

York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

Finding Aid - York University historical collection (F0450)

Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.4.0 Printed: January 17, 2019

Language of description: English

York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)

305 Scott Library, 4700 Keele Street, York University

Toronto

Ontario

M3J 1P3

Telephone: 416-736-5442

Fax: 416-650-8039

[Email: archives@yorku.ca](mailto:archives@yorku.ca)

<http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/ArchivesSpecialCollections/index.htm>

<https://atom.library.yorku.ca//index.php/york-university-historical-collection>

York University historical collection

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	5
Access points	5

Summary information

Repository:	York University Archives & Special Collections (CTASC)
Title:	York University historical collection
Title [statRep]:	Title based on contents of collection.
ID:	F0450
Date:	1885-2006, predominant 1970-2006 (date of creation)
Physical description:	ca. 0.8 m of textual records 58 photographs : b&w and col. ; 27 x 35 cm or smaller 3 prints : col. ; 100 x 69 cm and smaller 1 drawing 9 audio cassettes 2 micro cassettes 1 CD-ROM 4 video cassettes 1 plan
Note [generalNote]:	<p>The York University historical collection is an assembly of documents in a number of formats accumulated by York University Archives to document the ongoing history of the university. The early part of the collection is made up of material acquired from the Stong Historical Society and from John Becker who joined the staff of York University in 1966 as assistant to the dean of Atkinson College. Becker later served as assistant vice president (Student affairs) and assistant vice-president (business operations). The collection has since expanded to include other sources such as artwork, oral histories and audio-visual recordings of special events. Much of the material received from the Stong Historical Society concerns the history of the land and community on which the main campus of the university is located in Toronto (formerly North York) Ontario. The original community, Kaiserville (later Elia), established circa 1800, was home to German loyalist settlers who had left Pennsylvania following the American Revolutionary War. The first settler in the area was Peter Erlin Kaiser who is buried on what is now the grounds of York University. When the University purchased its Keele Street land, there were extant buildings on the site. Among these, the principal buildings were the Jacob Stong house and the Abraham Hoover house. The Stong house was built on a parcel of land sold to Jacob by his father Daniel (d. 1868) and was constructed in the 1850s. Descendants of Jacob Stong sold the house in 1951. The Stong lands now form the central part of Black Creek Pioneer Village as well as forming the northern portion</p>

of the University property. The Hoover residence, built on a plot purchased by Christian Hoover in 1826, was constructed in 1848 by Christian and his son Abraham (1821-1905). The land (buildings and farm) was held by the Hoover family until the 1930s when it was purchased by a Mrs. Hart. In 1958 the house was purchased by Claude Passy, who resided in it for a period of time before selling it to York University ca. 1964. The Stong Historical Society was established in 1979 at Stong College, York University. Its purpose was to discover the history of the area on which the university was built, and it proposed that the houses of the Stong College residence bear the names of the pioneer families of the area. The society was begun by Olga Cirak, the college's administrative assistant. It is currently inactive.

Scope and content

The collection consists of correspondence, photographs, genealogical charts, family histories, newspaper clippings, publications and related material detailing the history of the site on which the Keele Street campus of York University now stands; correspondence and newspaper clippings relating to the search for the grave site of Peter Erlin Kaiser and a photocopy of his Last Will and Testament; a genealogy and a history of the Kaiser family of Ontario (1933); copies of articles on the Palatine settlements in York County and Upper Canada; a publication, 'An account of the Boynton family and the family seat of Burton Agnes,' (1914); material on the Smith family (Hoover relations), correspondence seeking information from descendants of the Hoover family with responses, Hoover genealogies and material on the Troyer family genealogy (Hoover descendants); biographical material on York pioneers, correspondence, archaeological reports, copies of campus and survey maps and of architectural renderings of the Hart, Hoover, and Stong buildings on the University campus; obituary notices for the last surviving member of the Stong family who lived on the property, a copy of a genealogy of the family and a photocopy of a history of the church that was located on the property (by T.E. Kaiser); a newspaper article concerning Hart House, a building on the York campus which was relocated there in the 1930s from King Township, material related to the 40th anniversary celebrations of York University in 1999 and the York University Faculty Association strike of 1997, as well as other material details of which are available in the finding aid. Accession 2009-019 includes an album of presentation photographs taken by Panda Associates showing Founders College, Steacie Science Library, the Farquharson Life Sciences Building, Burton Auditorium and the Central Utilities Building likely during the 1960s, as well as photographs and textual material regarding the dedication of the Scott Library on 30 October 1971.

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

No restrictions apply.

Finding aids

Container list appended as a .PDF document.

Related material

Related records may be found in the York University photo collection (F0091).

Accruals

The collection comprises the following accessions: 1961-002, 1972-009, 1976-020, 1978-012, 1979-004, 1979-037, 1980-027, 1991-005, 1998-022, 1999-004, 1999-005, 1999-019, 1999-024, 1999-028, 1999-051, 1999-071, 2000-011, 2000-019, 2000-020, 2000-021, 2000-022, 2000-031, 2000-033, 2000-060, 2000-062, 2000-080, 2006-004, 2007-038, 2007-045. Further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Final

Access points

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Sound recording (documentary form)
- Moving images (documentary form)

Collection holdings
