

Edith Hamlin
Interview Summary

Interviewee: Edith Hamlin

Interviewers: Danielle Doughty and Amanda Roland

Interview date: October 15, 2014

Location: Boardroom, Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, Newport News, Virginia

Length: 1 audio file, WAV format, 35:06

THE INTERVIEWEE. Edith Hamlin was born in 1912 in Hampton, Virginia, where she was raised. She was, and still is, very active in her community. She attended Union Street School in Hampton up until the ninth grade. She worked at Dixie Hospital from 1940-1941 before starting work in various domestic jobs. Her domestic jobs included working for Wilson Thorpe, principal of Hampton High School. She was a long time member and choir participant at Queen Street Baptist Church up until the late 2000s. She founded the Elegantes Fashion Show in the early 1990s and toured around the state presenting women's fashion to various groups.

THE INTERVIEWERS. Danielle Doughty and Amanda Roland are students in Dr. Laura Puaca's class entitled The Long Civil Rights Movement. They are participating in the Hampton Roads Oral History Project to document the experiences of local citizens during the civil rights movement.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEW. The interview was conducted in the boardroom of the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center in Newport News, Virginia. Edith Hamlin spoke a little bit about her childhood and growing up in what is now the downtown area of Hampton, Virginia. She was quite open about a lot of things, but did not remember the specifics of some events. She viewed continued violence in the African American community as an unfinished legacy of the civil rights movement and saw it as still a very important issue in the black community. Edith Hamlin had fond memories of her various activities with her church, Queen Street Baptist Church, and her community outreach through the Elegantes Fashion Show. As the interview progressed the background of the recording became distorted. The speaking is still audible but the distorted noise becomes more noticeable as the recording continues.

Edith Lively Hamlin--Edited Transcript

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START OF INTERVIEW

Danielle Doughty: This is Dani Doughty and my partner is Amanda Roland. Today is October 15, 2014. We are interviewing Mrs. Hamlin. This interview is taking place at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center in Newport News, Virginia. This interview is being carried out as part of the Hampton Roads Oral History Project at Christopher Newport University. Good morning, Mrs. Hamlin. We are--.

Edith Hamlin: Good morning!

DD: We are doing what's called an oral history, a life history, so we'd like to start the interview with some questions about your childhood. So, if you'd like to get started, we're going to ask you just a few about your childhood and then we'll move on from there.

EH: You want to start what now?

DD: With your childhood.

EH: Oh! [laughter]

EH: Well, my name is Edith Lively Hamlin and I was born July 19, 1912 and I am the daughter of Abraham and Susie Lively.

DD: Thank you. When and where were you born? Well, where were you born?

EH: In Hampton, Virginia.

DD: Okay. What did your parents do for a living?

EH: They had a business. My parents, in my childhood, they had a business. I've got the pictures here. [Mrs. Hamlin showed several pictures of Lively Market in Hampton, Virginia]

EH: A store on North King Street. Are you familiar with the streets in Hampton? Well, this is the store that they had in North King Street.

DD: Oh, wow.

AR: That's awesome. So, do you--.

EH: Do you see the date on that?

AR: 1915.

DD: You were three years old.

EH: Yeah, yeah.

AR: So, what were race relations like where you grew up?

EH: Pardon?

AR: What were race relations like where you grew up? When you were little?

EH: Well, we knew that we were segregated so we didn't let that bother us. We just went on with our own lives and did the best that we could.

AR: Do you remember any particular big events that really made a, caused a ruckus, kind of?

EH: Well, I know my cousin--he lived on Queen Street--and he said he was going down the street one day and a Caucasian man said to him, "What are you doing walking up here? You're supposed to be walking down there on the street."

DD: So not on the sidewalk, on the street?

EH: Not on the sidewalk, on the street. "What are you doing walking up here? You're supposed to be walking down there."

DD: Wow.

EH: That's what he told him.

AR: So what did your cousin do?

EH: He didn't do anything! He just went on about his business because we knew, if he said anything, he'd be in trouble.

AR: So did he move into the street or did he stay on the sidewalk?

EH: Pardon?

AR: Did he move into the street or did he stay on the sidewalk?

EH: No! He moved into the street and went on home.

DD: Wow.

EH: Because he knew it could cause trouble if he didn't. See, that's what we went through.

DD: So when did your family open Lively Market?

EH: When?

DD: Mmhmm.

EH: There it is right there. [Mrs. Hamlin pointed to the previously mentioned photograph of Lively Market]

DD: Was it 1915 then, when it opened?

