



CAPTAIN WILLIAM HARRIS HARDY WAS FOUNDER OF HATTIESBURG. He believed railroads could open south Mississippi to settlers and trade and help the state and its people recover from the Civil War. He followed the proposed route of the NO & NE R. R. from Meridian to New Orleans through what is now Hattiesburg. He calculated the best route for another railroad from Jackson to the Gulf coast would cross here. **LOOK FOR** the place the Southern and Illinois Central Gulf tracks cross to see how well Captain Hardy calculated.