

Collection #
M 1094

CRISPUS ATTUCKS HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION, 1937–2011

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes, 2 printed collections, 1 black and white photograph folder, 1 color photograph folder, 1 folder photographic negatives, 1 OVA photograph folder, 1 OVB graphics folder, 1 artifact

COLLECTION DATES: 1937–2011

PROVENANCE: Stanley Warren, Indianapolis, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.0155

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

In 1920, there were nearly 800 African American students enrolled in Arsenal Technical, Emmerich Manual, and Shortridge High Schools in Indianapolis. However, with the impact of the Ku Klux Klan and other influences, a separate high school for African Americans was built. Crispus Attucks High School opened during the fall of 1927. At the time that the school was named, Crispus Attucks was famous for losing his life in an attack against British soldiers during the Revolutionary War. The Indianapolis Public School Board of School Commissioners required all African American students to attend the school, regardless of where they lived. Though the general sentiment from African Americans during the time period was against a segregated high school, many people applauded the opportunity for blacks to teach at the secondary level. Prior to the establishment of Crispus Attucks, black teachers did not get appointments to Indianapolis high schools.

The school became a center for the African American community. Several public events were held there. The school was able to command respect because of its accomplished staff and successful students; celebrities such as Jesse Owens, Langston Hughes, and George Washington Carver showed support for Attucks.

From its inception, the school focused not only on traditional school subjects (such as English and Math), but it also prepared students to enter trades after high school. Some of the Industrial Arts taught at the school included woodwork, auto mechanics, electricity and radio, shoe rebuilding, printing, welding, machine work, and tailoring. It also provided a robust home economics curriculum that included sewing, cooking, home nursing, home management, millinery, and beauty culture.

In 1986, the School Board decided to change Crispus Attucks into a junior high school, after which it transitioned into a middle school in 1993. In 2006 the school became the Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School, with a focus on preparing students for medical careers.

The school building was listed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1989.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

Stanley Warren, *Crispus Attucks High School: "Hail to the Green, Hail to the Gold"*, Virginia Beach, VA: Donning Co., 1998.

Stanley Warren, "The Evolution of Secondary Schooling for Blacks in Indianapolis, 1869–1930," in *Indiana's African-American Heritage: Essays from Black History News & Notes*, edited by Wilma L. Gibbs. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press, 1993.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is divided into seven series:

Series One: Crispus Attucks High and Middle School, Alumni Relations, and Reunions consist of reunion programs, commencement programs, Alumni Association event programs, photographs, and historical materials.

Series Two: Crispus Attucks High School Publications: Newsletters and Yearbooks include a 40th Anniversary of the school publication, yearbooks, and various newsletters.

Series Three: Crispus Attucks Museum includes programs for events held at the museum, as well as museum advertising materials.

Series Four: John Hope School #26 contains photographs and a reunion program.

Series Five: Obituary contains obituary programs, bookmarks, and news clippings from 1992–2010.

Series Six: Organizations includes programs, newsletters, and advertising materials from other organizations.

Series Seven: News clippings consist of newspaper articles that address both the school and its alumni, as well as several magazine articles.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Crispus Attucks High and Middle School, Alumni Relations, and Reunions

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Class of 1930.	Box 1, Folder 1
Class of 1936.	Box 1, Folder 2
Crispus Attucks High School diploma, 1937.	OVB Graphic: Folder 1
Class of 1948.	Box 1, Folder 3
Class of 1950.	Box 1, Folder 4
Class of 1954.	Box 1, Folder 5
Class of 1956.	Box 1, Folder 6
Class of 1957.	Box 1, Folder 7
Classes of 1962–64.	Box 1, Folder 8
Class of 1965.	Box 1, Folder 9
Class of 1967.	Box 1, Folder 10
Class of 1968.	Box 1, Folder 11
Alumni Association Events and Programs, 1997–2009. [includes all-school reunions, special events, etc.]	Box 1, Folder 12
Commencement Programs, 2006, 2010, n.d. (includes an early undated program.)	Box 1, Folder 13
Historical Materials, 1967–2010. (includes alumni lists, history of the school, photocopies of photographs, student handbook, membership cards, etc.)	Box 1, Folder 14
Class reunion and group photographs, 1981–1984.	Color Photographs: Folder 1

Crispus Attucks Basketball team and group photos, images 1-7, n.d.	35 mm Acetate Negatives: Folder 1
Crispus Attucks Booster Club, 2007–2012.	Box 1, Folder 15
Crispus Attucks Foundation, 2002.	Box 1, Folder 16
Crispus Attucks Middle School, 1998–2005.	Box 1, Folder 17
Bryant, Hallie, 2003.	Box 1, Folder 18
Crispus Attucks High School Alumni Association "Jazz for Breakfast" button, May 10, 1997.	Artifact: 2012.0155

