

Middletown Hydraulic Company  
(1850-1967)  
MS - 42

Wright State University  
Department of Special Collections and Archives

Processed by:  
Robert H. Smith  
June 1977

## Introduction

Provenance: Negotiations for the acquisition of the Middletown Hydraulic Collection began in April, 1976. The Archives learned of the existence of this collection through the Miami Conservancy District, who recently purchased the land where the hydraulic was situated. Negotiations were immediately initiated with the Sorg Paper Company in Middletown where the records were being stored. Our contact at Sorg was Mr. Robert Arthur and through him we made arrangements to inventory the files in November 1976. After further negotiation and approval of the Board of Trustees of the paper company, transfer of the records was made in February, 1977.

## Scope and Content

The files of the Middletown Hydraulic Company can be divided into four basic record series groups: Administrative; Financial; Legal; and General. The extremely important administrative records are the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Articles of Incorporation, both located in Box 1. The remaining files in the Administrative series, located in Boxes 1-4, consist primarily of correspondence (1851-1969). Unfortunately, much of the earlier correspondence of the company does not exist.

The Financial record group is also quite complete. Cash books and ledgers (1853-1967) elaborately illustrate the growth of the company, the supplies it purchased, who the customers were, etc. Likewise, yearly tax returns (1910-1967) for the company give the researcher a picture of the size of the business. One other very interesting document located in Box 4 is an itemized list of the costs of the construction of the hydraulic (supplies, labor, etc.) from 1852-1854.

Legal files comprise the materials in Boxes 7-10. Boxes 7 and 8 contain legal correspondence as well as court cases against the company. Land agreements, leases and indentures (1851-1955) make up Box 9, while Xerox copies of deeds (1818-1928) for land are housed in Box 10. These land records, of course, are of immense value to the researchers.

Box 11 of the general files consists of miscellaneous records most of which is recent material. There is one interesting file on hydroelectric output that dates from 1872 through 1936. The last Box, No. 12, contains numerous maps, drawings, and blueprints of the hydraulic at different locations. This material is obviously very important and should not be overlooked by the researcher.

Container Listing

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Articles of Incorporation; Agreement with the City of Middletown	n.d.
	2	Board of Directors, Minutes of Meetings	1854-1855, 1865-1902
	3	Board of Directors, Proxies of Annual Meetings	1936-1944
	4	Correspondence	1851-1859
	5	Correspondence	1860-1871
	6	Correspondence	1873-1879
	7	Correspondence	1882-1898
	8	Correspondence	1903-1904
	9	Correspondence	1905
2	1	Correspondence	1906
	2	Correspondence	1907
	3	Correspondence	1908
	4	Correspondence	1909
	5	Correspondence	1910
	6	Correspondence	1911
	***	Loose-filed: Correspondence, letter press	1904-1915
3	1	Correspondence	1912-1913
	2	Correspondence	1914-1915
	3	Correspondence	1916-1919
	4	Correspondence	1920-1926
	5	Correspondence	1927-1929
	6	Correspondence	1930-1934
	7	Correspondence	1935
	8	Correspondence	1936
4	1	Correspondence	1937-1938
	2	Correspondence	1939-1941
	3	Correspondence	1942-1947
	4	Correspondence	1951-1954
	5	Correspondence	1956-1959
	6	Correspondence	1960-1969
	7	Correspondence	n.d.
	8	Newsclippings	n.d.
	9	Itemized listing of costs of Hydraulic Canal	1852-1854
	10	Miscellaneous Financial Records	1840's, 1866, 1873-1876
5	1	Financial Statements	1887-1899

	2	Financial Statements	1900-1920
	3	Financial Statements	1921-1936
	4	Financial Statements	1944-1969
	5	Financial Statements	n.d.
	6	Financial Statements, Traveler's Expense Register	1904-1905
	7	Financial Statements – List of Stockholders and Letters to Stockholders	1954-1969, 1957-1968
	8	Financial Statements – Stockholders – Misc.	n.d.
	9	Financial Statements – Tax Return – Domestic Corp., Annual Reports; and Capital Stock	1910-1955, 1914-1945
6	1	Financial Tax Returns	1910-1919
	2	Financial Tax Returns	1920-1923, 1929
	3	Financial Tax Returns	1930-1939
	4	Financial Tax Returns	1940-1947
	5	Financial Tax Returns	1951-1959
	6	Financial Tax Returns	1960-1967
7	1	Legal Files – Correspondence	1899, 1904, 1910, 1925
	2	Legal Files – Correspondence	1926
	3	Legal Files – Correspondence	1927, 1942
	4	Legal Files – Crabbe vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.	ca. 1965
	5	Legal Files – Crabbe vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co. Testimony	n.d.
	6	Legal Files – Crabbe vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co. Testimony	n.d.
8	1	Legal Files – Colin Gardner Paper Co. vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.	ca. 1900
	2	Legal Files – Tytus-Gardner Paper Co. vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.	ca. 1895
	3	Legal Files – Richard H. Henderson vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.	ca. 1860
	4	Legal Files – Joseph Sutphin vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.; District Court	ca. 1882
	5	Legal Files – Joseph Sutphin vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.; Common Pleas Court	ca. 1882
	6	Legal Files – Joseph Sutphin vs. Middletown Hydraulic Co.; Common Pleas Court	ca. 1882
	7	Legal Files – Miscellaneous Cases	n.d.
9	1	Legal Files – Lawyers Case Notes (Misc.)	n.d.
	2	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1851-1853
	3	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1854-1869
	4	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1870-1898

	5	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1900-1910
	6	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1911-1917
	7	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1918-1926
	8	Legal Files – Agreements, Leases, Indentures	1927-1955, n.d.
10	1	Legal Files - Deeds	1818, 1823, 1848-1950
	2	Legal Files - Deeds	1852-1953
	3	Legal Files - Deeds	1855-1859
	4	Legal Files - Deeds	1860-1869
	5	Legal Files - Deeds	1870-1882
	6	Legal Files - Deeds	1883-1928
	7	Legal Files - Miscellaneous	n.d.
11	1	Columbia Bridge Improvement	1960-1963
	2	Sorg-City Electric Transit Line	1954-1963
	3	American Insurance Co. and Butler Insurance Co.	1933-1954, 1860-1862
	4	Board of Public Works Co.	1900
	5	Hydro-Electric Power Output	1872-1936
	6	Miscellaneous	n.d.
	7	Photographs	n.d.
12	***	Loose Filed: Misc. Maps, Drawings, Blueprints	n.d.

**\*\*Loose Filed on Shelf\*\***

Cash Book (1 Volume)	1853-1973
Cash Books and Journals (3 Volumes)	1885-1964
Ledgers – Dividends, Expenses, Etc. (4 Volumes)	1855-1967
Trial Balance Books (3 Volumes)	1904-1938
Account Book (1 Volume)	1932
Weekly Time Book (1 Volume)	1936-1938
Stock Ledger (1 Volume)	1885-1958