

# NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 79

Date processed: May, 1978.

- I. Title Mermin Collection, 1941-1975.
- II. The papers of Alvin A. Mermin (1908-1977) and the New Haven Housing Authority/Redevelopment Agency, deposited in the Library on Feb. 22, 1978, by Mrs. Dorothy Mermin as a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 4 feet, 1 inch.  
Approximate number of items: 2,200.
- IV. Restrictions: none.
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of  
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of  
the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated  
to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note:

Alvin A. Mermin (b. July 5, 1908, d. Sept. 24, 1977), was educated in New Haven public schools and attended New York University. He served the New Haven Housing Authority, first as manager of Farnham Courts Housing Projects (opened 1941) and later as manager of West Hills and McConaughty Projects. He served in the U.S. Army, 1942-1945.

From 1958-1966, Mermin was director of the Family Relocation Division of the New Haven Redevelopment Agency. He authored a book entitled, "Relocating Families: the New Haven Experience, 1956-1966." He was also the author of numerous journal articles on housing and relocation subjects, and gained national prominence as a lecturer on urban relocation in the 1960's.

The New Haven Housing Authority was established in 1938, and was given the authority to create and uplift public housing in the Greater New Haven Area.

The New Haven Housing Authority and the city of New Haven drew up a contract in 1958 with the New Haven Redevelopment Agency, designating the latter agency as the "Local Public Agency" to be concerned with urban renewal and project planning. The Redevelopment Agency's jurisdiction lay only within newly-planned housing projects.

Also in 1958, the Redevelopment Agency established the Division of Family Relocation, with Alvin A. Mermin as director. This division was concerned with relocating persons and families in the project areas.

#### VIII. Analysis:

The materials in this collection include: minutes of meetings, press releases, newsletters, correspondence, reports, proposals, surveys, studies, contracts, legislation, journal and newspaper clippings, and photographs of New Haven Housing and Redevelopment projects and of related issues.

The collection covers the period, 1941-1975, but the majority of the documents was generated during the 1960's. Arrangement of the correspondence is chronological, and incoming mail is interfiled with outgoing mail.

Notable gaps in this collection include documents of the early housing projects such as Farnham Courts, West Hills, and McConaughty Projects, in the late-1940's and 1950's.

There are approximately 2,200 documents, filling 8 boxes and 3 half-boxes, with 3 oversize items, measuring 4 feet, 1 inch.

Arrangement is chronological, unless otherwise indicated. The number of documents in each folder is indicated in parenthesis at the right margin of the register. The contraction, "cond." stands for "continued." Photographs measure  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 11 inches, unless indicated as "small-format pictures," which measure  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 5 inches.

MERMIN COLLECTION, 1941-1975.  
 NEW HAVEN HOUSING AUTHORITY/REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY'S  
 HOUSING RELOCATION RECORDS, 1941-1975.

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- BOX I Minutes/Staff Meetings of New Haven Housing Authority/  
 Redevelopment Agency and other agencies (incomplete).
- Folder A. New Haven Housing Authority/Redevelopment Agency, 1948-1968. (1)  
 B. Citizens' Action Commission, 1947-1968/Citizens' Housing  
 Commission, 1947. (10)  
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 D. Community Housing, Inc., 1967-1968. (29)  
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 F. Council of Social Agencies, 1960-1962/Dixwell Project, 1958/  
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- BOX II Correspondence--Incoming and Outgoing--New Haven Housing  
 Authority/Redevelopment Agency, 1941-1970.

- Folder A. 1941-1949. (56)  
 B. 1950-1952. (53)  
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- BOX III Correspondence (cond. from BOX II).

- Folder A. Misc. Correspondence n.d. (19)  
 B. Correspondence Fragments. (6)  
 C. Press Releases of New Haven Housing Authority/Redevelopment  
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 D. Press Releases of Misc. Agencies concerned with Housing  
 (in Alphabetical Order by Agency Name). (15)

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- Folder E. Newsletters of Citizens' Action Commission, 1956-1968 (incomplete). (33)
- F. Newsletters of Housing Opportunities Made Equal, 1959-1963/ Human Relations Council, 1957-1968 (incomplete). (12)
- G. Newsletters of National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, 1951-1959 (incomplete). (25)
- H. Newsletters of Misc. Municipal, State, and National Agencies, 1946-1968. (18)

New Haven Housing Authority/Redevelopment Agency--Reports, Proposals, Studies, Contracts.

