

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES

Guide to the Records of the

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
1935-1956**

Record Group 6: Public Works and Transportation

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ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The Montgomery County Department of Public Works grew from a fledgling organization of various roads and facilities maintenance groups into the modern Department of Transportation which was created in 1972. The history of the Department of Public Works has been marked by the continuous shifting of responsibility between the state and county. Throughout the nineteenth century, the Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners exercised primary authority over road projects county-wide, a function inherited from the colonial levy court. In 1927, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) was created. The result of the MNCPPC's creation was greater confusion within the transportation administration of the county.

As the County became increasingly suburbanized in the 1950s and 1960s, transportation needs escalated. The Department was responsible for planning, designing, and constructing roads, walkways, street drainage, and parking facilities. The Department also acquired rights-of-way, issued necessary permits, and inspected road and drainage projects undertaken by developers throughout Montgomery County. As a result of the 1972 reorganization of county government, the Department of Public Works was subsumed into the Department of Transportation. The newly created department took over all the public works activities except for solid waste management, and the former Bureau of Refuse Collection and Disposal became a part of the Department of Environmental Protection.

EXTENT

4.4 cubic feet: 4 record boxes, 1 flat file, 0.25 map case drawer.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records of the Department of Public Works contain the earliest records of the Montgomery County Department of Public Works, Office of the Board of County Commissioners, and the County Engineer's Office. The records comprise four cubic feet, date primarily from 1935 to 1956 and include contracts, maps, blueprints, construction specifications, citizens' petitions, public hearing transcripts, and some photographs. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence and memoranda between the department director, County Manager, engineers, County Commissioners, attorneys, and citizens. Records detail the planning, design, and construction of County roads, sidewalks, street drainage, and parking facilities.

The record group has been arranged into four series:

Series I: County Commissioner's Projects

Series II: County Engineer's Office Projects

Series III: Photographs

Series IV: County Engineer's Office Blueprints/Plans

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I: County Commissioner's Projects, 1935-1943

(1.3 cubic feet)

This series consists of contracts, maps, blueprints, and construction specifications for various road, storm drainage, and right-of-way projects authorized by the Board of County Commissioners. Areas covered include Bethesda, Brookmont, Chevy Chase, Gaithersburg, Kensington, Laytonsville, Silver Spring, and Takoma Park.

The series is arranged alphabetically by town, subdivision, and project title.

Series II: County Engineer's Office Projects, 1937-1956

(2.7 cubic feet)

This series contains the records of the County Engineer's Office. Project areas include Barnesville, Bethesda, Brighton, Burtonsville, Cabin John, Laytonsville, Olney, Cedar Grove, Cedar Heights, Chevy Chase, Clagettville, Clarksburg, Colesville, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Gaithersburg, Goshen, Garrett Park, Kensington, Poolesville, Potomac, Silver Spring, Somerset, Takoma Park, Travilah, and Wheaton. Record types found in this series include correspondence, topographical maps, and plats.

The series is arranged alphabetically by area.

Series III: Photographs, ca. 1939-1942

(1 folder)

The photographs document the progress of various projects and neighborhood subdivisions, and also include one aerial photograph.

The photographs were transferred to Record Group 19, Audiovisual:
County Engineer's Office, Miscellaneous, c. 1939-1952

Series IV: County Engineer's Office Blueprints/Plans, 1932-1950

(0.25 flat file, map case 0.5)

This series contains plans and blueprints for proposed and approved improvements projects handled through the Office of the County Engineer in cooperation with the State Roads Commission, MNCPPC, and/or the WSSC. Projects include building or relocation of roads, addition of sidewalks/curbs & gutters/pavement, sewer system changes/upgrades, and other localized improvement projects.

These documents are arranged in alphabetical order by location of project, within each of two locations in the archives: Flat File 33 and Map Case 8.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open for research.

LANGUAGE

English.

PROVENANCE

The bulk of the records are from Accessions #1999-07, #1999-08, and #1999-10. More material is from Accession #1999-27.

USING THESE RECORDS

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

Record Group 06, Department of Public Works, 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 06: Public Works and Transportation. Record Title: Department of Public Works. 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 was 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.

