



BHC-MSS 0073

## Guide to the Jim Reilly collection of Central High School Material

By Meg Rinn, February 2020

### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Central High School (Bridgeport, Conn.)

**Title:** Jim Reilly Collection of Central High School Material

**Dates:** 1880-1963 [Bulk 1880-1938]

**Quantity:** 1 manuscript box

**Abstract:** Collected by Jim Reilly, this collection primarily features graduation programs for Central High School's earliest years of operation, along with select additional years after 1938. Also included are some courses of study from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and images of alumni events.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

### **Biographical History**

Central High School opened in 1876, originally called Bridgeport High School. It was moved to Lyon Terrace following construction in 1914-1916 and built by James Gamble Rogers, who designed buildings for Yale University in New Haven. Eventually, due to Bridgeport's growth, Central High School was moved to a new location in Beechwood Park in 1965. The Lyon Terrace facility became City Hall. The current incarnation of Central High School underwent remodeling in 2016 so that it can provide for the needs of today's classrooms.

### **Scope and Content note:**

The bulk of the material is made up of graduation programs for Central High School. The years 1880-1938 represent a full run of programs, and also include mid-year graduations for many years. The courses of study help to demonstrate the nature of the education curriculum in Bridgeport over the years

Less represented are student events and alumni activities, with a particular emphasis on the high school's 100th anniversary.

### **Arrangement Note:**

Series 1, graduation programs, contains both end of year and mid-year programs. Series 2, courses of study, relates the high school curriculum as it was described to students and parents for the years given. Series 3, contains high school publications including the student newspaper, the *Criterion*. The final series, Series 4, contains alumni ephemera and event photographs, along with additional images including one folder of adult education graduation images.

### **Administrative information:**

**Provenance** Donation of Jim Reilly in 2013.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Jim Reilly Collection of Central High School Material (BHC-MSS 0073) Bridgeport History Center,  
Bridgeport Public Library.

### **Names and Subject Tracings**

#### *Personal names*

Reilly, Jim  
Central High School (Bridgeport, Conn.)

#### *Subject tracings*

Commencement ceremonies  
High school student activities

### **Detailed box and folder listing**

#### Box 1

##### Series 1, Graduation programs

1. Central High School graduation programs, 1880-1889
2. Central High School graduation programs, 1890-1899
3. Central High School graduation programs, 1900-1909
4. Central High School graduation programs, 1910-1919
5. Central High School graduation programs, 1920-1929
6. Central High School graduation programs, 1930-1938
7. Central High School graduation programs, 1962-1963

##### Series 2, Courses of Study

8. Courses of study, 1900-1908; 1917-1919
9. Courses of study, 1920-1930
10. Courses of study, 1930-1940
11. Courses of study, 1940-1950
12. Courses of study, 1959-1962

##### Series 3, Publications

13. Epsilon chapter of Gamma Delta Psi, 1927
14. The Criterion, 1960; 1964; 1973; 1979; 1981 [School newspaper, select issues]

##### Series 4, Alumni events and other activities

15. Central High School alumni material, 1976-1980
16. Photographs likely from Central High School centennial, 1976
17. Photographs likely from early theatre productions at the school, undated
18. Photographs, adult education graduates, undated
19. Reproduced yearbook photographs, undated
20. Other photograph reproductions, undated