

Finding Aid for THE WALTER F. PRICE PAPERS, 1878-1945

Collection No. 1187

1 document box and 3 albums

Special Collections

Haverford College Library

January 2003

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Gift of Morris Potter and Felicia Goodman, November 1997.
Accession #6203.

Abstract: Materials relate to Walter F. Price's Haverford College graduating class of 1881 over time and some of his architectural work as a member of the firm Price & Walton.

Information for Users:

All dates are standardized rather than transcribed, viz: yr mo/day.

Dates of an individual are given in parentheses; dates of materials within a container are given without parentheses.

Though not all letters are listed individually, those that are highlighted are done so on the basis of content of the letter or historical importance of the letter writer.

Biographical/ Historical Note

Walter Ferris Price (1857-1951) was the son of James Martin Price and Sarah Lightfoot. Price graduated from Haverford College in 1881, and received an M.A. from Harvard in 1884. He taught classics at Haverford Grammar School from 1884-91. He studied architecture with Cope and Stewardson in Philadelphia then entered into partnership with his brother William and cousin William Walton in the architectural firm, Price & Walton. He was the architect for meetinghouses at Westtown, Atlantic City, and Florida Ave in Washington, D.C. among other contracts.

Price was married to Felicia H. Thomas in 1906 and lived in Moylan, PA

(Information from Haverford College Matriculate Catalog and Dictionary of Quaker Biography)

Subject Headings

Price, Walter F., 1857-1951.

Chester County Historical Society
Friends Meeting of Washington, D.C.,
Haverford College – History
Architecture – United States – 20th century
Quaker Church Buildings

Collection Description:

Price's papers include three albums containing materials relating to Haverford College class of 1881 over time, such as class reports, photos of classmates and faculty, letters, programs and notes. In addition, there are letters of Walter Price, including to Mary Vaux Walcott, relating to the building of the Washington D.C. (Quaker) Meetinghouse and an article by Price on the Meetinghouse, as well as other correspondence relating to architectural work at Chester County Historical Society in West Chester Pa. Price's correspondents include: William A. Blair, J. Horace Cook, Isabel Darlington, Levi T. Edwards, Davis H. Forsythe, Edward Y. Hartshorne, Helen Hole, Isaac T. Johnson, Rayner Kelsey, Jesse H. Moore, James Price, Walter Penn Shipley, Albanus Smith, Wilbur K. Thomas, Pauline Trueblood, Thomas N. Winslow.

Box 1: Walter F. Price Papers

Class of 1881 materials, 1881-1943. 1 folder (ca. 45 items)

Class of 1881 materials include letters from classmates, 1881-1943, reporting on activities. Letter writers include: William A. Blair, J. Horace Cook, Levi T. Edwards, Davis H. Forsythe, Edward Y. Hartshorne, Isaac T. Johnson, Jesse H. Moore, Walter F. Price, Walter Penn Shipley, Albanus Smith, Thomas N. Winslow. 1 folder.

Correspondence of Walter F. Price, . 1 folder (ca. 40 items)

Letters of Walter Price, 1878-1888. 9 items

Highlights include:

Haverford College, 1878-1886. 5 items. [impressions of college classes and teachers, events at college and new job]

Letters to Walter Price from:

Roger Clark, Julia Cope Collins, Hope Downs, Caroline Galt, Anne S. Hawke, Helen G. Hole, Solange Howard, Regina Iungerich, Ruth Moore (daughter of Jesse Moore), Elisha Mulford, James Price (father of Walter Price), L. Price (mother of Walter

Price), Anne Emlen Shipley, Margaret E. Sollenberger, James Sproll, Wilbur K. Thomas, L.P. Winslow, "Tom."

Highlights include:

Hole, Helen G. Westtown, Pa., 1940 1/30. [working on a history of Westtown]

Price, James. Oak Nest, 1883 9/28. [offers advice to Price on his arrival at university as a student to neither be nervous nor excited, to check for fire escapes, to keep a neat journal of his experiences]

Fragments of letters, 1879 & 1936. 2 items.

