

How has Bloomington Changed

Oral History Project

Goal: To learn about Bloomington's history and how the town has changed over time.

Process: Before handing them the photographs, explain that you are trying to learn about people's experiences in Bloomington and how the city has changed over time. Explain that the interview is going to include a mix of asking questions and looking at images. Tell them it is ok if they don't have anything to say about some of the images. We will just skip them and move on to the next. To start, ask the interviewee how long they have lived in Bloomington and what made them come here. After that conversation winds down show them the first image and begin asking the questions. We recommend starting with an image of the square since most people have been there.

Alternatively, you could ask them to sort the photos into places they have been/recognize and ask questions about those.

Remember these questions are just suggestions. It is likely you will not ask them in order and you might not ask them at all. Follow the flow of the conversation and ask related questions. If you get stuck or nervous the questions are there to help you.



How Has Bloomington Changed Oral History Project

Interviewer: _____

Date: _____

Interviewee: _____

Location: _____

Questions/Topics

Research Notes

1. Bloomington Square Images
 - a. Have you been here before?
 - b. Can you tell me about the first time you visited the square? (If can't remember 1st, one of the earliest or a favorite memory)
 - i. Who was with you? What did you do there? How did you get there?
 - ii. During that time how often did you visit the square?
 - iii. Do you still visit the square? When and why?
 - c. Do you recognize any of the stores? (might need list because tiny signs, be prepared to answer what stores are currently there)
 - i. Can you tell me about them? What did you do there? Who did you go with? Who worked there?
 - ii. Are they still there? If no, do you remember what replaced them?
 2. Other Places Around Town (ask if recognize before asking questions)
 - a. What did you do here?
 - b. How often would you visit?
 - c. Who would you go with? Tell me about them.
 - d. Does it still exist? Do you still visit? Where do you go now to do the same task?
 - e. Repeat as necessary.
- Non-Image Related
3. What do you think is the biggest change in Bloomington sense you have been here?
 - a. How do you feel about those changes?

- No cell phones or computers until the 1980s
- Indiana schools were segregated until 1954, but the process of desegregation began in 1949.

Images Used



Image: 1973-11-0689, "Courthouse Square: North Side," Bloomington, IN, Charles Gibling Shaw

Description: North side of Bloomington Square. Businesses include a paint store, The Wicks Company, a restaurant with a cocktail room, Dixie Liquors, a sign shop, United Furniture Workers of America C.I.O., Martin's, Dr. E.G. Kerr, Optometrist., McDaniel Furniture Co, and the Dixie Market. Other businesses on the right side of the frame include Tompkins Ice Cream and a fashion shop in the Princess Theatre building.



Image: 1973-11-0685, "Courthouse Square: East Side," 1939, Bloomington, IN, Charles Gibling Shaw

Description: East side of Bloomington Square. Businesses include Horseshelm Shoes, R.S. Boot Shop, Vogue, Wylie Furniture Co, AGFA Film, __Williams Jewelry, Klein's Brown Shoes, Dr. Noland - Dentist, Combs Men's Wear, Wiles Drug Co. The Kodak Store, a restaurant with homeade candies and "fountain service."



Image: 1973-11-0687, "Courthouse Square: South Side," Bloomington, IN, Charles Gibleert Shaw

Description: South side of Bloomington Square. Businesses include Robbin's Hosiery, several lawyers offices, Merit Shoes, adentist, Bloomington Hardware, J.O. Hernerson School and Office Supplies, Nu Style Millinery Stores, Val-U Dress Shop, Kahn's, Carter and O'Haver Drugs, Schiff's Big Shoe Store, Dr. Prow - Dentist, and First National Bank.



Image: 1973-11-0686, "Courthouse Square: West Side," 1939, Bloomington, IN, Charles Gilbert Shaw

Description: West side of Bloomington Square. Businesses include two S.S. Kresge Co. shops, a law office, People's Insurance, Dr. Martindale - eye doctor, Estelle's Beauty Salon, Dr. Charles Wylie - Dentist, Eagle: Thom M An Shoes, Dan Cohen Shoes, J.C. Penney Company, Kroger, and F.W. Woolworth Co. 5 and 10 Cent Store.



Image: 1973-11-0206, "Coca Cola Building," Bloomington, IN, Charles Gilbert Shaw

Description: Coca-Cola Bottling Company building on S. Washington.



Image: 1973-11-0603, "Von Lee Theatre," Bloomington, IN, Charles Gilbert Shaw

Description: The Von Lee Theatre in winter. It houses the restaurant Noodles and Company in 2023.



