

Royal Oak Historical Society

**Grand Trunk Western Railway Records,
1917-1954**

Accession #: 2005.037

Extent: 1.25 cubic foot

Creator: Grand Trunk Western Railway Company

Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation: Grand Trunk Western Railway Records, Royal Oak Historical Society

History:

The Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company was an American subsidiary of the Grand Trunk Railway (later of the Canadian National Railway) operating in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Grand Trunk Western began as a route for the Grand Trunk Railway (GTR) to link its line to Chicago through lower Michigan.

As cities in Southeastern Oakland County grew, changes were made to existing track lines and related structures, and belt lines were created to provide for increased industrial development and freight shipments. In addition, drainage and sewer systems needed upgrades at railroad crossings. In 1928, due to the Wider Woodward Project the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee Railroad was consolidated with Grand Trunk Western and track lines were relocated. This resulted in the purchase (and disposition) of lands from Royal Oak to Bloomfield Hills.

Scope and Content:

This collection is a subset of the acquisition known as "Rasmussen Two," a compilation of various primary and secondary sources collected by Bill Rasmussen. Due to its unique nature and research value on the subject of railroads, the Grand Trunk Western Railway Records have been housed, arranged, and described as its own set of records.

The primary source records consist of correspondence, memorandum, blueprints, appraisals, purchase agreements, and news clippings. The blueprints include engineered drawings for construction of new railway lines or changes to existing lines and various structural elements. The correspondence is often between railway engineers and city and state government employees. Included are records relating to land acquisition, encroachment on private property, construction materials, bridges, and tunnels. There are also some reports, surveys, and statistical data. The records reflecting disposal of lands concern properties in various subdivisions from Royal Oak to Bloomfield including Bloomfield Estates, Bloomfield Manor, Northwood, Starr Acres, Stinchfield Acres, Trowbridge, and Vinsetta Park.

The documents have been rehoused in acid-free folders in their original order. Dates are not chronological but in the order in which they were arranged by the railway employees. The object

ID numbers, created by the Society, are documented on each folder. The blueprints that were interspersed within the correspondence retain their relationship to the documents. There are also blueprints documenting station maps and crossings in Battle Creek, Birmingham, Chicago, Detroit, and Muskegon. Some of the records reflect the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee Railroad.

Box 1

- 1:1 Flint – Grade Separation and Crossings, 1939-1942
- 1:2 Pontiac Belt Line, 1923-1933
- 1:3 Pontiac Belt Line, 1923-1924
- 1:4 Pontiac Belt Line, 1921-1923
- 1:5 Pontiac Belt Line - Report, 1922
- 1:6 Pontiac Belt Line - Extension, 1932-1947
- 1:7 Pontiac Belt Line - Extension, 1931
- 1:8 Pontiac Belt Line - Extension, 1931-1932
- 1:9 Port Huron - 24th Street Grade Separation, 1924-1926
- 1:10 Royal Oak Grade Crossing Construction, 1931-1932
- 1:11 Wider Woodward Project - Accidents, Injuries, Property Damage, 1928-1932
- 1:12 Wider Woodward Project - Expenditures, 1931-1937
- 1:13 Wider Woodward Project - Expenditures, 1930-1932
- 1:14 Wider Woodward Project - Expenditures, 1928-1930
- 1:15 Wider Woodward Project - Disposal of Lands, 1948-1949
- 1:16 Wider Woodward Project - Disposal of Lands, 1948-1949
- 1:17 Wider Woodward Project - Disposal of Lands, 1950-1951
- 1:18 Wider Woodward Project - Disposal of Lands, 1950
- 1:19 Wider Woodward Project - Disposal of Lands, 1950
- 1:20 Wider Woodward Project - Disposal of Lands, 1954
- 1:21 Wider Woodward Project - Disposal of Lands, 1953-1954
- 1:22 Wider Woodward Project - Disposal of Lands, 1952-1953
- 1:23 Wider Woodward Project - Purchase of Trowbridge Farms, 1927-1932
- 1:24 Wider Woodward Project - Reconstruction of Facilities, 1930-1931
- 1:25 Wider Woodward Project - Reconstruction of Facilities, 1930
Wider Woodward Project - Reconstruction of Facilities, 1929

Box 2

- 2:1 Blueprints, Battle Creek – Elsdon Roadhouse, 1927
- 2:2 Blueprints, Birmingham – D.U.R. Crossings, 1928
- 2:3 Blueprints, Chicago – Ashland Avenue, 1924
- 2:4 Blueprints, Detroit – Station Maps, 1917-1925
- 2:5 Blueprints, Muskegon – Station Map, 1917
- 2:6 Photographs – Unidentified, n.d.