Douglass High School Commemorative Committee

Construction Updates & Commemorative Items Follow-Up

April 18, 2022
Committee Meeting
CONSTRUCTION PHASE ACTIVITIES:

- Site Work progressing including Amphitheater footings in April

- Monument Sign footings in May

- Metal Roof replacement work in May

- Time Capsule Investigations:
  - 1st week of May
  - Interior investigation behind Cornerstone from front Classroom
  - Exterior investigation with GPR in Front Plaza area

- Interior framing in the 1950’s and 1960’s additions continue with MEP rough-in also continuing

- Framing and rough-in also starting on lower level
LCPS Department of Support Services

HALL/AUDITORIUM
VIEW OF FRONT WINDOWS
APRIL 8
LCPS Department of Support Services

FRONT CLASSROOM
EAST SIDE
APRIL 8
LCPS Department of Support Services

NEW FRAMING IN FUTURE HEAD START
WEST SIDE, 1960’S ADDITION
APRIL 8
NEW FRAMING IN FUTURE WELCOME CENTER
EAST SIDE, 1954 ADDITION
APRIL 8
SITE WORK ON EAST SIDE OF EXISTING BUILDING
FUTURE ROADWAY AND AMPHITHEATER AREAS
APRIL 8
CONSTRUCTION UPDATES – STAGE CURTAINS:

- Samples to review
- Maroon desired
- “Plum” Recommended (Image on left)
CONSTRUCTION UPDATES – INTERIOR STORM WINDOWS BACKGROUND:

- Interior storm windows are planned at the original wood window locations (1941 building)
  - To improve energy performance of the building
  - To address security of operable wood windows

- Secretary of Interior Standards for Preservation support this approach
  - Restoration of wood windows
  - “Reversible” addition of a metal storm window at inside

- Maintain the visibility of the original wood window profile

- Clearly observe the difference between the original wood windows and the modern storm window
CONSTRUCTION UPDATES – INTERIOR STORM WINDOWS - DOUGLASS:

- Beige
- Colonial White
- Clear Anodized
- White
- Bronze
- Black

STANDARD FRAME COLORS - BRONZE IS RECOMMENDED FOR DOUGLASS SCHOOL (CUSTOM AVAILABLE)

EXISTING WINDOW

LOCATION FOR NEW STORM WINDOW
CONSTRUCTION UPDATES – INTERIOR STORM WINDOWS – EXAMPLE IMAGE:
CONSTRUCTION UPDATES – INTERIOR STORM WINDOWS - DOUGLASS:

RESTORED WOOD WINDOW & STORM WINDOW
APRIL 8
LCPS Department of Support Services

MURAL SUBCOMMITTEE – GYM ACOUSTIC PANEL INFORMATION:

- Recommendation from BBB is for a maximum of 6 large graphic panels
- 2 above bleachers plus 2 at each of 2 end court walls
- Either photos or logos
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MURAL SUBCOMMITTEE – GYM ACOUSTIC PANEL INFORMATION:
PAVER & QUOTE SUBCOMMITTEE – ENTRY PLAZA PAVERS:
PAVER & QUOTE SUBCOMMITTEE – ENTRY PLAZA PAVERS:

- 15 Large Pavers at Entry Plaza area
- 5 Large Pavers at Heritage Walk area
- Yellow are Recommended for Engraving
- Large Pavers are 6’-9”x 2’-0”
- Full Scale Print
PAVER & QUOTE SUBCOMMITTEE – ENTRY PLAZA PAVERS @ DRIVE AISLE:
PAVER & QUOTE SUB-COMMITTEE – EAST COURTYARD PAVERS:

- Adjacent to building, across from Amphitheater
- Approx 16 Large Pavers in total
- Large Pavers are 6’-9” x 2’-0”
- Yellow are Recommended for Engraving
PAVER & QUOTE SUBCOMMITTEE – WEST COURTYARD PAVERS:

- Adjacent to Shop/Band Building
- Approx 15 Large Pavers in total
- Large Pavers are 6’-9”x 2’-0”
- Yellow are Recommended for Engraving
KIOSK/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE – ELEVATION STUDIES FOR 1941 INTERIOR ENTRY:
- OPTION 1 – Restored Tack Board, Framed $1 Bill and Frederick Douglass Bust on pedestal
KIOSK/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE – ELEVATION STUDIES FOR 1941 INTERIOR ENTRY:
- OPTION 2 – Framed $1 Bill and Frederick Douglass Bust on pedestal (no Tack Board)
KIOSK/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE – ELEVATION STUDIES FOR 1941 INTERIOR ENTRY:
- OPTION 3 – Framed $1 Bill and Frederick Douglass Bust together on 1 pedestal and Directory on 1 pedestal
KIOSK/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE – ELEVATION STUDIES FOR 1941 INTERIOR ENTRY:
- OPTION 4 – Framed $1 Bill on 1 pedestal, Frederick Douglass Bust on 1 pedestal and wall-mounted Directory
KIOSK/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE – ELEVATION STUDIES FOR 1941 INTERIOR ENTRY:
- OPTION 5 – Framed $1 Bill on wall near Frederick Douglass Bust on pedestal, separate pedestal for Directory
KIOSK/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE – TROPHY CASE OPTIONS:
- Existing display case at Douglass HS; not original to 1941
- Adjustable shelves
- Tallest appears to have been approximately 30”

