

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES**

**Guide to the Records of the**

**GEORGIAN WOODS FIRE INQUIRY BOARD  
1979**

**Record Group 15: Boards, Committees, and Commissions**

**Revised March 13, 2017  
Updated 2018**

Montgomery County Archives  
Montgomery County Records Center  
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### **ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY**

A Fire Inquiry Board was appointed by the Board of the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department at the request of County Executive Charles W. Gilchrist to investigate a fire which occurred at the Georgian Woods Apartments in Wheaton, Maryland, on January 30, 1979. Mismanagement by the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department at the scene of the fire was alleged to have caused unnecessary financial damage and the loss of homes to 22 families. The Board was charged to develop findings and recommendations regarding conditions surrounding the fire and efforts used by the Fire Department to combat the fire. Hearing transcripts and the final report of the Fire Inquiry Board are among the most significant records in this collection.

### **EXTENT**

0.5 cubic foot: ½ records box.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The records of the Georgian Woods Fire Inquiry Board contain hearing transcripts, clippings, correspondence, memoranda, meetings minutes, photographs, and a final report regarding the investigation of the Fire Inquiry Board in 1979.

The records have been arranged into two series:

Series I: Public Hearing Transcripts

Series II: Fire Inquiry Board Report

### **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **Series I: Public Hearing Transcripts, 1979**

**(0.25 cubic feet)**

This series includes transcripts of public hearings held March 15, March 22, and March 29, 1979. The transcripts were divided into three volumes by date. Folders are arranged chronologically.

#### **Series II: Fire Inquiry Board Report, 1979**

**(0.25 cubic feet)**

This series contains the final report of the Board with attached appendices. Appendices 1-6 which contain significant internal County, memoranda, a diagram, and persons interviewed regarding the fire are included with the Board's Report. Of particular importance is Appendix 7 which is not contained with the Report but filed separately. Appendix 7 includes media clippings, interview transcripts, inquiry board meeting minutes, the radio transmissions transcript, fire department internal correspondence and memoranda, fire victim letters, and photographs. Folders are arranged chronologically.

### **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS**

This collection is open for research.

**LANGUAGE**

English.

**PROVENANCE**

The exact origin of these records is unknown. The records appear to have originated in the County Executive's Office.

**USING THESE RECORDS**

To request records listed in this finding aid, the following information should be given to the archivist:

Record Group 15, **Records of the Georgian Woods Fire Inquiry Board**, Series Number and Name, Box Number and Folder Title(s).

The preferred citation for materials from these records is:

Montgomery County Archives; Gaithersburg, Maryland. Record Group 15: Boards and Commissions. Records Title: Records of the Georgian Woods Fire Inquiry Board. Series number and series name. Box number and folder title, if appropriate.

**PROCESSING PROCEDURES**

General processing procedures consisted of discarding duplicates, unnecessary binders, and routine transmittals. Oversized documents and photographs were removed from the original location in their assigned series and placed in separate containers. Separation sheets were inserted in the original location within the folder to indicate the new location of any records placed elsewhere.

Preservation copying of newspaper clippings were performed whenever feasible. Records in folders were arranged, unless otherwise indicated, in forward chronological order, with undated records appearing at the end of the folder.

**PROCESSING STAFF/FINDING AID AUTHOR**

MCA staff.

**BOX INVENTORY**

**Series I: Public Hearing Transcripts**

**Box 1**

Georgian Woods Fire, Public Hearing Transcript, March 15, 1979 (3 folders)

Georgian Woods Fire, Public Hearing Transcript, March 22, 1979 (2 folders)

Georgian Woods Fire, Public Hearing Transcript, March 29, 1979

**Series II: Fire Inquiry Board Report**

***Box 1, cont.***

Georgian Woods Fire, Fire Inquiry Board Report, Appendix 1-6, April 30, 1979

Georgian Woods Fire, Fire Inquiry Board Report, Appendix 7, April 30, 1979 (6 folders)