

Arkansas State Archives

## Arkansas Digital Archives

---

[Finding aids](#)

[Guides and finding aids](#)

---

### African American Churches of Craighead County collection, 1897-1999

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalheritage.arkansas.gov/finding-aids>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

African American Churches of Craighead County collection, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Use and reproduction of images held by the Arkansas State Archives without prior written permission is prohibited. For information on reproducing images held by the Arkansas State Archives, please call 501-682-6900 or email at [state.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:state.archives@arkansas.gov).

**African American Churches of  
Craighead County collection  
MS.000353**

**Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State Archives**

---

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

September 22, 2021

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Arkansas State Archives  
One Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201  
501-682-6900  
[state.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:state.archives@arkansas.gov)

## Table of Contents

---

<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Biographical/Historical Note</u> .....	4
<u>Scope and Contents</u> .....	4
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	4
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	6

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	Arkansas State Archives
<b>Title</b>	African American Churches of Craighead County collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1897-1999
<b>Extent</b>	0.4 Cubic feet 1 box
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials</b>	Materials entirely in English.
<b>Mixed materials [Box]</b>	1

### Preferred Citation

African American Churches of Craighead County collection, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## **Biographical/Historical Note**

---

The African American Church Project of Craighead County set out to collect the histories of African American churches in the county. It was a project of The Rights in Education for Students and Parents (R.E.S.P), also known as RESPECT. The project included sixteen churches with histories dating from 1897 to 1999.

Rights in Education for Students and Parents negotiated space for an African American Cultural Center with the Jonesboro Public Schools at the Old North School Building in 1996. The cultural center's goal was to exhibit and collect records relating to Craighead County's African American history. The materials and exhibits would be used to heighten cultural awareness for area students and the citizens of the county. The African American Cultural Center opened on February 28, 1999.

The project was made possible with a Black History Grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Black History Advisory Committee (now the Black History Commission of Arkansas).

---

## **Scope and Contents**

---

The collection includes histories, mainly of Jonesboro area churches, and photographs.

---

## **Administrative Information**

---

### **Publication Information**

Arkansas State Archives 11/23/2009

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research use.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17-U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The person using this material is liable for any infringement.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Rights in Education for Students and Parents (Robbie L. Lyle), Jonesboro, Arkansas, 1997 and 1999.

## Collection Inventory

1. "The Merging of Cultures," African American Cultural Center," 1999 February 28, Jonesboro, Arkansas, program

2. Agape Church of God in Christ, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Church history

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0001: Church, outside view, circa 1990s

3. Carter Temple Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Church history

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0002: Bishop Nathaniel Thomas

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0003: Church, outside view, circa 1990s

4. First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Church history

Newspaper Clippings

Directory

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0004: Baptism, 1939

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0005: Baptism, 1991

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0006: Herman L. Lewellen, pastor, 1955

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0007: Herman L. Lewellen, pastor, 1972

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0008: Herman L. Lewellen, pastor, 1990

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0009: Herman L. Lewellen, pastor, 1996

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0010: Church members: Alder McDaniel, Mattie Wade, Liz Prunty, Reverend H.L. Lewellen, Germaine Kendall, Earline Smith, circa 1970s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0011: W.R. Wilkerson, deacon, circa 1970s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0012: Members shaking hands, inside church, circa 1970s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0013: Annual church picnic, Maxcine Strickland and others at a table, 1997

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0014: Annual church picnic, Roosevelt Walkers boys playing, 1997

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0015: Annual church picnic, David Howard, Mr. Estes, Mildred Lewellen, and Curtis Howard, 1997



PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0016: Annual church picnic, Sherri Brown, Reverend Roosevelt Walker and Jamie James and children, 1997

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0017: J.W. Jackson, pastor

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0018: Youth month: Mary Moody, Elizabeth W. Jackson, unidentified, unidentified, Michael Thomas, Michael Lewellen, Charlotte Lewellen, unidentified

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0019: Church outside view

5. Church of God in Christ International, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Church history

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0020: Church members outside the Fisher Street Church of God in Christ

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0021: Bishop J.H. Thomas, pastor, Fisher Street Church of God in Christ

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0022: Caleb Johnson, deacon, 1963

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0023: Group at piano, 1973

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0024: Church mothers

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0025: Church outside view, circa 1990s

6. Fullness of Joy Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Church history

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0026: Church outside view, circa 1990s

7. Miller Temple, Jonesboro, Arkansas

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0027: Church outside view, circa 1990s

8. New Bethel Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0028: Church outside view, circa 1990s

9. New Jerusalem Christian Faith Center, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Church history

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0029: Church outside view, circa 1990s

10. New Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Church history

1994 July 30-31 Reunion program

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0030: Church outside view, circa 1990s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0031: Mary E. Scales

11. Northside Christian Ministries, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Spring Public Relations Campaign

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0032: Ground breaking: Eldon Richardson with shovel, 1993 August

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0033: Inside church sanctuary, Christmas, 1997. Children from various churches in front with Reverend Arthur Bradley with guitar, Brandon Walker on piano, and Fran Richardson.

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0034: Inside church sanctuary, Christmas, 1997. Pictured: Anita Taggart of St John, Sharon Lee of First Baptist, Cozetta Mathis of Miller Temple, Mildred Lewellen of First Baptist, Robbin Lyle of First Baptist, Carolyn Sheppard of St. Paul Baptist, and Jannice Hyatt of First Baptist

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0035: Inside church sanctuary, Christmas, 1997. Pictured: Marilyn Newsome and Rosetta McKinley of St. John Baptist Church

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0036: Church outside view, circa 1990s

12. Precious Love Christian Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Church history

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0037: Church outside view, circa 1990s

13. St. John Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Church history

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0038: Church outside view, circa 1990s

14. St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Church history

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0039: Church tea with Reverend and Mrs. J.J. Jones, 1960s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0040: Church outside view, circa 1990s

15. St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Arkansas

Church history

Clippings and photocopies of photographs

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0041: Church outside view, 1890s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0042: Deacons seated at dining table, 1950s

16. St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Bay, Arkansas

Church history

Booker T. Washington High School, Jonesboro, Arkansas, graduation program, 1960 May 22-25

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0043: John Westley Scales, Jr. and Marie Scales, Bay, Arkansas, 1951

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0044: Marie Scales, Joe McElroy, and John Westley Scales, Sr., Bay, Arkansas, 1958

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0045: St. Paul Baptist Church standing next to house where congregation first met, circa 1890

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0046: Church cornerstone, dated 1925

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0047: Church outside view, circa 1990s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0048: Church outside view, circa 1990s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0049: "Welcome to Bay," signage, circa 1990s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0050: Church members inside St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, circa 1930s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0051: Church members in front of St. Pauls Missionary Baptist Church, circa 1940s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0052: Church members in front of St. Pauls Missionary Baptist Church bus, circa 1920s

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0053: Front of the 1890s St. Pauls Missionary Baptist Church at 716 East Washington

17. The House of Love, Jonesboro, Arkansas

PH.AAChurchesCraigheadCo.0054: Church outside view, circa 1990s