

Joseph Peter Spang III Papers 1957-2020
S 920.71 S735j Manuscript
27 boxes + Oversize Material

Biographical Note

Joseph Peter Spang III (1934-2020), known as Peter, spent most of his adult life in the preservation and study of history, architecture, arts and landscape of Deerfield. After graduating from Harvard in 1956 with a degree in history, Peter went on to do graduate work in the arts and material culture in London and Virginia. He came to work for Henry and Helen Flynt in 1959 at the Heritage Foundation (now Historic Deerfield), and spent the rest of his professional career there. Peter was the first professionally trained employee of the Flynts and later became known as the founding curator. After retiring from Historic Deerfield in 1986, Peter went on to become a Trustee until his death in 2020. From 1959 until his death in 2020, Peter's primary residence was on the "The Street," first living in the Sheldon House apartment and then purchasing Lot 1 West at the North end of the street.

In addition to his devotion to Historic Deerfield, Peter also found time to serve on many governing boards and committees of historical agencies all over New England and beyond. Among his many appointments are the Massachusetts Historical Society, Historic New England, the Lewis Walpole Library of Yale University, Strawberry Banke, Edith Wharton Restoration, The Trustees of Reservations, the Austin house of the Wadsworth Athenaeum, the Concord Museum, Old Sturbridge Village, the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, the Attingham Trust, the Essex Institute, Deerfield Land Trust, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and the Franklin Land Trust. The Walpole Society was another group that Peter took great pride in being part of. He closely documented his time with his Walpole friends and greatly looked forward to their outings.

Organization of the Collection

The majority of the collection came to Historic Deerfield through the estate of Peter Spang. Some material, mostly relating to his work at Historic Deerfield, was already in the library and the two sets were added to form this collection. The majority of the papers from the estate came to the library in 2023.

This collection deals primarily with Peter's relationship to Historic Deerfield and town of Deerfield. Material relating to the different organizations he was involved with are not part of this collection and should be sought from these organizations own records. As so much of Peter's life was about Deerfield, it is often hard to separate business and personal papers in this collection. While there are separate categories of Business Correspondence and Personal Correspondence, the two often merge as many business acquaintances became friends, and many of his friends became involved in his professional life. When searching his correspondence, it is best to search both his business and personal letters for items. There is a limited amount of material present in the collection related to Peter's time as a Trustee of Historic Deerfield since all of the Trustee Meetings are already archived at Historic Deerfield. The Trustee papers focus

on Peter's involvement with capital campaigns and various issues and correspondence not represented in existing Trustee records.

Related Collections

For many years before his death Peter contributed many items to the Heritage Foundation and Historic Deerfield Archives. In addition, much of the material from his estate was incorporated into the existing Archives. For more information of the history of Historic Deerfield see **Heritage Foundation Archives, Historic Deerfield Archives, and Historic Deerfield Summer Fellowship Archives**. All of these can be found in the Historic Deerfield Library. For information on the Walpole Society, consult the *Walpole Society Notebook*, the annual publication of the group. Historic Deerfield has a set of the books, mostly donated by Peter. Also, see the official archives of the Society, on deposit at the Winterthur Library, in Winterthur, Delaware.

Container List

Box 1 Business Correspondence

1	1959
2	1960-1963
3	1964
4	1965
5	1966
6	January-June 1967

Box 2 Business Correspondence

1	July-December 1967
2	January-June 1968
3	July-December 1968
4	January-July 1969
5	August-December 1969

Box 3 Business Correspondence

1	January-June 1970
2	July-December 1970
3	January-June 1971
4	July-December 1971
5	1972

Box 4 Business Correspondence

1	January-June 1973
2	July-December 1973
3	1974
4	1975

Box 5 Business Correspondence

1	1976
2	January-June 1977
3	July-December 1977
4	January-June 1978

Box 6 Business Correspondence

1	July-December 1978
2	1979
3	January-June 1980
4	July-December 1980
5	January-May 1981

Box 7 Business Correspondence

1	June-December 1981
2	1982
3	January-June 1983
4	July-December 1983
5	1984

Box 8 Business Correspondence

1	1985
2	January-June 1986
3	July-December 1986
4	1987-1989
5	1990-2019

Box 9 Business and Personal Correspondence

1	Business Correspondence, no date
2	Personal Correspondence, 1957-1959
3	Personal Correspondence, 1960-1966
4	Personal Correspondence, 1967-1968
5	Personal Correspondence, 1969

