

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Perry Howard

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Howard, Perry, 1952-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Perry Howard,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 23, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:49:51).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Architecture professor Perry Howard (1952 - ) was a distinguished faculty member at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He was involved in numerous landscape architecture projects in Florida, North Carolina, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and South Carolina. Howard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 23, 2012, in Greensboro, North Carolina. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_038
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Landscape architecture professor and landscape architect Perry Howard was born in Morganza, Louisiana on July 11, 1952 to Ruby and Grover Howard. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1970. Howard graduated from Louisiana State University with his B.L.A. degree in landscape architecture in 1975. He then graduated from Harvard University with his M.L.A. degree in landscape architecture.

In 1983, Howard was hired at the Edward D. Stone, Jr. and Associates architectural firm in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he would become vice president. He was then hired by North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina as program coordinator and associate professor for the landscape architecture program in 1989. During his time at North Carolina A&T, Howard has secured research and architecture grants from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for \$75,000 and \$200,000, respectively. Howard also helped to secure the initial accreditation for North Carolina A&T's landscape architecture program. He has won numerous academic awards and appointments in the field of landscape architecture. Howard was appointed to the North Carolina Board of Landscape Architects by former governor Jim Hunt. He has also served as a keynote speaker for an international landscape architecture conference in Beijing, China and jury chair for a design competition in Shenzhen, China.

Howard received the Teacher of the Year Award from North Carolina A&T in 2003 and was named Harvard Graduate School of Design's Top 100 Distinguished Alumni in 2000. He was also elected secretary to the Council of Fellows for the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) in 2003 and received the President's Award of the ASLA North Carolina Chapter in 1998. Howard was also elected president of the ASLA in 2008. He has served on numerous architectural projects, including site improvements at the Miami International Airport, a revitalization project of the West Palm Beach downtown district, resort development in St Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands) and facility additions to sites in Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, South America and Myrtle Beach, South

Carolina. Howard and his wife, Bobby Jean, have three adult children, Perry Howard, Jr., Sheri C. Howard and Justin P. Howard.

Perry Howard was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 23, 2012.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Perry Howard was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 23, 2012, in Greensboro, North Carolina, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Architecture professor Perry Howard (1952 - ) was a distinguished faculty member at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He was involved in numerous landscape architecture projects in Florida, North Carolina, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and South Carolina.

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# Restrictions

## Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

## Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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# Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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# Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

## Persons:

Howard, Perry, 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Howard, Perry, 1952- --Interviews

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# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

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# Occupations:

Architecture Professor

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# HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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# Administrative Information

## Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

## Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Perry Howard, February 23, 2012. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

## Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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# Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Perry Howard, Section A2012\_038\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:09 ?

Perry Howard was born on July 11, 1952 in Morganza, Louisiana to Ruby Phillips Howard and Grover Howard. His parents were both born to families of tenant farmers, and likely met as children in the small, rural community of Morganza. Howard's mother attended school through the ninth grade, while his father only reached the fourth grade. When Howard was four years old, his parents separated, and he moved to his father and stepmother's home in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans. During the summers, he returned to Morganza to visit his extended paternal family, including his grandmother, who had Cherokee ancestry. His father divorced and remarried, and Howard lived in three different homes in the Lower Ninth Ward with his stepsiblings and half siblings. During this time, Howard was influenced by his father, who carved wooden whirligigs to earn extra money. In 1965, Howard's family was displaced by the floods following Hurricane Betsy.

Video Oral History Interview with Perry Howard, Section A2012\_038\_001\_002, TRT: 2:27:06 ?

Perry Howard began his education at a public school in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Louisiana. After moving with his father to the city's Marigny neighborhood, he attended Alfred Lawless Elementary School. He enjoyed playing outside and often made his own toys, as his family could rarely afford to buy them. Howard completed one year at Alfred Lawless Junior High School, and then returned with his family to New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward. They lived there until 1965, when Hurricane Betsy flooded the neighborhood. At that time, Howard moved into his mother and stepfather's home, and transferred to James Derham Junior High School during the eighth grade. He went on to attend Booker T. Washington High School, where he excelled in mathematics and pursued his interest in art. He was introduced to architectural design during the tenth grade, when he took his first drafting class. Upon graduating from high school, Howard enrolled in the architecture program at Louisiana State University.

Video Oral History Interview with Perry Howard, Section A2012\_038\_001\_003, TRT: 3:33:19 ?

Perry Howard graduated in 1971 from Booker T. Washington High School in New Orleans, Louisiana. He worked for the local police department during the summer, and then enrolled in the architecture program at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He decided to specialize in landscape architecture because of the program's greater course flexibility. As part of the curriculum, Howard visited natural and architectural sites across the country and met notable architects like Peter Walker, Thomas Church and Lawrence Halprin. He was selected for a summer internship at Edward Durell Stone, Jr. and Associates in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and obtained a permanent position there upon his graduation in 1973. After eighteen months, Howard was promoted to associate; and, when he decided to attend graduate school, Stone introduced him to the department chair at Harvard University. Howard submitted his portfolio, and was accepted to the program. He also recalls meeting and marrying his wife, Bobby Jean Howard.

Video Oral History Interview with Perry Howard, Section A2012\_038\_001\_004, TRT: 4:30:03 ?

Perry Howard earned a master's degree in landscape architecture at Harvard University. During that time, he began to engage with architectural theory, and developed an aspiration to teach at a historically black university. He also gained experience with group projects, and created a revitalization proposal for the South Bronx that was later implemented by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. At this point in the interview, Howard describes his philosophy of architectural design, which emphasized the importance of

harmony with human society and the environment. His design process began by assessing the project from a natural, cultural and economic standpoint. He often incorporated ecological sustainability into the design; and, for formal inspiration, he created improvised sculptures from found objects. Howard was influenced by the philosophy of his mentor, Edward Durell Stone, Jr., who proposed that landscape architecture should be considered from the start of a design project.

Video Oral History Interview with Perry Howard, Section A2012\_038\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:51 ?

Perry Howard graduated from Harvard University in 1982, and returned to his hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. There, he completed four semesters towards an M.B.A. degree at the University of New Orleans. In 1983, Howard returned to the firm of Edward Durell Stone, Jr. and Associates in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He also served on the City of Miami's heritage conservation board, where his redesign of the Atlantis Condominium preserved a grove of old growth banyan trees. In 1989, Perry acquiesced to the repeated requests of Professor Charles Allen Fountain, and joined the landscape architecture department at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, which was founded by Fountain in 1977. Howard also served as a fellow of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), where he used the Earth Observing System to analyze digital images taken from space. At this point, Howard talks about the failures of suburban landscape ordinances.

Video Oral History Interview with Perry Howard, Section A2012\_038\_001\_006, TRT: 6:19:23 ?

Perry Howard became the first African American president of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2008. While heading the organization, he continued to serve as a professor at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. At the time of the interview, Howard had three children and four grandchildren. He talks about his concerns for the African American community, and reflects upon his life and plans for retirement. Howard concludes the interview by describing how he would like to be remembered.