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What's In A Name:

Profiles of the Trailblazers



*History and Heritage
of
District of Columbia
Public & Public Charter
Schools...*



Samuel Chapman Armstrong Technical High School, located at 1400 First Street, NW, (Armstrong Manual Training School) is named for Union Army General Samuel Chapman Armstrong who commanded the 8th US Colored Troops (USCT). As commander, he established a school to educate black soldiers, most of whom had no education as slaves. After the war, Armstrong joined the Freedmen's Bureau. With the help of the American Missionary Association, he established the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute—now known as Hampton University—in Hampton, Virginia in 1868.

Armstrong was the preeminent example of a national campaign for vocational training for African-Americans, and served as one of the first DC high schools for African American students. Illustrative of the educational

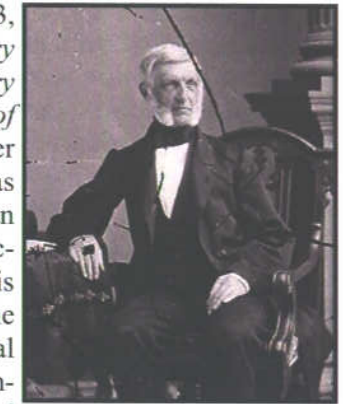


philosophy promoted by Booker T. Washington, it was an important and symbolic institution. Designed by noted architect, Waddy B. Wood and built in 1901-02, its architecture is an excellent example of Renaissance Revival style municipal architecture (selected through a design competition). Armstrong served as one of two segregated manual training schools. The shop and gymnasium were built in 1912. The attic and three-story annex, stripped classical style, in yellow brick and limestone, was added in 1924-27. The Armstrong building also served as an adult education center until closed in 1996. The building was vacant until purchased by the Community Academy Public Charter School. After extensive renovations, Armstrong now serves preschool to 5th graders.



Bancroft Elementary was designed by architect, Albert L. Harris, and built in 1924. The first installment of this school for white students was an eight-room section closest to the corner of 18th & Newton Streets, NW. It was constructed to

relieve overcrowding in the group of schools on Hiatt Place, NW caused by the rapid development of Mount Pleasant. The school was named in honor of the American historian, George Bancroft, born October 3, 1800. He wrote the 12-volume *History of the United States from the Discovery of America to the Inauguration of Washington*. He also served as minister to Great Britain. George Bancroft was an American historian and statesman who was prominent in promoting secondary education in the US. During his tenure as U.S. Secretary of the Navy, he established the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1845. Bancroft, an anti-slavery Democrat and Lincoln supporter, delivered Lincoln's memorial address to Congress on February 12, 1866, the first birthday following the President's assassination.



Today, Bancroft serves Pre-K to 6th grade students. The school features beautiful flower and organic vegetable gardens. Several lucky 5th graders had the opportunity to visit with First Lady Michelle Obama and help plant the first White House vegetable garden. First Lady Obama returned the favor, visiting Bancroft to help plant cucumber and red pepper plants in Bancroft's student-supported gardens.

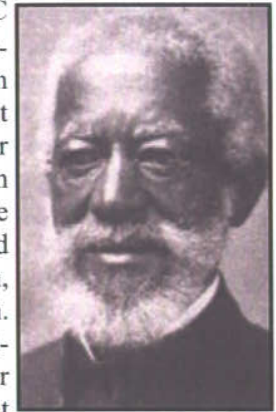


Cardozo Senior High School, located at 1300 Clifton Street, NW, is named for Francis Lewis Cardozo who served as a clergyman, educator and politician in his native South Carolina and in Washington, DC. He was the first African American to hold a statewide office (secretary of state) in the United States and reformed the South Carolina Land Commission which distributed land to former slaves. Cardozo was elected state treasurer in 1872 and reelected in 1874 and 1876. As principal of the Colored Preparatory High School, (later known as Paul Laurence Dunbar High School), Cardozo introduced a business curriculum and made Dunbar the leading preparatory school for African Americans in the country.

