

Guide to the Clarence A. Steele papers, 1933-1969 C0056

Clarence A. Steele papers
1933-1969



Title Statement

Guide to the Clarence A. Steele papers, 1933-1969 C0056

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0056

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1933-1969

Mixed Materials

1 (box)

Mixed Materials

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Mixed Materials

2 (box)

Language

English

Abstract

This collection contains papers and material owned by Clarence A. Steele relating to the Advisory Council to the Northern Virginia University Center. Included are minutes of meetings, letters, newspapers, and miscellaneous documents.

Creator

Steele, Clarence A.

Extent

1.25 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Clarence A. Steele in 1999.

Processing Information

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical Information

Clarence A. Steele was the chairman of the Exploratory Committee and Advisory Council to the Northern Virginia University Center (NVUC). The Center was established in September 1949 as an adult education extension of the University of Virginia (UVa) at Charlottesville. A few years before, the idea for a center was set into motion. Seeing an opportunity for educational expansion and recognizing the needs of the growing Northern Virginia population, University of Virginia's Extension Division, headed by Professor George B. Zehmer, formed an Exploratory Committee to work out a feasibility plan for creating an extension in Northern Virginia. The result was the Northern Virginia University Center, which became fully operational in February 1950, with six classes enrolling about 50 students.

The Extension Division named John Norville Gibson Finley as the Center's first director. The Center's administrative offices and "campus" were located on the campus of Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Virginia. During the Center's early years, it offered college-level courses for adults. By the fall of 1953, the Center grew to 55 classes with 900 enrolled students. The Center, which had set out to serve only the immediate Washington metropolitan area in Virginia, expanded to serve an area that encompassed a radius of thirty miles around Arlington. This significant growth forced the Center to reevaluate its mission to the population it served. So in 1954, an Advisory Council formed to examine the challenges of expansion and to consider a "possible change of character" for the Center. Moreover, it was asked to "interpret the community and its desires to the University" and to "assist in creating a climate of demand for the educational services offered."

The Advisory Council consisted of sixteen members, all of whom resided in Northern Virginia. The Council's first meeting was on January 4, 1954 in Washington-Lee High School, called and chaired by Clarence A. Steele, former chairman of the Center's Exploratory Committee, which the Council superseded. As chair, Steele presided over meetings and directed the activities of the Council. Together with Mr. Zehmer, head of

the Extension Division, and President Colgate W. Darden of the University of Virginia, the Council explored ways to convert the Center into a formal branch of University of Virginia. Steele and the Council immediately began a dialogue with prominent members of the community, including Virginia senators Charles R. Fenwick and Harry F. Byrd, Jr., hoping to find support for a branch of the University of Virginia.

In order to establish a branch, the Center had to comply with standards enacted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, of which the University of Virginia was a member. Standards included: (1) a centrally located building sufficient for administration and instruction; (2) a sizable nucleus of full-time faculty members to ensure permanence and continuity; (3) adequate library and laboratory facilities; (4) a stable pattern of course offerings. Aware that the Center did not meet all of these conditions, the Advisory Council used the Southern Association standards as a foundation for their proposal. Steele thereby formed committees to focus on meeting the standards. The committees included: Building and Grounds, Ways and Means, Public Relations, Legal Council, and Research. This focus streamlined the Council, allowing members to use their expertise most productively. President Darden gave his full support to the endeavor, providing his own philosophy as an impetus: "bring the University of Virginia to the people" and "promote adult education formally and informally; culturally as well as technically."

The most important task facing the Council was the search for a location for the new college. Throughout late 1954 and all of 1955 they searched for tracts of land suitable for a permanent location. In the meantime, the Northern Virginia Center (as the Center was now called) continued to grow, expanding to 110 classes with 2,100 enrolled students in the spring of 1956. More startling was the prediction that enrollment would reach 8,000 adult students within a decade. This, along with the area's growing number of high school graduates, necessitated a new emphasis: one which would make the branch an affordable two-year institution with day classes - serving all students, not just adults. At this time, a Virginia House Joint Resolution passed, "authorizing the establishment of a branch of the University of Virginia to be located in Northern Virginia" (passed by the House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia in February 1956), thereby providing the legal underpinning to continue the expansion of the Center.

By early 1956, many locations for the branch had been scouted out and researched. President Darden insisted that the college "have an appropriate campus, an ample campus, ample acres for spacing buildings, for parking, for playing fields of various kinds, for woods and vistas." Later in the year, three sites were seriously considered: the Ravensworth estate, between Annandale and Springfield, along Braddock Road; the Bowman or Herndon tracts, on the Sunset Hills farm land near Herndon; and seven Prince William County sites, including one along the border of Manassas Battlefield Park. In the summer of 1956, the Advisory Council unanimously endorsed the Ravensworth site. But not long after, a sub-committee assigned by the University of Virginia Board of Visitors was charged to survey the locations, and, to the Council's chagrin, it recommended the Bowman tract.

