

Interviewee: Gladys G. Harvey

Place of interview: Gethsemane Baptist Church, Romney Street

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Interviewer: April Wood, Historic Charleston Foundation, with occasional questions by Leigh Moring

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BEGIN INTERVIEW

April Wood: This is April Wood from Historic Charleston Foundation. Today is October 5th, 2017, and we are in the sanctuary of Gethsemane Baptist Church, and I am with Miss Gladys Harvey. And for the record, for the video, would you please say and spell your full name?

Gladys Harvey: My name is Mrs. Gladys, G-l-a-d-y-s G H-a-r-v-e-y, Harvey.

AW: When and where were you born?

GH: Charleston, South Carolina.

AW: And when were you born? What year?

GH: 1932.

AW: And what were your parents' names?

GH: Willis and Evelyn Brown.

AW: And how long have you lived in this neighborhood up here?

GH: Shall I say most of my life because I got married, moved. And then after my parents both died, then they asked me to come back into the house, so here I am since 1981.

AW: So, you were born –

GH: 1991.

AW: 1991. You were born at the house, then moved away, then came back.

GH: Yeah. I was born down in Kyle Place. That's near where Joyce [Howard] live – used to live.

AW: When did your parents come to this neighborhood? How long ago did they settle here, up here? Were they from somewhere else, or were they always here?

GH: My father was from James Island, and my mother was from here. And at the age of – my mother was 14, and he was 17 when they got married, and they lived on Simons Street for a while and then [00:01:59 Begay?] Street. And my father was a licensed carpenter. So, then he bought 67 "Simmons" Street at the time, and they changed it to Simon a couple of years ago. And he – well, the house was a cottage, and he built it up to a 2-story, 14-room house.

AW: I didn't know that.

GH: Yeah.

AW: That must've changed it a lot, huh?

GH: Yes, it did.

AW: So, you lived in that house, and then you moved, and then you came back to that same house?

GH: Yes.

AW: How many rooms did your house have when you were growing up? Did you share a room? Do you have siblings?

GH: Ten. There was ten of us. There was 14 altogether. Four died. Ten lived. And we each had – each child was two to a room at that time.

AW: Did you have bathrooms, or what'd you do?

GH: Upstairs and downstairs. The tub was upstairs and then just the basin and the commode downstairs.

AW: That sounds nicer than what Mr. Jefferson and Miss Joyce had.

GH: Oh, yeah.

AW: Yeah. Sounds good. Did you have a lot of relatives that lived close by?

GH: No, most of them was on James Island. Then some left and went to another state, yeah. My mother, she didn't have anybody.

AW: Okay. And what order are you? Are you the youngest or the oldest?

GH: Seventh.

AW: Seventh. And then where did all your siblings go? Are they still around?

GH: Everybody died but three of us, and one sister in San Diego, California, and the other sister's in Miami, Florida, with her daughter. She's 90 years old and she –

AW: You probably don't see them.

GH: She's in – I was there for Mother's Day.

AW: Okay.

GH: Uh-huh.

AW: When you were a kid or when you were young, what did you call this neighborhood?

GH: It was just Romney and Simons Street. It didn't have no special name.

AW: One thing that Mr. Jefferson was talking about, which I didn't know, is that each neighborhood like for football, they would play with neighborhoods – kids from other neighborhoods, and he said there's a neighborhood called like Mexico. So, like the name East Side didn't exist then, and then there's the Borough. Were you familiar with those names?

GH: No.

AW: No? Okay.

GH: Huh-uh.

AW: Yeah, he was saying –

GH: We had a big yard. It's still there. And ten of us had to be in that yard, but you were welcome to come in and play with us.

AW: So, you didn't get to go explore the other neighborhoods probably as a girl.

GH: Not too much, yeah, until we became bigger. Then we would communicate with the girls our age around here and on Simons Street.

AW: It's interesting because, Mr. Jefferson's perspectives about being a boy growing up, and it sounded like he had a lot of freedom to go around.

GH: Yeah.

AW: But girls, they had different lifestyles?

GH: Most of us had to learn how to cook and do laundry and do different things in the house, yeah. My brothers, they took care of the yard, and then they had little jobs after school.

AW: Where did you go to school?

