



FINDING AID FOR

Bowen Homes records

2015.0017

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Bowen Homes records. -- 1965-2001 and undated. -- 0.25 Cubic feet (1 box)

Scope and Content

The collection consists of project records, tenant records, publications, photographs, and artifacts of Bowen Homes.

HISTORICAL NOTE:

Bowen Homes was part of the Low Rent Housing Program located at Yates Drive, NW and Wilkes Circle. Completed March 10, 1964 it was located in District 9, had 650 units, and was situated on 53.9 acres of property bounded by Bankhead Highway on the north and Field Road on the east. Bowen Homes provided homes for approximately 4,000 people displaced primarily from the old Buttermilk Bottoms area and other areas surrounding that of the Atlanta Civic Center.

Bowen Homes was named for the Bishop J.W.E. Bowen, a well-known religious and civic leader. The streets within the project were also named for other prominent religious and business leaders such as Wilkes Circle, Yates Drive, Chivers Street, and Walden Street. Bowen Homes held regular community meetings, had many clubs and organizations throughout the years including a senior citizens club (organized 1964), a day care center (opened 1965), a small and juniors boys softball league, and "The Bowenettes" a girl's teen group "active in intellectual, social, and religious affairs" which met weekly in the community center. A.D. Williams Elementary School, a blue and white 86,000 square foot school named after Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s grandfather and the Frederick Douglas High School were the schools which served the children of Bowen Homes.

Bowen Homes was a diverse community and many musicians and famous people have come from Bowen Homes including D4L (Shawty Lo), Shop Boyz, MDC and YDC. Bowen Homes also shares its history of tragedy. On October 13, 1980 four preschool children and one teacher were killed at the Gate City Bowen Homes Day Care in an alleged gas-fired boiler explosion. At the time of the blast, the daycare was occupied by eight adults and 82 children. 52 year old teacher Neil Robinson and four three year old children: Kevin Snelson, Andre Standford, Ronald Brown, and Terrace Bradley were killed and seven others injured. Allegations were also made that the explosion had been created by the KKK. A bomb threat was called in to A.D. Williams Elementary School that very same day, just across the street.

Reverend Joseph Lowery, head of the SCLC asserted "There is an organized assault on the black people across the country. We are tired of our children being killed." Many refused to accept the explosion at the day care center had resulted from a faulty boiler, a claim some people believed orchestrated to pacify a city on the edge of a turbulent period of racial violence. That the explosion came following just 24 hours after J.B. Stoner held a conference of international white supremacist in the neighboring county and that Stoner had a reputation for bombing black targets since the late 1950s, heightened the belief that the explosion of the Gate City Bowen Homes Day Care was no accident.

In addition to being a target of racial violence, Bowen Homes, one of the largest public housing communities in Atlanta, also became notorious as a target area for drugs and crime. Bowen Homes was demolished in 2009.

Restrictions

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Appointments are required when conducting research with this collection. Please contact the Archivist to make an appointment at 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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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. Project Records, 2. Tenant Association Records, 3. Publications, 4. Photographs, and 5. Artifacts.

Other Codes

2015.0017

2015.0017.1 Project Records. -- 1965-1998 and undated

2015.0017.1.1 Bowen Homes dedication booklet and fact sheet. -- June 6, 1965

Other Codes

aha_2013_doc_04624.pdf

2015.0017.1.2 Bowen Homes community programs. -- 1980s-1998

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00104.pdf

2015.0017.1.3 Bowen Homes and The Sunshine Project. -- 1991-1992

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00105.pdf

2015.0017.1.4 Bowen Homes site plan. -- undated

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00106.pdf

2015.0017.2 Tenant Association Records. -- 1992-1998

2015.0017.2.1 Letter from President of the Bowen Homes Resident Association to AHA Executive Director. -- 1992

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00107.pdf

2015.0017.2.2 Bowen Homes Resident Association correspondence. -- 1993-1997

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00108.pdf

2015.0017.2.3 Bowen Homes Resident Association bylaws. -- 1996-1998 and undated

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00109.pdf

2015.0017.3 Publications. -- 1990-2003

2015.0017.3.1 Newsletters. -- 1990-2002

2015.0017.3.1.1 Bowen Homes Tenant Association Newsletter. -- 1990

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00110

2015.0017.3.1.2 Bowen Homes: A monthly publication for the residents of Bowen Homes. -- Apr. 1997

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00111

2015.0017.3.1.3 Bowen Homes: A monthly publication for the residents of Bowen Homes. -- Apr. 2002

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00112

2015.0017.3.2 Newsclippings. -- 1996-1998

2015.0017.3.2.1 "2 sue city, demand safer public housing." news article regarding Bowen Homes residents. -- Apr. 15, 1996

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00113

2015.0017.3.2.2 "Don't Pay Rent, Says Tenant's President." news article regarding Bowen Homes residents. -- Feb. 13, 1998

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00114

2015.0017.3.2.3 "The Atlanta Housing Authority, which has set higher standards for its residents, has become a national leader in developing attractive new mixed-income communities" news article regarding Bowen Homes, Techwood Homes, and Centennial Place . -- Feb. 16, 1998

