

# Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

**HAHS MUSEUM**  
Hattiesburg Cultural Center  
723 Main Street  
Mailing: P.O. Box 1573  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1773  
Web Site: [www.hahsmuseum.org](http://www.hahsmuseum.org)  
E-mail:  
[hahsmuseum@megagate.com](mailto:hahsmuseum@megagate.com)

## HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Continued from Winter 2015 newsletter)



1

### Grace Love Elementary School (formerly 3rd Ward School for Blacks), Built in 1950.

Named for Grace Love, an educator, who taught school for fifty years including forty years in the city of

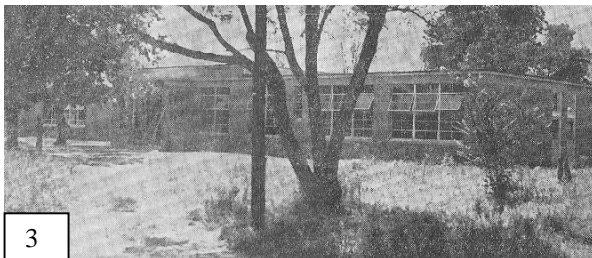


2

Hattiesburg at the Third Ward School. Today the school is Osceola McCarty Youth Development Center.

### Mary Bethune Elementary School (replacing 16<sup>th</sup> Section School), Built in 1950.

Named for nationally recognized educator and founder of Normal and Industrial School for Girls in Florida. She was a special advisor to President Roosevelt on minority affairs and assistant to the Secretary of War for selection of the first officer candidates in the School for WACs in 1942.



3



4

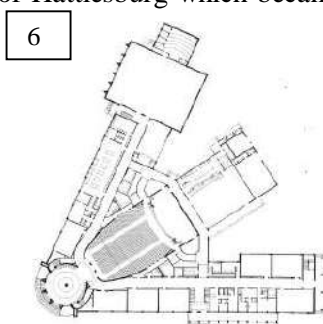
Available Before and After  
Photos from HAHS Files  
1. Grace Love 1950  
2. Grace Love 2016  
3. Mary Bethune 1950  
4. Mary Bethune 2016  
5. G. L. Hawkins 1952  
6. G. L. Hawkins Floor Plan  
7. Grace Christian 2016  
Additional Photos from You  
Are Welcome.

### G. L. Hawkins Elementary School (formerly Junior High), Built in 1951.

Named for prominent Hattiesburg businessman George L. Hawkins who donated the land for the school. He was the first president of the First National Bank of Hattiesburg which became First Mississippi National Bank and is currently Bancorp South. The school's unique architecture by Noah Webster Overstreet, the first native architect born near Hattiesburg, incorporated poured-in-place concrete, introduced in the early 1900s. The building, designed in the shape of a space ship, featured a mushroom cloud column in the middle of the rotunda entrance. It is currently an elementary school grades Pre-K – 5.



5



6

### Grace Christian Elementary School, Built in 1958.



7

Named for educator Grace Christian who taught school in Hattiesburg from 1903 until 1945. She first taught seventh grade. Next she taught at Camp School. Then she served at Court Street School (Walthall School) where she was principal from 1905 until 1945 when she retired. At the dedication ceremonies in 1958, Miss Christian was congratulated by three generations of her students. It is currently an elementary school grades Pre-K-5.