EH: Mmhmm.

AR: So John--how are you related to John? He's your dad?

EH: He's my uncle.

AR: He's your uncle.

EH: Uh-huh.

AR: And Abraham--.

EH: Is my father.

AR: Is your father. Did you work there at all?

EH: Work there? 1915?

AR: You were three years old, I know, but did you grow up working there?

EH: No!

AR: No, not at all?

EH: No! No. You know, back then, we had a chance to progress. But as things went on, they just pushed us aside and everything that we had was demolished.

AR: So the store was torn down and--.

EH: Oh yeah, it was torn down. This store was right across the street from First Baptist Church on King Street, right across the street. Great big building, brick building it was.

DD: What year did it close? Do you remember?

EH: Pardon?

DD: What year did it close?

EH: No, I don't remember.

DD: You don't know?

EH: I don't remember what year they closed, no. I was too young. [laughter]

DD: So you said you went to Union Street School.

EH: Yes.

DD: What years did you attend Union Street School?

EH: I went as far as the ninth grade.

DD: Okay, and what year was that? [pause]

EH: 1929.

DD: Okay.

AR: So you went through ninth grade?

EH: No, I started the ninth grade. I was promoted to the ninth grade.

AR: You didn't finish the ninth grade?

EH: No.

AR: Gotcha. So was your education impacted at all? Between the segregation and everything?

EH: Well, no, because I didn't come in contact with too many of the other race.

AR: So did you--. When you left in ninth grade, did you go straight from the school to working?

EH: Yeah. I had to, because my father said he was going to send me to school, but my father went to work one day and he never came back. And I was fifteen when he passed. I had no one to send me to school, so I had to come out and go to work.

AR: So you started working straight away at Dixie? At the hospital?

EH: No, not recently, no, not then. I did that later.

AR: So what did you do between leaving school and starting working?

EH: Oh, I did any kind of domestic work.

DD: Mmhmm.

EH: Domestic work to get by.

AR: So you mean cleaning, laundry? That sort of stuff?

EH: Private home. Private homes.

AR: Did you stay with just one family or did you do jobs all over the place?

EH: Oh, different ones. Different ones. No, I didn't stay with one family. It was different ones.

You remember (Spratley Rogers?) Automobile? You don't remember them?

DD: Is it Spratley Middle School is named after it?

EH: Huh?

DD: Spratley Middle School? Is that-- that's the only name I know Spratley.

EH: No, this is the automobile. They were automobile sales people. Sprately Rogers was a motor sale people. And I worked for them and I worked for the principal of the high school, Welch. Not Welch. His name wasn't Welch. Can't think of his name now. But that was a long time ago. A lot of it, I can't think of. [laughter]

DD: When did you start working at the hospital?

EH: It was 1940 when I started working at the hospital.

DD: Okay. When was your last year? Like what? You started in 1940. When did you stop working at the hospital?

EH: Oh, I stayed there I guess about a year.

DD: Just a year?

EH: Mmhmm.

DD: Okay, what did you do after the hospital?

EH: Went back to work. Went back to work. Because they--. See Dixie Hospital, that's where I was. And see, that was the training for us for R.N. And they started to segregate that. And so that's when I left 'cause I didn't like the way they were doing. I didn't like their attitude.

DD: When you were at the hospital did you treat only black patients or also white patients?

EH: No, no, my job was to take care and sterilize everything that the doctors use to make a delivery. Everything that went through his hands, I sterilized it all.

DD: Okay. So you didn't have a ton of interaction with patients then? It was--.

EH: Yeah, I did because--.

DD: Oh, you did?

EH: Yeah I did, because--. Yeah, I did because I saw them when they came in. Then they were put in the bed, and when they left I would change the bed for the next person, and then I'd go back to my work.

DD: Okay. [interruption]

AR: Okay, and we're resuming. [pause]

DD: Okay, do you remember encountering any discrimination in the workplace? At Dixie or anywhere else you worked?

EH: No.

DD: No?

EH: Mm-mm.

DD: You don't remember any discrimination?

EH: Mm-mm, no.

DD: Did they have the separate cafeterias when you worked there?

EH: Oh yeah, yeah.

DD: They did?

AR: So you said that you--.

EH: No, we ate--. You know it was our hospital, so they couldn't segregate us in the dining room. I ate with the nurses in the dining room at lunch time.

DD: Okay. So at this time in 1940, it was a predominantly African American hospital still? It was--. It didn't have white patients yet?

