

Finding Aid to the Tenleytown Historical Society Collection, 1865-2020, undated

Collection Overview

Creators:

Tenleytown Historical Society
Helm, Judith Beck, 1939-2019.

Dates: 1865-2020, undated

Bulk Dates: 1880-2020

Extent: 12.3 linear feet (15 containers, 1 oversized folder)

Language: English

Abstract:

The Tenleytown Historical Society Collection preserves the records of the Tenleytown Historical Society. Created in 1988, the society was founded to preserve and educate the public on the history of the Tenleytown neighborhood of Washington DC. In addition to research, photographs, and publications, the collection also includes notes and information created by the Society's founder Judith Beck Helm's book *Tenleytown, DC. Country Village into City Neighborhood*.

Preferred Citation: [item], Tenleytown Historical Society Collection, American University Archives & Special Collections, Washington, D.C.

Custodial History

The collection was donated to the AU Archives and Special Collections by the Tenleytown Historical Society in several accessions in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023; and by Diane Tamayo in March 2022.

Processing Information

Completed by Austin Arminio in October 2024. During processing materials were rehoused to facilitate preservation and access. Materials within each series were mainly arranged alphabetically.

Appraisal

During processing two duplicate copies of Judith Beck Helms' book *Tenleytown, DC. Country Village into City Neighborhood*, were separated from the collection and added to the AU Archives general reference resources. Thirteen issues of "Washington History: A Publication of The Historical Society of Washington D.C." Volumes 14-23 dated 2002-2012 were deaccessioned from the collection.

Related Materials

Helm, Judith Beck. *Tenleytown, DC, Country Village into City Neighborhood*. Tennally Press, 1981.

Collection Access & Use Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use

To the extent that they own copyright, the donors have assigned the copyright of materials in this collection to American University. Contact AU Archives & Special Collections and Archives for more information.

Administrative Information

Finding Aid Date: 2024-10

Finding Aid Author: Finding aid created by Austin Arminio (October 2024).

Description Rules: Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Language of Description: English

Collection Description

Biographical Note

The Tenleytown Historical Society was incorporated in November 1988 to preserve the architectural and cultural history of the Tenleytown neighborhood, as well as neighboring communities such as Friendship Heights, American University Park, Armesleigh Park, Wakefield, Mount Airy, and North Cleveland Park, in Northwest, Washington, D.C. It has been active in the preservation of historic buildings and in educating the public on the history and culture of Northwest Washington D.C. In 2003 the Society completed a Historic Resources Survey of the Tenleytown neighborhood in association with the US Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. The survey documented over 800 buildings in the area from Van Ness, 4th Street, Fessenden Street, and Reno Road, and identified sites meriting nomination for the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites. One of the most notable sites documented and preserved by the Society was Reno School. The school is one of the only surviving remnants of old Reno City, a historic Black community razed during the 1920s which dates to the American Civil War.

One of the key founders of the Tenleytown Historical Society was author, historian, and Lutheran pastor, Judith “Judy” Beck Helm (1939-2019). Born November 1, 1939, Helm was a lifelong Washingtonian and resident of Tenley Circle. In the 1970s she began to research the history of the Tenleytown neighborhood by interviewing residents about the development of the community and its growth from a rural village to a metropolitan D.C. suburb. This research was published in 1981 in her book *Tenleytown, DC. Country Village into City Neighborhood*. Helm continued to be active in the community as a local historian and activist who advocated for historic preservation in the Tenleytown neighborhood until her death on June 25, 2019.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection contains the Tenleytown Historical Society's accumulated research files regarding the history of the Tenleytown neighborhood in Washington, D.C. in addition to the papers compiled and created by Judith Beck Helm for her the publication of her 1981 book, "*Tenleytown, D.C.: Country Village into City.*" The collection documents the Society's historic preservation and historic landmark nomination efforts between the 1980s and 2020, including their research regarding sites such as the Reno School, the Grant Road Historic District, and the Eldbrooke Methodist Cemetery. It also contains a significant number of materials collected by the Society documenting the histories of Fort Reno Park, once a historically African American community in D.C., and the neighboring American University Park neighborhood. The Historical Society used their research to educate the public on the history and significance of these sites, and to provide documentation supporting historic landmark nominations.

