Guide to the Wayne State University Chatsworth Tower Apartments Tenants Association
WSR002678

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English
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Walter P. Reuther Library
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Detroit, MI 48202
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Summary Information

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Abstract: The Chatsworth Tower Apartments were built in 1929. The nine-story building is nestled within Wayne State University’s campus at 630 Merrick Street. Once owned by Otto Wismer of Bondholders Management, Inc., the university attempted to purchase the building in 1951. Although the parties did not originally agree on the terms of sale, the university eventually purchased the building in 1961 for $900,000, while Bondholders Management, Inc. simultaneously made a $100,000 donation to Wayne University. The building historically gave tenant preference to university faculty and at one point was primarily occupied by Wayne’s academic employees. As housing options changed, the building admitted more graduate students and currently houses both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students, and some faculty members. Additionally, Preservation Wayne fought for Chatsworth to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, for which they were rewarded the designation in 1986. This collection contains correspondence from the Chatsworth Tenants Association. The correspondence largely consists of complaints about pest control, parking security, deteriorating building conditions, and rising costs of rent. Additionally, the collection documents correspondence between Wayne State University’s Department of Housing and the building representative. The correspondence also notes the tight-knit community of tenants in the late sixties, seventies, and early eighties.
History

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Scope and Content

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**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged topically and chronologically.

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**Administrative Information**

**Publication Statement**

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**Acquisition**

This collection was donated in 2015.

**Processing History**


**Access**

Collection is open for research.

**Use**

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Related Materials

Charles K. Hyde Papers, Wayne State University Auxiliary Activities Office Records, Wayne University Citizens' Committee Records

Controlled Access Headings

• Wayne State University
• Tenants' associations
• Faculty housing
• Landlord & tenant relations
• Chatsworth Tower Apartments
• Chatsworth Tenants Association

Other Access Aids


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