



# Guide to the Florence Tate Papers, 1960-2006

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Durham 27708

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Florence Tate papers, 1960-2006

**Creator:**

Tate, Florence L.

**Abstract:**

Florence Tate (1931-2014) was a civil rights and pan-African activist based in Washington, DC. Involved in activism in support of Angolan independence, she later worked in support of the UNITA faction in the Angolan Civil War. In the United States, she worked as a press secretary for the first mayoral administration of Marion Barry and subsequently for the 1984 presidential campaign of Jesse Jackson.

**Extent:**

4 Linear Feet

**Language:**

Materials in English

**Collection ID:**

RL.11507

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1j37x>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Florence Tate Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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**Scope and Content**

The largest series, African Politics, contains material from Tate's activism in support of the Southwestern African nation of Angola. As an organizer of several groups which sought to connect Angolans with African Americans, this series features correspondence, official communiques with the UNITA

leadership, government documents, and clippings from African newspapers and journals.

The U.S. Politics series highlights Tate's role as a press secretary for both Mayor Marion Barry and Senator Jesse Jackson, during the latter's 1984 presidential campaign. Of particular importance is her role in organizing and documenting Jackson's 1984 mission to Syria to free downed Navy pilot Robert O. Goodman, shot down by Syrian forces over Lebanon during the height of the Lebanese Civil War.

The Name and Subject series is based on material related to organizations that Tate created and lead. She collected materials related to Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael) and Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (H. Rap Brown), among others. There is also information collected related to Southern African nations of Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Personal Materials series features correspondence, photographs, and articles written by Florence Tate. It highlights her career as a journalist in Dayton, Ohio during the mid-1960s, when she was active with local CORE and SNCC organizations.

## **Biographical/Historical**

Born in Eads, Tennessee in 1931, Florence Louise Grinner Tate grew up in Memphis where she attended public school. After earning a bachelor's degree in English from LeMoyne College, she married Charles Tate, and took a job as a reporter for the Dayton Daily News in Dayton, Ohio. While reporting on politics, courts, and schools for the newspaper, she was also heavily involved in the civil rights movement. In addition to working with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE), Florence and Charles Tate founded the Dayton Alliance for Racial Equality (DARE).

In the late 1960s, Florence Tate embraced pan-Africanist causes, writing for the Black News Service. She served as a key organizer in the first African Liberation Day held in May 1972. She later became involved with advocating for Angolan independence. Following Portuguese withdrawal and the nation's takeover by the Soviet-backed People's Movement for Angolan Liberation (MPLA), Tate began to work with the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), an Angolan nationalist movement lead by Jonas Savimbi.

In 1979, she joined the first Marion Barry Administration in Washington, DC as press secretary and in 1984, she worked on Senator Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign as a press secretary as well.

Following Jackson's loss in the primaries, she was a political communications consultant and active organizer for political causes in and around Washington until her death in 2014.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is organized into four series: Personal Materials, Country and Subject Files, African Politics, and U.S. Politics.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Access Restrictions

Access restricted. Materials in the UNITA subseries of the African Politics Series closed due to donor request until 2040.

### Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

## Acquisition Information

The Florence Tate Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2017.

## Processing Information

Processed by David Romine, September 2017

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2017-0071

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## Related Materials

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### Related Material

The Rubenstein also holds the Judy Richardson Papers and the Courtland Cox Papers.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Angola -- History -- Autonomy and independence movements
- Civil rights movements -- United States
- Presidents -- United States -- Election -- 1984
- Mayors -- Washington (D.C.) -- 20th century
- Press secretaries
- Pan-Africanism
- União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola
- Friends of Angola
- Cox, Courtland, 1941-
- Jackson, Jesse, 1941-
- Carmichael, Stokely, 1941-1998
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)
- Barry, Marion, 1936-2014

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## Collection Inventory

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### Personal Materials, 1960-2006

#### Scope and Contents

This series features personal correspondence, photographs, articles and press releases written by Florence Tate. It contains numerous photocopies of articles from when she was journalist for the Dayton Daily News. It also contains biographical reference sheets, papers related to firm of Florence Tate and Associates, and memorabilia from the 1963 March on Washington and a 1964 civil rights march in Dayton.

Biographical material, 1978-2000

Box 1  
Box 6

#### Scope and Contents

Biographical sheets, funeral program. Oversize certificate for D.C. Arts and Humanities Council appointment, 1997.

---

Writings, 1966-2003

Box 1

**Physical Description:** 2 folders

#### Scope and Contents

Photocopies of Florence Tate's articles in the Dayton Daily News, from Dayton, Ohio, primarily related to civil rights issues and local politics. Also contains later writing and Op-Eds by Tate.