Correspondence of Walter Price re Washington (D.C.) (Florida Ave.) Friends Meetinghouse, 1930-41 (bulk 1930) and Miscellaneous. 1 folder (ca. 30 items)

Letters of Walter Price, 1930-41. ca. 15 items; also 2 fragments

Note: Letters discuss design specifications of the Meetinghouse and property, with references to the expected attendance by Pres. and Mrs. Hoover, the construction at Westtown, many of them directed to Mary Vaux Walcott at the Smithsonian Institution

Letters to Walter Price from:

John J. Blair, Friends Meeting of Washington, D.C., Francis Howard, Rayner Kelsey, Henry Miller, F.L. Mulford, Harold B. Stabler, E.C. Stanton, Pauline C. Trueblood

Note: Letters relate to various aspects of the new Meetinghouse, including articles written about it, requests for photos of it, and that a Mary Vaux Walcott memorial addition to the building would be postponed due to the war (1941).

Highlights include:

Trueblood, Pauline. Stanford University, Cal., 1942 6/22. [must postpone idea of a Meetinghouse, due to the war; has had dinner with Mrs. Hoover where a discussion of a Meetinghouse ensued, including Pres. Hoover's concern that \$6-8,000 could not be mustered for the duration of the war]

Miscellaneous re Washington (D.C.) (Florida Ave.) Friends Meetinghouse, 1930. 3 items.

Price, Walter. 1930 12/20. Description of visit to the White House and speaking with Mr. and Mrs. Hoover by a group from Washington Friends Meetinghouse. TS (missing p. 3) and Price's draft.

Plan of Meetinghouse. Copy. n.d.

Correspondence of Walter Price re Building of Chester County Historical Society, 1936-41. 1 folder (ca. 40 items)

Letters of Walter Price, 1936-41. ca. 15 items.

Note: Re alterations to the old Horticulture Hall on High Street (West Chester) for the building of Chester County Historical Society by the architectural firm of Price & Walton. Letters are addressed to the Building Committee. Apparently due to a lack of funds, the services of Price & Walton were dispensed with, prior to the completion of the building, and a letter of Jan. 6, 1941 discusses relinquishing the work without full compensation.

Letters to Walter Price from:

Robert F. Brinton, The Cleveland Gypsum Co., Isabel Darlington, Enterprise Electric Co., F.L. Hoover and Sons Co., Friends Historical Society, Lowell Gable, Jefferis Bros., Lea, Peters & Co., Livezey Linoleum Floors, Middle Dept. Rating Assoc., Wm. H. Moore, Phila., Rust-Proof Co., R.C. Ballinger Co., Remington Rand Inc., Joseph W. Sharp, Mary E. Speakman,

Note: Includes deliberations of the committee in charge of rebuilding CCHS, letters from the chair of the CCHS finance committee (Isabel Darlington), cost quotas from various related companies

Chester County Collections, no. 4, , Feb. 1937, including "Architects of Memorial Hall," p. 121-2.

Albums

Three albums containing materials relating to Haverford College class of 1881 over time, such as class reports, photos of classmates and faculty, letters, programs and notes.

Wrapped separately.

Volume I: Labeled "Class of 1881" containing reports of the class of 1881 prepared from 1881-1938.

Volume II: Labeled "Class of 1881 from 1938-39" containing reports of the class of 1881 prepared from 1938-45 with some miscellaneous items laid in.

Volume III: Labeled "Class of 1881: Pictures, notes, reports, letters." These materials encompass the undergraduate years with photographs of the students and club members, as well as reunion photos and faculty taken at various times, programs, such as the commencement program in 1941 when ex-pres. Hoover spoke, some letters and clippings from the 1930s & 1940s. Pasted down on the end cover is a photo of the dining room for students in Founders Great Hall.