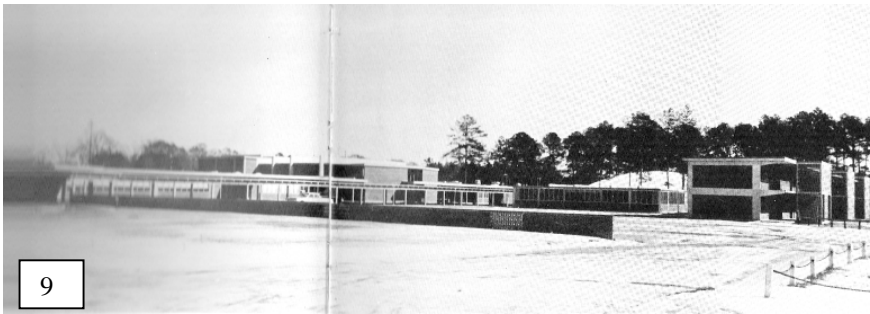


**W. H. Jones Elementary School (formerly Elementary and Junior High), Built in 1958.**

Named for W. H. Jones who was a teacher in Hattiesburg schools and principal of Sixth Street School (replaced by Eureka School) beginning in 1918 and for a number of years there after. He was the first to propose Eureka School. Today the building is used by Head Start.

**Hattiesburg High School (S. H. Blair Center), Built in 1959.**

The original building was named in honor of Stephen Henry Blair, Sr. long-time teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent in Hattiesburg Public Schools. He started in Hattiesburg in 1923 and retired in 1966. (Blair's



name was added to the high school campus on Hutchinson Avenue at the end of 1968. When all tenth graders attended Rowan and eleventh and twelfth grades were held at Hutchinson Avenue, the campuses were referred to as the Blair Campus of Hattiesburg High and the Rowan Campus of Hattiesburg High. In 2003, the

Freshman Academy was added to the High School campus. Today Hattiesburg High School has grades nine through twelve.



**Lillie Burney Elementary School/STEAM Academy (formerly Elementary and Junior High School), Built in 1963.**



Named for Lillie Burney educator, teacher, and principal of the 16<sup>th</sup> Section School (now Mary Bethune) for 37 years. She retired on her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 28, 1959. The community was so excited while the school was being built that the building and grounds were left open to allow the public to view the project after work, an activity that the danger of lawsuits and theft would prevent today. During construction there were no reported injuries and nothing was stolen. Today the 6<sup>th</sup> grade STEAM Academy occupies the building.

**W. I. Thames Elementary School (formerly Junior High and Elementary), Built in 1962-1964.**

Named for educator W. I. Thames. In 1906 he established South Mississippi College (where William Carey University stands today). He was principal and superintendent in several Mississippi towns. He served as Hattiesburg Superintendent of Schools from 1922 to 1939. Today Thames Elementary serves students in grades Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.



## GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

Nov. 17, 2015 – Mar. 21, 2016

- Three Aerial Photos of the New High School – Web Heidelberg
- Twenty dollar signed note, National Bank of Hattiesburg and Ticket for MS Central RR Co. (1916) – Estate of Ron and Mini Patton.
- Book & CD: This Was Radio (1895-2000) – Wanda McKissack.
- Book: Labors of a Modern Hercules; CD Book, No Compromise With Principle; three books: The Extractor Newsletter (Bound Volumes Nov. 1944-Oct. 1947) for Hercules. – Jerry Shephard
- Framed Photo Hattiesburg American “By-Gone Days” and Article 1921 Masonic Lodge – Mary Lois Burkett
- Pump Organ, J. Espey & Co., Organ and Stool – Frank & Lula Corage
- Book Komp Equipment Supply Manual 1962, Pine Bark Scraper, Signs, Chalk, and Lumber Crayons – M. W. (Sonny) Hamilton, Jr.
- Books: Pictorial History 38<sup>th</sup> Division Army at Camp Shelby 1940-1941 and 1941 – Gerald Buchanan
- Banner: 50<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Vietnam War – Norvell Robertson Chapter DAR
- Books: 100 Year History of First Baptist Church, Brooklyn 1897-1997; History of First Baptist Church, McLaurin 1897-1998 – Betty and Rebekah Ray
- Old Hattiesburg Street Light with base, globe and bulb; Tabletop Selector for Juke Box – M. W. (Sonny) Hamilton, Jr.
- WWII Postcard Folder of Camp Shelby – Family of William Miller
- Framed Mardi Gras King; Three Genealogy Books – Tom Phillips III
- Various maps and design drawings – Web Heidelberg
- Book: Before There was a Mississippi by Ruth L. Bates (Kelly Settlement) - Hugh Howell
- Photos South Central MS Bar Association for 1997, 1992, 1988, 1970 - Web Heidelberg

