



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company project logbooks**

1890-1906

MssCol 22278

Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company

**Title:** Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company project logbooks

**Date:** 1890-1906

**Size:** .67 linear feet (1 box, 2 volumes)

**Source:** Purchased from Swann Galleries, 2013

**Abstract:** Project logbooks, 1890-1906, of Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company and antecedent partnerships, a major New York City construction contracting firm specializing in excavation and foundation work for commercial and private properties and public works. Founded by Thomas Crimmins in the 1840s, the Irish-American family business rose to prominence under the direction of his son John D. Crimmins (1844-1917). It ceased construction work in the 1990s. The logbooks document work for over 200 projects, almost entirely at sites in Manhattan and the Bronx. There are a few sites in western Queens County, including the Crimmins Realty Company, as well as plans for a trolley line in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. Projects include large private residences, public libraries, schools, churches, hospitals, municipal buildings, factories, breweries, hotels, and charitable institutions, as well as major transportation and utility projects, reflecting the expansion of the City's infrastructure at the turn of the 20th century. Project logs, varying in detail, typically contain the project name, contract text, specifications, estimates, and work notes, with engineering plans for excavations, foundations, paving work, and grading levels, as appropriate. Later logs are usually only titled plans. The collection also contains loose notes and computations, a 1901 letter of introduction for an engineer, and an oversize loose plan. Each volume contains an index.

**Preferred citation:** Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company project logbooks, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Processing note:** Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2014

**Related Materials:**

John D. Crimmins diary, 1897. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

## **Creator History**

Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company was a major New York City construction contracting firm specializing in excavation and foundation work for commercial and private properties and public works. Founded by Thomas Crimmins in the 1840s, the Irish-American family business rose to prominence under the direction of his son John D. Crimmins (1844-1917). It ceased construction work in the 1990s.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company project logbooks (in two volumes: 1890-1900, 1900-1906), cover a period of change in the family partnership, showing work of the firms J.D. & T.E. Crimmins; T.E. Crimmins and Thomas Crimmins; T.E. Crimmons; and Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company, almost entirely at sites in Manhattan and the Bronx. There are a few sites in western Queens County, including the Crimmins Realty Company, as well as plans for a trolley line in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. Over 200 projects are represented, including large private residences, public libraries, schools, churches, hospitals, municipal buildings, factories, breweries, hotels, and charitable institutions. There are extensive logs for transportation and utility projects reflecting the expansion of the City's infrastructure at the turn of the 20th century, including foundational and paving work for cable and rail roads on major avenues, and the laying of gas, water, electric light and sewer lines. A few include ledger entries for sub-contracted work such as bricklaying; a stonebreakers' account for the Lexington Avenue and Columbus Avenue Cable projects (1893-1894) lists individual laborers.

Early logs typically contain the project name, contract text, specifications, estimates, notes on the progress of the work, and work completed. These are accompanied by engineering plans for excavations, foundations, paving work, and grading levels, as appropriate. Later logs are usually only titled plans. Plans are in black and white ink, colored ink, colored wash, and pencil. The names of owners, contractors, architects and engineers may be noted; not all have project dates. Loose notes and computations, a 1901 letter of introduction for an engineer, and an oversize loose plan for the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum at Fordham have been removed to separate folders, noting their original page location. Each volume contains an index. Entries identify the street and avenue location, name of owner or contractor, and page number. Projects on p. 260-262 (v. 1) and p. 148-155 (v. 2) are not indexed.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Construction industry -- New York (State) -- New York  
Construction industry -- Specifications  
Construction projects -- New York (State) -- New York  
Public utilities -- New York (State) -- New York -- Design and construction  
Public works -- New York (State) -- New York -- Design and construction  
Railroads, Cable -- New York (State) -- New York -- Design and construction  
Street-railroads -- New York (State) -- New York -- Design and construction

### **Occupations**

Construction workers

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Foundation plans

**Geographic Names**

New York (N.Y.) -- Buildings, structures, etc

**Names**

Crimmins, John D. (John Daniel), 1844-1917

Thomas Crimmins Contracting Company

## Container List

- v. 1 1890-1900
- v. 2 1900-1906
- b. 1 Loose documents