

DRAWER #5 (Front)

LISTING OF ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

OF

"A NEIGHBORHOOD DISCOVERY"  
FARISH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
(A Black Neighborhood)

Prepared by  
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## FORWARD

The listing of seventy-two oral history interviews with sixty-two narrators provides information on the contents of those collected on the Farish Street Historic District as an activity of a two-year National Endowment for the Humanities Grant "A Neighborhood Discovery" ("Humanities Input in a Neighborhood's Discovery of Its Historic and Aesthetic Values as a Southern Black Community").

The Farish Street Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places March 14, 1980. It was the first such listing of a black community in Mississippi and is still one of only two. The other is Factory Hill, also called Frog Bottom, in Columbia, Mississippi.

The quality of urban life which is found in the blighted historic Farish Street neighborhood today generally obliterates the cultural heritage of the Jim Crow era. Most of the upper and middle class black social life of Jackson took place on Farish Street. They lived, shopped and went to church on or near Farish Street.

The remains of the Farish Street upper and middle class black past are seen in the fine vernacular architectural styles and parallel institutions such as the YWCA, the YMCA and an abandoned library building. There are also several structures that are individually listed on the National Register like the Greystone Hotel for its fine architecture, two antebellum homes because they are rare in Jackson and Smith Robertson School building

because of the history associated with it as the first public school building for blacks in Jackson. Though the oldest and most prestigious black churches are still within the district, their old structures have been replaced with modern ones.

Historically significant as an economically independent black community, the Farish Street Neighborhood Historic District is the largest such community in the state. Located roughly two blocks west of the State Capitol Building, it has generally the following street boundaries: east by Lamar Street, south by Hamilton Street, west by Mill Street and north by Fortification Street. It covers 138 acres, 693 residences and 95 commercial buildings. The area retains historical associations with black professionals who achieved prominence on state, local and national levels; black businessmen who owned their shops; and black craftsmen who constructed many of the buildings in the district.

Prior to the Civil War, much of the area now located within the historic district belonged to large estates. It is the area where free blacks may have had their homes. This land was surveyed and subdivided in the 1870s. By the 1880s it became a segregated area for blacks.<sup>1</sup> As early as 1908, one-third of this area was owned by blacks; one-half of the black families owned their own houses; and over one-third of the homes in which blacks lived were owned by blacks.<sup>2</sup>

The Farish Street Historic District neighborhood was built by and for the descendants of slaves. In it one can observe the modest homes which the freedmen built. It is an excellent example of an African American southern jim crow community. Most of the neighborhood is a statement about the nature and quality of the workmanship in vernacular architectural styles between

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<sup>1</sup>"Statement of Significance," National Register Nomination, July 1978

<sup>2</sup>D. W. Woodard, Negro Progress in a Mississippi Town: Being a Study of Conditions in Jackson, MS (Cheney, Pa.: Committee of 12 for the Advancement of Interests of the Negro Race, 1908).

1880 and the late 1940s. When properly researched and studied this neighborhood will tell us about the quality of life which the former slaves and their descendants lived during the first sixty-five years after slavery. Beginning with World War I, during the depression, World War II and after the 1960s many blacks left this neighborhood in search of jobs and a better quality of life outside of the jim crow south. Others left as suburban neighborhoods became available to them. They left behind in the community the legacy that the former slaves and their children had built. This is a legacy which they had permitted to subside in their memory and one which the new owners and tenants or the city in general knew little of.

These interviews tap the collective memories of present and former residents of the Farish Street Historic District. Prominent residents still living in the Historic District include Mrs. James Gooden, former school teacher and wife of the Negro Superintendent of Schools in the 1950s. Another similar interview is with Mr. Charles Wilson, a former principal of Smith Robertson School, a writer and local dramatist.

Interviews with other professional who have lived in the area include Dr. David White, the first black optometrist in Jackson, and the widow of Dr. C. L. Barnes, a prominent dentist.

The majority of the sixty-two narrators represent the middle class socio-economic strata of the Farish Street Historic District. These persons include Mrs. Julia Barnes, a residence and rental property owner; Mrs. Lillian Rhodes, resident and widow of a building contractor who constructed many of the homes in the Farish Street Historic District; and Mr. Ernest Luckett, a retired small community grocery store owner.

