FINDING AID FOR

Bankhead Courts records

2015.0010
2015.0010

Bankhead Courts records. -- 1968-2016 and undated. -- 1.00 Cubic feet (2 boxes)

Scope and Content
The collection consists of project records, tenant association records, publications, photographs, and artifacts of the Bankhead Courts Project Records.

HISTORICAL NOTE:
Atlanta's first turnkey low-rent housing project, Bankhead Courts was located at 3400 Maynard Court in District 9. Completed January 20, 1970, it was the largest Turnkey Low Rent Housing Program site in the southeast and the second largest in the nation. The project was developed by Coble-Weaver, Joint Venture, and the contractor H.L.C. and Associates Construction Company of Greensboro, North Carolina. Its architects were Sheetz and Bradfield of Atlanta, Georgia. It originally held 500 housing units, and was situated on 45.4 acres to the north and south of Bankhead Highway, just East of the Chattahoochee River.

Bankhead Courts had an active community. In 1976, a community center was added to Bankhead Courts and erected on open land made available by the city's Board of Education next to the Alfred Blalock Elementary School. The community center contained a gymnasium and community office space for the communities' organizations. The ground breaking ceremony for the community building was held with Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson and Atlanta Housing's Executive Director Ernest C. Jackson in attendance. The Bankhead Courts community also had a Child Development Center (established 1972), a Youth Center, a Headstart Center, a Bankhead Courts Branch Library (dedicated 1989), and The Bankhead Courts Granny House community based children's shelter (opened 1993).

In 1974 Mayor Maynard Jackson spent a weekend at Bankhead with a Bankhead family. His visit followed an eruption of violence and rioting resulted from a confrontation between police and residents. He stated he wanted to use his visit to the complex as "a typical example of the problems of public housing and the problems faced by residents of public housing." His visit both criticized and praised by the public media resulted in increased attention on the need for a new approach to the chronic problems plaguing public housing. Jackson stated that his goal was to eventually make public housing "no different than any other housing in Atlanta." (AJC. Nov 10, 1974).

Bankhead Courts additionally suffered from disrepair. It was situated on low level lying land. Buildings sustained extensive structural damage and substantial deterioration partially due to flooding which made them cost prohibitive to repair. Many of the load bearing walls were severely damaged, creating the potential for structure failure and a vast majority of the upper floors were sagging and presented dangerous conditions. In 1996 Tenant Association President, Marsha Walker submitted her letter of recommendation on behalf of the residents of Bankhead Courts in support of Atlanta Housing's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for partial demolition. In 2011 the remaining Bankhead buildings were demolished also.

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. Mitchem, Archivist.

Arrangement

The Project Records are divided into two subseries: 1. Development Records, which include the planning, creation, and continuing development of the housing project and 2. Redevelopment records which include the transition, redevelopment, revitalization, and demolition of the project.

Other Codes
2015.0010


2015.0010.1.1.1 Bankhead Courts groundbreaking ceremony. -- 1968. -- (13 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00122

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00136

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00126

2015.0010.1.1.4 Bankhead Courts project bonds. -- 1973. -- (17 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00123

2015.0010.1.1.5 Atlanta Public Schools Authorization for a lease agreement with the Atlanta Housing Authority for Blalock Elementary School at Bankhead Courts. -- Jan. 12, 1976. -- (22 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00124

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00127

Other Codes
BANK_ab_2018_doc_00128

2015.0010.1.1.8 Bankhead Courts survey analysis, statistical data, and report. -- 1991. -- (23 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00129

2015.0010.1.1.9 Bankheads Courts chronology of events including Fulton County Airport expansion. -- 1993. -- (4 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00130

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00131

2015.0010.1.1.11 Bankhead Courts site plans. -- undated. -- (3 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00132

2015.0010.1.2.1 Bankhead Courts correspondence regarding revitalization. -- 1989-1994. -- (5 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00134

2015.0010.1.2.2 Demolition Plan for Bankhead Courts Project GA. 6-28 submitted to HUD by AHA. -- May 1990. -- (34 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00133

2015.0010.1.2.3 Correspondence regarding demolition and modernization of Bankhead Courts under the Comprehensive Improvement Assistance Program (CIAP). -- 1990-1992. -- (13 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00135

2015.0010.1.2.4 Alfred Blalock Elementary School at Bankhead Courts site plans. -- July 22, 1996

2015.0010.1.2.5 Bankhead Courts Top Application. -- Aug. 1997. -- (169 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00137

2015.0010.1.2.6 Meeting Minutes Bankhead Courts Modernization program planning. -- Dec, 29, 1998. -- (5 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00140

2015.0010.1.2.7 Bankhead Courts demolition approval from HUD. -- July 28, 1999. -- (8 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00139

2015.0010.1.2.8 Partial demolition application for six units at Bankhead Courts. -- 1999. -- (51 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00138

