

# Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association Records

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2008**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82056291>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008051>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2008  
Revised 2022 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association Records

**Inclusive Dates:** 1900-1990

**Bulk Dates:** 1950-1980

**ID No.:** MSS56291

**Creator:** Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association

**Extent:** 6,500 items

**Extent:** 20 containers

**Extent:** 5.8 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82056291>

**Summary:** Association dedicated to preserving Douglass's home and to disseminating knowledge of African-American history. Correspondence, minutes of meetings, reports, and other records relating to the preservation of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Home, Cedar Hill, and to African-American history. Also includes official files and personal papers of past president Mary E. C. Gregory.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Douglass, Frederick, 1818-1895.

Gregory, Mary E. C. Mary E.C. Gregory papers.

### Organizations

Frederick Douglass Housing Corporation.

Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association.

Frederick Douglass Memorial Home.

### Subjects

African Americans--History.

African Americans--Societies, etc.

African Americans--Washington (D.C.)

Memorials--Washington (D.C.)

### Places

Anacostia (Washington, D.C.)--History.

## Acquisition Information

The records of the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association were given to the Library by the association, by past president Mary E. C. Gregory, and by other officers between 1975 and 1990. Other gifts were presented to the Library in 1975 by the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs via Juanita Brown, president, and from the National Park Service via Edward Fitzgerald.

## Processing History

The records of the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association were arranged and described by Allan J. Teichroew with the assistance of Rick Bickel, Paul D. Ledvina, David Mathisen, John Monagle, and William Parham in 1994. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

## Transfers

A wooden plaque with an inserted medal has been transferred to the Smithsonian Institution.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the records of the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The records of the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The records of the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association (FDMHA) span the years 1900-1990, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1950-1980. The collection is arranged in six series: [Correspondence](#); [Corporate Records](#); [Miscellany](#); [Printed Matter](#); [Clippings](#); and [Additions](#).

Based in Washington, D.C., the FDMHA was first envisioned in the will of Helen Pitts Douglass, Frederick Douglass's second wife, who bequeathed their home in Southeast Washington (Anacostia) to the American people as a memorial to her husband. It became the main function of the association to preserve the Frederick Douglass Memorial Home at Cedar Hill and to reunite surrounding lands once part of the estate into the whole of the memorial. The FDMHA also undertook to disseminate knowledge concerning Afro-American history in Washington and throughout America.

The collection includes minutes of meetings, reports, and related material not only of the FDMHA but also of the Frederick Douglass Housing Corporation, Inc. (FDHC), an organization closely allied to the association. Interaction between the two organizations, occasionally via the National Park Service, is documented throughout the records.

Much material reflects the personal interests of FDMHA's past president Mary E. C. Gregory, whose papers were intermingled among the association's records she gave to the Library. Other organizations represented among her files include the Museum of African Art (located first in a Douglass home on Capitol Hill and later a part of the Smithsonian Institution), the Douglass Glenn Gardens apartment complex, National Association of Colored Women, National Council of Negro Women, National Urban League, Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, and the Phyllis Wheatley Young Women's Christian Association in Washington, D.C.

## Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [Correspondence, 1921-1985](#)
- [Corporate Records, 1922-1984](#)
- [Miscellany, 1952-1985](#)
- [Printed Matter, 1900-1985](#)
- [Clippings, undated](#)
- [Additions, 1900-1990](#)

## Description of Series

<b>Container</b>	<b>Series</b>
BOX 1-3	<u><b>Correspondence, 1921-1985</b></u> Originals and copies of letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4-6	<u><b>Corporate Records, 1922-1984</b></u> Record books, accounts, agreements, bylaws, deeds, fact sheets, incorporation papers, minutes and agendas, reports, and miscellaneous records. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 7-10	<u><b>Miscellany, 1952-1985</b></u> Biographical file, material relating to various aspects of Afro-American history, speeches and statements, programs, invitations, menus, and other miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 11-16	<u><b>Printed Matter, 1900-1985</b></u> Pamphlets, leaflets, magazines, books. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 17-18	<u><b>Clippings, undated</b></u> Newspaper and magazine clippings
BOX 19-20	<u><b>Additions, circa 1900-1990</b></u> Photographs, printed matter, research material, and miscellany. Arranged by addition.

