



ArchivesSpace

# Cooper (Margaret) Papers

## **An inventory of Margaret Cooper Papers at DC Public Library**

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on September 08, 2020.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

[archives.dcpl@dc.gov](mailto:archives.dcpl@dc.gov)

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	3
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	5
Series 1: Correspondence .....	5
Series 2: Newspaper Clippings .....	6
Series 3: Photographs .....	6
Series 4: Organizations and Institutions .....	7
Series 5: Certificates, Awards, and Recognition .....	8
Series 6: Ephemera .....	9
Series 7: Local and Federal Government .....	10
Series 8: Books .....	12

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Cooper, Margaret
<b>Title:</b>	Margaret Cooper Papers
<b>ID:</b>	133
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1918-1998
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

Margaret Cooper was born in Warrington, Virginia on August 8, 1900. She attended Martha Washington Vocational School in Washington, D.C. Cooper was known to the Shaw neighborhood as "Mother Cooper." She worked as a Registered Nurse at George Washington University Hospital. Cooper was active as a member of the Third Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. at 1546 5th Street NW. She worked as an activist in the Shaw neighborhood on numerous projects with various organizations such as the Shaw Project Area Committee, Junior Christian Endeavor, Boy Scouts of America, War on Rats, Federation of Civic associations, and the United Planning Organization. Cooper also served on the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) and was one of the first ANC commissioners for the Shaw neighborhood. Cooper lived on Warren Street NW from 1917 until her death on April 6, 2000 at the Hartland Health Center in Hyattsville, Maryland.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

This six box collection consists of the personal papers of Margaret Cooper and documents her professional; civic and community activities; and achievements. The collection consists largely of

certificates, plaques, programs, administrative materials, and miscellaneous materials documenting Cooper's involvement as an active member and leader of several organizations and institutions, including Third Baptist Church, Christian Endeavor, D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, Inc., the East Central Civic Association, the Neighborhood Advisory Committee, the Young Men's Christian Association, the National Capital Area Boy Scouts of America, Model Cities, and the United Planning Organization. Correspondence, certificates, and letters of recommendation document her work as a staff member at George Washington University Hospital. Newspaper clippings recording her achievements reflect Ms. Cooper's legacy as a pillar in her community. The collection also includes funeral programs, cards, thank you notes, photographs, political buttons, posters, books, and ephemera.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

Series 1: Correspondence Series 2: Newspaper Clippings Series 3: Photographs Series 4: Organizations and Institutions Series 5: Certificates, Awards, and Recognition Series 6: Ephemera Series 7: Local and Federal Government Series 8: Books

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library

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

### Revision Description

Added series 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. 2020-07-24

### Custodial History

The collection came to the library as a donation, and was accessioned into the Library's collection in 2000.

## Processing Information

The collection was originally processed circa 2015 as part of the District of Columbia Africana Archives Project, a grant initiative of the George Washington University Libraries supported by the Council on Library and Information Resources. The reprocessing procedure included recategorizing the collection into 8 series, which were further organized by organization and, where applicable, document type.

## Conditions Governing Use

Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the researcher's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- City churches
- Shaw (Washington, D.C.)
- Citizens' Associations
- Politics and government
- Police--Washington (D.C.)
- Education, higher
- Ephemera
- Political activists
- Neighborhood government
- Neighborhoods
- Women
- African Americans

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### Series 1: Correspondence

Physical Description: 1 Boxes

## Scope and Contents

This series includes letters of appreciation and recommendation written to Margaret Cooper, holding her in high regard as a nurse and a member of the Shaw community.

Title/Description	Instances	
General, 1964-1981	Box 1	folder 1
Letters of Appreciation, 1955-1994	Box 1	folder 2
Letters of Recommendation, 1956-1961	Box 1	folder 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 2: Newspaper Clippings

Physical Description: 1 Boxes

### Scope and Contents

This series includes biographical articles celebrating Margaret Cooper as a pillar of the Shaw Community. Also included are clippings from the Sentry Post, The Washington Informer, and the Washington Afro American.

Title/Description	Instances	
Article copies	Box 1	folder 4
General, 1972-1998	Box 1	folder 5

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 3: Photographs

Physical Description: 1 Boxes

### Scope and Contents

Photograph subjects in this series include Walter Washington, Margaret Cooper, and the Boy Scouts of America pack 594.

Title/Description	Instances	
Margaret Cooper at Podium	Box 1	folder 6
Ward 2 Commissioner Thorpe, 1997	Box 1	folder 7
National Capital Area Boy Scouts of America, Pack 594	Box 1	folder 8
Autographed Portrait of Man	Box 1	folder 9
Walter Washington and unidentified woman, 1974	Box 1	folder 10
Model Cities	Box 1	folder 11

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 4: Organizations and Institutions

Physical Description: 3 Boxes

### Scope and Contents

This series includes materials from the various organizations with which Margaret Cooper was affiliated. These include the Third Baptist Church, Christian Endeavor, The East Central Civic Association, and the National Capital Area Boy Scouts of America.

