

# **Finding aid for the Bridge Street House records Collection 188**

**Finding aid prepared by Richard Harms**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

June 1996

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503

616-988-5400

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator</b>	Bridge Street House. (Grand Rapids, Mich.)
<b>Title</b>	Bridge Street House records
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1854-1860
<b>Extent</b>	1.3 Linear feet One box
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Bridge Street House was an early tavern and hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This collection includes three volumes of records from the hotel: a register from 1857-1860 and day books from 1853-1854 and 1857-1861. Though apparently not comprehensive, these volumes detail the daily expenses of the hotel, before and after the structure burned in 1855. The names of guests of the hotel are included from 1854 to 1860, primarily after the building reopened after the fire. The volumes provide insight into the business of the hotel and also into temporary residents in the city of Grand Rapids.</p>

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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The Bridge Street House was built at the corner of E. Bridge (now Michigan) and Kent streets in 1837 as a tavern. Over the course of time the wood frame structure was enlarged to accommodate overnight guests until it was destroyed by fire on February 10, 1855. It was rebuilt and reopened on June 12, 1857. During the Civil War, the hotel served as the headquarters for recruiting officers and, until the Michigan Veteran's Facility was built in 1886, it also was a meeting place for veterans after the war.

Just prior to the fire, the hotel was run by Gottlieb Christ, a German immigrant who had previously been in the beer brewing business with his two brothers.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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Details the daily expenses of the hotel, located at the corner of Michigan and Kent streets, before and after the structure burned in 1855, as well as the guests of the Bridge Street House after the building reopened.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department June 1996

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Mrs. E.H. Christ, November 12, 1928; accession number 00.000

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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**Corporate Name(s)**

- Bridge Street House. (Grand Rapids, Mich.)

**Genre(s)**

- registers (lists)

**Geographic Name(s)**

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- 19th Century

**Subject(s)**

- Hotels -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History

## Collection Inventory

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	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Bridge Street House (hotel) register 1857-1860	1	1
Bridge Street House (hotel) day book 1853-1854	1	2
Bridge Street House (hotel) day book 1857-1861	1	3