The materials in this collection are mainly textual, including research notes, collected articles, clippings and publications, interviews, manuscripts, reports, correspondence, manuscripts, and book layout plans. Other formats present include collected photographs, CD-ROMs and a cassette tape, microfilm, and born-digital files containing text copies of reports.

Arrangement

The Collection is organized into 4 series:

Series 1: Research Files and Events - 1981-2020, undated

Series 2: Judith Beck Helm Research, Papers, and Book Layout – 1865, 1890-2010, undated

Series 3: American University Park - 1880-2011

Series 4: Fort Reno/Reno - 1888-2018, undated

Series Descriptions and Collection Contents

Series 1: Research Files and Events, 1981-2020, undated

Scope and Content Note:

The Research Files and Events series (1981-2020, undated) contains materials created by the Tenleytown Historical Society during their research related to historic preservation nominations and several events. This series contains photographs, research notes, interviews, collected publications, a microfilm reel, and drafts of landmark nomination submission packets. Materials are mainly analog, however born digital files (text) are also present. Materials in this series document information compiled by the Society regarding the history of buildings, business, and other landmarks in the neighborhood, with the intention of obtaining landmark status for them and to preserve their history. A selected example of these landmarks includes Reno School, the Grant Road Historic District, and the Eldbrooke Methodist Cemetery. In addition to the landmark nomination process, these records were also used to educate the public about these sites and were used in publications and events. Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
1	1	100th Anniversary of Armesleigh Park - An Early Twentieth-Century Suburb in Tenleytown	2020
1	2	Art on Call	2009
1	3	Biographical Info - Brooke, Philip L.	1903-1925, undated

1	4	Biographical Info - Burrows/Burroughs	1881-2003
1	5	Biographical Info - General	1921-2012
1	6	Biographical Info - Harry, John	1972-1989
1	7	Biographical Info - Hesterberg	2004-2006
1	8	Biographical Info - Johnson, Edna	1990
1	9	Biographical Info - Johnson, Raymond	1897-1950
1	10	Biographical Info - King	1893-1982
1	11	Biographical Info - Kocher	2007-2011
1	12	Biographical Info - Lampe, Edith	2009
1	13	Biographical Info - Manning, Pauline Batcheldor	1966-2001
1	14	Biographical Info - Murdock	1886-1991
1	15	Biographical Info - Quade, William Sr. - Water Towers	1950
1	16	Biographical Info - Queen	1897-1963
1	17	Biographical Info - Riley	1947-1975
1	18	Biographical Info - Shipley	undated
1	19	Biographical Info - Shoemaker	2008-2009
1	20	Biographical Info - Smith, Hillary	undated
1	21	Biographical Info - Vaughn	1909-1936, undated
1	22	Biographical Info - Weaver	1943-2011
1	23	Biographical Info - Western Ave Citizens Association	2001-2002
1	24	Christmas Tree	1988-1989
1	25	Civil War - Publications	2015
1	26	Cleveland Park - A Guide to Architectural Styles	1976-1998
1	27	Cultural Tourism Walking Tours	1974-2016
1	28	Fannie Mae	1955-2017
2	43	Federal Direct Tax of 1798 [Microfilm reel]	1983 August 30
1	29	Interviews	1977
1	30	Landmark Nominations - AU Park - Hilleary T. Burrows House	1897-2005
1	31	Landmark Nominations - AU Park - Robert + Lillie Stone House	1900-1974
1	32	Landmark Nominations - AU Park - Samuel + Harriet America Burrows House	1850-2010
1	33	Landmark Nominations - AU Park - Wade-Carter House	1899-1988
1	34	Landmark Nominations - Chesapeake House	1937-2012
1	35	Landmark Nominations - Convent of Bon Secours/Yuma Study Center	1928-2010
1	36	Landmark Nominations - C+P Telephone Building	2009-2016
1	37	Landmark Nominations - Dumblane	1911-2015
1	38	Landmark Nominations - Eldbrooke United Methodist Church/Citizen Heights	1912-2006, undated
1	39	Landmark Nominations - Engine Co. #20	2000-2002
1	40	Landmark Nominations - Grant Road Historic District + Building Permits + Directories	1890-2006

