

JACKSON STATE COLLEGE

Jackson, Mississippi

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWEE AGREEMENT

You have been asked for information to be used in connection with the Oral History Program at Jackson State College; 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 College, Jackson, Mississippi. Other institutions or persons may obtain a copy. These materials may be made available for purposes of research, for instructional use, for publications, or for other related purposes.

I, Mrs. Gustava R. M. Goode, have read the above and, in
(Interviewee, please print)

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 College, 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 College, Jackson, Mississippi.

Mrs. Gustava R. M. Goode
Interviewee (Signature)

10-13-77

Date

JACKSON STATE COLLEGE
Jackson, Mississippi

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWER AGREEMENT

I, Virginia Ella Barnes, in view of the
(Interviewer, please print)

historical and scholarly value of the information contained in the
interview with Elise Slaughter, knowingly and
(Interviewee, please print)

voluntarily permit Jackson State College, Jackson the full use of this
information, and hereby grant and assign to Jackson State College,
Jackson all rights of every kind whatever pertaining to this information,
whether or not such rights are now known, recognized or contemplated.

Virginia Ella Barnes
Interviewer (signature)

Interview Number

July 25, 1980
Date

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
Jackson, Mississippi

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
Farish Street Project

INTERVIEWER: Alferdteen Harrison
INTERVIEWEE: Mrs. Gustava Gooden
DATE: October 13, 1977

H: Today is October 13, 1977, and we are in the home of Mrs. James Gooden. Mrs. Gooden I am going to ask you just to tell me a little about your early experience in Jackson. You were born in Jackson, right?

G: Yes. I was born in this slum area. That's what they call it.

H: Was it called a slum when you were growing up?

G: Yes, it was called a slum.

H: Why?

G: Low income people in this area and the red-light district right off Farish Street down there, and a lot of things. . . (Laughter)

H: Now maybe my students are wiser than I am but, I do not really fully understand what you mean when you say red light district.

G: Well, West Oakley, down there just below Farish Street is a place where a lot of peep-holes, a lot of Honky-Tonks, a lot of Negroes who had relationships with white people. White people came down there to see them.

H: Who had relationships?

G: Yes. Now all the houses in the red light for years had red lights in them.

H: So the houses were identified by this red light? I guess you could call these houses of prostitution?

G: We say the red light district.

H: The redlight district, and one should know what that was suppose to mean? That's Oakley Street behind . . .

DRAFT

-2-

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

G: From Farish to Mill Street.

H: How has that area changed?

G: The houses are still there . . . I don't know what goes on because I don't go down the street.

H: Now, when did you first become aware that this area was a red light district?

G: . . .

H: How old were you?

G: It was a red light district before I was born. I just heard that all my life. Every since I can remember it was called the red light district.

H: Okay. Now, where were you born in Jackson?

G: The house that I was born in is torn down. When they brought High Street through here. . .

H: How long has High Street been there? About five or ten years? Did your parents own their home? Did they own it when it was torn down?

G: No. I've been living here ever since I was a teenager.

H: Did this belong to your mother, your parents?

G: To my mother and her daughters. My father died when I was six months old. I was the youngest in the family of five daughters.

H: And your maiden name is?

G: Mason.

H: Mason.

G: Gustava Rilla Mason.

H: Gustave Rilla Mason. Would you spell that for us so that we can get it right.

G: G u s t a v a ; Capital R i l l a ; Capital M a s o n

H: Gustava Rilla Mason. Now, we just wanted to be sure that we got the first part right. Now, what Church did you attend as a child?

G: I belong to Mount Helm Church since before I was a teenager. Mount Helm Baptist Church right down there.