- Folder I. New Haven Housing Authority/Redevelopment Agency--Contracts with the City of New Haven, 1958-1962. (9)
  - J. Historical Studies of Urban Renewal, Relocation Statistical Surveys, and Census of Housing Studies, 1958-1967. (11)
  - K. Procedures and Policies of Personal and Business Relocation, 1960-1966. (7)
  - L. Housing Status Reports (including statistical studies, time-tables, and goals for housing progress), 1960-1967. (7)
  - M. Statistical Data of Housing Relocation, 1966-1970. (60)
  - N. Statistical Data of Housing Relocation, 1971-1973. (36)
  - O. Brochures, General Publications, Bibliographies, and Manuals on Housing Subjects, 1941-1969. (25)
  - P. Handwritten Drafts and Notes of Reports of Housing Authority and Other Departments n.d. (12)
  - Q. Misc. Papers, Resumes, Fragments. (10)
- OVERSIZE ITEM 1: New Haven Housing Authority/Redevelopment Agency--Residential Mobility Survey Charts and Maps. (9)

BOX IV New Haven Housing Authority/Redevelopment Agency, and the Redevelopment Agency's Division of Neighborhood Improvement--Annual Reports, 1941-1967.

- Folder A. New Haven Housing Authority--Annual Reports, 1941, 1953/
  - A. Division of Neighborhood Improvement--Annual Report, 1962. (3)
  - B. New Haven Redevelopment Agency--Annual Report, 1963 28p. (1)
  - C. 1965 85p. (1)
  - D. 1966 76p. (1)
  - E. 1967 115p. (1)

Other City Agencies Dealing with New Haven Housing Authority/Redevelopment Agency (in Alphabetical Order by Agency Name)--Reports, Proposals, Studies.

- Folder F. New Haven Office of Emergency Housing--Statistical Surveys of Housing and other publications, 1947-1952. (8)

BOX IV (cond.)

- Folder G. New Haven Civil Rights Commission--Study of Racial Discrimination in Housing, 1963. 36p. (1)
- H. New Haven Community Improvement--Proposal for Federal Funds, 1963. 28p. (1)
- I. New Haven Community Renewal Program--Study of Housing, Social and Economic Characteristics, 1964. 34p. (1)
- J. New Haven Community Renewal Program--Residential District Analysis: Geographical, Historical, Social, and Economic Data, 1964. 120p. (1)
- K. New Haven Council of Social Agencies--Study of City Housing and Review of Land Acquisition, 1966. (2)
- L. New Haven Mayor's Office--Proposal for Federal Funds for Redevelopment, 1957. 35p. (1)
- M. New Haven Mayor's Office--Proposed Programs for Community Improvement and Educational Improvement, 1962. (2)
- N. New Haven--Brochures and Misc. Publications of the City of New Haven, 1956-1962. (5)
- OVERSIZE ITEM 2: New Haven--Annual Reports of the City of New Haven on New Haven Register/Journal Courier Newsprint Supplement Format, 1960-1975 (incomplete). (8)

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- Folder A. New Haven Family Relocation Office--Daily Log of Relocation Data, 1956-1958. (30)
- B. New Haven Homemaking Program--A Study of Activities, Proposals, and a Newsletter, 1961-1963. (12)
- C. New Haven Large Family Demonstration--Progress Reports: Surveys of Large Family Housing Statistics, 1962-1963. (14)
- D. New Haven Large Family Demonstration--Quarterly Reports and Proposals for Federal Funds, 1962-1966. (13)
- E. New Haven Large Family Demonstration--Studies and Proposals, 1963-1964. (4)
- F. New Haven Large Family Demonstration--Explanatory Appendices to Formal Applications for Federal Funds, 1964-1968. (5)

Non-Official City Agencies Concerned with Housing or Redevelopment (in Alphabetical Order by Agency Name)--Reports, Studies, Proposals, Brochures.