Cardozo is the District's largest and most elaborate high school. It is the successor to Washington High School which was opened in 1882. The school was designed by nationally prominent school architect, William B. Ittner, from the city of St. Louis. Prior to 1949, Cardozo was known as Central High School, but was renamed when the school district deemed it a "colored" school. Today, the U St./African-American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo Metro Stop is partially named for the school. Likewise, an older name for the Columbia Heights neighborhood is Upper Cardozo. Significant demographic changes began in the late 1940s when African American residents began to occupy homes previously owned by whites. The neighborhood remained a middle-class African American enclave, along with the nearby Shaw and Cardozo neighborhoods and Howard University through the mid-1960s. Cardozo was one of 11 schools nation-wide selected by the College Board for inclusion in the EXCEerator School Improvement Model program beginning the 2006-2007 school year. The project was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



During 1910 and 1911, the Washington DC Board of Education authorized the construction of four new schools, including a modern brick structure located at 1990 Gallaudet Street, NE. It was named for Alexander Crummell, the son of a former slave, Boston Crummell, and freeborn Charity Hicks. He became a prominent, nationally renowned African American educator and clergyman, who emphasized self-help and education. Mr. Crummell was appointed "missionary-at-large of the colored people" in 1873. After retiring from the ministry in 1894, he taught at Howard University (1895-1897) and founded the American Negro Academy, which promoted the publication of scholarly work dealing with African American culture and history. Notable members included W.E.B. Du Bois and Paul Laurence Dunbar.



The Alexander Crummell School was designed by Snowden Ashford (1866-1927), a native of Washington, DC. Ashford designed fire houses, police stations and other schools that included Congress Heights and Military Road. The Crummell School was erected in 1911 by contractor, Alan Howison and dedicated on November 23, 1911 with a gala event that included addresses by the superintendent of schools, members of the Board of Education and representatives of the Ivy City Citizens Association. Generations of African American children were educated at the historic Alexander Crummell School until 1972, the last year the building was used for educational purposes. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today this proud symbol sits with shattered glass and collapsing window frames. A large section of the metal roof has been lost, and classrooms below appear open to the rains through warped sheathing and naked rafters. At the time that historic schools across the district are finding new life as housing, will Crummell be saved?



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Duke Ellington School of the Arts, formerly Western High School, is located at 1698 35th Street, NW. Erected in 1898, it was designed by Robert Frost Daggett. Harry B. Davis was the architect. Organized in 1890 and first housed at the old Curtis School on O Street, the school origi-



nally served white students in the western section of the District and suburbs. It accepted its first class as a high school for the arts in 1974, and graduated its last regular high school class in 1976. Ellington developed from the collaborative efforts between Peggy Cooper Cafritz and the late Mike Malone, founders of Workshops for Careers in the Arts in 1968. Workshops grew to become the Duke Ellington School of the Arts at Western High School in 1974—an accredited four-year public high school program combining arts and academics. It is an accredited college preparatory public school offering pre-professional training in museum studies, literary media, visual arts, dance, theater, instrumental and vocal music.



The school's name honors the famous Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, born April 29, 1899 in Washington, DC. Ellington was an African-American composer, pianist, and band leader, renowned as one of the most influential figures in American music. One of the originators of big-band jazz, Ellington led his band for more than half a century, composed thousands of scores, and created one of the most distinctive ensemble sounds in all of Western music.

He earned 13 Grammy Awards. Ellington died in New York City on May 24, 1974 at the age of 75.



Originally named Preparatory High School for Colored Youth and later known as M Street High School, the name was changed in honor of poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, the first African-American poet to garner national critical acclaim. Born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1872, Dunbar wrote a dozen books of poetry, four books of short stories, five novels, and a play. He also wrote lyrics for *In Dahomey* - the first musical written and performed entirely by African-Americans

to appear on Broadway in 1903. Dunbar died from tuberculosis on February 9, 1906, at 33. He was praised both by prominent literary critics and contemporaries of his time.

Dunbar High School, located at 1301 New Jersey Ave, NW, was the

nation's first high school for black students. So known for its excellent academics, black parents moved to Washington specifically so their children could attend. Its faculty earned parity pay to Washington's white school teachers because they were federal employees, unheard of for black teachers at that time. Nearly 80 percent of its graduates went on to college, at a time when few blacks could. Dunbar was considered the nation's best high school for African Americans in the first half of the 20th century and helped



make Washington, DC an educational and cultural capital. Some of Dunbar's outstanding graduates include, Nannie Helen Burroughs, noted educator and business woman; Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., the first African American Army General; Carter G. Woodson, father of Black History Month; Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC Delegate to Congress; and Vincent Gray, Chairman of the DC City Council.

