

-BLACK HISTORY MONTH-

## AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOOLS IN ARKANSAS

While operating within the unequal system of segregation, these African American schools were noted for their achievements and contributions to the education of blacks in Arkansas.

### Fargo Agricultural School (Fargo, Ark.)



Open from 1920 to 1949, Fargo Agricultural School served as a private boarding school in the Arkansas Delta for African Americans during a time before Arkansas allotted public funds for segregated black schools. Floyd Brown, his wife and a handful of other teachers offered both academic studies and vocational training.

Encyclopedia of Arkansas articles – [Fargo Agricultural School](#); [Floyd B. Brown \(1891-1961\)](#)

Encyclopedia of Arkansas image – [Floyd Brown](#); [Fargo Agricultural School, 1919](#); [Administration Building, Fargo Agricultural School, circa 1920s](#)

AV/AR audio video collection materials:

- Othella Faison interview clip 05 – [Audio](#) or [Video](#) – She discusses what it was like when she started at the school and the type of curriculum taught at the school.
- Othella Faison interview clip 07 – [Audio](#) or [Video](#) – She talks about the practical things she learned in home economics courses.
- Othella Faison interview clip 10 – [Audio](#) or [Video](#) – She remembers the routine of eating in the dining hall and the mandatory study hall hours for boarders.
- Othella Faison interview clip 12 – [Audio](#) or [Video](#) – She remembers taking a comprehensive test in order to graduate from the school.
- Othella Faison interview clip 13 – [Audio](#) or [Video](#) – She remembers the Friday night events and the social games and dances.
- Othella Faison interview clip 21 – [Audio](#) or [Video](#) – She talks about Floyd Brown and the school's start.
- Othella Faison interview clip 22 – [Audio](#) or [Video](#) – She talks about wearing uniforms at the school and how it served as an equalizer among students.

Additional resources:

- *Work Will Win: A History of the Fargo Agricultural School*. Video Documentary by Jack Hill on behalf of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, 1994



## Scipio A. Jones High School (North Little Rock, Ark.)

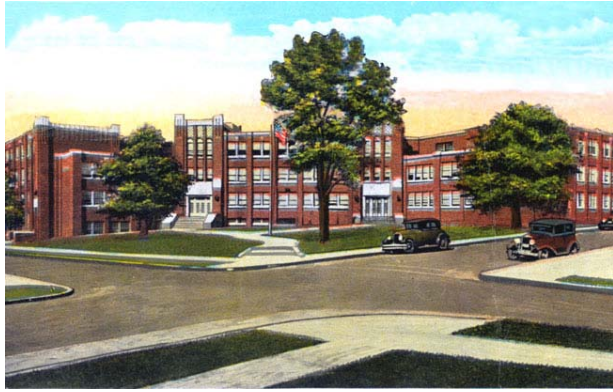
Operating since 1910, the name of the school changed in 1928 to Scipio A. Jones High School in honor of Scipio Jones, a prominent black attorney in Little Rock. The gym was built in 1942 and for awhile, it was the only public school with a gymnasium for blacks in Arkansas. The school closed in 1970 as the North Little School District began to integrate its schools.

AV/AR audio video collection materials:

- Al Bell interview clip 06 – [Audio](#) or [Video](#) – He discusses the standard set by the teachers and the broad education he received there.
- [Angelo Taylor interview audio clip 11](#) – He talks about how the school brought the black community together.
- [Curtis Sykes interview audio clip 11](#) – He talks about how the grading system included conduct and deportment, not just academic grades. He also mentions school prayer.
- [Curtis Sykes interview audio clip 45](#) – He remembers that discipline issues meant not only facing punishment at school, but also at home since parents and teachers were in contact frequently around the community.
- [Curtis Sykes interview audio clip 50](#) – He remembers students from other rural areas who came to North Little Rock to attend Scipio Jones High School.
- [Frederick Hale interview audio clip 10](#) – He talks about the internal school spirit for athletics and the band.
- [Pearl Perry interview audio clip 07](#) – She remembers how the teachers played a role in the student's lives beyond the schoolroom.

Additional online resources:

- North Little Rock School District - [Black History site](#)



## Dunbar High School (Little Rock, Ark.)

Named after black author Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the school functioned as a junior and senior high school and as a two year junior college between 1929 and 1955. Students could take a variety of academic and vocational courses including Latin, algebra, Negro history, carpentry, and sewing.

Central High School National Historic Site Lesson Plan – [Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School](#)

Encyclopedia of Arkansas articles – [Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School](#); [Rosenwald Schools](#)

Encyclopedia of Arkansas image – [Dunbar High School Postcard](#)

Additional online resources:

- AIA Preservation Architect article – [“Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School, Little Rock”](#)
- National Dunbar Alumni Association – [“Home” page](#) and [“History” page](#)
- Little Rock School District school list – [Dunbar International Studies/Gifted & Talented Education Magnet Middle School](#)

AV/AR audio video collection materials:

- [Annie Abrams interview audio clip 04](#) – She discusses the importance of the school’s name.
- [Ellen Turner Carpenter interview audio clip 26](#) – She remembers the different vocational courses (i.e. cooking, typing) she took at Dunbar High School.
- [Ellen Turner Carpenter interview audio clip 27](#) – She discusses why as a student she never thought much about comparing her education at Dunbar what was offered at Central High School.
- L.T. Rogers interview clip 04 – [Audio](#) or [Video](#) – He talks about how students came from various regional locations to attend Dunbar High School.
- Peggy Mills interview clip 04 – [Audio](#) or [Video](#) – She remembers the sense of community she felt while a student at Dunbar high school.

Reading material:

- *Paul Laurence Dunbar High School of Little Rock, Arkansas: “Take from Our Lips a Song, Dunbar to Thee”* by Faustine Jones-Wilson and Erma Glasco Davis

