Seneca Glass Company Records A&M 2964

Seneca Glass Company Records

1840s-1985

Title Statement

Seneca Glass Company Records A&M 2964

Author: Staff of the West Virginia & Regional History Center

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID
A&M 2964

Unit ID
Archival Resource Key

Unit ID
Previous Archival Resource Key

Unit ID
Previous Archival Resource Key

Unit ID
Previous Archival Resource Key

Unit ID
Previous Archival Resource Key

Unit ID
/repositories/2/resources/1092

Unit Date
1840s-1985

Language
English .

Creator
Seneca Crystal

Creator
Fleming, Dolores A., 1933-2015

Extent
31.63 Linear Feet 11 document cases, 5 in. each; 15 records cartons, 15 in. each; 5 large flat storage boxes, 3 in. each; 1 flat storage box, 1 1/2 in.; 2 rolled storage tubes, 6 in.; 16 ledgers, 6 ft. 5 in.

Physical Location
West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository
West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access
No special access restriction applies.

Conditions Governing Use
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Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift from Seneca Crystal, 1988 October 29.

Addendum of 2005/04/22: Gift from Hall, Jarrett R., 2005 June.

Addendum of 2019/12/13: Gift from Seneca Glass Company via Loar, Barton, 2019 December 13.

Addendum of 2021/09/10: unknown

Preferred Citation
[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Seneca Glass Company Records, A&M 2964, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

In 1891, Seneca Glass Company opened in Fostoria, Ohio. In 1896, they moved to Morgantown, West Virginia, becoming the first of many glass factories to operate there. The company opened a second factory in nearby Star City in 1911. They added colored lead glass in the 1920s. The company began with quality, hand-blown lead glass and later specialized in high-end, elegant cut glass. In 1982, the company was sold and renamed Seneca Crystal Incorporated. They closed in 1983. The factory along the Monongahela River was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. As of 2026, it houses a shopping complex and small business offices.

Derived from: Six, Dean. "Seneca Glass Company." e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 27 March 2026. Web. Accessed: 30 March 2026.

Scope and Contents

Catalogs, reports, contracts, correspondence, blueprints, drawings, certificates, deeds, and photographs of Seneca Glass Company, a Morgantown glass manufacturer noted for its production of handmade lead crystal glassware. The materials of this collection give insight into some of the daily activities of the company and its union such as determination of wages, settling of labor grievances, plans for expansion and modernization, productivity statistics, and stock inventories. Specifically noteworthy are the earliest certificate of incorporation in West Virginia, original construction blueprints by Elmer F. Jacobs, and early catalogs of the company's product line. There are also extensive addenda of Seneca Glass records that were acquired in 2005, 2019, and 2021; a contents list for the 2005 addendum can be found in the control folder onsite.

Addendum 2005/04/22 includes ledgers, financial documents, blueprints, catalogs, papers, Seneca Center records, and other material. This addendum is minimally processed.

Addendum of 2019/12/13 includes catalogs, product photos, Seneca Center records, and other material. This addendum is minimally processed. (1913-1990; 2 ft. 7 1/2 in.)

1. catalogs (issue no. 2 [undated] through issue no. 79 [undated]; some issues are missing in the print run of the catalogs; several issues include dates rather than issue numbers; price lists are typically included in the catalogues); ca. 1950s-1970s, undated

2. product photos (document a wide range of Seneca glass products including stemmed and unstemmed glasses, bowls, and plates); undated

3. "The Shoppes at Seneca Center" (includes reports, diagrams, blueprints and other material documenting the development of Seneca Center, in Morgantown, West Virginia, as a hub of local businesses following the closing of Seneca Glass Company in the early 1980s; among these are an initial tenant agreement by the building management company, blueprints for the factory and the renovated center, promotional material, and limited correspondence from 1985 with various department stores and retailers to attract businesses to the newly developed shopping center); 1980s

4. agreement with Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company (one folder containing documents regarding an agreement between Seneca Glass and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company with details of a lease for three parcels of land from the B&O dated 1 June 1913; rent was $25 per annum); 1913

Addendum of 2021/09/01 comprises photographic materials, production documentation, and historical reference items related to the Seneca Glass Company. Materials include photographic prints and film negatives depicting examples of Seneca lead crystal glassware, glass sample drops, copper-etched printing blocks illustrating glassware patterns and nineteenth-century glass shop scenes. The addendum also contains one document issued by the United States Department of State authorizing the purchase of twenty sets of glassware for the United States Embassy in France. Additional items include newspaper articles concerning Seneca Glass Company, sample order forms dated 1976, articles pertaining to glass manufacturing, and developed photographs documenting the Seneca factory and its production processes. Framed photos in this addendum were likely from a contracted exhibit by Dolores Fleming, and feature photograph details such as location, date, and photographer name.

