

Record Series #: 3101-004
Name: Public Development Bureau – Neighborhood Redevelopment
Projects: Cuyler-Brownville
Dates: circa 1980-2006, no date
Extent/Size: 2 document cases, 1 records carton, 50 digital files (2.0 cubic
feet, 9 GB)
Language: English

Scope and Content:

Record Series 3101-004, Public Development Bureau – Neighborhood Redevelopment Projects: Cuyler-Brownville, includes reproductions of photographs and newspaper clippings, oral history interviews, as well as background historical information related to the history of the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood (often spelled as Cuyler-Brownsville), on the western side of Savannah, Georgia. The reproductions include images of residents, homes, and businesses in the area. Of particular interest are images of Charity Hospital, local schools including Cuyler High School and Florance Street School, and a series of homes displaying the various architectural styles featured in the neighborhood.

The materials were gathered by the Savannah History Museum (part of the Coastal Heritage Society) as part of an oral history program and the City of Savannah's Public Development Bureau as part of a neighborhood history exhibit. Parts of the collection are on long-term loan from the Savannah History Museum to the City to facilitate public research use.

System of Arrangement and Ordering:

Record Series 3101-004, Public Development Bureau – Neighborhood Redevelopment Projects: Cuyler-Brownville is arranged into groups based on the order it was received and processed by the Municipal Archives, and then the format of the materials:

- Neighborhood Background Information
- Exhibit Panel Photographs
- Neighborhood Photographs
- Exhibit Panel Newspaper Clippings
- Oral History Recordings and Abstracts

Conditions Governing Access:

Select oral history interviews are restricted because no consent release forms accompanied them when they were transferred to the Archives. Those interviews are restricted for 50 years from the date of recording and will be available in 2042.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

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This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve a violation of copyright law.

Access Points:

Adams, Floyd, Jr.
Bass, James
Beach-Cuyler High School (Savannah, Ga.)
Brown, Sarah
Burke, Jim
Charity Hospital (Savannah, Ga.)
Checker Club (Savannah, Ga.)
Churchill, Stephanie
City of Savannah, Georgia (Savannah, Ga.)
Clemmons, J. B.
Clemmons, Mozelle
Coastal Heritage Society (Savannah, Ga.)
Cook, Ellis
Cuyler Brownsville Neighborhood Association (Savannah, Ga.)
Cuyler Community Improvement Association (Savannah, Ga.)
Cuyler Junior High School (Savannah, Ga.)
Cuyler Senior High School (Savannah, Ga.)
Cuyler-Brownville (Savannah, Ga.)
DeVillars, Dorothy
E. and W. Laundry (Savannah, Ga.)
First Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church (Savannah, Ga.)
Fishman, Jame
Florance Street School (Savannah, Ga.)
Fonvielle family (Savannah, Ga.)
Gadsden, Eugene
Hamilton, Ronald
Horne, Elizabeth
Hospitals (Savannah, Ga.)
Jamerson, Dot
Jamerson, J. W., Dr.
Kohler, Tom
Law, W. W.
Leech, Rick
Mendonsa, Arthur A.
Miles, Cynthia

Miles, Sandra
Pelote, Dorothy B.
Pleasant, Bill
Rea, Andrew
Reddin, Sydney
Reeves, Addie
Roberson, Mary
Roberson, Mason, Dr.
Savannah History Museum (Savannah, Ga.)
Schools buildings (Savannah, Ga.)
Showcase Savannah Program (Savannah, Ga.)
Small, Israel
Snype, Raymond
Solomons, Lucy
St. Mary's Catholic Church (Savannah, Ga.)
Stokes, Alberta
Thompson, Anita
Waters, Susan

Preferred Citation:

Record Series 3101-004, Public Development Bureau – Neighborhood Redevelopment Projects: Cuyler-Brownville. City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

Donor:

This collection includes items on a long-term loan from the Savannah History Museum (Coastal Heritage Society) to the City of Savannah (loaned 2003).

