

A Guide to the George Melvin Richardson Collection, 1951-2013

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A Collection in Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History RG 307

Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

2014

Title Statement

A Guide to the George Melvin Richardson Collection, 1951-2013

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Collection number

RG 307

Language

English

Collector

Richardson, George Melvin, 1913-2015

Extent

2 boxes.

Repository

Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Gift of George Melvin Richardson.

Preferred Citation

George Melvin Richardson Collection, Collection # RG 307, Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

George Richardson completed an oral history for the Center for Local History in October, 2013. It is Series 3, No. 263. For more information on the Arlington Public School system, look at [RG 7, Arlington County Public Schools](#), [RG 373, The Records of Hoffman-Boston High School](#), and [RG 69, Arlington County Public Schools: Desegregation Materials](#). Information on an important Arlington African American family who invested and sold real estate, see [RG 196, Syphax Family Collection](#).

Biographical/Historical Information

George Melvin Richardson was born March 1, 1913, in Holdenville, Oklahoma. He came to Arlington County in 1954 to become principal of Hoffman-Boston (H-B) elementary and junior-senior high school and remained principal until Hoffman-Boston was closed in 1965. Mr. Richardson was then employed by the Montgomery County, Maryland, school system where he was assistant principal of Walt Whitman Middle School and later Assistant Principal of Churchill High School.

Mr. Richardson, his wife Oline, and son John lived in the neighborhood from which Hoffman-Boston drew its students, Arlington View (previously known as Johnson's Hill). He was Chairman of the Neighborhood Conservation Program for Arlington View and was instrumental in the publication of the first neighborhood conservation plan in Arlington County, which became the blueprint for other neighborhood plans.

.Mr. Richardson was appointed one of the 29 members of the committee to study integration in the public schools in Arlington County in 1954. He was a member of Arlington Committee of 100 and later served on its executive board.

Scope and Content

RG 307, the George Melvin Richardson Collection, is .63 linear feet and encompasses materials from 1951 to 2013, although the bulk of the materials date 1951-1975. Mr. Richardson was a great collector of newspaper clippings on the topics of Hoffman-Boston School and desegregation, which are included in this collection. In addition to some correspondence and papers from the Hoffman-Boston school there is a collection of photographs of the school and its sports activities. There are also collection materials on Arlington View in preparation for its neighborhood survey.

One of highlights of the collection is the dissertation submitted by Ophelia Braden Taylor as partial requirement for her Master of Arts in Education degree from Howard University entitled *Public Education for Negroes in Arlington County from 1870 to 1950*.

Index Terms

Subjects:

Arlington Public Schools (Arlington, Va.)
Public schools -- United States.
Segregation in education -- United States.
Arlington (Va.)
Arlington County (Va.)

Arrangement

The collection was divided into series by subject with the preponderance of files concerning Hoffman-Boston School and Arlington View, but also including desegregation and publications on education. There are many newspaper clippings, some without the source and/or date. When possible the article was reprinted from the *Washington Post* online archive with the dates identified. Photographs were divided between those of the Hoffman-Boston School and the Arlington View neighborhood. These images have been scanned.

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