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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

- Abell, Julie. *A guide to business history in Washington, D.C.* (1998) **P 1890**
- Allen, Roger W. "A Summary of Twentieth Century Economic Development of the District of Columbia and the Washington Metropolitan Area." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 49 (1974): 532-555. **F191 .C72**
- Billings, Elden. "Social and Economic Conditions in Washington during the Civil War." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 45 (1965): 191-209. **F191 .C72**
- Billings, Elden. "Social and economic life in Washington during the 1890s." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 46 (1968): 167-181. **F191 .C72**
- Brown, Philip Stoddard. *How economic is the Washington economy?* (1961) **HC108 .W3 B813**
- 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**
- District of Columbia. Board of Commissioners. *State of the nation's capital.* (1958) **J86 .A26**
- 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**
- Goode, James M. *Capital losses: a cultural history of Washington's destroyed buildings.* (2003) **NA735 .W3 G66 2003** (In particular, SEE chapters 7, 10, 13, and 14.)
- Illustrated Washington: our capital.* (1890) **F199 .J29**
- Junior League of the City of Washington. *The City of Washington: an illustrated history.* (1977) **F194 .J8 1977**
- Kerr, K. Austin. *Local businesses: exploring their history.* (1990) **HD2785 .K43 1990**
- McArdle, Walter F. "The Development of the Business Sector in Washington, D.C., 1800-1973." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 49 (1974): 556-594. **F191 .C72**
- Menefee, V. Worth. *Washington, D.C. "the nation's capital"*. [description of business and educational institutions] (1924) **P 0656**
- Meyers, William F. *Laws relating to corporations in the District of Columbia with index.* (1903) **P 0341**
- Miller, Elizabeth Jane. "Dreams of Being the Capital of Commerce." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, vol. 51 (1981): 71-82. **F191 .C72**
- Miller, Elizabeth J. *The Washington business community in the 19th century: dreams and disappointments.* (1980) **P 3557**

- Nolen, John Jr. "Some Aspects of Washington's Nineteenth Century Economic Development." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 49 (1974): 524-531. **F191 .C72**
- Proctor, John Claggett. *Washington past and present: a history*. (1930) **F194 .P96** (SEE ALSO card index to Proctor's articles on Washington local history.)
- 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)
- Prouty, Winston L. *Washington inner city poverty survey*. (1968) **HN80 .W3 P7**
- Rosenberger, Homer Tope. "The Economic Development of Washington: An Introduction." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 49 (1974): 521-523. **F191 .C72**
- Taylor, Amos E. "The Role of Washington in the National Economy during the Civil War." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 42 (1956): 145-154. **F191 .C72**
- U.S. Advisory Committee on Fiscal Relations. *Fiscal relations between the United States and the District of Columbia*. (1936) **HJ9215 .A7**
- U.S. Congress. Joint Committee on Washington Metropolitan Problems. *Washington metropolitan area economic development*. (1958) **HC108 .W3 U6**
- 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**
- King, Thomas J. Comp. *Builders' exchange hand-book*. (1891) **HD9715 .U53 B868**
- 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**
- Ruder, William, and Raymond Nathan. *The businessman's guide to Washington*. **JK424 .R8 1975b**
- Scott, Pamela. *Directory of District of Columbia architects, 1822-1960*. (2001) **P 2814**
- Simms' Blue Book and national Negro business and professional directory*. (1923) D.C. entries, pp. 209-225. **E185.82 .S592 1977**
- 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

- Gomery, Douglas. "A Movie-going Capital: Washington, D.C., in the History of Movie Presentation." *Washington History* 9:1 (1997): 4-23. **F191 .C72**
- Headley, Robert K. *Motion picture exhibition in Washington, D.C.: an illustrated history of parlors, palaces, and multiplexes in the metropolitan area, 1894-1997*. (1999) **PN1993.5 .U79 H43 1999**
- King, Donald C. *Memoirs of a movie theatre manager; or, 'crapcans and palaces' by Donald R. King, 1938 through 2000*. (2000) **P 2428**
- Meersman, Roger and Robert Boyer. "The National Theatre in Washington: Buildings and Audiences, 1835-1972." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 48 (1972): 190-242. **F191 .C72**
- Morrison, Andrew Craig. *Theatres of Washington: an illustrated historical list*. (1972) **PN2268 .W2 M831**
- Mudd, A.I. "Early Theatres in Washington City." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 5 (1902): 65-86. **F191 .C72**
- Mudd, A.I. "The Theatres of Washington from 1835 to 1850." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*. 6 (1906): 222-266. **F191 .C72**
- Preston, Katherine K. *Music for hire: a study of professional musicians in Washington, 1877-1900*. (1992) **ML419 .P76 P7 1992**
- Smith, Sam. "The Canaries in Studio A and Other Tales of Washington Radio." *Washington History* 7:2 (1995): 4-25. **F191 .C72**
- Weinstein, David. "Women's Shows and the Selling of Television to Washington, D.C." *Washington History* 11:1 (1999): 4-23. **F191.C72**

