



Charleston Development Board Records, 1943-1995
481.00
Containers 481/01-08 and 33/123-04

Creators: Charleston Development Board
Charleston Industrial Association

Biographical/Historical Note: The Charleston Development Board, an organization of businessmen with the purpose of “finding peacetime solutions for wartime installations”, was established in 1944 and backed by a fund of half a million dollars subscribed to the stock of the Charleston Industrial Association. This group financed industrial sites and the purchase or construction of factory buildings leased to industries.

An outgrowth of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce’s post-War Planning Committee established in November 1944, the Charleston Development Board and the Charleston Industrial Association recognized the essential nature of encouraging the commercial development of business and industry in Charleston in the aftermath of World War II. The Charleston Development Board and Charleston Industrial Association endeavored to maintain the momentum achieved by the boom in wartime industries in the Charleston area.

The mission of the Charleston Development Board was “to establish greater assurance for continued employment among our citizens and the men of the armed Forces returning to their homes after the war; to secure new and diversified payrolls; to develop the business of the Port of Charleston; to analyze the natural resources of the area with a view to attracting suitable industries to fit into our local picture; to encourage the establishment and expansion of locally-owned industries and service business; to work for enlarged and diversified agricultural production; to publicize the advantages of Charleston as a good labor market and a favorable distribution center; to publicize the scenic, historic, and tourist attractions of the area in an effort to get our share of the big tourist business after the war; to put forth an increased effort to secure additional conventions for the city; and to do such other work as may be necessary to keep our city ahead and in line with the general progress of the country.”

In 1945, Arthur M. Field was hired to serve as the Charleston Development Board’s chief engineer. Field was an industrial engineer for the Memphis Chamber of Commerce beginning in 1939 and chairman of the American Industrial Development Council. In 1946, the Charleston Development Board and the Charleston Industrial Association established offices at 152 Market Street.

The Charleston Industrial Association was chartered in June 1946 to foster the growth of manufacturing and industrial concerns in the Charleston, S.C. area. The first meeting of the Charleston Industrial Association was convened on June 18th, 1946. Fifteen men were nominated and unanimously elected to serve on the Board of Directors. These included H.E. Ashby, Rufus C. Barkley, William F. Condon, Sr., Ernest L. Godshalk, Edward Kronsberg, Hugh C. Lane, J.C.

Long, G. Simms McDowell, Jr., Hall T. McGee, Sr., Julian Mitchell, Sr., E.H. Poulnot, Sr., A.F. Pringle, Sr., John M. Rivers, Y.W. Scarborough, and Albert Sottile.

Business stockholders included James F. Condon & Son, Post & Courier, Atlantic Coast Broadcasting, Cameron & Barkley Co., Pastime Amusement Co., R.C. Cola Bottling Co., Atlantic Coast Life Insurance Co., W.C. Wilbur & Co., Kerrison's Dry Goods Co., Pinckney-Carter Co., Carolina Shipping Co., Gray Line Tours, Inc., Charleston Hotel, Inc., Sottile Enterprises, Atlantic Paint Co., Loretta Hat Shop, Bay Beverage Co., John C. Schweers Beverage, S.C. Power Co., Charleston Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Dotterer Engineering Co., V-Housing Corporation, Worth Agency, Dunham Realty Co., A.G. Rhodes & Sons, Charleston Barber & Beauty Parlor, Southern Ice Co., Gilbert Motors, Paul Motor Co., Firestone Stores, John Hurkamp Co., Ideal-White Swan Laundry, Seven-Up Bottling Co., Edwards, Inc., Butt's Electrical Supply Co., Carolina Supply & Cement Co., Hood-Meyers Electric Co., Southern Furniture Co., James Connor & Co., Henry Schachte & Sons, Joye Home Supply, St. John Hotel, Sears, Roebuck, & Co., C.D. Franke & Co., and H.D. Rambke & Co. Individual stockholders included John M. Rivers, J.L. Stokes, Batson Hewitt, Harry L. Carter, William M. Means, Julian Mitchell, Louis Storen, W.K. Prause, L.M. Copleston, L.D. Long, J.C. Long, Benjamin Olasov, Ralph Bailey, H. Everette Ashby, A.C. Connelly, Miss Freda Doscher, Dana Osgood, William Ohlandt, D. Ireland Thomas, John E. Kessler, Charles Costopoulos, George W. Fabian, Joseph Miserendino, and Ellison A. Williams.

