

Oral History Interview

with

Mary Brown

June 3, 1997

at Gelman Library, George Washington University

by Laetitia Combrinck

For the George Washington University Oral History Program

COMBRINCK: This interview is taped in the Gelman Library of the George Washington University on June 3, 1997. I'm interviewing Mary Brown. My name is Laetitia Combrinck. Good morning Mary. How are you doing?

BROWN: Good morning, Laetitia. I'm doing pretty well.

COMBRINCK: I believe you were born in Foggy Bottom. Is that true?

BROWN: Yes it is, and I can give you the exact place and the address. It was 2623 Virginia Avenue on September 20 in 1920.

COMBRINCK: That location is now the location of a hotel, the Howard Johnsons. Is that correct?

BROWN: Yes it is. It's the Premier Howard Johnsons now. It has been renamed and it's been refurbished and it's beautiful.

COMBRINCK: Did you grow up in the same house where you were born?

BROWN: I grew up there and I attended the elementary school which was located on 27th Street between Eye and K Street. The name was Montgomery Elementary School, and later, since most of the people that lived in Foggy Bottom rented, we lived later at 2511 Eye Street, NW around the corner. I attended elementary school, continued attending elementary school and then I went to Francis Junior High School. But, in between, I went to Briggs Elementary School, which was located at 22nd and G Streets, between Virginia Avenue and E, which ran together. Then I went on to Francis Junior High School, which is still there, and I understand it's a very popular neighborhood school as well as an area where people from all parts of the city attend.

COMBRINCK: That's correct. The school that you originally attended was demolished to construct a highway.

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BROWN: Whitehurst Freeway.

COMBRINCK: Can you remember that time? What happened to the school? Was the school consolidated with another one?

BROWN: Yes, the school was consolidated with Stevens and I believe Grant School, and most of the higher level children went to Briggs, which they renamed Briggs Montgomery, at 22nd Street.

COMBRINCK: So you're saying that the students were actually sent to Briggs School then?

BROWN: Yes, the majority of those went there, and some went to Phillips School, in Georgetown.

COMBRINCK: What year was that?

BROWN: You're asking me to remember. Early thirties, because I graduated from Francis in '35 or '36.

COMBRINCK: Of course in that period the school were all segregated. Is that so?

BROWN: Yes, they were.

COMBRINCK: Can you tell us also about the European schools in this area?

BROWN: My husband, my future husband at the time, was living at 24th and F Street. There was a Toner School there, which was really a health school, and there was Grant School on G Street and there were other schools farther away of which we weren't too familiar because we practically lived and worked and associated in our own neighborhoods.

COMBRINCK: Are you then inferring that the neighborhood was predominantly African American at that time?

BROWN: I wouldn't say predominantly because we had other nationalities living along G Street, F Street, K Street, Pennsylvania Avenue and it was sort of a I'd say a continental or international neighborhood.

COMBRINCK: So the European children would have gone to Georgetown to school?

BROWN: They went to various schools in the area, and some of them went to school, as I said, at Grant, and some of the other schools that were closer in the neighborhoods.

COMBRINCK: Was the area quite racially mixed?

BROWN: I would say it was.

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COMBRINCK: Were there some areas that were predominantly African American and some predominantly white?

BROWN: Yes, there were some that were predominantly white Dutch or German or, we said, Negroes in those days, or colored.

COMBRINCK: Which was the accepted term at that time?

BROWN: Colored. Colored people.

COMBRINCK: And, were you aware of an area being predominantly German or Irish?

BROWN: No, not really. I think race was not a problem in those days. I mean, you worked together, you saw each other. You lived together. They offered you their goodies when they baked or something and it was no problem. Everyone just seemed to get along as one big happy family. Of course you always have friction with some people. Some people will create it. But as far as

COMBRINCK: But socially people were mingling?

BROWN: Not close knit socially, but they saw each other, they would say "hello." All the kids played together of course, as kids will do. But you have a few who were "offish," as they called it . . ."offish."

COMBRINCK: You are referring to the white people?

BROWN: Not really. Anyone would do that. It wasn't really the whites all the time that you'd consider offish.

COMBRINCK: Of course the German Church, which is now called United Church, was on 20th and G. Were you aware of any of the members of that church living in your area?

BROWN: Not too much, because living at 26th and coming up, maybe as far as 23rd, we didn't get to associate too much with them unless you saw them in the grocery stores or something of that sort. We were aware that they were there but

COMBRINCK: What about the other churches that are no longer in the area like Gethsemane Baptist and Morning Star Baptist?

