

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William Whitley

PERSON

**Whitley, William N., 1934-**

**Alternative Names:** William Whitley;

**Life Dates:** April 29, 1934-

**Place of Birth:** Rochester, New York, USA

**Residence:** Beachwood, OH

**Work:** Cleveland, OH

**Occupations:** Architect; Business Chief Executive

## Biographical Note

Architect and business executive William N. Whitley was born on April 29, 1934 in Rochester, New York and raised in Warren and Cleveland, Ohio. Whitley's father was a chemist; his mother an actress. He graduated from Kent State University in 1957 with his B.S. degree in architecture, and went on to serve as a captain in the United States Air Force from 1958 until 1960.

In the 1960s, Whitley joined his brother, James, in operating Whitley/Whitley Architects and Planners LLC, a full service architectural and planning firm specializing in institutional design, sport facility design, and commercial housing design, where he served as vice president and project principal.

Whitley/Whitley Architects has provided a substantial amount of work in Cleveland and the State of Ohio for various city and state public agencies, as well as services for cities and community groups in cities throughout the United States, including Saint Louis, Missouri; Indianapolis, Indiana; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Gary, Indiana; Chicago, Illinois; Saginaw, Michigan; Buffalo, New York; Rochester, New York; New York City, New York; Orlando, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; Reading, Pennsylvania; Washington, D.C. and San Diego, California. Whitley/Whitley was involved with work on Cleveland's Tower City Center, the Cleveland State University Convocation Center, Lincoln Junior High School, the Lee-Harvard Branch of Cleveland Public Library, the Central Area Multi-Service Center, and the Cleveland Clinic Guesthouse development. Other projects have included Kent State University's Fashion Museum, Cuyahoga County Community College's Learning Center, and Cleveland's John F. Kennedy Recreation Center. Whitley's firm has also designed numerous housing units and worked on several rehabilitation projects.

Whitley/Whitley Architects and Planners LLC has received many awards and honors, including the Progressive Architecture Design Award, the HUD Biennial Design Award, Burlington Awards, the House and Home Award, the Ohio Prestressed Concrete Design Award, the Ohio Masonry Council/ASO Award for Excellence in Masonry Design, the Cleveland Chapter of Architect's Building Design Award, the East Ohio Energy Conservation Award, and the ASO Honor Awards Certificate of Merit.

Whitley has three children: Kyle, Kym and Scott.

William Whitley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 12, 2014.

## Related Entries

**Kent State University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**Nathaniel Rochester School No. 3** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

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

**Rawlings Junior High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Alexander Hamilton Junior High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**John Adams High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Joseph Baker and Associates** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Architect**

**Damon, Worley, Samuels and Associates** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Architect**

**Dalton and Dalton** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Architect**

**United States Air Force** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1958 to 1960]

**Captain**

**Whitley/Whitley Architects and Planners LLC**

[EMPLOYEE OF]

[from 1960 to ?]

**Vice President and Project Principal**