

SELECTED RESOURCES FOUND IN THE UIC UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES ON THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO CIRCLE SITE SELECTION PROCESS AND INITIAL CONSTRUCTION

BACKGROUND: For over thirty years, Chicago had two independent campuses for the University of Illinois - the **University of Illinois at Chicago Circle** and the **University of Illinois at the Medical Center**. The University of Illinois at the Medical Center had roots in Chicago's Illinois Medical District going back to the Nineteenth Century, although only in the fields of medicine and related health sciences. A second University of Illinois campus in Chicago was opened in 1946 when university officials anticipated a large influx of veterans taking advantage of the GI Bill to attend college after the Second World War. This campus, officially known as the Chicago Undergraduate Division, was a two-year program located at Navy Pier. Demand for the program soon outstripped the facilities available at the Pier and a search began for a permanent four-year traditional public university in the Chicago area.

In 1963, after many long years of debate, groundbreaking began for a new four-year campus by the intersection of Halsted and Harrison Streets. Due to its close proximity to the Circle Interchange, the campus was called University of Illinois at Chicago Circle (UICC). UICC opened to the public in 1965 and operated as a separate campus with its own Chancellor for seventeen years. In 1982, "Circle Campus" merged with the University of Illinois at the Medical Center to form the **University of Illinois at Chicago** that exists today.

The decision to locate "Circle Campus" at Harrison and Halsted was controversial long after the construction was completed. This is a guide to some of the resources available in the UIC University Archives concerning the decision to locate the campus at the Harrison-Halsted site, the construction of the campus, and UICC's early impact on the surrounding community.

The University Archives is located in the Special Collections Department of the RJ Daley Library. For more information on the UIC University Archives, see <http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/specialcoll/> or contact the department by phone (312-996-2742) or by e-mail (lib-spec@uic.edu).

Books and Articles

See also: Bibliography in ready reference file #37.0

Banfield, Edward C. *Political Influences: A New Theory of Urban Politics*. New York: The Free Press, 1965.

Contains a 29 page chapter on the site selection process for the newly opened University of Illinois at Chicago Circle.

Beuttler, Fred W., Melvin G. Holli, and Robert V. Remini. *The University of Illinois at Chicago: A Pictorial History*. Charleston: Arcadia Publications, 2000.

Contains photographs and brief narratives of major events and figures involved in the site selection as well as the entire history of UIC as well. This is a useful source to gain an overview of major events in the UIC's history.

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Eastwood, Carolyn. *Near West Side Stories: Struggles for Community in Chicago's Maxwell Street Neighborhood*. Chicago: Lake Claremont Press, 2002.

Contains narratives and oral histories of the Jewish, Italian, Afro-American, and Hispanic communities in the Near West Side during the 20th Century. Includes interviews with Florence Scala describing her struggles to prevent the University of Illinois from being located at Harrison and Halsted. The book also examines the history of the Maxwell Street Market and the area's acquisition by the University of Illinois at Chicago in the 1990's.

Rosen, George. *Decision Making Chicago-Style: The genesis of a University of Illinois campus*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 1980.

Contains a very thorough analysis of the site selection process, the responses to it, and the impact on the community. This book is probably the best place for researchers of the site selection process to begin. See also University Archives record group 007/03/20/01.

Rosen, George. "The Siting of the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle: A Struggle of the 1950's and 1960's." *Chicago History* 1980-1981 9(4): 219-233.

Rudolf, Frederick. "The American College and University: A History" New York: Vintage Books. 1962.

A useful overview of US college and university history, with some discussion on the University of Illinois.

Manuscript Collections

Metropolitan Planning Council

The inter-racial Metropolitan Housing Council was founded in 1934 to provide housing for low-income families. It initiated the Illinois Housing Cooperation Act, which led to the formation of the Chicago Housing Authority and the building of the first public housing projects in Chicago. It also instigated neighborhood rejuvenation projects and helped to develop Chicago's first housing code. The name was later changed to the Metropolitan Planning Council, which continues as a nonprofit, non-partisan group of business and civic leaders. MPC conducts policy analysis, outreach, and advocacy in the areas of housing, transportation and urban development. For files on the UICC site selection, see accession 77-29 box 4 folder 6 and accession 81-81 box 8 folder 14.

