



Finding Aid for

WATER POWER AND REAL ESTATE RECORDS SERIES, 1918-1945

SE 006

Accessions 288 and 289

Finding Aid Published: March 2012



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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: 288 and 289

CREATOR: Ford, Henry, 1863-1947

TITLE: Water Power and Real Estate records series

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1918-1945

QUANTITY: 16 cubic ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: Henry Ford purchased substantial tracts of farmland in southeast Michigan and timber and mining properties in other parts of the country. The Water Power and Real Estate records series consists of two subseries that contain records from the various properties owned by Ford.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The series is 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:
Part of the Personal topics subject file subgroup, which includes:
- Frank Campsall records series, Accessions 292 and 293
- Non-automotive interests and activities records series, Accessions 62 and 413
- General personal records series, Accession 23
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 288 **or** 289, Water Power and Real Estate records series, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, January 1963 and April 1964.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, January 1963 and April 1964.

Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, March 2012, and published in March 2012.

Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In addition to the purchase of around twenty hydroelectric facilities or "village industries" in southeast Michigan as well as facilities in Green Island, New York, and St. Paul, Minnesota, Henry Ford purchased substantial tracts of farmland in southeast Michigan and timber and mining properties in other parts of the country. Over time he acquired around 26,000 acres of farmland and hydroelectric property in southeast Michigan, 75,000 acres of timber and rice land at Richmond Hill, Georgia, and 400,000 acres of timber and iron mining land in northern Michigan, among other properties. Most of the farmland was retained as individual farms where tenants and their families lived and worked.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Water Power and Real Estate records series consists of two subseries. The Water Power records subseries, 1918-1945 (5.2 cubic ft.), Accession 288, includes correspondence, maps, reports, photographs and other materials related to water power (hydroelectric) properties owned by Ford including the Michigan properties of Brooklyn, Clarkston, Dexter, Dundee, Flat Rock, Macon, Manchester, Milan, Milford, Newburg (also listed as Newburgh), Northville, Plymouth, Sault St. Marie, Waterford and Ypsilanti among others; and properties at Saint Paul, Minnesota; South Sudbury, Massachusetts; other non-Michigan cities and Brazil. Also included are materials pertaining to properties Ford had an interest in purchasing or his office was contacted regarding purchase. The collection is arranged alphabetically by city or country name.

The Real Estate records subseries, 1918-1939 (10.8 cubic ft.), Accession 289, consists of files kept by William T. Gregory, a real estate agent for Ford. Files include correspondence, maps, blueprints and statements for properties owned by Henry Ford or those offered for sale to or requested for purchase by his office. Properties include farm, house and apartment rentals and commercial developments in Michigan cities such as Carleton, Dearborn, Detroit, Farmington, Flat Rock, Grosse Ile, Iron Mountain, Macon, Milford, Nankin Mill, Newburg, Northville, Phoenix Mill, Pinckney, Trenton and Waterford. The farm properties were managed by Ray Dahlinger, General Manager of the Ford Farms. Properties outside of Michigan include Green Island, New York, Hamilton, Ohio and John Burroughs' property at Roxbury, New York (including Woodchuck Lodge) which the Fords helped him and his wife Ursula acquire in 1913 and subsequently purchased upon Burroughs' death in 1922. Material is also available for Ford's yacht Sialia, The Botsford Inn, Edsel Ford's Jefferson Avenue (Detroit) and Grosse Pointe properties, properties owned by the Ford Foundation, Ford Motor Company branches and plants including Highland Park and the Rouge, the Lincoln Motor Company plant on Warren Avenue, the Kirkby Apartments in Detroit, Dearborn Aviation Park Subdivision and Robert Herndon Realty Company's Dearborn properties. The collection also includes a number of solicitations for employment with Ford Motor Company or Henry Ford Farms. The collection is arranged alphabetically by last name of correspondent, company name, subject or city.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Ford, Henry, 1863-1947
Ford, Edsel, 1863-1943--Homes and haunts
Burroughs, John 1837-1921
Dahlinger, Raymond C., 1885-1969
Sialia (Ship)
Ford Motor Company
Botsford Inn
Detroit, Toledo, and Ironton Railroad
Ford Foundation
Ford Motor Company. Highland Part Plant
Ford Motor Company. Rough River Plant
Ford Motor Company. Real Estate Department
Ford Village Industries
Henry Ford Farms
Lincoln Motor Company
Wayside Inn (Sudbury, Mass.)