EH: Oh yeah, it had some.

DD: Oh, it did. Okay.

EH: It had some.

DD: Did it have white people that also worked there?

EH: Yeah, yes. Yeah, they had white nurses there.

AR: So you said that you left because they were starting to segregate the training?

EH: Mmhmm.

AR: What do you mean? Like, what were they particularly doing that you didn't like and that's why you left?

EH: Well, they wouldn't allow us to go in the front door. They told us to go around the side, when we could go in the front. That's where they're supposed to go. They told us to go around the side.

AR: So they changed it and made you go around the side.

EH: Yeah, and that's when I left.

DD: At this point was the administration mostly white?

EH: Yeah.

DD: Okay. So it had changed a lot since the beginning of the hospital?

EH: And the administrator there was--. He was very much for us, but they didn't like him because he was in our favor. And they got rid of him. That was Mr. Baker.

DD: What year was that when he left?

EH: Same year.

DD: Okay.

AR: So they got rid of Mr. Baker?

EH: Yeah.

AR: And then is that when they told you, you had to start using the side door?

EH: Oh, they told me that before. Yeah.

DD: How many people left? Did a lot of people leave the year you left?

EH: No, not that I know of. Not that I know of. Mmm-mm, no.

DD: Okay. Now, did you have any children?

EH: No, not of my own. I had two stepchildren.

DD: Okay.

EH: My husband was married previously.

DD: Okay.

AR: And is that Mr. Hamlin that you married?

EH: Hmm?

AR: Is that Mr. Hamlin?

EH: Yeah. That was my husband.

DD: Okay.

AR: So, he worked at the shipyard, right?

EH: Right.

AR: When did he work there?

EH: When?

AR: Yes, ma'am.

EH: From 1920 until 1960.

DD: Wow.

EH: Forty years.

AR: What did he do there?

EH: He was the driller, the top driller there. The top driller in that yard. He made many of those ships that you've seen go out to war.

DD: That's really cool.

EH: Midway, he worked on that. And the other one is--. I went to the christening.

AR: You went to the christening?

EH: Huh?

AR: You went to the christening?

EH: Oh yeah, oh yeah. I went to the christening with him.

DH: Was he involved with any of the protests that took place there in the '60s, or was he already gone before that happened?

EH: I'd say he retired in '67.

DD: Okay. Do you remember hearing about any protests at the shipyard?

EH: Oh yeah, they had some.

DD: Yeah. Was he involved in any of them?

EH: No, no, he wasn't involved in any of them, but they had them.

DD: Okay.

AR: So, how old were your step-children when you married Mr. Hamlin?

EH: Oh, they were all grown.

AR: They were already grown?

EH: Yeah. They were all grown. I didn't help the rearing of them. They were grown.

AR: Okay. Do you have grandchildren?

EH: Yeah, I have grandchildren now. And as I tell everybody, they're mine because they love me. [laughter]

EH: They love me, yeah.

DD: That's great.

EH: And we always get together for family reunion. And this year, they said “Grandma, for your birthday, suppose we just tie the family reunion in with your birthday?” So that’s what they did this year, when I became 102.

DD: Wow.

AR: Turned 102.

EH: So that was nice that they did that. Yeah, I’ve got some lovely grandchildren.

DD: Yeah. How many grandchildren do you have?

EH: It’s four of them.

DD: Okay. Do you have any great-grandchildren?

EH: Yeah, they have children too.

DD: Wow, that’s really great.

EH: Yeah, they have children too.

AR: Were you involved in any demonstrations or protests at all?

EH: No. When we were walking over--. When, you know, we made our walk, I walked over the bridge with the group then.

DD: Which bridge was that?

EH: We were walking for Martin Luther King then, I think. I think that’s when it was.

DD: That was a local--.

EH: Yeah. Walked over the bridge, over town. We called it “over town.” Over the bridge, that’s what we call “over town.”

DD: Oh, okay.

EH: We walked across that bridge.

DD: What year was that?

EH: Oh boy. Y'all racking my brain. [laughter] I tell you. What year was that? 19--. I can't remember. [A march was held in Newport News, which marched across the 25th Street Bridge, to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. after his assassination in 1968]

DD: That's okay. You weren't walking with Martin Luther King, or just for him, in support of him?

EH: Walking for him.

DD: For him.

EH: You know, the group--. [It was] a group of us walking.

AR: Were you walking with a particular group, or was it just like you and--.

EH: The community.

AR: The community got together?

EH: Mmhmm.

