

Record Series #: 1121-064.06
Name: Canal District Community Collection
Dates: 2019, 2022
Extent/Size: 1 folder; 42 digital files (0.1 cubic feet; 8.5 GB storage)
Language: English

Neighborhood History:

The Canal District is located within the boundaries of Louisville Road, Magazine Avenue, Stiles Avenue, I-16 highway, and Boundary Street in West Savannah. There are several neighborhoods within this district, including Springfield Terrace, Carver Village, Collat's Quarters, Waterworks and Brickyard. Historical structures in the district include the Water Works Pump House, Central of Georgia Viaducts, Savannah-Ogeechee Canal, Henry Rose Carter Memorial Laboratory, and the Springfield Terrace School.

The Canal District was originally home to the Springfield Plantation and Vale Royal Plantation on privately owned lands until the City purchased Springfield in 1850. The City subdivided this land into lots for purchase for residential and commercial use. The Savannah-Ogeechee Canal began construction in 1824, intended to connect the Savannah River to the Ogeechee River. The canal work was completed by enslaved laborers and immigrant laborers in 1830. The City of Savannah purchased the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal from the Central of Georgia Railroad in exchange for the Springfield Canal in 1915. The canal stopped commercial operation in the 1890s due to the rise of the railroad system that was much more efficient. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

The Water Works Pump House was erected by the City of Savannah in 1892 to distribute water to area residents. The facility was operational until 1940 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2022. The various neighborhoods within the Canal District are mainly African American neighborhoods with a rich history of community. Currently the Canal District is undergoing transformative development with the opening of the Enmarket Arena in 2022. Major City projects underway include restoration of the Water Works Pump House and a heritage walking trail.

Scope and Content:

The Canal District Community Collection consists of items collected through the workshop information sessions and groundbreaking celebration held for the construction of the City's newly built Enmarket Arena. This collection contains digital audio recordings of interviews with residents of the Canal District area and City of Savannah leadership recorded at workshop sessions in 2019. The written reflections were collected at the 2022 Public Art Dedication for Jerome B. Meadows' installation "Of Communities and the Land and the Trees that Bear Witness to them," at the Enmarket Arena. These items are being collected as a part of the Savannah Community Memory Project.

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 subject.

Conditions Governing Access:

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

Record Series 1121-064.06, Canal District Community Collection

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Related Collections:

Record Series 1121-064.06, Canal District Community Collection, City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

Access Points:

Canal District (Savannah, Ga.)
DeLoach, Eddie
Enmarket Arena (Savannah, Ga.)
Neighborhoods – Carver Village

Preferred Citation:

Record Series 1121-064.06, Canal District Community Collection. City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

Collected on:

August 22, 2019. September 14, 2019. November 5, 2022.

Processed by:

M. Kerkhoff, March 2023.

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Inventory:

Physical Files [housed in Box 1121-064-002]

<i>Folder #</i>	<i>Description</i>
1121-064.06_001	Prompt cards and post-it notes written by area residents about their community, 2022.

Digital Files [housed in E-Archives]

<i>Folder #</i>	<i>Description</i>
1121-064.06_002	Oral History Interviews, September 14, 2019 (7 files) [includes 1 video file per interview] Interview 1: Robinson, Charles, September 2019 Interview 2: Dandridge, Christian, September 2019 Interview 3: Howard, Jenette Brown, September 2019 Interview 4: Hemphill, Knovell, September 2019 Interview 5: Wilson, Louis, September 2019 Interview 6: Shay, Pat, September 2019 Interview 7: Lonnon, Ulysses, September 2019
1121-064.06_003	Short interviews on “What the Canal District Means to You” recorded by Lauren Neefe, Urban Design, August 22, 2019 (35 files) [includes, unedited audio files, edited audio files per interviewee, and two combined audio files with a transcription] Individuals recorded include: Alicia Miller Blakely Bob Volk Bridget Lidy Carol Moon Cassie Branum Chastity Malloy Reverend Chester Ellis Cynthia Moltrey Robert Johnson Denise Grabowski Detric Leggett Dr. Estella Shabazz Ivan Cohen Jeannette Brown Howard Jessica Moeslein Karen Gwen Karen Jarett Kevin (no last name listed) Madeline Brown Manny Dominguez Nick Delfey Mayor Eddie DeLoach Paige (no last name given)

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Pamela Oglesby
Paula Chrysler
Selma (no last name given)
Tommy Taylor
Zella Watson