

Lathrop House Underground Railroad Collection Scope and Contents Notes

The Lathrop House Underground Railroad Collection was donated to the Local History Department by two individuals, Naomi Twining and Ted Ligibel. Mrs. Twining's collection was donated first, and shortly thereafter, Mr. Ligibel donated his files about the controversy.

St. Joseph Catholic Church purchased the Lathrop House, built in 1835, in October 2001 and announced plans to raze the house to provide space for expanding the church campus. People in Sylvania and Toledo opposed the razing based on the fact that the house had been identified as a stop on the Underground Railroad. Another house in Sylvania, the Harroun House, which had also been identified as a stop on the Underground Railroad, had been razed many years earlier.

A group called the Friends of the Lathrop House was formed to save the house, first from destruction, then from being moved to a different site. The controversy delayed the church's plans, and in 2003, the city of Sylvania attempted to take the land and house by eminent domain after the church refused to sell the property to the city. In November 2003, in an initiative petition, voters rejected the city's attempt to use eminent domain.

The church agreed not to demolish the house and a controversy then ensued over whether or not the house would be moved. The Friends opposed moving the house contending that the ravine on which the house was situated was integral to the historical integrity of the house as a stop for fleeing slaves. In June 2004, the house was moved to Harroun Community Park where the Toledo Area Metroparks agreed to restore the house and run educational programs about its history.

The materials donated by Mr. Ligibel are located in Folders 1-19. His files provide information about the house and reflect his expertise and interest in historic preservation. Mrs. Twining's files are in Folders 20-33 and reflect her interest in the Underground Railroad and the Lathrop family. Both individuals donated many newspaper articles, which have been photocopied and merged into one file, Folders 34-38. Both of them also donated photographs, which have been placed in the department's photograph collection. Color photocopies of the photographs have been retained in the collection.

Lathrop House Underground Railroad Collection Inventory

Box 1

- Folder 1 Lathrop House History
- Folder 2 National Register, Lathrop House
- Folder 3 Images, Logo, Site
- Folder 4 Moving/Movers
- Folder 5 Fundraising/Community Support
- Folder 6 City of Sylvania
- Folder 7 Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP
- Folder 8 Correspondence
- Folder 9 City Council/Reuse Task Force
- Folder 10 Archaeology/Demolition
- Folder 11 St. Joseph Church Information
- Folder 12 Olander Park System
- Folder 13 Underground Railroad/Friends of Freedom
- Folder 14 Friends of the Lathrop House
- Folder 15 Lathrop House, Addresses et al
- Folder 16 Ken Blackwell Event
- Folder 17 Metroparks
- Folder 18 Vote Campaign, November 4, 2003
- Folder 19 Presentations
- Folder 20 Diane Miller, National Park Service
- Folder 21 Lathrop Family
- Folder 22 History of the Lathrop Family, Irma Lathrop Moorman, 1940
- Folder 23 Sylvania City Council
- Folder 24 Fact Sheets
- Folder 25 Lathrop Excerpts
- Folder 26 Lathrop Newsletters
- Folder 27 Lathrop, Atlas, King Land
- Folder 28 Books re Lathrop and UGRR
- Folder 29 Lathrop, SE Michigan, Titus & Whiteford

Lathrop House Underground Railroad Collection Inventory

Box 1 (cont.)

- Folder 30 Miscellaneous notes Lucas Marriages
- Folder 31 Free Soil Excerpts, Clark Waggoner
- Folder 32 Miscellaneous
- Folder 33 Photographs (Photocopies)
- Folder 34 Newspaper articles, *The Blade*
- Folder 35 Newspaper articles, *Sylvania Herald*
- Folder 36 Newspaper articles, *Sojourner's Truth*
- Folder 37 Newspaper articles, *Toledo City Paper*
- Folder 38 Newspaper articles, Miscellaneous