GH: I went to Henry P. Archer from first to seventh, from there to Burke High School, and I got pregnant at the age of 16. They didn't allow you to come back to school in the city, so I went to Denmark, South Carolina, high school and junior college.

AW: Did you have jobs when you were a kid or growing up?

GH: Sometime, yeah. My father was very peculiar. He'd allow us after, say, 13, you can get a little weekend job.

AW: What would that be? What kind of jobs would that be?

GH: Doing housework, like going in the afternoon and washing dishes or doing the bathrooms, things like that.

AW: Did you have a lot of friends growing up on Simons and Romney Street or –

GH: I had a few. I had a few. I just wasn't a crowd person, yeah.

AW: Well, I imagine if you had so many siblings –

GH: You don't need nobody else.

AW: That makes sense, yeah. Did you go downtown, or what would you describe the boundary of like downtown, and did you go downtown very often when you were growing up?

GH: Yes. It was like I before said. My father was a carpenter, and he works for Condon's and Belk's and different ones down there. So, then we were able to go into these stores and get our clothes, wherein nobody else Black would be able to do that.

AW: Yeah. Joyce was saying that she had to go after hours to go buy clothes like at Condon's.

GH: Oh, well, we didn't have to go after hours. He just tell them when we were coming, and then we were able to try on our shoes and our dresses and whatnot. And then he would pick it up and bring it home to see if it fit well enough to suit him.

AW: That's really nice.

GH: Yes.

AW: Where were those stores located?

GH: On King Street. Condon's was on Warren and King. Belk was on King and Wentworth, and then Sears was on Calhoun Street and – it was Condon, Belk's, Sears.

AW: Did you go to Kerrison's?

GH: Yeah, Kerrison'd. So, it was Woolworth, Edward's. These are some of the – Shahid's. I think that was all that I can remember right now.

AW: Your dad must've been a really good carpenter.

GH: Yes, he was.

AW: Did he have his own business?

GH: Just at that time, it wasn't nothing per se like a White person would have his business, advertise and whatnot. No, my father was just a licensed carpenter, and he worked for different ones, Schachte Real Estate, all those folks. But he didn't have per se a business, commercial business. He didn't have.

AW: Did your mom have a job?

GH: She never worked. She was having children too fast.

AW: Yeah, that's a lot. Did a lot of families have such large families in this neighborhood or –

GH: Not too many. I think we were the largest. I think we were the largest ones. Other folks had six, seven, eight, but never the amount that we had.

AW: When you went to school, how did you get there? Did you walk or ride a bike or a bus?

GH: When I went to Burke School, we caught the bus, but elementary we walked.

AW: With your parents or with other friends?

GH: Other children and their parents.

AW: Where did you shop for like groceries? Did you go to different stores for like meat and then milk?

GH: We had Addlestone's. We had Doschers and – we had Addlestone's, Doschers, and then later Piggly Wiggly came. And Doschers, yeah. And there was another one, Rodenberg's.

AW: Where were all those?

GH: Right on King Street, right in the vicinity.

AW: That's very convenient.

GH: Convenient, yeah.

AW: Did your family have a car?

GH: No. My father didn't have a car nor a bicycle. He took the tools on his back. But later on then we all got cars.

AW: He carried his tools on his back?

GH: [Yes].

AW: Was he a big man?

GH: No, he was small.

AW: Where did your family go to church? Did they go to New Israel?

GH: Both. We went to Gethsemane in the morning, and then in the afternoon we went over at New Israel for Sunday School.

AW: Can you tell me a little bit more about that since it's Baptist and Reformed Episcopal?

GH: Well, we were just neighbors. So, then at that time when I was coming up, you didn't sit around. There was two churches that you can go to to occupy your time. We have Sunday School at 9:30, church at 11:00. We get out of here around 1:00 or 2:00. Then you go eat, and 4:00 then you're over at [New] Israel to Sunday School. And leaving [New] Israel from Sunday School, you come back here to BYPU. That was a service in the evening time. Yeah. So, on Sundays we always had two churches to go to.

AW: That's interesting. So, there was never any rivalry between the churches?

GH: No, no, no. When we have Revival, then they'll come over. And when they have Revival, then we go over there.

