

# ALABAMA HISTORIC INVENTORY

Alabama Historical Commission  
725 Monroe Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

<p>1. No.</p> <p>2. County <b>Bibb</b></p> <p>3. Location of Negatives <b>none</b></p>	<p>4. Present Name(s) <b>Davidson High School</b></p> <p>5. Other Name(s) <b>Bibb County Training School</b></p>	1. No.																				
<p>6. Specific Location</p> <p>7. City or Town <b>Centreville</b> <small>If Rural, Township &amp; Vicinity</small></p> <p>8. Site Plan with North Arrow</p>	<p>16. Thematic Category <b>Black History Education; Prominent Educator</b></p> <p>17. Date(s) or Period <b>1889 (1960)</b></p> <p>18. Style or Design</p> <p>19. Architect or Engineer</p> <p>20. Contractor or Builder</p> <p>21. Original Use, if apparent <b>School</b></p> <p>22. Present Use <b>School</b></p> <p>23. Ownership <b>Public</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>24. Owner's Name &amp; Address, if known <b>Bibb Co. Board of Educ. 103 J.W. Davidson Centreville, Al.</b></p> <p>25. Local Contact <b>Davidson High School</b></p> <p>26. Location of Additional Data <b>AR file and inventory additions file</b></p>	<p>27. No. of Stories <b>2</b></p> <p>28. Basement? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>29. Foundation Material</p> <p>30. Wall Construction</p> <p>31. Roof Type &amp; Material</p> <p>32. No. of Bays Front Side</p> <p>33. Wall Treatment <b>brick</b></p> <p>34. Plan Shape</p> <p>35. Changes Addition <input type="checkbox"/> (Explain in No. 41) <b>rebuilt</b> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>36. Condition Interior <b>excellent</b> Exterior <b>excellent</b></p> <p>37. Preservation Underway? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>38. Endangered? By What? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>39. Visible from Public Road? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>40. Acreage, Lot Size</p>	2. County <b>Bibb</b>																			
<p>9. Coordinates</p> <p>Lat. _____ Long. _____</p> <p>U.T.M. Reference</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Zone</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Easting</td> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Northing</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> </table> <p>10. Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>11. On National Register? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>12. On Ala. Register? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>13. Part of Estab. Hist. Dist.? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>14. District Potent'l? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>15. Name of Established District</p>											Zone	Easting					Northing				<p>41. Further Description of Important Features</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%; text-align: center; line-height: 100px;"> <p>Photo</p> </div>	4. Present Name(s) <b>Davidson High School</b>
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<p>44. Sources of Information <b>AR file</b></p>	<p>45. Prepared By <b>Jill Bowman</b></p> <p>48. Staff Member</p>	<p>46. Phone</p> <p>47. Date <b>2/23/77</b></p> <p>49. Revision Date(s)</p>	6. Card Typed																			



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
725 MONROE STREET  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104  
PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

COUNTY Bibb

PRESENT NAME Centreville Elementary School HISTORIC NAME Bibb County Training School

LOCATION (Street and number) \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN (Give directions if rural) Centreville

PRESENT USE School HISTORIC USE School

OWNERSHIP: Public () Private ( ) Public acquisition being considered ( )

OWNER'S NAME Bibb County Board of Education

MAILING ADDRESS 103 Southwest Davidson  
Centreville, AL 35042

CONDITION: Excellent ( ) Good ( ) Fair ( ) Ruins ( )

INTEGRITY: Original site () Moved ( ) When? \_\_\_\_\_

From where? \_\_\_\_\_ Give details in significance

THREATS: No () Yes ( ) By what? \_\_\_\_\_

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered ( ) Underway ( ) Completed ( ) Not planned ()

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land ( ) Woodland ( ) Scattered buildings ( )

Highway building density ( ) Commercial ( ) Industrial ( )

Residential ( ) Rural ( )

If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a Historic District?

SIGNIFICANCE: Why is this important () associated with events, persons, or movements  
Local ( ) State () National ( )  
( ) a good example of a type or style of structure  
( ) other \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Date of Construction \_\_\_\_\_ Date of additions \_\_\_\_\_

Architect or Builder \_\_\_\_\_

Give a complete but concise history of the structure.

