

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection**

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Isiah Smith

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0710

**IDENTIFICATION:** South Baton Rouge resident for seventeen years; buildings and grounds supervisor at McKinley High.

**INTERVIEWERS:** Nedra Carter, Khary Carrell

**SERIES:** McKinley High School Oral History Project – African American Businesses

**INTERVIEW DATE:** July 11, 1996

**FOCUS DATES:** 1980s-1990s

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 1037, Side A**

Born December 1, 1947 in Baywood, Louisiana; father worked on sugar farm; has four brothers and five sisters; has lived in South Baton Rouge neighborhood about seventeen years; moved to neighborhood to be buildings and grounds supervisor at McKinley Senior High School; recalls businesses on East Boulevard; improvements in street cleaning; decrease in violence in neighborhood; flooding used to be so bad in neighborhood that people would get around in boats; recent improvements in black businesses; patronizing cleaners, grocery store and car wash; McKinley High is thriving; recommends someone else to interview; offers to share his McKinley photograph collection.

**TAPES:** 1 (T1037)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 8 minutes

**# PAGES TRANSCRIPT:** 7 pages

**OTHER MATERIALS:** Interview data sheet

**RESTRICTIONS:** None