FINDING AID AUTHOR(S)

MCA staff

Sarah Hedlund

BOX INVENTORY

Series I: County Commissioner's Projects, 1935-1943

Box 1

Bethesda-Battery Park/Huntington: Custer Road, 1939-1940
Bethesda-Bradley Hills: Fairfax Road, 1937-1938
Bethesda-Bradley Hills: Storm Sewer, 1938
Bethesda-Bradley Hills: Wessling Lane, 1939-1940
Bethesda-Edgemoor: Clarendon Road, 1940-1941
Bethesda-Glen Cove: Saratoga Avenue, 1937-1938
Bethesda-Greenwich Forest & Lambeth Road, 1935-1941
Bethesda-West Chevy Chase Heights: Pearl Street, 1941-1942
Brookmont-Broad Street, 1941-1942
Chevy Chase-Crestview: Allan Road Extension, 1939-1941
Chevy Chase-Crestview: Bayard Boulevard, Crescent Street, Leroy Place, Westway Drive,
1937-1939
Chevy Chase-Kenwood: Dorset Avenue, 1939
Chevy Chase-Rollingwood: Thornapple Street, 1939-1940
Gaithersburg-Goshen Bridge over Whetstone Run, 1936
Kensington-Kensington Parkway, 1940-1943
Kensington-Kensington Parkway Correspondence: Public Support, Petitions, 1940
Kensington-Lincoln Avenue/Country Road, 1939-1940
Laytonsville/Unity Road, 1941
Silver Spring-Blair Selim Road, 1938, 1940
Silver Spring-Branwell Park: Becker Avenue/Oscola Avenue, Wire Avenue, 1939-1940
Silver Spring-Colesville Road/Willow Avenue; Chicago Avenue/Violet Place, 1939-1941
Silver Spring-Fairway: Rogart Road, 1941
Silver Spring-Fenton Street and West Drive, 1938
Silver Spring-Highland Park: Caroline Avenue, 1940-1941
Silver Spring-Jordan and Smith's Addition Alley, Lee's Addition Alley, 1936-1938
Silver Spring-Thayer Avenue, 1941
Silver Spring-Wayne Avenue, 1941
Silver Spring-Woodside: Garfield Place/Street, Locust Grove Road, 1936-1940
Silver Spring-Other Street Projects (Bonifant Street/Thayer Street area), 1937-1940
Takoma Park-Flower Avenue Park: Garland Avenue, 1940-1941
Takoma Park-Flower Avenue Park: Greenwood Avenue and Erie Avenue, 1940-1942
Takoma Park-Flower Avenue Park: Holstein Avenue, 1942
Takoma Park-Flower Avenue Park: Hudon Avenue, 1940-1941

(Series I: County Commissioner's Projects, Cont.)

Box 2

Takoma Park-Flower Avenue Park: Kennebec Avenue, 1940-1941
Takoma Park-Flower Avenue Park: Prospect Avenue Front Footage, 1940-1941
Takoma Park-Roger's Subdivision: Greenwood Avenue (front foot benefit), 1941-1942
Takoma Park-Takoma Avenue: Bridge over B & O Railroad, 1942
Takoma Park: Other Street Projects, 1937-1941
General, 1939-1943

Series II: County Engineer's Office Projects, 1937-1956

(Box 2, cont.)

