

**Title:** John Jay Hooker Papers

**Dates:** 1950s–1990s

**Creator:** David Fox, John Jay Hooker

**Summary/Abstract:** The John Jay Hooker Papers contain documents covering John Jay Hooker's political, legal, and business careers and the personal notes of biographer David Fox. The materials appear to have been assembled for use in preparation for a written biography of Hooker.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** Less than 1 linear foot

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:** Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, (615) 898-2632

**Restrictions on Access:** None

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**Preferred Citation:** (Box Number, Folder Number), The John Jay Hooker Papers, Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

**Acquisition:** Unknown

**Processed By:** Original processor undermined; additional processing by Rachel Smith, graduate assistant (2012.)

**Arrangement:** The John Jay Hooker papers are divided into three series: Book Research, Personal Research, and Court Documents.

**Biographical Note:** John Jay Hooker (1930- ) is a Tennessee Lawyer, politician, and businessman. Born in Nashville, Tennessee, he graduated from Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville and attended the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He served in the United States Army from 1953-55 and graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1957.

Hooker's law career included special appointments by Tennessee Governor Frank Clement and the Tennessee House of Representatives, involvement in the *Baker v. Carr* case, and serving as general counsel for the *Nashville Tennessean*. He was a founding partner of the law firm of

Hooker, Hooker and Willis. He later was involved in several legal actions regarding the election processes and constitutional issues in Tennessee and the United States.

Hooker was active in politics from the late 1950s. His political activities have been numerous, but, among other things, he worked for Tennessee Governor Frank Clement, for Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, and for the campaign of John F. Kennedy. He ran for Governor in the Tennessee Democratic Primary in 1966, losing to Buford Ellington, and obtained the nomination in 1970, but lost to Republican Winfield Dunn. He also ran for the United States Senate on several occasions as well as additional campaigns for Governor. Mr. Hooker has also been active in Tennessee politics on multiple levels that are not covered in depth in these papers. Hooker has also been an active businessman, founding Minnie Pearl's Fried Chicken, was one of five founders of Hospital Corporation of America, and helping to establish Newspaper Printing Corporation. He served as chairman of STP Corporation, was publisher of the Nashville newspaper, the *Banner*, and served chairman of United Press International. His varied business interests also included the establishment of Hookers Hamburgers, a food chain in Florida.

As of this writing, John Jay Hooker continues to take an active interest in business, politics, and community affairs.

**Scope and Content:** The John Jay Hooker Papers cover John Jay Hooker's political, legal, and business careers spanning from the late 1950s to the late 1990s. The collection contains the personal notes of David Fox and John Jay Hooker, oral history interviews with various members of the Hooker family, and documentation of Hooker's career. Materials are arranged in three series, Book Research, Personal Research, and Court Filings. They are comprised primarily of biographical notes, collected published materials relating to Hooker's career, and copies of court documents filed by Hooker, some containing hand-written comments, apparently by Mr. Hooker. All the material appears to have been gathered in preparation for a biographical work. The series are:

Series One: Book Research (16 folders) This series includes the contract John Jay Hooker made with David Fox to write Hooker's biography. The majority of the series includes notes created by David Fox to complete this biographical project.

Series Two: Personal Research (21 folders) This series consists of personal notes, interviews, and media coverage of Hooker and political issues.

Series Three: Court Documents (3 folders) This series contains copies of court documents filed by Hooker as part of a series of court actions relating to political processes.

