

Matthew W. Washington Photograph Collection (AC20)

Introduction

The Matthew W. Washington Photograph Collection contains photographic prints and negatives showing African American life in the Kansas City metropolitan area between 1949 and 1962.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Matthew W. Washington
Title: Matthew W. Washington Photograph Collection
Dates: 1949-1962
Size: 3.8 linear feet, 13 boxes
Collection Number: AC20

Donor Information

Donated by James Anderson, date unknown.

Citation Note

Matthew W. Washington Photograph Collection (AC20), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.
Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Biographical Sketch

Matthew W. Washington was born in October 1886 in Dallas, Texas, to Sam and Nancy Washington. Washington moved to Kansas City, Missouri, around 1925. He married Laura L. Brown of Kansas City, Missouri, in 1931. Washington operated a photographic studio out of his home at 2303 Flora Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri, for over twenty years. He died May 23, 1965.

Scope and Content Note

Series 1: Prints by Washington, 1950-1962

This series consists of prints made by Matthew W. Washington, covering the period 1950-1962. The prints are arranged numerically by print number. Oversize prints have been withdrawn to Box 11. A name and subject index is available for this series as an appendix to this finding aid.

The prints include the following broad subject areas:

Children: Prints 1-78 include images of children, either individually or in groups. This category includes images of baby contests; children's organizations such as Cub Scouts, Girls Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls; children's parties; and children engaged in sports activities.

Churches: Prints 79-412 include images of churches, church groups, church functions, and religious leaders in a church setting.

Events: Prints 41-469 include images of particular events. Included in this category are images of piano recitals at Jenkins Music Store; the Wheatley-Provident Hospital expansion campaign; the dedication ceremony for the Convalescent Home of the General Baptist Convention; picketing; and concerts by Mahalia Jackson and Laura Washington.

Funerals: Prints 470-519 include images of funerals at funeral homes, churches, and cemeteries.

Groups: Prints 520-810 include images of groups of people in informal social settings. Among the identified organizations in this category are the Clio Art and Charity Club; Koran Court No. 37; Sahara Court No. 2; Unique Lades; United Brothers of Friendship and Sisters of the Mysterious Ten Club; and the Wheatley-Provident Hospital Auxiliary. The majority of the groups shown are not identified.

Homes / Buildings: Prints 811-850 include images of the exteriors of homes and other buildings.

Individuals: Prints 851-868 include images of individuals in informal settings.

Portraits: Prints 869-1000 include formal portraits of individuals and groups, both children and adults. The majority of the group portraits are of families.

Weddings / Anniversaries: Prints 1001-1124 include images of weddings and anniversary celebrations.

Work: Prints 1125-1147 include images of people working.

Miscellaneous: Print 1148-1152 include miscellaneous images, including an empty, unidentified room set for an event; an unidentified painting; an empty chair; and a car on a road.

Series 2: Prints of Washington, n.d.

This series consists of undated prints showing Matthew W. Washington. The series is arranged numerically by print number. Some of the photographs are self-portraits.

Series 3: Negatives, 1949, n.d.

This series consists of glass plate and acetate negatives. The series is arranged by item type, i.e. glass plate negatives followed by acetate negatives. The glass plate negatives are further arranged numerically by negative number. The negatives are unidentified and undated. The negatives are housed separately in Boxes 7-10. Broken and flaking glass plate negatives are housed separately in Box 12 and should not be used.