## RECENT MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Nov. 17, 2015 – Mar. 21, 2016

### LIFE MEMBERS

Edgar E. Burkett, Jr.  
Charles J. Brown  
Lynn Turner Shaver  
Carol Warren

### HONORARIUMS

Ab & Connie Jones  
Ursula Ruth Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Tatum, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. C. G. Meador III

### MEMORIALS

Tat Ott  
Bessie Hullum

John Kochtitzky  
AJ & Jacq Jones  
J. W. “Pete” Mangum  
James O’dair  
Cort Barker  
C. Bishop Barker

### DONORS

Hugh Howell  
Gloria H. Bryant  
Elizabeth S. Meador  
James E. McInnis  
Penny Kochtitzky  
Jane W. Jones  
Claire H. Mangum

Moran Pope, Jr.  
Ursula Ruth Jones  
Laurie A. Crowson  
Dr. Darlene J. Wheeler  
Howard Barker  
Anita & Charles Price  
Mary Margaret Tatum  
Dee Abbott  
John Papakakis  
Ab & Connie Jones  
Cindy A. Cochran  
Charlotte Yandell  
Bettie S. Ross  
Lake Douglas  
Norvell Robertson NSDAR

### DO YOU KNOW?

Have you ever wondered what people living in Hattiesburg should call themselves? Some just say, “I’m a resident...” or “I’m a citizen...” After much research in the HAHS archives, we made a big discovery. One of the early publications of the Commercial Club gives the answer. The Industrial edition of May 1908, discusses all of the businesses and industries of our city and calls the inhabitants **Hattiesburgans**. Surely they knew!



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Permit No. 95  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403

**HAHS MUSEUM**  
Post Office Box 1573  
Hattiesburg, MS  
39403-1573

**MUSEUM HOURS**  
Mon., Tues., Thurs.  
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Or by Appointment  
Call 601-582-5460

Located in the  
Hattiesburg Cultural  
Center  
723 Main Street  
Downtown  
Hattiesburg, MS

Web site:  
www.hahsmuseum.org

Email: hahsmuseum@  
megagate.com

**OFFICERS**

**President**  
Paula Harvey

**Vice President**  
Ursula Jones

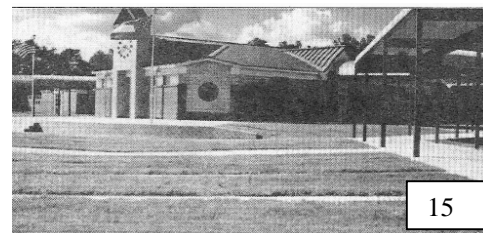
**Secretary**  
Laurie Crowson

**Treasurer**  
Barbara Curry

**Historian/Parliamentarian**  
Tom Phillips III

**N. R. Burger Middle School, Built in 1999.**

Named for N. R. Burger educator and principal. He began teaching mathematics in Magnolia, MS. In 1936 he became principal of Hopewell Vocational School in Covington County. In 1940, he became principal of Eureka High School, which became Rowan High School. He became Rowan's first principal and served there until his retirement in 1974. It was Burger who suggested the Rowan name.



Page 4 Photos.  
14. N.R. Burger 1999  
15. N.R. Burger 2016  
  
HAHS welcomes additions to our photo collection.

**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE  
HATTIESBURG AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**2016 HAHS DUES**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**HAHS does not sell or share membership lists with anyone.**

Individual \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Couple/Organization \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Student \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership- People over 50 \$100 each \_\_\_\_\_

People under 50 \$200 each \_\_\_\_\_

**BOOK ORDER**

*The History of Forrest County, MS* \_\_\_\_\_ Copies @ \$20 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If mailed, shipping and handling \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to HAHS and send to  
P. O. Box 1573, Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1573)

