



BHC-MSS 0060  
Guide to the Records of D.R.O.W.N.  
By Meg Rinn  
November 2019

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** D.R.O.W.N. (Don't Ruin Our Waterfront Neighborhood)

**Title:** Records of D.R.O.W.N.

**Dates:** 1979-1987 [Bulk 1980-1985]

**Quantity:** 1 record carton

**Abstract:** Don't Ruin Our Waterfront Neighborhood, abbreviated as D.R.O.W.N., was formed in 1979 with the initial intent of responding to the proposed construction of four duplex houses at Brewster Street and Grovers Avenue. D.R.O.W.N. expanded its scope, and was active and present at zoning and hearing meetings until the late 1980s. The collection documents its activities, newspaper reports on the group and on zoning/planning decisions, and provides key information about southwest Bridgeport's waterfront during the 1980s.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Administrative History**

Don't Ruin Our Waterfront Neighborhood, abbreviated as D.R.O.W.N., was formed in 1979 with the initial intent of four duplex houses at Brewster Street (rendered Brewsters in the records) and Grovers Avenue. From there, the activities and actions of D.R.O.W.N. expanded to focus on all of Black Rock and southwest Bridgeport's waterside neighborhood.

As a community organization in the 1980s, D.R.O.W.N. relied on community organization block-by-block, with a block captain on almost every street. A mailing list, newsletter, and phone chain also contributed to information spread, and helped all involve to pay attention and quickly react to zoning and planning decisions under consideration by the City of Bridgeport.

Records for D.R.O.W.N. decline after 1985, with no additional material after 1987. It is likely that the group disbanded around that time.

Based on the presence of notes in his hand, former Bridgeport History Center (then Historical Collections) archivist David Palmquist was a member of the group.

**Scope and Content note:**

The records of D.R.O.W.N. include notes from meetings, notes about the status of various properties, newspaper clippings about both the organization and City of Bridgeport decisions, and additional organizational records. Of particular importance are the mailing lists as well as early newsletters.

Also important is the second series in the collection, which focuses on individual properties in Black Rock. They are organized by street name and then street number, and provide useful information for those interested in historic preservation or seeking information about their own homes if they reside in the area.

**Arrangement note:**

Original order, with subject files forming series I and individual properties forming series II. Properties are listed alphabetically by street address, then by street number.

**Administrative information**

**Provenance:** Directly transferred to the Bridgeport History Center.

**Preferred Citation:**

Records of D.R.O.W.N. (BHC-MSS 0060), Bridgeport History Center.

**Names and Subject Tracings***Corporate names*

D.R.O.W.N. (Don't Ruin Our Waterfront Neighborhood)

*Subject Tracings*

Black Rock (Bridgeport, Conn.)

Community organization

Historic districts

Historic preservation

**Detailed box and folder listing**

Series I, Subject files

Box 1

1. General, 1979-1980
2. Bartram house, 1983-1986
3. Bartram house, history, 1984
4. Black Rock Community Council, 1980
5. Black Rock Seaport Historical Association, 1981
6. Block containing board and officers canvassing, 1983
7. Block captains, route, instructions, maps. Undated
8. Brewster Cove, Burr Creak, 1984
9. Burr-Ned plant originals, 1990
10. Captain's Cove Seaport expansion plan/hearing, 1987
11. Charter revision, zoning, 194
12. Coastal area management, 1981
13. Black Rock dredging, 1985-1988
14. Black Rock historic district, 1980
15. Historic District – Black Rock harbor, Ellsworth Street extension. 1979-1987
16. Dump, incinerator, and foreign trade zone plan, 1984
17. DROWN funding. 1979
18. Flyers, 1980s
19. Health issues, 1982
20. Mailing list, 1980
21. Master plan, 1971

22. Membership drives, 1980B
23. Black Rock national register plaques, 1979
24. Newsletter. No. 1, 1980
25. Newsletter, no. 3, 1980
26. Other neighborhood groups, 1983
27. Petition forms, undated
28. Photographs, 1980s
29. Publicity, 1983
30. Real estate offices, 1983
31. Sewer report – Pidluski and Black Rock Community Council, 1980
32. Sewers, 1982-1983
33. Stationary and logo, 1980s
34. Walking through history, 1981
35. Zoning, general, 1983
36. Zoning map, 1980
37. Zoning board of appeals general. 1983
38. Zoning commission, general, 1985

#### Series II, Properties

39. Brewster Street map, undated
40. Brewster street, port 5, 1982
41. 294-310 Brewster Street, Williams, 1980-1981
42. Brewster and Grovers, 1982-1984
43. Brewster and Grovers building plans; CAM 1980-1982
44. Brewster and Grovers historic district, 1980
45. Brewster and Grovers lawsuit, 1980
46. Brewster and Grovers planning hearing, 180
47. Brewster and Grovers zoning hearing, 1980
48. Bywater lane. Ed Epifano, 198
49. Bywater Lane map, undated
50. Caldewood Court, 39-41, 1985
51. 97 Ellsworth Street lawsuit, 1983-1984
52. 87-89 Ellsworth lawsuit fundraising, 1983
53. 87 Ellsworth St. court decision 1972
54. 87 Ellsworth St. planning commission, 1983
55. 87-89 Ellsworth St. zoning commission, 1983
56. 100 Ellsworth St. 1981
57. 150 Ellsworth St., 1979-1981
58. 161-165 Ellsworth St. apartment house, 1981
59. 213 Ellsworth St. Owens property, 1979
60. 228 Ellsworth St., Hawley Willis, 1979
61. 245 Ellsworth St., Cassidy, 1982
62. Gilman St. houses, 1981-1982

63. Grovers Ave. 350 Anchorages, 1983
64. Hackley St. – Harbor Ave. zone change, 1985
65. 47 Hackley St., 1982
66. Hackley St. 44 map
67. Hackley Street map.
68. 87 Ellsworth St. Milton Weiss Property, 1978-1985
69. 87 Ellsworth St. Milton Weiss Property, 1978-1985
70. Hackley St. 54-56, Romano Lawsuit, 1985
71. Historic district 54-56 Hackley Street appeal, 1985
72. Hackley St. 64 Chasse map, 1984
73. 80-100 Hackley Street, 1979-1980
74. Harbor Ave. map, undated
75. Harbor Ave.
76. Harbor View place and Courtland Ave., 1983