
Guide to the Frank B. Durkee papers

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Guide to the Frank B. Durkee papers

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Frank B. Durkee papers

Dates: 1886-1982

Bulk Dates: 1937-1980

Collection number: MS0049

Creator: Durkee, Frank B.

Collection Size: 3.5 linear feet (4 boxes + 1 oversized box + 1 oversized drawer)

Repository: Center for Sacramento History

Sacramento, California 95811-0229

Abstract: The Frank B. Durkee papers consist 3.5 linear feet of reports, correspondence, photographs, and blueprints mostly documenting his time as the director of the California Dept. of Public Works and as a member of the Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. The papers include reports, subject files, and correspondence of urban renewal and redevelopment projects in Sacramento, California in the 1950s-1960s.

Physical location: 27E1-2, 4D1 Drawer E, MC 1:19

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research use.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and/or item number], [box and folder number], Frank B. Durkee papers, MS0049, Center for Sacramento History.

Acquisition Information

The Frank B. Durkee papers were donated by Frank B. Durkee to the Center for Sacramento History on August 18, 1982 (accession #1982/105)

Processing Information

Finding aid created by Sean Heyliger, August 26, 2019.

Biography / Administrative History

Frank Bidwell Durkee (1892-1983) was born in Chitwood, Oregon on December 3, 1892 to Edward Warren Durkee, a Union Civil War veteran and a founder of Russell, Kansas, and Elizabeth (nee Monk) Durkee of Yorkshire, England. Durkee was raised in Oregon until 1900 when his family moved to a farm in Miner County, South Dakota where they lived for three years before moving to Chico, California in January 1903. After graduating from Chico High School in June 1913 he attended the University of Southern California Law School for one year (1913-1914) and was eventually admitted to the California

State Bar in 1926.

Following graduation from USC, he returned to Chico where he worked as a reporter for the Chico Enterprise (1914-1915) and the Sacramento Bee (1916-1917) before his enlistment in the Mexican border mobilization in 1916 under the direction of General John Pershing and served as a private in Company A of the California National Guard stationed at Camp Stephen Littel in Nogales, Arizona. He returned to Chico in 1916 where he was the director of the Chico Chamber of Commerce. In 1921 he moved to Sacramento, California and was hired as the Auto and Outing Section editor for the Sacramento Bee (1922-1923) and California Highways and Public Works (1923-1928), the newsletter of the State Highway Commission. He joined the California State Department of Public Works in 1927 as a member of the legal department as a general right of way agent for one year before rejoining the department again in 1931 as a principal attorney. He remained with the department for the next 27 years and was promoted to deputy director in 1948. He was appointed director of the Department of Public Works by California governor Earl Warren in 1951 and served as its director until his retirement in 1958.

After his retirement from the Department of Public Works, Durkee was appointed to the Sacramento Redevelopment Agency (1958-1973) and chaired the city's Old Sacramento Committee (1966-1968). He played a key role in the development of the Old Sacramento Historic District and was awarded the California Historical Society's fifth annual award for Historic Preservation in 1978 for his work in the establishment of the Old Sacramento Historic District and the Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park. In addition to his role in historic preservation, he was also a founding member of the Sacramento Book Collectors Club (1939), Comstock Club, American Society of Public Administrators Sacramento, and the Sophie Comstock Memorial Committee which erected a memorial to the riders of the Pony Express in downtown Sacramento (1976).

