

Record Series #: 1121-064.16
Name: Beach Institute Historic Neighborhood Community Collection
Dates: 2024
Extent/Size: 2 digital files (4.27 GB storage)
Language: English

Neighborhood History:

The boundaries of the Beach Institute Historic Neighborhood are: Liberty Street to the north; East Broad Street on the east; Gwinnett Street on the south; and Price Street on the west. The area was initially part of the Garden Lots in Savannah's original town plan. This area came into the City of Savannah corporate limits in 1838. The current neighborhood was primarily developed in the 1850s as housing for railroad workers of the Savannah and Albany Railroad, which was located on the east side of East Broad Street. The neighborhood name is taken from the Beach Institute school, which was established in 1867 by the American Missionary Association and the Freedman's Bureau for the education of formerly enslaved Savannahians. The school and thus the neighborhood, were named after Alfred Ely Beach, an entrepreneur and editor of *Scientific American*, who donated the money to purchase the site.

Today, the former school is operated as the Beach Institute African American Cultural Center of Savannah, as part of the King-Tisdell Cottage Foundation, and is a significant landmark in the district. Another significant landmark in the district is the King-Tisdell Cottage, an ornate Victorian cottage built in 1896 and named for its African American owners, Eugene and Sarah King, and Robert Tisdell. The cottage was relocated to its current site, and is presently operated as an African American heritage museum.

The neighborhood has the highest concentration of 19th century one-story cottages in Savannah's Historic District, and many are notable for their Carpenter Italianate architectural style. In the 1980s, the Beach Institute Historic Neighborhood Association, along with the Historic Savannah Foundation, advocated for the preservation of the neighborhood and implemented policies to help resist the pressures of gentrification that threatened the predominantly African American residents. To learn more about the preservation of the Beach Institute Historic Neighborhood, look at [1121-109, ASALH and related cultural organizations records collection](#).

Scope and Content:

The Beach Institute Historic Neighborhood Community Collection was created as part of the Savannah Community Memory Project collecting initiative in 2024. The collection contains one oral history interview.

System of Arrangement and Ordering:

Digital files are arranged according to interviewee.

Conditions Governing Access:

There are no conditions governing access.

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Digital Access:

Oral Histories are available through the [Voice of Savannah page](#).

Access Points:

Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History
Beach Institute Historic Neighborhood Association
Neighborhoods – Beach Institute
Rivers, Bernice
Law, W.W.

Preferred Citation:

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Collected on:

April 25, 2024

Processed by:

K. Zacovic, July 2024

Inventory:

Digital Files [housed in E-Archives]

| <i>Folder #</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|-----------------|--|
| 1121-064.14_001 | Oral History Interviews (2 files) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview 1: Rivers, Bernice [2 files] |