Box 10 Personal Correspondence

1	1970
2	1971
3	1972
4	1973
5	1974

Box 11 Personal Correspondence

1	1975
2	1976
3	1977

4	1978
5	1979

Box 12 Personal Correspondence

1	1980
2	1981
3	1982
4	1983

Box 13 Personal Correspondence

1	1984
2	1985
3	1986
4	1987

Box 14 Personal Correspondence

1	1988
2	1989
3	1990

Box 15 Personal Correspondence

1	1991
2	1992
3	1993

Box 16 Personal Correspondence

1	1994
2	1995
3	1996
4	1997

Box 17 Personal Correspondence

1	1998
2	1999
3	2000

Box 18 Personal Correspondence

1	2001
2	2002
3	2003

Box 19 Personal Correspondence

1	2004
2	2005
3	2006

4	2007
5	2008
6	2009

Box 20 Personal Correspondence

1	2010
2	2011
3	2012
4	2013
5	2014
6	2015
7	2016
8	2017
9	2018
10	2019

Box 21 Personal Correspondence

1	Undated
2	Undated
3	Undated
4	Undated

Box 22 Personal Correspondence

1	Undated
2	Undated
3	Undated
4	Undated

Box 23 Misc. Personal Papers

1	Biographical Information
2	Book Collection Invoices, Receipts, Correspondence
3	Death of Joseph Peter Spang Jr.
4	Speeches and Remarks, Misc.
5	Outstanding Philanthropist Award, 2010
6	Historic Deerfield Leadership Award, 2014
7	Misc. Awards and Honors
8	Misc. Parties and Events
9	Misc. Material
10	Misc. Photographs

Box 24 Lot 1 West Property

1	Plans and Blueprints
2	Renovation Bills and Receipts, 1982-1984
3	Home Maintenance and Repair Receipts, 1984-2009
4	Zoning Paperwork

5	Photographs, Interior and Exterior, 1970s
6	Photographs, Renovations, 1982-1983
7	Photographs, Interior and Exterior, Post-Renovation
8	Misc. Material

Box 25 Historic Deerfield Board of Trustees Capital Campaigns

1	Securing the Future Campaign, 1994
2	Securing the Future Campaign, 1995
3	Securing the Future Campaign, 1996
4	Securing the Future Campaign, 1997
5	Securing the Future Campaign, undated
6	Campaign for Historic Deerfield, 1999
7	America's Town, America's Story Campaign, 2018-2020

Box 26 Misc. Historic Deerfield Board of Trustees Documents

1	Strategic Plans
2	Land Use Issues
3	Correspondence, 1999-2009
4	Correspondence, 2010-2018
5	Misc. Material

Box 27 Calendars, Planners, Journals, Etc.

Daily Planners and calendars, 1975, 1981, 1985, 1986, 1989-2008
Diary of a Southern Trip, 1978
Diary of a Helsinki Trip, 1996
House-Warming Sign, 1983

Lot 1 West Plans and Blueprints

Secret Garden Plans, 1988—**Tube 7**
 Design Plan, Outdoors, no date—**Tube 7**
 Proposed Secret Garden, details, 1987—**Tube 7**
 Design Plan, details, no date—**Tube 7**
 Property Plans for Lunt and Spang residences, 1986—**On top of Tubes**
 Alterations for Peter Spang, drawings, 1982—**Tube 8**
 Alterations for Peter Spang, blueprints, no date—**Tube 8**
 Interior Alterations blueprints, no date—**Tube 8**
 Alterations for Peter Spang, blueprints, 1982—**Tube 8**
 Interior—Staircase plans, no date—**Tube 9**
 Interior—Upstairs, no date—**Tube 9**
 Exterior Blueprints, various—**Tube 9**
 Misc. folded blueprints re: renovation—**Tube 9**