
INVENTORY OF THE WATSON LAND COMPANY COLLECTION, 1927-2005

Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Allan Goldman

California State University, Dominguez Hills

Archives & Special Collections

University Library, Room G-145

1000 E. Victoria Street

Carson, California 90747

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URL: <http://archives.csudh.edu/>

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Watson Land Company Collection

Dates: 1927-2005

Collection Number: Consult repository.

Creator: Watson Land Company

Extent: 1 box.5 linear ft.

Repository: California State University, Dominguez Hills Archives and Special Collections
Archives & Special Collection

University Library, Room G-145

1000 E. Victoria Street

Carson, California 90747

Phone: (310) 243-3013

URL: <http://archives.csudh.edu/>

Abstract: A small collection of materials from the Watson Land Company, including articles of incorporation, financial statements, correspondence, newsletters, and reports.

Language: Collection material is in English

Access

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

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Project Information

This finding aid was created as part of Early Los Angeles/Rancho San Pedro Manuscript Cataloging Project, a CSU Dominguez Hills Library project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project started in 2005. Project Director was Greg Williams. Project Archivists were Thomas Philo and Jennifer Allan Goldman.

History

The Watson Estate Company was incorporated in 1912 to help protect the interests of Dolores Simona Dominguez de Watson. While the Watson Estate Company made a steady, albeit relatively small, income from leasing land, it broke with other Rancho-based companies in regularly selling off small pieces of property. The company was reincorporated as the Watson Land Company in 1927, largely as a way to have lands assessed according to richer 1920s valuations, rather than the 1913 valuation that had been used. Under reincorporation, land sales and leases gave the Watson Land Company a sounder financial foundation. As with other Rancho-based concerns, the Watson Land Company realized profits from sales and leases to oil companies; throughout its history, though, the directors of the Watson Land Company focused on the agricultural and industrial development of the land. The success of this practice grew throughout the century, and the Watson Land Company remains one of the most successful in Southern California. (From the Rancho San Pedro Collection Finding Aid)

Scope and Content

Items include "Watson in the News" company newsletters; corporate profiles and reports; brochures and articles about the company; financial statements; land reports; correspondence; and the company articles of incorporation.

Subjects

Office buildings

Industrial buildings

Geographic Areas

Carson (Calif.)

Rancho Dominguez (Calif.)

Corporate Names

Watson Land Company

Related Material

- Folder 1 **"Watson In the News" publications, monthly/seasonal newsletter with pieces on tenants, Waston Land Company employees, and construction progress 1968, 1976-1978, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1990, 2005**
- Folder 2 **Corporate profile brochures (cover removed) and letter to Judson Grenier in reference to photos used in brochure 1987, 1966**
- Folder 3 **Industrial Center brochures, including for the Watson Office Plaza and the Watson/Carson Business Park, all circa late-1970s, early-1980s 1977, 1981**
- Folder 4 **Reprinted and photocopied articles about the Watson Industrial Center, reprint of report by "Industrial Development," correspondence from Brown Keefe Marine/Bowes regarding news releases 1964-1965, 1978, 1982**
- Folder 5 **Articles of Incorporation, certificate from state of California, and correspondence 1927**
- Folder 6 **Report on land sales by W.H. Daum and Staff, including correspondence to and from Hugh Arnold and a map noting the properties for possible sale 1935, 1940**
- Folder 7 **Balance sheets, financial statements, audit reports, and other financial documents 1927, 1933, 1938, 1949-1950, 1966-1967**
- Folder 8 **Correspondence with oil companies and other Dominguez companies, financial statements, clippings, freeway map, Copy of Watson Energy Systems, Inc. appeal to Air Pollution Control District 1927, 1930, 1934, 1939, 1944, 1966, 1976, 1986**
- Folder 9 **Pasadena Research Institute report, "Economic Impact of Watson Industrial Center" 1980**