

INTERVIEWER: All right. So uh one more time for the record. Uh could I have your name?

BRENDA: Brenda Camp.

INTERVIEWER: And uh when and where were you born?

BRENDA: Trenton New Jersey. Right near Trentonia.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: I am an original Trentonian.

INTERVIEWER: Um what year?

BRENDA: 1949.

INTERVIEWER: '49? OK. Uh so between '65 you were about sixteen? Nineteen. Sixteen-ish?

BRENDA: Hmm. Yes nine sixteen yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Um and you lived there ever since?

BRENDA: I been living here ever since.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Well I did move to California for a little while but came back to Trenton.

INTERVIEWER: Where where in Trenton have you lived?

BRENDA: Um oh East Trenton.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: That's Jefferson Street. Um I live lived on Fountain Avenue. I lived in North Trenton.
Um I went to Jefferson School.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Junior High (?) Woodrow Wilson School I went to. Trenton High was our only high school.

INTERVIEWER: At the time?

BRENDA: Very nice. Mmhm.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah so I have I have maps here. Um so we're interested in this nine block area of downtown uh part of Trenton.

BRENDA: What's this?

INTERVIEWER: Uh this is Broad Street right here.

BRENDA: Right.

INTERVIEWER: And East Street right here. So all this.

BRENDA: Oh East State Street.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah East State Street yeah. So all this this this neighborhood.

BRENDA: Oh this Hanover. Oh this Hanover. OK. Mechanics Street. OK well Broad Street used to be um. See now there's cars going through Broad Street. It used to be closed off. They used to have the street was all closed off. So it was like.

INTERVIEWER: Only walk?

BRENDA: Yes we'd walk in the middle of the street but it was closed off. The cars used to have to go around.

INTERVIEWER: Really?

BRENDA: That's a long time ago. That's where we had movies down there. East State Street we had um (?). We had the movie theater. (?). We used to have um. Well so you only interested in this particular area?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah the downtown area.

BRENDA: Oh um (?) used to be down there.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Used to have Wool Woolworths where we can go take our kids and have lunch.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: And then we go shopping. Oh it was nice down there. We had a good time downtown.

INTERVIEWER: So uh so that's what we're looking for. Uh so what was transportation like there? If it was only foot traffic were there like was it accessible to people outside?

BRENDA: Well most of the people lived in Trenton and those areas that you're talking about. Transpor. We all lived around so we usually walked. Everybody walked downtown. Everybody. That's that's like a hangout also downtown. (?). So the transportation was really good. And then they decided to open up the street so that's when the buses and everything started coming down.

INTERVIEWER: And so you said there was like shopping and stuff?

BRENDA: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Were like. Was there like.

BRENDA: We had good stores. Rifkin(?) was the store, Ritzen, Rifkin, (?). We had Sears downtown. We had the banks down there. They had uh. What's the store? Over by cargo (?). We had Woolworth. Yeah it was nice. Everybody'd be downtown Saturdays shopping take the kids out stuff like that.

INTERVIEWER: And you mentioned there was a lot of arts and culture like theaters and stuff?

BRENDA: There was theaters down there. Go to the movies stay all day long.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

BRENDA: Ain't like now where you gotta get out.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Stay all day long (?). And movies.

INTERVIEWER: (?)

BRENDA: Yeah. And that's where our parades was. We had our parades downtown.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Alton Street and (?). Um you know like Myrtle Bay(?) or when they have parades we all go downtown.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Mmhm. All kinds of parades. Spanish parades. Different cultures. So it wasn't just one. Spanish people had a parade. We had a parade. Everybody had a parade.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember it being pretty uh multi-ethnic? In term of.

BRENDA: Yeah uh multi-ethnic and everybody got along.

INTERVIEWER: Really?

BRENDA: It ain't it ain't like it is now.

INTERVIEWER: How so?

BRENDA: Now? Uh people not gonna walk down street now after five thirty.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah yeah.

BRENDA: You can't do that now. Back when my dad would used to play um hopscotch (?).

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: You know the kids had fun. Double dutch. Now we don't go outside. It's too dangerous.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: We go through (?) which is a bad thing for our (?).

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

BRENDA: You know.

INTERVIEWER: I understand.

BRENDA: Other than that.

INTERVIEWER: So I went to the archive and gathered a bunch of photos of the area during this time period.

BRENDA: OK.

INTERVIEWER: I wanted to show you um to see if they.

