

**District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency**

**Shaw School Urban Renewal District Case Files,  
1967-1968**

**Record Group 14:** Records of the Dept. of Housing and Community Development

**D.C. Archives Accession Number:** 90-010

**Quantity:** 32 archives boxes (legal size); 13.75 cubic ft.

**Arrangement:** Arranged in folders by square number, then sequentially by RLA building number in each file folder.

The first file in Box 1 contains information regarding the collection, including a map of squares surveyed in the Shaw School district, and an RLA Manual for Building Surveyors which contains the RLA guidelines used in the survey for evaluating and interpreting the results of the survey, and relevant sections of the D.C. Building Code. Two file folders in Box 32 contain survey forms marked "Ratings Went Up," and "Forms Not Complete" which have not been interfiled to retain the original file order of the survey. Copies of the survey plats for each square in the building survey are contained in two files folders, also in Box 32.

**Background:** In 1968, the Redevelopment Land Agency contracted with the Shaw Joint Venture, a consortium of local African American architects and engineers to undertake a building of the Shaw School urban renewal district in accordance with the Housing Act of 1964, and the Model Inner-Cities urban renewal program. A total of 6,155 buildings in the Shaw urban renewal area were surveyed on the exterior, and a random 20% of these buildings were surveyed in the interior. An evaluation of the survey found 4,872 structures to be deficient, or approximately 79% of all buildings in the Shaw district. The boundaries of the Shaw School district for the purposes of this survey are approximately North Capitol Street to 15th Street, NW on the east and west; and M Street/New York Avenue, NW to Florida Avenue on the north and south.

**Scope and content:** A typical multi-page survey form consists of a summary cover sheet and photograph(s), and up to 4 pages which contain information concerning the exterior and interior features (in some cases) of each of the 6,155 buildings in the survey area.

Page one of the form identifies the square number, RLA building number, and the street address; building condition; present use; building material; and ancillary structures, if any. Attached to page one is at least one photograph of the building with the square and building number clearly shown for identification. Photographs of the front, rear, and sides of each building are attached where it was feasible to take them.

Page two describes exterior building conditions for the front, rear, and sides; spaces to check "Miscellaneous, Structural, Non-Structural, and Deficiency Levels" of walls, window frames and sash, door frames and doors, porches and steps, retaining walls, chimneys and flues, fire escapes, gutters and downspouts, and walks.

Pages three, four and five, if attached, are reserved for interior conditions of the building. Typical notations for these pages include building components of both structural and non-structural elements including building material and conditions of walls, foundation, roof, bearing walls, floor assembly, beams and girders, and columns. Non-structural elements include non-bearing partitions, window frames and sash, door frames and doors, interior stairs, and chimneys and flues. Page four describes interior heating, plumbing, electrical, and sanitary and cooking facilities in the building. Page five describes the means of egress; space, light and ventilation findings, and a summary of findings based on total points as established for the interior survey. In some instances, as for much of Square 551, sketches of floor plans accompany the survey forms.

The Squares surveyed in this project were:

202	280	360	442	552
203	281	361	444	553
204	302	362	445	W553
205	303	363	447	554
206	304	364	448	555
207	305	365	475	614
208	306	367	E475	615
209	308	368	S475	616
210	309	393	477	617
211	310	394	478	618
235	312	395	479	2872
236	314	396	480	
239	330	397	481	
240	331	398	507	
242	332	399	508	
N242	334	400	E509	
243	N334	416	512	
271	335	417	513	
274	336	419	519	
275	337	420	520	
276	338	421	521	
277	339	422	522	
S277	340	424	523	
N278	357	440	550	
279	358	441	551	