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Elsie Brown Smith Papers
DCAAP.0036
Moorland-Spingarn Research Center,
Howard University Collection Number 233

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August 09, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DC Africana Archives Project
Gelman Library
Special Collections, Suite 704
2130 H Street NW
Washington DC, 20052

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Summary Information

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| Repository | DC Africana Archives Project |
| Title | Elsie Brown Smith Papers |
| Date | 1900-1989 |
| Extent | 8.0 Cubic feet |
| Location note | This collection is part of the holdings of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, 500 Howard Place, NW, Washington, DC 20059. Please contact them for information on accessing these materials. |
| Language | English |
| Abstract | Elsie Brown Smith was an educator at Dunbar High School for many years. Her papers include correspondence, writings by Elsie Brown Smith, M Street High School and Dunbar High School historical materials, photographs, teaching materials, subject files on school desegregation, printed material, scrapbookgs, and printed materials on Walter L. Smith, husband of Elsie. |

Biographical/Historical note

Elsie Brown Smith was born in Washington, D.C. on June 25, 1895. Her parents, Rev. Sterling N. Brown and Adelaide A. Brown, had five other children. Her brother was Sterling A. Brown, literary scholar and professor at Howard University. Her sister Helen Brown, who was barely a year younger, was also a teacher. Elsie Brown Smith attended Dunbar High School (M Street) in D.C., and attended Howard University for her undergraduate degree. She earned a master's degree in English from the University of Vermont. When she returned to D.C. in 1918, Smith began working at Dunbar High School. She was extremely active and created many programs for the students and faculty members, including the first National Honor Society chapter for the school in 1924. She also managed the Girls Victory Corps at Dunbar during WWII. Smith designed curriculum for high school teachers and incorporated extra-curricular activities into the academic year. She also provided arts and humanities activities in the classroom. In the 1950s, Smith worked for school integration, both locally and nationally. Smith retired from Dunbar High School in 1962.

Apart from her teaching career, Smith was also involved in local, regional and national organizations. Smith worked with the International Relations Club of Greater Washington and was a member of the American Association of University Women. She was a charter member of the Washington D.C. Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Smith married Walter L. Smith, who was the principal of Dunbar High School.

Scope and Contents note

The Elsie Brown Smith Papers date from 1900-1989 and contain, correspondence, writings by Elsie Brown Smith, M Street High School and Dunbar High School historical materials, photographs, teaching materials, subject files on school desegregation, printed material, scrapbookgs, and printed materials on Walter L. Smith, husband of Elsie.

Arrangement note

This collection is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

DC Africana Archives Project

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use note

Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of Sumner School Archives, 1990.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Helen Brown Papers Sterling N. Brown Papers

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