

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Alonzo Smith

Date 2000 November 11

Primary Maker Alonzo Smith

Medium digitized audio cassette tape

Description (.1-.2) Two audio cassette tapes of an interview with Alonzo Smith, who was interviewed by Fiona Vernal on November 11, 2000. (.3) Black and white portrait photograph of Alonzo Smith. Topics discussed include Smith's father's occupation at Port Morant Sugar Estate; siblings; education; Smith's dreams as a cricket player and the opportunity to go to the United States on farm work; cricket; selection and recruitment for farm work; flying on an airplane and leaving Guyana; camp accommodations; food at the camps; meeting his future wife; his wedding; employment history as a janitor and bookkeeper; Fenn Manufacturing; his job promotion to management and demotion after the company is sold; relations between Black American men and West Indian men; dealing with cultural difference in the context of marriage; West Indians and the discipline of children with corporal punishment; the West Indian Social Club; dominoes, dances, picnics, Christmas parties, and anniversary balls at the Social Club; other West Indian organizations; the Guyanes Organization and the problem of Jamaican dominance; the colonial legacy of a class, caste system; the Women's Auxiliary and full membership in the West Indian Social Club; generational differences; intellectual and class divides at the Social Club; the Guyanese Cultural Organization; Smith's

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reflection on fifty years in the U.S. and creating West Indian political clout in

Hartford; citizenship, immigration, and the shifting policy towards the

Caribbean; politics; decline of West Indian reputation and work ethic; and

teaching respect for authority. Tape 1: 2013.26.4.1a-d consists of two sides, the

tape, and a J-card. Tape 2: 2013.26.4.2a-c consists of one side, the tape, and a J-

card. 2013.26.4.3: photograph

Dimensions Duration (tape 1, side 1): 45 Minutes, 10 Seconds Duration (tape 1,

side 2): 45 Minutes, 35 Seconds Duration (tape 2): 20 Minutes, 34 Seconds

Duration (total runtime): 1 Hour, 51 Minutes, 19 Seconds