

Reneé D.: [inaudible 00:00:03] Okay. So we'll start with some small talk first and then we'll get into the questions about basically different neighborhoods in the area or on James and John's Island, whichever one, you have more information about. Just for starters, can you please spell your name?

Amelia Washingt...: A-M-E-L-I A, Ann, A-N-N, Washington is W-A-S-H-I-N-G-T-O-N.

Reneé D.: Okay. And, if you don't mind, I'll also be taking notes, but also notes from my... Okay. And then, are you from James or Johns Island, or is your family from here? And if so, which one, or both?

Amelia Washingt...: James Island.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: We're doing research to find out if there's any. We heard the [inaudible 00:01:05] Island, but we're still doing research to find out about that.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah.

Reneé D.: Okay. And then, how long has your family been in or on James Island [inaudible 00:01:20]?

Amelia Washingt...: My mother and father got married in the 30s, so they have been on the island prior to that.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: And, I am 77, so I was born in the house. So, I've never been any place else. I mean, travel, but not any, never lived any place else.

Reneé D.: Okay. So, you're from James island. This is where your parents were at least. What neighborhood did you grow up in?

Amelia Washingt...: I guess they call it the cut bridge area of the... Oh, off of Central Park Road.

Reneé D.: Okay. And, do you know about... Well, is the cut bridge area still there or is it more, so just something people know about, but there's not really?

Amelia Washingt...: I think, mostly people just know about it because now, with the bridge, the James Island, County Park. Down cutters one side and we, who've been there so long we just still take cut down, cut and cross cut.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah.

Reneé D.: And where are those cuts? What do, where do the cut name come from? Cause there's quite a few cuts?

Amelia Washingt...: And, I think, it came from where the bridge is.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: I don't know if you guys know about the Kenny Moore roundabout, and then there's a bridge there. That's what distinguished down cut from cross cut. Yeah. And the school was right neck the cut bridge school was right there, that's what they call it.

Reneé D.: Okay. And so, you're from the cut bridge crosscut. Do you know about when that neighborhood started?

Amelia Washingt...: No. I couldn't tell you that.

Reneé D.: Okay. And, do you know the names of any other historic neighborhoods on James Island that you would mind giving us the names for?

Amelia Washingt...: Historic I don't know any area, but they talked about Bradham Road and-

Reneé D.: And, how do you spell Bradham?

Amelia Washingt...: B-R-A-D-O-M, I think, Bradham Road. No, I don't know of any other area. The road that I live on used to be called Riley Road now, and it's an area down there, they call Haley Landing.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: And that's where the Ms. Haley live, and it's right next to the Creek, where that cut bridge come straight through to go to Ellis Bridge and all that.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: That's the area where I live and it's a dead end down there.

Reneé D.: And you said, Haley?

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah. They call it Haley Landing.

Reneé D.: And, you said it's near a Creek where that bridge meets?

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah, the creek down there where the old school, the cut bridge school, that creek goes straight through. And, when it goes straight through, it pass through

by Haley Landing, then you pass the Ellis Bridge, then you go on to the Cooper River, and so forth.

Reneé D.: Awesome. Thank you. Because I haven't heard of Hailey Landing, so that would be the new area that we can try and save. Okay. So, what made cross cut? So you grew up here, so what made crosscut or any part of the cut bridge area? What made that unique or what was it like growing up there?

Amelia Washingt...: Oh, if I remember correctly, it was, when I was going to school.

Reneé D.: [inaudible 00:06:58] Oh, yeah.

Speaker 1: Sorry.

Amelia Washingt...: When we were going to school, we had to walk from that area that you call Haley Landing that road. We used to walk all from home, which was on Riley Road, off of Central Park. All the way down there by James Island, County Park, that's where our school was. So, we walked from there back and forth until our parents got us a bicycle years later to ride.

Reneé D.: Okay, and... Oh, sorry, go ahead.

Amelia Washingt...: And, it's just the idea of, hardly in any traffic and we used to just have fun. We could walk all, we may take a little bit longer than other, one day to the next day, because we used to stop and there's a lady named Ms. Ann. I don't know her last name and so forth, but she had pecan trees. So, all along that road, we used to just stop and pick up pecans and, so forth.

Reneé D.: That was along Riley Road.

Amelia Washingt...: That's a long Riverland Drive, to go to Cut Bridge School.

Reneé D.: Okay. Did she know that you guys were-

Amelia Washingt...: Well, what good about it is, her pecan tree hung over in the street.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: So, where we were walking at, we could pick up pecans because farther back is we would be getting on our property and we would really get in trouble if we go far beyond in her property space.

