

Albert D. Pittis Papers, 1926-2003



Albert Pittis, 2001

Overview of the Collection

- Title:** Albert D. Pittis Papers, 1926-2003
- Creator:** Albert Pittis (1930-2025), Pittis family members, and the Pittis Estate
- Accessions:** PPL-MSS-2008-002
PPL-VIS-2009-007
PPL-2011-023
- Size:** 0.5 linear feet of records, comprised of:
One (1) legal-size document box
- Repository:** Plainfield Public Library, Local History Department, 800 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060
- Abstract:** The Albert D. Pittis Papers document a small portion of his real estate endeavors in Plainfield and include legal dockets, property specifications, a blueprint map, and photographs. The collection also contains documentation of his brother Bertram Pittis' membership in the Watchung Nature Club of Plainfield and includes administrative papers, membership records, correspondence, and programs. In addition, the collection includes a family calendar featuring photographs of Pittis family members from the 1850s through the early 2000s.
- Language:** The records are in English.

Biographical and Historical Information

Albert D. Pittis (1930-2025), whose family had been in Plainfield since the 1870s, was a lifelong resident of the city. He graduated from Plainfield High School in 1948, earned his Bachelor's degree from Princeton University in 1952, and then went on to receive an MBA from Rutgers University. Albert and his brother Walter managed their father's commercial real estate business in Plainfield, Westfield, and New York City. In addition to his successful professional life, Mr. Pittis was also a dedicated member of the Plainfield community. He served as president and treasurer of the Plainfield Business Association, was a member of the Plainfield Special Improvement District, a founding member and organizer of the Plainfield Outdoor Arts Festival, a long-time member of the Plainfield Cultural and Heritage Commission, and a parishioner of Grace Episcopal Church.

Albert's brother Bertram Pittis and his wife were active members of the Watchung Nature Club of Plainfield, NJ from the 1940s through the 1960s. The Club was founded in 1927 to unite those

interested in nature and the great outdoors and to encourage the conservation of natural resources.

[Source: Albert D. Pittis [Obituary](#), January 31, 2025 and resources in the collection.]

Scope and Contents

The Albert D. Pittis Papers document some of the local real estate holdings of Mr. Pittis and the Pittis Estate on East Front Street and Watchung Avenue. Record types include copies of legal dockets, specifications, indentures, details, and notes concerning alterations to properties abutting the mill race. A copy of a blueprint map shows those properties on East Front Street between Somerset Street and Watchung Avenue. Copies of photographs by Paul Collier and Harold Morse document the properties discussed in the real estate records.

Also included are records related to the Watching Nature Club of Plainfield, NJ. Club records include administrative papers, membership records, correspondence, programs, and event materials.

In addition, there is a self-published 2003 calendar with Pittis family photographs from the 1850s through the early 2000s. An accompanying holiday newsletter provides genealogical information and photo identifications.

Additional donations to the archive made by Mr. Pittis include rare drawings, blueprints, early Plainfield maps, historic Plainfield photographs, and numerous historical files of Plainfield organizations such as the Musical Club, the Outdoor Arts Festival, and the Plainfield Business Association.

Arrangement

The Albert D. Pittis Papers are arranged into three series:

Series 1: Watchung Nature Club of Plainfield, NJ

Series 2: Real Estate Records

Series 3: Personal Papers

Index Terms

People:

Pittis, Albert D. (1930-2025)

Pittis, Bertram H. (1924-2011)

Organizations:

East Front Street Realty Corporation (Plainfield, NJ)

Watchung Nature Club of Plainfield, NJ

Places:

Plainfield (N.J.)

Subjects:

Plainfield (N.J.)--Clubs and organizations
 Plainfield (N.J.)--History
 Plainfield (N.J.)--Local businesses

Related Items

[Records of the Plainfield Musical Club, 1914-2000](#)

[Records of the Plainfield Business Association, 1963-2008](#)

Plainfield Outdoor Arts Festival, 1970-2006

[Photographs](#) of Pittis Estate properties in the Historical Photograph Collection

[Blueprints and architectural drawings](#) of Pittis properties in the Charles Detwiller Collection of Blueprints & Line Drawings

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

This collection consists of paper documents that do not require any additional technology for access.