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Florence Tate and Associates, 1980

Box 1

#### Scope and Contents

Papers related to the public relations firm of Florence Tate and Associates, which Tate began following the end of her association with the Marion Barry administration until joining Senator Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign.

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Photographs, 1960-2000

Box 1

#### Scope and Contents

Personal photographs, some professional, some candid. Includes photos of Queen Mother Audley Moore, Kwame Ture, and Amiri Baraka, and numerous friends and associates from Angola.

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|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Correspondence, 1970-2006   | Box 1 |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders  |       |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Personal correspondence including Judy Richardson, Chinsole Chitunda, and others.   |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Pamphlets, 1995-2000  | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Pamphlets related to 1995 film festival and organizations in Washington, DC.  |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Buttons, 1963-1964  | Box 4 |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> 3 buttons  |       |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Two buttons related to the 1963 March on Washington on August 28 and one button related to a Dayton, Ohio March on June 14, 1964. |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Rolodex, Undated  | Box 5 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Personal Rolodex includes names, contacts, addresses, and phone numbers.  |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom pennant, 1963  | Box 6 |

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## **Name Files, 1972-2005**

### **Scope and Contents**

Series primarily organized by Florence Tate featuring materials by and related to named individuals. Material includes correspondence, published and unpublished writing by, poetry, and articles about named individuals.

In the case of Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (H. Rap Brown), folder includes material related to his 2002 trial and conviction for manslaughter.

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|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Baraka, Amiri, 1972-1999                               | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>                              |       |
| Articles and writing by Amiri Baraka (aka LeRoi Jones) |       |

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|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Brown, H. Rap, 1998-2002  | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Articles about and papers related to activism in support of Brown aka Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin                      |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Chaka, Malik, 1972-1976   | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Articles, correspondence, and photographs by Malik Chaka  |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Cobb, Jr., Charles, 2005  | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Article by Charles Cobb   |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Cox, Courtland, 1975-1976   | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Scholarship and articles by Courtland Cox related to Southern Africa  |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Fernandes, Antonio da Costa, 1975-1990  | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Correspondence with Tony Fernandes, biographical information  |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Fletcher, Marilyn Lowen, 1969   | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Correspondence with Marilyn Fletcher, poetry  |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Fundanga, Kapesi, Undated   | Box 1 |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders  |       |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Manuscript entitled "Both Sides Winds of Change in Angola"  |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Savimbi, Jonas, 1979  | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Book entitled "Angola a resistencia em busca de uma nova nacao" (Angola the resistance in search of a new nation) |       |

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Shipinga, G., 1974 Box 1

**Scope and Contents**

Multiple copies of draft manuscript "I am a Brown Man"

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Ture, Kwame, 1995-1998 Box 1

**Physical Description:** 3 folders

**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs related to medical treatment and death of Kwame Ture (aka Stokely Carmichael)

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### **African Politics, 1968-1992**

**Scope and Contents**

This series covers Florence Tate's advocacy, interest in, and organizing in support of African political movements, primarily related to Angola, but covering other states and groups in Southwestern Africa between the late 1960s and early 1990s.

**Access Restrictions:**

Access restricted. The UNITA subseries is closed due to donor request until 2040.

### **African Liberation Day, 1972-1976**

**Scope and Contents**

Material related to the first African Liberation Day which organized simultaneous rallies in dozens of United States and Canadian cities on May 27, 1972.

Includes correspondence, press releases, research, and promotional material related to the event and to the African Liberation Day Coordinating Committee (ALDCC), based in Washington, DC and headed by Florence Tate.

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Background Material, 1972 Box 1

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Correspondence and Press Releases,  
1972-1974 Box 1

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Articles, 1972-1974 Box 1

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Magazine, 1975-1976  | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |       |
| Detroit Committee for the Liberation of Africa Vol. 2 No. 2 1975-1976  |       |
| Check Register, 1972   | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |       |
| Check register for the African Liberation Day Coordinating Committee (ALDCC). Contains check stubs for checks written by the ALDCC for promotional materials for African Liberation Day.   |       |
| <b>Friends of Angola, 1974-1977</b>  |       |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |       |
| Materials related to the Friends of Angola organization, an advocacy group based in Washington, DC. Begun in support of Angolan independence, it shifted into advocacy of the UNITA faction following the Portuguese withdrawal and outbreak of civil war. |       |
| Sub-series organized by Tate, some overlap with other sub-series, including African Services Bureau, Medical Project, and UNITA.   |       |
| General Material, 1974-1976  | Box 1 |
| Press Releases, 1974-1975  | Box 1 |
| News Clippings, 1974-1976  | Box 1 |
| Correspondence, 1974-1976  | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |       |
| Includes correspondence with Richard Gibson and Jeremias Chitunda  |       |
| Mailing Lists, Undated   | Box 1 |
| <b>African Services Bureau, 1974-1978</b>  |       |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |       |
| Materials related to the African Services Bureau, a short-lived organization that advocated for African nationalist movements in the United States press.  |       |
| Sub-series organized by Tate, some overlap with other sub-series, including Friends of Angola, Medical Project, and UNITA.   |       |
| General Material, 1974-1976  | Box 1 |

