Descriptive Summary

Repository: Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
Call No.: VI-HF
Location: Archives
Date(s): 1935-2007
Creator: the Harvard Forest
Quantity: 2 linear feet (4 boxes)
Language of material: English

Abstract: This collection contains information related to Harvard Forest, which was established in Petersham, Massachusetts in 1907. The majority of the collection consists of records created by the Harvard Forest and deposited in the Arnold Arboretum’s archives for offsite storage for the material. In addition there are images of the aftermath of Hurricane of 1938 at the Harvard Forest held by the Arboretum.

Note: Access to Finding Aid record in HOLLIS.
Preferred Citation: Harvard Forest collection. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Processing Information

Acquisition Information

Provenance: Material in series I and III was compiled by the Archive staff. Materials in Series II were placed on deposit at the Arnold Arboretum from Harvard Forest during 2001 and 2002 and are restricted.

Terms of Access

Researchers seeking to examine archival materials are strongly encouraged to make an appointment. The Director, or an office of origin, may place restrictions on the use of some or all of its records. The extent and length of the restriction will be determined by the Director, office of origin, and the Archivist.

Access to Series II: material on deposit at the Arboretum from the Harvard Forest is restricted. For access to these records see Harvard Forest Document Archive
Terms of Use
The copyright is held by The President and Fellows of Harvard College for the Arnold Arboretum Archives of Harvard University. The copyright in Series II: Harvard Forest historical records on deposit at the Arnold Arboretum is held by The President and Fellows of Harvard College for Harvard Forest. Some materials in the collection may also be held by the original author or the author’s heirs or assigns. Researchers are responsible for obtaining written permission from the holder(s) of copyright and the Arnold Arboretum Archives prior to publishing any quotations or images from materials in this collection.

Photocopies may be made at the discretion of the Arnold Arboretum Archives staff. Permission to make photocopies does not constitute permission to reproduce or publish materials outside the bounds of the fair use guidelines.

Historical Note
The Harvard Forest, is designated a Long Term Ecological Research Site (LTER) by the National Science Foundation and is located about 70 miles west of Harvard University, in Petersham, MA. The Forest was established in 1907 with funds from a gift from John S. Ames that created a 2,100 acre holding used as a working forest and laboratory for students in the Forestry program at Harvard until 1917. The Forest serves as a center for research and education in forest biology and conservation where scientists and students can explore the ways biological, physical, and human systems interact to change our earth.

Scope and Content: Collection includes publications, correspondence, clippings, VHS tape, microfilm, and compact disc.

Arrangement
The Harvard Forest collection is arranged in 2 series:

Series I: Publications
Series II: Harvard Forest historical records on deposit at the Arnold Arboretum, Restricted Access, see Note
Series III: Photographs, postcards, digital images

Container List
Box 1
Series I: Publications
Folder
1:
• The Harvard Forest, 1907-1934: a memorial to its first director, Richard Thornton Fisher. [United States?] : The Alumni, 1935. 70 pages, softcover
• The Harvard Forest at Petersham, MA. Pamphlet. c1940
• The Harvard Forest Models. by E.S. Stillman, Petersham: Harvard Forest, 1941. 48 pages, hardcover
• Shaler Hall and Fisher Museum of Forestry. Harvard University, Harvard Forest Petersham, Massachusetts. Color Postcard. 5 ½ x 3 ½ inches

2: “The Harvard Forest – A Brief History” [Hope Wise’s notes, copies of articles, clippings from the Harvard Gazette and Crimson, an appeal letter to the Friends of Harvard Forest and manuscript for article in PlantSciences 1 (2) 1981, p. 6,7
Some material may have been added by Jo Proctor.

Series II: Harvard Forest historical records on deposit at the Arnold Arboretum
Collection includes correspondence, VHS tape, microfilm, compact disk, and a binder. Material relates to historical stand records for the main Harvard Forest properties, with detailed maps and accounts of forest types, planting, natural and human disturbance and other information from 1907 to the present. Other information includes data sheets from vegetation inventories and surveys, historical information about the 1938 hurricane and subsequent salvage operations, records from other Harvard Forest properties including the Pisgah Tract, and files on old Harvard Forest plantations.

Note: Access Restricted For access to these records see Harvard Forest Document Archive

Material on Deposit
Folder
1: Correspondence
• Correspondence between John Burk, Harvard Forest and Sheila Connor, Arnold Arboretum Archivist regarding off-site storage of Harvard Forest material at the Arnold Arboretum, 2002

2: Material on Deposit
• Petersham Proprietor Records, 1733-1823, photocopies
• “John F. O’Keefe Fisher Museum, Harvard Forest Petersham, MA,” on label, VHS

Box 2
Material on Deposit
• Harvard Forest website, 2001, compact disc
• Rolls #1-5 contain the historical stand records for the main Harvard Forest properties, containing detailed maps and accounts of forest types, planting, natural and human disturbance and other information from 1907 to the present. Five cases of microfilm

Box 3
Material on Deposit
• Rolls #6-18 include data sheets from vegetation inventories and surveys, historical information about the 1938 hurricane and subsequent salvage operations, records from other Harvard Forest properties including the Pisgah Tract, and files on old Harvard Forest plantations. Thirteen cases of microfilm

Box 4
Material on Deposit

Series III Photographs, postcards, digital images [filed in Box1]
Folder
1. Photographs, postcards

Harvard Forest models. Information from verso: “Photographs of historical models of forest growth made for the Harvard Forest. Photos. From E.G. Stillman, Aug., 1934,” seven, 3”x4½” b&w images mounted on two boards


• Information from verso: “Harvard Forest, Mass., Petersham. A new crop of pine from natural see, the result of regulation cutting. Photo. Gift of Dr. Edgar Anderson, 1933,” 3½”x5¾” b&w image mounted on board
• “The Controlled Environmental facilities at the Harvard Forest. Photo by H. Wise” caption from publication. (on left). Black Gum Trail At the Harvard Forest? (on right). Two, 5”x7” b&w prints of the three images taken by Hope Wise in February, 1981 and used in PlantSciences 1 (2) 1981, p. 6,7 (3d print used in the article missing)

**Postcards**
- Three, 3½x5” colored postcards
  - Historical Series 1740
  - Historical Series 1910
  - Silviculture Series: “on favorable sites the quality of the hardwood stands can be increased by cutting poorly-formed trees. Later thinnings like this yield sawlogs”

**Digital Images**
- Images of the aftermath and destruction caused by the Hurricane of 1938 at the Harvard Forest