

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

IMAGE AND REALITY: PERCEPTIONS OF EARLY BLACK MIAMI
BY THE MIAMI METROPOLIS, 1896-1900

By

Thomas F. Fleischmann

||

A THESIS

Submitted to the Faculty
of the University of Miami
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Arts

Coral Gables, Florida

May, 1987

F.2
M61
F596i

YONGE
LIB. OF
FLA. HIST.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTERS

I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. BLACK FAMILY STRUCTURE IN TURN OF THE CENTURY MIAMI	16
III. THE METROPOLIS AND BLACKS	38
IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	66
BIBLIOGRAPHY	68

FLEISCHMANN, THOMAS F.

(M.A., History)

Image and Reality: Perceptions of Early Black Miami by the "Miami Metropolis", 1896 - 1900. (May, 1987)

Abstract of a master's thesis at the University of Miami.
Thesis supervised by Assistant Professor Gregory E. Bush.

The editors and publishers of Miami's first newspaper were primarily interested in boosting the city and its business development. Though there was no stated policy, the Metropolis created an unstable, negative, and ambiguous image of blacks, at one time, harmless and humorous, and at another, aggressive and violent. Ironically, the newspaper contradicted its own image by occasionally relating the importance of black labor and votes in building and incorporating the early city as well as establishing Miami as the county seat in 1899. While the newspaper presented a confused picture, the Twelfth Census of the United States depicted a stable black community where over eighty percent of its families were headed by young southern males who worked unskilled and low paying jobs yet managed to own their homes at a slightly higher rate than whites.