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Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Robert C. Weaver papers, Additions II

1882-2008 [bulk 1950s-1980s]

SC MG 810

Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015

Summary

Creator: Weaver, Robert C. (Robert Clifton), 1907-1997

Title: Robert C. Weaver papers, Additions II

Date: 1882-2008 [bulk 1950s-1980s]

Size: 71.84 linear feet (48 boxes, 34 volumes)

Source: Donated by Estate of Walter Stafford, 2015.

Abstract: Robert Clifton Weaver (1907-1997) was a black economist, public administrator, educator, and author. The Robert C. Weaver papers, Additions II date from 1882 to 2008 (bulk dates 1950s-1980s) and primarily document Weaver's writing on urban development, his appointment as secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and his autobiographical project. Additions II contain notes, articles, drafts, typescripts, photographs, correspondence, calendars and appointment books, interview transcripts, clippings, and publications.

Access: Advance notice required.

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Processing note: Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015

Creator History

Robert Clifton Weaver (1907-1997) was an economist, public administrator, educator, and author. He was the first black American appointed to a United States cabinet-level position when he became the secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD, 1966-1968). He also served in the John F. Kennedy administration as the Housing and Home Finance Administrator (1960). During the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration, Weaver was one of forty-five members in the Black Cabinet, an informal group of public policy advisors. Weaver held three degrees from Harvard University, including a doctorate in economics (1934). Weaver authored *Negro Labor: A National Problem* (1946); *The Negro Ghetto* (1948); *The Urban Complex: Human Values in Urban Life* (1964); *Dilemmas of Urban America* (1965); and numerous articles.

Throughout his career, Weaver was often called upon for his advisory services at the federal, state, and local government levels because of his expertise in urban development and economics. He played critical roles in the Lyndon B. Johnson administration's initiatives to develop public housing and rent-supplement programs; and other HUD efforts towards slum-clearance and metropolitan city improvements.

For a detailed chronology on Weaver's life and career, see the biographical note of The Robert C. Weaver papers finding aid.

Custodial History

In the 1970s and the 1980s, Weaver gave some of his papers to the Schomburg Center, but held onto the body of them because he planned to write his autobiography. Walter Stafford was tasked with completing this project; which is how Weaver's remaining papers ended up with his estate.

Scope and Content Note

The Robert C. Weaver papers, Additions II date from 1882 to 2008 (bulk dates 1950s-1980s) and primarily document Weaver's writing on urban development, his appointment as secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and his autobiographical project.

Weaver's interest in urban development and his evolving ideas are illuminated in his writing, such as his *Urban Complex* manuscript (1964, box 26 folders 3-5); "The Negro Comes of Age in Industry" (1943, b.19 f.11) and the "Land and Opportunity" (1975, b.19 f.5) articles; and various unpublished drafts. Weaver also offered feedback and expertise to others writing on the subject. This is reflected through the drafts and accompanying correspondence for John W. Shively's "History of Urban Renewal From 1966 to 1968," (b.26 f.7-8).

Weaver's appointment as secretary of HUD is the main subject in the Clipping Scrapbooks, and the congratulatory and farewell letters (b.11). The HUD files contain proposals and papers such as "Goals in Housing" (b.17 f.10). The chronology of HUD prepared by Joseph Garonzik provides details on the department from 1965 to 1976, including organizational charts (b.17 f.11 and b.18 f.1).

The National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing (NCDH) files demonstrate another aspect of Weaver's work, as he was the leader of a few organizations, and member of various visiting committees. While president of the NCDH, he oversaw the Housing Mobility Project, the proposed merger with the Center for National Policy Review (CNPR, 1986), and the termination of the NCDH activities (1987).

