

GH4 – Gilberto Hernandez, “Building I-95, Hispanic Community in Bridgeport Shifts Location”(1950’s)

Transcript: pp. 6-7

Time-Line: Decade VI, Local and National Events, 1958, “CT Turnpike opens to traffic from Greenwich...”

I And what was the ethnic makeup of the East Side at that time, ethnic and racial makeup?

GH No, we don't, back in the 50's we didn't have that many Latinos on the East Side. Most of them were on the West Side. You know like, Bostwick Avenue, that's where they started the Latino community then it moved, when they torn down that section for rehabilitation the Latino community moved down to State Street, Lafayette Street you know that area over there. And then the bulldozer came again and everything went down and then they moved, just kept on coming down this way you know from Bostwick to State, State and Lafayette down to the East Side.

I Was a lot of that due to putting in I-95 and that kind of thing?

GH Yes, yes that’s 95 I think was in '57 something like that, yeah.

I Right, so is the highway another...

GH Another project....

I So that's how a large Latino community wound up on the East Side?

GH Wind up on the East Side, Bridgeport, yeah.