

**Record Series #:** 1121-083  
**Name:** Bill Durrence Photographs  
**Dates:** 1971, 2018  
**Extent/Size:** 2.0 oversized folders (0.05 cubic feet)  
**Language:** English

**Creator:**  
Bill Durrence

**Biographical History:**

Bill Durrence (1947-) is a life-long Savannah resident, professional photographer, and former City of Savannah alderman.

Durrence was born in the old Candler Hospital by Forsyth Park in Savannah, Georgia, in 1947. He lived all over downtown Savannah but mainly grew up in what was then considered the suburbs on DeRenne Avenue near Hess Elementary School. In 1966, at 18 years old Durrence got a job as a staff photographer for the *Savannah Morning News*, a local newspaper. While working there he was able to explore the Savannah area while also gaining photography experience.

Durrence enlisted in the United States Army in 1967 in which he served for three years. After his service, he went back to his photography work at the *Savannah Morning News*. He eventually received a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Georgia with a Minor in Art and Photographic Design.

He worked for Nikon, Inc. for almost thirty years and helped create the Nikon School of Photography, in which he was an instructor for twenty-two years. Durrence also worked as a freelance photographer consulting, teaching, and leading travel photography trips and workshops. He married Barbara Gatens and they have lived in Savannah for over twenty-five years. He has over 50 years' experience as a photographer and has been teaching photography for over forty years. Durrence semi-retired in 2015 to pursue a more politically active career in Savannah.

In 2015, Durrence ran for a seat on Savannah's City Council. He was elected as alderman of the Second District, which includes Savannah's National Landmark Historic District. During his service as City alderman, he advocated for the interest of Second District citizens including improvements in zoning, crime, transportation, and housing. He left office at the end of his four-year term in 2019.

Durrence also served on the Chatham Area Transit (CAT) Board and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. He was appointed to represent Region 12 at the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia on the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute Board. He also served on the Downtown Neighborhood Association Board, City of Savannah's Tourism Advisory Committee, and is a member of the Historic Savannah Foundation and the Telfair Museum.

Durrence is retired and lives with his wife in Washington Ward in Savannah, Georgia.

**Scope and Content:**

Record Series 1121-083, Bill Durrence Photographs includes photographs taken by Durrence of the decommissioning of the *N. S. Savannah* and the exploration of the Bolton Street sewer line. The sewer line runs under Bolton Street, is 150 years old, and is a 102-inch line. Durrence and other City employees entered the sewer system west of Bolton Street and Atlantic Avenue. The sewer line has seen some damage over the years, bricks have eroded, ceiling holes plugged with a street sign and water flushes

**Record Series 1121-083, Bill Durrence Photographs**

away any loose bricks. A restoration plan includes coating the brick surface to create a harden barrier. The *N. S. Savannah* was the first nuclear-powered merchant ship and was launched July 21, 1959. It was funded by the federal Government to show the potential peaceful use of nuclear energy. The ship was decommissioned in 1971 and is seen in this photograph taken by Durrence floating down the Savannah River one last time.

***System of Arrangement and Ordering:***

Record Series 1121-083, Bill Durrence Photographs are arranged by subject.

***Conditions Governing Access:***

None

***Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:*** Please read carefully the statement on copyright below.

***Permission to reproduce does not constitute permission to publish.*** Researchers who plan publication are asked to discuss this with the archivist first for written permission. While most of the City of Savannah, Municipal Archives' collections are public records and in the public domain, not all are, and the Archives may not be the owner of copyright for all its archival materials. Researchers are responsible for obtaining any necessary permission to publish from the holder of copyright. In the event that the Archives becomes a source for publication, a copy of the publication is requested for the Archives.

**NOTICE: WARNING CONCERNING COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

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.

***Digital Access:***

To access these photographs, see our [digital collections here](#).

***Preferred Citation:***

Record Series 1121-083, Bill Durrence Photographs, City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

***Processed by:***

M. Kerkhoff, 2022

**Record Series 1121-083, Bill Durrence Photographs**

***Inventory:***

*\*All items have been digitized in this collection. See the [Municipal Archives Digital Catalog](#).*

***Box***

***Folder***

***Folder Title, Date***

**Box 1121-000-0006**

Folder 1121-083-0001

Bolton Street 102 Inch Sewer Line, October 22, 2018 [10 photographs printed on five white boards]

Folder 1121-083-0002

*N. S. Savannah*, "The N. S. Savannah returning to Savannah after 1971," 1971 [1 photograph]