippings, booklets, and other publications; reports, notes, and transcripts of oral histories; maps and architectural drawings; postcards, prints, and sketches; and select artifacts and ephemera. The collection is currently stored in a two-drawer file cabinet at the Medfield Historical Society.

### Series descriptions

The collection is arranged in eight series documenting the administration, history, physical building and grounds, programs and events, publications, photographs, and artistic depictions of the Peak House.

#### **Series 1. Organizational Files, 1924-2019, undated**

This series contains records of the Peak House and Peak House Heritage Center activities. Materials include deed of gift forms, the property management agreement, documents reflecting ownership of the Peak House, secretary's records and committee reports, general correspondence, reports, and transcripts of oral histories (please note that the recordings for these are not available). It is organized into six subseries:

- 1.1 Administrative Records
- 1.2 Board of Directors
- 1.3 Correspondence
- 1.4 Finances
- 1.5 Reports
- 1.6 Transcripts

#### **Series 2. History of Peak House, 1927-1998, undated**

This series consists of materials pertaining to the historic and cultural significance of the Peak House. It is organized into three subseries:

- 2.1 Awards
- 2.2 National Register of Historic Places
- 2.3 Notes and Reports about History

**Series 3. Building and Contents, 1925-1993, undated**

This series includes inventories, correspondence, notes, receipts, reports, and other materials relating to the structure, contents, repairs, and preservation of the Peak House. It is organized into two subseries:

- 3.1 Inventories
- 3.2 Preservation and Repairs

**Series 4. Grounds, 1944-2018, undated**

This series consists of clippings, correspondence, lists, photos, site maps, and other materials relating to the Peak House archaeological dig that took place in the 1970s. It also includes awards, event invitations, lists of plants, photos, and other materials pertaining to the Peak House herb garden. It is organized into two subseries:

- 4.1 Archeological Dig
- 4.2 Herb Garden

**Series 5. Programs and Events, 1958-2011, undated**

This series includes programs, pamphlets, and other materials pertaining to activities, events, and exhibits that took place at the Peak House. It is organized into three subseries:

- 5.1 Events
- 5.2 Exhibits
- 5.3 Pamphlets

**Series 6. Publications, circa 1800s-2020, undated**

This series consists of publications that discuss, describe, or mention the Peak House. It is organized into five subseries:

- 6.1 Articles
- 6.2 Book Excerpts
- 6.3 Booklets
- 6.4 Clippings
- 6.5 Newsletters

**Series 7. Photographs, 1839-2018, undated**

This series contains photographs of the exterior and interior of the Peak House. Materials include photographs in color and black-and-white film, negatives, reproductions, and photocopies of photographs. Subjects include the building and grounds, interior rooms and architecture, previous occupants, museum staff, and various events and activities that took place on the premises.

**Series 8. Postcards, Stationery, and Artwork, 1839-2010, undated**

This series consists of artistic and other collectible materials depicting the Peak House. These include postcards of the Peak House, stationery designed by various individuals, and prints and sketches of the Peak House. It is organized into three subseries:

- 8.1 Postcards
- 8.2 Stationery
- 8.3 Artwork

## **Administrative information**

### **Access**

This collection is open for research.

### **Provenance**

The majority of materials were transferred to the Peak House Heritage Center from the Medfield Historical Society on November 18, 2019 (accession number 2019.001). The postcards were donated by Robert T. Gregg, President of the Peak House Heritage Center on December 16, 2019 (accession number 2019.002).

### **Processing information**

Processed by Sarah Morin, December 2019-February 2020.

### **Language**

English

### **Copyright and use**

Cite as: The Peak House Institutional Records Collection [folder #]. The Peak House Heritage Center.

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## **Search Terms**

### **Subjects [LCSH]**

Excavations (Archaeology)

Herb gardens

King Philip's War, 1675-1676

Medfield (Mass.)

Medfield (Mass.)--Buildings, structures, etc.