DRAFT

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

-3-

- H: What kind of experience did you have there as a child?
- G: We just played. We had Church. I went to Sunday School every Sunday.
- H: What other kinds of things did you do there other than Church and Sunday School?
- G: I went to Prayer Meeting every Tuesday night with my mother.
- H: Who else would be at the Prayer Meetings?
- G: A few members. As it is now. You could never get very many people to come. My mother always went and carried my sisters and me.
- H: Okay. How about school?
- G: I went to Smith Robertson School.
- H: Oh! You went to Smith Robertson School?
- G: I graduated in the eighth grade from Smith Robertson School. I hopped many muddy ditches to Jackson College for a high school. There was no free high school. Half of Jackson wasn't paved.
- H: You said no free high school. You had to pay to go to Jackson State? Jackson College at that time?
- G: Yes!
- H: What was tuition?
- G: I don't recall.
- H: You don't recall?
- G: No.
- H: Did you have a choice of other schools that you could have gone to?
- G: It was the only high school around.
- H: Okay. Now let's go back to grade school, to Smith Robertson. What was it like there?
- G: Smith Robertson had eight grades. You had children from all over Jackson, and Hinds County in general. . . came to Smith Robertson. That was the only elementary school.
- H: What were some of the things that you did other than go to classes?

DRAFT

GOODEN

October 13, 1977

-4-

G: Nothing else at school other than go to classes. Recess at 12:00.

H: What did you do for lunch?

G: (Laughter) . . . I didn't have any lunch. There was a little store across the street. The school children whose parents had some money gave them some money and they would go and get a little something or like. I don't know.

H: To eat.

G: I stayed so close to school. I didn't have any money for lunch.

H: Did you go home for lunch?

G: No.

H: No, you didn't! Do you recall the name of the store or the owner of the store?

G: Yes. Mr. and Mrs. Montifers. . . Mr. Montifer worked on the railroad. His wife stayed at home and took care of the store until he came home.

H: Do you know his first name?

G: Mr. and Mrs. Montifers.

H: Were any of their children, or any one in their family. . .

G: No, they didn't have any children.

H: Did they own much property or just the store?

G: No. Just the place where they lived.

H: Do you recall the kinds of things that you did during recess?

G: We played baseball. I still play baseball whenever my Church has the family picnic. I like to play baseball.

H: Oh! You're in business (good condition). . . (laughter) You loved baseball?

G: Yes.

H: Was that the most popular sport at that time?

G: It wasn't called a sport. We just played. We got a piece of stick, hit the ball around and ran to the bases. It wasn't called a sport. It was a kind of recreation. The only part of recreation was at recess time. We played.

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

- H: Okay. Could you tell me a little bit about the way Smith Robertson looked? What year was it when you went there?
- G: I don't remember.
- H: Could you describe the school to me please?
- G: It was very attractive.
- H: Has the front of it been changed?
- G: No. The whole periphery of it has not been changed. The style has remained the same. I remember when the first five grades were downstairs and the sixth, seventh, and eight grades were upstairs.
- H: Now do you recall when the school was built or was it there when you first went there?
- G: I think that it was. . .
- H: What are you looking at now?
- G: This is a history of some of the schools in Jackson, Mississippi, from 1832 to 1972, compiled by William Moore Dalehite.
- H: William Moore Dalehite. Okay, I wonder if these books are available anyplace? Talking about the structure, the Smith Robertson structure, so the building that was there in 1912 burned down and do you recall the burning at some point? Mrs. Gooden, do you recall when the school was burned?
- G: Yes. I remember that we went to school down on Farish Street at the time. I can't . . . Wait a second.
- H: After the school burned they had a temporary school on Farish Street. Now where was that, do you know?
- G: The B. B. Hall was where the Stevens Kitchen is.
- H: What's B. B. Hall?
- G: That was a hall where we . . . that's what it was called. I don't know why they called it B. B. Hall. That's what they called it. We went to school down there.
- H: That's where Stevens Kitchen is today?
- G: Stevens Kitchen.
- H: What else went on in this hall?