BRENDA: See if I remember too.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah yeah yeah.

BRENDA: OK.

INTERVIEWER: So you can have a look at 'em here.

BRENDA: OK. Lemme see. And then I'll look at these and then tell you a little something so I don't.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah so here this is the caption. This is um.

BRENDA: (?)

INTERVIEWER: Yep the the year and then.

BRENDA: OK. Now this is before me.

INTERVIEWER: This is before you were born. Yeah yeah.

BRENDA: OK. Let's go.

INTERVIEWER: And they're in chronological order so you.

BRENDA: That one's before me too. I turned fifty five. See didn't I tell you?

INTERVIEWER: (?).

BRENDA: Yeah we lived there.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah these are.

BRENDA: This is all by the corner of. This is State Street right here. And look right down here it's Broad Street.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: I see. See these buses here but it's the middle of this street was closed at one time. Well look at that.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember all this?

BRENDA: I remember. This is still.

INTERVIEWER: This you remember? That one too?

BRENDA: The beh. Um the beer L beer place. Right now over this is where Dunkin Donuts is now.

INTERVIEWER: Right right.

BRENDA: Yeah I know I know. I remember all this. Let me think about that. You got me out here.

INTERVIEWER: This is the construction of the post office on East State.

BRENDA: Hmm I don't remember this (?).

INTERVIEWER: Uh Moose Hall?

BRENDA: Moose Hall yeah. This is at the corner of State and Broad.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: This here. (?), (?). Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: You remember walking these streets?

BRENDA: Yeah we walked these streets. I don't see any down here though but I was down there somewhere. I'm telling you. We walked downtown. Oh I remember this car. Where was this at

Warren Street? That's on the uh. Linda you should've been over here Linda. This this look at these pictures by Warren Street and stuff. (?). Oh that's still on the corner of State and Broad.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

BRENDA: I I know there's Woolworth over here.

INTERVIEWER: I think we have pictures of it yeah.

BRENDA: On State Street and you would come out on the side on Broad Street.

INTERVIEWER: And you'd wrap around?

BRENDA: Yeah. You'd go in the store on State and you'd come out on Broad Street. And in the back that's where they used to have (?). They had more bus (?). I remember that. Uh (?)

McDonald's is downtown. McDonalds and then right now by McDonald's was (?) down here. So Lord have mercy. See how this street go. No this ain't it. It used to be closed off. (?). Man remember we had the street where we cars. We was walking in the street? Yeah and they opened it back up. They did work so they opened it back up.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm. Yeah I can imagine that there was a lot of.

BRENDA: Oh my God.

INTERVIEWER: There was a lot going on down there.

BRENDA: They got the Capitol movie.

INTERVIEWER: Did you do you remember uh.

BRENDA: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Seeing films down there?

BRENDA: The Capitol on Broad Street. We used to go to the movies and. Let me see that picture again. (?). Oh that's the paper stand(?).

INTERVIEWER: This is. You were five years old. I don't know if you remember the the those movies but uh.

BRENDA: I I remember no I remember the movies.

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh.

BRENDA: I remember.

INTERVIEWER: The theater.

BRENDA: I might have been five years old but I went to these movies.

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh.

BRENDA: Maybe I didn't maybe I didn't go when I was five. Maybe I went like nine and ten.

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh.

BRENDA: But yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah?

BRENDA: And ya know I remember that. Yeah the Capitol.

INTERVIEWER: Can you tell me anything more about these photos that.

BRENDA: No.

INTERVIEWER: Come up?

BRENDA: I can't tell you no more than the buildings I know. (?) you way down the street. (?)

This is uh (?) Street. (?) is further down Broad Street.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: I can't really tell you too much about the um the pictures because I was young.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: But I do.

INTERVIEWER: There are a couple ones that are a little later.

BRENDA: Oh they were in '54 I do remember. I do remember. Aw y'all went to the library and got all these?

INTERVIEWER: Yep. This one was taken after an air raid drill. Do you remember?

BRENDA: Ah nobody was downtown. I don't remember that no.

INTERVIEWER: This is the Mayfair Theater.

BRENDA: Oh I remember the Mayfair. Yep.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember seeing shows there?

BRENDA: Yeah we used to go there and and there was the Trent Theater downtown also.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: The Trent was right across the on on Broad Street to the further near Perry Street.

INTERVIEWER: OK.

BRENDA: There was the Trent Theater. We had three theaters downtown.

