

A Finding Aid for  
The Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Collection,  
1859-1889,  
in  
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

## Archival Description

### Descriptive Summary

- Title: Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Collection, 1859-1889.
- Coll. ID: 039
- Origin: Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Co., (1833-1893), client.
- Extent: Architectural drawings 65 sheets (originals).  
Additional materials 2 items.
- Repository: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania  
102 Meyerson Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311  
(215) 898-8323
- Abstract: The Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Collection consists of 65 original architectural drawings, 1 contract and 1 specification, documenting thirteen railroad stations and the Company offices on South 4th Street in Philadelphia. These projects were designed between 1859 and 1889 by noted Philadelphia architects: John M. Gries; Collins and Autenrieth; William Lorenz; Frank Furness; and Theophilus P. Chandler.
- Indexes: This collection is included in the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project, a searchable database of architectural research materials related to architects and architecture in Philadelphia and surrounding regions: [www.philadelphiabuildings.org](http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org)
- Cataloging: Collection-level records for materials in the Architectural Archives may be found in RLIN Eureka, the union catalogue of members of the Research Libraries Group. The record number for this collection is PAUP01-A10.
- Publications: Materials in this collection have been published in the following:
- Berg, Walter Gilman. *Buildings and Structures of American Railroads: A Reference Book...* New York: J. Wiley; 1883.
- Holton, James L. *The Reading Railroad: History of a Coal Age Empire.* Laury's Station, PA: Garrigues House, 1989.
- Thayer, Preston. "The Railroad Designs of Frank Furness: Architecture and Corporate Imagery in the Late Nineteenth Century." Ph.D. diss., 1993, University of Pennsylvania.
- Thomas, George E. *Frank Furness: The Complete Works.* Rev. ed. New York, NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 1991.

## **Biographical/Historical Sketch**

The Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, incorporated in 1833, was instrumental to early American industrial development through its dominance of the anthracite coal trade. The Company established a regional passenger and freight network that stretched from Atlantic City, New Jersey to Buffalo, New York and from New York City to Wilmington, Delaware. Based in Philadelphia, the Railroad employed many of the city's most prominent architects to provide designs for stations, passenger cars, and ferryboat interiors. In 1893 the Reading Company was formed as a holding company for the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Co. and the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Co. In 1924 the Reading Company became the operating name of the railroad. The Reading Company declared bankruptcy in 1971, and its assets were taken over by Conrail in 1976.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Collection consists of 65 architectural drawings, 1 contract and 1 specification, documenting thirteen stations and the Company headquarters on South 4th Street, Philadelphia. This collection has been formed by the Architectural Archives with the hope of better documenting the architectural heritage of this company as well as the work of a group of significant Philadelphia architects, John M. Gries, William Lorenz (Chief Engineer), the firm of Collins & Autenrieth, Frank Furness, and Theophilus P. Chandler. Much of the material included in this collection had been dispersed at the time of the Company's dissolution in 1976 and has been reassembled through donations from several sources.

This collection contains no photographs, correspondence or other office files. The largest deposit of Reading Company records is at the Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington Delaware.

A full index to projects represented in this collection is found in Appendix A.

### **Access Points for Indexing (Controlled Vocabulary)**

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Co.  
Reading Company.  
Chandler, Theophilus P. (Theophilus Parsons), 1845-1928, architect.  
Furness, Frank, 1839-1912, architect.  
Gries, John M., 1827-1862, architect.  
Lorenz, William, 1826-1884, engineer.  
Collins & Autenrieth, architects.  
Architects--Archives.  
Architectural design--History--19th century--Sources.  
Architectural drawing--United States.  
Architecture, Modern--19th century--United States--Designs and plans.  
Railroad stations--Designs and plans.  
Philadelphia (Pa.) Suburban Area.  
Philadelphia (Pa.)--Buildings, structures, etc--History--Sources.  
Architectural drawings--American.

### **Administrative Information**

Restrictions on access: This collection is available for research by appointment only.

Preferred citation: Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Collection, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania.

Acquisition:  
Gift of G. Holmes Perkins, 1977-1978;  
Gift of Robert C. Langmuir and Valerie Polin, 1991;  
Gift of Frank A. Weer, 1991;  
Gift of Elizabeth Petsock Hesse and Alfred W. Hesse, Jr., 1998.

Processing: The collection was processed and the finding aid prepared by William Whitaker, Emily Cooperman, Laura Stroffolino and Nancy Thorne. Work was substantially completed in 2001, with additions and corrections in 2003.

## Container list

### Series I. Architectural Drawings.

Extent: 65 architectural drawings, 2 additional items.

