



Finding Aid for

**MICHIGAN INSPECTION BUREAU RECORDS, 1890-1964
(bulk 1910-1930)**

Accession 85.1.1692

Finding Aid Republished: February 2016



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 85.1.1692

CREATOR: Michigan Inspection Bureau

TITLE: Michigan Inspection Bureau Records

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1890-1964

BULK DATES: 1910-1930

QUANTITY: 4 cubic ft. (10 boxes)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: The Michigan Inspection Bureau, headquartered in Detroit, Michigan, offered free inspection services to statewide businesses to reduce fire risk. The inspection records list name of company, location, number of employees, and type of products, raw stocks, machinery and processes at each company.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The records are open for research.
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to the Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** The Michigan Inspection Bureau Records were acquired by The Henry Ford in 1985.
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 85.1.1692, Michigan Inspection Bureau Records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by staff of The Henry Ford in 1988.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by staff of the Benson Ford Research Center, circa 1988.
- Finding aid written by staff of the Benson Ford Research Center, March 2011, and published in May 2011. Finding aid updated to reflect re-housed content and republished in February 2016.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Michigan Inspection Bureau, organized around 1877 and headquartered in Detroit, Michigan, offered free inspection services to statewide businesses to reduce fire risk. As described by John Winship, Commissioner of Insurance, in a report dated 13 June 1917, "The principal objects of the Bureau are the measuring of relative fire hazards and the publishing of advisory estimates of the same; examination of fire departments and water works; inspection of automatic sprinkler equipments and electric installations; publishing of fire maps and issuing surveys and diagrams of all mercantile and manufacturing risks; and advice and suggestions to architects, builders and insureds for the elimination of fire hazards for the purpose of reducing the cost of fire insurance to the insureds of the State." (47th Annual Report of the Commissioner of Insurance of the State of Michigan, 1917)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

All inspection data is listed on a standard printed form, which includes the following information:

- Name and type of company inspected
- Location (street address) of the company
- Location of company specified on Sanborn plot
- Current occupants of building(s), number of employees (including ratio of male to female employees), and working hours
- Type of product(s) made
- Raw stocks maintained and necessary to produce product
- Type of machinery and manufacturing processes used

The inspection report summarizes the entire operation in terms of potential hazards and lists recommendations for hazard correction. Also listed are building construction details, such as locations and dimensions.

ARRANGEMENT

The inspection reports are arranged alphabetically by business name and then chronologically by year.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate
Michigan Inspection Bureau

Subjects
Business enterprises--Michigan.
Fire insurance--Michigan.
Fire prevention--Inspection--Michigan
Real property--Michigan

Genre and Form
Maps
Reports

CONTAINER LIST

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- 8-20 M. Rumely Co., 1914
- 8-21 Russell Motor Axel Co., 1919
- 8-22 Phillip Ruxton Inc., 1923
- 8-23 Saginaw Motor Car Co., 1916
- 8-24 Saginaw Products Co. Div. of General Motors Corp., 1921
- 8-25 Saginaw Mfg. Co., 1902, 1907, 1909
- 8-26 Saginaw Showcase Co., 1912
- 8-27 Saginaw Table & Cabinet Co., 1911
- 8-28 St. Louis Sugar Co., 1906, 1909, 1922
- 8-29 Sargent Mfg. Co., 1909
- 8-30 C. A. Sauer & Co., 1914
- 8-31 Saxon Motor Car Co., 1917, 1922
- 8-32 Scripps Booth Corp., 1921
- 8-33 Sedwicks Drug Store, 1923
- 8-34 Severance Tank & Silo Co., 1913
- 8-35 Smith Bros. Grocery, 1923
- 8-36 Wm. A. Scripps Co., 1915
- 8-37 Carl E. Schmidt & Co., 1914, 1925, 1931
- 8-38 I. L. Scheinman & Co., 1914
- 8-39 O. F. Schmid Chemical, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1916, 1917
- 8-40 Schwanbeck Bros., 1914
- 8-41 Scripps Booth Corp., 1921
- 8-42 Seager Engine works, 1914
- 8-43 Shaw-Walker Co., 1937
- 8-44 Wm. Shakespeare Jr. Co., 1919
- 8-45 Sheffield Car Co., 1912
- 8-46 Shepard Art Metal Co., 1923
- 8-47 Hugo Sherer Estate, 1929
- 8-48 Silver Foam Brewing Co., 1939
- 8-49 The Simons Sales Co., 1916
- 8-50 Sligh Furniture Co., 1902
- 8-51 Jos. N. Smith & Co., 1924
- 8-52 Peter Smith Heater Co., 1920
- 8-53 Robert Smith Printing Co., 1912
- 8-54 Soo Woolen Mills, 1914
- 8-55 E. H. Stafford Co., 1897, 1898
- 8-56 Star Furniture Factory, 1915
- 8-57 Stecker Electric Co., 1918
- 8-58 Steel Furniture Co., 1913

