

# Guide to the Abbott Lowell Cummings Papers

MS 1713



Compiled by Christine Connolly

June 2010

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P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1713

**CREATOR:** Cummings, Abbott Lowell, 1923-

**TITLE:** Abbott Lowell Cummings papers

**DATES:** 1956-1991

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7 linear feet (5 boxes and 1 audiocassette)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist primarily of student research papers, photocopies of public records, and reports on historic homes of Connecticut. Files on seventeenth century domestic architecture and on one home in Massachusetts are also included. Many of the papers and reports were completed by students in Cummings's architecture history classes at Yale University, but several reports were written by Cummings.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1713>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1713>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the History of Art Department, 1996.

## Conditions Governing Access

Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist must pay for a use copy, which is retained by the repository. Researchers wishing to obtain an additional copy for their personal use should consult Copying Services information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site.

Original student papers in box 3 are restricted until January 1, 2067. Patrons must use the redacted versions of the papers in box 6.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Abbott Lowell Cummings Papers (MS 1713). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Abbott Lowell Cummings, noted authority on American architecture, received his B.A. from Oberlin College in 1945, and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1950. In 1955 he became assistant director of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. He remained with the Society until December, 1983, eventually becoming executive director. In 1984 he became the Charles F. Montgomery Professor of American Decorative Arts at Yale University. He retired and achieved emeritus status in 1992.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist primarily of student research papers, photocopies of public records, and reports on historic homes of Connecticut. Files on seventeenth century domestic architecture and on one home in Massachusetts are also included. Many of the papers and reports were completed by students in Cummings's architecture history classes at Yale University, but several reports were written by Cummings.

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## Arrangement

The papers are arranged in two sections: Seventeenth Century Domestic Architecture and Research and project files on historic homes.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1-17	Seventeenth Century Domestic Architecture course, History of Art (student notebooks)	1986-1987, undated
	Research and project files on historic homes	
b. 1, f. 18	Connecticut, general	1989, undated
b. 1, f. 19	Photographs	undated
b. 1, f. 18	Printed material	
	"Carpenter's Gothic in Southern Connecticut"	1982
b. 3, f. 1	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	
b. 6, f. 1	Use copy	
	Branford	
	Probate records These records consist mainly of photocopies of probate documents.	
b. 1, f. 20-21	1802-1815	Circa 1990
b. 2, f. 1	1758-1769	1989
b. 2, f. 2	1720-1730	1989
	"A Rural Connecticut Town During the Federal Period: An Analysis of Branford, Conn. Probate Records (1802-1815)"	1989
b. 3, f. 2	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	
b. 6, f. 2	Use copy	
	242-250 East Main Street: Tyler House	1989
b. 3, f. 3	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	
b. 6, f. 3	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 3	112 West Main Street: Nathaniel Harrison House (also known as Swain-Harrison House) Microfiche of correspondence concerning house, 1940-1973.	
b. 5, f. 1	Oversized material	1989
	Warham Williams House (moved to Roxbury, Connecticut in the 1970s)	1988

Branford > Warham Williams House (moved to Roxbury, Connecticut in the 1970 [...]) (continued)

b. 3, f. 4	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	
b. 6, f. 4	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 4	Bridgeport, 266-268 Brewster Street: John Wheeler House	Circa 1980s
b. 3, f. 5-7	Additional material (original) Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	1984-1989
b. 6, f. 5-7	Additional material (use copy)	1984-1989
b. 5, f. 3	Oversized material	1989
	Brookfield, Iron Works Tavern (moved to Danbury, Connecticut)	1984
b. 3, f. 8	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	
b. 6, f. 8	Use copy	
	East Haddam, Wickham Road: "The Mowings"	1984
b. 3, f. 9	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	
b. 6, f. 9	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 5	Fair Haven, 500-502 Chapel Street	1982
	Fairfield, 1520 Bronson Road: Ogden House	1985
b. 3, f. 10	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	
b. 5, f. 3	Oversized material	Circa 1980s
b. 6, f. 10	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 6-7	Greenwich, 39 Strickland Road (Cos Cob): Bush-Holley House	1985-1990
	Guilford	
b. 2, f. 8	84 Boston Street: "Hyland" House	1989
b. 2, f. 9	85 Boston Road: Thomas Burgis House	Circa 1990
b. 3, f. 11	Additional material (original) Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	1989
b. 6, f. 11	Additional material (use copy)	

Guilford > 85 Boston Road: Thomas Burgis House (continued)

b. 5, f. 2	Oversized material	1989
	6 Broad Street: Caleb Stone House	1991
b. 3, f. 12	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	
b. 6, f. 12	Use copy	
b. 5, f. 2	Oversized material	1991
	77 Broad Street: Isaac Stow House	1991
b. 3, f. 13	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	
b. 6, f. 13	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 10	212 Clapboard Hill Road: Caleb Dudley House, 1764	1991
b. 2, f. 11	38 Fair Street: Parsonage of the Fourth Society	1991
	44 Fair Street: Noah Hodgkin, Sr. House	1991
b. 3, f. 14	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	
b. 6, f. 14	Use copy	
b. 5, f. 2	Oversized material	Circa 1980s
	58 Fair Street: Nathaniel Johnson House	1991
b. 3, f. 15	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> . See redacted use copy.	
b. 6, f. 15	Use copy	
b. 5, f. 2	Oversized material	1991
	78 Fair Street: Joseph Chittenden House	1991
b. 3, f. 16	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> .	
b. 6, f. 16	Use copy	
b. 5, f. 2	Oversized material	1991
b. 2, f. 12	575 Leete's Island Road: Pelatiah Leete House	1989-1991
b. 5, f. 2	Oversized material	Circa 1990

