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Trenton Planning and Development Collection
Circa 1914–2014 (bulk circa 1950-1986)

By Chris Loos
October 2023

Summary Information

Creator(s):

City of Trenton

Donor:

Unknown (found in collections); Betty Holland (donor)

Language of Materials:

English, with some items in Spanish

Extent:

Approximately 15 linear feet

Location of Repository:

Trentoniana Department, Trenton Free Public Library, 120 Academy St., Trenton, NJ
08608

Subjects:

Central business districts--New Jersey--Trenton / City & town halls--New Jersey--
Trenton / City planning--New Jersey--Trenton / Historic buildings--New Jersey--Trenton /
Holland, Arthur John (1918-1989) / Housing--New Jersey--Trenton / Industrial relations--New
Jersey--Trenton / Labor supply--New Jersey--Trenton Metropolitan Area / Neighborhoods--New
Jersey--Trenton / New Jersey State Capitol Complex (Trenton, N.J.) / Soil surveys--New Jersey--

Trenton area / Trenton (N.J.)--Economic conditions / Trenton (N.J.)--Politics and government / Trenton (N.J.)--Social conditions / Urban policy--New Jersey--Trenton / Urban renewal--New Jersey--Trenton /

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

No access restrictions.

Reference Number:

CITY—PD

Preferred Citation:

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Trenton Planning and Development Collection, Trentoniana Department, Trenton Free Public Library, 120 Academy St., Trenton, NJ 08608

Scope/Content

This collection contains reports, plans, minutes, correspondence, ephemera, and other documents related to the City of Trenton’s planning and development initiatives. Most of this material dates to the second half of the twentieth century, but the collection also includes a handful of items dating as far back as the late nineteenth century and as late as the twenty-first century. It comprises three categories: general city planning (including comprehensive plans), housing and neighborhood development (which also includes historic preservation and the city’s Landmark Commission), and economic planning. All three of these collections also include “external reports” by non-Trenton authors (for instance, the State of New Jersey), some of which may have assisted city officials. Altogether, the collection offers insight into government officials’ attempts to revitalize Trenton’s neighborhoods and economy. Note, however, that due to the size of the collection, it spans *only* the types of planning below—all other areas will be located in the collection that best fits their content (for instance, parks planning will be part of the forthcoming Parks and Recreation Collection, and highway planning will fall under the Infrastructure Collection).

Archivist's Note: Like with all collections within the Trenton City Records, these items have been compiled from various locations within Trentoniana and arranged ad hoc. Many of the documents likely came from the Arthur Holland Collection, having been removed from their original locations by prior librarians. This archivist has imposed the order below on these materials, and has arranged the items in each folder approximately chronologically.

For further items on this topic, see Trentoniana's collection of reports and documents from Mercer County, the State of New Jersey, the United States Government, and various private organizations; see also scrapbooks SB47, 269-274, and 287 (part of the Parks and Recreation Collection), all by city commissioner George Reiker.

Arrangement

Series I: General city planning

Box 1, Folder 1: "City Plan and Budget Program, 1928-1950" (1927)

Folder 2: Photostats of diagrams in 1927 plan

Unfolded: "City Plan and Budget Program, 1928-1950" (1943 typed copy)

Unfolded: "Planning and Zoning for Metropolitan Trenton" (1950 draft, bound copy)

Folder 3: "Official Report on Planning and Zoning for Metropolitan Trenton" (1952)

Folder 4: Trenton Central District Area Plans (1957-1958)

Box 2, unfolded: Comprehensive Planning Work Program Outline (n.d.)

Unfolded: "A Comprehensive Planning Process for Trenton" (1972)

Unfolded: "A Comprehensive Planning Process for Trenton" (1976 revision)

Folder 1: Comprehensive plan updates and drafts (1983-1988)

Box 3, Folder 1: Consolidated plan and draft (1995)

Folder 2: Consolidated Plan Update and draft (1996)

Folder 3: Consolidated Action Plan (2001)

Folder 4: Plans since 2005 (2005; 2010; 2014)

Folder 5: City-State Interactions: Correspondence re: Trenton DMV site

Folder 6: City-State Interactions: Correspondence with The Atlantic

Group re: Trenton DMV site

Folder 7: City-State Interactions: Additional correspondence and materials
(1972-1989; 1994)