BROWN: Rock Creek Baptist

COMBRINCK: Oh, there was a Rock Creek Baptist?

BROWN: There was a church on 27th Street. I think that was Rock Creek. Morning Star was on 26th, because my older brother used to play the piano there. And Liberty was 23rd.

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Gethsemane was 22nd. But in those days you visited each church at one time or another, but my family grew up in St. Mary's. We attended that the majority of the time.

COMBRINCK: Will you give us some of your recollections of the life at St. Mary's and the activities there.

BROWN: Oh yes. At St. Mary's at one time there was a school for sewing classes. They had sewing classes and they had a clinic there at one time, and you would go in, you would take the children there to get vaccinated before they started school or take them there if they had a minor illness and they would be treated, and they had all sorts of activities for children at the school, at the church. One of the things was that some of the adults would take the children out on picnics and hayrides, and of course the zoo and the Lincoln Memorial and the Monument were main places where they went, and along West Potomac Park, all along the Tidal Basin. So there were many activities that took place outdoors and St. Mary's was behind a lot of them.

COMBRINCK: What was the size of the congregation, when you were a teenager and a young adult?

BROWN: It was about three times the size that it is now. We had Sunday school. I'd say each class had like ten or twelve children. We had five or six classes, and then we had two or three adult classes which had the same amount. I'd say our congregation ran well over two-hundred at that time, and we had a lot of visitors who'd come in, as they do now. We manage with the small group that we have now but so many of the original participants have passed on, and the children of the older people are not coming in as they really should.

COMBRINCK: You told us an explanation at the reception for the Foggy Bottom exhibit of the origin of the word Foggy Bottom. Would you expound on that again, please.

BROWN: Yes. They used to call it Froggy Bottom. And then they were corrected to say, no, it isn't Froggy, it's Foggy. And the reason it's Foggy is because being so close to the river on the days that you have that combination of the hot and cold air or whatever creates as fog, when you looked out in the mornings, you could hardly see across the street. The fog would be so heavy, and it all came up from the water. So, this is the reason it's called Foggy Bottom. It's because of that, and being in the lower area, naturally the fog lay there quite a while before it lifted.

COMBRINCK: Did that change in time? I'm not aware of a fog, as you described it in this area.

BROWN: It appears to have changed, and I believe the change is because there are so many buildings around and it's a concrete jungle now, as they call it. So I believe that has a lot to do with the fog. If it lifts, you can see it I believe sometimes on the river, but it doesn't get a chance to come up, like over Virginia Avenue as it used to. I think that's the reason.

COMBRINCK: You lived right opposite where the Watergate building is now.

BROWN: Exactly.

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COMBRINCK: Would you describe what was in place of that before the construction of that huge complex?

BROWN: Before the construction of the Watergate complex, there was a gas works there, and we called it "The Old Gas House." They used to have quite a few things going on in there when they manufactured the gas, and actually there used to be a train that came in to the gas works. My uncle used to work there and of course after they burned the coal for the energy that was created they would have a material called coke, which they would sometimes give away to the people who lived in the area to use in their stoves.

COMBRINCK: What other industries or factories or businesses were in that area? Could you reconstruct the area, please?

BROWN: Well, there was also the old Chris Heurich Brewery. That was along the 25th Street area. There was in, well it really isn't Foggy Bottom, but along the waterfront going towards Georgetown along K Street there was Barrow Roofing and Barrow Company and the Flour Mill and a rendering plant, which gave off horrible odors at certain times of the year. But a lot of the area residents worked in these various places, and farther up along 25th Street there was the Chestnut Farms Dairy. That was a source of work for a lot of people in the area. There were also two laundries on 27th Street. One was Congers and the other was Sterling, and a lot of the people worked in those that were there. And we had, they used to call them "Jew stores," little corner grocery stores, because the majority of the owners and operators were of the Jewish faith. And later we had a couple of Chinese families move in and operate the store at the corner of 26th and Eye. There was a barber shop on the opposite corner of 26th Street, and that was operated by a "colored fellow." His wife had a beauty shop in the rear of the barber shop and they lived in the rear above it. That was another source of employment for the area residents.

COMBRINCK: Do you recall the M and J Market on New Hampshire and Eye Street?

BROWN: I believe that at one time there was a market there on New Hampshire and Eye, but there was also one at the corner of 25th and Eye. Later, if I'm correct, that M and J was turned into a tailor shop? I'm not sure about that one. Memory slipped me.

