



# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Louis Jones

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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>	Louis Jones
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Louis Jones,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 27, 2010
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2010
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 Betacam SP videocassettes (3:07:48).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Louis Jones (1946 - ) is president of Louis Jones Enterprises, Inc. and serves on the Board of Directors for the Black Contractors United. Jones was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 27, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2010_030
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Louis Jones is president of Louis Jones Enterprises, Inc. and serves on the Board of Directors for the Black Contractors United. He was born on July 1, 1946 in Hunstville, Alabama to Arthur and Alberta Jones. His father was a farmer and construction worker in the south, but when his family moved to Chicago his father became a baker with the A&P grocery chain factories. Jones attended Tilden Technical High School before earning his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1973. In 1969 Jones began working for Skidmore, Owings and Merrill architects. In 1973, Jones began working for McKee-Berger-Mansueto as an Area A School Rehab Manager.

In 1975, Jones became a licensed architect and moved to San Francisco, where he worked for a private consulting firm. He moved back to Chicago three years later and began working for Schal Associates. Between 1978 and 1984, Schal Associates built the Avondale Center, Madison Plaza, the Chicago Tribune Printing Plant, and the Magnificent Mile. In 1984, Jones became president of Louis Jones Enterprises, Inc., specializing in engineering, construction, management, consulting, and architecture. The following year, Louis Jones Enterprises, Inc. was part of the \$1.7 billion renovation and expansion of O'Hare International Airport. The firm also was hired to work on Provident Hospital in 1990 and McCormick Place in 1997. In 2008, Jones' firm was hired to be part of the team to build the University of Illinois', the James Stukel Towers student housing complex.

Since 1986, Jones sat on the Board of Directors for Black Contractors United and was elected Chairman of the Board in 1998. He was also selected to serve on the Mayor of Chicago's Task Force for Minority & Women Business Development in 2005. Jones was a member of the Illinois Capital Development Board and has served as president pro tempore of the Illinois Department of Employment Security Advisory Board.

Louis Jones was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 27, 2010.

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Louis Jones was conducted by Thomas Jefferson on May 27, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 Betacam SP videocassettes. Louis Jones (1946 - ) is president of Louis Jones Enterprises, Inc. and serves on the Board of Directors for the Black Contractors United.

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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:

Jones, Louis

Jefferson, Thomas (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Louis Jones--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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Schal Associates

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

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BusinessMakers

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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 Louis Jones, May 27, 2010. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 8/13/2011 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, May 27, 2010

Video Oral History Interview with Louis Jones, Section A2010\_030\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:19 ?

Louis Jones begins the interview by discussing his family's background. He states that his mother, Alberta Moore, was the daughter of sharecroppers in Huntsville, Alabama. He says that she was one of eight children and was a very religious woman. He recalls stories about his grandfather, Sylvester Moore, who was a World War II veteran. His father also grew up in Huntsville, Alabama, and he was a craftsman by trade. He did some of the brick laying work at the NASA facility in Huntsville, but made most of his money working for people

in the community. Jones remembers his father as a calm man with very deep emotions. He also talks about working at a factory to save money for college and his family's move to Chicago.

African American Families--Alabama--Huntsville.

African Americans--Alabama--Huntsville.

Southern States--Economic conditions--20th century.

Sharecropping--Southern States.

Bricklayers.

African American fathers.

Video Oral History Interview with Louis Jones, Section A2010\_030\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:17 ?

Louis Jones discusses his childhood in Chicago, Illinois. He remembers when his family moved to the Hyde Park neighborhood and how integrated that community was. He also talks about his educational experiences and activities in elementary school. His family was very active in church when he was younger, and two of his sisters sang in the choir. He was a very artistic child, and won different art contests. In high school, played foot ball, was a member of the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps, and worked as an usher at the Regal Theater. He reminisces about the Motown Revue at the Regal Theatre, which was emceed by Flip Wilson.

African American children--Illinois--Chicago.

African American students--Education (Elementary)--Illinois--Chicago.

African American high school students--Illinois--Chicago.

African American churches--Illinois--Chicago.

Neighborhoods--Illinois--Chicago.

United States. Navy--Reserve officers' training corps.

Video Oral History Interview with Louis Jones, Section A2010\_030\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:05 ?

Louis Jones continues his discussion about high school and his experiences working at the Regal Theater. He remembers how nice Smokey Robinson was to the ushers at the theatre, and he often had conversations with them. He talks about his decision to get a degree in architecture and his years at the University of Illinois at Chicago. There were a few other African American students in the program, but some of the professors encouraged him to do his best. He also mentions the different firms he worked for while he was in college and what he wanted the African American community to get out of architecture.

African American high school students.

African American students--Education (higher).

University of Illinois at Chicago.

African American architects--Employment.

Architectural practice--United States.

Robinson, Smokey, 1940-.

Video Oral History Interview with Louis Jones, Section A2010\_030\_001\_004, TRT: 0:29:41 ?

Louis Jones continues his discussion about his experiences at University of Illinois at Chicago, where he met his wife, Barbara and served on the fencing team. In fact his team beat the United States Air Force Academy in the saber category. He also talks about his employment at McKee-Berger Mansueto Construction Management firm, which was the first construction management firm in the country. He takes time to explain the duties of a general contractor and a field coordinator, and remembers some of the different building he

worked on in Chicago, and the birth of Louis Jones Enterprises Incorporated.  
African American architects--Employment.  
University of Illinois at Chicago.  
Architectural practice--United States.  
McKee-Berger-Mansueto.  
Fencing.  
African American couples.  
African American business enterprises--Illinois--Chicago.  
Construction industry--Illinois--Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Louis Jones, Section A2010\_030\_001\_005, TRT: 0:29:34 ?

Louis Jones continues his discussion about Louis Jones Enterprises Incorporated, and the role they played in the O'Hare airfield. He talks about some of the other buildings he worked on and his efforts to hire African Americans for jobs. Jones mentions his involvement with Black Contractors United and the National Organization of Minority Architects. He also notes that he has three adult children and talks about what they are doing in their adult lives.

African American business enterprises--Illinois--Chicago.  
Architectural practice--United States.  
African American architects--Employment.  
African American architectsIllinois--Chicago.  
African American familiesIllinois--Chicago.  
African American childrenIllinois--Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Louis Jones, Section A2010\_030\_001\_006, TRT: 0:29:24 ?

Louis Jones continues to discuss his firm and the different projects they are working on in 2010. He goes into detail about a school he designed for the City of Chicago and how he encouraged community involvement with the project. Most of his architectural experience has been redesigning schools and monitoring quality control on other construction projects. Jones gives an in depth explanation about what his firm does.

Architectural practice--United States.  
African American architects.  
African American business enterprises--Illinois--Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Louis Jones, Section A2010\_030\_001\_007, TRT: 0:12:28 ?

Louis Jones narrates the photographs he brought to the interview.