

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

FINDING AID

Town of Washington Grove

300 Grove Avenue

Washington Grove, MD 20880 (*Mailing Address: P.O. Box 216, Washington Grove, MD*)

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Name of archive/collection/records: Town of Washington Grove Archives

Date Range of archive/collection/records: 1873-present

Language of archive/collection/records: English

Background Information: In 1873, during a decade in which religious revivals were popular, the united Methodist churches of Washington purchased the land (now the Town of Washington Grove) and established the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association. The Association oversaw the camp meetings and management of the land until 1937 when the Town became an incorporated municipality. The endeavor was successful due to the forested land with good water and the adjacent Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which brought many visitors to the camp meetings. The Town now has a Mayor and Council to govern and has its own planning and zoning authority. It still retains an annual Town Meeting tradition, and is dedicated to preserving its natural, cultural, and historic resources. This is reflected in the Grove's motto "A Town within a Forest."

Summary and scope of archive/collection/records: The Town of Washington Grove Archives retains written and photographic records and other artifacts from its inception in 1873 to the present. It encompasses all formal and legal records, including correspondence with other governments (County, State and Federal) as well as substantial informal records of the Town's residents and activities. While the Archives do not have a specific section devoted to Montgomery County, there are numerous references to the County throughout the Town's records. These would need to be sorted out by researchers. The Archives contain detailed records of the Town's numerous actions and reactions to resist intrusion by development. The Archives are organized chronologically by topic and the documents electronically preserved are searchable. The database Past Perfect is being developed to further facilitate research. A researcher's guide provides helpful finding aids.

Format of materials in archive/collection/records: Paper, Electronic Media, Maps, Artifacts, Photographs

Suburbanization Subject Terms within archive/collection/records: Government (Federal/State/Local); Land Development; Plats/Atlas/Street Maps; Residential Real Estate Development; Transportation: Railroad, Automobile; Zoning Ordinances.

Special Collections: 1). Complete minutes of the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association (1873-1937), 2). A detailed Historic House Collection by Clare Kelly. 3). A small but rare collection of WWII correspondence and war-time directives continues to intrigue researchers and historians. 4). A Town History collection that includes books and recollections by different authors who resided in the Grove since 1873, and a two-volume work by Philip K. Edwards: "Washington Grove 1873-1937 and 1937-1977."

Access and Use: By appointment only under supervision of the Town Archivist or Town Clerk.

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 9:30am to 4:30pm;
Wednesdays: 1:00pm to 4:30pm

Admission: Free

Cost of copies: No fee for a nominal number of 8 ½ x 11 copies. Larger documents or photographic copies needing to be done off site will be charged the price required by the copy shop.

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Contact: Kathy Lehman, Town Clerk

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