COMBRINCK: Do you recall any factories on 25th Street, like a furniture plant?

BROWN: There was one distributor right at the corner of 25th and H, and I forget the name of whatever it was there.

COMBRINCK: What was the business?

BROWN: I believe they just collected or stored items to deliver. I don't know whether they did anything in there or not but it was on the corner of 25th and H right across from the Rodex House, but on the H street side.

COMBRINCK: What are your recollections of Snow's Court? It's one of the oldest areas in Foggy Bottom.

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BROWN: There were two courts, Hugh's Court and Snow's Court. There was Green's Court on Eye Street between 26 and 27. You go in on the Eye Street side, and then Snow's Court, you'd go up 25th. And I didn't know too much about the courts. I mean people lived in them, in those; they used to call them alleys then . . . Green's Alley, Snow's Court. Snow's Court was always called "Snow's Court." But people lived in them. They were just other dwellings as far as I know that people lived in.

COMBRINCK: Were they categorized as low income areas where the poorer section of Foggy Bottom lived?

BROWN: Actually, I, frankly speaking, some of the people who lived up in there had bigger, prettier cars than some of the people that lived out on 25th or 26th Street, so I can't say what their income was. Practically everyone worked somewhere or whatever and I wouldn't exactly say that. I have read some articles that say along Snow's Court or Hugh's Court they saw all of these shacks. But actually most of these places were brick houses and I think what some people were describing as shacks were actually what was called a wood shed to the other houses, where they would store their wood and coal and junk as people collect out in those houses and of course there was an outhouse right there next to it. And people did not actually live in those things that have been described as shacks.

COMBRINCK: Next to St. Mary's is an old building which is called The Stables.

BROWN: That's a carriage house, and that was at the rear of one of our parishioner's homes that was recently torn down where we have a parking area now. Mr. Brown used to drive horse and buggies, and carriages used to be stored in there, and some other people used to use that to store their carriages and to keep them from sitting out on the streets.

COMBRINCK: And how does St. Mary's acquire it?

BROWN: St. Mary's purchased that from Mr. Brown, well, Mr. Brown's relatives after he passed. He had left word that he wanted St. Mary's to buy it. He didn't leave it to St. Mary's. It was purchased.

COMBRINCK: As you mentioned . . . carriages. Do you recall the time that horse carriages were used?

BROWN: I do vaguely remember that we had, not Eleanor Roosevelt, the other Roosevelt's daughter who used to come up to St. Mary's and take some of the children for rides in her carriage. I can't remember her name now, but Mr. Harris could probably remember the name. I remember vaguely. And the old, what do you call the electric cars? There was an elderly lady who lived in our area and she had one of those electric cars.

COMBRINCK: This was in the thirties?

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BROWN: Well, somewhere back there when I was small. I don't remember the year now but, it was quite a while back. I was small, I remember. We used to always watch for her to come down the street.

COMBRINCK: The use of horse carriages . . . was that a curiosity or was that genuine need?

BROWN: Well, for the majority of the people, that was a genuine need in those days.

COMBRINCK: So, regular cars as we know them were not

BROWN: They were few and far between. But I do vaguely remember this lady had this electric car. We thought it was such a big deal to watch her come down the street in it.

COMBRINCK: I understand that many areas in Foggy Bottom had not been electrified for quite some time. Would you explain that?

BROWN: Well, most of the houses had running water in them, which was cold, but they did not have electricity and they used oil lamps. So that . . . I can't remember the year that Well actually, when I moved from Foggy Bottom in '51 I think a few houses still used oil lamps.

COMBRINCK: When you were growing up did you have electricity?

BROWN: We had oil lamps. We used oil lamps for quite a while. But I don't remember the year that they installed electricity. We had gas. I remember that, in some of the places, but they were up on the walls, and you would turn them on and We had gas in St., Mary's Church.

COMBRINCK: Gas lamps.

BROWN: Yes. Gas lamps in St. Mary's Church. And of course the fixtures are still hanging there.

COMBRINCK: And, you mentioned in your talk that there were, the street lights were gas lamps.

BROWN: Yes, there used to be a guy that came along in the afternoon just before dusk, around dusk, and light the lamps, and we used to follow him around. He was the lamp lighter, and it was really something, because we knew once he came along to light the lamps, it was time for us to go in. We had to go in, but we always liked to come along and walk along with him. He knew all of the kids in the neighborhood, so that was something.

