

Charles W. Eliot, 2nd Collection

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Provenance: Unknown, ca. 1993-1995

Collection ID: CHC008

Dates: ca. 1909-1993

Extent: 2 boxes

Processing and finding aid by: Matthew Hall, February 1, 1995; updated by Chun Yu Tsui, February 27, 2017

Access: Collection is available for research under the CHC rules of use

Biographical Sketch:

Charles William Eliot II was prominently known as a landscape architect who was an early advocate of urban planning, the grandson of Harvard's president from 1869 to 1909, and an advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was born in Cambridge, MA in 1899 and received his bachelor's and master's degrees at Harvard in 1920 and 1923 respectively. In his early years, from 1926 and to 1933, he was the city planner for Washington and director of the National Capital Park.

Following that, between 1933 and 1943, Eliot was the executive officer and director of the National Resources Planning Board in the Executive Office of the President Franklin D. Roosevelt. After the Resources Planning Board being dissolved in 1943, Eliot went to California and was officially in charge as director of the Hayes Foundation in 1944, being involved with the planning of the Los Angeles region.

In 1955, Eliot returned home and became the Charles Eliot Professor of Landscape Architecture at Harvard, a post named for his uncle who had worked with Frederick Law Olmsted. In retirement since the 1970s, Eliot continued his advocacy of urban planning and preservation. In 1982, Eliot was awarded the American Society of Landscape Architects' (ASLA) Medal at the Society's annual meeting in Honolulu, HI. In 1993, Eliot died at 93 at his home in Cambridge, MA.

Scope and Content:

This collection is composed of a variety of documents from Charles W. Eliot 2nd from ca. 1909 to 1993, involving correspondence (personal and official), clippings, manuscripts, legal documents, newsletters and publications from various locations in Cambridge, and related topics and themes of Cambridge.

See attached folder list for more detailed information.

Box List:

Box 1:

Personal (letters, clippings, articles) #1 to Old Cambridge/Brattle Street. General #43

Box 2:

Old Cambridge/105 Brattle Street, Longfellow National Historic Site #44 to Proposed – Not Built/MISC.
#109

Return to CHC Collections home:

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/researchaids/archivalcollections>