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**Inventory of the
Lonnie Hamilton, III Papers, 1950 - 2001**

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Lonnie Hamilton, III Papers,
Dates:	1950 - 2001
Creator:	Hamilton, Lonnie, III.
Abstract:	<p>Lonnie Hamilton, III was a musician, educator, and community leader. Notably, Hamilton was the first African American to serve on the Charleston County Council.</p> <p>The collection includes material related to Hamilton's personal life and professional career as an educator, musician, and Charleston County Councilman. The material in the personal series includes feature articles on his life, his involvement with community organizations including Spoleto Festival, U.S.A., and political groups such as the Charleston County Democratic Party. The professional material includes programs and newspaper articles about Hamilton's career as the Band Director for Bonds-Wilson High School and his position as the Director of Adult Education. Programs, newspaper articles, and correspondence reflect his career as a Charleston County Councilman. His musical career is documented with invitations and programs from various performances by Lonnie Hamilton and the Diplomats, Lonnie Hamilton and the Ambassadors, and the Lonnie Hamilton Quintet. Materials also relate to other professional ventures, such as Lonnie's, a nightclub in Charleston, South Carolina.</p>
Extent:	5.0 linear feet(10 archival boxes)
Repository:	Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston
Call Number:	AMN 1096
Language of Material:	Material in English

Biographical Note

Lonnie Hamilton (born 1927) was a musician, educator, and community leader. Notably, Hamilton was the first African American to serve on the Charleston County Council.

Lonnie Hamilton, III was born to Anna Hall Hamilton and Lonnie Hamilton, Jr. in Charleston, South Carolina. His musical career began in the 1940s as a student at Burke High School. During this time, he began playing the saxophone and was eventually invited to play with the Jenkins' Orphanage Band. Before graduating high school, Hamilton traveled for two summers with this influential band.

Hamilton received a music scholarship to attend South Carolina State College in Orangeburg and continued to play the saxophone throughout his college career; after which he held the position of Band Instructor in Union, South Carolina, and then at Bonds-Wilson High School. He taught over 3,000 students during his 20 years as an educator. As a musician, Hamilton was a member of various bands, including Lonnie Hamilton the Diplomats, and appeared for performances on numerous occasion during the Lonnie Hamilton Show, at his nightclub Lonnie's, and elsewhere.

In 1970, Hamilton became the first elected African American to serve on the Charleston County Council. He continued to serve in this position until his loss in 1994. He was twice elected to serve as Chairman of Charleston County Council, also making him the first African American to occupy the position.

In 1978, Hamilton was inducted to the Burke Hall of Fame. Other recognition includes the naming of the interchange of Interstate 26 and Interstate 526 in his honor. In 2003, former students of Bonds-Wilson High School joined together to form the charitable Lonnie Hamilton, III Foundation, which focuses on educational achievement.

Hamilton served on various committees and organizations, including Spoleto Festival, U.S.A, the American Cancer Association and the United Negro College Fund. Hamilton was also a member of the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC). In 1982 he became the first African American president of SCAC. He is a member of Cavalry Episcopal Church.

Hamilton has been married to Clarissa Hill Hamilton since 1956. They have one daughter, Kendra.

Chronology List

1927	Lonnie Hamilton, III is born
1951	Graduates from South Carolina State College
1953-1954	Begins as Band Director for Bonds-Wilson High School
1956	Marries Clarissa Hill
1960s	Forms Lonnie and the Diplomats
1963	Appears on the Lonnie Hamilton Show
1970	Becomes the first African American elected to serve on the Charleston County Council
1974	Re-elected to Charleston County Council
1976	Elected Chairman of Charleston County Council
1977	Installed as Chairman of Charleston County Council
1978	Inducted into the Burke High School Hall of Fame.
1978	Re-Elected to Charleston County Council
1982	Re-elected to Charleston County Council
1982	Elected president of the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC), becoming the first African American president of SCAC
1982	Opens Lonnie's
1986	Re-elected to Charleston County Council
1986	Re-elected as Chairman of Charleston County Council
1990	Re-elected to Charleston County Council
1994	Loses election for Charleston County Council
1995	Interchange named in honor of Lonnie Hamilton, III

Collection Overview

The collection includes material related to Hamilton's personal life and professional career as an educator, musician, and Charleston County Councilman. The material in the personal series includes feature articles on his life, his involvement with community organizations including Spoleto Festival, U.S.A., and political groups such as the Charleston County Democratic Party. The professional material includes programs and newspaper articles about Hamilton's career as the Band Director for Bonds-Wilson High School and his position as the Director of Adult Education. Programs, newspaper articles, and correspondence reflect his career as a Charleston County Councilman. His musical career is documented with invitations and programs from various performances by Lonnie Hamilton and the Diplomats, Lonnie Hamilton and the Ambassadors, and the Lonnie Hamilton Quintet. Materials also relate to other professional ventures, such as Lonnie's, a nightclub in Charleston, South Carolina.