Folder 8: Correspondence to/from city planners

Box 4, Folder 1: Reports and publicity by city planners

Folder 2: External (and unofficial) reports on development in Trenton

Folder 3: External reports: “Case City U.S.A.” and response by unknown
author

Unfolded: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications,
1975-1980

Box 5, unfolded: CDBG applications, 1981-1983

Folder 1: Additional CDBG reports, statements, announcements (circa
1975-2010)

Folder 2: “Ten Years Later: Citizen Participation and the CDBG Program
in Trenton” (Scott Jacobs, 1985)

Unfolded: “Comprehensive Plan for Model Cities,” Vols. 1 and 2 (1969)

Box 6, Folder 1: Model Cities (“Comprehensive City Demonstration Program”)
grant application (1967)

Folder 2: Model Cities review process (1968)

Folder 3: Model Cities planning reports (1968-1969)

Folder 4: Booklets on Model Cities (Trenton and national), 1971-circa
1973

Folder 5: Model Cities: Additional materials (correspondence, ephemera)

Folder 6: Zoning plans and smaller maps (circa 1954; 1990-1996; 2007)

[See also: various maps in Map Case 1; Scrapbooks 73-74]

Series II: Housing and Neighborhood (Re)development

Box 7, Folder 1: “Slum Clearance and Rehabilitation” draft and release (1953)

Folder 2: “Urban Renewal” reports and applications

Folder 3: Housing and Development—External reports (1934-1938)

Folder 4: Correspondence to/from city re: Housing and development

Folder 5: Housing Authority and Rent Control: City reports (circa 1948-1975)

Folder 6: Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS)—Draft plan and reports (1991-1992)

Folder 7: CHAS 1993 plan (Draft and release)

Folder 8: CHAS 1994 draft plan

Box 8, Folder 1: Housing Authority—Louis Josephson Apartments

Folder 2: Housing Authority—Lincoln Homes

Folder 3: American Bridge Site—Plans, Reports, Correspondence

Folder 4: Housing Authority—Additional publicity and ephemera

Unfolded: Housing Authority—“Report on Miller Homes Modernization Project” (circa 2002)

Folder 5: “Urban Homesteading” reports and ephemera

Folder 6: City periodicals—“Trenton Homeowner” (1976-1978) and “Neighborhood Development News” (1983-1990)

Folder 7: Neighborhood/Community development and beautification

Folder 8: Neighborhood development—Additional ephemera

Folder 9: Neighborhood profile pamphlets

Folder 10: Neighborhood Development—Ewing-Carroll-Southard Sts.

Box 9, Folder 1: Neighborhood Development—John Fitch Way, Part I

Folder 2: John Fitch Way, Part II

Folder 3: John Fitch Way, Part III

Folder 4: Mill Hill/Mercer-Jackson—Reports and surveys

Folder 5: Mill Hill/Mercer-Jackson—Additional reports; city publications

Folder 6: Mill Hill/Mercer-Jackson—City correspondence

Folder 7: Mill Hill/Mercer-Jackson—Project Area Committee (PAC) meeting minutes (1968-1979)

Folder 8: Mill Hill/Mercer-Jackson—PAC reports, correspondence, other documents (circa 1967-1980)

Box 10, Folder 1: North 25—City reports, correspondence, ephemera

Folder 2: North 25 Housing Corporation—Correspondence, reports, minutes

Folder 3: Perry Street—Reports

Folder 4: “Why Wilbur? Whither Wilbur?” (1969 report)

Folder 5: Neighborhood Development—Other neighborhoods (Coalport, Grant-Miller, Lamberton St., North Ward, Old Trenton, South Ward, Southeast Village)

Box 11, Folder 1: Trenton Historic Preservation Plan (2001)

Folder 2: Historic preservation guidelines (city and national)

Folder 3: Landmarks Commission—Bicentennial “Scrapbook” (1973-1977)

Folder 4: Landmarks Commission—Administrative and financial documents

Folder 5: Landmarks Commission—National Historic Preservation Week/Month

Folder 6: Landmarks Commission—Publications and application materials

Folder 7: Landmarks Commission—Lists of city landmarks

Folder 8: Landmarks Commission—Bicentennial Commission correspondence and forms

Folder 9: Landmarks Commission—Published surveys

Box 12, unfolded: Landmarks Commission—South Ward Survey, Vols. 1-3 (1989)

Unfolded: “Capitol Center Block Project” (1989 survey of historic sites)

Folder 1: Landmarks Commission—Old City Hall (and City Hall annex)

