

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Shirley James

PERSON

James, Shirley B., 1946-

Alternative Names: Shirley James; Shirley Ann Barber

Life Dates: September 5, 1946-

Place of Birth: Georgetown, South Carolina, USA

Residence: Savannah, Georgia

Work: Savannah, Georgia

Occupations: Civic Leader;

Biographical Note

Shirley James was born in Georgetown, South Carolina on September 5, 1946. Her mother, Camille Barber, was a schoolteacher and her father, Eli Baxter Barber, was a mail porter. In 1964, James graduated from Howard High School. She continued her education at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she received her B.A. degree in psychology in 1968. She went on to receive her M.A. degree in education from Harvard University in 1970.

In 1971, James became a counselor and administrator for Savannah State University. She also held positions as Director of Testing, Vice President of Student Affairs and Counselor Orientation Director. During her tenure, James developed Peer Counselors, a committee to support the students of Savannah State University.

James also became a publisher and editor for The Tribune, a weekly newspaper founded by James' husband, Robert Earl James, that focuses on the issues of African Americans.

In 2002, James left her position at Savannah State University to become the Coordinator of the Savannah Black Heritage Festival. Between 2004 and 2005, she served on the Board of Directors of the Savannah Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, and in 2005, she was appointed to a five year term for Savannah's Airport Commission. James is a member of several professional organizations as well as owner of the Education Testing Services in Savannah.

James and her husband Robert live in Savannah, Georgia. They have three adult

children.

James was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 17, 2007.

Related Entries

Howard High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Howard Adult Center & Optional School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Spelman College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Harvard Graduate School of Education [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

J.B. Beck Middle School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Savannah State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Counselor/Educator

The Savannah Tribune [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Owner & Publisher

Jack and Jill of America, Inc [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member and President

YWCA [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Junior League of Savannah [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

The Links, Incorporated [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

