

ORAL HISTORY AGREEMENT
FARISH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT PROJECT

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view with June Hampton and a transcript made there-
(interviewer)

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Maude Howard HOWARD
Oral Author (interviewee) Signature

9-27-81
date

June Hampton
Oral Recorder (interviewer) Signature

9-27-81
date

L.H. 81.62
Tape number

FARISH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
Jackson State University
Jackson, Mississippi 39217

INTERVIEWEE: Mrs. Mabel E. Howard (1911 -
INTERVIEWER: Irene Hampton
DATE: September 27, 1981
SUBJ: Farish Street Historic District
OH 81.62

September 27, 1981, I am at the house of Mrs. Mable E.
Howard, 205 East Davis Street.

IH: Mrs. Howard, would you like to tell me about yourself?
Could you tell me about when you started going to school, what
schools you went to?

MH: Yes. The first school I went to was Martin School. The next school
was Smith Robertson, the next one was Jackson College and the next
one was Campbell College.

IH: ~~Okay~~, do you remember what year you started to school?

MH: ~~Well~~ I reckon I started when I was six or seven.

IH: What was it like going to school?

MH: It was nice.

IH: Did you participate in any activities?

MH: Yes, I played basketball at Jackson College, and I played tennis at
Campbell College and I ran track.

IH: Did you date a lot?

GH: Yes, I would go to banquets and go to parties. When I was in the
eighth grade a boy in the twelfth grade gave me a season ticket. He
was buying for ^{it} this girl in the twelfth grade. I was invited to his
banquet. I was what you call a real pretty girl.

IH: What about in your high school years?

MH: In the high school?

IH: Yes ma'am.

MH: ~~Well~~ that's when I come up in it. I was going to Jackson, and then
in my high school. . .

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IH: Okay, could you tell me a little bit about your childhood?

MH: Yes, I always dressed nice. I had a grandmama. She lived on Farish Street and everyday I would pick up a dress and would wear a different dress everyday.

IH: Is your grandmother still on Farish Street today?

MH: No, she use to live on Farish Street then she moved to Tchula, Mississippi. She's dead now.

IH: Okay, and you've lived in Jackson all your life?

MH: All my life.

IH: Okay, what date were you born?

MH: November 11, 1911. The eleventh month, the eleventh day, and the eleventh year.

IH: Do you belong to any Civil Rights groups?

MH: No.

IH: Any clubs or organizations.

MH: No.

IH: Is there anything in particular that you remember about Farish Street?

MH: Yes, ^{be}cause I worked at _____ twelve years.

IH: That's on Capitol?

MH: Yes. I traded at a grocery store that was on Farish Street there.

IH: What places did you go to on Farish Street to eat?

MH: Blackstones, Home Dining Room and Shepherd's.

IH: Have any of those places moved?

MH: Well Home Dining Room in on the other side of Farish Street. It use to be on the left side, but see when they tore up the buildings that . . .

IH: What night clubs did you go to?

MH: We had Stevensons.

IH: Stevenson's was a night club?

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MH: . . . Hall on Farish Street, I forget what the name of it was. They had one on up further. It was over that drugstore.

IH: Crystal Palace? Over Harmon's drugstore? Do you remember how long Harmon's drugstore has been there?

MN: No, I can't remember but now Dotty Cab is there right over it, I mean under it.

IH: What was the Crystal Palace like when you went there?

MH: Oh it was nice. It was upstairs.

IH: Would you go there for dances?

MH: Yes.

IH: And what were the dances like then?

MH: Well we two-stepped, one stepped and waltzed. Sometimes some of them would Charlston.

IH: Did you like to dance?

MH: Oh yes.

IH: What was your favorite dance?

MH: I liked the two-step.

IH: Is there anything in particular that you want to tell me about the way you lived or the way you were brought up. . .

MH: Well I was brought up in church. I was the Secretary of everything in the church.

IH: At what church is this?

MH: The same church I belong to, Christ Temple.

IH: Christ Temple? How long have you been a member of Christ Temple?

MH: Every since I can remember. I know I was mighty small.

IH: Were you baptized at Christ Temple?

MH: Yes.

IH: What was it like then to be baptized?

MH: Well they would make you a robe and tie a string around you and walk you in the water and then they'd duck you.

IH: Can you remember what it felt like when you were being baptized?

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- MH: Yes, I was scared, but they just ducked you down there and you come back up and they just wipe your face.
- IH: You had a very active church life?
- MH: Yes ma'am. I ushered and I sang in the choir.
- IH: What were the songs like then?
- MH: "What a Friend We Have In Jesus," "The Old Rugged Cross."
- IH: Have any of the songs today, have they changed any to you?
- MH: No.
- IH: Was the service much better than it is now?
- MH: Yes.
- IH: Do you remember anything about the sermons back then the way they were did?
- MH: Yes, they ^{were} ~~was~~ preaching. . . now they reads off. They have it wrote down.
- IH: What were the places like that you worked at?
- MH: ~~Oh that was~~ a dress shop.
- IH: Were you a dressmaker?
- MH: No. I was an interior decorator for the window.
- IH: Interior decorator?
- MH: I worked at Mangum twelve years, I worked at the Rogue and I worked at _____ garden on State Street. I was marking merchandise and dressing the window.
- IH: Was it exciting to dress those windows in those days?
- MH: No.
- IH: Did you enjoy it?
- MH: Yes, I enjoyed it.
- IH: Do you remember anything exciting during that time with you dressing those windows?
- MH: No. . .it wasn't ^{anything} ~~nothing~~ exciting or like that.
- IH: Mrs. Howard, what places did you go to for dances?
- MH: Crystal Palace and Savor or Willie Stevenson. . .
- IH: What dance did you do? What was the name of the dance that you did?

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MH: ~~Old . . .~~

IH: Did you win a prize for that?

MH: Yes.

IH: What was the prize?

MH: \$15.00.

IH: Do you remember any places down there, the places that you went to eat?

MH: 119 Home Dining Room, ^{and} what ^{did} I say the name of that one was on Hamilton and Farish Street? Home Dining Room, Shepherd's, Big John's, and they had another place, it was upstairs. I forget the name of it but that man is dead now.

IH: What was the prices like then?

MH: Well a hamburger was \$.25¢

IH: At Big John's, did you go in?

MH: They were high now.

IH: What were the prices like then?

MH: Some of them were \$.20¢. There'a another place called the Snack Bar. I never bought ^{anything} ~~nothing~~ but short orders.

IH: Did you have any favorite place to go for eating?

MH: No, I went to them all.

IH: Is there anything else you would like to tell me?

MH: No.

IH: Thank you Mrs. Howard for your interview, I enjoyed talking to you and maybe somebody else will come back another time and interview you later.

MH: Alright.

IH: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW