I. Title Mermin Collection, 1941-1975.


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V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of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 juris-
    diction 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 McConaughy 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 8½ inches by 11 inches, unless indicated as "small-format pictures," which measure 3½ inches by 5 inches.
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Mermin Collection: New Haven Housing/Redevelopment Records

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