AW: Do you have different worship styles between –

GH: Yeah, we are different from [New] Israel. They use songbooks differently. They have the Apostle Creed and things like that, and we don't have that. We just read the Bible, and we got our Sunday School books, things like that. Yeah, but our service was different.

AW: But you were friends and neighbors with everyone at both?

GH: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

AW: Is this church older than the other one, or is that one older than this one?

GH: This one began in '24.

AW: 1924?

GH: Yes.

AW: I think that one's older then.

GH: It could be.

AW: Was this the church that was here? When was this building built?

GH: This building was built in 1970, and then it was remodeled in 1992 because they had a fire.

AW: What happened? Because New Israel's church was from the '70s as well. Why did you guys both have new buildings at the same time? Was there something exciting going on?

GH: Because Israel was smaller than Gethsemane, and they used to have their church in the [parsonage]. That's the two-story house that was there. But Gethsemane has always been the largest up until later building of both of them.

AW: Was that like the peak of membership? Do you still have a lot of people come to church on Sundays, or is it –

GH: Not now, but we were up at 400. But they – for some reason, they split. A lot left. So, it's about 75 or 80 of us here right now. And then a lot of members died. We had two died last month.

AW: Was it your dad – who was at this church? Was it your dad that was the pastor here?

GH: My father became the pastor in 1926, but Reverend Denkins was the original pastor, and he passed. Then this is when my father took over. And then after the passing of my father, my son became the pastor for 31 years.

AW: So, your father was a carpenter who took all his tools on his back all over town?

GH: Yeah.

AW: And then he came here?

GH: Uh-huh.

AW: That's impressive, yeah. He was a hard worker.

GH: Yes, he was.

AW: When you were a young adult, what did you do for entertainment?

GH: I didn't – I was one of the children that didn't like too much of outside, because most of the time we had to be in church. So, it wasn't no use in -- And like my youngest brother, he was so high [gestures height], and he played in the band. And my brother Joe Lewis, he was a singer. And my oldest brother, he was a principal and a teacher down in Woodbine, Georgia. My sister Bernice, she was an organist. My sister Evelyn, she was a teacher. My sister Virginia was a teacher. And Betty and Barbara were twins, and they both [were] service-connected, so they did a lot of traveling. But they both were in the field – oh, what's the name of the thing that they took? But it's concerning police thing. That's what they took out in San Diego.

AW: What did you do? Did you –

GH: I worked food service, 22-and-a-half years, Charleston County Memorial Hospital.

AW: Charleston County which hospital?

GH: Memorial Hospital.

AW: Where's that?

GH: Calhoun and [00:19:28 unintelligible] Street. They tear it down now, and they're going to build a children hospital.

AW: Were you musical? Did you –

GH: Yes. Most of the girls learn how to play piano. And then the boys – just one, Kenneth, he was in the band, and he played that loud cymbal. But most of the girls my father made learn how to play the piano.

AW: My husband's father is a pastor. So, he kind of grew up having to be part of the service.

GH: Yeah.

AW: They were expected --

GH: Yeah, now my father knew how to play the piano also.

AW: Yeah.

GH: Yeah.

AW: And he expected you all to –

GH: Do the same thing.

AW: – to serve the Lord.

AW: Yep, that was -- When you went to vote, where did you go to vote?

GH: Voorhees, Denmark, South Carolina. It's up there near Orangeburg.

AW: Did you have to register to vote?

GH: Huh?

AW: Did you register to vote, and then you could vote anywhere, or how did that –

GH: Oh, yeah, yeah.

AW: Downtown or in –

GH: Yeah, we had to go on – it was – we used to call it The Green, but it's Marion Square now. That's where we all went to vote, to register to vote.

AW: How has the church – you said there's a split in the church – but in general the church community. How do you feel like it's changed? Are people leaving because they're moving away to West Ashley, or what's different about the way church life is now?

GH: Well, we don't have as many members as we had then, but we worship very good now, because everybody here is everybody here. No, you'll be me little. We all little together.

AW: When you were growing up, what was the racial mix on this block and in the neighborhood around us?

GH: They were all integrated. I'm living here. You living there. You miss two houses, and there's somebody living there.

AW.: Were there ever issues around –

GH: None. None. We all get along as one. The White ones come in our yard and play, and my brothers they would go over there and play. We all got along real well.

AW: But you went to different schools?

GH: Yeah.

AW: Did you have a TV when you were growing up?

GH: Yes.

AW: And did friends come to visit at your house to watch TV, or was it more –

GH: Well, most of the people around there had televisions. They were able to get televisions. Like I 'fore said, my father worked at these places that had those things, and he was able to get it, you see. Yeah. We didn't have a problem with things like that. We were the first to have telephone.

AW: And the telephones are different now.

GH: Different, yeah, because it was a party line, and me and you go on the same party line. Probably three of us, four of us, on that same one party line. Now if you on the phone, I can't get on it. I'll have to wait 'til you get off.

AW: Did you know all the people that were on your – was it like three houses in a row or –

GH: Most of them, there was just one, two, and then our house was big, three.

AW: You got to know those people pretty well.

GH: Well, yeah.

AW: What if there was an emergency and someone wouldn't stop talking, what would you do?

GH: Well, you just have to go someplace else and make that call, because you couldn't make the person get off.

AW: Do you remember, I guess you would, the sit-in at the hospital, and did you know anybody that was involved with that?

GH: I was involved in it, and I was the cook.

AW: Can you tell us a little bit more about what happened?

GH: Well, I didn't do any marching because I was in the kitchen. But then there was a lot that did a lot of marching, and people came from all about, Black and White, to help with the nine eleven. I think it was nine eleven. I think that was the name of the union that was here to help. We had people from all over to help. At that time I did the cooking. So, I didn't have to march, thank God.

AW: Was it scary?

GH: When it first began, it was on the scary side because people was coming in, and you didn't know what they were going to do until after they get here and get settled. Then you began to trust one another.

AW: Did you feel proud to be part of it or –

GH: Yes, I am because I got a raise, too.

AW: Good. I didn't know that. That's exciting. And how about the sit-in at the Kress Building, did you know some of those kids?

GH: They were most from the different hospitals, and then other places came and they sat, but I was never able to go out and do that.

AW: Do you remember when Martin Luther King was shot? How did that impact your life?

GH: I think that was in 1983 or '86, somewhere around that side, but it was shocking because you could've seen it on the television, you see. And it was a shocking thing. But he knew that he was going to die.

AW: These are questions about the community. What kind of tourist industries were around when you were a kid? Did you ever take vacation or do fun trips to the beach or anything?

GH: Yeah, I have been to Tijuana, Mexico. I have been to Hawaii. I have been to Las Vegas. I have been to Orlando, Florida. I have been to Atlanta Georgia. Virginia, well, that was my husband home. So, these are the places that I mostly –

AW: Those are after you were married. Did you do any of those traveling –

GH: I was married.

AW: Did you travel when you were young?

GH: No, just to my husband home, yeah. But after his passing and my children are grown, then I was able to make these trips. My youngest son was a teacher. He taught computer. So, when he got ready, he'll say, Mama, we going to such-and-such a place. Be ready. And I had to take off from work so I can go to these places. And my brother used to work to United Airline. So, then we didn't have to pay for our trips, just the tax. See so that's how we got to Honolulu, Hawaii, and San Diego, California, is right across the way from Tijuana, Mexico. So, that's how – and like I said, my youngest son, he retired. So, he said we will go to Las Vegas, and that we did.

AW: That sounds like a good – lot of far-away places that --

GH: Yes, I really enjoy myself.

AW: Yeah.

GH: I told him the other day if we get some money, I'm ready.

AW: And then when you were young, did you go to Mosquito Beach or Riverside or Atlantic Beach very often?

GH: We weren't allowed to be involved with those kind of things, unless the church had an outing for us. But just to say go on your own, we weren't allowed to do that.

AW: Did the church take outings to the beach?

GH: Yeah, sometime, for the Sunday School children. Yeah, give them a outing.

AW: Did you go fishing or anything?

GH: No.

AW: Is that a boy thing?

GH: Yes, a boy thing.

AW: If you were sick when you were a child, where did you go like if you had to go to the hospital or something?

GH: We went to Roper Hospital, County Hospital, and later on in life we was able to go to Medical [University], and from Medical now St. Francis and Roper.

AW: Did you have a family doctor?