Banking

- Ailes, Milton E. *The banks of the City of Washington*. (1905) **P 0066**
- American Security Bank. *Celebrating a century of service: American Security Bank, 1889-1989*. (1989) **HG2600 .A4 B8 1989**
- American Security Bank. *Growing with Washington: sleepy village to world capital*. (1975?) **P 2849**
- Anacostia National Bank. *Our 50th year*. (1960) **P 1281**
- Beatty, Mary Alexine. *Bank failures in the District of Columbia in twentieth century*. (1949) **HG2613 .W3 B4**
- Carr, Roland T. *32 President's Square*. [Riggs National Bank] (1980) **HG2613 .W34 R5124**
- Cole, David Maurice. *The growth of banking in the District, 1880-1914*. (1959) **P 0485**
- Dewey, Davis Rich. *State banking before the civil war*. (1911) **HG471 .A4**
- Evans, Joshua. *A history of the Riggs National Bank*. (1938) **P 0481**
- Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank of Georgetown. *Farmers and Mechanics National Bank of Georgetown, D.C., since 1872*. (1914) **P 0069**
- 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**
- Miller, M. Sammye. "An Early Venture in Black Capitalism: The Capital Savings Bank in the District of Columbia, 1888-1902." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 50 (1980): 359-366. **F191 .C72**

National Bank of Washington. *Historical highlights of Washington's oldest bank.* (ca. 1958) **P 0062**

National Metropolitan Bank. *The National Metropolitan Bank, Washington, D.C.: Oldest national bank in the District of Columbia.* (1914) **HG2613 .W34 N5**

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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**

Overbeck, Ruth Ann. *The National Capital Bank: its first 100 years.* (1989) **P 0489**

Walsh, John Joseph. *Early banks in the District of Columbia, 1792-1818.* (1940) **G2613 .W2 W27**

Yowell, William Jr. "Historical Highlights of Washington's Oldest Bank." [National Bank of Washington] *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 43 (1959): 58-68. **F191 .C72**

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

Heurich, Gary F. "The Christian Heurich Brewing Company." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 49 (1974): 604-615. **F191 .C72**

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Birney, Sarah Miller. *A brief history of the Washington Brick and Terra Cotta Company, 1892-1992.* (1993) **P 0033**

Park, Sharon Collins. *A new attitude towards style: the red brick federal buildings of Washington, D.C., 1878-1887* (1980; contains a chapter on the history of brick making in Washington) **NA4205 .P37**

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

Business and Professional Women's Club of the District of Columbia. A history of the Business and Professional Women's Club of the District of Columbia, inc., 1927 through 1948. (1949) **HQ1906 .W2 B8**

Business Men's Association of Washington, D.C. *By-laws of the Business Men's Association of Washington, D.C. with list of officers, members and committees.* (1906) **P 0586**

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. *Industrial directory of Washington metropolitan area*. (1956) **HC108 .W3 W28**
- 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**
- Washington Chamber of Commerce. *Greater Washington*. (1925-1932) **P 1186**

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- Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. *The C. and P. call*. (1941-42) **P 2909**
- Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. *Spirit of '76: History of C&P Telephone*. **P 0173**
- Loomis, Richard T. "The Telephone Comes to Washington: George C. Maynard, 1839-1919." *Washington History* 1: 2 (2000): 22-40. **F191 .C72**
- The telephone in Washington, D.C., 1878-1920*. (1920) **P 2023**

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**
- Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia. *Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia honors Sholl's Cafeteria, Washington, D.C., established in 1925, as it celebrates 75 years of service*. (2000) **P 3004**
- Bryan, Wilhelmus B. "Hotels of Washington Prior to 1814." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 7 (1903): 71-106. **F191 .C72**
- Caplan, Marvin. "Eat anywhere!" [desegregation of D.C. restaurants] *Washington History* 1:1 (1989): 25-39. **F191 .C72**
- Carr, Marie Pinak, and Richard Wallace. *The Willard Hotel: an illustrated history*. (1986) **NA735 .W3 C31 1986**
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- Eskew, Garnett Laidlaw. *Willard's of Washington, the epic of a capital caravansary*. (1954) **TX941 .W5 E8**
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- Holmes, Oliver W. "The Colonial Taverns of Georgetown." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 41 (1952): 1-18. **F191 .C72**
- Holmes, Oliver W. "Suter's Tavern: Birthplace of the Federal City." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 49 (1974): 1-34. **F191 .C72**

- Luchs, Alison. "Demonet's: Architecture and Ice Cream on Connecticut Avenue." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 51 (1982): 144-157. **F191 .C72**
- Melder, Keith E. *Late 18th and early 19th-century taverns in Georgetown and Washington City*. (ca. 1984) **P 3520**
- Montgomery, Dean R. "The Willard Hotels of Washington, 1847-1968." *The Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 46 (1968): 277-293. **F191 .C72**
- 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**
- Graves, Thomas J. *A century and a quarter of service, 1837-1962: The 125th anniversary of the founding of the Firemen's Insurance Company of Washington, D.C.* [1962]
HG9780 .F51 G7
- Klingaman, William K. *GEICO: the first 40 years*. (1994) **HG9970.37 .G45 K55 1994**
- Mitchell, Mary. "The Potomac Insurance Company of Georgetown, 1831-1841." *The Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 47 (1970): 102-113. **F191 .C72**
- 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