![Image of a display case with various trophies and awards]
KIOSK/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE – TROPHY CASE OPTIONS:
- Sample photo of Classroom Display Case at Carver School in Purcellville
KIOSK/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE – TROPHY CASE OPTIONS:
- Upper Level
- Existing Case in Future LCPS program area
KIOSK/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE – TROPHY CASE OPTIONS:
- Shop/Band Building
- Sample images from BBB Presentation November 8, 2021
LCPS Department of Support Services

AMPHITHEATER & OUTDOOR SEATING SUBCOMMITTEE – EAST COURTYARD:
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AMPHITHEATER & OUTDOOR SEATING SUBCOMMITTEE – BENCHES:
LCPS Department of Support Services

AMPHITHEATER & OUTDOOR SEATING SUBCOMMITTEE – TABLES & CHAIRS:
TIME CAPSULE SUBCOMMITTEE – INTERIOR LOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS:
- 2 OPTIONS – Stage and Center Court
TIME CAPSULE SUBCOMMITTEE – INTERIOR LOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS:
- OPTION 1 – Time Capsule below Stage; Plaque at Stage Front

Option 1: Beneath the stage
TIME CAPSULE SUBCOMMITTEE – INTERIOR LOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS:
- OPTION 2 – Time Capsule below Floor/Crawl Space; Plaque at Center Court

Option 2: Center court
Sara,

For use, Monday night, here are notes from last night's meeting of the Edwin Washington Project, the Loudoun Chapter of the NAACP and the Loudoun Douglass Alumni Association.

The three agencies met on April 7th at 7 pm and agreed to the following.

After the Douglass Commemorative Committee goes out of existence, leaving our three agencies to continue their work as well as our own, with the DCC's permission, we propose to collectively call ourselves the Douglass Commemoration Consortium (DCC).

**Agreed actions so far:**

1. **Agree to meet once a month** to see what needs to be done to continue our common goal of commemorating the legacy of Douglass HS and Black education in general during segregation. As needed, we will also consult with LCPS.
2. **Act as a commemorative arts committee:** Clear off on all suggestions for events or the display of objects or pieces of art in the building.
3. **Manage tours:** These might be anything from 90-minute after-hours tours to smaller ad hoc tours. To make sure they are staffed and handled well, we will each develop a script on our own organization, as well as scripts for tours of the building, as well as manage our schedules.
4. **Advise LCPS on the Re-dedication Ceremony.** This will include encouraging the attendance of elected officials, the Superintendent, prominent private citizens, churches, and history-based organizations.
MURALS SUBCOMMITTEE
(See Presentation Pages 18-22, 31, 35-36)

Full Committee has agreed to have 3 murals on the property:
1. Mural on the outside back wall of gym at the outdoor basketball court
2. Mural inside gym
3. Mural inside shop building

Questions for Subcommittee:

**Inside Gym:** BBB recommends using wall behind the bleachers and the west side of the gym for mural and/or photo panel opportunities. It is also recommended the use of panels to enhance acoustics.

1. Do you prefer the photo panels or a painted mural? **Note:** a painted mural provides less opportunity to improve acoustics.
   - Straw Vote Taken March 28th – Unanimous for Photo Panels
2. Do you want DHS Logo interspersed on back panels?  
   - Straw Vote Taken March 28th – Unanimous YES
3. How many murals/photo panels should there be? – (BBB recommendation: there are three gym walls that could have panels. It is recommended that two photo panels of either a picture or the LDAA logo be utilized per wall (total 6 photo/logo panels). The photos are to be 8’Hx12’L. The LDAA logo panels are to be 8’Hx8’L. There are many additional acoustical panels.
4. Do you approve of the color pattern on the sound panels in the gym or prefer a different sequence of alternating colors?
   Straw Vote Taken March 28th – Unanimous YES

Outside at Basketball Court: BBB recommends either a mural at the basketball court OR decorative fencing but NOT both.

5. Do you prefer a mural on the outside of gym wall or a decorative fence?
   Mural

6. Do you want 1 mural on the outside wall or potentially 3 with one in each “section”?
   Three

Example of a Mural that is “panel like”

Example of one large mural

What the back of the gym currently looks like

Inside Shop/Band Building Mural(s)/Photos:

Please keep in mind these recommendations are for location and number NOT content. The Content will come in the next phase of recommendations.
1. Do you concur with the proposed location in the BBB Presentation (See Page 21)?