Guilford (continued)

	1 North Street: Captain Samuel Lee House	1991
b. 3, f. 17	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 17	Use copy	
	37 Park Street: Heli Hoadley House	1989
b. 3, f. 18	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 18	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 13	138 State Street: Kingsnorth-Starr House	1986-1989
b. 5, f. 2	205 State Street: Philo Bishop House	Circa 1980s
	37 Union Street: The Acadian House	1991
b. 3, f. 19	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 19	Use copy	
b. 5, f. 2	Oversized material	1988
	25 Water Street: Ebenezer Bartlett House	1991
b. 3, f. 20	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 20	Use copy	
b. 5, f. 2	Oversized material	Circa 1980s
	54 Water Street: Joseph Parmelee, Jr. House	1991
b. 3, f. 21	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 21	Use copy	
	Killingworth, Congregational Church	1985
b. 3, f. 22	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 22	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 14	Ledyard, 50 Spicer Hill Road	1986



b. 5, f. 3	Litchfield, East Street: John Collins House	1991
	Madison	
b. 2, f. 15	548 Boston Post Road	Circa 1985
b. 2, f. 16	581 Boston Post Road: Deacon John Graves House A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1987-1989
	Additional material	1984, 1988
b. 3, f. 23	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 23	Use copy	
b. 5, f. 3	Oversized material	1987-1988, undated
	Milford	
b. 2, f. 17	139 North Street	1985
b. 5, f. 3	34 High Street: Eels-Stowe House	Circa 1980s
	New Haven	
b. 2, f. 18	General	1985
	Additional material	1984-1985
b. 3, f. 24	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 24	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 19	8 Academy Street: Samuel Wadsworth House	1985
b. 2, f. 20	1017 Chapel Street: Connecticut Hall, Yale University	1985
b. 2, f. 21	30 College Street: Bartlett House and related properties	1985
b. 2, f. 22	149 Elm Street: Stokes Pierpont House	1990
	Additional material	1986
b. 3, f. 25	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 25	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 23	325 Lighthouse Road: Pardee Morris House	1966

New Haven (continued)

b. 2, f. 24	275 Orange Street: William Pinto House	Circa 1985
	Churches on the Green	1982, 1985
b. 3, f. 26	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 26	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 25	Theophilus Eaton House (destroyed before 1730)	1984
	New London	
b. 2, f. 26	11 Hempstead Street: Hempsted House	1956-1958, circa 1985
b. 5, f. 3	Oversized material	1987
	New London County Courthouse	1986
b. 3, f. 27	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 27	Use copy	
	Northford	
b. 2, f. 27	Middletown Turnpike: Benjamin Houde House	1988
b. 2, f. 28	Old Evarts Tavern (destroyed; 1920?)	1987
	Ridgefield	
b. 2, f. 29	132 Main Street: Keeler Tavern	1981
	Additional material	1981-1988
b. 3, f. 28	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 28	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 30	West Hartford, General	1974-1985
b. 5, f. 3	West Haven, Thomas Painter House (moved to Litchfield)	Circa 1980s
	Wethersfield	
	249 Broad Street: Buttolph-Williams House	1987
b. 3, f. 29	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations.</a>	
b. 6, f. 29	Use copy	

Wethersfield > 249 Broad Street: Buttolph-Williams House (continued)

b. 5, f. 3	Oversized material	1987
b. 4	481 Main Street: George Hubbard House <i>1 Audiocassette</i>  Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist must pay for a use copy, which is retained by the repository. Researchers wishing to obtain an additional copy for their personal use should consult Copying Services information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site.  Interview with the Courchaines (property owners).	1987 December 10
b. 2, f. 31	527 Main Street: Bennezer Hale House (also known as John Latimer House and Theodore Hale House)	1987
Woodbridge		
	1907 Litchfield Turnpike: Darling House	1985
b. 3, f. 30	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> .	
b. 6, f. 30	Use copy	
Woodbury		
	30 Hollow Road: Jabez Bacon House	1978
b. 3, f. 31	Original Material restricted until January 1, 2067 as established by <a href="#">Yale Corporation regulations</a> .	
b. 6, f. 31	Use copy	
b. 2, f. 32	149 Hollow Road: Glebe House	Undated
b. 5, f. 3	Hopkinton, Massachusetts: Phipps Farmhouse	1990
b. 5, f. 3	Unidentified drawings, oversized	1987, undated

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Architecture, Domestic -- Connecticut  
Historic buildings -- Connecticut  
Historic buildings -- Conservation and restoration

### **Names**

Cummings, Abbott Lowell, 1923-

### **Corporate Body**

Yale University -- Faculty