Scope and content: Collection consists of business records, minutes, ledgers, correspondence, financial information, and other material documenting the establishment and affairs of the Charleston Development Board and the Charleston Industrial Association.

Records of the Charleston Development Board contain early documents pertaining to the Post-War Planning Committee of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce including a "History of formation, declaration of objectives, and outline of functional procedures", Certificate of Incorporation for the Charleston Community Foundation, By-Laws of the Executive Committee of the Post-War Planning Committee, and an open letter to "Charleston Business Leaders." A scrapbook contains clippings pertaining to the establishment and initial work of the Post-War Planning Committee.

Meeting minutes, reports, correspondence and other materials generated by the Charleston Development Board document efforts to survey existing war-based facilities in Charleston in order to effectively redesign and reuse the structures once war time industries slowed and shut down. For example, acquisition of the United States Army's Stark General Hospital building after it was closed is a frequent topic of discussion. Suggestions for repurposing the facility included opening the Charleston County Tuberculosis Association hospital or turning it over to the Veteran's Administration. According to an October 1945 report "the operation of a veteran's hospital would give considerable employment and mean an annual payroll of several million dollars." The board also discussed erecting a post office building in Charleston that could house other federal agencies.

Additional topics of discussion include expansion of the Medical College, construction of factories in Charleston for lease to various industries, the role of the Charleston Navy Yard in employing enlisted persons as well as civilians, development of a yacht basin, working with the city's Port Authority to develop business and cargoes, the Charleston Central Labor Union's withdrawal of support for the efforts of the Charleston Development Board due to its reliance on "the idea of cheap labor in Charleston", the prospect of obtaining natural gas in Charleston, state

tax laws, the possibility of the Carolina Art Association undertaking a new book concerned with industry in Charleston, extension of the city's water supply, the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company's use of Charleston's raw water supply for operations, the role of government in financing private industry, Atlantic Coast Rail Line's corporate headquarters, and the Bushy Park Authority.

Ephemera includes an engineer's report "New Horizons for Water Service", a U.S. Geological Survey map of the North Charleston area with handwritten notes, a real estate atlas of Charleston County, and information on and by-laws of Trident Technical College.

Records of the Charleston Development Board Foundation include business and financial records, correspondence, meeting minutes, and agendas. The bulk of the material pertains to financial concerns of the Charleston Development Board Foundation. Meeting minutes, reports, correspondence and other materials document efforts of the Charleston Development Board Foundation to continue fostering establishment of and support for businesses in Charleston. Topics of discussion include providing assistance to Chase Instruments Corporation, Ohio Rubber Company, development of an industrial park along interstate 26, collaboration with the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company, Coburg Dairy, Inc., Eagle – Picher Industries, the A. Wade Martin Foundation, development of a fire station at Clemson University's Summerville property, the Cooper River Water Users Association, Westvaco, and the Palmetto Foundation.

Records of the Charleston Industrial Association include minutes for meetings of the Association's Board of Directors, stockholders, and trustees from 1946 -1985. Topics of discussion revolved around general promotion of industry and business in the Charleston area during the second half of the twentieth century.

Provenance: Gift of the Charleston Development Board, 2013.21

Search terms:

Charleston Development Board.
Charleston Industrial Association.
Industrial districts -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Business enterprises -- South Carolina.
Businessmen -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Charleston County (S.C.) -- Commerce -- 20th century.
North Charleston (S.C.) -- Industries -- 20th century.
South Carolina -- History -- 1865-
Business records.
Financial records.
Legal documents.
Letters (correspondence)
Minutes.

