

Collection #
SC 3556

**WILLIAM T. RAY
PAPERS ADDITION, CA. 1980–1998**

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Processed by

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December 2018

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 manuscript folders

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1980–1998

PROVENANCE: Paul S. Ray, Brooklyn, NY

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: William Theodore Ray Papers, 1945–1996 (SC2983; OMB 0140)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2017.0266

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Theodore Ray (1916–2010) was an African-American businessman and politician in the Indianapolis area. Ray was born in New Haven, Connecticut. He attended the public schools of Caldwell, New Jersey, and Oberlin College from 1934 to 1936. For the 1938–1939 school year, he attended Cleveland College part-time and worked on a degree in business administration.

In September 1941, Ray was drafted and served in the South Pacific Theater during World War II. He earned a bronze star and attained the rank of Major in the U.S. Army.

After the war, Ray went to Indiana University – Indianapolis from 1946 to 1947 for a degree in real estate, and then became a self-employed realtor, and dealt mainly with residential and investment property sales. He was an advocate of residential desegregation, and in 1965, he became the first black member of the Indianapolis Real Estate Board. During this time, he also served as the interim president of the regional office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for the Greater Indianapolis Area.

In 1973, Governor Otis R. Bowen selected Ray to be his Executive Assistant. He was primarily responsible for state and local government affairs. During his time as assistant, he helped create the State Department of Community Services, a program for Urban Mass Transit, and the state Housing Authority.

After working in the Bowen administration, Ray was appointed as director of the Indiana Department of Finance Institutions by Governor Robert D. Orr. As director, Ray regulated state-chartered banks, savings and loans, credit unions, and commercial lenders. He also served as Chairman of the Midwest National Bank from 1983 to 1987, and as a trustee of the Sarah Walker (Madam C. J. Walker) Estate. Furthermore, he served on the Board of Directors for the Richard G. Lugar Fund for Hoosier Excellence and was chairman between the years 1983–1989. He also served as Chairman for the Board of Directors for the Business Opportunity Systems (BOS) Community Development Corporation.

He was a member of Witherspoon Presbyterian Church and the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

Sources:

William Theodore Ray Papers, 1945–1996 (SC 2983; OMB 0140)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains information pertaining to the agreement and sale of the Madame C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company. There are also records pertaining to the dissolution of the trust and the disposition of assets and tax documents. Also included in this collection are correspondence and minutes.

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Correspondence, 1986–1998, n.d.

Madame C.J. Walker MFG. Co. Board of Directors
Minutes, 1980–1986

Agreement of Sale of Madame C.J. Walker
Manufacturing Company, Inc., 1985

Petition for the Termination of the Trust and
Disposition of Assets, 1985–1993

Tax Documents, 1991–1993

CONTAINER

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