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Denver, Colo. Seventh Avenue Congregational Church records, 1884-1999. RG5512

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Note	4
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	6
Controlled Access Headings	6
Physical Access	6
Bibliography	7
Collection Inventory	7

Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Seventh Avenue Congregational Church (Denver, Colo.)
Creator:	Villa Park Congregational Church (Denver, Colo.)
Title:	Denver, Colo. Seventh Avenue Congregational Church records, 1884-1999.
ID:	RG5512
Date [inclusive]:	1884-1999
Physical Description:	0.97 Cubic Feet (3 boxes, 1 folder)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	<p>The Villa Park Congregational Church was organized, with the help of Rev. George Rose, in 1890 and construction on the first church building was completed by October of that year. In 1913, land was purchased at the intersection of West Seventh Avenue and King Street, in the Barnum neighborhood, for the purpose of constructing a new church building. That same year, the church formally voted to become the Seventh Avenue Congregational Church. The church struggled to flourish in the following decades. While the church grew in the wake of World War II, demographic and economic changes in West Denver negatively affected church membership after the 1960s. The church joined with the United Church of Christ in 1957. The church continued to serve its community through 2016 when the church building was sold to Church of the Advent. This collection contains records related to the history, activities, and administrations of the church and its members. A significant portion of the collection is three historical scrapbooks which document the history of the church through documents, clippings, and photographs.</p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Denver, Colo. Seventh Avenue Congregational Church records, 1884-1999, RG5512. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

Congregationalists first began to gather and worship together within the Villa Park neighborhood in Denver in 1884. These Congregationalists gathered in people's homes rather than a formal church. The Villa Park Congregational Church was formally organized, with the help of Rev. George Rose, in 1890 and plans were immediately put into place to build a church building. Construction on that building was completed by October, 1890, and Rev. Chester Clark oversaw the dedication service for the new church. The church's membership steadily grew as the Villa Park, Barnum, and West Barnum neighborhoods slowly developed. By 1912, shortly after Rev. Robert Allingham was installed pastor, a committee was set up to investigate plans for a new, larger, church building. In 1913, land was purchased at the intersection of West Seventh Avenue and King Street, in the Barnum neighborhood, and the church formally voted to become the Seventh Avenue Congregational Church. The dedication service for the new church building was held on September 7, 1913.

The church struggled to flourish in the following decades and membership waxed and waned. In 1946, the church purchased and installed a Hammond organ. The church's Women's Association, a successor to the Ladies Aid Society which had been active within the church since the beginning, was formed in 1948; by around 1952 it had become the Women's Fellowship. The church was also legally incorporated in 1948. The church saw increased membership and activity during the late 40s and into the 50s. However, much of that growth faltered in the 60s due to economic and demographic changes in West Denver. The church joined with the United Church of Christ in 1957. Between 1967 and 1972, a new parsonage was constructed.

The church continued to serve its community through 2016 when the church building was sold to Church of the Advent.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection contains records related to the history and activities of the Seventh Avenue Congregational Church, originally the Villa Park Congregational Church. The church records include meeting minutes, baptismal records, and membership records while the trustee's records contain meeting minutes, often relating to financial matters. The records of the Ladies' Cooperative Guild and Women's Fellowship document the activities of the women who

supported the church. The collection also contains three historical scrapbooks which document the history of the church through documents, clippings, and photographs.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials in this collection have been arranged in chronological order by start date.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on Use

Items in this collection are subject to U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine the copyright status of collection items and to secure any permissions necessary for their reproduction and publication. Requests for permission to publish material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

Acquisition Information

Materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by the Rocky Mountain Conference, August 2021; accession 2021-07.

Processing Information

Processed by Zachary Bodnar, June 2024, using Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

[7th Avenue Congregational Church of Christ Records](#), WH2513, Western History Collection, [The Denver Public Library](#).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church finance.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Scrapbooks.
- Women -- Societies and clubs.
- Seventh Avenue Congregational Church (Denver, Colo.)
- Denver (Colo.) -- Church history.
- Villa Park Congregational Church (Denver, Colo.)

Physical Access

The historical scrapbooks contain many documents which have been glued into place on backing boards, often in ways which obscure significant portions of the document's text. The CLA can provide access to the scrapbooks, however, documents glued into the scrapbook may not be available to flip through or view in their entirety.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Bibliography

Feltner, George. *Our First Hundred Years*. Denver: 1984. 17.11.1 D43.88 SEVACC

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Church records and history, 1884-1984	box 1	volume 1
Historical scrapbook, 1896-1992	box 2	folder 1
<u>Separated Materials:</u> Separated Materials		
The materials found in the folder "Blueprints, 1956" were removed from this folder and placed into that folder for preservation purposes.		
Trustees records, 1912-1922	box 1	volume 2
Trustees records, 1934-1939	box 3	folder 1
Church records and history, 1935-1957	box 3	volume 1
Ladies' Cooperative Guild records, 1937-1940	box 2	folder 2
Ladies guild records, 1940-1946	box 3	volume 2
Historical scrapbook, 1943-1999	box 2	folder 3
Historical scrapbook, 1946-1990	box 1	folder 1
Women's Fellowship history, 1949-1961	box 2	folder 4
Women's Fellowship meeting minutes, 1955-1963	box 2	folder 5
Blueprints, 1956	folder 5	

Separated Materials:
Separated Materials

Materials in this folder were separated from the materials found within the folder "Historical scrapbook, 1896-1992" and placed into this folder for preservation purposes.