AR: Who organized the walk?

EH: I don't even remember that. [pause] I guess it was the NAACP, I'm not sure.

AR: Were you involved with the NAACP?

EH: Not really, no.

AR: So how did you get involved with this walk?

EH: Well, I just wanted to take a part in it.

AR: Yeah.

EH: They walking, so I said "Well, I'll walk too."

DD: Did it spread very word of mouth? Was that how you heard of it, that way?

EH: Yeah, mmhmm.

DD: Okay. Do you remember how many people were there? Like, was it a big crowd?

EH: Oh, it was a big crowd, yeah. It was a big crowd 'cause I've looked at pictures of us, you know, when we did that, I've looked at the pictures going across the bridge. It was a big crowd.

AR: Right.

DD: Do you remember when schools were integrated in this area? Do you remember the integration process?

EH: Mmm.

DD: I know you didn't have kids in school, but do you remember the community--. Maybe what the feeling was in the community at the time?

EH: Let me see. No. You know, for a long time we didn't even have a high school. The city wouldn't give us one.

DD: Was Phenix High School the first one, after Union?

EH: No, we--. Union Street School, as I said, we had a grammar school. But then they decided to build us a new [school]--. 'Cause that was a wooden school. Then they decided to build us a brick school. And that's when they made it a high school, and you only went to the eleventh grade then.

DD: And that was the only one in the whole city of Hampton?

EH: Yeah, right down on Union Street. That's where the school was. And that's where I lived, on Union Street, right across the street from the school.

DD: How big was it? Do you remember how many students went there?

EH: Oh yeah, it was a big, big school, yeah. We had big football teams and everything. We used to go to Newport News and play with the Huntington football team. Mmhmm. Yeah, that was back in the early '30s, yeah.

AR: So, do you remember when they started busing? And integrated, completely integrated the schools? Do you remember that at all?

EH: Mm-mmm.

AR: People talking about it?

EH: I don't remember that. I don't remember just when that was. I tell you, I need my niece to tell me that because I don't know. I don't remember that. No. When did they start that? Mmm. [pause] I just can't--. That won't come to me.

AR: We don't need a year or anything. I was just wondering if you had any experiences around that.

EH: No.

AR: Not really?

EH: No, I didn't.

AR: Yeah, I know you didn't have kids in school.

EH: No, I didn't have any experience with that.

DD: What do you view as the most important accomplishments of the civil rights movement here in this area, and in the nation? Do you remember any accomplishments that really changed the community?

EH: Well, we had the privilege to go anywhere we wanted to go to eat, and we were not, you know, pushed behind everything that we went to. We can sit anywhere we want to, go anywhere you want to eat.

DD: Was that an overnight change, or was that kind of a gradual change?

EH: Well, that was kind of--. I would say a gradual change that brought that about.

AR: Did you still face any problems when you wanted to go wherever you wanted to go?

EH: No, I didn't. Uh-huh. No, I didn't, no I didn't. I was lucky I didn't get into turmoil. And, you know, they integrated the restaurant at Dixie Hospital and one of my friends, she protested it and she took it to court. And that's when they made it open for everybody. No segregation, you could eat anywhere you want. That was at the hospital.

DD: What was your friend's name?

EH: Um.

DD: It's okay if you don't remember.

EH: Oh, what was that girl's name? That's been so long ago. [pause] It was two of them, two girls, and they fought that. And they took it to court and they won.

DD: Was that in the '60s? Do you think? Or a little earlier?

EH: No, that was later than '60. Yeah. Oh no, no, no, that wasn't in '60. No.

DD: And did you say they worked at the hospital?

EH: Yeah, they were nurses. They were RNs. They were RNs at the hospital.

DD: Okay. Now were they the ones that did the sit-in in the cafeteria?

EH: Yeah, they were there.

DD: In '63?

EH: They were going to the cafeteria, but it was segregated.

DD: Right.

EH: They didn't want them there.

DD: So they sat in the white cafeteria?

EH: Yeah, they had to sit wherever they could sit, I guess. I don't know.

DD: Okay. We also see that you were involved with the Queen Street Baptist Church.

EH: Yeah.

DD: And you've been a member there for a very long time?

EH: Eighty-five years.

DD: Wow. Can you tell us more about your involvement with the church?

EH: Well, my parents belonged there, and I joined the church when I was fifteen, just before my father passed. I joined the church in '29 and he passed in 1929. And I was a cheerleader with a very good, hardworking club in there, the WOHELO. I worked in that. And, for thirty years or more, we had that club. It was the working club in the church. We helped the church. I also sung in my choir at the church. I joined the choir in 1942 and I stayed in there until last year.

