

William McG. Morrison Mayoral Papers, 1948-1959

Descriptive Summary

Title and Dates:

William McG. Morrison Mayoral Papers, 1948-1959

Creator:

William McG. Morrison, Mayor of the City of Charleston, South Carolina, 1948-1959

Quantity:

1 cubic ft.

Forms of Material:

Correspondence, newspaper articles, proclamations, resolutions, plats, plans, studies, reports, speeches, contracts, photographs

Processed by:

Rebecca Schultz, 2017

Location:

01-A-016

Abstract

This collection consists of the papers of William McG. Morrison, the fifty-seventh mayor of Charleston, who served three terms between 1947 and 1959. The collection contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, proclamations and resolutions, plats, plans, studies and reports, speeches, contracts, and photographs.

Background

William McG. Morrison was born in McClellanville, South Carolina, to Henry Toomer Morrison and Sadie McGillivray Morrison on January 8, 1903. He attended McClellanville public schools prior to graduating from Clemson University with a degree in law. Morrison worked for the City of Charleston as Assistant Corporation Counsel from 1930-1934 and Master-in-Equity for Charleston County from 1935 until his election as mayor in 1947. He won reelection in 1951 and 1955, but lost the 1959 election to J. Palmer Gaillard. In 1957 Morrison underwent radiation treatment for throat cancer. The cancer treatment gradually took its toll, and Morrison spent his final months as mayor conducting city business from his home at 103 South Battery Street. He passed away on January 1, 1960.

Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized alphabetically according to topic, document type, or the originating individual or department. The material found in the collection includes correspondence, newspaper articles, proclamations, resolutions, plats, plans, studies and reports, speeches, contracts, and photographs.

Mayor Morrison's tenure took place during a time of rapid growth and expansion in Charleston. Although the city's annexation of Saint Andrews Parish did not take place until the tenure of J. Palmer Gaillard, much of the groundwork necessary for expansion was undertaken during the administration of Mayor Morrison. Under Morrison's direction, the City extended numerous streets and thoroughfares. He initiated changes in traffic patterns in order to increase accessibility to the central business district on the peninsula. Morrison likewise played a central role in the development of the Bushy Park Authority, the establishment of Charleston Air Force Base, and the expansion of naval activities, thus providing increased economic stability to the Charleston region.

Related Material:

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult microfilmed copies of Mayor Morrison's Scrapbooks, 1952-1960, which contain newspaper clippings relevant to his tenure. The microfilm is located on roll numbers MAY.SB.011 and MAY.SB.012.

Please consult the Records Manager or Records Specialist to view the microfilm or request information on other materials in the City's Records Center holdings relevant to Mayor Morrison's papers.

Folder List:

Folder

- 1 Committee on Alcoholism, 1958-1959: papers re: South Carolina Alcoholic Rehabilitation Board and Treatment Center, Governor George Bell Timmerman, Jr., Governor Ernest F. Hollings
- 2 Associated Bulb Growers of Holland, 1953-1954: papers re: Garden Club of Charleston
- 3 Boards, Commissions, and Committees, 1949-1951: papers re: Historical Commission, City Archives, Board of Commissioners of the Colonial Common and Ashley River Embankment, Water Works Commission, Committee on Streets, William Moultrie Playground, Cummings Creek, sewage improvements, Tuberculosis Sanatorium

