

**REPORT ON OLD SURVEY RECORDS OF THE NYNH&H RAILROAD
LOCATED AT THE MBTA
ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE RAILROAD OPERATIONS CENTER
32 COBBLE HILL ROAD, SOMERVILLE ██████████, MA. 02143**

This office has received and is storing the records of the Eastern Division of the NYNH&H Railroad which pertain to the Engineer of Real Estate. The geographical area covered is Massachusetts from Worcester easterly and from Boston southerly, and all of Rhode Island. These files contain a combination of surveying and boundary opinion information including maps, computations, boundary history, and legal opinion, keyed into the valuation maps of the various railroad lines which were purchased by the NYNH&H Railroad in the late 1800's in the above geographic area. There is a complete set of valuation maps of the rail lines in this office. There is a card index as well for the work folders, which is indexed by town. This file index has been placed into the computer by MBTA.

OLD MAPS

There are four shelves containing linen maps of railroad right of ways, most dating from the late 1800's. These bound map books of various sizes up to 3' x 4' show the right of way of railroads later taken over by the NYNH&H Railroad and predate the valuation maps which are used today.

There are also some books of deeds in Rhode Island, which contain hand written deed descriptions and ink & color plat maps. The following is a partial listing of the railroads.

- West Roxbury Branch RR (1849)
- NY Prov. & Boston RR (Olneville Branch) 1848 centerline (published 1883)
covering Cranston, Johnston, and Providence, RI
- Boston & Prov. RR
- NY & New England RR (large group of books, by county)
- Boston & Providence Railroad.

There are also tax map books and map books of cities on one shelf. These books are of historical interest, but probably less useful for railroad right of way purposes. They might be more properly given to the historical society of that town or city. A sampling is as follows:

- Providence Rhode Island Tax Map 1923
- Providence Platt Book, 1918
- Atlas of Worcester, Mass. 1911
- Atlas of Boston, Mass 1910 & 1914

ENGINEERING RECORDS INDEX FILE

The engineering records of the Eastern Division of the NYNH&H Railroad contain over 6,000 work folders filed by a number preceeded by the letter "B". These files are stored on shelves which total approximately 80' long, 7' high, and 1' deep. There is a card index for these files which is sorted by town. Each card contains the name of owner or road, valuation map, sheet, parcel number, deed file reference (another filing system, not part of this collection), and the work folder B#, which keys into the 6,000+ work folders.

This paragraph will show the various types of card indexes and what information can be obtained from them. In general, a work folder was indexed in multiple ways: general, acquisition, sale, streets-row-crossings, various orders, and Land Court cases.

B1	B1
B1	B1
B3	B3
Ct	Ct
Ct	B2
B2	X
B4	B5
B5	B6
B7	Z

FILE CABINET LAYOUT

DRAWER CONTENTS

- B1 - FILE INDEX - GENERAL Listing by town in Rhode Island and Massachusetts (Worcester east)
- B2 - FILE INDEX, STREETS, RIGHTS OF WAYS, AND CROSSINGS, Listing by town
- B3 - FILE INDEX AQUISITIONS AND SALES Listing by Town
- B4 - VARIOUS ORDERS, Listing by town, numerous references to B# files
- B5 - LAND SALE, Listing by town
- B6 - MAP INDEX BY TOWN mostly indexed to B# files. There are original linens as well as blueprints in the work folders.

B7 - LAND COURT CASES Listing by Town

X - GENERAL FILE AND MAP INDEX The map section lists maps which were of record in the NYNH&H Railroad office. These maps are not part of the present files. The original line locations section gives references and dates which could be useful; they are not indexed to the B# files.

Z - MISC INDEX OF CONTRACTS not useful, not indexed to B# files

Ct -DEED INDEX, WESTERN DISTRICT (Western Mass. and all of Ct, NY).

This deed index is not indexed to the B# files at all. It is referenced to a deed filing system which is on file at the RR Real Estate Section, Office of Rails, Connecticut Department of Transportation, Union Station, New Haven, Ct.