1	41	Landmark Nominations - Grant Road Historic District - Complete Application	1887-1999, undated
1	42	Landmark Nominations - Grant Road Historic District - Designation Info	2000-2002
1	43	Landmark Nominations - Grant Road Historic District - House History	1978
1	44	Landmark Nominations - Grant Road Historic District - Newspaper Articles	1897-2006
1	45	Landmark Nominations - Grant Road Historic District - Photographs	1900-1975
1	46	Landmark Nominations - Grant Road Historic District - Walking Tour Notes	1850-2011
1	47	Landmark Nominations - Immaculata Seminary/AU Washington College of Law (Folder 1 of 3)	1899-1989
1	48	Landmark Nominations - Immaculata Seminary/AU Washington College of Law (Folder 2 of 3)	1937-2013
1	49	Landmark Nominations - Immaculata Seminary/AU Washington College of Law (Folder 3 of 3)	1928-2011
1	50	Landmark Nominations - Janney Elementary School	2009-2017
1	51	Landmark Nominations - Jesse Reno School	1911-2016
1	52	Landmark Nominations - Methodist Cemetery - Articles	1912-2006, undated
1	53	Landmark Nominations - Methodist Cemetery - Correspondence	2000-2003
1	54	Landmark Nominations - Methodist Cemetery - Marker Cards	1890-2007
1	55	Landmark Nominations - Methodist Cemetery - Organization File	1887-1999, undated
1	56	Landmark Nominations - Multi-Property	2000-2003
1	57	Landmark Nominations - N Webster Chappell House	1979
2	1	Landmark Nominations - Pepco [and flash drive]	1897-2007
2	2	Landmark Nominations - Perna Houses [and CD-ROM]	1900-1976
2	3	Landmark Nominations - The Rest	1850-2012
2	4	Landmark Nominations - Sears Roebuck Co.	1899-1990
2	5	Landmark Nominations - Washington Orphans Asylum/National Presbyterian Church (Folder 1 of 2)	1937-2014
2	6	Landmark Nominations - Washington Orphans Asylum/National Presbyterian Church (Folder 2 of 2)	1928-2012
2	7	Landmark Nominations - Western Union Tower	2009-2018
2	8	Landmark Nominations - Woodrow Wilson High School	1911-2017
2	9	Letters (Civil War)	1912-2006, undated
12	1	Maps and Land Surveys of Tenleytown in 1800s, Reproductions [Oversized]	2000-2004
OS Map Drawer	A6	Oversized Map of Washington, D.C., Reproduction	undated
2	10	McLean Gardens	2002
2	11	Mount Vernon Seminary	1981-2001

2	12	Newspaper Articles	1914-2015
2	13	Origins	1975-1976
2	14	Owed to Tenleytown	1999
2	15	Pierce Mill	1995-2011
2	16	Photos - Amundson	1935-2004, undated
2	17	Photos - Cartwheel - Ammunitions (?) facility	undated
2	18	Photos - General	1935-2019
2	19	Photos - Mullens (Janney)	undated
2	20	Photos - Richard Miller (Dumblane)	1959-1963, undated
2	21	Photos - Sutherland/McQueen	1924-1956, undated
2	22	Preservation Awards - Dumblane	1969-2009
2	23	Preservation Awards - Hilleary T. Burrows House	2001-2005
2	24	Preservation Awards - Methodist Cemetary	1990-2010
2	25	Preservation Awards - Yuma Study Center [and flash drive]	2013
2	26	Razed Houses - 4200 Military Road	1910-2000
2	27	Razed Houses - 4201 River Rd NW	2011-2013
2	28	Razed Houses - 4624 Wisconsin	1987-1990
2	29	Razed Houses - Jessie Baltimore House-Palisades	1938-2007
2	30	Roads, Streets, Highways	1901-2003
2	31	Rypkema, Donovan - Historical Preservation	2007 May
2	32	Soapstone Valley	1939-1974
2	33	Spring Valley Shopping Center	1988-1989
2	34	Stonebuilding and Quarry	1974-2005
2	35	Tenleytown-Friendship Library Sign Restoration	2014
2	36	Tenleytown Heritage Trail	2008-2010
12	2	Tenleytown Heritage Trail Poster [Oversized]	2010
2	37	Tenleytown Historic Resources Study (Folder 1 of 2)	2003
2	38	Tenleytown Historic Resources Study (Folder 2 of 2)	2003
2	39	Tenlytown Historical Society Programs	2002-2015
2	40	Tenley Town History Articles	1899-2008
2	41	Tenleytown Notes Based on Helm Book	undated
2	42	The Vineyard	1995
Digital File		Eldbroke Church [Digital Folder]	2005-2017
Digital File		Methodist Cemetery [Digital Folder]	2005-2018
Digital File		Reno School [Digital Folder]	2005-2019
Digital File		The Rest, 2007-2019 [Digital Folder]	2007-2019
Digital File		Singleton Masonic Temple [Digital Folder]	2009-2017

