

Barre History Collection

**Barre Opera House
Collection, 1889-1997
BHC 22-27, 384F, Size A**

Volume: 3.5 linear feet
Inclusive dates: 1889-1997
Records Types: Programs, photographs, news clippings, correspondence, account books, posters, and architectural drawings.

Introduction

This collection contains the records of the Barre Opera House from its historic period in two buildings, 1886-1944, and its rejuvenated period, 1973-1997. It is housed in six archival flip top boxes and one flat archival box; it occupies 3.5 linear feet of shelf space.

Agency History

The Barre Opera House currently occupies the second and third stories of Barre City Hall (constructed in 1899 after a fire destroyed the original 1886 structure). The Barre Opera House opened in 1886 with an active schedule of theater, musical programs and lectures sponsored by the Barre Entertainment Association. The theater was closed in 1944, but, through community effort, the Barre Opera House was able to reopen in 1982 and continues today.

Scope and Content

The collection is divided into three series: Series I (1886-1944), which reflects the activities of both the first and second opera houses, Series II (1973-1997), which contains material documenting the successful revival of the Barre Opera House, and Series III, which contains oversized photographs and visual materials from the earlier two series. The collection includes a large oversized folder of architectural drawings created by Paul Mirski of Enfield, New Hampshire, the architect of the restoration project in the 1970s. Of special interest is an account book kept by the manager for the years 1908-1909 and 1912-1913.

Inventory

I. 1886-1944

- BHC 22:01 Barre Entertainment Association, Pamphlets, 1892-1895
- 02 _____, _____, 1896-1899
- 03 _____, _____, 1900-1902
- 04 News clippings, 1981-192?, n.d.
- 05 _____, Transcripts, 1900-1926
- 06 Manager's accounts, Pardon & Kirmess, 1895
- 07 Manager's account books, 1908-1909, 1912-1913
- 08 Miscellaneous (includes tickets & plays), 1894, n.d.

- 09 Photographs, Opera House fire, January, 1898
- 10 _____, Exterior, 1899-1909, n.d.
- 11 _____, Performers, 1895-193?, n.d.
- 12 _____, _____ (XL photograph photocopies), 1902-1906, n.d.
- 13 _____, _____ (Nellie Gill Players – copy photos from scrapbooks), n.d.
- 14 Programs, 1889-1897
- 15 _____, 1900-1909
- 16 _____, 1910-1919
- 17 _____, 1920-1929
- 18 _____, 1930-1939
- 19 _____, n.d.

II. 1973-1997

- BHC 23:01 Organizations, Barre Opera House Foundation, Inc., 1975-1977, n.d.
- 02 _____, _____, Restoration Fund pledges, 1976
- 03 _____, Vermont Center for the Performing Arts, Fund raising material, 1979-1982, n.d.
- 04 _____, _____, Performance material, 1979
- 05 _____, _____, _____, *La Boheme*, 1979
- 06 _____, _____, _____, *Our Town*, 1979
- 07 _____, _____, _____, *The Four Poster*, 1979
- 08 _____, _____, _____, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 1979
- 09 _____, _____, _____, *Romeo & Juliet*, n.d.
- 10 _____, Barre Opera House, Inc., 1983-
- 11 _____, _____, Promotional event, Oct. 7, 1982
- 12 _____, _____, _____, May 4-July 14, 1984

- BHC 24:01 Programs, 1982
- 02 _____, 1983
- 03 _____, Jan.-June, 1984
- 04 _____, July-Dec., 1984
- 05 _____, Jan.-June, 1985
- 06 _____, July-Dec., 1985
- 07 _____, Jan.-June, 1986
- 08 _____, July-Dec., 1986
- 09 _____, Jan.-June, 1987
- 10 _____, July-Dec., 1987
- 11 _____, 1988
- 12 Barre Opera House newsletter, 1982-

- BHC 25:01 Programs, 1989
- 02 _____, 1990
- 03 _____, 1993
- 04 _____, 1994
- 05 _____, 1995
- 06 _____, 1997

- 07 _____, 1998
- 08 Onion River Arts Council, Celebration Series, 1984-1987
- 09 _____, _____, 1988-1990/91
- 10 _____, _____, 1991/92-1992/93
- 11 _____, _____, 1993/94-1994/95
- 12 _____, _____, 1995/96-1996/97

- BHC 26:01 Audition posters
- 02 Performance material, Scripts & worksheet, *The Merry Widow*, 1984
- 03 _____, Script, *Bind Us Together*, 1987
- 04 Publicity material, 1983-1988
- 05 _____, 1989- _____, n.d.
- 06 Miscellaneous
- 07 News clippings, 1964-
- 08 Oral history group, Correspondence & notes, etc., 1981-1982, n.d.
- 09 _____, Interviews, 1982
- 10 _____, Essays & articles, 1982
- 11 Photographs, c. 1960
- 12 _____ (photocopies of extra-large photos), 1980

- BHC 27:01 Slide show scripts, 1973
- 02 Slides, slide show, 1973-1976
- 03 _____, 1973-1976, n.d.
- 04 BOH scrapbook/clips, Opera House clips (folder)
- 05 _____, (from pocket), 1991-
- 06 Spaulding Graded School, Opera House film, 1976-1978, n.d.

III. Oversized items

- BHC 384F:01 Photo, 4 men (one in black face – James Robertson?) including William H. Robertson (on extreme left), in skit song “Casey Jones”, n.d.
- 02 _____, Cast of 1901 production, with some members identified
- 03 _____, Cast of *Aida*?, c. 1903?, with some members identified on back
- 04 _____, All-male cast on stage, including 5 in black face, n.d.
- 05 _____, All-male cast on stage, including 6 in black face, and one identified as William H. Robertson, n.d.
- 06 “Art Impressions of George White’s Scandals,” two sided in plastic sleeve, n.d.
- 07 “Art Impressions of George White’s Scandals,” two sided in plastic sleeve, n.d.
- 08 Photo, Remains of Old Barre Opera House destroyed by fire, 1898
- 09 Watercolor, interior of Opera House, 1973, by Chuck Bohn, SHS art instructor
- 10 14 photos of deserted Opera House, c. 1980, gift of William Blachly
- Size A Architectural drawings for renovation, Paul Mirski, Architect