



120 Academy Street, Trenton, N.J. 08608
609-392-7188 * www.trentonlib.org

Trenton City Museum Collection

Circa 1973–2012

**By Chris Loos
February 2024**

Summary Information

Creator(s):

City of Trenton; Trenton City Museum

Donor:

Unknown (found in collections); Betty Holland (donor); Benjamin Whitmire (donor);
David Abramson (possible donor, Box 3 materials)

Language of Materials:

English

Extent:

Approximately 2 linear feet

Location of Repository:

Trentoniana Department, Trenton Free Public Library, 120 Academy St., Trenton, NJ
08608

Subjects:

Architecture, Domestic--New Jersey--Trenton / Art and culture / Cadwalader Heights
(Trenton, N.J.)--Buildings, structures, etc. / Ellarslie Mansion (Trenton, N.J.) / Historic
buildings--New Jersey--Trenton / Holland, Arthur John (1918-1989) / Notman, John (1810-
1865) / Trenton (N.J.)--History / Trenton (N.J.)--Museums / Trenton (N.J.) Museum Society

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

No access restrictions.

Reference Number:

CITY—TCM

Preferred Citation:

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Trenton City Museum Collection, Trentoniana Department, Trenton Free Public Library, 120 Academy St., Trenton, NJ 08608

Scope/Content

This collection spans three series that collectively describe the history of the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion. The first series includes the museum's newsletters, exhibit ephemera, and booklets from the yearly *Ellarslie Open* gala. The second covers administrative items, including minutes, correspondence, and financial documents from the founding of the Trenton Museum Society in 1973 to the present. The final series concerns Ellarslie mansion itself, particularly the city-run project to restore the house to its current state. It includes plans, drawings, and correspondence most likely from city architect David Abramson; these items have been kept in their original order. All told, this collection sheds light on a relatively recent Trenton institution, one that has helped preserve and display the city's history and culture.

Archivist's Note: As with many of the items in the City Records, the documents in this collection have been pieced together from various locations throughout the archive.

Where possible, I have identified the possible donor(s) and/or creator(s). It is likely that much of the materials originally belonged to the Arthur Holland Papers, but had been moved to other locations by past librarians.

Administrative History

For a brief history of both the Ellarslie mansion and the city museum, please refer to [the museum's website](#).

Arrangement**Series I: Newsletters, Programs, and Other Publicity**

Box 1, Folder 1: Trenton Museum Society Newsletter/*The Ellarslie Muse* (circa 1975-2012; incomplete)

Folder 2: Brochures, booklets, misc. publicity

Folder 3: Profiles/Histories of Ellarslie Mansion

Folder 4: Exhibitions and events calendars

Folder 5: Ellarslie Open/Ellarslie Gala booklets

Folder 6: Delaware and Raritan Canal Coalition: Exhibits, programs, and relevant correspondence

Folder 7: “Trenton Public Schools at Ellarslie” ephemera (1985; 1987; 1992)

Folder 8: “When Trenton Baseball Roared Like Thunder” program and exhibit materials (1994-1995)

Folder 9: Other program/exhibit ephemera, circa 1978-1985

Folder 10: Other program/exhibit ephemera, circa 1986-2009; undated

Box CITY-OS1, Folder 4: Oversized Ellarslie posters

Series II: Administrative Documents

Box 2, Folder 1: Museum bylaws/mission statements; relevant legislation; other museum policies

Folder 2: Museum reports (annual and semi-annual)

Folder 3: Other reports and budgets/financial materials

Folder 4: City Museum Commission meeting minutes and agendas, 1973-1982 (incomplete)

Folder 5: City Museum Commission meeting minutes, 1983-1986 (incomplete)

Folder 6: Museum Commission/Board member lists, committee lists, “Sunday Rotation” lists (many undated)

Folder 7: Personnel responsibilities, job descriptions, elections/appointments, etc. (includes items re: Director Selig)

Folder 8: Correspondence re: Museum director classification

Folder 9: Correspondence--Other internal; external

Series III: Restoration and Maintenance of Ellarslie Mansion

Box 2, Folder 10: Ellarslie building use, grounds, and security

Folder 11: Ellarslie maintenance/restoration

Folder 12: *Ellarslie: Phase 2 Project Manual* (circa 1979)

Box 3, Folder 1: “Ellarslie--Reports”

Folder 2: “Working Folder--Ellarslie”

Folder 3: “Building Conditions Study”

Folder 4: “Ellarslie--Outline Spec”

Folder 5: “Ellarslie--Transmittals”

Folder 6: “Ellarslie--Shop Drawings Lists”

Folder 7: “Ellarslie--Mechanical Shop Dwgs.” (3 oversized moved to Box CITY-OS1)

Folder 8: “Ellarslie--Const. Correspondence”

Folder 9: “Pre-Qualifying” (materials re: bidder qualifications), Part I

Folder 10: “Pre-Qualifying,” Part II

Folder 11: “Ellarslie--Consultants”

Folder 12: “Ellarslie--Field Orders, Change Orders”

Box CITY-OS1, Folder 3: Ellarslie Restoration shop drawings; other OS diagrams/plans for Ellarslie