GH: Yes.

AW: Did they do house calls, or you went to an office?

GH: Most of the time, you would go to the office. But if it was necessary, they'll come to the house.

AW: Were all of your siblings born in a hospital, or where were you guys born?

GH: No. The elderly ones born at home, and then the younger ones was at Cannon Street Hospital. Yeah. But I was born home, and then my other sisters and brothers, they were born home. But the younger ones, like my brother Joe Lewis, my brother Theodore, the twins Betty and Barbara, and Kenneth, now they were born in the hospital.

AW: For the ones that were born at home, did the doctor come to the house or –

GH: Yeah. Yeah, they came to the house. Had midwives at that time.

AW: Did you have a dentist –

GH: Yeah.

AW: – when you were a kid?

GH: His name was Dr. Pickering.

AW: Was he nearby?

GH: He had his office on Cannon Street.

AW: So, Cannon Street sounds like it had a hospital and dentist office?

GH: Yeah.

AW: A lot of medical --?

GH: Yeah.

AW: Do you recall any major hurricanes or disasters when you were a child, like maybe Hurricane Gracie or anything?

GH: Not that I can remember. There could have been but, like I said, I don't remember. I remember we have snow. Yeah.

AW: When was that? Were you a kid?

GH: Yeah.

AW: Was it a lot of snow?

GH: Yes, then there were icicles, but now these children don't know nothing about that.

AW: Did you have the day off school?

GH: Yeah. You weren't able to go because you couldn't get – the walk down to the school.

AW: Do you remember, did you play in the snow?

GH: Oh, yeah. Yeah, we played right in the yard in the snow.

AW: How do you feel the community's changed since like the 1960s and '70s to today? Do you feel like it's better or worse or about the same, or is there anything that you miss the way it was compared to the way it is now?

GH: I think it's different now because you are able to do things now that you wasn't able to do in the '60s. I'm speaking of Black folks now, you know. After 1965, things change greatly. From '65 to '70, it change. Some things, and some things are yet the same old way.

AW: You feel like young people are different than they used to be?

GH: Very much so. They're wild.

AW: Do you have very many young people come to church?

GH: Not that much. They'd rather go party.

AW: Oh, what was your experience in Charleston during World War II? Do you remember that?

GH: I was a little girl then.

AW: Were you scared, or did you –

GH: Yeah. I just didn't have no desire to be anything because I just really didn't know what was going on.

AW: Was your father at risk of being drafted or anything?

GH: No, he wasn't able to go into Service. He had too many children. .

AW: Oh, you didn't have to go if you –

GH: No, if you had over three or four, I guess.

AW: So, if families were so large, then a lot of men –

GH: Mens didn't go. Yeah. And when they – I remember hearing my mother say that when they call him to register, whatnot, he couldn't remember half of the childrens' names. So, they disqualified him.

AW: So, did you know any people that went to war?

GH: I think I had two uncles that was in it, yeah. But none of my brothers was able to go into the Service.

AW: Because they would be too young?

GH: Yeah.

AW: What was it like when – you said you got pregnant when you were 16, and then you had to leave Burke and then move out of town.

GH: Yes.

AW: Was that scary?

GH: No. I was glad to get away.

AW: Was the school nice to you or –

GH: Very much, very much. I enjoyed it. We had to wear socks to breakfast. We had to go to church every day, but I didn't mind because I was used to going to church, so it didn't bother me. And then the teachers were much, much more friendlier than they are now. And they were just Black. See, Black teachers, Black children. It's different now because it's a mix, you see, but I enjoyed it then. If I wanted to come home, I had to get a letter from my parents stating that it was all right to come home for the weekend, but I automatically could've come home. During the holidays I didn't need a letter because the school was closed.

AW: This is Burke you're talking about or –

GH: No, Denmark, Voorhees.

AW: Is that where – I'm not familiar with it – a lot of pregnant girls go there, or is that why – why was it that you couldn't go to Burke?

GH: Most of them were pregnant, and then some of them were married, and this is a private school. So, then anybody couldn't go to the private school, you see, yeah.

AW: Where was that located?

GH: Denmark, South Carolina, and that was close to between Bamberg and Orangeburg.

AW: So, did they teach you like how to be a mom, or what did they teach you?

