

Mary P. Willingham School for Girls



The Mary P. Willingham Industrial School for Girls was built in the very early 1900's. It stood on the grounds where East First and East Main Streets meet. Today, two of its dormitories are still in existence. Not only was it intended as a school of pragmatic education, but it served as a finishing school as well. Many women in Blue Ridge today, over the age of 50, are probably alums. Unfortunately, the school took a downturn during and after the depression and the building stood empty for many years. Jack Jones purchased the building in 1954, had it taken down and used bricks from the school to build the very walls of his new, personal home. (Picture courtesy of Laverne & Wilson Cobb)