



NATIONAL MUSEUM *of* WOMEN *in the* ARTS

Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc. Collection

Introduction

In May 2004, Theresa Grana, former member of the Friends, generously donated all correspondence and documentation of the organization's involvement with the Alice Pike Barney Studio House to NMWA's Library and Research Center (LRC). In Summer 2004, publications intern Lizzie Duerr, processed the papers and wrote sections of the guide with the guidance of the museum's archivist Stacey Flatt. The processing was completed in August 2004. LRC volunteer Christy Ammerman, wrote the box list and Scope & Content Notes for the guide.

Organization History/ Artist's Biography

Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc.

Designed in 1902 by Washingtonian architect Waddy B. Wood, Studio House was Alice Pike Barney's showplace for the arts. After her death in 1931, daughters Laura and Natalie donated it to the Smithsonian Institution, where it became part of the National Museum of American Art in 1976. In the early 1990s, however, Studio House was forced to close due to structural damage, and eventually, renovation costs of more than 2 million dollars compelled the Smithsonian to seek potential buyers of Studio House and its interior furnishings.

In 1993, the Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House incorporated, with the mission of raising money and educating the public about the plight of Studio House. Though unable to cover the astronomical renovation costs or to purchase the home themselves, the Friends devoted their efforts to securing owners who would maintain Barney's legacy. Ultimately, the Smithsonian sold the house to a private owner, who after having issues with zoning, sold to the government of Latvia. After extensive renovations which are still under way, the Latvian government will use the house as their American Embassy and to be used for various public events in keeping with the home's history, according to the Ambassador. Through their efforts, the Friends educated Washington on Barney's legacy. Their advocacy is a reminder of the historical, architectural, and cultural significance of buildings like Studio House, and the need to preserve these landmarks for future generations.

Chronology

1902	Alice Pike Barney begins construction on Studio House, her Spanish Mission-style home located on Sheridan Circle, designed by Washington architect Waddy B. Wood.
1931	<i>October 12.</i> Alice Pike Barney dies at the age of 74. Her estate is given to daughters Laura Dreyfus-Barney and Natalie Barney.
1961	The daughters bequeath the Alice Pike Barney Studio House to the Smithsonian Institution, with the stipulation that it would be maintained as a house museum, open to the public. The house becomes part of what is now called The Smithsonian American Art Museum.
1976	Studio House opens its doors to the public as a museum, celebrating the life of artist Alice Pike Barney and her legacy as one of Washington's foremost patrons of the arts.
1993	Studio House is forced to close due to structural damage. The Smithsonian estimates renovation costs of more than two million dollars and begins discussions on the potential sale of Studio House. <i>December 22.</i> The Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House incorporates as a nonprofit to fight the de-accession of the home and its contents.

1994	<p><i>September 27.</i> The Friends host a book party in celebration of the publication of the biography on the artist, <u>Alice Pike Barney: Her Life and Art</u> by Jean L. Kling, Curator of Studio House.</p> <p><i>September 29.</i> The Friends submit a proposal to the Smithsonian Institution discussing the future of the Studio House and the need for communication between both parties, titled “A Proposal for a Working Relationship Between the Friends of Alice Pike Barney, Inc. and the Smithsonian Institution.”</p>
1995	<p><i>May 1.</i> The Smithsonian Board of Regents releases a statement in which they announce their decision to de-accession the interior furnishings of Studio House.</p>
1999	<p><i>September 27.</i> The Smithsonian releases a statement announcing their decision to sell Studio House.</p>
2000	<p><i>March 1.</i> The Friends attend the zone hearing over the future of Studio House, in support of a proposal by prospective buyers to purchase the home and use it as a School of the Arts.</p>
2001	<p>The owners transfer ownership of Studio House to the government of Latvia, for use as their American Embassy.</p>
Presently	<p>The Latvia government continues the renovation process of Studio House. Once completed, Ambassador Aivis Ronis and his staff will occupy the home, where they plan to continue Barney’s legacy by hosting many events in celebration of the arts.</p>

**Alice Pike Barney
(1857-1931)**

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1857, Alice Pike Barney rose to become one of the most influential women in Washington, D.C. through her support and development of artistic culture. Building her Spanish-Mission-style home on Sheridan Circle in 1902, architect Waddy B. Wood (who also designed the National Museum of Women in the Arts building) helped Barney achieve her vision of an American Salon in the French style, as influenced by her daughter Natalie.