GH: No. I had regular classes. You have regular classes. I had English, math, history, French. Then it has cooking and sewing, and some had – belongs to the choirs and different things like that, because this was a regular school. It was just private. That's all. Because I couldn't go back to Burke School after having the child, and they know about it. I wasn't the only one.

AW: Did you miss Burke?

GH: Yeah, a little because it was home.

AW: And how long did you say you stayed out there?

GH: Three years.

AW: So, then you kept going to that school, and you graduated from that school with a two-year-old?

GH: Mmm-hmm.

AW: But you had a feeling of community?

GH: Yeah. Boys and girls was there.

AW: Boys were there?

GH: Yeah.

AW: Sounds like they were very accepting.

GH: Yeah, some of them was in the Service. But most of them was college, yeah, some high school and some college.

AW: Did you go to college, too?

GH: No, I didn't. I come right home and got married.

AW: How has this church changed over the years?

GH: Like I said before, we don't have much members, but the few that we do have, we get along real well, and there's no big you and little me. And whatever the pastor say goes. Even though he's my son, I have to listen to him, too.

AW: Do you still go to the Sunday School, like share services with the New Israel Church?

GH: No, they cut out the afternoon Sunday School, and they start at 9:00, and ours start at 9:30. So, we –

AW: You can't really overlap.

GH: Mmm-hmm.

AW: Do you miss that?

GH: I'm a grown lady, so I barely can make it to [unintelligible].

AW: Yeah.

GH: But as a child, that was a must. You had to be there, the Sunday School in the mornings, and you had to be to Israel at 4:00, yeah.

AW: Miss Joyce was saying there was like an ice cream shop at the corner of Simons and –

GH: Yeah, Fifth[?] and Simons Street, there was a ice cream parlor. There was a bakery right across on King Street. There was a drugstore on this side. And then on – well, over here was the grocery stores. We had Miller Grocery Store. That was on the corner of Simons and King. Then

we had Stuckey Furniture Company, and we had the fire station, yeah, on the left-hand side. No, on your right-hand side. Then on the left-hand side was your ice cream parlor, I think.

AW: Did you spend a lot of time in the summer going there?

GH: Not too much. You didn't have that kind of money.

AW: What did you do to keep cool in the summer?

GH: Well, my father had some friends. He made sure that we was cool.

AW: Did you have a fireplace?

GH: Yes.

AW: Sounds like he – yeah, he – I can't get over – he had so many [kids] – he was a busy man.

GH: Oh, yeah, yeah. And then in the evening time, he have to go see the sick members and then come back to church. But he did it all and enjoy it. He was 91 when he died.

AW: Did you feel close to him?

GH: Yes. We all did, because he was a good father.

AW: What was your favorite part about growing up or fondest memory that you have when you were a teenager?

GH: Well, as a teenager, like I said, I got pregnant at 16. So, from 16 on to 18, I was in private schools, so it wasn't too much.

AW: Yeah. Do you feel like you missed part of your youth?

GH: I think I did. Yeah, sometime my sisters would come out there, spend weekends with me.

AW: Were you the first one to have a child?

GH: Yes.

AW: I'm sure there were a lot of mixed feelings.

GH: Yeah, yeah, especially the older sisters, and the older brother.

AW: Is there anything else that you feel like would be good to share for future generations about the way things were, what you loved about –

GH: Well, I wish that the children would do much better than they are doing now. There's too much [violence] going on. As a child, you didn't hear that because seem as if we were busy, too busy, either minding children, or my brothers had to work after school. So, they didn't have time to be hanging around in the street out there, like these children now. I got some great-grandchildren you can't tell nothing. But if that was me, I'd get popped in my mouth. Plus, you would get beat with the limb off the tree. If you touch these children now with those things, see, they call the policeman, and then you [get] locked up. But when I was coming up, you could've beat me, and it didn't make no difference. If you tell my mama what I did, and she asked you, did you beat her for doing that? And my mama said – and she said to my mama, yes, I did. Then my mama will beat me again, you see, but you can't do that to these children now. See, some will fight you if you don't watch them. And they find guns, and then they shoot one another. They're just carrying on like, I don't know, up in Las Vegas. Thank God it wasn't my time when I was up there.

