

Notes for Herbert Hoover Research Applicants

Research Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:45AM-12:00PM, 12:30PM-4:45PM

Closed on federal holidays:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- 4th of July
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans' Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas

Archive Material Information

The Hoover Library contains about 6800 linear feet of manuscript material (about 8 million pages), 35,000+ still images (photographs), 400+ movies, and more than 30,000 books. These all document the public life and times of Herbert Hoover. These include not only the papers of Herbert Hoover-which document his career from Commerce, through campaign and transition, to Presidency and Post-Presidential periods, but also 300 other collections. These other collections include the papers of his wife, Lou Henry Hoover, the papers of his friend Lewis L. Strauss (first head of the Atomic Energy Commission), the papers of associates Hugh Wilson and Francis White from the Hoover State Department, and the papers of newsmen and politicians who knew Hoover. Among the collections of newspapermen held here are: Clark Mollenhoff (Des Moines Register Washington correspondent), Verne Marshall (editor of the Cedar Rapids Gazette active in America First), Walter Trohan (Washington bureau chief for the Chicago Tribune), and Westbrook Pegler (Pulitzer Prize winning columnist). The two most notable political collections are the papers of Bourke Hickenlooper (Iowa governor and late U.S. Senator) and H. R. Gross (long-serving member of U.S. House). Perhaps the most used materials in the Hoover Library is the Rose Wilder Lane collection. Lane, the first biographer of Hoover (in 1920), also collaborated with her mother on a series of books for children. Lane's mother was Laura Ingalls Wilder, and the books were the Little House on the Prairie series.

The Hoover Library archivists take seriously their mission to preserve and to make accessible these materials. Last year approximately two hundred researchers made about five hundred research visits to the Hoover Library. These researchers ranged

from middle school students working on projects for National History Day, to college and university students doing class assignments, to professional scholars doing research for books and articles. Our users are not restricted to academia; dozens of researchers interested in local or family history came to the Hoover Library to examine the West Branch Times.

Location / Airports

West Branch, Iowa is located 50 miles west of the Mississippi River and four hours west of Chicago. The Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids is 30 miles northwest. The Quad City Airport in Moline, Illinois is 55 miles east. The Des Moines airport is two hours west.

Lodging

Iowa City, home of the University of Iowa, is ten miles west of West Branch. There are a number of motels along the I-80 corridor. Less expensive rates may be available in Coralville, twelve miles west. Bed & breakfast establishments in Iowa City have been popular with past researchers. For a list of hotels or more information, contact the Hoover Presidential Foundation at 319-643-5327 or info@HooverPF.org