

**Guide to the Archaeological Survey of the  
Southwest Quadrant Oral History Collection  
DCAAP.0017**

**Historical Society of Washington,  
D.C., Collection Number MS 0830**

**Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by D.C. Africana Archives Project**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DC Africana Archives Project  
Gelman Library  
Special Collections, Suite 704  
2130 H Street NW  
Washington DC, 20052

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	DC Africana Archives Project
<b>Title</b>	Archaeological Survey of the Southwest Quadrant Oral History Collection
<b>Date</b>	1992
<b>Extent</b>	0.5 Cubic feet
<b>Location note</b>	This collection is part of the holdings at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C (MS 0825). Please contact them for information about accessing these materials. Address: 801 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. Email: library@dchistory.org
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	The oral history component of the Archaeological Survey of the Southwest Quadrant of Washington, D.C. was designed to be used in conjunction with archival research and architectural archaeological surveys as a source of data concerning historic Southwest D.C. Oral history participants were longstanding members of the community in Southwest D.C. The final research project was submitted to the Historic Preservation Division of Washington, D.C. Interviewees include Margaret Headley, Daniel Johnson, Jessie Lancaster, and George Tames.

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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The oral history component of the Archaeological Survey of the Southwest Quadrant of Washington, D.C. was designed to be used in conjunction with archival research and architectural archaeological surveys as a source of data concerning historic Southwest D.C. Oral history participants were longstanding members of the community in Southwest D.C. The final research project was submitted to the Historic Preservation Division of Washington, D.C.

Southwest is part of Pierre L'Enfant's original city plans and includes some of the oldest buildings in the city, including the Wheat Row block of townhouses, built in 1793, and Fort McNair, which was established in 1791 as "the U.S. Arsenal at Greenleaf Point." Prior to 1847, much of the Virginia portion of the District of Columbia, including the town of Alexandria, was included in Southwest. After the Civil War, the Southwest Waterfront became a neighborhood for the poorer classes of Washingtonians. The neighborhood was divided in half by Fourth Street SW, then known as 41#2 Street; Scotch, Irish, German, and eastern European immigrants lived west of 41#2 Street, while freed blacks lived to the east. Each half was centered on religious establishments: St. Dominic's Catholic Church and Talmud Torah Congregation on the west, and Friendship Baptist Church on the east. Also, each half of the neighborhood was the childhood home of a future American musical star — the first home of Al Jolson, whose father was the cantor of Talmud Torah Congregation, after his family emigrated from what is now Lithuania was on 41#2 Street, and Marvin Gaye was born in a tenement on First Street.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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This collection contains tapes that include interviews with community members from Southwest Washington, D.C. about the history of the neighborhood. Interviewees include Margaret Headley, Daniel Johnson, Jessie Lancaster, and George Tames.

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## **Arrangement note**

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This collection is arranged in alphabetical order by surname of interviewee.

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

DC Africana Archives Project

### **Conditions Governing Access note**

This collection is open for research.

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This collection is open for research.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Gift of the D.C. Historic Preservation Office, 1998.004.

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Headley, Margaret interviewed by Teresa Trainor and Jim Dean 11-Apr-92	1	1
<b>General Note</b>		
7" Reel to Reel		
Headley, Margaret interviewed by Teresa Trainor and Jim Dean 11-Apr-92	1	2
<b>General Note</b>		
7" Reel to Reel		
Johnson, Daniel 9-Jun-92	1	3
<b>General Note</b>		
7" Reel to Reel		
Johnson, Daniel 9-Jun-92	1	4
<b>General Note</b>		
7" Reel to Reel		
Johnson, Daniel 9-Jun-92	1	5

**General Note**

7" Reel to Reel

Lancaster, Jessie 4-Jun-92

1

6

**General Note**

7" Reel to Reel

Lancaster, Jessie 4-Jun-92

1

7

**General Note**

7" Reel to Reel

Lancaster, Jessie 4-Jun-92

1

8

**General Note**

7" Reel to Reel

Lancaster, Jessie 4-Jun-92

1

9

**General Note**

7" Reel to Reel

Tames, George interviewed by Charlene James and Teresa Trainor 8-Jun-92

1

10

**General Note**

7" Reel to Reel

Tames, George interviewed by Charlene James and Teresa Trainor 8-Jun-92	1	11
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**General Note**

7" Reel to Reel

Tames, George interviewed by Charlene James and Teresa Trainor 8-Jun-92	1	12
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**General Note**

7" Reel to Reel