

Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

HAHS MUSEUM
Hattiesburg Cultural Center
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Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1773
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hahsmuseum@megagate.com

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Continued from Winter 2015 newsletter)



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

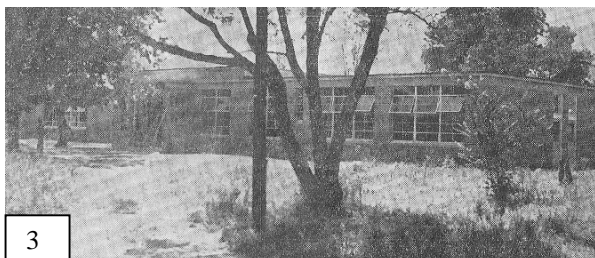
Named for Grace Love, an educator, who taught school for fifty years including forty years in the city of



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

Mary Bethune Elementary School (replacing 16th Section School), Built in 1950.

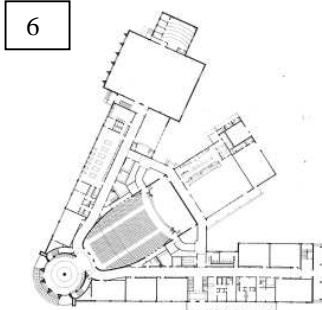
Named for nationally recognized educator and founder of Normal and Industrial School for Girls in Florida. She was a special advisor to President Roosevelt on minority affairs and assistant to the Secretary of War for selection of the first officer candidates in the School for WACs in 1942.



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.

Grace Christian Elementary School, Built in 1958.



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.

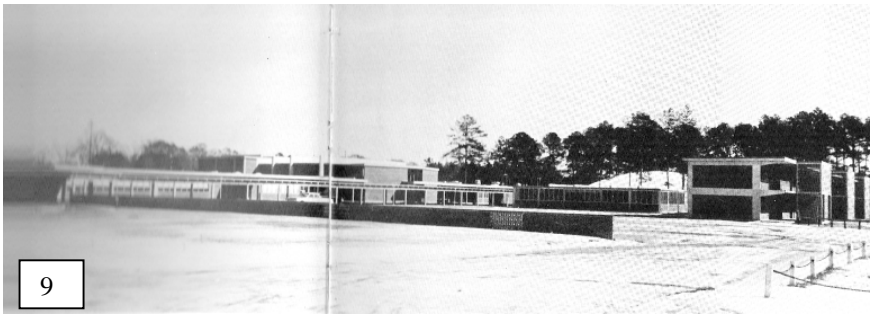


W. H. Jones Elementary School (formerly Elementary and Junior High), Built in 1958.

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 16th Section School (now Mary Bethune) for 37 years. She retired on her 70th 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 6th 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 5th 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 38th Division Army at Camp Shelby 1940-1941 and 1941 – Gerald Buchanan
- Banner: 50th 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.
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Lynn Turner Shaver
Carol Warren

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

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MEMORIALS

Tat Ott
Bessie Hullum

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!



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Located in the
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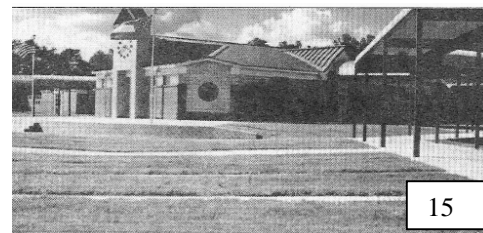
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Barbara Curry

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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.

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HATTIESBURG AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

2016 HAHS DUES

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BOOK ORDER

The History of Forrest County, MS ___ Copies @ \$20 each \$ _____

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

Total: \$ _____

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