

GUIDE TO PRIMARY SOURCES ON THE SUBURBANIZATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

FINDING AID

Town of Garrett Park Archives

4600 Waverly Avenue, PO Box 84

Garrett Park, MD 20896

301-933-7488

www.garrettpark-md.gov/c/459/

Name of archive/collection/records: Garrett Park Archives

Date Range of archive/collection/records: Late 1880s to Present

Language of archive/collection/records: English

Background Information: Garrett Park has maintained an archive since the community was developed in the late 19th century. The official Garrett Park Archives were formally created by the Town Council on July 12, 2010.

The archives document the rich and varied history of Garrett Park including its original development by the Metropolitan Investment and Building Company of Montgomery County in 1886 as a new suburban community to be located on the newly built Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad, its being named for B&O RR Chairman Robert Garrett, its incorporation by the State of Maryland as the Town of Garrett Park in 1898, the entire town's placement on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1975, and many other events leading up to the present day

Summary and scope of archive/collection/records: The collection includes thousands of documents, pictures, maps, oral history records, memorabilia and other items that preserve that history and form a mosaic of the people and events that have shaped our community. In recognition of the town's historical significance, the collections comprise of more than 280 boxes of materials, primarily documents, but also more than 4,000 photos and slides, and dozens of special objects. In addition, the archives contain:

- Hundreds of posters announcing town events & social movements;
- Maps, building plans architectural drawings, and other graphics;
- More than 100 oral history transcripts and 60 yet-to-be transcribed oral history tapes recorded as early as the mid-1970's.
- Files on 300 + past and present residents;
- Files on nearly every house in Garrett Park;
- Records of every Town Council meeting since 1898;
- Every issue of *The Bugle*, the monthly newspaper since 1954;
- Records documenting being a recognized arboretum and nation's 1st nuclear free zone.

Special Collections:

A. Trankovich Collection: Records dating from the creation of the town in 1898 to the 1950s. Some 700 documents collected by Smith L. Putnam, town clerk from 1910 to 1928 including the town's earliest official documents and ledgers and records of his personal insurance business in town after he left the town job.

B. Galloway Collection: Nearly 40 photos of Garrett Park in the 1890s from a descendent of Beverly Galloway, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist showing houses, street scenes and residents. Included are photographs of Galloway in his home greenhouse with plants believed to be experimental USDA experimental crops at a time when the newly-created department did not have its own sufficient research farms.

C. McLaughlin Collection. More than 100 graphics and pieces of art created by Donal McLaughlin, an architect, creator of the United Nations flag and logo, and the designer of the post-World War II Nuremberg Trial courtroom. In addition, there are videos of his architectural presentations, photos and other memorabilia.

D. Other Extensive Collections. Houses, residents, oral histories, nuclear free zone, arboretum, Town Council minutes, Garrett Bugle (monthly newsletter), zoning, roads, news clippings, historical maps, architectural drawings and building plans.

Format of materials in archive/collection/records: Paper, photos, digital records and transcriptions, maps, graphics, miscellaneous objects.

Suburbanization Subject Terms within archive/collection/records: Architecture, architectural and/or landscape drawings/files; Biographical records/personal papers; Civic activism/community organizations; Government; Land development/infrastructure development; Maps/atlasses/street maps/ photographs; Newspapers/newsletters; Oral histories; Public health; Public works; Transportation: railroad, automobile, bus; Zoning ordinances; Other: Arboretum; Nuclear free zone; Files on nearly all houses; National Register of Historic Places; Race relations.

Access and Use:

Open: Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm,
Wednesdays, 9:30 am to 12:00 pm, or by appointment.

Copies are \$0.10 per page, unless otherwise agreed.

Cost of Admission: Free

Contact:

Rachel James (Town Archivist); or Charles Snyder (Chairman, Archives Committee)
301-933-7488
archives.garretpark@comcast.net