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Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Guide to the

Harold Edelman collection on Greenwich Village

1957-1967

MssCol 17928

Compiled by Lea Jordan, March 2011

Summary

Creator: Edelman, Harold

Title: Harold Edelman collection on Greenwich Village, 1957-1967

Size: 1.05 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Donated by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, 2008

Abstract: Harold Edelman (1924-1999) was an architect and preservationist who worked to retain the character of sites in Greenwich Village and surrounding areas. The Harold Edelman collection on Greenwich Village (1957-1967) contain architectural drawings, notes and reports from Edelman's firm relating to studies undertaken in the Greenwich Village area and the rehabilitation of Washington Square Park.

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Creator history

Harold Edelman (1924-1999) was an architect and preservationist who worked to retain the character of sites in Greenwich Village and surrounding areas.

Edelman was born in Brooklyn and received his architecture degree from Cornell University in 1943. After serving in World War II, he taught at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn from 1952 to 1962. In 1960 he founded an architecture firm with his wife Judith Edelman and Stanley Salzman.

While teaching at Pratt, Edelman was alerted to the impending demolition of the Jefferson Market Courthouse. He assigned his architecture students the task of designing new uses for the building, and from the assignment came the idea to repurpose the courthouse as a library – and the building remains so today. Edelman was also one of nine architects hired to redesign Washington Square Park. His design retained the original integrity of the park.

Scope and content note

The Harold Edelman collection on Greenwich Village (1957-1967) contain architectural drawings, notes and reports from Edelman's firm relating to studies undertaken in the Greenwich Village area and the rehabilitation of Washington Square Park. Notes and maps from three studies- the Greenwich Village Study of 1957, the Gansevoort Study of 1965, and the Verrazano Study of 1967-make up the majority of the collection. The Greenwich Village Study was created to try to mediate conversations between the Village residents and the city council's desire for expanded roads, parking and public housing. The Gansevoort Study material includes memos about the area as well as maps of the Gansevoort Market area, complete with the piers, noting their condition, year of construction, and whether they are owner or tenant occupied. The records also include zoning maps, assessed land valuations, maps showing sound and unsafe properties, traffic and transportation studies, and copies of the proposed West Side Highway. The Verrazano study materials include traffic and transportation studies, assessed land valuations, maps showing vacant, occupied, and commercial properties. The studies identified whether some blocks should be demolished to create affordable housing. The collection also includes a complete set of 8 architectural blueprints pertaining to Edelman's work on Washington Square Park in 1967.

Arrangement

Alphabetical

Key terms

Subjects

Historic sites
Urban policy
Urban renewal

Names

Edelman, Harold, 1924-1999

Special formats

Blueprints
Maps

Places

Greenwich Village (New York, N.Y.)
Washington Square (New York, N.Y.)

Container list

- b.1 f.1-6 Gansevoort Study, 1965
 - b.2 f.1 Greenwich Village study , 1956
- b.2 f.2-5 Verrazano study, 1967
 - b.2 f.6 Washington Square Park , 1967 (blueprint)
 - b.3 Washington Square Park, 1967 (5 blueprints)
 - t.4 Washington Square Park, 1967 (blueprint)
 - t.5 Washington Square Park, 1967 (blueprint)
 - t.6 Washington Square Park, 1967 (blueprint)