

# Guide to the Edward Thornton Hartman Papers

MS 266



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr.

May 1983

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 266

**CREATOR:** Hartman, Edward Thornton, 1869-

**TITLE:** Edward Thornton Hartman papers

**DATES:** 1904-1943

**BULK DATES:** 1923-1943

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7 linear feet (19 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Professional correspondence and subject files maintained by Hartman in connection with his career. The correspondence relates chiefly to Hartman's work as state consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare (1923-1929). Important correspondents are T.N. Carver, W.A. Griffin, Joseph W. Kelly, Joseph Lee, Benjamin C. Marsh, A.D.K. Shurtleff, and Edwards Albert Park. The major portion of the papers consists of topical files, principally on planning and on zoning, which was of particular interest to Hartman, who was active in the writing of zoning laws in twenty-eight states. The files, which contain printed matter, notes on legal decisions and practical problems, offer thorough documentation of all aspects of zoning in the urban environment. Twenty-five cities in Massachusetts are included in the planning section as part of a series of Master Community Surveys, 1912-1940.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0266>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0266>.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Hartman, 1942.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Edward Thornton Hartman Papers (MS 266). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Housing, planning, and zoning expert; secretary of the Massachusetts Civic League, 1904-1920; managing director and secretary of the Child Federation, Philadelphia, 1921-1923; state consultant on Housing and Planning, Department of Public Welfare, Boston, 1923-1929; president of the American Civic Association, director of American Federation of Arts, director of National Housing Association.

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## Scope and Contents

The Edward Thornton Hartman Papers document the professional career of Edward Thornton Hartman (1869- ), a housing, planning, and zoning expert in Massachusetts. The collection is arranged in nineteen (19) boxes and totals six and one-half (6.5) feet. Span dates for the collection are 1904-1940s, with bulk dates of 1923-1943.

Hartman's professional employment included service as: secretary of the Massachusetts Civic League (1904-1920); managing director and secretary of the Child Federation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1921-1923); and state consultant on Housing and Planning, Department of Public Welfare, Boston, Massachusetts (1923-1929). Hartman also served as president of the Massachusetts State Conference on Social Work, vice president of the American Civic Association, director of the American Federation of Arts, and director of the National Housing Association.

The Hartman Papers are organized in two series, maintaining the organization of files constructed by the donor: I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1904-1940s, n.d., II. SUBJECT FILES, [ca. 1863-1940s].

Series I, CORRESPONDENCE, contains the professional correspondence of Edward Hartman. Little or no insight into the private man and his personal life is available in this material. These letters, arranged chronologically, consist of one folder of items relating to the Massachusetts Civic League (folder 1), and one folder of items relating to the Child Federation of Philadelphia (folder 2). All remaining correspondence

relates to Hartman's work as state consultant for Massachusetts' Department of Public Welfare (folders 3-22).

Hartman's correspondence as a state consultant sheds light upon the thoughts and actions of municipal, town, and state officials and planners from 1923-1940s. Specifically, there is much correspondence with Massachusetts town and city officials, containing factual and theoretical discussions of the necessary components for zoning and planning programs in the 1920s and 1930s. Hartman corresponded with individuals from cities and towns such as: Greenfield, Leominster, Lexington, Medford, Nantucket, Saugus, Swampscott, and Taunton. To a lesser degree, Hartman corresponded with municipal representatives from across the nation. These correspondents included: architects, attorneys, boards of selectmen, chambers of commerce, city clubs, city hall representatives, city solicitors, highway commissions, journals, planning committees, and zoning boards. Among the common topics of interest in these letters are: education, housing, legislation, real estate, recreation, and traffic.

Much of Hartman's professional work focused on the analysis and application of the principles of zoning into the municipal environment, and his expertise and commitment to the concept of zoning is amply reflected in his correspondence. Hartman undertook a comprehensive study of zoning decisions in Massachusetts courts and the Supreme Court. In 1928 he concluded that the many traumas facing American communities demanded zoning action, "by which lot sizes may be established, that is minimum sizes, front, side and rear yards may be provided, and residential districts may be protected from encroachment by any kind of commercial or industrial activity. These are all essential." By 1939 Hartman could claim a direct role in writing some twenty-eight state laws.

