

Guide to the Stonewall Park Collection

This finding aid was created by Dennis McBride and Ian M. Baldwin on September 25, 2017.
Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f13896>

© 2017 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections
and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Organizational History	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Arrangement Note	4
Administrative Information	4
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	5

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Schoonmaker, Fred
Title:	Stonewall Park Collection
ID:	MS-00501
Date [inclusive]:	1983-1987
Physical Description:	0.42 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Stonewall Park Collection (1983-1987) documents the Stonewall Park project, an unrealized gay community in Nevada. Material includes news clippings and ephemera, as well as financial records and ancillary documents detailing bankruptcies and litigation associated with the Stonewall Park project. Much of this material is photocopied from MS 1990-15 (Fred Schoonmaker Papers), held at the Museum of GLBT History in San Francisco, CA.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Organizational History

In 1983, Reno gay activist Fred Schoonmaker and his African-American husband, Alfred Parkinson, conceived a series of efforts to establish a gay town in Nevada known as Stonewall Park, named for the 1969 New York riots that inspired the Gay Liberation movement. Social and legal sexual discrimination in Nevada had reached such a pitch by the early 1980s that many in the state believed the only way they could survive was to segregate themselves from the straight population.

Schoonmaker and Parkinson attempted three times between 1984 and 1987 to found Stonewall Park: first, in the small town of Silver Springs in Lyon County, midway between Carson City and Fallon on U. S. Highway 50; second, in the famous ghost town of Rhyolite just west of Beatty, Nevada in Nye County; and, finally, on a former ranch at Thunder Mountain in Pershing County, between Lovelock and Winnemucca. Each time, the effort met resistance from the local population and active opposition from elected officials. In addition, Schoonmaker never had the financial resources needed to make Stonewall Park a reality, nor could he raise the money or inspire much interest or support in the gay community for his and Parkinson's endeavor. Schoonmaker's dream of Stonewall Park died when he succumbed to an AIDS-related heart attack on May 20, 1987. For the full published story of Stonewall Park, see "Stonewall Park," by Dennis McBride [Nevada Historical Society Quarterly, v. 52:2 [(Summer 2009)]. Also see http://outhistory.org/oldwiki/Stonewall_Park for a web version of the Stonewall Park story.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Stonewall Park Collection (1983-1987) documents the Stonewall Park project, an unrealized gay community in Nevada. Material includes news clippings and ephemera, as well as financial records and ancillary documents detailing bankruptcies and litigation associated with the Stonewall Park project. Much of this material is photocopied from MS 1990-15 (Fred Schoonmaker Papers), held at the Museum of GLBT History in San Francisco, CA.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement Note

Material is arranged by subject.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

For permission to reproduce or publish from this collection, please contact the Director of Special Collections and the Museum of GLBT History in San Francisco, CA.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Dennis McBride in 2005. Accession Number 2005-006.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Dennis McBride in 2005. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Ian M. Baldwin revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently, Ian M. Baldwin uploaded this information into ArchiveSpace.

Existence of Originals Note

Much of this material is photocopied from MS 1990-15 (Fred Schoonmaker Papers), held at the Museum of GLBT History in San Francisco, CA.

Please contact the Museum of GLBT History in San Francisco, CA to publish from this collection.

Revision Description

The finding aid was revised by Ian M. Baldwin to bring into compliance with DACS. June, 2014

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Gay liberation movement -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- 20th century
- Gay community -- Nevada -- 20th century
- Stonewall Riots, New York, N.Y., 1969
- Stonewall Park -- Nevada

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Stonewall Park correspondence, background, 1983-1987	box 01	folder 01
Stonewall Park: Silver Springs, NV venture (Stonewall Park Association, Inc.), 1983-1987	box 01	folder 02
Stonewall Park: Rhyolite, NV venture (FESCO, Inc.), 1983-1987	box 01	folder 03
Stonewall Park: Imlay, NV venture (Thunder Mountain Gay and Lesbian Alliance), 1983-1987	box 01	folder 04