

Arthur Kowee's Urban Renewal collection
1850s-2022 [bulk 1960s-1980s]

The Hudson Area Library History Room

Hudson Area Library
Hudson, New York

Contact Information:

Hudson Area Library
51 North 5th St.
Hudson, New York 12534
Phone 518.828.1792

Email: reference@hudsonarealibrary.org

Descriptive Summary Note

Title: Arthur Koweeek's Urban Renewal collection

Date (inclusive): 1850s-2022 [bulk 1960s-1980s]

Abstract:

The collection contains materials related to Urban Renewal projects that Arthur Koweeek helped to lead from 1971 to 1975 in the City of Hudson, New York. The materials document the City's redevelopment efforts including reports, administrative records, photographs, publications, and maps.

Administrative Note

Accession number: A2022-002 – Main floor, Archives room

Extent: 8.30 Linear Feet

Repository: Hudson Area Library

Language (s): Materials are in English

Condition governing access: The collection is open to research

Condition governing reproduction and use: copyright of these materials lies with the Hudson Area Library. For permission to reproduce or to publish contact the library: 518-828-1792 Ext. 106 or reference@hudsonarealibrary.org

Preferred citation: Arthur Koweeek's Urban Renewal collection, Hudson Area Library, Hudson New York.

Related Archival Materials

The following sources provide additional information on Urban Renewal projects that Arthur Koweeek helped to lead from 1971 to 1975 at the Hudson Urban Renewal Agency.

[Arthur Koweeek | HAL Oral History Project \(hudsonarealibrary.org\)](https://www.hudsonarealibrary.org/oral-history)

[Hudson's Urban Renewal: 50 Years Later - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

[History Room on Zoom: Photographic Collection of Hudson's Urban Renewal - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

[Arthur Koweeek Collection: Hudson Urban Renewal | New York Heritage \(nyheritage.org\)](https://www.nyheritage.org/collections/hudson-urban-renewal)

History of the collection: The collection was gathered by Arthur Koweeek and donated by Joan and Richard Koweeek in June 2021.

Processing information: The collection was processed by Archivist Marie O'Toole, October 2022.

Biographical Note

Arthur Koweeck was born on December 2, 1922 in New York City. After attending James Madison High School in 1939, he went on to serve for three years in World War II in the U.S Army Air Corps. Upon his return to the United States, Koweeck graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Washington State University in the class of 1946.

After his education, Koweeck moved to Hudson, New York where he began a career in the retail industry (he co-owned the Town Fair with his wife Janice, a toy and baby furniture store). He saw the potential of the City of Hudson and dedicated himself to building a better community; he was elected Chairman of the Planning Commission in 1961.

In 1965, Koweeck, as chairman of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, partnered with other New York State Agencies to implement a Comprehensive Development Plan for the City of Hudson. This development plan presented proposals for the future physical development of the City, which at this time was in economic decline. Specifically, the development plan addressed commerce, industry, affordable housing, development of traffic circulation, public services, and facilities.

From 1971 to 1975, he chaired the Hudson Urban Renewal Agency (which later became Hudson Community Development & Planning Agency). During his tenure, he contributed to the realization of the Urban Renewal Project of 1971-1973 and in 1974 the rehabilitation through Urban Renewal of the lower Warren Street Historic District.

The significant contribution that Koweeck made through these urban renewal and city planning programs continues to influence present day decision-makers. The commitment of Koweeck's work to the City of Hudson will no doubt inform future decision-makers as well.

Koweeck was a member of Advisory Boards of Hudson Youth; the Columbia County Health Care Consortium receiving the Anne W. Zittel Friend of the Consortium Award in 2018 for his work with the consortium. He served on both Hudson City and New York State Planning Federation Boards for over 50 years.

Scope and Content Note

Arthur Koweek's Urban Renewal collection consists of materials related to Urban Renewal projects that Arthur Koweek helped to lead from 1971 to 1975 at the Hudson Urban Renewal Agency (which later became Hudson Community Development & Planning Agency). It also contains personal papers accumulated by Koweek that serve as supporting documentation during his civic activities. This part of the collection includes a certification of Merit delivered by New York State Association of Architects (NYSAA), personal photographs, historical prints and The Society to Promote Our Unique Town (SPOUT) scrapbook.

