Wistariahurst Museum Archive

Holyoke City Hall Collection, 1859 - 1976

[bulk: 1900-1961] 104 tomes (64 linear ft.)

Collection number: L2011.028

Abstract

The city of Holyoke was originally a part of West Springfield called Ireland Parish. Ireland Parish officially became the town of Holyoke in 1850 and separated from West Springfield. In 1873, the town of Holyoke petitioned to become a city, which was granted. It was at this time that the current city hall was built at the corners of High and Dwight Streets and the title of town clerk became city clerk.

The collection contains four series. The first series consists of ninety-four tomes of mortgage information covering the years 1859 through 1976 and contains chattel mortgages, personal property mortgages, bills of sale, discharges of mortgages, and foreclosure information. The second series consists of two volumes of tax liens covering the years 1952 through 1970 and contains notices of federal tax liens and certificates of release of federal tax liens. The third series consists of six volumes of legal notices covering the years 1960 through 1975 and contains legal actions taken against the city of Holyoke and city employees. The fourth series consists of two volumes of applications for naturalization covering the years 1892 through 1899 and contains the applicants' local information, but not from where they originated.

Terms of Access and Use: The collection is open for research.

Historical Sketch

The city of Holyoke was originally a part of West Springfield called Ireland Parish, even though nobody of Irish descent was residing there. Due to rapid population growth, in 1849 a meeting was held within the village about separation from West Springfield and an application was made to the Legislature. Hampden was the suggested name for the new town, but was given the name Holyoke because the board of directors of the Hadley Falls Company preferred it. Holyoke officially became a town on 4 March 1850. As the population continued to grow, the town of Holyoke eventually petitioned the Legislature to become a city. Holyoke organized as a city on 7 April 1873, the petition was granted during the summer and in December the town of Holyoke ceased to exist as it officially became the city of Holyoke.

After becoming a town, Holyoke's form of government was town meetings. When Holyoke became a city, its government changed as well. It was comprised of a mayor, seven aldermen, one for each ward, and twenty-one councilmen, three from each ward. The mayor was assisted by the city clerk and the treasurer. The legislative power was vested in the City Council, which was comprised of the mayor, the aldermen, and the councilmen, while the executive power was vested in the mayor and the aldermen.

When this form of became to cumbersome, it was decided to create a new city charter. When this took affect, the legislative power was vested in the Board of Aldermen, which consisted of the mayor, seven aldermen, and fourteen aldermen-at-large, while the executive power was vested in the mayor and the aldermen. In 1900,

the legislative power became vested in the Board of Aldermen and the aldermen-at-large, while the executive power was now only vested in the mayor. In 1956, the number of aldermen-at-large dropped to only four, but rose to eight in 1972. The Mayor, the City Clerk, the City Treasurer and all of the aldermen are elected by ballot.

Holyoke's last town clerk before it was incorporated as a city was William Stiles Loomis. He served as town clerk from March 1868 through 1873 and died 10 July 1914 at the age of 73. Two of his predecessors were Ezra H. Flagg and Gustavus Snow. Flagg served as town clerk from March 1866 to March 1868 and died 20 April 1875 at the age of 49. Snow served as town clerk from January 1853 to March 1866 and died 4 January 1881 at the age of 58. Holyoke's first town clerk was Joseph M. Cavis, who served from 1850 through December 1852.

Holyoke's first city clerk was Edwin Augustus Ramsay, who served from January 1874 thru December 1876 and died 2 November 1916 in Cambridge, MA. His successors were James E. Delaney, January 1877 through 1882 and died 13 July 1910 at the age of 62; Michael J. Griffin, 1883 to January 1891 and died 23 March 1912 at the age of 52; Thomas D. O'Brien, January 1891 to January 1895; Edward A. Kane, January 1895 through January 1901 and died 24 April 1910 at the age of 30; John F. Sheehan, February 1901 until January 1946 and died 5 January 1958 at the age of 83; and Joseph Jubinville, Jr., January 1946 to about 1970 and died 22 September 1979 at the age of 88. The last city clerk, whose name appears in these records , was James J. Shea.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

The Holyoke City Hall Collection consists primarily of material dating form 1859 through 1976. The collection includes ninety-four volumes of mortgage records, two volumes of tax liens, six volumes of legal notices, and two volumes of applications for naturalization.

The mortgage volumes cover the years of 1859 through 1976 with the bulk of the information being through 1961. Volumes 1, 6, 7, and 49 are missing from the run of ninety-eight volumes that comprise this series. Volumes 2 through 42, 44, 47, 55, 56, 62, 75, and 86 contain an index, but not for both parties in the agreement. The remaining volumes are not indexed. Volumes 27, 28, 33, 35, 37, 40, 42, 55, and 86 contain typed pages. The remaining indexed volumes consist of printed forms filled in by hand, hand written pages or a combination of both. The remaining volumes with an index contain typed forms attached to the page with glue. These forms contain mostly chattel mortgages, personal property mortgages, bills of sale, discharges, and notes on foreclosures. Occasionally, some of the documents are missing.

