

University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

Finding Aid - Ruston Academy Records (CHC5293)

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Ruston Academy Records

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection
Title:	Ruston Academy Records
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Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	
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Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Opened in September 1920 in Havana by educator Hiram Ruston, The Ruston Academy was considered the premiere American school in Latin America. Originally focused on providing an English college-preparatory education for the children of American expatriates in Cuba, it quickly grew into a bilingual academy with a multinational student body. In the 1940s, Ruston expanded to include an elementary school, business preparatory program, basic English classes for Cuban students, and a boarding school, with enrollment measuring at roughly 750 students. In 1955 Ruston moved to a new, larger campus in Havana.

The school was founded by retired English teacher Hiram Hall Ruston and his sister Martha Ruston, of Princeton, Indiana. Mr. Ruston served as headmaster from 1920 to his death in 1946, after which James Baker took over the school's administration. James and his wife Sibyl inherited ownership of the school and converted it into an educational non-profit foundation.

Ruston Academy was closed down by the Castro government in 1961. Its former location was used as a public school, storage facility, homeless shelter, and military intelligence facility by the Cuban government.

The Ruston-Baker Educational Institution (RBEI) was founded in 1992 by James Baker and former members of the Ruston Academy Board of Directors, with the goal of reopening Ruston Academy following the collapse of the Castro government. The RBEI maintains a network of alumni located across the globe. Sibyl Baker died in 1993 and James Baker died in 2001. Their sons, Dennis and Chris, remain active in RBEI activities and organizing alumni reunions.

Custodial history

Chris Baker donated 1 box of materials, October 2012. Chris Baker donated 4 more boxes of the Ruston Academy and Ruston Academy Foundation/Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc. records in March 2013.

Scope and content

The Ruston Academy Records contain materials related to the Ruston Academy, a bilingual American school founded in Havana, Cuba, in 1920. It also contains the administrative files of the Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc., a group of alumni and friends organized to plan for a possible re-opening of the school in a post-Revolutionary Cuba. Other materials include photographs, programs, directories and correspondence documenting the history of Ruston Academy alumni reunions held in the United States from 1975 to 2012.

The Ruston Academy records are arranged into three series. Series 1, Ruston Academy, contains ephemera, publications, correspondence and alumni directories; Series 2, Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc. administrative files documents the administrative history of the organization with correspondence, meeting minutes and subject files related to RBEI, Inc. projects; and Series 3, James and Sibyl Baker papers, contain personal papers related to Ruston Academy directors, James and Sibyl Baker, including anniversary and memorial tributes and the manuscripts for James Baker's book on the history of Ruston Academy, *Ruston: From Dreams to Reality* (2007).

Ruston Academy yearbooks from 1940 to 1960, ephemera and photographs of the school and school functions, school publications, and photographs from alumni reunions have been digitized and are available via the University of Miami Digital Collections.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Gift of Chris Baker, President of Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, October 2012 and March 2013.

Arrangement

The Ruston Academy records are arranged into three series. Series 1, Ruston Academy; Series 2, Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc. administrative files; Series 3, James and Sibyl Baker papers.

Restrictions on access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions governing use

Requests to publish or display materials from this collection require written permission from the rights owner. Please contact chc@miami.edu for more information.

Related material

Baker, Sibyl Evans. In Gay Havana, operetta in three acts for mixed voices. Willis Music, 1942.
CHC5212 Luis J. Botifoll Oral History Project interview with Chris and Dennis Baker. For more information please see <http://merrick.library.miami.edu/cdm/ref/collection/chc5212/id/757>. Alumni and former faculty of the Ruston Academy maintain a website that contains digital copies of yearbooks and a copy of James Baker's history of the school, Ruston: From Dreams to Reality, published by the Ruston-Baker Educational Institution in 2007.

Information about related materials is available at <http://www.rustonacademy.net/>

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:1148

Access points

- Boarding schools -- Cuba (subject)
- Education -- Cuba (subject)
- Education, Bilingual (subject)

Series descriptions

Series id98051: Ruston Academy

<u>Date:</u> 1928-2012 (date of creation)

<u>Scope and content:</u>

Series 1 contains materials related to activities of the Ruston Academy school in Havana, Cuba as well as activities of the alumni group after the school was shut down in 1960.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Subseries id98052: Ruston Academy papers

Scope and content:

Series 1, subseries 1 consists of ephemera, clippings, newsletters, publications and correspondence related to Ruston Academy in Havana. It also contains alumni directories from 1980-2012.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id98053	File -			1
id98054	File - Ruston Academy, history of, pamphlet	c. 1990		1 1
id98055	File - Official Ruston Academy publications	c. 1950s		1 2
id98056	File - Ruston Academy, Financials	1959-1961		1 3
id98057	File - Ruston Academy, Legal documents	1950-1960		1 4
id98058	File - The Rustonian	1941-1959		1 5
id98059	File - Clippings about Ruston Academy	c. 1940s-1950s		1 6
id98060	File - Ruston Academy programs and ephemera	1943-1959		1 7
id98061	File - TIME article on Ruston Academy	1993 March		1 8
id98062	File - The Rustonian newsletter	1983-2000		1 9
id98063	File - Ruston Academy reunion	1975-1981		1 10
id98064	File - Ruston Academy reunions	1983-2007		1 11
id98065	File - Ruston Academy reunion	1993		1 12
id98066	File - Ruston Academy directories	1980, 1983, 1986		1 13
id98067	File - Ruston Academy directory	1994		1 14
id98068	File - Ruston Academy directory	2000		1 15
id98069	File - Ruston Academy directory	2003		1 16
id98070	File - Ruston Academy directory	2007		1 17
id98071	File - Ruston Academy directory	2010		1 18
id98072	File - Ruston Academy directory	2012		1 19
id98073	File - Correspondence, Ted Viaux	c. 1990s-2000s		1 20
id101942	File - Oversize materials	circa 1940s-1960		5

Subseries id98074: PhotographsScope and content:

Series 1, subseries 2 contains photographs of Ruston Academy grounds, staff and students and photographs of various Ruston Academy alumni reunions.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id98075	File -			1
id98076	File - Baker Family photos	1928-1996		1 21
id98077	File - Ruston photos	1949-1957		1 22
id98078	File - Ruston photos	1910-2009		1 23
id98079	File - Ruston photos	circa 1980s-1990s		1 24
id98080	File - Ruston Academy buildings	1997		1 25
id98081	File - Ruston Academy buildings	2004		1 26
id98082	File - Ruston book photos			1 27
id98083	File - Ruston promotional photos	1957		1 28
id98084	File - School activities, Ruston Academy			1 29
id98085	File - Ruston Academy reunion	1975-1978		1 30
id98086	File - Ruston Academy reunion	1980-2000		1 31
id98087	File - Ruston Academy reunion	1991-2012		1 32
id100965	File - Ruston Academy buildings by Jorge Mantilla	1955		1 33

Series id98088: Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc. administrative files

Date: circa 1950s-2012 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series 2 contains the administrative files of the Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc. It includes correspondence between board members, incorporation proceedings, by-laws, and several legal proceedings the organization was involved with. The series is arranged into three subseries: subseries 1, correspondence ; subseries 2, minutes; and subseries 3, subject files.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Subseries id98089: Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc. correspondence**

Date: 1992-2010 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries 1 contains correspondence related to the activities of the Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc. (RBEI). Most of the correspondence is between board members, and to and from board members with lawyers, vendors and consultants doing work with the organization.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id98090	File -			2
id98091	File - General correspondence	1992-1999		2 1
id98092	File - General correspondence	2000-2002		2 2
id98093	File - General correspondence	2003-2005		2 3
id98094	File - General correspondence	2006-2009		2 4
id98095	File - RBEI, correspondence	1991		2 5
id98096	File - RBEI, correspondence	1992		2 6
id98097	File - RBEI, correspondence	1993		2 7
id98098	File - RBEI, correspondence	1994		2 8
id98099	File - RBEI, correspondence	1995		2 9
id98100	File - RBEI, correspondence	1996		2 10
id98101	File - RBEI, correspondence	1997		2 11
id98102	File - RBEI, correspondence	1998		2 12
id98103	File - RBEI, correspondence	1999		2 13
id98104	File - RBEI, correspondence	2000		2 14
id98105	File - RBEI, correspondence	2000		2 15
id98106	File - RBEI, correspondence	2001		2 16
id98107	File - RBEI, correspondence	2002		2 17
id98108	File - RBEI, correspondence	2003		2 18
id98109	File - RBEI, correspondence	2004		2 19
id98110	File - RBEI, correspondence	2005		2 20
id98111	File - RBEI, correspondence	2006		2 21
id98112	File - RBEI, correspondence	2007-2008		2 22
id98113	File - RBEI, correspondence, strategic planning	2009		2 23
id98114	File - RBEI, correspondence	2010		2 24

Subseries id98115: Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc. minutes

Date: 1990-2011 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries 2 contains meeting minutes from the official Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc. business meetings.