The Gage School, located at 2035 2nd Street, NW was named in honor of Nathaniel Parker Gage, an educator of extraordinary ability. A student from his first class recalled the regrettable state of District public schools just before Gage arrived. He also noted the changes that were made, and the revolution of the free school system in the District. He described the trepidation with which the boys awaited the arrival of the new "Yankee" teacher at their makeshift school building at 14th & P Streets on the outskirts of town. Accustomed to classroom discipline enforced by beatings, the boys were surprised to find Gage's teaching method was entirely different. He led by quiet example and provided a course of study sufficient for college entrance although the boys were under fifteen years old at graduation. Gage established a school paper, organized a debate society, and provided military training by drilling a company equipped with wooden guns. Gage served as principal until 1877 when he was named supervising principal of the public schools in the 2nd Division and served in that position until his death in 1903.

Nathaniel Parker Gage
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at this time



Gage School was designed by architect Lemuel W. Norris in 1902, and built by Gleeson & Humphrey in 1904. Howard University purchased the

building in March 2002. The school had fallen into great disrepair, but by 2005 there was a new vision for the Gage School. The property became Parker Flats, a three-site housing development, which won the 2008 American Institute of Architecture (AIA) Northern Virginia Chapter Award of Excellence in Historic Architecture and the 2008 DC AIA Chapter/Washingtonian Residential Design Awards: Exceptional Design Award.



Gales Elementary School, located at 65 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, was named in honor of Joseph Gales, Jr. the son of publisher Joseph Gales, Sr., founder of the "Raleigh Register." Gales, learned the art of stenography and gained a knowledge of printing affairs. He eventually joined the print business as a publishing assistant for the "Intelligencer" established by his father. He was also one of the proprietors of the "National Intelligencer" a great journal known the world over. He served as the Mayor of the City of Washington from July 31, 1827 to June 1830.

Gales School was designed by Edward Clark, architect of the Capitol, and built in 1881. The builder is unknown. The school served special needs children. Closed in 1944, students were transferred to nearby Seaton School. Later the school housed the DC Health Department and a temporary shelter for the homeless. The Gales School is unique in that it is only three stories and has no tower, a feature that led to a listing on the District Inventory of Historic Sites in 2002. The school is currently undergoing extensive renovations by Central Union Mission, a Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to serving DC's hurting and homeless population for 124 years. The Gales' School location will offer the District's underserved populations critical access to emergency food, lodging, clothes, counseling services, rehabilitation programs, spiritual development and more.

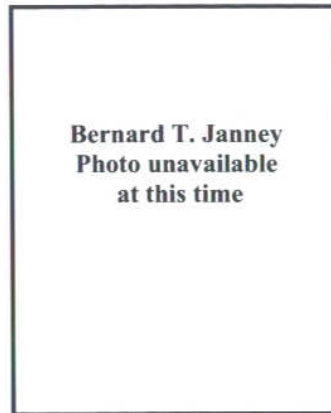


The Hayes School, located at 1005 5th Street, NE, is named in honor of the 19th President, Rutherford B. Hayes. In 1876, well before the Bush v. Gore electoral vote dispute, Hayes' opponent Samuel J. Tilden won the popular vote, but lost the electoral vote. Hayes won the 1876 election only after the creation of a special commission to decide disputed electoral votes. Because of the tension surrounding his election, Hayes secretly took the oath of office on Saturday, March 3, 1877, in the Red Room of the White House.



Built in 1897, the Hayes School is one of the earliest documented examples of a District public school building designed by an architect, Charles E. Burden, in private practice under a new policy initiative of 1896-97. This new policy represented a break from the common practice to design schools in variations of the Romanesque Revival style and built by the Building Inspector's Office. From 1896 to 1910 schools were designed in the Classical and Renaissance Revival and the Italianate styles. Many were designed by Washington architects in private practice under contract with the Building Inspector's Office. The District Commissioners instigated this change in the interest of improving the esthetic quality of school buildings. Today, Hayes School is owned by the District government and is on the DC Preservation League's most endangered buildings list. It is slated to become the Ward Six Senior Wellness Center

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Janney School, located at 4130 Albe-marle Street, NW, was named for Bernard T. Janney, an educator born in Loudoun County, Virginia. Educated at Westtown Friends School in West-town, Pennsylvania, he began teaching in his own state. He served in the Civil War from 1861 to 1864 in the northern army. He retired as a Cap-tain. In 1871, he was appointed teacher of grades one through eight at Brightwood Elementary School in Washington, DC. Three years later he

became supervisor of the Georgetown schools in the District, serving until 1916. Mr. Janney was univer-sally known and highly esteemed throughout all of the Georgetown area. A tall man of dignified and soldierly bearing, he was an im-pressive figure when he walked into a classroom. He died January 14, 1916.



