Bunkie High is located in the tenth ward of Avoyelles Parish in the town of Bunkie on a site of approximately 12 acres. It was built in 1924, valued at $350,000 and comprised of one brick elementary and high school classroom and cafeteria building, one brick elementary classroom building, one brick and concrete gymnasium-auditorium and one frame home economics cottage.

The new Bunkie High School is located on 23 acres of land on the Evergreen highway. It has a complete academic building and athletic complex.

HISTORY OF THE BUNKIE HIGH SCHOOL

1882 The time, 1882. The place, Bunkie. The event, the first train coming over the newly completed railroad. Such excitement! People came from Evergreen, Bayou Clear, Homesville—everywhere, to see the incoming train. The large plantation known as Irion was intersected by a new railroad known as the Texas and Pacific, and the name given the new station was Bunkie. Named by the little daughter of Capt. Sam Haas who at the time owned the property through which the railroad ran.

With the coming of the railroad, the population of the little hamlet increased and names such as A.T. Allen, first mayor and railroad agent; Dr. W. G. Branch, whose first drug store building still stands occupied by Glorioso; John D. Earnest proprietor of the first hotel; J.P.W.S. Aymond, still carrying on business in his original building; the Bridenthal's; J.T. Johnsons; Stokes; Wests and Haases, will be remembered as playing important parts in the history of Bunkie.

1884 In 1884 the town received its charter from the State.

1888 With the increase of population it became necessary to organize a school. The first school was opened on Bridenthanl's plantation with Charles Weir as the first teacher.

1889 The following year school was held in a cotton seed house where the present Bunkie Lumber Supply Company now stands, with Mr. Pickles as teacher.

1890 In 1890 the first school system was organized and was established in a new school building built where the present Bailey Hotel now stands. Among the teachers who taught there were a Mr. Boone, Mr. Meadows, Mrs. Rachel E. Terry, (Mr. Pollard, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Waddell. An amusing incident concerning the Waddells is still remembered by their pupils and is told as follows:

Mr. Waddell, a gentleman of 350 pounds plus, said some unkind things to Mrs. Waddell at the breakfast hour. The unpleasantness was carried on to school. During the school hours, Mr. Waddell found the fuel in the stove need replenishing. While attending this necessary duty he was placed in an uncomfortable and grotesque position. Mrs. Waddell gazed upon the spherical appearance his posteria presented. Retaliation! What an opportunity! Stepping up quickly and grabbing a board she soon made contact with the round form, sending him headlong into the stove. Such peals of laughter as went forth from the group of boys and girls. Can you blame them!

The school superintendent at that time was Mr. Arnaud Lafargue

1990 The school attendance increased and the building occupied became inadequate in size and facilities. A school tax was voted in 1900 for a new building, which was completed in 1901 on the site where the Old Bunkie High stood.

The first principal of the new school was A.S. Bush.

1904 Bunkie's first graduation exercise took place in the Spring of 1904 with the graduates being Ned Taliaferro, Walter Aymond, Dick Adair, and Hugh Harvey. The diplomas were not recognized by the State, but were given by the principal as in a private school.

1905 The following year the graduation class consisted of only one, Claude Harvey.

1906 Mr. Mathews replaced Mr. Bush as principal for the 1905-1906 term.

1907 The next session of 1906-1907 found Mr. Charles M. Hughes as principal. He remained as principal for four years. A number of changes took place under his leadership. One of those was that in 1907 the school became recognized by the State as a High School. In 1907, agriculture was first taught at Bunkie High School. The model farm was on the school ground. Produce was sold from this little farm and the money was used to beautify and improve the school grounds.

During this year, children were transferred from the Bayou Clear community to the High School in transfer wagons. Also in this year, the lesson period were lengthened from 30 minutes to 45 minutes.

1908 In this school year, music, both vocal and instrumental, was introduced in the school. It was taught from the first grade through the eleventh grade by special music teachers, the first being Miss Ann Hauser. Drawing was also introduced and taught for the first time by Miss Eva Valerde.

Also, during this year, the teachers received a salary of $40.00.

The School Improvement League was organized with Mrs. W. P. Smart as the first president.

1910 By this time the school had out grown the building it then occupied and a tax was voted to build a brick building to house the High School Department. The grammar grades would occupy the wooden building. The new building was completed in the summer of 1910.

1911 The first principal to officiate in the new High School building was M. L.L. Perrault. He remained as principal for three years.

1913 Mr. Bridenback became a principal and remained one session.

1914 Mr. Coincon served as principal. He remained but only one year.

1915 The 1915-1916 session opened with S.S. Thomas as principal. The State offered the first spelling certificates during this session.