Series 4: Documentation, 1949-1961

This series consists of photocopies of glass plate negative box lids, envelopes, and documents providing lists of prints or negatives, covering the period 1949-1961. The series is arranged chronologically by date, with undated materials appearing at the end of the series. Original glass plate negative boxes are housed separately in Box 13.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Prints by Washington

- f. 1 Prints 1-20, 1951-1960, n.d.
- f. 2 Prints 21-40, 1952-1961, n.d.
- f. 3 Prints 41-60, 1950-1959, n.d.
- f. 4 Prints 61-80, 1951-1955, n.d.
- f. 5 Prints 81-100, 1952-1956
- f. 6 Prints 101-120, 1951-1956, n.d.
- f. 7 Prints 121- 140, 1952-1961, n.d.
- f. 8 Prints 141-160, 1955
- f. 9 Prints 161-180, 1951-1961, n.d.
- f. 10 Prints 181-200, 1952-1961, n.d.
- f. 11 Prints 201-220, 1952-1961, n.d.
- f. 12 Prints 221-240, 1953-1959
- f. 13 Prints 241-260, 1951-1953
- f. 14 Prints 261-280, 1953-1955
- f. 15 Prints 281-300, 1955-1959, n.d.
- f. 16 Prints 301-320, n.d.
- f. 17 Prints 321-340, 1950-1951, n.d.
- f. 18 Prints 341-360, 1951-1959
- f. 19 Prints 361-380, 1950-1960, n.d.
- f. 20 Prints 381-400, 1955-1961, n.d.
- f. 21 Prints 401-420, 1951-1956, n.d.
- f. 22 Prints 421-440, 1951-1954
- f. 23 Prints 441-460, 1954-1956
- f. 24 Prints 461-480, 1951-1960, n.d.
- f. 25 Prints 481-500, 1952-1955
- f. 26 Prints 501-520, 1950-1961, n.d.
- f. 27 Prints 521-540, 1950-1952
- f. 28 Prints 541-560, 1951-1952
- f. 29 Prints 561-580, 1952-1953
- f. 30 Prints 581- 600, 1953-1955
- f. 31 Prints 601-620, 1955-1956
- f. 32 Prints 621-640, 1956-1957

- f. 33 Prints 641-660, 1958-1961, n.d.
- f. 34 Prints 661-680, 1950-1954, n.d.
- f. 35 Prints 681-700, 1950-1961
- f. 36 Prints 701-720, 1950-1951
- f. 37 Prints 721-740, 1950-1952
- f. 38 Prints 741-760, 1953-1955
- f. 39 Prints 761-780, 1955-1959
- f. 40 Prints 781-800, 1959-1960, n.d.
- f. 41 Prints 801-820, 1951, n.d.
- f. 42 Prints 821-840, 1951-1957, n.d.
- f. 43 Prints 841-860, 1951-1956, n.d.
- f. 44 Prints 861-880, 1951-1957, n.d.
- f. 45 Prints 881-900, 1950-1962, n.d.
- f. 46 Prints 901-920, 1951-1952
- f. 47 Prints 921-940, 1952-1961, n.d.
- f. 48 Prints 941-960, 1950-1951, n.d.
- f. 49 Prints 961-980, 1951-1955
- f. 50 Prints 981-1000, 1955-1961, n.d.
- f. 51 Prints 1001-1020, 1950-1951, n.d.
- f. 52 Prints 1021-1040, 1951-1953
- f. 53 Prints 1041-1060, 1953-1956
- f. 54 Prints 1061-1080, 1956-1961
- f. 55 Prints 1081-1100, 1961, n.d.
- f. 56 Prints 1101-1120, n.d.
- f. 57 Prints 1121-1140, 1951-1958, n.d.
- f. 58 Prints 1141-1152, 1952-1955, n.d.

Series 2: Prints of Washington

- f. 59 Prints 1153-1158, n.d.

Series 3: Negatives

- f. 60 Glass plate negatives 1 - 10, n.d.
- f. 61 Glass plate negatives 11-20, n.d.
- f. 62 Glass plate negatives 21-30, n.d.
- f. 63 Glass plate negatives 31-40, n.d.
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- f. 65 Glass plate negatives 51-60, n.d.
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- f. 67 Glass plate negatives 71-80, n.d.
- f. 68 Glass plate negatives 81-88, n.d.
- f. 69 Acetate negatives, n.d.

Series 4: Documentation

- f. 70 Documentation, 1949-1961
- f. 71 Documentation, n.d.

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