

# **Virginia Julien Papers**

## **512012.VJP.TJSEZ**

**Finding aid prepared by T.J. Szafranski and Elise Zerega**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DuSable Museum of African American History  
May 1, 2012  
Chicago, IL

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	DuSable Museum of African American History
<b>Title</b>	Virginia Julien Papers
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1971-1985
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1902-2006
<b>Extent</b>	24.5 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Virginia Wilson Julien (1916-2007) was a Chicago Public School teacher and Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable scholar. Her research and activism regarding DuSable, the founder of Chicago, helped reestablish his place in Chicago and American history. The Virginia Julien papers span from 1945-2003, with the bulk of material from 1960-1985. The papers primarily relate to DuSable and include extensive historical research and original writings by Julien. The papers also provide insight into the efforts of the Chicago Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable League. The papers are arranged in five series.</p>

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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Virginia Wilson Julien (1916-2007) was a Chicago Public School teacher and historian whose research and activism regarding Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, the founder of Chicago, helped reestablish his place in Chicago and American history. Julien was born in Chicago on December 22, 1916 and remained there with her husband, Archie Julien, and their five children, her entire life. She was appointed to Mayor Richard J. Daley's Committee for a Pointe Sable Monument from 1969 to 1973. Julien attended the Chicago Teacher's College and earned her B.S. in Education from Governor's State University in 1970. She then received her master's from Northeastern Illinois University, Center for Inner City Studies in 1972 upon the completion of her thesis: "A Critical Re-Evaluation of the Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable Story." After teaching for twenty-five years, Julien retired in 1976 to focus on her research of DuSable. Julien served as Chairman of Research for the Chicago Jean Pointe DuSable League, which was instrumental in designating DuSable's home site (401 N. Michigan, Chicago, IL) as a National Historic Landmark in 1977. She presented papers based on her research of DuSable at the Newberry Library in Chicago, Trinity College in Dublin, and Laval University in Quebec. In 1979, Julien cofounded the Afro-American Association of History and Genealogy at the DuSable Museum of African American History. Julien was also active during the 1980s in organizing the fiscal enhancement of Chicago Public Schools by maximizing the income of the real estate of schools downtown.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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The Virginia Julien papers spans from 1902-2006, with the bulk of material from 1971-1985. The majority of the papers document Julien's interest in Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, the founder of Chicago. The papers include extensive historical research, and provide insight into the efforts of Julien and other activists in Chicago who succeeded in reconstructing DuSable's place in American history. The papers also include material related to the Chicago Public School system in areas of finance and real estate during the 1980s, correspondence between Julien and family and friends, and some personal material. The papers are arranged in five series, "Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable," "Chicago Public Schools," "Correspondence," "Personal," and "Photographs."

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

DuSable Museum of African American History May 1, 2012

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

In addition to the Virginia Julien papers, DuSable Museum of African American History also received Julien's personal library. Interested parties may contact the archivist at the DuSable Museum of African American History for a bibliographic list of books and more information.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Personal Name(s)**

- DuSable, Jean Baptiste Point
- Julien, Virginia
- Passovoy, Lorraine

### **Subject(s)**

- Chicago Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable League
- Chicago Public Schools

## Collection Inventory

### Series I: Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, 1970-2003

#### Scope and Contents note

This series includes material related to Julien's research and activism surrounding Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable. It is arranged into three subseries, "Activism," "Writings," and "Research."

#### Subseries 1: Activism, 1975-2003

#### Scope and Contents note

This series includes material documenting the efforts of Chicago organizations to secure local and national recognition of Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable's place in history. The documents primarily originate from the Chicago Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable League, where Julien served as Chairman of Research. The Chicago Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable League distributed material throughout Chicago to raise awareness of DuSable, and was instrumental in acquiring the National Historical Landmark status for the Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable home site at 401 N. Michigan, in Chicago. The series includes flyers, handouts, meeting briefs, articles, and conference papers. Note: Box 46 contains an oversized binder and folder of material.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Activism, 1975-2003	1-5	1-28
Activism, 1975-2003	46	302

#### Subseries 2: Writings, 1970-1992

**Subseries 3: Research,****Scope and Contents note**

This series includes material from Julien's time as a student at Northeastern Illinois University and as Chairman of Research for the Chicago Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable League. Compositions within "Writings" focus on Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable's role in the American Revolutionary War and the founding of Chicago. It includes handwritten notes, typed drafts, published articles, partial drafts of Julien's thesis, "A Critical Re-interpretation of the Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable Story," and the "Bicentennial Statement of the Chicago DuSable League," written by Julien and read into the "Congressional Record" by Chicago Congressman Ralph Metcalf.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Writings,	6-11	29-71

**Subseries 3: Research, 1970-1980****Scope and Contents note**

This series is comprised of extensive material attained and synthesized by Julien while she researched and wrote about Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable. It includes photocopies of original documents from various national and international archives, including maps, scholarly articles about Jean Baptiste Point DuSable's contemporaries and American History during the 18th and 19th centuries, correspondence, and handwritten notes. Note: Box 47 contains unfolded, oversized material.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Research, circa 1970-1980	12-24	72-187
Research, circa 1970-1980		<b>Box</b> 47

**Series II: Chicago Public Schools, 1971-1991**

**Series III: Correspondence,****Scope and Contents note**

This series reflects Julien's interest and activism in the Chicago Public School system. She served on the "Ad Hoc Committee to Stop the Plunder of the School's Valuable Downtown Lands," and supported the enhancement of the school system through the leveraging of income available from the schools' valuable downtown real estate. Though Julien taught in the Chicago Public School system from 1951-1976, her time as a teacher is not well represented in this series. Documents include flyers, reports from the Chicago School Finance Authority, and correspondence. Note: Box 46 contains oversized material.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Chicago Public Schools, 1971-1991	25-28	188-223
Chicago Public Schools, 1971-1991	46	303

**Series III: Correspondence, 1964-2006****Scope and Contents note**

This series is primarily personal in nature and contains letters, invitations, and greeting cards from Julien's friends and family.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Correspondence,	29-35	224-256

**Series IV: Personal, 1902-2006****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains personal and financial documents of Julien and her family, including military papers of her husband Archie, and a binder of his research on air purification. Also included are letters and army papers of Julien's father, Arthur Wilson.



**Series V: Photographs,**

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	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Personal,	36-40	257-282
<b>Series V: Photographs, undated</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
This series contains unlabelled photographs and negatives. Many of the photographs capture Chicago buildings, landscapes, and attractions		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Photographs,	41-45	283-301