



Condon's Dept. Store records, 1897-1997
SCHS Call # 193.00

Creator: Condon's Department Store (Charleston, S.C.)

Description: 13 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical note: Charleston, S.C. department store. In 1899 James F. Condon (1857-1934) began a mercantile business in Charleston which was incorporated in 1912 as James F. Condon & Sons. James F. Condon, Jr. (d. 1951) became president of the company after the death of his father, and was succeeded in that office by his brother William F. Condon (1892-1966). Condon's Department Store, operated by James F. Condon & Sons, was located on the corner of King and Warren streets in downtown Charleston. A second store later opened for business at Ashley Plaza (now Ashley Landing) shopping center in the West Ashley area of Charleston, and a third store opened in Summerville, S.C. in 1991. The downtown store closed in 1984 and the West Ashley store closed its doors in 2000.

Scope and content: Financial records (mostly oversized bound volumes) include an account book (1897-1906) for cash sales, merchandise and expenses; salary accounts (6 v.; 1976-1996); sales books for store and store (10 v.; 1976-1996); accounts marked "Transfers to Summerville" (1991-1996); sales books (2 v.; 1991-1996) for the Summerville (S.C.) store; cash journals (7 v.; 1990-1997); profit sharing retirement trust accounts (3v.; 1955-1974, access restricted); general ledgers (8 v.; 1951-1982); and yearly sales comparisons records (5 volumes marked "Beat Yesterday"; 1955-1984).

Other financial records include annual audit reports (1947-1970); and cycle billing manuals (1974).

Property records include blueprints (1946, oversized) of the floor plan of the downtown store; a site plan (1968, oversized) for Ashley Plaza Mall; and a lease (1926) for a lot on Warren Street (Charleston, S.C.).

Publications and advertising materials include compilations of newspaper advertisements (1986-1993); large sheets of lettering and layout for advertisements; and issues (1958-1988) of "Chatter Platter," a store employee newsletter. A 1955 scrapbook (oversized, disbound) submitted for a Brand Names Foundation Contest contains sample brand name advertising, clippings and photographs concerning various in-store contests and promotions, correspondence from brand name companies, and other items. Additional scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings representative of advertising and publicity efforts and clippings, including obituaries, concerning Condon family members.

Other items include a list of employees (1930s-1950s, photocopy); color photographs (1970) of the interior of the Ashley Plaza store; a postcard (ca. 1920) with a color illustration of Condon's Dept. Store downtown; and records (1957-1958), including correspondence and minutes of meetings, of the Charleston Charga Plate Association.

Note: Access restricted on some items.

Provenance: Condon Family; gift 2000.03.20.

Preferred citation: Condon's Department Store (Charleston, S.C.) Records, 1897-1997.
(193.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Subject Charleston Charga Plate Association -- Records and correspondence.
Condon's Department Store (Charleston, S.C.) -- Records and correspondence.
James F. Condon & Sons (Charleston, S.C.)
Advertising layout and typography.
Advertising -- Brand name products.
Credit cards -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Department stores -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Employees' magazines, newsletters, etc. -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Publicity.
Stores, Retail -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Commerce.
Charleston (S.C.) -- History.
South Carolina -- History.
Accounts.
Advertisements.
Blueprints.
Business records.
Financial records.
Ledgers.
Letters (correspondence)
Minutes.
Photographs.
Picture postcards.
Plats.
Property records.
Publications.
Scrapbooks.

Collection/Series Outline:

193.01.01 Financial Records
193.01.02 Miscellaneous Records
193.01.03 Personnel Records
193.01.04 Property Records
193.01.05 Publications and Advertising Material
193.01.06 Photographs
193.01.07 Scrapbooks
193.02 Charleston Charga Plate Association Records

Container listing:

193.01.01 Financial Records (unless a Box number is indicated, financial records are bound volumes)

193.01.01(A)01 Annual Audit Reports (located in Box # 1)

193.01.01(A)01 (1947) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1948) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1950) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1951) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1952) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1953) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1955) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1956) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1957) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1958) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1959) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1960) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1961) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1962) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1963) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1964) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1965) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1966) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1968) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1969) Audit Report
193.01.01(A)01 (1970) Audit Report

193.01.01(C)01 Cash Sales Book

193.01.01(C)01(1897-1906) Cash Sales Book (located in Box # 1)

193.01.01(C)02 Cash Journals

193.01.01(C)02 (1990-1991) Cash Journal (large volume with metal rod binding)
193.01.01(C)02 (1991-1992) Cash Journal
193.01.01(C)02 (1992-1993) Cash Journal
193.01.01(C)02 (1993-1994) Cash Journal
193.01.01(C)02 (1994-1995) Cash Journal
193.01.01(C)02 (1995-1996) Cash Journal
193.01.01(C)02 (1996-1997) Cash Journal

193.01.01(F)01 Financial Statements (located in Box # 2)

