

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Walter Hill, Jr.

PERSON

Hill, Walter B., Jr., 1949-2008

**Alternative Names:** Walter Hill, Jr.;

**Life Dates:** May 22, 1949-July 29, 2008

**Place of Birth:** St. Louis, Missouri, USA

**Residence:** Bowie, Maryland

**Work:** College Park, Maryland

**Occupations:** Archivist; Historian; African American History Professor

## Biographical Note

Walter Hill, Jr., was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on May 22, 1949. After finishing high school, Hill enrolled in the College of Wooster, earning a B.A. degree in history in 1971. From there, he attended Northern Illinois University, studying American history. Earning an M.A. degree in 1973, he returned to school to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 1988.

After completing his master's degree, Hill taught at St. Louis University from 1974 to 1977. He returned to school in the fall of 1977 to work towards the Ph.D. in U.S. History at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. He worked as a graduate teaching assistant and later as an instructor in the Afro-American Studies Program between 1982 and 1983. While working towards the Ph.D., he also worked at the National Archives and Records Administration as a graduate intermittent research student until 1983 in the Office of the Archivist and Office of Federal Records. From 1983 to 1984, he held a pre-doctoral fellowship at the Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Upon completing the fellowship in 1984, he returned to the National Archives and Records Administration as an archivist with the Office of the National Archives where he remained for seven years. In 1990, he left to work in the Office of Public Program, assuming the role of director of the Modern Archives Institute and subject specialist for Afro-American history. He remained with the office until 1995 when he departed for the new facility in College Park, Maryland, and assumed the position of senior archivist and subject area specialist for Afro-American history and federal records. In 1984, Hill became an adjunct professor of Afro-American history in the Afro-American Studies

Department, Howard University, Washington, D.C., and taught courses in Afro-American history for the next two decades.

As a noted historian, Hill appeared in several documentaries, as well as on Good Morning America, Washington Journal and Fox TV. He served on the editorial board of the African American History Bulletin, the Executive Council of the Association for the Study of Afro-American History and on the advisory board of The HistoryMakers, among others. He has also written extensively, his work appearing in such journals as the Newsletter of the American Historical Association and the Journal of Minority Issues.

Hill passed away on July 29, 2008 at the age of 59.

## Related Entries

**Dessalines Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Pruitt Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Vashon High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**diploma**

**College of Wooster** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Northern Illinois University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Howard University** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**African American Civil War Memorial** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]