

History of Hilham Elementary

Hilham is the oldest settlement in Overton County. It was founded by educator Moses Fisk in 1805. Hilham Elementary probably has the most unique history of any school in Overton County. In 1806, its fore runner, Fisk Academy was granted a charter as the first school for girls south of the Ohio River. Eventually, the Academy accepted boys as well as girls, and continued to operate under private charters until 1926. The High School Act of 1921 required each county to establish and maintain at least one four year high school. Consequently, Overton County constructed a high school and elementary school building under one roof on the Fisk Academy site, which would continue to be known as Fisk Academy. Then in 1943, the school was destroyed by fire. For two years, school was held in the gymnasium. By that time, Overton county had decided to build a new school on a different site. Located behind the Hilham post office the new school would be henceforth known as Hilham Elementary serving students from first to eighth grade. Hilham Elementary remained on that site until 1966 when a new building was constructed at the site where it currently stands. Since its opening in 1965, there have been three additions to the original construction with the last addition being completed in 2002.