- 193.01.01(F)01 (1947) Balance sheet, 1947
- 193.01.01(F)01 (1955) Profit and loss statement and balance sheet, 1955
- 193.01.01(F)01 (1961-1962) Dept. income & expense statement, 1961-1962
- 193.01.01(F)01 (1962-1963) Profit and loss statement and balance sheet, 1962-1963

193.01.01(G)01 General Ledgers

- 193.01.01(G)01 (1951-1953) General Ledger
- 193.01.01(G)01 (1962-1963) General Ledger
- 193.01.01(G)01 (1964-1966) General Ledger
- 193.01.01(G)01 (1967-1969) General Ledger
- 193.01.01(G)01 (1970-1971) General Ledger (large, heavy volume with metal rod binding)
- 193.01.01(G)01 (1973-1974) General Ledger
- 193.01.01(G)01 (1973-1984?) General Ledger (large, very heavy volume with metal rod binding; damaged)

193.01.01(M)01 Miscellaneous Financial Records

- 193.01.01(M)01-01 Check, 1919 (located in Box #2)
- 193.01.01(M)01-02 Cycle billing records (manuals, etc.), 1954
- 193.01.01(M)01-03 Depreciation schedules, 1937-1965 (located Box # 2).

193.01.01(R)01 Retirement Accounts (ACCESS RESTRICTED)

- 193.01.01(R)01 (1955-1974)-01 Retirement Account book
- 193.01.01(R)01 (1955-1974)-02 Retirement Account book
- 193.01.01(R)01 (1955-1974)-03 Retirement Account book

193.01.01(S)01 Salary Account Books

- 193.01.01(S)01.01 (1976-1981) Salary Account book, store #1 (downtown)
- 193.01.01(S)01.01 (1981-1984) Salary Account book, store #1
- 193.01.01(S)01.02 (1976-1981) Salary Account book, store #2 (Ashley Landing)
- 193.01.01(S)01.02 (1981-1986) Salary Account book, store #2
- 193.01.01(S)01.02 (1986-1992) Salary Account book, store #2
- 193.01.01(S)01.02 (1992-1996) Salary Account book, store #2

193.01.01(S)02 Sales Books

- 193.01.01(S)02.01 (1976-1981) Sales Book, store #1 (downtown)
- 193.01.01(S)02.01 (1981-1984) Sales Book, store #1
- 193.01.01(S)02.01 (1984) Sales Book, store #1
- 193.01.01(S)02.02 (1976-1981) Sales Book, store #2 (Ashley Landing)

193.01.01(S)02.02 (1981-1984) Sales Book, store #2
193.01.01(S)02.02 (1984-1987) Sales Book, store #2
193.01.01(S)02.02 (1987-1989) Sales Book, store #2
193.01.01(S)02.02 (1990-1993) Sales Book, store #2
193.01.01(S)02.02 (1993-1996) Sales Book, store #2
193.01.01(S)02.02 (1996-1997) Sales Book, store #2
193.01.01(S)02.03 (1991-1994) Sales Book, store #3 (Summerville, S.C.)
193.01.01(S)02.03 (1994-1996) Sales Book, store #3

193.01.01(S)03 Sales Comparison Records (small volumes located in Box # 2)

193.01.01(S)03 (1955-1960) Sales Comparison Records
193.01.01(S)03 (1961-1966) Sales Comparison Records
193.01.01(S)03 (1967-1972) Sales Comparison Records
193.01.01(S)03 (1973-1978) Sales Comparison Records
193.01.01(S)03 (1979-1984) Sales Comparison Records

193.01.01(T)01 Transfer Account Book

193.01.01(T)01 (1991-1996) "Transfers to Summerville"

193.01.02 Miscellaneous Material (located in Boxes # 2 and #6)

193.01.02 (B)01-01 Business licenses

193.01.02 (C)01-01 Clippings

193.01.02 (C)02 Correspondence (mostly letters removed from scrapbooks)

193.01.02 (C) 02 (1952)-01 Correspondence, Feb. 1952.

193.01.02 (C) 02 (1955-1956)-01 Correspondence, 1955-1956.

193.01.02 (C) 02 (1958)-01 Correspondence, 1958.

193.01.02 (C) 02 (1959)-01 Correspondence, Jan. - May, 1959.

193.01.02 (C) 02 (1959)-02 Correspondence, June - Dec. 1959.

193.01.02 (C) 02 (1960)-01 Correspondence, 1960.

193.01.02 (F)01-01 Forms

193.01.02 (I)01-01 Inventory notices

193.01.02 (S)01-01 Store Fixtures and Furnishings Records (Ashley Plaza Store);
includes catalogs for office furniture.

193.01.02 (T)01-01 Training materials: looseleaf binder containing sales training course "You Are Important" (1973-1976) with printed discussion guide and 13 audiocassettes (Box # 6).

193.01.02 (T)01-02 Training materials: film reel (8 1/2 min.) "People Sell People: Unit Two, Nothing but Lookers" (located in Box # 6).