COMBRINCK: How did he light the lamps? Did he use a ladder?

BROWN: He would light his little torch, and then he had this long stick, because he was very short. He was really short, and he'd have to use this long stick to light them, similar to the thing they use in churches now to put out the candles. But he had this long extended post that he used to light the lamps.

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COMBRINCK: Did they have to be turned off in the morning, or turned out in the morning?

BROWN: That was something I never did find out. I imagine they did. Someone probably came around early in the morning and turned them off, because it was probably before we got up. But they were always off in the mornings, when we went to school.

COMBRINCK: And what about indoor plumbing? Was that installed when you were a child?

BROWN: Oh yes. We had it on Eye Street and on 26th Street. On Virginia Avenue there were outhouses all along that whole row, but around the corner As I said, some of the places were built different from the others. Like in the apartment buildings they had it and some of the other houses that were above 26th Street, and going toward K Street. But that row of houses Well, no, I'll say at the corner there was a small apartment building and at one time there was an Amoco Station there on Virginia Avenue, right next door to the Howard Johnsons. There was a little apartment building there. They had indoor plumbing. And then they tore that down and put a gas station there, which is also gone now.

COMBRINCK: You were a young child when the Lincoln Memorial was built. Do you recall anything about the area around the Lincoln Memorial? Was that a residential area? Was it built up? Was the area of the Ellipse and the Mall?

BROWN: From my remembrance of that area was that it was really a recreational area. There were golf courses, parks, and riding areas there. I don't recall homes being in that area, but we used to go down and just recreational play, have picnics and whatever in the area.

COMBRINCK: What about swimming pools? Were there any pools in Foggy Bottom?

BROWN: In the early thirties Francis Junior High School had a pool and most the area kids went there. But as far as I know most of the boys went to the river to swim.

COMBRINCK: What about the girls? Didn't they swim in the river?

BROWN: No. Some of those tomboys did, but most of the girls just stayed away from it. We had a lot of tomboys. Later on we had a girl's softball team. As a matter of fact, we had two girls' softball teams. And that's when we found out that some of the girls that play softball with us used to swim with the boys in the Potomac.

COMBRINCK: This was also the time before TV. What do you recall about entertainment? How did people entertain themselves in the evenings? Did they listen to the radio?

BROWN: They listened to the radio and then we had a theatre at 26th and M Street which was called the Blue Mouse. And that was run by a colored family, the Martins, who lived in Georgetown. And my father worked for the Warren Errit (??) Roofing Company on K Street and he would stop over on Friday. That family was well known in Foggy Bottom. The Roofing and Barrel Company and later they did other things in the area. They contributed to the

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neighborhood. I think they were part owners of the bar that was on G Street, about 24th or 25th. I think someone mentioned that one time.

COMBRINCK: Can you remember the name of the bar?

BROWN: No, I can't remember the name of it.

COMBRINCK: In those days, were bars attended by men only, or was it women also?

BROWN: Mainly men attended those. But on Friday afternoons the Heurich Brewery used to have open house and then everyone would go down there and they'd have free beer. I think it was a time when they would get to the bottom of the vats to clean out and they would give that away.

COMBRINCK: Did you ever meet Mr. Heurich?

BROWN: No, I never did.

COMBRINCK: Then of course the brewery was closed for quite some time, and they produced apple juice.

BROWN: Yes, listening to his grandson that night

COMBRINCK: Do you remember anything of the activities there at that time, and then later on when the brewery was used by the Arena Stage?

BROWN: No, I don't recall that because I think that happened about the time when, nearer the fifties

COMBRINCK: That's right.

BROWN: And I think I moved away in '51. I used to go to other parts of the city at the time, so I didn't stay around Foggy Bottom too much in that time.

COMBRINCK: And the government buildings in this area, do you recall which ones they were?

