



FINDING AID FOR

# Charles Forrest Palmer papers

2015.0009

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## Charles Forrest Palmer papers. -- 1939-circa 1973. -- 0.25 Cubic feet (1 box)

### Scope and Content

The collection consists of papers of Charles F. Palmer. The collection contains records related to his activities as the first Chairman of Atlanta Housing, his autobiography and publications in which he also featured, photographs taken of Palmer at the Palmer House dedication, copies of speeches he gave, his correspondence, and artifacts including the bust that was created of Palmer in 1968 by sculptor Julian Hoke Harris.

### BIOGRAPHY:

Charles Forrest Palmer was a successful Atlanta real estate developer and a noted authority on public housing and urban redevelopment. Palmer organized Techwood Homes, one of the first efforts at slum clearance in the United States by the Public Works Administration and assisted in the development of its companion project, University Homes. While the two sites were under construction, Palmer returned to Europe in both 1934 and 1936 to investigate public housing programs. He gathered relevant facts and took photographs of the projects that he visited, utilizing this material to lobby for permanent housing legislation in the United States.

In 1938, he also served as President of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he was selected to represent the United States at the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning Conference held in Mexico City. During the same year, 1938, he succeeded in organizing the Atlanta Housing Authority, serving as its first Chairman until 1940. He was elected President of the National Association of Housing Officials in 1940 and, in addition, was appointed by President Roosevelt to the post of Defense Housing Coordinator (United States Office for Emergency Management, Division of Defense Housing Coordination) which he held until the end of 1941. From March through December 1942, he directed the Special Housing Mission to Great Britain, investigating English plans for post-war urban and economic recovery.

After returning to the United States, Palmer devoted the next few years to his office management and realty business in Atlanta. In 1946, he again was the U.S. delegate to the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning Conference, this time held in Hastings, England. From 1947-1948, he served as Georgia's Rotary Club District Governor, and beginning in 1950, was Chairman of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Warm Springs Memorial Commission. In 1952, he traveled throughout Latin and South America investigating public housing and urban redevelopment projects. Palmer's publications include *Adventures of a Slum Fighter* (1955) and numerous articles and speeches on building management, public housing, and urban renewal.

### Restrictions

#### ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Appointments are required when conducting research with this collection. Please contact the Archivist to make an appointment at [AHAArchives@atlantahousing.org](mailto:AHAArchives@atlantahousing.org) Atlanta Housing is required to legally review all records prior to admitting access to ensure they do not contain information that violates the privacy of its program's participants.

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#### PREFERRED CITATION

Please use the following format when citing: "Item," Date of item creation. Collection, Series. (Atlanta, Georgia:

Atlanta Housing Archives, The Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta.)

Finding aid prepared by and described by Atlanta Housing Archives, Records & Information Management, Meredith E. Torre, Archivist.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into five series: 1. Speeches and Resolutions; 2. Correspondence; 3. Publications; 4. Photographs; and 5. Artifacts.

### **Other Codes**

2015.0009

## **2015.0009.1 Speeches and Resolutions. -- 1939-circa 1973**

**2015.0009.1.1 Lower Maintenance and Operating Costs Will Be Achieved (Paper delivered by C.F. Palmer before the Eighth Annual Meeting of the National Public Housing Conference). New York City. -- Jan. 28, 1939**

**2015.0009.1.2 Remarks by Charles F. Palmer at Techwood Homes. -- May 19, 1964**

*Other Codes*

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**2015.0009.1.3 Remarks by Charles F. Palmer at the Christmas Tree Lighting in the Palmer House. -- Dec. 12, 1966**

**2015.0009.1.4 Charles Forrest Palmer, AHA resolution. -- circa 1973**

## **2015.0009.2 Correspondence. -- 1966**

**2015.0009.2.1 Note of appreciation from Charles Palmer's secretary acknowledging receipt of newsclippings sent by M.B. Satterfield. -- 1966**

## **2015.0009.3 Publications. -- 1955-1973**

**2015.0009.3.1 Adventures of a Slum Fighter (First edition signed and inscribed). -- 1955**

*Scope and Content*

Autobiographical account written by Charles F. Palmer about his experience with organizing the first slum clearance program and Techwood Homes, the first federally funded public housing developments in the United States.

**2015.0009.3.2 Newsclippings. -- 1973**

## **2015.0009.4 Photographs. -- 1967**

**2015.0009.4.1 Photograph of Anna Roosevelt Halstead and Charles F. Palmer at the dedication of the Palmer House. -- 1967. -- (1 still image)**

*Other Codes*

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**2015.0009.4.2 Photograph of Charles F. Palmer pictured with his daughters at the Palmer House dedication. -- 1967. -- (1 still image)**

*Scope and Content*

With two of his daughters.

*Other Codes*

aha\_2013\_img\_00960

## **2015.0009.5 Artifacts. -- 1968**

**2015.0009.5.1 Charles F. Palmer bust. -- 1968**

*Scope and Content*

This bust of Charles F. Palmer was designed in 1968 by artist Julian Hoke Harris (1906-1987). Harris was a Georgian born artist and spent most of his life contributing many sculptures to the Atlanta area creating sculptures for more than 50 buildings in the Southeastern United States.

*Other Codes*

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