Among the interesting topics covered in the interviews are: early black education in Jackson, Mississippi; night life during the big band era;

black businesses; shopping on Saturday on Farish Street; church and religious activities; recreational activities; the Civil Rights Movement and general black life styles in a southern black community during the era of Jim Crow. *stop*

~~Rather than being a supplement to printed materials,~~ <sup>The</sup> interviews represent the creation of a new source of information documenting an era. They fill in a void or gap in the traditional archival materials. Most of the interviews were collected as a part of the NEH Community Project and twenty-six were conducted by the community residents. Another thirty-four were conducted by students in Dr. A. Harrison's various Oral History classes. *between 1978-1980.* The remaining twelve were conducted by Dr. A. Harrison to answer specific questions that were raised in the preparation of the brochures in the Farish Street Historic District.

The tapes and transcriptions were processed in the Institute for the Study of the History, Life and Culture of Black People at Jackson State University. Copies of released transcriptions with individual summaries and indexes are housed and available for scholarly use at Jackson State University, Henry T. Sampson Library and at the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center.

The project director, Alferdteen Harrison, was assisted by many Jackson State University students. Among them were: Ms Terry McDonald, Ms Selma Gant, and Mr. Burton R. Smith. Staff persons have included: Ms Donna Rodgers, secretary; Mrs. Willie M. McClendon and Mr. Herd E. Graves.

September 1983

BIBLIOGRAPHY

FARISH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Adams, Stevella (1906- ) O.H. 78.03  
Retired Store Operator  
Experiences in the Farish Street Historic District. July 8, 1980,  
2 pages. INTERVIEWER: Virgie Ella Barnes STATUS: Transcribed and released
- Anderson, Verna ( ) O.H. 78.19  
Retired Teacher  
Recollections of the Farish Street Historic District and Smith  
Robertson School. June 23, 1978, 8 pages, INTERVIEWER: Jimmy Curry  
STATUS: Transcribed
- Bailey, Sam (1915- ) O.H. 82.03  
Former NAACP President  
Recollections of businesses on Farish Street; the affects of the NAACP  
and Civil Rights Movement had on Mississippi. His involvements with the  
NAACP. July 6, 1982, 23 pages. INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS:  
Transcribed and released
- Brown, R. Jess (1912- ) O.H. 81.56  
Attorney  
Recollections of practicing law in Mississippi and having an office  
on Farish Street. September 29, 1981, 9 pages. INTERVIEWER: Cheryl Payne  
and Ernest Luckett, STATUS: Transcribed
- Conic, Frank (1911- ) O.H. 83.01  
Business Owner  
Recollections of Farish Street and businesses located in the area.  
January 4, 1983, 40 pages. INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS:  
Transcribed and released
- Cousin, Alma (1932- ) O.H. 81.82  
Domestic Worker  
Farish Street Historic District; Mt. Helm Church; businesses on Farish  
Street; professional people in the area. September 23, 1973, 5 pages.  
INTERVIEWER: Cheryl Payne, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Banks  
Barnes

78.28  
80,041 + B

Dawson, Ruby (1904- )

O.H. 78.06  
Retired Teacher

Recollects her experience as a student and a teacher at Smith Robertson School; family background; school activities; community support. June 20, 1983, 7 pages, INTERVIEWER: Ruby DAWSON, STATUS: Transcribed and released.

Devine, Willie (1926- )

O.H. 81.65  
District Resident

Resident in the Farish Street Historic District; businesses on Farish Street; black/white relationship; recreational activities; black doctors and nurses. October 1, 1981, 7 pages. INTERVIEWER: Mary Street, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Foote, Idella (1905- )

O.H. 81.59  
Domestic Worker

Discusses living on Farish Street; attending Smith Robertson School; children education; work experience; religious affiliation; activities; working experience and family background. September 25, 1981, 6 pages, INTERVIEWER: Ernest Lockett, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Foster, Gales (1895-1983)

O.H. 78.07  
Business Owner

Discusses why he entered into the barber, beauty and tailoring business; recollections of Farish Street; why it is difficult for blacks to establish businesses; occupational experiences: history of his business; and why it is important to have support from all races. June 20, 1978, 10 pages, INTERVIEWER: Louella Robinson, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Foster, Gales (1895-1983)