2. Do you recommend more than one location in the shop.band building for a mural or photo?

3. Other comments?

NOTE:
Additional photo/interpretative opportunities are available in the courtyard adjacent to the shop/band building to commemorate the building use
Specific Groups acknowledged in Pavers

- Bus Drivers
- Cafeteria Workers
- Custodian
- Guidance Counselors
- Librarians
- Principals
- Secretaries
- Teachers

Question: Did students leave for the war and return?
Pavers – East Side near Shop

Any Thoughts?
“A smile or a tear has no nationality; joy and sorrow speak alike to all nations, and they above all the confusion of tongues, proclaim the brotherhood of man.”

- Frederick Douglass
A. “If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it – then I can achieve it.”
   - Muhammad Ali

B. “You have to be able to accept failure to get better.”
   – LeBron James

C. “The only person who can stop you from reaching your goals is you.”
   - Jackie Joyner-Kersee

D. “The only discipline that lasts is self-discipline.”
   - Bum Phillips
1. “Live full and die empty.” - Les Brown

2. “A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.” - Phyllis Diller

3. “Achievement has no color.” - Abraham Lincoln

4. “Reading is Fundamental.” – Margaret McNamara

5. “Peace begins with a smile.” – Mother Teresa

Other Comments

Bench
(Names of 4 principals)

Kiosks
(various quotes)

Time Capsule
(quote from F. Douglass)

Timelines
(various quotes)
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee
KIOSKS/COMPUTER SCREEN SUBCOMMITTEE

April 18, 2022

ITEMS AGREED TO BY THE COMMITTEE:

- 6 Electronic Information Kiosks – 2 in front room, 2 behind stage, 1 in shop and 1 in gym
- 2 Directory Signs – 1 outside the entrance and 1 inside the front door
- Digital Screen within timeline
- 1941 bead board at the front of the stage
- Scoreboard to be reproduced in front hall room
- Commemorative Room Signage
- Restoration of Tack Bulletin Board
- Location of Display Cases
- Displaying Trophies somewhere in the building. Location TBD

QUESTIONS FOR SUBCOMMITTEE:

1. What picture of Frederick Douglass would you like on the back of the stage?

2. Tack Board consideration and use

3. Naming of Classrooms – There are 6 classrooms in the front hall that can be named. Do you have suggestions for the Committee of who you are thinking? Names mentioned in the past:
   - Principals (Sydnor, Woodson, Liverpool, Oliver)
   - Secretary (Eleanor Smith)
   - Custodian (Luther Smith)
   - Teachers (Barrett, Briscoe, Craven, Sewell, Butler, Hankerson, Hotten)

4. Other Naming Opportunities Include:
   - Gym
   - Pavillion
   - Sports Field

   Previously Named: Band/Shop Building: The Knox-Daniel Building submitted and approved with the Pavers & Quotes Subcommittee.
   (NOTE: Mr. Daniel(s) name has been confirmed without an “S”)

5. Sports and Band Trophies Displayed. See attached for items and pictures. Do you agree that 1-2 of the display cases be taller to accommodate the larger trophies?

April 18, 2022
ITEMS AGREED TO BY THE COMMITTEE

- Timeline on left wall
- Timeline on right wall
- LDAA Timeline on back wall
- BBB Proposed Panel System
- Interactive Timeline

Questions for Subcommittee:

1. What pictures/text is recommended for the timelines
   - Left wall?
   - Right wall?
   - Back wall?

   Draft timeline information has been provided for all the timelines (included in the April 18, 2022 packet). The sub-committee would like for the full committee to review and offer input on what they would like to see.

   There is a tremendous amount of information which will need to be organized and distilled for the timelines. These are drafts to continue the discussion.

2. How much LDAA information is available for the back wall? (The back wall is 39 feet in length and 6 feet in height, nearly twice the space of each timeline wall in the main room). Could this wall be shared with other DHS information? In reviewing the DHSCC minutes other topics include sports, band, clubs, events, and music (both from the school and time period). Would the back wall be a location option for the trophies?

   A draft timeline for LDAA information has been provided. The back-wall could be shared with other DHS information. Yes, trophies could be on back wall. Perhaps information related to the athletic events and other awards could appear on that back wall.

   Information in the draft timelines could be shifted among the three spaces as review continues.

3. How will the timelines relate or flow?

   Input requested on what the Committee would like to see.
Douglass High School Timeline – Front Left and Right Wall

• These slides are examples of text and photos that might be included in the Douglass Front Wall Timeline. The photos are not inclusive of all the photos that exist from Yearbooks and other archival photos that have been submitted. This is a draft of the types that can be included in a timeline and the important events.

• The LDAA Timeline on the back wall could include similar photos that are included in the Front Wall Timelines, depending on whether trophies are located on that wall. Photos could be of the winning teams and organizations, that received the photos with those trophies displayed under the photos (if available).