Artist, playwright, and on occasion, ballet choreographer, Mrs. Barney enhanced the artistic and cultural life of Washington, D.C. with her many lectures, discussions and tableaux performed at her Sheridan Circle home. Among her many admirers and friends, artists James Abbott McNeill Whistler and John Singer Sargent had the greatest influence on her career. Frequent guests to Studio House included dancer Ruth St. Denis, actress Sarah Bernhardt, President Teddy Roosevelt, and Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Upon Barney's death in 1931, daughters Laura Dreyfus-Barney, a noted follower of the Bahá'í religion and Natalie Barney, a well-known writer, inherited her entire estate, then donated Studio House and its contents to the Smithsonian Institute.

Chronology

1857	<i>January 14.</i> Born Alice Pike, she is the youngest of the four children. Father Samuel Pike is a multimillionaire, making his money by distilling Magnolia brand whiskey. He is also well-known for constructing two opera houses: one in Cincinnati and one in New York City.
1874	Alice sets sail for France with mother Ellen and her two sisters, where Alice would make the acquaintance of Charles Émile Auguste Carolus-Duran.
1876	<i>January 11.</i> Alice marries Albert Clifford Barney, son of Barney-Smith Car Works Owner E. E. Barney, three days before her nineteenth birthday. <i>October 31.</i> Daughter Natalie Clifford is born in New York.
1879	<i>November 30.</i> Daughter Laura Alice is born in Cincinnati.
1889	The Barney family moves to Washington, D.C. when Albert tires of Cincinnati society, believing his family will gain acceptance into the top social echelon of Washington based on their financial station.
1898	Alice travels to Paris where she begins studying with American artist James Abbott McNeill Whistler, forming a life-long friendship.
1901	<i>November 2.</i> Alice's first one-woman show opens at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Fifty-five works are on display, all but two are portraits.

<p>1902</p>	<p>Construction begins on Studio House, Barney's Spanish-Mission style home, designed by architect Waddy B. Wood.</p> <p><i>December 5.</i> Albert Clifford Barney, weakened by a stroke suffered the previous year while vacationing in Bar Harbor, dies in Monte Carlo. Only Natalie travels to claim the body.</p>
<p>1905</p>	<p>Barney purchases one of Washington's oldest residences, the home of former Judge, to be used as a settlement house called the Neighborhood House.</p> <p><i>December 18.</i> Holds her first "Evening at Studio House", which includes dinner and the entertainment of actress and guest Eva Palmer, a plan she developed to show Washingtonians "how to live a cultured life."</p>
<p>1909</p>	<p>Alice falls in love with Christian Dominique Hemmick, a twenty-two-year-old who had taken a role in her play <i>Man in the Moon</i>. Alice is fifty-two years old at the time.</p>
<p>1911</p>	<p><i>April 15.</i> In a double wedding ceremony in Paris, mother and daughter are married. Alice to Christian and Laura to Hippolyte Dreyfus, a widely published scholar and leader in the Parisian Bahá'í community.</p>
<p>1920</p>	<p><i>August 28.</i> A Chicago judge grants Christian Hemmick's petition of divorce on grounds of desertion. Living apart for some time, the couple agrees to divorce, and Christian is given \$10,000 as settlement.</p>
<p>1924</p>	<p>Barney leaves Washington, D.C. for Hollywood, CA after her play <i>Driven</i> is received poorly.</p>
<p>1931</p>	<p><i>October 12.</i> Alice Pike Barney dies at the age of 74. She is survived by daughters Laura Dreyfus-Barney and Natalie Barney</p>

Scope and Content Notes

This collection consists of material generated by the organization known as the Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc. from 1992 to 2001. The collection is separated into three sections: *Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc.*, *Alice Pike Barney Studio House*, and *Alice Pike Barney Biographical Material*.

The files in the first record group relate to the Friends and material they produced during the time they were active. This includes a history of the house, meeting records from 1991 to 2000, membership material, financial files and correspondence. The most significant section is material related to the Friends main focus, which was producing the *Proposal for a Working Relationship Between the Smithsonian Institute and The Friends of the Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc.* which eventually was presented to SI, but did not prevent SI from selling the house.