Medfield (Mass.)--History

### **Persons and organizations [local]**

Abdalian, Leon H.

Bailey, Berta

Ballou Photography

Barbers [sic?]

Barbour's

Carr, Allison T.

Carr-Howes, Ethel May

Casey, Janet

Cauley, Patrice M.

Chamberlain, Mrs. E.

Daniels, Ernest

Desorgher, Richard

Donovan, Francis D.

Francis, John J.

Franke, W. H.

Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts

Haskell, Arthur C.

Hurd, Paul Allan

Hurd, Leona R. (Toni)

Jimmison, Martha

Jones, Connie

Kaerwer, Richard

Kenyon, Nancy

Mason, Charles F.  
MacGregor Jr., William B.  
Mackintosh, J.  
Marcionette, Nathaniel  
Meaney, M. B.  
Medfield Garden Club  
Medfield News Co.  
Nyren, Paul  
Ord, Agnes  
Pavlik, Nan  
Pear, A. S.  
Pember, Mrs. Alden  
Perry, Mary W.  
Peskett, Victor  
Reynolds, Harris W.  
Rosengarten, Bert  
Smith, Fred M.  
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities  
St. Laurent, Bill  
Thomson, Connie  
Wilmarth, D.  
Woodbine, Ralph

#### **Genres and formats [AAT]**

administrative records  
awards  
booklets  
business cards  
buttons (information artifacts)  
calendars (documents)  
captions  
certificates  
contracts  
correspondence  
deeds  
excerpts  
forms (documents)  
inventories  
invitations  
lists (document genres)  
maps (documents)  
marginalia (annotations)  
negatives (photographs)  
newsletters  
newspaper clippings  
notes (documents)  
oral histories (literary works)  
pamphlets  
patterns (general, guides)  
photographs  
postcards  
prints (visual works)  
programs (documents)

receipts (financial records)  
 reports  
 sketches  
 stationery  
 transcripts  
 wills

## Inventory

### Series 1. Organizational Files, 1924-2019, undated

#### 1.1 Administrative Records

Deed of gift forms (blank)	undated	Drawer 1: 1
Deed of gift forms (complete)	1973, 2019	Drawer 1: 2
Ownership of Peak House (deeds, wills)	1924-1962	Drawer 1: 3
Ownership of Peak House (history)	circa 1980	Drawer 1: 4
Ownership of Peak House (plots, valuations, zoning)	1956-circa 2000s	Drawer 1: 5
Property management agreement	2019 Jan 1	Drawer 1: 6

#### 1.2 Board of Directors

Secretary's records, committee reports	1950-1978	Drawer 1: 7
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#### 1.3 Correspondence

Street address town designation notice for Peak House	1966 Dec	Drawer 1: 8
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#### 1.4 Finances

No content at present.

#### 1.5 Reports

Annual report covers	1949, 1987	Drawer 1: 9
Desorgher, Richard, "A Short History of the Indian Attack on Medfield, February 21, 1676"	1976 May	Drawer 1: 10
Pavlik, Nan, "The Peak House of Medfield"	1978 Apr-Jul	Drawer 1: 11
Roving Archivist Program, MASHRAB, "Strategic Assessment and Program Review"	2019 Aug	Drawer 1: 12

#### 1.6 Transcripts

Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Allison T. visit to the Peak House [1/2]	1974 Jun 20	Drawer 1: 13
Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Allison T. visit to the Peak House [2/2]	1974 Jun 20	Drawer 1: 14
Dedham, June 21, 1890, Peak House, John J. Francis	undated	Drawer 1: 15
Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities meeting at Peak House	1974 Jul 25	Drawer 1: 16

### Series 2. History of Peak House, 1927-1998, undated

#### 2.1 Awards

Best of MetroWest button, certificate, clipping, correspondence	1998	Drawer 1: 17
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#### 2.2 National Register of Historic Places

