

## Tape Log

Interviewee: Willis Farrington  
Interviewer: Alexander Stephens  
Interview Date: October 18, 2011  
Location: Northside neighborhood  
ID#: HOH\_0121

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
0:00	Introduction: Alexander Stephens interviews Will Farrington while walking through the Northside neighborhood. The interview begins on Graham Street where Sister Maddie Hackney used to stay.
0:58	Bills BBQ was where Greenbridge is now and he helped in opening up Mama Dip. The church right next door used to be Bynum Weaver Funeral Home. For years he was the only Black mortician.
2:10	Peabody's Beauty Shop used to be Triangle Motorcycle. Mrs. Robinson owned Midway Barbershop and was operated by Laurence Weaver. Right beside the shop used to be a pool hall and right beside that was a shoeshine that Farrington used to work at. The gravel parking lot used to be a fruit market.
3:52	He continues to talk about the other shops that were once on the streets and which areas had not developed at all.
5:2	A service station along with Andrew Rigsby's Furniture was located on the other side of Chapel Hill Tire. Beside the furniture store was Big John's Colonial Store. He was known as the "black doctor". This was also where the sit in had happened.
8:02	Farrington refers to Greenbridge as "out of place". Mason's Groceries started on the corner of Graham Street and Rosemary along with some other shops. St Paul is a historical marker and the church has always been there.
10:18	Main Street of Franklin used to be an ice stand. You got blocks of ice and had a pitchfork to break the ice up. Along with the ice that was stored in the warehouse, burning coal could be purchased for warming the house.
11:20	The parking lot on the corner has always been vacant. Mr. Steve's barbershop and couple of other black owned businesses were also present to the left side going towards Carrboro.

- 12:12 A white house was present on the corner of Graham and Rosemary. All properties were removed for Greenbridge. Right by the dog pound was a pool house that was owned by a member of St. Joseph. Farrington also worked here racking balls at the age of 14.
- 14:30 Farrington used to go the store to purchase a 160z Pepsi and a honeybun for only \$0.30 in the 60's. Now a day each item will probably cost a \$1 each.
- 15:10 Most the houses on Graham Street going towards Whitaker Street have remained the same. The registrar stayed at the stone house. Annie Bumpers owned the blue house on the left hand side. When she passed away she left her property to her son.
- 16:27 Farrington's aunt, Annie Cakes lived next to Annie Bumpers. Annie Cakes is a heavy pioneer and huge financial donor to St Joseph Church. When she passed away she had also left her property and finances to her son, Bootcakes.
- 17:00 Bootcakes real name was James Lewis. In 1969 James' son was killed on UNC campus right by the Student Union. A couple of guys from a motorcycle gang jumped James and at the same time stabbed him to death. By the time he reached the hospital he had been dead.
- 18:20 The same scenario happed to Farrington's brother in 1970. When he was shot up in Burlington, NC and bled to death because help was not available until it was too late.
- 19:58 Farrington's friend, James Minor stayed on Graham Street right by Maddie Hackney. James had a vicious dog that attacked Farrington's leg. Farrington's brother instructed him to call the police after finally limping home as a source of transportation to the hospital. Back then transportation was scarce and there was no ambulances and/or rescue squads.
- 21:20 Mr. McDougal stayed at 216. He was one of the educators of the Chapel Hill school system at Lincoln High School and had an impact on lives of Farrington, Beadigear, Charles Baldwin, Maddie Hackney and anyone else who attended Lincoln. One of the schools in Carrboro is named after him.
- 22:12 The neighborhood was knitted very closely. If you needed something you could just go next door. "If they had it, you had it." Folks could even sleep with screen doors open. Everyone knew each other or knew someone in your family and at least knew of you.
- 24:02 227 and 225 and 229 were all built later on. On the corner is where Cliff Eubanks had lived. Eubanks was instrumental in educating the young African American children.

- 25:40 James and his wife stayed at 512 Whitaker Street. This is where the children would congregate. He continues to explain about others who also resided on this street.
- 28:58 Down Sykes Street is where Pat Jackson and her brother Tony, Calvin and Gladys grew up in.
- 30:30 502 was where Ms. Fanny used to stay. She would have the best sweet potato pie. Farrington would cut through her backyard for a short cut. She would have a slice of sweet potato pie waiting for the children because they would come by from the smell.
- 32:50 Whitaker Street went from this point right where the parking sign was and went left all the way to the softball field. The rest was wood and Mitchell Lane was on the other side. Farrington used to cut through the field to get downtown.
- 34:40 Farrington tells the story about how he and his friend Tony were jumping the hill one day and Farrington got badly injured.
- 36:15 Farrington grew up on 414 Whitaker Street for 15 years.
- 39:50 The corner of Mitchell Lane and McDade is where Robert Brooks stayed
- 40:16 These manholes used to be a creek but now they have covered it all up and put dirt in them. "Where the weeds are now are still there but a creek ran through here." They would cut off vines and swing from one side to the next.
- 41:28 Jesse, the minister at First Baptist Church stayed "here" with his wife Linda Fiche. Carl Brown who was Farrington's classmate bought the yellow house on McDade street to the right. Carl was an intelligent African American (i.e. engineering, building motor, designing cars)
- 42:09 Carl lost his life in a car accident on Lister road 18 years ago. He had his own business, Brown's Trucking Company.
- 43:10 Toby Booth stayed on the corner of McDade and Cotton Street. Rock Hall has been there all these years.
- 44:00 Mr. Percy Tuck, a pioneer of St. Joseph Church stayed 3 houses down on Cotton Street. He talks about Ms. Cotton and how she raised four very successful children. Bonnie Evers who plays piano at St. Joseph also lives on this street in 424. Bobby Jones built "this house.
- 45:56 Mr. Thomas Marr and his wife stayed in this brick house, which is still standing. He continues to name those who live on this road.

- 48:54 On the corner of McDade and Church Street was the dividing line. To the right is where the “Whites” stayed and to the left is where the “blacks” stayed. (i.e. Northside, Mitchell Lane, Whitaker Street) during the sixties and seventies.
- 51:00 Farrington felt comfortable walking on McDade and Church Street but Carrboro not so much.
- 53:42 African Americans occupied Lindsay Street all the way down.
- 55:06 The whole section down is new.
- 57:21 The only house that Farrington remembers on this street is no longer there. All that was there was a pathway.
- 59:34 At the bottom of Lindsay Street right by the gym was a pathway where Farrington would hangout with friends. “Drink pops, lay out in the woods.”
- 61:26 Everyone had nicknames. William was nicknamed Stinky. Farrington’s nickname was Pooky. Dennis’ nickname was Pig.
- 64:32 Bamboo sticks were used for fishing in the creek. Hargraves used to be Farrington’s home away from home.
- 66:00 Many of the amenities at the center used to not be there such as the gym, ramps, and the front porch.
- 68:48 Mr. White Bynum built the swimming pool at Hargraves.
- 70:00 Activities such as movies and dances were held here on the weekends. Games such as ping-pong and shuffle court were played.
- 72:29 Billy Hargraves was very instrumental in building Chapel Hill. In the eighties, he passed away in front of Mama Dip’s from losing control of his car and hit a telephone pole. Folks got together and decided to change the Roberson Center into Hargraves Center after this incident.
- 74:45 Right in front of First Baptist Church was an incident where someone had stopped at the stop sign and had accidently pressed the accelerator rather than the breaks and he went flying through Bud Jone’s home.
- 75:00 Alec and Farrington end up in front of St. Joseph CME Church again.