

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lois Martin

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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>	Martin, Lois, 1928-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lois Martin,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 17, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:27:43).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Community leader and high school math teacher Lois Martin (1928 - ) taught math for nearly forty years at Carver High School, Booker T. Washington High School and Carver Middle School. Today, the Lois Martin Community Center serves the underprivileged communities of Boca Raton with a variety of services for children and teens. Martin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 17, 2002, in Boca Raton, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2002_061
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Educator and community leader Lois Martin was born on September 23, 1928 in Boca Raton, Florida to Sallie and Jasper Dolphus. Originally from Georgia, Martin's family relocated to Boca Raton several years before she was born. She is the youngest of seven children. After graduating in 1946 from Carver High School in Delray Beach, Florida, Martin went on to earn her A.A. degree in 1948 from Florida Normal College and her B.S. degree from Florida A&M College in 1950 before beginning to pursue graduate studies at Boston College.

Martin returned to Boca Raton in 1950 and taught math for nearly forty years at Carver High School, Booker T. Washington High School and Carver Middle School.

In addition to her career as an educator, Martin had always been an active member of her community. For several years, she acted as secretary to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and later served as the vice chairman for the Housing Authority. Since retiring from teaching in 1988, Martin has participated in a number of organizations: she has been a contributor to Habitat for Humanity since 1991, sat on Boca Raton's Historic Preservation Board since 2001, and has held the offices of vice chairman of the Pearl City Blue Ribbon Committee and treasurer for the Martin Luther King Memorial Committee. She has also served as a Sunday School teacher and treasurer for the Ebenezer Baptist Church. The Lois Martin Community Center serves the underprivileged communities of Boca Raton with a variety of services for children and teens, including tutoring and after school programs.

Martin is the mother of one son, Edward.

Lois Martin was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 17, 2002.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lois Martin was conducted by Samuel Adams on April 17, 2002, in Boca Raton, Florida, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Community leader and high school math teacher Lois Martin (1928 - ) taught math for nearly forty years at Carver High School, Booker T. Washington High School and Carver Middle School. Today, the Lois Martin Community Center serves the underprivileged communities of Boca Raton with a variety of services for children and teens.

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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:

Martin, Lois, 1928-

Adams, Samuel (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Martin, Lois, 1928---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:

High School Math Teacher

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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 Lois Martin, April 17, 2002. 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 Lois Martin, Section A2002\_061\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:40 ?

Lois Martin describes her family background. Her father, Jasper Dolphus, and her mother, Sallie Dolphus, were both originally from Georgia. Martin's father, whom she remembers as distant, worked as a sharecropper, while her mother, with whom Martin enjoyed a close relationship, worked in a restaurant and as a laundress. Martin's experiences helping her mother wash and iron laundry as a young girl fueled Martin's determination to get an education. The only one of her six siblings to finish high school, Martin graduated from Carver High School

in Delray Beach, Florida in 1946 as class salutatorian. Martin talks about the history of the black community in Pearl City, a neighborhood in Boca Raton, Florida, and about growing up in a safe and tight-knit community that was affected by displacement and gentrification. Martin also talks about her earliest childhood memory, her childhood personality, and her father's favoritism toward her niece.

Video Oral History Interview with Lois Martin, Section A2002\_061\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:17 ?

Lois Martin talks about her parents' schooling; her grade school years at Pearl City Elementary School, Roadman Elementary School, and Carver High School, where she graduated as class salutatorian in 1946; and her high school mentors. In high school, she could not participate in extracurricular activities because of her commute from Pearl City to Delray Beach. Martin talks about how her academic excellence made her father proud; the sights, sounds, and smells of her childhood; and church life in the Pearl City community of Boca Raton, Florida. As a lifelong member of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Pearl City, Martin participated in activities as a child, and has served as church secretary, Sunday school teacher, and church treasurer in her adult life. Martin also talks about how her Christian faith helped her endure segregation, personal encounters with segregation, her parents' reserved approach civil rights violations, and making do with outdated books in high school.

Video Oral History Interview with Lois Martin, Section A2002\_061\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:23 ?

Lois Martin talks about standing up to police misconduct in Pearl City and graduating as Carver High School's salutatorian in 1946. Martin spent an unhappy two years at Florida Normal College from 1946 to 1948 before transferring to Florida A&M University in pursuit of more independence and a challenging academic environment. She worked hard in college to finance her own education. In 1950, Martin graduated as one of four female math majors in her class. After college, Martin attended graduate school at Boston College and returned to her alma mater, Carver High School as a math teacher. Martin also talks about being a young teacher and how it took many years for Brown v. Board of Education (1954) to effect tangible changes in her school.

Video Oral History Interview with Lois Martin, Section A2002\_061\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:34 ?

Lois Martin describes the disparity between black and white schools when she began teaching, C. Spencer Pompey and Thurgood Marshall's efforts to win equal pay for black teachers, and encouraging students to excel. In 1965, Martin left her post at Carver High School in Delray Beach, Florida to teach at Booker T. Washington High School in Montgomery, Alabama where she worked in an integrated environment. Martin talks about what it was like to live in Montgomery during the 1960s, her memories of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination in 1968, and the challenge of working with white teachers at an integrated Carver High School after she returned to her former post in 1970. Martin's dedication to the Pearl City community of Boca Raton, Florida is evident through her work on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Boca Raton Housing Authority.

Video Oral History Interview with Lois Martin, Section A2002\_061\_001\_005, TRT: 0:29:49 ?

Lois Martin continues to talk to describe her volunteer work in the Pearl City community of Boca Raton, Florida, and of her contributions to Habitat for Humanity, the Historic Preservation Board, the Lois Martin Community Center, and Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. Martin credits her Christian faith for the spirit of determination that drives her approach to everything she does. She also talks about her commitment to students as an educator, the negative effect of broken homes on children's schooling, her hopes for the black community,

and why prayer belongs in public schools. Martin closes by reflecting upon her legacy and narrating her photographs.