

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Worcester Lunch Car Company
Records

1999.112

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 plans and photographs 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 from Mr. Ed Letoureau, Worcester, July 1999.

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

Worcester Lunch Car Company (Worcester, Mass.)
Worcester Lunch Car and Carriage Company (Worcester, Mass.)
Worcester Deluxe Diners Manufacturing Company (Worcester, Mass.)
Diners (Restaurants) – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Diners (Restaurants) – New England.
Diners (Restaurants) – Design and construction.
Diners (Restaurants) – Photographs.

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. The inventory was purchased by Francis Van Slett of Worcester, in 1961, who began operations as Worcester Deluxe Diner Manufacturing Company. Construction was started on one diner, which was never completed.

Scope and Content

The collection illustrates the development, growth, and activities of the Worcester Lunch Car Company through blueprints and plans of design and construction of many of its diners, including photographs of diner interiors and exteriors. The collection consists of blueprints and other plans, showing construction specifications and interior plan, as well as photographs of diners showing both interior and exterior views. The collection also includes interior plans of a diner under construction by Worcester Deluxe Diner Manufacturing Company, successor to Worcester Lunch Car Company, which was never completed.

Series Description

Series 1: Photographs. Includes both interior and exterior photographs of diners built by the Worcester Lunch Car Company. Most 8x10 in., black and white photographic prints.

Series 2: Plans. Includes blueprints and pencil drawings on tracing paper of interior layout, space utilization, construction and foundation details. Also includes plans of diner under construction by Worcester Deluxe Diner Manufacturing Company.

Worcester Lunch Car Company
1999.112
Series 1, Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.112.1.1	Photograph. Lunch wagon (trailer) of American Red Cross. 8x10 in., b&w, ca. 1940.
1	1	1999.112.1.2	Photograph. Lunch wagon (trailer) of American Red Cross, exterior view. 8x10 in., b&w, ca. 1940.
1	1	1999.112.1.3	Photograph. Lunch wagon (trailer) of American Red Cross, interior view. 8x10 in., b&w, ca. 1940.
1	1	1999.112.1.4	Photograph. Interior view of [Ann's Diner, Scarboro, N.Y. ?] 8x10 in., b&w. n.d.
1	1	1999.112.1.5	Photograph. Interior view of unidentified diner. 8x10 in., b&w, n.d.
1	1	1999.112.1.6	Photograph. Interior view of unidentified diner. 8x10 in., b&w, n.d.
1	1	1999.112.1.7	Photograph. Interior view of unidentified diner. 8x10 in., b&w, n.d.
1	2	1999.112.1.8	Photograph. Interior view of unidentified diner. 8x10 in., b&w, n.d. 8a Memorandum. Notes on print quality, affixed to photograph.
1	2	1999.112.1.9-.10	Photograph. Interior views (one of each end) of unidentified diner. 8x10 in., b&w, n.d. 2 items
1	2	1999.112.1.11	Photograph. Interior view of diner [Dantuano ?, Providence, R.I.], August 16, 1950. 8x10 in., b&w.
1	2	1999.112.1.12	Photograph. Interior view of unidentified diner. 8x10 in., b&w, n.d.

Series 1, Continue

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| 1 | 3 | 1999.112.1.13 Photograph. Exterior view of Double TT Diner, [S.l.] 8x10 in., b&w, n.d. |
| 1 | 3 | 1999.112.1.14 Photograph. Exterior view of unidentified diner. 8x10 in., b&w, ca. 1950. |
| 1 | 3 | 1999.112.1.15 Photograph. Exterior view of Sullivan's Diner [S.l.] 8x10 in., b&w, n.d. |
| 1 | 3 | 1999.112.1.16 Photograph. Exterior view of Federal Diner, [S.l.] 8x10 in., b&w, n.d. |
| 1 | 3 | 1999.112.1.17 Photograph. Exterior view of Ingram's Diner [S.l.] 8x10 in., b&w, n.d. |
| 1 | 4 | 1999.112.1.18 Photograph. Exterior view of Ann's Diner in transit. 8x10 in., b&w, n.d. |
| 1 | 4 | 1999.112.1.19 Photograph. Exterior view of Agawam Diner [S.l.] 8x10 in., b&w, n.d. |
| 1 | 4 | 1999.112.1.20 Photograph. Exterior view of Miss Toy Town Diner, Winchendon, Mass. 8x10 in., b&w, n.d. |
| 1 | 4 | 1999.112.1.21 Snapshot. Color print of exterior of unidentified diner. 3x3 in., n.d. |
| 1 | 4 | 1999.112.1.22 Snapshot. Exterior view of unidentified diner. 3x4 in., b&w, n.d. |
| 1 | 5 | 1999.112.1.23 Ann's Diner, showing damaged panel : snapshot, 3 x 4 in. / n.d. |
| 1 | 5 | 1999.112.1.24 Unidentified diner : snapshot, 4 x 5 in. / n.d. |

Worcester Lunch Car Company
1999.112
Series 2, Plans, Drawings

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.1	Plans. Interior layout of diner [S.l., s.n., n.d.] for Worcester Deluxe Diner Manufacturing Company. Pencil on tracing paper. 17x27 in.
OVS	OVS	1999.112.2.2	Plans. Interior layout of diner for Joseph Cappelliano, Charlestown, Mass., December 20, 1954. Pencil on tracing paper. 21x28 in.
OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.3	Plans. Interior layout of diner [S.l., s.n., n.d.] Pencil on tracing paper. 19x32 in.
OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.4	Blueprint. Interior layout of diner for James Theodore, Boston, Mass., September 9, 1948. 22x32 in. (several tears)
OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.5	Blueprint. Interior layout of diner [S.l., s.n., n.d.] 17x22 in. (corner torn off)
OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.6a-c	Blueprint. Interior layout and foundation construction plans and specifications for Diner #424, n.d. 15x29 in. 3 copies. 2 blueprints, 1 pencil on tracing paper.
OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.7	Blueprint. Interior layout of diner [S.l., s.n., n.d.] Pencil notations on reverse. 12x31 in.
OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.8	Blueprint. Interior layout of diner [S.l., s.n., n.d.] 11x28 in.
OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.9	Blueprint. Construction details, Diner #838, October 3, 1952. 18x36 in.
OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.10a-c	Blueprint. Interior layout of Fahey's Diner, #841, May 18, 1953. 20x28 in. 3 copies. 2 blueprints, 1 pencil on tracing paper.
Series 2, continued			
OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.11	Blueprint. Interior layout of Diner #84u, n.d. 16x31 in.

OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.12	Blueprint. Interior layout and exterior front elevation of Mike's Diner, Providence, R.I., November 24, 1954. 16x17 in.
OVS	OVS-1	1999.112.2.13	Pencil sketch of exterior elevations, unidentified diner : 25 x 32 in. / n.d.
1	6	1999.112.2.14	Price lists and descriptions of exterior decoration : typescript / n.d. 12 p.