Certificate, correspondence, forms, ownership, photos	1974-1975	Drawer 1: 18
<b>2.3 Notes and Reports about History</b>		
Notes on Peak House - Medfield Historical Society clipping book	undated	Drawer 1: 19
Notes on Peak House - by various individuals	1927-1974, undated	Drawer 1: 20

**Series 3. Building and Contents, 1925-1993, undated**

<b>3.1 Inventories</b>		
Materials at Peak House	1929-1981, undated	Drawer 1: 21
Fire insurance file photos, report	1974	Drawer 1: 22
<b>3.2 Preservation and Repairs</b>		
Amendments to preservation recommendations	circa 1980s	Drawer 1: 23
Correspondence, notes, receipts, reports [1/2]	1925-1975	Drawer 1: 24
Correspondence, notes, receipts, reports [2/2]	1980-1993	Drawer 1: 25
Shingles donor lists	1981	Drawer 1: 26

**Series 4. Grounds, 1944-2018, undated**

<b>4.1 Archeological Dig</b>		
Lists of artifacts considered of no value to Society, discarded [1/2]	1975-1977	Drawer 1: 27
Lists of artifacts considered of no value to Society, discarded [2/2]	1992-1996, undated	Drawer 1: 28
Clippings	1975-1978	Drawer 1: 29
Contract, deeds/wills, National Register nomination, plot plans	1944-1975	Drawer 1: 30
Correspondence [1/2]	1975-2018	Drawer 1: 31
Correspondence [2/2]	undated	Drawer 1: 32
Photos	1976	Drawer 1: 33
Site map and soil anomaly chart	1975	Drawer 1: 34
<b>4.2 Herb Garden</b>		
Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts	2003 Apr	Drawer 1: 35
Medfield Garden Club	1983-1985	Drawer 1: 36
Plant lists, event invitations	1984, undated	Drawer 1: 37
Report by Perry, Mary W., "Description of Peak House Herbs"	undated	Drawer 1: 38

**Series 5. Programs and Events, 1958-2011, undated**

<b>5.1 Events</b>		
Event programs	1958, 2011	Drawer 1: 39
<b>5.2 Exhibits</b>		
Exhibit captions	undated	Drawer 1: 40
<b>5.3 Pamphlets</b>		
"Eastern Massachusetts 17th-Century Sites and Collections", "Medfield Foundation Inc. Building Community"	1980, undated	Drawer 1: 41

**Series 6. Publications, circa 1800s-2020, undated**

## 6.1 Articles

Peak House by Nyren, Paul	1981	Drawer 1: 42
"The Peak House" by Ord, Agnes	undated	Drawer 1: 43

## 6.2 Book Excerpts

Book excerpts on Peak House	undated	Drawer 1: 44
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## 6.3 Booklets

Peak House [1/3]	1969	Drawer 1: 45
Peak House [2/3]	1996 Sept	Drawer 1: 46
Peak House [3/3]	1997 Apr	Drawer 1: 47
Peak House - master copy	1997 Mar	Drawer 1: 48
Peak House - photos used	1963-1996	Drawer 1: 49
Peak House - proof, sketches used	1969-1996	Drawer 1: 50
"Some Events of Boston and Its Neighbors" (Peak House photo p. 20)	1917	Drawer 1: 51

## 6.4 Clippings

General [1/12]	circa 1800s-1923	Drawer 2: 52
General [2/12]	1925	Drawer 2: 53
General [3/12]	1935-1957	Drawer 2: 54
General [4/12]	1962-1969	Drawer 2: 55
General [5/12]	1970-1974	Drawer 2: 56
General [6/12]	1975-1979	Drawer 2: 57
General [7/12]	1980-1989	Drawer 2: 58
General [8/12]	1990-1999	Drawer 2: 59
General [9/12]	2000-2009	Drawer 2: 60
General [10/12]	2010-2019	Drawer 2: 61
General [11/12]	2020-	Drawer 2: 62
General [12/12]	undated	Drawer 2: 63
Photocopies from scrapbook	1954-1974, undated	Drawer 2: 64