- Folder G. Citizens' Action Commission--Annual Reports, 1956-1960, and Supplements and By-Laws. (10)
- H. Citizens' Action Commission--Annual Reports, 1962-1968. (10)
- I. Citizens' Housing Council--Articles of Incorporation, Membership and Budget Statistics, and Proposals for Housing Legislation, 1947-1949. (15)

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- Folder J. Community Housing, Inc.--Certification of Incorporation, By-Laws, Proposals for State of Connecticut Funds, Presidents' Reports, and Misc. Papers, 1967-1969. (19)
- K. Community Housing, Inc.--Annual Reports, 1968, 1970. (2)
- L. Community Progress, Inc.--A Series of Programs, Goals, and Proposals, plus Misc. Brochures, 1956-1966. (9)

## BOX VI Non-Official City Agencies--Reports, Etc. (cond. from BOX V).

- Folder A. Community Progress, Inc.--Comprehensive Program Report of Goals, Proposals, etc., 1962. 60p. (1)
- B. Community Progress, Inc.--Program Report, 1964. 130p. (1)
- C. Community Progress, Inc.--Program Report, 1965. 96p. (1)
- D. Council of Social Agencies--Studies of Housing Conditions/League of Women Voters--Housing Bibliography/St. Paul's Union Church--Housing Brochures, 1947-1958. (4)
- E. Unified Social Services--Monthly Surveys of Activities and Proposals, 1965-1966. (8)

State of Connecticut Agencies Concerned with Housing--Testimony, Proposals, Studies on Housing Issues/U. S. Government Housing Agencies--Contracts, Bulletins, Brochures.

- Folder F. Connecticut Department of Housing--Testimony of Mayor Richard C Lee, June 22, 1961. 11p. (1)
- G. Connecticut Highway Department--Studies and Proposals on Relocation, Property Management (includes maps, charts, and personnel information on Highway Department Staff), 1962-1965. (10)
- G<sub>1</sub> Q Bridge Connection H. University of Connecticut--Studies on Housing/Connecticut Welfare Department--Proposals for Funds, 1962-1968. (7)
- I. U. S. Housing and Home Finance/Housing and Urban Development--Contracts and Informational Bulletins of Housing Funds, 1957-1965. (15)
- J. U. S. Housing and Home Finance/Housing and Urban Development--Misc. Brochures and Technical Guides on Housing Issues, 1959-1967. (10)

Misc. National, State, or Municipal Housing Agencies (in Alphabetical Order, by Agency Name)--Annual Reports, Studies, Surveys, Brochures.

- Folder K. Albany, N.Y.--Interracial Conference Reports/Baltimore, MD.--Studies Of Housing Clinics and Relocation Activities, 1957-1966. (8)
- L. Boston, MA.--Boston Redevelopment Agency's Study of Social Service Work in Redevelopment Projects, 1959-1960. 26p. (1)
- M. Boston Redevelopment Agency--Study of Social Services in Relocation, 1963. 95p. (1)
- N. National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials--Program Reports, Bibliographies, Brochures, etc. on Housing Issues, 1954-1970. (21)

## BOX VII MISC. HOUSING AGENCIES (cond. from BOX VI).

- Folder A. New York City Housing Commission--Manuals on City Planning/New Jersey Housing Authority--Housing Study/Philadelphia, PA.Housing Authority--Relocation Studies, 1958-1968. (13)
- B. Washington, D.C. Housing Authority--A Manual of Housing Management and A Relocation Study and Proposals, 1956, 1959. (2)
- C. Misc. Surveys and Studies on Housing/Relocation Issues, 1948-1968. (8)

New Haven Housing Projects (in Alphabetical Order, by Name)--Reports, Studies, Surveys, Proposals.

