

Langston School

Location: S1/T6/R5E

Funds: \$430

1908-1919 Two Teachers

1923-39 Three teachers

Consolidated first with Scottsboro and later with Section.



Dec 5, 1901 PA: Miss Maggie Crawford it teaching school near Langton.”

Nov 18, 1909 PA: Politicians lectured at all existing schools in 1909 for passage of Alabama Constitutional Amendment 1909 that prohibited the “manufacture, sale and keeping for sale of alcoholic and malt liquors and other intoxicating beverages.” It was defeated 61% No, 39% Yes. Rev. Marion Briscoe spoke for the amendment at Langston Nov 16, 1909.

Aug 2, 1951 PA: “Sale of School Property. Notice is hereby given that the Jackson County Board of Education will accept sealed bid until 12 o’clock noon August 31, 1951 on the school property listed below....Langston School Building, 1 dwelling, and approximately 4 acres of land...Signed Delbert Hicks, Superintendent of Education.”



Picture of the 1907-1908 school from Raney Simpson via Facebook. This is probably the first school, the one that Lillie Mae Davis Culbert says burned, when the Mason’s met upstairs. Langston in 1913. The male teacher on the left is James Benson, later editor of the *Scottsboro Citizen* and owner of the *Progressive Age* and probate judge, with his son Comer at his feet.

Here is Langston in 1913.



Lillie Mae Davis Culbert, working with Dr. Ron Dykes, wrote about going to school in Langston. She was born in 1916.

The school Ms. Culbert attended was less than half a mile from her house, on the road to Langston. An older school had burned before she started school (it was a two-story structure, and the Masons used the upstairs before they moved to the building in Langston). The school she remembers had four large rooms and a big auditorium. Next door there was a "teacher age," where the principal lived. It was a big school, maybe fifth students in some of the earlier grades. The rooms were full, there were so many students. The teacher would have the first grade. Then she would let them be doing some writing or seat work while she took up the second grade. Later on, there were maybe three grades in each room, since there were fewer pupils as we got older. We had four teachers, but one year we had five. One taught piano, and she used the auditorium.

The school in Langston generally went for nine months a year, from eight AM to three PM. Sometimes, though, "They would turn out the school the first of October for cotton picking so children could help gather crops. We started in July to make up for this. The school didn't even close down during the depression. We had heat, and we carried our lunch. We didn't require so much. We knew it was bad, but all of us were in it together. The school just kept going.



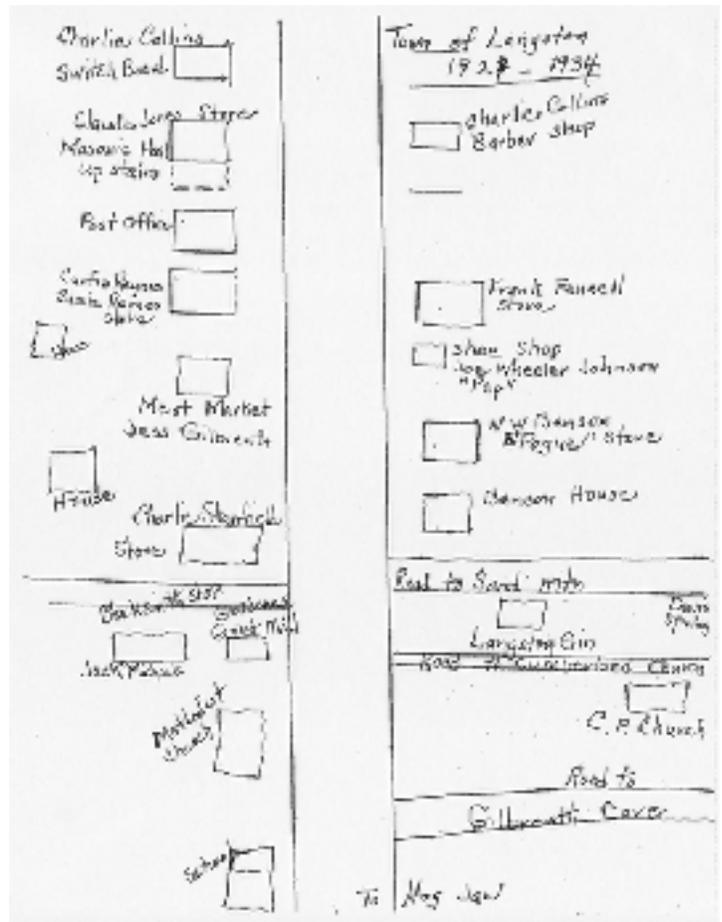
LILLY MAE DAVIS
"RUNT"
Entered '34, Science Club
'35, Physical Education
Club '36.

The school was heated with wood during my first years. My daddy owned some bottom lands, and he and a lot of fathers would cut wood and donate it to the school. Later, they had coal. Each room had a stove. At first, it was one that had the door open, but later they got the potbellied stove that coal was put in.

We carried our lunch to school. We took biscuits with sausage or ham, jelly, fried pies, and tea cakes. We'd sap sausage and biscuits with someone who had cheese and crackers from the store. We had the best and didn't know it.

She remembers that Mr. Armstrong, the Presbyterian preacher, was the principal part of the time, and she had him for the seventh through tenth grades. Gordon Post taught math and "We would go into another room for algebra and geometry under him." Mr. Armstrong had them play soccer when he came. Langston had a basketball team. "I can remember that Paul [her brother] played basketball, he excelled in all sports. They had an open court in Langston, and they played teams from Section and Marshall County."

Lillie Mae enjoyed going to school in Langston. "First thing, my daddy made sure we were in school. Regardless. My parents made sure we did our homework. They required that after we had our chores done and we had our lamps going that we studied before we went to bed."



The Langston School only went through the tenth grade. There were about ten in her class when she graduated there. Among her fellow graduated were "Kathleen Foster, a Wilhelm boy and a Wilhelm girl." Afterward she spent her final two years in Scottsboro. She boarded with her uncle Claude Jones and his family. "He lived on the left on Broad Street as you get to the red light at Parks, next to the barbershop. It is brick now, but it wasn't then." Claude had a daughter, Sybil, who was in the same class as Lillie Mae, and that "made me feel pretty good. I would have felt timid if I didn't have anybody. I enjoyed going to school there because I had Sybil, but I would hear a train blow at night and I'd be lonesome for home. When I first went to school there, it was by ferry. The bridge was built when I was in school there but you paid." She graduated from Scottsboro in 1936, but her senior year lasted eight months because of lack of funds.