

Guide to the Social Reform Records – 1968-1976

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COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection contains records of some local social reform organizations from the 1960s and 1970s.

Founded in Ithaca just after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in April 1968, MOVE was developed, according to their newsletter, “as a community action group...to mobilize the considerable human resources of the community in an effort to ease the economic and social plight of its poor and minority groups. It was founded because of great dissatisfaction within the community with existing government institutions and committees, but it has drawn upon the experience and information of such existing groups wherever possible.” Their primary focus was on three major areas: Housing, employment, and education. Several initiatives were undertaken by the group, including efforts to facilitate access to housing for poor and Black residents. However, the April 17, 1970 issue of the MOVE Newsletter references “a substantial dropping off of the activity of the organization.” There are no later newsletters in the collection.

Some information regarding a food surplus program for rural residents in Groton is included in folder two.

Tompco Better Housing, Inc. was incorporated in March 1969 to focus on rehabilitating and building housing for low-income families. In 1970, as MOVE began to dissolve, Tompco continued to address housing issues in Ithaca.

The collection also contains alternative news and information sources from the 1960s and 1970s, including Dateline Ithaca, Treetop, and the Ithaca Area People’s Yellow Pages from 1976.

CONTAINER LIST

MOVE By-laws and appeals

Folder 1

MOVE Committee records, including a detailed report: “The Housing Situation in Tompkins County – A Summary of Previous Reports – May, 1968” Also “What is ‘The Food on the Table Program?’ Groton, NY”	Folder 2
MOVE Newsletter - July 1968-April 1969	Folder 3
MOVE Newspaper clippings	Folder 4
Tompco Better Housing, Inc.	Folder 5
Ithaca Tenants’ Union	Folder 6
“Dateline: Ithaca” - September – December 1968	Folder 7
January – June 1969	Folder 8
July – December 1969	Folder 9
January – May 1970	Folder 10
“Treetop” 1972-1973	Folder 11
“Collage” 1976	Folder 12
July 4 th Coalition Newsletter	Folder 13
“Woman’s Resource Guide to Ithaca” 1976	Folder 14
“Ithaca Area People’s Yellow Pages” 1976	Folder 15