Greenwood Cemetery, the St. Louis area's oldest nonsectarian commercial cemetery for African-American burials, was founded by Herman Krueger in 1874. An estimated 50,000 individuals were buried in the cemetery, including many notables in the community. The National Register of Historic Places listed the site in 2004.

Krueger's son-in-law and his family owned and maintained the property until the 1980s when they sold it to a local politician, Solomon Rooks. Unable to operate it profitably, Rooks allowed the cemetery's condition to deteriorate. A not-for-profit group, Friends of Greenwood Cemetery, organized cleanup efforts and led a successful attempt to have ownership transferred first to St. Louis County and then to the Friends organization itself.

Researcher and author Kevin Belford recovered the historic cemetery records in Mr. Rooks' possession and lent them to WHMC for photocopying in 1997. This collection contains copies of existing burial records and minutes of the board of directors, newspaper clippings and legal documents discussing the property transfer, and research materials added by individuals who participated in the efforts to preserve the property. Collection includes two oral histories with individuals who observed burials at Greenwood.

**FOLDER LIST**

2. Newsclippings and court records regarding Solomon Rooks' ownership of Greenwood Cemetery
4. Printouts from microfilm: Volume 3, Greenwood Cemetery Record Book, 1940-1966
6. Printouts from microfilm: Volume 5, Burials Book, 1971
9. Greenwood Notes from Margaret Archambault

**AUDIOCASSETTES:**

Oral histories conducted by Ann Morris of WHMC with individuals who grew up in homes adjacent to the cemetery

T-577.1a & T577.1b - Margaret Archambault
5-577.2 - Barbara Prater
MICROFILM:

Cemetery records in Folders 2 through 6, plus one additional folder (Volume 1, Record Book of Greenwood Cemetery Association Board of Directors, 1904-1942) are contained on a single reel of microfilm.

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