



HISTORIC  
NEW ENGLAND

*Defining the past. Shaping the future.*

141 Cambridge Street  
Boston MA 02114-2702

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Permit No. 58621



## ACQUISITIONS

# A New Haven Back Yard

Collecting images and documents that tell the stories of life in New England in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries is a priority for the Library and Archives. This c. 1940 watercolor, attributed to artist Robert T. Riley, does just that. Riley and other artists of this period recorded working-class settings. *New Haven Back Yard* highlights a side of the city's life that is rarely documented, illustrating the backs of houses with fire escapes and parking areas without sentimentality. The portrayal of this neighborhood provides a contrast to the Yale University campus with its grand architecture and even grander intellectual presence that often overshadows other communities in New Haven. The acquisition of this watercolor supports Historic New England's *Everyone's History* initiative, an effort to document the most varied experiences of twentieth- and twenty-first-century life in the region.

—Abigail Cramer  
Librarian/Archivist



***New Haven Back Yard*, attributed to Robert T. Riley, c. 1940. Library and Archives Purchase.**