Call#	Descriptive Title
[039.1]	1 architectural drawing for the Broad Street Depot. John M. Gries.
[039.1]	1 architectural drawing, Depot at the Centennial Exposition. Wm. Lorenz.
[039.1]	1 architectural drawing, Wayne Junction Station. Frank Furness.
[039.1]	1 architectural drawing, Watchmen's Boxes, type 3 & 4. Frank Furness.
[039.1]	1 architectural drawing, Tabor Station. Frank Furness.
[039.1]	2 architectural drawings, Collegeville Station. Frank Furness.
[039.1]	2 architectural drawings, Graver's Lane Station. Frank Furness.
[039.1]	2 architectural drawings and 1 contract, Perkasio Station, Freight Depot. Theophilus P. Chandler.
[039.1]	2 architectural drawings, Sunbury Station, Freight Depot. Theophilus P. Chandler.
[039.1]	1 architectural drawing, Oak Lane Station. Theophilus P. Chandler.
[039.1]	1 architectural drawing and 1 specification, Sellersville Station. Theophilus P. Chandler.
[039.2]	1 architectural drawing, Company Offices. John M. Gries.
[039.2]	15 architectural drawings, Company Offices. Collins & Autenrieth.
[039.3]	13 architectural drawings, Company Offices. Wm. Lorenz.
[039.4]	13 architectural drawings, Company Offices. Frank Furness.
[039.4]	5 architectural drawings, Company Offices.
[039.5]	1 architectural drawing, Shamokin Station. Frank Furness.
[039.6]	1 architectural drawing, Shamokin Station. Frank Furness.
[039.7]	1 architectural drawing, Green Street Station. Frank Furness.

## Appendix A

### Chronological Project Index

#### Broad Street Depot

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad  
North Broad Street and Callowhill Street, Philadelphia

holdings dates: 1859

note/s: John M. Gries, Architect.

holdings:

[039.1] 1 architectural drawing. Signed and dated Oct. 1859.

#### Company Offices

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad  
227 South 4th Street, Philadelphia

holdings dates: ca. 1860-ca. 1887

note/s: Built(?) 1859, John M. Gries, architect. Additions and alterations, 1871, Collins & Autenrieth, architects. Additions and alterations, 1872-77 (some unbuilt?), W. Lorenz, Chief Engineer. Additions and Alterations, 1880-83, Frank Furness, architect. Additions and alterations (elevator), 1885-87.

holdings:

[039.2] 1 architectural drawing. Signed by John M. Gries, ca. 1860.

[039.2] 15 architectural drawings. Some signed and dated Collins & Autenrieth, March 1871.

[039.3] 13 architectural drawings. Some signed and dated by Wm. Lorenz, Chief Engineer, 1872-77.

[039.4] 13 architectural drawings. Attributed to Frank Furness, architect.

[039.4] 5 architectural drawings (prints of existing conditions). Ca. 1887.

#### Depot at the Centennial Exposition

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad  
Philadelphia

holdings dates: 1875

note/s: Unbuilt (?), 1875, Wm. Lorenz, Chief Engineer.

holdings:

[039.1] 1 architectural drawing. Signed and dated June 1875.

#### Shamokin Station

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad  
Shamokin, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1876

note/s: Unbuilt, 1876, Frank Furness, architect. Wm. Lorenz, Chief Engineer.

holdings:

[039.5] 1 architectural drawing - elevation. Signed and dated June 1876. Howard Constable, delineator.

[039.6] 1 architectural drawing - plan. Signed and dated June 1876.

**Tabor Station**

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, Tabor Branch

Philadelphia

holdings dates: 1880

note/s: Built, Frank Furness, architect.

holdings:

[039.1] 1 architectural drawing. Signed.

**Watchmen's Boxes, type 3 & 4**

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad

Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1882

note/s: Built, Frank Furness, architect.

holdings:

[039.1] 1 architectural drawing. Signed and dated May 29, 1882.

**Wayne Junction Station, restaurant**

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, Chestnut Hill Branch

Philadelphia

holdings dates: 1883

note/s: Built (demolished), Frank Furness, architect.

holdings:

[039.1] 1 architectural drawing. Signed and dated July [1883].

**Graver's Lane Station**

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, Chestnut Hill Branch

Philadelphia

holdings dates: 1883

note/s: Built, Frank Furness, architect.

holdings:

[039.1] 2 architectural drawings. Signed.

**Collegeville Station**

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad

Collegeville, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1884

note/s: Unbuilt (?), Frank Furness, architect.

holdings:

[039.1] 2 architectural drawings. Signed and dated April 1884.

**Green Street Terminal**

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad

Ninth and Green Streets, Philadelphia

holdings dates: 1887

note/s: Unbuilt additions and alterations, Frank Furness, architect.

holdings:

[039.7] 1 architectural drawing. Signed and dated 1887.

**Perkasie Station, Freight Depot**

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, Bethlehem Branch

Perkasie, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1887-88

note/s: Theophilus P. Chandler, architect.

holdings:

[039.1] 2 architectural drawings, 1 contract. Signed and dated, November 8, 1888.

**Sunbury Station, Freight Depot**

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, Shamrock Division, SS&L Branch

Sunbury, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1888

note/s: Theophilus P. Chandler, architect.

holdings:

[039.1] 2 architectural drawings. Signed and dated October 1, 1888.

**Oak Lane Station**

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, Bethlehem Branch (Northern PA Railroad)

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1888

note/s: Theophilus P. Chandler, architect.

holdings:

[039.1] 1 architectural drawing. Signed and dated October 9, 1888.

**Sellersville Station**

Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, Bethlehem Branch

Sellersville, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1889

note/s: Theophilus P. Chandler, architect.

holdings:

[039.1] 1 architectural drawing, 1 specification. Signed and dated February 1889.