



*New York State Archives*

**New York State Joint Legislative Committee on Housing  
Investigation Subject Files L0180**

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## Table of Contents

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Overview of the Records .....	3
Arrangement .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	3
Other Finding Aids .....	4
Use of Records .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Access Terms .....	5

## Overview of the Records

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<b>Repository:</b>	New York State Archives
<b>Summary:</b>	This series contains information on building suppliers, construction employee associations, and manufacturers gathered while investigating the housing industry and the construction trades. Topics include price fixing, evidence of collusion, and oligopolistic practices. Information includes correspondence, ledger books, cancelled checks and check stubs, copies of sealed bids, minute books, and treasurers' reports. Some court-related materials such as grand jury hearing or testimony transcripts are also included. Grand jury transcripts are restricted.
<b>Creator:</b>	New York (State). Legislature. Joint Legislative Committee on Housing
<b>Title:</b>	Joint Legislative Committee on Housing investigation subject files
<b>Quantity:</b>	18.6 cubic feet
<b>Quantity:</b>	43 microfilm rolls
<b>Inclusive Date:</b>	1919-1922
<b>Series:</b>	L0180

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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Alphabetical by name of association or business.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Content Note

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This series contains information primarily on building suppliers, construction employee associations, and manufacturers, and reveals price-fixing conspiracies among various suppliers of both labor and material primarily in New York City's construction industry. The committee, known as the "Lockwood Committee" for chairman Charles C. Lockwood, collected these

records as part of its investigation into the housing industry in general and conspiracies in the construction trades in particular.

The investigations into employer associations for roofers, plasterers, stone setters, and plumbers, along with suppliers of masonry materials, stone and gravel, and building materials are well represented. Correspondence between these associations, their ledger books, cancelled checks and check stubs, copies of sealed bids, minute books, and treasurers' reports provide evidence of collusion, combinations, or oligopolistic practices as these groups conspired to set prices which allowed all participating contractors to take turns providing the lowest bid--but a bid still higher than had there been free market competition. The trade associations masked these conspiratorial activities under the guise of their legitimate business concerns.

Some court-related materials such as grand jury hearing or testimony transcripts from the prosecution of some of these associations or combinations are also found within this series. Such grand jury transcripts are restricted.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Other Finding Aids

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### Available at Repository

Folder list.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Use of Records

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### Access Restrictions

Grand jury hearing transcripts: Restricted pursuant to Criminal Procedure Law, Sect. 190.25.4(a).

### Alternate Formats AvailableAlternate Formats Available

Microfilm is available for use at the New York State Archives or through interlibrary loan.

## Administrative Information

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### Custodial History

This series was originally accessioned as part of boxes 1-6, 15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 34-41, 43-45, 45a, 45b, 46, 48, 51, 52, 71, 77, 77a, 78-80 of accession -216, old collection #405.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Access Terms

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- Housing--New York (State)
- Labor unions--New York (State)
- Housing--Law and legislation--New York (State)
- Restraint of trade--New York (State)
- Building trades--New York (State)
- New York (State)
- Trade and professional associations--New York (State)
- Labor unions--Building trades--New York (State)
- Racketeering--New York (State)
- Building materials industry--New York (State)
- Trade and professional associations--Law and legislation--New York (State)
- Price fixing--New York (State)
- Labor unions--Construction workers--New York (State)
- Housing policy--New York (State)
- Labor unions--Construction workers--Law and legislation--New York (State)
- Investigating housing