



City of Manchester Archives
One City Hall Plaza
Manchester, NH 03101
603.624.6455 – mintranuovo@manchesternh.gov
www.manchesternh.gov/archives

Collection Summary

Repository: Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.

Creator: Manchester Sesquicentennial Commission, Inc., City of Manchester, NH.

Title: Manchester Sesquicentennial Commission, Inc. Records

Collection Number: 9800.006

Accession Number: 2009.36

Dates: 1990-1996. (Bulk dates: 1994-1996)

Volume: 1.5 cu ft., 2 oversized boxes, 37 color photographs.

Languages: Collection materials are in English.

Related Collections: [City Hall Restoration Committee, Inc. Records \(9800.005\)](#)

Access: Access to collection is open to the public. Please contact the archives for an appointment to view materials. Cite the collection number, box and folder numbers when making an appointment. Materials may be accessible online; please reference the digital note below. This collection contains 2 audiocassette tapes. The facility does not currently have a device on which to play these tapes.

Digital Note: Materials are not accessible online at this time.

Conservation Notes: Not applicable.

Finding Aid Prepared by: Diane Lynch, April 2016.

Table of Contents

- I. Historical Note ... Page 2 – 3
- II. Collection Description ... Page 4
- III. Series Descriptions and Inventory ... Page 5 – 11

Historical Note

The City of Manchester, N.H. was incorporated in 1846. At this time it was a thriving mill town, focusing primarily on textiles. Hopeful laborers came from far away; especially Canada's French speaking provinces, to find work here. It then had a population of 10, 215 people. Over the years, the mill industry declined. A rich cultural history remained, however, and became the fabric of the modern Manchester. 1996 was to mark Manchester's 150th birthday, or Sesquicentennial. The City's Mayor and Alderman agreed that a celebration was in order. A 1993 Resolution was issued by The Board of Mayor and Alderman creating the Sesquicentennial Commission to plan the upcoming event. The Commission was to be "comprised of one Alderman from each ward or his/her designee whose primary responsibility shall be to set the agenda for the 150th Anniversary celebration."⁴ The Commission was charged with selecting all active committee members from diverse ethnic and religious groups, department heads or their representatives, private and/ or non-profit organizations, students, and the corporate sector. The Mayor was to act as Ex-Officio Chairperson of all active committees.⁵ Time, money, and organization would be important factors in the occasion's success.

A fundraising campaign commenced in 1994, featuring events such as a champagne reception at The Currier Gallery of Art (now the Currier Museum of Art) and a silent auction. Merchandise sales at local functions and the solicitation of funds via grants, private donors and businesses helped fill the event's bank account. Concern loomed, however, that enough monies would be raised to meet the Sesquicentennial's obligations and expectations. In October of 1994, The Commission considered seeking a loan to augment its coffers. These efforts were discouraged and so were some of the Commission members as a result. Correspondence reflects these effects.⁶ Fundraising tasks resumed, and the highly successful Sesquicentennial License Plate program came to fruition in 1996 to raising funds for the restoration of Manchester's City Hall. The state issued commemorative license plates sold out and attempts to extend the program due to its popularity were denied.⁷

The entirety of 1996 was dedicated to celebrating the Manchester City Sesquicentennial, but June 8th was chosen for a series of special events. Derryfield Park hosted public food and music events, family entertainment, a laser light show, and a Ham radio demonstration. On September 22, 1996 a large, privately funded parade (unaffiliated with the Sesquicentennial Commission or the municipal government) featuring local icons, marching bands and drum corps, and country performers took place on Elm St in Manchester.⁸ The parade is documented in color photographs in this collection.⁹

Original Manchester City Sesquicentennial Commission members:

Richard G. French, *Chairman*, Ward 10

Alderman Françoise Elise, *Vice-Chairman*, Ward 2

Toni Pappas, *Treasurer*, Ward 4

Richard Duckoff, *Secretary*, Ward 1

Patricia Hart, Ward 3

Alice T. Wallace, Ward 5

Norman R. Gill, Ward 6

Michael Goonan, Ward 7

Alderman Alfred J. Herbert, Jr., Ward 8

Honorable John C. Mongan, Ward 9

Leon Spenard, Ward 11

Kathleen M. Alati, *Project Facilitator*

In correspondence dated February 7, 1995, Mayor Raymond Wieczorek disbanded the original Commission and its following incarnations. He stated that interpersonal conflicts had reached levels