O.H. 82.01  
Business Owner

Discusses learning to sew by watching his mother; history of his business; experiences as a black business owner; businesses on Farish Street; and importance of an education for persons aspiring to start a business. January 27, 1982, 7 pages. INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS: Transcribed

Gooden, Gustava ( - )

O. H. 77.26  
District Resident

Discusses early childhood; growing up in the Farish Street area; Red Light District; Opera House; Hill Hall; Smith Robertson School; recreational activities; black bank on Farish Street; and Dr. Redmond. October 13, 1977, 16 pages. INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS: Transcribed and released

*Jones, Gordon*  
Hall, Carsie (1908- )

O.H. 78.01  
Attorney

Discusses Civil Rights Movement; negative effect of integration; uniqueness of the Farish Street area; importance of revitalizing the Farish Street area. June 22, 1978, 8 pages, INTERVIEWER: Willie Washington, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Hall, Carsie (1908- )

O.H. 81.56  
Attorney

Discusses his struggle to pass the Bar Exam; black attorney on Farish Street; law suit against University of Mississippi on behalf of James Merédith; and association with NAACP. September 29, 1982, 9 pages, INTERVIEWERS: Cheryl Payne and Ernest Lockett, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Hampton, Gwendolyn (1953- )

O. H. 81.61  
Machine Operator

Discusses changes in the Farish Street area; discipling of neighborhood children; helping the sick; attitudes of the country folks that came to shop on Farish Street; Bethlehem Center; and businesses on Farish Street. October 7, 1981, 5 pages, INTERVIEWER: Irene Hampton, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Harvey, Henry (1914- )

O. H. 78.25  
Business Owner

Discusses Farish Street area; opening of his business; his customers; housing conditions on Farish Street; racial segregation; family background; and changes occurring in the area. April 19, 1978, 4 pages, INTERVIEWER: Robert Wells, STATUS: Transcribed

Howard, Mable (1911- )

O. H. 81.62  
Interior Window Decorator

Discusses entertainment and social life on Farish Street; Christ Temple Church; Big John's; family and personal background; dances; old songs and businesses located in the Farish Street area. September 22, 1981, 6 pages, INTERVIEWER: Irene Hampton, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Howard, Esther (1915- )

O. H. 82.06  
Retired Factory Worker

Discusses personal background; education; Smith Robertson School; YWCA; her husband's occupational experiences; sardine loaf; former teachers; school closing; and businesses in the area. December 15, 1982, 14 pages, INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS: Transcribed and released



Jackson, A. N. (1907-1983)

O. H. 78.05  
Retired Principal

Discussed personal background; family history; former Principals of Smith Robertson; Smith Robertson School; his family; and likes and dislikes about Smith Robertson. June 19, 1978, 7 pages, INTERVIEWER: Roy Welch  
STATUS: Transcribed and released

Jackson, A. N. (1907-1983)

O. H. 81.07  
Retired Principal

Discusses family background; educational background; college experiences; Smith Robertson School; Integration Law of 1954; and feeling about preservation of Smith Robertson School. February 21, 1981, 3 pages, INTERVIEWER: Kenneth Gibson,  
STATUS: Transcribed

Jones, Lillie Bell

O. H. 78.11  
Business Woman

Discusses educational background; occupational experiences; history of the Marino Branch YWCA; programs offered at YWCA; changes that have occurred at the YWCA; and the YWCA influence on young people. June 20, 1978, 5 pages, INTERVIEWER: Catherine McMichael, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Jones, Lillie Bell

O. H. 80.08  
Business Woman

Discusses personal background; history of YWCA; occupational experiences; education; clubs and organizational involvements; old songs; black doctors and nurses; and recreational activities. July 19, 1980, 5 pages, INTERVIEWER: Cora Mason, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Jones, Lillie Bell

O. H. 81.46  
Business Woman

Discusses activities on Farish Street; depression; riding trolley cars and the horse and buggy; bright lights on Farish Street; condition of the area; problems she encountered while teaching; and Smith Robertson School. September 17, 1981, 6 pages, INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison,  
STATUS: Transcribed

Jones, Lillie Bell

O. H. 81.54  
Business Woman

Recollections of social and cultural life on Farish Street; history of YWCA; activities offered by the YWCA; and changes that have occurred in the Farish Street area. September 30, 1981, 11 pages, INTERVIEWER: Alma Cousin and Lillian Rhodes, STATUS: Transcribed

Johnson, Hickman, Rev.

