

Collection #  
P 0698

**INDIANAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD  
SLIDES, 1977**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 3 color slide bins

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1977

**PROVENANCE:** Joan S. Bey, Indianapolis, IN

**RESTRICTIONS:** Color slides in cold storage need at least 4 hours to acclimate, so patrons should call ahead if they wish to view materials that are in cold storage.

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** M 0786 Lockefield Gardens Apartments Records, 1935–1954

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1995.0773

**NOTES:**

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

### **Lockefield**

Lockefield Gardens is an apartment complex that was built between 1935 and 1938. It was built as a Public Works Administration project, exclusively for low-income African Americans in Indianapolis. It included small play areas, larger playgrounds, and a landscaped mall. Lockefield experienced a decline in the 1950s as other housing options opened up for African Americans. The complex closed in 1976, and following political controversy, a number of structures were demolished in the early 1980s. The only structures remaining sit in a triangular shape within the boundaries of University Boulevard, Indiana Avenue, and North Street. They serve predominantly as apartments for IUPUI students. The demolished structures sat on the south end extending to North Street, and on the west end to what is now the other side of University Boulevard. Lockefield Gardens was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

### **Ravenswood**

Ravenswood is a northside Indianapolis community bordered by the White River, Keystone Avenue, and 71<sup>st</sup> Street. It was platted in 1910 by Marion Trust Company and began as riverside resort community. Originally, affluent families built cottages on the site. By the mid-1920s, the river changed course and areas became swampy. Flooding was a continual problem and by 1950s and 1960s, property values had depressed significantly. In the 1970s, new residents became interested in the affordable housing and bought and restored homes in the neighborhood. However, the population still decreased from 650 in 1970 to 460 in 1988. In December of that year, the city of Indianapolis gained full control of the neighborhood. A large flood in 1991 caused significant damage to homes and properties in the area.

### **Martindale-Brightwood**

Martindale was an eastside Indianapolis neighborhood bordered by 30th Street, Keystone Avenue, Massachusetts Avenue, and Norfolk Southern Tracks (Monon). It was settled by Frederick Ruschaupt and Gustave Zschech in 1873. That same year, developers platted Brightwood along the east side of Martindale. By 1878, African Americans were making their homes and building churches in the area. In the 1960s, suffering from low incomes and increased crime, citizens formed the Martindale-Brightwood Neighborhood Association. In 1969, Martindale-Brightwood received Model Neighborhood's designation of "most in need" district in a federal rehabilitation program. In the 1990s, the neighborhood remained an area of small African American-owned, working-class homes, intermixed with industry.

Sources:

M 0786, Lockefield Gardens Apartments Records, 1935–1954, <https://indianahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/lockefield-garden-apartments-indianapolis-ind.pdf>, accessed 31 July, 2018.

“Lockefield Gardens: Summary of History and Significance,” City of Indianapolis and Marion County website,  
<http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DMD/IHPC/Districts/Historic/Pages/lockefield.aspx>,  
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Donnelly, Cathleen. “Ravenswood.” *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, ed. David J. Bodenhamer and Robert G. Barrows (Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994), 1166-1167.

Zeigler, Connie J., “Martindale.” *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, ed. David J. Bodenhamer and Robert G. Barrows (Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994), 978.

Information in collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains seventy 35mm color positive slides of the interior and exterior of Lockefield Gardens, homes in Ravenswood, homes around College Avenue and Broadway Avenue, near Martindale-Brightwood, as well as some homes near the north side of Indianapolis. All photos were taken by John C. Bey as part of a project at Broad Ripple High School.

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Two story white house, red 401 Independent Cab Co.  
car outside

Bin 3

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Ripple

Bin 3

Dilapidated house and trailer by White River in Broad  
Ripple

Bin 3