Inventory of the
Clemon Harold Richardson, Sr. Papers, 1910 - 2002
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Clemon Harold Richardson, Sr. Papers,

Dates: 1910 - 2002

Dates: 1910-2002, and undated

Bulk: 1990-2000

Creator: Richardson, Clemon Harold, Sr., 1925-2003

Abstract: Clemon Harold Richardson, Sr., (1925-2003), was a Masonic and community leader in Charleston, South Carolina. He was the Grand High Priest of the Robert B. Elliott Chapter #1 for the Holy Royal Arch Masons of the State of South Carolina. Locally, Richardson was the president of the Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhood Association, (formerly the West Ashley Civic Association.) from 1954-2000. Richardson also served as the Charleston County Democratic Party Executive Committee Person for the St. Andrews Precinct #3.

The collection includes material related to Richardson's involvement as a Masonic, civic and political organizer in the Charleston, South Carolina community. The majority of documents consist of meeting minutes and agendas, correspondence, reports, conference and session proceedings, certificates and testimonials, and newspaper clippings associated with the Holy Royal Arch Masons, Grand Chapter, South Carolina; the Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhood Association (with its related history of the Town of Maryville); the City of Charleston; the South Democratic Party (Charleston County), and legislators, James Clyburn, Floyd Breeland and Robert Ford. A smaller series includes various photocopied newspaper articles, several written by Richardson's son, journalist, Clem Richardson.

Extent: 0.834 Linear feet(2 archival boxes)

Repository: Avery Research Center

Call Number: AMN 1141

Language of Material: Material in English

Biographical Note

Clemon Harold Richardson, Sr., was born to Mary and Andrew Richardson in 1925, Charleston, South Carolina. A self-employed painting and wallpaper contractor, Richardson was actively involved in the Charleston community as a Masonic, civic and political organizer and leader. As a Masonic leader, Richardson was initiated into the Eastern Light Lodge 259 in 1957, and elected Worshipful Master (1961-1964). He served as the High Priest of Robert B. Elliott Chapter #1 Holy Royal Arch Mason and Grand High Priest of the Prince Hall Grand Chapter of South Carolina (1982). In 1989, Richardson was elected General Grand High Priest of the General Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons of the United States and the Bahamas. He also established the Order of High Priesthood Royal Arch Masons and the Heroines of Jericho (the sister association to the Royal Arch Masons) in South Carolina.
On a civic level, Richardson served as president of the West Ashley Civic Association, (presently known as the Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhood Association) from 1954-2000. He was also the second Vice-Chairperson for the Charleston Branch of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Politically, Richardson served as the Charleston County Democratic Party Executive Committee Person for St. Andrews Precinct #3.

He was married to the former Margurite J. Brown of Maryville and parented seven children. Richardson passed on 21 August, 2003.

Collection Overview

Series 1: Civic and Political Affiliations

Contains several sub-series:

1.1: Holy Royal Arch Masons, Grand Chapter of the Prince Hall Affiliation, South Carolina - contains conference and session programs; photocopied award certificates and testimonials, correspondence, photocopied newspaper articles, and photographs pertaining to Richardson's participation as the Grand High Priest of the Robert B. Elliott Chapter #1.

1.2: Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhoods, South Carolina - holds documents pertaining to the history of the Town of Maryville (formerly St. Andrews Parish); meeting minutes and agendas, correspondence, tax maps, community announcements, and newspaper articles pertaining to Richardson's involvement as president of the Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhood Association. Included are documents pertaining to the annexation of the community; incorporating Maryville into the City of Charleston (1993). A sub-group includes City Council and various committee meeting minutes and agendas; correspondence (including letters from Mayor Joseph P. Riley), memorandums, reports and announcements relating to Richardson's and Maryville/Ashleyville's involvement with the City of Charleston.