Series 2: The Judith Beck Helm Research, Papers, and Book Layout, 1865, 1880-2010, undated

Scope and Content Note:

The Judith Beck Helm Research, Papers, and Book Layout series (1865, 1880-2010, undated) contains the papers, research materials, and book plans for Judith Beck Helm’s book “Tenleytown, D.C.: Country Village into City.”

Judith Beck Helm was a long-time resident of Washington DC. In 1972 she began her research into the Tenleytown neighborhood, which in 1981 resulted in the publication of her book. The book was the first comprehensive record of Tenleytown's history and contains many firsthand accounts and interviews on the community's early history. The series consists of mixed materials relating to the creation of her book including research files, photographs, interviews, and layout plans. Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
3	1	Achterkirchen and Christian Heurich	1973-1980, undated
3	2	American Revolution	1975-1977
3	3	American University Courier - Murdock House	1908, undated
3	4	Arrow Street Guide of Greater Washington DC Including Maryland and Virginia Suburbs	1973
3	5	Baseball	undated
3	6	Belt House	undated
3	7	Bessie House Robey Diary	1976
13	1	<i>Bethesda: A Social History</i> by William Offutt [Book]	1996
3	8	Book Advertisement	undated
3	10	Brutt House	undated
3	11	Businesses, Stores, and Institutions	1974-1981
3	12	Burrows House	undated
3	13	Byrun[?] House	undated
3	14	Censuses and Directories	undated
3	15	Chappell Genealogy	undated
3	16	Chappell House	2000, undated
3	17	Civil War	undated
3	18	Columbia Historical Society	1975-1981
3	19	Connor Family	undated
3	20	Correspondence	1975-2003
3	21	Correspondence - Johnson	1972-1987
3	22	DC Bicentennial	1972-1976
3	23	DC Local Histories and Clippings	1957-1981
3	24	Dumblane	1900-1979
3	25	Easley House	undated
3	26	Eldbrooke Methodist Episcopal Church	1902-1977, undated
3	27	Fire Department	undated
3	28	Footsteps - Historical Walking Tours of Chevy Chase, Cleveland Park, Tenleytown, Friendship	1976
3	29	Fort Reno	1927-1977, undated
3	30	Friendship Heights	1972-1975
3	31	General Research (Folder 1 of 5)	1972-2007, undated
3	32	General Research (Folder 2 of 5)	1952-1982, undated
3	33	General Research (Folder 3 of 5)	1973-1976, undated
3	34	General Research (Folder 4 of 5)	1972-1975, undated
3	35	General Research (Folder 5 of 5)	1952-1976, undated

