

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

FINDING AID

US Food and Drug Administration

10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20903
Telephone: 1-888-463-6332 (1-888-INFO-FDA)
Website: www.fda.gov

Name of archive/collection/records: RG-88 - Official repository of publicly available records, photographs, and films associated with the work of the FDA:

Date Range of archive/collection/records: The FDA History Office collections include materials that cover most of the 20th century through the present.

Language of archive/collection/records: English

Background Information: FDA originated with the appointment of a chemist to the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1862. In 1906, by which time that position had evolved into a Bureau of Chemistry, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Pure Food and Drugs Act, which prohibited interstate commerce in misbranded and adulterated food and drugs and assigned oversight to the Bureau of Chemistry. This launched the Bureau's (and FDA's) modern history as a federal consumer protection agency. FDA is responsible for protecting the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, our nation's food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation. FDA is also responsible for advancing the public health by helping to speed innovations that make medicines more effective, safer, and more affordable and by helping the public get the accurate, science-based information they need to use medicines and foods to maintain and improve their health. FDA also has responsibility for regulating the manufacturing, marketing and distribution of tobacco products to protect the public health and to reduce tobacco use by minors. Finally, FDA plays a significant role in the Nation's counterterrorism capability. FDA fulfills this responsibility by ensuring the security of the food supply and by fostering development of medical products to respond to deliberate and naturally emerging public health threats.

Summary and scope of archive/collection/records: The National Archives and Records Administration in College Park houses RG-88, the official repository of publicly available records, photographs, and films associated with the work of the FDA. FDA nevertheless still maintains a large number of records of ongoing regulatory or other interest, which typically can be accessed only through an official request through the Freedom of Information Act, procedures for which can be found on FDA's website. The FDA Library also houses a variety of publicly available published and unpublished resources on the FDA, including recordings of selected public meetings; the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine, NIH, in Bethesda, has selected records as well, including the collection of records that document FDA's enforcement of the laws under its jurisdiction, known as seizure case files. The FDA History Office has internal collection of research and reference files, photos, slides, posters, videos, and artifacts, with some of the posters and artifacts on public display on the White Oak campus.

FDA headquarters evolved into many sites around the greater Washington area, including Montgomery County, Maryland, until the establishment of the White Oak campus; today there are still several sites in Montgomery County in addition to White Oak.

Collection(s) of Particular Interest to Suburbanization: The collections of the FDA History Office document some of these, but the general subject files (also known as decimal files) in RG-88 are a more comprehensive

resource for records on the establishment of FDA facilities among publicly available records on this topic. The collection in RG-88 would have more overall, but the FDA History Office would have a small group of records that help document the emergence of FDA headquarters in several facilities around the Washington area, including Montgomery County

Format of materials in archive/collection/records: Biographical Records, Civic/Community Organizations, Government (Federal/State/Local), Land Development, Maps/Atlas, Street Maps

Suburbanization Subject Terms within archive/collection/records: Biographical Records, Civic/Community Organizations, Education, Maps/Atlas/Street Maps

Special Collections: Recognizing that none of these would likely have matter relevant to suburbanization of Montgomery County, the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., houses two collections of personal papers that are directly related to the work of the FDA: Those of Harvey Washington Wiley, Chief Chemist of the Bureau of Chemistry from 1883 to 1912 who helped lead the push for the 1906 Food and Drugs Act, and Frances Oldham Kelsey, whose career at the FDA spanned the 1960s through the 1990s, for the most part as the head official responsible for oversight of clinical investigations. Dr. Kelsey was the medical officer in the early 1960s responsible for refusing to approve the drug, thalidomide, for marketing in the U. S. The National Agriculture Library in Beltsville, Maryland, houses the personal papers of William Horwitz, a long-time foods scientist and official at FDA

Access and Use:

Researchers should contact the libraries and archives cited above directly for their hours of operation and policies regarding logistics associated with their use, including any costs.

Contact: Cindy Lachine

Telephone: (301)796-8952

Email: cindy.lachin@fda.hhs.gov

Note: To discuss holdings and policies of the FDA History Office, researchers should contact Cindy Lachine for information at the telephone number or email address listed above.