



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library
370 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Manuscript Finding Aid

Title: The Williamson-Brooks Company Records
Collection #: Ms B61
Dates: 1927, 1946-1984
Size of Collection: 2-1/2 linear ft (6 boxes)
Accession Number: L95 Sep 46
Donor: Barbara Philips
Restrictions: None
Processed by: Barbara E Austen
Date: October 1995

Biographical/ historical note:

John Kennedy Williamson (1883-1964) inherited the boiler trade from his father, John Kennedy Williamson (1852-1908). The elder Williamson started the Connecticut Construction and Supply Co. in Bethel, Connecticut, which sold boilers manufactured elsewhere. At his father's death in September 1908, the younger Williamson carried on the business part time until the following April when he moved to Bethel and assumed operations on a full time basis. By September 1909, Williamson hired Charles W. Brooks as a salesman.

The business moved to offices at the Bridgeport Boiler Works Co. In 1911, Williamson hired James C. Reeves as accountant and treasurer. That same year, Williamson incorporated the Porcupine Boiler Company. In 1914, he rented a plant at Wordin and Hancock Avenue and bought machinery to do his own fabricating. The following year Williamson changed from manufacturing boilers to manufacturing plate and structural steel. He moved the plant one last time, this time to Fairfield, in 1922.

The real estate holding company Williamson-Brooks was formed in 1927 to manage the 25 acres in Fairfield on which Porcupine was located. The property extended from Benson Road to the Circle Plaza and included the island in the center where MacDonald's is today. In 1944, the Williamson-Brooks Co. purchased the Porcupine plant and leased it back to the company as a tax saving device. Williamson-Brooks rented other parcels of the 25-acre site to various businesses including Red Star Express, Dunkin' Donuts, Fairfield County Marine, Goodyear Tire & Rubber, Fairfield Car Wash, Carvel, County Federal Bank, Hertz, and Exxon.

Both Porcupine and Williamson-Brooks were owned by John Kennedy Williamson, Reid and Harry Williamson (John's brothers) and Charles Brooks. Porcupine was dissolved in 1967. After John Williamson died in 1964, Williamson-Brooks was managed by Williamson's wife Gladys and his daughters Barbara Phillips and Margaret Pease. Williamson-Brooks operated until 1982, using Investors Mortgage Inc. as its management company.

Williamson Brothers, Inc. was established in 1932. It provided steel services and mill supplies.

Scope and content note:

The collection primarily consists of records of the Williamson-Brooks Company, 1927, 1945-1984, with samples of letterheads and minimal records of the Porcupine Company, ca. 1956-1967, and of Williamson Brothers, n.d. The records of each company are divided into subgroups. Materials had been weeded before donation, so there was little original order. As a result, the collection is grouped into series by type of record, then arranged chronologically.

The records of Williamson-Brooks Company are organized in Sub-Group I. Series A consists of announcements and minutes of Board of Directors and stockholders meetings, 1968-1982. Stockholders records in Series B encompass stock certificates, correspondence and memos to stockholders, and lists of stockholders, 1927, 1958-1982. Williamson-Brooks was a real-estate holding company, so property management and leases were of primary importance. The most complete records in this collection are materials related to the company's properties, 1946-1984. These files are arranged in Series C by address as they were originally, and within each address, chronologically. Arranged before the files on each individual property are indexes of leases, 1946, ca. 1966 and ca. 1980, and two maps of the area in question, 1963, ca. 1980. The records consist of correspondence, leases, and memos.

Financial records in Series D consist of volumes of cash receipts/ disbursements, 1965-1980; a journal voucher, 1952-1966; monthly income and expense reports, 1979-1983; cash flow records, 1968-1982; investment information, 1966-1982; loan records, 1974-1982; bills, 1961-1983; and tax records, 1971-1977, 1983.

Series E, Personnel Records, includes memoranda concerning pensions and salaries and

employee contracts, 1947-1968. A management agreement and warranty deed, 1972, comprise the legal records in Series F. The correspondence in Series G is arranged chronologically, and includes memoranda about personnel issues and letters concerning properties, some of which may supplement or duplicate items in the individual property files. The letters date from 1967-1982.

Administration records in Series H consist of correspondence, memoranda and plans related to office signage, 1966; and samples of letterhead stationary, n.d. The correspondence, memoranda, agreements, property appraisals, the closing agenda and documents relating to the sale of the Williamson-Brooks properties, and the corporate seal, 1980-1983, are arranged in Series I, Liquidation.

Correspondence, a bill, a trust agreement, and blank stationary, 1956-1967, relating to the Porcupine Company are organized in Sub-Group II, in a single series entitled Administrative Records. Blank stationary of Williamson Brothers, Inc., is contained in Sub-Group III.

Contents list:

Sub-Group I. Williamson-Brooks Company Records, 1927, 1946-1984

Series A.	Minutes, 1968-1982	Box 1
Series B.	Stockholders Records, 1927, 1958-1982	Box 1
Series C.	Leases, 1946-1982	Box 1, 2
Series D.	Financial Records, 1952-1984	Box 3, 4
Series E.	Personnel Records, 1947-1968	Box 5
Series F.	Legal Documents, 1972	Box 5
Series G.	Correspondence, 1967-1982	Box 5
Series H.	Administrative Records, 1966	Box 5
Series I.	Liquidation, 1980-1983	Box 5, 6

Sub-group II. Porcupine Company Records, ca. 1956-1967

Series A.	Administrative Records, ca. 1956-1967	Box 5
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Sub-group III. Williamson Brothers Inc. Records, n.d.

