

Stapleton/Denver International Airports- Collection

Collection Summary

Title: Stapleton/Denver International Airports

Collection Group: Transportation

Dates: 1978- 2005

Location: *Archives B, Shelf 14*

Quantity: 3 boxes

Abstract: Denver Municipal Airport opened in 1929 as the brainchild of Denver Mayor Benjamin Stapleton. Influenced by Buckley and Lowry bases, aviation expanded in the metro area during 1930's and 1940's. To accommodate developing technologies and longer runways, the airport (renamed Stapleton Airfield in 1944 and then Stapleton International Airport in 1964), underwent a series of expansions into nearby Rocky Mountain Arsenal throughout the 1950's and 1960's. As Denver solidified its role as an aviation "hub," SIA struggled to meet projected demands. Adams County and Denver began negotiations over a proposed airport north of the city and finally reached an inter-county agreement in 1985 to let Denver annex land for the project. While Mayor Federico Peña previously resisted the idea of replacing SIA, the largest single industry in Colorado, he became a strong supporter of Denver International Airport. After many delays and conflicts with Aurora over access roads, power lines, and transit options, DIA opened to public traffic on February 28, 1995. DIA is the first new US airport to be built since 1974, and incorporates new technology and extensive artwork.

Arrangement: No accession records currently exist for this collection and original order has been lost. Materials have been re-ordered by subject, chronology, and medium. Box 1 contains bound folders of environmental documents, newspapers, and an original journal article. Box 2 contains newspaper clippings, newspapers, bound environmental reports, pamphlets, promotional materials, a plastic bag, maps, and a flight guide. Box 3 contains an oversize bound document of maps relating to the 1986 master plan study for Denver International Airport found in Box 2.

Contents

Series and Subseries

Box 1 of 3

Series: Stapleton International Airport

Subseries: The Stapleton Innerline Newsletters

Folder 1: 41 biweekly issues (April 1983 to February 1985) of the Stapleton Innerline, a newspaper is exclusive to the airline industry and the airport. This subseries covers strikes, safety concerns, operational changes, promotions, and bankruptcy issues. Main

airlines represented are Frontier, Continental, Aspen Air, Branniff, Southwest, Condor and Arrow.

Subseries: News Clippings

Folder 2: Published 1982-1984. Covers early negotiations between Denver, Adams, and Commerce City relating to expansion into Rocky Mountain Arsenal versus relocation of the old airport, noise reduction plans and lawsuits (particularly brought by residents of Park Hill and Aurora), and bond measures. Publications include the Denver Post, Greater Park Hill Newsletter, the Aurora Sentinel, Colorado Business Magazine, and Rocky Mountain News.

Subseries: Stapleton Development post-DIA

Folder 3: Published 1995-2001. Includes the official bound Stapleton Development plan (1995), promotional pamphlets from the Stapleton Development Corp, news clippings about traffic growth, and two issues of the Stapleton Front Porch newsletter dealing with the development of parks, schools, and a sustainable master plan.

Subseries: Proposals and reports

Folder 4: 5 large, bound reports on the environmental impacts of public housing around the old airport (1978), a new master plan (1981), impacts of the master plan, a proposed noise mitigation plan (1984), an environmental impacts report for a proposed expansion (1986). This last also contains an envelope with 12 folded maps showing impacted areas.

Subseries: History

Folder 5: One copy of "An Airport in Place: Stapleton International Airport's First fifty-Five Years of Growth," by Jeff Miller (*Colorado Heritage*, Issue 3 1984).

Series: Denver International Airport

Subseries: News Clippings

Folder 6: Published 1986-1993. Covers job predictions, economic benefits for Aurora, infrastructure plans, and intergovernmental conflict during the planning and construction process. Publications include the Denver Post, Rocky Mountain News. Of interest is an op-ed by Paul Tauer, mayor of Aurora.

Folder 7: Two special editions by the Denver Post, dated 1994. Includes a political history summary of the airport, coverage of construction issues, features on new baggage and safety technology, and the projected and actual economic impacts of construction.

Folder 8: News coverage of the February 28, 1995 inauguration and the first few months of service at the new airport. Of interest is a published series of letters describing memories of the Stapleton airport as it closed. Publications include the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News, including 3 special editions of the Denver Post in March 1995 which serve as traveler's guides.

Folder 9: Special edition of the Denver Post celebrating the airport's 10th anniversary

Subseries: Official publications and ephemera

Folder 10:

- Glossy 28-page booklet promoting the future airport, 1989. Contains official statements from Mayor Federico Peña and George Doughty, Director of Aviation
- Brochures explaining parking, Skyride, open houses, and self-guided tours around the 1995 inauguration
- Self-guided art walk with descriptions
- Promotional pamphlet
- Folder with fact sheets, flight guide, pamphlets, 2 8x10 color photos, and map
- 9x10 glossy official DIA welcome brochure
- 9x10 brochure for a gallery located in the concourse
- 1 plastic shopping bag with airport logo

Subseries: Official reports, 1982-1994

Folder 9: Chronological development of Denver International Airport environmental studies and assessments. Official government reports in 11 large, bound volumes and 1 folder of short statements. Environmental reports begin the initial site evaluation and selection in 1986 and go through the 1989 Final Environmental Impact Report, to proposals for comprehensive open space plans and the 1994 Alternative Mode Access Study. Economic reports include the 1989 Airport Marketing study forecasting future development around the new airport environs.

Box 3:

Folder 10: Volume II-Figures of the 1986 New Master plan Study/Site Selection. Oversize.

Additional Stapleton International Airport items in other collections:

Archives C:

18 photos on photo Archives Disc 1 (Object id's: 203, 2087, 5387, 5388, 8974, 10733, 13245, 13247, 15842, 15896, 15925, 15926, 16441, 16451, 17330, 17331, 17332, 17333)

3 black and white prints in Archive C (Object id's: P1990.670, P1991.5779.2, P1994.8895)

Archives B: Newsletters from Aurora's Community Services Department, Neighborhood Support Division, 1991-1996. Accession #: 2011.005.0002

Hearing committee notes on the Denver Regional Airport System Plan, 1974. In "Hilbert Meyers," Box #, folder #. Accession #: 2011.043

Collections:

1 black and white print (object id: P1991.5779.2)

2 buttons advertising DIA (object id: 1990.014.0001a-b)

Books in Aurora History Museum Library:

Cultural Resource Inventory for a portion of the Denver International Airport Airtrain Corridor, Ada 91993). MUS 978.81 Cul

Denver International Airport Historic Resources: multiple property listing (1992). MUS 987.881 Den

Stapleton International Airport: "the first fifty years" (1983). MUS 387.7 Mil

QWEST Dex: Aurora, Montbello, Denver International Airport (2001-). MUS 384.64 Qwe 2001-2002 Ed. and Qwe 2004 Ed.

Books in Aurora Public Library:

Denver International Airport Front Range Feasibility Study (2001). PLA 387.736 Den

Denver International Airport Historic Resources: multiple property listing (1992). R 987.881 Den

Stapleton International Airport: "the first fifty years" (1983). 387.736 Mil