**Timeline of Ridgeland’s History**

- **1804**: Turner Brashear’s Stand opens on the Natchez Trace. Once a footpath for the Choctaws and now a road for commerce, the Trace stretches from Natchez to Nashville.
- **1811**: The Choctaw Agency opens, headed by Silas Dinsmore.
- **1812**: Andrew Jackson returning from the Battle of New Orleans made camp with his army at Brashear’s Stand.
- **1832**: United States grants land to William J. Austin.
- **1853**: Austin sells land to James Burroughs Yellowley from North Carolina.
- **1860**: Confederate General Stephen D. Lee makes his headquarters at Brashear’s Stand.
- **1860s**: Confederate General Stephen D. Lee makes his headquarters at Brashear’s Stand.
- **1899**: Village at Ridgeland chartered.
- **1902**: Most of the village is destroyed by fire.
- **1903**: Highway 51 is paved.
- **1905**: A two-room schoolhouse is constructed on School Street.
- **1906**: Barnett Reservoir completed.
- **1909**: Henderson’s Garage is built.
- **1910**: Henderson’s Garage is built.
- **1927**: Henderson’s Garage is built.
- **1930**: Henderson’s Garage is built.
- **1936**: Highway 51 is paved.
- **1940**: James Brownlow Yellowley sells land to the Highland Colony Company, owned by Gorton W. Nichols and Edward M. Treatle. Highland Colony is surveyed and platted.
- **1947**: Ridgeland is incorporated as a town and construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway begins.
- **1950**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1955**: Multi-use trails open.
- **1960**: Old Town Middle School opens.
- **1963**: Holmes Community College opens.
- **1966**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1969**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1970**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1973**: Old Town Middle School opens.
- **1976**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1980**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1984**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1985**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1990**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1995**: Multi-use trails open.
- **1998**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **2002**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **2007**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **2010**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **2020**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.

**Map Credit: Matthew Dodd**

- **1811**: The Choctaw Agency opens, headed by Silas Dinsmore.
- **1812**: Andrew Jackson returning from the Battle of New Orleans made camp with his army at Brashear’s Stand.
- **1860s**: Confederate General Stephen D. Lee makes his headquarters at Brashear’s Stand.
- **1880**: United States grants land to William J. Austin.
- **1896**: James Brownlow Yellowley sells land to the Highland Colony Company, owned by Gorton W. Nichols and Edward M. Treatle. Highland Colony is surveyed and platted.
- **1900**: Henderson’s Garage is built.
- **1905**: A two-room schoolhouse is constructed on School Street.
- **1910**: Henderson’s Garage is built.
- **1927**: Henderson’s Garage is built.
- **1930**: Henderson’s Garage is built.
- **1936**: Henderson’s Garage is built.
- **1947**: Ridgeland is incorporated as a town and construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway begins.
- **1950**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1955**: Multi-use trails open.
- **1960**: Old Town Middle School opens.
- **1963**: Holmes Community College opens.
- **1966**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1970**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1973**: Old Town Middle School opens.
- **1976**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1980**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **1990**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **2002**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **2007**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **2010**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.
- **2020**: Highland Colony Parkway opens.

**Map Credit: Matthew Dodd**
SECOND EDITION

The History of

Ridgeland, Mississippi

Travel in Time

A center for trade and travel: Ridgeland, Mississippi offers vibrant, from fire to fiery personalities. A headquarters in war, a haven in peace.

Henderson's Garage is still standing at 424 Highway 51.

306 S. Pear Orchard Street was built.

1962, an elementary school (Ann Smith Elementary School), school was moved in 1914 to 213 E. School Street. Eventually in Ridgeland Schoolhouse.

In the 1900s Ridgeland children were

Established in 1901, the Wagon Works of the founders of Ridgeland, Gaston W. Nichols.

Established in 1899 by one

Adcock's Grocery and Grist Mill.

Part of the kitchen of the Old Green Hotel, built

Town Hall.

Originally a wood structure near the intersection of Road, where it maintains the adjacent New Hope Grove cemetery.

The oldest chartered church in Ridgeland was originally built in 1874. Its present location is at the corner of Ridgeland Avenue and N.E. Madison Drive.


The oldest chartered church in Ridgeland was originally built in 1874. Its present location is at the corner of Ridgeland Avenue and N.E. Madison Drive.

Adcock's Grocery and Grist Mill.

Built in 1925 at the corner of Jackson Street and Central Avenue, a grocery and general store served as a post office (1960s-1980). Mrs. Earnestine Pentecost was the first Post Mistress. A grist mill, run by the Adcock family, was located behind the store. In the 1960s a gas station and convenience store was built on west side of Central Avenue at Jackson Street. This building later housed the Madison County Journal office (1992-1995).

