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Presbyterian Towers Resident Association Records (Nigel Watson Files) : A Collection Guide

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

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Nigel Watson

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Presbyterian Towers Resident Association Records (Nigel Watson Files)



A Collection Guide by

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Introduction to the Collection

Nigel J. Watson, longtime real estate agent and activist, moved into the Presbyterian Towers in 2004. Located at 430 Bay Street NE in downtown St. Petersburg, this facility has offered senior residential living since opening in 1968. In the early 1960s, Southwest Florida Presbyterians sought solutions to the problem of people (mostly retirees) who had difficulty locating affordable housing. With loan assistance from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, local Presbyteries began to build facilities. As of summer 2008, the Presbyterian Homes and Housing Foundation of Florida, Inc., operated Presbyterian Towers with sponsorship by the Tampa Bay and Peace River Presbyteries. This organization provides over 3,100 units at twelve sites, eleven of which offer residency exclusively to those over the age of sixty-two. The twelfth site (Tampa Presbyterian Village across the Hillsborough River from downtown Tampa) serves families. The collection represents Nigel Watson's files from his involvement with the Presbyterian Towers Resident Association, an organization of tenants at the facility.

Preservation Note

The materials in this collection occupy two acid-free document boxes. While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of such items, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. To prevent further damage to the fragile materials in this collection, avoid exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. Protective gloves should be worn when handling all photographs and fragile documents. Please use preservation photocopies when they are provided. While no restrictions limit access to this collection, library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection. Patrons using this collection must adhere to copyright and fair-use guidelines and provide proper citation of sources appearing in their research.

Provenance of the Presbyterian Towers Resident Association Records

This collection falls under the Local and Regional History provenance of the Special Collections and Archives department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, USF St. Petersburg.

Scope and Contents

The contents occupy two document boxes (approximately 0.75 linear ft.). The materials date from the mid-1990s through 2008, with the bulk of materials covering the period from 2004 through 2008.

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1: Resident's Guide and Photographs

Brochures and a booklet provided to residents as they began their residency.

Box 1, Folder 2: PTRR Constitution and Bylaws

Box 1, Folder 3: PTR A Meeting Minutes and Working Records

Minutes, agendas, and records maintained by Nigel Watson during his tenure on the Presbyterian Towers Resident Association.

Box 1, Folder 4: PTR A Working Papers

Notes and working papers maintained by Nigel Watson during his tenure on the Presbyterian Towers Resident Association.

Box 1, Folder 5: PTR A Corresponding and Recording Secretary Duties

Includes records related to these offices on the PTR A Executive Board.

Box 1, Folder 6: PTR A Treasurer's Records

Contains records related to the PTR A Executive Board's oversight of the budget .

Box 1, Folder 7: PTR A Messenger Newsletter

Various issues of the Resident Association's newsletter, mostly between 2004 and 2007.

Box 2, Folder 1: Events and Activities (2004-2008)

Contains a fairly complete array of brochures and fliers documents activities for residents of Presbyterian Towers, such as barbeques, holiday dinners, lectures, and concert performances held on site.

Box 2, Folder 2: Library

A small assortment of files related to the operation of the community's library on the first floor of the facility near the social and recreational area.

Box 2, Folder 3: "The Little Shop"

A small shop operated on site by volunteers that raised funds. Included are occasional issues of The Little Shop Breeze newsletter that was distributed to residents.

Box 2, Folder 4: Deceased/Necrology (1993-2007)

A list—maintained by a resident—of other residents who passed away while living at the Presbyterian Towers.

Box 2, Folder 5: "Sunshine Lady's Log" (2000-2005)

A list of sympathy cards, get well cards, and other similar correspondence sent out by the "Sunshine Lady." The practice ended in October 2005 as the Presbytery cited privacy issues in declining to provide information to the "Sunshine Lady."