



Finding Aid for

FORD HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMPANY RECORDS, 1917-1952
Accession 311

Finding Aid Published: September 2011



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
www.thehenryford.org
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 311

CREATOR: Ford Motor Company. Office of the Secretary.

TITLE: Ford Hydro-Electric Company records

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1917-1952

QUANTITY: 0.4 cubic ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: The Ford Hydro-Electric Company was one of many companies owned by Henry Ford that supported various aspects of the automobile production process. These records include correspondence and other documents produced by the company as well as stock certificates for the Banner Fork Coal Company.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** Materials are open for research
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** Ford Motor Company Archives donation, 1964.
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:
- Domestic Corporation records series, 1886-1960 (bulk 1911-1955).
- Water Power records subseries, 1918-1945, Accession 288
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 311, Ford Hydro-Electric Company records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, December 1962.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, and published in December 1962.
- Finding aid written by Elyssa Bisoski, September 2011, and published in September 2011.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Henry Ford owned a variety of non-automobile companies that supported automobile production, from the gathering of natural resources to the sale of the finished automobile. One of his main interests in this area was in water power. Ford built many hydroelectric plants to power various factories, most being in the southeastern Michigan area but others on rivers throughout the country. One such plant was built on the Menominee River, on the border between Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin, in 1924. The plant supplied power to a sawmill and wood chemical plant that processed timber from the tract of local forest owned by Ford. Due to the fact that the river, and thus the dam to power the plant, was on the border between the two states, Ford was obligated to form a new company that would be incorporated in Wisconsin. Therefore the Ford Hydro-Electric Company, a Wisconsin company with offices in Dearborn, Michigan, was incorporated in 1923. This company managed the relationship between the plant and the state of Wisconsin until Ford Motor Company sold the plant in 1951.

The Banner Fork Coal Company in Kentucky, records of which are also found in this collection, was another company acquired by Henry Ford to aid in automobile production. The acquisition of the coal mine gave Ford access to the coal necessary to power steel mills. Although Banner Fork was the first, bought by Ford in 1922, he later acquired multiple coal companies in Kentucky and West Virginia.

Sources:

Bryan, Ford Richardson. *Beyond the Model T: The Other Ventures of Henry Ford*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1997.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Ford Hydro-Electric Company records consist of correspondence, meeting minutes, articles of incorporation and other documentation pertaining to the Ford Hydro-Electric Company. Also in the records are stock certificates from the Banner Fork Coal Company of Kentucky. Half the stock certificates are filled out with names and dates while half remain blank. The date of the papers ranges from 1917 to 1952 with the bulk from 1923-1952.

ARRANGEMENT

The material is arranged in chronological order.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947

Ford, Henry, 1917-1987

Ford, Edsel, 1893-1943

Ford Motor Company. Office of the Secretary.

Ford Hydro-Electric Company

Banner Fork Coal Company

Subjects

Affiliated corporations

Subsidiary corporations

Water-power

Hydroelectric power plants

Coal mines and mining

Geographic

Coal--Kentucky

Dams--Wisconsin

Genre and Form

Stock certificates

Articles of incorporation

Corporate minutes

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

Ford Hydro-Electric Company #1, 1924-1948
Stock Certificates, 1925-1926 (1 bound volume)
Ford Hydro-Electric Company #2, 1949-1952
Stock Certificates, Banner Fork Coal Company, 1917 (1 bound volume)