Series A.	Administrative Records, n.d.	Box 5
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WILLIAMSON-BROOKS COMPANY
Records, 1927, 1946-1984

Box 1

Sub-group I. Williamson-Brooks Company Records, 1927, 1946-1984

Series A. Stockholder and Board of Director Meeting Minutes, 1968-1982

Folder 1. Announcements and minutes, 1968-1982

Series B. Stockholder Records, 1927, 1958-1982

Volume 1. Stock certificates, 1927

Folder 1. Correspondence, memos, 1958-1961

Folder 2. Correspondence, memos, 1962-1982

Series C. Property Records and Leases, 1946-1982

Folder 1. Index of leases, 1946, ca. 1966, ca. 1980

Folder 2. Maps of property, 1963, ca. 1980

Folder 3. Transfer of management to Investors Mortgage Co.
1967-68

Folder 4. 120 Elliot Street, 1968, 1973-1982

Folder 5. 1320 Kings Highway Cutoff, 1965, 1970-1982

Folder 6-8. 1342-1344 Kings Highway Cutoff, 1969-1982

Box 2

Folder 9. 1370 Kings Highway Cutoff, 1973-1982

Folder 10. 1400 Kings Highway Cutoff, 1971-1982

Folder 11-12. 536 Post Road, 1946-1967

Folder 13. 562 Post Road, 1967-1982

Folder 14. 580 Post Road, 1966-1982

Folder 15. 593 Post Road, 1973-1982

Folder 16. 720 Post Road, 1971-1982

Folder 17. 740 Post Road, 1973-1974

WILLIAMSON-BROOKS COMPANY
Records, 1927, 1946-1984Box 3

Sub-Group I (cont.)

Series D. Financial Records, 1952-1984

- Volume 1. Cash receipts/disbursements, 1965-1980
- Volume 2. Cash receipts/disbursements, 1981-1984
- Folder 1. Copies of journal entries, 1977-1978
- Volume 3. Journal voucher, 1952-1966
- Volume 4. Monthly income and expense reports, 1979-1982
- Folder 2. Monthly income and expense reports, 1982-1983
- Folder 3-4. Annual reports, 1967-1981
- Folder 5-7. Monthly rental reports from Investors Mortgage Co., 1968-1970, 1973-1977, 1980-1983
- Folder 8-9. Cash flow, 1968-1982
- Folder 10. Balance sheets and operating statements, 1956-1967

Box 4

- Folder 11. Correspondence re: investment accounts, 1968-1979
- Folder 12. Investment portfolios, 1966, 1967
- Folder 13-16. Investment accounts, 1968-1982
- Folder 17. People's Savings Bank mortgage loan, 1977
- Folder 18. Mechanics & Farmers Savings Bank mortgage loan, 1977, 1982
- Folder 19. City National Bank commercial loan, 1974-1976
- Folder 20. Certificates of authority, 1961-1968
- Folder 21. Bills and correspondence from J. William Hope and Co., 1972-1984
- Folder 22-23. Bills and correspondence from Marsh, Day & Calhoun, 1961-1983
- Folder 24. Bills from E. P. Pease, 1977-1982
- Folder 25. Memoranda, 1963-1973
- Folder 26-27. Federal income tax, 1971-1977, 1983

WILLIAMSON-BROOKS COMPANY
Records, 1927, 1946-1984

Box 5

Sub-group I (cont.)

- Series E. Personnel Records, 1947-1968
 - Folder 1-2. Memoranda re: pensions and salaries, employee contracts, 1947-1968
- Series F. Legal Documents, 1972
 - Folder 1. Management agreement, warranty deed, 1972
- Series G. Correspondence, 1967-1982
 - Folder 1-2. Memoranda and letters concerning personnel, properties, 1967-1982
- Series H. Administrative Records, 1966, n.d.
 - Folder 1. Correspondence and plans concerning office signs, 1966
 - Folder 2. Blank letterhead stationary
- Series I. Liquidation Proceedings, 1980-1983
 - Folder 1-5. Correspondence, memoranda, agreements, 1980-1983
 - Folder 6. Property appraisals, 1981

Box 6

- Folder 7. "Closing agenda and sale of properties," 1982-1983
- Folder 8. Corporate seal

Sub-group II. Porcupine Company Records, ca. 1956-1967

- Series A. Administrative Records, ca. 1956-1967
 - Folder 1. Correspondence, 1967-1968; trust agreement, 1967; bill, 1963; blank stationary, ca. 1956

Sub-group III. Williamson Brothers, Inc., Records, n.d.

- Series A. Administrative Records, n.d.
 - Folder 1. Letterhead, n.d.

WILLIAMSON-BROOKS COMPANY
Records, 1927, 1946-1984

Subject headings:

Business Records--Conn.--Fairfield
Leases--Conn.--Fairfield
Real Estate Business--Conn.--Fairfield
Real Estate Management--Conn.--Fairfield
Retail Trade--Conn.--Fairfield
Phillips, Barbara Williamson
Williamson, Gladys Bell
Williamson, John Kennedy, 1883-1964
Porcupine Company
Williamson Brothers, Inc.