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Work Projects Administration Records MS-1027

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English
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Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country
Historical Collections

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Houghton 49931

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URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Creator:	United States. Work Projects Administration (1939-1943)
Title:	Work Projects Administration records
ID:	MS-1027
Date [inclusive]:	1935-1948
Physical Description:	0.81 cubic feet (3 manuscript boxes and two oversize folders)
Language of the Material:	English .
Mixed Materials [box]:	1-3
Mixed Materials [folder]:	1-2
Abstract:	Records, 1935-1948, of the Work Projects Administration (WPA), previously Works Progress Administration, projects in Houghton County, Michigan.

Preferred Citation

MS-1027, Works Progress Administration Records, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

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Historical Note

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was an employment and infrastructure program established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt under the New Deal plan in 1935. Over its eight years of existence during the Great Depression, the WPA employed approximately 8.5 million Americans in public works infrastructure projects throughout the United States. Largely employing unskilled men, the WPA was responsible for the construction of new school buildings, hospitals, and bridges; as well as major roadworks such as paving roads and the

installation of storm drains and sanitary sewer lines. Other projects conducted by the WPA were in the arts and employed artists, writers, musicians, and actors across the country. The Works Progress Administration was renamed the Work Projects Administration in 1939.

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Scope and Contents

Records, 1935-1948, of the Work Projects Administration (WPA), previously Works Progress Administration, projects in Houghton County, Michigan. Included in the collection is correspondence, bulletins, and memorandums related to employee work assignments, pay, safety, and reemployment. A substantial portion of the correspondence is addressed to individuals with the role of watchman, a precinct captain or committeeman who would visit project locations at least once nightly. Many of the letters are addressed to watchman William Becker of Chassell, Michigan.

Also included in the collection are employee forms, including notices to report to work and notices of termination of employment. These forms include the employee's name, address, and the time, date, and location of work within the county. Other records found within the collection include Houghton County maps, injury reports, purchase orders; as well as time books, payroll conversion tables, and salary rates.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Related materials providing documentation of WPA activities in Keweenaw County may be found in the Michigan Tech Archives' State Archives Collection RG 67-60A, RECORDS RELATING TO WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION AND EMERGENCY WELFARE RELIEF ADMINISTRATION, 1935, 1938-1939. These include lists of cases, informational bulletins, notes, telegrams, letters in and copies of letters out relating to welfare aid.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Construction projects -- Michigan -- Upper Peninsula
- Employees
- Employees -- Dismissal of
- Roads -- Michigan -- Upper Peninsula
- Documents
- Payroll records
- Records (Documents)
- Time books
- United States. Works Progress Administration (1935-1939)
- United States. Work Projects Administration (1939-1943)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Citizenship affidavits, undated	box 1	folder 1

Work Projects Administration Records MS-1027

Correspondence and official bulletins, undated, 1937-1941	box 1	folder 2
Employee forms, notice of termination of employment, 1939	box 1	folder 3-4
Employee forms, notice to report for work on project, 1939-1941	box 1	folder 5
Employee timecards, undated, 1935	box 2	folder 1
Injury reports, 1938-1941	box 2	folder 2
Maps of Houghton County, undated, 1946-1948	box 2	folder 3
Payroll conversion tables and salary rates, undated, 1936-1937	box 3	folder 1
Purchase orders, 1939-1940	box 3	folder 2
Record of equipment rental services, April-July 1936	folder 1	
Time record books, undated	box 3	folder 3-4
Time report for personal services - work projects, 1936-1939	folder 2	
Watchman schedules, 1939	box 3	folder 5