

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Speedy's Drive-In Restaurant  
Collection

1999.33.1D

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## Collection Information

Abstract: Speedy's Drive-In Restaurant in Worcester was one of the first restaurants of this type. Museum objects include the original switchboard and other equipment. Installation and instruction manuals are in the Archives.

Finding Aids: Finding Aid in print form available in the Repository. Folder level description.

Preferred Citation: Archives of the Worcester Historical Museum, 30 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Gift of George and Marion Busada, Worcester, Mass., March 5, 1999.

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsb, gmgpc, rbgenr, etc.)

Speedy's Drive-In Restaurant (Worcester, Mass.)  
Motiograph Corp. Servus-Fone Corp. (Chicago, Ill.)  
Drive-in restaurants – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Telecommunications systems – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Technical manuals.  
Technical literature.  
Electric wiring – Charts, diagrams, etc.  
Manuals (Handbooks) rbgenr

See also: Museum objects accessioned under Accession Number 1999.33

## Historical Background

Speedy's Drive-In Restaurant on Shrewsbury Street in Worcester was one of the first restaurants in the area to establish a drive-in facility. A telecommunications system was installed whereby patrons, from their cars, using a microphone/speaker system, could place orders with the restaurant staff and be served in their vehicles by staff members. The system included a switchboard (in Museum collections), numerous speaker/phone setups mounted at the parking spaces, and supporting equipment. The system was installed in the late 1950s and was used for over 20 years. The drive-in restaurant concept enjoyed great popularity for many years from the 1950s to the 1970s, but ultimately lost much of its popularity. In addition technological changes and advances in miniaturization and computerization rendered the 1950s era switchboard system obsolete.

## Scope and Content

The collection consists of the installation and set-up instructions for the communications system, including wiring diagrams, parking space design, switchboard circuitry, cabling, space utilization, etc., and provides details of the technical aspects of the system.

The collection also includes an instruction book for switchboard operators, and includes the technical aspects of switchboard operation as well as instruction in customer relations and proper telephone manners.

In addition the original switchboard and other pieces of equipment are also owned by the Museum.

## Series Description

Series 1: Technical manuals, including installation and operating procedures and instructions.

Speedy's Drive-In Restaurant Collection  
1999.33.1D  
Series 1, Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.33.1D.1.1	Manual. Installation instructions for <u>Servus-Fone</u> equipment, October 28, 1958. 23 p. including diagrams.
1	2	1999.33.1D.1.2	Manual. Instructions: B-4200 switchboard. Includes section on public relations and customer service. 1 vol. in binder, with diagrams. 1957.