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<http://www.sfasu.edu/heritagecenter/7676.asp>



Jack McKinney is significant in Nacogdoches for organizing the construction of the Hotel Fredonia.



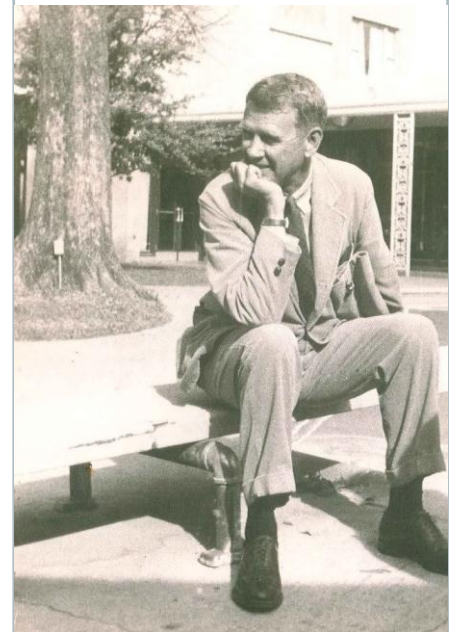
Misty Hurley, a Graduate Student in Public History at Stephen F. Austin State University, created this brochure as part of her thesis on cemetery preservation and creation of interpretive materials connecting Oak Grove Cemetery of Nacogdoches with historic sites, museums, artifacts, and archival records.



This project has been created in conjunction with the Center for Regional Heritage Research at SFASU.

Photographs courtesy of J. McKinney's and the Hotel Fredonia.

Jack McKinney



Businessman and Hotelier



Jack Raines McKinney was born October 4, 1911, in the Banita Hotel which was operated by his parents John and Laura McKinney. The hotel, also the home of the McKinneys, was constructed by his grandfather Norvel Wade in the 1890s and later purchased by Jack's parents. Jack graduated from Nacogdoches High School in 1929, and he attended Stephen F. Austin State Teacher's College and the University of Virginia where he studied history, art, engineering, and law.

When McKinney returned to Nacogdoches, he went to work for his brother at the R.W. McKinney Construction Company, which eventually became one of the principal builders of highways in the United States and internationally. In 1940 Jack and R.W. founded the McKinney Drilling Company with Jack acting as manager.

Having been born and raised in a hotel and traveling a great deal for work, Jack concluded that Nacogdoches needed a first class hotel to attract and to cater to vacationers who came to see the city's historic sites and businessmen from the lumber, gas, and oil industries. McKinney began studying the hotels he visited, even carrying along a folding ruler

to measure the size of the rooms, hallways, staircases, and the distance between the entrance and the reception desk. McKinney shared his dream with other community leaders and the group took their idea to the Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce who approved the idea on June 16, 1952. On April 1, 1955 the Hotel Fredonia opened.

McKinney's travels across the country for business inspired him to build a hotel, which would bring the luxury of larger cities to Nacogdoches to accommodate businessmen and families on their travels. This attention to detail and vintage charm is what continues to attract visitors to the Hotel Fredonia.



Visit these sites associated with Jack McKinney

- The Hotel Fredonia – 200 North Fredonia St.
- J. McKinney's Restaurant in the Hotel Fredonia – 200 North Fredonia St.
- The McKinney Drilling Company Building (now the Fine Arts Building at Stephen F. Austin State University) – corner of North St. and Wettermark St.
- Jack McKinney's grave at Oak Grove Cemetery – North Lanana St.