State sources of information for the above:

DESCRIPTION

(For bridges, trestles, viaducts, tunnels, canals, railroad lines, or objects see supplement Form I)

Make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions, related structures, and north arrow. Also indicate front of structure.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Number of stories \_\_\_\_\_ Foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Basement \_\_\_\_\_

WALL MATERIAL: (Note changes from one floor or wing to another)  
(clapboard, brick, stone, wood shingle, board and batton, stucco over wood  
or brick, metal, logs) PLEASE NOTE TYPE OF BRICK BONDING AND LOG NOTCHING.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM (If known) Wood frame( ) Load-bearing masonry ( ) Iron or steel ( )

ROOF TYPE: (Gable, Gambrel, Mansard, Flat, Hipped, Combination)

ROOF COVERING: Wood shingle ( ) Asphalt ( ) Tile ( ) Metal ( ) Slate ( )

ROOF TRIM: (If any)

CHIMNEYS: (Number, location, and material)

PORCHES Front \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_  
Rear \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_  
Side \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_

DOORS: Describe entrance door.

Describe other doors.

WINDOWS: Types and number of each floor

INTERIOR: Describe mantels, stairways, wainscoting, plasterwork and any unusual features.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

OTHER: Use this space to describe any additions, alterations, outbuildings or other features of the structure and its surroundings.

\*A MAP WITH THE STRUCTURE MARKED AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM.\*

Map: A U.S. Geological Survey Map is preferred, but if you are unable to obtain one a county highway map may be used.

Photographs: Must be black and white, glossy finish and either 5 x 7 or 8 x 10.

PREPARED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

For Alabama Historical Commission use only

Map Reference: Map \_\_\_\_\_ Site number \_\_\_\_\_

Thematic Category \_\_\_\_\_

Added to ALABAMA REGISTER \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER Potential

U T M

Latitude

Longitude



W WARNER FLOYD  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130



TELEPHONE NUMBER  
832-6621

November 7, 1975

Bibb County Board of Education  
103 Southwest Davidson  
Centreville, Alabama 35042

Gentlemen:

The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that the Bibb County Training School (Centreville Elementary School) has been favorably reviewed and added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on November 6, 1975. The Alabama Register is a prestigious listing of historic, architectural and archaeological landmarks. These selected Alabama landmarks are worthy of both recognition and restoration. The Alabama Historical Commission appreciates your interest in Alabama's historic preservation program.

Sincerely,

W. Warner Floyd

WWF/ltl

cc: Guinn F. Kennedy



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WWT

~~Blaine~~  
~~Historical Commission~~

Box 98  
Centreville, Alabama 35042  
November 3, 1975

Mr. W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director  
Alabama Historical Commission  
725 Monroe Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

*file*  
*James Alan*  
*Black Heritage*  
*orig to Ewe*

Dear Mr. Warner:

I am enclosing information on Henry Damon Davidson, a Black educator who was reared in Bibb County. I have been told that he was in "Who's Who in America". He established the Bibb County Training School in 1889 and taught there until 1944. The old buildings burned, but were replaced. When a new high school for blacks was built in the 1960s, it was re-named the Davidson High School in his honor. After schools were integrated, it became the Centreville Elementary School.

Mr. Davidson wrote a book, "Inching Along", which told of his life and the school he founded. This book can be found in many libraries, including Cornell University. In his book, there is a picture of some of the students working in a school garden. He probably was one of the first educators to include vocational training and the teaching of agriculture.

