

Finding aid for the Michigan Central Railroad Company collection Collection 196

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

July 1996

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Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Related Materials</u>	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6
.....	6
<u>Timetables</u>	6
<u>Series III. Ephemera</u>	7
<u>Series III. Ephemera</u>	8

Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Michigan Central Railroad Company.
Title	Michigan Central Railroad Company Collection
Date [inclusive]	1849-1948
Extent	1.5 Linear feet Two boxes
Language	English
Abstract	The Michigan Central Railroad Company collection documents the business affairs of the line through a limited set of documents, including select annual reports ranging from 1849 to 1927. Also included are examples of both employee and public timetables, as well as examples of bond and mortgage certificates, 1881 to 1907, and a summer tour promotional brochure.

Biographical/Historical note

The Michigan Central Railroad Company was formed in 1846. The line adopted the central of three routes proposed by the State of Michigan across the lower peninsula, hence the line's name. The mainline ran from Detroit, firm headquarters, through Jackson, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Niles and ultimately to Chicago, Illinois. It gained entry to Grand Rapids by purchase of the Grand River Valley Railroad in 1870. The latter had been built in 1869, its route running from Jackson north to Rives Junction then generally northwest through Eaton Rapids, Charlotte, Nashville, Middleville and Caledonia to Grand Rapids.

From its inception, the Michigan Central was controlled by the New York Central Railroad. During the 1930s it was folded administratively into the parent road, ending its unique identity.

Scope and Contents note

Annual reports (1849-1948) document the company's business and financial affairs including earnings, expenses and balance statements. The status of equipment and locomotives, as well as new acquisitions, is also detailed. Many reports include system maps.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Unknown donor, accession numbers 00.000, 00.[1430].1

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Archives of Michigan: Railroad holdings, Circular No. 13 – Railroad Records

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mhc_sa_circular13_49702_7.pdf

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Michigan Central Railroad Company.

Genre(s)

- business records

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Railroads -- Michigan

Collection Inventory

Series I 1849-1927		
	Box	Folder
Annual Reports 1849	1	1
Annual Reports 1851-1853	1	2-4
Annual Reports 1891	1	5
Annual Reports 1905-1927	1	6-28
Series II Timetables		
Employee 1948		
	Box	Folder
#227, Detroit-Michigan-West Division 4/25/1948	1	29
Public 1889-1948		
	Box	Folder
Local Tables 1889	1	30

Series III. Ephemera

Form 1, System 7/25/1920	1	31
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Grand Rapids to ... 12/11/1921	1	32
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Form 300, Local Tables 4/25/1948	1	33
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Series III. Ephemera

Brochures and Booklets

	Box	Folder
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Facts and Figures about Michigan, and Year Book (Formerly M310.B73 00.[1430].1 10/26/2001) 4/25/1948	1	33.5
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Summer Tourist Rates and Routes 1897	1	34
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Pamphlets

	Box	Folder
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Merits of Michigan Central Railroad as an Investment (Includes charter) 1847	1	35
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Notes, certificates

	Box	Folder
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Note, certificate (5%, 3 year, gold) 1907	1	36
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Bonds

Bonds		
	Box	Folder
Bond, Gold (\$1,000) 3 1/2% 1902	2	1
Bond, Gold (\$5,000) 3 1/2% 1902	2	2
Bond, Gold (\$10,000) 3 1/2% 1902	2	3
Series III. Ephemera		
Mortgage Certificates		
	Box	Folder
Certificate, First Mortgage (\$5,000) 5%-Payable Quarterly, served by Detroit and Bay City Railroad.	2	4