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Collection Summary

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

Creator/Collector: Manchester Industrial Council. City of Manchester, NH.

Title: Economic Development Projects

Collection Number: 0609.001

Accession Number: 2015.4

Dates: 1955-1987

Volume: 3.5 cubic feet

Languages: Collection materials are in English.

Related Collections: Completed Business Projects (0609.002)

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.

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

Conservation Notes: Not applicable.

Finding Aid Prepared by: Mike Intranuovo, 2015.

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Historical Note

The Manchester Industrial Council was established on October 10, 1950 by an action of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the recommendation of a special seven member Manchester Industrial Committee appointed by Mayor Josaphat T. Benoit. The Manchester Industrial Committee was created to study and recommend practical measures to reduce local unemployment. Nearly two years after it was founded, the Manchester Industrial Council decided to establish and staff a full time office. Merrill J. Teulon, who was then Director of the Industrial Division of the N.H. State Planning and Development Commission, was hired as Industrial Agent for the Council on September 23, 1952. The Council operated with a staff of two people until January 1, 1963 when Roland H. Sherman was hired as Assistant Industrial Agent.

Although the Council was established by action of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 1950, this was not by formal ordinance. In 1959 a formal ordinance was introduced and then passed in 1960 which stated the purpose of the council was to “[encourage] the welfare of local industries and [promote] the establishment of new industries in Metropolitan Manchester.” Its policies included assisting in the retention and expansion of existing businesses and industries in the area, assisting in developing new industries and businesses which could supply and support those already in the area, assisting in attracting new and diversified industries which would help bring the economy into a better balance, and to publicize Manchester as a good business location.

Collection Description

The Manchester Industrial Council's Economic Development Projects are varied in scope. The records were created by or received by the council during the course of business, and document its efforts in attempting to bring businesses and other entities to the City during the 1950s-1980s. In this collection, there is often no final disposition documentation for many of the council's efforts.

Some records of note include call reports and property records. The call reports create a useful, linear record of communications between the council and various entities; the reports document the council's efforts over a period of time trying to attract specific businesses to Manchester. The property records have a wealth of information on some of the City of Manchester's buildings, including dimensions, the financial value of the buildings at the time, and photographs of the interior and exterior of the structures.

The collection covers a variety of subjects. The text below briefly describes some of the topics covered in the collection, but is not exhaustive.

Central Mill 3 was part of the Amoskeag Mill Complex. The mill had been active in textile and shoe manufacturing, and was owned by B.G.S. Shoe Corporation.

The Greater Manchester Growth Company was developed to assist in Manchester's economic development activities. This program was supported by the Manchester Industrial Council. It was a Small Business Corporation, 502 Lending Program. They issued 15 year debentures to local banks and corporations to help stimulate economic growth.

The Greater Manchester Industrial Corporation was founded to promote the growth and prosperity of the City of Manchester. The organization joined with the Manchester Industrial Council to create the Greater Manchester Development Corporation in 1984.

Greater Manchester Tomorrow Inc began in 1972 when a group of individuals, prominent in the City of Manchester, began discussing how to "develop and implement a process for identifying community goals and focusing attention thereon through the broadest possible participation from the public and private sectors of the Greater Manchester area."

The Grenier Land Surplus was the land deemed by the federal government who determined that the land was no longer needed. Grenier Field was the name of the airport prior and during World War II. It later became part of the Harvey Industrial Park and the Manchester Municipal Airport. There is a map which indicates which land parcels were deemed surplus.

The Manchester Regional Industrial Foundation was set up as a trust with the purpose to promote the public welfare and to preserve and better the economy of Manchester. Many leaders in the community were trustees. They included J. Fred French, Roscoe A. Ammon, Charles Nims, Ralph McIninch, Fred Haigis, Romeo J. Champagne, Walter S. Little, Harold Goldberger, William Loeb and Walter J. Dunfey.

Pine Island Park was an enormous amusement area for the citizens of Manchester. By 1963, it had fallen on hard times and was offered for sale by the owners, Shea Theatres, who operated a drive-in movie theatre. The land was eventually acquired by the Home Insurance Company.

Series Descriptions and Inventory

The records are arranged into four record series, and two sub-series:

1. Call Reports, 1961-1987
2. Correspondence, 1955-1985
3. Newspaper Clippings, 1963-1986
4. Subject Files, 1956-1985
 - 4.1 Property Plans, 1963
 - 4.2 Property Records, 1956-1977

Series 1: Call Reports, 1961-1987

Call reports are typed logs of summarized telephone conversations between the Manchester Industrial Council and various entities and individuals. They list the date of the conversation and often times cite the name of the contact person. The reports cover a variety of topics, and are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Greater Manchester Growth Company, Inc., 1977; 1979-1980; 1982	481	07
Greater Manchester Industrial Corporation, 1965-1966; 1977-1978; 1982-1985	481	10
Grenier Field Surplus Property, 1972-1975	482	02
Manchester Housing Authority Downtown Revitalization, 1978-1983	482	06
Manchester Regional Industrial Foundation, 1961-1978; 1981-1982; 1985-1986	483	01
Mondev USA, Inc., 1977-1978	483	06
New Hampshire Technical Institute, 1961-1963	483	09
Northeast Industrial Park, 1962-1964	483	11
Pine Island Park, 1968-1969; 1971-1977; 1980; 1983-1984; 1987	484	06
Schlitz Brewing Company, 1968-1971	483	14
Schlitz Brewing Company, 1971-1977	483	15
University of New Hampshire Merrimack Valley Branch, 1966-1971	484	03

