

Guide to the Peters Township Public Library Archives map collection, 1817-2019

Summary Information

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| Collection No.: | MS 2024-005 |
| Title: | Peters Township Public Library Archives map collection |
| Inclusive Dates: | 1876-2019 |
| Author: | Nancy Martin |
| Repository: | Peters Township Public Library 616 East McMurray Road McMurray, PA 15317 |
| Creator: | Various |
| Extent: | 36 maps, 1 bound volume of maps, 2 atlases |
| Language of materials: | All materials are in English. |
| Abstract: | Collection consists of a variety of maps of Peters Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania acquired by the Peters Township Public Library Archives. Maps include street and house number maps, zoning and land use maps, topographic and farm line maps, copies of historic maps of the township, a historical atlas and road maps of Washington County, a flood insurance map and some mine-related maps. |

Biography/History

The Peters Township Public Library Archives began as a local history reference collection acquired and maintained by reference librarian Margaret Dietzer.

In the spring of 2003, the Peters Township Public Library (PTPL), with funds raised from the annual Taste of the Township event, began an oral history project to record and preserve the history of the township through interviews with current and former township residents. The Library contracted with the Senator John Heinz History Center's Oral History Service to conduct the interviews which began in August 2003. This project, entitled *Life in Peters Township: An Oral History Project* resulted in the recording and transcription of interviews with 20 Peters Township residents.

The oral history project increased community interest in local history, and the library, with assistance from Peters Township resident Ed Lybarger and archivist Carolyn Jones Friedrich, created a web page of historical township photographs that was added to the PTPL web site.

In 2019, the Peters Township Library Foundation hired Friedrich as a consulting archivist to work with Dietzer to formally establish the archives, process and describe collections, and draft archival policies. Margaret Dietzer retired in 2023, and Nancy Martin assumed the role of archivist in February 2024.

The Archives are located in the James D. and William C. McMurray Local History Room which was dedicated on Sunday, April 13, 2008. The Archives acquire, preserve and make available original unpublished materials documenting the history of Peters Township. Its holdings include documents, scrapbooks, photographs, maps, plans and other historic materials.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Peters Township Public Library Archives map collection documents the geography and development of Peters Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania. The maps include street and house number maps, zoning and land use maps, topographic and farm line maps, copies of historic maps of the township, a historical atlas and road maps of Washington County, a flood insurance map and some mine-related maps.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 6 series:

- Series I. Peters Township street maps, 1978-2019
- Series II. Peters Township land use and zoning maps, 1979-2006
- Series III. Caldwell's Illustrated Combination Centennial Atlas of Washington County Pennsylvania, 1876, 1976
- Series IV. Washington County topographic and farm line maps, 1911-1945
- Series V. Washington County maps, 1817, 1931, 1952
- Series VI. Miscellaneous maps of Peters Township, 1924-2007

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: The original 1876 Centennial Atlas of Washington County, Pennsylvania is fragile and not available to the public. Patrons may use the 1976 reprint of the 1876 atlas.

Acquisition Information:

Acquired from a variety of sources prior to 2024.

Custodial History:

Records arrived at the Archives from a variety of sources including the Peters Township Planning Department.

Accruals note:

Further accruals are expected.

Preferred Citation:

Peters Township Public Library Archives, MS 2024-005 Peters Township Public Library Archives map collection.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Nancy Martin in November 2024. In the absence of a usable original order, the archivist imposed the arrangement of the maps during processing.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this Collection, please contact Peters Township Public Library.

Rights Statement for this Archival Description:

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Sources Consulted:

The following sources were consulted in the creation of this finding aid:

- Brach, G. (2024). How Land Use Maps Chart the Course for Environmental Justice. *Age of Awareness*.
- Peters Township Public Library (2004). *Elma Johnston: An Oral History*

Contents List

Series I. Peters Township street maps, 1978-2019

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of street and property maps of Peters Township. Maps may include alphabetical street indexes and identify public lands, points of interest, voting precincts, the names of property owners and house numbers.

| Drawer | Folder/Roll | Title | Date |
|----------|-------------|---|---------------|
| Drawer 1 | Folder 1 | Street and property map of Peters Township | April 1978 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 1 | Peters Township | August 1978 |
| | Roll 2 | Peters Township house number map (4 sheets) | November 1979 |
| | Roll 2 | Street and property map of Peters Township | April 1985 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 1 | Street and property map of Peters Township | 1985 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 1 | Township road map, Peters Township | June 1987 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 1 | Peters Township | January 1988 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 1 | Peters Township | January 1989 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 1 | Peters Township | February 1992 |
| | Roll 2 | Street and property map of Peters Township | February 1992 |
| | Roll 2 | Street and property map of Peters Township | November 1997 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 1 | Peters Township (2 sheets) | July 2000 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 1 | Peters Township (2 sheets) | January 2001 |
| | Roll 2 | Peters Township street and house number map | January 2004 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 1 | Peters Township (2 sheets) | March 2006 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 1 | Peters Township | May 2006 |
| | Roll 2 | Peters Township street and house number map | May 2008 |
| | Roll 2 | Peters Township street and house number map | May 2019 |

