BUSINESS HISTORY RESEARCH GUIDE

The following guide provides an overview of a wide variety of published resources on Washington’s business history that are available in the Research Library. The list includes general information and guides as well as articles and publications on specific businesses or types of business. The library also holds manuscripts and archives, maps, newspaper clipping files, ephemera, prints, and photographs of interest for business history research. Please consult the library’s online catalog at http://www.historydc.org. Additional questions may be directed to library staff at library@historydc.org.

The library generally uses Library of Congress classification, with some exceptions. Call numbers consisting of a “P” followed by a number are in-house cataloging references to the library’s collection of pamphlets and booklets that are not currently cataloged using Library of Congress classification. Items identified as “reports” include student papers, essays, and lectures.

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General


Bureau of Census. *Fifteenth census of United States; manufactures: 1929, state series, District of Columbia.* (1932) P 2134

Bureau of Census. *Fifteenth census of United States; census of distribution wholesale distribution, state series, District of Columbia.* (1932) P 2135

Corporation for Economic and Industrial Research. *Economic base study for the general development plan, National Capital region.* (1956) HC108 .W3 C5

District of Columbia. *An act imposing a license on trades, business, and professions practiced or carried on in the District of Columbia.* (1871) HJ5332 .A5 1871

District of Columbia. *License laws of District of Columbia.* (1894) HJ5332 .A5 1894

District of Columbia. Board of Commissioners. *License regulations of the District of Columbia.* (1882) HJ5332 .A5 1882


Gall, George H. *Washington, the capital of the nation, descriptive of the most important features of America’s most beautiful and interesting city.* (1907) F199 .G15


*Illustrated Washington: our capital.* (1890) F199 .J29


Meyers, William F. *Laws relating to corporations in the District of Columbia with index.* (1903) P 0341


Progress: a weekly journal dedicated to advertising and the business interests of Washington, D.C. (1894-1895) P3368 (contains reports on the state of the advertising business in Washington, D.C. and profiles of local firms and businessmen)


U.S. Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations. Fiscal relations between the United States and the District of Columbia. (1936) HJ9215.A7


Washington with its points of interest illustrated. (ca. 1894) F199.W328 (contains photographs and profiles of many Washington businesses).

Wright, Carroll Davidson. The economic development of the District of Columbia. (1899) Q11.W3

Guides and Directories

Barton, Elmer Epenetus, ed. Historical and commercial sketches of Washington and environs … (1884) F199.B29

Brodix, Charles. Brodix’s business directory of the District of Columbia for the years 1886-1887. F192.5.H 1886

Coffin, John P. Historical sketches of the capital city of our country. Engravings of its public buildings and a comprehensive guide to them—a brief review of many its leading and enterprising business and professional men. (1887) F199.C67

Coleman, R.W. The first colored professional clerical skilled and business directory of Baltimore city with Washington. F192.5.B 1918-19


Porter, John Addison. New standard guide of the city of Washington and environs with map and indicator for locating all points of interest and the principal business houses. (1886) F199.P84


Washington architects, contractors, and builders directory, 1892-1893. (1892) HD9715.U53 A8

Washington Board of Trade. The Book of Washington. (1927, 1930) F199.B72 (Includes sketches of a number of local businesses)

Washington, D.C. with its points of interest illustrated. (ca. 1894) F199.W328
Arts and Entertainment
King, Donald C. *Memoirs of a movie theatre manager; or, 'crapcans and palaces' by Donald R. King, 1938 through 2000.* (2000) P 2428

Banking
Ailes, Milton E. *The banks of the City of Washington.* (1905) P 0066
Carr, Roland T. *32 President’s Square.* [Riggs National Bank] (1980) HG2613.W34 R5124
Dewey, Davis Rich. *State banking before the civil war.* (1911) HG471.A4
Hood, James Franklin. *A few words on wildcat banking and currency, having special reference to the District of Columbia.* (1915) HG2613.W3 H6
Howe, Charles Elder. *Early banks and banking in the District of Columbia.* (1905) P 0473


