



*New York State Archives*

**New York State War Council Petitions to the Attorney  
General to Restrict Access to Defense Installations A4288**

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## Overview of the Records

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<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	This series contains petitions and supporting materials from defense installations to the War Council (and its predecessor, the Council of Defense) requesting that certain streets adjacent to the defense facilities be closed to public access, or that signs be posted restricting access to areas surrounding facilities. Factories involved in supplying war materials requested the limits in order to prevent monitoring of shipments and deliveries, while other facilities such as water and power plants sought to protect themselves from sabotage.
<b>Creator:</b>	New York State War Council
<b>Title:</b>	Petitions to the attorney general to restrict access to defense installations
<b>Quantity:</b>	1 cubic foot
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	1941-1944
<b>Series:</b>	A4288

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## Arrangement

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Chronological by meeting date with supporting materials preceding the petitions.

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## Scope and Content Note

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This series contains petitions and supporting materials from defense installations to the War Council (and its predecessor, the Council of Defense) requesting that certain streets adjacent to the defense facilities be closed to public access or that signs be posted restricting access to an area surrounding a facility. The Attorney General, as a member of the War Council, assumed the duty of investigating the petitions and recommending any necessary actions to secure the installations. Factories involved in supplying war materials requested the limits in order to

prevent monitoring of shipments and deliveries, while other facilities such as water and power plants wanted to protect themselves from sabotage.

Petitions processed by John J. Bennett, Jr. and Nathaniel L. Goldstein, the attorneys general under Herbert H. Lehman and Thomas E. Dewey, respectively, are found. A typical application contains a letter to the War Council from the president or director of the facility delineating the nature of the request, along with a more formal resolution passed by the War Council, signed by the Attorney General and countersigned by the Executive Secretary. This series also includes summaries of petitions approved by the War Council and correspondence from the Attorney General to the Executive Secretary notifying him of pending action on petitions.

Also found is a 1942 report by the Adjutant General sent to the Governor and apparently passed on to the Attorney General concerning the security of almost 1,100 public defense installations throughout the state, including airports, telephone switching buildings, water pumping facilities, railroad bridges, and ports and other entrepots. This report lists: installation and its location; date inspected; inspector's name and rank; condition of security (satisfactory or unsatisfactory); and remarks ("Insufficient guards" or noting who conducted the inspection if not the New York Guard--often the U.S. Army, Navy, or Coast Guard).

The series also includes lists of city and village mayors, along with lists of both state and local war council staffs, including the Office of Civilian Protection, Office of Civilian Mobilization, and the Salvage Division. A subject index to all 1942 War Council meeting minutes is also found, though only one set of minutes (February 9, 1943) is found in this series.

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## Related Information

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### Related Material

A4304Series A4304, Agendas and minutes of the New York State War Council, contains a complete set of meeting minutes.

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## Other Finding Aids

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### Available at Repository

Folder list is available at the repository.

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## Use of Records

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### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of the material.

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## Administrative Information

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### Processing Information

This series was originally accessioned as box 15 of old collection #77, accession -71.

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## Access Terms

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- Correspondence
- New York (State)
- World War, 1939-1945--New York (State)
- Protecting
- Defense industries--New York (State)
- Petitions
- New York (State). Attorney General's Office