## 6.5 Newsletters

"Bulletin"	1977	Drawer 2: 65
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## Series 7. Photographs, 1839-2018, undated

Dow family - photo (black-and-white)	circa 1900s	Drawer 2: 66
Elm tree between Peak House and Fred M. Smith's house - photos (black-and-white)	1914	Drawer 2: 67
Flag at half-mast for Leona R. "Toni" Hurd - photo (color)	1998 Oct 15	Drawer 2: 68
Main Street next to Peak House - photo (black-and-white)	circa 1890s-1900s	Drawer 2: 69
Parker's field, back of Peak House - photo (black-and-white)	circa 1900s	Drawer 2: 70
Patriot's Day Celebration at Peak House - photo (color)	1975 Apr 19	Drawer 2: 71
Peak House, Baxter place exteriors - photos (black-and-white)	circa 1900s	Drawer 2: 72
Peak House beam - photo (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 73
Peak House door - photos (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 74
Peak House exterior, Bailey, Berta (from) - photos (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 75
Peak House exterior, Ballou Photography - photo (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 76
Peak House exterior, Barbers [sic?] (from) - photo (black-and-white)	circa 1839	Drawer 2: 77
Peak House exterior (with Betsy Ross flag), Casey, Janet - photo (color)	2007	Drawer 2: 78

Peak House exterior, Cauley, Patrice M. (signed) - photo (black-and-white)	1979	Drawer 2: 79
Peak House exterior, Chamberlain, Mrs. E. (given by) - photo (black-and-white)	1920	Drawer 2: 80
Peak House exterior, Daniels, Ernest (presented by) - photo (black-and-white)	1975 May	Drawer 2: 81
Peak House exterior, Donovan, Francis D. (collection) - photocopies, negatives	undated	Drawer 2: 82
Peak House exterior, Haskell, Arthur C. - photos (black-and-white)	1934 Oct	Drawer 2: 83
Peak House exterior, Jimmison, Martha (property of) - photo (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 84
Peak House exterior, Kaerwer, Richard (presented by) - photos (black-and-white)	circa 1900s	Drawer 2: 85
Peak House exterior, Mason, Charles F. (donor) - photo (black-and-white), photocopy	circa 1920	Drawer 2: 86
Peak House exterior, Mackintosh, J. - photos (black-and-white, color)	1987-1988	Drawer 2: 87
Peak House exterior, Marcionette, Nathaniel - photo (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 88
Peak House exterior, Meaney, M. B. - photos (black-and-white)	1963	Drawer 2: 89
Peak House exterior, Medfield News Co. (published by) - photo (black-and-white)	1899	Drawer 2: 90
Peak House exterior (taken at night, full moon), Pember, Mrs. Alden - photo (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 91
Peak House exterior, Thomson, Connie (signed by) - photo (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 92
Peak House exterior, Thomson, Connie (signed by) - photo (color)	undated	Drawer 2: 93
Peak House exterior, Wilmarth, D. (commission from) - photo (black-and-white)	1976 Dec	Drawer 2: 94
Peak House exterior - photo (black-and-white)	circa 1800s	Drawer 2: 95
Peak House exterior - photo (black-and-white)	circa 1800s	Drawer 2: 96
Peak House exterior - photos (color)	1974 Nov, circa 1970s	Drawer 2: 97
Peak House exterior - photos (color, wide angle lens)	1984 Oct	Drawer 2: 98
Peak House exterior - photos (black-and-white)	1991 Jun	Drawer 2: 99
Peak House exterior - photocopies	2005 Jan	Drawer 2: 100
Peak House exterior - photocopies, prints	2018, undated	Drawer 2: 101
Peak House exterior - photos (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 102
Peak House exterior - photos (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 103
Peak House exterior - photos (black-and-white), negatives	undated	Drawer 2: 104
Peak House exterior (with patriotic bunting) - photo (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 105
Peak House exterior, interior, Hurd, Paul Allan - photos (color)	1982 Aug	Drawer 2: 106
Peak House exterior, interior - negatives	undated	Drawer 2: 107
Peak House interior (artist John J. Francis occupancy), Chamberlain, Mrs. E. (given by) - photo (black-and-white)	1920	Drawer 2: 108
Peak House interior (artist John J. Francis occupancy) - photo (black-and-white)	1920	Drawer 2: 109
Peak House interior (fireplace), Franke, W. H. - photos (black-and-white)	1963	Drawer 2: 110



