

**W. Michael Woodhouse Social Services Collection**  
A Finding Aid

**Livingston County Historian's Office**  
5 Murray Hill Dr.  
Mt. Morris, NY 14510  
March 2025

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## I. Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	W. Michael Woodhouse Social Services Collection
<b>Collection No.</b>	C233
<b>Extent</b>	1 linear foot, 2GB
<b>Date Range</b>	1945-1996 (bulk 1972-1981)
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection is comprised of correspondence, reports, and other papers collected by W. Michael Woodhouse during his time as Livingston County, New York's commissioner of social services. He was highly involved in the development of the Skilled Nursing Facility in Geneseo, the Health Related Facility in Mt. Morris, and several countywide organizations, including the Coalition of Churches, Senior Citizens Advisory Council, Livingston County Energy Task Force, and the Livingston Group Home Committee.</p>
<b>Languages</b>	English.
<b>Access and Restrictions</b>	<p>Use of the records in this collection is for serious research and by request and permission of the Livingston County Historian. Any use of the material in publications must be cited as follows, "Courtesy of Livingston County Historian's Office, New York". Additionally, all items should be handled with care.</p> <p>To arrange to conduct research with the documents in the collection, contact the Livingston County Historian by mail at: 5 Murray Hill Drive, Mount Morris, NY, by phone at (585) 243-7955, or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov">Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov</a>.</p>
<b>Copyright</b>	<p>Some materials may be subject to copyright. Researchers are required to seek written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce and/or publish materials under copyright.</p>

## **II. Biographical and Background Information**

Born in Olean, New York, in 1937, William Michael Woodhouse served as the commissioner of social services at Livingston County from 1972-2003. His wide-reaching department addressed labor issues, children's and family services, Medicaid, and other public welfare programs. At the end of his career, he oversaw 140 people and had been honored by New York State in 1993 for "Excellence and Creativity in expanding staff training and personal development programs."

Woodhouse donated the original collection to the County Historian's Office following his retirement from the county. County Historian Amie Alden assessed the materials, originally spanning eight cubic-foot boxes. Many papers had minimal historical value or were out of scope, and the papers were resorted or discarded. This resulted in two remaining boxes organized by topic. One contained clipped newspaper articles and the other had official correspondence and reports. In early 2025, the remaining and relevant newspaper articles were scanned and filed as reference material. The remaining and relevant papers were digitized and rehoused as this collection.

### III. Contents List

- Box 1 – F1** County Poorhouse Correspondence 1975, 1986
- Details sent to Social Services Commissioner W. Michael Woodhouse about the 1975 closing auction and later vandalism at the County Home / Poorhouse
- Box 1 – F2** S.N.F. (Skilled Nursing Facility) (Infirmery) Plans, Quotes, Info 1945-74
- Includes, but is not limited to, plans and quotes for the construction and renovations of the S.N.F. at 4600 Millennium Drive, a 1959 Report to the Board of Supervisors, 1963 Site Investigation Report, 1964 Dedication booklet, and the Administrator's Annual Report for 1969.
- Box 1 – F3** S.N.F. (Infirmery) blueprints 1962-64
- Scattered blueprints. Three oversized maps of parking lots, nurses station, and cabinets not digitized
- Box 1 – F4** S.N.F. (Infirmery) Utilities 1962-84
- Correspondence regarding laundry, sewer rates, and lower energy costs. Includes an Energy Data Questionnaire from NY State Energy Office
- Box 1 – F5** S.N.F. (Infirmery) Agreement with Dansville Hospital and Liv. Co. Labs 1970-71
- Included but is not limited to Resolution No. 70-243 approving the agreement
- Box 1 – F6** S.N.F. (Infirmery) Agreement with Moses Plant Nurseries of Lima 1966-68
- Includes but is not limited to the number of plants ordered and sketches for Patios 1 and 2
- Box 1 – F7** H.R.F. (Health Related Facility) (Building 1) Planning, Renovation, Info, and Resolutions 1972-84
- Includes but not limited to correspondence for approval of construction by the NYS Dept. of Health, renovations for the S.N.F. (Infirmery), BOS Resolutions No. 76-203, No. 77-146, -280, -307, -308, letters of support from neighboring county departments of social services, and correspondence with contractors
- Box 1 – F8** H.R.F. (Building 1) Computer Software License 1988
- Agreement between the H.R.F. and Reliable Health Systems Inc. for computer software
- Box 1 – F9** H.R.F. (Building 1) 1979 State and Staff Reports
- Includes but not limited to statistics comparing the H.R.F. with other local hospitals, patient origins, and where care can be improved
- Box 1 – F10** S.N.F. and H.R.F. Policies and Proposals 1978-88
- Includes 1978 Placement Referral and Admission Policy, 1980 Outpatient Psychiatric Care, 1985 Proposal for a combined pharmacy for the S.N.F. and H.R.F., and 1988 DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) policy
- Box 1 – F11** S.N.F. and H.R.F. Rates and Statistics 1976-1984
- Included but is not limited to NYS Dept. of Health rates and adjustments, Medicaid day reimbursements, and a 1984 Social and Demographic Characteristics Report of Livingston County by the NYS Dept. of Social Services

