



City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

Guide to the Long Island Hospital records

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

Repository:	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
Title:	Long Island Hospital records
Collection No.:	
Dates:	circa 1890 - 1991
Quantity:	40.0 Cubic feet

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Historical note

Long Island Hospital (LIH) was a city hospital in operation from approximately 1893 – the mid-20th century. In 1882 the City of Boston began acquiring land on Long Island. In order to secure the island for the arrival of expectant female paupers from the Rainsford Island alms facility, the city evicted squatters conducting illegal activity and trade, as well as a small Portuguese fishing community. The Boston Home for Paupers was opened on Long Island by 1891 and included hospital facilities. The city merged the Rainsford Island alms communities for both men and women with the new facilities on Long Island in 1887, with all of the inmates being located on Long Island by 1894 when the women's dormitory was completed. In 1894 the facility became the Boston Almshouse and Hospital. In 1893 a dedicated hospital building was built, and 1895 saw the creation of a resident

training program for nurses and the appointment of several visiting physicians. The hospital complex eventually included over 20 buildings, including residential buildings for staff. In 1935, an account of the buildings on Long Island lists the superintendent's house, an institution building, men's and women's dormitories, men's and women's hospital buildings, a chapel, a power house, and a recreation center known as the Curley building. The land surrounding the hospital was cultivated for both crop and animal production. The hospital began focusing on the treatment of chronic disease around the turn of the 20th century as a result of limited funding and space. A separate Hospital for Consumptives was opened in 1902. During the 1920s and '30s the hospital is reported to have housed over 1,225 inmates and 450 patients (in 1935 the number of patients is reported in The Islands of Boston Harbor as 490). In 1921 the almshouse was converted into a home for unwed mothers and in 1928 the city added a shelter for homeless men. In 1941 the hospital created a treatment program for alcoholics which continued to operate for several decades. The hospital is no longer in operation, though the homeless shelter is. The staff included Commissioner Hugh J. Campbell (3/4/1938-10/2/1945), Medical Director Charles Lancaster Clay, MD (3/5/1935-4/24/1940), a nursing matron, nurses serving as heads of wards, staff and training nurses, interning doctors, visiting medical staff, social workers, office clerks, maintenance workers, farmers, and the crews of the three steamships serving Deer and Long Islands: the Perkins, Hibbard, and O'Meara.

Sources:

Boston Harbor Island: A National Park Area Draft General Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. 2000. Boston, MA: Boston Support Office of the Northeast Region National Park Service.

Kuhl, Ellen. 2003. The Cemeteries of the Boston Almshouse and Hospital: A Brief Historic Overview.

Snow, Edward R. 1935. "Deer Island and Long Island." In The Islands of Boston Harbor: Their History and Romance. 2nd ed., 275. Andover, MA: The Andover Press.

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General note

The numbers included in some of the folder titles denote the hospital's original numerical filing system.

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I: Administrative, 1898-1991 (11.0 Cubic feet) (11 record cartons)

Access to files containing patient information is restricted at the discretion of the Archivist.

This series contains the administrative records for the Long Island Hospital. Included in the series are the records for the day-to-day operations of the hospital, including information on the inmates and patients circa 1949-1953. Also included are records of finances, building maintenance, government assistance programs, legal issues, complaints, committee meetings, and staff issues. Many folders contain records from the Chief Clerk's office circa 1934-1956, and correspondence from the Mayor of Boston's office circa 1946-1953.

Box

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | [Accounting and finances], circa 1950-1959 |
| 1 | Alcohol reports, 1952-1958 |
| 1 | American Hospital Association, 1952-1958 (3 folders) |
| 1 | American Hospital and Medical Associations, 1949-1951 (4 folders) |

