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Freedom House historical marker grant project, 2011

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Freedom House historical marker grant project
Date	2011
Extent	0.2 Cubic feet 1 box
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.
Text [Box]	1

Preferred Citation

Freedom House Historical Marker grant project report, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

This collection contains a grant report generated by Peter Perschbacher for Freedom House marker project funded by the Black History Commission of Arkansas through the Curtis H. Sykes Memorial grant program, 2012. The collection consists of 1 DVD of the dedication ceremony, photographs of the historical marker, and newspaper articles detailing the dedication and the history behind Freedom House in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

The residence that came to be known as Freedom House served as a safe haven for fourteen students associated with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). SNCC was an important civil rights organization that operated during the 1960s. Its members were pivotal in civil rights activities, such as sit-ins, marches and freedom rides. SNCC began operating in Arkansas in 1962, with Bill Hanson as its first director.

Located on King St. and Locust St. in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Freedom House was owned by Mary White, who opened her home to the students from the Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal School (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) who were engaged in demonstrations protesting segregation in local businesses. These students were expelled from school, but White gave them a place to stay and meet from 1963 – 1965. Lewis Yancy, a local businessman, posted bail for more than fifty student protestors who had been arrested for their participation in these demonstrations. Both White and Yancy helped local activists in their push for civil rights through providing much needed shelter and resources. A historical marker was placed at the former location of Freedom House, commemorating Mary White and Lewis Yancy's helping the local civil rights effort.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials pertaining to the dedication of the Freedom House historical marker along with background information on civil rights activities in and around Pine Bluff during the 1960s.

The Black History Commission of Arkansas (BHCA) was created by Act 1233 of 1991 and is composed of seven members appointed by the governor with approval of the Senate. The BHCA is charged with preserving the history of black Arkansans and black communities in Arkansas. This commission also encourages research of Arkansas's black history and promotes teaching black history in Arkansas schools. Grants are awarded from the BHCA in a concerted effort to ensure Arkansas's black history is collected and preserved. The Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant Program was established in 2009 by Act 660 to honor the program's namesake who served as chair of the commission from 1993 – 2007.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 06/16/2016

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

Peter Perschbacher, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, 2012.

Collection Inventory

Freedom House Historical Marker Dedication documents

Grant project archive list

Jefferson County Judge Mike Holcomb Official Proclamation, 2011 October 6

Freedom House Historical Marker Dedication program, 2001 October 6

Photographs

PH.FreedomHouse.01: View of Lewis Yancy side of historical marker during dedication ceremony. Photographed by Pine Bluff Commercial photographer Ralph Fitzgerald. Photographed in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Color. 2011 October 6.

PH.FreedomHouse.02: View of Freedom House/Mary White side of historical marker during dedication ceremony. Photographed by Pine Bluff Commercial photographer Ralph Fitzgerald. Photographed in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Color. 2011 October 6.

PH.FreedomHouse.03: View of (L-R): Leon Nash, one of the original fourteen expelled students, Lewis Yancy Jr., and Queen Yancy, Lewis Yancy's widow, during unveiling of historical marker. To the right is Pine Bluff Mayor Carl A. Redus Jr. and Peter Perschbacher, UAPB professor and one of the event organizers. Photographed by Pine Bluff Commercial photographer Ralph Fitzgerald. Photographed in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Color. 2011 October 6.

Newspaper articles

Pine Bluff Commercial, "Historical Marker to Commemorate Freedom House," 2011 September 29

Pine Bluff Commercial, "Marker Dedication Ceremony Remembers Civil Rights Era," 2011 October 7

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff television production

Dedication Ceremony 2011 October 6 [access DVD copy]

ASA_DVD_FreedomHouse_MS744_Disc_1

Duration 01:06:09