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Manuscript Register

**MSS # 278**

**TRUSTEES OF THE GOFFE STREET SPECIAL SCHOOL, INC.**

Arranged and Described  
by  
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## Introduction

In the summer of 1863, a group of New Haven citizens submitted a memorandum to the Board of Education suggesting "a site to be procured and a building to be erected, ... for the education of Colored Children in New Haven."

The funds for this purpose were to be raised by private subscription. The primary contributor was Mary Lucas Hillhouse.

A building was erected at the corner of Goffe and Sperry Streets. The architect Henry Austin furnished plans and specifications free of charge. The 1864 contract between Isaac Thomson & Atwater Treat, builders and W. Warner and H.C. Kingsley, for the Committee, specified that the building would be ready by April 1865.

Henry White, owner of the property, conveyed the land to seven individuals as trustees and their survivors.

By 1921 the original trustees had died and the successor trustees incorporated as "The Trustees of the Goffe Street Special School." The corporation's purpose was to manage the property.

When classes were no longer held in the building, funds were used to provide scholarships.

The building was sold in 1919 to the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut, Prince Hall Affiliation.

A legal controversy developed between the Grand Lodge and the Trustees in the late 1960's.

The Corporation was dissolved in 1975 with its remaining assets turned over to the Ulysses S. Grant Foundation.

## History of the Papers

These papers were given to the New Haven Colony Historical Society in 2005 by Cleveland Rice. There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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MSS #278

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1/A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 1863 memorandum submitted by a group of New Haven citizens to the Board of Education outlining a proposed plan for a school for the education of colored children.</li><li>2. 1863 Board of Education meeting suggesting “ ... the use of a building to be erected by private benevolence for the education of Colored Children...”</li><li>3. 1863 List of receipts by subscribers and schedule of payments for a lot on Whalley Avenue.</li><li>4. 1864 Deed for land on Sperry &amp; Goffe Streets.</li><li>5. 1864 Contract between Isaac Thomson &amp; Atwater Treat, Builders, and W. Warner and H.C. Kingsley, Committee for School Building. The building to be completed by April 1865. Henry Austin furnished plans and specifications for the building free of charge.</li><li>6. 1866, 1869 Bills for work on the building.</li><li>7. 1865 Insurance Policy</li></ol>
1/B	Articles of Incorporation, 1921. Deed of Incorporation, 1921 By-Laws as amended in 1938 Quit claims of property from individual trustees to the Corporation, 1921
1/C	History of the School, 1863-1911 Addendum, 1929
1/D	Record Book of the Trustees, 1864-1925 (Also available on microfilm, see MFilm #155)
1/E	Minutes of Trustees, 1927, 1929
1/F	Treasurer's Book, 1866-1954
1/G	Receipts, 1926-1929

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MSS #278

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1/H	Minutes of Trustees, 1930-1939
1/I	Financial Statements, 1931-1939
1/J	Miscellaneous Financial Material, 1935-1969 Reports to the Assessors, 1927, 1929
1/K	Miscellaneous material 1918-1971
1/L	Student Financial Assistance, 1934-1939
2/A	Student Financial Assistance, 1940-1949
2/B	Student Financial Assistance, 1951-1959
2/C	Student Financial Assistance, 1960-1970
2/D	Annual Meetings 1940-1966
2/E	Building Appraisal, 1967
2/F	Sale of Property to Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Connecticut, Prince Hall Affiliation, 1929 Roof Repair Problems, 1928
2/G	Grand Lodge ... v. Trustees of Goffe Street School, 1966-1969
2/H	Dissolution of the Trustees of the Goffe Street Special School, Inc., 1975 Remaining funds turned over to the Ulysses S. Grant Foundation, Inc. Related Internal Revenue Material, Annual Reports, Correspondence, 1971-1975