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## **Memphis City Planning Commission records**

**Title:** Memphis City Planning Commission records  
**Collection No:** MSS. 534  
**Extent:** 3.7 cubic feet  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1915-1937

**Abstract:** The collection is composed primarily of correspondence of the Memphis City Planning Commission. The collection also includes reports, charts, newspaper clippings, blueprints, and maps.

**Processed by:** Daniel Ferkin, 2018.  
**Access:** Open to all researchers.  
**Language:** English  
**Preferred Citation:** Memphis City Planning Commission records, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** 2018 August

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## **Administrative information**

The Memphis City Planning Commission was initially established on March 30, 1920. On February 3, 1921 the City Planning Commission was officially constituted as an official city agency through Tennessee state law. The Memphis City Planning Commission was the first City Planning Commission to be established in Tennessee. It was also one of the first city planning commissions in the South. The Planning Commission was created to help regulate the city's rapid growth in both population and size in the early twentieth century. The Memphis Planning Commission employed Harland Bartholomew in 1921, the era's most well-known city planner, to conduct a Comprehensive Plan which would be the foundation for Memphis's Zoning Ordinances in 1924. Harland Bartholomew has been described as the father of American and Canadian city planning in the age of the automobile. The City Planning Commission was first headed by Wassell Randolph as Chairman. Cyrus Clark Pashby served as secretary from 1921-1927 and Lawrence P. Cockrill served as secretary from 1928-1948.

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## **Scope and contents**

This 3.70 cubic feet of the Memphis City Planning Commission Records is housed in seven boxes. Each box is arranged chronologically with the dates in ascending order beginning in 1920 and ending in 1937. Each folder is arranged chronologically with the dates in ascending order. Each folder contains correspondence from the Memphis City Planning Commission, and some additional items such as reports, charts, newspaper clippings, and memoranda. The correspondence generated by the City Planning Commission relates to ongoing planning, approval for zoning, approval for construction, and appointments to the City Planning Commission. In addition, there is correspondence both directed to and sent from other city planning commissions in the United States, and internationally including Japan, Mexico, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This correspondence noted the innovativeness of the Memphis City Planning Commission in its work for establishing original standards and regulations, and its expertise as one of the initial city planning commissions in the United States. Likewise there are a number of university libraries that had sent requests to the City Planning Commission for documents to use as reference materials. The collection also contains blue print maps for planning and zoning. These maps depict streets in early twentieth century Memphis as well as the subdivisions created by the City Planning Commission.

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## **Provenance**

The collection was preserved by Earl Eugene "Gene" Pearson, Jr. (1944-2017), the former director of the graduate program in City and Regional Planning at the University of Memphis.

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## **Subject terms**

City planning—Memphis

City planning and redevelopment law—Memphis

City Planning Commission—Memphis

Bartholomew, Harland

Cockrill, Lawrence P.

