Levittown Pathfinder

This pathfinder is to help you locate resources on the development and social history of the town of Levittown in Bucks County Pennsylvania. Levittown is a suburban community designed and built by Levitt and Sons in the 1950s. In 1957, when an African American family, the Myers, moved into the Dogwood Hollow neighborhood of Levittown, the quiet southeaster Pennsylvania town gained national attention as angry racism led to violence. The resources below will provide you with the basic history of Levittown from both primary and secondary viewpoints.

And check out the A+ Research and Writing guide for help with developing your term papers and projects!

books

all books are available @ the Bucks County Library’s Levittown branch - look for the call number!

Levittown, Pennsylvania: the most perfectly planned community in America?
by Andrea D. Colantti (1983)
Find it in Reference @ REF 974.821 C

Levittown: Pennsylvania: a sociological history
by Chad M. Kimmel (2004, UMI Dissertation Services)
Find it in Reference @ REF 974.821 K

Levittown: two families, one tycoon, and the fight for civil rights in America’s legendary suburb
by David Kushner (2009, Walker & Co.)
Find it @ 305.896 K (also a copy in Reference)

Levittown, Pennsylvania 1952-2002: a garden community
by Simeon-David Marable (2002?)
Find it @ 974.821 M

Sticks ‘n stones: the Myers family in Levittown
by Daisy D. Myers (2005, York County Heritage Trust)
Find it @ 974.821 M (also two copies in Reference)

The first stone: a memoir of the racial integration of Levittown, Pennsylvania
Find it @ 974.821 W (also a copy in Reference)

Levittown: how it grew
by David R. Vasquez (The Advance of Bucks County, 1984?)
Find it in Reference @ 974.821 V
Some online resources available through the **Bucks County library system** that may help you in your research are Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest Online (for finding information on family histories) as well as ProQuest (for finding articles from newspapers and magazines). Here are two articles you can find through ProQuest:

**Levittown, Pa. Paradise or prison? The suburb of homogenous homes was an experiment that became an institution**
by Geoff Gehman for The Morning Call newspaper of Allentown on February 9, 2003

**How suburbia sprang forth Levittown, Pa.: the baby-boom planned community takes it rightful place in history as an exhibit shows how “cookie-cutter” housing evolved into a vital neighborhood**
by Amy Worden for the Philadelphia Inquirer of Philadelphia, Pa on May 17, 2002

Also explore **Power Library** links such as the Student Research Center and Oxford Reference Online.

**Levittown, Pa: building the suburban dream**
from the State Museum of Pennsylvania, 2003

**Welcome to Levittown, PA**
created by the Wagner family in 1997

**Civil Rights and Integration**
from the Pennsylvania Museum and Historical Commission

**films**

**Levittown 1954, our home town**
compiled by the Bucks County Historical Society (1993)
Find it in Reference @ CD-ROM 974.821 L (also available as VHS)
from the **Levittown branch of the Bucks County Library**

Here are three films available through the **Internet Archive** collection:

**The Quiet Revolution** (1956) by the Ford Motor Company, Tractor and Implement Division

**Our Home Town: Levittown, Pa.** (1954) by an unknown filmmaker

**Crisis in Levittown** (1957) by Lee Bobker and Lester Becker

**subject headings**

use these subject headings to help you find more resources on Levittown, PA and its history

**People**
Levitt, William, 1907-1994
Myers family
Wechsler, Lewis

**Geography**
Levittown (Pa.)--History
Levittown (Pa.)--Race relations
Levittown (Pa.)--Social life and customs

**Subjects**
African Americans--Civil rights--Pennsylvania--Levittown--History--20th century
Planned communities--Pennsylvania--Levittown
Race discrimination--Pennsylvania--Levittown
Segregation--Pennsylvania--Levittown--History--20th century