• Information was gleaned from many sources; Douglass 50th Year Anniversary booklet, Essence of a People, LCPS Minutes, Yearbooks on hand, LDAA records, etc.
The Struggle Years

In 1931 a delegation of parents and patrons met with the School Board to ask for a new school building and additional teachers for Black students. The Board voted against it. The parents did not give up but continued to pursue the issue and keep the School Board aware of the conditions at the Loudoun Training School.

For years delegations of parents and patrons met with the School Board to request a new high school building, an expanded curriculum, and additional teachers. Action was postponed or refused on the grounds that funds were not available. In the absence of progress with an all-white county School Board, the consequence was a hardening of attitudes on both sides.
The Struggle Years

• 1938 – Jeanes Supervisor Mrs. Gertrude Alexander was hired to supervise Black teachers. She worked with both parents and teachers to press School Board for a new high school.

• She immediately recognized the injustice and unlawfulness of the situation. She suggested that all parent-teacher associations come together and work under the umbrella of the County-Wide League. She begins her letter writing campaign for a better high school, more teacher pay for Blacks in Loudoun.
The Struggle Years

• 1937 – Will Brown is contracted to drive Black children from Purcellville, via Hamilton and Waterford, to the Leesburg School on Union Street. Busing for White children began in 1925.

• 1939 – The School Board assured the Black citizens of a new school, but they had no land at this time. Every tactic was used by the power structure to discourage them, but the County-Wide League used every stone that was set before them as a steppingstone to reach their goal.

• The Black citizens of Loudoun worked diligently to raise funds to purchase the lot needed for a new high school. They held bake sales, teas in churches, rummage sales, and more.
The Struggle Years

• 1938 – Mrs. Alexander organized the County-Wide League, which consisted of all Parent Teacher Association throughout the County. The organization along with the PTA’s held meetings in various schools and churches making plans for securing a new high school. Mr. John Wanzer, of Middleburg was elected President. He served as President for 25 years.

• In 1939, Wanzer and the other trustees negotiated the purchase of land on which to build a high school. They made no progress with the School Board.
Legal Intervention

- 1940 – Mrs. Alexander on behalf of the County-Wide League, invited Chief Legal Counsel, for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Charles Hamilton Houston to visit Loudoun, to speak to the people and to evaluate the educational system.

- Mr. Houston willingly came to Leesburg to serve without pay. He heard their pleas and was informed of the existing conditions at Loudoun County Training School.

- Attorney Houston met with the School Board and stated some of the grievances, such as the lack of a fire escape, inside bathrooms, etc. “The Building is a death trap”, said Houston. He also reminded the Superintendent and the School Board that they were exposing themselves to personal liability damages from discriminating factors which they were inflicting upon Negro children.

Note: Need another photo of Charles Hamilton Houston
Legal Intervention

• The School Board later received a letter from Attorney Houston stating more complaints from the parents, with transportation needs and lab equipment. Black teachers were not receiving salary compared to white teachers, so a raise was requested for them.

• 1940 – Houston suggested a Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. should be formed in Loudoun County to strengthen their forces in case legal court action would be required.
The Loudoun NAACP is formed

• 1940 – The local NAACP Chapter receives its charter on March 24, 1940.

• Marie Moton Medley-Howard, a Leesburg beautician, becomes its first President. She received her early education in Leesburg and graduated from high school in Washington, DC. She also attended Madame C. J. Walker’s school of cosmetology and later opened a beauty shop near her childhood home.

• Medley-Howard believed that education was the key to civil rights. At meetings of the County-Wide League and the NAACP, she was outspoken on the topic of education and equal rights. She was a leader in the struggle to force the Loudoun County Board of Education to improve the standards for African American children and fought bitterly with then Superintendent Emerick over the condition of Loudoun County Training School on Union Street.

• Because of the deplorable conditions in Loudoun and the possible need for legal action the technical leadership on the school initiative shifted from the County-Wide League to the NAACP, with the League remaining as the chief fund raising and public relations arm. It encouraged citizens to pay the poll tax and to vote.
Douglass High School Land Purchase Chronology of Events – from School Board Minutes

- Feb. 14, 1939 – Countywide League went to the LCSB requesting assistance for purchasing the 8 acres for $4,000. Citizens had agreed to pay 1/3 of the cost by August 1939.

- March 14, 1939 – Countywide League appears again requesting help in purchasing the property and providing transportation to the high school. Board members expressed their approval, but no action was taken.

- July 5, 1939 – After considering a lot in Purcellville (Cook) and resolving to have the high school there the School Board changed course and approved Leesburg as a site for the new building. It states in those minutes: (Wm. T. Smith and C.T. Potterfield voted nay on account of failure of resolution to provide that lot must be donated.