Barnesville, 1946
Bethesda: Battery Park (Glenbrook and Goddard Roads), 1939-1940
Bethesda: BCC High School through Bradmoor, 1939-1951
Bethesda: Bradley Hills, 1939-1952
Bethesda: Edgemoor, English Village, 1940-1951
Bethesda: Georgetown Village; Glen Cove, 1938-1950
Bethesda: Glenbrook Village, 1939-1948
Bethesda: Highland Park, Hillmead, 1939-1951
Bethesda: Huntington Terrace; Huntington, 1939-1951
Bethesda: Locust Hills through North Bethesda Grove, 1939-1952
Bethesda: Old Georgetown Estates through Tulip Hill, 1939-1951
Bethesda: Westboro, 1939-1951
Bethesda: Westbrook, 1939-1950
Bethesda: West Chevy Chase Heights, 1939-1947
Bethesda: Wisconsin Avenue (including side streets from Cedar Lane to Bethesda Avenue, 1939-1953
Bethesda: Wisconsin Avenue traffic signals, 1939-1941
Bethesda: Wisconsin Avenue dedication plats/right-of-ways, 1941-1950
Bethesda: Wisconsin Avenue (plats, memos, correspondence, etc.), 1948-1950
Bethesda: Woodacres; Woodhaven, Torktown Village, 1939-1952
Bethesda: Woodmont, Old Georgetown Road to Glenbrook Road Drainage, 1939-1951
Brighton, Laytonsville, Olney, 1939-1949
Burtonsville: Road near Liberty Grove Methodist Church, Columbia Pike, 1939-1942, 1952
Cabin John, 1941-1952
Cedar Grove/Cedar Heights [Kings Valley Road], 1946
Chevy Chase: Chevy Chase Park/Terrace/Village; Crestview, 1939-1952
Chevy Chase: Drummond, Dunlop Hills, Friendship Heights, Rock Creek Forest, Rolling Hills, Tarrytown, Sumner, White Hall, 1938-1954
Chevy Chase: Martin's Addition [Meadow Brook Village], 1937-1954
Clagettville: Clagettville - Brownsville Road, c. 1940
Clarksburg: Cedar Grove - Kingsley Road; Miles Corner - Comus Road, 1937-1952

(Series II: County Engineer's Office Projects, Cont.)
(Box 2, cont.)

Clarksburg: Clarksburg - Lewisdale Road and Nealsville - Burdett Road, 1945-1946

Colesville: Commonwealth Farm; Leibig, 1939, 1941-1942

(See also Silver Spring for other subdivisions within Colesville area)

Box 3

Damascus: Damascus HS, Hawkins Creamery Rd, Mullinix Rd, Sugarloaf Mountain Rd.,
1939-1952

Darnestown: Black Rock Mill Bridge, 1944-1946

Derwood: Derwood and Redlands (or Redland) Roads, 1940-1945

Gaithersburg - Goshen: Goshen Road, 1945-1952

Garrett Park, 1938-1952

Kensington: Kensington Heights, Kensington Hermitage, Kensington Park, Kensington
Terrace, Kensington View, North Kensington, Rock Creek Hills, Swarthmore Terrace,
1939-1952

Poolesville: Jerusalem Road, Poolesville High School, White's Ferry Road, Edwards
Ferry Road, 1939-1949

Potomac: River Road (folder 1 of 2), 1937-1947

Potomac: River Road (folder 2 of 2), 1948-1949

Potomac - Travilah: Tuckerman's Lane, New Cut Road, Glen Road (North and South), Glen
Mill Road, Glen Road - Kilgour's Bridge, Brickyard Road, Green Branch Road,
Persimmon Tree Road, 1937-1952

Rockville: Contents include Lux Manor, Fairgrounds, Horner's Lane, Tilden Lane, Grandin
Street drainage, Courthouse parking lot, North Washington Street relocation, 1939-1952

Silver Spring: Birgfeld Tract (Cowles Broadcasting Company), closing Creston Way,
South Birgfeld Drive, Birgfeld Drive, Branwell Park, Buckingham Terrace, Compton
Street, Burnt Mills, Capitol View, Cissel's Addition, Cloverly, 1939-1951

Silver Spring: Drumelda Hills, Easley, Four Corners, Franklin Knolls, Gabel, Glen
Haven, Hardin Street (downtown Silver Spring?), Hickey - Offut (Washington Avenue),
Hillandale, Kalmia Road, Lindon Forest, 1938-1953

Silver Spring: Evanswood (Ellsworth Drive), 1942-1950

Silver Spring: Fairway (including Country Club Park/View) and Fairway Hills, 1939-1951

Silver Spring: Forest Estates, Forest Grove, 1939-1952

Silver Spring: Forest Glen, Forest Glen Park, Forsyth (Forsythe) Avenue, 1939-1950