The disagreement arose from an apparent conflict of interest between the Advisory Council and the Visitors sub-committee. A few years prior, the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council to the Governor and the General Assembly (VALC) drafted a report, recommending that new university branches should only be two-year institutions and be self-supportive. In other words, VALC "wanted to establish urban branches [without dormitories] where students could live at home," and thus raise the cost of tuition, saving the state from unnecessary expenses.

Accordingly, in their search for branch locations, the Advisory Council looked for sites that would accommodate a "2-year, non-dormitory type of institution ONLY." They found the Ravensworth site ideal for those purposes. Conversely, the Visitors sub-committee's choice of the Bowman tract - a much larger and even more isolated area - clearly "envisioned a full scale dormitory type institution." The Council was unaware of the University of Virginia's plan to establish a large, four-year college with an extensive campus, and was unprepared for such a shift in focus.

Gathering what support they could, the Council sent delegations from Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax Counties to persuade the Board of Visitors to reconsider. Several members of the Visitors were openly antagonistic to the Ravensworth site, mainly because the Bowman tract offered a firmer political base to the region. Others felt that there was "little use for Northern Virginia" for the future of the University. After some debate the Visitors dryly agreed to "take the whole matter of establishing a branch under advisement." A few years later, in 1959, the Council and the Visitors settled their differences and decided on an entirely new site: the Farr tract, the site on which George Mason University now stands, located less than one mile south of Fairfax City.

The Advisory Council to the Northern Virginia Center, with Clarence A. Steele at the helm, faced many challenges during the early years of its existence. The problems associated with growth, the evaluation of educational needs in Northern Virginia, and the search for a new location for the University branch occupied much time and required considerable investment.

Scope and Content

This collection contains papers and material owned by Clarence A. Steele. Papers, relating to the Advisory Council to the Northern Virginia, include minutes of meetings, letters, newspapers, and miscellaneous documents. In addition the collection includes road-use surveys, manuals, personnel hiring and correspondence for surveys managed by Clarence A. Steele in Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Ohio and Pennsylvania from 1935 to 1936.

Related Material

The Special Collections Research Center also holds the [George Mason University archives](#) and collections on [transportation](#).

Keywords

University extension -- United States
Transportation -- United States -- Planning
Transportation
Transportation -- Planning
University of Virginia
University of Virginia. Northern Virginia Center

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Clarence A. Steele papers

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50664

Unit Date 1933-1969

Northern Virginia Center: Correspondence and Related Papers, Calendar Year

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50665

Unit Date 1954

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Container 1 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Northern Virginia Center: Correspondence and Related Papers, Calendar Year

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50666

Unit Date 1955

Mixed Materials 2 (folder)

Container 1 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Northern Virginia Center: Correspondence and Related Papers, Calendar Year [1 of 2]

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50667

Unit Date 1956

Mixed Materials 3 (folder)

Container 1 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Northern Virginia Center: Correspondence and Related Papers, Calendar Year [2 of 2]

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50668

Unit Date 1956

Mixed Materials 4 (folder)

Container 1 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Northern Virginia Center: Miscellaneous

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50669

Unit Date 1956

Mixed Materials 5 (folder)

Container 1 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Original Newspapers and Commonwealth-Magazine of Virginia

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50670

Unit Date 1955

Mixed Materials 6 (folder)

Container 1 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Letters C. A. Steele

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50671

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 1 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Letters Captain C.D. Curtis

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50672

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 2 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Douglas Eiseman/Steele Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50673

Unit Date 1935-1936

Mixed Materials 3 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

R.H. Paddock Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50674

Unit Date 1935-1936

Mixed Materials 4 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

L.V. Sheridan Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50675

Unit Date 1936

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Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

H.M. Sims Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50676

Unit Date 1935

Mixed Materials 6 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Employment Estimate

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50677

Unit Date 1935

Mixed Materials 7 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Letter to the Convention of the Road Use Survey

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50678

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 8 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Manual of Instructions for Pavement Life Studies

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50679

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 9 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Memorandum to District Engineers

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50680

Unit Date 1935

Mixed Materials 10 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Planning Survey Memorandum NO 79

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50681

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 11 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Comparative Study of Motor Vehicle

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50682

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 12 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Notes on Suggested Outline for Instructing Road Use Survey Personnel

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50683

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 13 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

The Purpose and Method of Making Road-Use Surveys

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50684

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 14 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Road Use Survey Personnel Required

