

# **Reynolda House Museum of American Art Oral History Project Collection**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Reynolda House Museum of American Art
<b>Title</b>	Reynolda House Museum of American Art Oral History Project Collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1980-2013
<b>Extent</b>	5.0 Cubic feet 3 boxes of paper records and 52 digital audio tapes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	The Reynolda House Museum of American Art Oral History Project is an ongoing project established in 1980 to collect recollections from Reynolds family members and former employees, residents, and visitors of the Reynolda estate, particularly those living or working at at Reynolda when it was the home of R.J. and Katharine Reynolds and when it was later the residence of their oldest daughter Mary Reynolds Babcock and her family.

### Preferred Citation

Interview with [interviewee name], [interview date], Reynolda House Museum of American Art Oral History Project. Reynolda House Museum of American Art, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

## Historical Note

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The Reynolda House Museum of American Art Oral History Project was established in 1980 as a program devoted to the study of Reynolds family, Reynolda, and Winston-Salem history. The initial goals of the project were to collect and preserve information about 1.) the history of Reynolda House when it was the home of R.J. and Katharine Reynolds' family; 2.) the Reynolds family history; and 3.) the transformation of Reynolda House from a private home to a museum for American art. The interviews explored not only what life was like at Reynolda, but also what life was like in Winston-Salem, N.C., during the early and mid-twentieth century, touching on the area's socio-economic, political, business, and cultural history.

A significant motivation behind the oral history project was to render historically visible those whose experience is not reflected in traditional written sources. The resulting interviews highlighted the African American residents and workers of the estate, and it is only through the oral histories that we are able to learn the story of Five Row, the African American community located across the road from Reynolda Village.

The bulk of the interviews were conducted in 1980 by Lu Ann Jones, then a graduate student in the Southern Oral History Program at the University of North Carolina. The later interviews, 1992-1996, were conducted by Sherold D. Hollingsworth, Assistant to the Founding President, Barbara Babcock Milhouse.

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## Scope and Contents

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The RHMAA Oral History Project consists of administrative files, background research, transcripts, and audio recordings related to interviews conducted for the project between 1980 and 1996. Some interviews have corresponding material such as photographs and letters. While the majority of the interviews conducted for the project followed established procedures for creating documentation, some interviewed lack either audio recordings or transcripts. The majority of the interviews have been digitally reformatted to digital audio tapes but some interviews are still on compact cassettes, and have limited accessibility.

The content of the interviews cover Reynolds family history, experiences working and living at Reynolda while it was the home of R.J. and Katharine Reynolds and later the residence of their daughter Mary Reynolds Babcock and her family, the tobacco industry, and life in Winston-Salem during the early and mid-twentieth century. Some interviews detail the history and experiences of African Americans living at Reynolda and in Winston-Salem. Interviews of note include Nancy Susan Reynolds, youngest daughter of R.J. and Katharine Reynolds; Harvey Miller, who grew up at Five Row and later became majordomo at Reynolda for the Babcock family; Lucy Hadley Cash and Ethel Brock Sloan, teachers at Reynolda

School; Pops Hendrix, Reynolda's engineer and electrician; and Flora Pledger, laundress and later cook at Reynolda for the Babcocks.

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## **Arrangement**

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The collection is arranged into two series: Interviewer Working Files and Oral History Interviews.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Reynolda House Museum of American Art

### **Access Restrictions**

Most of the interviews and transcripts in the collection are open for research. For interviews, the interviewee signs a release at the time of the interview which stipulates any access restrictions to his or her interview. Additionally, access to the Interviewer Working Files is restricted. Please contact the Director of Archives and Library for more information.

### **Use Restrictions**

If an interview has been transcribed, researchers should quote from the transcript. If no transcript is available, reference to material in the interview should be taken from the audio recording. Additionally, use of audiotapes may require production of listening copies.

### **Reproduction and Use**

Reynolda House Museum of American Art holds copyright to most of the materials housed in its archival collections. Potential publishers of written works that quote, paraphrase, and/or contain reproductions of material from the Museum's archival collections must be granted permission to publish by the RHMAA Director of Archives.

## Collection Inventory

### **Interviewer Working Files, 1980-2013 1.0 Cubic feet 1 Box**

#### **Scope and Contents**

This series contains administrative files, background research, and partial, uncorrected transcripts for the oral history project. The initial phase of the project conducted in 1980 contains project proposals, correspondence, and background research material. The oral history project was revived in 1992, with interviews conducted through 1996. Research and correspondence for the project continued through 2013. These files contain partial, uncorrected transcripts, research material, correspondence, and material related to interviews such as photographs and letters.

#### **Access Restrictions**

Access to the Interviewer Working Files for projects dated 1992-2013 is restricted. Please contact the Director of Archives and Library for more information.

### **Oral History Interviews, 1980; 1992-1996 4.0 Cubic feet 6 Boxes**

#### **Scope and Contents**

This series contains audio recordings and accompanying transcripts of conducted oral histories. Some interviews do not include a complete transcript, and in a few instances for some interviews only the transcript remains and not the corresponding audio recording. The series is divided into three subseries determined by who conducted the interview: Series I, 1980; Series II, 1992-1996; and Miscellaneous, 1980; 1987.