Correspondence relating to the Massachusetts Civic League (folder 1) consists of letters from the South Park Commissioners (Chicago), Commission on Immigration and Housing of California, State Charities Association, and various state civic leagues. These letters relate to proposed social programs, the legality of city and state zoning laws, and the role of state civic leagues. Individual correspondents, whose letters deal with these same subjects, include: T.N. Carver, W.A. Griffin, Joseph W. Kelly, Joseph Lee, Benjamin C. Marsh, and A.D.K. Shurtleff.

Letters pertaining to Hartman's work at the Child Federation of Philadelphia are arranged in folder two. These nine letters include correspondence with Edwards Albert Park of Yale University's Department of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross, and the Child Health Organization of America. These letters focus on the topics of health and housing concerns (see also: Series II, folder 28).

Series II, SUBJECT FILES, contains an alphabetical arrangement of research and reference files compiled by Hartman. Examples of Hartman's addresses and writings, both published and unpublished, are arranged in this series (folders 38-44). The topics of these works include: housing reform, state and local legislation, town and village improvement, recreation, health, regionalism, traffic control, real estate, zoning, architecture, neighborhood centers, the Massachusetts Civic League, and improvement societies.

Three major subject headings in this series are: "Planning," "Planning and Zoning," and "Zoning." Planning files (folders 64-101) contain information on: city planning, 1907-1939, n.d.; on a Master Community Survey, 1912-1940, n.d.; and on subdivision controls, [ca. 1912-1939, n.d.]. Master Community Surveys were coordinated, extensive surveys designed to elicit and involve the entire population of an area. Planning files contain printed material and writings organized under headings for individual states. Files for Massachusetts are subdivided alphabetically by city and town. Among the locales represented in these files are: Amherst, Andover, Belmont, Billerica, Boston, Cambridge, Concord, Charlestown, Foxboro, Great Barrington, Greenfield, Leominster, Lexington, Marion, Marblehead, Medford, Needham, Peabody, Plymouth, Quincy, Reading, Saugus, Watertown, Wayland, and Worcester (folders 91-97).

Planning and zoning files (folders 102-115) consist of printed material and notes on various state and federal court decisions from 1899-1939, n.d. (folders 102-113). Additional files in this section contain writings and notes on practical problems (folder 115) in planning and zoning.

Zoning files (folders 135-149) consist of files of general information and administration, lot sizes, maps, Massachusetts, and problems. These files contribute substantially to Hartman's thorough documentation of all aspects of zoning in the urban environment.

Additional material relating to zoning is arranged in an index card file (boxes 15-19). Headings for planning, zoning - miscellaneous, and court decisions all contain further data on zoning-oriented topics.

Other files of interest in this series include those for the subjects of: charity (folder 27), neighborhood units (folder 55), traffic and traffic control (folder 128), traffic problems (folders 129-131), and villages (folder 134). These files contain a variety of printed material and writings which focus on the professional response to such developments in the 1920s and 1930s.

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## **Arrangement**

The papers are arranged in two series: I. Correspondence, 1904-1940s, undated. II Subject Files, [circa 1863-1940s].

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# Collection Contents

## Series I: Correspondence, 1904-1940, undated

*1 linear foot (2 boxes)*

This series is arranged chronologically, with undated material filed at the end of the series.

b. 1, f. 1-12	1904–1931 January 1904–1931 January	1904–1931 January 1904– 1931 January
b. 2, f. 13-22	1931 February – 1940, undated 1931 February – 1940, undated	1931 February – 1940, undated 1931 February – 1940, undated

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**Series II: Subject Files, [ca. 1863-1940s]***6 linear feet (17 boxes)*

This series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

A card index file, also arranged alphabetically by subject, is organized in boxes 15-19.

b. 3, f. 23	Billboards	[ca. 1920-1935, undated]
b. 3, f. 24	Boston University and Dartmouth College--public welfare	1922-1923
b. 3, f. 25	Bridges	1900-1920
b. 3, f. 26	Catholic attitudes in education	1863, [ca. 1919-1920]
b. 3, f. 27	Charity	[ca. 1915-1921]
b. 3, f. 28	Child Federation	1921-1922
b. 3, f. 29	Cities	1913-1931
b. 3, f. 30	Citizenship and government	[ca. 1913-1935]
b. 3, f. 31	Clubs	[ca. 1928]
b. 3, f. 32	Cooperatives	[ca. 1926-1937]
b. 3, f. 33	Culture	[ca. 1927-1936]
b. 3, f. 34	Depression of 1929	[ca. 1931-1937]
b. 4, f. 35	Eton, Walter Prichard--Address to the young people, Unitarian Laymen's League, Philadelphia	1921
b. 4, f. 36	Federal home loan bank board	1939
b. 4, f. 37	Grade crossings	[ca. 1920-1930]
Hartman, Edward Thornton		
Addresses and articles		
b. 4, f. 38-42	1906-1936, n.d.	
b. 4, f. 43	Newspaper articles	undated
b. 4, f. 44	Notes and drafts	undated
b. 5, f. 45	<i>American Architect</i> —articles and correspondence English	[ca. 1924-1925]
b. 5, f. 46	Autobiographical data and estimates of him by others	[ca. 1909-1914]
b. 5, f. 47	Catalogue of zoning and planning material in his library	[ca. 1923-1935]
b. 5, f. 48	Letters to editors	[ca. 1912-1937]
b. 5, f. 49	Health	[ca. 1915-1924]