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- Fitzpatrick, Michael Andrew. *Shaw, Washington's premier black neighborhoods: an examination of the origins and development of a black business movement, 1880-1920*. (1989) **F205 .N4 .F58**
- Gorr, Louis F. "The Foxall-Columbia Foundry: an early defense contractor in Georgetown." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 48 (1972): 34-59. **F191 .C72**
- Hurst, Harold W. "Business and Businessmen in Pre-Civil War Georgetown, 1840-1860." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 50 (1980): 161-171. **F191 .C72**
- MacMaster, Richard K. "Georgetown and the Tobacco Trade, 1751-1783." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 46 (1968): 1-33. **F191 .C72**

Newspapers, Printing and Publishing

- Ames, William E. "The National Intelligencer: Washington's leading political newspaper." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 46 (1968): 71-83. **F191 .C72**
- Ames, William E. *A history of the National Intelligencer*. (1972) **PN4899 .W35 N32**
- Chase, Hal S. "'Shelling the citadel of race prejudice:' William Calvin Chase and the Washington 'Bee.'" *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 49 (1974): 371-391. **F191 .C72**

- Dodge, Arthur J. *A short story of newspapers, newspapermen and newspapermen's clubs in the life of the national capital.* (1942) **PN4899.W29 D6**
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- Goff, Frederick R. "Early printing in Georgetown, 1789-1800, and the engraving of L'Enfant's Plan of Washington, 1792." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 41 (1952): 103-119. **F191 .C72**
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- Kauffmann, Samuel H. *The Evening Star (1852-1952): a century at the Nation's Capital.* (1952) **P 2039**
- Lusk, Rufus S., Sr. *Chronicles of a third generation Washington Publishing House.* (1987)
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- McMurtrie, Douglas C. *The beginnings of printing in the District of Columbia.* (1933) **P 1694**
- Pretzer, William Stanley. *The printers of Washington, D.C., 1800-1880: work culture, technology, and trade unionism.* (1986) **Z231 .P73**
- Roberts, Chalmers M. *The Washington Post: the first 100 years.* (1977) **PN4899 .W31 W35**
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- 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

- Baty, Laurie Ann. *Photographers of Washington, D.C., 1870-1885.* (1979) **TR139 .W3 B38 1979**
- Busey, Samuel C. "Early history of Daguerreotypy in the City of Washington." *Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 3 (1900): 81-95. **F191.C72**
- Krainik, Clifford. "National Vision, Local Enterprise: John Plumbe, Jr. and the Advent of Photography in Washington, D.C." *Washington History* 9:2 (1997): 4-27. **F191.C72**
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- Connolly, Charles R. *Serving the nation's capital: a special study of Potomac Electric Power Company.* (1956) **P 1942**
- Derrick, John M. *PEPCO celebrates 100 years of matchless service.* (1996) **P 2199**

- McLean, Mary Dudley. *The gas company and Congress*. [Washington Gas Light Company] (1985) **TR725 .W3 M43 1985**
- Moeller, James W. "PEPCO, the Potomac, and Nuclear Power." *Washington History* 11:1 (1999): 44-61. **F191 .C72**
- Potomac Electric Power Company. *50 years in Washington, 1896-1946*. (1946) **P 1935**
- Pressey, Sarah Noreen. *Public street illumination in Washington, D.C. : an illustrated history*. (1975) **TK4137 .W3 N67**
- United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on the District of Columbia. *Merger of gaslight companies*. (1933) **P 1930**
- Washington Gas Light Company. *Growing with Washington, the story of our first hundred years, 1848-1948*. (1948) **TP725 .W3 W35**

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- Longstreth, Richard . *The Mixed blessings of success: the Hecht Company and department store branch development after World War II*. (1995) **P 1956**
- Miller, Elizabeth Jane. *The dry goods trade in Washington, D.C. 1880-1899*. (1977) **Thesis**
- Sedar, Scott and Bari Dedar. *Fifty years of caring – History of Giant Food, Inc.* (1986) **P 0174**
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- Kelso, William M. "Shipbuilding in Virginia, 1763-1774." *The Records of the Columbia Historical Society* 48 (1972): 1-13. **F191 .C72**

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- 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**
- Kohler, Peter C. *Capital Transit; Washington's street cars: the final era, 1933-1962*. (2001) **HE4491 .W37 K63**
- Merriken, John E. *Old Dominion trolley too: a history of the Mount Vernon Line*. [Washington-Virginia Railway Company] (1987) **TF725 .W34 M47 1987**
- Merriken, John E. *Every hour-on the hour: a chronicle of the Washington Baltimore & Annapolis Electric Railroad*. (1993) **TF725 .W32 M47 1993**
- United States. Bureau of Efficiency. *Proposed merger of street railways in the District of Columbia*. (1928) **P 1553**
- United States. Congress. House. Committee on the District of Columbia. *Municipal ownership of street railways in the District of Columbia*. (1914) **HE4491 .W32 1914a**

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