

Wheatley-Provident Hospital Collection (AC39)

Introduction

The Wheatley-Provident Hospital Collection contains documents and photographs concerning Wheatley-Provident Hospital, its predecessor organizations – Perry Sanitarium and Phyllis Wheatley Hospital – and its successor organization, Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Hospital.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Wheatley-Provident Hospital
Title: Wheatley-Provident Hospital Collection
Dates: ca. 1910s-1980
Size: 0.1 linear feet, 1 box
Collection Number: AC39

Donor Information

Found in collection.

Citation Note

Wheatley-Provident Hospital Collection (AC39), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Reproduction Restrictions: The 1932 panoramic photograph of doctors and nurses outside of Wheatley-Provident Hospital may not be reproduced due to preservation concerns.

Access Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Historical Sketch

Wheatley-Provident Hospital, governed and staffed entirely by black physicians, opened at 1826 Forest Avenue in 1918. The hospital's story, however, starts eight years earlier. Dr. John E. Perry opened Perry Sanitarium in 1910 to provide medical care to the black community in Kansas City and specialized training to black doctors and nurses. Perry joined with the New Movement Association in 1913 to create the Provident Hospital and Nurse Training Association. A year later, Provident Hospital Association combined forces with the Phyllis Wheatley Association, an organization raising funds to build a modern hospital facility to serve African Americans in Kansas City. Wheatley-Provident Hospital was the result of the partnership.

With the support of philanthropists, businessmen, and countless individual donations great and small, Wheatley-Provident Hospital was able to provide superior medical care to Kansas City's black community for over five decades. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Hospital opened in 1972 to serve as a replacement facility for Wheatley-Provident Hospital.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of two series arranged by item type.

Series 1: Textual Materials, 1913-1980

This series consists of textual materials arranged by organization. The series includes a program for a Phyllis Wheatley Hospital Association fundraising event in 1913 as well as programs for the Wheatley-Provident Hospital Auxiliary Fashion Show for the following years: 1925-1926; 1928; 1930-1931. Also included is a program for a 1941 Wheatley-Provident Hospital Auxiliary fundraising event entitled "Revel of the Seasons" and a 1931 Wheatley-Provident Hospital Nurses Training School certification. Additionally, the series contains documents concerning Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Hospital's 1978 Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration and fundraising, a postcard, and an undated directory of doctors and dentists.

Series 2: Photographs, ca. 1910s-ca. 1972

This series consists of photographs arranged by organization. It includes an undated photograph of Perry Sanitarium; snapshots of Wheatley-Provident Hospital opening day festivities; and photographs of the building, doctors, and nurses at Wheatley-Provident Hospital. The series also includes photographs of the construction of Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Hospital; the final building; and the transport of patients from Wheatley-Provident Hospital to Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Hospital in 1972.

A 1932 panoramic photograph of doctors and nurses outside of Wheatley-Provident Hospital has been withdrawn to Oversize Box 1.

Collection Inventory

The notation "OS" indicates materials are located in Oversize Box 1.

Series 1: Textual Materials, 1913-1980

- f. 1 Wheatley Hospital Association program, 1913
- f. 2 Wheatley-Provident Hospital Auxiliary programs, 1925-1941
- f. 3. Nurses Training School certification, 1931
- f. 4 Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Hospital, 1978-1980, n.d.

Series 2: Photographs, ca. 1910s-ca. 1972

- f. 5 Perry Sanitarium, ca. 1910s
- f. 6 Wheatley-Provident Hospital, 1918-1972 (OS)

f. 7 Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Hospital, ca. 1971-1972

Processed by Michael Sweeney, Collection Librarian, December 2014.