INTERVIEWER: Three? OK.

BRENDA: Yep. Capitol, Mayfair and Trent. Right Linda? Capitol, Mayfair and Trent? Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And they were like cinemas? They weren't stages? Was it.

BRENDA: No it was uh.

INTERVIEWER: Or both?

BRENDA: Yeah cinemas.

INTERVIEWER: Cinema?

BRENDA: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: OK.

BRENDA: We'd watch one movie all day long didn't we? Stay in there all day. We ain't they didn't didn't pull us out like they do now.

INTERVIEWER: They kick you out now?

BRENDA: We'd go to the movies and stay all day long. Mom didn't have to worry about oh look this snow.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember the snow? We had a lot of pictures of this.

BRENDA: Oh yeah. What's this 1960?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

BRENDA: That big snow?

INTERVIEWER: There's. Woolworth should be in that picture.

BRENDA: Woolworth and that snow. Crescent.

INTERVIEWER: Park Lane.

BRENDA: That's at Crescent.

INTERVIEWER: Kitty Kelly(?)?

BRENDA: I don't remember Kitty Kelly but I was.

INTERVIEWER: Oh here Woolworth.

BRENDA: Oh yeah that's on Woolworth uh uh Crescent was right next door. You'd go over here and you'd come out on the other side. And the (?) Street bank building is now a apartment building.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: What was that?

INTERVIEWER: Uh Yards department store.

BRENDA: Oh I forgot about Yards department store. Remember that?

INTERVIEWER: What do you remember about it?

BRENDA: It was the department store we would go in. Oh we had there was some cheap stores downtown. Everybody went downtown. (?).

INTERVIEWER: This was around Christmastime. The decorations and stuff.

BRENDA: Uh huh. This is still it's still on Broad and State. He still on he he on Broad Street going down there (?). That's Broad. It was always a lot of people downtown.

INTERVIEWER: Really?

BRENDA: Always. Downtown with State always stayed (?). And Dunkin Donuts is over here now. And and up there is the um uh army where they trained the young boys to get in service. What?

INTERVIEWER: (?) you mentioned there were like ethnic parades and stuff.

BRENDA: Yeah. They always had parades. Yeah we always had parades. (?). What? Those some good pictures aha. I remember them but you know what? Really(?) see all these people downtown? We um we didn't go downtown that much only to the movies.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: And then when we do go down to the movie downtown we were with our parents and we just go shopping and come back home that's all.

INTERVIEWER:Mmm.

BRENDA: But now everybody hang downtown.

INTERVIEWER: But then uh when you were older did you end up going on your own?

BRENDA: Oh yeah yeah when I got older yeah. Go down there and stay a long time.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: It was nice downtown.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah I could imagine.

BRENDA: It was.

INTERVIEWER: Um how uh so you like the the amount of foot traffic is it a lot different than it is now?

BRENDA: Um.

INTERVIEWER: Is it like a walk downtown now?

BRENDA: Uh if you tried to walk downtown now through the traffic and the people and the port it's still a whole lot of people down there but it's not um good.

INTERVIEWER: How so?

BRENDA: Lot of lot of young people hanging out and even old people hanging out with nothing to do.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: And uh you can't you can't even really walk down the street (?) street. A lot of people don't go downtown as much as they used to especially on uh like big days like the first of the month. You know anything about that?

INTERVIEWER: Did you get your paycheck?

BRENDA: Thank you.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

BRENDA: My my my paycheck (?). And everybody was downtown kinda dangerous but.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: It's all right. It's all right. The big ole (?) don't bother me but.

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think that it has has changed like that?

BRENDA: You know why? Because of the economy.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: And because uh a lot of young people don't have anything they don't have no job.

They don't have nothing to do. We used to have car (?). We used to have skating rink. We used to have a lot of activities for the children uh even the young people and now there's nothing so what they do they get in groups and they hang downtown. So that's why.

INTERVIEWER: Right right.

BRENDA: Yeah. All all our things have been taken away from us and we have nothing.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: We have nothing for our kids here. Nothing. Well I'm I'm just glad I lived in that era because I had a good time.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah it looked like it would be a good time.

BRENDA: Yeah it was. It was nice and (?). You you didn't have to worry 'bout nothing.

Everybody spoke to everybody. There was no cover fee.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: We were all people.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Now it's like a issue.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Yeah so I just stay home. Not all the time I don't.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm yeah uh I looked a lot about uh the steel industry and how that was really uh forwarded the economy of Trenton and and.