Series 2: Correspondence, 1955-1985

Correspondence includes mostly typed, but also handwritten, letters and memorandums between the Manchester Industrial Council and various entities and individuals. Attachments to correspondence were

left in files, and may contain reports, maps, and other related items. This series covers a variety of topics and is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
186 Granite Street, 1955-1967	484	01
Greater Manchester Growth Company, Inc., 1976-1977	481	08
Greater Manchester Growth Company, Inc., 1977-1979	481	09
Greater Manchester Industrial Corporation, 1965-1966	481	11
Greater Manchester Industrial Corporation, 1981-1983	481	12
Greater Manchester Industrial Corporation, 1983	481	13
Greater Manchester Industrial Corporation, 1984	481	14
Greater Manchester Industrial Corporation, 1984	481	15
Greater Manchester Industrial Corporation, 1984-1985	481	16
Grenier Field Surplus Property, 1972; 1974-1976	482	03
Manchester Housing Authority Downtown Revitalization, n.d.; 1978	482	08
Manchester Housing Authority Downtown Revitalization, 1979	482	09
Manchester Housing Authority Downtown Revitalization, 1979	482	10
Manchester Housing Authority Downtown Revitalization, 1979	482	11
Manchester Housing Authority Downtown Revitalization, 1981-1984	482	12
Manchester Regional Industrial Foundation, 1961	482	13
Manchester Regional Industrial Foundation, 1961-1962	482	14
Manchester Regional Industrial Foundation, 1963-1964	483	02
Manchester Regional Industrial Foundation, 1965-1966	483	03
Manchester Regional Industrial Foundation, 1967-1969; 1971; 1973; 1975-1977	483	04
Mondev USA, Inc., 1978	483	07
New Hampshire Technical Institute, 1961-1966	483	10
Northeast Industrial Park, 1962-1963	483	12
Pine Island Park, 1973-1975	484	07
Schlitz Brewing Company, 1969-1970	483	16
Schlitz Brewing Company, 1971-1973	483	17
University of New Hampshire Merrimack Valley Branch, 1967-1970	484	04

Series 3: Newspaper Clippings, 1963-1986

Newspaper clippings of various newspaper articles related to a specific topic. Articles may not contain citation information. Arranged alphabetically by topic.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Manchester Housing Authority Downtown Revitalization: Center NH, 1982-1986	482	07
Mondev USA, Inc., n.d.	483	08
Pine Island Park, 1963-1986	484	08
Schlitz Brewing Company, 1969-1974	483	18
University of New Hampshire Merrimack Valley Branch, 1967-1971	484	05

Series 4: Subject Files, 1965-1985

Files containing a variety of document types, all related to a specific topic or subject. Many subject files will contain correspondence with attachments, and may also include reports, maps, photographs, governance documents (minutes, agendas, etc.), newspaper clippings, etc. This series is arranged into two sub-series.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Greater Manchester Tomorrow, 1974-1975; 1985	482	01
Jefferson Real Estate, n.d.; 1965-1967; 1970	482	05
Pine Island Park Study Committee, 1972-1974	484	09
Riverfront Park System Report by Brown and Rowe, 1981	483	13
Schlitz Brewing Company Property Assessment, Site Survey, and Supplemental Data, n.d.	483	19

Sub-Series 4.1: Property Plans, 1963

Floor plans, maps, drawings, or other types of visual planning layouts of properties or buildings. Property plans may also be found in subject files (Series 4), property records (Sub-series 4.2), and as attachments to correspondence (Series 2). Arranged alphabetically by property/building title.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Grenier Infield Plans by Manchester Regional Industrial Foundation, 1964	483	05
Pine Island Park, n.d.	484	10

Sub-Series 4.2: Property Records, 1956-1977

Descriptions of a specific city property, which may include floor plans, specifications information, narrative descriptions and advertisements, site surveys, and photographs. Building information often includes square footage, construction materials of walls and roof, ceiling height, number of stairways and elevators, condition of the building, if sprinklers are installed, number of boilers and generators, former use of the building, assessed valuation and tax rate, and other significant details.

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
186 Granite Street, 1975-1977	484	02
Aldar Corporation/Canal Street, n.d.; 1963-1964	481	01
Central Mill 3/Bedford Street, n.d.	481	02
Elbes Trust – Amoskeag/Lawrence Mills/McGregor Street, n.d.; 1956-1957; 1963	481	03
Everett Mills/Hoague-Sprague Building/190 Elm Street, n.d.; 1961; 1963; 1966	481	04
Federal Realty Annex/Foundry Street, n.d.; 1956; 1963-1964	481	05
Florence Realty/Trudel Building/341 Elm Street, 1963	481	06
Indian Head Shoe/R.G. Sullivan Building/114 West Central Street, n.d.; 1963	482	04