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

-6-

- G: I don't know.
- H: You don't know?
- G: We just went to school there.
- H: Do you recall how many years that you went to school there or just a short period of time?
- G: It's been so long that I don't remember how long.
- H: So the structure that was there in 1912 burned completely down?
- G: I really don't know. At least we went to school over there when the school burned down.
- H: Do you recall what happened, why?
- G: A lot of things don't reach you. You find out about it. Something happens, that's when you know about it.
- H: Could you tell me about some of the experiences at the school? Some of the things that you did other than going to classes. What were your teachers like?
- G: I had good teachers, (Laughter) because some of the things that I learned at Smith Robertson School when I was in elementary grade, some of these high school students don't know.
- H: Did you have Black History?
- G: What?
- H: Did they teach you Black History? Negro History?
- G: No, we were taught Mississippi History. That's the only history. I had that when I was in the seventh grade, something like that.
- H: Can you recall the names of any of your teachers?
- G: Yes, I know all my teachers.
- H: Of the teachers that you know, which one had the greatest impact on you or impressed you the most?
- G: I guess Mrs., no Miss Mary Jones was my seventh grade teacher. She required us to get our lessons. I learned a lot from Miss Mary. In fact, all of my teachers were good. I learned something in all my grades, from the first grade to the seventh grade. Dawson. . . the first grade teacher. . . Mrs. Sadie Gibbens, my second grade

DRAFT

GOODEN

October 13, 1977

-7-

G: teacher; Mrs. Dorothea Washington, my third grade teacher; Mrs. Pearl May Ingram, my fourth grade teacher; Miss Keyes, my fifth grade teacher; Miss Moore, my sixth grade teacher; Miss Jones, my seventh grade teacher.

H: Okay.

G: All of them were good.

H: What did Miss Mary Jones teach you, just all of your seventh grade subjects or what?

G: She use to teach Political Frame, we would go from one person to the other. We wouldn't pass to another teacher really, we stayed in this room all day long.

H: All day long. Did you have something called Fields Day?

G: I don't remember.

H: Or a special day in the spring?

G: I think we had . . . May Day at Jackson College when I was in college. I don't think we had a May Day Program over there.

H: Okay. When you finished Smith Robertson you went to Jackson State, or at that time it was Jackson College, to high school. Do you recall any of your any impressionable things that occurred while you walked from here to Jackson State?

G: I didn't have time to do anything but run out there and get to school on time.

H: Walking on unpaved streets, and . . .

G: Hopping muddy ditches. Grass looked like. . .

H: Which way would you go?

G: From Smith Robertson School across Farish Street and out Lynch Street, or else Pearl Street and go through some of those people's back yard and cut off to Jackson College.

H: So was the area lived in? It was a residential area?

G: Yes. Oh yes, it was lived in, except more or less downtown.

H: Downtown which way? Oh, people didn't have homes there but it was being used. Okay, do you recall any important things that happened

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

H: to you while you were in high school? When you finished high school did you go on to college?

G: We didn't have any college.

H: Jackson State, Jackson College?

G: No.

H: It was just a high school? What did you do when you finished high school?

G: Started teaching.

H: Oh! Well tell me about that.

G: I taught at Caney Creek. It was a school down there which is now South Jackson, down there where K-Mart is. It was five miles from town; down there where a lady was the principal and she and I were the only teachers. The teachers would get \$25.00 a month for teaching. I got \$28.00 a month. Of course I could peddle that organ and play some songs for the children to sing.

H: Where did you learn music?

G: From Mrs. Sally Rumsley, . . .

H: So you started taking music as in your third grade?

G: No.

H: You started teaching.

G: I said taking music, music lesson.

H: Taking music.

G: That's what I said.

H: Okay. I know that you were a very gifted pianist, musician. So you received extra salary because you did . . .

G: Three dollars (\$3.00) a month more because I could play that organ with my feet for teaching the children something.

H: What kind of songs did you teach them?

G: Songs, songs, songs, . . . Children's songs.

H: Childhood songs, or did you all sing Negro Spirituals?

G: No.

H: No. Tell me about some of your other experiences there.

DRAFT

GOODEN

October 13, 1977

-9-

G: At Caney Creek

H: How do you spell that?

G: Capital C a n e y; Capital C r e e k. The Church of Spirit is there right now.

H: Around K-Mart?

G: Jackson Square.

H: Oh, by Jackson Square. Caney Creek Church. It has a congregation?

G: That was five miles downtown . From downtown. I drove my buggy and Mrs. Clark, she drove hers.

H: A horse and buggy. Now where did she live?

G: She lived down . . .

H: You walked to her house?

G: Maybe she came by my house, I don't remember.