Folder

- 4 Bushy Park Authority, Contracts and Deeds, 1954-1956: papers re: water supply, Commissioners of Public Works, Bushy Park Authority, Robert E. Lee & Company, construction specifications
- 5 Bushy Park Authority, General, 1953-1959: papers re: Land Acquisition Committee, Governor George Bell Timmerman, water rates, Robert E. Lee & Company, *United States vs. Commissioners of Public Works and City of Charleston*
- 6 Bushy Park Authority, Minutes, 1953-1955: papers re: South Carolina Development Board, Land Acquisition Committee, Cypress Gardens, West Virginia Paper Company, Cote Bas Plantation, Cooper River, Commissioners of Public Works, Charleston Development Board
- 7 Bushy Park Authority, Minutes, 1956: papers re: Commissioners of Public Works, South Carolina General Assembly Sinking Fund, Charleston Development Board
- 8 Bushy Park Authority, Minutes, 1957-1958: papers re: Commissioners of Public Works, Gulf Oil Company, Dean Hall Plantation, Red Bank Plantation, Cooper River, West Virginia Paper Company, Sinking Fund Commission, South Carolina State Port Authority, Charleston Development Board
- 9 Bushy Park Authority, Minutes, 1959: papers re: *United States vs. City of Charleston and Commissioners of Public Works*
- 10 Charleston Air Force Base, 1957: papers re: "A Brief Presented to the United States Air Force by the City of Charleston Executive Department," Charleston Municipal Airport history, World War II, airport statistics, airport joint use agreement
- 11 Charleston Board of Fire Underwriters, 1953: papers re: water supply, Fire Department facilities
- 12 Charleston County School District, 1949: papers re: property conveyance, Chicora Elementary
- 13 Charleston Housing Authority, 1956-1959: papers re: Edward D. Clement, Robert Mills Manor, Josiah E. Smith, Ben Tillman Homes, military housing, Charleston Navy Yard
- 14 Charleston Municipal Airport, 1956: papers re: U.S. Weather Bureau lease, airport history, U.S. Army Air Force
- 15 Charleston Unification Study Board, Merger Study, 1956: papers re: annexation, West Ashley, Saint Andrews Public Service District, traffic congestion, slum clearance, taxation, borough system, James Island Water District, postwar growth

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- 16 Charleston Unification Study Board, Various Studies, 1955-1956: papers re: "Charleston Merger Study," Robert H. Stoudemire, Raymond Uhl, annexation, "Special Report on A Charleston Borough System," Frederick H. McDonald, population growth, "Report on Metropolitan Charleston's Merger Problem," John J. Mahoney III, "Preliminary Observations on the Charleston Metropolitan Problem," Thomas H. Reed, Doris D. Reed
- 17 The Citadel, 1952-1959: papers re: Municipal Stadium Commission, Exchange Club Fair, Johnson Hagood Stadium
- 18 City Council, 1957-1958: papers re: city finances, Police Department, City Council reorganization, Charleston Municipal Airport conveyance, municipal planning
- 19 Clerk of Council, A.J. Tamsberg, 1949-1958: papers re: zone redistricting, Mayor Morrison portrait, City Hall improvements
- 20 Corporation Counsel, 1949-1959: papers re: Thomas P. Stoney, South Carolina State Retirement Act, Ashley Amusement Corporation, baseball, *Betty K. Goldberg vs. City of Charleston*, encroachments
- 21 Department Correspondence, 1949-1958: papers re: public relations, elections, United Fund campaign
- 22 Gibbes Art Gallery, 1955: papers re: ironwork
- 23 Mayoral Campaign, 1951: papers re: Charleston Air Force Base, J. Palmer Gaillard, African American voting rights, J. Waties Waring, Arthur J. Clement, Jr., League of Women Voters of Charleston County, Oliver T. Wallace
- 24 Mayoral Campaign Speeches, 1951: papers re: Union Station, Bushy Park, J. Palmer Gaillard, Arthur J. Clement, Jr., bloc voting, Oliver T. Wallace, J.C. Long, taxation
- 25 Military Housing Committee, 1958-1959: papers re: Charleston Navy Yard, Arthur J. Clement, Jr., Ashley Hall Manor, Orange Grove Road
- 26 Minecraft Base Property, 1959: papers re: Crippled Children Society, United Fund, Medical College of South Carolina, YWCA, American Red Cross, Hurricane Gracie
- 27 Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1951-1958: papers re: parking, South Carolina Highway Department purchase of city lands, city finances, Commissioners of Public Works, extension of municipal services to county residents
- 28 Municipal Golf Course Commission, 1958: papers re: African Americans, segregation, golf course privatization

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29 Navy Day Dinner, 1948: papers re: Navy League, R-Adm. Oliver M. Read

30 Newspaper Clippings, Miscellaneous, 1953: articles re: bus rates, Herbert Ravenel Sass, Coastal Carolina Rehabilitation Council, Alderman R. Lee Rodgers death, sewage improvements, rent stabilization, Henry Toomer Morrison death

31 Newspaper Clippings, Plumbing Code, 1953: articles re: sewage improvements

32 Newspaper Clippings, Proclamations, 1953: articles re: crime prevention, charitable organizations, The Citadel, women in the workforce, disabled veterans

