

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

FINDING AID

Maryland State Archives

350 Rowe Blvd

Annapolis, MD 21401

Telephone: (410) 260-6400

Website: www.msa.maryland.gov

Name of archive/collection/records: Maryland State Archives.

Date Range of archive/collection/records: 1796-present.

Language of archive/collection/records: English

Background Information: The Hall of Records, predecessor of the Maryland State Archives, was created as an independent agency in 1935, charged with the collection, custody, and preservation of the official records, documents, and publications of the State of Maryland. Impetus for its development can be traced to the state's tercentenary celebrations of 1934. The Maryland Tercentenary Commission made a modern, centralized archive a key feature of the commemoration of the state's 300th anniversary. A Hall of Records Commission was also created in 1935 to serve as management for the Archives; it took on an advisory role in 1984. The Hall of Records was incorporated into the Department of General Services in 1970. In 1984, it was renamed the State Archives and became an independent agency within the office of the Governor. The State Archives serves as the central depository for government records of permanent value. Its holdings date from Maryland's founding in 1634, and include colonial and state executive, legislative, and judicial records; county probate, land, and court records; church records; business records; state publications and reports; and special collections of private papers, maps, photographs, and newspapers. These records are kept in humidity and temperature controlled environment and any necessary preservation measures are conducted in the Archives' conservation laboratory.

Summary and scope of archive/collection/records: State, county, and municipal government agencies may offer the Archives all files, documents, and records not in current use. The records of all state agencies, boards, and commissions that were abolished or have concluded their work must be transferred to the Archives. Departments and agencies must dispose of their records according to established retention schedules approved by the state archivist. Records found to be permanently valuable may be transferred to the Archives as determined by these schedules. Records that are in the county courthouses created prior to Maryland's ratification of the United States Constitution on April 28, 1788, are deposited at the Archives. Current deeds, mortgages, and releases recorded in the circuit courts are microfilmed and preserved at the State Archives, and it is the official depository for duplicate copies of subdivision plats formerly sent to the land office to insure against loss of originals. The Archives also preserves and makes accessible vital records information, a responsibility shared with the Division of Vital Records of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Archives maintain a collection of publications and reports of state, county, and municipal agencies, which it has collected since 1947. It receives state publications and reports under the state publication depository and distribution program established in 1982. It is also the official depository for county charters, codes, and laws, and the Department of Legislative Services deposits municipal charter amendments and annexations with the Archives after publication.

Collection(s) of Particular Interest to Suburbanization: Materials held the State Archives describe virtually all activities of government that impact and regulate urban and suburban development. Additionally, reports and publications of the agencies utilize information derived from original transactional records to describe and report on the activities of government in the region. The Archives holds voluminous materials that can be utilized in the study of suburbanization in the Maryland suburbs of metropolitan Washington, DC and Montgomery County. These would include records and publications of: state agencies, such as Board of Public Works, Department of Assessments and Taxation for assessment and property values, Department of Education, Department of Human Resources, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Department of Natural Resources (especially aerial photography), Department of Planning, Department of Transportation for road construction records, and State Board of Elections; regional agencies, such as the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission; county agencies, such as the Board of County Commissioners, Board of Education, Board of Health, Circuit Courts (particularly land records and recorded plats, but also legal case files), County Council, Department of Public Works, Department of Transportation Engineering; municipal agencies, specifically the Chevy Chase Board of Managers; and multiple manuscript collections in Special Collections, such as MSA SC 1669, A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland; MSA SC 2117 Baltimore News American Collection photographs; MSA SC 2813 Montgomery County Sentinel Newspaper Collection. The Government Publications collection contains reports and publications that digest the raw information contained in the primary source records and assist in understanding the role and activities of government in the region. The library collection contains a variety of publications related to Montgomery county history. Please see the appropriate online catalog: Guide to Government Records; Special Collections Catalog; Government Publications Catalog; or Library Catalog in the State Archives Website for specific contents.

Format of materials in archive/collection/records: Paper, Digital Records, Photographs, Maps,

Suburbanization Subject Terms within archive/collection/records: Biographical Records; Commercial Real Estate Development; Education; Government (Federal/State/Local); Land Development/Infrastructure Development; Maps/Atlas/Street Maps; Political Organizations; Residential Real Estate Development; Transportation (Railroad, Streetcar, Automobile, Mass Transit Bus, Mass Transit); Zoning Ordinances

Access and Use: Note: Refer to http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/homepage/html/fee_schedule.html for fee schedule.

Open: Tuesday to Friday: 8:30am to 4:30pm; Saturday: 8:30pm to 4:30pm. (Except first Saturday of the month)
Admission: Free

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