H: Would you have been a wealthy Black person to have had a horse and buggy at that time?

G: Pardon?

H: Wealthy, you know, were you pretty well off, middle-class or what? You just had a horse and buggy . . . out

G: About that . . . I really don't know.

H: What did the husband do?

G: I don't know, I don't know that . . . Later her husband drove a taxi but I don't know that. I don't know about Mr. Clark.

H: How did you get that job?

G: Mrs. Clark belonged to my Church and . . .

DM: Well the most that I wanted to know you have already answered, about Mount Helm. What I was going to ask you about is that my understanding that Mount Helm Church was once Jackson College. Jackson State College has some connection with Mt. Helm; what I wanted to know is that do you recall of Jackson State being at Mt. Helm?

G: I don't know anything about that. I really don't.

DM: Well I know that another thing that I wanted to ask you was about Oakley and I was wondering if you recall where the Carver Library

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

DM: was on Oakley?

G: Where about?

DM: On Oakley?

G: What did you ask me?

DM: Do you recall the library being there?

G: Probably on the corner of Mill and Church Street. That's where it has been. We would go . . . It's just the back of a drive-way over there on Booker Street.

DM: Did you ever go there?

G: To Carver, to Carver Library? That's been built recently. I don't know. I am a Senior Citizen. I am a senior senior citizen.

DM: All the other questions that I was going to ask have already been asked, whether or not you attended Smith Robertson School. You have answered most of my questions.

G: I started there in the first grade and graduated there in the eighth grade.

DM: And they did have different teachers for each one of those classes?

G: In some classes, my teachers . . . in the lower grades they had to have more than one teacher because of the number of children.

DM: What type of discipline did the teacher use with the students?

I mean, if you all were bad or didn't obey rules.

G: At that time children were not shown rules. Parents would discipline them in the home, and some parents would . . . if you got a whipping at school, you would get another one at home. You were ruled by Mothers. . . by parents. They would whip you with boards and . . . they wouldn't mistreat you.

DM: Well I understand that Smith Robertson was first boys and when the girls began to attend was there any type of separation in the class?

G: I don't remember. When I went there the boys were grouped with boys. I don't know whether they had any separation as far as I know.

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

-11-

DM: You all played together and sat together. What did you all wear to school, just regular clothing? Did you all have dresses, skirts, and ties a lot of times at school? Did you all have any?

G: We wore dresses if we had em. Apparell and dresses when we got them, flour sacks and everything else.

DM: Would you all pay anything to go to Smith Robertson?

G: No.

DM: Just paid to go to Jackson College, thank you.

H: How many years did you teach school, public school?

G: I been teaching . . . eighteen

H: You started in 1918.

G: I taught about . . . six at Smith Robertson form 1926. . .

H: You taught about . . .

G: I taught around twenty- six . . public school about twenty-six or thirty. . .

H: You were Supervisor of Music from 1926 to 1930 for all the Negro Public Schools in Jackson? From 1930, when did you retire?

G: I didn't retire. I just stopped teaching because you know when they mixed us up. . . groups, I stopped teaching.

H: Okay, now when was that? 1970?

G: I don't know.

H: Integration came to Jackson, wasn't it 1970-1971, was the first year?

G: 1969.

H: 1969 they discussed it wasn't it! 1969 they actually had integrated classes at that time!

G: Ross . . .

H: . . .

G: The public schools nobody could teach under a relative. The Principal's wife could not teach in their school, they could teach in some other school.

H: Okay.

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

-12-

G: But,

H: But you had stopped teaching before that?

G: No! I stopped teaching the next Easter. I didn't want to be bothered with none of them. . . Their attitude toward White people and the attitude of White people toward Negroes, I couldn't be bothered with it. I just stopped.

H: Well, that would be around 1969 or 1970.

G: He didn't teach that far. He retired in 1965.

H: Do you get any official retirement now? Are you on retirement from the City Schools?

G: . . . I didn't have a regular job, I just stopped.

ML: Okay. You mentioned that there were people in North Jackson that went to school. What was considered as being North Jackson at that time that you are talking about?

G: The city limits went to where Walter School is out there.

