

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Estelle Beachaump

COLLECTION: 4700.0881

IDENTIFICATION: Estelle Beachaump is the oldest member of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

INTERVIEWER: Tayari Kwa Salaam

SERIES: McKinley High School Oral History Project - African American Churches

INTERVIEW DATES: June 23, 1997

FOCUS DATES: 1904 – 1997

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1259, Side A

Introduction; Estelle Deda Beachaump born in 1904 in Spanishtown area of Baton Rouge; attended Leland College, had two beauty parlors; will turn ninety-four; occupation of beauty culture and religious education; educated at Leland College in Baker and in St. Louis; father, Sam, was a painter; mother, Mary, was a housewife, raising thirteen children; Estelle is oldest child living; parents had educations; believes religion helps you live right; names Shiloh's pastors as Byrd, Mitchell, Smith, and Smith; Shiloh has Christian education, not secular, always had educated leaders; founded by Reverend Byrd; Shiloh moved with the colored people out of Spanishtown; presently located on Eddie Robinson Drive; has been added on to four times; tells her mother's story of the church being built out of piano boxes and logs out of the Mississippi River, Rev. Thompson making pews out of logs; remembers Rev. Mitchell and the Shiloh Kindergarten School; Estelle reared her niece's four children; remembers Pastor D. T. Smith and the educational building and the church annex; reflects on current pastor Smith and children's education, helping the old folks in homes, and missionary work; Smith's personality and treatment makes people want to come to church; believes Shiloh is best church in Baton Rouge due to over sixty years service; was baptized at age twelve; explains "confessing" and baptism as saying you have religion and believe in God; loves Shiloh, the religious education, and how they help anybody and everybody; likes everything about Shiloh and would tell them if she didn't.

TAPES: 1 (T1259)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 26 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 23 pages

OTHER MATERIALS: Index, Interview Data Sheet, Interviewee Info Sheet, Correspondence

RESTRICTIONS: None