Guide to the Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film

NMAH.AC.1197

Wendy Shay

2016
# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ........................................................................................................ 1
Administrative Information .............................................................................................. 1
Arrangement..................................................................................................................... 2
Scope and Contents........................................................................................................... 2
Biographical / Historical................................................................................................. 2
Names and Subjects ......................................................................................................... 2
Container Listing ............................................................................................................. 4
  Series 1: Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film................................................. 4
Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film
Identifier: NMAH.AC.1197
Date: 1948-1952
Extent: 1 Item (1 reel.)
Creator: Anderson, Harold M.
Language: English
Summary: 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.

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

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

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
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.

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-
  Nixon, Richard M.

Geographic Names:
  Oklahoma -- Tulsa
Container Listing

Series 1: Harold M. Anderson Black Wall Street Film

1 motion picture film

Return to Table of Contents