33 Newspaper Clippings, Schools, 1953: articles re: Charleston County School Board, taxation, Buist Elementary School, Courtenay School, College of Charleston, segregation, African Americans, Parent Teacher Association, school renovations, suburban flight

34 Newspaper Clippings, Unification Plan, 1957: articles re: annexation, West Ashley

35 Newspaper Clippings, Union Station, 1945-1952: articles re: Southern Railway System, Atlantic Coast Line Railroad

36 Parking Garage Project, Wentworth / St. Philip Street, 1956: papers re: King Street merchants, property acquisition, Parking Revenue Bonds

37 Planning and Zoning Commission, 1957-1959: papers re: parking lot regulations, establishment of City Planning Program, parking improvements, Burke High School proposed improvements, Old and Historic District zoning

38 Police Department, 1949-1959: papers re: Traffic Bureau, military personnel discipline, Charleston Navy Yard, prostitution, Police Relief and Pension Fund

39 Political Correspondence, 1951: papers re: mayoral election of 1951, one-way vs. two-way traffic patterns, taxi regulations, City Manager form of government, poll managers, African American voters, racism

40 Porter Military Academy, 1951: papers re: school funding, Porter Academy history, Rev. A. Toomer Porter

41 Printed Material, 1952-1955: material re: 1952 Charleston Azalea Festival, Bushy Park, Police Department, Fire Department, Public Service Department

42 Proclamations and Resolutions, 1950-1958: papers re: Armed Forces Day, Morrison Drive dedication

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43 Department of Public Buildings, Public Market, 1952-1959: papers re: City Market, old Terry Fish Market, crime, vendor permits, Charleston Kennel Club

44 Public Service Department, 1951-1958: papers re: Paul Motor Company, land claims, White Point Gardens bandstand, Johnson Hagood Stadium, George Burgess Memorial Swimming Pool, Gibbes Art Gallery, Municipal Golf Course

45 Railroads, 1949-1953: papers re: Chamber of Commerce Railroad Committee, Union Station history, Southern Railway System, Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, South Carolina Public Service Commission, *City Council of Charleston vs. Southern Railway System and Atlantic Coast Line Railroad*

46 Sears Roebuck and Company, 1950-1953: papers re: sale of Charleston Orphan House property, Sears building construction

47 Sergeant Jasper Apartment Project, 1949: papers re: Naval Minecraft Base, housing, Colonial Common and Ashley River Embankment, J.C. Long, The Beach Company

48 Shaw Community Center, 1954-1956: papers re: African Americans, Boys Club of America, building repairs and renovations, Rev. John T. Enwright, Parks and Playgrounds Commission

49 Speeches and Mayoral Statements, 1948-1959: papers re: city finances, annexation, West Ashley, traffic, zoning, slum clearance, Tidewater Terminal fire, Charleston Police Department, marsh reclamation program, Murray Boulevard, Naval Minecraft Base, mayoral election of 1959

50 "Springtime in Charleston" Recording, 1947-1953: papers re: Charlie Spivak Orchestra, Robert S. Cathcart, Jr., Joseph A. (Fud) Livingston, "Charleston Challenges" Bureau, Azalea Festival, jazz music

51 *SS Tarsus*, Turkish Goodwill Ship, 1954: papers re: visit of Turkish ambassadors, Footlight Players

52 Traffic Committee, 1950: papers re: Smith-Dibble Traffic Plan, Charleston merchants petition, one-way vs. two-way traffic patterns

53 City Treasurer, R.G. White, 1951-1958: papers re: delinquent license fees, insurance licenses, 1951 License Ordinance, Fire Insurance Underwriters, South Carolina Rating and Inspection Bureau, tax collection

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54 Urban Redevelopment Committee, 1957: papers re: parking, Broad Street business district, Planning and Zoning Commission, Retail Merchants Association, Cooper River waterfront, State Ports Authority, property conveyances, Tidewater Terminals, railroad track removal, old Terry Fish Market

55 Ways and Means Committee, 1948-1956: papers re: mayoral salary, street improvements, Charleston Orphan House, Oak Grove Orphanage, city budget, Hampton Park fair, Charleston Agricultural and Industrial Fair Association, landfill program, City Incinerator, Municipal Yacht Basin, parking, one-way traffic pattern

56 West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, 1954-1955: papers re: Charleston Army Base Terminal, expansion of Charleston plant, L. Mendel Rivers, J. Strom Thurmond, property conveyances