“beyond repair”. He appointed his own committee to complete the remainder of the Sesquicentennial planning process.¹

The Mayor’s Sesquicentennial Committee Members:

Tom Scwieger, Chamber of Commerce

Brian O’Neil, of Porter, McGee

Franne, Ciriello, Eastlantic Advertising

BJ Eckhardt, Business New Hampshire Magazine

Guy Coriglio, Union Leader

Mark Taylor, Taylor Optical

Collection Description

This collection documents the proceedings, management and planning activities, and general functions of the Sesquicentennial Commission, 1994-1996 (bulk dates). These records were created by members of the Commission during the course of day-to-day business, with the exception of the collection's artifacts and photographs, which were created by other entities and were most likely not used by the Commission. The arrangement within each record series is chronological. The collection includes seven series:

Series I: Reference Materials, 1991-1995
Series II: Legal Financial, 1993-1996
Series III: Fundraising, 1994-1996
Series IV: Promotional, 1993-1996
Series V: Correspondence, 1990-1996
Series VI: Photographs, 1995, 1996 and undated
Series VII: Artifacts, undated.

The collection is mainly paper based, but does contain two audiocassettes, one scrapbook, one commemorative blanket and one commemorative flag. The archive does not currently have equipment available to play the audiocassettes. Items are housed in a total of four containers.

The collection strongly represents the creation and planning process of a major city event across a diverse community, including controversies among members and how the Commission's activities were viewed from the public's perspective. It lacks significant documentation of the harmonious cooperation that surely occurred among volunteers that contributed to the event's success, as well as correspondence from newly appointed Commission members after Mayor Raymond Wieczorek dismissed the original members in 1995.

Record Series V gives the best overview of the Commission's activities and interactions in general. One letter of note, dated Oct. 12, 1994, is from former N.H. Senator Bob Smith, wishing Mayor Wieczorek well on the city's 150th birthday celebration. General correspondence of members during 1994-1996 offers insight into some of the Commission's internal issues. The scrapbook included in Record Series VII offers a general overview of the Commission's activities, and includes newspaper clippings related to controversies surrounding the Commission.

Items in the Legal/Financial Series or Fundraising Series that contain information regarding bank accounts or other personally identifying information have been redacted for privacy.

The collection was transferred to the City Clerk's office and accessioned by the City Archives in 2009.

Series Descriptions & Inventory

Series I: Reference materials, 1991-1995

This series contains information from other NH municipalities and businesses regarding large scale events in N.H. that proved successful. Most took place within a 5-7 year time span prior to the Manchester Sesquicentennial. The Commission was likely looking for a model on which to pattern the Sesquicentennial event, and for ideas for entertainment and fundraising. Newspaper articles, correspondence, brochures and local publications are included.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Reference Materials, 1991-1995	01	01

Series II: Legal Financial, 1993- 1996

This series contains governance documents such as the Commission’s meeting minutes, agendas, and by-laws, as well as a resolution of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that created the Sesquicentennial Commission in 1993. Also included are financial records created by or for the Commission, such as proposed budgets, statements, tax-related papers, and other related documents.

Personally identifiable information of a sensitive nature, such as social security numbers and account numbers, has been redacted.

Arranged chronologically.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Commission Resolution, Correspondence re: insurance, operating expenses, and Commission treasurer. 1993-1994	01	02
Sesquicentennial Commission By-laws and drafts, 1994.	01	03
Proposed budget 1994-1996, income/expense reports for 1994.	01	04
Tax information, 1994-1995	01	05
Meeting Minutes/Governance: Minutes, Agendas, 1994-1995	01	06
Debit slips, financial statements, 1994-1995,	01	07
License plate registration with payment records, 1996	01	08

Series III: Fundraising, 1994-1996

This series contains records documenting the many approaches the Sesquicentennial Committee took in order to raise funds for the celebration. Notable endeavors include a Champagne Reception, Donor Luncheon, Silent Auction, and various plans for entertainment. They also launched a vigorous grant seeking program, and solicited monies from local donors. Records include lists of potential funders and grantors, correspondences between volunteers, Commission members, and donors, handwritten notes, an audio cassette, and other documents. Folder 13 contains an audiocassette of a potential performer, titled *Impulse Jazz*. NOTE: The Archives does not currently have a device on which to play this tape.

