

Record Series #: 1121-064.12
Name: Liberty City Community Collection
Dates: circa 1970-2024
Extent/Size: 22 folders, 43 digital files (0.75 cubic feet; 36 GB storage)
Language: English

Neighborhood History:

The larger neighborhood often referred to as Liberty City is actually comprised of several separate smaller neighborhoods, each with their own unique identities: Richfield, Southover Junction, Staley Avenue, Summerside, and Liberty City. The boundaries of the Liberty City subdivision are considered to be 52nd Street on the north, 66th Street on the south, and one block east and west of Liberty Parkway. The northern boundary of Southover Junction is 52nd Street, the southern boundary is Pendleton Street, and it lies immediately east of Liberty City. The north boundary of Richfield is Pendleton Street, the south boundary is approximately 66th Street, and it lies immediately east of Liberty City and south of Southover Junction. Staley Avenue is immediately south of Liberty City, with ACL Boulevard as the western boundary. Summerside's historical boundaries are Calhoun Street and the ACL Railway on the south, Ogeechee Avenue on the west, and Summerside Avenue and the ACL Railway on the east.

The area began to be developed as part of unincorporated Chatham County in the 1940s and was annexed into the Savannah City limits in 1979. Some of the earliest residents were Black families who purchased their land and built their own homes, creating one of Savannah's earliest Black suburbs. Notable residents include Dr. Henry Collier, Rev. Matthew Southall Brown, Sr., and Savannah Alderman Clifton Jones. The neighborhood association, now called the Liberty City – Richfield – Southover Community Improvement Association, Inc. was founded in 1969 and has been instrumental in advocating for government services and residents' needs.

Scope and Content:

The Liberty City Community Collection was created from items collected through the Savannah Community Memory Project in 2023 and 2024. This collection contains digital reproductions of photographs, programs, and news clippings provided by area residents. There are also recorded oral histories and written reflections by area residents about Liberty City area neighborhoods. Physical records in this collection record significant neighborhood improvement projects such as the construction of the Liberty City Community Center, the Frazier Overpass, and infrastructure improvements, as well as documentation of the activities of the neighborhood association.

System of Arrangement and Ordering:

Files are both physical and digital in format. Digital files are arranged according to donor or interviewee. Physical files are arranged by donor and subject.

Conditions Governing Access:

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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Municipal Archives becomes a source for publication, a copy of the publication is requested for the Municipal Archives.

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Digital Access:

Oral Histories are available through the [Voices of Savannah portal](#). Select digitized materials are available through our [Online Catalog](#).

Access Points:

Cemeteries – Evergreen Cemetery
Chain Gangs
Chatham County
Neighborhoods – Liberty City
Neighborhoods – Southover Junction
Neighborhoods – Staley Avenue
Neighborhoods – Richfield

Preferred Citation:

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Processed by:

K. Zacovic, March 2024

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Inventory:

Physical Files

Box 1121-064-02

<i>Folder #</i>	<i>Description</i>
1121-064.12-001	Funeral program for Lagree Burke, Sr., 2011 (donated by Lagree M. Burke, Jr.)
1121-064.12-002	Liberty City Community Association papers, including: meeting advertisements, signed petitions to install streetlights in the neighborhood, mission statement, 1964-1965 (donated by Leveessie Hunter Walker)
1121-064.12-003	Prompt cards with written reflections from area residents, 2024*

Box 1121-064-03 **All materials in Box 1121-064-03 were donated by Glynda Jones, president-elect of Liberty City – Richfield – Southover Community Improvement Association, Inc.**