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|                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Correspondence, 1974-1978 | Box 1 |
| News Clippings, 1974      | Box 1 |

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### **Medical Project, 1974-1975**

#### **Scope and Contents**

Materials related to the Angolan Medical Project, an effort to bring doctors from the United States and Caribbean to Angola. Material includes résumés by applicants, correspondence with Angolans about requests, and informational materials about medical needs in Angola and Southwestern Africa.

Sub-series organized by Tate, some overlap with other sub-series, including Friends of Angola, African Services Bureau, and UNITA.

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|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| General Material, 1974-1975 | Box 1 |
| Correspondence, 1974-1975   | Box 1 |

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#### **Scope and Contents**

Correspondence includes applications, resumes, and information about medical personnel who volunteered

### **Country and Subject Files, 1968-1990**

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|  |       |
|--|-------|
| All-African People's Revolutionary Party,<br>Undated | Box 1 |
|--|-------|

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#### **Scope and Contents**

Position paper from Guinean-based African Liberation Organization associated with Kwame Nkrumah and Kwame Ture

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|  |       |
|--|-------|
| African National Congress (ANC), Undated | Box 1 |
|--|-------|

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#### **Scope and Contents**

Paper demanding release of "Pretoria Twelve"

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|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Angola, 1968-1979 | Box 1 |
|-------------------|-------|

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**Physical Description:** 2 folders

#### **Scope and Contents**

Materials related to Angola including 1968 issue of "Noticia"

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|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Eritrea and Ethiopia, 1975-1976 | Box 1 |
|---------------------------------|-------|

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|   |       |
|---|-------|
| FESTAC 77, 1977   | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| News clipping related to FESTAC, African Art Festival in Lagos  |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Mozambique, 1975-1980   | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Includes issue of "Africa Report" from 1975   |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), 1974-1979  | Box 1 |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, 1976   | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Correspondence  |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Pan-African Association of Writers and Journalists in Britain, 1978   | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Correspondence  |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Sixth Pan-African Congress, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, 1974   | Box 1 |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Southern Africa, 1975   | Box 1 |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders  |       |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Two issues of "Ikwezi Journal" on Southwestern Africa, August 1977 and December 1978 and two issues of journal "Southern Africa" December 1975 and October 1977 |       |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Zambia, 1979-1980   | Box 1 |
| <hr/>   |       |
| Zimbabwe, 1976-1977   | Box 1 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>   |       |
| Report of the Special International Commission on the Assassination of Herbert Chitepo, Zimbabwean revolutionary  |       |

**Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), 1974-1982**

**Scope and Contents**

The Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Portuguese: União Nacional Independência da Angola--UNITA) was a nationalist organization organized under Portuguese colonialism. Sub-series contains a variety of materials relating to UNITA's press campaign in the United States, including press-releases, correspondence, research material, and government communiques in both English and Portuguese.

Sub-series organized by Tate. Contains material that overlaps with other sub-series, including Friends of Angola, Medical Project, and African Services Bureau.

**Access Restrictions:**

Access restricted. Materials in the UNITA subseries of the African Politics Series are closed due to donor request until 2040.

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Pamphlets, 1975-1980   | Box 2 |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> 3 folders   |       |
| Communiques, 1974-1981   | Box 2 |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders   |       |
| Press Releases, 1974-1976  | Box 2 |
| General Material, 1974-1976  | Box 2 |
| Correspondence, 1974-1982  | Box 2 |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders   |       |
| UNITA Internal Studies (in Portuguese), 1979   | Box 2 |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |       |
| Studies on general administration, women, and students, in Portuguese  |       |
| Notebooks, 1976  | Box 2 |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders   |       |
| <b>Scope and Contents</b>  |       |
| Notebooks possibly belonging to Tate containing handwritten interview notes with Angolan diplomat Jeremias Chitunda and other individuals. |       |
| Photographs, Undated   | Box 2 |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 folders   |       |

**Scope and Contents**

Photographs of UNITA soldiers drilling, fighting, resting, and standing at attention. Some photos feature leading figures in UNITA, Jonas Savimbi and Jeremias Chitunda. Also included are photos of captured MPLA fighters, Angolan non-combatants, and conferences between UNITA and MPLA leadership. Photographs mostly undated and taken by unknown photographer(s).