University Archives Collections

University Archives

Ready Reference Files

Contains commonly requested clippings and publications related to the Site Selection and many other topics. Histories published at various anniversaries in the school's history are included in the Ready Reference Files. This is also a useful place to gain an overview of major events in the school's history.

University Archives

Record Group 000/00/01

History and Development, 1916-1975

This record group includes clippings, magazines, and flyers from university and non-university sources on the history and development of the Chicago Undergraduate Division and the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle.

University Archives

Record Group 000/00/04

“The Circle Campus – The Site Was the Ball Game”

A 1971 interpretation by Arthur Rotstein (University of Chicago’s Center for Policy Study) of the events leading to the selection of the Harrison-Halsted site for the campus of UICC, alternative site locations, and the reasons for their rejection. Uses this decision as an example of the pressures and influences involved in urban political decision-making. 74 pages.

University Archives

Record Group 000/00/05

“The Role of the Chicago Daily Newspapers in the selection of the Chicago Campus”

A dissertation written by Gene Arnold Burd for a PhD in Journalism from Northwestern University. Part I concerns the influence of the press on the rejection of various site proposals, 1954-1959. Part II concerns the role of the press in the selection of the Harrison-Halsted site and community opposition to that selection, 1959-1963. Mr. Burd was Public Information Assistant at the Chicago Department of City Planning in 1960.

University Archives

Record Group 000/00/06

“University of Illinois Long Search for a Permanent Campus in Chicago”

A 1981 article by Gregory A. Sprague that examines the relationship between the politics of influence and the conflicting images of an urban university. Originally published in the *Journal of Midwest History of Education Society*, 9, 1981. 22 pages.

University Archives

Record Group 000/00/07

“Chicago Circle Campus: A Student’s Questioning View”

1969 article published by Steven Grigg in *Inland Architect* 13:4, 1969

University Archives

Record Group 000/00/09

“Loud Voices and Discreet Silence”

Unpublished paper by Rev. William T. Corcoran that was deposited in the University Archives in 1999. His paper was written for Studies in American History class at Loyola University and examines local interests in the decision to locate the campus at Harrison and Halsted.

University Archives

Record Group 000/01/03/01?

Master Plan for Illinois Higher Education, 1959-1971[?]

Although it contains little information on the actual site selection process, this record group could be useful to compare the Chicago Undergraduate Division/ Chicago Circle Campus with other universities in the state and to see how the campus fit into the master plan for Illinois higher education.

University Archives

Record Group 000/02/01/00/01

Development Plan for the Central Area of Chicago: a definitive text for use with graphic presentation

Development Plan for the Central Area of Chicago: a definitive text for use with graphic presentation (1958 August) was proposed at the request of mayor Richard J. Daley and expresses the ideas and recommendations of the Department of City Planning and a special committee of the Chicago Plan[ning?] Commission. It was the first comprehensive study of the development of the downtown area since the days of Daniel Burnham.

The development plan contains the objectives for integrated land use proposals with regard to seven specific projects: a government and civic center; rail road terminal consolidation; a branch of the University of Illinois in Chicago; a transportation center; a conservation, redevelopment and housing program; a traffic and parking plan; and recreation use of the lakefront. The plan also includes an action program for the first stage of the development on these projects to be completed by January 1960.

University Archives

Record Group 000/06/00/01

“Growth and Improvement Through Bold Dynamic Moves”

A 1964 report by the West Central Association that includes a section on the role of UICC in the development of the region.

University Archives

Record Group 001/02/10

Board of Trustees -- Agenda Documents --

Contracts for Construction and Repairs, 1962 – 1967[?]

