



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of American History*  
*Kenneth E. Behring Center*

Guide to the Harold M.  
Anderson Black Wall Street Film

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  
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1197
<b>Date:</b>	1948-1952
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Item (1 reel.)
<b>Creator:</b>	Anderson, Harold M.
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Summary:</b>	Black Wall Street was a vibrant African American community in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Filmed between 1948 and 1952 Reverend Harold 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.

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## 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

Unrestricted research access on site by appointment. Reference copy in Smithsonian Institution Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) must be used.

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to use the film for other than standard museum purposes are to be directed to GettyImages.  
See repository for information.

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## 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 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 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.

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## 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.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in one series.

### **Series 1, Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film**

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## 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-  
Nixon, Richard M.

Geographic Names:

Oklahoma -- Tulsa

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film

*1 motion picture film*

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