3	36	Giant Grocery Store	1942
3	37	Gorman's Market	1960-2004
3	38	Griffith House	undated
3	39	Guide to Genealogical Records in the National Archives	1964
3	40	Guide to Maryland State Archives Holdings of Montgomery County Records on Microform	1989
3	41	Guide to Maryland State Archives Holdings of Prince George's County Records on Microform	1989
3	42	Harry Family	1972
3	43	Harrys, Frenches, Burkes, Marshalls, et al (folder 1 of 2)	1972-1980
4	1	Harrys, Frenches, Burkes, Marshalls, et al (folder 2 of 2)	1972-1980
4	2	Highlands House	1973-1980, undated
4	3	Historic Landmarks and Districts	1974-1979
4	4	Historic Maryland and DC Brochures and Clippings	1968-1981, undated
4	5	Hotels	1833-1975, undated
4	6	Hunts, Gloria Point	undated
4	7	Immaculate Seminary	undated
4	8	Indigenous Americans	1985
4	9	Johnson, Raymond	1907-1942
4	10	Klinge Mansion	undated
4	11	Library, Police, Post Offices	1925-1979
4	12	Lighfoot House	undated
4	13	Lions Club	undated
4	14	Loughborough	1974-2001
4	15	Maps (folder 1 of 2)	1916-1975, undated
4	16	Maps (folder 2 of 2)	1916-1975, undated
13	2	<i>Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore: Historical Sketches of Counties and Some Notable Structures</i> Facsimile of 1916 Edition by Swepson Earle [Book]	1976
4	17	Masonic Temple	1975
4	18	Mason's Mansion	undated
4	19	McLean Clocktower	1920
4	20	McLean/Friendship	1975-1980, undated
4	21	Methodist Cemetery	1942-2003, undated
4	22	Millers House	undated
4	23	Mills	2001
4	24	Mount Vernon Seminary	undated
4	25	Mount Zion Church	undated
4	26	Murdoch House	undated
4	27	National Bureau of Standards	1975-1978, undated
4	28	National Park Service (Folder 1 of 2)	1902-2004
4	29	National Park Service (Folder 2 of 2)	1902-2004
4	30	National Presbyterian Church	1977-1978, undated
4	31	Nebraska Ave	1979
4	32	Northwest Current	2000-2005
14	1	Notecards - Genealogy A-Z, Mixed	undated

14	2	Notecards - Individuals and Organizations - A-G	undated
15	1	Notecards - Individuals and Organizations - H-Z	undated
5	1	Notes (Folder 1 of 2)	1975-2004, undated
5	2	Notes (Folder 2 of 2)	1938-2002, undated
5	3	Oak Hill Cemetery	1942
5	4	Obituaries	1921-2001, undated
5	5	Page Layout Page 4-92	undated
5	6	Page Layout Page 100-199	undated
5	7	Page Layout Page 201-295	undated
5	8	Page Layout Page 301-399	undated
5	9	Page Layout Page 407-497	undated
5	10	Page Layout Page 503-583	undated
5	11	Page Layout Page Unnumbered	undated
5	12	Photos - General (Folder 1 of 3)	1940-1995, undated
5	13	Photos - General (Folder 2 of 3)	1887-2004, undated
5	14	Photos - General (Folder 3 of 3)	1973-1981, undated
6	1	Potomac Current Vol 1, 4, 22, 24 [Newspaper]	1974-1976
13	3	<i>Proctor's Washington</i> by John Proctor [Book]	1949
6	2	Promotion [and cassette tape]	1972-2000
6	3	Queen Family	undated
13	4	<i>Rambling Through Washington</i> by Theodore Dodge Gatchell [Book]	1932
6	4	Research Resources	1973-1978
6	5	The Rest	1974
6	6	River Road: An Early History by Sheila Smith Cochran	1990
6	7	Roads and Turnpikes	1948-1976
6	8	Rock Creek Episcopal Church	1940
6	9	Rock Creek Park	1973-1975, undated
6	10	Rosedale	undated
6	11	Russo, James	1974
6	12	Scholl's Pharmacy	1918-1942, undated
6	13	Schools	1970-1994
6	14	Schultze, Peter	1981
6	15	Sentry Post	1973
6	16	Shoemaker	1972-1975, undated
6	17	Signal Tower, Fort Reno	1865
6	18	Slides [and flash drive]	circa 1973
6	19	St. Alban's Episcopal Church	1970, undated
6	20	St. Ann's Catholic Church	1961-1969, undated
6	21	St. Columbia's Church	1909-1975
6	22	St. George's Chapel	undated
6	23	St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church	1968
6	24	St. Paul's Lutheran Church	undated
6	25	Suburban Washington as a Place of Residence	undated
6	26	Sunoco Gas Station	1942-1979
6	27	Tait House	undated

