

Ridgeland Miss. est. 1899

December 29, 1899 — Village of Ridgeland
March 7, 1947 — Town of Ridgeland
June 17, 1975 — City of Ridgeland

Year	Population	Land Area
1899	150	0.7 sq. mi.
1910	158	0.7 sq. mi.
1920	164	0.7 sq. mi.
1930	217	0.7 sq. mi.
1940	233	0.7 sq. mi.
1950	526	0.7 sq. mi.
1960	875	1.8 sq. mi.
1970	1,650	2.2 sq. mi.
1980	5,461	3.6 sq. mi.
1990	11,714	10.8 sq. mi.
2000	20,173	16.8 sq. mi.
2010	24,047	21.4 sq. mi.



THE *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.

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.

1933: Highway 51 is paved.

1960s: Barnett Reservoir completed.

1996: Old Town Middle School opens.

1995: Multi-use trails open.

1994: Highland Colony Parkway opens.

1985: Holmes Community College opens.

2002: Ridgeland High & Highland Elementary Schools open.

2020: New City Hall opens.

1804 1812 1832

1811 1832: United States grants land to William J. Austin.

1860

1853

1899

1896

1910

1902

1933

1928

1936

1947

1960

1970

1975

1985

1994

1995

1996

1999

2002

2010

2020

2018

1811: The Choctaw Agency opens, headed by Silas Dinsmor.

1853: Austin sells land to James Burroughs Yellowley from North Carolina.

1896: James Brownlow Yellowley sells land to the Highland Colony Company, owned by Gorton W. Nichols and Edward M. Treakle. Highland Colony is surveyed and platted.

1910: A two-room schoolhouse is constructed on School Street.

1928: Ridgeland gets electricity.

1936: Henderson's Garage is built.

1947: Ridgeland is incorporated as a town and construction of the Natchez Trace Parkway begins.

1970: Town Hall & Ridgeland Library is constructed.

1975: Ridgeland becomes a CITY!

1999: Centennial celebrated.

2010: Ridgeland designated as Bicycle Friendly Community.

2018: The Miracle League Field opens - first in the Southeast.



Open for Discovery

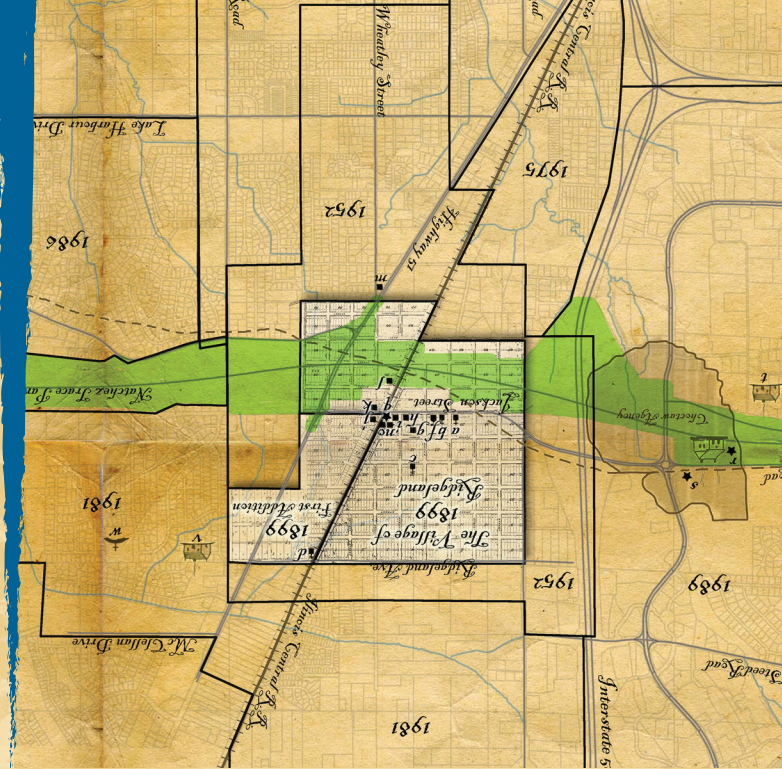
From fire to fiery personalities. A headquarters in war, a haven in peace.
A center for trade and travel: Ridgeland, Mississippi offers vibrant,
inviting history at every turn. So open your mind, open your heart –
open this map to discover more!



Ridgeland Tourism Commission
1000 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 6006
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RIDGELAND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**The History of
Ridgeland, Mississippi**
SECOND EDITION

Ridgeland

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!

CHURCHES

A tradition of faith: For well over a century, Ridgeland residents have flocked to beloved houses of worship, and several historic structures still live on and serve in various forms.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church: A legacy to learning.

Organized in 1900, the church later disbanded. The property was purchased by First Ridgeland Baptist Church, and salvaged materials from the sanctuary were used in the construction of FRBC's first buildings.

Ridgeland Methodist Church: Moving experiences.

Originally built in 1896 in northern Hinds County, Wesley Chapel Methodist Church building was torn down and each piece numbered. The lumber was hauled by mule team to Ridgeland and rebuilt on Jackson Street. Later it was moved to the northern portion of the block at the corner of Perkins and W Porter Streets.

Presbyterian Church:

Turn of the century site. Organized in 1899, the church erected its sanctuary in 1903 on Washington Street. It disbanded in the early 1940s and the sanctuary was later demolished.

Simon Hill Church: Living history.

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.

New Birth Church: Hope and faith in the future.

Organized in 1908 as New Hope Grove Church, New Birth Church continues at its location on Old Agency Parkway near Livingston Road, where it maintains the adjacent New Hope Grove cemetery.

CITY STRUCTURES

Building character: From hosting fiery characters like Andrew Jackson to facing the flames that destroyed much of the city in 1902, Ridgeland has always risen to the challenge, and our buildings have shown that unique character and grace.

Town Hall. Originally a wood structure near the intersection of Jackson and Maple Streets, Town Hall was also used as the first school starting in 1900 and for church services as well.

Old Green Hotel. Part of the kitchen of the Old Green Hotel, built in 1896, is still standing on its site at Central Street between Porter and Jackson Streets.

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-1980s). 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. Yellowley.

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 boat-men marched up from the Mississippi River. Turner Brashear opened Brashear'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 Fenil 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/Ash Plantation. The original home was owned by the Cliftons. A second home was built by Dr. Matthew Ash in 1883 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.

CEMETERIES

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

Jessamine Cemetery. Originally a family cemetery named Jessamine after Mrs. Jessie Perkins Yellowley, the two-acre cemetery was deeded to the City of Ridgeland in 1927 by the Yellowley and Perkins families. All monuments of these families 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 Pear 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.