DD: Wow. What was the name of the club again?

EH: The what?

DD: The club.

EH: WOHELO.

DD: Can you spell that for us?

EH: W-O-H-E-L-O. Workers, helpers and lovers.

DD: Okay.

AR: So what did you do with them? You said you helped the church. But what did you do with them?

EH: With what?

AR: The WOHELO.

EH: Oh, well, we had all kinds of sales. You know, dinners, selling dinners and whatnot. And we would give the money to the church. And in 1963, when our new pastor came, he asked me if I would chair. You know, every month, in September, was our anniversary month. And he asked

me if I would chair the anniversary and I said, “Oh, my lord.” [laughter] “Am I going to do that?” And I did. I did that. I formed the committee, and I asked my committee to work with me with the food. I would assign each person to whatever food we were going to have, and I had a minister in the pulpit every Sunday morning the whole month of September.

DD: Visiting pastors?

EH: Visiting pastors, the whole month of September. And then, at the end, we had a banquet. And the banquet was beautiful. We had plenty of food. It did not cost the church one dime. So I think that was pretty good.

DD: I think so.

AR: That’s incredible. How many people do you think came to the banquet?

EH: Oh, well our church had 900 members.

AR: Wow.

EH: So just about all of them were there. Yeah, just about all of them were there. See, our church is one hundred and forty-two years old.

DD: Is that the church on the corner of Queen Street and Armistead?

EH: That’s right. That’s it, yes. That’s it. That’s our church.

AR: Do you still go to services there on Sundays?

EH: No. No, I don’t go there now. The minister that we had, he wasn’t the type of person that cared about the church, you know. And so, he finally retired and I’m waiting now to see who’s going to come in and really be interested in the church--not myself--but in the church. That’s what I’m looking for. So, that’s the way it stands now. [pause]

AR: So Ms. Hamlin, what do you regard as the unfinished legacies of the movement?

EH: Hmm?

AR: What do you regard as the unfinished legacies of the movement? What do you think is still left to be done? Of the civil rights movement?

EH: I think they're going to have to do something with these kids and these guns. It's just ridiculous.

AR: What do you mean by that?

EH: The city, do something about it!

AR: Just in Newport News or as a whole?

EH: As a whole. No, as a whole. You have that all around. You've got it all around: going in the schools, shooting people and all that. They need to do something about that. [pause]

DD: What are the most pressing problems facing African Americans today, then? Can you think of problems?

EH: Jobs. They don't have any jobs and they push us back. They'll give Caucasians a job before they'll give one to us. And that's been, you know, for a while now. And they'll tell you that--. You read all about this goes on with the jobs and whatnot, and the articles that you read will tell you the percentage for the Caucasians and the percentage for our people is so different.

AR: Do you think that the Civil Rights Act changed that, and that it's changed back? Or do you think that it never really changed at all?

EH: I don't think it changed the jobs, no. I think the people did that. [pause] I think the people did that.

DD: So, is there anything else you'd like to contribute to the interview? Do you think we've missed anything? Is there anything, any parts of your life you want to tell us about before we end the interview?

EH: [laughter] No, I don't--. And I thought about this name. Came to me, his name. I told you I worked for the principal of the school, the high school in Hampton. His name was Wilson Thorpe.

DD: Okay.

EH: Do you ever recall running across that name?

DD: I haven't.

EH: Wilson Thorpe.

DD: Now which high school was he the principal of?

EH: Hampton.

DD: Hampton High School?

EH: Uh-huh.

DD: Okay.

EH: Hampton High School.

EH: Mmhmm. Yeah, he was a nice man. Mmhmm.

DD: So were you treated--. Going back to your jobs when you were doing domestic jobs, were you treated well by the--.

EH: Oh yeah.

DD: You were?

EH: Uh-huh. Yes, 'cause if I didn't I wouldn't do that. I wouldn't be there.

DD: Right. [pause]

EH: And in Newport News--. Have you heard of Elegantes fashion show? [Mrs. Hamlin showed several pictures of the Elegantes group]

DD: I haven't, but I heard you were involved with it.

EH: Oh yeah.

DD: I don't know much about it.

EH: This is our picture. I started that group.

DD: You started the Elegantes?

EH: Yes.

DD: Can you tell us a little more about the group and what they do?

EH: Tell you what?

DD: Tell us more about the group and what they do?

