

Guide to the York Square Trustees Records

MS 1250



compiled by Lynne Farrington

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1250

CREATOR: York Square Trustees

TITLE: York Square Trustees records

DATES: 1834-1926

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.01 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Minutes of meetings, financial and legal records, and correspondence of the York Square Trustees, organized in 1834 to maintain a park between Broadway and Ashmun Street in New Haven, Connecticut. Many of the papers document the Trustees' losing battle to maintain the park against the city of New Haven, the Hebrew Ladies' Orphan Society, and other institutions wishing to build on the land.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1250>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1250>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Yale University Treasurer's Records, 1981.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

York Square Trustees Records (MS 1250). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

At a meeting on March 15, 1834, a deed of trust was drawn up which divided "a tract of land containing 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres situated between Broadway and Ashmun Street...into lots with an ornamental square or park called 'York Square....'" This park was formed for the exclusive enjoyment of the owners and occupants of residences surrounding the park and was maintained by an annual assessment paid by the owners of the lots. A group of trustees was elected to take charge of the park and its maintenance, and they met on an irregular basis. The York Square Trustees Records document the activities of this board from 1848-1926.

The York Square Trustees and Proprietors undertook action against the New Haven School District in 1893, when the school district announced its intention to take over certain lots around York Square for the Manual Training School and high school buildings, arguing that such a use violated the original deed. However, the school district undertook condemnation proceedings against the owners of the lots and successfully gained control of the land.

In 1910, the York Square Trustees lost a suit against the Hebrew Ladies' Orphan Society, which the trustees were attempting to expel from the square for also violating the deed of trust. The trustees appealed the decision in 1912, but to no avail. A protest against a hospital located at No. 67 York Square between 1914 and 1915 never went to court.

In the ensuing years construction of the Tower Parkway destroyed most of the park and the north end of the square and Yale acquired the remaining land, on which the Payne Whitney Gymnasium was built in the early 1930s and Morse and Ezra Stiles Colleges in the early 1960s, the latter being erected on the sites of former schools.

The records were removed from the Yale Treasurer's Records, YRG5-B. It is unclear whether the Associate Treasurer, Thomas Wells Farnam, who was a trustee in 1924 when the minutes suddenly end, was serving on the board as Yale Treasurer or as a resident of the area.

Scope and Contents

Minutes of meetings, financial and legal records, and correspondence of the York Square Trustees, organized in 1834 to maintain a park between Broadway and Ashmun Street in New Haven, Connecticut. Many of the papers document the Trustees' losing battle to maintain the park against the city of New Haven, the Hebrew Ladies' Orphan Society, and other institutions wishing to build on the land.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Original trust deed and other land records	1834, 1841-1925
b. 1, f. 2	Minutes	1848-1924
b. 1, f. 3	Journals	1848-1914
b. 1, f. 4	Proprietors' journal	1892-1924
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence	1888-1926, undated
b. 1, f. 6	Papers concerning New Haven School District condemnation proceedings	1893
b. 1, f. 7	Papers concerning Nathan Easterbrook, Jr., et al., vs. The Hebrew Ladies Orphan Society	1910-1912
b. 1, f. 8	Correspondence concerning hospital at No. 67 York Square	1914-1915
b. 1, f. 9	Bankbooks, bank statements, checkbooks	1913-1925
b. 1, f. 10 - 11	Bills and receipts	1847-1923
b. 1, f. 12	Miscellaneous	1910-1911, undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Parks -- Connecticut -- New Haven

Geographic Names

York Square Park (New Haven, Conn.)

Corporate Bodies

Hebrew Ladies' Orphan Society (New Haven,
Conn.)

York Square Trustees