Reneé D.: Okay. And then, so when you were growing up, because you're younger than the other person we interviewed and was Folly Rd, the only paved road when you were growing up or there were other who was starting to?

Amelia Washingt...: I remember Folly Rd, being paved. I don't remember Central Park because my father was a farmer. And when we leave from home, we used to be on the back of the wagon.

Reneé D.: Oh, okay.

Amelia Washingt...: So, when we would get on Foley Road, because he had a farm over there by, I don't know if y'all know the area where McDonald's and Harris Teeters and all of them, those were farmland, and then was a Gulf coast there.

Reneé D.: Mr. Yuri's? No, I'm sorry. Yeah. Mr. Harry Yuri and his golf course. Okay

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah.

Reneé D.: Okay. All right. So, it was farmland, and what did you guys do for fun? Yeah. What did you do for fun?

Amelia Washingt...: Well, for fun, we just stayed in the neighborhood. We couldn't really go any place, and if our parents take us anywhere, we will take us to Atlantic Beach on the bus.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: That was one thing for fun. And, the only other thing we used to do is ride bicycle in the area.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: Mm-hmm.

Reneé D.: And Atlantic Beach, was that an integrated beach or-

Amelia Washingt...: No.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: Not at the time.

Reneé D.: Were there certain days that-

Amelia Washingt...: No, it was considered a minority beach, so that's where we used to go to out on the ocean and so forth, and so on, and that used to be a lot of fun because it'll be maybe a church will carry it or something like that nature.

Reneé D.: And where was this Atlantic Beach?

Amelia Washingt...: That's in near Myrtle Beach, somewhere around, up in that area.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: Because Mr. Josiah, Watson, I don't know if you all talk with them. He had a bus. And, we used to catch his bus, he used to be the driver deacon, Josiah Watson.

Reneé D.: And, since you brought up Deacon Lawson, who were some other movers in shakers, on James Island, throughout the different decades that you've been here?

Amelia Washingt...: Let me see. You're asking the 77 year old lady to remember all that stuff. Joseph Grant. My brother-in-law used to drive bus and take people to Atlantic Beach in Myrtle Beach, and that's Willie Pikney.

Reneé D.: You know, there's an area called Pinckney, spelled P-I-N-C-K

Amelia Washingt...: N E Y.

Reneé D.: Uh-huh. Is that your maiden name?

Amelia Washingt...: No. My maiden name is Washington. I'm in Washington, Washington.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah.

Reneé D.: Okay. And-

Speaker 1: [inaudible 00:14:06] John's island. Is that true? [inaudible 00:14:11]. I'm trying to go through my notes. I apologize.

Amelia Washingt...: Oh, no problem.

Reneé D.: Okay. So, Pikney, is actually in area also on John's Island. Have you ever been there before as well? No. Okay. All right. So, your brother?

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah, my brother-in-law was a bus driver to take people to different areas.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: Myrtle Beach or Atlantic Beach, different things like that. Who else used to be? I can't remember. Lot of area. The people who used to do a lot of stuff. I can't remember right now. Maybe it'll come to me later and I'll mention it.

Reneé D.: Okay. No worries. And, what were some of the main meeting places for James Island? So, this could be anything from a church to a club, a dance club to like a sports field, a pharmacy at school. So, what were some of the main meeting places?

Amelia Washingt...: Meeting places like for anything?

Reneé D.: Mm-hmm.

Amelia Washingt...: Well, I know a meeting place. We used to call it a hall where we have church meeting. And, that's what every Wednesday night, my mother Florence, Washington and Deacon Elliot, and Deacon Watson and we used to all go there. So, when we wanted to join out, like join the church and they'd say you seek your religion. We used to meet at a hall off of, on Riley Road. I don't think Riley Road was called Riley Road at the time it was called. Oh God, maybe somebody else could remember that.

Reneé D.: Was it like a lodge?

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah, like a lodge.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: Mm-hmm.

Reneé D.: Okay. And then, so when you became a teen or a young adult, where did you go to have fun? So, were there any clubs or-

Amelia Washingt...: There was a club at the end of Central Park there. What's the name of that street? Riverland Drive. We used to call it B corner.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: And, we used to go there to have fun, but the issue with that is, we can be there too long because our father they were very straight.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah. And, when I guess graduate or just before graduation is a place called Club Villa that we could have gone to, and have fun.

Reneé D.: And Club Villa, can you spell that?

Amelia Washingt...: I guess, it's V-I-L-L-A a that's only Club Villa.

