

D.J. Henderson Collection (1927-1990s)



Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center
The Newark Public Library
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Title: D.J. Henderson Collection

Dates: 1936 - 1994; bulk 1970s and 1980s

Location: Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center

Extent: 11 Hollinger boxes and 2 Paige boxes

Processed: Kathy Kauh, 2014

Language: English

Restrictions on Access

Access Restrictions

Open to the public.

Photocopying of materials is limited and no materials may be photocopied without permission from library staff.

Use Restrictions

Researchers wishing to publish, reproduce, or reprint materials from this collection must obtain permission.

Preferred Citation

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Background:

Born in 1898 in Indiana, Dorland J. Henderson earned a degree in electrical engineering from Purdue. From 1932 he worked for the New Jersey Department of Transportation in various capacities, overcoming discrimination to retire in 1970 as Director of Traffic Engineering. A key project was the Route 72 bridge spanning Stafford Township and Long Beach Island, named for him in 2000, which made use of low level lighting. After retiring, he consulted on movable bridges until 1978.

Elizabeth (Betty) Henderson, from Michigan, was educated as a social worker and worked for some time in the East Orange schools. She was also an accomplished weaver.

In 1954, the Hendersons purchased the run-down 18th-century Sydenham farmhouse on Old Road to Bloomfield adjacent to Branch Brook Park in the North Ward of Newark and over the decades painstakingly restored it. Both Hendersons took an active interest in preservation, education, and the city of Newark, especially in the North Ward area around their home.

Creators:

Dorland J. Henderson (4 Feb.1898 – 11 Mar.1996)
Elizabeth (Betty) Baker Henderson (died 1999)

Scope:

In addition to personal correspondence and papers, the collection reflects the breadth of the Hendersons' interests with materials on engineering, the preservation of their house, and many organizations with which they were involved.

A copy of an earlier inventory of the collection can be found in Box 10.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged by subject using folder headings from D.J. Henderson. Additional headings have been created for materials that were not in folders, such as personal correspondence. The original folder order of the complete collection is unknown; therefore, folders have been grouped with related subjects to simplify access.

Within some boxes, folders are ordered alphabetically. The contents of some folders tend to be chronological or reverse chronological, but no attempt has been made to correct the order. Some loose papers that were donated separately are filed in the related folders. The few dozen photographs in the collection have been sleeved, but were not separated in their own box.

Related Material:

The Library has photographs of the Sydenham House under in PC under Newark – Buildings- House - Historic – Sydenham

Container List:

Box	Subject Folder												
1	Preservation - Sydenham House <table><tr><td>1. Notes and description of house and restoration process</td><td>1954 - 1977</td></tr><tr><td>2. Receipts 1 – for restoration.</td><td>1954 - 1974</td></tr><tr><td>3. Receipts 2 – for restoration, furnishings & miscellaneous. Also permits.</td><td>1954 - 1974</td></tr><tr><td>4. Neighborhood Improvement</td><td>1978</td></tr><tr><td>5. Miscellaneous Materials Pulled from Elizabeth Henderson's Papers</td><td>1950s, 1960s</td></tr><tr><td>6. Receipts (mainly, though not all, for house)</td><td>1978 - 1990</td></tr></table> Box also contains two Star-Ledger articles about sale of house after the Hendersons' deaths.	1. Notes and description of house and restoration process	1954 - 1977	2. Receipts 1 – for restoration.	1954 - 1974	3. Receipts 2 – for restoration, furnishings & miscellaneous. Also permits.	1954 - 1974	4. Neighborhood Improvement	1978	5. Miscellaneous Materials Pulled from Elizabeth Henderson's Papers	1950s, 1960s	6. Receipts (mainly, though not all, for house)	1978 - 1990
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2	Preservation <table><tr><td>1. Plume House – correspondence, restoration report, bills, notes</td><td>1975 - 1987</td></tr><tr><td>2. James Street Commons – minutes, correspondence, clipping</td><td>1975 - 1978</td></tr><tr><td>Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee – four folders containing correspondence, newsletters, announcements, programs, minutes, clippings</td><td>1973 - 1993</td></tr><tr><td>3. Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee 1</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>4. Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee 2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>5. Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee 3</td><td></td></tr></table>	1. Plume House – correspondence, restoration report, bills, notes	1975 - 1987	2. James Street Commons – minutes, correspondence, clipping	1975 - 1978	Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee – four folders containing correspondence, newsletters, announcements, programs, minutes, clippings	1973 - 1993	3. Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee 1		4. Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee 2		5. Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee 3	
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3	<p>North Ward</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Branch Brook Park, Cherry Blossom Festival – includes material on nomination of park to state and national historic registers 1976 – 1980 2. Branch Brook Park, Grand Prix – correspondence, fact sheet, speech to city council Opposing use of park for Grand Prix race 1983 3. Campaign for Councilman, North Ward - correspondence, lists of supporters, sample ballot, statements, campaign leaflet 1974 4. Forest Hill Community Association – announcements and newsletter 1991 5. Friends of Branch Brook Park, Essex County Parks – correspondence, minutes, announcements, members list, programs, bylaws 1980s 6. Friends of Branch Brook Park – newsletters, announcements, minutes, correspondence, Annual Report of the Essex County Park Commission 1973 – 1987 7. North Newark Partnership – meeting announcements 1986 – 1991 8. North Ward Educational and Cultural Center – announcements, clipping 1974 – 1975 9. North Ward Property Owners Protective Association – board roster, correspondence, annual dinner programs, announcements, holiday greeting 1980 - 1988 10. Thesis: Attitudes and Opinions of North Ward Residents by Dennis Molinaro c. 1977
4	<p>Newark – Government and Quasi-Government</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 150th Anniversary of the City of Newark 1985 2. Central Planning Board – agendas and other meeting materials, includes some Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution plans 1987 3. City Council – speeches to the city council, correspondence, clippings, newsletters, and notes 1980 – 1992 4. Clean City Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Love Newark Committee 1974 – 1992 Correspondence, clippings, contact lists, meeting materials, objectives. 5. Constitution Bicentennial – ideas for pageant 1983 – 1987 6. Incinerator – clippings, letters, comments at public hearing 1985 – 1992 7. Municipal Miscellaneous (D.J. Henderson’s title for this material) 1970 – 1988 8. Newark Construction Trades Training Council 1978
5	<p>Newark – Government and Quasi-Government</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newark Collaboration Group 1 - announcements, minutes, newsletters 1988 – 1992 2. Newark Collaboration Group 2 - announcements, minutes, newsletters 1983 – 1988 3. Newark Transportation Council 1– program and project summaries and reports, 5-year plan, minutes 1975 – 1988 4. Newark Transportation Council 2 1975 – 1977 correspondence and meeting materials including “Staggered Work Hours Feasibility Study”, <i>Maintaining Mobility: Plan and Program for Regional Transportation Through 2000</i> (Tri-State Regional Planning Commission, Sep. 1975) 5. Renaissance Newark – correspondence, Mayor’s speech, publications 1985 – 1990 6. Revaluation Advisory Committee – memoranda, clippings, notes 1986 – 1987 7. Urban Reinvestment Task Force, Neighborhood Housing Services 1974 - 1977 Site selection, criteria, committee list, map, North Ward statistics, newsletter
6	<p>Education</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board of Education – correspondence mostly Instruction Committee various dates 2. Board of Education, Instruction Committee 1970s Materials of meetings including “Guide to the Program of the Secondary Schools” 1978 3. Board of Education, “Reducing Violence and Vandalism” Report 1979 4. Board of Education, Instruction Committee – clippings, materials from Meetings 1980s 5. Board of Education, Instruction Committee 1984
7	<p>Engineering – Northeast Corridor 1977 - 1978</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Northeast Corridor – map and correspondence related to three Connecticut bridges 2. Cos Cob Bridge – reports, design review and notes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Devon Bridge – reports, plans, notes 4. Walk Bridge – reports and correspondence 5. Appendix A: Project HBE for Rehabilitation of Devon Bridge, Walk Bridge, and Cos Cob Bridge for the Northeast Corridor Improvement Project 6. Preliminary Design Report, Walk Bridge Over Norwalk River 7. Preliminary Cost Estimate Report, Walk Bridge 8. Preliminary Design Report, Devon Bridge Over Housatonic River 9. Preliminary Design Report, Cos Cob Bridge Over Mianus River 10. Preliminary Cost Estimate Report, Cos Cob Bridge
8	<p>Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clay Street Bridge Rehabilitation – correspondence, notes, clipping 1973 - 1978 2. Department of Transportation – 1953 - 1992 Civil service and Professional Engineer certificates, relocation brochure, clippings, correspondence, snapshots, bridge notes, Topics include: Route 72 Bay Bridge, African-American history, Route 75, Port Newark See Box 10 for artifacts related to D.J. Henderson's employment at D.O.T. 3. Jackson Street Bridge – specifications, correspondence, articles 1985 - 1990 related to saving of original steam engine from bridge 4. Madigan – Hyland and Mullica River Bridges 1973 Plans, Motorization Project Manual, correspondence, catalogs, 5. Schiavone Construction Co. 1970 – 1990 Mainly correspondence and photocopies of affirmative action material as EEO consultant, but also correspondence on other topics with Ronald Schiavone. 6. Society for the History of Technology symposium 1979 7. Retirement Dinner from N.J.D.O.T. – 13 8x10 b&w photographs 1970 8. N.J.D.O.T. Bridges – 8" x 10" b&w photographs 1959, 1964 9. Route 72 Bridge Low-Level Lighting - 10 11x14 b&w photographs 1958 Subjects: bridge, lights, N.J.D.O.T. employees including D.J. Henderson
9	<p>Additional Civic Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bicentennial Commission - materials related to Newark and New Jersey's commemoration of the US bicentennial 1976 2. Essex Club - correspondence, auction invitation, etc. related to cessation of club and transfer of building to New Jersey Historical Society (opposed by DJH, also member there) 1992 3. Freedman's Bureau – Christian Science Monitor article and letter to New Jersey History Magazine regarding land given to freed slaves 1978 – 1979 4. Letters to the Editor – mostly to the Star-Ledger, some to politicians, also Ann Landers and Art Buchwald. From both Hendersons. Includes some replies. Also editorial drawings that were published with letters, etc. 1970 - 1991 5. Newark Public Library – B&w photo of DJH and Director Bryan. Letter from Betty to NPL. Friends of Newark Public Library 1983 – 1992 Library Committee 1978 – 1982 6. Stanley Winters – correspondence and interchange of papers with the NJIT professor. Of note: 1984 interview of D.J. Henderson with memories of local NAACP
10	<p>Personal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resume and Certificates - also includes 8x10 b&w portrait of D.J. Henderson 2. Miscellaneous Papers – early recollections, Masons membership card, will (1936), deed, easement, bank records, thoughts on death penalty and economics, fraternity minutes and speech, etc. bulk 1930s 3. Poetry – DJH poems, materials related to submitting poems for publication 1981 – 1992 See also Box 9 – Letters to the Editor. 4. Papers Referring to Son Joel – baptismal record, correspondence, school and military records, etc. 1936 - 1952 5. Correspondence from Joel Henderson 1934 – 1957 Note: Envelope from 17 Oct. 1957 contains older photo of unidentified woman 6. Family Correspondence – first wife Olyve Henderson, her mother Mrs. Thomas, his mother Sallie B. Henderson, his sister, and his niece 1936 - 1983 7. Christmas Cards to D.J. Henderson 1955

