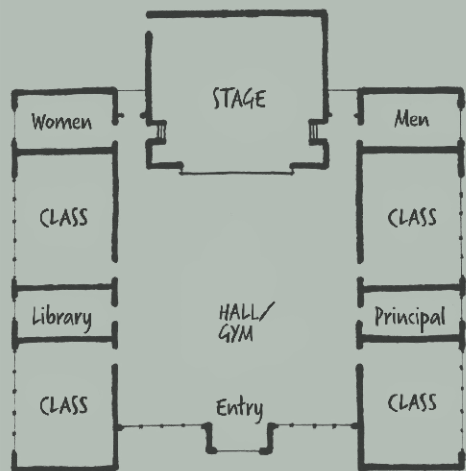


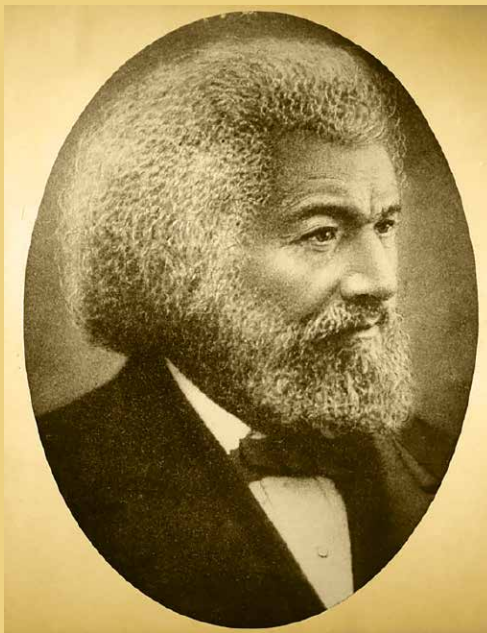
Douglass High School was built during segregation and was Loudoun County's first and only Black high school from 1941 to 1968 when segregated education ended in Loudoun County.



ABOVE: LAYOUT OF SCHOOL C.1941
BELOW: DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL C.1941



COVER PHOTO - DOUGLASS SCHOOL FACULTY, C.1950:
STANDING: AUDREY BELL, I.J DANIELS, GEORGE BARRETT,
ULYSSES OLIVER (PRINCIPAL), BERNICE SEWELL; SEATED:
MARY OLIVER, RUTH CRAVEN, MILDRED MARTIN



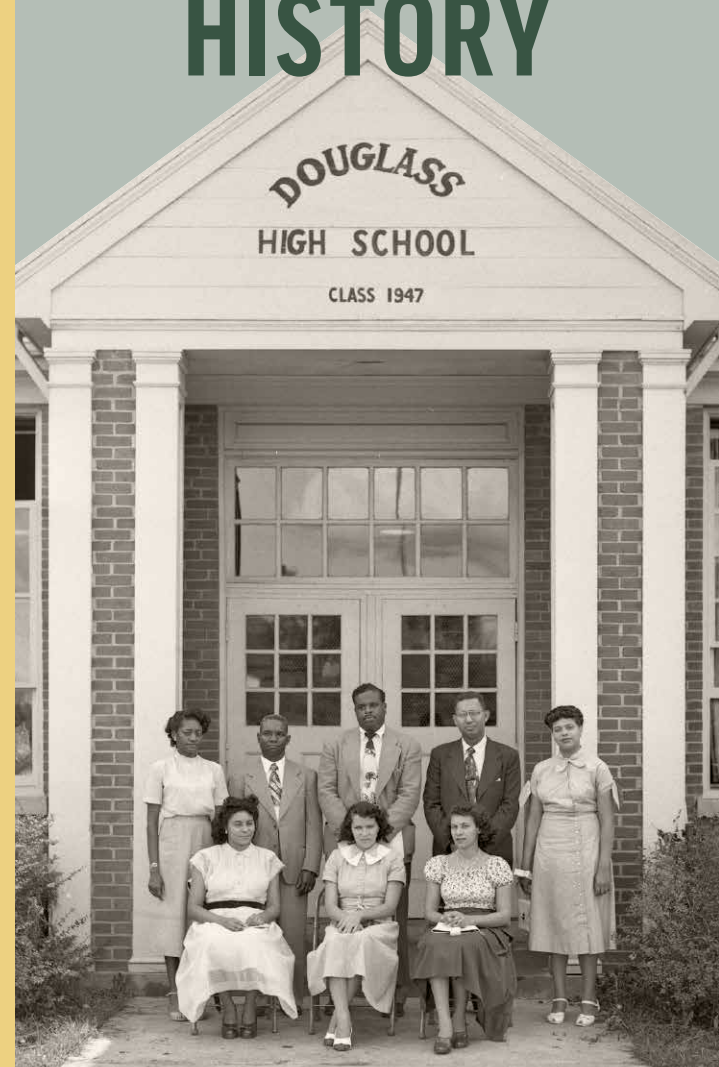
“In a composite nation like ours, as before the law, there should be no rich, no poor, no high, no low, no white, no black, but common country, common citizenship, equal rights and a common destiny.”