Scope and Content of Collection

The Frank B. Durkee papers consist 3.5 linear feet of reports, correspondence, photographs, and blueprints mostly documenting his time as the director of the California Dept. of Public Works and as a member of the Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. The papers include reports, subject files, and correspondence of urban renewal and redevelopment projects in Sacramento, California in the 1950s-1960s. The collection is organized into six series: Series 1. Biographical sketch Series 2. Correspondence / subject files, Series 3. Sacramento redevelopment reports, Series 4. Photographs, Series 5. Membership directories, Series 6. Certificates. The correspondence / subject files series include files maintained by Frank Durkee mostly related to redevelopment, historic preservation, and parks in Sacramento, California during the 1960s-1970s. Also included are five folders of correspondence written by Frank Durkee to chief justice and former California governor Earl Warren. The second series, Sacramento redevelopment reports consist of 80 reports written by the Sacramento Redevelopment Agency, Department of Housing & Community Development, Sacramento City Planning Committee, and private design and architectural consultants on a variety of urban renewal projects in Sacramento including the Capitol Mall, Old Sacramento Historical District, and the American River Parkway. The membership and certificate series include items documenting Frank Durkee's membership in various clubs and professional organizations in Sacramento.

Arrangement

Series 1. Biographical sketch Series 2. Correspondence / subject files Series 3. Sacramento redevelopment reports Series 4. Photographs Series 5. Membership directories Series 6. Certificates

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

Historic preservation--California--Sacramento

Old Sacramento Historic District (Sacramento, Calif.)

Urban renewal--California--Sacramento

California State Capitol (Sacramento, Calif.)

Box 1:1

Series 1. Biographical sketch 1980-06-20

Physical Description: 1 folder

Series Scope and Content Summary

Biographical survey, certificates, and newspaper clippings documenting the life and career of Frank B. Durkee.

Series 2. Correspondence / subject files

Physical Description: 14 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

Correspondence and subject files maintained by Frank Durkee mostly related to redevelopment, historic preservation, and parks in Sacramento, California during the 1960s-1970s

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by subject or correspondent

Box 1:1-2	Book Collectors Club Sacramento 1947-1982
Box 1:3-4	California Historical Society Award for Historic Preservation circa 1978-1979
Box 1:5-6	Camellia Festival 1967-1981
Box 1:7	Capitol Mall building 1963-1964
Box 1:8	Comstock Club 1964-1980
Box 1:9-13	Golden Spike Centennial Committee 1969
Box 1:14	Grandfathers Club 1956-1982
Box 1:15	Historic preservation 1957-1970
Box 1:16	Sacramento Historic Landmarks Commission 1956-1960
Box 1:17	Land Park District Improvement Association 1937-1947
Box 1:18	Letter from E.W. Potter to J.M. Abbott 1886-09-23
Box 1:18	Governor Ronald Reagan inauguration ceremonies program 1971-01-04
Box 1:19-22	Old Sacramento redevelopment 1964-1982
Box 2:1-2	Old Sacramento redevelopment 1964-1982
Box 2:3	Sacramento County Historical Society 1955-1980
Box 2:4	Sacramento History Center, Inc. 1972-1980
Box 2:5	Seline, William, Executive director Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency 1980
Box 2:6-8	Sophie Comstock Memorial Committee 1962-1982
Box 2:9	Stanford Home State Monument 1963-1980
Box 2:10-14	Warren, Earl, Chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court 1953-1971

Series 3. Sacramento redevelopment reports

Physical Description: 80 reports

Series Scope and Content Summary

Series includes 80 reports and studies mostly related to Sacramento historic preservation, parks, and redevelopment project during the 1950s-1970s. Included are California State Capitol redevelopment project reports during the 1960s and labor studies of the Sacramento labor market in 1958.

Box 2:15	Historic preservation through urban renewal , Urban Renewal Administration 1963
Box 2:15	A guide for citizens advisory committees for the workable program for community improvement, Department of Housing & Urban Development 1965
Box 2:15	Preserving historic America, Department of Housing & Urban Development 1966
Box 2:16	Pedestrian Malls, California Department of Housing & Community Development undated
Box 2:16	Housing in California, Governor's Advisory Committee on Housing Problems 1963
Box 2:16	Redevelopment in Sacramento's West End: report # 4: analysis of potential commercial expansion, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1953
Box 2:17	Redevelopment in Sacramento's West End: report# 5: relocation study:single male population, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1953
Box 2:17	Boundaries Capital Mall project area 2-A, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1954
Box 2:17	Capital mall and riverfront area, project no. 3, Sacramento City Planning Committee 1957
Box 2:17	Planning for "core area"development in Sacramento, Sacramento City Planning Committee 1957
Box 2:17	Redevelopment in Sacramento's West End: report# 7: redevelopment plan for Capitol Mall area, project area no. 2-a, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1958