O. H. 78.21  
Minister

Discusses personal information; education; occupational experiences; role of the Farish Street Baptist Church; Civil Rights Struggle; Freedom Riders; significance of Farish Street; revitalization of Farish Street; deterioration of the area. June 23, 1978, 7 pages, INTERVIEWER: Ada Anderson, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Kendrick, Mary L. S. (1924- )

O. H. 81.57  
Business Woman

Discusses job/work experiences; streets and business that no longer exist; what Farish Street was like when she came there to live; major landowners; Civil Rights Movement; and black businesses in the area. September 19, 1981, 13 pages, INTERVIEWER: Cheryl Payne, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Lackey, Sallie (deceased)

O. H. 78.26  
Resident

Discusses personal background; what Farish Street was like when she first moved there; rental houses; work experiences; black landowners; and prostitution. May 12, 1978, 9 pages, INTERVIEWER: Michael Leveritt, STATUS: Transcribed

Lee, Edward (1911- )

O. H. 78.08  
Business Owner

Discusses history of the Edward Lee Hotel; importance of family cooperation; qualifications of prospective employees; early recollection of Farish Street; and the deterioration of the Farish Street area. June 20, 1978, 7 pages, INTERVIEWER: Louella Robinson, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Lee, Edward (1911- )

O. H. 82.04  
Business Owner

Discusses personal background; educational background; teacher's salary; purchasing of a restaurant in 1925; businesses in the area; and the minstrel shows that performed on Mill and Hamilton Street. July 16, 1982, 16 pages, INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS: Transcribed

*Leveritt, Michael*  
Lindsey, Carolyn (1946- )

78.01  
O. H. 81.03  
IRS Representative

Discusses personal background; educational background; Smith Robertson; work experiences and family. March 3, 1981, 4 pages, INTERVIEWER: Kenneth Gipson, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Lockett, Ernest

O. H. 81.52  
Business Owner

Discusses his first experience attending public school; Smith Robertson: family background; and black lawyers in the area. September 28, 1981, 6 pages. INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Lockett, Ernest

O. H. 81.68  
Business Owner

Discusses his business on Farish and Monument Street; other black businesses in the area; types of customers; appearance of his store; store speciality; change of patronage after the opening of New Deal Supermarket; Beartrap; and a dancing school located in the area. October 1, 1981, 9 pages, INTERVIEWER: Doris Sirgew, STATUS: Transcribed

X Martin, Theresa (1926- )

O. H. 81.47  
Director of Center

Discusses background; businesses located in the area; and the Bethlehem Center. September 18, 1981, 2 pages, INTERVIEWER: Lillian Rhodes STATUS: Transcribed

Miller, W. E. (1903-deceased)

O. H. 78.15  
Physician

Discusses personal background; education; Smith Robertson School; and businesses in the Farish Street area. June 21, 1978, 5 pages, INTERVIEWER: London Moffett, STATUS: Transcribed

Moffett, London (1915- )

O. H. 78.04  
Resident

Discusses personal background; education; reason for moving to Jackson; discipline; businesses in the Farish Street area; dances; minstrel shows; and night life on Farish Street. June 21, 1978, 8 pages, INTERVIEWER: John R. McIntosh, STATUS: Transcribed and released

*Mosely Katherine*

*78.10*

V Myers, Carl G.