Publication status:

Published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id98116	File -			2
id98117	File - Minutes	1990 July 13		2 25
id98118	File - Minutes	1990 October 27		2 26
id98119	File - Minutes	1991 November 24		2 27
id98120	File - Minutes	1992 March 14		2 28
id98121	File - Minutes	1992 July 11		2 29
id98122	File - Minutes	1992 November 7		2 30
id98123	File - Minutes	1993 July 23		2 31
id98124	File - Minutes	1993 September 19		2 32
id98125	File - Minutes	1994 February 12		2 33
id98126	File - Minutes	1994 October 22		2 34
id98127	File - Minutes	1995 April 1		2 35
id98128	File - Minutes	1995 July 26		2 36
id98129	File - Minutes	1996 December 19		2 37
id98130	File - Minutes	1997 September 21		2 38
id98131	File - Minutes	1997 November 16		2 39
id98132	File - Minutes	1998 October 10		2 40
id98133	File - Minutes	2001 April 14		2 41
id98134	File - Minutes	2002 March 16		2 42
id98135	File - Minutes	2003 January 11		2 43
id98136	File - Minutes	2003 June 28		2 44
id98137	File - Minutes	2003 December 13		2 45
id98138	File - Minutes	2006 September 23		2 46
id98139	File - Minutes	2009 March 21		2 47
id98140	File - Minutes	2009 September 4		2 48
id98141	File - Minutes	2010 July 31		2 49
id98142	File - Minutes	2011 November 19		2 50
Subseries id98143: Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc. subject files <u>Scope and content:</u> Subseries 3 contains administrative files kept by Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc. on various projects and legal proceedings. These include files on application for tax exempt status,				

legal documents from when Ruston Academy operated in Cuba, board member information, and documentation related to a claim submitted to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission for Ruston Academy property confiscated in Havana, Cuba.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id98144	File -			3
id98145	File - Correspondence, Memories of Ruston Academy	1990s-2000s		3 1
id98146	File - New Ruston Academy in Cuba, alumni surveys collected by Mario Iglesias	1981, 2000		3 2
id98147	File - New Ruston Academy in Cuba, correspondence with Mario Iglesias	1990-2002		3 3
id98148	File - Background materials on Hiram Ruston	c. 1990-2007		3 4
id98149	File - Pedro Pan presentation by James Baker, Coral Gables, FL	1992 May 29		3 5
id98150	File - RBEI, physical plant, prefabricated classrooms for New Ruston Academy in Cuba	1991		3 6
id98151	File - RBEI, physical plant committee for New Ruston Academy in Cuba	1992		3 7
id98152	File - Ruston Academy, mortgage	1951 September 7		3 8
id98153	File - Ruston Academy, cancellation of mortgage	1953 June 5		3 9
id98154	File - Ruston Academy mortgage cancellation	1953 June 5		3 10
id98155	File - Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Ruston Academy claim, copies of correspondence providing proof of US support of Ruston Academy	1954-1960; 1951-1960		3 11
id98156	File - Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Ruston Academy claim, copies of correspondence providing proof of US support of Ruston Academy	1951-1953		3 12
id98157	File - Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Ruston Academy claim, paperwork	1967-1991		3 13
id98158	File - Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, Ruston Academy claim, correspondence	1965-1970		3 14
id98159	File - Ruston Baker Foundation, special election to elect new boardmember after the death of Rafael Palacios	1971		3 15
id98160	File - New Ruston Academy in Cuba campaign	c. 1990s-2000s		3 16

id98161	File - Tax exempt status application, correspondence and supporting materials	1991	3 17
id98162	File - Tax exempt status paperwork, correspondence, and supporting documentation	1993-1994	3 18
id98163	File - Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, Inc., by-laws	1992	3 19
id98164	File - Ruston-Baker Educational Institution, incorporation	1992-1993	3 20
id98165	File - Resumes of REBI, inc., board members	1990s	3 21
id98166	File - Committee on Education for Democracy in Cuba	c. 1960s-	3 22

Series id98167: James and Sibyl Baker papers;

Date: 1957-2007 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series 3 contains materials relating to Ruston Academy directors James and Sibyl Baker, including materials from their memorial services and James Baker's manuscript for his book, Ruston: From Dreams to Reality.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id98168	File -			3
id98169	File - James Baker, book manuscript, working draft			3 23
id98170	File - James Baker, book manuscript, working draft	c. 1990s		3 24
id98171	File - James Baker, book manuscript, final corrections by James Baker			3 25
id98172	File -			4
id98173	File - James Baker, book manuscript, final approved galleys	2007		4 1
id98174	File - James Baker, book manuscript, publishing materials	2007		4 2
id98175	File - James Baker, book manuscript, "Ruston Memories" collected from alumni			4 3
id98176	File - James Baker, book manuscript, research materials	c. 1990s		4 4
id98177	File - James Baker, memorial service and condolences	2001		4 5
id98178	File - Sibyl Baker, clippings and writings on Ruston Academy	1957; c. 1980s		4 6
id98179	File - Sibyl Baker, memorial service	1993 May		4 7

id98180	File - James Baker, English course textbooks for Daytona Beach Community College	1974; 1977	4 8
id98181	File - Jim and Sibyl Baker 60th anniversary, memories of Ruston	1992	4 9
id100252	File - Sibyl Evans Baker, Master's thesis, Cuban Music: Its sources and characteristics	1937	4 10
id188056	File - James Baker oral history interview	circa 1990s	4 11