SENATE AVENUE YMCA (INDIANAPOLIS) HI-Y SPRING CONFERENCE PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1947–1948

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Cataloging Information

Processed by

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Revised by Dorothy Nicholson 15 March 2004

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department William Henry Smith Memorial Library Indiana Historical Society 450 West Ohio Street Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:

1 folder

COLLECTION

Ca. 1947-1948

DATES:

PROVENANCE: Herbert W. Laffoon, Jr., P.O. Box 4983 Carson, CA 90745, July

1988

RESTRICTIONS:

None

COPYRIGHT:

NUMBER:

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ALTERNATE None

FORMATS:

RELATED None HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION 1994.1267

NOTES: Please credit photographer (Marvin Shelton or Herbert W.

Laffoon, Jr.) on all reproductions.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) was founded in London, England, ca. 1844. The first YMCA in the United States was established in Boston, Massachusetts, in December 1851. In 1853 Anthony Bowen, a freed slave, founded the first African-American YMCA, in Washington, D.C.

The cornerstone of the Senate Avenue YMCA (Indianapolis) was laid in October 1912 at Michigan and Senate Avenues. Booker T. Washington dedicated the building in 1913. Until the early 1960s the Senate Avenue YMCA held the largest membership of any African-American branch in the United States. The facility provided cultural and recreational activities as well as vocational guidance for young men. The center closed in 1959 following the opening of the Fall Creek YMCA.

The Hi-Ys was a boy's club founded in the mid-1940s by the national YMCA movement. Hi-Y groups operated out of high schools as part of the YMCA's core youth program and were popular until the 1960s.

Sources:

Material in the collection.

"A Brief History of the YMCA Movement," (www.ymca.net/about/cont/history.htm). Accessed 13 January 2003 Laffoon, Herbert W., Jr. Letter to Stephen J. Fletcher, 2 May 1994. Accession file 1994.1267, Indiana Historical Society.

Mjagkij, Nina. "Senate Avenue YMCA." In *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, edited by David J. Bodenhamer and Robert G. Barrows, 1249-1250. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994. F534.I55 E4 1994

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains five group photographs of delegates to a spring Hi-Y Conference at the Senate Avenue YMCA in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1947 or 1948. The participants, mainly young African-American men, belonged to the Indiana and Evanston, Illinois, Hi-Ys. The donor identified a number of individuals in the photographs. Marvin Shelton of Terre Haute, Indiana, made four photographs in the collection. Herbert W. Laffoon, Jr., made one image.

The Evanston, Illinois contingent joined the Indiana group due to the close association of Thomas E. Hummons to the Senate Avenue YMCA. Hummons was executive director of the Evanston branch during the 1940s, and his father, Dr. Henry L. Hummons, was a founder of the Senate Avenue branch. Neither Hummons is identified in any of the photographs.

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CONTENTS CONTAINER

Delegates to Spring Hi-Y Conference, Senate Avenue YMCA, ca. 1947–48

Folder 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

- 1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://157.91.92.2/
- 2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
- 3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
- 4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0394).
- 5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.