

## Morris Milgram and Integrated Housing

Morris Milgram, a civil rights and social activist, advocated for "racial harmony" by creating communities where black and white citizens had equal access to housing. In the 1950s, Milgram initiated his ideas by building two successful integrated communities in the Philadelphia region - Concord Park and Greenbelt Knoll.

Conflict and compromise continuously characterized his efforts as he worked to expand integrated housing outside of Philadelphia. Milgram and his associates adapted their strategies in the face of bureaucratic and financial setbacks. His work had a lasting impact for the 20,000 residents living in integrated communities he helped establish in Philadelphia, California, Boston, New York, Texas, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Cambridge, Chicago, and Washington.



### Primary sources

- ❖ Morris Milgram papers, 1923-1994 [Collection 2176]
- ❖ Images from HSP's Digital Library, including photographs of Concord Park, brochures, and correspondence with Eleanor Roosevelt and Martin Luther King, Jr.:
  - [http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Detail/Collection/Show/collection\\_id/362](http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Detail/Collection/Show/collection_id/362)

### Secondary sources

- ❖ *Residential Apartheid: The American Legacy*. Los Angeles, CA: CAAS Publications, 1994. [Call no. HD7288.76.U5 R47 1994]

- ❖ W. Benjamin Piggot. "The 'Problem' of the Black Middle Class: Morris Milgram's Concord Park and Residential Integration in Philadelphia's Postwar Suburbs," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 132, No. 2 (April 2008), 173-190.
  - <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20093996>
- ❖ Thomas J. Sugrue. "Concord Park, Open Housing, and the Lost Promise of Civil Rights in the North," *Pennsylvania Legacies*, Vol. 10, No. 2 (November 2010), 18-23.