Janney School serves the commu-nity of American University Park and part of Friendship Heights. It was designed by architect Albert L. Harris and was built in 1925. When the building was completed, it opened its doors that fall to 585 stu-dents in grades three through eight. In 1932, when the second phase of Janney's construction was completed and Alice Deal Junior High School opened, kindergarten through sixth grade were taught at Jan-ney. Children in kindergarten through second grade attended the nearby Tenley School. Today, Janney School has 20 classes for grades pre-kindergarten through fifth and enrolls approximately 500 students with over 50 faculty and staff. It ranks as one of the highest performing schools in the District. In 2007, on the DC Compre-hensive Assessment System, 83 percent of Janney students performed at a proficient level or higher in reading, and 81 percent performed at a proficient level or higher in math.



Mmilitary Road School, located at 1375 Missouri Avenue, NW was built in 1912. The architect was Snowden Drake and the builder was Sinker and Garrett. Although not associated with a specific person, the original Military Road

School was so named for its location on Military Road, a road used to transport soldiers and supplies to nearby Fort Stevens during the Civil War. This section of Military Road is now called Missouri Avenue.

The Military Road School was born out of slavery. Though slaves had limited freedom, they yearned to pursue their dreams. From approximately 1840 until well after the present structure was occupied, temporary buildings in the immediate vicinity served as school facilities for African American children. In early 1864, the Military Road School began as many of the thirty thousand ex-slaves in the District sought an education. At first, students attended school in the army barracks at Fort Stevens. Later on, the original Military Road School, a two-room frame school for white children, was built in late 1864 and transferred to Negroes during the Civil War. The present brick Military Road School replaced the frame structure and was erected near the original frame structure on the same site in 1912. For many years, the Military Road School was the only school for black children in the District of Columbia. With public school desegregation in 1954, the school was closed and has since been used for special education students and by the Washington Urban League as a word processing training center. In 1998, the school was designated a historic landmark by the Historic Preservation Review Office of Washington, DC. In 2003, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service.



PPeabody Elementary School was named for George Peabody. When Peabody was born in 1795 in Danvers, Massachusetts, his namesake George Washington was president. Because he was born into a poor family and had limited access to schooling, he implicitly understood the value of a good education—which later became one of the foundations of his philanthropic philosophy. He was an entrepreneur and philanthropist who founded the Peabody Institute in 1857. Peabody is the acknowledged father of modern philanthropy. He established the Peabody Education Fund to encourage the intellectual, moral, and industrial education of the destitute children of the Southern States.

Peabody Elementary is located at 425 C St, NE. Today it is called The Primary Program at Peabody, part of the Capitol Hill Cluster Schools, and serves three-year-olds, pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students.

At Peabody, the entire campus is designed to make a young child's first exposure to school positive. The brightly-colored lobby and classrooms display beautiful, fantastic art, including a full-sized tree decorated with items made by the children.



From the newly-renovated library and art studios, to a large playground with equipment in a range of sizes just right for young children, and kid-friendly gardens, are all integral parts of the classroom experience. The literacy-focused curriculum, which is aligned with DC public school content standards for early learners, is brought to life through hands-on activities by Peabody's teachers and staff. Classroom and garden activities are supplemented by field trips, exploratory walks around Capitol Hill, and in-school visits from local artists and musicians.



