

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Worcester Lunch Car Company
Records

1999.111

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
July, 1999

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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: Purchased from Mr. Ed Letoureau, Worcester, June 1999.

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, at, 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 illustrates the development, growth, and activities of the Worcester Lunch Car Company through records of design and construction of many of its diners, including information about their owners and locations, as well as some notes on equipment. The collection consists of a single bound notebook with manuscript notes and sketches of construction details of diners #654 to #850, built between 1925-1955, with some details on dates ordered, owners, location, and equipment.

Series Description

Series 1: Records. Includes records of design and construction of diners, costs, materials and suppliers, and equipment.

Worcester Lunch Car Company Records
1999.111
Series 1, Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.111.1.1	Record book. Construction notes on diners built between 1925-1955, #654-#850, with notes on other non-identified diners, including notes on equipment, owners, and location of diner. 1 BV, with inserts. 22 cm.