Fundraising efforts continued to build momentum toward the event, and a number of Sesquicentennial merchandise options were explored. Commemorative hats, T-shirts, paperweights, and pottery were some of the items considered.

The City Hall Restoration Committee also joined in fundraising at this time. Sesquicentennial License Plates were designed with the community's participation to help raise funds for the renovation of Manchester's City Hall. Its final result earned them an award from the Manchester Historic Association, in 1996 (Folders 16&17). **NOTE:** This is a related collection of files that can be located at City Hall Restoration Committee, Inc. Records (9800.005)

Arranged chronologically.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Methods- Including Champagne Reception, silent auction, and correspondence related to fundraising, 1994	01	09
Methods-Prospective donor luncheon, potential invitee list, correspondence regarding the luncheon. 1994	01	10
Methods-potential performances, including one audiocassette, 1994 Audiocassette labeling is handwritten and is titled <i>Impulse Jazz</i>	01	11
Methods-correspondence regarding Sesquicentennial vendors and merchandise. 1994-1995	01	12
Correspondence regarding grant funding and grant proposals, 1994-1996	01	13
Potential sources, contact lists, handwritten notes, 1994-1996	01	14
Designs for Sesquicentennial License Plates, 1994-1996	01	15
City Hall Renovations, correspondence regarding City Hall renovations, handwritten notes, employer ID number, 1995-1996.	01	16
City Hall Renovations: Award from Manchester Historic Association 1996. Correspondence from Manchester Historic Association, 1994.	01	17

Series IV: Promotional, 1993-1996

This series contains information on the Commission’s activities to promote Manchester’s Sesquicentennial Celebration. It includes example Sesquicentennial brochures for show to potential advertisers, correspondence regarding promotional planning, and promotional sketches and drawings. Also included are copies of newspaper articles regarding Commission events and planning from 1994. Other items of note include an audiocassette and sheet music for *The Sesquicentennial March and Two-Step*, composed by Paul Bordeau. NOTE: The Archives does not currently have a device on which to play this tape.

Arranged chronologically.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Title
Brochures, ad materials, information regarding Manchester’s Centennial celebration, one audiocassette, 1993-1994. Audiocassette has typed label titled Fanfare and March for Sesquicentennial of Manchester, N.H. by Paul Bordeau. Sample (See Box 2, folder 5 for Sesquicentennial March and Two Step sheet music, composed by Paul Bordeau.)	02	01
Sesquicentennial drawings, undated	02	02
Newspaper clippings, press releases, brochures, 1994-1996.	02	03
“50 Years of Change”, outline of publication, undated	02	04
Sesquicentennial March and Two-Step sheet music, undated Composer listed as Paul Bordeau. (See Box 2, folder 1 for audiocassette sample)	02	05

Series V: Correspondence, 1990-1996

This series encompasses the bulk of the correspondence among the various Commission and sub-committee members from 1994-1996. Businesses, community members and even then Senator Bob Smith² weigh in from time to time, but it is largely a record of Commission correspondence regarding when and where to conduct their meetings, how to engage the public with planning, appointments of sub-committee members, and guidance from the City Solicitor on minor legal matters. The themes and tenor of the letters and memoranda began to change over time, and it appears that tensions resulted in significant board turnover. This tension is most apparent in the general correspondence between Board Members, the Mayor, and Community Stakeholders from 1994-1996.

After some period of open and public dispute among members, Mayor Wieczorek implemented a “Mayor’s Sesquicentennial Committee” in February of 1995, dissolving the previously formed “Sesquicentennial Committee”. Correspondence regarding the transition to the newly appointed Mayor’s Commission follows. Additionally, a letter with information regarding a Sesquicentennial re-enactment event, another with a request for more Sesquicentennial license plates. Lastly, there is a thank you to Rose Longo-White and Mrs. Wieczorek for their efforts in the design of a City Hall brochure.