Box 2:18	A plan for trafficways & modifications to railroad operations & facilities, Sacramento metropolitan area, vol. I: reports & exhibits De Leuw, Cather & Co. 1958
Box 2:19	A plan for trafficways & modifications to railroad operations & facilities, Sacramento metropolitan area vol. II: appendices, De Leuw, Cather & Co. 1958
Box 2:20	Present & future requirements for agricultural labor from the Sacramento labor market area, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1958
Box 2:20	Community Agency Services in relation to relocation of the labor market, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1958
Box 2:20	Report of architectural consultants: relocation of labor market, Dreyfuss & Blackford 1958
Box 3:1	Economic feasibility of relocation, Sacramento labor market area, Western Real Estate Research Corporation 1958
Box 3:1	Plan for relocation of Sacramento's labor market, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency and Housing & Home Finance Agency 1958
Box 3:1	Relocation plan: slum area labor market Sacramento, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency and Housing & Home Finance Agency 1959
Box 3:2	Redevelopment plan, Capitol Mall extension project no. 3, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1959
Box 3:2	Capitol Mall project: relocation report, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1960
Box 3:2	Telling the Sacramento story by the preservation & enhancement of historic landmarks, Sacramento Historic Landmarks Commission 1960
Box 3:2	Mall report, Sacramento Planning Committee 1960
Box 3:2	The California State Capitol plan, Capitol Building & Planning Committee 1960
Box 3:2	West End commercial complex Sacramento, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill 1962
Box 3:2	Assorted pamphlets on Sacramento redevelopment undated
Box 3:2	Redevelopment plan for the Capitol Mall area, project area no. 2-A, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1962
Box 3:3	Redevelopment plan Capitol Mall extension, project no. 3, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1962
Box 3:3	The California State Capitol plan , Capitol Building and Planning Committee 1963
Box 3:3	Capitol Mall project: final relocation report, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1963
Box 3:3	Resolution no. 796, authority issuance of \$3,100,000 principal amount of Capitol Mall Extension project no. 3 tax allocation bonds & of \$2,800,000 principal amount of bonds of series A, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1963
Box 3:3	Official statement relating to \$2,800,000 Capitol Mall extension project no. 3 tax allocation bonds, series A, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1963
Box 3:4	Memorandum, recodification - California Community Redevelopment law, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1963
Box 3:4	Sacramento renewal - city on the move: recipient of the Ward Melville gold medal award for community improvement 1 Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1964
Box 3:4	First stage report: proposed Old Sacramento historic preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, area & riverfront (Embarcadero) Park, Candeub, Flessig & Associates 1964
Box 3:4	Progress report on planning for the historic restoration of Old Sacramento, California Department of Parks & Recreation 1964
Box 3:5	Old Sacramento historic area & riverfront park, Candeub, Flessig & Associates 1964
Box 3:6	The California State Capitol plan, Capitol Building & Planning Committee 1964
Box 3:6	The single man in the West End, Community Welfare Council of Greater Sacramento Area 1964
Box 3:6	Relocation profile: Capitol Mall Extension, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1964
Box 3:6	Study for Governor's residence, State of California Department of General Services 1965
Box 3:7	Old Sacramento State Historical Park study, Department of Parks & Recreation 1965
Box 3:7	Focus on the Sacramento Metropolitan Area: an economic study of Placer, Sacramento & Yolo counties, Bank of America 1965
Box 3:7	General plan Sacramento, California, Sacramento City Planning Committee 1965
Box 3:7	Environmental criteria for the California State Capitol plan, Department of General Services 1966