1 American Medical Association and American College of Surgeons reports, 1924-1959 (6
folders)

1 [Annual Reports 64A], 1943-1952

1 Applications for positions 12C, 1951

1 [Appropriation and budget request], circa 1957-1959

1 Attendant [Nurse] Training School 30, 1943-1950 (6 folders)

1 Biomedical Engineering Policies and Procedures, 1986 (2 folders)

1 Blue Cross Blue Shield for employees 22, 1946-1950

1 Boston Law Department, 1939-1945

1 [Budgets], 1934-1959

1 Child Welfare Division, 1938-1953 (10 folders)

1 Child Welfare Division [Bonds of Discharged Children], 1955-1963

2 Children's Hospital, 1937-1947

2 City of Boston, Child Welfare Division, De Soto Automobile, 1947-1953

2 City Record, 1949-1952

2 City Record (financial), 1952-1955

3 Special improvements contracts, 1952-1956

3 City record (financial), 1954 (2 folders)

2 City Treasurer, 1946-1954

2 Civil Defense Agency, City Hall, 1950-1951

2 [Civil Service], 1937-1947 (4 folders)

2 55, 1937-1947 (4 folders)

2 55A, 1948 (3 folders)

2 Coal Wharves Oil, 1944-1950 (3 folders)

2 29, 1944-1950 (3 folders)

2 29A, 1951

2 Complaints

2 31A, 1935-1936

2 31B, 1930-1934 (2 folders)

2 Complaints and suggestions

2 31, 1937-1943 (5 folders)

2 31A, 1947-1948 (6 folders)

2 31B, 1951

2 Contingency plan, 1991 (5 folders)

2 Contingency plan: Telephone emergency log, 1990

3 Data 43A

3 1937-1942 (6 folders)

3 1943-1945 (3 folders)

3 1946-1948 (5 folders)

3 1949-1950 (6 folders)

3 Deer Island prisoners 27, 1936-1947 (3 folders)

3 Disability assistance bills, 1957-1958

3 [Disability and welfare assistance], 1957-1958

3 Disaster Manual, 1977

3 Donations 11, 1937-1951 (3 folders)
3 [Dorothy Turner's memos], 1989-1991 (4 folders)
4 Duties: Descriptions of qualifications 10, 1930-1949 (4 folders)
4 Eastern Avenue Wharf, 1937-1948
4 [Employee absence cards], 1959
4 Employee instructions 50A, 1952
4 Employees recreation room, 1939-1950
4 Employee registration, 1953 (4 folders)
4 [Employee schedules], 1954-1958 (9 folders)
4 Finance commission, 1926-1949 (6 folders)
4 [Flowers and masses 60], 1937-1940 (3 folders)
4 [Food inventory], 1947 (3 folders)
4 [Fuel oil treatment], 1949, 1958
4 [Furniture and equipment inventory], 1958 (2 folders)
4 [Hospital administrative policies], 1980-1984
4 [Hospital building location plan], undated
4 [Hospital formulary booklet], 1953
4 Income
4 68B, 1943 (4 folders)
4 68C, 1949 (3 folders)
4 Rehab 68D, 1953
5 Infection control manual, 1990 (3 folders)
5 Inmates and patients
5 L, 1941-1952 (3 folders)
5 M, 1940-1950 (4 folders)
5 Mc, 1940-1951 (5 folders)
5 N, 1941-1952 (2 folders)
5 O, 1940-1952 (3 folders)
5 P, 1940-1951 (2 folders)
5 Q, 1945-1951 (2 folders)
5 R, 1940-1950 (2 folders)
5 S, 1939-1950 (4 folders)
5 T, 1940-1952
5 V, 1940-1950
5 W, 1940-1952 (2 folders)
5 XYZ, 1942-1949
5 Institutions Department population and expenditures statistics, 1898-1941
5 [Inventory], 1955
5 [Inventory and stores system], 1941
5 Kitchen machines: mixers, choppers, etc. 43.34, 1957-1958
6 Law Department
6 1936-1953 (5 folders)
6 Claim procedure, 1942
6 Long Island Hospital

6 New hospital, 1950-1954

6 Telephones, 1946-1951

6 [Mahoney, Chief Clerk], 1946-1952 (3 folders)

6 Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 1950-1959 (3 folders)

6 Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare, 1940-1957

6 Mayor

6 1949 (2 folders)

6 1950 (4 folders)

6 1951, 1951 (4 folders)

6 1952-1953, 1949-1955 (3 folders)

6 Mayor's circular letters

6 46, 1937-1941 (3 folders)

