



BHC-MSS 0143  
Guide to the Papers of Roger W. Floyd  
By Meg Rinn  
May 2021

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Floyd, Roger W.

**Title:** Papers of Roger W. Floyd

**Dates:** 1973-1982

**Quantity:** 3.3 linear feet (9 manuscript boxes)

**Abstract:** Reverend Roger Wentworth Floyd (October 8, 1930-August 2, 2013) was a Methodist minister who served in New Haven, Waterbury, and in the Greater Bridgeport area during his lifetime. He was active in the city's political scene as well, and ran for mayor twice against John C. Mandanici – in 1977 and 1979. He also served as the chairman of the Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc., which was the first urban renewal project in the city that was developed with Bridgeport residents.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History:**

Reverend Roger Wentworth Floyd (October 8, 1930-August 2, 2013) was a Methodist minister who served in New Haven, Waterbury, and in the Greater Bridgeport area during his lifetime. Active in the communities where he served, his time in Bridgeport saw him become the executive directory of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, among many other roles. He was active in the city's political scene as well, and ran for mayor twice against John C. Mandanici – in 1977 and 1979.

Advocacy for the poor and addressing racial inequality was a part of Floyd's work. This shows in the collection through the inclusion of material from the Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc., the city's first cooperative city planning project with its residents. The group worked with the Bridgeport Redevelopment Agency to bring improved housing and infrastructure to the Congress Plaza area, eventually building the Unity Heights complex. The completed complex was turned into a coop, enabling those living there to be home owner. Floyd served as the group's chairman through the life of the project.

His wife, Joy, served as a reference librarian in the Bridgeport Public Library system for a time, and the couple had three children together.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?n=roger-w-floyd&pid=166383082>

**Scope and Content note:**

These papers focus on Floyd's mayoral campaign and his involvement with redevelopment in Bridgeport. The mayoral campaign material features subject files on city issues, but also larger involvement within the national Democratic party, as Floyd was sent as an elector to the national

convention in 1980. Material related to Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. makes up the bulk of the collection and provides thorough and complete documentation of the urban renewal project, the first in the city to focus on involving residents with all aspects of the work. These materials are key for understanding urban housing and redevelopment in light of white flight in the 1970s and 1980s, especially in Bridgeport as the city was hit particularly hard during those decades.

**Arrangement Note:**

Material is arranged in three series: Campaign and personal files which are arranged alphabetically by subjects, issue files which are also arranged alphabetically by subjects, and Congress Plaza Planning Council. Inc. which has a brief set of subject files placed first, followed by the legal documents relating to land purchase and the final transfer of ownership to the coop, and then rounded out by the various binders of information relating to the ins and outs of the project. There are time period overlaps within the binder groups.

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** 1982.22, gift of Roger Floyd.

**Preferred Citation:**

Papers of Roger W. Floyd (BHC-MSS 0143), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

**Names and Subject Tracings**

*Personal names*

Floyd, Roger W.

*Corporate names*

Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc.

*Subject tracings*

City planning

Urban renewal

Politics

**Detailed box and folder listing**

Box 1

Series I, Campaign and personal files

1. Addresses and names, 1977-1979
2. Brochures and flyers, 1977
3. Brochures and flyers, 1979
4. Campaign organization, 1977
5. Campaign organization, 1979
6. Clergy, 1977
7. Democratic Action Committee, 1978-1980
8. Democratic National Convention, 1980
9. Election complaint, 1979
10. Election day procedures, 1977
11. Election day procedures, 1979
12. Election returns, 1975, 1977, 1979
13. Election returns, 1979
14. Election, town committee, 1980

15. Election, town committee and decision, not to run, 1981
16. Election, town committee, 1982
17. Financial, 1977
18. Financial, 1979
19. Financial, 1979
20. Headquarters, 1977, 1979
21. Koos, Gary, 1980
22. Letters, 1977
23. Letters from supporters, 1979

#### Box 2

1. Media releases, 1977
2. Policy board, 1977
3. Radio spots, 1979
4. Schedule, 1977
5. Speeches, 1977
6. Speeches, 1979
7. Slate and biographies, 1977
8. Slate and biographies, 1979
9. Town committee rules, 1979

#### Series II - Issue files

10. Taxes and budget, 1975-1979
11. Police and crimes, 1975-1979
12. Employment, 1975-1979
13. Development, 1975-1979
14. Education-CETA, 1975-1979
15. Education, 1975-1979
16. Housing, 1975-1979
17. Corruption, 1975-1979
18. Elderly, 1975-1979
19. Special interests, 1975-1979
20. Charter, undated

#### Box 3

1. Town committee, self-endorsement, 1975-1979

#### Series III, Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc.

2. Post transfer to Unity Height Cooperative Inc., 1981
3. Transfer to Unity Heights Coop Inc., 1980-1981
4. Allowance to make project operation, 1974-1980
5. Final closing, 1980
6. Fence, 1979-1980
7. Lights, 1980
8. Cabinets, 1979-1981
9. TV master antenna, 1980
10. Contractors, site work, backgrounds, 1980-1981
11. Congress plaza final closing (coop) 74-68, 1980
12. Conveyance of Unity Heights Project from Congress Plaza Development Corporation to Unity Heights Cooperative Incorporated, October 31, 1980
13. Conveyance of Unity Heights Project from Congress Plaza Development Corporation to Unity Heights Cooperative Incorporated, October 31, 1980

Box 4

1. Conveyance of Unity Heights Project from Congress Plaza Development Corporation to Unity Heights Cooperative Incorporated, October 31, 1980
2. Congress Plaza Development Corporation, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, initial closing, May 29, 1974
3. Congress Plaza Development Corporation, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, initial closing, May 29, 1974

Box 5

1. Planning council, 1970-1974
2. Planning council, 1970-1974
3. Planning council, 1970-1974
4. Planning council, 1970-1974
5. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. 1972-1974
6. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. 1972-1974

Box 6

1. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. 1973-1975
2. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. 1973-1975
3. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. 1973-1979
4. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. 1973-1979
5. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. 1973-1979

Box 7

1. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. [construction], 1975-1980
2. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. [construction], 1975-1980
3. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc.,1975-1980
4. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc.,1975-1980
5. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc.,1975-1980

Box 8

1. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc.,1976-1979
2. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc.,1976-1979
3. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. finance and audits, 1974-1979
4. Congress Plaza Planning Council Inc. finance and audits, 1974-1979

Box 9

1. Additional material including original master plan and dissolution, 1976-1982