Box 3:8	Criteria for land disposition: Chinatown, Capitol Mall riverfront, project no. 4, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1967
Box 3:8	A new Sacramento: progress & promise, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1967
Box 3:8	The downtown plaza, Sacramento, California, Larry Smith & Co. , Inc. 1967
Box 3:9	Parking study - Capitol Mall, 7th-I-Front streets, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1968
Box 3:9	Proposal for purchase & development of land in Capitol Mall project no. 2A & Capitol Mall Extension project no. 3. downtown plaza projects properties, 1968 1968
Box 3:9	Gas street lighting, Old Sacramento, DeMars & Wells undated
Box 3:9	Gas street lighting, Old Sacramento, DeMars & Wells 1968
Box 3:9	Sacramento Chinatown signing standards, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1969
Box 3:10	The Chrysoyolis (1860-1940), Hicok & Hewitt, Inc. 1969
Box 3:10	A new Sacramento: progress & promise," Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1970
Box 3:10	Design & Development Kit: Old Sacramento, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1970
Box 3:10	Pony express memorial, California Department of Parks & Recreation 1971
Box 3:10	Stanford home: California state park system feasibility study, California Department of Parks & Recreation 1971
Box 3:10	Urban renewal: Sacramento, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency undated
Box 3:10	Calendar, Plaza Towers printing 1972
Box 3:10	Environmental impact report: Old Sacramento south parking structure & access street, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1974
Box 3:11	Sacramento History Center, Sacramento Museum and History Division 1957
Box 3:11	Official statement relating to \$2,700,000 Old Sacramento south parking structure lease revenue bonds, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1977
Box 3:12	Pioneer, Vol 1, No. 1 Sacramento City College 1977
Box 3:12	Summary report: heavy commercial / light industrial corridor, Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall 1964
Box 3:12	Heavy commercial / light industrial corridor Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall undated
Box 3:12	Development & design kit, heavy commercial / light industrial corridor, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency undated
Box 3:12	Signage standards, heavy commercial / light industrial corridor, Sacramento Redevelopment Agency 1969
Box 3:12	A preliminary specific plan for the city portion of the American River Parkway, Sacramento City Planning Committee 1969
Box 3:12	American River Parkway, Sacramento County Planning Department 1967
Box 3:13	A community plan for Riverside-Land Park, Sacramento City Planning Committee 1963
Box 3:13	\$25,000,000 S.M.U.D. Upper American River project revenue bonds, series A, Blyth & Co., Inc. 1959
Box 3:13	Upper American River project dedication ceremony S.M.U.D. 1971-06-18
Box 3:13	The Sacramento Union undated
Box 3:13	Sacramento: The Sacramento Union undated
Box 3:14	We the People, California State Chamber of Commerce 1970
Box 3:14	We the People, California State Chamber of Commerce 1972
Box 4:1	Government reorganization for metropolitan Sacramento, Metropolitan Government Committee 1959
Box 4:1	Background study relating to article XI: local government, California Constitution Revision Commission undated
Box 4:2	Recent electric power developments in the U.S.S.R., U.S.delegation tour to Soviet Russia 1962
Box MC 1:19	Old Sacramento Historic Area blueprints 1964

Series 4. Photographs

Physical Description: 17 photographs

Series Scope and Content Summary

Series includes 17 photographs mostly of former California governor and chief justice of the Supreme Court Earl Warren.