The SPOUT scrapbook curated the association's activities, Hudson history and its community from 1975 to 1987. It also contains numerous articles, advertisements, posters, diagrams, correspondence, and ephemera.

The remainder of the collection consists of visual materials, mainly composed of photographs before and after urban renewal projects in some areas of the city. New development resulted in low-income housing, rehabilitated stores, and buildings. Among other formats accessible in the collection are slides, an interior design study for The Town Fair, aerial views, and maps.

Arrangement

The current order of these records has been imposed by the archivist. The collection is arranged into three series. The series are broken into subseries.

Series 1: Project Records

Series 2: Personal Documentation

Series 3: Visual Materials

Subject Terms

Subjects

- Architecture
- Urban development

Place :

Urban renewal- -Hudson (N.Y)

Description of the series of the collection

SERIES 1: PROJECT RECORDS, 1965-2002 [bulk 1965-1974]. Boxes 1, 2.

This series includes administrative records and materials relating to the Urban Renewal project of the 1960s and 1970s. For the most part, these are urban renewal agencies' reports supported by project photographs. The series also contains an Economic Development Zone Plan, a Hudson New York Urban Design Study, Rehabilitation through Urban Renewal of the Lower Warren Street Historic District, a copy of National Register of Historic Places Nomination.

Arrangement

The Series is arranged into two subseries. Within each subseries, the files are arranged in chronological order. **Subseries 1.1 Urban Renewal Reports; Subseries 1.2 Administrative Records**

Subseries 1.1

Urban Renewal Reports, 1965-2002

Box

Correspondence: Columbia County Planning Board, Planning Department, Hudson Common Council, and Comprehensive Plan Committee, March 2002	1
City of Hudson Comprehensive Plan: Diversity through Balance prepared by The Saratoga Associates, February 2002	1
City of Hudson Comprehensive Plan: Diversity through Balance Appendices prepared by The Saratoga Associates, February 2002	1
Economic Development Zone Program : Economic Development Zone Plan Initiative Plan, July 1988	1
Historic Hudson: Rehabilitation through Urban Renewal in the Lower Warren Street Historic Area of Hudson, New York, prepared for the Hudson Urban Renewal Agency by Historic Design Associates and Raymond, Parish & Pine, Inc. 1974	2

"A commitment to progress ", Hudson Urban Renewal's second annual report, April 1972	1
Hudson New York Urban Design Study prepared for Hudson Renewal Agency by Raymond, May, Parish & Pine, August 1970	1
Photographs from Warren Street from Sixth produced by Raymond, Parish, Pine & Weiner, Inc., 1970s	2
Front Street-Parade Hill Warren Street Historic District Hudson, New York. A National Register of Historic Places Nomination, December 1969	1
Comprehensive Development Plan for the City of Hudson, New York prepared by Raymond & May Associates, September 1965	2
Hudson, New York: An Urban Environmental Design Case Study, Stanley Morse, Rice Center for Community Design Research, June 4, 1980	2

Subseries 1.2

Administrative Records, 1967-1980s

	Box	Folder
Hudson Housing Development Corporation, Mortgage Revenue Bonds, Series 1982 (Providence Hall- Schuyler Court Projects)	Flat file	Drawer 7
Hudson Fire system Station, 1970s-1980s	Flat file	Drawer 7
Certification: Workable Program for Community Improvement, October 1967	Flat file	Drawer 7

SERIES 2: PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION. 1850s-2022, [bulk 1971-1987], undated. Box 3, flat files.

This series contains mainly documentation accumulated by Arthur Koweeck such as publications, certification of Merit delivered by NYSAA, an article, personal photographs, historical prints, a DVD, newspapers clippings, and the SPOUT scrapbook which contains mostly articles, letters, notes, and ephemera from 1975 to 1987.