Ridgeland Gin and Supply. Constructed in 1904 by owners that included former Mayor J.B. Yellowton.

Ridgeland Milling & Manufacturing Co. Established in 1899 by one of the founders of Ridgeland, Gaston W. Nichols.

Ridgeland Wagon Works. Established in 1901, the Wagon Works supplied farmers all over the central Mississippi region with equipment and materials.

Ridgeland Schoolhouse. In the 1900s Ridgeland children were first schooled in the Town Hall. In 1910, a school was built on the present site of Ridgeland's water tower in the historic district. That school was moved in 1914 to 213 E. School Street. Eventually in 1962, an elementary school (Ann Smith Elementary School), 306 S. Pear Orchard Street was built.

Henderson's Garage. Built in 1936, and long known as travelers' last stop for gas before entry to the Natchez Trace Parkway, Henderson's Garage is still standing at 424 Highway 51.

Train Depot. The Illinois Central depot was located along W. Jackson Street near the railroad tracks.

MARKERS

Signs of the times: Explore more history from Ridgeland's multiple historical markers.

Old Natchez Trace. Located near milepost 104.5 of the Natchez Trace Parkway, this marker shares some of the colorful and exciting history of the old Natchez Trace, two portions of which were preserved and listed on the National Register in 1976. The ancient trading and hunting path of Native Americans, the Trace became a premier road for commerce and travel during the 19th century, when robbers roamed and boatmen marched up from the Mississippi River. Turner Brashier opened Brashier's Stand in 1805 to serve wayfarers, and advertised his establishment in the Natchez Gazette as a “House of Entertainment.” The King's Inn was later built on the site, followed by Hawthorne Vale which served as headquarters for General Stephen D. Lee during the Civil War.

Ridgeland Historical Marker. Developed for the City of Ridgeland by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the Historical Society of Ridgeland, the marker has been placed adjacent to the railroad and W. Jackson Street, to commemorate the spot where the first families disembarked from the train to discover their new home.

Choctaw Agency and Old Natchez Trace. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995, the site encompasses a 3.3-mile segment of the old Natchez Trace and an archaeological site where the government agency for the Choctaw was housed from 1811 to 1823. While the site is located between I-55 and Livingston Road, the marker is located at Natchez Trace Parkway milepost 100.7. The marker was dedicated in 2014.

Old Agency Road. Also known as the Natchez Trace, Old Agency Road was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. The road runs between I-55 and Livingston Road in Ridgeland. It was recorded as a Mississippi Landmark on January 22, 1988. Two markers are placed, one near either end of the road.

PLANTATIONS

Rich historical roots: A staple of the local economy, cotton was grown on several plantations around the city.

Greenwood Plantation. Built in 1854 by the cotton planter Col. William Ferril Battley, Sr., the home was spared during the Civil War because the Union general, a Mason, noticed the Mason emblem above the home's door. The Battley family owned the home until 1925, the Redmont family then owned it until the Mark S. Jordan company purchased it in 2000. Privately owned, the property is not open for tours.

Clifton/Ashton Plantation. The original home was owned by the Cliftons. A second home was built by Dr. Matthew Ash in 1893 after a tornado destroyed his larger home in 1878. Privately owned, the property is not open for tours.

Yellowley Plantation. Originally located west of Jessamine Cemetery and east of Highway 51 near Moore Street. This property was developed into Trace Ridge subdivision.

CEMETORIES

Scenic rest: Ridgeland's historic cemeteries are great places to learn history at the personal level.

Jesamine Cemetery. Originally a family cemetery named Jesamine after Mrs. Jessie Perkins Yellowton, the two-acre cemetery was dedicated to the City of Ridgeland in 1927 by the Yellowton and Perkins families. All monuments at the cemetery face west toward the original location of the Yellowley Plantation home and the Perkins' home. All other monuments face east. Many of Ridgeland's founders and civic leaders are buried here.

Jones Cemetery. Located on County Line Road at Peer Orchard Road, this historic African-American cemetery is still in use today, owned and managed by Simon Hill Church.

Mt. Charity M.B. Church Cemetery. 954 Lake Harbour Drive.

New Hope Grove Cemetery. Located on Old Agency Road and managed by New Birth Church across the street.

Designed as both historical record and guidebook for fascinating historical discovery, this map encompasses many of the most prominent sites and properties reflecting Ridgeland's rich history that began well over a century ago. Read, enjoy, explore!