

HARRIS, HELEN CURL.

Helen Curl Harris papers, 1936-1980

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Harris, Helen Curl.
Title: Helen Curl Harris papers, 1936-1980
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 977
Extent: 1.25 linear ft. (3 boxes)
Abstract: Papers of Helen Curl Harris, an African American hairdresser from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Source

Purchase, 2004.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Helen Curl Harris papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Elizabeth Russey, August 23, 2006.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Helen Curl Harris was an African American hairdresser and business owner from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Skidmore Vocation School and the Philadelphia Charm and

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Model School. Harris operated several businesses in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, including Curl's Beautyrama, Curl's Beauty Salon and Charm Service, and Curl's Moderne Beautyrama, and created her own line of make-up and hair products.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains papers of Helen Curl Harris from 1936-1980. The papers include certificates, financial material, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and printed material. The majority of the collection concerns Harris's Philadelphia-based wig salons and charm schools including a small number of receipts, correspondence, rubber stamps, and newspaper clippings containing advertising material for Harris's businesses. The collection also contains a number of signed and unsigned photographs of Ella Fitzgerald, who purchased wigs from Harris; printed material and a church fan related to African American social and civic organizations in Philadelphia; beauty catalogues and magazines concerning African American beauty culture; photographs of Harris's hairstyling, and two cigarette lighters from Skidmore Vocational School. The collection also includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs related to Harris's lawyer Judge Raymond Pace Alexander.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Certificates and licenses, 1953-1960
1	2	Correspondence, 1944-1966
1	3	Correspondence, undated
1	4	Financial records, 1938-1947
1	5	Marriage license, Helen Curl and Al Wesley Harris, 1947
1	6	Newspaper clippings, 1957-1968
1	7	Photographs, Alexander, Raymond and Sadie Marshall Alexander
1	8	Photographs, Curl's Beautyrama
1	9	Photograph, Dupree, Alberta
1	10	Photographs, Harris, Helen Curl
1	11	Photographs, Harris, Helen Curl and Ella Fitzgerald
1	12	Photographs, Harris, Helen Curl and others
1	13	Photographs, headshots of hairstyles [1 of 2]
1	14	Photographs, headshots of hairstyles [2 of 2]
1	15	Photographs, Helen Curl product line, 1964[?]
2	1	Photographs, wigs [1 of 3]
2	2	Photographs, wigs [2 of 3]
2	3	Photographs, wigs [3 of 3]
2	4	Photographs, unidentified

Printed material

2	5	Catalog, "An Album of Hair-Do's for Faces that Go Places," Harlem Hair Modes, New York, 1948
2	6	Church fan, Hankins Funeral Home, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2	7	Curl's Beauty Salon and Charm Service
2	8	Curl's Moderne Beautyrama
2	9	Dr. Fred Palmer's Skin Whitener
2	10	Invitation, The Association of Business and Professional Women of Philadelphia and Vicinity, January 13, 1956
2	11	Invitation, Downpour of Glamour in Fashion, East Germantown "I-B" Club, Pennsylvania, March 17, 1956
2	12	Invitation, Annual Ball, Pyramid Club of Philadelphia, April 13, 1956
2	13	Invitation, Glamour Logue, Vera Gunn's Models of Philadelphia, May 20, 1956
2	13	Invitation, La Grande Fete, The Citizens Venerating Committee, July 14-15, 1956
2	14	Invitation, 5th Annual Charity Jamboree, Los Hermanos, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 14, 1956

- 2 15 Invitation, May Elizabeth Alexander and Melvin Frank Brown's wedding, September 28, 1957
- 2 16 Invitation, Sixth Annual Fashion Classic Top Rung, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 26, 1960
- 2 17 Invitation, First Annual Dinner for Heritage House, Philadelphia Cotillion Society, May 27, 1960
- 2 18 Invitation, Ella Fitzgerald and Emily Miles Luncheon and Fashion Show, Merchantville, New Jersey, November 17, 1962
- 2 19 Invitation, Women's Campaign Fund Luncheon, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 23, 1980
- 2 20 Invitation, Silver Anniversary Soiree, Traveleers Civic-Social Club, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 25, 1980
- 2 21 Invitation, Curl's Charm Matinee Service, undated
- 2 22 Invitation, Xquisite Extravaganza New Year's Eve, United Civic Organizations, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, undated
- 2 23 Helen Curl Cosmetics
- 2 24 LaVerne's Moderne Beautyrama
- 2 25 Magazine, "Beauty Trade," New York, July 1958, January 1962, February 1962, March 1964, 1968, 1974
- 2 26 Magazine, "Fashion Show Case Magazine," Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, undated
- 2 27 Magazine, "Flaire," April 1962
- 2 28 Magazine, "Gold Medal of Sheepshead Bay, Carnival of Beauty," undated
- 2 29 Magazine, "New Beauty and Glamour with Hair Creations," Humania Hair Goods and Specialty Company, New York, 1961
- 2 30 Magazine, "Valmour Hair Styles, Chicago, 1966
- 2 31 Newspaper, "The Beauty World," July 1956
- 2 32 Poster, Hair Strate Permanent
- 2 33 Poster, Nulox Corporation
- 3 1 Program, Amethyst Cross of Malta, Philadelphia Cotillion Society, December 30, 1955
- 3 2 Program, Emily Miles, Ewing Park Community Club, Trenton, New Jersey, March 4, 1956
- 3 3 Program, Fashion Extravaganza, Fai-Ho-Cha Club, Trenton, New Jersey, March 25, 1956
- 3 4 Program, Glamour League, Curl's Matinee Charm Service, May 20, 1956
- 3 5 Program, Miss Sepia Philadelphia Contest, November 29, 1956
- 3 6 Program, Mother's Day, Hamilton Methodist Church, Los Angeles, California, May 12, 1957
- 3 7 Program, 4th Annual Seashore Cabaret and Dance, Oldtimers 30 Year Club of Philadelphia, July 13, 1958

- 3 8 Program, Ebony's Symphony in Fashions, National Urban League Guild, New York, October 2, 1960
- 3 9 Program, Greater St. Matthew Independent Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 16, 1960
- 3 10 Program, Second Annual Banquet, Philadelphia Business League, March 15, 1961
- 3 11 Program, Show of Shows, Helen Curl and Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 12, 1964
- 3 12 Program, Musical Fiesta Tea and Fashion Show, Zonta Social Club, Stephen Smith Home for the Aged, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 14, 1965
- 3 13 Program, Community Cooperation Dinner Honoring James Farmer, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 10, 1969
- 3 14 Program, 25th Celebration, Greater St. Matthew Independent Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 18, 1975
- 3 15 Program, Volunteers in Aid of Sickle Cell Anemia, 13th Annual Luncheon, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 31, 1971
- 3 16 Yearbook, Alamo Beauty School, Wichita, Kansas, 1945

Ephemera

- 3 17 Skidmore Vocational School cigarette lighters
- 3 18 Rubber stamps
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