

Operation Overview Collection A.OOC

Operation Overview Collection
1953-1983

Title Statement

Operation Overview Collection A.OOC

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Archives of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

PO Box 3600
Mount Vernon, VA 22121
Telephone: 703-799-3600
URL: <https://archives.mountvernon.org>

2016

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:40:24 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A.OOC

Unit Date

1953-1983

Language

English .

Creator

Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

Extent

3 Cubic Feet

Repository

Archives of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during scheduled appointments. Researchers must complete the Washington Library's Special Collections and Archives Registration Form before access is provided. The library reserves the right to restrict access to certain items for preservation purposes.

Processing Information

See Arrangement note.

Preferred Citation

[Name and date of item], Operation Overview Collection, [Folder], Archives of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington [hereafter Washington Library], Mount Vernon, Virginia

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

Biographical / Historical

During the late 1950s, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association learned of plans to commercially develop the shoreline of Maryland directly across from Mount Vernon. Several real estate and property deals were considered including a sewage plant and an amusement park. The MVLA began a campaign to persuade local and federal government officials to support them in an effort to restore and maintain the natural beauty of the Maryland shore across the Potomac in order to preserve Mount Vernon's view. They argued that the river view from the estate is a vital part of Mount Vernon's historic presence and the MVLA's mission to maintain the property as closely as possible to its appearance during George Washington's ownership. This campaign, known to members of the Association as "Operation Overview," took years to accomplish and continued to be threatened after its initial success. Today, the land directly across the Potomac River from Mount Vernon, and up and down the shore for several miles, is now a part of the National Park Service known as Piscataway Park. The National Colonial Farm is located inside the park and is operated by the Accokeek Foundation.

Biographical / Historical

U.S. Congresswoman and philanthropist Frances P. Bolton was instrumental in the success of Operation Overview. She was born in 1885 in Cleveland and married Chester C. Bolton, a U.S. Representative from Ohio, in 1907. After her husband's death in 1939, Mrs. Bolton was elected to complete the remainder of his term. She became the first woman in the U.S. House of Representatives to serve the state of Ohio and remained in office until 1969. While serving on the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa, Mrs. Bolton became an advocate for UNICEF and the independence of African colonies. She produced a film on her journeys through the diverse African continent titled *Africa: Giant with a Future*. Mrs. Bolton was an active philanthropist with interests in nursing education, public health, and social services. The nursing school at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland is named in her honor. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association appointed Frances P. Bolton as Vice Regent from Ohio in 1938. She served on several committees including the Grounds Committee and the Mansion Committee. Her most notable contribution to the MVLA was her extraordinary work on Operation Overview. By gathering Congress support, buying property on the Maryland shore, and securing land easements, Mrs. Bolton helped save the beautiful, natural view from Mount Vernon while setting aside park land for future generations. She died in Ohio in 1976.

Scope and Contents

These records were collected the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association to document the Operation Overview movement. A large portion of the collection is correspondence, including letters by and from Vice Regent Frances Bolton and other members of Congress. Other types of records represented are organizational reports, bulletins, statements, Congressional transcripts and bills, news clippings, financial papers, and several drawings and photographs. The bulk of the records range from the 1960s to early 1970s.

Related Materials

- Operation Overview Black Binders I-VI (mostly newspaper clippings) - Papers of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association - specifically correspondence and papers of Vice Regent Frances P. Bolton, Regent Rosamund H.R. Beirne, and Regent Elizabeth T. Cooke - Book, *The Possible Dream: Saving George Washington's View* by Robert Ware Straus with Eleanor B. Straus, 1988.

Arrangement

According to the 1975 MVLA Council minutes, files regarding Operation Overview had been purposefully collected by the Association and arranged "topically" by Mrs. Duncan, a Mount Vernon employee. Robert Straus of the Accokeek Foundation also gave the MVLA "seven cartons" of related Accokeek files. The two different collections were originally to remain separate, but may have been merged at some point. The original arrangement and folder titles were kept, with additional processing when necessary. Only duplicate items were weeded. The folders are arranged and described alphabetically, then chronologically. There are no series.

Description of Subordinate Components

Accokeek Foundation

Unit Date 1959-1975

Text 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Accokeek Foundation (Includes map "Northwest Charles County Comprehensive Plan, Preliminary")

Unit Date 1979-1982

Text 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Accokeek Foundation-Annual Reports

Unit Date 1959-1975

Text 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Accokeek Foundation Inc. - Correspondence

Unit Date 1954-1967

Text 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Accokeek Foundation Inc. - Correspondence

Unit Date 1969-1974

Text 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Accokeek Foundation Inc. - General Manager's Report

Unit Date 1960-1974

Text 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Accokeek Protestants

Unit Date 1961-1962

Text 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Business and Financial support type letters

Unit Date 1954-1962

Text 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Citizen's Committee on Natural Resources and Dr. Spenser Smith

Unit Date 1961-1973

Text 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Congressional Records

Unit Date 1961-1974

Text 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Congressional Record

Unit Date 1962

Text 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Congressman Michael Kirwan

Unit Date 1964-1967

Text 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Congressman Michael Kirwan - Newspapers

Unit Date 1964-1967

Text 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Copies of "A Progress Report"

Unit Date 1963

Text 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Copies of Congressional Bills

Unit Date 1961-1962

Text 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Corn Annual

Unit Date 1976

Text 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Correspondence - Charles C. Wall

Unit Date 1956-1974

Text 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Language English.

Creator Wall, Charles Cecil, 1903-1995

Correspondence - Frances Bolton

Unit Date 1962-1969

Text 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Language English.

Creator Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

Correspondence - Gov. of MD. And VA.; Board of Visitors, General Assembly etc.

