

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616<br>info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com   |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Powdrell, Rita Ann Turfley, 1946-   |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell,   |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | July 25, 2019   |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2019  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:31:42).   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Nonprofit executive Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell (1946- ) founded the African American History Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico. Powdrell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 25, 2019, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2019_057   |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.   |

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Nonprofit executive Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell was born on July 1, 1946 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Ann Scott Turfley and Richard Thomas Turfley. In 1968, Powdrell received her B.A. degree in sociology from the University of New Mexico.

In 1968, Powdrell served as a social worker in the county welfare system in Fresno, California. Four years later, she was hired as a California state regulations interpreter and trainer. In 1974, Powdrell and her family moved back to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she served as a counselor advisor at the Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute. At the Technical Vocational Institute, Powdrell worked on Preparatory Program, a new program that supported students who were coming out of high school. In 1983, Powdrell opened and managed a new location of the restaurant Mr. Powdrell's Barbeque House with her husband, his brother and her sister-in-law. Mr. Powdrell's Barbeque had been owned and operated by her husband's family since 1962. In 1991, Powdrell co-founded the Griot Society with Brenda Dabney; and, in 1995, they curated and exhibited "New Mexico's African American Legacy: Visible, Vital, and Valuable," a pictorial history of African Americans who were brought or migrated to the territory of New Mexico. In 2002, the Griot Society joined with numerous African American organizations in New Mexico to form The African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico. The center, where Powdrell served as executive director, exhibited the wealth of African American history in New Mexico at museums and other venues throughout the state and served to increase awareness and understanding of the contributions of African Americans in New Mexico and the southwest.

Powdrell has received multiple awards for her work. In 2011, Powdrell received the Outstanding Service Award from the Office of African American Affairs. In 2012, the African American History Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico received the Heritage Organization Award from the Department of Cultural Affairs, New Mexico Historic Preservation Division. In 2014, Powdrell received the "Living Legend" award from the University of New Mexico Black Alumni Chapter and the state of New Mexico's Distinguished Public Service Award.

Powdrell and her husband and business partner, Joe Powdrell, have four children: Carmen Powdrell, Nataura Moore, Jovona Webb, and Richard Powdrell.

Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 25, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 25, 2019, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Nonprofit executive Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell (1946- ) founded the African American History Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico.

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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:

Powdrell, Rita Ann Turfley, 1946-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Powdrell, Rita Ann Turfley, 1946---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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## Occupations:

Nonprofit Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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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 Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell, July 25, 2019. 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 Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell, Section A2019\_057\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:11 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell, Section A2019\_057\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell, Section A2019\_057\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell, Section A2019\_057\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell, Section A2019\_057\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:51 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell, Section A2019\_057\_001\_006, TRT: 6:31:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rita Ann Turfley Powdrell, Section A2019\_057\_001\_007, TRT: 7:32:46 ?