Arranged chronologically.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Title
Correspondence: Planning –feasibility study and drawings regarding the Millyard Railway, 1990.	02	06
Correspondence: Commission members, Commission appointments, 1993-1995	02	07
Correspondence: Planning- Sesquicentennial Commission Letterhead. Three versions.	02	08
Correspondence: Correspondence to volunteers, regarding volunteering opportunities and volunteer questionnaires, 1994	02	09
Correspondence: Planning- Calendars with handwritten dates, event timelines, contact lists, 1994-1996	02	10
Correspondence: General correspondence between board members, the mayor and community stakeholders, 1994-1996	02	11

Series VI: Photographs, 1995, 1996 and undated.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Title
<p>Photographs: Sesquicentennial Celebration photographs. 1996</p> <p>(15) 3x5 color photographs of the Sesquicentennial Parade (9) 10 x 3.5 (panoramic length) color photographs of the Sesquicentennial Parade (1) 4x6 color photograph of Steve Greenbaum, of the Amoskeag Radio Club, conducting Ham radio events during the celebration at Manchester's Derryfield Park. Photo by Bob Raiche.</p>	02	12
<p>Color Photographs: City Hall Renovation Project and Alderman in session, undated. One brochure with margin notes about the City Hall renovation project. Handwritten meeting notes regarding City Hall renovation project, dated February 3, 1995.</p> <p>(1) 3.5 x 5 Color photograph depicting nine Aldermen in session, 1970. (12) 4 X 6 Color exterior photographs of Manchester's City Hall prior to its renovation,</p>	02	13

Series VII: Artifacts, undated.

Folder Title	Box Title	Folder Title
<p>Sesquicentennial Commission Member nameplates, undated.</p> <p>Nameplates are listed alphabetically. This is not a comprehensive list of commission members.</p> <p>Eugene Boisvert Richard Duckoff Richard Fortin Richard French Michael Goonan Alfred J. Hebert, Jr. Richard Honiball John C. Mongan James Morin (this seems to be covering over the name of Norman Gill) Toni Pappas Timothy Reiniger Leon Spenard</p>	02	14
<p>Sesquicentennial Flag – Gift from Leo Bernier, City Clerk, City Of Manchester, to the Mayor and Board of Alderman in honor of the Sesquicentennial Celebration.³</p>	02	15
<p>Scrapbook of Sesquicentennial related materials and events surrounding the preparations for the Sesquicentennial Celebration. Newspaper clippings, invitations to fundraising events, correspondence related to a request for some city funding of the celebration. Creator unknown. (March, 1994- February 1995.)</p>	03	
<p>A fringed cotton blanket, blue and white, depicting Manchester’s historic sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weston Observatory • Gen John Stark • Train Station • Notre Dame Bridge • Carpenter Library • Central High School • Institute of Arts & Sciences • Currier Gallery of Art • Mill Girl Sculpture • St. Marie’s Church • City Hall <p>Script at the top reads ‘Manchester, N.H. 1846-Sesquicentennial-1996.’</p> <p>Script at bottom reads “Commissioned by Kiwanis Club of Manchester. Seventy-five years of service to the community.”</p>	04	

- ¹ Manchester Sesquicentennial Commission, Inc. Records 9800.006. Accession 2009.36. Box 02, Folder 11. Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.
- ² Manchester Sesquicentennial Commission, Inc. Records 9800.006. Accession 2009.36. Box 02, Folder 11. Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.
- ³ Manchester Sesquicentennial Commission, Inc. Records 9800.006. Accession 2009.36. Box 02, Folder 15. Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.
- ⁴ Manchester Sesquicentennial Commission, Inc. Records 9800.006. Accession 2009.36. Box 01, Folder 2. Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.
- ⁵ Manchester Sesquicentennial Commission, Inc. Records 9800.006. Accession 2009.36. Box 01, Folder 2. Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.
- ⁶ Manchester Sesquicentennial Commission, Inc. Records 9800.006. Accession 2009.36. Box 02, Folder 11. Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.
- ⁷ Manchester Sesquicentennial Commission, Inc. Records 9800.006. Accession 2009.36. Box 01, Folder 8
- ⁸ (1996, Sep 23). Huge Parade Celebrates City's 150th. *New Hampshire Union Leader (Manchester, NH)*, p. A1.. Retrieved from <http://infoweb.newsbank.com/resources/doc/nb/news/0F545119F3F1F95F?p=NewsBank>
- ⁹ Manchester Sesquicentennial Commission, Inc. Records 9800.006. Accession 2009.36. Box 02, Folder 12. Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.