

# James A. Wilding Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority notebooks

James A. Wilding Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority notebooks  
1974-2003



## Title Statement

James A. Wilding Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority notebooks  
Guide to James A. Wilding Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority notebooks C0532

**Subtitle:** James A. Wilding Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority notebooks

**Author:** Meghan Glasbrenner

## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Fenwick Library, MS2FL  
4400 University Dr.  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
Business Number: 703-993-2220  
Fax Number: 703-993-8911  
speccoll@gmu.edu  
URL: <https://scrc.gmu.edu>



April 24, 2025

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-07-15 07:01:49 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

C0532

**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/744

**Unit Date**

1974-2003

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

A collection of 36 spiral-bound notebooks containing handwritten notes created by Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia airport executive James A. Wilding.

**Creator**

Wilding, James A., 1937-2023

**Extent**

1 Linear Feet 2 boxes

**Physical Location**

R 73, C 2, S 3

**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**

Donated by Marcella Wilding in April 2024.

**Processing Information**

Processing and finding aid completed by Meghan Glasbrenner in April 2025.

**Preferred Citation**

James A. Wilding Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority notebooks, C0532, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries

## Biographical Information

James Anthony Wilding was born in Washington, D.C. on December 22, 1937. Wilding trained as a civil engineer at The Catholic University of America, graduating in 1959. This same year he was hired by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and participated in the planning and development of Washington Dulles International Airport. He would go on to become chief of the engineering staff at both Dulles and National (now known as Reagan National) airports and was named director of the FAA authority overseeing both airports in 1979. Starting in 1984, Wilding worked alongside Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole to support the recommendation that the federal government hand over control of both Dulles and National airports to an independent public authority. The proposal was successful and in 1987 the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) was formed.

From 1987 until his retirement in 2003, Wilding worked closely with the MWAA as the first President and Chief Executive. This included leading the organization through construction of a new terminal and runway expansion at National Airport, terminal and concourse expansions at Dulles Airport, and the implementation of new security measures at both airports following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. On February 26, 2016 the Arrivals Hall inside the International Arrivals Building at Dulles Airport was named the "James A. Wilding International Arrivals Hall" in his honor. Wilding passed away on February 24, 2023 at the age of 85.

## Scope and Content

A collection of 36 spiral-bound notebooks containing handwritten notes created by Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia airport executive James A. Wilding. All but three notebooks have a date range written on the cover and contain notes on daily activities during that time frame, such as meetings and projects. The notebooks cover 30 years of Wilding's career, including his work with the Federal Aviation Administration and as President and Chief Executive of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

The collection contains one gap in coverage between October 25, 1975 – August 8, 1976, with no notebooks included for these dates. Dates for the three notebooks missing date range identification on the front cover

were determined based on interior date identifications.

## Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center holds other collections related to transportation planning, including the Virginians for Dulles records and Charles Lietwiler transportation collection.

## Keywords

Transportation

Transportation -- Virginia, Northern -- Planning -- History -- 20th century

Northern Virginia

International airports

Virginia, Northern

Transportation -- Planning

Transportation -- Washington Metropolitan Area -- Planning

Transportation -- United States

Transportation -- United States -- Planning

Dulles International Airport

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

United States. Federal Aviation Administration

Washington National Airport

## Bibliography

Bernstein, Adam. 2023. "James Wilding, Who Helped Grow Washington Airports, Dies at 85." The Washington Post, February 27, 2023. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2023/02/27/james-wilding-who-helped-grow-washington-airports-dies-85/>.

"James A. Wilding International Arrivals Hall at Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)." 2016. PGAL. March 15, 2016. <https://www.pgal.com/projects/james-a-wilding-international-arrivals-hall-at-washington-dulles-international-airport-iad>.

## Arrangement

This collection is arranged in chronological order.

## Description of Subordinate Components

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387121

**Unit Date** January 2, 1974 - June 19, 1974

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

### Scope and Contents

Title "ACA-1 notes" also written on cover

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387122

**Unit Date** June 20, 1974 - May 12, 1975

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387123

**Unit Date** May 13, 1975 - October 24, 1975

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387124

**Unit Date** August 9, 1976 - January 18, 1977

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387125

**Unit Date** January 1977 - December 1, 1977

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387126

**Unit Date** December 2, 1977 - December 29, 1978

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387127

**Unit Date** January 2, 1979 - September 25, 1979

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Scope and Contents**

Notebook has loose papers folded inside back cover

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387128

**Unit Date** September 26, 1979 - February 4, 1980

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387129

**Unit Date** February 5, 1980 - July 23, 1980

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387130

**Unit Date** July 24, 1980 - February 5, 1981

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387131

**Unit Date** February 6, 1981 - September 21, 1981

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387132

**Unit Date** September 22, 1981 - May 31, 1982

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387133

**Unit Date** June 1, 1982 - February 18, 1983

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387134

**Unit Date** February 21, 1983 - December 7, 1983

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387135

**Unit Date** December 8, 1983 - September 27, 1984

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387136

**Unit Date** September 28, 1984 - August 21, 1985

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387137

**Unit Date** August 22, 1985 - June 20, 1986

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387138

**Unit Date** June 23, 1986 - May 19, 1987

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387139

**Unit Date** May 20, 1987 - April 4, 1988

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387140

**Unit Date** April 5, 1988 - April 27, 1989

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387141

**Unit Date** April 28, 1989 - April 27, 1990

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387142

**Unit Date** April 28, 1990 – January 14, 1991

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387143

**Unit Date** January 15, 1991 – October 4, 1991

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387144

**Unit Date** October 7, 1991 – July 10, 1992

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387145

**Unit Date** July 13, 1992 – July 7, 1993

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387146

**Unit Date** July 8, 1993 – July 1, 1994

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387147

**Unit Date** July 2, 1994 – June 7, 1995

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387148

**Unit Date** June 8, 1995 – March 7, 1996

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387149

**Unit Date** March 8, 1996 – February 18, 1997

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387150

**Unit Date** February 19, 1997 – January 23, 1998

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387151

**Unit Date** January 25, 1998 – January 29, 1999

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387152

**Unit Date** January 30, 1999 – February 7, 2000

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387153

**Unit Date** February 8, 2000 – December 20, 2000

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387154

**Unit Date** December 21, 2000 – December 14, 2001

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387155

**Unit Date** December 15, 2001 – December 20, 2002

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/387156

**Unit Date** December 21, 2002 – May 2, 2003

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)