

When Are We US?

Finding Common Ground Integration



That's one thing that integration has done, to remove barriers where people can come together.

James Slade, 1997
Doctor at Chowan Hospital, 1965-2003



THE GOAL OF DIFFERENT RACES WORKING

and learning in cooperation took years of struggle to accomplish, and efforts toward a more inclusive society continue. Beyond the famous 1960 Greensboro sit-in, Black and American Indian activists in North Carolina have pushed for and altered the integration process to keep communities strong, and some local demonstrations hold national significance.



[By the 1960s] All of these things were following a trend, the wind was blowing in a certain direction to get public accommodations desegregated, to get the hospital desegregated, and of course, the schools were in the evolutionary process of desegregation themselves.

Andrew Best, April 19, 1997
Greenville doctor and integration leader, whose career spanned 1950s-2000s



Black students integrating White schools lost beloved traditions, while Black administrators and teachers often lost their jobs. Hundreds of African Americans in Hyde County protested the way the local government planned to integrate schools in 1968. Teachers and students went on strike and left county schools for one year. Groups marched from Swan Quarter to Raleigh in February 1969 to raise awareness. Through their efforts, African American schools remained open and admitted students of all races.



1968-69, Hyde County



1969-70, Chapel Hill



1971-72, Troy

In 1965 Lincoln High merged with Chapel Hill High in the first southern school district to desegregate voluntarily. After a student vote, Chapel Hill High School adopted Lincoln High's mascot for the 1969-1970 school year and Tigers became the school's team name. By 1971, schools across the state, like Troy Elementary in Montgomery County, officially achieved integration.



You've got to look back and say, 'Well, now, what did we accomplish in the name of integration?...Have we really in fact, completed the battle of integration?'

Floyd McKissick, 1973
Congress of Racial Equality leader and Soul City Founder
Among the first African American students to integrate UNC's law school in 1951

Soul City represented the first time a Black development firm planned and built a new town. McKissick's vision was to develop Black economic power and a "model of democracy." Though the site began with early support at the county, state, and federal levels, it struggled to attract industry necessary to grow and sustain the community.



Source Notes

- Handshake tag, 1963, MS91.0959, HulDAH (Beth) Taylor Collection, Civil Rights Greensboro, Quaker Archive, Guilford College.
- James Slade, Southern Oral History Program interview, 1997, UNC
- Lunch counter sit-in, Raleigh, February 1960, News & Observer collection, 2-1960, folder 2, State Archives
- Andrew Best receives his certificate of membership to the UNC Board of Governors from Governor Robert Scott, 1972, Laupus Library history collections, East Carolina University digital collection
- Andrew Best Southern Oral History Program interview, 1997, UNC
- Hyde County School Integration Protest march, February 11, 1969, News & Observer collection, State Archives
- Chapel Hill High School basketball team, 1969-1970, Hilllife, yearbook 1970, p. 93 Chapel Hill Historical Society collection, Digital NC
- Helen Poole's sixth grade class making marionettes, 1972, Troy Elementary School, Montgomery County, School Puppets Photograph Album collection, Montgomery County Public Library collection, Digital NC
- Soul City Foundation records, org. 206, State Archives
- Floyd McKissick Southern Oral History Program interview, 1973, UNC