	<p>8. Special Correspondence – mostly by D.J. Henderson. Of note: letter on race to Mrs. Moses (1950), correspondence with Chrysler Corporation re: engineering suggestion (1937)</p> <p>9. Unidentified Photographs – 1 wallet-size color – (great) grandchild (?) circa 1980s 1 8x10 b&w – NJDOT(?) banquet, Christmas time circa 1960 4 8x10 b&w – NJDOT(?) banquet circa 1960</p> <p>10. NJDOT Artifacts – Passaic River Bridge 1924 paperweight, plate commemorating years of service by DJH (1970)</p>
11	<p>Elizabeth Henderson</p> <p>See also 5 notebooks of fabric samples in Box 13. See also Box 1 Sydenham House. See also PC Newark-Parks-Lincoln for photo of Elizabeth Henderson weaving.</p> <p>1. Resume 1987 2. Elizabeth Henderson’s Personal Correspondence 1 1955 – 1985 Of note: Invitation to Jan. 1955 cocktail party at Sydenham House, and responses. Seems that the Hendersons announced their marriage at the party. 3. Elizabeth Henderson’s Personal Correspondence 2 Especially Jeanette Bjerneby and Pauline Celine Marie Wautier, 4. Elizabeth Henderson’s Miscellaneous Papers 5. Travel Suggestions and Itinerary – Portland, Seattle, San Francisco 1976 - 1982</p>
12	<p>Oversized Materials</p> <p>Clean City Commendation, 1986. Framed 10x14 photo of Manahawkin Bay Bridge on Route 72, 1959, lit at night. Tom Walker, Star-Ledger, cartoons and correspondence with Mrs. Henderson, c. 1993. State Bridge Employee Association life membership plaque, 1970.</p>
13	<p>Mrs. Henderson’s Notebooks</p> <p>5 notebooks containing weaving samples</p>