Image: 1973-11-0632, "Blomington Hospital," Bloomington, IN, Charles Giblert Shaw

Description: The old Bloomington Hospital located at 2nd and Rogers.



Image: 1973-11-0663, "RCA Building," Bloomington, IN, Charles Gilbert Shaw

Description: RCA factory building.



Image: 1988-12-0124, "Elks Lodge," 1980s, Bloomington, IN

Description: B.G. Pollard Lodge, Elks Lodge #1242. The basement housed The Hole, a nightclub and social hub for the African American community in Bloomington.



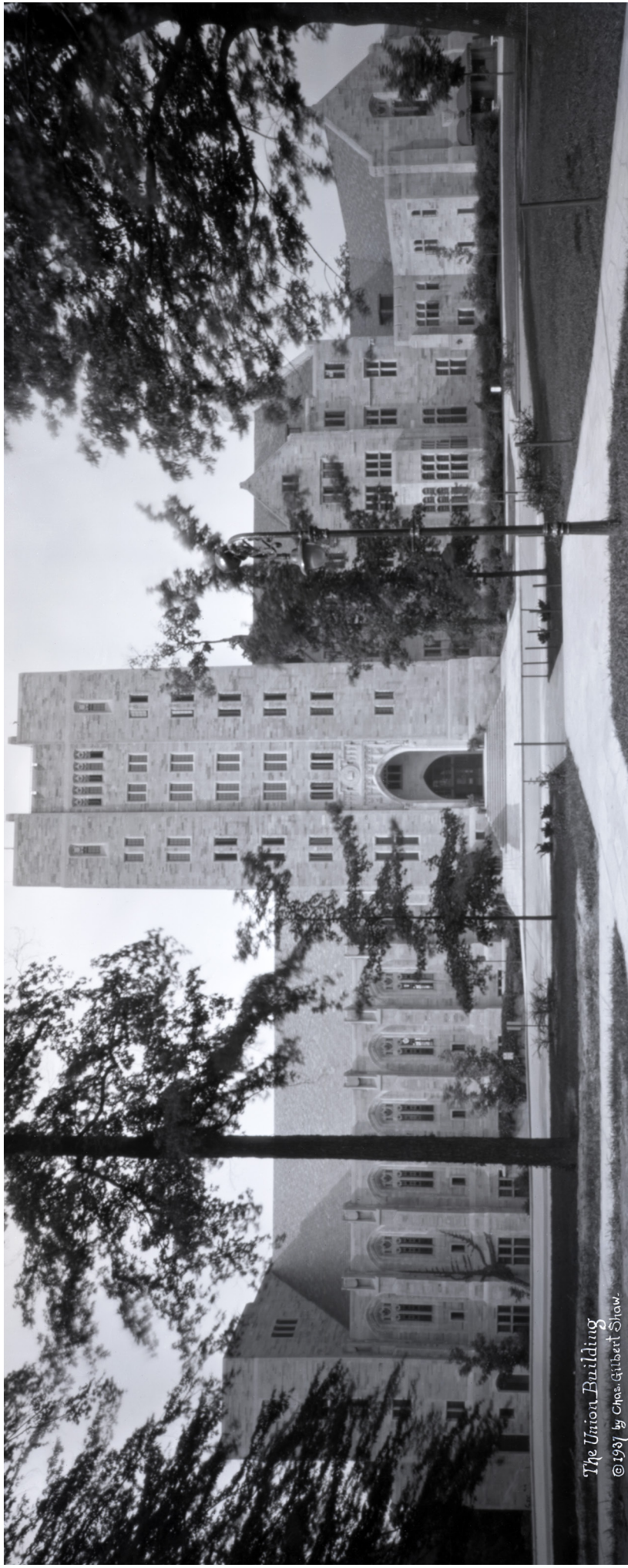
Image: 1999-04-0257, "Indiana Theatre, 112 E. Kirkwood," 1937, Bloomington, IN, Charles Gilbert Shaw

Description: The Indiana Theatre. Now the Buskirk-Chumley Theatre.



Image: 1988-12-0031, "Westside Center, Banneker School," 1960-1979, Bloomington, IN

Description: Banneker School. Now the Banneker Community Center.



The Union Building
© 1987 by Chas. Gilbert Shaw.

Image: 1973-11-0550, 1937, Gloomington, IN, Charles Gibling Shaw

Description: Indiana Memorial Union