2015.0010.1.2.9 Bankhead Courts and Harris Homes meeting minutes. -- 2000. -- (105 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00141

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00142

2015.0010.2 Architectural Records


2015.0010.3.1 Mayor Maynard Jackson's proclamation honoring Rebecca English, Tenant Association President of Bankhead Courts. -- Dec. 5, 1975. -- (1 page)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00227

2015.0010.3.2 "Your Key to Bankhead Courts" Bankhead Courts tenant handbook. -- circa 1976-1978. -- (28 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2016_doc_00368
2015.0010.3.3 Bankhead Courts Resident Association correspondence. -- 1985-1998. -- (21 pages)

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00143

2015.0010.3.4 Bankhead Courts Resident Briefing. -- Jan. 31, 1991. -- (3 pages)

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00144

2015.0010.3.5 Funeral service announcement for Bankhead Courts Tenant Association President, Ms. Marsha Walker. -- Dec. 1997. -- (1 page)

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00145

2015.0010.4 Publications. -- 1969-2016

2015.0010.4.1 AHA news release on construction of Bankhead Courts. -- 1969. -- (1 page)

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00146

2015.0010.4.2 Newsclippings. -- 1960s-1970s. -- (60 items)

2015.0010.4.2.1 "They Plod 12 Miles..." newsclipping on residents of Bankhead Courts. -- Sept. 3, 1969. -- (1 page)

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00147

2015.0010.4.2.2 "Bankhead Courts visited by two city officials." newsclipping concerning living conditions at Bankhead Courts. -- July 26, 1970. -- (1 page)

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00148

2015.0010.4.2.3 "Whites pounce on youth at Bankhead Courts" newsclipping depicting racial violence against a Bankhead Courts child. -- Aug. 16, 1970. -- (1 page)

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00149

2015.0010.4.2.4 "Bankhead project better after tenants complaints" newsclipping regarding improved living conditions at Bankhead Courts. -- Aug. 16, 1970. -- (1 page)

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00150

2015.0010.4.2.5 "Help us, CRC is told, or watch out for us" newsclipping regarding living conditions at Bankhead Courts. -- 1970. -- (2 pages)

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00151

2015.0010.4.2.6 "Demonstration head start center to open soon." newsclipping regarding headstart education program at Bankhead Courts. -- Oct. 2, 1970. -- (1 page)

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00153

2015.0010.4.2.7 "Housing at Bankhead Court[s] is improved, Report Shows." newsclipping regarding living conditions at Bankhead Courts. -- Nov. 30, 1970. -- (1 page)

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00152
2015.0010.4.2.19 "Mayor moves in for the weekend." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct, 19, 1974. -- (2 pages)


2015.0010.4.2.21 "Angry Mayor sets meeting on housing." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 20, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.22 "Fewer calls for Police in Bankhead Court Area." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 21, 1974. -- (1 page)

Scope and Content
Editorial cartoon by cartoonist "Baldy" Baldowski (Clifford "Baldy" Baldowski) depicts Mayor Maynard Jackson wearing a football helmet as his limo passes Bankhead Courts.

2015.0010.4.2.23 "Jackson's stay at project to benefit tenants?" Bankhead Courts newsclipping. - - Oct. 21, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.24 "One Weekend...Mayor Jackson finds apartments unlivable." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 21, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.25 "Housing Authority begins Bankhead improvements." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 22, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.26 "Rats, garbage container woes cited." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 22, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.27 "New services, old problems at Bankhead." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 22, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.28 "Bankhead may get another grant of millions--Mayor." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 23, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.29 "After anger, what will Jackson do?" Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 23, 1974. -- (1 page)
2015.0010.4.2.30 "Architects ask Jackson apology." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 23, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.31 "U.S. Attorney to investigate public housing." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 24, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.32 "Jackson asks federal probe of city's housing projects." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 24, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.33 "A First Step for Bankhead, Eaves Says." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 25, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.34 "Grandstanding--No and Yes." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 25, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.35 "Fix-up funds channeled to Bankhead." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 26, 1974. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.2.36 "Bankhead Courts to be improved." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 26, 1974. -- (1 page)


2015.0010.4.2.38 "Fake outlet charge denied as Bankhead work begins." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 27, 1974. -- (1 page)


2015.0010.4.2.40 "Bankhead drainage work estimated at $1 million." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 29, 1974. -- (1 page)
2015.0010.4.2.41 "Mayor finds Bankhead better." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Nov. 1, 1974. -- (3 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00187

2015.0010.4.2.42 "Bankhead work 'a beginning'." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Nov. 1, 1974. -- (1 page)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00188

2015.0010.4.2.43 "Panel Hears Testimony on Bankhead Incident." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Nov. 2, 1974. -- (2 pages)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00189

