

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

BOSTON

74-94 BOYLSTON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

BOS.BL
BOS.BO

BOS.2249

This sheet is submitted by Lyle Nyberg, independent historian, March 2020. It corrects my previous continuation sheet.

As noted before, the Boston Equal Suffrage Association for Good Government (BESAGG) was founded in 1901 by Pauline Agassiz Shaw, Maud Wood Park, and others. It promoted woman suffrage and other causes.

BESAGG moved its headquarters here, not from 585 Boylston Street, but from 167 Tremont Street. After its earlier headquarters at 585 Boylston, BESAGG had moved to 167 Tremont Street, from 1916 through 1918. (The building has since been demolished but is documented in MACRIS, BOS.2302.) BESAGG ran the Sunflower Lunch Room there.¹ They held meetings there.² BESAGG was listed at 167 Tremont Street (where the YMCA was also located) in the 1916 *Boston Directory*.³ When its lease ran out at the end of 1918, BESAGG moved here to the Little Building at 74-94 Boylston Street.⁴

BESAGG's new headquarters were on the fifth floor of the Little Building. The opening of the new headquarters brought together hundreds of suffragists, including Alice Stone Blackwell, president of the Massachusetts Woman's Suffrage Association (MWSA), and special guest Judith Winsor Smith, oldest living member of MWSA (at age 97).⁵

Other

(See below)

¹ "Sunflower Lunch Room," ads, *The Woman's Citizen* (New York City: Woman Citizen Corporation, October 27, 1917), 422, etc., accessed March 13, 2020, https://books.google.com/books?id=YdERAQAAMAAJ&source=gbs_navlinks_s.

² Maud Wood Park Papers (Woman's Rights Collection). Suffrage and Women's Rights. Boston Equal Suffrage Association for Good Government (BESAGG). Brochures, fliers, notices, etc., n.d. WRC-Pa, folder Pa-104. Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, accessed March 13, 2020, [https://iif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:467056159\\$27i](https://iif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:467056159$27i), or <https://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:39989986?n=27>.

³ *Boston Directory for 1916* (Boston: Sampson & Murdock Company, 1916), 309, <https://archive.org/details/bostonmassachuse1916112samp/page/308/mode/2up>.

⁴ Search of the *Woman's Journal* and Maud Wood Park Papers, including <http://fts.lib.harvard.edu/fts/search?Q=%22sunflower+lunch+room%22>. For example, see BESAGG 1919 report, page 6, Maud Wood Park Papers (Woman's Rights Collection). Suffrage and Women's Rights, Boston Equal Suffrage Association for Good Government (BESAGG), Reports, 1908-1919, WRC-Pa, folder Pa-95a, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, [https://iif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:467059099\\$80i](https://iif.lib.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:467059099$80i), or <https://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:39992223?n=80>.

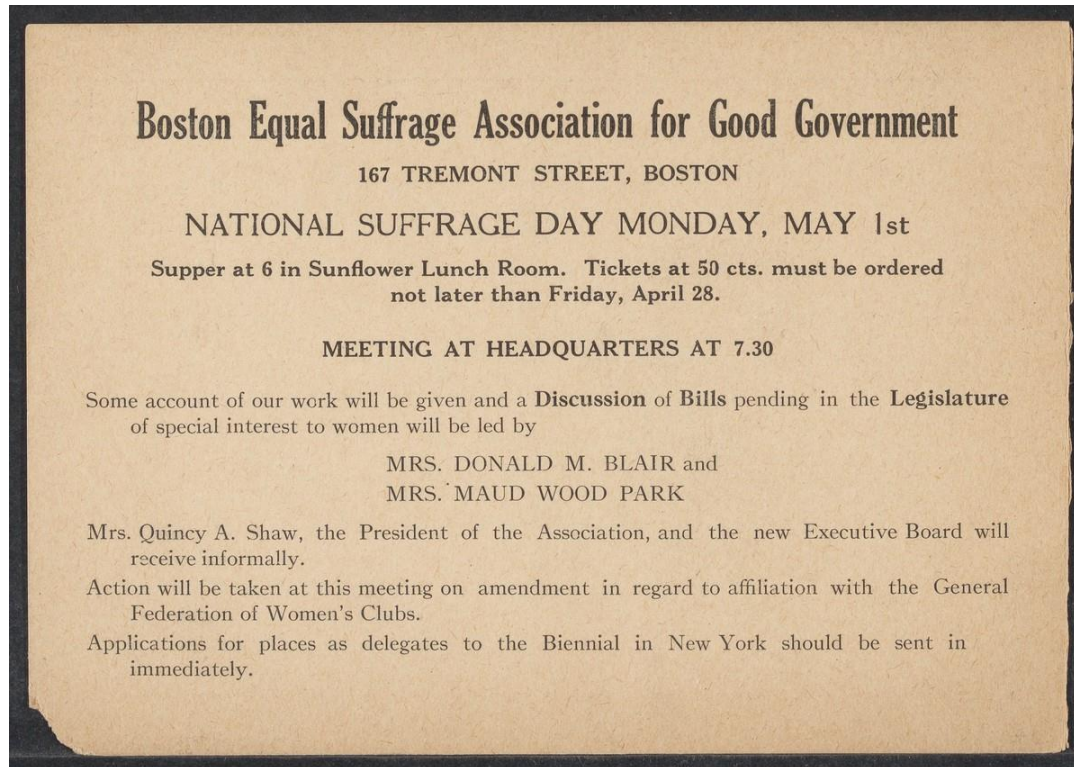
⁵ "Suffragists Open New Headquarters on Fifth Floor of the Little Building," clipping (with photo), unknown newspaper, Maud Wood Park Papers, WRC #Pa 108, Schlesinger Library; "Boston Suffragists Receive," *Boston Globe*, January 15, 1919, 14.

