

Dorn McGrath Fairfax County and Loudoun County slide collection

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circa 1960s-2010s



Title Statement

Dorn McGrath Fairfax County and Loudoun County slide collectionGuide to Dorn McGrath Fairfax County and Loudoun County slide collection C0210

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Author: Jordan Patty, Meghan Glasbrenner

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speccoll@gmu.edu
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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0210

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/318

Unit Date

circa 1960s-2010s

Language

English

Abstract

The Dorn McGrath Fairfax County and Loudoun County slide collection contains over 500 35mm photographic slides primarily depicting aerial views of locations in Fairfax and Loudoun County, Virginia.

Creator

McGrath, Dorn C., Jr

Extent

1.5 Linear Feet 3 boxes, 1 map case

Physical Location

R 46, C 1, S 1 Map Case 27.2

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

Acquisition Information

Donated by Dorn McGrath from 2012-2017.

Processing Information

Processed by Jordan Patty in July 2012. Additional processing completed by Stephanie Washburn in January 2013. EAD markup completed by Jordan Patty in July 2012. Additional cataloging completed by Stephanie Washburn in January 2013. Finding aid updated by Amanda Menjivar in October 2023.

Additional materials processed and finding aid updated by Meghan Glasbrenner from October - November 2025.

Preferred Citation

Dorn McGrath Fairfax County and Loudoun County slide collection, C0210, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

Biographical Information

Dorn McGrath (also known as Dorn C. McGrath, Jr.) was born on May 16, 1930 in Bradford, Pennsylvania. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1952, McGrath earned his Masters in City Planning from Harvard University in 1959 and during this time he also served in the U.S. Navy. After working for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (also known as HUD) in the Division of Metropolitan Analysis, in the late 1960s McGrath joined the faculty of George Washington University's (GW) Department of Urban and Regional Planning. He later moved to the Department of Geography, where he would serve as Chair from 1996 until his retirement in 2003. He passed away on January 25, 2021 at the age of 90 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

During his 33 years as a GWU faculty member McGrath founded the Center for Urban and Environmental Research (CUER) and the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, as well as serving as Director of the Institute for Urban Development Research. He also maintained an active community and national presence in urban and regional planning initiatives, particularly concerning Washington, D.C. and the surrounding area, including serving as President of the American Institute of Planners from 1971-1973, Chairman of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City from 1987-1996, as a member of the Anacostia Coordinating Council from 1984-1994, and as an elected member of the American Institute of Certified Planners' College of Fellows in 2003. In 2013, GWU's Department of Geography created the Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. Award to recognize outstanding scholarship by a graduate student in the department.

Scope and Content

The Dorn McGrath Fairfax County and Loudoun County slide collection contains over 500 35mm

photographic slides primarily depicting aerial views of locations in Fairfax and Loudoun County, Virginia. The aerial views primarily depict housing developments, automobile transportation corridors, Dulles International Airport, Leesburg, Middleburg, and various locations rural and urban locations throughout the counties. Many of the images at ground level feature the contested area at the intersection of Old Dominion Drive (Route 738) and Spring Hill Road (Route 684) that was the subject of a lawsuit between Mobil Oil and the Fairfax County government where in 1986 Mobil requested that the area be rezoned and eventually succeeded after multiple appeals. Additional slides depict photographs of charts and graphs, perhaps used for presentations.

Additional slides include further aerial and ground level images, expanding coverage to include the broader Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia region. A small group of slides depict locations in Plymouth, Massachusetts and Alaska that are outside of the collection's original scope.

Some of the slides are individually identified with handwritten titles that follow the naming conventions used on the original slide boxes with some editing for clarification.

Additional materials in the collection include 11 transportation and planning maps and posters, as well as one poster for an art exhibition in the Soviet Union.

Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center holds other slide and photograph collections, such as the Harold T. Rib aerial photograph collection, and Charles Baptie photograph collection.

The Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum holds the Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. slides and other material collection.

Keywords

Loudoun County (Va.)
Fairfax County (Va.)
Aerial photographs
Regional planning -- Virginia
Housing
Slides
Slides (Photography)
Urban transportation
Mall, The (Washington, D.C.)
Washington (D.C.)
Reston (Va.)
Northern Virginia
Virginia, Northern
Maryland
Silver Spring (Md.)
Plymouth (Mass.)
Alaska
Regional planning
Maps
Dulles International Airport
George Washington University

Bibliography

Anacostia Community Museum. n.d. "Dorn C. McGrath, Jr. Slides and Other Material." Accessed October 22, 2025. <https://anacostia.si.edu/collection/archives/sova-acma-06-059>.

Department of Geography | Columbian College of Arts & Sciences | The George Washington University. 2021. "In Memoriam: A Tribute to GW Geography Professor Emeritus Dorn C. McGrath, Jr." May 17. <https://geography.columbian.gwu.edu/memoriam-tribute-gw-geography-professor-emeritus-dorn-c-mcgrath-jr>.

Find a Grave. n.d. "Dorn Charles McGrath Jr. (1930-2021) - Find a..." Accessed October 22, 2025. https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/243196171/dorn_charles-mcgrath.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by materials type and then subject depicted.

Description of Subordinate Components

Fairfax County 1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77925

Unit Date 1983-1984

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 1-2 (page)

Scope and Content

21 slides.

Fairfax County Water Tank

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77926

Unit Date 1986

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (page)

Scope and Content

4 slides

New Communities and Airports (IAD)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77927

Unit Date 1974-1998

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 3-4 (page)

Scope and Contents

34 slides.