- November 4, 1939, Trustees John Wanzer, Howard Clark, Fred Lewis, Robert Ambers, John Washington, Eva Sanford & Elizabeth Quisenberry, purchased 8 acres of land in Leesburg, VA from W. S. Gibbons; The Deed specifies that the Trustees have the property in trust “for the benefit of the Negro public school children of Loudoun County as an athletic field and as an athletic field and as the location of a public Negro school and other improvements to be constructed thereon as circumstances will permit and for such other Negro school purposes as said Trustees or their successors may from time to time by majority vote decide.” They have paid $1400 and have a vendor’s lien for $2,600) (Deed Book 11F Page 227).
A month later, William Nathaniel Hall, an African American contractor, secured a bank loan of $2600.00 for the League enabling them to get a clear title. At the same time the Black community was struggling to purchase this land, the School Board used $4000 “surplus funds” to purchase land adjacent to the white school in Leesburg to be used for its future expansion.

Dec. 15, 1939 – Letter from A.G. Richardson, Superintendent of Negro Education, regarding visit to Leesburg on Nov. 30th in regard to a new “Colored High School”.

March 18, 1940 – Board of Supervisors meeting minutes and request from Emerick for $40,000 Literary Loan for building with 4 or more rooms and auditorium on new lot and that because of funding they do not plan to build within the next 12 months. The Board of Supervisors then pass a motion for approval of a $30,000 loan.
Douglass High School Land Purchase – from School Board Minutes

• April 22, 1940 – The School Board requests $4,500 from the Board of supervisors for furniture, transportation, home economic equipment. 2 high school teachers, lab equipment and conditioning building which is denied.

• May 4, 1940 - Letter from A. G. Richardson to Emerick regarding a visit to Leesburg on April 24 to discuss “better school facilities with approximately 15 or 20 leading Negro citizens of Loudoun County”. Also included was an Attorney General Opinion as there was concern that if the deed had a stipulation regarding a building for Negro education tat it would hinder obtaining Literary Loan funding.

• May 11, 1940 – Letter from Emerick to Richardson regarding above.

• Dec. 11, 1940 – Citizens of Loudoun County, Countywide League of Loudoun County and contributor to the purchase money fund of said land held a meeting where it was resolved to convey the property to the School Board.

• Dec. 16, 1940 – Deed dated from John Wanzer, Howard Clark, Fred Lewis, Robert Ambers, John Washington, Eva Sanford and Elizabeth Quisenberry, Trustees to the County school Board of Loudoun County, Virginia with same language as above. (Deed Book 11K Page 81)
• Dec. 17, 1940 – Letter from John W. Wanzer to Loudoun County School Board stating that a warranty deed is in his possession to the Gibbons Lot as a site for a Negro high school to be built by the Loudoun County School Board by Sept. 1, 1941. His letter acknowledges that a meeting was held by the Countywide League and interested parties and he is authorized to make this conveyance.

• Dec. 17, 1940 – Letter from Emerick to Mr. Wanzer acknowledging the deed, stating that the County School Board has approved this site for a new high school building that will cost not less than $30,000 and has caused this building to be erected at the earliest time within its power for the education of colored children. He goes on to express thanks for the donation.

The County-Wide League donates the purchased land to Loudoun County Public Schools for $1.00.
The End of an Era

1940 – The Leesburg School on Union Street graduates the last high school class with the diplomas reading, Leesburg High School.

Ada Alise Berry, Leesburg  
George Allan Brown, Purcellville  
Hubert Colbert, Bluemont  
Beulah Bernice Clark, Hamilton  
Rachael Virginia Coe, Leesburg  
Martin Leslie Cooke, Purcellville  
Anna Mae Ferrell, Waterford  
Martha Ann Hughes, Leesburg  

Thomas Edward Jackson, Purcellville  
Lewis Smith Johnson, Leesburg  
Elwood Brooks Jones, Waterford  
Calvin Wendell Lee, Herndon  
Aretta Leonia Jackson, Herndon  
Annette Virginia Lloyd, Purcellville  
Lee Etta Thornton Ashburn  
John Wesley Walker, Leesburg
Douglass opens in September 1941, with grades 8-11. The building consisted of 4 classrooms, a library, the principal’s office, a combined gym and auditorium and 2 lavatories. Classes were held on the stage, in the library, and in the corners of the gymtorium. Aside from desks, the school board supplied little else. Again, the County-Wide League and other members of the coalition began serious fund raising. They purchased curtains for the stage and front windows, folding chairs for the auditorium, a piano, books for the library, miscellaneous equipment, and supplies. Other items and landscaping were donated.
1941 Douglass High School Opens

- School Dedication - At the November School dedication, A. G. Richardson, supervisor of Negro education in Virginia gave the keynote speech. Principal Liverpool, presented the new teachers: Gladys Kent, Edith Smith, Elsie Pierce, Florence Carroll, Elizabeth Jones and Moses Knox, Ruby Vaughan, the new supervisor of teachers; John Wanzer; Marie Medley and others.
Douglass High School Opens

• In a letter to NAACP president Marie Medley, Liverpool wrote, “We are justly proud of these great strides in Negro education for Loudoun County, and are every mindful of the outstanding role played by your Branch of the NAACP…” No doubt a letter was sent to the County-Wide League as well, but the majority of their records have not survived.