6	28	The Tenley	1910-1915
12	3	Tenleytown Aerial Mounted Photograph [Oversized]	undated
13	5	<i>Tenleytown, DC Country Village into City Neighborhood</i> by Judith Beck Helm [Book]	1981
13	6	<i>Tenleytown, DC Country Village into City Neighborhood</i> by Judith Beck Helm - Annotated [Book]	1981
6	29	Tenley Library	1960
6	30	Tenley Lightfoot House	1930s
6	31	Tievsky Store - Wisconsin Market	1924
6	32	Tobacco Sketches	undated
6	33	Trolleys/Subways [And C.D.]	1890-1987, undated
12	4	Photographs – Street Cars (Oversized)	circa 1890-1914, undated
6	34	Walther Family	undated
6	35	War of 1812	1961-1974
13	7	<i>Washington At Home</i> edited by Katheryn Schneirder Smith [Book]	2010
7	1	Washington Ear Project (Folder 1 of 2) [And Cassette tape]	1978-1981
7	2	Washington Ear Project (Folder 2 of 2)	1978-1981
7	3	Washington House for Foundlings	undated
7	4	Washingtonian Room	undated
13	8	<i>Washington Never More</i> by Lily Spandorf [Book]	1988-2001
7	5	Washington National Cathedral	undated
7	6	The Willows	undated
7	7	Wilson High School	undated
7	8	Wisconsin Ave Baptist Church	1956-1975
7	9	Wisconsin Ave Businesses	1973-1981

Series 3: The American University Park series (1880-2011)

Scope and Content Note:

The American University Park series (1880-2011) contains the records of American University Park, or AU Park, a neighborhood located to the west of Tenleytown, named for the nearby American University. Developed in the 1920s, the community consists of single-family homes and was originally built with restrictive covenants that prevented the purchase of homes by African Americans, Jews, or families from the Middle East. The materials in this series were compiled and donated by the Tenleytown Historical Society to the University Archive at an earlier date and were used as research files on the history of one of Tenleytown's neighboring communities. The series contains mixed materials documenting residential homes and land grants, as well as photographs and maps. Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
8	1	4176 Asbury Place NW	1897 June 22
8	2	4306 46th Street NW (Folder 1 of 2)	1896-2011
8	3	4306 46th Street NW (Folder 2 of 2)	1896-2011
8	4	4308 46th Street	1970-1971
8	5	4330 Yuma Street NW	1913-2009
8	6	4513 49th Street NW	1897

8	7	4528 Fessenden Street NW	1894-2007
8	8	4540 Fessenden Street NW	1900 June 11
8	9	4601 47th Street NW	1897-2010
8	10	4608 Davenport Street NW	1902 June 20
8	11	4612 49th Steet NW	1897-1991
8	12	4619 48th Street NW	1897
8	13	4622 Asbury Place NW	1900
8	14	4701 Fessenden Street NW	2012, undated
8	15	4716 48th Street NW	1897-2003
8	16	4722 Davenport Street NW	1900
8	17	4824 Brandywine Street NW	1897 December 8
8	18	4900 47th Street NW	1911 October 30
8	19	4941 Butterworth Street NW	1897 June 26
8	20	American University History	1892-2008
8	21	American University History (from AU Archives) Land Purchase, Congressional Charter, Early Subscribers, HT Burrows, Croissant	1884-1963
8	22	American University Park - History	undated
8	23	AU Park - General Info	1880-2010
9	1	AU Park - Robeyville Multi-Property (Folder 1 of 4)	1901-1991
9	2	AU Park - Robeyville Multi-Property (Folder 2 of 4)	1901-1991
9	3	AU Park - Robeyville Multi-Property (Folder 3 of 4)	1901-1991
9	4	AU Park - Robeyville Multi-Property (Folder 4 of 4)	1901-1991
9	5	AU Park - Post 1911	1935 April 14
9	6	Biographical Info - Cedric Gleason	1989
9	7	Biographical Info - Lourghran, P.	1971-1991
9	8	LeDroit Park and American University Park	1996, April 26
9	9	National Register nomination – multi-property	2008 October 30 - 2009 March 22
9	10	Plats, Programs, Maps	1894-1898, undated
9	11	Pre Subdivision	1896-1911
9	12	Residential Community	1963-1996, undated
9	13	Robeyville	2008-2010

Series 4: The Fort Reno/Reno, 1888-2018

Scope and Content Note:

The Fort Reno/Reno series (1888-2018) contains research materials documenting the history of Fort Reno Park, a historic site located in the Tenleytown neighborhood. Materials in this series include photographs, newspaper articles, maps, CD-ROMs, and collected publications.

