



Boston Children's Museum
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ARCHIVES Finding Aid

Accession #:
A 2017.6
Date(s) Accessioned:
2017 September 25

Burroughs Street Auditorium Building Contract Collection

1936-1954, [Bulk: 1936]

Descriptive Summary

Collection ID: A 2017.6

Repository: Boston Children's Museum Archives

Title: Burroughs Street Auditorium Building Contract Collection

Creator(s): Harry LeBaron Sampson, Harry E. Davidson & Son A

Dates: Inclusive: 1936-1954, Bulk: 1936

Extent: .15 linear feet; 1 folder

Language(s) of Materials: English

Abstract: A letter from Harry LeBaron Sampson explaining how he found the "General Specifications of Auditorium Building, 60 Burroughs Street, Jamaica Plain for The Children's Museum" which was prepared by Harry E. Davidson & Son Architects for the Museum in 1936. Boston Children's Museum moved to 60 Burroughs Street in 1936 and expanded, turning a garage into a 500 person auditorium. The contract in this collection includes a "Standard Form of The American Institute of Architects" which covers definitions and procedures for the following document. The 61-page contract itself reveals information about the building site, as well as the scope of the work the architects and contractors were expected to perform.

Conditions of Access and Use

Conditions Governing Access: Collection is open for research. Researchers must sign a permission form to use the collection.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: All requests for permission to publish or quote for publication must be submitted in writing to the Archives. Permission for publication is given on behalf of Boston Children's Museum as the owner of the physical items and as the owner of copyright in items.

Citation: [Item], Folder 1, Box 13, Burroughs Street Auditorium Building Contract Collection, Boston Children's Museum Archives, Boston, MA.

Acquisition Information

Provenance/Custodial History: The contract created by Harry E. Davidson & Son Architects was in the custody of H. LeBaron Sampson who worked at the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company. In 1954, he sent a copy of the contract to Mrs. Robert W. Sayles, the Treasurer of Boston Children's Museum.

Gift: Gift on January 26, 1954

Background Information

Historical Note: In 1936, Boston Children’s Museum moved to 60 Burroughs Street in Jamaica Plain. The Museum had outgrown the space at Pine Bank. At 60 Burroughs, the Museum expanded and built a Great Hall of changing exhibits, rooms with exhibits such as mammals, sea life, and geology, and built up its collections. The Museum also added a children’s library, clubrooms, and the lecture hall that this collection includes.

Collection Information

Scope and Content: This collection comprises of 1 letter and 1 61-page contract. The contract includes sections on the procedure of accepting and paying for the proposal and work, the conditions under which the work would take place (work, heat, light, etc.), various aspects of the site (trees, driveway, sewage, etc.), how certain part of the work would be done (for example, the proportions of mixing cement), and sections on each field in the work (Brickwork, Structural Steel, Ornamental and Miscellaneous Ironwork, Roofing and Metal Work, Lathing and Plastering, Carpentry, and Painting). Each of these sections includes information on materials, methods of work, and various finishes.

Arrangement: Chronological

Processing Information

Processed by: Caroline Turner, 2018.

Rules or Conventions of Finding Aid: Prepared following Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACs)

Contents Inventory

<i>Folder Titles</i>	<i>Dates</i>
<i>General Specifications of Auditorium Building</i>	<i>1936-1954</i>