

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

FINDING AID

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum Hays T. Watkins Research Library and Archives

901 West Pratt Street, Second Floor, Annex Building

Baltimore, MD 21223

Telephone: (410) 752-2490 ext. 307

Website: www.borail.org

Brief history of your organization: The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum, situated on the original site of the historic Mt. Clare shops, is recognized as the birthplace of American railroading. Here on the museum's 40-acre site, Baltimore businessmen, surveyors, and engineers built the B&O Railroad in 1829. The B&O Railroad Museum has an unparalleled collection of 19th & 20th century railroad equipment, original shop buildings, and surviving tracks that provides an integrated presentation on virtually every aspect of American railroad development and its impact on our society, culture, and economy.

Name of archive/collection/records: The Hays T. Watkins Research Library and Archives

Date Range of archive/collection/records: 1827-1970s

Language of archive/collection/records: English

Background Information: The mission of the B&O Railroad Museum is to preserve the physical legacy and experience of American railroading, interpret and present its history to the widest possible audience, and develop programs that broaden and deepen public appreciation of the past, present, and future significance of the railroad industry in the development of American life, especially in the City of Baltimore, State of Maryland, and the region.

The B&O Railroad Museum works to fulfill its mission by:

- Collecting, preserving, documenting and presenting representative objects, skills, and communal records from all facets of the railroad industry.
- Collecting, preserving, and interpreting historical railroad documents, data, and research for public access.
- Presenting railroad history to a broad public audience in the context of American history research and interpretation.
- Developing educational outreach programs.
- Creating ongoing substantive interactions with the surrounding community, city and region.
- Striving to become a model of professionalism in railroad history and historic preservation, with emphasis on better integration of railroad museum activities with appropriate academic disciplines, railroad enthusiast organizations, and the larger historic preservation and museum communities.
- Pursuing prudent administrative & financial management to ensure short and long-term survival and growth.

Summary and scope of archive/collection/records: The Hays T. Watkins Research Library and Archives contain information on the 42.5 mile Metropolitan Branch of the B& O Railroad that was completed in 1873 and ran from the main line of the B&O Railroad at Point of Rocks, MD through Montgomery County, MD to the B&O Railroad station in Washington, DC. The mission of the Hays T. Watkins Research Library and Archives is to preserving the legacy of the B&O Railroad and other significant railroads located in Maryland including the Western Maryland Railway, the Chessie System, and CSX Transportation.

The bulk of the research library holdings document the history of the B&O Railroad from its beginnings in 1827 to the 1970's and place the history of the B&O within the broad context of social, cultural, political, and economic trends in America. It contains 5,000 books, periodicals & trade publications, and 100,000 still images relating to all aspects of the B&O Railroad, including the personal papers of early presidents Philip Thomas and John Work Garrett that provide substantial information on the early years of the railroad. The archives also include B&O Railroad corporate records such as Directors minute books (1827-1927; corporate documents; manuscript collections; maps; mechanical and engineering drawings; ephemera; B&O Railroad payroll files (1905-1971); images, and motion picture films that relate to the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad.

Special Collections: *None.*

Format of materials in archive/collection/records: Paper, Maps, Photographs, Slides, Transparencies, Glass & Film Negatives, Lithographs, Paintings, Still Images

Suburbanization Subject Terms within archive/collection/records: Architectural/Landscape Drawings; Biographical Records; Corporate Records; Land Development; Maps/Atlas/Street, Residential Real Estate Development; Transportation: Railroad

Access and Use:

Open: Fridays: 10:00a.m. - 3:00p.m by appointment only. Appointments must be made a week in advance.

Admission: Members are free; Non-Members are \$20.

Cost of Research Inquiries (mail, email, fax – 1 hour minimum): Members: \$20/hour; Non-Member: \$40/hour

Copies: \$.50 per 8.5 x 11 page; \$1.00 per 11 x 17 page.

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