

**Wyoming School Foundation
Distinguished Alumnus 2007
Carl B. Westmoreland**

**Founding Staff, Curator, and Senior Advisor
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
International Leader in Urban Revitalization & Preservation
Wyoming High School Class of 1955**



After graduating from Wyoming High School, Carl Westmoreland received a Bachelor of Arts from Knoxville College with a double major in History and Sociology and a minor in Speech. He also holds a Masters degree in Urban Sociology from the University of Cincinnati. A major focus of his work has been directing the attention of leaders of all races to the cross-cultural importance of the physical preservation of African-American history.

For the last four decades, Carl B. Westmoreland has been a leader in urban revitalization and preservation, from the grassroots community level to national and international arenas. In a 1971 newspaper article, he was quoted as saying "I believe in positive fighting within the system". This philosophy and dedication to improving communities and education through the preservation of history has led him to make a significant impact on every project he has been involved in since the 1960's. Furthermore, not only has he directly influenced communities himself; he has also served as a pioneer for the larger preservation movement, especially African-American historic preservation.

Westmoreland has lived the past 40 years of his life in Cincinnati, a city he has changed in many ways. In the 1960's, he focused his attention on the primarily African-American Mount Auburn community, believing that homeownership and engagement were the keys to making the community a better place. In 1967, he and some neighbors formed the Mount Auburn Good Cincinnati. The Foundation began by renovating buildings they believed were most damaging to the community. It quickly became a multimillion dollar operation involved in both the renovation of over 2000 homes and businesses and in providing technical assistance to other nonprofit housing groups nationwide.

Westmoreland's interest in preservation as a part of renovation in the neighborhood garnered him much attention, and in the mid '70's he became the first African American Trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This leadership in preservation led him to be involved in a number of groundbreaking events on a national level and in 1979 brought him a nomination for the Rockefeller Foundation Award for Historic Preservation. His association with the National Trust also gave him international prominence, leading him to travel the world working in diverse countries on preservation issues including a delegation to the People's Republic of China. Throughout these activities, Westmoreland never lost his dedication to his hometown and he continues his efforts in Cincinnati neighborhoods, heading organizations small and large.

In 1993, Westmoreland received the Louise du Pont Crowninshield Award from the National Trust. They honored him for his dedication to revitalizing and preserving inner city neighborhoods and fostering awareness of urban issues, poverty, and race relations. These are subjects he has examined and re-examined throughout his career. It was Westmoreland's understanding of these issues and his interest in African-American history that spurred him to his next big project—the creation of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Westmoreland became deeply involved in the founding and development of the Center. He serves as senior advisor at the Center and curator for its main exhibit, the Slave Pen. The actual slave pen was found in a barn in Germantown, KY and came to his attention in 1998. He felt an immediate connection and spent four years researching the pen's history and that of the surrounding community. Westmoreland's time and effort paid off in a deep understanding of the complex history of the internal slave trade. The pen itself was reassembled in the Center. Each year 450,000 visitors can walk through it and experience first-hand the emotions conjured by a jail of four walls while they learn about the struggles embedded in this country's history.