BROWN: Yes. I worked at two of the old temporary buildings as they were called . . . the Army, the Navy building, and the Munition building. They were on Constitution Avenue and they started about 19th Street and went all the way down to 17th Street. Actually, I think the Munition building came up to 20th. And then there was the old Naval Hospital, which was on 23rd Street, which took up from Constitution Avenue up to E Street, and one part of it is still there. They're still using it. But I worked in the Munition building in August of '42. That's when I entered Federal service. I stayed there until November of '46 and we moved to the Pentagon building. I worked for the old War Department, it was called then. Actually we were supposed to move into the building that the State Department has near 21st and E. It was built for the War Department, but the State Department

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(End of Tape 1, Side 1)

(Tape 1, Side 2)

We were supposed to move into the building that the State Department has there, 21st and E. It was built for the War Department. State Department saw it. They liked it and captured it. So we went to the Pentagon and I worked for the War Department there until 1947. The guys were coming back from wars and we had an operation that was all girls, or all women, as they were called in those days, so when they started bringing back the guys they had to give them jobs. So they replaced a lot of the women and the women were placed in various jobs like files and typing. Well, I had taken an exam for psychiatric aides and I said well I didn't want to get stuck in the file room, typing pool or anything of that sort, so the psychiatric aide was for the St. Elizabeth's mental hospital which was run by Federal Security Agency at the time. So I went out there, and of course you had to take a physical. I took a physical and passed and they hired me so I transferred to the Federal Security Agency in 1947 and I worked at St. Elizabeth's in the C service which is the two buildings next to the Administration Building until August 1948 and I took the post war clerical exam and I wound up in the Navy Department. So I went to work at Navy Annex which is over near Arlington Cemetery in 1948 as a maintenance clerk. That was in the Accounting Shop of the Navy Department. From the Navy Annex I worked at Bureau of Supplies and Accounts. They had offices in the Navy Building down on Constitution Avenue, so in 1956 they transferred some of us to the Navy Building downtown on Constitution Avenue, so I wound up in the other old building.

COMBRINCK: Which location was that?

BROWN: Constitution Avenue next door to the Munition Building, which was near 17th Street. The two older

COMBRINCK: The temporary buildings that had been torn down?

BROWN: Yes. In 1970. So I worked there for a while, and then we went back to the Navy Annex.

COMBRINCK: So those buildings were replaced by the park, Constitution Gardens?

BROWN: Yes. There's just a little bit of space there. Right. So that's the way I worked in both of the old buildings, the old temporary buildings. And then we went back to Navy Annex and in the late sixties we moved back to the Navy Department down Constitution Avenue again. And then they built Crystal City and they said, "We're going to demolish these buildings," so we had to go.

COMBRINCK: You mentioned the buildings were temporary.

BROWN: They called them temporary during the First World War

COMBRINCK: Were they comfortable to work in?

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BROWN: They were very comfortable, heavy brick buildings that took them forever to demolish because they were so well built. The temporary buildings that were behind the Constitution Avenue buildings were no problem to get down because they were mostly frame. There were other buildings behind those.

COMBRINCK: Which ones were the more permanent ones?

BROWN: They fronted on Constitution Avenue. They were well built, very sturdy, concrete.

COMBRINCK: I understand that there was a Navy building or a building historically used by the Navy Department on 21st Street, which was later on the Circle Theater. Do you know anything about that?

BROWN: The Circle Theater was up on Pennsylvania Avenue on near the corner. I remember we used to go to the Circle Theater later.

COMBRINCK: Was the Circle Theater already in existence when you were young?

BROWN: Yes, that building was there, because we used to come up to Pennsylvania Avenue to the stores, you know the different stores there. And actually when I was going to school I used to bus dishes at that Park Central apartment building up there. It's still there, I believe, unless they've torn it down recently. Right there at 22nd and Virginia Avenue. They used to have a restaurant downstairs.

COMBRINCK: It's now owned by George Washington University. The Riverside Apartments.

BROWN: Something like that. I used to bus dishes after school. Yes, we used to go to the Circle Theater.

COMBRINCK: Do you recall the old St. Paul's church on 23rd Street?

BROWN: The old church and they had a school? School on 24th . . . girl's school, or probably just a school. I don't know whether it was strictly girls.

COMBRINCK: It was a church school, on 24th Street?

BROWN: Yes, there was a church school around there.

COMBRINCK: What do you recall about the presence of the George Washington University in this area?

BROWN: Well, a lot of people thought it was a good idea to have a university in the area because the neighborhood was changing into a sort of a cultural neighborhood, and actually George Washington brought a lot of work to various people in the neighborhood. My sister retired from there. She was a dietician at the hospital for a while. But it was something that people thought was good for the neighborhood, and of course I thought it was also. Although the

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only thing that really, I don't know if it hampered anyone, but everyone thought that they were sort of gobbling up the neighborhood because they were purchasing places here and there and everywhere, but on the whole I think it's turned out to be a good thing for the neighborhood. And universities have to grow. I understand that, and this is what it has done to this area of the city. It put it on the map, as you would say.