• The students entered Douglass with great pride and high ambitions. Their parents, families, and neighbors had put so much hard work into making the school become a reality, one of the first County High Schools for Negroes in Northern Virginia.

In the Fall of 1941 approval is given by the Superintendent to begin construction of the Shop building. Under the leadership of Mr. Moses Knox, the industrial arts students begin building the shop as part of their class work.
School Days 1940’s

• Mr. Liverpool was the Principal and Ellen Jordon and Eleanor Harris were secretaries. The courses taught were Bricklaying and shop, English and Literature, French, Math, Algebra, Chemistry, and Home Economics. Mr. John Tolbert taught Typing.

• In 1941 Pearl Harbor was bombed. The majority of the young men left the school to enter the Service.

• Many fundraising efforts were held. The Glee Club, Drama Club, New Homemakers of America and the sports teams competed on regional and state levels and brought home trophies. The school formed a chapter of The Lincoln National Honor Society.
School Days 1940’s - Prom
School Days 1940’s

• In February 1944, the students printed their first newspaper, North Star, named after Frederick Douglass’s 1848 periodical. It was later named the Douglass Comet.

• In 1949 a 12th grade class was added to Douglass, but the 12th grade was added to the White high school in 1945.
School Days 1950’s
School Days 1950’s

• In the Fall of 1953 an addition was added to the school which consisted of a science Lab, home economics suite, plus 5 classrooms.
School Days 1940's
School Days 1950’s

Need more boys basketball teams, 1950’s, 60’s
School Days 1950’s

1951 Boys Basketball Team

1952 Girls & Boys Basketball Teams

Thelma Simms & Alvin Dodson

Evelyn Berry & Norman Brooks
School Days 1950’s

• The girls and boys basketball teams traveled together. Most of the trophies were won by the girls. During the 1949-50 and 1951-52 school years, the girls won the “Tri-State Championship” under the coaches of Geraldine Dshiel and I. J. Daniel.
School Days 1950’s

- The 50’s saw changes at Douglass. The first Seniors to graduate from 12th Grade, a new addition was added, football was played for the first time. Mrs. Ruth Craven and Vivian Ashton held state offices in FHA (Future Homemakers of America).

(FHA) Future Homemakers of America Club – Ruth Craven Teacher

Ruth Craven Teacher – FHA Banquet
School Days 1950’s

- The Class of 1953 had the experience of assuming the positions of teachers of the day. Glee Club won many trophies and plaques under the direction of Mamie Rose Warner.

1953 Student Teachers for the Day

Glee Club
Douglass Teachers 1940’s, 1950’s, 1960’s

- Catherine Bell
- Robert Bass
- George Barrett
- Bernice Carroll Sewell
- Jerome Comegys
- Norman Camp
- Betty Camp
- Katherine B. Young
- Mamie R. Warner
- Doris Graham
Douglass Teachers 1940’s, 1950’s, 1960’s

Isaac J. Daniel
Principal Stephen Sydnor

Mary Norton
Lina Bowers

Marie Briscoe
Minnie D. Anderson
Jacqueline Y. Harris
Betty Taxley

Principal James B. Woodson, Teachers

Elizabeth D. Hotten
School Days 1950’s

Student Congress

Class of 1953 – 11th Grade
School Days 1950’s

1956 Senior Class  Bus Trip to New York

1954 Boys Basketball Team

Bertha Coates, ?Thelma Brown

1954 Girls Basketball Team
School Days 1950’s

• In 1953 students published their first yearbook, titled “Treasured Memories.”. Among improvements made to the building was a modern science laboratory.

• On May 17, 1954, the US Supreme Court issued its unanimous ruling in Brown v. Board of education declaring state-sponsored segregation in public schools unconstitutional. Unlike other school systems that either obeyed the law or defied it by ”standing in the schoolhouse door,” the Loudoun County School Board took a wait and see approach.

• A delegation consisting of Lovell Parham, Gladys Bryant, Hester Ramey, Violet Jackson, Charles Turner and Margaret Middleton asked the Board to appoint an interracial committee to prepare for integration. The school board postponed action. They also refused to consider after-school bus transportation for students participating in extracurricular activities. Parents, though more militant in their demands, continue to furnish the “extras”.

Photo taken in 1950 - Standing: Audrey Bell, I. J. Daniel, George Barrett, Ulysses Oliver (Principal) and Bernice Sewell. Seated, Ms. Oliver, Ruth Craven, Ms. Martin
School Days 1950’s

Class of 1955 Graduates
School Days 1960’s

- 1960 - A gym, cafeteria, and several classrooms and new shop was built. During the years of 1962-1965 Douglass excelled in sports, winning many distinguished trophies.
School Days 1960’s

Industrial Arts, Teacher Harold D. Berry
As Douglass’ needs grew, one of those needs were band uniforms. As the fundraising arm for Douglass High School the County-Wide League made these uniforms become a reality.

Martha Ashton, County-Wide League member, crowned for raising the most funds for Band Uniforms – May 1961.

