

Royal Oak Historical Society

Royal Oak Historical Commission Records, 1973-1996

Accession #: 2010.038.3185

Extent: 1 cubic foot

Provenance: Owen A. Perkins estate (part). Perkins served as the Commission's first secretary.

Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation: Royal Oak Historical Commission Records, Royal Oak Historical Society

History:

On October 15, 1973, the Royal Oak City Commission supported the Royal Oak Historical Society's proposal to acquire the Orson Starr homestead as a historical property. On January 12, 1976, the city of Royal Oak established the Royal Oak Historical Commission (ROHC) by city ordinance 76-4. It consisted of seven members appointed by the City Commission and served as a policy-making advisory committee to the City Commission on any activity or project relative to the historical interests of the city. This included establishing policies including the collection and preservation of historical materials relative to the history of the city and surrounding area, early residents, and the "history, progress or decay of Indian tribes." In October 1976, the City Commission authorized ROHC to develop a plan for converting the Starr House into a historical museum. The ROHC was also responsible for identifying historical buildings and sites that should be considered for preservation and making recommendations to the City Commission. ROHC worked with other historical organizations in the city including the Citizens Advisory Committee, the City Commission Study Session, and the Historic District Study Commission.

Scope and Content:

The records were originally housed in binders. They were removed and rehoused in acid-free folders and boxes, arranged in series by binder, then chronologically. There are three series: Meeting Minutes, Historical Files (as designated by Perkins), and Accessions. Included are the "by-laws" set forth by the ordinance. The Historical Files consist of agendas, agreements, correspondence, grant funding, memos, and some meeting minutes. Many of the records pertain to the acquisition, maintenance, and restoration of the Orson Starr House, use of the house as a meeting site for historical organizations in the city, and the development of policies for the house, including the donation and management of collections. There is a list of accessioned materials in the Accessions series. Other subjects include a historic site survey, information pertaining to cemeteries, the historic collection at Royal Oak Public Library, and the Vinsetta Boulevard bridges.

Related Records:

George Dondero – Historical Commission Records #2005.006.1725. This collection contains many duplicate materials but may also have unique documents.

Box 1

Series I: Meeting Minutes

- 1:1 Meeting Minutes, 1973, 1976
- 1:2 Meeting Minutes, 1977-1978
- 1:3 Meeting Minutes, 1979-1980
- 1:4 Meeting Minutes, 1981-1984
- 1:5 Meeting Minutes, 1985-1986
- 1:6 Meeting Minutes, 1987-1988
- 1:7 Meeting Minutes, 1989
- 1:8 Meeting Minutes, 1990
- 1:9 Meeting Minutes, 1991
- 1:10 Meeting Minutes, 1992-1994

Series II: Historical Files

- 1:11 City Commission Goals, 1977
- 1:12 Directories
- 1:13 ROHC, 1977
- 1:14 ROHC, 1978
- 1:15 ROHC, 1979
- 1:16 ROHC, Jan-Jun 1980
- 1:17 ROHC, Aug-Dec 1980
- 1:18 ROHC, 1981

Box 2

Series II: Historical Files (cont'd)

- 2:1 ROHC, 1982
- 2:2 ROHC, 1983
- 2:3 ROHC, 1984
- 2:4 ROHC, 1985
- 2:5 ROHC, 1986
- 2:6 ROHC, 1987
- 2:7 ROHC, 1989
- 2:8 ROHC, 1990
- 2:9 ROHC, 1991
- 2:10 ROHC, 1992
- 2:11 ROHC, 1993
- 2:12 ROHC, 1994

Series III: Accessions

- 2:13 Cemeteries
- 2:14 General Information
- 2:15 Starr House Inventories