<i>Folder #</i>	
1121-064.12-004	1996 Project of the Year Award application
1121-064.12-005	Annual banquet programs, 1986-1989
1121-064.12-006	Annual banquet programs, 1995-1999
1121-064.12-007	Annual banquet programs, 2000-2005
1121-064.12-008	Annual banquet programs, 2006-2010
1121-064.12-009	Annual banquet programs, 2011-2019
1121-064.12-010	Clifton Jones, Jr. personal papers, 1975-1996, no date [including personal and Aldermanic letterhead, personal correspondence, newsletters from other organizations]
1121-064.12-011	Clippings, 1991-2008, no date
1121-064.12-012	Code Compliance issues, 1977-1992
1121-064.12-013	General correspondence, 1981-1992, no date
1121-064.12-014	Infrastructure projects, 1975-2014, no date [topics include: street paving, drainage, water and sewer, signage, sidewalks, streetlights, Frazier Overpass]
1121-064.12-015	Liberty City Community Center planning, 1981-2011, no date
1121-064.12-016	Liberty City – Southover – Richfield Community Organization, Inc. records, 1971-2022, no date [topics include: bylaws, articles of incorporation, membership, newsletters, meeting minutes and agendas, neighborhood history, sponsorship]
1121-064.12-017	Liberty City – Richfield – Southover – Summerside Community Improvement Association, Inc. adhesive decals, no date
1121-064.12-018	Neighborhood Maps, no date
1121-064.12-019	Parks and Playgrounds projects, 1981-1994, 2013, no date
1121-064.12-020	Quitclaim Deeds, Lot 12-14 Block Q, South Ward, Whatley Subdivision, Southover, E.M. Smith to Deloris Threatt, 1986 and Eloise Smith to Liberty City-Southover-Richfield-Summerside Community Improvement Association, Inc., 1991.

* Prompt Cards include topics that encourage written reflection about neighborhood history.

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1121-064.12-021 Regional Recreation Center petition, 1996
1121-064.12-022 Zoning Board hearings regarding Evergreen Cemetery, 1975-1988

Digital Files [housed in E-Archives]

See attached inventories for detailed descriptions and identified individuals of Digitized Items

<i>Folder #</i>	<i>Description</i>
1121-064.12-023	Scanned items from residents (24 files) Donor 1: Ajanaku, Imani [15 files] Donor 2: Hunter Walker, Leveessie [2 files] Donor 3: Walker, Dennis [7 files]
1121-064.12-024	Oral History Interviews (10 files) Interview 1: Edwards Maynor, Virginia; January 30, 2024 Interview 2: Hunter Walker, Leveessie; January 26, 2024 Interview 3: Johnson, Lester, III; January 26, 2024 Interview 4: Jones, Clifton, Jr.; December 28, 2023 Interview 5: Group Interview with Martha McCullough, Dennis Walker, Carolyn Stafford, and Gracie Wilkins; January 26, 2024 Interview 6: Myers, Donna; January 26, 2024 Interview 7: Page, Anthony; January 26, 2024 Interview 8: Polote, Benjamin, Sr.; February 14, 2024 Interview 9: Group Interview with Donna Myers, Aldrein Murray, Brenda Golphin, January 26, 2024 Interview 10: Zeigler, Gloria; January 27, 2024

Related Interviews:

Brown, Leonard [1121-064.13- Cann Park Community Collection]: Brown lived in both Liberty City and Cann Park and discusses both in his interview.

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Digitized Items Inventory

Note: Identifications provided by donor at point of collection.

Donor 1: Ajanaku, Imani

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Herman Duncan (donor's father), circa 1940s [1 file]
2	Duncan brothers – Herman, William, Leroy, James (from left to right), circa 1940s [1 file]
3	Duncan Family Reunion group photo, July 1977 [1 file]
4	Duncan family genealogy documents [11 files]

Donor 2: Hunter Walker, Leveessie

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Matthew H. Hunter (born 10/12/1919; died 12/23/1983), no date [1 file]

Donor 3: Dennis Walker

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Layout of Staley Avenue between ACL Railroad and Liberty Parkway with photos of each house, no date. [5 files]
2	Walker family photograph, circa 1973; Dennis, Vergia Mae (mother), Alfonzo (father), Andra Gayle Walker-Arkwright (from left to right) [1 file]