Series Description

Series 1: Watchung Nature Club of Plainfield, NJ [1943-1962]



Series Description

Series 1 contains administrative and program-related records of the Watchung Nature Club. The Club strove to unite those interested in nature and the great outdoors. It presented the members with an opportunity for fellowship and experience sharing, as well as encouraged the conservation of natural resources. The annual program included club meetings during which lectures or slide presentations were given. In addition, the club sponsored numerous field excursions and camping trips throughout the year. The administrative files include correspondence, membership lists, constitutions and by-laws. Additional files contain membership cards once belonging to Mr. Bertram Pittis (Albert's brother), annual programs, event records for dinners and tours including those for the Audubon Society, meeting announcements, and (photocopies of) newspaper clippings. It is composed solely of paper documents and ephemera.

Arrangement

Series 1 is arranged chronologically by subject, and fills six folders.

Series 2: Real Estate Records [1926-1968]



Series Description

Series 2 contains documents regarding business-related real estate holdings of the East Front Street Realty Company. Included in this series are a copy of a rare mill race map of East Front Street between Somerset Street and Watchung Avenue. Also included are records and legal documents regarding renovations made to shops along Fairchild's Alley located on East Front Street and Watchung Avenue, namely the following addresses:

- 129-133 East Front Street (Ideal Shop)
- 157-161 East Front Street
- 168-170 East Front Street (Surprise Store, *photo above*)
- 173 East Front Street (Stanley Flowers)
- 102 & 103 Watchung Avenue (Guardian Loan Company, St. Joseph's Gift Shop and a cosmetic studio)

Photographs (photocopies) document the Church Street right of way, as well as several commercial sites along East Front Street, Watchung Avenue, and West Front Street. Four 1980s photographs of East Front Street properties were removed from acidic poster board. All original photographs are housed with the general Historical Photograph Collection. This series is composed solely of paper documents and photographs.

Arrangement

Series 2 is arranged chronologically by location, and fills five folders.

Series 3: Personal Papers [2002-2003]

Series Description

Series 3 contains a holiday newsletter and self-published calendar with Pittis family photographs and genealogical information.

Arrangement

Series 3 fills one folder.

Administrative Information

Access & Restrictions

The Albert D. Pittis Papers are available for research.

Access is restricted to materials prepared by the Local History department staff. All materials must be viewed in the Plainfield Room and may not be removed to another area of the library without permission of the Library Director or designee. Materials must be handled carefully and kept in order. Materials must not be leaned upon, altered, folded, ripped, or traced upon. Marks may not be added or erased from materials. Materials must be returned directly to Local History department staff and inspected before the researcher leaves the Plainfield Room.

One photocopy may be made (by Plainfield Public Library staff) of each document for the purpose of research; official Local History departmental reproduction fees may apply. Permission to publish must be obtained by the Plainfield Public Library Board of Trustees as delegated to the Library Director. Permission to publish does not constitute a copyright clearance. The researcher is responsible for further copyright restrictions. The Plainfield Public Library is not responsible for the misuse of copyrighted material.

Preferred Citation

Identification of item; Date (if noted); "Albert D. Pittis Papers", Box and Folder Number, Local History Department, Plainfield Public Library, Plainfield, New Jersey.

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated in 2008 and 2011 by Mr. Albert Pittis.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Sarah Hull in 2009. The finding aid was written and encoded by Sarah Hull in January 2010 and updated by Sally Weiner in February 2025. Finding aid content follows the guidelines suggested by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Watchung Nature Club of Plainfield, NJ [1943-1962]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
1	1	Administrative papers	1946-1962
	2	Membership cards	1945-1960
	3	Programs	1943-1952
	4	Events and tours	1944-1958
	5	Postcard announcements	1943-1963
	6	Newspaper clippings (photocopies)	1951-1954

Series 2: Real Estate Records [1926-1968]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
1	7	Mill race map (photocopy of original)	undated
	8	East Front Street properties	1926-1953
	9	173 East Front Street	1963
	10	102 and 103 Watchung Avenue	1962, 1968
	11	Photographs of Church and East Front Streets (photocopies)	1928, 1964

Series 3: Personal Papers [2002-2003]

Box	Folder	Title/Description	Date(s)
1	12	Newsletter and calendar	2002-2003