

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
S0509 (SA2588, SA2938, SA4191)
GREATER ST. LOUIS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF RESIDENCE
RECORDS

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Introduction

Approximately 21 cubic feet

The Greater St. Louis Committee for Freedom of Residence, Greater St. Louis chronicle the committee's activities in integrating housing in the metropolitan St. Louis area. The collection contains flyers, correspondence, grant proposals, pamphlets, case files, advertising material, research material, radio spots, photographs, information on Congressmen, mailing lists, educational brochures, and housing lists.

After a year of informal discussion among community leaders, a group of prominent St. Louisans founded the Freedom of Residence, Greater St. Louis Committee in March 1961. Volunteers staffed the private non-profit corporation in its early years. An anonymous grant provided the initial funds for the group. Other sources of funds came from membership dues and donations. The committee facilitated the integration of housing in St. Louis by sponsoring buyers in previously segregated areas, preparing housing lists of non-segregated units, engaging in community education programs, and supporting fair housing laws.

By 1962, the committee included 100 members. Reverend William Lorenz, pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, headed the organization. That same year, the Committee succeeded in moving a Black family into a previously all-white University City neighborhood.

By 1964, the committee had raised \$21,000. This amount included a \$5,000 grant from the New York-based Horne Crest Foundation. This enabled the hiring of two staff members. Ruth C. Porter, one of the founders, filled the position of Executive Secretary. She kept the job until her death on February 9, 1967.

Several affiliated chapters, such as the Florissant Council, formed in suburban communities in 1965 and 1966. The combined efforts of the groups resulted in major accomplishments for 1965 and 1966. The committee provided speakers for 157 meetings and distributed 30,000 pamphlets entitled, "New Era in Housing," to black and white communities. The committee also sponsored, in cooperation with religious leaders and other local fair housing groups, a Fair Housing Week in February 1965. At this event, the committee distributed pledge cards to elicit community support. By the end of 1966, the Greater St. Louis Committee had succeeded in finding 600 Black families housing in 130 neighborhoods and 37 municipalities throughout the St. Louis area.

The committee's funds ran out by the end of 1966, and the office closed. In January 1967, the Horne Crest Foundation notified the committee of a \$5,000 grant contingent on matching funds. Local donors contributed \$8,600, and the committee reopened its office.

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Until 1967, the Freedom of Residence Committee worked primarily with middle-income families. In April 1967, the Human Development Corporation, a federal agency, approved a \$16,000 program with the committee for moving Black families out of the city's ghettos.

A landmark Supreme Court ruling evolved from the efforts of the Freedom of Residence, Greater St. Louis Committee. In 1965, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lee Jones, an interracial couple, attempted to buy a house from a suburban developer. The Alfred H. Mayer Corporation refused to sell to them because Mr. Jones was Black. The Joneses went to the Freedom of Residence office. After speaking with a staff attorney, Samuel H. Liberman II, they agreed to sue. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court. In June 1968, the court ruled that discrimination in all housing sales and rentals was illegal. The decision provided Freedom of Residence with a previously lacking legal tool for integrating neighborhoods. In 1969, the committee received \$150,000, which they used to assist families denied housing based on race. The funds came from a three-year grant from the Danforth Foundation.

Donor Information

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Neighborhood Schools, 3/6/79
Neighborhood Youth Corps, no date
New Democratic Coalition--Newsletter, 3/73
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North Webster Community Improvement Association, 1971-1972
Note Cards, 1974-1975
Notes, Miscellaneous, no date
Occupancy Permit, 1973-1977
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Olivette Human Relation Committee, 1964-1965
Operation Breakthrough, no date
Operation Door-key, 1965-1966
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Operation Home Search, 1965
Organization Lists, 1978-1981
Parcels and Abstracts, 1972
Parkview Heights, 1970
Patterns of Discrimination, 1969-1970
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Peace Information Correspondence, 1967
Pearson, Ann, 1972
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People's Coalition of Missouri, 1982-83