Series outline:

481.01 *Charleston Development Board records, 1945-1961*
481.02 *Charleston Development Board Foundation records, 1966-1995*
481.03 *Charleston Industrial Association records, 1946 - 1985*

Container listing:

Box 1

481.01

Charleston Development Board records, 1945-1961

- 481/01/01 Documents pertaining to the Post-War Planning Committee of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce, 1944 - 1946
- 481/01/02 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – December 1945
- 481/01/03 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – July 1946
- 481/01/04 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., August – December 1946
- 481/01/05 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – May 1947
- 481/01/06 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., June – November 1947
- 481/01/07 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., December 1947
- 481/01/08 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – April 1948
- 481/01/09 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., May – July 1948
- 481/01/10 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., August – December 1948
- 481/01/11 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – April 1949
- 481/01/12 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., May – June 1949
- 481/01/13 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., July – December 1949

Box 2

- 481/02/01 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – December 1950
- 481/02/02 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – June 1951
- 481/02/03 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., July – November 1951
- 481/02/04 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., December 1951
- 481/02/05 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – April 1952
- 481/02/06 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., May – December 1952
- 481/02/07 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – July 1953
- 481/02/08 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., August – September 1953
- 481/02/09 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – April 1954
- 481/02/10 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., May – December 1954
- 481/02/11 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – December 1955

Box 3

- 481/03/01 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – April 1956
- 481/03/02 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., May – December 1956
- 481/03/03 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – July 1957
- 481/03/04 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., August – December 1957
- 481/03/05 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – July 1958
- 481/03/06 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., August – December 1958
- 481/03/07 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – June 1959
- 481/03/08 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., July – December 1959
- 481/03/09 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – June 1960
- 481/03/10 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., July – December 1960
- 481/03/11 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – June 1961
- 481/03/12 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., January – June 1961

Box 4

- 481/04/01 Meeting minutes, 1948
- 481/04/02 Meeting minutes, 1949 - 1951
- 481/04/03 Meeting minutes, 1952 - 1957
- 481/04/04 Meeting minutes, 1958 - 1961
- 481/04/05 Financial ledger for income and expenses, 1944-1947, 1984-1985.
- 481/04/06 Ephemera, 1943 – 1979.
- 481/04/07 Photographs (black and white) of board members, etc. ca. 1945-1947
- 481/04/08 Microfiche copies of minutes from the Charleston Development Board and the Charleston Development Board Foundation, 1945-1982

*481.02**Charleston Development Board Foundation records, 1966-1995*

- 481/04/09 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., 1966 – 1974
- 481/04/10 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., 1975 - 1977

Box 5

- 481/05/01 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., 1978 - 1979
- 481/05/02 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., 1980 - 1981
- 481/05/03 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., 1982 - 1983
- 481/05/04 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., 1984 - 1985
- 481/05/05 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., 1986 - 1987
- 481/05/06 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., 1988 - 1990
- 481/05/07 Meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., 1991 - 1995
- 481/05/08 Financial records, 1960 – 1995
- 481/05/09 Financial ledger, 1968 - 1977

Box 6*481.03**Charleston Industrial Association records, 1946 - 1985*

- 481/06/01 Subscription list of all stockholders, minutes from the first organizational meeting, by-laws, and minutes from meetings of the Charleston Industrial Association's Board of Directors and Stockholders, June 18, 1946 – September 18, 1953.
- 481/06/02 Charleston Industrial Association Board of Directors meeting minutes, November 28, 1947 –September 18, 1953.
- 481/06/03 Charleston Industrial Association Board of Directors meeting minutes, October 20, 1953 - June 20, 1962.

Box 7

- 481/07/01 Board of Directors and Stockholders meeting minutes, September 21, 1962 – June 2, 1971.
- 481/07/02 Trustee's meeting minutes, February 15, 1966 – June 27, 1986.
- 481/07/03 Board of Directors and Stockholders meeting minutes, September 21, 1971 – September 28, 1982 (bound in reverse).

Box 8

- 481/08/01 Charleston Industrial Association records, 1981
- 481/08/02 Charleston Industrial Association records, 1982
- 481/08/03 Charleston Industrial Association records, 1983
- 481/08/04 Charleston Industrial Association records, 1984, 1986

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Post-War Planning Scrapbook, 1944 – 1946 (oversize)