ML: Walter School, that . . .

G: Bailey Avenue Extension and Mays Street. The city limits runs . . . I remember that it was out by West Jackson. I remember that it was several blocks past . . . out on Rhodes Street.

ML: They had to . . .

G: (All Purpose streets here)

ML: There was something else that I wanted to ask you about high school. When you quit high school was there a lot of traffic problems before they put that Currie Street in down here.

G: I thought that they put High Street, extended High Street, High Street stops off at the New Capitol, and Grayson, Lamar Street now. They use to call it Grayson Street. I thought that when High Street became an outlet for the Highway I-55, they just extended it on out here so people going out West Jackson wouldn't have to go all the way downtown to Capitol Street.

ML: That caused more traffic problems in here, is that right?

G: Before or after it was done?

October 13, 1977

ML: After.

G: I don't think it did.

ML: What I was wondering was what effect did it have on children playing in the area.

G: I don't think it caused any problems. I really don't. It stopped right . . . High Street stopped right there. What's East Mounment it ended on the other side of Farish Street, it's still West Monument.

ML: Something else that I was interested in, we were looking at the Precinct Books in 1923, that was the latest that we could find, talking about several pool halls in the area. What were they like at that time, were they looked down on or did people go to them regularly?

G: I only know of two pool halls beside the . . . because I didn't frequent recreation affairs, and not having any brothers. Oh, I don't know what went on in them, but a pool hall right down there, I think that there still is one right in front of Oakley Street, in that building right next door to Dotty Cab and one down on Farish Street. I think it's still there, just south of Griffin of Amite Street. It's still there. I didn't go to places like that when I was a child. I didn't have any brothers, and I just didn't know what was going on. I walked down Farish Street going to town.

ML: Where would you say that most of the Black Businesses were located?

G: Farish Street, on down to Pearl and the Negro Bank was down on the corner of Pearl and Farish.

ML: How many Black Grocery Stores ? Where were the Black Grocery Stores?

G: Negroes had Grocery Stores all around here, they still have. Right on the corner, Adams Grocery and Market . . .

ML: What about the Black Women?

G: What about the Black Women?

ML: Did they operate business in this area? Did they have . . .

DRAFT

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

-14-

G: They had beauty parlors as they called them.

ML: Could you, or do you know the name of some of them?

G: Not now. It's been so long since I have . . . They didn't stay in business as long. For some reason they changed locations.

ML: What would you say would be the minimum wage at that time?

G: I don't know.

ML: You don't know.

G: No. When I was very young my sisters worked for fifty cents a week, in the White folks house. . . when I started teaching I didn't want to work with my sisters. When I was teaching I . . .

ML: You mentioned that this area was a slum area.

G: Still is.

ML: Has it always been considered that as far as you know?

G: Yes.

ML: As far as you know, most of the people that live in this area, are they temporary? Are there a lot of people like you that have lived here many, many years?

G: Most of them . . . That bunch of houses over there from Farish to High, Monument to Church Street belonged to, that property belonged to White people. All those shotgun houses there, crowded up all over the street . . . all . . . use to live back over there.

ML: So that's all rental property then in that area?

G: I guess.

ML: Another thing that I wanted to ask you. You said that your parents home was moved, torn down when they brought High Street in this area. What was the effect? Were you upset by them taking your house down?

G: We had already moved out.

ML: You had already moved out. Were there very many houses torn down on this Street?

G: A bunch of shotgun houses from there on down to Pascagoula to Farish Street. My neighbors. . . a bunch of houses down there.

DRAFT

GOODEN

October 13, 1977

-15-

ML: Excuse me, this area has always been predominately Black then?

G: . . . in this area.

ML: Where did the White people start?

G: On the other side of Lynch Street

ML: On the other side of Lynch Street?

G: Well really down there on George Street, Grayson when Lamar was named Grayson Street. Mr. Eubanks had a store on the corner. You couldn't go all the way to Capitol Street from there. The White people started right in front of the Cemetary, down there on George Street.

ML: I see. You were saying that you taught at Smith Robertson School right? About how many students attended there, do you know?