Processed by:

G. Anderson, March 2011; L. Spracher, October 2012. K. Zacovic 2025.

Processing and Preservation Notes (L. Spracher, October 2012):

This collection was transferred to the City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives from the Public Development Bureau in two separate transfers. The first transfer, received in 2011, did not include information about any items belonging to the Savannah History Museum. The second transfer, received in 2012, included minimal documentation of the loan, but staff could not identify which items belong to the Savannah History Museum and which items belong to the City of Savannah. As such, the Director of the Library & Archives and the Curator of the Coastal Heritage Society decided to continue the long-term loan to the City with the items being available for public research in the City's Library & Archives, with a complete digitized copy of the second transfer provided to the Coastal Heritage Society for their records and onsite use.

The second transfer included four tri-fold foam core exhibit panels with photographs and newspaper clippings attached to them for display. The photograph panels were easily removed and rehoused in acid-free, archival quality enclosures for long-term preservation. The newspaper clippings (which were photocopies) could not be removed from their exhibit panel which had suffered extensive water damage. The clippings were all photocopied in the order they were displayed to maintain the content, and the exhibit panel was disposed of.

Notes from Pauline Haywood, Office of the ACM Administrative and Community Services (formerly of the Public Development Bureau, Community Services department), 10/2/2012:

Circa 1993-1994 [1997?] the City of Savannah's Community Services department organized an annual Neighborhood Convention. The first one, held at one of the hotels at the base of the Talmadge Bridge, featured neighborhood exhibits, including a large exhibit on the Cuyler-Brownville Neighborhood. The four exhibit panels described above were prepared for this event. The panels and background history materials were given to the Savannah History Museum (Coastal Heritage Society) after that. In 2003, the City pulled these materials from Coastal Heritage Society, via a long-term loan, after some of the materials could not be located and former Public Development ACM/Bureau Chief Israel Small became concerned about their long-term preservation and access. Pauline Haywood then lent some of these materials to the City of Savannah's Cultural Affairs department. In 2011 and 2012, Pauline transferred the materials she could locate at that time to the City of Savannah Library & Archives.

Notes from the City of Savannah Archivist, December 2024:

The Oral History recording files along with select abstracts and release forms were transferred to the Municipal Archives from Coastal Heritage Society prior to January 2019.

Inventory:

Box 3101-004-1

Neighborhood Background Information, circa 1980-2006

- Folder 1 Neighborhood History, circa 1980-2006, no date
Includes:
- “Cuyler-Brownsville; A Legacy of Riches,” prepared by First Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church by The Youth Emphasis Ministry, no date
- Folder 2 News Articles, 1995-1998, no date
- Folder 3 Oral History Information, circa 1980-2006
Includes:
- Transcript of an unidentified oral history participant, no date
 - “Indigenous Wisdom,” with Dr. J. W. Jamerson, W. W. Law, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Clemmons, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Snype, Ms. Lucy Solomons, Mrs. Sydney Reddin, Mr. Jim Burke, Mrs. Stephanie Churchill, Mrs. Cynthia Miles, Ms. Dorothy DeVillars, Judge Eugene Gadsden, Tom Kohler, Sandra Miles (participants), March 2, 1993
 - Indigenous Wisdom with Dr. J. W. Jamerson, W. W. Law, Sarah Brown, Stephanie Churchill, Ronald Hamilton, Addie Reeves, J. B. and Mozelle Clemmons, Dot DeVillars, James Bass, Dot Jamerson, Susan Waters, Anita Thompson, Jane Fishman, Jim Burke, Andrew Rea, Dr. Mason and Mary Roberson (participants), June 15, 1993
- Folder 3a Oral History Information, continued
Includes:
- Participant names and contact list, printed and on floppy disk.
- Folder 4 Oral History Photographs, circa 1992-2000, no date (misabeled; contains miscellaneous clippings, correspondence, etc.)
Includes:
- “Save Charity Hospital” Project, Cuyler Community Improvement Association (CCIA), no date
 - Widening of West Victory Drive/Ogeechee Road West, no date
- Folder 5 Project Photographs, circa 1982-2006, no date
Includes:
- Unknown Groundbreaking/Dedication Event (includes images of Mayor Floyd Adams, Jr., Alderman Ellis Cook, Assistant City Manager Israel Small)
 - Showcase Savannah event
 - Block Leaders Breakfast
 - 2144 Bullock Street

- Dorothy B. Pelote recognition program
- Cuyler-Brownville exhibit opening, 12/20/1992, Savannah History Museum

Folder 6 Property Profiles (property information and photographs), no date

Includes:

- 620 West 36th Street
- 201 West 37th Street
- 421 West 37th Street
- 608 West 37th Street
- 614 West 37th Street
- 616 West 37th Street
- 701 West 37th Street
- 816 West 37th Street
- 818 West 37th Street
- 107-109 West 38th Street
- 402 West 38th Street
- 404 West 38th Street
- 601 West 38th Street
- 518 West 39th Street
- 814 West 39th Street
- 834-836 West 39th Street
- 525 West 40th Street
- 1013-1015 West 40th Street
- 1015 West 40th Street
- 601 West 42nd Street
- 616-618 West 42nd Street
- 620 West 42nd Street
- 708-710 West 42nd Street
- 2611 Burroughs Street
- 2330 Ogeechee Road

Folder 7 Revitalization Project, circa 1997-2006, no date

Includes:

- Charity Hospital Restoration
- Proposals and correspondence

Box 3101-004-2

Exhibit Panel Photographs, compiled circa 1993-1994

- Folder 1 Businesses, no date (3 items):
Item 1, Checker Club (original), 36th and Burroughs streets
Item 2, E & W Laundry, Ogeechee Road
Item 3, Tourist Homes, West 37th Street and Martin Luther King Jr.
Boulevard to Florance Street
- Folder 2 Charity Hospital, 1935, no date (4 items):
Item 1, Charity Hospital and Nurses Home postcard (front), 1935
Item 2, Charity Hospital and Nurses Home postcard (back), 1935
Item 3, Charity Hospital exterior, no date
Item 4, Charity Hospital Nursing Class of 1935
- Folder 3 Churches, no date (3 items):
Item 1, Unidentified Church (two-story brick structure; possibly Brownville
Baptist Church), no date
Item 2, Unidentified Church (one-story wood frame structure), no date
Item 3, Crowning of Virgin, St. Mary's Catholic Church, no date
- Folder 4 Community Events, circa 1940s (9 item):
Item 1, Soldiers from Hunter Field, Canteen, Wooden building next to St.
Mary's, circa 1940s
- Folder 5 Houses and Architectural Styles, 1934, circa 1980, no date (4 items):
Item 1, Unidentified (one-story wood frame structure), June 21, 1934
Item 2, Unidentified (two-story wood frame structure; Victorian period), no
date
Item 3, Unidentified (one-story wood and brick structure), circa 1980
Item 4, Unidentified (two-story wood frame structure), circa 1980
- Folder 6 Houses and Architectural Styles, circa 1980 (3 items):
Item 1, West 40th Street, circa 1980
Item 2, West 36th Street, Fonvielle Family Home (owners of Savannah
Pharmacy), circa 1980
Item 3, Burroughs and 36th streets, circa 1980
- Folder 7 Houses and Architectural Styles, circa 1980 (3 items):
Item 1, Unidentified (two-story frame structure), circa 1980
Item 2, 600 block of West 35th Street, circa 1980
Item 3, Unidentified (one-story frame structures; #516-514 ?), circa 1980

- Folder 8 Houses and Architectural Styles, circa 1980 (3 items):
Item 1, 600 block of West 34th Street, circa 1980
Item 2, West 35th Street, circa 1980
Item 3, Unidentified (one-story frame row structures), circa 1980
- Folder 9 Houses and Architectural Styles, circa 1980 (2 items):
Item 1, Unidentified (one-story frame structure), circa 1980
Item 2, Unidentified (one-story frame structure), circa 1980
- Folder 10 Individuals (Identified), no date (3 items):
Item 1, Elizabeth Horne, nurse at Charity Hospital, no date
Item 2, Bill Pleasant's father, at home on Florance Street, no date
Item 3, Bill Pleasant (business sign painter) and siblings, no date
- Folder 11 Individuals (Unidentified), no date (3 items)
- Folder 12 Individuals (Unidentified), no date (2 items)
- Folder 13 Schools: Beach-Cuyler High School, 1937, circa 1950 (2 items)
Item 1, Faculty, September 20, 1937
Item 2, Basketball Team, circa 1950