BRENDA: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And when that declined you're saying that it the uh the impact was felt throughout the city.

BRENDA: Um Trenton mostly is was more like a close town you know uh a close down to the community.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: It was our town. And then we all our our our our uh activities was taken away from us. You know like I said car (?), the skating rink, things for us to do as a family. Even Romeo and Juliet is gone. I used to take my kid there when he did a good grade in school. Oh I'd tell him to go get a couple of his friends. We used to go to Romeo and Juliet and.

INTERVIEWER: What was that?

BRENDA: Um that was more on um Calhoun Street.

INTERVIEWER: Oh.

BRENDA: It was a restaurant.

INTERVIEWER: OK.

BRENDA: And he'd take like four of his friends and they had uh uh one of them big pizzas and they'd have (?) soda and I'm sitting over there with a pitcher of beer.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: I had a good time. But see uh people have nothing to do now so that's why everybody go downtown because that's still the hotspot and you can see everybody. You go downtown I guarantee if I go downtown right now and I say I'll be back in fifteen minutes I'm not gonna come back because I'm down there. Everybody knows everybody.

INTERVIEWER: Still?

BRENDA: Hey what's up how you doing? I ain't see you in a long time.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

BRENDA: That's all.

INTERVIEWER: Did you feel um it was a strong sense of community identity in terms of living in Trenton at the time?

BRENDA: Yep. Yep. Everybody knew everybody and we had to worry 'bout nothing more (?). If you got hurt everybody would help you.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: If you did something wrong your mother, neighbors and all you could (?) always down the street 'til you got home. That's how close we were.

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel that uh how is that now?

BRENDA: Uhh.

INTERVIEWER: A little different?

BRENDA: A whole lot different.

INTERVIEWER: How so?

BRENDA: Wah well one day I think that people my age it's about those who could afford to have left town and the ones who can't are still here and they don't do anything. Now the young kids has taken over.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

B And they're disrespectful. They have no manners. They they're raised by by parents that are. I'm glad I was raised in that era that I was raised in because I can tell my grandkids that we used to play hopscotch(?), jump over the can, hide-n-seek, doubledutch. These kids today can't do nothing but (?). Oh I remember him John was a good guy. He go he got killed over there two two blocks away or something like that. You know they all have no.

INTERVIEWER: Different stories?

BRENDA: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

BRENDA: They all have no good things. They they got um miserable things. I had (?).

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: So back in my day I mean I don't know why it changed the way that it did. They'll never see what we saw.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

BRENDA: Mmm Trenton is Trenton is damn you know Trenton makes the world takes.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah yeah.

BRENDA: Ahahaha.

INTERVIEWER: You think that's true?

BRENDA: I think.

INTERVIEWER: That's the motto.

BRENDA: I think Trenton got a lot of money. They ain't letting nobody take it though.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: Mmhm. I think Trenton got. I don't think we're as poor as they say we are.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: There's a lot of (?) in Trenton. We're very historical.

INTERVIEWER: Right right.

BRENDA: And we're the capital city.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

BRENDA: So that's what I'm talking about.

INTERVIEWER: So have you lived here all your life? Uh what made you stay? You obviously like the area. You have good memories of it.

BRENDA: Uh no. This what happened. I left. When my son got eighteen he left.

INTERVIEWER: OK.

BRENDA: I moved to California for like three years.

INTERVIEWER: OK.

BRENDA: And then I came back because my job wanted to relocate me to Phoenix. I'm not no it's like a hundred degrees out there in the. I'm not going out there and so I made out (?) into my bank account that (?).

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: And I came back home and I never left again.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: I love Trenton. I love.

INTERVIEWER: I can tell yeah.

BRENDA: I love Trenton yeah. Yeah I know everybody everybody in Trenton.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm. Uh do you have any uh memorable stories of visiting the downtown area?

BRENDA: Huh I remember. Yeah I remember I had to get (?) for myself when my my parents used to take us downtown on Saturday.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: And we would go shopping. We would go to Woolworth.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

BRENDA: (?). And we would have lunch and then we'd come back home. That was a good it was good memories. And I remember when I got older like as a teenager me and my friends used to get together and we'd go to the movies and stay all day (?) movie.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: You know I had good. I have great memories of Trenton.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Even the parades was happy. Yeah we had good times.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Mmhm. It's just lately these five six years is going downhill.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah it sounds like a really vibrant.