- Folder D. Church Street Project--Relocation Planning Report, Redevelopment Plans, and Misc. Brochure/Columbus Mall Project--A Proposal for Cooperative Housing, 1957-1966. (4)
- E. Dixwell Project--Proposals for Redevelopment and Studies, 1960-1965. (3)
- F. Dixwell Project--Newsletters, Guides to Services and Agencies, Brochures on Housing Units (including Elm Haven, Florence Virtue, etc.), 1956-1964. (35).
- G. Dwight Project--Planning Survey, Proposals, and Misc. Brochures of Housing Units, 1963-1965. (7)

George Street Project--SEE Temple-George Project.

- H. Hill Project--Redevelopment Plans for Hill High School, Survey Report of Land Acquisition Data, and Proposal for Model Neighborhood Program, 1963-1967. (3)
- I. Liberty Square Project--Guides to Liberty Square Housing Services/Long Wharf Project--Redevelopment Plans/Middle-Ground Project--Plans for Housing Renewal, 1960-1967. (5)

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- Folder A. Oak Street Project--Redevelopment Plans, Resolutions, and Family Relocation Studies, 1956-1962. (6)

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3784 New Haven, [n.d.] Map.

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0267 of the New Haven Redevelopment Agency).

- Folder B. Temple-George Project--Land Use Proposal, Tenants' Guide, and Misc. Brochures, 1951-1966. (4)
- C. Wooster Square Project--Relocation Statistics, Redevelopment Proposals, Resolutions, By-Laws, Highway Construction Plans, 1957-1960. (6)
- D. Wooster Square Project--Redevelopment Plans, Urban Renewal Proposals, and Misc. Brochures on Wooster Area Housing Units, 1963. (7)

## BOX VIII (cond.)

SEE: Book on Shelf (WOOSTER SQUARE DESIGN)

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.N6  
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Hommann, Mary S. WOOSTER SQUARE DESIGN; a report on the background, experience, and design procedures in redevelopment and rehabilitation in an Urban Renewal Project. New Haven: New Haven Redevelopment Agency, 1965. 191p.

Local, State, and National Legislation on Housing (bills of the same year arranged by bill number).

- Folder E. New Haven--Official Housing Code, Ordinances and Amendments concerning Civil Rights Issues. 1958-1968. (8)
- F. Connecticut--Housing Legislation (including Bills, Resolutions, Laws, and digests and notes on Legislation), 1947-1967. (50)
- G. U.S. Congress--Federal Housing Legislation (including Bills, Committee Prints, and Federal Code Reports), 1959-1965. (8)

Newspaper Articles, Journal Reprints, Speeches and Interviews of Alvin Mermin and other Redevelopment Agency Staff. (Journal Reprints are arranged Alphabetically by Name of Publication).

- Folder H. New Haven Housing Authority/Redevelopment Agency--Journal Articles, Speeches, and Interviews of Alvin Mermin and other Redevelopment Agency Staff, 1958-1966. (16)
- I. New Haven Register Articles (including City of New Haven, Housing, and Misc. Subjects), 1947-1970. (50)
- J. New Haven--Grand Avenue Business Mens' Association Reprint of a 100th Anniversary Sale Catalog, 1936. (1)

## BOX IX Reprints of Journals (cond. from BOX VIII).

- Folder A. Misc. Journals--"A-M". (26)
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## BOX X City of New Haven Housing Projects--Photographs (Arranged in Alphabetical Order by Project Name, then by Street Name.. Photographs consist mainly Of Housing Exteriors and Interiors, with many "before and after" shots of Slum and Rehabilitated Housing of the 1960's era).

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- M. Wooster Square Project--East Street (small-format pictures). (5)
- N. Wooster Square Project--Eastern to Grand Street. (10)
- O. Wooster Square Project--Greene Street (small-format pictures). (6)
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- C. Carmen Gitro (small-format pictures). (15) *(Also - not Gitro)*
- D. Mayor Richard C. Lee--Publicity Shots (includes negatives). (11)
- E. Mayor Richard C. Lee--Publicity Shots with Notable Persons (including  
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- F. Mayor Richard C. Lee--Publicity Shots at Misc. Events. (39)
- G. Mayor Richard C. Lee/Edward Logue. (small-format pictures). (7)
- H. Alvin A. Mermin with Misc. Persons. (4)
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- J. Housing Authority/Redevelopment Staff at Community Progress, Inc. Skill  
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