2015.0010.4.2.44 "Mayor hears same housing story." Bankhead Courts and East Lake Meadows newsclipping. -- Nov. 2, 1974. -- (1 page)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00190

2015.0010.4.2.45 "Many forces combine to create problems in Atlanta public housing." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Nov. 2, 1974. -- (1 page)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00191

2015.0010.4.2.46 "Social worker's holiday: Britisher compares Bankhead Courts with London area." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Nov. 3, 1974. -- (1 page)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00192

Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00193

2015.0010.4.2.48 "CRC investigation of Gibson Incident." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Nov. 9, 1974. -- (1 page)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00194

2015.0010.4.2.49 "Public Housing: It will take much, much more than money, bricks or mortar to solve the ugly dilemma of the people who much live here." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Nov. 10, 1974. -- (1 page)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00195

2015.0010.4.2.50 "Mayor Jackson sets good example." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Nov. 1974. -- (1 page)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00196

2015.0010.4.2.51 "Mayor: Live-In or Resign." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Dec. 26, 1974. -- (1 page)
Other Codes
BANK_2018_doc_00197
"Promises, promises: Bankhead Apartments knows that song by heart."
Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Dec. 26, 1974. -- (1 page)

Scope and Content
This news article is accompanied by an editorial cartoon by cartoonist "Baldy" Baldowski (Clifford "Baldy" Baldowski). It depicts Mayor Maynard Jackson sitting at his desk and having had clipped out news articles with commentary on his stay at Bankhead Courts. He sits with a pair of scissors before him and articles with headlines in back of him announcing: "Help Assured," "Change Coming," "Visit to Spark New Action," "Mayor is Weekend Houseguest in Bankhead," and "Jackson Sees the Problem First Hand." A man informs the mayor, "In fact, you went over so well that they want you to move in until the project is complete."

"Not a total mayor." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Dec. 27, 1974. -- (1 page)

"AHA defends work at Bankhead Courts." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Oct. 23, 1975. -- (1 page)


"Still 'Deplorable.' A year after Jackson's stay here, Bankhead Courts has changed little." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Nov. 13, 1975. -- (2 pages)

"Man slain here in drunken brawl." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Nov. 28, 1975. -- (1 page)

"Protesting blacks 'block' Bankhead." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- undated. -- (1 page)

"Vice Mayor Jackson Orders." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- undated. -- (1 page)

Bankhead Courts newsletter. -- 1976. -- (35 pages)
2015.0010.4.4 AHA news releases and dedication program for the Bankhead Courts Community Center and Child Development Center. -- 1976-1977. -- (19 pages)

2015.0010.4.5 Newsclippings. -- 1980s. -- (9 items)

2015.0010.4.5.1 "26 to be evicted as city moves to clean up Bankhead Courts." Bankhead Courts newsclippings. -- Jan. 10, 1989. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.5.2 "While politicians grandstand, the drug trade continues to boom." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Jan. 12, 1989. -- (1 page)


2015.0010.4.5.4 "Decent public housing: 'Is Georgia ready to act?'" Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Jan. 30, 1989. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.5.5 "Group tours ramshackle Bankhead." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Jan. 24, 1989. -- (2 pages)


2015.0010.4.5.7 "Bankhead Courts is 'too far' from Atlanta's studied image." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Mar. 1, 1989. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.5.8 "Cleaning up Bankhead's image." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Mar. 12, 1989. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.5.9 "Council takes action despite confusion." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Mar. 25, 1989. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.6 Bankhead Courts Newsclippings. -- 1990s. -- (6 items)

2015.0010.4.6.1 "Bankhead cleanup lets residents breathe easier." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Jan. 28, 1990. -- (1 page)
2015.0010.4.6.2 "GSU Prof Develops Academic Program." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- May 31, 1990. -- (1 page)


2015.0010.4.6.4 "Project residents seek home away from airport." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- Mar. 2, 1991. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.6.5 "AHA chief disputes findings." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- circa 1992-1994. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.6.6 "Overlook apartments get a makeover." Bankhead Courts newsclipping. -- May 25, 1995. -- (1 page)

2015.0010.4.7 "Operation Dignity." Bankhead Courts feature in HUD publication, "Together We Can...Create Drug-Free Neighborhoods". -- Sept. 1992. -- (6 pages)

2015.0010.4.8 Bankhead Courts: A monthly publication for the residents of Bankhead Courts. -- 2001-2002. -- (15 pages)

2015.0010.4.9 Newscuttings. -- 2016

2015.0010.4.9.1 "Mayor Kasim Reed: Atlanta has reached new Beltline deal with APS." newsclipping regarding former Bankhead Courts property. -- Jan. 29, 2016. -- (4 pages)

2015.0010.4.9.2 "Mayor Kasim Reed announces unanimous vote of Atlanta Housing Authority Board to approve land transfer in APS-Beltline agreement." newsclipping regarding former Bankhead Courts property. -- Mar. 1, 2016. -- (2 pages)