Marching Band, Charles E. Hankerson Jr., Band Director
School Days 1960’s
Douglass Teacher Schedule 1967 – 1968?

Douglass High School Class Schedule recovered at Former Loudoun Training School in Storage, behind a Wall.
Integration Begins – Douglass Closes Its Doors

• 1963 – A U.S. federal court ordered Loudoun County to comply with the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision to approve all applications from Black children to attend formerly all-white schools.

• With backing from the NAACP, Samuel Eugene Corbin, et al, Plaintiffs and the United States Justice Department, Plaintiff-Intervenor sued the School Board of Loudoun County.

• In 1967, Judge Oren Lewis ordered total integration on staff and student levels by the 1968-69 school year. Twenty-seven years after its founding, and 14 years after the Brown v. Board of Education Ruling, Douglass closed its doors as a high school.

• 1967 – A U.S. federal court ordered Loudoun County to establish geographic attendance zones regardless of race to approve all applications from Black children to attend all-white schools.

• 1968 - The Year of Full Integration and Douglass High School graduates its last class.
Douglass Graduates Last Class – 1968 – need class photo
The Loudoun Douglass High School Alumni Association

Established in 1985
1984 - The Conversation

• The LDAA was formed in 1985. A conversation took place between Mary Lee Roberts Perry and Charles “Tommy” Stinger (Class of 1953) about getting all of the graduates of Douglass High School, 1941-1968 together for a school reunion. A reunion was held the summer of 1985 in Winchester, VA.

• Following this reunion, the planning committee decided to form an alumni association. It decided to include those graduates who attended the Loudoun Training School, from the years 1935-1940. Their first task was to become incorporated. In 1985 Loudoun Douglass Alumni Association a 501(c)3 became incorporated, to honor graduates from Loudoun Training and Douglass High School.
The School Reunion was held in Winchester, VA on June 30 with a picnic the following Sunday on July 1 at the Douglass Community Center.
1984 - School Reunion – Winchester, VA
1984 Douglass School Reunion – Winchester, VA
1985 – The LDAA Mission

• The mission of the Loudoun Douglass High School Alumni Association (LDAA) is to provide financial support, via scholarships, to college students who are descendants of those who attended the Loudoun Training and/or Douglass High School in Leesburg, Virginia.

• Annually, the LDAA awards scholarships, in the amount of $1,000 each, to qualified recipients to assist with the costs of college tuition, room, board, and fees.

• The LDAA has grown to be an advocate for furthering education for an underrepresented community. The organization is currently overseen by a Board of Directors consisting of 16 volunteers and supported by seven committees, which are also run by volunteers. Since its founding, the organization has grown to over 500 members and has provided more than $300,000 in scholarships.
1993 Historic Designation

On Saturday, May 8, 1993 a Recognition Ceremony in honor of the placing of Douglass High School on the Virginia Registry and The National Registry of Historical Landmarks was held.
In 1993 Douglass was inducted into the State and National Register as a historic landmark ensuring it would never be demolished. A plaque designed by Reginald Simms (Class of 1955) is located beside the cornerstone of the building to commemorate the event.
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration – Over the Years
1999 Community Involvement – Christmas in April

Over the years the LDAA has volunteered time or funds to community organizations including but not limited to the “I Have a Dream” Committee, the Salvation Army, Christmas in April, Interfaith Relief, the American Red Cross, and others. The LDAA has a lifetime membership with the NAACP and is a sponsor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration at Douglass.
Cherish the Memories
Annual Picnic and Scholarship Ceremony – Over the Years
Cherish the Memories

- During July of each year the LDAA holds its annual picnic. At their 50th Anniversary plaques were awarded to the graduating classes. In 2018 the Class of 1968 was the last class to be honored. The recipients of the scholarships are introduced and presented a certificate.
Cherish the Memories

Annual Picnic and Scholarship Awards over the years
2004 Outstanding Volunteer Recognition Ceremony Award

In 2004 Fellow Board Member Gert Evans (Class of 1966) nominated the LDAA for this award, because of the tireless and committed work of the LDAA’s Mission to the Loudoun Community and to the descendants of the Loudoun Training School and Douglass High School. The Board was in attendance to accept the award.
2008 Historical Highway Marker

In January 2008, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) informed the LDAA they were placing a historical highway marker at Douglass. VDOT’s purpose was to inform the public of African American history. The unveiling ceremony hosted by LDAA was held February 2, 2008.

Elaine Thompson, a Loudoun Historian (Class of 1941) was the guest speaker for this event, providing the history of Douglass High School.