G: I don't know. I know that there's a picture of one of my classes right in here. . .

H: So you pointed to page number 144, this was the History of Jackson Public Schools. Which one of these is you?

G: I said that this way my class and me. You can see that there is only one grown person there. (Laughter)

H: Oh!

G: There aren't any. . .

H: You're an attractive young lady. (Laughter)

ML: Since you have been in this area for many many years, you have seen things come and go. What's the, what do you think. . . in this particular area; the incident that caused the most trouble here, that caused people to stay in this slum area. Would it be the low income, the low housing? There would be more leaving out still.

G: Close to downtown; I don't know.

ML: Would you be interested in seeing the area revitalized?

G: To what extent?

ML: To become a nice clean area. What we're trying to do is to revitalize Smith Robertson School.

G: You belong to any . . .

DRAFT

GOODEN

October 13, 1977

-16-

ML: Historic Preservation Department of Jackson State.

G: I doubt that it will ever be, you know . . . The people who would buy property to build homes or the builders who already have, because I don't believe them White people, I believe that would have to be gotten from the Negroes or the average Negro elites sell it.

H: Who otherwise do you know who owned it?

G: I know some of them.

H: Could you tell us?

G: Botnix owns over in there. There is a Botnix Alley round there. This man has owned the Men's Clothing Store on West Capitol before you get to _____ Street on _____ Street, the only reason they call it Driffer is because Driffer . . . I don't know. . . , building those shotgun houses; just crowded people in there, it's a shame. . . \$1000.00 for a . . .

ML: Where about in this area are the Black property owners when you look around here . . . Monument Street?

G: . . . but not all of it belongs to Black people. On Farish Street Negroes owns quite a few . . .

ML: When were these areas developed. Were they already developed as shotgun houses? They were already here?

G: Every since I knew it.

ML: Are they kept up by the owners?

G: They get good payment.

ML: Did, were any Blacks in Real Estate Business?

G: We've had a few Negro people who were in Real Estate, but not anywhere they build us out. I'm trying to think of some. . .

H: What about the Redmonds?

G: Redmonds owned a lot of . . . out of West Jackson, but quite a bit of people . . .

H: Now, can you name some of the Black property owners in this area?

G: The Randolphs use to own. . . Miss Mary Johnson owns Mary Johnson School on that corner, that house right there, she and her husband. One of her sons owns that house there.

DRAFT

GOODEN

October 13, 1977

-17-

- H: Do you know the son's name?
- G: . . . is the older and Lawrence is the younger one. Lawrence, I saw Lawrence. . . in some police pursuit or something down there. . . There's a teacher who lives; well, I think he's retired now. He lives in some other city.
- H: What was the last name, Porter?
- G: Johnson, Miss Mary Johnson. Mary Johnson School out there on . . .
- H: We'll find it.
- G: Oak Park. Mary Johnson School. Mary Johnson School on Oak Park.
- H: Now, let's go back to the question about slums, being classified as slums. Wasn't life in the community in general referred to as the slum? Why do you refer to this as the slum?
- G: I don't know. That's all I ever heard was the slum. People still refer to it as the slum. This is not just the slum cause people, when they brought back streets and things were torn down, people who lived in the area are all over Jackson. All of Jackson is the slum now.
- H: Okay. Now people like the Johnson's, the Porter's and all those, Randolph's, were their homes considered the slums?
- G: This area was called that because houses back there on both streets, they were where the White people owned those houses and the land. They built these little houses so a lot of Negroes all cluttered up together . . .
- H: So you had White property owners and Black property owners side by side?
- G: . . yes, and it had that lot right next door
- H: Do you know who owns it?
- G: I don't know their names. It's been so long I stopped trying to think about it. The only problem is if I built a fence there we'd build it together, you know. . .
- H: Alright. I certainly appreciate your time Mrs. Gooden. There