Material related solely on the house itself before and after it was a museum is found in the next record group. This section contains museum-related material such as the sign-in book from the house, programs from events held there, proposals for renovation, as well as building and structural plans. The sale of the house as well as the de-accessioning of the contents is also included in this section. A collection of news clippings and interior/exterior photographs of the house date from 1980s to 2001.

Alice Pike Barney had an active life in Washington, D.C., organizing theatrical events, art shows and other cultural and fund raising events. The last record group contains biographical information, programs from her theatrical productions, and news clippings starting from the 1900s. Information on the Barney Neighborhood House, founded by Alice Pike Barney to bring the arts to poorer neighborhoods is also within this collection. Files accumulated by Jean L. Kling, author of the Biography, *Alice Pike Barney: her life and art*, detail her life in the arts and her efforts to bring the fine arts to Washington, D.C. Clippings from the 1900s and photographs of Barney are included in this section. Both daughters of Alice Pike Barney led active lives in the arts and social causes. The correspondence of Laura Barney Dreyfuss documents her involvement in The International Women's Council and the Peace and Disarmament Committee. Natalie Barney lived in Paris for many years where she had a relationship with Romaine Brooks and held salons, in which she interacted with many well-known artists. Information on artist Romaine Brooks is included in the files.

Records Arrangement

Record Group 1: Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House, Inc.

- Series 1: Histories
- Series 2: Printed Material
- Series 3: Membership
- Series 4: Meetings
- Series 5: Events
- Series 6: Financial Files
- Series 7: Correspondence
- Series 8: Smithsonian Proposals

Record Group 2: Alice Pike Barney Studio House

- Series 1: Museum-Related Material
- Series 2: Proposals
- Series 3: Building Plans/Structural Reports
- Series 4: House/Furniture Sale Files
- Series 5: Clippings
- Series 6: Photographs

Record Group 3: Alice Pike Barney Biographical Material

- Series 1: Biographical Files
- Series 2: Clippings
- Series 3: Photographs
- Series 4: Kling Book
- Series 5: Barney Neighborhood House Files
- Series 6: Laura Barney Dreyfuss

Container List

BOX	Record Group	SERIES	FILE #	DESCRIPTION	
1	Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House	<i>History</i>	1	Background Information	
			<i>Printed Material</i>	1	Fundraising Pamphlets
				2	Letterhead & Envelopes
				3	Press Releases
		4		No Date	
		<i>Membership</i>	1	Membership Lists	
			2	FOAPBSH Advisory Committee	
			3	Supporters of FOAPBSH	
			4	Membership Correspondence	
		<i>Meetings</i>	1	Meeting Notes 1991	
			2	Meeting Notes 1992	
			3	Meeting Notes 1993	
			4	Meeting Notes 1994	
			5	Meeting Notes 1995	
			6	Meeting Notes 1997	
			7	Meeting Notes 1998	
			8	Meeting Notes 1999	
			9	Meeting Notes 2000	
			10	Meeting Notes No Date	
		<i>Events</i>	1	Events 1994	
			2	Lecture at Woodrow Wilson House (4/12/98)	
			3	Party at Cosmos Club (4/20/98)	
			4	Guestbook Cosmos Club Meeting (4/20/98)	

BOX	Record Group	SERIES	FILE #	DESCRIPTION
1	Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House	<i>Events</i>	5	Slide Lecture Presentation (2/23/99)
			6	National Trust Conference (1999)
			7	Party (11/3/00)
2		<i>Financial Files</i>	1	Incorporation
			2	Tax Exempt Status
			3	Donation Lists
			4	Application for Funding Resources
			5	Banking Statements & Financial Information
		<i>Correspondence</i>	1	Correspondence 1993
			2	Letters to Charles Cassell (DC State Historical Review Board 1994)
			3	Correspondence 1994
			4	Correspondence 1995
			5	Correspondence (Attorney Nettler's Letters) 1995
			6	Correspondence 1996
			7	Correspondence 1997
		<i>Proposals</i>	8	Correspondence 1998
			9	Correspondence 1999
			10	Correspondence 2000
11	Correspondence 2001			
		12	Correspondence (No Date)	
		1	Proposal for "Working Relationship" Drafts and Correspondence	
		2	Proposal for a Working Relationship Between FOAPBSH and SI - Final	