The John W. Ross School was built in 1888 by the Office of the Building Inspector. It was originally known as the John Quincy Adams School, which served white students in the Dupont Circle area. The building functioned as a school until 1929 when it became an administrative annex. After the new Adams School at 19th and California Streets, NW was completed in 1930 and the old John W. Ross School on Harvard Street between 11th and 13th Streets, NW was razed in 1933, this building was renamed in honor of

Ross in 1935. Ross also was a law professor at Georgetown University Law School and served as postmaster General of the District of Columbia from 1880 to 1890. Ross served as a District Commissioner from 1890 to 1902. Commissioners oversaw the appointment of superintendents for both the White and Colored School Districts. In 1900, During Ross's tenure the colored superintendent's position was abolished by legislation to promote "one district" for all students. The position was renamed "assistant superintendent," and supervised by a white superintendent. This decision effectively removed what little power and independence the colored district had. In a speech to the United Women's Club, noted educator, Mary Church Terrell, said *"Now, no matter how competent or superior the colored teachers in our public schools may be, they know that they can never rise to the height of a directorship, can never hope to be more than an assistant and receive the meager salary"*

Used variously as a school and administrative annex during the 1930s through the 1960s, the Ross school today is an elementary school and daycare center. Ross has a culture of high expectations and a learning atmosphere that is happy and nurturing.



School Without Walls is a small District of Columbia public high school for grades 9-12. Located on the George Washington University campus, at G and 22nd Streets NW, the school prides itself on being a multicultural community of learners. The school was originally named for Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th President of the United States. Born in 1822, Grant was the son of an Ohio tanner and a graduate of West Point. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Grant

worked in his father's leather store in Galena, Illinois. He was appointed by the Governor to command a volunteer regiment and by September 1861 he had risen to the rank of brigadier general of volunteers. Grant won battles at Fort Henry, Vicksburg and Chattanooga. Abraham Lincoln appointed him General-in-Chief in March 1864. Grant directed Sherman to drive through the South while he and the Army of the Potomac, pinned down Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, accepting Lee's surrender in 1865.

Founded in 1971, School Without Walls provides a challenging academic curriculum and encourages students to "use the city as a classroom." It was first established as an experimental learning environment with just one small class of students. The program slowly expanded over the years. In 1978, the school moved to its current location. The original Architect/Builder of Grant School was John B. Brady. The architect of School Without Walls is EE&K Architects.





Shaw Junior High School, located at 925 Rhode Island Ave., NW, was named for Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, commander of the all-black 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, which entered the American Civil War in 1863. He is the principal subject of the 1989 film *Glory*. The 54th was sent to Charleston, South Carolina, and on July 18, 1863, along with two brigades of white troops, the 54th assaulted Confederate Battery Wagner. In the face of fierce Confederate fire, Shaw led his men into battle shouting, "Forward, 54th Forward!" He urged his men forward, but was shot through the heart dying almost instantly. He was buried in a mass grave along with many of his men. The Confederates considered this an insult, but Shaw's father publicly proclaimed his pride to know that his son was interred with his troops, befitting his role as a soldier and a crusader for social justice.

Built upon the site of the Wheatley Coal and Lumber Yard, Shaw opened as the McKinley Manual Training School in 1901. The all-white school offered an alternative track for students, providing training in carpentry, machinery, and metalwork. The program was immensely popular, causing multiple expansions. When a new school was built in 1928, the old building was transferred into the black school system and Shaw moved from its location at the old M Street High School. Despite the deplorable building conditions, which lent it the moniker "Shameful Shaw," and repeated denials of funding for a new school, Shaw students continued to attend until a new school was completed in 1977. Asbury United Methodist Church bought the old property and converted to senior housing. Today, Shaw Junior High was merged with Garnet-Patterson Middle School, and renamed Shaw Middle School @ Garnet-Patterson. The school is currently located at 2001 10th Street NW, while the permanent building is being renovated.



Henry Smothers
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at this time

Smothers Elementary School is located at 4400 Brooks Street, NE. Constructed to serve black students in the far northeast section of the District, the school was named in honor of Henry Smothers, founder and teacher of a school for free Black children in the District in the 1820s. One of the many extensible school buildings designed in the District in the 1920s, the Henry Smothers Elementary School was built in two sections between

1923 and 1938. The earlier section was designed under the supervision of Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris, while the later sections fell under his successor, Nathan C. Wyeth.

In 1818, the Resolute Beneficial Society, a mutual aid society formed by free Blacks in the District of Columbia to provide health and burial benefits for members, opened the first school for Black children in Washington. The school was free. In 1822, after the Society was forced by economic circumstances



to close the school, Henry Smothers, provided a classroom and taught his neighbors' children free of charge. He then built a schoolhouse at 14th and H Street, NW, near the current site of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, where as many as 100 Black children attended. When the costs of the school became too great for Mr. Smothers to bear, John Prout, another Black man, took over, charging each pupil a 12 1/2 cent monthly tuition.



