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**HERTHA M. TAYLOR
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW AND TRANSCRIPT,
21 NOVEMBER 2012**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
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COLLECTION
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NOTES: This interview is part of the Indiana Community Builders Oral
History Project of the Indiana Historical Society.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Hertha Mae (Ward) Taylor was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1914. The daughter of an African-American Baptist minister, she grew up encountering little segregation and its effects, until she and her family moved to the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area, where she graduated from high school. She studied home economics for one year at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania before transferring to the University of Pittsburgh to study business. In 1941, she went to Chicago to work at the Cortez W. Peters Business School then left to become a manager of the Ida B. Wells Homes, the housing authority's public housing project for black residents on Chicago's South Side. She met Joseph T. Taylor (1913–2000), an educator, and married him in 1944, before he left for service overseas during World War II. They and their three children—Meshach Taylor, Judy Taylor, and Hussain Taylor—lived in Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana before her husband accepted a job with Flanner House in 1957 and moved the family to Indianapolis. She then spent the rest of her career working for the Indianapolis Public School system and also participated in the women's programs at the United Methodist church where the family regularly worshiped. She celebrated her 100th birthday in 2014.

Sources:

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The interview took place at the home of Hertha Taylor in Indianapolis on 21 November 2012. It was conducted by Kendra Clauser of the Indiana Historical Society. The product consists of the interview and the transcript. The interview forms part of the Indiana Community Builders Oral History Project of the Indiana Historical Society.

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User Copy of Taylor Interview

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