

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Worcester Lunch Car Company
Records

1982.74

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

Abstract: The Worcester Lunch Car Company Records illustrate the growth and activities of the company from ca. 1925 to ca. 1955 through records of diners designed and constructed.

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: Gift of Douglas A. Yorke, May 15, 1982.

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

Worcester Lunch Car Company.
Worcester Lunch Car and Carriage Company.
Diners (Restaurants) – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Diners (Restaurants) – New England.
Diners (Restaurants) – Design and construction.

See also: Other 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.

Scope and Content

The collection includes account books, 1914-1945, work done by C. P. Gemme for the Worcester Lunch Car Company; employee time books, 1916, 1935-1936; record book of diner customers, 1955-1960; account book of Charles P. Gemme, 1945-1967, including personal receipts for work done, and accounts relating to work for Worcester Lunch Car Company; approximately 100 index cards listing diners by number, with owners' names, etc.

Series Description

Series 1: Account Books. Accounts of Charles P. Gemme, work done for Worcester Lunch Car Company and other jobs. (6 bound volumes)

Series 2: Time Books. List of Worcester Lunch Car Company employees, hours worked, pay. (3 bound volumes)

Series 3: Customer Records. (1 notebook, 1 folder)

Series 4: Diner Records. (101 file cards)

Series 5: Miscellaneous. (1 folder)

Worcester Lunch Car Company Records
1982.74
Series 1, Account Books

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	BV	1982.74.1.1	Account book of Charles P. Gemme, cabinet maker and contractor, for work performed for Worcester Lunch Car Company (and others), 1914-1928.
1	BV	1982.74.1.2	Account book of Charles P. Gemme, cabinet maker and contractor, for work performed for Worcester Lunch Car Company (and others), 1928-1931.
1	BV	1982.74.1.3	Account book of Charles P. Gemme, cabinet maker and contractor, for work performed for Worcester Lunch Car Company (and others), 1932-1935.
1	BV	1982.74.1.4	Account book of Charles P. Gemme, cabinet maker and contractor, for work performed for Worcester Lunch Car Company (and others), 1935-1940.
1	BV	1982.74.1.5	Account book of Charles P. Gemme, cabinet maker and contractor, for work performed for Worcester Lunch Car Company (and others), 1940-1945.
1	BV	1982.74.1.6	Account book of Charles P. Gemme, cabinet maker and contractor, for work performed for Worcester Lunch Car Company (and others), 1945-1967.

Worcester Lunch Car Company Records
1982.74
Series 2, Time Books

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	BV	1982.74.2.1	Time book, 1916-1917, listing employees, hours worked, and pay.
1	BV	1982.74.2.2	Time book, 1935, listing employees, hours worked, and pay. Insert with employees names and other information.
1	BV	1982.74.2.3	Time book, 1936, listing employees, hours worked, and pay.

Worcester Lunch Car Company Records
1982.74
Series 3, Customer Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	BV	1982.74.3.1	Record book of customers with names, addresses, phone numbers, and other information, 1955-1960.
2	1	1982.74.3.2	List of diners #291 to #336, owner, and location. (Photocopy)

Worcester Lunch Car Company Records
1982.74
Series 4, Diner Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	2	1982.74.4.1-.56	File cards of diners by number indicating owner, location, and other information. Mostly numbers 600 to 699 and 800 to 851, some others. (101 cards)
2	3	1982.74.4.57-.101	

Worcester Lunch Car Company Records
1982.74
Series 5, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	4	1982.74.5.1	Worcester Lunch Car and Carriage Mfg. Co. letterhead, ca. 1910s.