



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film Collection

NMAH.AC.1197

Wendy Shay

2016

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film Collection
Date:	1948-1952
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1197
Creator:	Anderson, Harold M. (Creator)
Extent:	1 Item (1 reel.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Black Wall Street was a vibrant African American community in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Filmed between 1948 and 1952 Reverend Harold M. Anderson's Black Wall Street Film documents many of the neighborhood's businesses including barber shops, bakers, taxi companies, jewelers, and other stores. Reverend Anderson also captured its citizens in church, at school, participating in parades, and walking around the area. The film includes footage Richard and Pat Nixon as they campaigned in Black Wall Street, the first vice-presidential candidate to visit the African American neighborhood.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Archives Center by Patricia Sanders on behalf of the heirs of Harold M. Anderson in 2009.

Processing Information

Processed by Wendy Shay, audiovisual archivist, 2010.

Preferred Citation

Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film, 1948-1952, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Reference copy in Smithsonian Institution Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) must be used. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions. All third party requests to use the film for other than standard museum purposes are to be directed to Gettyimages. See repository for information.

Biographical / Historical

Black Wall Street was a vibrant African American community that was destroyed during a race riot that broke out in 1921. Its businesses were burned to the ground and the residents were displaced. Against the odds, Black Wall Street was reborn and by the 1940s was once again a center for African American life in Tulsa.

Reverend Harold Mose Anderson's film titled Reverend Harold M. Anderson's Black Wall Street documents evidence of this resurgence. Although Anderson was only a year old when the riots occurred, he grew up hearing stories about life in Black Wall Street before the riot. He was both a witness to and participant in the rebuilding and revival of the community. And, he documented the resulting renewal with his 16mm motion picture camera.

Filmed between 1948 and 1952 Reverend Harold M. Anderson's Black Wall Street does just that. A successful businessman, Anderson managed and then owned two neighborhood movie theaters, a skating rink, bowling alley, and shopping strip, among other enterprises. He also brought the Golden Gloves boxing tournament to the area, making it accessible to African American fans. Anderson felt that it was critical that Black Wall Street sustain independent African American business, ensuring resident dollars would stay in the community and guarantee its vibrancy.

Almost lost in a devastating house fire, Reverend Anderson's film recognizes the efforts and successes of the community. With his camera he documented many of Black Wall Street's businesses including barber shops, bakers, taxi companies, jewelers, and other stores. He also captured its citizens in church, at school, participating in parades, and walking around the area. The film includes footage Richard and Pat Nixon as they campaigned in Black Wall Street, the first vice-presidential candidate to visit the African American neighborhood.

Scope and Contents

A black and white, silent 16mm film documenting the people and businesses of the Black Wall Street section of Tulsa, Oklahoma from 1948-1952.

Arrangement

Arranged in one series.

Series 1, Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- African American businesspeople
- African American churches
- African American neighborhoods
- Parades -- United States
- Riots -- 1920-1930 -- Oklahoma -- Tulsa

Types of Materials:

- Motion pictures (visual works)

Names:

Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969
Nixon, Pat, 1912-1993
Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994

Places:

Oklahoma -- Tulsa

Container Listing

1: Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film
1 Motion picture film