- Box 1 – F12** 1969 Surveys for Liv. Co. Home & Infirmary and Dept. of Social Services by architects Beardsley & Beardsley
- Box 1 – F13** S.N.F. Inspections 1968-71, 1973-75  
 - Includes but is not limited to NYS Dept. of Health surveys and correspondence regarding improvements
- Box 1 – F14** S.N.F. Inspections 1976-84, 1987  
 - Includes but is not limited to NYS Dept. of Health surveys and correspondence regarding improvements
- Box 1 – F15** H.R.F. Inspections 1975-77  
 - Includes but is not limited to NYS Dept. of Health surveys and correspondence regarding improvements
- Box 1 – F16** H.R.F. Inspections 1978-82, 1987-88  
 - Includes but is not limited to NYS Dept. of Health surveys and correspondence regarding improvements
- Box 2 – F17** Coalition of Churches Correspondence and Newsletters 1972-96  
 - Includes but not limited to the 1972 ratified Constitution, updates on involvement with local churches, jail ministries, and food programs, and meeting minutes
- Box 2 – F18** Coalition of Churches-Parish Pantry 1975-89  
 - Includes but not limited to Pantry guidelines, reports of use, and 1983/84 NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets food pantry inspections
- Box 2 – F19** Senior Citizen's Advisory Council 1976-78  
 - Advisory Council was the county employee equivalent to the citizen's group "Senior Citizens Action Council." They founded the Office for the Aging with Coalition of Churches as a sponsor. Includes correspondence regarding the establishment of these groups including but not limited to Resolution No. 76-97, Meeting Minutes, and By-Laws
- Box 2 – F20** Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, Liv. Co. Home Care Task Force 1978-85  
 - Correspondence, plans, and reports regarding the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency supplement the S.N.F. and H.R.F
- Box 2 – F21** S.N.F. & H.R.F. Incinerator and Boiler Renovations with the NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation 1972-84  
 - In response to NYS Air Pollution regulations and the Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1972
- Box 2 – F22** Liv. Co. Energy Task Force 1978-81  
 - Correspondence regarding the task force including but not limited to local and state energy surveys of county buildings and plans to improve
- Box 2 – F23** Livingston Group Home Committee 1972-77

- Includes but is not limited to correspondence and grant applications for a home for troubled youth in Livingston County. See Also: Geneseo Binder G18 "Boy's Home"

**Box 2 – F24** Architectural Barriers Removal Program at Mt. Morris 1984

- Correspondence regarding the renovations needed for better accessibility at Murray Hill Campus as requested by the Liv. Co. Council on Alcoholism Inc.

#### **IV. Related Materials**

**Livingston County Historian's Office**

- Assorted newspaper clippings in the Livingston County Government and County-Affiliates reference binders
- C161 Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) Collection