BRENDA: Trenton was jamming. Whatchu talking about?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

BRENDA: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: We looked at these pictures and it looked like uh it looked like Manhattan.

BRENDA: And New York yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Trenton is the bomb. Uh huh yeah we had a good time. I enjoy it here.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

BRENDA: My sister now want me to come over. You know me there's nothing here but yeah there's a lot here in Trenton. I love Trenton.

INTERVIEWER: Where. You sisters still living here?

BRENDA: My sisters. I got one in in California.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: One in North Carolina and one in Sunset Bay(?).

INTERVIEWER: OK.

BRENDA: They they don't never wanna come back home.

INTERVIEWER: Really?

BRENDA: What you mean? There's nothing here in Trenton. What? This my home. What you talking about?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah yeah.

BRENDA: I ain't going. I'll leave but I'm always coming back.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: And I've been here ever since. I think it was. I came back home 'bout ten to fifteen years ago and I ain't never going.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: I ain't going nowhere. Mmhm. (?)

INTERVIEWER: Um we're also interested in where you think Trenton will head into the future. Uh after spending so much time in it.

BRENDA: Ah ah you know what I. You don't want me to answer that aha. I I think it's gonna. It's it's bad because our our kids are our future right now and the way of what's going on in Trenton. Not wanting (?) and no jobs and no activities. It's kinda bad as is so I think in another five to ten years it's gonna be really bad.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

BRENDA: Unless something good happens to change. You know OK they have no jobs so they they're selling drugs 'cause they gonna provide for their families.

INTERVIEWER: Right. Somehow.

BRENDA: And then we have some who who haven't been raised so they do (?) and hurt people.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah yeah yeah.

BRENDA: And it's getting real bad with it. That's the only thing I'm I'm afraid about Trenton is it's gonna get worse.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

BRENDA: And what it is right now I'm (?) somebody or something happens to pull us back out.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm. Um would you say that right now within the downtown area there's is there any art and culture going on?

BRENDA: OK now in the downtown well they got bookstores down there and you can go to a museum. Oh I love it. I take all my nieces and nephew to the museum.

INTERVIEWER: The state museum?

BRENDA: Oh watchu talking.

INTERVIEWER: I haven't been. I was looking to go there.

BRENDA: What?

INTERVIEWER: Is it worth it?

BRENDA: It's worth it let me tell you.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah?

BRENDA: My sisters they're not into teaching their kids culture.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: So I get all all the nieces and nephew and they they have a good show at the museum. I take 'em all and go to the museum and there's barracks downtown.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

BRENDA: The barracks. Yeah what? You gotta teach your kids some culture and that (?) statue.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: I take 'em and let learn them a little bit about history and stuff like that. I we was in the paper I was in the newspaper.

INTERVIEWER: Really?

BRENDA: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: For what?

BRENDA: Front page. Martin Luther King Day we did a um we walked out in the rain for the march for Martin Luther King and I got all my little nieces and nephew by me and we made the front page.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

BRENDA: Yeah. So yeah there's a lot of good uh artwork and stuff going on still in Trenton. It's just that a lot of people don't take their kids a lot of people were arrested close to our museum up there.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

BRENDA: Where we have exhibits and stuff going on. Yeah and now we have our parades down that street. Used to be in the park but now it's down that avenue.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm. Why do you think there's uh like a sort of disinterest in the in going to the museum? Like your sisters.

BRENDA: Because kids have. Kids having kids but my sister and they all like well you know what some parents just don't give a whole lot(?). That that's what I feel about my sisters. They they were them. They like they time(?) but no you can't do that. You gotta take the kids. Let the kids get some culture. You gotta let them know things so maybe I'm the auntie who gives out like that.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: I take all of 'em. (?). I even take 'em to the soup kitchen to eat.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

BRENDA: But my sister get mad because you took my son to the soup kitchen? Yeah if something happen to you they know there to go to eat. Your help. I I I like to do a lot of things.

INTERVIEWER: Right right. How do you think that the arts and culture of Trenton could be improved now?

BRENDA: I don't know. I don't know. I think we need better leadership. I think we need people coming with new ideas to go back to this book the way it was.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: But more moderate. I mean I think they need to put up more uh they need things for them to do and that will bring 'em all back. It'll take (?) that um you know nothing to do.

INTERVIEWER: Right right.

BRENDA: You could take our pic. There was gonna be a movie built right downtown on Broad Street.

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh.