DRAFT

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

-18-

- H: are a few biographical facts I would like to have to do a biographical sketch of you--like when were you born--did you receive a B. S. Degree or a B. A. Degree?
- G: Yes eventually.
- H: Where did you get it?
- G: At Jackson State.
- H: Do you recall when that was?
- G: Yes.
- H: Could you tell us what year it was?
- G: I think it was 1937.
- H: Nineteen hundred-thirty seven (1937); so that is important it tells us something about the condition of the times. I also would like for you to tell me about any other building or agencies or clubs or houses that you had any association with, maybe like the YWCA.
- G: YWCA; my husband belonged to the YMCA and I belonged to the YWCA for a short time also. I'm on the Board at the YWCA, I'm on the Music Club . . .
- H: Did you help to found this organization?
- G: No, because my husband was going to Northwestern to get his Master's Degree. I went there and I had some classes in Music. I did all the work to get a Master's Degree but half a summer, but my sister. . . I had a sister who had a stroke at Easter. I wasn't about to leave. I would have had to start over when I would have gone so I could have gone . . . that's the reason I gave that \$1000.00 back . . .
- H: That's swell.
- G: That is swell.
- H: Oh, what do you mean? (Laughter)
- G: I mean that.
- H: Why did you get it?
- G: Because I wanted to. I wasn't going back to school. They said, well, you're an alumni and I know I would not have made enough

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

-19-

- G: money to go to live, and so I just came home.
- H: Alright. Now, I want to ask you something about where the . . . music club met?
- G: It meets in the homes of the members . . .
- H: In the homes of the people?
- G: Sometimes in the Jackson, Jackson Club House downtown, _____ Street
- H: Before the YWCA was built on Farish Street, what building or where were the activities carried on that are carried on now, or when was it built? Or what I'm trying to ask you, what was the community center for the Black community space before this area?
- G: The Churches.
- H: The Churches? Were there any buildings on Farish Street other than stores where you went on occasions?
- G: No where I went, but the B. B. Hall was there. People already did . . . I don't know whether the Lodges met there. I know they went there for something, but I know they went there to school. When the school was burned down I don't know what B. B. Hall was used for. I don't know why they called it the B. B. Hall. That's what they always called it. Certain things just, you said it so much until it becomes a habit.
- H: Okay. About, before the YWCA was built was there anywhere a swimming pool anyplace for the black community prior to that?
- G: This was the first swimming pool. Dr. and Mrs. Johnson lived there. . . didn't have any children and had a nice big building. She passed after her husband left. She gave that lot to Central and the "Y", Central "Y" was already there. Central didn't Central Church didn't move. I think they sold it to the "Y"; a nice big house, the city tore it down and built that swimming pool.
- H: Did you protest?
- G: What good would that have done?

DRAFT

GOODEN

October 13, 1977

-20-

H: But did you?

G: No, I didn't protest. . . and in those times you didn't. . . they are going to do what they want to do.

H: The Johnsons', what kind of Doctors were they, Medical?

G: Dentist.

H: Dentist, Johnson was a Dentist.

G: Their son was a Dentist also.

H: Where did he have his office? Around Farish Street and Capitol?

G: Between. . .

H: Between?

G: Between Amite and Capitol.

H: Capitol Street? Did you have a Doctor who had an office down there?

G: Yes.

H: Your Doctor?

G: I went to Dr. Johnson for dental work.

H: . . .

G: Dr. R. L. Johnson is the Physician.

H: Now, the Dentist, what is his first name?

G: His was E. W. Johnson, his brother's was D. A. Johnson.

H: But R. L. Johnson was the Medical Doctor, General Practitioner?

G: He had his office the same place where Richard Beadle, the great photographer had his office. Dr. Redmonds, that was Dr. Redmonds building. I mean part of it was his building. I don't know who the other belonged to.

H: Now Beadle, Beadle the photographer, do you know his daughter?

G: Yes.

H: What's her name?

G: He has three daughters and I taught Tina in High School, the one that received his honor yesterday, Barbara, Barbara Barber.

H: What honors are you referring to?

G: I don't know. . . I was sitting back there and I heard them

G
DRAFT

GOODEN
October 13, 1977

-21-

G: announce that they were, I think they said they were planting some trees and that. . . I didn't pay attention too much cause all I know is that they were planting some trees. Seems like they said that they were going to put Photographer Beadles' name on it and that Barbara would be accepting the honors. I don't know, this was on the news yesterday about 9:00 A.M., when I heard the radio.

