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Mason (Hilda) Statehood Party Collection

An inventory of Hilda Mason, Statehood Party at DC Public Library

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English

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DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

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Summary Information

Repository:	DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library
Title:	Hilda Mason, Statehood Party Collection
ID:	135
Date [inclusive]:	1806-1995
Physical Description:	20 cubic feet; 20 boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Hilda Mason was a steadfast member of the DC Statehood Party as well as a supporter of the development of the University of the District of Columbia. The bulk of the Hilda Mason Statehood Party Collection dates from the 1970s to the mid-1990s and documents Mason's stalwart commitment to the party. The collection contains committee files (most notably for the Committee on Self-Determination), drafts of the Constitution of the State of "New Columbia," files from DC Statehood Party conventions, and files from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. Also included are business cards from various DC leaders, correspondence, news clippings, reports, and speeches.

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Biographical / Historical

Hilda Howland Mae Mason was born in Altavista, (Lynch Station, Virginia) on June 4, 1916. She attended Virginia Seminary in Lynchburg and St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville. Mason relocated to Washington, DC in 1945. She later enrolled at Miners Teachers College and earned her undergraduate degree in 1952. She was a teacher, counselor and administrator in the DC public school system for 19 years, until she was elected to the Board of Education from Ward 4. She served from 1972-1977, after which she was appointed to complete the term of Julius Hobson, Sr., the at-Large member of the DC City Council. After completing Hobson's term, she won an at-Large seat on her own merit. Mason was a champion of education in DC as chair of the Council's Education, Libraries and Recreation Committee (1981-1997), the Local, Regional and Federal Affairs Committee, the Human Services Committee, and the Judiciary Committee. To date, her tenure on the City Council remains the longest term of service in the city's history. Mason was also a steadfast member of the DC Statehood Party, as well as a supporter of the development of the University of the District of Columbia. The law school library bears her name

and the name of her husband, Charles N. Mason, Jr., a graduate of Harvard University and Howard University Law School.

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Scope and Contents

The bulk of the Hilda Mason Statehood Party Collection dates from the 1970s to the mid-1990s and documents Mason's stalwart commitment to the party. The collection contains committee files (most notably for the Committee on Self-Determination), drafts of the Constitution of the State of "New Columbia", files from DC Statehood Party conventions, and files from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. Also included are business cards from various DC leaders, correspondence, news clippings, reports, and speeches.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Custodial History

Hilda Mason donated her collection of DC Statehood Party materials to DC Public Library Special Collections in March 1997.

Processing Information

This collection is unprocessed. It was accessioned by the Library in 1997, and was placed in archival containers upon its receipt. A descriptive container listing was created to facilitate access.

Conditions Governing Use

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

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