PEEL, JESSE R.
Jesse R. Peel papers, 1956-2013

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Peel, Jesse R.
Title: Jesse R. Peel papers, 1956-2013
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1231
Extent: 24.5 linear feet (41 boxes), 1 oversized papers box (OP), 4 bound volumes (BV), 3 oversized bound volumes (OBV), AV Masters: 2.25 linear feet (3 boxes), and 32.3 MB of born digital materials (12 files)
Abstract: Papers of Atlanta LGBTQ activist Jesse Peel, including correspondence, subject files, journals, manuscripts, and audiovisual materials.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Rose Library in advance to access this collection.

Access to processed born digital materials is only available in the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (the Rose Library). Use of the original digital media is restricted.

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Source
Gift, 2012 with subsequent additions.

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Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Jesse R. Peel papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Born digital materials processed by Katherine Fisher, March 2022. Born digital materials include files taken from one compact disc. A forensic disk image was created using Guymager. Individual files were extracted using FTK Imager and scanned for viruses using ClamAV anti-virus software; none were found. Access copies retain original formats and file names. File dates may have been changed from their original creation dates.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note
Jesse R. Peel (1940-) is an HIV positive Atlanta, Georgia, psychiatrist and activist in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community. He was born in Everett, North Carolina, to J. Woolard (1914-1984) and Helen Peel (1916-2005). He completed his undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, graduating from medical school in 1965, completed his internship from 1965-66, and did his residency in psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, in 1966-69. Peel served in the United States Navy Medical Corps as a lieutenant and did tours in Vietnam (1969-1970) and Okinawa, Japan (1969-1970). He moved to Atlanta in 1976 and was a founding member in AIDS groups such as AID Atlanta and Positive Impact. He also worked with the Lesbian and Gay Funding Initiative, Metropolitan Atlanta Community Foundation AIDS Fund, the Georgia Task Force on AIDS, and the AIDS Legacy project among other groups working to help those affected with the disease.

Scope and Content Note
The collection consists of the personal papers of Dr. Jesse R. Peel from 1956-2013, including correspondence; journals and appointment books; galley proofs of his memoir, Camp Merton Chronicles; subject files; photographs and albums; scrapbooks; and audiovisual material. The journals, appointment books, and photograph albums in the collection are the basis of his autobiography, Camp Merton Chronicles and included are folders of inserts, materials that were used as visuals in the work. The subject files primarily focus on Peel's work in the Atlanta LGBTQ community and his work with a number of AIDS organizations including the Atlanta Buyers Club Foundation, the AIDS Legacy Project, and his work on John Howell Park, a public park in the Virginia-Highland neighborhood. Scrapbooks and correspondence primarily document his time in school from elementary through medical residency. Audiovisual material includes recorded letters Peel sent to his parents during his deployment to Vietnam.
in the 1960s, as well as video recordings of Peel's speeches and his Leon Allen and Winston Johnson Community Leadership Award acceptance from the Human Rights Campaign.

**Arrangement Note**
Arranged by record type.
## Container List

### Appointment books, journals, and yearbooks

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Yearbook, Robersonville High School, 1956
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Yearbook, Robersonville High School, 1958

Camp Merton Chronicles

Forewords
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Book I, Volume I, draft [2 of 4]
Book I, Volume I, draft [3 of 4]
Book I, Volume I, draft [4 of 4]
Book I, Volume I, final copy
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Book IV, Volume XVI, draft [1 of 2]

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Book IV, Volume XVI, inserts, 2009

Book IV, Volume XVI, inserts, part 2, 2009

Book V, Prequel, 1956, draft

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18 3 1968 August-December
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BV1 - Album, no date
BV2 - Album, no date
BV3 - Album, no date
33 3 Album, Peel wedding, 1966
20 4 Ayers, Brenda, no date
20 5 Babils, Anna (cousin), no date
33 4 Buffalo Chips, cloggers, no date
20 6 Camp Merton, circa 1978
OP1 1 Class photographs, University of North Carolina Medical School, Class of 1965
AV3 - East Carolina University homecoming, October 17, 2009 (compact disc)
       [Original RESTRICTED]
RRL - Access copies of processed digital material: East Carolina University
       homecoming, October 17, 2009 [Reading room access ONLY]
33 5 Elementary school play, no date
33 6 Group, unidentified, no date
20 7 "John," no date
20 8 Louganis, Greg, 1995
20 10 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, 1996
20 11 Peel, J. Woolard and Helen, circa 1940s, 1958
20 12 Peel, J. Woolard and Helen, 1976
20 13 Peel, Jesse, circa 1960s
20 14 Peel, Jesse, circa 1970s
33 7 Peel, Jesse and marines, no date
34 - Slide show: 1969, Vietnam [1]
34 - Slide show: 1969, Vietnam [3]
34 - Slide show: 1970, Okinawa [1]
34 - Slide show: 1970, Hong Kong and Taiwan
35 - Slide show: 1970, Japan
35 - Slide show: 1970, Cross country trip
35 - Slide show: 1970-1971, National Parks
35 - Slide show: 1971, San Francisco, California
36 - Slide show: 1973, Australia [1]
36 - Slide show: 1973, Australia [2]
40 - Slide show: 1974, Europe [1]
40 - Slide show: 1974, Europe [2]
37 - Slide show: 1979, Egypt [1]
37 - Slide show: 1979, Egypt [2]
37 - Slide show: 1979, Egypt [3]
41 - Slide show: 1979, Egypt, rejects and also-rans
40 - Slide show: 1980, Belgium, The Netherlands, and France
40 - Slide show: 1980, France
36 - Slide show: 1982, Germany [1]
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41 - Slide show: 1983, Florida
35 - Slide show: 1986, Washington, D.C.
37 - Slide show: 1988, Africa [1]
39 - Slide show: 1988, Virginia
38 - Slide show: 1990, Canada [2]
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39 - Slide show: 1991, Mississippi
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20 15 "Sue," 1960