1.3: Political Affiliations - contains reports, correspondence and invitations sent to Richardson as the Charleston County Democratic Party Executive Committee Person for St. Andrews Precinct #3. A sub-group contains letters, memorandums, reports, event invitations and programs from South Carolina legislators, Congressmen James Clyburn, Floyd Breeland (former), and former Senator Robert Ford.

Series 2: General Materials - Holds photocopied newspaper articles by Richardson's son, journalist Clem Richardson, and various clippings from The Chronicle, (Charleston, South Carolina); The Post and Courier, and Ebony magazine.

Collection Arrangement

The collections contains two series:

Series 1: Civic and Political Affiliations

Series 2: General Materials

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No Restrictions

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Related Material


Subject Headings

Breeland, Floyd F., 1933-.
Clyburn, James E., 1940-.
Ford, Robert, 1948-.
Richardson, Clem.
African American fraternal organizations--South Carolina--Charleston.
African American fraternal organizations.
African American freemasonry.
City of Charleston--South Carolina.
Democratic Party (Charleston, S.C.).
Holy Royal Arch Masons, Grand Chapter (South Carolina).
Maryville--South Carolina.
Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhood Association.
West Ashley Civic Association--Charleston--(S.C.).

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Clemon Harold Richardson, Sr. Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisition Note

Papers donated by Clemon H. Richardson, 13 April 2002.

Processing Information

Processed by Georgette Mayo, December 2014
Edited by Aaron Spelbring, May 2015

Encoded by Aaron Spelbring, May 2015
Series 1: Civic and Political Affiliations, 1910-2002, and undated

1.1: Holy Royal Arch Masons, Grand Chapter, South Carolina, 1926-2002, and undated

Contains conference and session programs; photocopied certificates and testimonials, correspondence, newspaper clippings and photocopied photographs pertaining to the Grand Chapters Holy Royal Arch Masons (South Carolina) of the Prince Hall Affiliation.

Box 1 Folder 1
Robert B. Elliot Number 1 Royal Arch Masons, 1975-1991, and undated


Box 1 Folder 2
"Official Proceedings of the 20th Annual Convocation of the M.E. Grand Royal Chapter Masons of South Carolina, 12 October, 1926

Booklet is in "Fragile Condition."

Box 1 Folder 3
Conference and Sessions Programs, 1988-2002


Box 1 Folder 4
Awards and Testimonials, 1965-2000

Contains photocopied certificates and testimonial statements given to Richardson for his involvement with the Prince Hall Affiliation. Many statements contain biographical information on Richardson.

Box 1 Folder 5
Correspondence and flyers: Testimonial letters, 1983-1998, and undated

Contains letters to Richardson from fellow masons and civic organizations, with flyers promoting his testimonial banquet.

Box 1 Folder 6
Correspondence: Thank you letters, 1980-1982

Contains donation acknowledgements from various charitable associations to Richardson as Royal Arch Mason.

Box 1 Folder 7
Newspaper clippings and programs, 1968-1992

Holds photocopied articles regarding Richardson's achievements and event programs.

Box 1 Folder 8
Photographic images, 1982, and undated

Holds photocopies of photographs taken of Richardson and fellow masons during his first convocation, grand chapter mid-year meeting (April 1982). All photocopied images are of poor quality.

1.2: Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhoods, South Carolina, 1910-2002, and undated
Contains documents relating to the history of Maryville, meeting minutes, correspondence, tax maps, community announcements, and newspaper articles pertaining to the Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhood Association. Also included are documents relating to the City of Charleston's (South Carolina) involvement with the Town of Maryville.

1.2.1: History of Maryville, South Carolina, 1910-2000, and undated

Contains photocopied maps, plats and surveys of St. Andrews Parish; documents regarding the acceptance of a new charter (1910); and a brief history of Maryville (1936). Also included are materials relating to the Maryville historical marker dedication (1999).