Norment, Clarence F. *A few facts and glimpses of the past and present of the oldest bank in the national capital* [National Bank of Washington] (1909) P 0068


Books


Brewing

Bull, Donald et al. *American breweries.* (1984; includes information on D.C. breweries) TP573 .U6 B84 1984


Brickmaking


Jacobson, Dorothy R. *Report to the Agricultural Research Service on the cultural history values of the New York Avenue Brickyard.* (1976) P 3551

Business Associations


*Junior Chamber of Commerce. Bulletin* (1951) P 0594

*Oyster, James F. Report to the Washington Chamber of Commerce.* (1912) P 2083

*Washington Board of Trade. Annual membership list* (1960-1965) P 0602

*Washington Board of Trade. A time to reflect, a time to grow: celebrating 100 years and beyond.* (1990) P 2490
Washington Board of Trade. *Postwar Planning Committee, Committee for Economic Development.* (1945) P 0591
Washington Board of Trade. *Newsletter.* (1956-1958) P 1887
Washington Board of Trade. *Annual Report.* (1892, 1898) P 2163
Washington Board of Trade. *Association registry of Washington.* (1948) P 0596
Washington Board of Trade. *Report of the Special Committee on Conventions.* (1904) P 0856
Washington Board of Trade. *Who’s who in the Washington Board of Trade.* (1954) P 1755

**Communications**

**Hotels and Restaurants**
An Act regulating sales in restaurants, eating houses, bar-rooms, sample-rooms, ice cream saloons, and soda fountain rooms providing for posting up the ordinary prices for which sales shall or may be. (1873) P 2589
Eskew, Garnett Laidlaw. *Willard’s of Washington, the epic of a capital caravansary.* (1954) TX941 .W5 E8

Melder, Keith E. *Late 18th and early 19th-century taverns in Georgetown and Washington City.* (ca. 1984) P 3520


Romer, Frank. *The history of Harvey’s.* (1958) P 0590

**Insurance**

Kacy, Howard W. *A unique and different company; the story of Acacia Mutual Life Insurance Company.* (1964) P 1169


Proctor, John Clagett. *Into another century, 1937-2037; the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Firemen’s Insurance Company of Washington and Georgetown, in the District of Columbia.* (1937) HG9780 .F35 P7

**Metal Trades**

Miller, Elizabeth J. *‘Appliances of an advanced civilization’: the metal trades in early Washington City.* (1984) P 3555

**Neighborhood Businesses**


**Newspapers, Printing and Publishing**


McMurtrie, Douglas C. *The beginnings of printing in the District of Columbia.* (1933) P 1694


Seaton, Josephine. *William Winston Seaton of the "National Intelligencer".* (1871) PN4874.S4 S4

Seibold, George Gordon. *Historical sketch of Columbia Typographical Union number one hundred and one* (known as Columbia Typographical Society from 1815 to 1867) (1915) Z1240.C74

Wust, Klaus G. *German immigrants and their newspapers in the District of Columbia.* (1959) P 1304

**Photographers**


**Plumbing, Heating, and Air-conditioning**


**Public Utilities**


Derrick, John M. *PEPCO celebrates 100 years of matchless service.* (1996) P 2199


Retail


Sedar, Scott and Bari Dedar. *Fifty years of caring – History of Giant Food, Inc.* (1986) P 0174

Woodward and Lothrop. *From founders to grandsons; the story of Woodward & Lothrop.* (1955) HF5465.U6 W77

Shipping and Shipbuilding


Transportation

Cunningham, G. F. *Cable cars in the nation's capital.* (1953) P 1292

King, Leroy O. *100 years of capital traction; the story of streetcars in the nation's capital.* (1972) HE4491.W37 K55


United States. Congress. Senate. Special Committee to Investigate Street Railway Conditions in the District of Columbia. *Street railway conditions in the District of Columbia*. (1917) 

HD5325 .R4 W32 1917
