



## Transcript for Avery Institute:

**Curtis:** First of all the Avery Normal Institute was organized actually in 1965 by the American Missionary Association which was an organization that was comprised of blacks and whites whose mission by-in-large was to organize and support educational institutions throughout the south during the aftermath of the civil war. And of course Avery is just one example of that level of commitment and support demonstrated by the American Missionary Association.

Now as far as Avery was concerned. Avery was a private school it had a classical or liberal arts kind of curriculum teaching subjects like math, science, Latin, Greek, and drama. And of course those young people who were fortunate enough to attend did exceptionally well. And in fact if you look at the development of black leadership in this community invariably you have to look at that role Avery played in that process. Again Avery was private which meant that it did cost to attend Avery and cost could be prohibitive and so it's not unusual.

I think I should say. To say that Avery in some sense granted it did a tremendous job. But many of its early attendees were people who had managed to amass a degree of property. They had some standing in the community, but in an effort to be more inclusive. What they did was to establish a cooperative here where the students themselves were given the responsibility to operate that particular store and the proceeds were used to defray the cost of tuition. And that is just one example.

Avery would make the transition or a move from a private school in 1947 and it would become a public school and it would continue until 1954. At which time the school would be closed.

*End of Video*