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00115

2015.0017.3.3 Feature article on Bowen Homes family: "Doris and Caleb: A Great-Grandmother's Love Story." Conversations. -- Spring/Summer 2003

Other Codes

aha_2018_doc_00116

2015.0017.4 Photographs. -- 1966-2001 and undated

2015.0017.4.1 Slides of Bowen Homes street views and school. -- 1966-1969. -- (31 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_04625; aha_2013_img_04626; aha_2013_img_04627; aha_2013_img_04628;
aha_2013_img_04629; aha_2013_img_04630; aha_2013_img_04631; aha_2013_img_04632;
aha_2013_img_04633; aha_2013_img_04634; aha_2013_img_04635; aha_2013_img_04636;
aha_2013_img_04637; aha_2013_img_04638; aha_2013_img_04639; aha_2013_img_04640;
aha_2013_img_04641; aha_2013_img_04642; aha_2013_img_04643; aha_2013_img_04644;
aha_2013_img_04645; aha_2013_img_04646; aha_2013_img_04647; aha_2013_img_04648;
aha_2013_img_04649; aha_2013_img_04650; aha_2013_img_04651; aha_2013_img_04652;
aha_2013_img_04653; aha_2013_img_04654; aha_2013_img_04655

2015.0017.4.2 Photographs of Bowen Homes, interior of senior resident's apartment, living room and bedroom. -- circa 1968. -- (2 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06221; aha_2014_img_06222

2015.0017.4.3 Photographs of Bowen Homes exterior. -- 1970s-1980s. -- (4 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_04656; aha_2013_img_04657; aha_2013_img_04658; aha_2013_img_04659

2015.0017.4.4 Photographs of Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson visiting Bowen Homes. -- 1980s. -- (2 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06236; aha_2014_img_06237

2015.0017.4.5 Photographs of Bowen Homes, exterior. -- early 1990s

2015.0017.4.6 Photographs of Bowen Homes, street views of library. -- 1990s. -- (5 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06223; aha_2014_img_06224; aha_2014_img_06225; aha_2014_img_06226;
aha_2014_img_06227

2015.0017.4.7 Photographs of Youth Programs, Bowen Homes clean-up, anti-drug program, science program, community building program. -- 1994-1995

2015.0017.4.8 Slides of Bowen Homes exterior and playground. -- circa 2000. -- (15 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_04673; aha_2013_img_04674; aha_2013_img_04675; aha_2013_img_04676;
aha_2013_img_04677; aha_2013_img_04678; aha_2013_img_04679; aha_2013_img_04680;
aha_2013_img_04681; aha_2013_img_04682; aha_2013_img_04683; aha_2013_img_04684;
aha_2013_img_04685; aha_2013_img_04686; aha_2013_img_04687

2015.0017.4.9 Photographs and Slides of Bowen Homes exterior 2804 Yates Drive. -- Nov. 2001. -- (2 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_04688; aha_2013_img_04689

2015.0017.4.10 Photographs of Bowen Homes. -- undated. -- (2 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_00001; aha_2013_img_00002

2015.0017.4.11 Photographs of Bowen Homes exterior. -- undated. -- (3 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06218; aha_2014_img_06219; aha_2014_img_06220

2015.0017.4.12 Photographs of Bowen Homes, A.D. Williams Elementary School. -- undated. -- (2 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06228; aha_2014_img_06229

2015.0017.4.13 Photographs of Bowen Homes community life. -- undated. -- (4 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06230; aha_2014_img_06231; aha_2014_img_06232; aha_2014_img_06233

2015.0017.4.14 Photographs of Bowen Homes Daycare Center. -- undated. -- (2 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_06234; aha_2014_img_06235

2015.0017.4.46 (Unprocessed) Photographs Not On Shelf

2015.0017.4.46.1 Bowen Homes, playgrounds. -- 1990. -- (13 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2013_img_04660; aha_2013_img_04661; aha_2013_img_04662; aha_2013_img_04663;
aha_2013_img_04664; aha_2013_img_04665; aha_2013_img_04666; aha_2013_img_04667;
aha_2013_img_04668; aha_2013_img_04669; aha_2013_img_04670; aha_2013_img_04671;
aha_2013_img_04672

2015.0017.4.46.2 Photographs of Public housing projects, Bowen Homes. -- June 1983. -- (8 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_00668; aha_2014_img_00669; aha_2014_img_00670; aha_2014_img_00671;
aha_2014_img_00672; aha_2014_img_00673; aha_2014_img_00674; aha_2014_img_00675

2015.0017.4.46.3 Photographs of Bowen Homes (...), July 1983). -- July 1983. -- (10 still images)

Other Codes

aha_2014_img_00676; aha_2014_img_00677; aha_2014_img_00678; aha_2014_img_00679;
aha_2014_img_00680; aha_2014_img_00681; aha_2014_img_00682; aha_2014_img_00683;
aha_2014_img_00684; aha_2014_img_00685

2015.0017.5 Artifacts. -- undated

2015.0017.5.1 Envelope with Bowen Homes logo. -- undated

2015.0017.5.2 Bowen Homes brick. -- undated. -- On Display

Other Codes

aha_2018_img_00005