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University Land Records, 1752-1976 (bulk 1752-1860): Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number:	AC028
Location:	Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library. Princeton University Archives. 65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA
Size:	0.83 linear feet (1 archival box, 1 halfsize box, and 1 oversize box)
Language(s) of material:	English.
Abstract:	The University Land Records consist of deeds, mortgages, bonds and other legal papers, including maps, concerning the acquisition or disposition of University properties. Most of the papers are original though some photocopies are present. A portion of the papers relate to research conducted by Professor Gerald Breese for his book <i>Princeton University Land, 1752-1984</i> (1986).

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History of the University Land Records

This collection contains original deeds, mortgages, bonds, maps and other legal papers relating to the acquisition and disposition of Princeton University properties. There is also a legal size volume, *Copy of Deeds*, which consists of transcriptions of many of the original deeds found in this collection. The collection also contains photocopies of deeds, correspondence and papers from other University administrative units, the Mercer County Clerk's Office, the New-York Historical Society and other research facilities used by Gerald Breese in his book *Princeton University Land* (1986). Some of Breese's research notes are included and many of the photocopies are annotated by Breese.

The collection documents the physical expansion of the University from its earliest period through the acquisition of large tracts of land in the 20th century, including the properties around Carnegie Lake and numerous farms. Early records document transactions with such Princeton University notables as Nathaniel FitzRandolph, John Witherspoon, Walter Minto, John and Richard Stockton, and John Maclean.

For the most part, the papers consist of standard legal documents with detailed descriptions of the properties in question. Most have original signatures.

Description

The University Land Records consist of deeds, mortgages, bonds and other legal papers, including maps, concerning the acquisition or disposition of University properties. Most of the papers are original though some photocopies are present. A portion of the papers relate to research conducted by Professor Gerald Breese for his book "Princeton University Land, 1752-1984" (1986).

Series 1, Gerald Breese Papers, 1752-1976

Series 1, Gerald Breese Papers, 1752-1976, contains photocopies of maps and deeds, mortgages and correspondence collected by Breese concerning the transfer of tracts of land to the University. Some of Breese's research notes are also included. Most of the papers relate to transactions made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The series concludes with a folder on woodlots and close-in properties from 1752 to 1785.

Series 2, Office of the Controller, 1752-1907

Series 2, Office of the Controller, 1752-1907, contains original deeds, bonds, maps, correspondence and other legal papers concerning the acquisition and disposition of Princeton University lands. Approximately one-fourth of the collection relates to the 18th century with most of the rest pertaining to the 19th century. One folder relates to 1907. The series concludes with a legal size leather bound volume, *Copy of Deeds*, (undated). It consists of approximately 100 handwritten pages of copies of deeds, of which many of the originals are found in this collection. However, in many cases, the handwritten transcription in *Copy of Deeds* is more legible than the original. (n.b.: The first folder of the series contains an annotated list of all the papers transferred from the Controller's Office to the University Archives on September 23, 1966.)

Series 3, Oversize Materials

Arrangement

Organized into the following series:

- Series 1, Gerald Breese Papers, 1752-1976
- Series 2, Office of the Controller, 1752-1907
- Series 3, Oversize Materials

Access and Use

Access

Collection is open for research use.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the University Archivist. Under the Copyright Law of 1976, copyright to this item will expire on January 1, 2003. Researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright prior to that time.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition

Most of these records were transferred from the University Controllers Office to the University Archives on September 23, 1966 while Gerald Breese donated the others after completion of his book.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); University Land Records, Box and Folder Number; University Archives, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by John S. Riddle in 1994. Finding aid written by John S. Riddle in 1994.

Encoding

Machine-readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002 by Techbooks and Cristela García-Spitz on October 20, 2006.

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Subject Headings

These materials have been indexed in the [Princeton University Library online catalog](#) using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

- Randolph, Nathaniel Fitz, b. 1703.
- Breese, Gerald William.
- Witherspoon, John, 1723-1794.
- Minto, Walter, 1753-1796.
- Stockton, John, 1803-1882.
- Stockton, Richard, 1730-1781.
- Princeton University -- History.
- Deeds.
- School lands.
- Land titles -- 18th century.
- Land titles -- 19th century.
- Land titles -- 20th century.
- Deeds -- 18th century.
- Deeds -- 19th century.
- Deeds -- 20th century.
- Bonds (legal records).
- Mortgage deeds.
- Maps.
- Princeton University

Contents List

Series 1, Gerald Breese Papers, 1752-1976
Series Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by title of land.

Series Description

Series 1, Gerald Breese Papers, 1752-1976, contains photocopies of maps and deeds, mortgages and correspondence collected by Breese concerning the transfer of tracts of land to the University. Some of Breese's research notes are also included. Most of the papers relate to transactions made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The series concludes with a folder on woodlots and close-in properties from 1752 to 1785.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
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a Smith, Robert, Deed, from Samuel Hazard, 1757	1	9
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Various farms, including maps, 1927	1	11
Woodlot, including maps, 1752-1785	1	12

Series 2, Office of the Controller, 1752 ... (Continued)**Series 2, Office of the Controller, 1752-1907****Series Description**

Series 2, Office of the Controller, 1752-1907, contains original deeds, bonds, maps, correspondence and other legal papers concerning the acquisition and disposition of Princeton University lands.

Approximately one-fourth of the collection relates to the 18th century with most of the rest pertaining to the 19th century. One folder relates to 1907. The series concludes with a legal size leather bound volume, *Copy of Deeds*, (undated). It consists of approximately 100 handwritten pages of copies of deeds, of which many of the originals are found in this collection. However, in many cases, the handwritten transcription in *Copy of Deeds* is more legible than the original. (n.b.: The first folder of the series contains an annotated list of all the papers transferred from the Controller's Office to the University Archives on September 23, 1966.)

Series Arrangement

Arranged chronologically and also includes the names of the seller and buyer.

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Series 3, Oversize Materials

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