Comprehensive accounts of Weaver's work are exhibited in a transcription of Joe B. Frantz's interview (1968), in which Weaver discussed his early career up until the late 1960s; and Alma Rene Williams's thesis titled *Robert C. Weaver: From the Black Cabinet to the President's Cabinet* (1978). There is a chronology of Weaver's activities from 1960 through 1963, which includes details of his role in the signing of an executive order on equal opportunity in federally assisted housing by President Kennedy (1962). The calendar and appointment books dating from 1956 to 1992 provide glimpses into Weaver's daily personal and professional activities. Weaver intended to author an autobiography, and after he passed away, Walter Stafford, and possibly others, attempted to complete the project. This work is conveyed through the genealogy and research notes; various drafts of the text; and a notebook with information on Weaver's life and death (b.22 f.4). The materials from Weaver's memorial tribute in 1997 also contain pertinent information about his legacy. Based on the writing style of the autobiographical drafts, historical context for significant places and time periods, it appears most of the included publications from Weaver's personal library were used for reference and research during this project. A few books have marginalia, and several others have highlighter marks and post-it notes.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or format.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Appointment books
Audiovisual materials
Calendars
Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Drafts (documents)
Marginalia (annotations)
Photographs
Publications (document genre)
Research notes
Transcripts
Typescripts

Subjects

City planning
Civil service
Public administration
Urban policy
Urban renewal
Urbanization

Occupations

Educators
Male authors
Minority authors
Public officers

Names

Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973
Stafford, Walter W.
Black Cabinet

National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing
United States. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Container List

Appointment Books, Calendars, and Planners

- b. 1 1956-1990
- b. 2 f. 1-8 1965-1992
- b. 3 f. 1-4 1966-1992
- b. 3 f. 5-7 The Bernard M. Baruch College of the City University of New York 1968-1970
- b. 4 f. 1 Boards 1976-1988
- b. 4 f. 2 Business and Identification Cards 1925-1978
- b. 4 f. 3-4 The City University of New York 1970-1971
- b. 4 f. 5 Chronology 1960-1964
- b. 4 f. 6-8 Clippings 1943-1992

Clippings Scrapbooks

- v. 1 1946-1948
- v. 2 1954-1957
- v. 3 1957-1960
- b. 4 f. 9-12 1957-1964
- v. 4 1961
- v. 5 1961
- v. 6 1961
- v. 7 1961-1964
- v. 8 1961-1965
- v. 9 1962
- v. 10 1962
- v. 11 1962-1963
- v. 12 1963
Includes a few photographs.
- b. 5 f. 1-5 1963-1965
- v. 13 1964
- v. 14 1964
- v. 15 1964-1965
- v. 16 1964-1966
Includes a couple of certificates.
- v. 17 1965
Contains a few photographs and letters.
- v. 18 1965
- v. 19 1965-1966
- v. 20 1966
- v. 21 1966
- v. 22 1966-1967
- v. 23 1966-1968

Clippings Scrapbooks (cont.)

- v. 24 1966-1968
Also contains photographs of Weaver, Johnson, Robert Kennedy, and others.
- v. 25 1967
- v. 26 1967
- v. 27 1967-1968
- v. 28 1968
- v. 29 1968
- v. 30 1968
- v. 31 1969-1973
- v. 32 1973-1977
- b. 5 f. 6 Communist Party 1941-1961
- Correspondence
- b. 5 f. 7-13 1929-1994
- b. 6 f. 1-12 1944-1999
- b. 7 f. 1-9 1978-1991
- b. 8 f. 1-8 1986-1991
- b. 8 f. 9 Black Board Members 1971-1973
- b. 8 f. 10 Book Reviews 1988
- b. 8 f. 11 Carnegie Mellon University, School of Urban and Public Affairs 1984
- b. 9 f. 1-2 Children's Television Workshop 1980
- b. 9 f. 3-4 Harvard University, School of Design 1973-1983
- b. 9 f. 5-6 Holiday Cards and Sympathy Letters 1960s
Sympathy letters pertain to his son's fatal accident.
- b. 9 f. 7-9 Invitations 1961-1972
- v. 33 Invitations Scrapbook 1940-1964
Also contains a few letters from the White House.
- b. 10 f. 1-5 Invitations Scrapbooks and Greeting Cards 1961-1968
- b. 10 f. 6-7 Johnson, Lyndon Baines 1967-1976
- b. 10 f. 8 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) 1975-1992
- b. 11 f. 1 Poets 1945-1973
Including Sterling Allen Brown, Langston Hughes, and William Waring Cuney. Some of the letters contain original poetry.
- b. 11 f. 2 Real Estate Fund of America 1971-1973
- b. 11 f. 3 Teacher's Retirement System 1971-1979
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- b. 11 f. 4-5 Congratulatory Letters 1966
- b. 11 f. 6-8 Farewell Letters and Banquet Photographs 1968
- b. 11 f. 9 Last Days at HUD 1968
- b. 12 f. 1-3 Last Days at HUD 1968
- b. 12 f. 4 The Urban Institute 1970-1971

Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 12 f. 5 **Watson, Denton L 1985-1986**
Pertaining to Watson's biography on Clarence Mitchell.
- b. 12 f. 6 **The White House 1967-1993**
- b. 12 f. 7 **White House Conference on the Aging -- Advisory Committee 1980**
- b. 12 f. 8 **Democratic Housing Task Force -- Advisory Committee 1981-1982**
- b. 12 f. 9 **Diary Entries 1961-1967**
Loose pages.
- b. 12 f. 10 **Dunbar High School 1917-1984**
- b. 12 f. 11-12 **Employment 1938-1943**
- b. 12 f. 13-14 **Estate Files 1970-1997**
Contains a few versions of Weaver's and his wife's wills; Trinity Church Cemetery and Mausoleums Certificate; power of Attorney form for Walter Stafford; and some correspondence.
- b. 13 f. 1-2 **Federal Building Dedication 2000**
Federal Building Dedication 2000
origvid.233030
TV news excerpts and full event coverage

Original video unavailable until digitized.
- b. 13 f. 3 **Fellowship at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service 1990s**
Established scholarship in Weaver's name.
- b. 13 f. 4 **File Guide 2000s**
- b. 13 f. 5 **Harvard University -- Race 1979-1985**
- b. 13 f. 6-11 **Housing 1964-1989**
- b. 13 f. 12 **Hunter College -- Employment 1972-1979**
Interviews
The Lee White interview discusses Weaver. In the other transcriptions, Weaver is the person being interviewed.
- b. 13 f. 13-14 **1964-1991**
 - b. 14 f. 1 **1965**
- b. 14 f. 2-3 **Frantz, Joes B 1968**
Language and Self Part II; "Let's Find Out" 1960s
origsr.233014
Original sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- b. 14 f. 4-7 **Moynihan, Daniel Patrick 1964**
- b. 14 f. 8 **Schussheim, Morton J 1985**
- b. 14 f. 9 **White, Lee 1963-2000**
- b. 14 f. 10-11 **Lavanburg Foundation 1973-1974**
- b. 14 f. 12 **Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Services 1968**
Program.

- b. 15 f. 1-3 **Memorial Services 1971-1997**
Weaver and others.

- b. 15 f. 4 **Memorial Tribute 1997**
- b. 15 f. 5-7 **Municipal Assistance Corporation for the City of New York (MAC) 1987-1989**
- b. 15 f. 8 **Mutual Real Estate Investment Trust -- Board of Trustees Meeting 1984**
- b. 15 f. 9 **NAACP -- Spingarn Medal Program 1988**
- b. 15 f. 10-12 **National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing (NCDH) 1962-1987**
- b. 16 f. 1-4 **NCDH 1962-1987**
Ohio University -- Space Age Decision-Making Techniques For Community Development 1960s
origsr.233004
Original sound recording unavailable until digitized.

