

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Worcester Deluxe Diners Manufacturing  
Company Collection

1999.114

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.  
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### Collection Information

Abstract: The Worcester Deluxe Diners Manufacturing Company was the successor of the Worcester Lunch Car Company. During its brief history, the company designed a single diner, which was never built. This collection consists of an exterior sketch of the planned diner.

Finding Aids: Finding Aid in print form is available in the repository.

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

Provenance: Purchased from Mr. Ed Letourneau, Worcester, August 1999.

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

Van Slett, Francis.

Worcester Deluxe Diners Manufacturing Company (Worcester, Mass.)

Worcester Lunch Car Company (Worcester, Mass.)

Diners (Restaurants) – Massachusetts – Worcester.

Diners (Restaurants) – New England.

Diners (Restaurants) – Design and construction.

See also: Records of the Worcester Lunch Car Company.

## Historical Background

The Worcester Lunch Car and Carriage Manufacturing Company was founded by Philip H. Duprey and Irving M. Stoddard in 1906. They bought out the lunch car building business organized by Wilfred H. Barriere and Stearns A. Haynes the previous year. The company built a total of 651 diners during its 55 years in business, beginning with serial number 200 through serial Number 851. The serial number assigned at the time of construction stayed with the diner throughout its life, including any subsequent remodeling or rebuilding. Worcester Lunch Car diners were well known for the high quality of the work, and handcrafted wooden elements. The diners were noteworthy because of the monitor roof with clerestory windows to allow ventilation of cooking odors. Many of the diners were decorated with porcelain enamel graphics. Worcester Lunch Car diners were marketed throughout New England, and were found in each of the region's states. The company ceased operations May 23, 1961. The inventory was purchased by Francis Van Slett of Worcester, in 1961, who began operations as Worcester Deluxe Diner Manufacturing Company. Plans were drawn and construction was started on one diner, which was never completed.

### Scope and Content

The collection consists of a single item, a pencil sketch exterior view of one side and one end of a proposed diner, probably made in 1961. Since construction of the diner was never completed, plans and sketches are the only available information source for this company.

## Series Description

Series 1: Plans and Drawings. Includes sketch of proposed diner exterior.

Worcester Deluxe Diners  
1999.114  
Series 1, Plans and Drawings

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.114.1.1	Sketch. Exterior front and end facades of diner planned by the Company. This was the only diner the company planned to build before it went out of business. Construction was never completed.