Box 3101-004-3

- Folder 1 Schools: Cuyler Junior and Senior High School, 1921-1943 (3 items)
Item 1, Cuyler Junior High School Senior Class, 1921 (photocopy of newspaper clipping)
Item 2, Cuyler School Faculty, 1922
Item 3, Cuyler Senior High graduating class, January 1943
- Folder 2 Schools: Florance Street School, 1946, no date (2 items)
Item 1, Fifth Grade Class, 1946
Item 2, Exterior, no date
- Folder 3 Schools: Woodworking Class, no date (1 item)
- Folder 4 Street views (unidentified), no date (2 items)
- Folder 5 Exhibit Label: Alberta Stokes quote, no date (1 item)

Neighborhood Photographs, reproduced circa 1992

- Folder 6 Neighborhood Photographs (reproduced circa 1992), no date (34 items; includes 34 prints and corresponding 35 mm negatives):
Includes images of Charity Hospital Nurses; West Side Showcase Area II Houses of the Month (houses, residents, City officials including City Manager Arthur A. "Don" Mendonsa)
- Folder 7 Rick Leech, Photographer, Cuyler Brownville Project, Savannah History Museum, December 20, 1992 (3 items)
Includes images of Rick Leech photographing the neighborhood photographs represented in Folder 6.

Exhibit Panel Newspaper Clippings, compiled circa 1997

- Folder 8 General Neighborhood History (newspaper clippings and photocopies used in an exhibit panel), 1981-1997, no date

Exhibit General Information, 1993

- Folder 9 Cuyler Brownville Neighborhood Exhibit general information
Includes:
- Invitations to view the exhibit
 - Advertising and promotional materials for the exhibit opening
 - Project fact sheets
 - Review Committee invitations

Oral History Interviews, Audio Only [Digital files housed in E-Archives]

** some interviews are accompanied by an abstract that serves as a transcript of the interview.*

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Narrator</u>	<u>[hyperlink for interview and abstract]</u>
CB-001	Bacon, Herbert	[interview]
CB-002	Wallace, Woodrow	[interview] [abstract]
CB-003	Williams, Warren	[interview] [abstract]
CB-004	Johnson, Mary	[interview] [abstract]
CB-005	Urquhart, Lessie	[interview] [abstract]
CB-006	Butler, Herbert	[interview] [abstract]
CB-007		[restricted until 2042]
CB-008	Manigo, Carolyn	[interview] [abstract]
CB-009	Miller, Virginia	[interview]
CB-010	Gresham, Frances	[interview] [abstract]
CB-011	Gresham, Frances	[interview]
CB-012	Stokes, Alberta	[interview]
CB-013	Gadsden, Eugene	[interview] [abstract]

CB-014 [restricted until 2042]
CB-015 [restricted until 2042]
CB-016 Johnson, Mary [[interview](#)] [[abstract](#)]
CB-017 Elkins, Sandra [[interview](#)] [[abstract](#)]
CB-018 Jones, Elizabeth and Jonnie Mae [[interview](#)]
CB-019 Horne, Elizabeth [[interview](#)]
CB-020 [restricted until 2042]
CB-021 Benyard, W [[interview](#)]
CB-022 Mincey, BJ [[interview](#)]
CB-023 [restricted until 2042]
CB-024 Payne, Alberta [[interview](#)] [[abstract](#)]
CB-025 Manigo, Carolyn [[interview](#)]
CB-026 Manigo, Carolyn [[interview](#)]
CB-027 Jones, David [[interview](#)] [[abstract](#)]