

Fayetteville State University History

Founders and Builders of the University



Robert Harris, co-Founder and Principal of the Howard School 1865-77. First Normal School Principal 1877-80

General O.O. Howard Director of Freedmen's Bureau



Cicero Harris co-Founder of Howard School Bishop in AME Zion Church Founder of Livingstone College



Bishop James Walker Hood Trustee for Howard School



A.J. Chesnutt, co-founder and Trustee Father of Charles W. Chesnutt

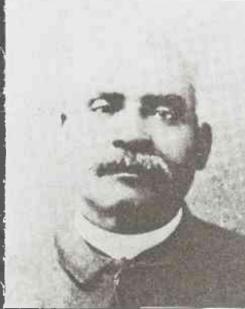
Dr. P.N. Melchor signed note to purchase Murchison Road Site.



Rev. J.C. Smith signed note to purchase Murchison Road site



Robert Simmons Trustee for Howard School



The Williams Family and Graduates of the State Normal School in the 1880's; on the right is George H. Williams, Class of 1879 and Principal from 1888-1895.

1867 Seven visionary Black citizens of Fayetteville, North Carolina pay \$140.00 for two lots on Gillespie Street and form among themselves a self-perpetuating board of trustees to maintain the property for the education of Black youth. The seven founders are David A. Bryant, Nelson Carter, Andrew J. Chesnutt, George Grainger, Matthew Leary, Thomas Lomax and Robert Simmons. Robert Harris is named the first principal of the Howard School.



Graduating Class of 1907

It is followed, by *The Life of Frederick Douglass*, *The House Behind the Cedars*, and many other novels and short stories. In 1928 he is awarded the coveted Springarn Medal, at that time given annually by the NAACP for distinguished achievement.

1883 Dr. Ezekiel Ezra Smith, 31 years of age and a graduate of Shaw Collegiate Institute in Raleigh, is appointed principal upon the resignation of Charles W. Chesnutt.

1888 President Grover Cleveland appoints Dr. E.E. Smith as minister resident and consul general of the United States to Liberia, in which capacity he serves for two years. George H. Williams assumes the duties of principal of the State Colored Normal School.

1898 Dr. Smith obtains a leave of absence for the purpose of serving as regimental adjutant of the Third North Carolina Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish-American War. During his absence his work is carried on by the Reverend L.E. Fairly. Dr. Smith returns to his duties in 1899. During Dr. Smith's long and distinguished tenure, the institution moves to its permanent site on Murchison Road in 1907. Later, Dr. Smith and his wife deed additional land to the state to bring the institution's holdings to 92 acres. The campus grows to eight buildings and several cottages. All high school work is discontinued in 1929 and the title of principal is changed to president. Dr. E.E. Smith retires on June 30, 1933 and is elected president emeritus.

1933 Dr. J. Ward Seabrook is elected president. Under his leadership the institution becomes a four-year college, is renamed Fayetteville State Teachers College in 1939, and earns both state and regional accreditation. Dr. Seabrook retires in 1956 and is elected president emeritus.

1956 Dr. Rudolph Jones succeeds Dr. Seabrook as president. Advances made during his tenure include the revision of the charter in 1959 authorizing the expansion of the curriculum to include programs leading to degrees outside the teaching field; adoption of the name Fayetteville State College in 1963; and significant additions to the physical plant to accommodate growing enrollment. Dr. Jones retires and is elected president emeritus in 1969.

1969 Dr. Charles "A" Lyons Jr., becomes president, the college is named Fayetteville State University, and it is designated a regional university by an act of the legislature. Dr. Lyons becomes the first chancellor when Fayetteville State University is made a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina by legislative act in 1972.

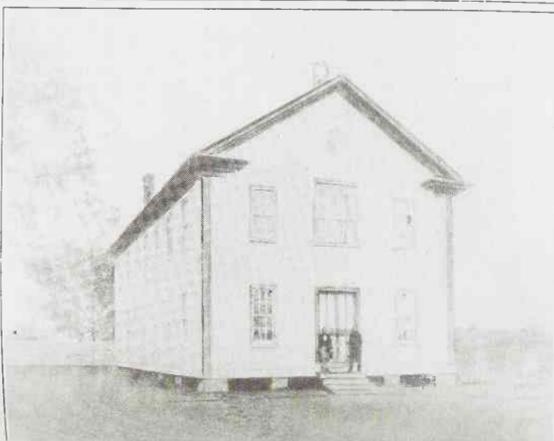


Aycock Building, the first brick building on campus, built in 1908.

Howard School, 1867

The university develops into a comprehensive level I institution offering a variety of baccalaureate and master's degree programs, and the continuing education program and the Ft. Bragg - Pope AFB Education Center are established. Dr. Lyons retires in 1987.

1988 Dr. Lloyd V. Hackley is named the eighth chief executive officer of the University. He actively pursues initiatives to further expand program offerings and improve the campus environment in response to the needs and interests of students and the community. FSU master's level program offerings expand to 15; FSU's first doctoral program in educational leadership is established; and baccalaureate program offerings increase to 36 disciplines in the arts and sciences, business and economics, and education. The addition of the \$6.3 million ultra-modern Business and Economics Building, the new \$10.9 million Health and Physical Education Building, and over \$6 million in residence hall renovations underscores Dr. Hackley's commitment to FSU's continued growth. He also strengthens FSU's outreach to at-risk children in the public schools, establishing scholarship and tutoring/mentoring programs to encourage more young people to aspire to academic excellence and a college education. FSU's first major public capital campaign is completed during Dr. Hackley's tenure, and enables FSU to increase the number of privately funded scholarships available to students. On December 31, 1994, Dr. Hackley leaves his post at FSU to become president of the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges, the first African-American to lead the state's 59 community colleges. Dr. Donna J. Benson, associate vice president for academic affairs of the University of North Carolina, assumes the helm of Fayetteville State University on January 1, 1995 as interim chancellor and serves until November 14, 1995.



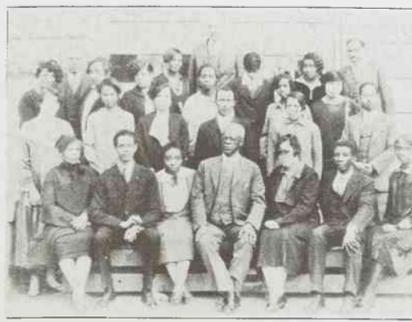
Cooking Class taught by Mrs. E.A. Williams, 1902.

Dr. McLeod addresses audience at Installation in new Felton J. Capel Arena.



1995 Dr. Willis B. McLeod, FSU Class of 1964, is elected as the ninth leader and first alumnus chancellor of FSU by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors effective November 15, 1995. Dr. McLeod's major initiatives include a new "Freshman Year Initiative, or "F.Y.I." program designed to enhance students' educational outcomes; new outreach efforts aimed at strengthening community ties and involving the community in university life; campus improvements such as expansion of the Rudolph Jones Student Center and planning for a new \$12 million Fine Arts Building; and forming a regional partnership of public school, community college and university leaders to focus on enhancing the educational pipeline from preschool to postgraduate studies.

Faculty of 1927



First row, seated: Dr. J.W. Seabrook, second from left; Dr. E.E. Smith in the center with wife Nannie L. Smith to his right and Prof. Dannie A. Bryant on the far right for whom Bryant Hall is named.