Silver Spring: MacDonald Knolls, McNeills Addition, Montgomery Hills, Montgomery Hills
Forest, Montgomery Knolls, New Hampshire Estates, Norbeck/Bel Pre, North Washington
Shopping Center, North Woodside, Oakview, Paint Branch Farms, Montgomery Blair
High School, 1939-1952

Silver Spring: Quaint Acres, Rueth's Addition, Riley's Estate, Roeder's Addition, Rosemary
Hills, Sligo Park Hills, Sligo Park Knolls, Sligo Terrace, Springbrook, Springbrook Forest,
Stearman's Park, The Valley, Silver Spring Park (Alley plats: Thayer, Sligo, Silver Spring

Avenue), 1939-1956
Silver Spring: Woodmoor, 1939-1951
(Series II: County Engineer's Office Projects, Cont.)
(Box 3, cont.)
Silver Spring: Woodside and 16th Street Village, 1939-1949
Silver Spring: Woodside Forest, Woodside Hills, Woodside Knolls, Woodside Park, 1939-1954
Somerset, 1950-1954
Takoma Park: East Silver Spring Elementary School and Takoma Park Junior High School
(Folder 1 of 2), 1939-1951
Takoma Park: East Silver Spring Elementary School and Takoma Park Junior High School
(Folder 2 of 2), 1939-1940
Takoma Park: Kilmarock, Neff Tract, Roger's Subdivision, Rolling Terrace, Long Branch,
1939-1950
Takoma Park: Flower Avenue Park (Kennebec & Flower Avenues), 1939-1943
Wheaton: Connecticut Avenue Estates, Glen Allen, Glenhaven, Glenmont, Glenmont Hills,
Glenmont Village, Triangle Park, Veirs Mill Village, Wheaton Hills, Old Towne Wheaton,
1940-1952
Wheaton: Plyers (Plyer's) Mill road (including Stephen Knolls Subdivision), 1939-1951
Other Street Projects: Bethesda and Silver Spring lateral roads, 1944-1945
Other Street Projects: Montgomery County - WSSC storm drainage, 1942-1945
Other Street Projects: General, 1938-1942

Series III: Photographs, ca. 1939-1942
Located in RG19

Series IV: County Engineer's Office Blueprints/Plans, 1932-1950
Flat File 33

Arlington Road (Bethesda): extension, 1946
B&O Railroad line: proposed pipeline crossing, 1946
Bradley Hills: Plat 154 (Radnor Rd, Pembroke Rd.), undated
Branwill Park: Plat Map, 1932
Chevy Chase: Plat Map, 1946
Flower Ave. Park (Takoma Park): plan of part of section 3, 1939
Glenallen: Plat Map, 1935
Glenbrook Rd./Edgemoor: Proposed Wall, 1943
Grace Church Rectory Lands: subdivision, 1937
J. Zirwes Subdivision (Takoma Park): Resubdivision of lots 1 & 2, parcels A/B/C, 1940
N. Washington St., Rockville: Relocation proposal and approval, 1950
Plyers Mill Road: dedication plat for widening, 1948
Sligo Park Hills: Proposed Curb and Gutter, 1940
Storm Drain Catch Basin, Manhole Frame and Cover, 1939-1940
Tulip Hill: Paving Plan, undated

West Chevy Chase Heights: Plan of blocks 4 & 8, 1939

Western Suburban Senior High School (Bethesda): Topographic Survey, 1939

Map Case 8, Drawer 5

Battery Park Hills-Huntington: Custer Rd. plan and profile, 1939

Battery Park: Goddard Rd. plan and profile, 1940

Bradley Blvd. (Bethesda): Paving plan for sidewalk and drainage, 1950

Bradley Hills: Wessling Lane plan and profile, 1939

Branwill Park: Wire Ave. plan and profile, 1939

Chestnut St./Martin's Addition (Chevy Chase): Proposed pavement plan, 1937

Colesville Rd (Silver Spring): Plan for sidewalk (also includes Willow Ave., Chicago Ave. and Violet Place), 1939

Georgia Ave./16th St. extension (Silver Spring), 1939

Rockville: Town plat map, 1948

Woodside Park (Highland Dr. and Alton Pkwy): Grade Establishment, 1940

Woodside: Garfield St. Plan and Profile, 1939