Record Group 31
Whitman Barnes
1941-1999
1 manuscript box

Plymouth Historical Museum, Plymouth, MI
Finding Aid Written by Lena Packer, 15 September 2005
Updated by Jennifer Meekhof 12 Oct 2011

Creator: Whitman-Barnes
Acquisition: The Whitman-Barnes records were deposited in the archives in 1999.
Language: Materials in English
Access: Records are open for research
Use: Refer to Archives Reading Room Guidelines
Notes: Citation Style: “Whitman-Barnes,” Record Group 31, Archives, Plymouth Historical Museum

Abstract
The Whitman-Barnes Company began as a Detroit business that moved to Plymouth, MI in 1949 after a century of operation. The company was a Michigan division of the United States Drill and Tool Corporation. When the company moved to Plymouth it occupied a building 250,000 square foot building sitting on 26 acres that was later occupied by Durr Industries. Some of the products made by Whitman-Barnes include drills, drill sets, and carbide tipped tools.

Scope and Content
The Whitman-Barnes record group consists of records information about the company such as product catalogues, newspaper clippings, company data, and photographs. The majority of the records in the collection come from a time capsule buried by the company in 1949.

Entries
Entry 1: Time Capsule
Entry 2: Newspaper Clippings
Entry 3: Company documents from the time capsule
Entry 4: Catalogues
Entry 5: Photographs

Important Subjects
Carbide tipped tools
Drills and Drill sets
Local Business—Plymouth, MI
United States Drill and Tool Corporation—Plymouth, MI
Box 1, Shelf 55

Entry 1: Time Capsule
Folder 1
List of items buried in time capsule by Whitman-Barnes of Sept. 10, 1949
Proof set of 1948 coins from time capsule (Acc. #99.149.13)

Entry 2: Newspaper Clippings
Folder 1
“Unearthed time capsule brings back the past,” Observer & Eccentric, 1999
“Whitman-Barnes to begin second century of business in Plymouth,” Plymouth Mail, Jan. 14, 1949 (Acc. #99.149.2)
“Boring named by J.A. to Plymouth Committee,” Plymouth Mail, August 31, 1966

Entry 3: Company documents from time capsule
Folder 1
Employees’ hourly rate earnings, 1948 (Acc. #99.149.30)
Bulletin of results of union election of April 15, 1949 (Acc. #99.149.21)
Roster of 25 Year Club (Acc. #99.149.22)
Annual report of 1948 (Acc. #99.149.29)
Factory overhead statement of 1948 (Acc. #99.149.15)
Factory and office personnel on Sept. 15, 1948 (Acc. #99.149.26)
Customer lists of various salesmen (Acc. #99.149.35)

- New York
- Chicago
- H.J. Lincoln
- T.W. Quin
- F.W. Hertrich, Jr.
- H. Richmond
- E.R. Smith
- H.S. Logan, Jr.
- E.L. Foreman
- B.J. Rohde
- Taylor Bros.
- D.M. Patterson
- Open
- M.B. Snow
- Foreign export
- Northeast District
- Earl Hoffman

“Drill and Reamer Facts” booklet (Acc. #99.149.18)
Blueprint of #7 Detroit automatic milling and clearing machines (Acc. #99.149.28)
Organization chart, 1948 (Acc. #99.149.6)
Anniversary booklet, “The First 100 Years” (Acc. #99.149.5)
Program of Army and Navy “E” Award ceremony on Feb. 23, 1945 (Acc. #99.149.19)
Booklet, “Your Job with Whitman-Barnes” 1925 (Acc. #99.149.8)
**Entry 4: Catalogs**

*Folder 1*

Drill and Reamer catalog #97-S (Spanish) includes discount sheet effective January, 1940 (Acc. #99.149.16)

Drill and Reamer catalog #100 includes discount sheet effective Sept. 1, 1948 (Acc. #99.149.9)

Drill and Reamer catalog #100 (Portuguese) includes discount sheet effective January, 1949 (Acc. #99.149.17)

Hercules Retainers and Interchangeable Punches catalog #99 (Acc. #99.149.27)

Domestic and Export discount sheets for catalog #100 (Acc. #99.149.23)

Carbide Tipped Tools catalog #101 (Acc. #99.149.20)

Drills-Drill Sets and Drill Assortments catalog including discount pricing sheet effective Sept., 1949 (Acc. #99.149.31)

Leaflets (Acc. #99.149.25)

- Hercules Major Drills
- Hercules Carbide Tipped Die Drills
- W&B Spotting and Centering Drills
- W&B Altered Reamers
- Hercules Retainers and Interchangeable Punches
- Twist Drills
- Micro Chucks and Collets
- Short Length Screw Machine Drills
- Carbide Tipped Masonry Drill
- Auger Bit

**Entry 5: Photographs**

*Folder 1*

Unearthing Whitman-Barnes time capsule at Durr Industries, 1999 (Acc. #99.149.10, 99.149.11, 99.149.12)

Twenty-Five Year Goldwatch Award to William Rucker, March 18, 1944 (Acc. #99.149.36)

Employees of Whitman-Barnes who gave their lives in WWII, 1941-1945 (Acc. #989.149.36)

New Plant-south side of factory and west side of office (3 copies) (Acc. #99.149.4)

East end of factory and office building of new plant from Plymouth Rd. (3 copies) (Acc. #99.149.4)

Groundbreaking ceremonies on June 19, 1948 (3 copies) (Acc. #99.149.4)

New plant-office building from Plymouth Rd. (3 copies) (Acc. #99.149.4)

Groundbreaking ceremonies on June 12, 1948 (3 copies) (Acc. #99.149.4)

**Map Case 2, Drawer 2**

Ground Breaking for New Whitman & Barns Factory, 40600 Plymouth Road, 19 June 1948 (2 copies) (Acc #77.190.3)