

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Stapleton, Sheryl Williams, 1957-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton,
Dates:	July 23, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:25:29).
Abstract:	State representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton (1957-) was the first African American woman to be elected as a member of the New Mexico State House of Representatives. Williams Stapleton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 23, 2019, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_065
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

State representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton was born on July 30, 1957 in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands to Clementine Hendrickson and Walter Hendrickson. Williams Stapleton and her family moved to Chicago, Illinois, and then to Queens, New York, where she attended Hillcrest High School. In 1978, Williams Stapleton received her B.S. degree in education from New Mexico State University. She received both her M.A. degree in education in 1987 and her Ph.D. degree in education administration in 2013, from the University of New Mexico.

In 1984, Williams Stapleton joined the Albuquerque Public School District as an elementary school teacher. In 1991, she was elected vice chair of the New Mexico Democratic Party, and later served as its chair. In 1994, Williams Stapleton was elected to the New Mexico House of Representatives. She was the first African American woman elected to the New Mexico legislature. As a state representative, Williams Stapleton advanced legislation that created the New Mexico Office of African American Affairs, the Charlie Morrissey Research Hall at the University of New Mexico, the African American Day at the New Mexico State Legislature, the African American Alice Faye Hoppes Pavilion, and the Sheryl Williams Stapleton African American Performing Arts Center at Expo New Mexico. Williams Stapleton served on the House Education Committee and the House Safety, Workforce and Economic Development Committee. In 2004, Williams Stapleton served as House majority whip; and, in 2015, she served as House minority whip. In 2017, she was elected House majority floor leader. She was the first African American woman elected to the New Mexico legislature. During her time as a representative, Williams Stapleton continued her career in Albuquerque Public Schools, working as a school principal and director of Career and Technical Education.

Williams Stapleton was a member of the American Federation of Teachers and the National Council of Negro Women. She served as president of the Duke City Business and Professional Women's Foundation.

Williams Stapleton has received multiple awards for her work. In 2001, she was nominated as one of the three women who received the Women of the Year Award. Williams Stapleton has also been awarded the Who's Who in Women of the World and the Who's Who in Black America. The state of New Mexico also recognized her as an "Honored and Respected Woman of New Mexico."

Williams Stapleton and her husband Edread Stapleton have three children: Veronica Williams, David Hendrickson, and Edread Stapleton, Jr.

Sheryl Williams Stapleton was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 23, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 23, 2019, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. State representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton (1957-) was the first African American woman to be elected as a member of the New Mexico State House of Representatives.

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®.

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.

Controlled Access Terms

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

Persons:

Stapleton, Sheryl Williams, 1957-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Stapleton, Sheryl Williams, 1957---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

State Representative

HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers

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 The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton, July 23, 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).

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.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton, Section A2019_065_001_001, TRT: 1:28:28 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton, Section A2019_065_001_002, TRT: 2:31:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton, Section A2019_065_001_003, TRT: 3:29:38 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton, Section A2019_065_001_004, TRT: 4:29:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton, Section A2019_065_001_005, TRT: 5:29:53 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton, Section A2019_065_001_006, TRT: 6:28:58 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Sheryl Williams Stapleton, Section A2019_065_001_007, TRT: 7:27:33 ?