- b. 16 f. 5-9 **Photographs 1910s-1990s**
 - b. 1 **Passports 1946-1966**
 - b. 1 **Rolodex 1950s-1980s**
- b. 16 f. 10-11 **Rolodex 1960s-1980s**
- b. 17 f. 1-2 **Stafford, Walter 1960s-2006**
- b. 17 f. 3-5 **Stocks and Bonds 1960s-1980s**
- b. 17 f. 6 **Travel to Europe 1962-1970**
- b. 17 f. 7 **Tribute Luncheon 1978**
- b. 17 f. 8 **Tribute Program 1990**
Urbanissimo 1960s
origsr.233023
An expo souvenir from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Sound recording (unavailable)
- b. 17 f. 9 **United States Delegation -- Peruvian Inaugural Ceremonies 1963**
- b. 17 f. 10-11 **United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 1962-1976**
- b. 18 f. 1-5 **HUD 1962-1980s**
Weaver, Ella Haith
Ella Haith Weaver was Robert C. Weaver's wife. These files contain letters, biographies, resumes, invitations, and a personal diary.

- b. 18 f. 6-10 **1966-1993**
 - v. 34 **Diary 1928-1929, 2000**
M.R. Lecture 1960s
origsr.233036
Original sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Writings

- b. 19 f. 1-4 **Addresses 1936-1984**
- b. 19 f. 5-11 **Articles 1943-1989**
- b. 20 f. 1-7 **Articles and Papers 1935-1985**

Writings (cont.)

Autobiographical Project

- b. 20 f. 8-9 Biographical Materials 1960-1991
- b. 20 f. 10-11 Drafts 1960s-1980s
- b. 21 f. 1-12 Drafts, Notes, and Research Materials 1944-2008
- b. 22 f. 1-2 "Family, Education, Associates, Work Experience, and Research" 1980s
- b. 22 f. 3-11 Notes and Research Materials 1901-2007

Publications

Used as a reference library for the project, loosely organized by subject. Subject headings were taken from the original boxes.

- b. 28 1902-2005
 - b. 29 1927-1997
 - b. 30 1931-2003
 - b. 31 1943-1985
 - b. 32 1945-1996
Contains a couple editions of Weaver's *The Urban Complex* (1960 and 1964); and other publications with his articles or contributions.
 - b. 33 Classics 1895-1969
 - b. 34 District of Columbia Research Reference Books 1917-2003
 - b. 35 Dunbar High School/ Harvard University 1928-1979
Yearbooks and alumni publications.
 - b. 36 Early Urban/Labor 1933-1987
Three volumes of the *The Urban Negro Worker in the United States*; Weaver was the administrator of survey.
 - b. 37 Harvard University/ Boston/Reconstruction/Civil Rights 1927-1995
Contains Weaver's article "Negro Labor Since 1929" in *The Journal of Negro History* (1950).
 - b. 38 Housing/Urban/Biography Reference 1928-1998
 - b. 39 New Deal/Civil Rights 1922-1991
 - b. 40 New Deal/LBJ/Blacks in United States 1954-2000
 - b. 41 Presidential Critique 1932-2002
 - b. 42 Presidential/Slavery 1936-1993
 - b. 43 Race 1927-1990
 - b. 44 Race/Presidential Biography/Classics 1913-1990
 - b. 45 References/Biography 1934-1997
 - b. 46 Roosevelt, Franklin Delano/Johnson, Lyndon Baines 1956-2004
 - b. 47 Slavery/Biography 1931-2003
 - b. 48 Slavery/Civil Rights 1928-1999
- Research Materials
- b. 23 f. 1-9 1882-2008
 - b. 24 f. 1-8 1963-2007
 - b. 25 f. 1-10 2002-2006

Writings (cont.)

- b. 25 f. 11 Proposal for an Urban Development Corporation 1965
- b. 26 f. 1 "Report to Mayor Robert F. Wagner" 1960
- b. 26 f. 2 Speech -- "Our People and Their Cities" Conference 1966
- b. 26 f. 3-5 *The Urban Complex* 1964
Manuscript

Writings by Others

- b. 26 f. 6-10 1976-1995
- b. 27 f. 1-5 Williams, Alma René -- Thesis 1972-1980
Robert C. Weaver: From the Black Cabinet to the President's Cabinet