

**Roanoke Public Libraries  
Virginia Room  
Dorothy Gibboney Collection**

**Collection Description:**

**Repository:** Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

**Accession Number:** 1986.12.18

**Title:** Dorothy Gibboney Collection

**Physical Characteristics:** 2 document storage cases

**Donated by:** Clare White

**Arrangement:** Documents are arranged alphabetically by document type.

**Creator:** Dorothy Gibboney

**Reproduction Restrictions:** No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

**Processor:** Dyron Knick, 14 December 2018

**Biographical Note:**

Dorothy Lofland Gibboney was born in Blacksburg, Virginia on 20 June 1906. When she was two years old, her family moved to Roanoke. A 1923 graduate of Roanoke High School, Gibboney only spent six years of her life outside of Roanoke; four years at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia and two years teaching in a Presbyterian Mission School in Floyd County, Virginia. In her four decades with Roanoke City Public Schools, Gibboney was a teacher, principal, and administrator.

Gibboney taught math at James Monroe Middle School for 13 years. She became principal at Melrose Elementary School in 1942 and three years later was appointed principal of Highland Park Elementary School, where she remained for nine years. She became assistant superintendent of Roanoke City Public Schools and following the resignation of E.W. Rushton in 1966, was appointed superintendent of Roanoke City Public Schools, a distinction of being the second female superintendent in the state and one of a few in the nation. Under her administration, James Madison Middle and William Ruffner Middle Schools were built and a pilot kindergarten in 1966-1967 preceded the state mandate by a year.

She retired from the school system on 20 June 1969, but remained active serving on state and city commissions and committees including the advisory board of Virginia Western Community College and the State Council on Education.

In 1978, Gibboney was awarded the Hollins Medal, Hollins University's highest honor for achievement. That same year, a new vocational education building at Patrick Henry High School was named Gibboney Hall in her honor.

Dorothy Gibboney died on 27 April 1984.

**Scope and Content:**

The Dorothy Gibboney Collection consists of materials collected by Gibboney from 1966-1980. Materials include correspondence, news clippings, awards, photographs, and programs and speaking engagements. Most of the correspondence was received during her tenure as superintendent of Roanoke City Public Schools. Items in the collection are of personal rather than administrative nature.

## **Container List:**

### **Box 1 of 2**

Folder 1: Awards

Folder 2: Correspondence, 1966 (folder 1 of 5)

Folder 3: Correspondence, 1966 (folder 2 of 5)

Folder 4: Correspondence, 1966 (folder 3 of 5)

Folder 5: Correspondence, 1966 (folder 4 of 5)

Folder 6: Correspondence, 1966 (folder 5 of 5)

Folder 7: Correspondence, 1967

Folder 8: Correspondence, 1968

Folder 9: Correspondence, 1969 (folder 1 of 2)

Folder 10: Correspondence, 1969 (folder 2 of 2)

### **Box 2 of 2**

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1970-1978

Folder 2: Correspondence, 1979-1980

Folder 3: News clippings, 1966-1980

Folder 4: Photographs

Folder 5: Programs and speaking engagements (folder 1 of 2)

Folder 6: Programs and speaking engagements (folder 2 of 2)