

Wurzburg/Arbaugh Department Store's Records Collection 429

Finding aid prepared by Tim Gleisner

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

August 01, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

July 18, 2015

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503

616-988-5400

localhis@grpl.org

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Wurzburg/Arbaugh Department Store's Records
Date [inclusive]	1872-1955
Extent	2.0 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Wurzburg/Arbaugh Department Store Records contains items that range from the late 1940's to early 1950's. It was during this time period that Wurzburg's was expanding and renewing their retail brand. This meant an expansion into other retail markets, including the Lansing area and a renovation of their presence in downtown Grand Rapids.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Founded in 1872 by Frederick Wurzburg, Wurzburg's Department store was to become one of the leading department stores of Grand Rapids in the 19th and 20th centuries. The original store was located at Crescent and Canal Streets and occupied the first two floors of the building there. In 1913 Wurzburg's expanded and relocated to a location on Monroe Avenue and extended to Bond Avenue. It was in the 1913 location until it moved to Monroe and Ottawa in 1951. At this location Wurzburg's occupied the former Herpolsheimer's. While here Wurzburg's completely remodeled the building with a new addition added onto the Southwest corner of the building. It was during the 1950's that Wurzburg's Department Store acquired Arbaugh's Department Store of Lansing. This acquisition allowed Wurzburg's to expand into the Lansing market and coincided with Wurzburg's expansion into the Grand Rapids suburban market.

Scope and Contents note

The materials contained within this collection are concerned mainly with the time period between 1945-1955. It was during this time that Wurzburg's Department Store had acquired the old Herpolsheimer's Department Store building and had completely renovated it to become the new flagship store of Wurzburg's. This is reflected by the folio size document is contained within this collection that showcases the new Wurzburg flagship store.

It was also during this same time period that Wurzburg's started to branch out into the suburban communities of Grand Rapids, building stores on the Beltline, 28th Street and other locations. During this same expansion Wurzburg's acquired Arbaugh Department Store which was located in Lansing. This acquisition is reflected by the stock certificate book that is contained within this collection.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department July 18, 2015

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- 20th Century

Subject(s)

- Business Enterprises -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids Region
- Stores, Retail

Collection Inventory

	Box	
2 F.N. Arbaugh Comapny Stock Books	1	
3 Wurzburg Company Stock Books	1	
	Box	Folder
Miscellaneous Wurzburg Company Documents	1	1
		Box
Wurzburg Company Sales Book, ca. 1950		2