

DeKalb History Center

City of Decatur Collection

Introduction: The City of Decatur documents are on loan from City Hall and include amendments to the city charter concerning the city limits and public school system, franchise licenses, ordinances, materials on buying land in the area and slum clearing. They cover approximately 1899 through 2009 and the collection continues to grow.

Provenance: Loan from the City of Decatur, L2011.22.

Access: Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from this collection must be requested from the archivist, DeKalb History Center. Citation should be as follows:

Description of specific item; City of Decatur Collection, DeKalb History Center Archives.

Processed by Jill Sweetapple, Archivist, 2011-2012.

Size: Currently 14 document boxes.

Decatur, Georgia: The city of Decatur was officially established on December 10, 1823 and was named for naval hero Commodore Stephen Decatur, from the War of 1812. It lied at the junction of two Indian trails, Shallowford Trail, which is now Clairmont Avenue, and Stone Mountain Trail, which is Sycamore Street. The Georgia Railroad arrived in 1845. Decatur is home to Agnes Scott College and Columbia Seminary. The city maintains its own public school system, police department and fire department.

Description: The City of Decatur documents include a wide range of topics pertaining to the city and its administration, including libraries, parks, street improvements, the historic courthouse on the square, urban renewal, Swanton House, Decatur cemetery, Decatur Fire Station No. 1, Oakhurst, Herring Street and Trinity Schools, water and sewer improvements and blackout ordinances during World War II. There is a bound copy of a Decatur city directory from 1928-1929, which includes Avondale Estates, Emory University, and Scottdale. There are original bills from the construction of the City Hall building. Please see separate Excel file with a detailed list of folders and materials in them. There are also documents relating to the purchase of fire trucks and equipment for the fire department. One of the earliest documents is the 1899 Decatur Bill No. 273 establishing the public school system.

Subject Headings: Where possible, Library of Congress Subject Headings have been used.

Main Entry: Decatur (Ga.)

Subject/Added Entries: DeKalb County (Ga.).
 City government.
 Municipal government.