



## **Kerrison's Department Store records, 1857-1985 (bulk 1949-1985) SCHS 568.00**

**Description:** 4 linear ft.

**Biographical/Historical Note:** Kerrison's Department Store began as the C. and E. L. Kerrison Dry Goods Company in 1830. A notice in a Charleston newspaper on September 23, 1830, stated: "The subscribers have this day entered into co-partnership in the dry goods business under the firm of C. and E. L. Kerrison." In 1838, the firm built a large three-story brick building at the northwest corner of King and Market streets (which was later known as the Academy of Music). In 1858, the store relocated to 80-82 Hasell Street, and the Charleston City Directory for 1932 lists its address as 260-262 King Street. The 1960, Charleston City Directory lists the store as Kerrisons Department Store at 260 King Street. In the 1890s, Philip Kerrison sold the business, and one of the purchasing partners was Edwin Huger Poulnot (1871-1955), who eventually acquired a controlling interest in the company. Popularly known simply as Kerrison's, the company closed its doors in the 1990s.

**Scope and Content:** Records include accounts for bills payable, cash receipts and disbursements, sales tax and layaway transactions; employee time and payroll books; group insurance records; marketing surveys and studies; photographs; and advertising material. Miscellaneous material includes letters testamentary (1850) for the estate of John Mullings, naming Charles Kerrison as estate administrator; and minutes of "Organization Meeting of the Poulnot Kerrison Corp." (1966). Except for a single document dated 1850, this collection contains no records predating 1895, and the bulk of the collection dates from 1949 to 1985. Photographs have been removed to the SCHS Visual Material Collection.

**Preferred Citation:** Kerrison's Department Store (Charleston, S.C.). Kerrison's Department Store records, 1850-1985 (bulk 1949-1985). (0568.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

**Search terms:**

Mullings, John, 1785-1850 -- Estate.  
Kerrison's Department Store (Charleston, S.C.)  
Kerrison's Department Store (Charleston, S.C.) -- Records and correspondence.  
Department stores -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Dry-goods -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Marketing research.  
Stores, Retail -- South Carolina -- Charleston.  
Charleston (S.C.) -- Commerce.  
Accounts.  
Business records.

## **Container Listing:**

### **BOX 1**

- 1 Account ledger, 1895-1899.
- 2 Loose items removed from account ledger.
- 3 Bound volume marked "Notes & Bills Payable" containing accounts, 1896-1921.
- 4 Account book, 1918-1921.
- 5 Accounts, 1926-1931, for cash receipts and disbursements, salaries, etc.
- 6 Miscellaneous items: includes a group insurance policy for the Kerrison's Dry Goods Company, 1920.
- 7 Miscellaneous items: includes letters testamentary for the estate of John Mullings (1785-1850), naming Charles Kerrison as estate administrator, 1850; correspondence; and minutes of "Organization Meeting of the Poulnot Kerrison Corp." (1966).
- 8 Employee sales account book, 1951-1958.

### **BOX 2**

- 1 Account book, 1949-1984.

### **BOX 3**

- 1 Group life insurance records, 1952-1957.
- 2 Employee time book, 1955-1957.

### **BOX 4**

- 1 Employee time book, 1957-1959.
- 2 Spiral bound notebook containing memoranda and notes on business meetings, 1963-1971.
- 3 Employee time and payroll book, 1966-1970.
- 4 Blueprint plan of a proposed shopping center, 1968, on S.C. Route 7.
- 5 "Survey of Marking Department Operations" 1970.

### **BOX 5**

- 1 Employee time and payroll book, 1970-1973.
- 2 Employee time and payroll book, 1972-1975 (marked "N.W." on cover).
- 3 Three folders containing information about anniversary sales, 1973-1975.

- 4 Folder marked "new dimensions in fashion" containing a clipping (1973) about the remodeling of a "fashion area" in a Spartanburg store.
- 5 Folders containing information relating to Bon Marche department stores and S.I.D.S. meetings, 1974-1978.
- 6 Folder containing info and letters regarding a computer system (1975-77).
- 7 Folder containing records (1976) relating to a marketing study about a branch store on James Island. Includes a map, a letter to Edwin Poulnot from John B. Hipp of Properties, Inc. (Atlanta, Ga.), blueprint site plans, a sketch of a shopping center at Cross Creek, and a "Market Information" study.

#### **BOX 6**

- 1 Financial statement, 1976, of the Charleston Merchants Housing Corp.
- 2 "Survey & Market Research Findings" volume 1, 1985.
- 3 "Survey & Market Research Findings" volume 2, 1985.
- 4 "Survey & Market Research Findings" volume 3, 1985.

#### **BOX 7**

- 1 "Survey & Market Research Findings" volume 5, 1985.
- 2 "Survey & Market Research Findings" volume 9, 1985.
- 3 Advertising materials, etc., n.d.
- 4 Miscellaneous records and correspondence.
- 5 Memo books of Edwin Poulnot.

#### **OVERSIZE VOLUMES:**

Bound volume (corduroy and leather) marked "Departmental Synopsis, Departmental Expense Statement," 1962-1971.

Account book, 1964-1970.

Sales tax and payroll account book, 1969-1974.

Department Stores Corp. account book, 1970-1976.

Sales tax and payroll account book, 1975-1981.

Layaway account book, 1979-1980.

