



Guide to the W. M. Piatt and Company records, 1914-1973

This collection guide was produced in **September 2019**.

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	3
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	6
Company records	6

Summary

Collection Title:

W. M. Piatt and Company records, 1914-1973

Abstract:

Collection comprises correspondence, blueprints, proposals relating to construction or the improvement of sewage and wastewater treatment systems. Includes substantial amounts of material on the sewage treatment system for Winston-Salem and Durham, North Carolina. Other North Carolina localities and clients documented in the collection are Burlington Mills, Claremont, Cooleemee, Cothran, Cramertown, Dallas, Erwin Mills, Fairbanks Morse Company, Mooresville, Mebane, North Wilkesboro, and Wake Forest.

Extent:

12.25 Linear Feet (9 boxes)

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.11770

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1h723>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], W. M. Piatt and Company records, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

Collection comprises correspondence, blueprints, proposals, and reports relating to construction or the improvement of sewage and wastewater treatment systems in the North Carolina Piedmont. Includes substantial amounts of material on a major expansion of the sewage treatment system for Winston-Salem, Forsyth County, for which the firm was a consultant to the city and county, and multiple projects in Durham County, North Carolina.

Other North Carolina localities and clients documented in the collection are Burlington Mills, Claremont, Cooleemee, Cothran, Cramertown, Dallas, Erwin Mills, Fairbanks Morse Company, Mooresville, Mebane, North Wilkesboro, and Wake Forest. Most of the projects date from the latter half of the 20th century.

Biographical/Historical

Company founded in Durham, N.C., 1910, with the name Piatt and Davis, Engineers; primarily responsible for designing sewage and wastewater treatment systems and plants. The company designed the Durham Waterworks, constructed in 1917 on Hillandale Road; also designed the Lake Michie dam. One of their largest projects was the expansion of the Winston-Salem wastewater treatment system in the late 1950s. The firm's founder, William M. Piatt III, originally from Pennsylvania, owned the Lochmoor residence in Durham. His partner was a P.D. Davis.

The company had several names, starting with Piatt and Davis, Engineers, then Piatt and Davis and Associates; and by 1968, W. M. Piatt and Company. The company still exists, with headquarters in Garner, N.C.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Records are grouped by location.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive
Duke University
Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The W.M. Piatt records were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a deposit in 1984 and a gift in 2021.

Processing Information

The collection was given core-level processing by library staff in 1986. Guide encoded by Paula Jeannet, September 2019.

Accession(s) represented in collection guide: 7-10-1984, 2021-0159.

Updated by Leah Tams, January 2022.

Box 9 was treated for mold.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Engineering firms -- Durham (N.C.)
- Sewage disposal plants -- History -- North Carolina
- Sewer design -- North Carolina
- Durham (N.C.) -- Industry
- Durham (N.C.) -- History
- Blueprints
- Piatt, William M.

Collection Inventory

Company records

Erwin Mills	Box 1
Cramertown	Box 1
Cooleemee	Box 1
Fairbanks Morse Company	Box 1
North Wilkesboro	Box 1
Burlington Mills	Box 1
Cothran	Box 1
Dallas	Box 1
Mooreville, 1948-1955	Box 2
Winston-Salem, 1962	Box 2
Forsyth County, 1959	Box 2
Winston-Salem, 1961-1962	Box 3
Forsyth County	Box 3
Mebane	Box 3
Mebane, 1938-1968	Box 4
Wake Forest, 1954-1964	Box 4
Claremont	Box 5
Wake Forest, 1958-1960	Box 5
Winston-Salem sewage treatment plant proposal, plans, blueprints, subcontracts, 1950s-1960s	Box 6

Winston-Salem sewage treatment plant, 1956-1958	Box 7
Correspondence	Box 7
Subcontractors	Box 7
Durham New Hope Creek, 1927-1928	Box 7
Durham New Hope Creek, 1927-1928	Box 8
Wake Forest, 1935-1936	Box 8
Greenville proposal, 1914	Box 8
Durham report, 1923	Box 8
Cooleemee report, 1930	Box 8
Mebane reports, 1946-1961	Box 8
North Wilkesboro reports, 1950-1951	Box 8
Wake Forest reports, 1958-1961	Box 8
Winston-Salem proposal and reports, 1953-1970	Box 8
Correspondence, blueprint, and receipts, 1920-1930	Box 9
Charlotte sewers, 1928-1929	Box 9
General Electric switchboard manual, June 1921	Box 9
Clinton water works, 1914-1915	Box 9
Clinton water works and Tarboro pumps, 1914-1926	Box 9
Finance notebook and letter from "Mama", circa 1914-1930	Box 9

[Return to Table of Contents](#)