- Box 4:6 **Patricia Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and Frank Durkee [001] circa 1967**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Judge Peter Shields (photo of 1942 painting) [002] undated**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Governor Earl Warren, Frank Durkee in governor's new office in capitol [003] circa 1952**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Governor Earl Warren signing papers [004] undated**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Governor Earl Warren, Robert E. Reed, Frank Durkee, and George S. Pingrey at Western Association of State Highway Officials (WASHO) Convention, San Francisco, California [005] 1951-06-26**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Governor Earl Warren, James Dean and Frank Durkee in governor's office [006] 1953-09-30**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Governor Earl Warren at time of signing Chapter 47 [007] 1947**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Governor Earl Warren signing Chapter 47 [008] 1944**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Earl Warren, Chief Justice of U.S. Supreme Court, with inscription to Frank Durkee [009] circa 1953**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Governor Earl Warren conferring on Bay Bridge refinancing [010] undated**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Governor Earl Warren conferring on Bay Bridge refinancing [011] undated**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Governor Earl Warren and Frank Durkee at dedication of governor's portrait in capitol [012] circa 1953**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Dr. V. Aubrey Neasham and Frank Durkee in front of painting of John Bidwell at Bidwell Mansion, Chico, California [013] 1978-10-29**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **K Street mall, street scene in front of Macy's [014] undated**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Frank B. Durkee and Meta Powers at Bidwell Mansion, Chico, California [015] 1978-10-29**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Frank B. Durkee and Meta Powers at Bidwell Mansion, Chico, California [016] 1978-10-29**
Box 4D1 Drawer E **Morse Building, Old Sacramento [017] undated**

Series 5. Membership directories

Physical Description: 10 membership directories

Series Scope and Content Summary

Series consists of membership directories of various fraternal organizations in Sacramento, California during the 1960s including the Elks Lodge no. 6, Comstock Club, University Club, and Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

- Box 4:5 **Sacramento Elks Lodge no. 6, membership directory 1963**
Box 4:5 **The Comstock Club, Inc. membership directory 1965-1966**
Box 4:5 **University Club of Sacramento membership directory 1961**
Box 4:5 **University Club of Sacramento membership directory 1964**
Box 4:5 **Sacramento County Bar Association membership directory 1969**
Box 4:5 **McGeorge School of Law alumni membership directory 1968-1969**
Box 4:5 **McGeorge School of Law alumni membership directory 1969-1970**
Box 4:6 **Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce business & professional directory 1968**
Box 4:6 **Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce business & professional directory 1969-1970**
Box 4:6 **Sacramento south aea, business directory, Spring edition 1972**

Series 6. Certificates and ribbons

Physical Description: 1 folder + 1 missing box

Series Scope and Content Summary

Series includes certificates awarded to Frank Durkee and six ribbons [missing as of 08/27/2019] to various events in the Sacramento area including the Centennial of the Transcontinental railroad in 1969.

- Box 4:2 **The Dream ... Sacramento Elks Lodge no. 6, building dedication 1979-04-21**
Box 4:2 **Welcome to Sacramento - California's newdestination, sales guide 1979-1980, Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau 1979**
- Box 4:2 **Poster, reproduction, The Youth's Companion 1885-10-29**
Box 4:2 **Certificate, commission member, CA Commission on Interstate Cooperation 1953-03-04**
- Box 4:2 **Certificate, commission member, Purchase Standards Committee 1955-09-15**
Box 4:3 **California Highways and Public Works, September 9, 1850 - September 9, 1950, centennial edition, California Highways & Public Works 1950**
- Box 4:4 **Robin Lampson, The man who gave the golden spike 1969**
Box 4:4 **Douglas S. Watson, An hour's walk through Yerba Buena 1937**
Box 4:4 **Allan R. Ottley, In the beginning: the early years of the Sacramento Book Collectors Club 1979**
- Box 4:4 **Socrates Hyacinth, Sacramento etchings 1975**
Box Missing **Reviewing stand, 13th Annual Sacramento Camellia Festival, Children's Parade [missing as of 08/27/2019] 1967**
- Box Missing **Sacramento Gold Spike Centennial Celebration Committee [missing as of 08/27/2019] 1969-05-08**
- Box Missing **Golden Spike Centennial, Promontory, Utah [missing as of 08/27/2019] 1969-05-10**
Box Missing **Committee member, dedication of the Central Pacific Passenger Station, Old Sacramento [missing as of 08/27/2019] 1976-09-25**
- Box Missing **Sophie Comstock Memorial Committee member [missing as of 08/27/2019] 1976-06-04**
- Box Missing **Delegate, State Bar of California Convention, San Francisco, California [missing as of 08/27/2019] 1963-09-23**