

000 1217
001 N01
002 187
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005 Superior Court
006 New Castle County
140 Condemnation Petitions
200 1835
210 1951
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240 5.88 cf.
241 12 - 0.47, 1 - 0.24
261 Condemnation petitions were made by railroad companies, the State Highway Department, the City of Wilmington, New Castle County Levy Court, and other governmental bodies or businesses to take private property for various types of construction projects.
270 Many of the railroad condemnation petitions (1835, 1870-1937) are accompanied by commissioners' returns which establish the amount of damages to be paid to land owners and include a survey of the affected property. Petitions are from the Delaware and Pennsylvania Railroad, Wilmington and Western Railroad, Wilmington and Northern Railroad, Delaware Western Railroad, Baltimore and Philadelphia Railroad, the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad, New Castle and Delaware City Railroad, Gordon Heights Railway, Wilmington and Susquehanna Railroad, and the Wilmington and New Castle Electric Railway. Petitions show the name of the judge the petition was directed to, name of railroad, owner of the land to be condemned, location and description of the land, date, company seal, and signatures of the company president. The Application for the appointment of freeholders to assess land damages shows the date, names of railroad company and property owner, names of five commissioners appointed to view the land and assess damages, and signature of the judge. The freeholders' return or report describes the property, gives the amount of damages and date of report, and has signatures of the commissioners. The accompanying survey shows the land to be taken and number of acres, location of the railroad, names of adjoining property owners, and locations of roads, streets, streams, mills, and other features. In one case the land owner is petitioning the court for freeholders to assess damages caused by the railroad.

In addition, there are a number of non-railroad condemnation petitions which contain similar documents and information. These petitions are from the State Highway Department for road construction (1918-1951); New Castle County Levy Court for road construction (1929-1947) and the New Castle County Airport (1941); the City of Wilmington Board of Park Commissioners (1937), Board of Water Commissioners (Hoopes Reservoir, 1929), Street and Sewer Department (1925-1951), Board of Education (1924-1934), Housing Authority (1940-1944); Deerhurst Sanitary District Sewer Project (1950); the Delaware Water Company (1907); Quarryville Sanitary District Sewer Project (1947); a school in Middletown (1950); Town of Middletown (1937); Town of New Castle (1890); and University of Delaware (1946-1947).

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330 Arranged by type of petition and thereunder chronologically by year.
331 No index.
332 Handwritten and typed.
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360 Fair to poor condition with acid, storage, dirt, scotch tape damage.

Some are very brittle at folds.

370

390

420 1 cf (2002077)

430 Processed by Randy, June Bostick, Sherrie

990 May 11, 1995

995 October 2, 1995; April 19, 1996; June 14, 2002; August 2, 2002;

September 7, 2005; August 6, 2007;

bhh/de/rlg