

H. B. SUGG CELEBRATION MURAL

I am Gene Willoughby, a graduate of H.B. Sugg High School in 1960. I am also a member of the H.B. Sugg Charitable organization.

This mural and mini park are dedicated to the life and legacy of Professor H. B. Sugg and the school named in his honor.

Herman Bryan Sugg came to Farmville in 1918 having spent many arduous years working his way through life, Mary Potter School and the Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He was the son of enslaved parents who taught him a strong work ethic and the value of an education.

Under his leadership, the segregated community established one of the finest schools in eastern North Carolina on a campus that included a modern classroom building, a vocational and home economics building, a gymnasium and a band room. In 1941 the State of North Carolina recognized his school as one of the best schools in the state. By 1957-1958 school year it was the largest school in Pitt County with over 1,000 students in 12 grades.

In a time when segregation separated the community, Mr. Sugg served as a conduit to progress and communication. Through his ingenuity and perseverance, he overcame many obstacles working with his students and families to build his school into a beacon of education. He was a leader within his church and many civic groups within Farmville as well.

The H.B. Sugg High School closed in 1972 when school segregation ended and Mr. Sugg passed away in 1980. He was truly one of Farmville's most cherished and loved leaders.