Unit Date 1960-1974

Text 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Correspondence - Harold Abbott and Charles C. Wall

Unit Date 1962-1964

Text 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Language English.

Creator Wall, Charles Cecil, 1903-1995

Correspondence - James F. Vance, Council for DeKiewiet, Property owner Marshall Hall

Unit Date 1968-1972

Text 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Correspondence - Regent and Vice Regents of MVLA

Unit Date 1961-1974

Text 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Correspondence - White House

Unit Date 1961-1974

Text 1 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Correspondence from supportive organizations, garden clubs, etc.

Unit Date 1961-1974

Text 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Correspondence from supportive organizations, garden and women's clubs, etc.

Unit Date 1961-1974

Text 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Correspondence re: HR 4861

Unit Date 1973-1974

Text 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Department of the Interior

Unit Date 1962-1975

Text 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Description of Inventory from Operation Overview

Unit Date no date

Text 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Fairfax County correspondence, primarily John Porter Bloom

Unit Date 1961-1971

Text 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Galaxy Inc.-Tricent Corporation

Unit Date 1960-1974

Text 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

General 1

Unit Date 1960-1964

Text 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

General 2

Unit Date 1961-1964

Text 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

General 3

Unit Date 1962-1964

Text 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

General Newspapers

Unit Date 1963-1964

Text 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Hon. John P Saylor-Author of "Saylor Bill"

Unit Date 1963-1972

Text 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Joseph Goldstein

Unit Date 1961-1973

Text 2 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Land Donations, Purchase Easements, Funding

Unit Date 1961-1971

Text 2 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Letter to S.E. Rayfield from Senator Lawton Chiles

Unit Date 1971

Text 2 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Letters from Colleagues to Rep. Bolton

Unit Date 1966

Text 2 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Language English.

Keywords

Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

Letters of Support from individuals and Resident Director's response

Unit Date 1961-1967

Text 2 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Letters of Support from individuals and Resident Director's response

Unit Date 1969-1974

Text 2 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Letters to and from members of the House of Representatives

Unit Date 1961

Text 2 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Letters to and from House members

Unit Date 1961

Text 2 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Letters to and from House members (1 of 3)

Unit Date 1962

Text 2 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Letters to and from House members (2 of 3)

Unit Date 1962

Text 2 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Letters to and from House members (3 of 3)

Unit Date 1962

Text 2 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Letters to and from House members

Unit Date 1963

Text 2 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Letters to and from House members

Unit Date 1964

Text 2 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Letters to and from House members

Unit Date 1965-1967

Text 2 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Letters to and from House members

Unit Date 1968-1970

Text 2 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Letters to and from House members

Unit Date 1971

Text 2 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Letters to and from House members

Unit Date 1972-1973

Text 2 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Letters to and from House members

Unit Date 1974

Text 2 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Letters to and from Senate

Unit Date 1961

Text 2 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Letters to and from Senate

Unit Date 1962

Text 2 (box)

Container 32 (folder)

Letters to and from Senate

Unit Date 1963

Text 2 (box)

Container 33 (folder)

Letters to and from Senate

Unit Date 1964-1966

Text 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Letters to Senate members from Rep Bolton

Unit Date 1966

Text 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

Creator Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

Letters to Senate members

Unit Date 1967-1970

Text 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Letters to Senate members

Unit Date 1971

Text 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Letters to Senate members

Unit Date 1972

Text 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Letters to Senate members

Unit Date 1973-1974

Text 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Marshall Hall suggested development - Charles Cainty suit - condemned suit

Unit Date 1968-1973

Text 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Mockley Point, Prince George, Charles County MD

Unit Date 1953-1964

Text 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Mockley Point, Prince George, Charles County MD - Newspapers

Unit Date 1962

Text 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Moyaone Association Inc.

Unit Date 1955-1973

Text 3 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Moyaone Association Inc.

Unit Date 1979-1980

Text 3 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Mr. Grima Johnson, donor of Scenic Easements

Unit Date 1964-1968

Text 3 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

MVLA Misc. Papers

Unit Date 1965-1975

Text 3 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

National Colonial Farm

Unit Date 1958-1968

Text 3 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

National Colonial Farm Bulletins

Unit Date 1967-1971

Text 3 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

National Park Service

Unit Date 1962-1973

Text 3 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

News clippings

Unit Date 1967

Text 3 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Piscataway Park

Unit Date 1968-1983

Text 3 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Piscataway Park - Photographs

Unit Date 1961-1962

Text 3 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Piscataway Park - Surveys, Maps, Graphs

Unit Date 1963-1973

Text 3 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Prospectus

Unit Date 1982

Text 3 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Publicity Correspondence - Newspapers, Magazines, etc. (1 of 2)

Unit Date 1961-1974

Text 3 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Publicity Correspondence - Newspapers, Magazines, etc. (2 of 2)

Unit Date 1961-1974

Text 3 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Publicity Correspondence - Newspapers

Unit Date 1966-1968

Text 3 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Radio Transmission Tower

Unit Date 1961-1962

Text 3 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Rep. Frances Bolton acquisition of Vaughn B Connelly Property contracts, bequest

Unit Date 1955

Text 3 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Language English.

Creator Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

Resolutions of support by various organizations

Unit Date 1961-1974

Text 3 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Robert Ware Straus

Unit Date 1958-1972

Text 3 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Sub-Committees of the Interior Committee Statements

Unit Date 1961-1974

Text 3 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Tantallon Proposed Development

Unit Date 1965

Text 3 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Vaughn B Connelly property purchased by Rep. Bolton - Maps, photos

Unit Date 1954-1955

Text 3 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Language English.

Creator Bolton, Frances Payne Bingham, 1885-1977

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Unit Date 1960-1974

Text 3 (box)

Container 32 (folder)