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BESAGG meeting notice, May 1, probably 1916.

6.

On January 1, our three-year lease of the rooms at 167 Tremont Street expired. After careful consideration, the Board decided to discontinue the lunch room and take offices in the Little Building. It was with genuine regret that we gave up the Sunflower Lunch, but the high cost of food and war conditions made it impossible to make any money from the lunch room, and, moreover, the work of the Association had grown to such an extent that more office space was much needed. The new Headquarters on the fifth floor of the Little Bldg. were formally opened on January 14th.

Excerpt from BESAGG report in 1919, page 6, Maud Wood Park Papers (Woman's Rights Collection), Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University. Permission to use Schlesinger Library images is understood to be allowed by Harvard Library policy on use of digital reproductions, <https://osc.hul.harvard.edu/programs/open-initiatives/hl-pd/>.

(continued below)

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Suffragists Open New Headquarters on Fifth Floor of the Little Building



SUFFRAGISTS "AT HOME" YESTERDAY IN THEIR NEW HEADQUARTERS IN LITTLE BUILDING. About the tea table, left to right, are, Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, president of the Massachusetts Suffrage Association; Mrs. Charles Sumner Bird, its first vice-president; Mrs. Quincy A. Shaw, founder and president of the Boston Equal Suffrage Association for Good Government; Mrs. Andrew J. Peters, who poured, and Mrs. Judith Winsor Smith, aged 97, oldest living member of the Massachusetts association.

The opening of the new headquarters for the Boston Equal Suffrage Association in the Little building yesterday afternoon brought together hundreds of suffragists, many of whom have been prominent for years in the suffrage movement.

In the receiving line were the president of the association, Mrs. Quincy A. Shaw; Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, president of the Massachusetts Suffrage Association, and Mrs. Charles Sumner Bird, its first vice-president. At the tea, which followed, Mrs. Andrew J. Peters, wife of the Mayor, presided.

The guest of honor was Mrs. Judith Winsor Smith, oldest living member of the Massachusetts Suffrage Association, who was 97 last November. She was a personal friend of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and of the mother of Alice Stone Blackwell.

The Boston Suffrage Association is to occupy a suite of five new offices on the fifth floor of the building and, with this third moving since their founding 13 years ago, are to open several new departments. The first of these is the Red Cross branch, in the workroom of which three machines and a corps of workers are busy all day. The work is under the direction of Mrs. Villatte Crosby, chairman of the Suffrage Red Cross committee. At present hundreds of garments for refugees from the devastated war regions are being turned out weekly.

The second department will be under the direction of Mrs. William Healy, and will be called "Education for Citizenship." Through lectures at various public school centres and through organizations unnaturalised aliens will be reached and taught the rudiments of history and law and given a thorough understanding of the Constitution.

Mrs. Robert Gould Shaw

The third venture is a "Guidance" of a quarterly bulletin which will explain new laws pending in the Massachusetts Legislature and any matters of current interest which have a civic importance. This publication will be under the direction of Mrs. Lewis Jerome Johnson.

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