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## Archival Collection Finding Aid

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Name/Title:</b>            | Doris Cole Collection                              |
| <b>Subject(s)</b>             | Fashion, Clothing, Local History, Commerce, School |
| <b>Archival Collection #:</b> | 225  |
| <b>Accession #:</b>           | 2010.55  |
| <b>Source:</b>                | Doris Cole   |
| <b>Date Acquired:</b>         | September 15, 2010                                 |
| <b>Span Dates:</b>            | 1952-1954  |
| <b>Processor(s):</b>          | Melvin, Dykert                                     |

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### Abstract:

This small archival collection helps document the social life of local high school students Doris Cole and her sister Janice Cole during the mid 1950's. It accompanies a collection of 18 dresses also donated to the Grand Rapids Public Museum. These items reveal a full and rich social life for the average American high school girl, one where fashion and formal dances were important and exciting. It also speaks to major changes in retail shopping in Grand Rapids during the twentieth century with specialty dress shops and department stores closing or leaving the downtown business district.

### History:

The Cole sisters grew up with their parents Helen and Louis Cole who were residents of Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids for many years. Louis Cole was the owner of the Walltile Company in Grand Rapids and developed some property near the Grand Rapids Library. They were members of the Temple Emanuel in Grand Rapids.

Janice graduated from Ottawa Hills High School in 1954 and later received her Bachelor of Arts and PhD at the University of Michigan. She became a professor of English at Hood College in Fredrick, MD.

Doris graduated from East Grand Rapids High School in 1955 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Radcliffe College and Master's in Architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She owns an architectural firm in Cambridge, MA and is an author of five books on the subject of architecture.

### Scope and Content:

The Doris Cole archival collection contains an assortment of photographs, invitations, programs, pamphlets, newspaper clippings and examples of yearbooks from 1952-1955. These materials feature a collection of dresses worn to family and school social events in Grand Rapids, Michigan in the 1950s.

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### Series Descriptions:

| No.  | Series Name | Description  |
|------|-------------|--|
| I.   | Photographs | Images of people in formal attire, at social gatherings or official school images.                         |
| II.  | Ephemera    | Miscellaneous printed materials, including pamphlets, programs, dance invitations and newspaper clippings. |
| III. | Yearbooks   | High School Yearbooks  |

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**Container List:**

| <b>Container</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Series</b> | <b>Description of Contents</b>   | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Count</b> |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| 1.               | 1.            | I.            | Black and white photographs of Doris and John Eman; Photo of Janice Cole, Doris Cole and Mother; Photo of Doris; Smaller photo of Janice; Photos of Doris and Janice by Laskey; Photo of Doris and Janice on bench at wedding. | 1952-1954    | 7            |
| 1.               | 2.            | II.           | Invitation with envelope; commencement exercises program; newspaper article on Ottawa High School; Christmas formal; Chanukah dance program; Phi Sigma Chi program; Alpha Phi program.   | 1952-1954    | 6            |
| 1.               | Loose         | III.          | Legend high school yearbook 1954 and Interlochen high school year book 1954,   | 1954         | 2            |