BOX	Record Group	SERIES	FILE #	DESCRIPTION		
2	Friends of Alice Pike Barney Studio House	<i>Proposals</i>	3	Draft – Prospectus for Nonprofit Owners on Barry Studio House		
			4	Draft Outline of SI Proposal		
			5	Proposal for Future Use of Home		
3	Alice Pike Barney Studio House	<i>Museum-related Materials</i>	1	Building History		
			2	Docent Material on APB & House		
			3	“Alice Doesn’t Live Here Anymore” Paper by Wanda Corn		
			4	APB House Guest Book (1981-1990)		
			5	Historic Tours of House		
			6	Evenings at Barney Studio House (1983-1986)		
			7	Smithsonian 1996 Annual Report		
			8	DC Historic Preservation Review Board, re: Landmark Nomination		
				<i>Proposals (Smithsonian)</i>	1	Smithsonian Proposal by Jean Kling (1992)
				<i>Building Plans/Structural Reports</i>	1	APB House Plans
		2	Structural Reports on House			
4		<i>House/Furniture Sale Files</i>	1	Smithsonian Decision to Sell		
			2	House Sale Brochure		
			3	Draft for Sale Pamphlet by Friends		
			4	Wayne James’ Proposal to Buy Barney House and Renovate		
			5	Correspondence Concerning Latvian Embassy and Zoning		
			6	James M. and Julie P. Edwards – Prospective Buyers		
			7	Zoning Hearing Material & Correspondence		

BOX	Record Group	SERIES	FILE #	DESCRIPTION	
4	Alice Pike Barney Studio House	<i>House/Furniture Sale Files</i>	8	De-accessioning of Furnishings	
			9	Furnishings from the Barney Studio House (2000)	
			10	English & Continental Furniture and Decorations (2000)	
			<i>Clippings</i>	1	Clippings (1970s)
				2	Clippings (1980s)
				3	Clippings (1990-1996)
				4	Clippings (1997-2001)
				5	Undated Clippings
		6		DC Preservation League Ad	
		7		Washington History Magazine of The Historic Society of Washington, D.C. (Spring 1990)	
		<i>Photographs</i>	8	Lexus-Nexus	
			1	Photos House	
			2	Photos House	
			3	New Owners (Music People)	
5	Alice Pike Barney Material		<i>Biographical Files</i>	1	Programs for Shows/Plays
		2		“Alice Pike Barney: Paintings in Oil & Pastel” (1957)	
		3		Alice Pike Barney Memorial Collection	
		4		“Where Shadows Live: Alice Pike Barney & Her Friends” (1978)	
		5		Archive Guide to APB at AAA	
		6		Material on Romaine Brooks (long-time partner of daughter Natalie Barney)	
		<i>Clippings</i>	1	Articles on Family of APB	
			2	Early 1900s Clippings	
			3	Early Articles	
		<i>Photographs</i>	1	Photos APB	
2	Photos Headstones and Graves of APB and Husband				

BOX	Record Group	SERIES	FILE #	DESCRIPTION			
5	Alice Pike Barney Materials	<i>Kling Book</i>	1	Chapters from APB Book			
			2	Pages from APB Biography			
			3	Jean L. Kling Book – Party			
			4	Photos – Contact Sheets for Book Party (9/27/94)			
			5	Smithsonian Press Book Release			
		<i>Barney Neighborhood House Files</i>	1	Settlement House Information			
			2	Neighborhood House 96 th Anniversary Party (4/4/98)			
			3	Pamphlet – The Barney Neighborhood House & Social & Industrial Development			
			6		<i>Laura Barney Dreyfus</i>	1	Copies- Letters, Poems, & Newsletters
						2	International Women’s Council Pamphlets/Brochures
3	Correspondence re: Rosa Manus						
4	Correspondence – Not Dated						
5	Correspondence – (1951-1953)						
6	Correspondence: To and From (1938-1942)						
7	Peace and Disarmament Committee (1938-9142)						
8	International Women’s Council						