Pashby, Cyrus Clark

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## **Inventory**

### **Box 1: 3/7/1920-11/11/1922**

Folder 1: 3/7/20-5/27/20

**OS1 Beale Avenue Map, 1920 March 5**

**OS1 Proposed Opening of North Parkway Map, 1920 March 26**

**OS1 Proposed Extension of Lamar Avenue Map, 1920 April 20**

Folder 2: 6/3/20-6/26/20

Folder 3: 6/26/20-11/4/20

Folder 4: 11/11/1920-2/25/1921

Folder 5: 3/1/21-3/30/21

Folder 6: 4/8/21-6/22/21

Folder 7: 7/2/21-10/27/21

Folder 8: 11/3/21-12/21/21

Folder 9: 1/3/22-2/24/22

Folder 10: 3/1/22-3/31/22

Folder 11: 4/1/22-4/28/22

Folder 12: 5/2/22-5/31/22

Folder 13: 6/5/22-8/15/22

Folder 14: 8/17/22-8/26/22

Folder 15: 8/28/22-9/13/22

Folder 16: 9/14/22-10/7/22

Folder 17: 10/9/22-11/11/22

### **Box 2: 11/13/1922-3/31/1924**

Folder 1: 11/13/22-12/1/22

Folder 2: 12/1/1922-1/22/1923

Folder 3: 1/23/23-2/28/23

Folder 4: 3/1/23-3/31/23

Folder 5: 4/3/23-4/27/23

Folder 6: 5/1/23-6/20/23

Folder 7: 6/7/23-7/31/23

Folder 8: 8/2/23-8/31/23

Folder 9: 9/11/23-10/13/23

Folder 10: 10/15/23-11/22/23

Folder 11: 11/22/23-12/21/23

Folder 12: 12/22/1923-2/8/1924

Folder 13: 2/9/24-3/31/24

### **Box 3: 4/1/1924-6/29/1925**

Folder 1: 4/1/24-5/14/24

Folder 2: 5/15/24-5/28/24

Folder 3: 5/29/24-6/6/24

Folder 4: 6/6/24-6/27/24

Folder 5: 6/27/24-7/31/24

Folder 6: 8/4/24-8/28/24

**OS1 Recommendations of Zoning and Street Committees for Jackson Avenue and  
McLean Avenue Map, 1924 August 25**

Folder 7: 9/3/24-9/27/24  
Folder 8: 10/1/24-10/31/24  
Folder 9: 11/1/24-12/9/24  
Folder 10: 12/9/24-12/31/24  
Folder 11: 1/1/25-1/29/25  
Folder 12: 2/3/25-2/27/25  
Folder 13: 3/3/25-3/27/25  
Folder 14: 4/1/25-5/29/25  
Folder 15: 6/1/25-6/29/25

**Box 4: 7/1/1925-9/19/1927**

Folder 1: 7/1/25-7/31/25  
Folder 2: 8/3/25-8/31/25  
Folder 3: 9/4/25-10/26/25  
Folder 4: 11/3/25-11/30/25  
Folder 5: 12/1/25-12/31/25  
Folder 6: 1/11/26-2/26/26  
Folder 7: 3/1/26-3/31/26  
Folder 8: 4/1/26-4/31/26  
Folder 9: 5/3/26-6/16/26

**OS1 Newspaper Clipping, 1926 June 14**

Folder 10: 6/19/26-8/30/26  
Folder 11: 9/1/26-10/31/26  
Folder 12: 11/4/1926-1/10/1927  
Folder 13: 1/10/27-2/28/27  
Folder 14: 3/5/27-4/30/27  
Folder 15: 5/5/27-5/31/27  
Folder 16: 6/1/27-9/19/27

**Box 5: 10/4/1927-3/27/1931**

Folder 1: 10/4/27-12/30/27  
Folder 2: 1/5/28-3/28/28  
Folder 3: 4/3/28-6/29/28  
Folder 4: 7/7/28-10/29/28  
Folder 5: 11/5/28-12/31/28  
Folder 6: 1/2/1929-3/28/29  
Folder 7: 4/9/29-8/31/29  
Folder 8: 9/3/29-10/30/29  
Folder 9: 11/1/29-12/16/29

**OS1 Ground Plan for Proposed Market Building for Thos. Collier Map, undated**

**OS1 W.L. US Survey 378 Map, Chas. C. Keck, undated**

Folder 10: 1/3/30-3/29/30  
Folder 11: 4/4/30-6/30/30  
Folder 12: 7/1/30-10/31/30  
Folder 13: 11/3/30-12/30/30  
Folder 14: 1/5/31-3/27/31

**OS1 Plot Plan of Location of Nurses Home Map, undated**

**Box 6: 4/6/1931-3/26/1935**

- Folder 1: 4/6/31-5/31/31
- Folder 2: 6/6/31-8/13/31
- Folder 3: 9/2/31-12/31/31
- Folder 4: 1/4/32-2/29/32
- Folder 5: 3/2/32-5/23/32
- Folder 6: 6/1/32-12/30/32
- Folder 7: 1/3/33-5/30/33

**OS1 Assembly of Sign and Pole for Standard Oil Company, 1933 May 26**

- Folder 8: 6/3/33-8/31/33
- Folder 9: 9/2/33-10/9/33
- Folder 10: 10/11/33-12/29/33
- Folder 11: 5/1/34-12/17/34
- Folder 12: 1934-1935 Compiling File (1925-1935 tables and 1934-1935 documents)
- Folder 13: 1/10/35-3/26/35

**Box 7: 4/3/1935-7/21/1937**

- Folder 1: 4/3/35-5/28/35
- Folder 2: 5/30/35-8/8/35
- Folder 3: 8/9/35-8/19/35
- Folder 4: 9/20/35-9/26/35
- Folder 5: 10/1/25-10/6/35
- Folder 6: 10/19/35-10/29/35
- Folder 7: 10/31/35-11/4/35
- Folder 8: 11/30/35-12/16/35
- Folder 9: 12/18/35-12/26/35
- Folder 10: 12/31/35
- Folder 11: 1/25/36-10/1/36

**OS1 Registry of Transportation Companies Chart, undated**

- Folder 12: 4/4/37-7/21/37

**OS1 Newspaper Clipping, *The Tribune*, New Orleans, 1937 May 17**