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-3</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1921-1985</b> Originals and copies of letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1921, 1938-1969 (9 folders)
<b>BOX 2</b>	1970-1975 (6 folders)
<b>BOX 3</b>	1976-1985 (7 folders)
<b>BOX 4-6</b>	<b>Corporate Records, 1922-1984</b> Record books, accounts, agreements, bylaws, deeds, fact sheets, incorporation papers, minutes and agendas, reports, and miscellaneous records. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
<b>BOX 4</b>	Accounts
<b>BOX 4</b>	Cash book, 1953-1955
<b>BOX 4</b>	Insurance papers, 1947-1957
<b>BOX 4</b>	Investors Mutual, 1955-1957
<b>BOX 4</b>	Miscellaneous financial records, 1940-1984
<b>BOX 4</b>	Receipt books, 1947-1952
<b>BOX 4</b>	Agreements, 1946-1979
<b>BOX 4</b>	Bylaws
<b>BOX 4</b>	Frederick Douglass Housing Corp., 1976-1982
<b>BOX 4</b>	Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association, 1979
<b>BOX 5</b>	Corporate record books
<b>BOX 5</b>	Frederick Douglass Housing Corp., 1975-1976
<b>BOX 5</b>	Frederick Douglass Memorial and Historical Association, 1922-1962 (2 folders)
<b>BOX 5</b>	National Association of Colored Women
<b>BOX 5</b>	1948-1960
<b>BOX 6</b>	1961-1966
<b>BOX 6</b>	Deeds, 1953, 1964
<b>BOX 6</b>	Fact sheets, undated
<b>BOX 6</b>	Incorporation papers
<b>BOX 6</b>	Frederick Douglass Housing Corp., undated
<b>BOX 6</b>	Frederick Douglass Memorial Corp., undated
<b>BOX 6</b>	Douglas Glenn Gardens, undated
<b>BOX 6</b>	Minutes and agendas, 1949-1981 (3 folders)
<b>BOX 6</b>	Miscellaneous records, 1954-1982

## Corporate Records, 1922-1984

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Reports, 1962-1982
BOX 7-10	<b>Miscellany, 1952-1985</b> Biographical file, material relating to various aspects of Afro-American history, speeches and statements, programs, invitations, menus, and other miscellany. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 7	Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, Washington, D.C.
BOX 7	Bethune, Mary McLeod
BOX 7	Biographical file (2 folders)
BOX 7	"Black Heritage 1984," festival brochure
BOX 7	King, Martin Luther, Jr.
BOX 7	Lincoln Temple United Church of Christ, annual reports, 1978
BOX 8	National Association of Colored Women
BOX 8	National Council of Negro Women
BOX 8	Notes
BOX 8	Photographs
BOX 8	Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, Washington, D.C.
BOX 8	Play, film, and video scripts, 1952-1984
BOX 8	Press releases
BOX 8	Programs, invitations, menus, etc. (2 folders)
BOX 9	(4 folders)
BOX 10	"Racial Inclusiveness--A Conscious Goal," by Mrs. Henry Ingraham
BOX 10	Resumes
BOX 10	Speeches and statements
BOX 10	YMCA's and YWCA's
BOX 10	General (2 folders)
BOX 11-16	<b>Printed Matter, 1900-1985</b> Pamphlets, leaflets, magazines, books. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 11	Afro-American history
BOX 11	Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, Washington, D.C., re Afro- American churches (3 folders)
BOX 11	Bulletins and newsletter
BOX 11	Congressional acts, bills, and calendars, 1900-1978
BOX 12	<i>Congressional Record</i>
BOX 12	Extracts, 1964-1971
BOX 12	Vol. 110, No. 132, July 1, 1964
BOX 12	Vol. 110, No. 133, July 2, 1964
BOX 12	Vol. 115, No. 162, Oct. 6, 1969
BOX 12	Vol. 115, No. 173, Oct. 23, 1969
BOX 12	Vol. 125, No. 159, Nov. 13, 1979
BOX 12	Vol. 129, No. 112, Aug. 2, 1983

## Printed Matter, 1900-1985

Container	Contents
BOX 12	Vol. 129, No. 136, Oct. 18, 1983
BOX 12	Vol. 129, No. 137, Oct. 19, 1983
BOX 13	<i>Delegate 1977-The First Year of the 3rd Century</i> , guide books on historic sites
BOX 13	Magazines
BOX 13	<i>Africa Report</i> , 1961-1962
BOX 13	<i>Crisis</i> , 1963-1983
BOX 13	<i>Jet</i> , 1957-1964
BOX 13	<i>Ebony</i>
BOX 13	1965-1969
BOX 14	1980
BOX 14	<i>Historic Preservation</i> , 1976-1977
BOX 14	<i>Life</i> , 1965
BOX 14	<i>Look</i> , 1961-1966
BOX 14	<i>National Notes</i> , National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, 1954-1961
BOX 14	<i>Time</i> , 1957-1964
BOX 14	<i>YMCA Magazine</i> , 1958-1972
BOX 14	Museum of African Art
BOX 15	NAACP
BOX 15	National Association of Colored Women's Clubs
BOX 15	National Council of Negro Women
BOX 15	National Urban League
BOX 15	General
	(3 folders)
BOX 16	(5 folders)
BOX 17-18	<b>Clippings, undated</b>
	Newspaper and magazine clippings
BOX 17	Clippings
	(3 folders)
BOX 18	(3 folders)
BOX 19-20	<b>Additions, circa 1900-1990</b>
	Photographs, printed matter, research material, and miscellany.
	Arranged by addition.
BOX 19	Addition I, 1953-1986
BOX 19	Miscellany, 1965-1982, n.d
BOX 19	Photographs, 1969-1986
BOX 19	Printed matter, 1953-1986
BOX 19	Addition II, circa 1900-1988
BOX 19	Dissertation research notes and draft of "Kelly Miller" by Mary E. C. Gregory, 1942
BOX 19	Miscellany, 1934-1988
	(3 folders)
BOX 19	Photographs, circa 1900-1985
BOX 20	Addition III, 1964-1990
BOX 20	Miscellany, 1964-1990
	(2 folders)