

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

FINDING AID

Montgomery County Historical Society, Jane C. Sween Library

111 W. Montgomery Avenue

Rockville, MD 20850

Telephone: (301) 340-2825.

Website: www.montgomeryhistory.org

Name of archive/collection/records: Jane C. Sween Library of the Montgomery County Historical Society.

Date Range of archive/collection/records: 1855–present.

Language of archive/collection/records: English

Background Information: MCHS was founded in 1944, and incorporated as a non-profit in 1951. MCHS has been collecting archival material, books, photographs, and artifacts since its first meeting, and today have the preeminent library and artifact collections related to Montgomery County, from prehistory to the present day. In 1965, MCHS jointly acquired the Beall-Dawson House (along with the City of Rockville), and since that time have expanded the campus by renovating the garage, now the Jane C. Sween Research Library; acquiring and relocating the Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine; and purchasing two adjoining houses, which serve as MCHS offices and storage. The museums and Library are open to the public for tours and research. The Montgomery County Historical Society collects, interprets, and promotes the history, heritage, and culture of Montgomery County Maryland.

The Society established the Mary Kay Center for Suburban Studies in 2008 to preserve and interpret the County's suburban history and bring a scholarly focus to its study. Current priorities include:

- Developing an online Guide to Primary and Secondary Sources on the Suburbanization on Montgomery County, MD to support research and interpretation.
- Preserving the knowledge, experiences, and points of view of planners, developers, builders, architects, conservationists, leaders, etc. who played a role in County's suburbanization.
- Designing and implementing annual programs and activities that communicate and interpret the County's suburban past, present, and future.

The Mary Kay Harper Center for Suburban Studies is a legacy project to honor Mary Kay Harper when she retired in 2008. Mary Kay has served the Montgomery County Historical Society for more than three decades, including 18 years as Executive Director. Although the Society's emphasis traditionally was on the more distant past, Mary Kay also focused on the county's suburban development.

Summary and scope of archive/collection/records: The collection contains over 5000 books, over 10,000 photographs plus several smaller photograph collections (e.g. the Sentinel photograph Collection), several slide collections, postcard collections, and snapshots, microfilm, several special collections of business ledgers and documents dating from 1818, several archives of local political figures, papers from several local historians, newspapers including a full set of Montgomery County Sentinels dating from 1855, high school annuals and maps and atlases, architectural drawings, and Lusks Real Estate directories, as well as real estate plats. Only some of these collections have finding aids, but most of them have contents that can be explained by their titles.

Collection(s) of Particular Interest to Suburbanization: Items of particular interest relating to Suburban Studies in storage include a map case full of county development plats from a surveying firm in Gaithersburg; Gazette newspapers from 1980s and 1990s; Courier, and Suburban Records newspapers from the 1970s and 1980s; the O'Riley Architectural Collection of drawings of plans including churches and homes from the 1960s & 1970s; and business papers from the Falkland Apartments and Stoneyhurst Quarries.

Format of materials in archive/collection/records: Paper, Photographs, Maps, Published Directories; Government Reports

Suburbanization Subject Terms within archive/collection/records: Biographical Records, Civic/Community Organizations, Commercial Real Estate Development; Corporate Records; Government (Federal/State/Local); Education; Land Development/Infrastructure Development; Maps/Atlas/Street Maps; Political Organizations; Residential Real Estate Development; Transportation (Railroad, Streetcar, Automobile, Mass Transit Bus, Mass Transit Light Rail, Bike); Religious Organizations; Newspapers

Special Collections: The Montgomery Mutual Insurance Papers Collection contains insurance policies from 1855 to early 1900s.

Access and Use:

Open: Wednesday to Friday: 10:00am to 4:00pm; Saturday: 12:00pm to 2:00pm.

Admission: Nonmembers: Adults \$5.00; Seniors & Students: \$3.00; MCHS Members: Free

Copies: \$0.25 copy per page

Contact: Patricia Andersen. Librarian; Linda Kennedy, Archivist

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