

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEW AGREEMENT

You have been asked for information to be used in connection with the Oral History Program at Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. The purpose of this program is to gather and preserve information for historical and scholarly use.

A tape recording of your interview will be made by the interviewer, and a typescript of the tape will be made and submitted to you for editing. The final retyped and edited transcript, together with the tape of the interview will then be placed in the oral history collection at Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. Other institutions or persons may obtain a copy. These materials may be used for purposes of research, for instructional use, for publication, or for other related purposes.

I, Lucille M. Shepherd have read the above and, in view of the historical and scholarly value of this information, and in return for a final typed copy of the transcript, I knowingly and voluntarily permit Jackson State University, Jackson, the full use of this information. I hereby grant and assign all my rights of every kind whatever pertaining to this information, whether or not such rights are now known, recognized, or contemplated, to Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi.

Lucille M. Shepherd
Interviewee (Signature)

Dec. 6, 1982
Date

1810-
Date of Birth

OH 8151
Oral History Number Assigned

ORAL HISTORY AGREEMENT
FARISH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT PROJECT

I agree that this magnetic tape recording of my voice made during an interview with Alma Cousin (interviewer) and a transcript made therefrom, may be catalogued and deposited in the Jackson State University library (and some designated place in the Farish Street Historical District) with the records of the Farish Street Historic District Humanities project. The tape recording and transcript may be made available for research use in the preparation of the final products of the NEH Humanities Project in 1983 and after 1983 for research by scholars. Any title or literary rights to this material are hereby relinquished to Jackson State University.

L. M. Shepherd
Oral Author (interviewee) Signature

Alma Cousin
Oral Recorder (interviewer) Signature

9-24-81
date

Sept. 24, 1981
date

O.H. 81.51
Tape number

Introduction

Mrs. Lucille Shepherd was born January 8, 1915 in Gulfport, Mississippi. She came to the Farish Street Historic in 1955. She is a member of the Central United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Shepherd discuss the changes in the Farish Street Historic District. She recalls High Street not being there when she first came to the District, but was added to relieve some of the traffic. She talks about the deterioration of some of the buildings in the area and deterioration of the black business sector.

INTERVIEWEE: Mrs. Lucille Shepherd
INTERVIEWER: Alma Cousin
DATE OF INTERVIEW: September 24, 1981
O. H. 81.51

Cousin: Mrs. Shepherd, would you tell me what Jackson was like when you first came here?

Shepherd: When I first came to this neighborhood, High Street did not run through this area. There were shot-gun houses all the way from Farish Street to Lamar. Some of them are torn down. High Street was carried through downtown in order to relieve some of the traffic coming to and from work.

I traveled to some other parts of Jackson that didn't have paved streets. You would get stuck in the mud on the dirt roads and dirty allies.

The buildings on Farish Street looked better then than they do now. They are quite run down since I came into this section.

Cousin: Could you tell me some the events that were going on at this time on Farish Street?

Shepherd: There were a few promising restaurants at that time and not so many hole in the walls. Some of the nice restaurants were: Home Dining Room, Shepherd's Kitchenette and a few others.

There has been a few improvements, but most of the buildings have just gone down. Shepherd's Cafe, and Conic's business are nice. Collins Funeral Home was rebuilt.

Cousin: What church are you a memeber of and what are some of the functions that you have in your church?

Shepherd: We have all type of activities in Central United Methodist Church. I joined this church when I first came to this community and I'm still a worker in that church. We have a Boy Scouts Troop, three choirs and we have birthday parties every month.

Cousin: Can you describe the kind of songs that you all sang in church and are they different from what they are now?

Shepherd: No, we sing original Methodist Hymns. They haven't changed. I don't think they will ever change. We do have a supplementary song book with revised tunes.

Cousin: Will you tell me about some of the organizations that you are a member of?

Shepherd: I am affiliated with the Beauticians Association. I belong to the Beta Theta Mu Sorority, and YWCA.

Cousin: What are some of the social events that occurred on Farish Street?

Shepherd? I don't know much about the social life on Farish Street . . . I didn't go.

Cousin: What are your earliest recollections of public parks in this area? When were you allowed to go there?

Shepherd: When I first came to this area they only had the park that was out by College Park Auditorium. We didn't have a park around here. Now, Collins Funeral Home has a little playground behind the funeral home. The "Y" has activities for children there, like day camping and etc.

Bethlehem Center has a playground. There is a little park on High Street that the children have totally passed up lately. I don't see anyone out there playing anymore. Other than that there are no other recreational facilities in this area.

Cousin: As a member of this community, what changes would you like to see made in this environment of the district?

Shepherd: I think, the old ragged building should be torn down or rebuilt. The street need leaning. People will throw out mattresses and it would be several days before the garbage is picked up.

There are so many improvements that can be made in this area to make it look better. The lawns should be cut and people should stop throwing their trash out. If we could get to these people and try to encourage them to keep their portion clean, then the whole section would look better.

The city take its time about cleaning the grass and the places that belong to the city. It makes it look like a wilderness around us.

As a whole there has been some improvements, but more could be done to beautify this section.

SHEPHERD, Josephine

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Cousin: Thank you, Mrs. Shepherd. I have enjoyed talking with
 you.

Shepherd: Alright, you are quite welcome.