O. H. 78.01A  
Business Owner

Discuss being the owner of Myers Coffee Company on Farish Street; history of the business and other businesses in the area; changes occurring in the area; Red Light District; Heart's Alley; and deterioration of the Farish Street area. March 28, 1978, 8 pages, INTERVIEWER: Michael Leveritt STATUS: Transcribed

*Myrphy Maggie*

*81.58*

Noel, Susie (1893- ) O. H. 82.07  
Recollections of Dr. McCoy; Gus Coats; NAACP; Freedom Riders; other prominent black person either living in the area or practicing medicine; and her family. December 16, 1982, 17 pages, INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS: Transcribed

Payne, Cheryl (1947- ) O. H. 81.64  
Resident  
Discusses personal background; religious affiliation; Smith Robertson; Farish Street's condition; traffic problems; black businesses in the area; deterioration of the area; and the rationale for remaining in the Farish Street area. September 21, 1981, 10 pages, INTERVIEWER: Margaret M. Abdullah, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Reece, Dorothy (1948- ) O. H. 81.60  
Resident  
Discusses personal background; education; night clubs; dances; visiting Farish Street; and businesses in the area. September 27, 1981, 4 pages, INTERVIEWER: Irene Hampton, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Rhodes, Robert III O. H. 80.09  
Retired Contractor  
Discusses family history; how he began doing carpentry work; work experience; Smith Robertson; religious background; problems of being a property owner; problems his father encountered while building a plantation in the Delta. July 8, 1980, 10 pages, INTERVIEWER: Doris Sirgew, STATUS: Transcribed and released

X Rippy, Rosie (1919- ) O. H. 80.04A  
Retired Domestic Worker  
Discusses personal background; work experiences; buying property; and feelings about Farish Street. July 19, 1980, 2 pages, INTERVIEWER: Virgie Ella Barnes, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Rundles, James O. H. 80.25  
Business Man  
Discussed personal background; entertainment of Farish Street; big bands that came to Farish Street; WOKJ; J. R. Lynch; deterioration of property in the area; Mississippi being a dry state; community support of local boards; popular songs; and his recollection of playing in a band. July 15, 1980, 7 pages, INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Smith, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Saleem, Raham (1951- ) O. H. 81.70  
Resident  
Discusses Smith Robertson School; gold crown; former teacher; songs; talent shows; graduation activities; May Day celebration; Central Methodist Church; murals on wall at Smith Robertson; Farish Street; neighborhood children; and going swimming. April 1, 1982, 12 pages, INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Sanders, Thelma

O. H. 75.01  
Business Owner

Discusses personal background; educational and occupational experiences; organizations she belong to; reason for opening her business; not being able to try on clothes at white stores; type of clothing she carries; going to the Jackson Community; and helping other get started in their own businesses. June 5, 1975, 5 pages, INTERVIEWER: Mildred Williams, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Shepherd, Lucille M. (1915- )

O. H. 81.51  
Resident

Discusses living in the Farish Street area; shot gun houses; restaurants in the area such as Home Dining Room, Shepherd's Kitchenette, etc.; Central United Methodist Church; church songs; organizations she belonged to like the Beautician Association, YWCA; social life on Farish Street; recollection of public parks; and changes that would improve the appearance of the area. September 24, 1981, 3 pages, INTERVIEWER: Alma Cousin, STATUS: Transcribed and released

X Slaughter, Elsie M. (1891- )

O. H. 80.04B  
Property Owner

Discusses family history; reason for moving to Jackson; buying property; first Negroes to purchase property in Jackson; registering to vote; educational background; how whites obtained property by just paying the taxes. July 25, 1980, 5 pages, INTERVIEWER: Virgie E. Barnes, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Smith, Leroy (1918- )

O. H. 78.03  
College Professor

Discusses personal background; education; family history; family discipline: Smith Robertson School; entertainmet in the early 1900s on Farish Street; social activities on Farish Street; night clubs black owned businesses; Farish Street as the mecca of black social life in Jackson; theatre that blacks could attend; minstrel shown on Mill and Hamilton streets; Negro Fair; hotel accommodations comparison of night life on Farish Street to what we have today. June 19, 1918, 7 pages, INTERVIEWER: John R. McIntosh, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Starks, William (1922- )

O. H. 78.16  
Retired Federal Employee

Discusses the Big Apple Inn, Big John; pig ears; hot tamales; hot smokes; people selling off of a two wheel cart; Mexicans; restaurants in the area; night clubs like the Crystal Palace and Savory Ballroom; people coming to Big Apple Inn after dances; lunch programs, eating at Big John's; and how Big John treated his customers. June 20, 1978, 5 pages INTERVIEWER: Eli Grayson, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Taylor, Wendell (1915- )