b. 5, f. 50	Highways	[ca. 1920-1929]
b. 5, f. 51	Housing	1912-1939
b. 5, f. 52	Manufactures—census in Massachusetts	1926
b. 5, f. 53	Miscellaneous	
b. 5, f. 54	Muscle Shoals, Alabama	[ca. 1926-1927]
b. 5, f. 55	Neighborhood units	[ca. 1925-1934]
	Newspaper clippings	
b. 6, f. 56	Pan American conference, Havana	1940 July
b. 6, f. 57	Real estate	[ca. 1930s]
b. 6, f. 58	"The Social Settler," <i>The Boston Transcript</i> English	1908-1909
b. 6, f. 59	War profits	1940s
b. 6, f. 60	Miscellaneous	1940s
b. 6, f. 61	Northwest Regional Council	1938
b. 6, f. 62	Parks	1905-1934
b. 6, f. 63	Photographs and illustrations	undated
	Planning	
b. 6, f. 64	Adoption and enforcement	1932, undated
b. 6, f. 65	Building heights	[ca. 1922-1930]
b. 6, f. 66	Charts	
	City	
b. 6, f. 67	1907-1915	
b. 7, f. 68-72	1916-1939, n.d.	
b. 7, f. 73-74	Economic phases	[ca. 1902-1939, undated]
b. 7, f. 75	Foreign cities	[ca. 1926-1932]
b. 7, f. 76	General	1925-1937
b. 8, f. 77-78	Master Community Survey	[ca. 1912-1940, undated]
b. 8, f. 79	Problem of sunlight	[ca. 1917-1930]
b. 8, f. 80	Regional approaches	[ca. 1924-1931]
b. 8, f. 81	Regional New England	[ca. 1927-1937]

## Planning (continued)

b. 8, f. 82	Regional papers	1927-1934, undated
b. 8, f. 83	Schools	[ca. 1922-1939]
b. 8, f. 84-86	Subdivision controls	[ca. 1912-1939, undated]
b. 9, f. 87	Taxation	[ca. 1930's]
U.S.		
b. 9, f. 88	California	[ca. 1913-1934]
b. 9, f. 89	Connecticut	[ca. 1933, undated]
b. 9, f. 90	Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland	[ca. 1918-1924]
Massachusetts by towns		
b. 9, f. 91	A - B	[ca. 1930s]
b. 9, f. 92	C - K	[ca. 1925-1937, undated]
b. 9, f. 93	L	[ca. 1925-1937]
b. 9, f. 94	M	[ca. 1924-1938]
b. 9, f. 95	N - P	[ca. 1926-1931, undated]
b. 10, f. 96	Q - R	1926-1937
b. 10, f. 97	S - Y	1913-1936
b. 10, f. 98	Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey	[ca. 1919-1931]
b. 10, f. 99	New York	[ca. 1917-1938]
b. 10, f. 100	Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania	[ca. 1920-1938]
b. 10, f. 101	Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin	[ca. 1925-1930, undated]
Planning and Zoning		
Court decisions and laws		
b. 10, f. 102-105	1899, 1912-1929	
b. 11, f. 106-113	1930-1939, n.d.	
b. 11, f. 114	New frontiers	[ca. 1928, undated]
b. 11, f. 115	Practical problems	[ca. 1927-1936]
b. 11, f. 116	Planning boards—procedures	[ca. 1936]