COMBRINCK: Are you aware, or did you know any people whose houses were bought by the university?

BROWN: No, I don't know anyone whose houses were bought, because the people that I knew like my father-in-law and my friends and all, their houses were purchased by the developers of the Kennedy Center and Potomac Plaza, and Columbia Plaza. So I don't know of any people that George Washington bought.

COMBRINCK: Which properties were bought by the Kennedy Center, or the developer?

BROWN: All of the area along Virginia Avenue and 25th. 26th is where my girlfriend lived where the building that was originally the Insurance Building was. They lived along that area. And my father-in-law's was F Street, where the Columbia Plaza, Potomac Plaza, I get them mixed up, along F Street there.

COMBRINCK: That's interesting. What do you recall about the area where Columbia Plaza was constructed, because F Street and 24th Street were built over?

BROWN: That's not there any more. There were a couple of apartment buildings along 23rd and 24th Street along near the old Naval Hospital, where my husband's brothers used to run the elevator, and my father-in-law lived on F Street, the 2400 block, and the picture that I have there of course, Gilison (??) Store, which was across the street, they own some of the buildings along that way also. And there was that Toner (??) school, which was a school for health, was a health school for children who had health problems. They would pick them up in a bus and bring them there and take them home in the afternoons. It was a nice neighborhood, I thought, but they did take away quite a few homes over there.

COMBRINCK: It was also commented that Foggy Bottom was really a working class or a poor neighborhood. Would you comment on that?

BROWN: Well, I'd say it was a mixed neighborhood, because a lot of the people who worked for the federal government lived in Foggy Bottom. Say for instance like my family. Practically everyone in my family worked for the federal government. But we lived in Foggy Bottom. And as my father-in-law stated in one of his mentions to the newspaper, it really wasn't considered, he wouldn't consider it a slum area and he didn't understand why they always said it, but this is one way they have of getting property that's needed for future buildings by declaring neighborhoods slum areas. So some of the places were beautiful and they had lovely gardens and I think it was a nice neighborhood. Of course there were bad parts to Foggy Bottom, and they weren't all in the alleys or the Hugh's Court, as they call it. But otherwise I thought there were very beautiful areas in Foggy Bottom. It still is.

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COMBRINCK: When do you think the change in the area was noticeable? You lived in a time when it was very residential, and then gradually things changed. When would you say there was a definite change noticeable?

BROWN: Early fifties.

COMBRINCK: Would you explain?

BROWN: Well, you could see the difference, well, a lot of people vacated the places and they were standing vacant a while, and then there were other buildings going up and buildings coming down and it just looked, in some places it looked desolate. Like a desolate area.

COMBRINCK: Were these bought by developers?

BROWN: Yes, they were, and as I mentioned before, there was one person that bought a lot of the houses in order to sell them to the developers. But you could see the change. It didn't look as nice when you came down some of the streets and when it . . . up. I was living in Northeast at the time but I used to come back over because my Mom was still living in the area. And you could always tell the difference. It just looked different.

COMBRINCK: To what do you ascribe this change?

BROWN: Well, I would say that some people say, well, "hey why should I keep this up because I've got to go anyway so I'll just let it all go" and it just, well people got despondent or something about the area. I don't know, just indifference, most likely, but it's hard to describe what happened because you really don't know, but you just saw the difference in the looks of the neighborhood.

COMBRINCK: Do you have any idea of how people felt about this?

BROWN: That's the thing. You don't know. You could see the change but you didn't know, and you just hated to approach a person and ask them anything, especially when you didn't live there anymore. So that's something that I never really found out.

COMBRINCK: Of course with the big developments, the Columbia Plaza and along Queen Anne's Lane, do you remember any of, do you remember the time that that happened, or the circumstances?

BROWN: Not really. As I say, that happened in the early fifties when I had moved out, so I didn't get to talk to a lot of the residents at the time.

COMBRINCK: Do you have any more comments on life in this area?

BROWN: Well, I just want to say that I hope that these little words will help to keep the spirit of Foggy Bottom going and that I will never give up Foggy Bottom, and I really enjoyed being in

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the neighborhood and to remain a member of St. Mary's church and to help as well as I can with anything that I can do.

COMBRINCK: Well, thank you very much Mary. It's been a pleasure talking to you and your contribution is valued very much.

BROWN: Well, I thank you for asking me to do this today.

COMBRINCK: Thank you.

(End of Interview)