FREDERICK DOUGLASS



THE HISTORIC DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL
EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT CAMPUS
407 E MARKET STREET, LEESBURG, VA 20175

A BRIEF HISTORY



**DOUGLASS
HIGH SCHOOL**
1941-1968



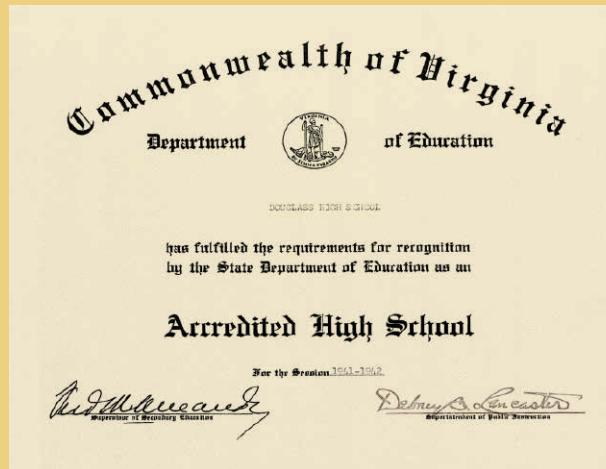
A Brief History of Douglass High School

Before the construction of Douglass High School, Black high school students attended classes in an unsafe building on the 2nd floor of the Loudoun County Training School, located on Union Street. Some high school classes were taught in the 1920s and a full high school program was established in September of 1930. For years delegations of Black parents and patrons met with the School Board requesting adequate facilities and additional teachers for their children. They were repeatedly told there were no funds to purchase land, yet funds were found to purchase additional land for white schools.

Undeterred, the parents worked together and, with the help of Jeanes Supervisor, Gertrude Alexander, formed the County-Wide League (League) in 1938 to consolidate and strengthen their efforts. The League was comprised of parent-teacher associations of various Black schools in Loudoun County.

Mr. John Wanzer of Middleburg, Virginia was elected President of the League and remained in that position for 25 years. The community raised \$4,000, through donations, bake sales and the assistance of Willie Hall, a Middleburg business owner, who obtained a loan so that a school site could be secured. With that money in hand the League was able to negotiate and purchase the land the school now sits on from William S. Gibbons, to build an accredited high school

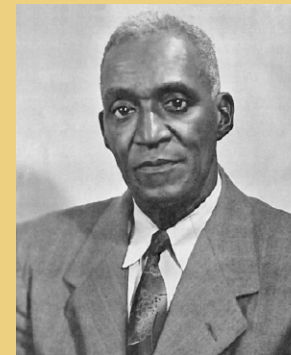
The League hired well-known D.C. civil rights attorney Charles Hamilton Houston to help persuade county officials to allocate funds for the new school.



CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION 1941-1942



GERTRUDE ALEXANDER



JOHN WANZER



UNION STREET SCHOOL C.1940



ATTORNEYS FOR LANDMARK CASE

The School Board agreed to fund the high school if the League sold the land to the School Board for \$1.

In 1941, the School Board obtained a loan of \$30,000 from the State Literary Fund to build the school. Named in memory of Frederick Douglass, the noted black abolitionist and orator, Douglass High School exemplifies the Black community's determination to obtain improved educational opportunities for their children. While the school system constructed the school, essential items were purchased and donated through the school community's continued fundraising efforts and included laboratory, home economics, and band equipment.

The landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*, was decided in 1954 and declared "in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" and unconstitutional. Loudoun County did not fully integrate public schools until 1968, when a U.S. Federal Court ordered the County to establish geographic attendance zones regardless of race and fully integrate their schools by the 1968-1969 school year.

Douglass High School represents a true testament to the struggle for equal rights in education in Loudoun County and the resilience of the Black community.