Reneé D.: Okay. And, around what decade, if you can, were B corner and Club Villa?

Amelia Washingt...: In the '60s.

Reneé D.: Okay. And, what were some of the big events or festivals that happened while you were growing up, if there were any?

Amelia Washingt...: The Fear.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: And, big events, like when the church has Mayday or something like that.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah.

Reneé D.: And what church did you attend?

Amelia Washingt...: First Baptist Church on.

Reneé D.: Is that the one that you grew up going to?

Amelia Washingt...: Yes.

Reneé D.: Okay. And, is still standing today?

Amelia Washingt...: Yes. The old church has been demolished, and it was built. Another church was built there and now, we consider that being the landmark center, because we built a larger church across the street from it. And, that's where at the old church, we used to baptize outside in a pool.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: That's the second church that's on that part of the land now.

Reneé D.: Okay. And, so where did this fair take place?

Amelia Washingt...: It's what do you call that? It's a good ways up there. Sometime, it'll be in the city and it has elephants and stuff that'll come. They'll have an area, you can just see the elephants and all of other animals, then the other one is the large one is when we used to go to... Oh, God, what's the name of that place? It's the, I can't remember the fairground, but I can't remember what the name of it right now somebody else might can remember that.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: That we'd go to.

Reneé D.: Okay. And then, just in case, of any, because you helped me with this Haley Landing and Atlantic Beach, B Corner, Club Villa. Do you know of any other places that may not occur on maps or different roads or things? Things that used to be here that were really important, but are no longer there?

Amelia Washingt...: I can't think of it. Okay.

Reneé D.: Even like roads. So, I know that you said you weren't sure if Riley Road, is what it was called.

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah. I know, Riley Road, was not called Riley Road. It used to go as route one box, or route this. Yeah. And I think we were rugged five box XXX.

Reneé D.: Okay. And, is there anything else you would like to share with us? Anything else about James Island that made it important or how it's changed over the years or?

Amelia Washingt...: James Island has really a-

Reneé D.: Messed up.

Amelia Washingt...: ... changed over the years because of it's getting so congested in the younger people probably is exciting to them, but it is... I don't know how to describe it. It's coming from a place where it was farmland to a place to where it is right now, it's depressing almost. And, it seems as if there's no stopping, because I have heard, we've been to meetings and stuff, even since the bridge and quoting one of the people there that says every green area that we see vacant over here is going to be built up with something, and that was said to me almost 10 years ago, and you could see it coming and it's very depressing because you don't even recognize this place anymore.

Reneé D.: When do you think this transition from, or being a rural area to being more like Charleston sprawl? When do you think that started?

Speaker 3: It started prior to Hurricane of Hugo long time before then.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Speaker 3: I would say, it started maybe in the-

Reneé D.: Change battery. Sorry.

Amelia Washingt...: ... early '70s or '70s. You start seeing things happening.

Reneé D.: Okay.

Amelia Washingt...: And, I'm not the only one that feels like... I guess people my age and older. And, I would say probably in the '60s, 65 and above, feels the same way I do because you wonder where they're going to go next. [inaudible 00:25:58].

Reneé D.: Okay, I think, that's a valid question. I grew up in a country area in and then around high school, they started building subdivisions. You didn't ask. So, I'm



going to stick to my questions. Yes. Okay. Well, okay. Is there anything else you would like to share?

Amelia Washingt...: I can't think of it right now. No, I don't think it would. Well, did I answer all of your questions?

Reneé D.: Yes. I think, you gave me some good information. And, so I will take some of these things. I'm going to look into what some of these roads were called before their name changes. And, I would like to add, because no one has... Oh, we were told about a Porgy and Bess Club.

Amelia Washingt...: Oh, yeah.

Reneé D.: Earlier.

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah.

Reneé D.: And so, I mean, I would like to add these different locations. We hear a lot about the coverage school.

Amelia Washingt...: Yeah. Porgy and Bess, I think, Porgy and Bess before the other one that Club Villa, I think, they were either next to each other or when one phased out the other one went in, something of that because, I think, it was in the same area. Just remember about Porgy and Bess.

Reneé D.: Okay. And, you said they used to do baptisms at your church and a pool outside?

Amelia Washingt...: Outside. Yeah.

Reneé D.: And then, along Riverland Drive, there were pecan trees. All right. And then, railroad Hailey Landing. Okay. Okay. Yes. I think this is some really good information.

Amelia Washingt...: Mm-hmm.

Reneé D.: So, I think we're good.