



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Girard Estate Records

NMAH.AC.1011

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Girard Estate Records
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1011
Date:	1785-1965,(bulk 1870-1965).
Extent:	5 Cubic feet (12 boxes)
Source:	Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI Lehigh Valley Coal Company Lehigh Valley Railroad Company Millington, W.P. Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company Wagner, E.C.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collected for the Museum for the Division of Extractive Industries.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Work and Industry in 2007.

Processing Information

Collection is unprocessed.

Preferred Citation

Girard Estate Records, 1870-1965, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection open for research on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

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Biographical / Historical

In 1830, Stephen Girard, a merchant, financier, and philanthropist, purchased 67 tracts of land in Pennsylvania that had been held by trustees of the first Bank of the United States. A large portion of the land passed into the Girard Trusts, bequeathed by Girard to the city of Philadelphia. Beginning in 1862, leases for the mining of coal on these lands were granted by the Estate.

Scope and Contents

Records include voluminous correspondence, much of it to or from W.P. Millington, Secretary of the Estate; with the Lehigh Valley Coal Company and Lehigh Valley Railroad Company; and with the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company. Also reports, including annual reports, reports by the Mining Engineer, and reports on visits by trustees; applications for permits; leases, including the lease for the City of Philadelphia as trustee under the will of Stephen Girard to Lehigh Valley Coal Company, 1884-1899; deeds; original agreements regarding the land, 1785 and 1793; licenses to mine coal; photographs, including photographs taken as part of surveys; blueprints; maps; patents; and daily journals for the years 1872, 1873, and 1879, kept by E.C. Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for the Girard Estate, detailing such things as inspections, meetings, etc.

Arrangement

1 series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Coal mines and mining
Mining -- Pennsylvania

Types of Materials:

Application forms
Blueprints
Correspondence
Deeds
Journals (accounts)
Land titles
Maps
Patents
Photographs -- 1850-1900
Photographs -- 20th century
Reports

Names:

Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI

Geographic Names:

Pennsylvania -- Anthracite coal industry