John Philip Sousa Junior High School, a National Historic Landmark, is associated with the struggle to desegregate schools in the nation's capitol. In September 1950, student Spottwood Bolling and eleven other black students were denied admission to the newly constructed all-white Sousa School. This action was eventually overturned in the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Bolling*

v. Sharpe, which made segregated public schools illegal in the District of Columbia. This defeat of the principle of "separate but equal" marked an early victory in the modern Civil Rights Movement.

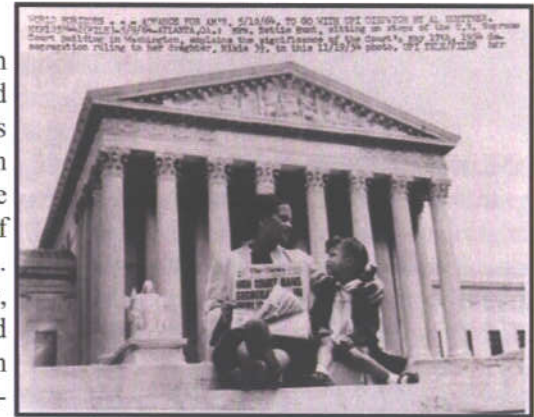
Between 1930 and 1950, the black population in the District of Columbia doubled. For the first time, Federal job opportunities for African Americans became available in the New Deal program of the 1930s, and opportunities also arose for African Americans in the service sectors and skilled markets. During this time the black student population increased from 33 percent to 50 percent. Overcrowding worsened as World War II halted school construction. Between 1941 and 1947 about 10 percent of the black student population went on double or even



triple shifts, while white schools had rooms to spare. School administrators planned to construct new schools for the long-term, but an immediate fix turned 21 all-white schools to all-black. White parents resented this, as did black parents who viewed the schools as "hand-me-downs." In late 1949, a group of Anacostia parents, the Consolidated Parents Group, joined with James Nabrit, Howard University professor of law, secretary, and future president of the University to legally challenge the separate but equal doctrine.

The parents petitioned the school board to use Sousa Junior High School on an integrated basis, as it could adequately offer Anacostia pupils a full program without additional cost for repairs or construction and not be overcrowded. On September 11, 1950, the head of the Consolidated Parents' Group, along with Bolling and the 11 black students, presented themselves at the brand new Sousa School for admission "with a police escort and a battery of lawyers." The principal refused to admit the children and Bolling then began his school year at Shaw Junior High, a 48-year-old school, ill-equipped, with a playground too small for a ball field, a welding shop turned into a makeshift gymnasium, and science lab with a Bunsen burner and a bowl of goldfish.

Nabrit brought suit on behalf of Bolling and four other plaintiffs against C. Melvin Sharpe, president of the Board of Education of the District of Columbia. True to Nabrit's strategy, the Bolling case charged simply that segregation in itself was discrimination. The NAACP public



school segregation cases before the Supreme Court became one, joining similar cases from Delaware, Virginia, South Carolina, DC, and Kansas, naming it after the later case *Brown v. Board of Education* to show that the issue was not unique to the South. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court issued its decisions. In the *Bolling* decision, the court found racial segregation in the District's public schools a denial to black children of the due process of law guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment.

John Philip Sousa Junior High School stands as a symbol of the lengthy conflict that led to the racial desegregation of public schools by the Federal government. Located at 3650 Ely Place, in Southeast Washington, DC, it is still in use as a middle school.



Located at 21st and L Streets NW, the Stevens school was built in 1868 and served as the first publicly funded modern school in the District built for African American students. In 2008 when it closed it was the city's oldest school in continuous operation. The school honors Pennsylvania Congressman Thaddeus Stevens (1792–1868) an important abolitionist who served as U.S. representative from Pennsylvania. He was first elected in 1848 and was a constant opponent of extending slavery or appeasing the South. He was known

as a Radical Republican who favored wiping out the South, recolonizing it, and establishing new state lines. He was chairman of the Committee on Reconstruction and the main politician behind the effort to impeach President Andrew Johnson. Stevens was an extreme egalitarian, who worked his entire life to reduce the distinctions between rich and poor as well as between black and white.