BRENDA: Near Perry. Near Friendship Church. They had.

INTERVIEWER: OK.

BRENDA: Started rebuilding a movie and they stopped. They didn't never do what they supposed what they said they was gonna do. They never finished.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

BRENDA: So they might have ideas but they don't do nothing so I don't I don't know. Like I know we need I think.

INTERVIEWER: It would be good. It would be good.

BRENDA: It would be I think it would bring 'em back.

INTERVIEWER: Good for the neighborhood.

BRENDA: Yeah because you know once you get something like that started they say oh c'mon lemme let's take our kids down there to that new movie downtown on Broad Street and then all the other kids and and their parents will go too you know.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

BRENDA: They were starting uh another building over here with something more creative for their kids.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: Yeah people will do it but we don't have it.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

BRENDA: If we have it I know I'd go. I'm taking my my grandkids and everybody else's kids. That's how I.

INTERVIEWER: Catch a show or something.

BRENDA: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah yeah yeah.

BRENDA: That's what you have to do. There's nothing good for them to look at or be involved in uh huh.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm. So definitely a different place since back then huh?

BRENDA: Oh it's so different the change. It is really. This let me tell you know it's so different but I do remember this picture. I do remember that.

INTERVIEWER: Mmhm.

BRENDA: But it is. It's a whole lot of different. It's a whole it's a whole new world.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

BRENDA: It's a different world. And I will say it can go back to the old but more moderate you know?

INTERVIEWER: Hmm mmhm.

BRENDA: Yep.

INTERVIEWER: Um is it where you thought it would. Is.

BRENDA: I mean.

INTERVIEWER: Is Trenton now where you thought it would be?

BRENDA: No I never thought Trenton would go down like this. Never but you know it's a whole lot of different things that made it go down. I'd say that uh I think Trenton dropped(?) a lot and worked out a lot and we have no more memories. My memories now as an adult is careless. You can't walk the street unless you get mugged. That's my memory now as an adult but my memory as a child.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

BRENDA: (?) (?) (?). Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah it's interesting.

BRENDA: Yeah so um and besides uh (?), my kids, my son and my grandkids are grown adults. Because I wouldn't live here with them. Uh I would move. I would probably move with my sister or something because it's not it's no place to raise. There's no role models. There's nothing you know? There's nothing but destruction evil things. And the peer pressure this this time is bad because of the drugs.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

BRENDA: So you know I wouldn't I wouldn't.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember there being gangs in the in the between '45 and '665?

BRENDA: Back in my day? No. Whah? There's wasn't gangs back in my day. We didn't know what that was. What was a gang? What is a blood? What is a crip? We didn't know what that was.

INTERVIEWER: Really?

BRENDA: We had we had good times back in my day.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

BRENDA: Mmhm.

INTERVIEWER: That's good to know.

BRENDA: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Um and I guess to stay on in terms of the future what else would be good for the community more broadly in terms of Trenton as a whole?

BRENDA: Just like I say as a whole it would help things or buildings for our family or children to go to. Bring it back. Put the uh activities and uh nice little restaurants and things like that back into the community. I think it would bring us back up. Because you know what I do know for a fact that we have something going good going on we do take our children and and we have our cousins and everybody. We go and it was nice to spread the uh you know spread it and then everybody would come and join in.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah yeah yeah.

BRENDA: Yeah and then if somebody wanna come in and (?) will be (?) up why you wanna mess this up for us? You know and that stop all of that. So I think that's uh I think that's uh what's what they they need to do rebuild back from this old stuff that (?) people have.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: See all the people walking down the street?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah looks like they're having a good time.

BRENDA: Yeah yeah good time.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah yeah yeah.

BRENDA: Yep.

INTERVIEWER: So um is there anything else you'd like to share uh that I didn't ask about that that sticks out to you about Old Trenton?

BRENDA: No only thing I can say is that I wish it come back.

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: So I can be young again,

INTERVIEWER: Mmm.

BRENDA: Ahahaha.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah yeah.

BRENDA: That's it.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah so that's those are all my questions.

BRENDA: That's all your questions?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Thank you very much for the interview.

BRENDA: It was really nice talking to you. Yeah. You welcome. Mmhm. Anything I can. Thank you for the pictures.

INTERVIEWER 2: You're welcome. Can I just take a picture of you sitting here?

BRENDA: Oh.

INTERVIEWER 2: You can smile.

BRENDA: OK. With my little smile.