**Associated Materials:** There are no known associated materials.

**Related Collections:** There are no known related collections.

## **Subject Terms**

### **Persons**

John Jay Hooker

David Fox  
John Seigenthaler  
Teenie Hooker  
Tish Hooker  
Jack Norman  
Jim Neal  
C.H. Van Tyne  
Ross Perot  
Bill Clinton

**Places**

Nashville, Tennessee  
Tennessee

**Subjects (General)**

Tennessee politics  
Tennessee business  
*Nashville Tennessean*  
Minnie Pearl Chicken

**Material Types**

Notes  
Newspaper clippings  
Memos  
Oral history

**Collection Inventory:**

Box	Folder	Series	Folder Title
1	1	Book Research	J.J. Hooker Interview by David Fox (12/81)
1	2	Book Research	J.J. Hooker- Narrative of his Life Written By Himself
1	3	Book Research	John Seigenthaler Interview
1	4	Book Research	Tennie Hooker Interview (3/27/83)
1	5	Book Research	Tish Hooker-Interview 11/26/82
1	6	Book Research	Jack Norman Interview
1	7	Book Research	Book Draft about 1966 Campaign
1	8	Book Research	Book Draft about Minnie Pearl Chicken/1967
1	9	Book Research	Letter from David B. Fox, Jr. to Hooker
1	10	Book Research	Ideas, Outlines, Quotes for Book
1	11	Book Research	Notebook 1 with notes about franchises and Minnie Pearl Chicken
1	12	Book Research	Notebook 2 with notes from conversations with Hooker

1	13	Book Research	Notebook 3 with notes about Hooker's Family and Childhood
1	14	Book Research	Notebook 4 with notes about Advantage Tapes
1	15	Book Research	Book Contract (1982) between Fox and Hooker
1	16	Book Research	Privacy Act Request/Letter from US Dept of Justice
2	1	Personal Research	John Jay Hooker, Jr- Oral History Interview by William Geoghegan for the JFK Library
2	2	Personal Research	John Jay Hooker, Jr- Second Oral History Interview by Ronald J. Grele for the JFK Library
2	3	Personal Research	John Jay Hooker- Book Outline
2	4	Personal Research	Notes about politics and court cases
2	5	Personal Research	Timeline 1954-1994 of Hooker's life
2	6	Personal Research	Timelines of political support
2	7	Personal Research	<i>Nashville Magazine</i> January 1966
2	8	Personal Research	<i>Nashville Tennessean</i> article "Candidates Woo Educators"
2	9	Personal Research	<i>Nashville Banner</i> article "John Jay Hooker: Birthday Salute"
2	10	Personal Research	Single Page for Unidentified Multipage Letter
2	11	Personal Research	Copy of "Sovereignty in the American Revolution: An Historical Study" from <i>The American Historical Review</i>
2	12	Personal Research	"Effects of Baker V. Carr on the Distribution of Influence in the Tennessee General Assembly: An Application on a Linkage Model" from <i>The Volunteer State: Readings in Tennessee Politics</i>
2	13	Personal Research	Copy of "Crediting the Voters: A New Beginning for Campaign Finance" from <i>The American Prospect</i>
2	14	Personal Research	<i>University of Colorado Law Review</i> , "The Central Meaning of Republican Government: Popular Sovereignty, Majority Rule, and the Denominator Problem"
2	15	Personal Research	Copy of "Another Perot Run in '96?" from the <i>Chicago Tribune</i>
2	16	Personal Research	<i>New York Times Magazine</i> August 6, 1995
2	17	Personal Research	<i>Business Nashville</i> "Where are they Now?"
2	18	Personal Research	<i>Nashville Scene</i> "Man of Principle"
2	19	Personal Research	<i>Tennessean</i> - "John Jay Hooker: Thin Ice or Solid Ground?"
2	20	Personal Research	Correspondence from John Jay Hooker to Bill Clinton

2	21	Personal Research	Correspondence from John Jay Hooker to Ross Perot
2	22	Court Documents	<i>John Jay Hooker v. Bill Clinton et al</i> Court Filing
2	23	Court Documents	<i>John Jay Hooker v. Fred Thompson and Bill Frist</i> Notice of Removal
2	24	Court Documents	<i>Hooker, Wimpee, Wimpee v. Sasser and Frist</i> Motion to Dismiss Amended Civil Complaint

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