Series 2: Crispus Attucks High School Publications: Newsletters and Yearbooks

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
<i>The Attucks</i> , Christmas 1929.	Box 2, Folder 1
<i>The Attucks</i> , 1937.	Box 2, Folder 2
<i>Attucks</i> , 1945.	General Collection: LD7501.I46442 A7 1945
Photocopy: Crispus Attucks High School yearbook page, Strong-Ziegler, 1948.	OVB Graphic: Folder 1
Crispus Attucks High School 40th Anniversary publication, December 1967.	Box 2, Folder 3
<i>Crispus Attucks Tiger</i> , 1975.	Printed Collection
Newsletters, 1985–2011. (Newsletters published by graduating classes and the National Alumni Association)	Box 2, Folder 4

Series 3: Crispus Attucks Museum

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Crispus Attucks Museum Programs and Events, 1997–2011.	Box 2, Folder 5

Museum advertising materials, n.d.

Box 2, Folder 6

Series 4: John Hope School #26

CONTENTS

School photographs, 1930, 1956.

CONTAINER

Photographs:
Folder 1

Margaret Busch (John Hope School #26), ca. 1960;
Group photograph, ca. 1959.

OVA Photographs:
Folder 1

John Hope School No. 26, 6th Annual Reunion, 1991.

Box 2, Folder 7

Series 5: Obituary Programs, Bookmarks, and Clippings, 1992–2010

CONTENTS

Armstrong, Irven, (1892–1996).

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 8

Campbell, Harry R., (–1996).

Box 2, Folder 9

Campbell, Roscoe "Rocky" III, (1946–2005).

Box 2, Folder 10

Carter, Hallie Mae, (1920–2005).

Box 2, Folder 11

Crowe, Ray P., (1915–2003).

Box 2, Folder 12

Edelen, Maurice Emerson, (–2005).

Box 2, Folder 13

Enix, Jane E., (1906–1999).

Box 2, Folder 14

Gholston, James Clayborne Sr., (1940–2008).

Box 2, Folder 15

Hayden, Chester A., (–2003).

Box 2, Folder 16

Jewell, Robert Lee, (1933–1992).

Box 2, Folder 17

Jones, William "Bill" L., (–2008).

Box 2, Folder 18

Lester, Rev. Sherman E. Sr., (1951–2007).

Box 2, Folder 19

Merrifield, Norman, (1906–1993).

Box 2, Folder 20

Milton, Samuel Jr., (–2010).

Box 2, Folder 21

Newsome, Laverne E., (1907–2001).	Box 2, Folder 22
Scott, Clifton U., (1912–1999).	Box 2, Folder 23
Shelton, Crowell W., (1911–2005).	Box 2, Folder 24
Sleet, Thomas, (–1996).	Box 2, Folder 25
Warner, Clarence J., (1935–2005).	Box 2, Folder 26
Williams, Arbrellia, (–2006).	Box 2, Folder 27

Series 6: Organizations (Programs, invitations, advertising materials, and newsletters, 1985–2012)

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
American Cabaret Theatre, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 28
Black American West Museum and Heritage Center, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 29
Conseco Fieldhouse, 2009.	Box 2, Folder 30
Howard University, 1985–86.	Box 2, Folder 31
Indianapolis Public Schools, 2002–10.	Box 2, Folder 32
Indianapolis Star, 2005.	Box 2, Folder 33
IUPUI Solution Center, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 34
Lockefield Civic Organization, 2007.	Box 2, Folder 35
Madame Walker Theatre Center, 2007.	Box 2, Folder 36
Marion County Historical Society, 1999.	Box 2, Folder 37
Ohio Historical Society, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 38

Series 7: News clippings (Crispus Attucks High School and Alumni)

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Newspaper articles, 1986, 1989.	Box 2, Folder 39

Newspaper articles, 1990–1995.	Box 2, Folder 40
Newspaper articles, 1996–1999.	Box 2, Folder 41
Newspaper articles, 2000–2011, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 42
Magazine articles, 1987–2003.	Box 2, Folder 43
<i>Indianapolis Star</i> Special Edition, "Champions for a Change," Feb. 27, 2005. (article about the Crispus Attucks High School basketball program)	OVB Graphic: Folder 1
Photocopy: "Twenty-six Years of Progress," n.d. (relates to the military and Crispus Attucks)	OVB Graphic: Folder 1