193.01.03 Personnel Records

193.01.03 (L) 01-01 Employee list, 1930s-1950s (bound vol.; ACCESS RESTRICTED; located in safe)

193.01.03 (L) 01-02 Employee list (photocopy), 1930s-1950s (located in Box # 3)

193.01.03 (L) 01-03 Employee list, 1970 (located in Box # 3)

193.01.04 Property Records

193.01.04 (B) 01-01 Blueprint, 1946, first floor fixture schedule of downtown store (located in storage zone 6)

193.01.04 (B) 01-02 Blueprint, 1946, mezzanine fixture schedule, downtown store (located in storage zone 6)

193.01.04 (B) 01-03 Blueprint, 1946, 2nd floor fixture schedule, downtown store (located in storage zone 6)

193.01.04 (B) 01-04 Blueprint, 1966, landscaping plan, downtown store (located in storage zone 6)

193.01.04 (B) 01-05 Blueprint, 1968, site plan for Ashley Plaza Mall (located in storage zone 6)

193.01.04 (L) 01-01 Lease, 1926, of lot on Warren Street (located in Box # 3)

193.01.04 (P) 01-01 Plat of lot on corner of King and Warren streets, 1946 (located in storage zone 6)

193.01.05 Publications and Advertising Material

193.01.05(A)01 (1986)-01 Newspaper advertisement compilation, Oct. - Dec. 1986 (located Box #7).

193.01.05(A)01 (1990)-01 Newspaper ad compilation, Jan. - March, 1990 (Box # 7).

193.01.05(A)01 (1990)-02 Newspaper ad compilation, April - June, 1990 (Box # 7).

193.01.05(A)01 (1992)-01 Newspaper ad compilation, Jan. - March, 1992 (Box # 8).

193.01.05(A)01 (1993)-01 Newspaper ad compilation, Jan. - March, 1993 (Box # 8).

193.01.05(C)01 (1975)-01 Catalogs, ca. 1975 (located in Box # 3)

193.01.05(C)01 (1980)-01 Catalogs, ca. 1980 (located in Box # 3)

- 193.01.05(C)02 (1955)-01 Advertising copy for radio and TV, 1955 (removed from 1955-56 scrapbook; located in Box # 3).
- 193.01.05(C)02 (1973)-01 Radio advertising copy, 1973 (located in Box # 3).
- 193.01.05(N)01 (1958-1988) Chatter Platter, a store employee newsletter (located in Boxes #3 & 4).
- 193.01.05(P)01 (ca. 1920)-01 Picture postcard (color) showing downtown store (located Box # 4).
- 193.01.05(R)01-01 Advertising and courtesy ribbons and button (located Box # 4).
- 193.01.05(R)01-02 Advertising and courtesy ribbons (holiday) (located Box # 4).
- 193.01.05(R)01-03 Advertising and courtesy ribbons (located Box # 4).
- 193.01.05(T)01-01 Typeface catalog, n.d. (located Box # 4)

193.01.06 Photographs (located in Boxes # 4 & 5)

- 193.01.06 (1955) 01 Photographs removed from 1955 Brand Name Contest Scrapbook (Box # 4).
- 193.01.06 (1955) 01-01 Beautiful Bride Contest photos, 1955.
- 193.01.06 (1955) 01-02 Brand Name promotion photos, 1955.
- 193.01.06 (1955) 01-03 "Miss Seventeen" contestants photo, 1955.
- 193.01.06 (1955) 01-04 Kathi Norris visit photos, 1955.
- 193.01.06 (1955) 01-05 Kay Windsor fashion show photos, 1955.
- 193.01.06 (1955) 01-06 George Washington's birthday sale photos, 1955.
- 193.01.06 (1970) 01 Color photos (11 items) of Ashley Landing store interiors, 1970 (Box # 5).
- 193.01.06 (n.d.) 01-01 Downtown store images, n.d. (Box # 5).

193.01.07 Scrapbooks (located in Boxes # 5 & 6)

- 193.01.07 (1947-1961) 01-01 Condon's scrapbook, 1947-1961 (disbound, photocopied; located in Box # 5).
- 193.01.07 (1951-1952) 01-01 Scrapbook, "The Story of Name Brands," 1951-1952 (disbound, photocopied; located in Box # 5).
- 193.01.07 (1955-1956) 01-01 Brand Name Foundation Contest scrapbook, 1955-1956 (oversized, disbound; located in Box # 6).
- 193.01.07 (1957-1968) 01-01 Condon's scrapbook, 1957-1968 (Box # 5).
- 193.01.07 (1959-1971) 01-01 Condon's Scrapbook, 1959-1971 (disbound, photocopied; located in Box # 5). Includes clippings about store history and Condon family members (obituaries, etc.).

193.01.07 (1968-1973) 01-01 "Newspaper Publicity" scrapbook, 1968-1973 (disbound, photocopied; located in Box # 5).

193.02 Charleston Charga Plate Associates Records (located in Box # 5)

193.02.01(A) 01 (1957) Agreement, 1957; and advertisement, 1958.

193.02.01(C) 01 (1957) Correspondence, 1957

193.02.01(M)01 (1957-1958) Minute book, 1957-1958