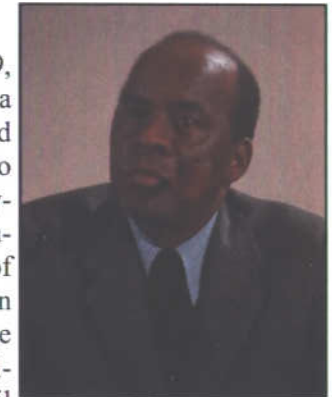
Among the outstanding men and women whose beginnings are attributed to Stevens include eminent black historian, editor and civil rights activist Rayford Logan; community activist and radio personality,

Ralph Waldo (Petey) Greene Jr.; physician and medical researcher Dr. Charles R. Drew; and former president Jimmy Carter's daughter, Amy.



Located at 410 E Street, NE, Stuart-Hobson Middle School is part of the Capitol Hill Cluster School and teaches 5th through 8th grade students. The former Stuart Junior High School, Stuart-Hobson was designed by archi-

tect Albert L. Harris, and constructed between 1925 and 1927. It serve white students in the northeast section of the Capitol Hill neighborhood in the District of Columbia. As an institution, then Stuart Junior High School was housed in several older elementary schools on Capitol Hill. It was named in honor of Alexander Tait Stuart, superintendent of District of Columbia Public Schools from 1908 to 1911. When the building was completed, the school relieved overcrowding in the area's smaller schools housing the seventh and eighth grades in addition to the ninth grade. In 1986, a reorganization of the Capitol Hill schools resulted in the creation of the Stuart-Hobson Middle School to serve grades 5 through 8. The renamed school honored Julius Hobson, member of the DC Board of Education and civil rights leader.



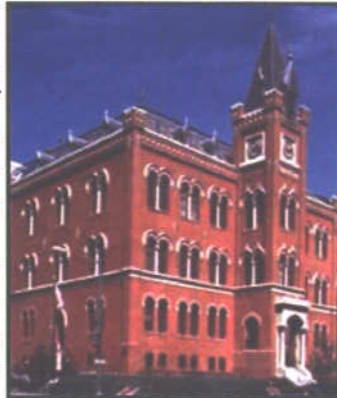
Julius W. Hobson was born on May 29, 1919, in Birmingham, Alabama. Hobson a fiery, outspoken civil rights activist, battled the District of Columbia establishment to reform education, housing, and employment for the city's African-American population. He was elected to the DC Board of Education in 1968, and the City Council in 1974. Hobson was a key founder of the D.C. Statehood Party. In the national political arena, he was a leader in major civil rights organizations, an early advocate of black power, and the Vice Presidential candidate on the People's Party ticket with Dr. Benjamin Spock in 1972. A World War II veteran, Hobson died on March 23, 1977, in Washington, DC.



The Charles Sumner School was named in honor of US Senator Charles Sumner, an American politician and statesman from Massachusetts. An academic lawyer and a powerful orator, Sumner was the leader of the antislavery forces in Massachusetts and a leader of the Radical Republicans in the U.S. Senate during the American Civil War and Reconstruction. Sumner fought hard to provide equal civil and voting rights for the freedmen. Sumner opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act and

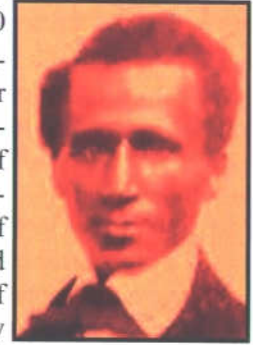
the return of fugitive slaves by Union troops. He also fought for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, the creation of a Freedman's Bureau, the admission of testimony from African Americans in the proceedings of the US Supreme Court, pay for black soldiers equal to that of whites, and the right of African Americans to use streetcars in the District of Columbia.

Sumner School, located on 17th and M Streets, NW, was constructed in 1872 and designed by Washington architect Adolph Cluss. It was one of the first public school buildings erected for the education of Washington's black community. The Sumner School was built on the site of an earlier school constructed in 1866 under the auspices of the Freedmen's Bureau. Since its dedication in 1872, the School's history encompasses the growing educational opportunities



available for the District of Columbia's African Americans. Sumner School stands as one of the few physical reminders of the presence and history of African Americans in one of the most historic areas of the city. It now houses a museum, conference and meeting rooms, and an archive for the DC public schools. The museum is currently open to the public free of charge.