Press—responsible journalism		
b. 11, f. 117	General	1908-1931
b. 11, f. 118	Newspaper clippings	undated
Public Utilities		
b. 12, f. 119	General	1923-1930
b. 12, f. 120	General and newspaper clippings	1932-1939, undated
b. 12, f. 121	Single Tax	1919
b. 12, f. 122-123	Social programs	1911-1939, undated
b. 12, f. 124	Soil-stripping in New England	1935-1940
b. 12, f. 125	Statistics	1908-1924, undated
b. 12, f. 126	Technocracy	[ca. 1932-1933]
b. 12, f. 127	Tennessee Valley Authority	1933-1938
b. 12, f. 128	Traffic and traffic control	1923-1939
Traffic problem		
b. 12, f. 129	General	1924-1938, undated
b. 12, f. 130	Newspaper clippings	undated
b. 12, f. 131	Pamphlets	1928-1937, undated
Trusts and the public		
b. 13, f. 132	General	1926-1934
b. 13, f. 133	Newspaper clippings, undated material	undated
b. 13, f. 134	Villages	1904-1937
Zoning		
b. 13, f. 135-136	Administration	1925-1935, undated
b. 13, f. 137-142	General	1916-1938, undated
b. 13, f. 143	Lot sizes	1934-1939, undated
b. 13, f. 144	Maps	1926-1937

## Zoning (continued)

b. 14, f. 145-146	Massachusetts	undated
b. 14, f. 148-149	Problems	1920-1938, undated
	Index card file	[ca. 1920-1940]
b. 15	Advertising	
b. 15	Airports	
b. 15	Amenities	
b. 15	Architectural control	
b. 15	Automobiles	
b. 15	Ballyhoo	
b. 15	Betterments	
b. 15	Blighted areas	
b. 15	Citizen action	
b. 15	Conservation	
b. 15	Cooperation	
b. 15	Democracy	
b. 15	Dinosaur cities	
b. 15	Economic planning	
b. 15	Education	
b. 15	Excess condemnation	
b. 15	Fire	
b. 15	Forest trees	
b. 15	Government forms	
b. 15	Health	
b. 15	Housing	
b. 15	Industrialism	
b. 15	Land See: "Railroads," <a href="#">box 17</a>	
b. 15	Lecture notes	
b. 16	Life	
b. 16	Miscellaneous	

## Index card file (continued)

## Planning

b. 16	Planning, regional
b. 16	School plants
b. 16	Sidewalks
b. 16	Streets—roads design
b. 16	Subdivisions
b. 16	Traffic
b. 16	Traffic accidents
b. 16	Politics See also: "Privilege," <a href="#">box 17</a>
b. 16	Population trends
b. 16	Press—radio
b. 17	Privilege See also: "Politics," <a href="#">box 16</a>
b. 17	Public services
b. 17	Radio
b. 17	Railroads
b. 17	Recreation
b. 17	References—index
b. 17	Securities
b. 17	Stories
b. 17	Taxation—tariff
b. 17	Unemployment

## Utilities

b. 17	Planning by-passes
b. 17	P. Corner Radii
b. 17	Freeways
b. 17	Grade crossings
b. 17	Master plan
b. 17	P. neighborhood units
b. 17	Promotional

## Index card file (continued)

## Zoning—miscellaneous

b. 17	Accessory uses
b. 17	Administration
b. 17	Appeals
b. 17	Balanced zoning
b. 17	Building lines
b. 17	Bulk zoning
b. 17	Decisions
b. 18	Earth products
b. 18	Filling stations
b. 18	Highway zoning
b. 18	Lot sizes
b. 18	Neophobia
b. 18	Non-conforming
b. 18	One-family districts
b. 18	Promotional
b. 18	Spot zoning
b. 18	Techniques
b. 18	Trailers

## Court Decisions

b. 19	General
b. 19	City and town planners
b. 19	Decisions
b. 19	Housing—data
b. 19	Health
b. 19	References

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

City planning -- Massachusetts  
Land use -- Massachusetts  
Regional planning -- United States  
Zoning -- United States

### Geographic Names

Massachusetts -- Politics and government --  
1865-1950  
Massachusetts -- Surveys  
New England  
United States -- Economic conditions --  
1918-1945

### Occupations

City planners

### Names

Carver, Thomas Nixon, 1865-1961  
Griffin, W. A.  
Hartman, Edward Thornton, 1869-  
Kelly, Joseph W., 1926-  
Lee, Joseph, 1862-1937  
Marsh, Benjamin Clarke, 1877-1952  
Park, Edwards A. (Edwards Albert), 1877-1969  
Shurtleff, A. D. K.

### Corporate Body

Massachusetts. Department of Public Welfare