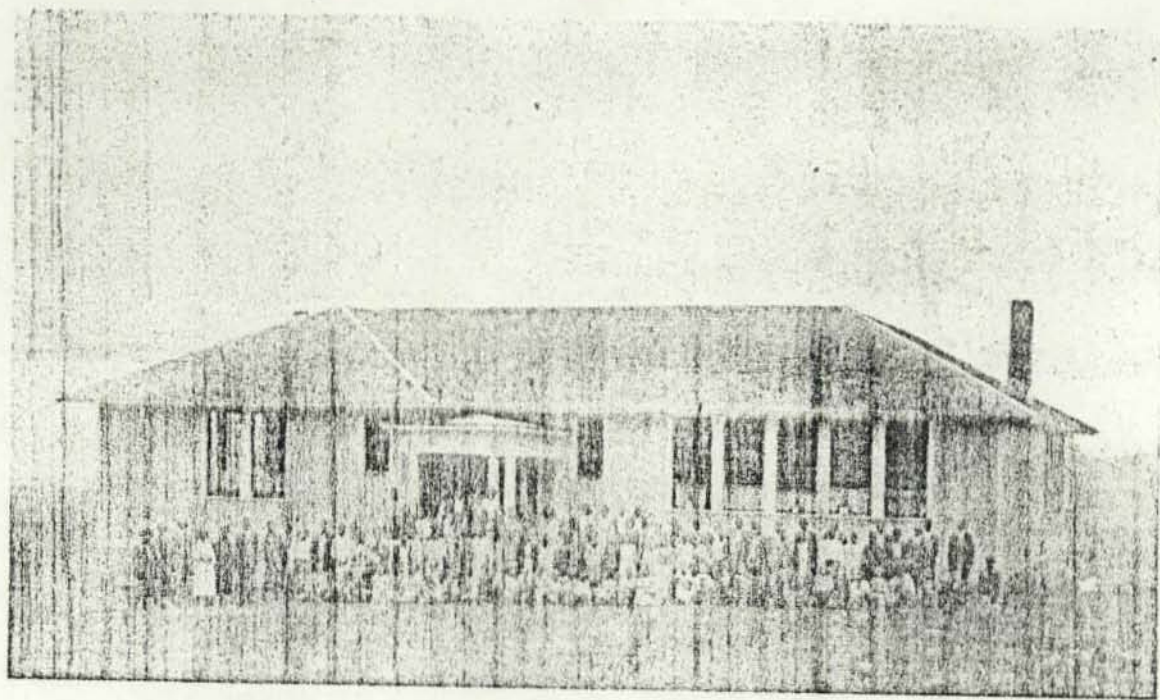
Several years ago, Miss Gwen Berry of your staff wrote for information on Ebenezer Church, which was once in Bibb County. The eastern part of Bibb County was made part of Chilton County, when the legislature established it. Mr. Sam Meltzer, 5768 Colmar Drive, Montgomery, Alabama, 36111, Apt. 2B, wrote me for information about a marker he thought had been placed near the bridge here and mentioned that he had information on Ebenezer Church, which he thought was in this county. He sent me information and photographs of Ebenezer Church in September. This church is located in Stanton. There is an Alabama Historical marker in front of the church, describing the April 1, 1865 battle of Ebenezer Church. He found information about the battle in "First with the Most", Forrest, by Robert Selph Henry, Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis, 1944, and "That Devil Forrest", Life of General Nathan Bedford Forrest, by John Allen Wyeth, Harper, N. Y., 1957.

Sincerely,

*Guinn F. Kennedy*  
Guinn F. Kennedy

*P.S. I didn't have an opportunity to tell you how much I enjoyed your interesting talk yesterday. I wish every one in Bibb County could have heard it.*





ROSENWALD ACADEMIC BUILDING  
Bibb County Training School, Centerville, Alabama. Destroyed by fire January, 1941



HENRY DAMON DAVIDSON  
Principal and founder of Centerville Industrial Institute, now Bibb County Training School, Centerville, Alabama