The two volumes of tax liens cover the years 1952 through 1970 and are not indexed. The volumes consist of typed forms, notices of federal tax liens and certificates of release of federal tax liens, attached to the pages with glue. The first few documents are missing from volume two.

The six volumes of legal notices cover the years 1960 through 1975 and are not indexed. The volumes consist of typed forms, legal actions against the city and city employees, attached to the pages with glue. Due to discoloration, several of the forms are nearly impossible to read in volume one.

The two volumes of applications for naturalization cover the years 1892 through 1899 and are indexed. The application form contains the applicant's name, age, address, occupation, date received, and the signatures of the applicant and of the city clerk.

The Collection has been arranged in the following 4 series:

Series 1. City of Holyoke Mortgage Deeds, 19 -
Series 2. City of Holyoke Tax Liens, August 1952 – June 1970
Series 3. City of Holyoke Legal Notices
Series 4. City of Holyoke Applications for Naturalization, April 1892 – October 1899

Information on Use

Terms of Access and Use

The collection is open for research, per City Clerk, Susan Egan, 8 November 2011 – No restrictions..

Preferred Citation

Cite as: The Holyoke City Hall Collection, Wistariahurst Museum, Collection L2011.028, Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke, Mass.

History of the Collection

The contents of The Holyoke City Hall Collection are on loan to Wistariahurst Museum from the City Clerk's Office.

Processing Information

Processed by Mark E. Parsons, GSLIS Intern under the direction of Penni Martorell, Curator/Archivist November 2011.

Additional Information

Languages:

English

Separated Materials

Nothing has been removed from the collection as loaned.

Related Materials

Related materials may also be found in the following collections housed within the Five-College area:

History of Holyoke, Massachusetts. Anna U. Scanlon 1939

Holyoke, Massachusetts. Constance McLaughlin Green 1939

Holyoke City Directories. Price & Lee Company 1882-1979

Series Descriptions

Series 1. **CITY OF HOLYOKE MORTGAGE DEEDS** (Volumes 94; 60 linear ft.)

The mortgage volumes cover the years of 1859 through 1976 with the bulk of the information being through 1961. Volumes 1, 6, 7, and 49 are missing from the run of ninety-eight volumes that comprise this series. Volumes 2 through 42, 44, 47, 55, 56, 62, 75, and 86 contain an index, but not for both parties in the agreement. The remaining volumes are not indexed. Volumes 27, 28, 33, 35, 37, 40, 42, 55, and 86 contain typed pages. The remaining indexed volumes consist of printed forms filled in by hand, hand written pages or a combination of both. The remaining volumes with an index contain typed forms attached to the page with glue. These forms contain mostly chattel mortgages, personal property mortgages, bills of sale, discharges, and notes on foreclosures. Occasionally, some of the documents are missing.

Series 2. **CITY OF HOLYOKE TAX LIENS** (2 Volumes; 1linear ft)

The two volumes of tax liens cover the years 1952 through 1970 and are not indexed. The volumes consist of typed forms, notices of federal tax liens and certificates of release of federal tax liens, attached to the pages with glue. The first few documents are missing from volume two.

Series 3. **CITY OF HOLYOKE LEGAL NOTICES** (6 Volumes; 2 linear ft.)

The six volumes of legal notices cover the years 1960 through 1975 and are not indexed. The volumes consist of typed forms, legal actions against the city and city employees, attached to the pages with glue. Due to discoloration, several of the forms are nearly impossible to read in volume one.

Series 4. **CITY OF HOLYOKE APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION** (2 Volumes; 1 linear ft.)

The two volumes of applications for naturalization cover the years 1892 through 1899 and are indexed. The application form contains the applicant's name, age, address, occupation, date received, and the signatures of the applicant and of the city clerk.

