

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

## FINDING AID

### **DC Public Library & Special Collections**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library

901 G Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: (202) 727-1213

Website: <http://dclibrary.org/research/collections>

**Name of archives/collections/records:** Special Collections, DC Public Library, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library

**Date Range of archive/collection/records:** 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century

**Language of archive/collection/records:** English

**Background Information:** The District of Columbia Public Library was created by an act of Congress in 1896 “to furnish books and other printed matter and information service convenient to the homes and offices of all residents of the District.” The establishment of the library was largely due to the long and arduous efforts of Theodore W. Noyes, editor of The Evening Star. Mr. Noyes served as president of the Board of Library Trustees for 50 years.

The origin of Special Collections at the DC Public Library dates back to the establishment of the Washingtoniana Collection in 1905, when Library Director Dr. George F. Bowerman had the foresight to start collecting books and articles about the local community. The Peabody Collection of Georgetown Neighborhood History was incorporated in 1905, followed by the establishment of the Black Studies Center in 1972 in conjunction with the opening of the new central library. The DC Community Archives was established in 1980.

The Library’s mission contributes a vibrant center of activity for residents and visitors in the nation’s capital. It provides environments that invite reading, learning and community discussion and equips people to learn all their lives, to embrace diversity and to build a thriving city. We are proud to be a recognized force in the community for engaging the mind, expanding opportunities and elevating the quality of life.

Special Collections fulfills a distinct component of the larger Library mission. Special Collections at the DC Public Library serves to collect, preserve, and provide access to collections of historical importance in designated areas of strength. Special Collections connects the community to its history and culture through creative engagement with collections and programming.

**Summary and scope of archive/collection/records:** The Washingtoniana Collection houses a variety of maps from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century that encompasses portions of Montgomery County, limited subject vertical files, *Evening Star* newspaper photographs and articles (both microfilm and electronic databases) that include Montgomery County, MD coverage.

**Special Collections:** The Special Collections has been collecting materials since the creation of the Washingtoniana Collection in 1905. It includes more than 60,000 books, 8,000 maps, 1.3 million images, 1,000 historic and contemporary news sources, and 5,000 linear feet of archival material. Subscription databases, available for free via the web with a valid DCPL Library card, provide additional primary and secondary source coverage. Today, Special Collections is made up of:

- **Washingtoniana** – collects comprehensively on the subject of Washington, D.C., with a primary focus on the local city. Areas of strength include neighborhood and genealogical resources, local politics and government, architecture and the built environment, legal and legislative resources, Black Washington and D.C. fiction.
- **Black Studies** – promotes the study and interpretation of the history and culture of people of African descent, with a focus on African Americans. Areas of strength include contextual information relevant to the study of Black Washington; African American Arts, Literature, Music and Poetry; African American adult fiction writers; Civil Rights and socio-economic movements particularly affecting African-American in the U.S; and landmark works exploring contemporary themes in African-American scholarship.
- **Archives and Manuscripts** – contains archival material from individuals, families, and organizations that have played a significant and direct role in the political, artistic, and social development of local affairs in the District of Columbia. Areas of strength include statehood, home rule, neighborhoods and neighborhood organizations, the performing arts, Black Washington, and oral histories. Focus is on the 20<sup>th</sup> century or later.
- **Prints and Photographs** – contains photographs and other image forms that document the people, history, culture, and built environment of the District of Columbia. Areas of strength include the built environment, demonstrations, personalities such as mayors, and festival and events.
- **Historic and Rare Books** – out-of-print and hard-to-obtain books in designated areas of strength. Preference is given to complete sets of works, such as the personal book collection of a notable figure or comprehensive coverage on a niche topic. Preference is also given to books that complement the Washington, D.C and Black Studies collections.
- **The Peabody Collection of Georgetown Neighborhood History** – contains current and retrospective materials that relate specifically to the history, structures, residents, culture, and economy of the District of Columbia's Georgetown neighborhood
- **The DCPL Digital Collection** - provide access to materials illustrating the history, cultural diversity, politics and government, and business of the District of Columbia. Other materials may be considered for digitization based on identified community needs.

### ***Other Special Collections:***

- **The DC Community Archives** (see <http://dclibrary.org/node/3485>)
  - Oral histories
- **The Washington Star Photograph Collection**
- **Evening Star (1852-1950) and Washington Post (1877–current)** newspaper photographs and keyword-searchable articles available through online databases. Also available are DC Metropolitan area white and yellow page telephone books from 1950s to present that include a number of Montgomery County listings. *Evening Star* and *Washington Post* databases are available from any computer with utilization of a DC Library card number, available to Montgomery County residents. All other materials are accessible by working with on-site reference librarian.

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

***Suburbanization Subject Terms within archive/collection/records:*** Biographical Records, Maps/Atlas/Street Maps, Photographs, Newspaper Coverage of Montgomery County

### ***Access and Use:***

#### **Washingtoniana & Other Special Collections:**

*Open:* Monday to Thursday: 11:00am to 8:00pm.

Friday to Saturday: 9:30am to 5:30pm.

By Appointment

901 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

*Admission:* Free.

*Copies:* \$0.15 each.

***Contact:*** Washingtoniana Collection

***Telephone:*** (202) 727-1213

***Email:*** [wash.dcpl@dc.gov](mailto:wash.dcpl@dc.gov)

#### **Peabody Room:**

*Open:* Monday to Wednesday: 11:00am to 7:00pm.

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month: 9:30am to 5:30pm.

Other times by appointment.

3260 R Street, NW, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20007

*Admission:* Free.

*Copies:* \$0.15 each.

***Contact:*** Peabody Room, Georgetown Public Library

***Telephone:*** (202) 727-0233

***Email:*** [georgetownlibrary@dc.gov](mailto:georgetownlibrary@dc.gov)