

Shaker Historical Society and Museum
Elizabeth Nord Library & Archives
2nd Floor, 16740 South Park Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44120

Finding Aid for the Larry Albert Shaker Square Collection
2026.3

Date Range: 1915-2000
Bulk Dates: 1928-1929, 1989

Finding Aid created by Brianna Treleven, 2026
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Larry Albert Shaker Square Collection

Repository: Elizabeth Nord Library & Archives, Shaker Historical Society, 16740 South Park Blvd, Shaker Heights, OH 44120

Identifier: 2026.3

Date Range: 1915-2000, undated (bulk 1928-1929, 1989)

Extent: 0.35 cubic feet (2 boxes), 4 framed photographs (19⁵/₈ x 24 in. to 31³/₄ x 28 in.); 19 items, flat file storage (18 x 24 in. to 26 x 22 in.)

Creator: Albert, Lawrence

Language: English

Administrative Information

Provenance: Gift of Kasey Albert, 2026

Restrictions: Open for use by researchers

Copyright: The Shaker Historical Society (SHS) does not claim to control the rights for reproduction for all materials in this collection. Some materials may be protected by copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity rights, or other legal interests not owned by SHS.

Credit Line: Shaker Historical Society, Gift of Kasey Albert

Related Materials: Local History Collection, Shaker Heights Public Library; Materials related to Shaker Square and the Van Sweringen Company are scattered throughout SHS's holdings. Researchers are encouraged to consult with staff for assistance identifying relevant materials.

Processing Notes: The donation was received as an assembled collection. A finding aid was prepared by Executive Director Brianna Treleven in 2026.

Biographical/Historical

Lawrence "Larry" Albert (1934-2025) was born in Toronto, Canada. He trained in accounting before developing a career in retail space planning and shopping center management. After working as a shopping center consultant in Vancouver, he relocated to Shaker Heights, Ohio in 1971 with his wife Maureen. He oversaw development and operations at Severance Center and Great Northern Shopping Centers until 1978, when he became proprietor of Shaker Square Ltd., a position he held until 2000. During his tenure he supported the formation of an independent business owners organization, cultivated community engagement through Friends of Shaker Square, and in 1995 approved the establishment of the North Union Farmers Market at Shaker Square. He also served on the board of the St. Luke's Foundation from 1997 to 2006. Albert died on March 25, 2025 in Shaker Heights.

Scope and Content

The Larry Albert Shaker Square Collection measures 0.35 cubic feet, excluding oversized materials stored separately, and dates from 1915 to 2000 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1928-1929 and 1989. The collection contains a vision plan, business records, early blueprints, visual materials, publicity, and promotional materials related to Shaker Square.

Arrangement

The Larry Albert Shaker Square Collection is arranged into six series. Original folder order and titles have been preserved when possible.

Series 1: Shaker Square Vision Plan, 1977

Series 2: Business Records, 1915-1930, 1983-1995, 2000, undated

Series 3: Visual Materials, 1981-1989, undated

Series 4: Publicity, 1978-1999

Series 5: Promotional and Event Materials, 1987-1999, undated

Series 6: Shaker Square History, 1937-1997, undated

Access Terms

Albert, Lawrence

The Van Sweringen Company

The Shaker Company

Cleveland (Ohio)

City planning

Shopping centers

Real estate development

Container List

Series 1: Shaker Square Vision Plan, 1977

Box 2, Folder 1	Spiral-bound vision plan; includes a history of Shaker Square, board minutes, reports from the Friends of Shaker Square, photographs, and survey responses
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Series 2: Business Records, 1915-1930, 1983-1995, 2000, undated

This series contains business records from the preliminary planning of Shaker Square through Larry Albert's ownership.

Box 1, Folder 2	Shaker Square Ltd. business cards, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Recognition and awards, 1983-1995, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1983-1992, 2000
Box 2, Folder 5	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1928-1930
Box 2, Folder 6	Shaker Square blueprints, affidavit of cost of building, and statement of costs, 1928-1929
Box 2, Folder 7	Shaker Square title abstract, Guarantee Title and Trust Company, 1915-1927

Series 3: Visual Materials, 1981-1989, undated

This series contains visual materials and art created by Eleanor Shankland and Abe Frajndlich.

Box 1, Folder 8	Prints, postcards, and greeting cards with illustrations by Eleanor Shankland, 1989
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| Box 1, Folder 9 | Photographs of Shaker Square and Shaker Square events, including black-and-white aerial photographs of Shaker Square by Abe Frajndlich, 1981, undated |
| Box 2, No Folder
Isabel Main Room | Tote bag and pouch with illustration by Eleanor Shankland, undated
Four framed black-and-white photographs, including an aerial view of Shaker Square (23 5/8 x 28 inches), an interior view of the Colony Theater in Shaker Square (31 3/4 x 23 1/2 inches), <i>Fountain of the Waters</i> by Chester Beach at the CMA's Fine Arts Garden (28 1/2 x 24 inches), and an aerial view of Cleveland Harbor (19 5/8 x 25 inches); all but the Colony Theater photograph are visibly signed by Abe Frajndlich, 1979-1981 (<i>oversized</i>) |

Series 4: Publicity, 1978-1999

This series contains clippings, advertisements, and publications.

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| Box 1, Folder 10 | Clippings, advertisements, and publications featuring Shaker Square and Shaker Square events. Original order has been preserved. |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Pages from <i>Shaker Magazine</i> with advertisements for Shaker Square, 1984-1996 |

Series 5: Promotional and Event Materials, 1987-1999, undated

This series contains promotional materials for Shaker Square and events produced and distributed by Shaker Square.

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| Box 1, Folder 12 | Brochures, booklets, and an engraving of Shaker Square, undated |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Invitations, mailers, and brochures related to Shaker Square events, 1989-1999, undated |
| Box 1, Folder 14 | British Car Day programs, correspondence, and related postcards, 1987-1999 |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | British Car Day dash plaques, 1987-1998 |
| Flat File 24 | British Car Day posters, 1991-1999 (<i>oversized</i>) |
| Flat File 24 | "The World Around Shaker Square" map by Duncan Greenlee and Sharon Blanchard, 1990 (<i>oversized</i>) |

Series 6: Shaker Square History, 1937-1997, undated

This series contains clippings and articles related to the history of Shaker Square. Original order and folders titles have been preserved.

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| Box 1, Folder 16 | Shaker Square history, 1937-1997, undated |
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Shaker Square Memories, including photocopied articles and board minutes from Shaker Square Association meetings held on July 11, September 12, and October 10, 1978 |