EH: Oh! Well, we started over at Doris Miller. The first show that we had was at Doris Miller, 1990. And we have been all around to model. We go to the nursing homes to model. We've gone as far as Richmond to Thalhimers store. We modeled the jewelry up there. We've been to Fort Monroe to model. We've been Suffolk--to Martin Luther King's community center, over there in Suffolk. We've modeled over there. We've been to Deep Creek Church in Deep Creek. That's an integrated church. We modeled over there. And that church is just like going to Radio City [Radio City Music Hall, New York, New York]. When you go on stage, that's what you think-- that's where you think you are. Radio City stage. It was marvelous. We had such a good time.

DD: What year did you found this group?

EH: 1990.

DD: Okay.

AR: So what do you do with the Elegantes? You go model?

EH: No. I don't model with them now. I resigned. [laughter]

AR: So who took over?

EH: Huh?

AR: So who took over?

EH: Oh, somebody else in the group over there at the Ferguson.

AR: So what did you do with them? You would go model, whatever? Like jewelry? Or what?

EH: Everything! Everything. Everything. Whatever the [time of] year was. Christmas time, we'd have on red here. And then in the spring, we'd bring out some things that pertained to spring. We modeled everything. Sports and all. Mmm?

DD: Would companies give you clothes to model then?

EH: Oh, we used to go to--. Was a lady in--. We've gotten clothes from Montgomery Ward.

We've gotten clothes from a lady in Hampton [who] used to have a dress shop. We got clothes from her. I can't think of her name now. And Dillards, we've gotten clothes from them. And a lot of times, we just modeled our own clothes. We just modeled our own clothes. Mmhmm.

DD: That's really cool.

EH: Yep.

AR: Here, I'll give this back to you. [pause] So Ms. Hamlin, do you remember Martin Luther King's assassination?

EH: Mmhmm. Oh yeah.

AR: What did you think about it when it happened? I know that you said that you walked for him.

EH: Oh, I think that it was terrible for them to do that to him. I think that was terrible.

AR: Do you think that his passing changed the movement?

EH: Oh yeah, because there were a lot of things he was planning to do before that happened.

Yeah, I think it did.

DD: Do you remember what the reactions of community members were locally? Like, what was the local attitude toward what happened? Did word spread pretty quickly about it?

EH: Oh yeah, everybody was upset, you know, and hurt and everything about that. But, I don't know just what did occur when it happened. But I know that everybody was terribly hurt and upset about it, I know that.

AR: Do you think the community changed at all after he was assassinated?

EH: Well, [pause] I don't think so. Not first anyway. Not when it first happened, I don't think.

AR: Not when it first happened. Do you think anything happened later on?

EH: Yeah, yeah. Like I said, these people going crazy with these guns, I think that's terrible.

That's no way to live. [pause] I'm from Hampton, but I lived in Newport News. We lived on the corner of 27th and Roanoke Avenue up here.

DD: Okay.

EH: In Newport News.

DD: When you were growing up in Hampton, what neighborhood did you live in?

EH: Union Street.

DD: Okay, so right there in downtown.

EH: Right across the street from the school.

DD: Okay. Is your house still there or is it long gone?

EH: Oh no, no, no, no. And I had a house down the street further than--. The home place was right across the street from school and I was further down the street. The redevelopment came and took all of that.

DD: Mmhmm.

EH: 'Cause we had planned to keep the home place, but they wouldn't let us. The city did that. They took it all. And those apartments they built over there by the church on King Street, that's part of our land, over there.

DD: Oh wow.

EH: That's part of our land over there.

AR: Do you remember what year they--.

EH: Huh?

AR: Do you remember what year, like when that happened?

EH: Yeah, 1963.

AR: An eventful year for you.

EH: Yeah. They came around and just wiped us out. People that had beautiful homes and had just built a home, they wouldn't let us have it.

DD: So was your neighborhood growing up predominantly African American?

EH: Yeah, oh yes. Yes, yes. Mmhmm. Yes, indeed.

AR: Alright Ms. Hamlin, thank you so much for allowing us to interview you.

EH: I guess you got all the crazy information. [laughter]

AR: We got it all.

EH: I don't know-- I don't know whether it's going to be any help or not to you, but anyway.

AR: It's definitely going to be a help. Thank you so much. I really appreciate it.

DD: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW

Transcribed by Danielle Doughty and Amanda Roland, December 4, 2014

Edited by Katie Fisher, February 20, 2015

Edited by Laura Puaca, March 31, 2015