Inventory of the
Mosquito Beach Community Collection, 1953 - 1990
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Mosquito Beach Community Collection,

Dates: 1953 - 1990

Abstract: Mosquito Beach, an island and community located on Sol Legare Road in James Island, South Carolina was an important recreational site for African Americans during the early to mid-twentieth century when laws segregated beaches and other facilities.

The collection includes a history of the area by Joe Chavis and Andrew Jackson Wilder, Jr.; plotted surveys of Sol Legare Road; correspondence with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History; various photocopied newspaper articles concerning Mosquito Beach; and a group photograph on the boardwalk.

Extent: 0.1 linear feet (5 folders)

Repository: Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston

Call Number: AMN 9009v

Language of Material: Material in English

Historical Note

Mosquito Beach, an island and community located on Sol Legare Road in James Island, South Carolina was an important recreational site for African Americans during the early to mid-twentieth century when laws segregated beaches and other facilities.

The island began as an oyster factory until the 1930s, at which time community founders, Joe "King Pin" Chavis and Andrew "Apple" Jackson Wilder, Sr. set in motion the Mosquito Beach Community. It was renamed for its abundant mosquito population, and became home to several local seafood stands, restaurants, a boardwalk pavilion, bars and dance clubs.

In the 1980s and 90s, the area declined due to storms, hurricanes and changes in social economic conditions.

In 1990, William G. Wilder, member of the Mosquito Beach Association, Inc. tried to get the land listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the State Historic Preservation Office.

Collection Overview

The collection includes a history of the area by Joe Chavis and Andrew Jackson Wilder, Jr.; plotted surveys of Sol Legare Road; correspondence with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History; various photocopied newspaper articles concerning Mosquito Beach; and a group photograph on the boardwalk.

Collection Arrangement

1. Mosquito Beach Community, 1953-1990
Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

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Subject Headings

African Americans -- Recreation.

African Americans -- Segregation -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Chavis, Joe.

 Discrimination in public accommodations -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Historic sites -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Mosquito Beach (S.C.) -- PMaps.

Mosquito Beach (S.C.) -- Photographs.

Wilder, Andrew Jackson, Jr.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Mosquito Beach Community Collection, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Processing Information

Processed by Clint Dempsey, March 1998, and Melissa Bronheim, and March 2010

Encoded by Melissa Bronheim, March 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. Mosquito Beach Community, 1953-1990

Folder 1  Photograph and Negatives, 1953
Folder 2  Plats: Sol Legare and Mosquito Beach Road, 1985
Folder 3  Newspaper Articles, 1986-1988
Folder 4  History, 1988

Includes handwritten and typed essay of Mosquito Beach's history, 1953-1988, by founders Joe Chavis and Andrew Jackson Wilder, Sr.

Folder 5  Oyster Factory National Register Eligibility: Correspondence and Application, 1990