The William Syphax School, located at 1360 Half St SW, Washington DC, was an historically black school built in 1901, and named for the first African-American member of the congressionally established Board of Trustees of Colored Schools of Washington and Georgetown. William Syphax, the first President of the Board, denounced segregated schools and was a tireless advocate of equal standards of education. Syphax was born in 1825 shortly after the troublous days of the Missouri Com-



promise. He witnessed the growing hatred and sectional discords that resulted in the Compromise of 1850. He saw the devastating effects of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, the Dred Scott Decision, the John Brown Raid, and lived through the hectic days of disunion, civil war and subsequent reconstruction. Until his death, Syphax worked tirelessly to create a public school system in the District of Colombia with equal educational opportunities. Syphax was truly a pioneer in Negro education in the District. He died in 1891 at the age of 66.



The school was designed by noted Washington architects Marsh & Peter in a Colonial Revival style. The red brick building is two stories tall with a full English basement and attic. After many years of use the school closed

in the early 90's and conditions deteriorated. The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA), the largest civic organization in the area, gained control of the school from the DC Public Schools and assigned its contract to Manna in 1998. Today Syphax School is a high visibility, dominant structure in the neighborhood and its preservation and redevelopment maintains an important historical and cultural landmark.

**Strong John Thomson
No Picture Available
at this time**

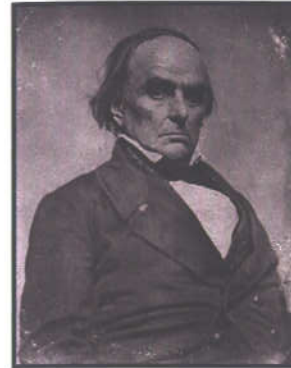
Strong John Thomson Elementary School is located at 1200 L Street, NW (originally 1024 12th St., NW) Washington, DC. Entering its 140th year of providing an excellent education for the children of the District of Columbia, Strong John Thomson Elementary School began in 1869 as a private two-story, two-room schoolhouse called the Thomson Private Academy for Boys. The school is located on the corner of

12th and L Streets NW. Girls were accepted in later years and the school was desegregated in 1954.

The original structure was razed and a new building was built in 1910. The Thomson School was the first District of Columbia Public School to introduce Chinese language instruction. The



Strong John Thomson School was named in honor of the 19th century educator who served as a teacher and principal in the District's public schools. Thomson was born in Washington, DC on December 13, 1813. He began teaching in DC in 1852. From 1854 to 1855, he was the Principal of the Male Primary School of the 4th District, and from 1855 to 1869 he was the Principal of the Male Grammar School of the First District. In 1869, Thomson purchased a lot on 12th Street between K and L and built the Thomson Private Academy for Boys. Six years later, he sold the property and the school to the District of Columbia. Strong John Thomson served with the DC Public Schools from 1876 until his death in 1897. The architects of the Thomson School were Marsh & Peter (1869) and Snowden Ashford (1910).



Daniel Webster Elementary, located at 10th and H Streets, NE, was named for a leading American statesman, Daniel Webster, during the nation's Antebellum Period. His nationalistic views and the effectiveness with which he articulated them led Webster to become one of the most famous orators and influential Whig leaders of the Second Party System. Webster was an attorney, and served as Secretary of State during which time he negotiated the Webster-Ashburton Treaty

that established the eastern border between the United States and Canada. Primarily recognized for his Senate tenure, Webster was a key figure in the institution's "Golden days". So well-known was his skill as a Senator throughout this period that Webster became the northern member of a trio known as the "Great Triumvirate", with his colleagues Henry Clay from the west and John C. Calhoun from the south. His "Reply to Hayne" in 1830 was generally regarded as "the most eloquent speech ever delivered in Congress."

**Webster School
photo unavailable
at this time**

The Daniel Webster School was constructed to serve white students who lived close to the downtown area of the District of Columbia. It was named in honor of Daniel Webster, celebrated orator, Senator from Massachusetts, and Secretary of State. It served in that capacity until the population shifted away from the area and the enrollment dwindled. Between 1924 and 1949, the building housed the Americanization School. In 1950, the Webster School was converted to a DC Public Schools administrative annex. Thirteen years later, the Girls' Junior-Senior High School was organized and housed in the school. A model of its kind, the program was directed as providing education and medical care for single mothers. After the Girls' School was phased out, Webster housed special education classes. Today, the Webster School houses the administrative offices of the DC Public Schools special education program.

What's In A Name:

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