



National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

City Directories for the District of Columbia, 1867–1970

City directories have been published in various forms since the 1700s; by 1860, more than 70 cities in the United States published annual directories. These directories not only list the residents of a community, but they also publish information about local industry and commercial businesses. By listing such pertinent information as a person's name, place of residence, street address, profession, and names of relatives living nearby, city directories often verify or provide clues to other sources such as census records.

The National Archives holds city directories for the District of Columbia from 1867 to 1970, with some gaps. These resources are available in the Robert M. Warner Research Center in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

The Library of Congress holds city directories relating to the District of Columbia as well. Information about these directories is at the Library of Congress web site at www.loc.gov.

Published Volumes

The Robert M. Warner Research Center holds two sets of published city directories:

- *Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia* (published from 1867 to 1874 as *Boyd's Washington and Georgetown Directory*), for 1867, 1869, 1871–76, 1878–97, 1899, 1905, 1907–14, 1916–19, 1921–25, 1927–34, 1936–43. (LOC call number: F192.5 .B6)
- *Polk's Washington City (District of Columbia) Directory*, 1948, 1954, 1960, 1962, 1964–65, 1967, 1969–70. (LOC call number: F192.5 .P6)

The format of *Boyd's* and *Polk's* directories varies slightly over the years, but it generally includes the following categories:

- **Alphabetical List of Names**—includes residents, business firms, and corporations, listing street address and occupation for individuals.
- **Buyer's Guide**—advertisements of leading manufacturing, business, and professional interests.
- **Classified Business Directory**—lists of various manufacturing, mercantile, and professional interests, arranged in alphabetical order under appropriate headings.
- **Street and Avenue Guide (Directory of Householders)**—includes street and avenue names arranged in alphabetical order; residences and business houses are arranged numerically under each street or avenue, followed by names of householders and business concerns.

- **Miscellaneous**—rosters of U.S. and District of Columbia officials, statistical summaries, historical sketches, and surveys of manufacturing, trade, and civic groups.

Microfilm

___Z0001, *City Directories of the United States, 1902–36*. 865 rolls. This publication reproduces directories for various cities across the United States, filmed from the holdings of the Library of Congress. (The microfilm was originally purchased by the National Archives for use as a supplemental index to the 1930 census.) **Rolls 129–131** contain *Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia* for 1929, 1930, and 1931.

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