

Corcoran's Department Store Collection

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Provenance: Donated by Paul Corcoran, Jr., July, 2000.

Collection ID: CHC008

Dates: 1888-1981, bulk 1940s.

Extent: 1 flat box

Processing and finding aid by: Most likely processed by Molly Alexander. Finding aid by Emily Magagnosc, March, 2017.

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

Collection Description:

In 1881 John H. Corcoran founded Corcoran's in the Hyde Building at 579-587 Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and sold dry goods such as buttons, ribbons, collars, etc. John H. Corcoran died in 1924, and his sons Paul and John took over the business. In 1941 the store moved to a new building at the corner of Essex Street and Massachusetts Avenue. Corcoran's had 23 departments, including cosmetics, home furnishings, lingerie, children's, men's, and women's clothing, etc. Another store was opened in Harvard square in 1949. After Paul Corcoran died in 1974, his son, Paul Jr., sold the building in Central Square and signed a ten year lease with the new owners. When the lease was up for renewal in 1984, the Central Square store closed, and in 1987 the Harvard Square store closed as well, ending Corcoran's 106-year presence in Cambridge.

This collection consists of one flat box of materials relating to Corcoran's. The collection documents the history and development of a long and successful family-run department store that was an important part of the Cambridge community.

Box List:

Folder	Description	Dates
1	2 issues of "Corcoran's Monthly Courier", an employee newsletter	August 1891 July 1893
2	9 issues of "Good Morning!" weekly newsletter; 1 issue of "Corcoran's Store News"	December 1924- October 1928
3	6 interior and exterior photographs of Corcoran's store (additional photographs may exist)	1936, 1940

4	9 full and partial Cambridge newspapers	1940s
5	Newspaper clippings; "Historic Cambridge" booklet	1890-1981, ND
6	Radio addresses and documents pertaining to the company's history	1940, 1945
7	22 photostats of Corcoran's advertisement	1940, ND

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