

Ms. Taraha Simms, Madison, Illinois Resident; Staff Member of Madison Senior High School
Transcript of interview for the Madison Historical Society Oral History Project.
Interviewed by Tyesha Carter, Madison Senior High School Social Studies Student
Date: October 20, 2023

Tyesha Carter [TC]: 00:00 [Recording Starts] Greetings. This is Tyesha Carter, and I am interviewing,

Taraha Simms [TS]: 00:03 Ms. T. (Taraha Simms)

TC: 00:04 And we are at Madison Senior High School. Today is October 28, 2023, and I am going to be asking her some questions. Okay. Do you have any family members in Madison?

TS: 00:15 Yes. I have a whole lot of family members in Madison. All of my family lives in Madison.

TC: 00:19 Does anybody like; have your parents been here?

TS: 00:33 Yes, my parents...My mom is not from here, but my father is from here. Born and raised in Madison.

TC: 00:43 Are there any places in Madison that you used to go to, but they are no longer here? If so, where are they?

TS: 00:49 Yes, there used to be a Dairy Queen, right across the street from Circle K. Circle K used to be Quik Trip. There are some little stairs that are down by Quik Trip that you can go underground, so where you wouldn't have to cross the highway. That was a staple of my childhood. Also, there was a donut shop, but I can't remember the name of it. That was on Madison Avenue, and it was really good.

TC: 01:23 What about the schools? Like how has the school changed?

TS: 01:26 So, when I was going to school, Madison School District had four schools. They had a school in Newport, which is a part of Madison which was the elementary school. They had Harris Elementary which was located in Madison, Madison Middle School, which is now Bernard Long, and Madison High School which is now the high school and Madison Jr. High.

TC: 01:49 Okay, do you have any more information that you would like to say?

TS: 01:57 Uhm, about Madison? It's a cool place. I think a lot of people are family that live here. It's a Tight-knit community. I wish we had more. I heard that we're getting a grocery store soon. So.....yeah.

TC: 02:03 Thank you.