O. H. 78.22  
Retired Minister

Discusses personal background; family history; education; hobbies; religious affiliation; holidays usually celebrated; traveling experiences; Civil Rights in Mississippi; black lawyers and physician in Jackson during that time; organization that had an affect on the area such as the YWCA and YMCA; prostitution; urban

Taylor, Wendell (con't)  
renewal; and preservation of the Farish Street District. June 24, 1978, 6  
pages, INTERVIEWER: Ada Anderson, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Thames, Elizabeth

O. H. 78.12  
Business Owner

Discusses her life before entering her current profession; education;  
description of her business; what Farish Street was like when she came here  
in 1953; deterioration of the area; her main competition; problem she has  
encountered being in business; organizations she belongs to ; family history;  
and success in her business. June 19, 1978, 7 pages, INTERVIEWER: Linda  
A. McLaurin, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Thomas, George Rev. (1882-deceased)

O. H. 78.30  
Retired Minister

Discusses personal background; what Jackson was like when he first came  
here; major businesses on Farish Street; population of the area when he came  
and the accelerating increase in later years; Dr. Redmond; major property owners;  
Smith Robertson; Magnolia Builders Savings and Association; Neshoba County;  
influential people of the area; major grocery stores; first car owned by a  
black; and houses he built in the area. November 8, 1977, 11 pages,  
INTERVIEWER: Michael Leveritte, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Tibbs, Josephine (1904- )

O. H. 81.50

Recollections of the Farish Street area; Smith Robertson as the only public  
school; sardine loaf; Professor Lanier; Mt. Helm Church; businesses in the area;  
work experiences; State Fair; public parks; and black doctors. September 26,  
1981, 4 pages, INTERVIEWER: Alma Cousin, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Tucker, Hannah (1920- )

O. H. 81.66  
Business Owner

Discusses personal background; work experience; what Farish Street was like  
when she came here; reason for opening her business; how the changes on Farish  
Street affected her business; businesses in the area that are no longer there;  
Paris Cleaners; Home Dining Room; Civil Rights activities; and plans for her  
business. October 8, 1981, 8 pages, INTERVIEWER: Margaret M. Abdullah,  
STATUS: Transcribed and released

Tynes, Wilmon (1926- )

O. H. 81.49  
Resident

Recollections of Farish Street; personal background; historical houses in the  
area; activities on Farish Street; dances; Crystal Palace; and big bands.  
September 21, 1981, 3 pages, INTERVIEWER: Alma Cousin, STATUS: Transcribed  
and released

White, Fanny B. (1913- )

O. H. 78.09  
Retired Teacher

Discusses family background; education; becoming supervisor; Dr. Eastman; changes that have occurred in the city; early recollection of Jackson; educational opportunities; music and dances; flood of 1927; Tougaloo College; being in Sunbeam Band; first experience with a telephone; not having a welfare-system; health system; recreational activities; black theatres; violence; and relationship between whites and blacks. June 19, 1978, 7 pages, INTERVIEWER: Mohammed Bassiru Sillah. STATUS: Transcribed and released

White, Laverne (1936- )

O. H. 78.13  
Business Woman

Discusses personal background; education; Farish Street in the early 1950s and 1960s; Freedom Riders; what business was like when she first started; success of Boot's Flower Shop; future plans; redevelopment of Farish Street; Red Light District; and YMCA. June 19, 1978, 7 pages INTERVIEWER: Linda A. McLaurin, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Williams, Lee (1900-

O. H. 78.17  
Retired Railroad Worker

Discusses personal background; worker; Big Apple Inn; Big John's; tamale wagon; hot smokes; pig ears; cost of a dinner on Farish Street; work experience; recreational activities; Smith Robertson; Proctor's Cafe; Flood of 1927; Farish Street; and former teachers. June 22, 1978, 10 pages, INTERVIEWER: Eli Grayson, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Williams, Lee (1924- )

O. H. 81.55  
Former Vice-President  
of Administration, JSU

Discusses Blue Vein Society; Gus Redmond; Lanthams; William S. Hart; Red Circle; sardine loafs; bands; ladies of the night; Alamo Theatre; businesses on Farish Street; and jobs being very limited. September 30, 1981, 5 pages, INTERVIEWER: Alma Cousin, Lillian Rhodes, Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Williams, Lee (1924- )