Contents List

	Date			Shelf
Series 1. CITY OF HOLYOKE MORTGAGE DEEDS *94 Volumes; 60 linear ft*	**1859-1976**			
Volume 2: Index: A-Z 697 Pages	06/07/1859	to	08/31/1871	
Volume 3: Index: A-Z 598 Pages	05/27/1871	to	03/29/1879	
Volume 4: Index: A-Z 628 Pages	10/14/1875	to	07/11/1882	
Volume 5: Index: A-Z 672 Pages	10/20/1877	to	12/31/1880	
Volume 8: Index: A-Z 852 Pages	08/15/1889	to	10/10/1893	
Volume 9: Index: A-Z 916 Pages	04/20/1893	to	03/01/1898	
Volume 10: Index: A-Z 1192 Pages	10/26/1896	to	05/16/1904	
Volume 11: Index: A-Z 1196 Pages	02/28/1903	to	11/19/1926	
Volume 12: Index: A-Z 548 Pages	01/14/1905	to	03/17/1910	
Volume 13: Index: A-Z 672 Pages	06/04/1908	to	08/12/1912	
Volume 14: Index: A-Z 661 Pages	09/07/1909	to	04/20/1918	
Volume 15: Index: A-Z 739 Pages	08/16/1912	to	12/22/1916	
Volume 16: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	12/23/1916	to	12/19/1921	
Volume 17: Index: A-Z 689 Pages	04/22/1918	to	08/11/1924	
Volume 18: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	12/27/1921	to	02/08/1927	
Volume 19: Index: A-Z 700 Pages	08/26/1924	to	08/16/1928	

Volume 20: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	02/09/1927	to	06/19/1931
Volume 21: Index: A-Z 700 Pages	08/16/1928	to	07/29/1932
Volume 22: Index: A-Z 760 Pages	06/19/1931	to	05/23/1936
Volume 23: Index: A-Z 670 Pages	08/05/1932	to	02/01/1936
Volume 24: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	05/27/1936	to	06/06/1940
Volume 25: Index: A-Z 672 pages	01/20/1936	to	06/09/1939
Volume 26: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	06/06/1940	to	07/14/1942
Volume 27: Index: A-Z 450 Pages	03/31/1937	to	01/20/1942
Volume 28: Index: A-Z 450 Pages	01/08/1942	to	03/26/1946
Volume 29: Index: A-Z 700 Pages	06/09/1939	to	04/17/1945
Volume 30: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	07/14/1942	to	01/13/1945
Volume 31: Index: A-Z 696 Pages	04/18/1945	to	12/23/1953
Volume 32: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	01/13/1945	to	11/27/1946
Volume 33: Index: A-Z 456 Pages	04/01/1945	to	02/26/1947
Volume 34: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	11/29/1946	to	02/10/1948
Volume 35: Index: A-Z 451 Pages	02/10/1947	to	09/27/1948
Volume 36: Index: A-Z 700 Pages	02/11/1948	to	11/12/1948
Volume 37: Index: A-Z 450 Pages	09/25/1948	to	10/31/1949
Volume 38: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	11/04/1948	to	08/23/1949
Volume 39: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	08/23/1949	to	06/16/1950
Volume 40: Index: A-Z 480 Pages	11/01/1949	to	11/09/1950
Volume 41: Index: A-Z 700 Pages	06/16/1950	to	05/02/1951
Volume 42: Index: A-Z 433 Pages	11/09/1950	to	12/31/1953
Volume 43: Index: None 202 Pages	02/01/1951	to	11/12/1951
Volume 44: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	05/02/1951	to	04/29/1952
Volume 45: Index: None 202 Pages	07/12/1951	to	11/15/1951
Volume 46: Index: None 200 Pages	11/15/1951	to	03/12/1952
Volume 47: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	04/30/1952	to	07/16/1953
Volume 48: Index: None 204 Pages	03/12 /1952	to	05/05/1952
Volume 50: Index: None 202 Pages	06/02/1952	to	09/02/1952
Volume 51: Index: None 202 Pages	09/03/1952	to	12/08/1952
Volume 52: Index: None 202 Pages	12/09/1952	to	03/10/1953
Volume 53: Index: None 202 Pages	03/10/1953	to	05/14/1953
Volume 54: Index: None 202 Pages	05/14/1953	to	07/28/1953
Volume 55: Index: A-Z 424 Pages	01/05/1954	to	08/22/1957
Volume 56: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	07/14/1953	to	12/06/1954
Volume 57: Index: None 202 Pages	07/28/1953	to	10/22/1953
Volume 58: Index: None 202 Pages	10/23/1953	to	02/01/1954
Volume 59: Index: None 202 Pages	02/01/1954	to	04/22/1954
Volume 60: Index: None 202 Pages	04/22/1954	to	06/30/1954
Volume 61: Index: None 202 Pages	07/01/1954	to	09/17/1954
Volume 62: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	12/06/1954	to	06/21/1956
Volume 63: Index: None 202 Pages	09/17/1954	to	12/08/1954
Volume 64: Index: None 202 Pages	12/08/1954	to	02/09/1955
Volume 65: Index: None 202 Pages	02/09/1955	to	04/13/1955
Volume 66: Index: None 200 Pages	04/13/1955	to	06/14/1955
Volume 67: Index: None 202 Pages	06/15/1955	to	08/24/1955

