

---

**ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

949 East Second Street  
Tucson, AZ 85719

Library and Archives  
(520) 617-1157

ahsref@azhs.gov

---

**MS 0480**  
**MASON, GERTRUDE FREEMAN, 1880-1967**  
**PAPERS, 1927-1963**

**DESCRIPTION**

Gertrude Mason (Mrs. James Edgar) came to Clifton, A.T. from Ohio in 1912, lived in Douglas, 1915-1918 and moved to Tucson in 1925. She was a court reporter and active in the Business and Professional Women's Club. As part of her club activities, she became involved in early city planning efforts in Tucson and was named as a member of the first Tucson Planning Commission. She served on this Commission for ten years, most of that time as Secretary. This collection includes her correspondence while Secretary of the Commission; personal reminiscences; biographical material; newspaper clippings and official reports of the Tucson Planning Commission. Also a file of correspondence with Mrs. George F. Kitt and other personnel of the Arizona Historical Society.

2 Boxes, 1 linear foot

**DEACCESSIONS**

Three scrapbooks containing the official minutes of the Tucson Planning Commission, 1930-1941, have been transferred to MS808, Tucson Planning & Zoning

**ACQUISITION**

This collection was donated to the Society by Mrs. Mason over a period of years.

**ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

**COPYRIGHT**

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

**PROCESSING**

Final processing of this collection was completed in March 1998 by Sue Conklin, Volunteer, under the supervision of Riva Dean, Archives Director.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Gertrude Freeman Mason was born September 15, 1880, at La Grange, Lorain County, Ohio. She moved to Cleveland at age 16 where she worked for her foster father in his printing plant. She learned shorthand and became the business secretary at John D. Rockefeller's church in Cleveland. In 1911, tuberculosis forced her to leave the Midwest.

She came to Clifton, Arizona Territory, where she found work as the secretary to the head of the Arizona Copper Company. It was there she met her husband, James Edgar (Jack) Mason. They were married in 1914 and went to California. They soon came back to Douglas, then to San Antonio before finally settling in Tucson in 1925. Mrs. Mason became a court reporter and eventually was assigned as reporter for Judge Lee Garrett of Superior Court, a position which she held until 1948. Gertrude Mason was involved with the Business and Professional Women's Club in Tucson and was part of a committee that lobbied, in the late 1920's, for the formation of a city planning commission. When such a Commission was finally formed in 1930, Mrs. Mason was appointed to that body and served for ten years, most of that time as Secretary. Gertrude Mason was also active on the Padre Kino Commission organized by Frank Lockwood in 1925. After her retirement, Mrs. Mason continued to live in Tucson but finally moved to Prescott where she died in June 1967 at age 86.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of two series. In the first series there is one folder for each year, 1929 through 1941. Each folder includes Mrs. Mason's correspondence for that year in her position as Secretary of the Tucson Planning Commission plus various reports, memos, surveys and, for the later years, specific zoning requests which came to the Commission. There is also a folder of newspaper clippings from this same period pertaining to city planning. One folder includes seven official documents published in 1941 as part of the Tucson Regional Plan, Inc. All of the material in Series One is indexed in the first folder. Series Two is personal material by and about Mrs. Mason. It includes biographical material, poetry authored by Mrs. Mason, information about her husband, personal reminiscences and correspondence with Mrs. George F. Kitt and other AHS personnel.

## **BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

### **SERIES ONE TUCSON PLANNING COMMISSION**

#### **Box 1**

- Folder 1 Index to material on city planning in Folders 1 through Folder 16
- Folder 2 Suggestions for City Planning - Memos
- Folder 3 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1929 - Correspondence, memos and surveys
- Folder 4 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1930
- Folder 5 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1931
- Folder 6 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1932
- Folder 7 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1933
- Folder 8 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1934
- Folder 9 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1935
- Folder 10 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1936
- Folder 11 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1937

#### **Box 2**

- Folder 12 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1938
- Folder 13 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1939
- Folder 14 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1940
- Folder 15 Tucson Regional and City Planning, 1941
- Folder 16 Tucson Regional Plan, Inc., 1941 - Reports on Park and Playground System, Standard Street Cross-Sections, Thoroughfare Plan, The Population of Tucson and Its Environs, Building Lines and Mapped Streets, Comprehensive Plan of School Facilities, and Recommendations for Bringing About Public Support of the Master Plan (1942)
- Folder 17 Tucson Planning and Zoning - Newspaper Clippings, 1927-1952

### **SERIES TWO MASON, GERTRUDE FREEMAN**

- Folder 1 Correspondence with Arizona Historical Society, 1935-1963
- Folder 2 Poetry by Gertrude Mason
- Folder 3 Biographical Material - Gertrude and James Edgar Mason