

Sumner Glenwood Community Maps Collection

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	Miller, Clarence William, 1908-1988
Title	Sumner Glenwood Community Maps Collection
Date	1970s-1980s
Extent	2.08 Linear feet
Language	English

History

Clarence William Miller was born on August 22, 1908 in La Grange, Missouri. He was the eldest of ten children born to Joseph Irving and Clarissa Lewis Miller. In 1914, his family migrated to Minneapolis where the rest of the family was born and raised. Clarence was educated in the Minneapolis public school system and graduated from the Sumner Grade School in 1924. He attended high school, but left before graduating in order to work. One of his first jobs was at the Minneapolis Recreation Parlor on Hennepin Avenue where such notables as J. Paul Getty and “Minnesota Fats” entertained themselves.

In 1928, Clarence met Helen Clack and they were married on September 19, 1931. From this union, two daughters, Marlyn and Carol, were born. Clarence worked at the Jefferson Bus Lines until 1946. He and the family took a vacation to visit Helen’s sister in California and ended up staying. His first job was with Fruehoff Trucking as a painter. Then he went to work for the Pacific Bell Company until his retirement. While constantly reminiscing and correcting the nature of data and events, Clarence put his fondest memories on paper, creating maps of the Sumner Glenwood area. He continued to work on this project well into his retirement. He died on February 23, 1988.

During the 1920s, the Sumner Glenwood community was comprised of many individuals who were Black or Jewish. Miller states that during this time period many of the businesses were changing from Jewish owners to Black owners. Many houses and apartment buildings were nestled in amongst warehouses, businesses, railway lines, businesses, churches, synagogues and schools. There were recreational areas like tennis courts, football fields, and ice skating rinks. By the 1930s, housing in the Sumner Field area had fallen into disrepair, and the Federal government allocated \$3.5 million to improve it. By 1938, the Sumner Field Homes Federal Housing Project was completed.

Description of Collection

This collection consists of 9 hand-drawn maps of streets in the Sumner Glenwood neighborhood as they existed from 1924-1928. The maps identify streets, railroads, houses, businesses, churches, synagogues, warehouses, bridges, parks and schools. Clarence Miller, the creator of the maps, added notes to each map that provide information about the community, its businesses, and residents. The collection contains a key showing how the individual maps fit together to form one larger map of the neighborhood. Reproduction copies of the maps are held at Sumner Library in Minneapolis.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Sumner-Glenwood Neighborhood (Minneapolis, Minn.)
- Sumner-Glenwood Neighborhood (Minneapolis, Minn.) -- History.

Collection Inventory

Box

Map 1

1

Scope and Contents note

Map coverage includes the following streets: 5th St. N, Hoag Ave., 8th Ave. N, 7th Ave. N, and 6th Ave N. Shows railroad tracks, apartment buildings, houses, a wagon and truck garage, machine shop business fronts, Reagan's Bakery, Zion Baptist Church, and Sunshine Potato Chips. Miller notes that up until 1921, all businesses owned by African Americans on the north side of the city were located on 5th St. between 6th Ave. and 8th Ave. N. This section was called Deep 6th and "bucket of blood."

Map 2

1

Scope and Contents note

Map coverage includes the following streets: 7th St. N, 3rd Ave. N, Holden St., Glenwood Ave. N, Currie Ave. N, and 11th St. N. Shows the Great Northern Railway, freight yard, Luce Electric Railroad, Butler Bros. Warehouse, Pittsburgh Coal Co., Wells Memorial Settlement House, Jefferson Transportation Co., Universal Film Exchange, Dayton's Warehouse, apartment buildings, and other warehouses.

Map 3

1

Scope and Contents note

Map coverage includes the following streets: Bradford Ave., Oakland Ave., 8th Ave. N, 7th St. N, 6th St. N, 5th St. N, Royalston Ave., Highland Ave., and 7th St. N. Shows residential houses including Miller's residence from 1918-1926 at 617 7th Ave. N,

apartment buildings, Pioneer Paper Stock Co., Otis Elevator Co., Lavioris Manufacturing, drugstores, grocery stores, O. W. Owens Electric Manufacturing, and vacate houses.

Map 4

1

Scope and Contents note

Map coverage includes the following streets: Royalston Ave., Highland Ave., Highland Place, Border Ave., Holden St., railroad trestle bridge, Glenwood Ave., and 12th St. N. Shows residential houses, Kemps Ice Cream Co., fire station barn, warehouses, Speed o-lac paints, Pearsons Candy Co., store front businesses, apartment buildings, and machine shops.

Map 5

1

Scope and Contents note

Map coverage includes the following streets: Lyndale Ave. N, Lyndale Place, Aldrich Ave. N, Bassett Place, 8th Ave. N, 6th Ave. N, and 5th Ave. N. Shows Phyllis Wheatley House (808 Bassett Place), neighborhood houses and grocery stores, business district on 6th Ave. N and radiating streets Aldrich and Lyndale, gas stations on Lyndale and 7th St. N, carnival grounds north of 7th St. N, Feinberg's Sausage Co., apartment buildings, Wolverine Club (top floor of Wartnick Grocery and Fruits), Hecker's Meat Market, a synagogue, Charley's Pool Hall, Elks Restaurant, Reneseth's Israel Temple, Goldman Box Factory, and Sumner School.

Map 6

1

Scope and Contents note

Map coverage includes the following streets: Lyndale Ave. N, Aldrich Ave. N, 4th Ave. N, 3rd Ave. N, and Glenwood Ave. N. Contains a list of churches, restaurants, delis, nightclubs, barbershops, pool halls, bands, and a list of members of the Wolverine Club.

Shows Cedar Lake Ice & Fuels Co. and Munsingwear Co. Miller notes that there were two men's clubs in this area, the Wolverine Club and and the Four Leaf Clover Club.

Map 7

1

Scope and Contents note

Map coverage includes the following streets: Bryant Ave. N, Dupont Ave. N, Emerson Ave. N, starting north of 8th Ave. N. To the northwest off the map but identified is Grant School at 12th and Girard. Also shows houses on the east side of Bryant and south of Dupont, tennis courts, an ice skating rink, a warming house, and baseball and football fields.

Map 8

1

Scope and Contents note

Map coverage includes the following streets: Bryant Ave. N, Sumner Place, Dupont Ave. S, Jewett Place, Emerson Ave. N, 8th Ave. N, 6th Ave. N, and 5th Ave. N (Glenwood Ave. N-Western Ave.). Shows Miller's residences at 523 Colfax Ave. N (1926-1931) and 522 Colfax Ave. N (1934-1942), a synagogue, Jacket factory, Minneapolis Knitting Mills, horse stables and Wolf's Transfer Station, a gymnasium just off the map in the Sumner School building, shade factory, Liberty Theater, Jewish Bakery-northside, Sumner Library, Distillery Waterworks, Northside Lumber Co., Sumner Field, and Miller's Plantatorium, a dry cleaning establishment and the first business with a Black owner to open in the 6th Ave. N and Lyndale area. Miller notes that 5th St. was called "Deep 6th," streetcars and buses ran on 5th and 6th Avenues, and until the mid-twenties students at Sumner School were predominantly Jewish.

Map 9

1

Scope and Contents note

Map coverage includes the following streets: Bryant Ave. N, Colfax Ave. N, Dupont Ave. N, Emerson Ave. N, 4th Ave. N, 3rd Ave. N, and Glenwood Ave. N (Western Ave). Shows Miller's residence at 420 Dupont Ave. from 1931-1934 and 1942-1946, business district on Glenwood, Northland Milk Co., manufacturing buildings, and Harrison School off the map west of Emerson.