Title/Description	Instances	
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Center, Events and Programs, 1997-1998	Box 1	folder 12
Christian Endeavor, 1989	Box 1	folder 13
Christian Endeavor; Certificates, Awards, and Recognition, 1977-1993	Box 1	folder 14
The Baptist Sunday Union of Washington And Vicinity	Box 1	folder 15
The Standard Leadership Curriculum Cards, 1955-1999	Box 1	folder 16
Third Baptist Church; Certificates, Awards, and Recognition, 1954-1996	Box 1	folder 17
Third Baptist Church; Events and Programs, 1997	Box 1	folder 18
Third Baptist Church; Events and Programs, 1993-1996	Box 1	folder 19
Third Baptist Church, Events and Programs, 1918-1993	Box 1	folder 20
Third Baptist Church, Constitution, 1998	Box 1	folder 21
Certificates, Awards, and Recognition, 1996-1997	Box 1	folder 22
Baltimore Annual Conference African Methodist Episcopal Church, Program and Directory, 1968	Box 1	folder 23
East Central Civic Association, Shawfest, 1989-1996	Box 2	folder 1
Household of Ruth, 1927-1983	Box 2	folder 2
Africare, 1983	Box 2	folder 3
D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, General, 1981-1987	Box 2	folder 4
D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, Events and Programs, 1985-1997	Box 2	folder 5
Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), 1973-1978	Box 2	folder 6
The George Washington University; Certificates, Awards and Recognition, 1964-1968	Box 2	folder 7
Neighborhood Advisory Committee	Box 2	folder 8

Environment-Concerned Institutions, 1977	Box 2	folder 9
United Planning Organization, Events and Programs, 1978-1992	Box 2	folder 10
United Planning Organization; Certificates, Awards, and Recognition, 1970-1984	Box 2	folder 11
United Planning Organization, Correspondence, 1969-1978	Box 2	folder 12
East Central Civic Association; Certificates, Awards and Recognition, 1967-1995	Box 2	folder 13
East Central Civic Association, General, 1997	Box 2	folder 14
East Central Civic Association, Correspondence, 1977-1991	Box 2	Box 15
Shaw Project Area Committee, Inc; Certificates, Awards, and Recognition, 1977-1978	Box 2	folder 16
Senior Citizens Organizations, Events and Programs, 1995-1998	Box 2	folder 17
Senior Citizens Organizations; Certificates, Awards, and Recognition, 1985-1987	Box 2	folder 18
People's Involvement Corporation; Certificates, Awards, and Institutions, 1970-1971	Box 2	folder 19
Shaw/Coalition Redevelopment Corporation, 1987	Box 2	folder 20
Neighborhood Advisory Council of Neighborhood Development Center #1, Constitution, 1980	Box 2	folder 21
National Capital Area Boy Scouts of America, 1981	Box 2	folder 22
National Capital Area Boy Scouts of America; Certificates, Awards, and Recognition, 1973-1983	Box 2	folder 23
National Capital Area Council Boy Scouts of America, Events and Programs, 1976-1982	Box 2	folder 24
Dues Cards and Donation Envelope, 1992-1997	Box 4	folder 1
Third Baptist Church, Membership Certificate, 1978	Box 4	folder 2
Environmental Improvement Award, 1986	Box 4	folder 8

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 5: Certificates, Awards, and Recognition

Physical Description: 1 Boxes

### Scope and Contents

This series includes certificates and recognition for participation and leadership. also included is information regarding the park dedicated in honor of Margaret Cooper's years of community service.

Title/Description	Instances
-------------------	-----------



Community Awards and Recognition, 1971-1992	Box 3	folder 1
Park Dedication, 1996	Box 3	folder 2
Citizens Organized Patrol Efforts (C.O.P. E.), 1991	Box 3	folder 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 6: Ephemera

Physical Description: 3 Boxes

### Scope and Contents

This series includes stickers, buttons, programs, flyers, cards, and other materials from community organizations, institutions, and individuals.