AW: Do you think it's because they're not as busy now, and you were so much busier? What's the difference?

GH: They just don't have nothing to do, I would say, per se. When you come from school, you had to wash dishes, or you had to mind the baby, or you had to help fold the clothes that your mother washed, something. But now what do they have to do? There's nothing there they can do. My granddaughter told my – her little daughter there, I think she was ten years old, to fold the clothes. "Do I have to"? I [would have] said, let me go home because you have to fold them clothes. If I was going to stay here [?], you wouldn't ask me that question. You see, so they're not manageable, I would say, like we were.

AW: I guess Leigh [videographer] was saying that we should talk more about like race relations. Do you have anything that you wanted to say maybe about the difference between race relations when you were a child versus the way things are now?

GH: Right now things are much more different because as a child coming up, there were just one married. Now there are mixed marriage with mixed children. When I was a child coming up, we didn't do that.

AW: That would probably cause a lot of concern.

GH: Concern, yeah.

AW: And did you feel nervous when you went into like White businesses that didn't –

GH: No, because you just usually go into business that you know. We didn't – we as children weren't allowed to go all about by ourselves. My father, if he wants us to get some clothes for school, he'll make arrangement with Condon's or whoever. My children will come and get their shoes and their dresses and whatnot at a certain time. And then they'll be looking for you.

AW: Were there a lot of Jewish families in this neighborhood when –

GH: No. They were most downtown side.

AW: Oh, yeah.

AW: Did you ever go to like The Market or White Point Gardens or –

GH: I've been downtown in The Markets more than one time.

AW: What'd you do there? Because it's a lot different now than it used to be.

GH: Yeah, well, back in my days they had vegetables and different things like that that you can go and buy. But now it's different because they have a variety of different things in there that you can buy.

AW: And then Mr. Jefferson was saying there was a zoo in Hampton Park.

GH: Yeah. All kind of animals was in there, and they took them and carried them somewhere west of the Ashley.

AW: When was that, when you were a child or –

GH: Yeah, we had zoos when I was a child. Yeah. And about 20 years ago, then they took them and carried them someplace else.

AW: Did you go visit them a lot?

GH: Well, that was mostly the only place that you could go as a child to the park out there.

AW: Could you hear them at night?

GH: Not too much because, see, we lived this side, and then they were about five or six blocks south.

AW: Mr. Jefferson was remembering he could hear the lion roar at nighttime.

GH: Oh, okay. He could have.

AW: Yeah, I bet things were a lot quieter then because people didn't have air conditioners.

GH: No, you had to use a pace[?] board, the fan with piece of paper. But we were blessed. We had a little fan. We had some fans.

AW: When you went shopping, did you always have money, or did you use credit or –

GH: My father credit. He didn't have money all the time.

AW: And then can you tell us about Sunday meals? Did you have a big feast after you finished all the church and Sunday School classes?

GH: Yes, my mother was home cooking, and you would have your meat, your vegetable, your salad, macaroni. And then she wasn't a good baker, so then she had to buy that. But we always had a variety of different kind of food.

AW: What was your favorite thing your mom made?

GH: She had – liked to make soup. Yeah.

AW: Do you make some of her recipes?

GH: All the time.

AW: I bet you think of her when you cook that.

GH: Yeah, all the time. But I don't cook as much as I used to because all my children are grown.

AW: Did she have a big kitchen? She must've.

GH: Yes.

AW: Yeah, to feed all those kids.

GH: Yeah, then we had a breakfast room. That's where we go and eat.

AW: So, your father was the pastor. Did people come to your house and eat after church?

GH: Yes, ma'am.

AW: So, you had to feed the family and –

GH: And them. But my father always said feed his children first. And anything left then, you're welcome to it.

AW: So, that might be like 50 people at your house?

GH: Yeah, sometime.

AW: I bet that was fun.

GH: And I was a early cook. I love to cook.

AW: What's your favorite thing, or what's your specialty?

GH: My pies. Yeah, I love to bake.

AW: Is there anything else that I need to ask?

Leigh Moring: Were you aware of the segregation movement that was going on nationally when you were here in Charleston?

GH: Yeah. You know that they were segregated because they would start with you couldn't eat here, you couldn't eat there, you couldn't do this, you couldn't do that. Now it's different, if you would take it the right way.