6 46A, 1942-1948 (4 folders)

6 46B, 1949 (2 folders)

6 Mayor's office

6 1946 (3 folders)

6 1947 (2 folders)

6 1948 (2 folders)

7 Meals, oil, ice, etc. 57B, 1949 (11 folders)

7 Medical record statistics, 1984-1990 (8 folders)

7 Medical staff

7 A-G 67, 1946-1950

7 H-R 67, 1942-1951 (2 folders)

7 S-Z 67, 1945-1949

7 General 67, 1946-1947 (2 folders)

7 Milk reports, 1939-1955

7 Miscellaneous

7 1934-1942

7 1950

7 1950 14J (7 folders)

7 1951 (3 folders)

7 1952-1953

7 Mr. Kane- board bills, social service, 1938-1950 (2 folders)

8 Moving pictures

8 39, 1937-1946 (3 folders)

Box

8 39A, 1949 (4 folders)

8 1947-1948 (5 folders)

8 1950-1952 (5 folders)

8 Narcotics, 1951-1957

8 [News articles and accreditation], 1958-1959

8 [Newspaper clippings], 1974-1990

8 [Nurses' training and licensure], 1988-1989

8 [Nursing Commission: Subcommittee on Nursing Assistants]

8 [General], 1990

8 [Minutes], 1989

8 [Regulations], 1988-1989

8 Occupational therapy

8 32, 1934-1936 (2 folders)

8 32A, 1937-1944 (3 folders)

8 1945-1947

8 1948-1949

8 1950-1957

8 [Office inventory], 1958

8 [Old age assistance], 1957-1958 (2 folders)

9 Pathology Department 19, 1937-1951 (4 folders)

9 Payroll

9 50, 1937-1945 (3 folders)

9 50A, 1946-1950 (4 folders)

9 Petty cash disbursements, 1954 (2 folders)

9 Petty cash drafts 65, 1951 (3 folders)

9 [Photographs], 1989-1990, undated

9 Physiotherapy 54, 1937-1945 (6 folders)

9 Physiotherapy 54A, 1946-1950 (2 folders)

9 [Plans for pest control], 1984

9 [Publications]

9 circa 1954-1956

9 1956-1959

9 Receipts

9 52, 1937-1945 (2 folders)

9 52A

9 1934-1936

9 1946-1948 (2 folders)

10 Registration Division, 1945-1954 (3 folders)

10 Remington Rand, Inc., 1952

10 Rooms 45, 1940-1949 (2 folders)

9 Rules and regulations

9 43, 1939-1941 (3 folders)

9 43B, 1942-1944 (3 folders)

10 43C

10 1945-1947 (3 folders)

10 1948-1950 (3 folders)

10 Safety Committee Policy and Procedures, 1976

10 [Security and fire], 1944-1955

10 Serious complaint log, 1988-1991

10 Special improvement contracts (financial), 1952-1956 (7 folders)

4 Sprinkler system, 1937-1951

4 S.S. Hibbard 20, 1937-1944

10 S.S. Stephen J. O'Meara log, 1937 (6 folders)
10 Steamers and bus 20E, 1949-1952 (4 folders)
11 Student attendants (13 folders)
11 30B, 1948-1950
11 30C, 1950-1951
11 30D, 1948-1949
11 30F, 1950
11 30H, 1949-1950
11 30K, 1949
11 30L, 1949-1950
11 30Mc, 1950
11 30N, 1950
11 30-O, 1949
11 30S, 1948-1949
11 30T, 1948-1949
11 30W, 1948-1951
11 Supplies and equipment, 1939-1956
11 66L, 1950 (5 folders)
11 Supplies inventory
11 1952-1957
11 1957
11 Survey Commission recommendations, 1947- 1950
4 Telephones
4 1936-1938
4 1939-1942
4 1943-1947
4 1948
4 1949-1952
3 Visitors, 1938-1951 (3 folders)
11 Typewriters, 1952-1956
11 U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service, 1947-1951
11 Veteran's services, 1955-1957 (2 folders)
11 Viaduct, 1951
11 Visiting staff 69, 1950-1952 (4 folders)
11 Visiting staff binder, 1965-1968 (3 folders)
11 Visitors, 1938-1951 (3 folders)
11 Waste and garbage, 1934-1939
11 Watchmen's reports
11 1948
11 1949
11 1950-1951
11 Works Project Administration accident reports 68, 1936-1937

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II: Correspondence, circa 1930-1962 (12.0 Cubic feet) (12 record cartons)

Access to files containing patient information is restricted at the discretion of the Archivist.

