

Whitford Flowers and Greenhouses, Inc. photographs

Collection ID: DN154

Accession #: 2021.65

Finding Aid prepared by Kelin Baldrige



INSTITUTE *of*
Museum *and* **Library**
SERVICES

Summary Information

Repository	Chester County History Center
Creator	unknown
Title	Whitford Flowers and Greenhouses, Inc. photographs
Date [bulk]	1964-1996, undated
Date [inclusive]	circa 1941-1945-1996, undated
Extent	.2 linear feet
Location note	Chester County History Center Photo Archives
Language	eng
Language of Materials note	eng
Abstract	The Whitford Flowers and Greenhouses, Inc. photographs mostly date from 1964-1996 and measure .2 linear feet. The photographs feature the company's owners, employees, greenhouses, and two retail shops.

Preferred Citation note

[Identification of item], Whitford Flowers and Greenhouses, Inc. photographs, DN154, Chester County History Center Photo Archives, West Chester, PA.

Historical Note

Whitford Flowers and Greenhouses, Inc. was started by John Thomas (1882-1959) as a wholesale greenhouse growing sweet peas, tomatoes, chrysanthemums, snap-dragons, and carnations after World War I. Under Thomas, the business was named Fairview Greenhouse. Thomas also served as the president of the Philadelphia Flower Growers Association and developed the Thomas Method of Soil Sterilization.

Frederick Brown purchased the company from Thomas in 1956. He acquired a business license in 1964 and opened to the public as Whitford Flower Shop in 1965.

By 1970, Edward Delio assumed ownership of the company. In 1973, Delio opened an addition retail location in Exton Square.

Scope and Contents note

The Whitford Flowers and Greenhouses, Inc. photographs mostly date from 1964-1996 and measure .2 linear feet. The photographs feature the company's owners, employees, greenhouses, and two retail shops.

The collection came to CCHC with no original order. Because of this, the photographs were arranged by subject matter, then chronologically.

Folders 1-3 include black and white and color of Whitford owners, Frederick Brown and Edward Delio, and various employees, circa 1941-1945, 1966, 1970, undated.

Folders 4-5 include black and white and color photographs of the retail flower shop attached to the greenhouse and flower arrangements created in the shop, 1965, 1973, 1989, undated.

Folders 6-8 include black and white and color photographs of the Whitford greenhouse, 1945-1974, 1994, undated.

Folder 9 includes black and white and color photographs of the Whitford Flowers retail shop in Exton Square, 1973.

Folder 10 includes color photographs of a Larkin period display case purchased for the flower shop, 1989.

Arrangement note

Resources are arranged first by subject (personnel, retail shop, greenhouses, Exton Square shop), then chronologically within the subject categories.

This collection came to CCHC with no original order.

Administrative Information

The Whitford Flowers and Greenhouses, Inc. photographs were donated to the Chester County History Center by Edward Delio, the company's most recent owner, in 2021.

Controlled Access Headings

Florists

Greenhouses

Exton (Pa.)

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

Collection Inventory

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date	# of items
1	1	Frederick Brown (owner)	Circa 1941-1945, 1966, undated	6
1	2	Edward Delio (owner)	1970	1
1	2	Ann Delio and Beea Balzano	undated	1
1	3	Ann Schlager, Barbara Lammey, Arissa Gallagher, and Carrie (?)	1994	1
1	3	Arissa Gallagher	1994	1
1	3	Unidentified employee	1969	2
1	4	Flower Shop	1964-1973, 1990-1991, 1996	23
1	5	Floral arrangements for the fashion show at St. Joseph's School, Pennsylvania Avenue, Downingtown, PA	1971	3
1	5	Floral arrangements at St. Joseph's Church, Downingtown, PA	1973	1
1	5	"I've gone fishing" floral arrangement	undated	3
1	5	Floral arrangements at the wedding of the daughter of Frank Englund	undated	1
1	6	Greenhouse, exterior	1965, undated	9
1	7	Greenhouse, interior	1965-1974, 1994, undated	32
1	8	Greenhouse, construction	1969, 1974	26
1	9	Greenhouse, polaroids	undated	10
1	10	Whitford Flower Shop, Exton Square	1973	7
1	11	Larkin period display case	1989	2
Album		Photograph album of Whitford Flowers and Greenhouses, Inc.	Circa 1969	1