Collection Arrangement

1. Personal, 1950-1995
2. Professional, 1954-2001

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

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Subject Headings

African American band directors -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
African American jazz musicians -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
African American musicians -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
African American politicians -- South Carolina -- Charleston
African American teachers -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
African Americans -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Band directors -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Bonds-Wilson High School (Charleston, S.C.).
Charleston County Council -- History -- 20th century.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Politics and government -- 20th century.
County council members -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Hamilton, Lonnie, III.
Jazz musicians -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Lonnie Hamilton and the Ambassadors (Musical group).
Lonnie Hamilton and the Diplomats (Musical group).
Lonnie Hamilton Quintet (Musical group).

Musicians -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Saxophonists -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Spoletto Festival U.S.A.

Teachers -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- 20th century.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Lonnie Hamilton, III, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Processing Information

Processed by Melissa Bronheim, June 2010

Encoded by Melissa Bronheim, June 2010

Funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources supported the collection processing and encoding of this finding aid.

Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Personal, 1950-1995

Arranged alphabetically

Education

- Box 1 Folder 1 South Carolina State College: Photograph, circa 1950
- Box Folder 2 Burke High School: Program, 1987
- Box 1 Folder 3 Calvary Episcopal Church: Programs, 1955-1991
- Box 1 Folder 4 Correspondence, 1966-1990
- Box 1 Folder 5 Immaculate Conception School: Parent Teacher Organization Programs, 1968-1969
- Box 1 Folder 6 Feature Articles, 1969-1995

Civic Involvement

Community Organizations

- Box 1 Folder 7 American Cancer Society, 1990-1995
- Box 1 Folder 8 National Community Education Association, undated
- Box 1 Folder 9 National Education Association, 1969
- Box 1 Folder 10 Spoleto Festival, U.S.A., 1984-1994
- Box 1 Folder 11 United Negro College Fund, 1975-1995
- Box 1 Folder 12 W.O.R.K., Inc. of Charleston, 1992-1994

Fraternal Organizations

- Box 1 Folder 13 Omega Psi Phi: Mu Alpha Chapter, 1970-1989

Governmental Agencies

- Box 1 Folder 14-15 National Association of Counties: Correspondence, 1976-1994
- Box 1 Folder 16-20 South Carolina Association of Counties: Correspondence, 1977-2001

Political Groups

- Box 1 Folder 21 The Charleston County Democratic Party, 1970
- Box 1 Folder 22 Democratic Party of South Carolina, 1969-1974

2. Professional, 1954-2001

Arranged chronologically

2.1. Educator, 1954-1990

Bonds-Wilson High School Band Director

- Box 2 Folder 23 Photographs, 1954-1976 and undated
- Box 2 Folder 24 Article, 1959-1971 and undated
- Box 2 Folder 25 Programs, 1959-1972 and undated
- Box 2 Folder 26 Correspondence, 1970-1978
- Box 2 Folder 27 Certificate, 1990

Director of Adult Education

- Box 2 Folder 28 Articles, 1976-1987
- Box Folder 29 Programs, 1976-1987

2.2. Musician, 1957-2000

- Box 2 Folder 30-31 Solo Performances, 1957-2000
 Includes programs, flyers, correspondence, photographs and newspaper articles.
- Box 2 Folder 32 The Lonnie Hamilton Show, 1963
- Box 2 Folder 33 Jenkins Orphanage Band, 1977-1990
- Box 2 Folder 34 Lonnie Hamilton and the Diplomats, 1979-1999 and undated
- Box 2 Folder 35 The Lonnie Hamilton Quintet, 1983 and 1993-1994
- Box 2 Folder 36 Lonnie Hamilton and the Ambassadors, 1994
- Box 2 Folder 37 Feature Articles, 1984-1991

2.3. Charleston County Councilman and Chairman of Charleston County Council, 1970-2001

- Box 2-3 Folder 38-41 Campaigns, 1970-1994
 Includes materials relating to the operation of Hamilton's campaigns.
- Box 3-4 Folder 42-49 Campaign Correspondence, 1970-1994
 Includes campaign and election letters of congratulations and consolations, contributions, and thank you letters for supporting Hamilton.
- Box 4 Folder 50 Campaign Ephemera, 1970
- Box 4 Folder 51 Charleston County Council Member Certificate, 1970
- Box 4-8 Folder 52-87 Business Correspondence, 1970-2001
 Invitations and thank you letters for various engagements attended by Hamilton as well as correspondence relating to Hamilton's work as a county councilman.
- Box 9 Folder 88-110 Newspaper Articles, 1970-1994

Box 9-10 Folder 111-121 Programs, 1970-2001
Box 10 Folder 122 Nametags and Badges, undated
Box 10 Folder 123 Letterhead, undated

2.4. Other

Box 10 Folder 124 Calendar: Professional Engagements, 1970
Box 10 Folder 125 Lonnie's (Nightclub)
Box 10 Folder 126 Palmetto Travel Sales and Marketing Groups and Cruises, 1984
Newspaper Articles
Certificate
Nametags and Badges