2015.0010.5 Photographs. -- 1969-2001

2015.0010.5.1 Photographs of Bankhead Courts construction. -- Feb.-Mar. 1969. -- (6 still images)

Other Codes

2015.0010.5.3 Slides of Bankhead Courts Community Center groundbreaking (with Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson and Executive Director Ernest C. Jackson in attendance). -- circa 1976. -- (3 still images)

Other Codes
BANK_2013_img_04562; BANK_2013_img_04563; BANK_2013_img_04564

2015.0010.5.4 Photograph of Bankhead Courts, Day Care Center, Christmas breakfast. -- 1978. -- (1 still image)

Scope and Content
"Bankhead Day Care, Christmas breakfast 1978."

Other Codes
BANK_2014_img_06185

2015.0010.5.5 Photograph of Bankhead Courts, Tenant Association meeting. -- Apr. 1982. -- (1 still image)

Scope and Content
"Bankhead tenants meeting, April 1982."

Other Codes
BANK_2014_img_06179

2015.0010.5.6 Photographs of Bankhead Courts, street views. -- early 1990s

2015.0010.5.7 Photographs of Bankhead Courts street views. -- 1990s. -- (5 still images)

Other Codes
BANK_2014_img_06174; BANK_2014_img_06175; BANK_2014_img_06176; BANK_2014_img_06177; BANK_2014_img_06178

2015.0010.5.8 Slides of Bankhead Courts street views. -- circa 1993. -- (30 still images)

Other Codes

2015.0010.5.9 Photographs of demolition site prior to work. -- 1997

2015.0010.5.10 Slides of Bankhead Courts street views. -- circa 2000. -- (11 still images)

Other Codes
2015.0010.5.11 Photographs and Slides of Bankhead Courts exterior, 2400 Maynard Court. -- Nov. 2001. -- (2 still images)
Other Codes
BANK_2013_img_04612; BANK_2013_img_04613

2015.0010.5.12 Photograph of Bankhead Courts, construction. -- undated. -- (1 still image)
Other Codes
BANK_2013_img_04561

2015.0010.5.13 Photographs of residents in front of Bankhead Courts. -- undated. -- (2 still images)
Other Codes
BANK_2014_img_06162; BANK_2014_img_06163

2015.0010.5.14 Photographs of Bankhead Courts Community Center, exterior and interior. -- undated. -- (10 still images)
Other Codes

2015.0010.5.15 Photographs of Bankhead Courts community life. -- undated. -- (2 still images)
Other Codes
BANK_2014_img_06180; BANK_2014_img_06181

2015.0010.5.16 Photograph of Bankhead Courts resident. -- undated. -- (1 still image)
Scope and Content
"Michael Bussy, Bankhead."
Other Codes
BANK_2014_img_06186

2015.0010.5.17 Photographs of Bankhead Courts exterior views. -- undated. -- (7 still images)
Other Codes

2015.0010.5.18 Photographs of Bankhead Courts, Halloween. -- undated. -- (2 still images)
Other Codes
BANK_2014_img_06183; BANK_2014_img_06184

2015.0010.5.19 Photograph of Bankhead Courts, surrounding neighborhood. AHA 2014.06187. -- undated. -- (1 still image)
Other Codes
BANK_2014_img_06187

2015.0010.5.34 (Unprocessed) Photographs Not On Shelf

2015.0010.5.34.1 Negatives of Community life and events, senior residents at Mr. V's on Peachtree, Bankhead Courts, Bankhead May Day Festival, AH Executives and staff, senior residents, children, Easter event. -- 1985-1986. -- (9 still images)
Scope and Content
Contact sheet.
Other Codes
2015.0010.5.34.2 Photographs of Bankhead Courts, playgrounds. -- 1990. -- (6 still images)
Other Codes
BANK_2013_img_04565; BANK_2013_img_04566; BANK_2013_img_04567; BANK_2013_img_04568; BANK_2013_img_04569; BANK_2013_img_04570

2015.0010.5.34.3 Photographs of street views, Bankhead Courts, Capitol Homes, Clark Howell Homes, day care. -- circa 1975-1984. -- (6 still images)
Other Codes

2015.0010.5.34.4 Photographs of AHA staff, pest control teams, Bankhead Courts. -- undated. -- (2 still images)
Other Codes
BANK_2014_img_05701; BANK_2014_img_05702

2015.0010.6 Artifacts. -- undated

2015.0010.6.1 Bankhead Courts brick. -- undated. -- On Display
Provenance
Donated by Edmond Desimone to the Archives on 10/3/2019. Edmond worked as a consultant for AH and in construction for many years. He collected artifacts from several properties when they were destroyed.
Other Codes
BANK_2018_img_00006