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## **Finding Aid for the Mary Alice Williams Collection Collection 456**

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections  
Department

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Source:</b>	Williams, Mary Alice
<b>Title:</b>	Mary Alice Williams papers
<b>ID:</b>	Collection 456
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1959-1993
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.25 Linear Feet One Box
<b>Physical Description:</b>	Good
<b>Abstract:</b>	Mary Alice Williams, a Grand Rapids, Mich. political activist and community organizer, created this collection while conducting research on Grand Rapids area history and women's history in Western Michigan. The materials consists of press clippings, articles, pamphlets, and Grand Rapids publications. Also included are various materials regarding home disaster preparedness during the cold war, photographs, press clippings, certificates of achievement, and other assorted materials.

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## Biographical

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Wisconsin, Williams joined Students United for Racial Equality and began protesting for open housing. She moved to Grand Rapids in 1974 with her husband and two daughters. She became involved in the Eastown Community Association which fought discriminatory banking practices that resulted in the redlining of neighborhoods. After facing political roadblocks to change, she ran as a write in candidate for the Grand Rapids City Commission where she served one term. Williams was president and CEO of Arbor Circle as well as the Nokomis Foundation. She now devotes herself to promoting equal access to healthcare, women's health issues, community and grassroots activism and the election of local progressive candidates

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection contains various materials including federal pamphlets regarding home disaster/nuclear fallout preparedness, a photograph of Gerald Ford, a copy of the Grand Rappin' publication (November 1995), press clippings pertaining to the history of Grand Rapids, instructions for creating a family history, and two awards of appreciation from Arbor Circle and the Chicago, Duluth & Georgian Bay Transit Company. Also included in this collection are records of Mary Alice Williams's research and efforts to induct Joan Luedders Wolfe into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, mostly research in the form of press clippings. There is also information pertaining to women's suffrage in Michigan including a publications from the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council and Grand River Valley History magazine.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Women -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Women -- Suffrage -- Michigan -- History
- Luedders Wolfe, Joan
- Williams, Mary Alice

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Joan Luedders Wolfe Hall of Fame Application 1993, 1993 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1993	Box 1	Folder 1
Women's History Research , 1991-1995 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1991-1995	Box 1	folder 2

### Scope and Contents

3 pages photocopied women's suffrage advertisements

Photocopy Article "The Modern Women's Movement" (unknown author, unknown publication)

Photocopy Article "How the Suffragists Changed Michigan" by Louise Sauce

Photocopy academic paper "Petticoats, Politics, and Public Opinion: A Study of the Woman Suffrage Movement in Michigan, with emphasis on Grand Rapids from 1910-1920" by Ruth E. Hoogland, 1975

Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council pamphlet "Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council" 1991

Grand River Valley History magazine, Volume XII, 1995

Family History Materials, 1976 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1976	Box 1	folder 3
Grand Rappin' November 1995, 1995 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1995	Box 1	folder 4
Local History Research , 1977-1978 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1977-1978	Box 1	folder 5

### Scope and Contents

Seven pages typed regarding the history of The Wonderly Building

Two pages typed "Ladies Literary Club of Greater Grand Rapids, Michigan"

Accent Grand Rapids magazine pages, April 1978, "Homer Burch's River- Grand Memories and a Vivid Story to Tell."

Accent Grand Rapids magazine pages, June 1976, "The Taming of Kent."

Accent Grand Rapids magazine pages, Nov. 1976, article regarding automobiles by Lynn G. Mapes, Ph.D.

Accent Grand Rapids magazine pages, Oct. 1976, "Grand Rapids in World War I" by Lynn G. Mapes, Ph.D.

Accent Grand Rapids magazine pages, March 1976, "A Good Time in the Old Town," by Lynn G. Mapes, Ph.D.

Accent Grand Rapids magazine pages, June 1976 regarding building and changes downtown.

Accent Grand Rapids magazine pages, June 1976 "City of Churches" by Lynn G. Mapes, Ph.D.

Magazine page "Looking Back...West Leonard"

Georgian Bay Line Certificate , 1967 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1967	Box 1	folder 7
Local History News Clippings, 1976 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1976	Box 1	Folder 6
Arbor Circle Volunteer Certificate , No Date <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> No Date	Box 1	folder 8
Disaster Home Preparedness Federal Pamphlets 1960, 1960 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1960	Box 1	folder 9
Photo of Anna S. Bissell, No Date <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> No Date	Box 1	folder 10
Photo of Gerald Ford, No Date <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> No Date	Box 1	folder 11