

Odlum, Myrtle papers

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Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Museum

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Summary Information

Repository:	Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Museum
Creator:	Odlum, Myrtle
Title:	Myrtle Odlum papers
ID:	2015.35
Date [inclusive]:	1935-1990
Physical Description:	1.5 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Myrtle Odlum papers consist of material pertaining to South Windsor history, news, events and organizations and the Odlum family, including topical files of newspaper clippings, mostly dating from the 1970s and 1980s; South Windsor's Main Street prepared for an application for National Historic District status; and Odlum family papers. Myrtle Odlum (1912-2007) was born and lived in South Windsor, CT.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Myrtle Odlum papers (2015.35), Wood Memorial Library and Museum, South Windsor, CT.

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Biographical / Historical

Myrtle Reardon Odlum (1912-2007) was born and lived in South Windsor, CT, daughter of the late James H. Reardon and Ellen "Nellie" (Grosch) Reardon.

She graduated with honors from East Hartford High School in 1929, attended Morse Business College, was employed by the State of Connecticut Highway Department, Travelers Insurance Co., and Pratt and Whitney Aircraft. She served as Tax Collector for the Town of South Windsor from 1955 to 1959. Myrtle was a member of St. Francis of Assisi, South Windsor, where she helped as a religious education teacher. She served as president of the combined

Mothers Club and Ladies Guild and was always available to assist in fundraisers. She also served as a facilitator of the Faith Sharing Group. She was a past regent of the Father Drennan Circle Daughters of Isabella and was the first president of the Friends of Wood Memorial Library and was a volunteer there for many years.

She did historical research on many of the homes on Main Street and other historical sites in South Windsor. She met her husband Harry Odlum at a Young Democrats affair in Hartford. She continued to be very active in the Democratic Party. Her responsibilities included being in charge of the files for the South Windsor Democratic Party and running Election Day headquarters. Myrtle was president of the Democratic Women's Club for two terms, named the South Windsor Democratic Woman of the Year, honored on Democratic Appreciation Night, and was a delegate to the national convention, which selected John F. Kennedy as their candidate for president. She was in the South Windsor Historical Society, served on the South Windsor Historical Commission for several years, and was secretary for the State of Connecticut Historical Commission.

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Scope and Contents

The Myrtle Odlum papers consist of material pertaining to South Windsor history, news, events and organizations and the Odlum family. The bulk of the collection consists of topical files of newspaper clippings, mostly dating from the 1970s and 1980s. Another series consists of her research on local history, with most of this material relating to South Windsor's Main Street, and was accumulated in preparation for an application for National Historic District status. Included in this series are Odlum's handwritten notes from a variety of sources, as well as paperwork related to the designation of this historic district. A third series consists of family papers from Odlum's parent's farm, a small amount of papers accumulated by Odlum's husband Harry, and assorted ephemera, photographs, a scrapbook, and miscellaneous papers relating Odlum's personal life.

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