



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Historical American Records
Survey portrait survey records

Archives of American Art
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Historical American Records Survey portrait survey records
Identifier:	AAA.histreco
Date:	1935-1942
Creator:	Historical Records Survey (U.S.)
Extent:	4.4 Linear feet ((on 12 microfilm reels))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming by the Massachusetts State Library, A. Hunter Rineer, State Librarian, Boston, Mass., 1977.

Location of Originals

Originals returned to the State House, Boston, Mass. after microfilming.

Other Finding Aids

Microfilm inventory available at Archives of American Art offices, filed under Historical Records Survey.

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels 1238-1249 available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

The Historical Records Survey (HRS) had its origins in the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Civil Works Administration. In 1935 it came under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration Federal Writers' Project and eventually was designated as an independent program under Federal Project No. One. The projects, ideally suited for white collar workers, employed individuals to survey, classify and collect historical records. One program of the HRS was to document American portraits (sculpture, prints and paintings) done before 1860.

Scope and Contents

Records documenting activities of the Survey to inventory portraits in America done before 1860 in the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Scope and Contents

Included are research documents; correspondence; interoffice memoranda; survey manuals; press releases; clippings; photographs of works of art; short biographies of sitters and artists; ca. 15,000 of the original survey cards; first drafts of checklists and catalogs; and lists of portraits received too late to be included in the final version of the catalog.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Federal aid to public welfare
- Federal aid to the arts
- New Deal, 1933-1939
- Portrait painting, American
- Portraits, American

Names:

- United States. Work Projects Administration
- United States. Works Progress Administration

Functions:

- Agencies
- Programs (organizations)

Places:

- United States -- Economic conditions -- 1918-1945
- United States -- Social conditions -- 1933-1945