

COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON

AVERY RESEARCH CENTER  
FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN  
HISTORY AND CULTURE

**Inventory of the  
Ethyl R. Brown Papers, circa 1930s - 1991**

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Ethyl R. Brown Papers,
<b>Dates:</b>	circa 1930s - 1991
<b>Creator:</b>	Brown, Ethyl R.
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>Ethyl R. Brown (1902-1997) was an African American beautician, cosmetology instructor, and beauty shop owner in Charleston, South Carolina.</p> <p>The collection includes certificates, awards, photographs, and other documents related to Ethyl Brown's professional and social activities as well as her family. Certificates include a 1945 teaching certificate by South Carolina State Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners. There are also several photographs by Walter Boags, an African American photographer from Charleston, South Carolina.</p>
<b>Extent:</b>	0.25 linear feet(1 archival box)
<b>Repository:</b>	Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston
<b>Call Number:</b>	AMN 1006
<b>Language of Material:</b>	Material in English

## Biographical Note

Ethyl R. Brown, daughter of John and Lula Richards, was born in 1902 in Charleston, South Carolina. She attended the Avery Institute in Charleston, and graduated from Poro College of Beauty and Culture of Chicago.

Brown operated a beauty shop in New York for several years and then founded the Palmetto Beauty Culture School in Charleston. She also taught cosmetology at Burke High School, and was a state president and lifelong member of the National Beauty Culturalists' League. She was also active in local women's organizations and the Morris Brown AME Church.

Ethyl Brown was the wife of B. W. Brown. She died in 1997 and is buried in the Morris Brown AME Cemetery.

## Collection Overview

The collection includes certificates, awards, photographs, and other documents related to Ethyl Brown's professional and social activities as well as her family. Certificates include a 1945 teaching certificate by South Carolina State Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners. There are also several photographs by Walter Boags, an African American photographer from Charleston, South Carolina.

## Collection Arrangement

1. Cosmetology, 1946-1959
2. National Beauty Culturalists' League, 1974-1984

3. Church Membership, 1973-1991
4. Community Service, 1970-1986
5. Women's Organizational Papers , undated
6. Obituary and Photographs, 1930s-1990s

## **Restrictions**

### **Access Restrictions**

No restrictions.

### **Copyright Notice**

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## **Subject Headings**

- African American beauty operators.
- African American businesspeople -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
- African American women -- South Carolina -- Societies and clubs.
- African American women teachers -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
- Beauty operators -- Study and teaching -- United States.
- Brown, Ethyl R., 1902-1997.
- Cosmetology teachers -- Training of -- United States.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Ethyl R. Brown Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

### **Processing Information**

- Processed by Felice Knight, February 2006
- Encoded by Melissa Bronheim, July 2010
- Edited by Melissa Bronheim, July 2010, and Amanda Ross, February 2011

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### 1. Cosmetology, 1946-1959

Box 1 Folder 1      Cosmetology Materials, 1946-1959

Brochure regarding Palmetto Beauty School and certificates and awards, including teaching certification by State Board of Cosmetic Examiners.

### 2. National Beauty Culturalists' League, 1974-1984

Box 1 Folder 2      National Beauty Culturalists' League Papers, 1974-1984

Includes correspondence, programs, and certificates of recognition.

### 3. Church Membership, 1973-1991

Box 1 Folder 3      Church Membership Materials, 1973-1991

Includes certificates of recognition for services rendered to Morris Brown AME Church.

### 4. Community Service, 1970-1986

Box 1 Folder 4      Community Service Papers, 1970-1986

Includes certificates and awards for various acts of community service.

### 5. Women's Organizational Papers , undated

Box 1 Folder 5      Women's Organizational Papers, undated

Includes information, certificates, and awards regarding the Daughters of Isis, Heroines of Jericho, and Order of the Golden Circle.

### 6. Obituary and Photographs, 1930s-1990s

Box 1 Folder 6      Obituary and Photographs, circa 1930s-1990s

Includes printed funeral program as well as black-and-white, color, and tinted photographs. Includes images of Ethyl Brown, her shop, her family, a trip to Mexico, and award ceremonies. Several photographs were taken by Walter Boags, an African American photographer from Charleston, South Carolina.