Title/Description	Instances	
Citizens Advisory Committee to Reduce Litter, Stickers	Box 3	folder 4
D.C. Statehood, Bumper Stickers and Mailing	Box 3	folder 5
Song Lyrics and Poems, 1986-1996	Box 3	folder 6
The Lincoln Theatre, 1991	Box 3	folder 7
Programs and Flyers, 1949	Box 3	folder 8
Brochures, 1977-1995	Box 3	folder 9
Copied Photograph	Box 3	folder 10
David Clarke Campaign Stickers	Box 3	folder 11
Obituaries and Funeral Programs, 1992-1997	Box 3	folder 12
Government Materials, 1969	Box 3	folder 13
Anniversary Programs, 1986-1991	Box 3	folder 14
Pick Temple, Autographed Cards	Box 3	folder 15
Cards and Thank You Notes, 1964-1998	Box 3	folder 16
Mid-City Tenants Action Council, Urban Renewal Area; Blank Membership Cards	Box 4	folder 3
Ribbons, 1986	Box 4	folder 4
Identification Badges	Box 4	folder 5
National Capital Area Boy Scouts of America, 1972-1981	Box 4	folder 6
Buttons, Fauntroy	box 6	folder 1
Buttons, Marion Barry	box 6	folder 2
Buttons, Shawfest '89, 1989	box 6	folder 3
Buttons, Model City		

	box 6	folder 4
Buttons, War on Rats	box 6	folder 5
Buttons, D.C. Commission for Women	box 6	folder 6
Buttons, "Re-Elect Wilson Ward 2"	box 6	folder 7
Buttons, "Bringin' back The Lincoln '91", 1991	box 6	folder 8
Buttons, "Zais Ward 2"	box 6	folder 9
Buttons, "Sharon Pratt Dixon for Mayor"	box 6	folder 10
Buttons, Family Life Center Training Conference, 1988	box 6	folder 11
Buttons, Arrington Dixon	box 6	folder 12
Buttons, Minority Business Opportunity Commission, Office of Human Rights	box 6	folder 13
Buttons, D.C. Lung Association	box 6	folder 14
Buttons, Wilson Council Chairman	box 6	folder 15
Buttons, "I'm for the Bottle Bill"	box 6	folder 16
Buttons, Reelect R. David Hall	box 6	folder 17
Buttons, Clarence Martin for Council At-Large	box 6	folder 18
Buttons, Carol Schwartz for Mayor	box 6	folder 19
Buttons, Blacks in Government	box 6	folder 20
Buttons, "I Voted Washington, D.C. '78", 1978	box 6	folder 21
Buttons, MICCO Citizen Planner	box 6	folder 22
Buttons, D.C. Statehood Initiative 3	box 6	folder 23
Buttons, Inner City Aids Network	box 6	folder 24
Buttons, Elect Dave Clark	box 6	folder 25
Buttons, "Advisory Councils Yes!"	box 6	folder 26
Buttons, "I'll Make It Right On"	box 6	folder 27
Buttons, "10 Years Changing It Around"	box 6	folder 28

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 7: Local and Federal Government

Physical Description: 3 Boxes

## Scope and Contents

This series includes D.C. Government resolutions in recognition of Margaret Cooper, posters, and certificates of appreciation.

Title/Description	Instances	
Metropolitan Police Department, 1992-1998	Box 3	folder 17
Certificates, Awards, and Recognition, 1973-1998	Box 3	folder 18
Events and Programs, Awards Ceremonies for Environmental Improvement, 1984-1987	Box 3	folder 19
Department of Housing and Community Development Housing Programs, 1990	Box 3	folder 20
Model Cities/War on Rats, 1971-1977	Box 3	folder 21
Advisory Neighborhood Commission; Certificates, Awards, and Recognition, 1989	Box 3	folder 22
Advisory Neighborhood Commission, Elections Materials, 1976-1987	Box 3	folder 23
Advisory Neighborhood Commission, Laws and Regulations	Box 3	folder 24
Advisory Neighborhood Commission, Correspondence, 1978-1989	Box 3	folder 25
U.S. Department of the Interior, 1972	Box 3	folder 26
Advisory Neighborhood Commission, 12 Years of Outstanding Service Plaque, 1988	Box 4	folder 7
Certificates, Awards, and Recognition; Certificates of Appreciation, 1981-1987	Box 5	folder 1
Advisory Neighborhood Commission, Certificate of Election, 1986	Box 5	folder 2
Metropolitan D.C. Police, Crime Solvers Posters	Box 5	folder 3
D.C. Department of Public Works, Posters	Box 5	folder 4
Office of the Mayor Proclamation, Shaw Day, 1991-10-05	Box 5	folder 5
Shawfest '90 Day Declaration Resolution of 1990, 1990	Box 5	folder 6
Margaret Cooper Recognition Resolution of 1989, 1989	Box 5	folder 7
Margaret B. "Mother" Cooper Recognition Resolution of 1996, 1996	Box 5	folder 8
Margaret Cooper Recognition Resolution of 1983, 1983	Box 5	folder 9
United to Serve America Diamond Award, 1992	Box 5	folder 10

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series 8: Books

Physical Description: 1 Boxes

### Scope and Contents

This series consists of the book Marjorie Webster Junior College, Forty-Fifth Year, Session 1964-1965

Title/Description	Instances
Marjorie Webster Junior College, 1965	Box 4      folder 9

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)