

CHARLOTTE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION, 1926-2000s

2 boxes (.40 cu. ft.)

ABSTRACT

Belmont Vocational School was created to serve as a vocational school for the children of the Belmont and North Charlotte communities. It opened in September 1922 at 1400 Pegram Street, with Harry K. Moore serving as the first principal. The school was renamed Charlotte Technical High School in 1927. After the class of 1954 graduated, the school became Hawthorne Junior High.

Graduates of what was known as "Tech High," developed an interest in reunions, which often included classes of different years. Alumni have also worked together on numerous community activities including providing scholarships for students.

This collection includes documents, photographs, and a scrapbook.

ACCESS

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PREFERRED CITATION

Cite as: Charlotte Technical High School Collection, 1926-2000s, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

ACQUISITION

Presented by the Charlotte Technical High School Alumni Association (Tech High Lunch Bunch), 2015

Processed by Hannah Cox, 2016

HISTORICAL NOTE

As cotton mills came into the Belmont and North Charlotte communities by the early 1920s, Charlotte city leaders and businessmen began working together to improve the education of the children of the mill workers and others in the surrounding community. City leaders worked with the owners of the Louise and Chadwick Hoskins Mills to create a vocational school to provide the children with an industrial education. This school, first known as Belmont Vocational School, was located at 1400 Pegram Street, and completed in September 1922. The first principal of the school was Harry K. Moore, who came from Middleton, Ohio.

Initial enrollment was not large, and the overcrowded Villa Heights School was able to use the excess space for some of the primary students. The first year included seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students, with the first graduating class in 1926. Student enrollment increased each year, and the upper grades eventually filled out the school.

Principal Moore resigned in 1926, and was followed by Forest T. Selby of Oxford, Ohio. Many changes occurred during Selby's tenure, including the addition of courses in a variety of subjects, a new woodworking shop, evening classes for adults, and the renaming of the school to Charlotte Technical High School or "Tech High," in 1927.

Charlotte Technical High School ceased existence in 1954, and became Hawthorne Junior High School. Graduates of Tech High were very interested in continuing the relationships they formed with each other, the faculty, and the school, however. They held reunions, wrote newsletters, formed social groups such as the Tech High Lunch Bunch, and participated in community activities. Many of these activities continue today, including the administration of the Lula Faye Clegg Memorial Scholarship Fund, which honors Ms. Clegg, who taught history, civics, and social studies at the school from 1923 to 1965.

REFERENCES

Morrill, Dr. Dan L. *Historic Charlotte: An Illustrated History of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County*. "Charlotte Technical High School." San Antonio: Historical Publishing Network, 2011.

Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room. *Charlotte Tech High*.
<http://www.cmstory.org/content/charlotte-tech-high>

Tech High Lunch Bunch. *Charlotte Technical High School, 1927-1954*. (In collection)

RELATED MATERIALS

Charlotte Technical School. *The Technique*. (CALL NUMBER: NCR YEARBOOKS 1929-1931, 1940-1954 available online: <http://library.digitalnc.org>)

Harding, Harry P. *The Charlotte City Schools*. Charlotte: Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, 1966. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 371.9756)

Morrill, Dr. Dan L. *Historic Charlotte: An Illustrated History of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County*. "Charlotte Technical High School." San Antonio: Historical Publishing Network, 2011. (CALL NUMBER: NCR 975.62 C479 M873h)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Charlotte Technical High School Collection consists of diplomas, school histories, photographs, and a scrapbook. Most content is self-explanatory, however the

scrapbook includes original and copied photographs, commencement programs, and other information on the 1933, 1935, 1936, and 1938 classes. The materials range in date from 1926-2000s, however the bulk of the collection is from the 1930s, and centers on the classes from that era.

SERIES LIST

CONTENTS	BOX	FOLDER
Collection Container List	1	1
Diplomas, 1926, 1936		
James Waitstill [sic] Chambers, 10 June 1926. (copy) Includes additional information from his daughter, Jane Chambers.	1	2
Helen Virginia Smith, 4 June 1936.	1	2
Histories, 1945, 1947, c. 2000s		
Various brief histories and copies of articles regarding Charlotte Technical High School, 1945, 1947, c. 2000s.	1	3
Photographs, 1926		
Photograph of the Class of 1926. (copy) Includes some identifications by Jane Chambers.	1	4
Scrapbook, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1938		
~Tech Classes~ 1933, 1935, 1936 & 1938, by Doug Dellinger '52, Chairman of the THLB [Tech High Lunch Bunch].	2	