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50685

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 15 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Illinois Highway Planning Survey-R.H. Burrage

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50686

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 16 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence to William L. Haas (Missouri)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50687

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 17 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Missouri Road Use Survey Allocation

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50688

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 18 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Missouri State Highway Commission Examination

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50689

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 19 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Road Map of Missouri

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50690

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 20 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

General Instructions for Road Use Missouri

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50691

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 21 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Form H.P.S. RU1 Missouri (interviews)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50692

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 22 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Percentages in Occupations by Classes

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50693

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 23 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Population Numbers for Missouri

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50694

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 24 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Road Use Plan for Missouri

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50695

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 25 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Supplies for Missouri Road Use Survey

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50696

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 26 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Minnesota Road Use Survey-W.J. Titus

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50697

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 27 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Superior National Forrest Minnesota Map

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50698

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 28 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Michigan Road Use Survey

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50699

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 29 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Notes on the Selection, Training and Supervision of Road Use Survey-New York Survey

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50700

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 30 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Homer Baker-Ohio Road Use Survey

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50701

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 31 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Road Use Plan for Ohio

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50702

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 32 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Ohio Road Use Survey (Questions for Examination)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50703

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 33 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Pennsylvania Highways Legal Background

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50704

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 34 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Report on Inspection of Pennsylvania Financial and Road Use Survey

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50705

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 35 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Pennsylvania Instructions for Checking Road Use Interview Forms

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50706

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 36 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Pennsylvania Road Interview Requirements by County Map

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50707

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 37 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Miles Travelled in Pennsylvania by Motor Vehicle Owners

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50708

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 38 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Notes on Conference (School District Population)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50709

Unit Date 1935

Mixed Materials 39 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Pennsylvania Road Use Survey Location of Field Papers

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50710

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 40 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Plan for Pennsylvania Road Use Survey

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50711

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 41 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Pennsylvania Road-Use Proposed Population Classification

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50712

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 42 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

U.S. Department of Transportation Administrative Memorandum Emergency Readiness Plans

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50713

Unit Date 1969

Mixed Materials 43 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Coding Instructions Oklahoma Road Use Survey

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50714

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 44 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence to J.M. Maurer

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50715

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 45 (folder)

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Scope and Contents note

Western Union to J.S. Logan

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50716

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 46 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

R.H. Paddock Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50717

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 47 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Counties to be Studied in Oklahoma Road Use Survey

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50718

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 48 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Oklahoma Highway Planning Interview Packet

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50719

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 49 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Inspection of Oklahoma Road Use Survey

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50720

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 50 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

General Memorandum on Oklahoma Road Use Survey Interviews

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50721

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 51 (folder)

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Scope and Contents note

J.S. Logan Bureau Manager Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50722

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 52 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Oklahoma Allocation of Road Use Interviews

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50723

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 53 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

O.H.S. Form R-79 Instructions to be followed in Securing of Road Use Survey Interviews

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50724

Unit Date 1936

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Scope and Contents note

Manual for Interviewers

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50725

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 55 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Miles Traveled in Oklahoma by Motor Vehicle Owners

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50726

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 56 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Road Use Plan for Oklahoma

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50727

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 57 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Oklahoma State Planning Board

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50728

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 58 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Oklahoma Tax Commission Ports of Entry

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50729

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 59 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Interview Follow Up Letter to Paul Reynolds Requesting Employment

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50730

Unit Date 1933

Mixed Materials 60 (folder)

Container 2 (box)

Scope and Contents note

47th Annual Convention American Association of State Highway Officials

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50731

Unit Date 1961

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Scope and Contents note

C.A. Steele

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50732

Unit Date 1936

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Container 3 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Economics 189 Steele Course Questions

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50733

Unit Date 1933

Mixed Materials 3 (folder)

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Scope and Contents note

The Evolution of Three Squares (Wesley Lunch Club)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50734

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 4 (folder)

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Scope and Contents note

George Washington Memorial Parkway

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50735

Mixed Materials 5 (folder)

Container 3 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Official Ceremony the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50736

Unit Date 1975

Mixed Materials 6 (folder)

Container 3 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Phi Mu Delta

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50737

Unit Date 1935

Mixed Materials 7 (folder)

Container 3 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Public Roads A Journal of Highway Research

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50738

Unit Date 1936

Mixed Materials 8 (folder)

Container 3 (box)

Scope and Contents note

Mr. Richard G. Steele

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50739

Mixed Materials 9 (folder)

Container 3 (box)

Scope and Contents note

U.S. Civil Service Commission

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50740

Mixed Materials 10 (folder)

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Scope and Contents note

Why I Cannot Accept Socialism

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/50741

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Scope and Contents note