Box 1 Folder 9  Documents regarding the establishment of St. Andrews Parish and Maryville, 1910-1936, and undated

Includes photocopied maps, plats and surveys of St. Andrews Parish and the City of Charleston; documents regarding the acceptance of a new charter (1910); "Notice of extension of the territory of the Town of Maryville," (1923); a brief history of Maryville (1936).

Box 1 Folder 10  Maryville Historical Marker Dedication, 1999-2000

A program which also honors Mary Mathews Just. Includes Richardson's handwritten speech draft for the dedication, and program for the 2000 anniversary event.

Box 1 Folder 11  Newspaper clippings regarding Maryville, 1982-1999

Contains photocopied articles regarding Maryville/Asheville's utility repairs, and history.

1.2.2: Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhood Association, 1954-2002, and undated

Contains correspondence, meeting minutes and agendas, community announcements, and event programs regarding the former West Ashley Civic Association and current Maryville/Ashleyville Association. Also included are documents pertaining to the annexation of the community; incorporating Maryville into the City of Charleston (South Carolina, 1993). A sub-group includes documents which relates to Richardson's and the communities' involvement with the City of Charleston.

1.2.2.1 Maryville/Ashleyville, 1954-2002

Box 1 Folder 12  West Ashley Civic Association: Correspondence, 1954, and undated

Contains photocopied letters regarding street maintenance from Arthur Ravenel, Jr., House of Representative, (South Carolina); and meeting request from the Ten Baseball League to the St. Andrews Playground Commission (undated).

Box 1 Folder 13  Ashleyville/Maryville Association: Meeting minutes, 1983-1993, and undated

Includes typed and handwritten minutes with revised Constitution (1992) and Membership qualifications (undated). The minutes from 1993 discusses the annexation of Ashleyville.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 Folder 15</th>
<th>Maryville/Ashleyville Association: Meeting minutes, 1994-1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holds photocopied typed and handwritten minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 16</td>
<td>Maryville/Ashleyville Association: Meeting minutes, 1997-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains a spiral bound notebook contains scattered months of minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 17</td>
<td>Maryville/Ashleyville Association: Meeting minutes, 1998-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holds loose handwritten minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 18</td>
<td>Maryville/Ashleyville Association: Meeting minutes, 2000-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains typed minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 19</td>
<td>Association announcements, 1992-1993, and undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains notices of community meetings, some regarding annexation issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 20</td>
<td>Association announcements, 1994-1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes upcoming meeting agendas and community event notices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 22</td>
<td>Association announcements, 2000-2001, and undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holds meeting agendas and community event notices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 23</td>
<td>Association Correspondence, 1993-1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains letters to and from Richardson regarding community matters, including one letter requesting African-American employment at a local Piggy Wiggly supermarket (1993).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 24</td>
<td>Association Correspondence, 1997-1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contains letters to Richardson from the City of Charleston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 25</td>
<td>Association Correspondence, 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holds letters sent to Richardson from various offices, including the Mayor, from the City of Charleston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 26</td>
<td>Association Correspondence, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holds letters sent to Richardson from various offices of the City of Charleston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 14</td>
<td>Maryville/Ashleyville: Annexation, 1993, and undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holds &quot;Petition of Annexation&quot; document; signed petition sheets (originals and photocopies); tax maps; property owner listings; and newspaper articles regarding the impending annexation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 Folder 21</td>
<td>Association announcements, 1988-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holds meeting agendas and community event notices, including the installation of the town's historical marker.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.2.2.2: City of Charleston, 1982-2000, and undated

Contains City Council and various committee meeting minutes and agendas; memorandums and correspondence from various City departments and offices, including Charleston Mayor, Joseph P. Riley, Jr., as it relates to Richardson's involvement as Maryville/Ashleyville Association president.

Box 1 Folder 27 Neighborhood Council Presidents, 1998-2000

Holds memorandums, and letters addressed to Richardson regarding citizen budget input, and meetings.

Box 1 Folder 28 Traffic Department, 1996-1999

Letters to and from Richardson and the City of Charleston Department of Traffic and Transportation regarding the installation of street and stop signs in the Maryville community.

