

JHSSA DESCRIPTIVE LEVEL RECORD

TITLE: The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society fonds

No.: LSP

DATE RANGE: 2006-2010

EXTENT: 42cm of textual records. –1 object

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:

The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society (TLSOPPS), also referred to as the Little Synagogue on the Prairie (LSOP) was a not-for-profit society registered in 2006.

In 2005, a group of volunteers led by Irena Karshenbaum, and including Emanuel Cohen, Trudy Cowan, Jack Switzer and Leslie Levant, spearheaded the effort that would lead to the purchase, restoration and furnishing of a wooden synagogue, to become part of the permanent collection of Calgary's Heritage Park Historical Village. The building, called the Montefiore Institute, had been constructed sometime around 1915 and used by the Jewish homesteaders of the Montefiore Colony near Sibbald, Alberta. After the colony disbanded, the synagogue had been repurposed and moved several times, and by 2005 was serving as a family home in the nearby town of Hanna.

When the building was moved to Heritage Park in the spring of 2009, it became the first synagogue to be included in the permanent collection of any historic park in Canada. LSOP volunteers developed educational programs regarding the synagogue, its history and its context, and assisted with the training and education of Heritage Park staff and volunteers regarding the interpretation of the site.

The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society had agreed to assign its assets, including ownership of the Montefiore Institute, to Calgary Jewish Community Council (later the Calgary Jewish Federation), in the event TLSOPPS chose to dissolve before ownership of the building was transferred to Heritage Park. This assignment took place in March 2012, and the Society was dissolved that May.

Ownership of the building was later transferred from Calgary Jewish Federation to Heritage Park Historical Village. Many former directors of The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society served on the Heritage Park Synagogue Advisory Board.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The fonds consists of research and organizational notes, correspondence, meeting minutes, financial statements, architectural drawings, interpretive and publicity material relating to The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society. Most of the material was received in 5 numbered binders. Also included is a cardboard model of the Montefiore Institute building, created for the society by Simpson Roberts Architectures.

The fonds has been arranged into the following series: Binder #1; Binder #2; Binder #3; Binder #4; Binder #5; Appraisal, Move & Restoration; Legal Correspondence; Financial; Correspondence; Members; Events; Clippings; Model.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of fonds

SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Irena Karshenbaum

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

ACCRUALS: no further accruals expected

RELATED GROUPS OF RECORDS: JHSSA Photo Collection

Series Title: Binder #1

No.: .01

Date Range: 2006-2007

Extent: 9cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of the contents of “The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society Binder #1”, a binder maintained by TLSOPPS including historical research notes and reports, correspondence, governance and funding application, minutes, surveys and project proposals.

The material has been removed to file folders for preservation reasons, and maintained in its original order.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Binder #2

No.: .02

Date Range: 2008-2010

Extent: 11cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of the contents of “The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society Binder #2 Board Minutes”, a binder maintained by TLSOPPS including correspondence, minutes and reports.

The material has been removed to file folders for preservation reasons, and maintained in its original order.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Binder #3

No.: .03

Date Range: 2006-2010

Extent: 6cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of the contents of “The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society Binder #3 Interpretation Binder”. The binder was maintained by TLSOPPS Interpretation Committee and includes minutes and reports.

The material has been removed to file folders for preservation reasons, and maintained in its original order.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Binder #4

No.: .04

Date Range: 2006-2010

Extent: 2cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of the contents of “The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society Binder #4”, a binder of clippings (some original, some photocopies) and promotional material maintained by TLSOPPS, including copies of Tumbleweed, the TLSOPPS newsletter.

The material has been removed to file folders for preservation reasons, and maintained in its original order.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Binder #5

No.: .05

Date Range: 2006-2012

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of the contents of “The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society Binder #5 Key Documents”, a binder maintained by TLSOPPS including certificates of incorporation, dissolution, title and insurance, as well as the agreement with Calgary Jewish Community Council / Calgary Jewish Federation.

The material has been removed to file folders for preservation reasons, and maintained in its original order.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Move & Restoration

No.: .06

Date Range: 2006-2009

Extent: 3cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence, invoices, architectural drawings, and proposals regarding the appraisal of the Montefiori building, as well as its move from Hanna to Calgary and its subsequent restoration.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Legal Correspondence

No.: .07

Date Range: 2006-2008

Extent: 2cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of legal correspondence regarding the activities of The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society, including correspondence and documents regarding the purchase of the Montefiore Institute building.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Financial

No.: .08

Date Range: 2007-2010

Extent: 2cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of Auditor's Reports and Financial Statements for The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society, as well as Society Annual Returns.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Members

No.: .09

Date Range: 2007-2010

Extent: 3cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of member /donor lists and forms from The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Correspondence

No.: .10

Date Range: 2007-2015

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of correspondence sent and received by The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society, as well as 2 blank pieces of Society letterhead.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Events

No.: .11

Date Range: 2008-2016

Extent: 1cm of textual records.—1object

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of programs from stand-alone events regarding The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society and the Montefiore Institute at Heritage Park Historical Village, including the Grand Opening Dedication; 4th Annual General Meeting and Special Meeting [final]; *Shorashim: a musical museum*, created by students at the Calgary Jewish Academy; 100th Anniversary Celebration. The series includes a commemorative skullcap (stamped on the inside) from the grand opening.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Clippings

No.: .12

Date Range: 2008-2010

Extent: 1cm of textual records

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of clippings, articles and brochures regarding The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society and the Montefiore Institute at Heritage Park Historical Village, including material produced in-house by Heritage Park Historical Village.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access

Series Title: Model

No.: .13

Date Range: [2009]

Extent: 1 object

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The series consists of a cardboard model of the Montefiore Institute building, created for The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society by Simpson Roberts Architectures. The model, labelled "Montefiore Synagogue", measures approximately 27cm x 37cm x 14cm high, and was received in an acrylic case (29cm x 39cm x 22cm high). The scale of the model is not indicated.

SOURCE OF TITLE: title from content of series

ACCESS CONDITIONS: no restrictions on access