EXAMPLE OF INDEX LISTING AND CONTENTS OF WORK FOLDER

Under the index VARIOUS ORDERS, Canton, Rhode Island

Deed File: Env. 15, Deed "B"
RR: B & P RR
Warrantee Deed Vol 1653, pg 615 7/14/25
Valuation Map, Sheet and Parcel
Comments: Crossing Reservation
Engr File: B1408

BOX B1408 contains a voluminous record of station & offset linens, blueprints, correspondence from private engineers requesting information. The information covered the period from 8/7/1918 to 5/12/1963

ENGINEERING RECORDS

There are over 6,000 individual work folders in this collection. The following random sampling will give an idea of the information contained in these folders:

- B3-B7 B3 Land Court Case, Harwich Mass. blueprints and correspondence, 1919
- B4 Correspondence. Brockton, Mass. from GR Kent, Engineer of Real Estate in New Haven, Ct. 9/2/1919. With blueprints. Describes a conflict presented to the Mass. Land Court.
- B5 Quincy, Mass. Correspondence and maps 1899-1955 on boundary law law questions.

B867-B870 B867 Correspondence, deeds and maps 1908, Plymouth County. Notation in correspondence that RR office is NYNH&H RR, South Station, Boston

B868 Rhode Island. Main line layout of centerline, computations, surveyor description of problems and solutions for 1880, 1881, and 1912 centerlines and how they tie together.

B869 Neponset Station, Boston, Mass. Correspondence and statements on the status of a RR crossing, history of crossing 1937, job calculations, linen from 1922, computations.

B870 Subdivision tied into RR centerline, Boston, blueprints original computations, traverse, deeds, correspondence.

B1513-B1517

B1513 Legal dispute between RR and Boston over ownership and responsibilities, RR bridge @ Peabody Square. Documents and legal opinions 1891-1924.

B1514 RR crossing, Dorchester Ave. & Shawmut Branch RR. Maps and correspondence 1904.

B1515 Worcester, maps and letters showing transfer of lands between RR companies in the center of the city, 1924

B1516 West Barrington, Rhode Island, status of Bay Spring Avenue grade crossing, May, 1934. 3 crossings of RR by gas lines where there are

B1517 NYNH&H RR report of private crossing, Elm St. Barrington, 1924. Same type data as above.

B4143-B4144

B4143 No. Attleboro, Mass. Correspondence, maps and legal documents, probate records, concerning an effort to legalize a lost parcel of land in 1905.

B4144 No. Attleboro, same type of materials, different piece.

B6091-B6097

B6096 Request to survey B & P RR line at Boylston St., Boston to check position of retaining wall footing, 1950. Blueprint of work, history of property, deed description and reasoning on how private property lines were determined by RR Wilson, chief surveyor. Calculation w/ sines, cosines to 7 places.

B6097 Request to survey in E. Providence, RI, same data as above, 1952.

DEED INDEX BOOKS

There is a group of large bound books which contain indexes of deeds based on the original railroads in the area states. The Connecticut volumes are numbered 1-8, there is one volume for New York, and there are a similar number of Massachusetts and Rhode Island books. There is no information which appears useful to land surveyors, however all of the land records showing the incorporation of the original railroads up to their purchase by the NYNH&H RR are listed in these volumes. These books were probably prepared for the Secretaries of State of the area states as required by law. This type of information is kept in great detail in the Railroad Archives of the University of Connecticut Historical Manuscripts & Archives, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, 369 Fairfield Road (U-5), Storrs, Ct. 06269. These books might be more useful there where their experts could see whether the information in these books is a duplicate of previously archived material.

This report was compiled as the result of research into whether the records kept by the MBTA contained NYNH&H RR records from Connecticut. There was little data which was useful to Connecticut, however the records contain valuable survey information for Rhode Island and Eastern Massachusetts. This report was prepared by Jay Doody, Survey Supervisor, District 3, Connecticut Department of Transportation in order to share the information found on 4/17/97 with interested State surveying societies through the New England Section of the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping..

The office and manager in which the records are kept, as well as many other val maps not in the old NYNH&H RR system is:

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Jay Doody, LS 4/18/97