

Woman's Party Corporation Records
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2022 November

Collection Summary

Title: Woman's Party Corporation Records

Span Dates: 1918-1998

Bulk Dates: 1970-1996

ID No.: MSS84098

Creator: Woman's Party Corporation

Extent: 21,500 items

Extent: 85 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 35.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm97084098>

Summary: Women's rights organization. Correspondence, legal papers, financial records, board of directors minutes, bylaws, notes, printed matter, architectural documents, and subject files relating to litigation between the Woman's Party Corporation and its parent organization, the National Woman's Party, maintenance of the Sewall-Belmont House, and the corporation's various activities and fraught relationship with the National Woman's Party.

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.

Organizations

Marjorie Cook Foundation.

National Woman's Party--Trials, litigation, etc.

National Woman's Party.

National Woman's Party. National Woman's Party records.

Sewall-Belmont House.

United States. National Park Service.

Woman's Party Corporation--Trials, litigation, etc.

Woman's Party Corporation.

Subjects

Education--United States--Societies, etc.

Nonprofit organizations--United States.

Tax exemption--United States.

Women--Political activity--United States.

Acquisition Information

The records of the Woman's Party Corporation, a women's rights group, were given to the Library of Congress by the organization through its lawyer, Barbara J. Gorinson, in 1997 and by the National Woman's Party in 2022.

Processing History

The records of the Woman's Party Corporation were arranged and described by Donna Ellis in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2009. The 2022 Addition was processed and the finding aid revised by Chelsea Bucklin and Karen Linn Femia in 2022.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the records of the National Woman's Party (see <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003077>).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of the Woman's Party Corporation in these records and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The records of the Woman's Party Corporation are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Woman's Party Corporation Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Administrative History

Date	Event
1916	National Woman's Party founded by Alice Paul
1977	Woman's Party Corporation established by National Woman's Party
1992	Internal Revenue Service investigation into the corporation's tax-exempt status
1993	Attempted dissolution of the corporation by National Woman's Party Suit filed by the corporation in District of Columbia Superior Court against National Woman's Party
1997	Settlement agreement resulting in dissolution of Woman's Party Corp.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Woman's Party Corporation span the years 1918-1998, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1970 and 1996. Many of the records relate to litigation between the Woman's Party Corporation and its parent organization, the National Woman's Party (NWP), a suffrage and women's rights organization created by Alice Paul in 1916. In 1977, the NWP created the Woman's Party Corporation as a 501(c) organization, to collect tax-deductible contributions to finance the party's educational activities, including maintenance of the historic Sewall-Belmont house museum, the party's headquarters in Washington, D.C. In 1992, an Internal Revenue Service investigation revealed that the tax-exempt corporation was providing funds to the National Woman's Party without proof the money was being used for educational purposes rather than lobbying activities. At the same time, the party's executive board attempted to dissolve the corporation and appropriate its assets. The corporation filed suit in the District of Columbia Superior Court, and the party responded with a countersuit claiming breach of fiduciary responsibility. In 1997 the litigants reached an out-of-court settlement by which the corporation was dissolved and the party ceased its decades-long lobbying activities and became a nonprofit, nonpolitical, educational organization eligible for 501(c) status. Records in the addition document more broadly the work of the corporation. They include board of directors meetings, tax and financial records, personnel matters, the maintenance and renovation of the Sewall-Belmont House as well as relations with the National Park Service and the Marjorie Cook Foundation.

The corporation's records are arranged in four series: [National Woman's Party Files](#), [Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party](#), [Miscellany](#) and [2022 Addition](#).

The [National Woman's Party Files](#) contain photocopied material obtained during the discovery process of the lawsuit, including the organization's bylaws and incorporation documents, correspondence, convention material, financial records, membership data, minutes, and publicity.

The [Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party](#) series includes affidavits, background information, complaints, depositions, exhibits, interrogatories, motions, pleadings, and other legal documents relating to the case. Some of the background material contains the organizational records of the Woman's Party Corporation. Negotiations regarding the settlement agreement are also documented.

[Miscellany](#) contains depositions and other material from several lawsuits related to the *Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party* suit.

The records in the [2022 Addition](#) were received in 2020 as part of the National Woman's Party final gifts to the Library as the party was dissolved. The series more broadly documents the activities of the Woman's Party Corporation and is organized into six subseries: [Administrative and Financial Records](#), [Chronological File](#), [Legal File](#), [Sewall-Belmont House](#), [Subject File](#), and [Oversize](#).

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [National Woman's Party Files, 1918-1995](#)
- [Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party, 1918-1998](#)
- [Miscellany, 1993-1995](#)
- [2022 Addition, 1920-1996](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-21	<p><u>National Woman's Party Files, 1918-1995</u></p> <p>Bylaws, correspondence, financial records, legal papers, minutes, publicity material, and reports.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 21-53	<p><u>Woman's Party Corporation v. National Woman's Party, 1918-1998</u></p> <p>Affidavits, background material, briefs, complaints, correspondence, depositions, documents, exhibits, notes, pleadings, and printed matter.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX 54-56	<p><u>Miscellany, 1993-1995</u></p> <p>Briefs, correspondence, depositions, and notes.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by case name.</p>
BOX 57-85	<p><u>2022 Addition, 1920-1996</u></p> <p>Correspondence, minutes of meetings, financial records and tax material, contracts, legal files, news clippings and releases, reports, and renovation documents for the Sewall-Belmont House including architectural drawings, house inventories, and appraisals.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically in six subseries: <u>Administrative and Financial Records</u>, <u>Chronological File</u>, <u>Legal File</u>, <u>Sewall-Belmont House</u>, <u>Subject File</u>, and <u>Oversize</u>.</p>
BOX 57-72	<p><u>Administrative and Financial Records, 1958-1996</u></p> <p>Records concerning the board of directors, finances and taxes, fundraising, the financial support of the Marjorie Cook Foundation, as well as other administrative material.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX 72-76	<p><u>Chronological File, 1977-1996</u></p> <p>Primarily a correspondence file but includes a variety of document types concerning the work of the corporation including relations with the National Woman's Party, tax and legal issues, rental of the house for events, upkeep of the house, museum docents, and correspondence with donors, board members, accountants, and lawyers.</p> <p>Material types include correspondence, contracts, financial material, interoffice memoranda, legal papers, news releases, and reports.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 76-77	<p><u>Legal File, 1922-1995</u></p> <p>Files include governing documents, contracts, the deed for the party headquarters, and material stemming from various legal problems and court cases, including issues with the National Woman's Party.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by material type or topic.</p>
BOX 78-82	<p><u>Sewall-Belmont House, 1935-1996</u></p> <p>With the creation of the Woman's Party Corporation, care of the party headquarters became a nonprofit enterprise conducted by the the corporation. Files include material on restoration and renovation work on the historic house, inventories and appraisals of furnishings and artworks in the house, museum management and tours, and cooperative work with the National Park Service.</p>

Arranged alphabetically by material type, topic, or name of organization.

BOX 82-85

Subject File, 1920-1995

Files on organizations and individuals, a clippings file, and topical subject files.

Arranged alphabetically by material type, topic, or name of organization or individual.

BOX OV 1

Oversize, 1972-1981

Architectural and landscape drawings for the Sewall-Belmont House.

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were separated.

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National Woman's Party Files, 1918-1995

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