This series contains the correspondence of the Long Island Hospital staff. Employee correspondence records include job applications and letters of resignation circa 1930-1959, patient and inmate records (such a correspondence between the hospital staff and the patients' families as well as legal and financial records for the patients). The Correspondence card subseries includes 3x5" index cards which document employee correspondence during the 1930s.

Box

12	Applications for positions 1937-1943, 12, 1937-1943 (4 folders)
12	Data 1951, 43A, 1947-1952 (2 folders)
12	Deer Island patients 1940-1947 A to Z, 1940-1947 (3 folders)
12	Employees (50 folders)
12	General 1931-1937 incl., 9, 1931-1937 (5 folders)
12	General 1938-1941, 9, 1938-1941 (6 folders)
12	General 1944-1946, 9 gen, 1944-1946 (6 folders)
12	General 1942-1943, 9, 1942-1943 (6 folders)
12	General 1947-1948, 1947-1949 (9 folders)
13	General 1949-1950, 9 gen, 1949-1950 (6 folders)
13	General 1951, 9 gen, 1951-1952 (6 folders)
13	A, 9, 1943-1953
13	Ba-Bg, 9, 1944-1959 (2 folders)
13	Bh-Bt, 9, 1941-1957 (4 folders)
13	Bu-Bz, 9, 1927-1953
13	Ca-Cg, 9, 1938-1957 (5 folders)
13	Ch-Cp, 9, 1931-1959 (4 folders)
13	Cq-Cz, 9, 1930-1959 (3 folders)
13	Da-Di, 9, 1928-1959 (4 folders)
13	Dj-Dz, 9, 1934-1959 (4 folders)
13	E, 9, 1939-1953
14	Fa-Fl, 9, 1936-1959 (4 folders)
14	Fo-Fz, 9, 1934-1953 (3 folders)
14	Ga-Go, 9, 1937-1953 (4 folders)
14	Gp-Gz, 9, 1931-1952 (3 folders)
14	Ha-Hg, 9, 1935-1953 (4 folders)
14	Hi-Hz, 9, 1934-1953 (2 folders)
14	I, 9, 1948-1950
14	J, 9, 1946-1952
14	Ka-Kel, 9, 1932-1953 (3 folders)
14	Kem-Kz, 9, 1934-1952 (2 folders)
14	Ll-Lz, 9, 1936-1953
14	Ma-Md, 9, 1931-1953 (5 folders)
14	Me-Mn, 9, 1931-1959

14 Mo-Mz,9, 1933-1959 (4 folders)
 14 Mc, 9, 1934-1953 (2 folders)
 14 A-C, Mc, 9, 1945-1953 (2 folders)
 14 D-G, Mc, 9, 1935-1959 (2 folders)
 14 N, 9, 1932-1952
 15 Oa-Oc, 9, 1942-1953
 15 Od-Om, 9, 1938-1959 (2 folders)
 15 On-Oz, 9, 1943-1953
 15 Pa-Pi, 9, 1937-1953
 15 Pj-Pz, 9, 1935-1951 (2 folders)
 15 Q, 9, 1940-1952
 15 Ra-Ri, 9, 1931-1953 (2 folders)
 15 Ro-Rz, 9, 1930-1959 (2 folders)
 15 Sa-Sl, 9, 1935-1959 (7 folders)
 15 Sm-Sz, 9, 1933-1958 (4 folders)
 15 T, 9, 1943-1957 (3 folders)
 15 U-V, 9, 1949-1952
 15 Wa-Wf, 9, 1932-1959 (2 folders)
 15 Wg-Wz, 9, 1940-1953 (3 folders)
 15 X-Y-Z, 9, 1936-1953
 15 Five-D dorm and hospital patients 1952-1954, 1953
 15 Fort Strong (7 folders)
 15 1937-1943, 28, 1937-1942 (4 folders)
 15 1944-1950, 28, 1943-1951 (3 folders)
 16 Hospital and dormitory patients (18 folders)
 16 A, 1956-1957
 16 B, 1953-1957
 16 C, 1953-1956
 16 D, 1953-1956
 16 E, 1953 ()
 16 F, 1953-1957
 16 G, 1950-1956
 16 H, 1954-1956
 16 K, 1954-1955
 16 L, 1952-1957
 16 M, 1953-1957
 16 N, 1954-1956
 16 O, 1955-1957
 16 P, 1951-1957
 16 R, 1954-1956
 16 S, 1952-1957
 16 TUV, 1953
 16 XYZ, 1953-1957
 16 Inmates and patients

