



120 Academy Street, Trenton, N.J. 08608  
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**Trenton Farmers' Market Collection**

**Circa 1924–1948**

**By Chris Loos  
February 2024**

**Summary Information**

**Creator(s):**

City of Trenton

**Donor:**

Unknown (found in collections)

**Language of Materials:**

English

**Extent:**

Approximately 4 linear feet

**Location of Repository:**

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

**Subjects:**

Donnelly, Frederick William (1866-1935) / Farmers--New Jersey / Farmers--New York /  
Farmers--Pennsylvania / Food supply--New Jersey--Trenton / Municipal law--New Jersey /  
Retail trade--New Jersey--Trenton / Trenton (N.J.)--Commerce / Trenton (N.J.)--Economic  
conditions / Trenton (N.J.)--History / Trenton (N.J.)--Politics and government / Woolley, Charles  
M., Jr. (1892-1964)

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Conditions Governing Access:**

No access restrictions.

#### **Reference Number:**

CITY—MARKETS

#### **Preferred Citation:**

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

### **Scope/Content**

This collection includes items from the last iteration of Trenton's municipal-run farmers' market. It comprises two series. The first covers materials for administering the site itself, like regulations, price-fixing, annual and monthly reports, correspondence, and finances and budgets. The second series focuses on the vendors themselves, containing their correspondence with city officials, lists of vendors, and a few items from the Trenton Market Growers' Cooperative Association. Of particular note are the many Affidavits of Application, which contain information on hundreds of farmers in the Trenton area and far beyond.

*Archivist's Note:* Like with all collections within the Trenton City Records, these items have been compiled from various locations within the Trentoniana Department and arranged *ad hoc*. The Affidavits of Application in Series II have been arranged by county (per the original order), and further organized alphabetically by township.

*[See also: The Trenton Administration Collection; Scrapbooks SB 47, 269-274, and 287 (by city commissioner George Reiker, all part of the Parks and Recreation Collection).]*

### **Administrative History**

Trenton has hosted a farmers' market since before its establishment as a city in 1792. Prior to that year, the market was located in the middle of King (now Warren)

Street, starting from the intersection with Second (now State) Street. In 1793, the new municipal government set up a city-run market in the center of East State Street, between Warren and Broad Streets. A lack of space and increasing traffic led the city to relocate the market to the middle of Broad Street (between State and Academy) in 1848. This market was removed in 1870 and replaced by the privately-owned “Washington Market” at the corner of Front and Stockton Streets. The Washington Market owed its name to the statue of George Washington that stood in a niche above the main entrance. The statue [has its own interesting history](#), including speculation that it originally depicted Horace Greeley or DeWitt Clinton. It currently resides in the cafeteria at the headquarters of Janssen Pharmaceutical in Titusville.

The Washington Market served Trentonians until the 1920s, when it shut down; despite briefly reopening in 1926 as the “New Washington Market,” it closed for good when the city tore down the building in 1928. Four years prior, Mayor Frederick Donnelly had spearheaded the establishment of a new municipal market to be located along the wharf on Ferry Street. This market makes up nearly the entirety of the materials in this collection. The Trenton Farmers’ Market remained along the wharf for over two decades, and the city government worked alongside the Trenton Market Growers’ Cooperative Association to facilitate commerce and provide food during the Great Depression and the Second World War. In 1948, the market was again threatened, this time by plans to construct Route 29. The Market Growers’ Association, which had earlier purchased a lot of land just outside the city limits on Spruce Street, removed the market to this location and outside municipal control. It remains there to this day, the longest site of a farmers’ market in Trenton’s history. For further information and photographs, see the [Trenton Farmers’ Market website](#).

## **Arrangement**

### **Series I: Market Administrative and Financial**

Box 1, Folder 1: Market fees, rules, and regulations (city, state, and national)

Folder 2: Site administration--Land acquisition, fencing, insurance, sanitation, etc.

Folder 3: Site administration--Lighting, electricity, and other utilities

Folder 4: Site administration--Market personnel and other city employees

Folder 5: Correspondence--Internal

Folder 6: Correspondence--With other farmers' markets and agricultural departments

Folder 7: Correspondence--External (with patrons, other businesses, shippers, etc.)

Folder 8: Misc. administrative forms and boilerplate

Folder 9: Other articles and ephemera

Folder 10: Reports--Other (on markets elsewhere and other topics)

Folder 11: Price-fixing forms (July-September 19??; July-October 1937; October 1938; undated; blank)

Folder 12: Annual reports on the Trenton Market, 1924-1934

Folder 13: Monthly financial reports, 1925-1929

Folder 14: Monthly financial reports, 1930-1936; circa 1940-1945

Folder 15: Market inventories (1926-1947)

Box 2, Folder 1: Monthly reports to NJ Department of Agriculture, 1938-1939

Folder 2: Market budget--Expenditures, reports, correspondence, etc.

Folders 3-8: Purchase orders and inventories, 1935-1948

Box 3, Folder 1: Market receipt book, circa 1921-1931

Folder 2: Additional market receipts, 1926-1934; 1947-1948

Box CITY OS1, Folder 1: Oversized (map, graphs, poster)

## **Series II: Market Vendors**

Box 4, Folders 1-3: Lists of vendors, 1928-1947 (missing 1944)

Folder 4: Lists of vendors in notebooks, circa 1941-1948

Folder 5: Lists of vendors, undated

Folder 6: Correspondence with vendors (Boilerplate and other)

Folder 7: Affidavits of Application--Vendors from Atlantic County

Folders 8-9: Affidavits of Application--Burlington County

Folder 10: Affidavits of Application--Camden County

Box 5, Folder 1: Affidavits of Application--Hunterdon County

Folders 2-4: Affidavits of Application--Mercer County

Folder 5: Affidavits of Application--Middlesex County

Trenton Tax Assessment Collection—March 2024

Folder 6: Affidavits of Application--Monmouth County

Folder 7: Affidavits of Application--Ocean County

Folder 8: Affidavits of Application--Warren County

Folder 9: Affidavits of Application--Other NJ Counties (Cumberland,  
Gloucester, Somerset, Union)

Folder 10: Affidavits of Application--Bucks County (PA), Part I

Box 6, Folder 1: Affidavits of Application--Bucks County (PA), Part II

Folder 2: Affidavits of Application--Other (NY; NC)

Folder 3: Market Growers' Cooperative Association--Members;  
application; correspondence; miscellaneous

Folder 4: Market Growers' Association--Advertisements on newsprint