Box 1 Folder 29 Zoning Department, 1998, and undated

Contains petition (unsigned) opposing zoning codes, (1998) and zoning ordinance regarding landscape buffers in the Maryville/Ashleyville neighborhood.

Box 2 Folder 1 City Council: Minutes-March-November, 1999

Box 2 Folder 2 Committee on Ways and Means: Minutes-March-December, 1999

Box 2 Folder 3 City Council: Minutes-February-October, 2000

Box 2 Folder 4 Committee on Ways and Means: Minutes-February-October, 2000

Box 2 Folder 5 Planning and Zoning Commission: Agendas, 1994, 1998-2000

Box 2 Folder 6 Board of Architectural Review: Agendas, 1999, 2000

Box 2 Folder 7 Police Department, 1982, 1999, and undated

Hold memorandums regarding community crime prevention. Also includes a "Final Report from Charleston County Grand Jury, 1982," written by Richardson.

Box 2 Folder 8 Planning and Urban Development, 1999-2000, and undated

Includes memorandums, letters, photocopied newspaper clippings and report regarding gentrification in Charleston neighborhoods.

Box 2 Folder 9 City of Charleston: Various documents, 1995, 1999-2000, and undated

Contains newsletters, listing of City departments and event flyers.

1.3: Political Affiliations, 1952-2001, and undated

Contains reports, press releases, correspondence and invitations sent to Richardson as the Charleston County Democratic Party Executive Committee Person for St. Andrews Precinct #3. Also included are letters, memorandums, reports, event programs and
invitations for South Carolina legislators, Congressmen James E. Clyburn and Floyd Breeland, and Senator Robert Ford.

1.3.1: Political Affiliations: Charleston County: South Carolina Democratic Party, 1952-2000, and undated

Holds documents sent to Richardson as the Charleston County Democratic Party Executive Committee Person for St. Andrews Precinct #3.

Box 2 Folder 10 Executive Committee St. Andrews Precinct #3 (Charleston County, South Carolina), 1952-2000, and undated

Holds reports, notices, press releases, and listings of legislators pertaining to Richardson's involvement with voter registration.

Box 2 Folder 11 Executive Committee: Correspondence and Invitations, 1972-1979

Contains photocopied letters sent to Richardson by South Carolina state legislators and candidates. Also contains photocopied invitations to governor inaugurations and political events.

Box 2 Folder 12 Executive Committee: Correspondence and Invitations, 1980-1986

Contains photocopied letters sent to Richardson by South Carolina state legislators and candidates.

Box 2 Folder 13 Executive Committee: Correspondence, 1990-2000, and undated

1.3.2: Political Affiliations: South Carolina Legislators, 1972-2001, and undated

Includes letters, memorandums, reports, event invitations and programs from Congressmen James Clyburn, Floyd Breeland (former), and former Senator Robert Ford.

Box 2 Folder 14 James E. Clyburn, House of Representatives, 1972-2001

Includes photocopied letters and memorandums, event invitations, and biographical sketches.

Box 2 Folder 15 Floyd Breeland, House of Representatives, 1998-2001

Holds Breeland's "The State Capitol Report."

Box 2 Folder 16 Robert Ford, South Carolina Senate, 1976-2001

Holds memorandums and letters.

Series 2: General Materials, 1977-2000, and undated

Contains photocopied newspaper articles by Richardson's son, Clem, and various clippings from The Chronicle, (Charleston, South Carolina); The Post and Courier, and Ebony magazine.

Box 2 Folder 17 Newspaper articles written by Clem Richardson, 1977-1981, and undated

Holds several photocopied clippings by Richardson's son, with a brief letter (1997).

Box 2 Folder 18 Various newspaper and magazine articles, 1992-2000
Contains photocopied clippings on various subjects from *The Chronicle, The Post and Courier* and *Ebony* magazine.