

# **Finding Aid for the Mary Meade Papers Collection 414**

**Finding aid prepared by Drew Damron**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

October 2014

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Title</b>	Mary Meade Papers
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1943-1951
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1934-1978
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	This collection, donated by Mrs. Richard H. Meade (Mary Robinson) consists of Grand Rapids Planning Commission minutes and reports from 1943-47; zoning maps and plans from 1934-60; articles of incorporation for the Metropolitan Planning Association and correspondences in regards to its founding; and copies of the "Metropolitan Planner" 1944-46.

## Biographical/Historical note

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Mary Meade was born Mary M. Martin in New York on August 22, 1897, and died in Grand Rapids on May 19, 1982. Her mother's name was Althea, and her father, John B. Martin, became a member of the city planning department in 1921. Mary was appointed by Mayor George Welsh to the municipal planning department to succeed her father in 1943. She was elected to serve a three year term on the board of directors (along with Dorothy Judd) of the Metropolitan Grand Rapids Planning Association on April 28th, 1945.

She was first married to Martin Robinson but later remarried Richard H. Meade II, a physician who practiced at 1810 Wealthy Ave (listed as the Medical Building Dispensary in the City Directory). She had five sons: Oliver L. Robinson, Richard H. Meade III, Charle F. Meade, James G. Meade, and David E. Meade. She lived most of her life in her home at 750 San Jose Drive in East Grand Rapids.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The Metropolitan Planning Association was formed to plan the city's postwar development. A banquet was held on August 31st 1943 at the Morton Hotel Banquet Room where ideas for a citizens planning committee were first discussed. An organization committee was created out of this meeting, and their efforts resulted in the creation of the MPA on October 16th 1943. The address of the association was registered at the 700 Michigan Trust Building.

Under the Articles of Incorporation, the purpose of the MPA is "To promote cooperation in the planning efforts by all local government units in the Metropolitan area of Grand Rapids, Michigan, including the City of Grand Rapids, the territory adjacent thereto, and the County of Kent; to prepare, adopt and promulgate scientific plans for the economic and social development of the areas described; to prepare and distribute literature in connection therewith, and to provide the public with information relating to proper municipal planning and development."

These materials were already organized into folders upon donation, and the contents have been processed to reflect the order of materials as we had received it.

In 2001, the minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Association (Accession number 1986.059) were added to this collection to be integrated with the Meade materials as one large MPA collection. These minutes were later removed in May 2012 and turned into Collection 389 to retain the original curated donation as it was given to us.

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department October 2014

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift from Mrs. Richard H. Meade (Mary Robinson/Mary Martin), accession number 1986.191

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

Collection 104, Dorothy Judd Papers

Collection 118, Grand Rapids Public Library urban renewal pictorials

Collection 285, GRPL Michigan & Grand Rapids Serials Collection

Collection 389, Metropolitan Grand Rapids Planning Association minutes

Collection 393, Benjamin Baum records on the Grand Rapids Metropolitan Area Study

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- Grand Rapids Metropolitan Area Study (Grand Rapids, Mich.).
- Metropolitan Grand Rapids Planning Association.

### Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- 20th Century
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Politics and government

**Personal Name(s)**

- Meade, Mrs. Richard H.

**Subject(s)**

- City planning -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Express highways -- Michigan -- History -- 20th century
- Highway planning -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Metropolitan areas -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Neighborhood planning -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

## Box 1

## Collection Inventory

Box 1		
	Box	Folder
Street Plan and Expressway Clippings	1	1
Zoning- Newspaper Clippings and Maps	1	2
Minutes of City Planning Commission February 26, 1943 to March 6, 1944 1943-1944	1	3
Minutes of City Planning Commission March 14, 1944 to September 10, 1945 1944-1945	1	4
Metropolitan Planner May 1944 to July 1951	1	5
Metropolitan Planner Supplements May 1944 to July 1951	1	6
Planning Ordinance GR Building Code - Housing	1	7
Letters and Programs	1	8
Housing, Street, and Parking Plans	1	9
Reports	1	10

**Box 2**

Studies and Statistics	1	11
<b>Box 2</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Preliminary Report for a City Plan for Grand Rapids, MI	2	1
1934 Zoning Ordinance 1934	2	2
General map of Grand Rapids Feb 7, 1933	2	3
GR City Planning Commission Scrapbook 1942-1943	2	4
County and State Planning Scrapbook 1942-1943	2	5