

3-20-1993

## Madison History: A Student's Perspective

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### Recommended Citation

Losset, Courtney (1993) "Madison History: A Student's Perspective," *The Historic Huntsville Quarterly*. Vol. 19: No. 1, Article 5.

Available at: <https://louis.uah.edu/historic-huntsville-quarterly/vol19/iss1/5>

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## **MADISON HISTORY: A Student's Perspective**

Courtney Losset - 1991

Settlers came to the area in 1856 because of the coming of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. This provided them with a faster and cheaper way to ship their crops to market. The town was named "Madison Station" after James Madison.

Several battles were fought around the area in the Civil War. "The Affair at Madison Station" was one of them. This attack on the town occurred May 17, 1864 when Confederate soldiers burned the depot and captured Union soldiers' supplies. After the war ended, Madison was incorporated on November 30, 1869 and the "Station" was dropped to become simple "Madison."

Madison's unusual landmark, the roundhouse, was built in the 1880's and first used as a well. It was operated by a double hand-lever pump. It was built during the time Captain John B. Floyd (who served in the Civil War) was mayor. Over the well, there was an octagon-shaped, one-story building which served many purposes. It was used as a city hall. Elections, card playing, and hair cutting (once a week when the barber was there) were held there also. This historic landmark was sold and torn apart in 1938. It was rebuilt during the street fair on September 21, 1986. It still stands in downtown Madison.

In 1955, Madison's population grew because the Redstone Arsenal began to get bigger. N.A.S.A. and the Arsenal are both responsible for helping Madison's population grow, as farming decreased.