



ArchivesSpace

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

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <http://reuther.wayne.edu>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Walter P. Reuther Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Chatsworth Tenants Association
<b>Title:</b>	Wayne State University Chatsworth Tower Apartments Tenants Association Records
<b>ID:</b>	WSR002678
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1968-1983
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.25 Linear Feet 1 MB
<b>Physical Location:</b>	4W-A-2(5)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	Material entirely in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>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.</p>

## Citation Style

"Wayne State University: Chatsworth Tower Apartments Tenants Association Records, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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## History

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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.

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## Scope and Content

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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.

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## Arrangement

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The collection is arranged topically and chronologically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <http://reuther.wayne.edu>

### Acquisition

This collection was donated in 2015.

### Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Meghan McGowan on January 28, 2016.

### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials." Restrictions:

Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

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

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## Controlled Access Headings

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

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## Other Access Aids

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Finding aid also available as a pdf file. <https://www.reuther.wayne.edu/files/WSR002678.pdf>

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**Box 1**

- 1 Committee on Law and Housing, Analysis of Bills, 1968
- 2 Wayne State Building Authority, correspondence, 1968
- 3 Tenants Temporary Committee, correspondence, 1973
- 4 Wayne State University Tenant Council, correspondence, 1977
- 5 A Way of Life, Housing at Wayne State University newsletter, 1977-1980
- 6 Wayne State University Tenancy Council, tenant concerns, undated
- 7 Resident Advisory Council, correspondence, 1978-1981
- 8 Rat Infestation on the Wayne State University campus, 1979
- 9 Tenants' meeting notes, 1970-1980
- 10 Correspondence between building representative and director of housing, 1979-1983
- 11 Tenant letters to Jeff Rothstein, building representative, 1979-1981