

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 431

Title: New Square

Extent: 1 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1967

Language: English

Geographic Location: Ramapo, New York

Abstract: This collection consists of a photocopy of an article about the community.

Historical Notes: New Square is an all-Hasidic village in the town of Ramapo, Rockland County, New York, United States. It is located north of Hillcrest, east of Viola, south of New Hempstead, and west of New City. Its inhabitants are predominantly members of the Skverer Hasidic movement who seek to maintain a Hasidic lifestyle disconnected from the secular world. New Square is named after the Ukrainian town Skvyra, where the Skver Hasidim have their roots. The village was established in 1954, when the Zemach David Corporation, representing the Skverer Rebbe, Yaakov Yosef Twersky, purchased a 130-acre (0.53 km²) dairy farm near Spring Valley, New York. Construction began in 1956, and the first four families moved to New Square in December 1956 from the Williamsburg area of Brooklyn, New York City. In 1958 the settlement had 68 houses. Ramapo's zoning regulations forbade the construction of multi-family houses and the use of basements for shops and stores. Families occupying single-family houses said that they belonged to extended family, and private businesses in private homes had to be secret. In 1961, when the community asked for a building permit to expand its synagogue, the town attorney requested the condemnation of the entire New Square community. In response, the community requested incorporation as a village, and in July 1961 New Square incorporated. After it incorporated, lots were sold, and new houses were built. The businesses in basements could sell openly, and new businesses were founded. Three knitting mills and a used car lot opened, but most men continued to go to work in the city. A Kollel was opened in 1963. In 1968, the elder Skverer rebbe died and was succeeded by his son David Twersky. Mates Friesel New Square's first Mayor, served in that office from 1961 until his death in 2015. The community in New Square is made up exclusively of Hasidic Jews, mostly from the Skverer Hasidic movement, who wish to maintain a Hasidic lifestyle while keeping outside influences to a minimum. The predominant language spoken in New Square is Yiddish. **Sources:** [New Square](#)

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Communal living; Collective settlements; Skvira Hasidim--New York (State)--New York; Hasidim; Orthodox Judaism; Orthodox Judaism--New York (State)--New York

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
Gould, Joan. "A Village of "Slaves of the "Torah"": A Visit to New Square." The Jewish Digest. October 1967: pgs. 49-52	1967	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 15-C