O. H. 77.27  
Former Vice-President  
of Administration, JSU

Discusses owning property on Farish Street; black realtors; and homeowners; black businesses in the area such as barber shops, banks, nightclubs, etc.; Smith Robertson; Mt. Helm Church; working as a yard/house boy; and recollection of the first black person getting a car in Jackson. October 27, 1977, 13 pages, INTERVIEWER: Deborah McGothin, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Wilson, Ada

O. H. 78.02  
Teacher

Discusses coming to Jackson; her husband's family history; running Wilson's Grocery Store; major landowners; prominent people in the area; history of Smith Robertson; school closing; addition of new streets: her husband writing a book about Dr. Redmond; owning rental property; and deterioration of the Farish Street area. March 29, 1978, 10 pages, INTERVIEWER: Michael Leveritt

Washington, Carrie D. (1894- )

O. H. 81.63  
Resident

Discusses how businesses have changed; working for white people; recreational activities; getting people to come read and write letters for her; businesses that are no longer in the area; Flood of 1927; old church songs; learning to use a phone. September 14, 1981, 3 pages  
INTERVIEWER: Mary Street, STATUS: Transcribed and released

Weakley, Lola (1924- )

O. H. 78.02  
Seamstress

Recollections of early life on Farish Street; family history; educational training; being a black business owner, effects of the depression; health safety and other problems that existed in the Farish Street community. June 19, 1978, 5 pages, INTERVIEWER: Willie Washington, STATUS: Transcribed and released

White, Cora

O. H. 78.14  
Retired Teacher

Recollections of being a student at Smith Robertson; personal background; atmosphere of the community surrounding Smith Robertson; and changes that have occurred in the community. June 19, 1978, 5 pages, INTERVIEWER: London Moffett, Jr., STATUS: Transcribed

White, David

O. H. 81.45  
Optometrist

Discusses personal background; education; going to optometry school; doing his first refraction; opening his business in 1951; places business people went to to eat; Home Dining Room; Fat-N-Beat It Cafe; Minstrel Shows; live entertainment in restaurants; theatres that blacks attended; black doctors practicing in Jackson; Medgar Evers; NAACP; and prominent places on Farish Street. September 15, 1981, 10 pages  
INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS: Transcribed and released

White, David

O. H. 81.67  
Optometrist

Discusses opening his business in 1951; using the church as way of advertising his business; Farish Street as the hub of Negro activities; first refraction; his love for writing; serving in the Armed Forces; attitudes of blacks toward him being an optometrist Dr. Von Suta; relationship with white optometrist; attending conventions and growth of his business. September 29, 1981, 11 pages, INTERVIEWER: Mary Street and Irene Hampton, STATUS: Transcribed and released



Wilson, Ada (con't)  
STATUS: Transcribed and released

Wilson, Charles (deceased)

O. H. 74.01  
Retired Teacher

Discusses educational background; Education for Negroes in Mississippi Since 1910; Crystal Palace; promoting entertainment; Dr. Redmond; experiences doing research on his book; people buying jobs; attitudes of white students; typical meal at Butler College; Mississippi Teacher's Association; NAACP; people being afraid to admit belonging to NAACP; testifying in an educational suit; Teacher's Equalization Suit; Blue Vein Society; and his philosophical expression. July 16, 1974, 17 pages, INTERVIEWER: Janice F. Carr,  
STATUS: Transcribed and released

Young, Aurelia

O. H. 76.23  
Musician

Discusses the Opera House; Hill Hall; Crystal Palace; big bands; prejudices in Central Church; Tougaloo College; prejudice because of skin complexion; Blue Laws; prejudice in the school system. January 27, 1976, 10 pages,  
INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison, STATUS: Transcribed and released

YOUNG; Julia (1903- )

O. H. 78.20  
Retired Teacher

Discusses family history; teachers; work experiences; religious activities; government programs; Smith Robertson; school maintenance; reason why Smith Robertson is in a state deterioration. June 23, 1978, 9 pages,  
INTERVIEWER: Jimmy Curry, STATUS: Transcribed and released