Contracts for Construction and Repairs are agenda items that contain information on specification and additional bidders, not found in the Board of Trustees Reports, for major construction and renovation work on the two campuses.

University Archives

Record Group 003/01/01

Office of the Chancellor – Campus Planning and Development Records, 1949-c. 1970

9.75 linear feet of material relating to the curricular and physical expansion of the two year Chicago Undergraduate Division to the four year University of Illinois at Chicago Circle.

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University Archives

Record Group 003/01/02

Office of the Chancellor – Chancellor's Central Files

Multiple deposits from the Chancellor's Office of their main central subject files. This record group contains over 300 linear feet of reports and correspondence between the Chancellor's Office and various colleges, offices, and administrators on all issues impacting the University. This collection is one of the most important collection documenting official campus decisions in the University Archives, but it is also one of the most difficult collections to use. Especially of interest may be the "Parker Report" found in UA 90-17 box 40. This 1960 report outlined a 3 phase construction project for UICC to be completed between 1963 and 1969 and formed the basis for all other development plans that followed.

University Archives

Record Group 007/03/20/01

George Rosen Papers

Contains 2 linear feet of notes, photocopies, and correspondence related to his book *Decision Making Chicago Style*.

University Archives

Record Group 011/12/20/01

Ernest Willner Papers

1.5 linear feet of material primarily concerned with Willner's activities in the German Department, this collection also contains numerous clippings on the site selection and other events at the Chicago Undergraduate Division and the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle.

University Archives

Record Group 011/18/21/01

Hollis Barber Papers, 1947-1970

.35 linear feet of material donated by Professor Hollis Barber, concerning his membership of the Pier Advisory Council and the Quad Council. These two councils considered the proposal for a four-year UI campus in Chicago. The collection contains correspondence, reports, clippings, speeches, minutes, and memoranda, 1947-1955.

University Archives

Record Group 060/00/04

Office of Campus Planning -- "A Brief History of Chicago Circle Physical Development"

A short (8 page and 12 table) report written in October 1976 covering the development of Circle Campus from 1960-1976. Includes brief descriptions of major plans that guided the physical development of UICC during this period.

University Archives

Record Group 060/01/00/01

Office of Campus Planning -- Program Statements - Phase IV, 1969-1971 Capital Budget

A description of the physical needs for proposed buildings and additions in Phase IV, the final phase of the original Circle Campus construction.

University Archives

Record Group 060/02/00/02

Office of Campus Planning -- [Assorted Reports on Space Needs at UICC, 1959-1970]

Contains some of the reports mentioned in RG 060/00/04.

University Archives

Record Group 061/01/02

Office of Capital Programs -- C. S. Haven's Files

2 linear feet of files from C. S. Havens. His files contain newspaper clippings related to site selection for UICC, 1958-1964 and also includes glass slides of expansion projections at UICC and UIMC as well as and material related roof repair project at the Peoria School of Medicine.

University Archives

Record Group 061/01/03

Office of Capital Programs -- Site Section Maps and Photographs, 1958

17 Posters from the architecture firm Skidmore Owings, and Merrill depicting potential sites for the construction of the new University of Illinois Campus. See also folder 28 in the University Archives Ready Reference Files

University Archives

Record Group 064/01/02

Office of Public Information -- Records, 1946-1965

2 linear feet of press releases and reference files from the Office of Public Information, includes press releases and background material on the Navy Pier Campus, the site selection process, and the opening of Circle Campus.

University Archives

Assorted University Newspapers:

These newspapers reported on campus events before, during, and after the site selection process and the construction of Circle Campus.

Record Group 059/07/00/04 *Pier Illini* (1946-1961) and Record Group 070 *Chicago Illini* (1962-1968). These two titles are the predecessors to the newspaper presently titled *Chicago Flame*.

Record Group 055/00/01: *U of I Chicagoan* (1961-1971). This title was a predecessor to the title presently known as *UIC Alumni*.