

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.

Alma Cousin
Oral Author (interviewee) Signature

Sept. 21-1981
date

Wilmon Jones
Oral Recorder (interviewer) Signature

9-21-1981
date

O.H. 81. 49
Tape number

HUMANITIES INPUT IN A NEIGHBORHOOD'S DISCOVERY
FARISH STREET ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Interviewer: Alma Cousin
Interviewee: Wilmon Tynes
Transcriber: Terry McDonald
Date: September 21, 1981
Place: 150 East Monument Street

C: Mrs. Tynes, would you mind sharing with me the earliest recollections you can recall about the Farish Street Historical District?

T: I have always felt that the Farish Street Historical District is a real nice place to live. I've lived here every since I was six weeks old. I went to the Temple Church on Lamar as a child. I started with kindergarten and went up to the fourth grade. It isn't school there any more but there is still the Temple Church. As I grew older I ventured out, but I lived at 420 Short Grayson Street. That's where the State Office Building is now. I have always gone to the Central United Methodist Church on Farish Street. It use to be a nice place, furniture stores, department stores, and good grocery stores. I would like to see that happen again on Farish Street. I left Jackson when I was about 10 years and I moved to Chicago with my aunt. I stayed there a number of years, but I came back home before I was an adult because I finished school here at Lanier. I went a far as the eleventh grade. When I was going to school, we went to a place on Farish Street called the Crystal Palace. They use to have nice bands there. They use to have Count Bassey, and a lot of other popular bands came to the Crystal Palace. This area was a nice place to live, and I would like to see it that way again.

C: Well, Mrs. Tynes, would you tell me about some other events that happened in this community, maybe something like the older house or something like that?

Wilmon Tynes
Page 2
September 21, 1981

T: Well the area I was raised in, which was over on Grayson Street, now that's northwest where the State Office Building and the Capitol are. All those buildings were torn down and that's where the State Office Building and things are. Over in the area I live in now, 150 East Monument, I can remember Mrs. Betty Marino, She use to be a music teacher, and I took music under her one year. She lived on Lamar, that is where the Gray Stone Hotel is now. I remember that house as being a real nice house. I remember going there and the banisters coming down the steps. That's where Betty Marino lived. She was a music teacher at that time. I remember the house down on Monument Street, Mrs. ^{Gooden's} Gooden's house. Those are the only two houses that come to mind that would be historical, although some of the older houses have been here a long time.

C: Could you tell me about some of the activities you all have in the church since it is located on Farish Street.

T: Well, there are activities in the church almost every afternoon. We have vacation bible study every Wednesday night and different organizations periodically every night.

C: Could you tell me what type of music you had back in those days?

T: Well, it was kinda like it is today, but Central United Methodist Church, I have always belong to it, they didn't sang the real old hymns like they did back in the country. They were always more at singing by notes and continued with the hymn notes. I don't know what kind of music you would classify it as but aw. . .

C: Could you recall anything about the opera house that was located on Pearl Street?

Wilmon Tynes
Page 3
September 21, 1981

T: No, the new opera house is the one you're speaking of on Pearl?

C: Yes

T: No, I haven't been down there since the new one was there.

C: Do you recall going to town or anything like that?

T: Oh yes, I could remember that you could walk to my house down on Capitol Street at that time. We didn't have the shopping center and things like we have today. Everybody didn't have automobiles like they have today to be able to go to the shopping centers. I can remember good when you use to go down on Capitol Street. You would meet all your friends and you knew everybody. But now we have grown metropolitan and you don't know anyone, but it was a treat to go on Capitol Street. We had nice stores and everything.

C: Well, could you tell me about any of the social events, like dances on Farish Street?

T: Yes, you know as a young person the ones I spoke of before, the ones at the Crystal Palace, those were where they were at that time. That's when the Crystal Palace was real good. That's when the name bands such as Count Bassey and those big bands came here.

C: Well, will there be anything else you would like to add to it?

T: I think the work they are doing now to get the Farish Street area back and up-date all the buildings is might find. I hope there is something I can do to help make it so.

C: Thank you, Mrs. Tynes, for your interview.

T: Thank you, Mrs. Cousin, and I've really enjoyed talking to you.