



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Morris-Jumel Mansion oral history project**

1990

Sc MG 674

## Summary

**Title:** Morris-Jumel Mansion oral history project

**Date:** 1990

**Size:** 5 folders

**Source:** Received in 1992, unknown donor.

**Abstract:** This collection consists of transcripts of oral history interviews conducted by Karen Sotiropoulos. These transcripts are photocopies of the originals held by the Museum.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Morris-Jumel Mansion oral history project, Sc MG 674, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

### Related Materials:

Melva Price papers, Sc MG 596, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

## Creator History

Morris-Jumel Mansion is the oldest house in Manhattan. Through historic site tours and education programs, the museum presents the Mansion in the context of domestic life in New York City from 1765 until 1865. Morris-Jumel Mansion seeks to serve as a cultural resource for New Yorkers, national tourists, and international visitors. The mid-20th century saw the neighborhood develop into a vibrant home to many artists and celebrities from the Harlem Renaissance including Paul Robeson, Jackie Robinson, Thurgood Marshall, and Duke Ellington.

In 1990, Karen Sotiropoulos, on behalf of the Mansion, conducted interviews with individuals who lived near the Mansion as part of the research for an exhibit entitled *Manhattan's Country House*, which opened in January 1991. The interviews mainly focused on the interviewees' impressions of the

Mansion and the district.

Karen Sotiropoulos specializes in African American, African Diaspora, and American Cultural History and earned her Ph.D. from the City University of New York where she taught American History at the CUNY colleges before arriving at Cleveland State University in 2000.

## **Scope and Content Note**

This collection consists of transcripts of oral history interviews conducted by Karen Sotiropoulos. These transcripts are photocopies of the originals held by the Museum.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American women -- Biography  
African American women -- Interviews  
African Americans -- Biography

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Oral histories (document genres)

### **Names**

Price, Melva L., 1902-1996  
Sotiropoulos, Karen, 1963-  
Morris-Jumel Mansion (Museum)

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 4 **Preston, Mildred** 1990  
Mildred Preston was born in South Carolina; she moved to New York when she was 8 and lived on Sylvan Terrace at the time of the interview.
- b. 1 f. 5 **Preston, George** 1990  
George Preston lived on 162nd Street at the time of the interview.
- b. 1 f. 6 **Price, Melva** 1990  
Melva Price was born in North Carolina in 1903; she moved to 135th Street in Harlem in 1906. She was a high-school Latin teacher.
- b. 1 f. 7 **Daniels, Pat** 1990  
Pat Daniels was born in Beacon, New York in 1920. Her father was in the import/export business and her mother was an interior designer, and they had an apartment in New York City. Ms. Daniels lived on Sylvan Terrace at the time of the interview.
- b. 1 f. 8 **James, Joseph** 1990  
Joseph James was born in Philadelphia in 1910. He worked as a concert recitalist and was involved in the labor movement, securing equal rights for Black workers in the shipbuilding industry during World War II. At the time of the interview, Mr. James lived on Sylvan Terrace.
- b. 1 f. 9 **Bowens, Willie Mae** 1990  
Willie Mae Bowens was born in South Carolina in 1904; she left for Philadelphia when she was 18. At the time of the interview, Ms. Bowens lived on Sylvan Terrace.