16 5B, 1944-1947 (5 folders)
 16 C, 1940-1953 (6 folders)
 16 D, 1941-1953 (6 folders)
 16 E, 1940-1950
 16 F, 1940-1952 (3 folders)
 16 G, 1940-1952 (4 folders)
 16 Institution and hospital patients 1948-1950, 5C, 1948-1950 (5 folders)
 17 Laundry and Ironing Room, 41, 1934-1950 (5 folders)
 17 Local #370 American Federation of Labor, 7, 1945-1951
 17 Medical director's pending, 1937-1951 (4 folders)
 17 Menus, 58, 1961-1962 (4 folders)
 17 [Miscellaneous]
 17 1933-1949
 17 1950-1956
 17 Nurses (11 folders)
 17 General 1938-1948-49-1950, 2, 1952
 17 [Nurses' dismissals], 1934-1935
 17 A and B, 2, 1930-1951 (2 folders)
 17 C, 2, 1935-1952
 17 D and E, 2, 1948-1951
 17 F and G, 2, 1948-1953
 17 H-J-K-L, 2, 1934-1951
 17 N-O-P, 2, 1934-1952
 17 Q and R, 2, 1939-1952
 17 S to Z, 2, 1930-1952 (2 folders)
 17 Power house (11 folders)
 17 1937-1943-1944, 8, 1937-1944 (5 folders)
 17 1945-1949, 8A, 1945-1949 (4 folders)
 17 1950-1952, 8B, 1950-1952 (2 folders)
 17 Volunteers 1944, 4, 1942-1951 (3 folders)
 17 Welfare committee, 42, 1937-1940

Correspondence card index

Box
 18 A-Coo
 19 Cor-Fre
 20 Fri-Ke
 21 Ki-M
 22 M-R
 23 R-W
 24 W-Z

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The employee records of the Long Island Hospital consist of 3x5" notecards, on which are hand-written or typed details about each employee. These cards were used by administration for purposes of hiring and firing decisions, payroll, and pension payments. Information includes the employee's name, start date, and starting pay rate. Early records may important notes such as major work incidents or death while on duty. The bulk of the records, starting circa 1930 include the address (in many instances this includes the city ward if the employee lived in Boston), notes about changes in employment, notes about pay rate, pension contributions, pension payments for employees who retired, and notes about performance. Some records include notes about references on separate cards. The second employee record card series dates from the 1940s-1960s. The Occupation cards are 3x5" index cards that are alphabetized by job and include the names of employees who filled each position.

Access to files containing patient information is restricted at the discretion of the Archivist.

Box

25	A-C, circa 1890-1954
26	D-W, circa 1890-1954
27	A-W, circa 1940s-1960s
28	Occupation cards, circa 1930s-1970s

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IV: Meeting minutes, 1983-1990 (1.0 Cubic feet) (1 record carton)

This series includes hospital meeting minutes from the 1980s, including staff and department head meetings, as well as departmental communications that were originally filed with the meeting minutes.