- 8-59 Sterling & Skinner Mfg. Co., 1907, 1913
- 8-60 Stickley Bros. Co., 1920
- 8-61 Stone Atwood & Co., 1903
- 8-62 David Stott Flour Mills Inc., 1925
- 8-63 Stow-Davis Furniture Co., 1929
- 8-64 Strable Lumber & Salt Co., 1925
- 8-65 Straub Bros. & Amiotte, 1911
- 8-66 Sturgis Steel Go-Cart Co., 1914
- 8-67 Superior Mfg. Co. Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1912
- 8-68 Superior Mfg. Co. Muskegon, Michigan, 1909
- 8-69 Swiss American Knitting Mills, 1913
- 8-70 Symons Bros. Co., 1926

BOX 9

- 9-1 Taylor McLeish & Co., 1912
- 9-2 James M. Teahen Plumbing Goods Factory, 1913
- 9-3 Tisch-Hine Co., 1924
- 9-4 Toledo Plate & Window Glass Co., 1914
- 9-5 Wm. Tegge & Co., 1923
- 9-6 Traver-Bird & Co., 1914
- 9-7 Trio Manufacturing Co., 1915
- 9-8 Tuttle & Clark, 1929
- 9-9 U. S. Aluminum Co. 1926
- 9-10 Universal Button Fastening & Button Co., 1909, 1910
- 9-11 Universal Car & Service, 1921
- 9-12 A. T. Vanalstyne Co., 1924
- 9-13 Van Blerck Motor Co., 1914
- 9-14 Visel-Darling Co. Inc., 1923
- 9-15 Walker & Co., 1932
- 9-16 Ward Bros. Flooring Mill, 1930
- 9-17 Warrick Bros. Co., 1924
- 9-18 Weber Buildings formerly Kotcher Lumber Co., 1947
- 9-19 Weil & Co., 1915, 1926
- 9-20 The Weis Manufacturing, 1913
- 9-21 Welch Mfg. Co., 1920
- 9-22 Western Knitting Mills, 1916, 1921
- 9-23 Western Robe Co., 1904
- 9-24 Whitcomb Bldg., 1914
- 9-25 J. C. Widman & Co., 1914
- 9-26 Wilcox Kuennen Co., 1928
- 9-27 H. L. Willing co., 1923
- 9-28 C. R. Wilson Body Co., 1917
- 9-29 Wolfe-Detroit Envelope co., 1935
- 9-30 Wolverine Copper Mining Co., Stamp Mill, 1917
- 9-31 Woods Bros. Silo & Mfg. Co. formerly Severance Tank & Silo, 1913
- 9-32 Worden Grocery Co.; Grand Rapids, 1914

- 9-33 The Woodhouse Co., 1916
- 9-34 Wood Hydraulic Hoist and Body Co., 1927
- 9-35 Yale Woolen Mills, 1936
- 9-36 L. A. Young Co., 1929, 1932
- 9-37 Ypsilanti Reed Furniture Co., 1915

BOX 10

- 10-1 Bulletin: Cold Weather Hazards Automatic Sprinkler systems, 1927
- 10-2 General correspondence to Inspection Bureaus announcing insurance agent of record for named corporations, 1922
- 10-3 Inspection Report (partial) (unable to identify), undated
- 10-4 Master index book to reports and maps, 1929