

Collection #
P 0874

**MERIDIAN HILLS REAL ESTATE PROMOTION COLLECTION
CA. 1924, 1985**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 Upright Graphics folders

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1924, 1985

PROVENANCE: Gift of David S. Evans of Indianapolis, May 2022

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2022.0077

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Meridian Hills is an incorporated town of approximately 2200 residents on the north side of Indianapolis. It is located north of the White River with 64th Street, Holliday Park, and 71st Street as its southern boundaries, and bounded by Spring Mill Road on the west, Williams Creek on the northeast, and College Avenue and Pennsylvania Street on the east. Residential development of the area began in the 1890s, with an increase in development occurring in the 1920s.

In 1896, pharmaceutical industrialist Josiah K. Lilly, Sr., purchased land at 71st Street and College Avenue to establish an orchard. Other affluent families built homes in Meridian Hills to escape Indianapolis taxes and traffic.

In 1916, John H. and Evaline Holliday arranged to donate their eighty-acre property to the City of Indianapolis for use as a park. In 1932 Holliday Park became part of Indianapolis's park system, situated at the southern boundary of Meridian Hills.

In 1923, the Wellington Heights neighborhood of Meridian Hills was subdivided, and a model Colonial-style home was built there in 1924. The Meridian Hills Country Club was built in 1924–1925.

Much of the Meridian Hills area remained undeveloped until the construction of the Meridian Street bridge over the White River in 1933–1934. The town had no business district and residents wanted to keep it that way. In 1937 they voted to incorporate the town, seeking stricter zoning laws to prohibit nonresidential development. At that time the area had about eighty homes and 200 residents. By the 1950s the population had grown to more than 400.

Meridian Hills defeated a challenge to be annexed by Indianapolis in the 1950s, retaining its independence. With the implementation of Unigov in 1970, which consolidated the governments of Indianapolis and Marion County, Meridian Hills became an “included town,” allowing it to retain its local government, levy property taxes, and provide local services.

Source:

“Meridian Hills” by Cathleen F. Donnelly, 1994, revised March 2021, in *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* <https://indyencyclopedia.org/meridian-hills/> Accessed 18 January 2024.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of promotional real estate materials for Meridian Hills, an area on the north side of Indianapolis, Indiana. These include ten photomechanical prints of aerial views of the area, and the cardboard packet from which they were removed. There is also a Meridian Hills brochure, which provides information about the tracts of land available for purchase. An envelope with the Meridian Hills logo, which likely held the brochure, is also in the collection. These materials date from ca. 1924. In addition, there is a 1985 one-page typed manuscript on Ben Boleman, Inc. letterhead stating how he acquired these materials and his observations and reminiscences.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Photomechanical prints of aerial views:

- 1) Overlooking Indianapolis from the Meridian Hills Country Club District
- 2) The Southern Boundary of Meridian Hills
- 3) Estate of Samuel O. Dungan [president of Polk Sanitary Milk Company] in the Meridian Hills Country Club District
- 4) Overlooking Indianapolis from the Meridian Hills Country Club District [duplicate of #1]
- 5) Estate of J.F. Kassebaum [founder of Broad Ripple State Bank] in the Meridian Hills Country Club District
- 6) Williams Creek at 79th and Pennsylvania Streets North of Meridian Hills
- 7) North from Over Crows Nest Hill towards the Meridian Hills Country Club District [shows bridges over river]
- 8) Panorama of Meridian Hills Country Club District [shows bridge over river]
- 9) Estate of J.K. Lilly [Sr.] [president of Eli Lilly and Company] in the Meridian Hills Country Club District
- 10) Estate of John A. Hook [founder and president of Hook Drug Company] in the Meridian Hills Country Club District

Meridian Hills real estate brochure, advertising tracts of land for “as low as \$1200 to \$1500 for smaller tracts.” Includes text, photos, and maps (four folded panels, printed on both sides). [ca. 1924]

One-page typed manuscript by Ben Boleman (residential land developer, real estate broker, builder) dated 11 December 1985, stating how he received the materials in this collection and his observations.

Meridian Hills cardboard packet in which the ten photomechanical prints were originally housed. Meridian Hills company envelope with “Washington Bank and Trust Company / 257 West Washington Street” beneath illustration.

CONTAINER

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Folder 1 of 3

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