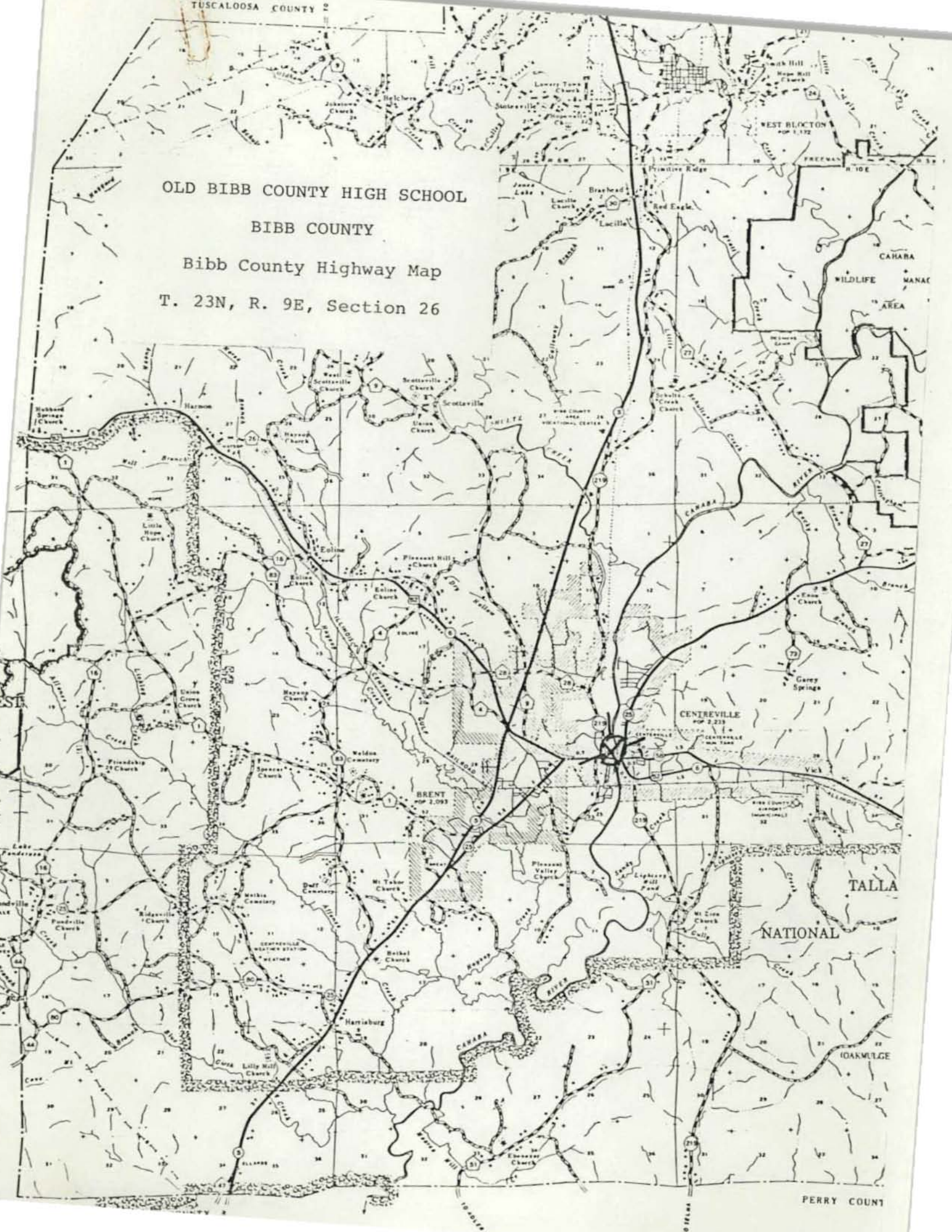


HENRY D. DAVIDSON  
Principal Centerville Industrial Institute  
(Now Bibb County Training School)  
Centerville, Alabama



TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

OLD BIBB COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL  
BIBB COUNTY  
Bibb County Highway Map  
T. 23N, R. 9E, Section 26



HENRY DAMON DAVIDSON  
Educator, Principal, Founder and Builder  
Of

CENTREVILLE INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

Present

CENTREVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The following information was compiled from Professor Henry Damon Davidson's Autobiography - "ENCHING ALONG".--Read it for further information .

Henry Damon Davidson was born December 16, (1869 - 1955) to Damon and Angeline Wood Davidson. He received his early education in Bibb County and Knox Academy, Selma, Alabama. He spent the later part of 1888 and the first part of 1889 in high school at Selma University, and two years of junior college at Payne University, from which he graduated in May 1893. He graduated, with a B. S. Degree, from Tuskegee Institute 1904. Professor H. D. Davidson retired from Bibb County Training School 1944.

Founding the School -

"In the fall of 1889, a few months after Henry Damon Davidson was married to his first wife, Lula J. Davidson, they began to buy a school house for ~~colored~~ <sup>black</sup> people of Centreville, Alabama to eliminate teaching in the church. "Then too, to establish a school where children could get intellectual, social, industrial and religious training similar to the Tuskegee Plan."

"They learned that a farm of eighty-five acres was advertised to be sold, under a mortgage, at an early date for \$1,200 to satisfy the claim against it. Finally a wealthy farmer, Mr. C. H. Cleveland, accepted \$50 as down payment and a note for \$100 to be paid during the year before harvest time and agreeing to wait two years from date of first payment for final settlement of the entire amount."

"The land had on it one old dwelling house of five rooms and two other small huts. Two rooms of the dwelling house were repaired, furnished, and used for classrooms."

Then too, the Centreville Graded and Industrial School, as the local educational club had named it, opened its first session in October 1889, in the rented house downtown and moved into the old Frazier house on the farm, recently purchased, January 1901. One hundred pupils enrolled during the first term. The boys had practical lessons in farming right out in the field, and the girls had their sewing lessons on the veranda of the Frazier cottage, he said.

In 1903, in order to get financial aid from the county and State Board of Education, Professor Davidson (deeded) gave 40 acres of the 85 acres of land originally purchased to Alabama State Board of Education to continue the school he had founded. It was then that the name of the school was changed from Centreville Industrial Institute to Bibb County Training School.

There after the school has gone through a series of name changes as follows: H. D. Davidson High School, South Bibb Primary School, and, now, Centreville Elementary School.

Moreover, the present Centreville Elementary School, administrative building, occupied the late Francis B. Pratt's, Superintendent of Bibb County Schools, statement --- "I plan to build a high school building that will crown Henry's life and work", he said. ---

The Frazier house, mentioned above, has been altered and repaired several times, still stands located on the, present, Centreville Elementary School campus.

Professor H. D. Davidson served many untiring years in teaching pupils the principles, fundamentals and applications of education. Which included the following important aims that the school emphasized through the years, namely, "(1) acquisition of knowledge, (2) education for citizenship, (3) individual development, (4) intellectual discipline, (5) character education and (6) vocational training."