

**Planning Commissioner Peter Q. Eschweiler Collection, 1914-1998 (1967-1991) bulk
Series 368****32 cubic feet, 14 volumes**

Peter Q. Eschweiler came to Westchester County in March 1960, following his release from active duty with the United States Air Force. He joined the staff of planning consultant Frederick P. Clark, where he worked as a staff planner. His duties included assisting the local planning boards in various Westchester municipalities, including Cortlandt, Bedford, New Castle, and Pound Ridge. By 1967, Eschweiler joined the Westchester County Department of Planning as the Chief Planner, and a year later became the department's Deputy Commissioner. In February 1968, when Commissioner Sy J. Schulman left the department, Eschweiler served as Deputy in Charge of the Staff. In March 1969, County Executive Edwin Michaelian appointed Eschweiler Commissioner of Planning, a position he held until his retirement in 1991.

Immediately upon his retirement, and again in 2000, Eschweiler transferred records from his time in government service to the Westchester County Archives. The bulk of these records cover his tenure with the County (1967-1991) although some predate even his time in Westchester (pre-1960). The materials in the collection range from informal notes to final publications, including many reports prepared by third-party consultants, and are arranged alphabetically into sixteen subseries, as follows:

1. 600 Series [Completed and Dormant Projects] 1959-1991, 1996, 1998
2. Airport – Airport Noise Control and Land Use Compatibility Planning Study (ANCLUC), 1977-1983
3. Airport – Miscellaneous, 1975-1981 (gaps), 1991
4. Airport Master Plan, 1977-1982
5. Alpha/Reference Files, 1922-1972 (bulk 1950s-1972)
6. Books, 1914-1915, 1924-1932, 1934-1935
7. Community College, 1969-1973, 1978
8. County Center, 1973-1984
9. Croton Point, 1971, 1975-1977, 1981, 1987-1990 (bulk 1987-1990)
10. Eschweiler Files, 1961, 1971, 1974-1991 (very little 1988-1989)
11. Legislative District Profiles, 1970
12. Miscellaneous, 1970-1983 (gaps)
13. Parks Department, 1968-1980
14. Sound Cable Project, 1987-1989
15. Water, 1965-1980, 1982-1989
16. Westchester 2000, 1983-1987

The collection as a whole covers a broad range of planning topics, from land use and development, noise pollution concerns at the county airport, the preservation and protection of environmentally important ecosystems, and the enactment of legislation affecting planning activities. A fair portion of the collection is made up of third-party reports (indicated as such in the box and folder list), either prepared

to address specific topics under study by Westchester County and developed by consultants in its employ, regionally relevant studies, or reports on more general planning matters, including precedent setting decisions or ones related to similar situations in Westchester. Broadly speaking, the collection includes a wide mixture of materials, from correspondence and memoranda (both internal within the Planning Department and Westchester County government; and external, with various municipalities, New York State officials, consultants, other planning professionals, members of the public, and others); various types of reports and studies; drafts and final versions of legislation and policy statements; sketches, maps and plans; and Eschweiler's personal notes regarding various subjects under consideration.

The individual subseries can be further described as follows:

1. *Series 600 [Completed and Dormant Projects], 1959-1991, 1996, 1998:* The "600 Series" is the largest subseries of the Eschweiler collection. The projects included in it cover a wide range of topics that vary in their stages of completion. Many of the projects relate to various forms of infrastructure, from highways and bike paths to historic preservation, parking and new technologies. Some of the larger project files include Open Space policies, Playland, New York State's Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) and related projects, transportation, housing, and capital projects. Some subjects covered in other subseries – such as the Sound Cable Project, Parks Department, and the Airport have similar files in the 600 Series subseries; cross-references have been included in the Box and Folder list.
2. *(also 3. and 4.) Airport.* Files pertaining to the Westchester County Airport, frequently referred in the files by its airport code - HPN. There are three distinct subseries: ANCLUC (Airport Noise Control and Land Use Compatibility Planning Study, 1977-1983; Miscellaneous, 1975-1981 (gaps), 1991; and Airport Master Plan, 1977-1982.

The Westchester County Airport Noise Control and Land Use Compatibility Planning Study (ANCLUC) files include planning materials, drafts and the final study of the project. The study and designs were done by Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff, third party planners and architects. The files are numbered and include the study, related materials, and memoranda of understanding with affected towns, as well as correspondences with these towns (Harrison, Rye, North Castle and Greenwich, Conn.). The Airport Master Plan files are also numbered and contain the final Master Plan Study, also written by Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff. A large part of these files are Master Plan Phase Reports, as well as materials related to establishing a master plan, such as correspondences, grant applications and statements of goals and objectives. The Master Plan subseries also contains 12 "library memos" with information about both the master plan phases and ANCLUC. The Miscellaneous subseries contains information that perhaps was used as reference when preparing the other airport materials, including a collection of materials about Stewart Airport in Newburgh, NY.