Folder 2: Roebling Mansion

Box 13, unfolded: “Douglass House Preservation Plan” proposal (2002)

Unfolded: “Alexander Douglass House Preservation Plan and Feasibility Study” (2002)

Unfolded: “Exterior Restoration of the Alexander Douglass House”
project manual, 2008

Folder 1: Douglass House restoration (1973-1976)

Folder 2: Douglass House—Misc. Ephemera and correspondence

Folder 3: Ellarslie (*see also Trenton City Museum Collection*)

Folder 4: Landmarks Commission—Other sites

Folder 5: Landmarks Commission—Certification boilerplates

Folder 6: Landmarks Commission—Additional correspondence (1972-
1974)

Box 14, Folder 1: Landmarks Commission—Additional correspondence (1984;
1989; 2001-2010)

Folder 2: Landmarks Commission—Minutes, 1973-1977

Folder 3: Minutes, 1982-1987

Folder 4: Minutes, 1993-2003 (incomplete)

Folder 5: Minutes, 2004-2007

Box 15: Binders of Landmarks Commission minutes, correspondence, and other
documents, circa 1977-1998

Box OS1: Blueprints and schematic plans of Ellarslie and Mill Hill Playhouse

Box OS2: Scrapbook of newspaper clippings on building “new” city hall, 1906-
1912 (formerly SB 238)

Box OS3: Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings from Thomas Ogren, circa 1970-
1985

[See also: Map case 1; Scrapbooks 270-272, 287]

Series III: Economic Development

Box 16, Folder 1: Economic Development—Reports and surveys, Part I (1878;
1955-1965)

Folder 2: Reports and surveys, Part II (1968-1980)

Unfolded: “Industrial Business Retention” (1981)

Unfolded: “Business Growth Opportunities for Trenton” (1984)

Unfolded: “Lenders’ Profile of Trenton” (1989)

Folder 3: Reports and surveys, Part III (1986-2000)

- Box 17, Folder 1: “Overall Economic Development Plan” (1979; 1985-1986)
- Folder 2: Overall Economic Development Committee—Minutes, misc.
 - Folder 3: Economic Development—Additional overall plans
 - Folder 4: Miscellaneous correspondence
 - Folder 5: CEDCO and TRENDSCO (circa 1960s-1972)
 - Folder 6: New Trenton Corporation—Reports, ephemera (circa 1976)
 - Unfoldered: “Trenton Enterprise Initiative” report (1993)
- Box 18, Folder 1: Arts Center—Correspondence
- Folder 2: Capital Center—Plans, Publicity, Groundbreaking, Correspondence
 - Folder 3: Capital View—Planning and Publicity
 - Folder 4: Capital City Redevelopment Corporation (*see also forthcoming CCRC collection*)
 - Folder 5: Chambersburg Mall/Shopping Center—Plans, reports, correspondence
 - Folder 6: Chambersburg Mall/Shopping Center—Correspondence and ephemera
 - Folder 7: Crane Site
 - Folder 8: Roebbling Complex (*see also forthcoming Roebbling Redevelopment Corp. collection*)
 - Folder 9: State Street Square
- Box 19, Folder 1: Trenton Commons—Plans, studies, proposals
- Folder 2: Trenton Commons—Commission meeting minutes, 1976-1977
 - Folder 3: Trenton Commons—1974 budget and financial
 - Folder 4: Trenton Commons—Newsletter (1977-1980, incomplete)
 - Folder 5: Trenton Commons—Correspondence (1973-1978)
 - Folder 6: Trenton Commons—Publicity and ephemera
 - Folder 7: Urban Enterprise Zone—Plans and reports
 - Folder 8: Urban Enterprise Zone—Publicity
 - Folder 9: Civic Center(s)—Correspondence, 1979-1987
 - Unfoldered: “Preliminary Analysis, Proposed Civic Center” (1976)

Unfolded: “Economic Analysis, Proposed Civic Center” (1977)

Box 20, unfolded: “Trenton Trade and Civic Center: Schematic Design Report”
(1979)

Folder 1: Civic Center(s)—Planning and administrative documents

Folder 2: Civic Center(s)—Additional plans, reports, and resolutions

Folder 3: Miscellaneous plans and projects (circa 1971-2001)

Folder 4: Promotion and publicity—Publications and press releases

Folder 5: Promotion and publicity—Profiles of Trenton

Folder 6: Promotion and publicity—Brochures and ephemera

Folder 7: Promotion and publicity—Tourism