Subjects

Dams
Housing--Michigan
Hydroelectric power plants
Real property
Rental housing
Water-power

Geographic

Brazil
Brooklyn (Mich.)
Carleton (Mich.)
Clarkston (Mich.)
Dearborn (Mich.)
Detroit (Mich.)
Dundee (Mich.)
Farmington (Mich.)
Flat Rock (Mich.)
Green Island (N.Y.)
Grosse Ile (Mich.)
Hamilton (Ohio)
Iron Mountain (Mich.)
Macon (Mich.)
Manchester (Mich.)
Milan (Mich.)
Milford (Mich.)

SUBJECT TERMS continued:

Geographic

Nankin (Mich.: Township)

Newburg (Mich.)

Northville (Mich.)

Pinckney (Mich.)

Plymouth (Mich.)

Saint Paul (Minn.)

Sault Sainte Marie (Mich.)

South Sudbury (Mass.)

Tecumseh (Mich.)

Trenton (Mich.)

Waterford (Mich.)

Ypsilanti (Mich.)

Genre or Form

Blueprints (reprographic copies)

Contracts

Maps

Reports

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Box no. **Description**

ACCESSION 288 - WATER POWER RECORDS SUBSERIES, 1918-1945

Box 1

Adrian, Michigan
 Red Mill
 White Mill
Allegan, Michigan
Bainbridge, Ohio
Blissfield, Michigan
Boonton, New Jersey
Brazil
Brighton, Michigan
Brooklyn, Michigan

Box 2

Clarkston, Michigan (see also: Waterford)
Cleves, Ohio
Commerce, Michigan
Deerfield, Michigan
Dexter, Michigan
Dundee, Michigan.
Flat Rock, Michigan
Green Island, New York

Box 3

Hudson Mills, Michigan (see also: Dexter)
L'Anse, Michigan
Litchfield, Michigan
Macon, Michigan
Manchester, Michigan
Milan, Michigan
Milford, Michigan
Monroe, Michigan
Moshenrille, Michigan
Mount Clemens, Michigan
Nankin Mills, Michigan

Box 4

New Baltimore, Ohio
New Boston, Michigan
Newburgh, Michigan
Hew Hudson, Michigan

Box 5

Northville, Michigan

Box 6

North Wayne, Maine
Norwell, Michigan
Onsted, Michigan
Pellston, Michigan
Petersburg, Michigan
Pinckney, Michigan
Pittsford, Michigan
Plymouth, Michigan
Pontiac, Michigan
Portland, Oregon
Priest Rapids, Washington

Box 7

Rochester, Indiana
Rochester, Michigan
Rockwood, Michigan
Rollin, Michigan
Romeo, Michigan
Royal Oak, Mich.
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Box 8

Saint Paul, Minnesota
Saline, Michigan
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Box 9

Sharon Hollow, Michigan
Sierra Blue lakes, California
Smyrna, Michigan
Southfield, Michigan

Box 10

South Sudbury, Massachusetts
Springville, Michigan
Swanton, Vermont
Tecumseh, Michigan
Traverse City, Michigan
Troy, New York

Box 11

Union City, Michigan
Utica, Michigan
Vandercooks Lake, Michigan
Wallaceville, Michigan
Waterford & Clarkston, Michigan
Waterloo, Michigan
Wolfville, Nova Scotia
Woodsdale, Ohio
Worcester, Massachusetts

Box 12

Yakima, Washington
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Box 13

Ypsilanti, Michigan
Zurich, Kansas

ACCESSION 289 - REAL ESTATE RECORDS SUBSERIES, 1918-1939

Box 1

A - B General

Box 2

Ball - Butes

Box 3

C - Cronenvelt

Box 4

D - Detroit

Box 5

Dexter - Flat Rock

Box 6

Ford - Ford, Edsel

Box 7

Ford Foundation - Henry Ford Farms

Box 8

Ford Motor Company - branches - Dearborn

- Box 9**
Ford Motor Company - H.P. - Rouge
- Box 10**
G - Green Island
- Box 11**
Gregory - Grosse Ile (H. Bennett)
- Box 12**
H - Harris
- Box 13**
Hause - Hutton
- Box 14**
Iron Mountain - Johnson
- Box 15**
K - Kirby Apartments
- Box 16**
L - Lincoln Motor Company
- Box 17**
Lyons - Macon
- Box 18**
Macy- Ottes
- Box 19**
P - Property Requested
- Box 20**
Property offered
- Box 21**
Q - Russell
- Box 22**
S - Sialia
- Box 23**
South Charleston-Statements

Box 24

Statements

Box 25

T - Vander Voort

Box 26

W - Woodward Ave, Highland Park

Box 27

X - Y - Z (Ypsilanti)