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News Clippings, 1974-1981

Box 2

**Physical Description:** 10 folders

**Scope and Contents**

Extensive collection of newspaper clippings from United States, European, and African newspapers including the *Zambian Daily Mail*, *Washington Post*, and *New York Times*. Topics include UNITA, MPLA, FNLA, Jonas Savimbi, Portuguese withdrawal, conditions in Angola, outbreak of civil War, Cuban intervention, Soviet imperialism in Southwestern Africa, and South African and U.S. support of UNITA.

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United States Documents, 1972-1980

Box 2

**Scope and Contents**

Documents produced by the Congress of the United States related to Angola

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Student Exchange Documents, 1982

Box 2

**Scope and Contents**

Documents related to the exchange of students between Angola and the United States.

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League of Angolan Women (LIMA), 1974-1978

Box 2

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Publications by UNITA, 1983

Box 2

**Scope and Contents**

"The Angolan Road to National Recovery"

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Buttons and Pins, Undated

Box 5

**Physical Description:** 10 buttons

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**Scope and Contents**

Includes buttons supporting Nkrumah, Zimbabwe, FRELIMO and PAIGC, UPAC, Addis Ababa, and Third World Causes and one paper badge from Ethiopia

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Flags, Undated

Box 6

**Scope and Contents**

One full-sized (3' x 5') UNITA flag and one small (4" x 6") UNITA flag

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**United States Politics, 1972-1984**

**Scope and Contents**

Material related to Florence Tate's active role in United States Politics, especially in the Washington, DC area.

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**Marion Barry, 1979-1998**

**Scope and Contents**

Material related to Florence Tate's role as press secretary to Marion Barry's first mayoral campaign and later his first administration as mayor of Washington, D.C.. Includes correspondence, press releases, and news clippings.

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General Material, 1979-1982

Box 3

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News Clippings, 1979-1982

Box 3

---

Framed Photograph, 1980

Box 6

**Scope and Contents**

Photograph of Mayor Barry and Sterling Brown

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Button from unspecified Marion Barry mayoral campaign, Undated

Box 4

**Scope and Contents**

1 button: Because Every One Matters.

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**Jesse Jackson, 1983-1984**

**Scope and Contents**

Materials related to Florence Tate's role as the press secretary for Senator Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign. Includes press materials, news clippings, speeches, position papers, hand-written notebooks, and campaign promotional material.

Campaign Materials, 1983-1984 Box 3

Position Papers, 1984 Box 3

Speeches, 1983-1984 Box 3

Democratic National Convention, 1984 Box 3

Notebooks, 1984 Box 3

**Physical Description:** 5 folders

**Scope and Contents**

Notebooks containing handwritten notes from events, including meetings with George Wallace and Sargent Shriver, Edith Austin's funeral, and the Washington Post in the aftermath of "Hymietown" gaffe

Campaign stickers, 1984 Box 3

Campaign posters, 1984 Box 6

**Scope and Contents**

"Register to Vote" and "Rainbow Coalition" campaign posters

Campaign Buttons, 1984 Box 4

**Physical Description:** 22 Buttons, 1 pin, one keychain

**Scope and Contents**

Campaign buttons from both the 1984 and 1988 Jesse Jackson presidential campaigns. Material also includes one pin and one keychain.

Correspondence, 1983-1984 Box 3

Schedules, 1984 Box 3

Photographs and Contact Sheets, 1984 Box 3

**Physical Description:** 3 folders

**Scope and Contents**

Includes Boston debate, event at Shiloh

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News Clippings, 1983-1984

Box 3

**Physical Description:** 3 folders

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Syria Mission, 1983-1984

Box 3

**Physical Description:** 6 folders

**Scope and Contents**

Materials related to Florence Tate's involvement in Jesse Jackson's mission to Syria in 1983-1984 to negotiate the release of Black airman Michael O. Goodman. Goodman, a Navy navigator, had been shot down over Syria during a mission related to the Lebanese Civil War and was held by Syrian forces for several weeks. Jackson, along with a number of other Black religious leaders, petitioned the Syrian government of Hafez Al-Assad to free the airman since the United States and Syria were not at war.

Includes meeting notes, schedules, security arrangements, Embassy materials, news clippings, photographs, and contact sheets from Syria Mission

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American Political Buttons, Undated

Box 4

**Scope and Contents**

13 buttons related to politics in the United States, including Million Woman March; Black Liberation Day; boycott of Gulf Oil; the Black National Political Convention (1972); Martin Luther King commemorations

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