

ALBANY INSTITUTE  
OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the  
Burlingame House Photograph Collection

**Collection Summary**

**Collection Title:** Burlingame House Photograph Collection

**Call Number:** PC 14

**Creator:** Francis S. (Doc) Rivett

**Inclusive Dates:** c. 1920

**Bulk Dates:** c.1920

**Abstract:**

**Quantity:** 15

**Administrative Information**

**Custodial History:** Acquired by purchase from Dennis Holzman in 1993.

**Preferred Citation:** PC 14. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

**Acquisition Information:** Acquired by purchase from Dennis Holzman in 1993

Accession #: 1993.279. 1 -- .15

Accession Date: n.d.

**Processing Information:**

Processed by Doc Rivett; completed on Feb. 26, 2004

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access:**

**Restrictions on Use:**

**Index Term**

**Persons****Organizations****Subjects****Places**

54 Willett Street, Albany

**Document Types**

Photographs

**Titles****Biography/History of**

Westcott Burlingame, an automobile dealer, purchased this house in 1920 and had it altered to plans by Worthington Palmer. Palmer also designed 371 State Street. Both have Flemish-bond brickwork with lavish marble trim; at 54 Willett, marble steps rise in a sweeping curve. The iron work was fabricated by James McKinney and Sons of Albany.

At the time Mr. Burlingame bought the house, he had the Cadillac and, later, LaSalle franchise at his agency at 95 Washington Avenue. By the early 1930s, he had moved the agency to 314 Central Avenue and was handling Studebaker and Rockne cars; a few years later he transferred to Ford, Lincoln and Lincoln Zephyr cars. By the early 1930s, he had moved from 54 Willett to Altamont.

The house at 54 Willett had been built in 1880 by Anthony N. Brady, a transit and utilities magnate.

**Scope and Contents of the Collection**

All photographs concern 54 Willett Street; two are exterior views, the rest interiors.

**Organization of the Collection**

The 15 photographs are in one series.

**Related Material**

**Separated Materials --None**

**Other Finding Aids**

## Detailed Description of the Collection

All the photographs were made circa 1920 when Mr. Burlingame moved into the house. The photograph of an ironwork gate is by Lena photographers; all others are by Fellowcrafts Photo Shop.

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

### Series # I

| Box # | Folder # | Description   |
|-------|----------|---|
| 1     | 1        | 1-15 exterior and interior views of 54 Willet Street. |