The urban park now called Fort Reno Park was previously a Union stronghold named Fort Reno during the Civil War. Constructed in 1861 to defend Washington, D.C. during the American Civil War, the fort was located on the highest point of the district. In 1866 the fort was decommissioned, the land was sold and became the town of Reno City, a primarily African American community. Local oral tradition holds that the original Black community of Reno City was founded by freed people who fled to Union territory during the Civil War, as well as Black laborers and tradesmen who had worked at the fort during the war. In

1903, Reno School opened and became central to the Reno community as a place of education and local social meetings. Between 1925 and 1950, Reno was ordered by segregationists to be cleared and demolished to make room for a school and public park, and its African American community was evicted.

Alice Deal Middle School and Fort Reno Park now occupy the land that was once Reno City. The preservation of the remaining Reno School building, located on the Alice Deal School Property, and the education of the public regarding the history of the Reno community and African American life in early 20th century Washington, D.C. was one of the primary early goals of the Tenleytown Historical Society. Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Box Number	Folder Number	Folder Title	Date
10	1	3969 Fessenden Street NW	1918-2011, undated
10	2	4117 Brandywine NW	1910, undated
10	3	4220 Jennifer Street NW	2000-2014
10	4	4201 Military Road NW	1915-2002
10	5	4227 Ingomar Street NW	1956-2012
10	6	4232 Ingomar Street NW	2003-2011
10	7	4801 41st Street NW	1904-2011
10	8	4808 Nebraska Avenue NW	1888-2011
12	5	"Acquirement of Reno Subdivision in the District of Columbia" Facsimile	1926
10	9	Alley Dwellings	1944, undated
12	6	Appendix	undated
10	10	Archeological Monitoring of Ball Field Renovations at Fort Reno Park, Northwest, Washington DC	May 2009
10	11	Archeological Reports and Studies	1983-2005
10	12	Armesleigh Park	undated
10	13	Bangerter Family	1910-2013
10	14	Boundary Marker	undated
10	15	CDs (Folder 1 of 2)	2003-2013, undated
10	16	CDs (Folder 1 of 2)	2003-2013, undated
10	17	Cemeteries	1931-2002
10	18	Civic Defense	1988
10	19	Civil War	1900-2013
10	20	Colorful Informative Important	1966
10	21	Contraband	2006-2012
10	22	Dover Family	1910-2013
10	23	Fort Circle Park	1902-2007
10	24	Fort Reno Community: The Conversation and Its Causes	April 1981
10	25	Garden Club of America	2008
10	26	General Research	1949-2002, undated
10	27	Gloria Point Park	1987
10	28	Grasslands	2008-2011
10	29	Harrison Street Apartments	1955-2018

12	7	"Historic Resources Study: The Civil War Defenses of Washington" Facsimile	1998
10	30	Historic Resources Survey of Tenleytown Washington, DC	undated
10	31	History of the Age	2003
10	32	Houses to Investigate	2004-2012, undated
10	33	Interviews	1977
10	34	Investigation of the Program of the National Capital Housing Authority	1944
10	35	Land Acquisition Records	undated
10	36	Landmark Nominations	2005, undated
10	37	Maps	1907-1913, undated
10	38	Masterson Family	2012
10	39	Mount Airy	1915-2011, undated
12	8	National Registry of Historic Places Forms – Reno City	circa 2002
10	40	Neighborhood History Project	1977
10	45	News Articles	1899-1973, undated
10	46	"Original Patentees of Land at Washington Prior to 1700" by Bessie Wilmarth Gahn	1936
10	47	Photos	1950-1953, undated
10	48	Preliminary Archeological and Historical Survey of a Portion of Fort Reno Park in Washington DC	June 1983
10	49	Presentation Notes	2015
10	50	Reno City	1977-2017
10	51	Reno City - Residences	1935-1952
10	52	Reno City - Residents	2012-2013
10	53	Reno That War	undated
11	1	Schools	1915-2012
11	2	Sears and Kit Houses	2002-2007
11	3	Segregation	undated
11	4	St. Ann's Catholic Church	1949-2007, undated
11	5	St. Columbia's Church	1916-1974, undated
11	6	St. George's Chapel	undated
11	7	Stone Garage	2009-2010
11	8	Stone Houses	undated
11	9	Subdivision Info	1931-2006, undated
11	10	Tenley Genealogy	1993-2009
11	11	Trolleys	1984-2015, undated
11	12	Upper Wisconsin Avenue Corridor Study (UWACS)	2004
11	13	Watchmen's Lodge	undated
11	14	Water towers	2006
11	15	Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church	undated