#### **Series I, 1980**

Series I,

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**Scope and Contents**

These interviews were part of the initial phase of the oral history project and were conducted by Lu Ann Jones in 1980.

Babcock, Winifrid, 14 November 1980 1 DAT (77 minutes), transcript

Bagley, Smith W., 24 July 1980 Transcript only

Brock, Ethel Sloan, 9 July 1980 1 DAT (86 minutes), transcript

Cash, Lucy Hadley, 30 July 1980 1 DAT (98 minutes), transcript

Coyner, Stratton, 15-16 July 1980 2 DATs (137 minutes), transcript

Ehmann, Bili, 11 June 1980 1 DAT (44 minutes), transcript

Gramley, Dale, 24 October 1980 1 DAT (85 minutes), transcript

Hendrix, S.R. "Pops," 3 July 1980; 25 July 1980 2 DATs (163 minutes), transcript

Kurfes, Marshall, 18 December 1980 1 DAT (56 minutes), transcript

Long, Elsie M., 11 August 1980 1 DAT (50 minutes), transcript

Lucas, Ruth Smith, 26 July 1980 2 DATs (125 minutes), transcript

Miller, Harvey, 7 June; 12 June; 25 June; 4 August 1980 4 DATs (323 minutes), transcript

**Series II,**

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Miller, Rosalie, 26 June 1980; 17 July 1980 2 DATs (164 minutes), transcript

Pledger, Flora, 26 June; 2 July; 29 July 1980 3 DATs (240 minutes), transcript

Reynolds, Nancy Susan, 5 May; 17-19 June 1980 6 DATs (491 minutes), transcript

Spaugh, Aurelia Plumly and Tippy Galloway Ruffin, 6 August 1980 1 DAT (67 minutes), transcript

Spitzmiller, Mary Martha L., 14 July 1980 1 DAT (70 minutes), transcript

Wade, Elizabeth, 10; 18 July 1980 2 DATs (143 minutes), transcript

Wallace, Roy, 8 July 1980 1 DAT (28 minutes), transcript

Wharton, Albert, 14; 22 July 1980 2 DATs (130 minutes), transcript

Wyeth, Elizabeth, 12 June; 19 July 1980 2 DATs (124 minutes), transcript

**Series II, 1992-1996**

**Scope and Contents**

These interviews were created after the revival of the oral history project in 1992 and were conducted by Sherrold Hollingsworth from 1992-1996.

**Access Restrictions**

Most of the interviews and transcripts are open for research; however, some restrictions apply to certain interviews and are noted in the file listing. Please contact the Director of Archives and Library for more information.



Series II,

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**Use restrictions**

Use of audiotapes may require production of listening copies.

Bechemeyer, Nancy, undated 1 audio cassette

Bragg, Nicolas B., 1995 5 audio cassettes, transcript

**Access Restrictions**

Restrictions apply.

Buchanan, Nadeina Gibson, 15 April 1993 1 DAT, transcript

Conrad, Robert C., 31 March 1993 1 DAT, transcript

Dancy, Norman, 9 July 1996 Transcript only

Disher, Irvin, 16 May 1996 Transcript only

Drage, J. Alfred, Jr., 15 April 1993 1 DAT, transcript

Eaton, Pauline, undated 1 audio cassette

Glauder, George, 12 June 1992 Transcript only

Gray, James A., undated Transcript only

Hollan, Bill, 18 July 1996 Transcript only

Series II,

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Holmes, James and Irene Heighton, undated 1 DAT

Lambeth, Tom, undated 1 audio cassette

Lash, James E., 13 October 1995 1 audio cassette, transcript

**Access Restrictions**

Restrictions apply.

McGill, Paul, undated 1 audio cassette

Monroe, John Howard, 23 September 1996 Transcript only

Sapp, Robert, 1 August 1996 Transcript only

Sigmon, Adrian, 5 September 1996 Interview notes only

Smith, Zachary, 26 March; 4 April 1996 2 audio cassettes, partial transcript

Sigmon, Alice, 2 August 1996 Transcript only

Sprinkle, Helen Sigmon, 19 July 1996 Transcript only

Thomas, George, 10 June 1992 1 audio cassette, transcript

Tuttle, Dot Hendricks, 18 December 1996 Transcript only

Miscellaneous,

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Wharton, James and Monroe, 16 July 1996 Transcript only

Wilson, Mary Lou Sigmon, 29 July 1996 1 audio cassette

**Miscellaneous, 1980; 1987**

**Scope and Contents**

These audio recordings were created as separate projects and at some point in their history were filed with similar recordings in the RHMAA Oral History Project Collection.

Babcock, Betsy Main, 13 August 1980 1 DAT (20 minutes), transcript

Hendrix, S.R. "Pops," 15 January 1987 Recorded speech