1917 With the beginning of the next session, Domestic Scienc e was offered in High School with Miss Effie Davis as teacher. The course was sponsored by the School Improvement League. This organization paid the major portion of the teacher's salary and completely furnish the Domestic science rooms.

During the 1918-1919 term, the cafeteria was established by the School Improvement League. Also during this school term, motor buses were purchased to be used in the place of wagons for transfer.

A model home was built on the school grounds to house the Home Economic class. This was also built and furnished under the auspices of the School Improvement League. The completed building cost $500.00. The first teacher to occupy this building was Miss Ona Smith.

1924 The school building was dedicated to C.C.Snoddy who was principal. The Haas Auditorium, Vocational Agriculture, and Industrial Arts buildings were later added.

1954 Students who passed through Bunkie High from the fall of 1954 through the spring of 1966 will fondly recall Principal Curry L. Couvillion and his famous words, "Work, Work, Work." It was perhaps these words of advice to students that motivated the school to make giant strides in academics as well in athletics.

1970 With the coming of the 1970-1971 session, proud names, Bunkie High and Carver High, merged to form Bunkie Senior High, grades 10-12, with Harvey L. Gardiner as principal and Kelly D. Fuller as coordinator. The highlight of this session was the basketball team's appearance in the Top Twenty Tournament in Alexandria. This honor was repeated in 1973. Kelly D. Fuller coached both teams. It was also in 1971 that the school had its largest graduating class – 128.

The school remained Bunkie Senior High until 1973-1974 session when the ninth grade was returned, and the school's designation again became Bunkie High School.

1975 The 1975-1976 session opened with Roy P. Dupont serving as principal. The enrollment was 559 and the faculty consisted of 30 full-time and 2 part-time members. Of the faculty, one had an Ed. Degree, five had a Master's Plus 30, eight had Master's and sixteen had Bachelor's Degrees. Five members were pursuing higher degrees at that time.

The curriculum offered 63.5 units including three cooperative programs (Agriculture, Distributive Education, and Office Occupations). These programs involved approximately 45 seniors who attended classes in the morning and worked for pay and credit at training stations in the afternoon.

For extra-curricular activities, students could choose membership in the following organizations: FFA, FHA, FBLA, DECA, COE, BUNAVOLA, Trumpet, Boosters, and Drama Club. Beta Club, a national honor society was organized that year. Athletics included teams in football, girls and boys basketball, baseball, track, and tennis.

CURRENT Bunkie High is the second largest school in the parish. It was accredited during the session of 1906-1907 and has been a member of the Southern Association for many years, being re-certified during the session of 1982-1983. In the early years there were 641 elementary and high school students instructed by 14 elementary and 11 high school teachers. Today, Bunkie High has an enrollment of 498 and a faculty of 29. Besides the general academic courses, the school offered ad still offers speech, home economics, music, commerce, P.E., and vocational agriculture. The school's extra-curricular activities play an important part in the school life of the youth who participate in the academic, athletic, and vocational organizations.

Billy R. Hendrix was appointed as principal on June 1, 1976.

CARVER HIGH SCHOOL

A report to State Superintendent Shelby Jackson, 1960 indicates that the Negroes were given opportunities to attend high school in 1935-1936 in Bunkie and Marksville. They were looking forward to having high-school graduating classes for the first time in history of this parish in 1940.

Carver High School

Observations:

The Carver High School is located in the town of Bunkie. It is situated on a 12-acre campus. This school is housed in the following facilities:

1. A one-story brick high school building constructed in 1952. (Carver High School second building became Bunkie Middle) All interior walls are unglazed tile. Corridors have concrete floors. This building contains an office, library (standard classroom size), a science laboratory, 14 standard classrooms, and toilets with tile floors.
2. A frame classroom building constructed in 1926. (Carver School became first high school building) This building contains 12 classrooms, and toilets with concrete floors. The heaters are unvented.
3. A primary classroom building of block construction. This building has concrete floors. It contains four standard classrooms.
4. A brick cafeteria building with concrete floors. This building was constructed as a cafetorium. It has adequate kitchen and storage facilities.
5. A brick home economics cottage containing a combination living-dining room, a food laboratory with five unit kitchen, a clothing laboratory, a bedroom, and a bath. This building has excellent furniture and equipment. It is completely adequate.
6. A brick auditorium-gymnasium containing a standard basketball court, adequate dressing rooms, a stage, and two music rooms.
7. A brick industrial arts building constructed in 1956. This building contains two standard classrooms and an industrial arts shop. There are 1,390 pupils, grades 1-12, enrolled in the Carver High School Of this number 270 are enrolled in grades 9-12. During the 1959-60 school session there were 1,319 pupils attending this school.

Recommendations:

1. That the Carver High School be reorganized to enroll pupils in grades 7-12 who reside in this attendance zone.