



COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection number: 2012.30.841-.876

Collection title: John Richardson Street Binders

Dates: c. 1974-2010

Size: 38 3-Ring Binders (13 cubic feet)

Creator/Collector: John Richardson

Acquisition info.: Unrestricted gift of Richardson family, 2012.

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

Custodial history: Material was acquired in 2012.

Language(s): Collection materials are in English.

Repository: Hingham Historical Society Archives, Hingham, Massachusetts.

Processed by: Robert H. Malme, December 2014 to June 2015.

Conservation notes: Not applicable.

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access restrictions:

Collection is open for research.

Physical access restrictions:

None.

Technical access restrictions:

None.

Publication rights:

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INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Preferred citation:

[item identification], The John Richardson Street Binders Collection, 2012.30.##,
Hingham Historical Society, Hingham, Massachusetts.

Related collections:

The Michael J. Shilhan Collection, 2013.18
Julian Loring Notebooks collection

Separated material:

None

Published descriptions:

Not applicable

Location of originals:

Not applicable

Location of copies:

Not applicable

Publication note:

Not applicable

Subject headings:

Hingham (Mass.)
Hingham (Mass.)--Buildings, structures, etc.--Pictorial works.
Hingham (Mass.)--History.
Hingham Historical Society
Hingham Region (Mass.)--History--Pictorial works.
Richardson, John, 1934-2011

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

John Richardson (1934-2011) was a resident in Hingham for over sixty years and a well-known environmentalist, wetland specialist and historian. He graduated Hingham High School in 1954 and served in the Army after receiving a degree in botany at the University of Massachusetts, Stockbridge. After his military service, he made preservation of Hingham's history his life's work, amassing a large collection of Hingham-related books, furniture, artifacts, documents, and "ephemera." He once wrote that he had "over 75,000 documents, diaries, journals, letters, surveys, maps, tax lists, photographs, etc." in his collection maintained at his home "The Old Fort House," at 99 Fort Hill Street. He was actively involved in a number of state and Hingham organizations including life membership in the Hingham Historical Society, the Wompatuck State Park Advisory Council, the Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions, the Mass. Audubon Society and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to name just a few. The Hingham Historical Society received much of his collection upon his death in 2011.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection comprises 38 three-ring binders containing plastic sleeves with correspondence, photographs, postcards, maps, deeds, newspaper clippings and other materials on the history of Hingham streets and roads. It was created by John Richardson (1934-2011) between 1970 and 2010. The binders are organized by Hingham neighborhoods, or streets and roads covering the history of who lived in them from the time houses were built on them until the start of the 21st century. The binders build upon the work of former town historian Julian C. Loring (1899-1978) whose decade's long research into the history of the town's homes and buildings produced notebooks of his own with ownership histories, detailed maps, property valuations, photographs, and transcription of local newspaper stories about all houses built in Hingham up to 1967. The Richardson binders added newer information, photographs, and items from his own collections, including research he had done into specific properties as part of his work for the Hingham Historical Commission. The total collection is artificial in nature, put together from existing town records, existing historical collections, and donations to John Richardson himself over several decades. These materials were then donated to the Historical Society following his death in 2011. Only a few of the items in the binders were re-housed and most materials are in the order that they were found. Some related items in separate sleeves were combined onto, particularly the transcribed newspaper articles, to reduce the size of some overcrowded binders. A list of the binder titles is attached. For more detailed lists of contents within a specific binder, consult the table of contents in the front.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Each binder contains most of the following series, listed in alphabetical order:

- SERIES 1: Correspondence, 1963 - 2010**
This series contains original letters or copies, largely by, or to John Richardson with Hingham town government officials, town boards, other historians, newspapers, or citizens regarding the histories of, or the need to preserve, specific properties or neighborhoods. The notebooks also include copies of memos sent by the Hingham Historical Commission to Hingham citizens regarding the history of their houses and the date of their construction.
- SERIES 2: Deeds, 1782 - 1965**
This series contains original forms, copies of forms, or typed and hand-written transcriptions, of property deeds of Hingham home owners from the late seventeenth through the 20th centuries.
- SERIES 3: Newspaper Articles, 1828 - 2010**
This series contains newspaper article clippings of, and hand-written transcription of news articles, both by John Richardson and Julian Loring, detailing coverage, mostly by Hingham papers, about the properties and residents of each street from the late 1820s through the 2000s.
- SERIES 4: Note Pages, 1960 - 2010**
This series contains largely hand-written pages, either by John Richardson or Julian Loring, summarizing other reference materials, in particular information on properties and streets from the notebooks of Julian Loring, notes taken from town history books and town historians, newspaper articles, diaries, or personal conversations with town residents.
- SERIES 5: Photographs, 1856 - 2001 and Undated**
This series contains variety of photographic types: original black and white photographs, reproduced photo prints, color photographs, stereoscopic images, and Polaroid prints, of most of the houses and streets in town dating from the Civil War period to the 1980s, some from the Julian Loring notebooks, some donated by Hingham residents, and others taken by John Richardson, himself.
- SERIES 6: Postcards, 1890 - 1960 and Undated**
This series contains miscellaneous postcards dated from the late 19th to mid-20th century depicting Hingham scenery, streetscapes, buildings, and celebrations.
- SERIES 7: House History Documents, 1973 – 1997 and Undated**
This series contains house ownership histories, house construction dates and other information largely taken from Julian Loring's research for the

Hingham Historical Commission and applications for historic house date plaques around the time of the nation's bicentennial. Some entries include genealogical information for property owners.

SERIES 8:

Remaining Materials, 1805 - 1996 and Undated

This series contains miscellaneous materials collected by John Richardson including maps, holiday cards, church programs, town event programs, business advertisements, brochures, illustrations, and more, including glass fragments from the windows of the Universalist Church.

See attached List for binder titles. For a detailed description of the contents, see table of contents in front of each individual binder.

NOTES

The locations for the materials described in this finding aid may be temporary, for current location, ask the archives staff.

List of Binder Titles

CURRENT (June 12, 2015) LIST OF STREETS IN COMPLETED BINDERS

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

<u>Street</u>	<u>Binder</u>	<u>Within Binder Labeled:</u>
Bare Cove Park	JR 44-45	Bare Cove Park
Burditt Avenue	JR 8	Burditt Avenue
Butler Road	JR 28	Off Hersey Street
Canterbury Street	JR 22	Rocky Nook
Cedar Street	JR 28	Off Hersey Street
Central Street	JR 9	Central Street
Charles Street	JR 9	Central Street
Clark Road	JR 9	Central Street
Common Street	JR 20	Hingham Center
Cottage Street	JR 19	Cottage Street
Cross Street	JR 33	Cross Street
Crowe Lane	JR 28	Off Hersey Street
Cushing Avenue	JR 18	Otis Street
Cushing Street	JR 11	Cushing Street
Derby Street	JR 16	Derby Street
Downer Avenue	JR 18	Otis Street
East Street	JR 15	East Street
Eldredge Court	JR 23	Green Street
Elm Street	JR 14	Elm Street
Emerald Street	JR 14	Elm Street
Fearing Road	JR 19	Cottage Street
Fort Hill Street	JR 12	Fort Hill Street

Free Street	JR 29	Free Street
Friend Street	JR 29	Free Street
Gardner Street	JR 30	Gardner Street
Green Street	JR 23	Green Street
Green Street Court	JR 23	Green Street
Hersey Street	JR 25-27	Hersey Street
High Street	JR 24	High Street
Hobart Street	JR 21	Hobart Street
Hull Street	JR 22	Rocky Nook
Irving Street	JR 32	Irving Street
Jones Street	JR 13	Leavitt Street
Leavitt Street	JR 13	Leavitt Street
Lincoln Street	JR 10, 37	Lincoln Street
Main Street	JR 38-42	Main Street
Martin's Lane	JR 31	Martin's Lane
Miles Road	JR 8	Burditt Avenue
New Bridge Street	JR 33	Cross Street
North Street	JR 34-36	North Street
Oregon Court	JR 28	Off Hersey Street
Otis Street	JR 18	Otis Street
Pond Street	JR 20	Hingham Center
Pope's Lane	JR 47	Triphammer Pond
Prospect Street	JR 17	Prospect Street
Rockland Street	JR 22	Rocky Nook
School Street	JR 20	Hingham Center
Short Street	JR 20	Hingham Center
Spring Street	JR 20	Hingham Center

Summer Street (partial) JR 23
Triphammer Pond JR 47
Ward Street JR 24
Weir Street JR 22
Williams Street JR 28

Green Street
Triphammer Pond
High Street
Rocky Nook
Off Hersey Street