

A Brief History of Flat Rock High School

The first organized public school in what was known as the Flat Rock District was a one room affair, located not far from the present location of the Flat Rock Junior High School. It was later moved to the lower end of the athletic field of the present school site. Following this, the school was located in a building at the present site of Peace's Grocery Store on U. S. 25 and Depot Road.

In the early years of the Twentieth Century, a building was erected on the upper corner of the present school site directly in front of the present gymnasium and about fifty yards from it. This building was an exact copy of numerous school buildings constructed in this state in the early years of the Twentieth Century – two stories, either pebbledash or covered with plank siding. This building had no library room, no office, and no inside toilets or water fountains. Drinking water was drawn from a well located directly in front of the building about twenty yards away.

In the early twenties a brick veneer building was constructed on the present site located at the intersection of U. S. 25 and Depot Road. This building had eight classrooms, an auditorium, two toilets, a small library room, and an office. This building with an addition of four rooms, plus a separate vocational building of three rooms, and a gymnasium served the Flat Rock, East Flat Rock, Valley Hill, Pleasant Hill, Crab Creek, Tuxedo, and Green River communities of Henderson County as a high school until the present East Henderson High School was opened in 1960. It was one of the few rural district high schools in this part of the state. Most of the rural schools of that period were union schools consisting of all grades from one through eleven.

The school was accredited by the state of North Carolina in 1927. At that time it was a union school, including all grades from one through eleven. Between 1932 and 1934, Flat Rock High became a district high school. East Flat Rock, Tuxedo, and Valley Hill became elementary schools. Progress during the depression years of the thirties and the war years of the forties was both meager and slow. However, due to the size of the school, the curriculum was expanded to include more subjects such as French, chemistry, and additional vocational courses.

In the years between 1927 and 1960, over 1,000 students received diplomas from Flat Rock High School. Many of them went on to college and entered the different professions. Otis Jones, a Flat Rock High graduate, Class of 1956, won the first Merit Scholarship awarded to a Henderson County student and was honored by having it presented to him by Carl Sandburg in an Assembly Program at the high school. Otis was one of 525 students nationally (out of 60,000 applicants) who won this prestigious scholarship as the result of the National Merit Scholarship Examination. This scholarship amounted to \$6,000.00 and was funded by the Johnson Motor Lines of Charlotte.

--- source - Ernest Lee Justus

NOTE: Flat Rock HS Sports Teams = Flat Rock Blue Devils

Charleston Garden
at Flat Rock

Charleston Garden homes are constructed in the renovated interior of the historic Flat Rock High School Gymnasium.