IAD Environs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77928

Unit Date 1990

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 5 (page)

Scope and Contents

19 slides.

Fairfax Helicopter, Landfill, Tyson's Corner

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77929

Unit Date 1986-1990

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 6-7 (page)

Scope and Contents

23 slides.

Thoburn

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77930

Unit Date 1989-1990

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 7 (page)

Scope and Contents

14 slides.

Fairfax County (Chang)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77931

Unit Date 1986-1987

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 8 (page)

Scope and Contents

12 slides.

Fairfax Helicopter

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77932

Unit Date 1975-1990

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 9-10 (page)

Scope and Contents

26 slides.

Fairfax Mobil

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77933

Unit Date 1986-1988

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 11-12 (page)

Scope and Contents

36 slides.

Mobil

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77934

Unit Date 1986

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 13-14 (page)

Scope and Contents

24 slides.

Fairfax County Hazleton

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77935

Unit Date 1987

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 14 (page)

Scope and Contents

12 slides.

Fairfax County Pipestems

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77936

Unit Date 1975-1990

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 15 (page)

Scope and Contents

19 slides.

Local Plans Fairfax County

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77937

Unit Date 1969-1975

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 16 (page)

Scope and Contents

15 slides.

Fairfax County, Hazleton, National Wildlife

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77938

Unit Date 1986-1987

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 17 (page)

Scope and Contents

18 slides.

Fairfax County Miscellaneous

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77939

Unit Date 1974-2002

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 18-19 (page)

Scope and Contents

35 slides.

Fairfax County 3, Fair Oaks

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77940

Unit Date 1974-1997

Graphic Materials 1 (box)

Container 20-23 (page)

Scope and Contents

71 slides.

Leesburg, Loudoun

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77941

Unit Date 1970-1999

Graphic Materials 2 (box)

Container 1 (page)

Scope and Content

14 slides

Leesburg

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77942

Unit Date May 1970, December 2000

Graphic Materials 2 (box)

Container 2 (page)

Loudoun County 1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77943

Unit Date 1988-2004

Graphic Materials 2 (box)

Container 3-4 (page)

Scope and Content

25 slides

Loudoun County 2

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77944

Unit Date 1963-2002

Graphic Materials 2 (box)

Container 5-7 (page)

Scope and Content

41 slides

Loudoun County 3

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/77945

Unit Date 1970-2002

Graphic Materials 2 (box)

Container 8-10 (page)

Scope and Content

45 slides

General Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393726

Unit Date circa 1970s-1990s

Graphic Materials 2 (box)

Container 11-25 (page)

Scope and Contents

Content of slides includes notable sites, such as the National Mall, George Washington University, and Reston, Virginia, bike and pedestrian trails, public transportation, such as airports and interstates, flood plains, general urban infrastructure, and maps, diagrams, and signage. A few slides also depict flood damage in West Virginia. Pages 23-24 also include 12 professional slides by photographer Woodbridge Williams.

"Compatible Land Use", Washington, D.C., Maryland, & Northern Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393727

Unit Date circa 1970s

Graphic Materials 2 (box)

Container 25 (page)

Silver Spring, Maryland

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393728

Unit Date circa 1980s-2000s

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 1-6 (Page)

Scope and Contents

Content of slides includes notable locations in Silver Spring and maps and diagrams. Only the first two slides on Page 6 are related to Silver Spring.

Plymouth, Massachusetts

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393729

Unit Date circa 1978, 2002

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 6-9 (page)

Alaska

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393730

Unit Date circa 2000s- 2010s

Graphic Materials 3 (box)

Container 9-12 (page)

Scope and Contents

Content of slides includes Inside Passage Nenana Hubbard Glacier, Juneau Davidson Glacier, and Denali National Park, including professional slides created by the National Park Service.

Map of Dranesville District, Fairfax County, reproduction

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393888

Unit Date circa 1878

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)

Map of area surrounding Old Fairfax Courthouse, reproduction

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393889

Unit Date 1878

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)

"District of Columbia: Voting Precincts, Advisory Neighborhood Commission Areas, & ANC Single Member District Boundaries" map

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393890

Unit Date June 1987

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)

US Geological Survey map of Maryland - District of Columbia - Virginia, Washington Street, reproduction

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393891

Unit Date 1893

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)

"Historic Washington, D.C." map, The District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393892

Unit Date 1991

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)

Poster of Metro system map, with planned stations

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393893

Unit Date 2000

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)

Transparency aerial photograph of National Mall and surrounding area in Washington, D.C.

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393894

Unit Date March 1971

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)

Scope and Contents

Prepared for the National Capital Planning Commission by Air Photographics, Inc. of Purcellville, VA.

Soviet Union State Museum of the Arts exhibition poster

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393895

Unit Date circa 1990

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)

Scope and Contents

Includes handwritten inscription to Dorn McGrath in top right corner. Text on poster is in Russian Cyrillic.

Washington National Airport 50th Anniversary poster

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393896

Unit Date 1991

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)

Scope and Contents

Includes handwritten inscription to Dorn McGrath in top left corner

"Washington, D.C. Transportation Map" brochure

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393897

Unit Date 2003

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)

"Fairfax County VA. N.W. Quadrant" planning map

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393898

Unit Date October 1986

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)

"Index Map", District of Columbia, National Capital Planning Commission

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393899

Unit Date circa 1960s

Mixed Materials 27.2 (map-case)