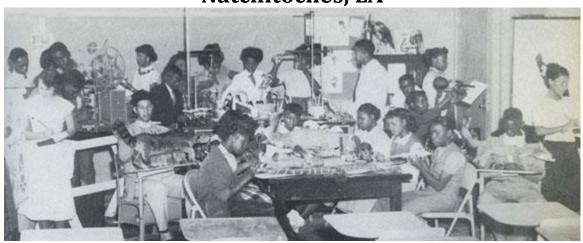
Natchitoches Parish Training School, Natchitoches, LA



The Secondary School Study Web Exhibition by Craig Kridel, Curator

In 1940, Natchitoches Parish Training School (Natchitoches, LA) was invited to participate in the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools for Negroes' Secondary School Study. Selected and funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, sixteen of the most distinguished black high schools in the United States participated in an experimental program to reexamine administrative, curricular, and instructional practices. The University of South Carolina's Museum of Education is pleased to feature the Natchitoches Parish Training School and its participation in the study.

Web Exhibition "Rooms"

"The teachers truly cared about us. One can't necessarily explain what the caring of a teacher is, but they can act it out. And that's what was done at Natchitoches Parish Training School."
Rev. J. D. Dupree

Introduction to the Secondary School Study
The Natchitoches Parish Training School Building
Curricular Experimentation
Educational Leader: Principal F. M. Richardson
Natchitoches Parish Training School as Community
Social Activism and Social Justice
LNC Archives
Curator's Statement

William A. Robinson

Letter of Invitation to Participate in the Study

January 23, 1940

We would like to include the most promising high schools in the Region. For instance, the school should have as principal one of the most promising principals in the state from the standpoint of his training, energy, capability and general alertness to educational progress. The staff should have good fundamental training and an intellectual approach to their work with materials, with boys and girls, and with community problems. We should select in each state the school that has already made the most intelligent approach from each of these angles, that is, is already carrying on a successful program.

Sincerely yours, W. A. Robinson, Director Secondary School Study Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA

While the Association sought to achieve accreditation for its member schools and to make strides for equitable support—separate AND equal—for black education, some educators believed teachers were not involved in progressive education's "stream of educational ideas" and, thus, were placing too much emphasis on traditional instructional practices. For this reason, the Rockefeller Foundation invited distinguished schools to help define promising practices and to serve as a laboratory for determining goals for black youth.

With oral history interviews conducted October 30-31, 2008 (listed in alphabetical order) with Lusetta Anthony Grace T. Baptiste Pearline Baptiste Geneva B. Barrow

Alma C. Braxton Reverend J. D. Dupree Alma Loftin Johnson Sarah R. W. LaCaze

Sylvia M. Morrow Pearl H. Payne Dorothy J. Presley LeRoy Wafter

Marcella Walter Arthur Welch With special thanks to Edward Ward, Jr.









and with great appreciation to Dr. Mary Lynn Wernett and Annette Merrell of the Henry Research Center, *Watson Memorial Library*, and Dr. Dayna Lee of the Louisiana *Regional Folklife Program*, Northwestern State University.