Sound recordings: Recorded letters to parents from Vietnam
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AV1 - December 30, 1969
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AV1 - January 7, 1970
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AV2 - January 11, 1970
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AV2 - January 12, 1970
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AV2 - January 17-18, 1970
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AV2 - January 20-23, 1970
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AV2 - January 23, 1970
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AV2 - January 27, 1970
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AV2 - January 31, 1970
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AV2 - February 10, 1970
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AV2 - April 3, 1970
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AV2 - April 5, 1970
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AV2 - April 9, 1970
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AV2 - April 17, 1970
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AV2 - April 21, 1970
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AV2 - April 26, 1970
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id cwxqv]

AV2 - May 2, 1970
May 5, 1970

May 12, 1970

May 15, 1970 (Side A contains letter to Jesse Peel from his father

May 18, 1970

May 28, 1970

June 3, 1970

June 5, 1970

June 9, 1970

June 15, 1970

June 20, 1970

June 22-23, 1970

June 25, 1970

July 1, 1970

July 6, 1970
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AV2 - July 9, 1970
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AV2 July 1970, Last tape to Jesse
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id fhvnp][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id fhvpt]

AV2 Anna's wedding, October 24, 1970
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id fj427][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id fj43c]

AV2 - Peel, Helen and J. Woolard, letter to Jesse Peel, December 14, 1970
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id f7rxx][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id f7s09]

Subject files

20 16 ABC Pharmacy Committee, 1994
20 17 AID Atlanta, 1988
31 4 Aid Atlanta benefit, July 1984
20 18 AIDS at 30, clippings, 2010-2011
20 19 AIDS Legacy Project, 2007-2011, no date
21 1 The AIDS Memorial Grove, San Francisco, 1995
21 2 AIDS Survival Project, 1994
21 3 AIDS Walk, 1994-1995
21 4 Allers, Christopher T., 1994
31 5 American Forests, 2003
21 6 Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists (AGLP) Referral Directory, 1995
21 7 Atlanta Buyers Club Foundation, 1993-1994
21 8 Atlanta Buyers Club Foundation, 1995-1998
21 9 Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Community funds, 1993-1994
31 6 Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus spring tour, 2010
21 10 Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network, 1995-1997
21 11 Atlanta Lambda Community Center, 1993-1994
21 12 Atlanta Gay Games, 1993
21 13 The Atlanta Gay & Lesbian History Thing, 1993
33 14 Baton Bob promotional materials, 2012
31 7 Bolick Wedding, November 2009
21 14 Brawner Hospital, 1978, 2010
21 15 Build the Monument Foundation, 1995
OP1 2 Calendar (autographed), P.S. I Love You, 1986
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East Carolina University (Greenville, North Carolina), 2009-2010
East Carolina University Diversity Center dedication, April 15, 2010
East Carolina University Homecoming, October 2009
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Emory HIV/AIDS Mental Health Training Project, 1992-1993
Emory University, volunteer faculty appointment, 1992-1996
Fund for Southern Communities, 1993
The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, 1996-2011
The Georgia Association of Physicians for Human Rights, 1996
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AV3 - Alumni Award Dinner, 2009
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AV3 - 16th Annual Human Rights Campaign Atlanta Dinner and Silent Auction featuring Matthew St. Patrick, Jesse Peel, Pat Hodges, May 10, 2003
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AV3 - 16th Annual Human Rights Campaign Atlanta Dinner and Silent Auction (excerpt), Jesse Peel introduced by Allen Thornell, May 10, 2003
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AV3 - In the Eye of the AIDS Storm: The Saga of Dr. Jesse Peel, Atlanta's LGBT History Project, January 17, 2010
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AV3 - Peel, Helen Keel, memorial service, June 11, 2005
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AV3 - Peel LGBTQ Center Grand Opening, Behind the Scenes, 2019 January 12
[original: DVD]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pnxqp][Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id vmhff]

Video Recordings: DVDs of Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus

AV3 - All Spruced Up and Know Where to Go! December 12-13, 2008
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AV3 - All You Need is Love: The Music of the Beatles, July 10, 2010
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AV3 - Babes in Boyland 2, June 18, 2005 (incomplete)
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AV3 - December Detours: An Around the Globe Musical Collection, December 12, 2009
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AV3 - Wrapped in Light, December 9, 2006
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