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Finding aid for the Coit School tour material and slides Collection 494

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Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History and Special Collections
Creator - dnr:	Carey, Corinne
Title:	Coit School tour material and slides
ID:	494
Date [bulk]:	1975-1981
Physical Description:	0.75 Linear Feet
Condition Description:	Good.
Language of the Material:	English
Mixed materials []:	Box 1
Abstract:	This collection contains material related to the Coit School (located at 617 Coit NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan) and its surrounding neighborhoods. Specifically, this collection contains newspaper articles, reports, color slides, an audio recording, and other material related to work done around the award-winning Coit School Tour Project, which celebrated the historic school (built in 1880) and its vicinity. A large portion of the color slides showcase the commemorative Coit School Centennial, which took place in the Spring of 1980. A researcher may wish to utilize this collection of primary resources to better understand the Coit School and its surrounding geographical area in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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Biographical / Historical

The collection is comprised of various color slides, as well as audio cassettes and primary print material. Also included in the collection are newspaper clippings (primarily from the 1970s), class hand-outs and newsletters covering the school tour, and correspondence regarding Coit School (as in the early 2000s, it was unclear at that time if the school would continue to operate). Coit School is registered as a Historic Landmark (although not nationally); it has been renovated/expanded throughout its life. Additionally, a trolley tour of the area was conducted in connection to celebrating the 1976 Festival of the Arts, and materials/ephemera are included from that.

Coit School, which was originally a two-room schoolhouse, remains the oldest functioning school in the Grand Rapids Public School System (operating, as of 2019, as home to Coit Creative Arts Academy). The Tours began in 1974 and the project won an award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington D.C. Students participating in this tour viewed the historic neighborhood to observe nature in the city, the old streets and old homes in the area, and the Belknap Park's view of downtown Grand Rapids. Slides also exist of events at the school, including the Centennial Celebration and other happenings.

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Scope and Contents

This collection is comprised mainly of color slides, two audio cassette tapes, and paper material having to do with tours Coit School students took of the surrounding neighborhood. The slides and audio cassette tape are housed in one box; a separate slim box contains two (2) folders with the paper materials (newspaper articles, reports, etc.).

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Carey Corrine.

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Coit Centennial Program: C. Carey, April 25, 1980	Box 1	Slide (qt: 27)
Coit Historic Parade (n.d.)	Box 1	Slide (qt. 14)
images of neighborhood homes; park party; performers (n.d.)	Box 1	Slide (qt: 20)
Santa Parade at Coit (November 1979)	Box 1	Slide (qt: 4)
Coit Tour (interior of building) (May 1980)	Box 1	Slide (qt: 9)
Coit Tour at GR Historical Society & exhibit with kids (October 1975)	Box 1	Slide (qt: 6)
Dirty Yard Balloon (May 1981)	Box 1	Slide (qt: 4)
DRUM (May 1980)	Box 1	Slide (qt: 3)
Images of Belknap park; view from Coit neighborhood; parade; Central band; Parade in hall; carnival; children (Fall 1979 and Spring 1980)	Box 1	Slide (qt: 22)
More balloon photos; old airplane; woman with dog (May 1981)	Box 1	Slide (qt: 7)
Set of slides paperclipped together (black): Centennial Celebration; images of kids; scenes from downtown Grand Rapids, Public museum; Coit Birthday cake; R.A. Morrison of 609 Lafayette; new apartment complex (1975-1980)	Box 1	Slide (qt: 35)
Set of slides paperclipped together (green): Centennial Celebration; images of people in the school; kids (May 1980)	Box 1	Slide (qt: 32)
Two (2) copies of a cassette tape: plea to group to keep Coit School, set to instrumental music, touting value of Coit neighborhood. Tape includes student and elder resident testimonials.	Box 1	
Three (3) canisters containing film fragments	Box 1	
Coit School Project: newspaper clippings, map and tour notes, etc.	Box 2	Folder 1
Coit School Project: newspaper clippings, map and tour notes, etc.	Box 2	Folder 2