



ArchivesSpace

# Ellis (Sarah E.) Papers

## **An inventory of the Sarah E. Ellis Collection at DC Public Library**

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on June 24, 2021.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

[peoples.archive@dc.gov](mailto:peoples.archive@dc.gov)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	People's Archive, MLK Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Ellis, Sarah E.
<b>Title:</b>	Sarah E. Ellis Papers
<b>ID:</b>	019
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1945-1979
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.5 Linear feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

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## Biographical / Historical

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Sarah Ellis became a citizen activist when in 1959 urban renewal caused the forced relocation of Cy Ellis Raw Bar from the Municipal Fish Market Building on the Southwest Waterfront. Sarah's husband Cy Ellis died of a heart attack in November 1959 and Mrs. Ellis was forced to relocate the restaurant in December 1959. The restaurant was forced to move again from E Street NW when construction on the new Metro subway began in the 1960s. Mrs. Ellis' ten-year fight in the courts and Congress helped establish the Priority Law which requires that long-established businesses can use the "grandfather" clause to avoid relocation in urban renewal areas. Mrs. Ellis moved her restaurant back to the redeveloped Southwest waterfront in 1970. Born on a Potomac River farm in St. Mary's County, Maryland, Sarah married Cy Ellis and moved to Washington, D.C. sometime after World War I to open an oyster bar restaurant.

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## Scope and Contents

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Contains correspondence, clippings, meeting minutes, reports, and pamphlets of local issues and citizens' organizations in which Mrs. Ellis was involved; including the Chillum Heights Citizens' Association, the D.C. Federation of Citizens' Associations, Junior Village, the Committee for the Rights of the D.C. Business Community, urban renewal, home rule, and mass transit. Of significance, is a 1972 report titled "Report of the Special Citizens' Advisory Committee on Urban Renewal in D.C."

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## Arrangement

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Processed without series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW  
Washington, DC  
[peoples.archive@dc.gov](mailto:peoples.archive@dc.gov)

### Revision Description

Revised for length and clarity. 2020-04-08

### Custodial History

Donor unknown.

### Processing Information

Basic archival processing procedures were applied to the collection when it was processed.

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## Controlled Access Headings

- Neighborhoods
- Citizens' Associations
- Urban renewal
- Restaurateurs
- Southwest (Washington, D.C.)
- Takoma Park (Washington, D.C.)
- Correspondence
- Minutes (Records)
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc)

## Collection Inventory

Series 1		
Title/Description	Instances	
Minutes Chillum Heights Citizens Association and correspondence, 1945-1950	Box 1	Folder 1
Chillum Heights Citizens Association Correspondence, 1952-1954	Box 1	Folder 2
Chillum Heights Citizens Association Correspondence, 1955	Box 1	Folder 3
Chillum Heights Citizens Association Correspondence, 1956	Box 1	Folder 4
Chillum Heights Citizens Association Correspondence, 1957-1958	Box 1	Folder 5
Chillum Heights Citizens Association Correspondence, 1959	Box 1	Folder 6
Chillum Heights Citizens Association Correspondence, 1959	Box 1	Folder 7
Chillum Heights Citizens Association Correspondence, 1960	Box 1	Folder 8
Chillum Heights Citizens Association Correspondence, 1973	Box 1	Folder 9
Federation of Citizens Associations, Undated	Box 1	Folder 10
Committee for the Rights of the Washington D.C. Business Community, Undated	Box 1	Folder 11
Bill Announcements and other Congressional Materials, Undated	Box 1	Folder 12
Correspondence, 1962-1966	Box 1	Folder 13
Correspondence and Other materials, 1969-1972		

	Box 1	Folder 14
Miscellaneous letters and testimony by Mrs. Ellis, Undated	Box 1	Folder 15
Historic Landmarks and districts, Undated	Box 1	Folder 16
Education, Undated	Box 1	Folder 17
Urban renewal, Undated	Box 1	Folder 18
Urban renewal and home rule, Undated	Box 1	Folder 19
Potomac River, Undated	Box 1	Folder 20
Metro and mass transit, Undated	Box 1	Folder 21
Miscellaneous inspirational notes, Undated	Box 1	Folder 22
Miscellaneous materials, Undated	Box 1	Folder 23
Correspondence and miscellaneous papers, 1974-1979	Box 2	Folder 1
Downtown redevelopment and urban renewal, Undated	Box 2	Folder 2
History and bicentennial activities, Undated	Box 2	Folder 3
Reports, Undated	Box 2	Folder 4
Southwest Spectator Article re Mrs. Ellis, 26041	Box 2	Folder 5
Capitol Hill Spectator - SW Waterfront Festival, 23874	Box 2	Folder 6
Rolled Petition in support of Municipal Fish Market, Undated	Box 2	folder 7
Test of Roosevelt Speech given to Mrs. Ellis by Fund, 13486	Box 2	Folder 7
Clippings, 1960-1970	Box 2	Folder 8
Clippings, Undated	Box 2	Folder 9
Junior Village, 1971-1972	Box 3	Folder 1
Junior Village, 1971-1972	Box 3	Folder 2
Junior Village, 1971-1972	Box 3	Folder 3
Junior Village, 1971-1972	Box 3	Folder 4
Junior Village, 1971-1972	Box 3	Folder 5
Junior Village - clippings, 1969-1973	Box 3	Folder 6

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