

LMHS.12: The Main Line Country Houses Collection

12

**Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Michael
Gubicza through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden
Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.**

Last updated on November 09, 2012.

Lower Merion Historical Society

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Summary Information

Repository	Lower Merion Historical Society
Creator	Morrison, William Alan
Title	LMHS.12: The Main Line Country Houses Collection
Call number	12
Date	circa 1900-2003
Extent	2 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The township of Lower Merion in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania was first settled by Welsh Quakers in 1682. It is part of the "Main Line," a collection of affluent Philadelphia suburbs located alongside the Pennsylvania Railroad line that was built between Philadelphia and Harrisburg in the mid-19th century. The Main Line Country Houses Collection, circa 1900-2003, consists of over 800 photographs and fact sheets on over 150 properties. The materials were collected by William Alan Morrison for his 2002 book <i>The Main Line: Country Houses of Philadelphia's Storied Suburb, 1870-1930</i>.</p>

Biography/History

The "Main Line" is a collection of affluent suburbs northwest of Philadelphia. The name comes from the Main Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which was built in the mid-19th century and ran from

Philadelphia to Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. The convenient transportation encouraged the economic development of areas along its route.

The Main Line: Country Houses of Philadelphia's Storied Suburb, 1870-1930 was written by William Morrison, with an introduction by Mark Alan Hewitt. Part of the Suburban Domestic Architecture Series, it was published by Acanthus Press (New York, N.Y.) in 2002.

Scope and Contents

The Main Line Country Houses Collection consists of photographs and fact sheets collected by William Alan Morrison for his 2002 book *The Main Line: Country Houses of Philadelphia's Storied Suburb, 1870-1930*. For each estate included in his book, Morrison filled out a data sheet with basic information about the property. This collection includes over 800 original and copy photographs and data sheets describing over 150 properties, as well as scattered architectural schematics, photograph negatives, newspaper clippings, and copies of secondary source articles.

Administrative Information

Lower Merion Historical Society

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Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Access Restrictions

Contact Lower Merion Historical Society for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Gift of William Alan Morrison.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Ardmore (Pa.)
- Bala-Cynwyd (Pa.)
- Bryn Mawr (Pa.)
- Gladwyne (Pa.)
- Haverford (Pa. : Township)
- Lower Merion (Pa. : Township)
- Main Line (Pa.)
- Merion (Pa.)
- Montgomery County (Pa.)
- Villanova (Pa.)
- Wynnewood (Montgomery County, Pa.)

Subject(s)

- Architecture
- Historic buildings
- Houses and homes
- Lower Merion (Pa. : Township)--Research
- Mansions