Box

29	Joint Conference Committee: Chronic Disease Division, 1987, 1990
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Staff

29	1983 (2 folders)
29	1984
29	1985
29	1986
29	1987
29	1988
29	Department Head
29	1980
29	1981
29	1982
29	1983
29	1984
29	1985, 1985
29	1986

Quality Assurance Committee, 1985 (2 folders)

29	Minutes, 1984
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Departmental Communications, 1984 (2 folders)

29	1985
29	1986
29	1987

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V: Newsletters, 1953-1980 (1.0 Cubic feet) (1 record carton)

This series includes issues of the hospital newsletter, The Island Echoes, which detailed the various happenings at the hospital; major sections include Commissioner's Message, general, chapel, employee, and patient news.

Box

29	1953
29	1954
29	1955
29	1956
29	1957
29	1958
29	1959
29	1960
29	1961
29	1962
29	1963
29	1964
29	1965
29	1966
29	1967
29	1968
29	1977
29	1978
29	1979
29	1980

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VI: Patient records, circa 1930s-1980s (23.0 Cubic feet)

Access to files containing patient information is restricted at the discretion of the Archivist.

Series includes records relating to hospital patients, dating from the 1930s through the 1980s. Deceased records include medical files of patients from the 1930s-1940s. Disease index cards document the various illnesses and medical conditions suffered by patients in the 1940s. Expense cards include patient names with dates and monetary transactions. Glasses repair cards include patient names who received new and repaired glasses throughout the 1940s and 50s. Patient

record cards, dating from the 1920s through the 1980s, document the personal demographic information of hospital patients, and their intake and discharge dates. Salvarsan treatment cards identify patients who received treatments for syphilis in the 1940s. Transport cards document hospital patients' comings and goings from various facilities. The Valuables subseries contains cards and slips that record hospital patients' personal valuable belongings, dating from the 1940s-1960s.

Deceased, circa 1940s-1950s (2 record cartons)

Disease index cards, circa 1940-1942 (2.0 Cubic feet) (2 carton boxes)

Box

32 A-H

33 I-W

Glasses repair cards, circa 1945-1951

Expense cards, circa 1930s

Patient record cards

Box

34 C-G, circa 1920s-1940s

35 H-W, circa 1920s-1940s

36 A-C, circa 1970s-1980s

37 C-E, circa 1970s-1980s

38 F-H, circa 1970s-1980s

39 H-L, circa 1970s-1980s

40 M-N, circa 1970s-1980s

41 N-R, circa 1970s-1980s

42 S-Z, circa 1970s-1980s

Salvarsan treatment cards, circa 1940s (1.0 Cubic feet) (1 record carton)

43 Salvarsan treatment cards, circa 1940s (1.0 Cubic feet) (1 record carton)

Transport cards, circa 1940s-1950s (1.0 Cubic feet) (3 card boxes)

Box

44 A-G

45 H-T

46 U-Z, circa 1940s-1950s

Valuables, circa 1940s-1960s (1.5 Cubic feet) (3 card boxes)

Box

47 A-H, circa 1940s-1960s

48 I-R, circa 1940s-1960s

49 T-Z, circa 1940s-1960s

Valuable slips, circa 1940s-1960s

48 Valuable slips, circa 1940s-1960s

Artifacts (0.5 Cubic feet)

This series contains the personal belongings of four hospital patients, circa 1940s-1950s. Objects include eyeglasses, wallets, personal documents, letters, a compact, and a ring. The series also includes eleven keys to various doors of the hospital.

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Box

- 50 Agnes Duffily valuables: Brighton Savings Bank book, compact, ring, glasses case [broken glasses discarded], 1949-1950
- 50 Hospital keys [11 keys]: Record room, Dorm [2 keys], Main Office/Main Floor/Lavatory - Male [2 keys], Medical Director Office, Ward BB/Linen Room, Ediphone equipment, Record Room/Dr's Library, Record Room from corridor, Dorm, circa 1940s-1950s
- 51 Andrew Sibigia valuables: wallet, purse, eyeglasses and case, miscellaneous papers, letters, and receipts, 1952
- 51 Morris Carlo valuables: World War I Honorable Discharge papers, Social Security card, Miscellaneous papers, cards, letters, etc., 1951
- 51 John Kerrigan valuables: glasses and case, wallet and contents (photograph, Social Security card, Selective Service card, Hugh Nawn card and token), 1950

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