5. *Alpha / Reference Files, 1922-1972 (bulk 1950s-1972):* The Alpha / Reference Files are organized by an alphanumeric system used by the Department of Planning. This subseries consists of special summaries, reports, speeches and addresses on planning related topics. It also includes a number of court cases, mainly about property, zoning and land development. In addition, there are statements from the Westchester County Executive, Planning Commissioner, and

Planning Board on specific issues. The files have an emphasis on roads and highways, but also contain materials on historic preservation and other planning and development topics. Some of the items in the "A" section are reference materials from a 1950s Local Planning Study Course conducted by the Westchester County Planning Department

6. *Books, 1914-1915, 1924-1932, 1934-1935*: Some of the books in this subseries are stamped as being the former property of the Right of Way Division of the Engineering Department of the Westchester County Park Commission. The earliest volumes document the state of road building in Rhode Island and New Jersey around the same time construction on the Bronx River Parkway was beginning. The latter group of volumes – Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund of the City of New York – contain references to properties that New York City owns in Westchester County, mainly to protect its watershed interests.
7. *Community College, 1969-1973, 1978*: This small subseries contains a few folders with information on the development of the Westchester Community College.
8. *County Center, 1973-1984*: The materials in this subseries center around plans to replace the Westchester County Center in White Plains. These plans include information on possible consultants, replacement options and studies on cultural centers in other cities that would serve as models. The County Center Replacement Committee was formed to investigate replacing the County Center with a new convention and cultural center. There are several folders of committee materials, including their correspondences and memos, as well as research on economic and development possibilities and the feasibility of a convention center.
9. *Croton Point, 1971, 1975-1977, 1981, 1987-1990 (bulk 1987-1990)*: These materials relate to the possible establishment of an estuarine center at Croton Point. A committee was founded to investigate and report their findings and opinion on such a center to the County Executive. The Committee advocated for the establishment of a center and produced research reports, special summaries and ecological research contained within this subseries. There are a number of reports on Croton Point, covering waste management, resource recovery, environmental impact and water disposal reports, and also includes a 2-volume Hydrogeological Investigation at the Croton Point Landfill.

According to Eschweiler's notes which accompanied the records when given to the Archives, the Estuarine Center project arose out of the summer 1988 settlement of litigation by the county on its operation of the Croton Point Landfill with the Hudson River Fishermen's Association. The Estuarine Research Center was to be created within a designated area on Croton Point. The definition of the Center was left undefined, however. A committee was appointed of 11 members, six of whom (one of which was to act as Chairman) were appointed by the County Executive). Commissioner Eschweiler was chair of the committee and principal author of the committee's final report, issued in September 1989.

10. *Eschweiler Files, 1961, 1971, 1974-1991 (very little 1988-1989)*: These files were arranged in no discernable order when received at the Archives and were placed in alphabetical order during processing. Some topics are covered extensively, such as 1980 census information, coastal zone management, fresh water wetlands and the energy master plan. Other topics covered include

the county's department of correction, Eschweiler's personal notes on various subjects, Planning Board resolutions and agency reports. In a few instances, subjects covered by Eschweiler's notes are covered in other subseries (such as the 600 Series) and cross-references have been provided in the Box and Folder list.

11. *Legislative District Profiles, 1970*: This is a set of profiles for all 17 legislative districts in Westchester County. The profiles include information about population, housing, economy, major employers, schools, transportation, land area and other relevant areas.
12. *Miscellaneous, 1970-1983 (gaps)*: The handful of files in this subseries did not readily fit into other subseries. They relate to historic preservation, opinions issued by the County Attorney, Grasslands reservation, the county courthouse, and county sales tax, among other things.
13. *Parks Department, 1968-1980*: The Parks Department files are arranged both alphabetically and numerically, with some of the files having arrived with assigned numbers. The files contain information about the acquisition and management of county park lands, as well as park infrastructure such as drainage and future development. Some files also relate to conservation efforts.
14. *Sound Cable Project, 1987-1989*: The Sound Cable Project was a proposed 345 kV electric transmission cable between Westchester County and Nassau County that would run underground and pass under the Long Island Sound. A significant amount of these files contain the New York State Power Authority's Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need. There is also an Environmental Management and Construction Plan for the cable, as well as easement plans, correspondences and public hearing minutes for the proposed cable.
15. *Water, 1965-1980, 1982-1986*: This subseries contains files about Waste Management and Water. The water files include material relating to Blind Brook Stream in Rye, its flood control and several years of correspondences and memos. There are also publications about water quality and groundwater management studies. The waste management files include large 208 Areawide Waste Treatment Plans for both northern and southern Westchester County, compiled by Charles R. Velzy Associates Inc. and waste management planning interim reports.
16. *Westchester 2000, 1983-1987*: Westchester 2000 was a partnership to help Westchester County prepare for the issues it would face in the future. These files contain Commissioner Eschweiler's personal notes and materials about the initiative. This includes correspondences and materials about multiple committees, including executive and leadership committees. The files contain task force materials, especially related to housing needs. A significant portion of this subseries relates to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee / Powers of Government subcommittee and includes report drafts and reference materials. It also includes Eschweiler's annotated Westchester 2000 Project Report.

Related Series: Series 22: *Planning Board Minutes, 1939 – 1983*; Series 338: *Planning Board Meeting Materials, 1939-1992 (bulk 1969-1992)*; Series 366: *Correspondence and Progress Reports, 1983-1986*; Series 317: *Correspondence and Memos, 1976-1978*