Peak House interior (fireplace foundation), Pear, A. S. - photo (black-and-white)	1924	Drawer 2: 111
Peak House interior (fireplace), Reynolds, Harris W. - photocopy	circa 1926	Drawer 2: 112
Peak House interior (fireplace) - photo (black-and-white)	1994 Aug	Drawer 2: 113
Peak House interiors, Woodbine, Ralph (photography by) - photos (black-and-white)	undated	Drawer 2: 114
Peak House miniature (replica made for Dedham's 300th), exterior - photos (black-and-white, color)	1936-1964	Drawer 2: 115
Peak House miniature (Shelbourne Museum, VT), Kenyon, Mrs. John C. [Nancy?] (received from) - photo (color)	1989	Drawer 2: 116
Peak House movie scene (Mary Rowlandson) - photos (color)	2009 Mar 7	Drawer 2: 117
Peak House painting, Rosengarten, Bert (owned by) - photos (color)	1988 Oct	Drawer 2: 118
Peak House people (Connie Jones, Victor Peskett) - photos (color)	1996 Jun-Oct	Drawer 2: 119
Peak House repairs (first floor, west room, north wall) - photos (black-and-white), photocopies	1924	Drawer 2: 120
Peak House repairs (post-restoration), Abdalian, Leon H. (photographer) - photo (black-and-white)	circa 1930-1931	Drawer 2: 121
Peak House repairs (post-restoration) - photo (black-and-white)	1925	Drawer 2: 122
Peak House repairs (sills replaced) - photos (color)	1991 Oct-Nov	Drawer 2: 123
Peak House repairs (shingling) - photos (color)	1982 Jun	Drawer 2: 124
Peak House repairs (tree removal) - photos (color)	1990 Jun 21	Drawer 2: 125
Peak House repairs (trench for new electric line) - photos (color)	1996 May 21	Drawer 2: 126
Peak House repairs (walk and wall rebuilding) - photos (color)	1983 Oct-Dec	Drawer 2: 127
Peak House sign - photos (black-and-white)	1962 May 31	Drawer 2: 128
Peak House sign - photos (color)	2006 Sept	Drawer 2: 129
Peak House sign - photos (color)	undated	Drawer 2: 130
Thanksgiving Pantry Sales - photos (color)	circa 1967-1971	Drawer 2: 131

## Series 8. Postcards, Stationery, and Artwork, 1839-2010, undated

### 8.1 Postcards

Peak House	1898-1964, undated	Drawer 2: 132
Third graders (from)	undated	Drawer 2: 133

### 8.2 Stationery

Kenyon, Nancy	undated	Drawer 2: 134
St. Laurent, Bill	undated	Drawer 2: 135

### 8.3 Artwork

Peak House bicentennial coin print	1976	Drawer 2: 136
Peak House calendar	undated	Drawer 2: 137
Peak House embroidery pattern	undated	Drawer 2: 138
Peak House sketch, Barbour's (from)	circa 1839	Drawer 2: 139
Peak House sketch, MacGregor Jr., William B. (The Junkyard Artist)	undated	Drawer 2: 140
Peak House sketches, clippings	1950, 2010, undated	Drawer 2: 141