Arrangement: The Series is arranged into three subseries. Within each subseries, the files are arranged in chronological order. **Subseries 2.1 General Materials; Subseries 2.2 Historical Prints; Subseries 2.3 Additional Donations.**

Subseries 2.1

General Materials, 1905, 1971-1987

	Box	Folder
DVD compiling photographs of buildings before urban renewal and a set of early 1900s interior stores, created in 2000s	3	1
Publications: Circa Hudson Antiques, August 2003 -vol. Issue n 1; A Hudson Riverbook, William Gekle, July 1980; Hudson New York, a small city renewed via. Journal of Housing, June 1978; As In Days Gone By, A Pictorial Portfolio of Hoosick Township Past, July 1976; This is Hudson in the heart of the River Valley Greater Hudson; Chamber of Commerce Joseph Murell, President, Hudson, New York, 1960s; Illustrated Hudson, New York. (copy) Illustrated and compiled by The Industrial Advertising Company of America, Kinderhook, New York, (copy) 1905. SPOUT Scrapbook, 1975-1987	3	2
	Box 3 cont Flat file	Box cont
		7

Certificate of Merit for Excellence in Design delivered by The New York State Association of Architects NYSAA, 1977		Drawer 7
Personal photographs, 1970s, undated	3	
Arthur Koweeck's article, September 1971	3	3

Subseries 2.2

Historical Prints, 1850s, 1860s-1970s

	Box	Folder
Photographs 1960s-1970s	3	1-2 of 14
Historic photographs of Hudson early 1900s	3	3-5 of 14
Historic photographs of Hudson 1860s	3	6-13 of 14
Drawings (copies) from W. H. Bartlett depicting the sperm oil and Candle factory in Hudson and a view of Hudson City and the Catskill Mountains in 19th century	3	14

Subseries 2.3

Additional Donation, 2022, undated

	Box	Folder
"Hudson's urban renewal 50 years later". The Columbia Paper, September 15, 2022	3	1
"Koweeck family donates to the library History Room". The Columbia Paper, September 8, 2022	3	1

SERIES 3: VISUAL MATERIALS. 1839, 1960s-1990s. Boxes 4-5, flat files.

This series includes visual materials dating from the 1970s to 1990s documenting the Hudson's urban renewal projects. The images tend to capture scenes before or after redevelopment activities. It contains photographs which particularly highlight Warren Street taken by Arthur Koweeck and local photographers; as well as containing approximately 570 projector slides (35 mm) likely used to support presentations (the slides do not provide comprehensive overviews of projects). The series is completed with a set of oversized aerial views, two maps and an interior design study.

Arrangement: The series is arranged into three subseries. Within each subseries, the files are arranged in alphabetical and/or in chronological order. **Subseries 3.1 Photographs; Subseries 3.2 Slides; Subseries 3.3 Oversize Materials.**

Subseries 3.1

Photographs, 1970s-1990s

	Box	Folder
Before urban renewal Columbia Street	4	1 of 14
Before urban renewal Cross and Front Streets	4	2 of 14
	4	3 of 14
Before urban renewal Prospect Street	4	4 of 14
Before urban renewal State Street		
Before urban renewal Warren Street	4-5 box	5-8 of 14
	5	9 of 14
Before and after urban renewal, commercial area : Macy's Housewares; Nabozny Press; National Shoes, McKinstry Drugs; Richman's ; The Town Fair; Westermans (1970s-1980s)	5	10 of 14
After urban renewal, industry area : a sign advertising an industrial development project construction of warehouse and retail facilities for Columbia Auto Parts Inc. with Arthur Koweeck as Chairman 1980	5	11 of 14
After urban renewal, residential area : houses in a development with a scene of dedication		

Aerial views	5	12 of 14
	4	13 of 14
Unidentified buildings: houses, slums		
	4	14
Unidentified buildings : demolition		

Subseries 3.2

Slides, 1970s-1980s

Before and after urban renewal: commercial, industrial, and residential areas. Before and after views; recreation areas including parks; rehabilitation in progress; industrial area including landfills, empty lots, and construction in progress; roadways including alleys and sidewalks; street views; details including buildings exteriors and store signs; unidentified buildings.

Box

6 to 10

Subseries 3.3

Oversize Materials, 1839, 1960s-1980s. Flat files.

Interior design study for The Town Fair, Hudson New York prepared by the Historic Design Associates, 1978

Aerial view of the neighborhoods in Hudson, New York, 1973

Aerial view of Hudson River with industrial area in background, Athens, New York, 1970s-1980s

Flat file

Drawer 7

Blueprint map: Survey of Property Site for School, 5th Ward, City of Hudson, New York, 1970s-1980s

Aerial view of Colombia Street, alleys, 1970s

Bird's eye view of Hudson and the river, 1960s

Map of original names and numbers of the proprietors of the City of Hudson, New York, 1839