H: That's interesting. When, if you were sick was there ever any sort of Medical Facility in this community for Blacks?
If a person was sick?

G: The Doctors came to your home.

H: What if you needed hospitalization?

G: Charity Hospital and the Baptist Hospital. . .

H: I want to ask you about, let's go back to the Bank. You mentioned there having been a Black Bank. Was that on the corner of Farish or Pearl, Pearl and Capitol, Farish and Pearl? There was a Black Bank on which corner?

G: No, west corner I believe.

H: Where the Savings and Loan is or where is it at? What is that the branch of Deposit Guaranty Bank is on? Should be on the west.

F: Deposit Guaranty Bank down there?

H: Yes, the branch of it. No, no, no, that's not right. I'm sorry. I'm wrong. Do you recall anytime having any association with this Bank?

G: No, I wouldn't have nothing to do with that Bank.

H: Somebody must have.

G: Okay, very few. That's the reason it went out so, faded so quickly.

H: One other thing. Do you ever recall any talk about a Black Opera House?

G: Yes.

H: Where was that?

DRAFT

GOODEN

-22-

October 13, 1977

- G: It was down there somewhere.
- H: In that same area?
- G: I didn't have any money to go to things like that.
- H: Do you know anybody living now who may have gone to this Opera House? Okay Mrs. Gooden, you have been very tolerant of us today and I certainly appreciate that.

GOODEN, Gustava
OH 77.26
October 13, 1977

INDEXING

	PAGE#
Slums	1,14,17
Red Light District explained	1
Farish Street Historic District (perception of)	1
Farish Street	1,12,13,19
Oakley Street	1,10,13
Mill Street	2,10
Mount Helm Church	2,3,9
Smith Robertson School	3-7; 10-11;15
Discipline	10
Jackson College	3,7,8,18
Hinds County	3
Montifers Grocery Store	4
William Moore Dalehite	5
Stevens Kitchen	5
B. B. Hall	5,19
Jones, Mary	6,7
Gibbens, Sadie	6
Dawson	6
Washington, Dorothea	7
Ingram, Pearl May	7
Moore	7
Keyes	7
May Day Program	7
Lynch Street	7,15
Pearl	7
K-Mart	8,9
Clear Creek (Caney Creek)	8,9
Sally Rumsley	8
Jackson Square	9
Mrs. Clark	9
Carver Library	9-10
Booker Street	10
Public School	11
Integration	11-12
North Jackson	12
Walter School	12
Bailey Avenue Extension	12
Mays Street	12
West Jackson	12
Rhodes Street	12
High Street & Extension	12,14
New Capitol	12
Grayson	12
Lamar Street	12
Highway I-55	12
West Jackson	12
Capitol Street	12
Monument Street	13,14,16

GOODEN, Gustava
OH 77.26
October 13, 1977

INDEXING (cont'd)

	PAGE#
Precinct Books	13
Pool Hall	13
Griffith Street	13
Amite Street	13,20
Pearl	13
Negro Bank (Black)	13,21
Adams Grocery & Market	13
Beauty Parlors	14
White Property	14,17
Shotgun Houses	14,16
Pascagoula Street	14
George Street	15
Grayson Street	15
White Neighborhood	15
Eubanks	15
Cemetary	15
History of Jackson Public Schools	15
Botnix (Alley)	16
Men's Clothing Store	16
Driffer	16
Real Estate Business	16
Redmonds	16,20
Randolphs	16,17
Mary Johnson	16,17
Mary Johnson School	16,17
Johnson, Lawrence	17
Porters	17
Oak Park	17
YWCA	18,19
YMCA	18
Music Club	18,19
Northwestern	18
Jackson Club House	19
Churches	19
Lodges	19
Swimming Pool	19
Johnson, E. W. & D. A. (Dr. & Mrs.) Dentist	19,20
Central Y	19
Dentist	20
Richard Beadle	20,21
Johnson, R. L. (M.D.)	20
Barbara Barber	20,21
Medical Facility	21
Charity Hospital	21
Baptist Hospital	21
Black Opera House	21,22