Series II. Peters Township land use and zoning maps, 1979-2006

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of land use and zoning maps of Peters Township. The maps provide an overview of how different areas or parcels of land were used or were intended to be used by illustrating the type of activities occurring in each location, such as residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, or open space.

| Drawer | Folder/Roll | Title | Date |
|----------|-------------|--|--------------|
| Drawer 1 | Folder 2 | Zoning district map of Peters Township | 1979 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 2 | Zoning district map of Peters Township | 1980 |
| | Roll 3 | Existing land use and community facilities | 1990 |
| | Roll 3 | Zoning district map of Peters Township | October 1991 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 2 | Peters Township zoning district map | May 2006 |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 2 | Future land use scenario map | undated |
| | Roll 3 | Protected areas map of Peters Township | undated |
| | Roll 3 | Peters Township zoning district map | undated |
| Drawer 1 | Folder 2 | Peters Township zoning district map | undated |

Series III. Caldwell's Illustrated Combination Centennial Atlas of Washington County Pennsylvania, 1876, 1976

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of *Caldwell's Illustrated Combination Centennial Atlas of Washington County Pennsylvania* by J.A. Caldwell, 1876 and a 1979 reprint of the atlas.

The atlas includes maps of Washington County towns, villages and townships that record the names of the property owners. It also includes drawings of views in Washington County, a historical sketch of the county, and an advertising business directory organized by township.

The map of Peters Township can be found on page 143. A drawing of Willow Grove Farm, the residence of Hervey McMurray can be found on page 140. Locust Grove Farm, the residence of William McMurray is on page 183, and a drawing of Peters Creek United Presbyterian Church on page 227.

Note: The 1876 atlas is fragile and not available to the public. Patrons may use the 1979 reprint.

| Drawer | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Drawer 18 | 1876 atlas, 1976 atlas |

Series IV. Washington County topographic and farm line maps, 1911-1945

Series Scope and Content Note: Series consists of a bound volume of topographic and farm line maps of Washington County, Pennsylvania. Topographic maps are found on pages 1-12 of the volume and date from 1930-1945. Farm line maps date from 1911 and are found on pages 13-31.

The farm line maps of Peters Township date are located in the “Carnegie Quadrangle” and are found on pages 13, 23 and 24. Series also includes a larger copy of the farm line map for Pennsylvania Carnegie Quadrangle SE ¼ (page 23 of the bound volume).

Topographic maps record elevation contour lines to show the shape of the Earth's surface. Topographic maps also show other geographic features including roads, railroads, rivers, streams, lakes, boundaries, place or feature names and mountains. They may also include trails, buildings, towns, mountain elevations, and survey control points.

Farm line maps record municipalities, farm boundaries, farm owners' names, and farm acreages. In Pennsylvania, the maps also show the locations of historical oil and gas wells, often hand-drawn. The maps depict well locations on a map with farm boundaries as reference points.

| Drawer | |
|-----------|---|
| Drawer 20 | Washington County topographic and farm line maps, 1911-1945 |

Series V. Washington County maps, 1817, 1931, 1952

Series Scope Content Note: Series consists of maps of Washington County, Pennsylvania. Series includes a copy of an 1817 map of the county by Jonathan Knight which records county and township lines, roads and turnpikes, boroughs, villages, churches, manufactories and mills. Series also includes an original Washington County road map from 1952.

| Drawer | Folder/Roll | Title | Date |
|----------|-------------|--|------|
| Drawer 2 | Folder 1 | Map of Washington County by Johnathan Knight | 1817 |
| Drawer 2 | Folder 1 | Road map of Washington County | 1952 |
| | Roll 6 | Road map of Washington County, PA | 1931 |

Series VI. Miscellaneous maps of Peters Township, 1924-2007

Series Scope Content Note: Series consists of miscellaneous maps of Peters Township including a copy of the 1924 warrantee township map of Peters Township documenting all original land purchases made inside the township boundaries. Warrantee township maps serve as a summary and geographical index for land warrants, surveys and patents.

Series also includes a 1979 Peters Township flood insurance map created by the National Flood Insurance Program, a 1985 map depicting the location and status (supported, pending, unsupported and other) of mine subsidence claims in Peters Township, a 2003 Pennsylvania

Department of Transportation map recording the length (in miles) of township roads and state highways in Peters Township, and an undated aerial map of Peters Township.

| Drawer | Folder/Roll | Title | Date |
|---------------|--------------------|---|-------------|
| Drawer 2 | Folder 2 | Warrantee township map of Peters Township | 1924 |
| Drawer 2 | Folder 2 | Flood insurance map, Township of Peters Township | 1979 |
| | Roll 4 | Peters Township mine subsidence claims map | 1985 |
| | Roll 4 | Pennsylvania Department of Transportation map depicting the length (in miles) of township roads and state highways in Peters Township | 2003 |
| | Roll 4 | Aerial map of Peters Township | undated |
| | Roll 7 | Farm line map (?) on which the location of Pittsburgh Coal Company houses and buildings have been recorded | undated |