



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

Guide to the

Wilhelmina F. Adams papers : additions

ca. 1930-1981

Sc MG 485

Summary

Creator: Adams, Wilhelmina F. (Wilhelmina Ferris), -1987

Title: Wilhelmina F. Adams papers : additions

Date: ca. 1930-1981

Size: 4 linear feet

Source: Gift, Adams, Wilhelmina F, 1983 Gift, Adams, Wilhelmina F, 1984 Gift, Adams, Wilhelmina F, 1986 Bequest, Adams, Wilhelmina F, 1987

Abstract: The Wilhelmina F. Adams Papers (Additions) consist principally of her files chronicling her work as a civic leader primarily with New York Democratic club activities, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs (NANBPWC) and the National Council of Negro Women. These files contain correspondence, newsletters, programs, brochures, minutes of meetings, official memoranda, reports, invitations, and news clippings. Files of the NANBPWC also include membership records, directories of officers, handouts, annual conference programs, and the constitution. Scrapbooks of the NANBPWC document annual events such as contests, parties and conferences from 1968-1972, and contain programs, invitations, certificates, handmade illustrations, newsletters, correspondence, and news clippings.

Access: Advance notice required.

Conditions Governing Access:

Membership application forms of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs restricted.

Preferred citation: Wilhelmina F. Adams papers : additions, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Wilhelmina F. Adams was a political and civil rights activist for African Americans and women in New

York City. She was the first African American woman to be elected a delegate to the Democratic National Convention (1944) and was also the first African American woman to be elected co-leader of the current 17th Assembly District. Adams was active in numerous organizations, including being a life member and president of the National Council of Negro Women from 1952-1954, the National Association of Business and Professional Women and its New York Chapter, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the New York Urban League. She was the founder and president of the Aeolian Ladies of Charity, an organization devoted to assisting the aged at Christmas and other seasons of the year, president of the Utopia Neighborhood Club which was concerned with small children, and was active in the Friends of the Northside Center which was a child guidance center aimed at preventing delinquency and maladjustment. Adams' love of music and the arts was also manifested in her membership in arts organizations. Her year of birth is uncertain; she was born between 1900 and 1910.

Scope and Content Note

The Wilhelmina F. Adams Papers (Additions) consist principally of her files chronicling her work as a civic leader primarily with New York Democratic club activities, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs (NANBPWC) and the National Council of Negro Women. These files contain correspondence, newsletters, programs, brochures, minutes of meetings, official memoranda, reports, invitations, and news clippings. Files of the NANBPWC also include membership records, directories of officers, handouts, annual conference programs, and the constitution. Scrapbooks of the NANBPWC document annual events such as contests, parties and conferences from 1968-1972, and contain programs, invitations, certificates, handmade illustrations, newsletters, correspondence, and news clippings. Files from various Democratic clubs concern election campaigns and a variety of political issues. The Tioga Democratic Club and United Democratic Club are represented in Adams' files. Among the many other organizations included in this collection are: Aeolian Ladies of Charity, Friends of Liberian Youth, Harlem Hospital Chaplaincy Committee, Manhattan Borough Community Planning Board, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Order of Eastern Star, United Negro College Fund, and Women's City Club of New York. Personal papers include miscellaneous personal and business correspondence, address books and calendars she maintained, programs and marriage and death notices.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American women -- New York (State) -- New York -- Political activity
African American women -- New York (State) -- New York -- Societies and clubs
African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York -- Charities
African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York -- Economic conditions
African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York -- Societies, etc
Clubs -- New York (State) -- New York
Hospitals -- New York (State) -- New York
Women -- Political activity -- New York (State) -- New York

Geographic Names

Harlem (New York, N.Y.)
New York (N.Y.) -- Politics and government -- 1898-1951
New York (N.Y.) -- Social conditions

Titles

Schomburg NEH Automated Access to Special Collections Project

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scrapbooks

Names

Adams, Wilhelmina F. (Wilhelmina Ferris), -1987

Aeolian Ladies of Charity

Democratic Party (N.Y.)

Friends of Liberian Youth

Harlem Hospital Center. Chaplaincy Committee

Manhattan (New York, N.Y.). Community Planning Board

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs

National Council of Negro Women

Order of the Eastern Star

Tioga Democratic Club (New York, N.Y.)

United Democratic Club (New York (N.Y.))

United Negro College Fund

Women's City Club of New York