Keywords

Morgantown (W. Va.)
Glass industry.
Architects -- Morgantown (W.Va.)
Photography
Unions - AFGWU.
Unions.
American Flint Glass Workers' Union. Local 101
American Flint Glass Workers' Union. Local 541
American Flint Glass Workers' Union
Seneca Glass Company

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Administrative Material (Boxes 1-3, 12)
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194439
Unit Date circa 1840s-1980s
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)
Mixed Materials 2 (Box)
Mixed Materials 3 (Box)
Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Bound Reports and Contracts
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194442
Unit Date 1951-1985
Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Union and Plant Papers
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194443
Unit Date circa 1950s-1970s
Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Blueprints and Drawings
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194444
Unit Date circa 1940s-1980s
Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Ledgers
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194452
Unit Date 1847-1976
Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Series 2. Financial Material (Boxes 4-7)
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194440
Unit Date circa 1930s-1980s
Mixed Materials 4 (Box)
Mixed Materials 5 (Box)
Mixed Materials 6 (Box)
Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Contract Booklets and Property Reports
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194445
Unit Date circa 1930s-1980s
Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Stocks and Deeds
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194446
Unit Date circa 1930s-1980s
Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Inventories and By-Laws
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194447
Unit Date circa 1930s-1980s
Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Catalogs and Price Lists
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194448
Unit Date circa 1970s-1980s
Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Series 3. Miscellaneous Material (Boxes 8-11)
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194441
Unit Date circa 1950s-1970s
Mixed Materials 8 (Box)
Mixed Materials 9 (Box)
Mixed Materials 10 (Box)
Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Brochures and Photos
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194449
Unit Date circa 1950s-1970s
Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Miscellaneous
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194450
Unit Date undated
Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Seneca Company Printing Blocks and Glass Mold
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194451
Unit Date undated
Mixed Materials 10 (Box)
Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Series 4. Oversized Material (Boxes 13-15)
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194453
Unit Date circa 1940s-1970s
Mixed Materials 13 (Box)
Mixed Materials 14 (Box)
Mixed Materials 15 (Box)

Maps and blueprints
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194456
Unit Date circa 1940s-1970s
Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Cut Shop Blueprint No. 1
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194457
Unit Date 1946
Mixed Materials 14 (Box)

Cut Shop blueprint No. 1 & 3
Unit ID Archival Resource Key

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194458
Unit Date 1946
Mixed Materials 15 (Box)

Series 5. Addendum 2005/04/22 (Boxes 16-28 and unboxed ledgers)
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194455
Unit Date circa 1930s-1980s
Mixed Materials 16 (Box)
Mixed Materials 17 (Box)
Mixed Materials 18 (Box)
Mixed Materials 19 (Box)
Mixed Materials 20 (Box)
Mixed Materials 21 (Box)
Mixed Materials 22 (Box)
Mixed Materials 23 (Box)
Mixed Materials 24 (Box)
Mixed Materials 25 (Box)
Mixed Materials 26 (Box)
Mixed Materials 27 (Box)
Mixed Materials 28 (Box)
Mixed Materials 15, 16, 25, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40, 57, 110, 111, 112, 114, 115, and 501(Volume)
Scope and Contents
Addendum 2005/04/22 includes ledgers, financial documents, blueprints, catalogs, papers, Seneca Center records, and other materials. This addendum is minimally processed.
Keywords
Glass blowing and working
Glass industry.
Glass manufacture

Series 6. Addendum 2019/12/13 (Boxes 29-31)
Unit ID Archival Resource Key
Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194454
Unit Date 1913-1990
Mixed Materials 29 (Box)
Mixed Materials 30 (Box)
Mixed Materials 31 (Box)
source Loar, Barton
Creator Seneca Glass Company
Creator Seneca Crystal
Scope and Contents
Addendum of 2019/12/13 includes catalogs, product photos, Seneca Center records, and other material. This addendum is minimally processed. (1913-1990; 2 ft. 7 1/2 in.)

1. catalogs (issue no. 2 [undated] through issue no. 79 [undated]; some issues are missing in the print run of the catalogs; several issues include dates rather than issue numbers; price lists are typically included in the catalogues); ca. 1950s-1970s, undated

2. product photos (document a wide range of Seneca glass products including stemmed and unstemmed glasses, bowls, and plates); undated

3. "The Shoppes at Seneca Center" (includes reports, diagrams, blueprints and other material documenting the development of Seneca Center, in Morgantown, West Virginia, as a hub of local businesses following the closing of Seneca Glass Company in the early 1980s; among these are an initial tenant agreement by the building management company, blueprints for the factory and the renovated center, promotional material, and limited correspondence from 1985 with various department stores and retailers to attract businesses to the newly developed shopping center); 1980s

4. agreement with Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company (one folder containing documents regarding an agreement between Seneca Glass and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company with details of a lease for three parcels of land from the B&O dated 1 June 1913; rent was $25 per annum); 1913

Keywords
Loar, Barton

Series 7. Addendum 2021/09/01 (Boxes 32-34)

Unit ID Archival Resource Key

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/250280

Unit Date circa 1930s-1980s

Mixed Materials 32 (Box)

Mixed Materials 33 (Box)

Mixed Materials 34 (Box)

Creator Seneca Glass Company

Scope and Contents
Addendum of 2021/09/01 comprises photographic materials, production documentation, and historical reference items related to the Seneca Glass Company. Materials include photographic prints and film negatives depicting examples of Seneca lead crystal glassware, glass sample drops, copper-etched printing blocks illustrating glassware patterns and nineteenth-century glass shop scenes. The addendum also contains one document issued by the United States Department of State authorizing the purchase of twenty sets of glassware for the United States Embassy in France. Additional items include newspaper articles concerning Seneca Glass Company, glass drop samples, sample order forms dated 1976, articles pertaining to glass manufacturing, and developed photographs documenting the Seneca factory and its production processes. Framed photos in this addendum were likely from a contracted exhibit by Dolores Fleming, and feature photograph details such as location, date, and photographer name.

Keywords
Glass industry.
Glass blowing and working
Glass manufacture
Seneca Glass Company
Loar, Barton