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Police Brutality, 1965
Police Reports, 1969
Policies Relative to Equal Housing Opportunity President Nixon, 1971, 1975
Porter, Ruth C., 1970
Porter, Ruth C., Dinners, Ad Letters, 1981
Porter, Ruth C., Dinner, 1981
Position Paper--Role of Citizen Action Groups, 1965
Post-Dispatch, Correspondence, 1971-1972
Potential Housing Demand of Non-white Population in Selected Metropolitan Areas, 1963
Potts, Wilma--Case against Arco Properties, 1984
Poverty, 1969
Preliminary Research to Board Members, 1979
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Raiche Realty, 1973
Ralston Purina, 1974-1976
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Real Estate Board of Metropolitan St. Louis, 1972-1973
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Revenue Sharing, no date
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Rimell Realty Company, 6/7/73
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Rockefeller Foundation, 1972
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St. Louis Community Improvements Program, 1970-1972
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St. Louis Housing Authority, 1967, 1969, 1973
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St. Louis Human Relations Commission Hearing, County, 7/72
St. Louis Justice Department--Office Closed, 1973
St. Louis Missouri-Illinois House Market, 1970

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Skinker-DeBaliviere Child Care Center, 1970

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Solon Gershman Inc., 1972
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Sporleader Testimony, 1972
Sporleader, James H. 1969
Spotts, Aritha, no date
Staff Meetings, 1968
State Laws, no date
Statistics on Housing, 1962, 1966, 1970
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Training Program for Taylor Residents, no date
Trends in Housing, 1978-1979, 1981-1982
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Turnkey, 1968
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Unemployment of Negroes, 1965
Union-Sarah EDC, 1973
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United Farm Workers of Florida Housing Project Inc. et al vs. City of Delray
 Beach Florida, 1974
United Fund, 1968
U.S. Army Housing Office, 1969
U.S. Census of Housing, 1960
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- Urban Renewal, 1958, 1965-66, 1969, 1975
- U.R. Research, 1967, 1969-71
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- Volunteers, 1967-1968
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- Washington, Dorothy, 1968
- Washington University, Brown Studies, 1965
- Washington University, School of Social Work, 1971-1973
- Washington University, Urban Housing Program, 1964, 1966-1969
- Washington University--Urban Housing Program, 1971, 1973, 1976, no date
- Weaver, Robert, 1967
- Webster College, 1973
- Webster Groves Citizens for Fair Housing, no date
- Weisfeld, Laurie, 1974
- Welfare Monopoly, 1969, 1972
- Wesler, Dolores Williams, no date
- Westchester Residential Opportunities Inc., 1972, 1975
- West County Citizens for Freedom of Residence, 1966-1967
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- White, Sylvia, no date

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- Wohl Foundation, 1968

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Series 3: Photographs

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509.54-509.58: Unidentified group (five 8x10 BW prints)
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509.61: Speed (8x10 BW print) 1960s; 509.62: Stuart (8x10 BW print) 1960s;
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509.65: Dr. Lee Blount; Dr. Jack Miller; Dr. Calvin Lee; Dr. Donald Suggs; Dr. Luther Forest; and Elmer Mosee Jr. (6x8 BW print) nd; 509.66: unidentified group (6x8 BW print) nd; 509.67-509.76: unidentified group (ten 8x10 BW prints) nd; 509.77-509.78: unidentified group (irregular shape) nd
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Newspaper Clippings

Newspaper Clippings, 1960-1971 (5 folders)

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Newspaper clippings, 1971-1973 (15 folders)

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Newspaper clippings, 1973-1975 (24 folders)

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Recommendation for Metropolitan St. Louis Community Development: Report, 1972
Robert and Jean Tehune, correspondence, 1967-1975 (2 folders)
Housing directory, newspaper clippings, and statistical reports, 1966-1968
Jones v. Alfred Mayer, 1968-1969
Ramblewood Apartments, 1974
North County League for Social Justice, bylaws, correspondence, and statement of purpose, 1971
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North County Meeting, April 1, 1965
Pamphlets and Songsheet, c.1960s
Porter, Ruth C., February 1967
Statements and Resolutions, 1965-1969
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