Volume 68: Index: None 202 Pages	08/25/1955	to	11/04/1955
Volume 69: Index: None 202 Pages	11/04/1955	to	12/28/1955
Volume 70: Index: None 202 Pages	12/29/1955	to	02/27/1956
Volume 71: Index: None 202 Pages	02/27/1956	to	04/16/1956
Volume 72: Index: None 202 Pages	04/16/1956	to	05/25/1956
Volume 73: Index: None 202 Pages	05/25/1956	to	07/09/1956
Volume 74: Index: None 202 Pages	07/09/1956	to	08/27/1956
Volume 75: Index: A-Z 740 Pages	06/22/1956	to	02/19/1959
Volume 76: Index: None 203 Pages	08/21/1956	to	10/08/1956
Volume 77: Index: None 203 Pages	10/08/1956	to	11/27/1956
Volume 78: Index: None 202 Pages	11/28/1956	to	12/24/1956
Volume 79: Index: None 200 Pages	12/24/1956	to	02/12/1957
Volume 80: Index: None 202 Pages	02/11/1957	to	03/22/1957
Volume 81: Index: None 202 Pages	03/22/1957	to	04/22/1957
Volume 82: Index: None 203 Pages	04/22/1957	to	05/27/1957
Volume 83: Index: None 202 Pages	05/27/1957	to	06/26/1957
Volume 84: Index: None 202 Pages	06/24/1957	to	07/30/1957
Volume 85: Index: None 202 Pages	07/30/1957	to	08/29/1957
Volume 86: Index: A-Z 185 Pages	08/23/1957	to	05/22/1964
Volume 87: Index: None 202 Pages	08/29/1957	to	10/10/1957
Volume 88: Index: None 202 Pages	10/10/1957	to	11/18/1957
Volume 89: Index: None 200 Pages	11/18/1957	to	12/12/1957
Volume 90: Index: None 200 Pages	12/12/1957	to	01/15/1958
Volume 91: Index: None 202 Pages	01/15/1958	to	02/26/1958
Volume 92: Index: None 204 Pages	02/26/1958	to	04/03/1958
Volume 93: Index: None 203 Pages	04/04/1958	to	05/07/1958
Volume 94: Index: None 202 Page	05/07/1958	to	06/09/1958
Volume 95: Index: None 202 Page	06/09/1958	to	07/08/1958
Volume 96: Index: None 202 Pages	07/08/1958	to	08/07/1958
Volume 97: Index: None 202 Pages	08/07/1958	to	09/10/1958
Volume 98: Index: None 200 Pages	09/10/1958	to	04/07/1976

	Date	Shelf
Series 2. CITY OF HOLYOKE TAX LIENS *2 Volumes; 1 linear ft.*	**1952 -1970**	
Volume I: Index: None 200 Pages	08/11/1952 to 01/17/1964	
Volume II: Index: None 202 Pages	01/21/1964 to 06/29/1970	
Series 3. CITY OF HOLYOKE LEGAL NOTICES 6 Volumes; *2 linear ft.*	**1960-1975**	
Volume I:	04/25/1960 to 02/27/1963	
Volume II:	02/28/1963 to 06/04/1965	
Volume III:	06/07/1965 to 01/16/1968	
Volume IV:	01/25/1968 to 05/26/1970	
Volume V:	06/02/1970 to 06/16/1972	
Volume VI:	06/23/1972 to 12/15/1975	

Note: Each volume contains approximately 202 unnumbered pages.

	Date	Box	Folder
Series 4. CITY OF HOLYOKE **APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION** *2 Volumes; 1 linear ft.*	**1892-1899**		
Volume 1: Index: A-Z 998 Pages	04/06/ 1892 to 10/29/1896		
Volume 2: Index: A-Z 1000 Pages	10/31/1896 to 10/18/1899		

Search Terms

The following terms represent persons, organizations, and topics documented in this collection. Use these headings to search for additional materials on in other repositories, library catalogs, or databases.

Subjects

Holyoke (Mass.) -- Social conditions
Holyoke (Mass.) -- Newspapers
Holyoke (Mass.) – History
City planning -- Massachusetts – Holyoke

Respository Information

The Wistariahurst Museum Archives are located in the Carriage House of the Museum property. The Archives hosts two main research collections: The Skinner Family Collection and The Holyoke Collection, a general archive relating to the city of Holyoke as a whole. The Museum encourages patrons to come and view the Archives for educational and recreational purposes.

The Wistariahurst Museum Archives are available for public use Mondays, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Thursdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Patrons may also call ahead to schedule an appointment to use the Archives. Finding Aids for The Skinner Family Collection and The Holyoke Collection, listing box and folder locations, are available for patrons to look through. You may request materials by completing a provided Call Slip which includes collection name, box number, and folder number of the material. The staff person on duty will retrieve the requested items from the Archives. Only staff persons are allowed in the Archives storage area.

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Appendices

None