LM: And how did you and the other residents react to that?

GH: Well, it all depends on who it was. Some act wild. Some act good. It all depends on who it was.

LM: Do you feel like any of that really came into Charleston besides the hospital strike?

GH: I don't think so. I don't remember.

LM: But you seem like you feel that race relations in the past here in Charleston were much better than they are today.

GH: Yes.

LM: What do you think is the cause of that?

GH: I would say too many privileges, too many privileges causing it. You can do just anything now. Back then you couldn't do it. Like you all come down to interview me, back then you wouldn't do that. Most of your interviews would be with White folks. And now you're doing it with anybody.

AW: Where the Food Lion is down the street, I think there was – what was in that big front – in front of the Food Lion there?

GH: County Hos- – County –

AW: Was there like a farm there or a –

GH: County – no.

AW: No?

GH: It was always a building there or something going on. County Hall was across, and then they built River School there, too.

AW: What was County Hall originally?

GH: It was a dancing hall.

AW: Oh, yeah? Did you go there?

GH: Very much so. You can go and see anyone for \$1.00. Now I think it's \$12.00, \$13.00, \$14.00, more than that now to go and see the artists.

AW: So, it was like that you would go in a big room, and it had seats?

GH: Yeah, then there was a dance floor also.

AW: That must've been fun.

GH: Yes, it was because it was the only place that you could've gone in the city of Charleston to enjoy yourself.

AW: And there were famous people, right?

GH: Come, yeah. James Brown and this one, and the next one they came.

AW: And then were there – Mr. Ravenel said something about like some of the businesses on King Street also had like music or something in the back where you could just hang out at the bar.

GH: Oh, I don't know.

AW: Yeah.

GH: It could've been but, like I say, we weren't allowed to go to these places.

AW: And the mosque used to be a Piggly Wiggly?

GH: Yeah.

AW: When did that – was that recently that that was a change?

GH: That changed within the last 20 years, I would say.

AW: Okay. And then does your church do much with the mosque?

GH: No.

AW: I think that's everything. Is there again anything else that you wanted to talk about or –

GH: No.

AW: Okay.

GH: Right now we are doing the best that we can with the little people that we have. My great-grand plays the organ –

AW: Oh, yeah?

GH: – and the piano. He's 15, and he plays the drum at Burke High School, too.

AW: Did you teach him how to play all these?

GH: He taught himself.

AW: Really?

GH: Mmm-hmm.

AW: Does he read music?

GH: Huh?

AW: He reads music?

GH: No, he doesn't read music.

AW: But he can do this organ?

GH: Thing, yeah. Yeah, he knows how to do it. That's his son.

AW: That's awesome.

LM: Are you worried about the future of this neighborhood at all?

GH: Somewhat, somewhat, I mean, because there's drugs.

AW: Are there a lot of drugs? I feel like there might have been more a few years ago.

GH: There has been more, but now it seems as if they're trying to come back. This is the problem.

AW: That's too bad. Like just in some of the vacant lots or –

GH: Yeah, and over on Romney Street in the Village is where it begins. That's the drugs --

AW: Oh, by I-26?

GH: Mmm-hmm.

AW: That's called the Village?

GH: Mmm-hmm.

AW: Yeah, that's not good.

GH: Uh-uh.

AW: I know when we were cleaning up the garden, we found a lot of stuff just at the dead end over there.

GH: Mmm-hmm.

AW: Drug-looking things.

GH: Yeah.

AW: Yeah. And we found like pieces from ovens in there –

GH: Mmm-hmm.

AW: – and a lot of random garbage in there. That's unfortunate. But you have a police person that comes to the neighborhood, right?

GH: Yes.

AW: Yeah. At my church they have on Sundays – since the Emanuel A.M.E. shooting, they have a police officer. I guess there's been people – kind of creepy people at the church since then. Do you have a police officer that checks things or –

GH: Not that I know of. He could.

AW: Yeah, I was kind of surprised. I don't know if he comes every time, but I saw him a few times now.

AW: Well, I think we're good. I really appreciate your –

GH: I'm glad to do it for you.

AW: Yeah, so thank you.

GH: You're welcome.

END OF RECORDING