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005 Board of Education
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140 Photograph Collection
200 1920
210 1968
220 1925-1936
240 6.2 cf
241 9@ 0.17, 3@ 0.47, 2@ 0.32, 1@ 0.10, 1@ 0.38, 1@ 0.49, 1@ 0.19
(Duplicates: 2@ 0.38, 1@ 0.47, 1@ 0.23)
261 Primarily prints and negatives from the Board of Education capturing
images of school construction, activities and events.
270 Following World War I, Delaware's schools were suffering from poor
performance, deteriorating conditions of school buildings and low
attendance. It was during this time that Pierre S. du Pont (President of
E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company and Chairman of the Board of
Directors of General Motors Corporation) was appointed to the State
Board of Education by Governor Townsend. As part of the larger
initiative to rehabilitate the state's education system, du Pont created
a trust fund of \$2 million from his personal wealth that was used to
assist in the physical rehabilitation of Delaware schools. When initial
assessments of school conditions found an exceptional need for resources
in African-American schools, du Pont provided an additional \$900,000 to
benefit these schools. He hoped that his gift would enable Delaware "to
have a school system which should exemplify the scientific principles of
modern construction - buildings which should not only be safe and
sanitary, but which should express the pre-eminence that education must
have in the life of a democratic people." du Pont remained an active
proponent of educational reform in Delaware throughout the 1920s and
1930s. He served as State Tax Commissioner beginning in 1925, a position
that allowed him to further finance education through tax reform. This
collection of photographs from the Board of Education captures
construction on what would later be called "du Pont Schools."

The photographs in this collection document existing and former school
buildings, new school construction and school activities. Some of these
images were included in Board and Department of Public Instruction
annual reports. While Leonard Schwarz, Sanborn Studio, Royal Studio, and
Green Photo are among the photographers identified in the collection,
many of the photographs in this collection do not indicate who produced
the images or when they were captured.

The collection primarily contains images of school building exteriors
including one-room schools and later du Pont Schools. Some of these
images contain information on the number of rooms, construction dates,
and the costs of construction. Many of the images in this collection are
not identified by school but rather by event or category including Track
and Field, May Day, Future Homemakers of America (FHA), New Homemakers
of America (NHA), and Drivers Education among others. A notable
inclusion in this collection is images from the 1928 Apple Blossom
Festival parade in Dover. These images capture rare scenes from the
intersection of State Street, King's Highway and Loockerman Street.

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330 Divided by county and arranged there under alphabetically by name of school. Images not identified by school or county are arranged alphabetically by category.

331 No Index.

332 Typed, handwritten notes on photographs

350 Digital copies on DPA website.

360 Good Condition

370

390 Folder List.

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990 May 15, 2012

995 July 14, 2015

sbd/rlg