Note: in the Newsletter of 2008 it stated that LDAA was working with the State to correct two inaccuracies in the text on the signage; no schools beyond 7th grade for black students and the wording that the County-Wide League obtained the $30,000 award from the State Literary Fund. For that reason, not showing the present photo as it is incorrect.
Cherish the Memories

Annual Picnic and Scholarship Awards ceremony over the years
Cherish the Memories

Annual Picnic and Scholarship Awards Ceremony over the years
Cherish the Memories

2002 Annual Picnic and Scholarship Awards Ceremony, with Home Economics teacher, Mrs. Ruth Craven and many of her former students.
Cherish the Memories
School Reunions over the Years
Giving Back to the Community
(Circa 2000) - Old Timer’s Basketball Game

The Old Timer’s Basketball Game was an idea of Elijah Corum (Class of 1947).
Cherish the Memories

Newsletters over the years
LDAA Anniversary Celebrations

Celebrating 50 Years!

Honoring the Past — Celebrating the Present — Preserving the Future

Saturday, July 11, 2015

National Conference Center
19001 Upper Saint John Place
Leesburg, Virginia 20176

Social Hour: 6:00 PM

Schedule of Events

Reception: 6:00 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM
Presentation: 8:00 PM

Sunday, July 12, 2015

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Our Legacy

Leesburg / Douglass Alumni Association

30th Anniversary Celebration

July 10, 2010

Holiday Inn Washington Dulles
45125 Holiday Drive
Dulles, Virginia 20166

July 14, 2018

6:30 PM
Hilton Washington Dulles Airport
Herndon, Virginia
LDAA Fundraisers

In order to meet the Mission of the LDAA there are ongoing fundraising activities. The Board seeks creative ways to achieve their fundraising goals.
Golf Tournaments
Cherish the Memories

Annual Picnic and Scholarship Awards Ceremony over the years
LDAA Board at Work
Cherish the Memories

• 2003 - July 19, 2003
• Prom Reflections – Middleburg Community Center
Cherish the Memories

School Reunions over the years
Cherish the Memories

School Reunions over the years
Cherish the Memories

School Reunions over the years
Cherish the Memories

• In loving Memory to All who have gone but are forever in our memory.
• The LDAA honors and salutes those who served in the past and those who continue to serve on the Board of Directors.
• We honor the deceased Board of Directors for their work and dedication to the association.
• We thank our classmates, friends, and our community of supporters, who help make the Mission of the LDAA a reality.
• May the LDAA continue to go forth in remembering our proud beginnings, because “It seems like only yesterday”.
Documents and Events that are missing in the LDAA Timeline

May 21, 1991 – Senate of Virginia, Senate Resolution No. 166 commending the Douglass High School of Leesburg on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary

1991 – Board of Supervisors - Resolution of Appreciation – Douglass High School 50th Anniversary

May 28, 1991 – Town of Leesburg, VA Proclamation – Douglass High School 50th Anniversary

September 6, 2016 – Board of Supervisors – Proclamation to Recognize the 75th Anniversary of Douglass High School
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE
Subcommittee Recommendations to Full Committee
April 18, 2022

AMPHITHEATER SUBCOMMITTEE

ITEMS AGREED TO BY THE COMMITTEE:
- 3 Flagpoles around the amphitheater
- Naming: County-Wide League Amphitheater
- Agreed with lighting as proposed by BBB
- Replacing Tree on west side and dedicating to Teachers of DHS (between building & Shop)
- Replacing Memorial Stones to the west side (between building & shop)

Questions for Subcommittee:

1. Name of Amphitheater: County-Wide League Amphitheatre. Do you want this to appear on one side or both sides on the short wall behind the stage area?
   a. if only 1 side, which one? Facing the audience or facing the school?
   ** Both Sides (The side facing the school will be larger font and the one facing the audience will be smaller as we would like the names of the Officers)

2. If you want the name of the amphitheater on only one side do you still want the names of the County-Wide League members:
   a. On the other side of the low wall behind the stage;
   b. “Did you Know” panels along the edge of the amphitheater with information about the Countywide League, how it was formed, etc. **Concur to have the history on the panels
   c. In the stone benches? ** Nothing located here

3. What names of the County-Wide League would you like to be shown? Again, all can be shown due to the availability in the large panels but if you want to acknowledge their specific names in the benches or behind the short wall, which names would you like:

   Names of the 1st County-Wide League Officers OR
   Names of the Members on the Deed to the School Board?

   ** Suggest Both sets of name since there is overlap. Total of approx. 12 names and wording to state Officers and deed signees.

November 12, 1938 – First Meeting:
4. If you would like key words in the stone bench seating area, what specific words would you like to use? ** We have determined to not use this space

5. Do you agree with 5 large “Did You Know Panels” around the Amphitheater measuring 6-feet tall and 8-feet wide? ** Agree

6. Specific panel content on Information Panels to be considered next. ** Suggest the panels to include the cities/towns that the CWL represented. (i.e Middleburg, Hamilton, etc)

6. Specifics on flags to be considered next. **Will have to design a flag for the CWL at a minimal.
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL
TROPHIES AND OTHER AWARDS

TROPHIES
Douglass HS Trophy – 1964 (Taller Trophy)
Presented by American Legion Post 181

American Legion Bow 1962 Trophy
Douglass HS Winner

Taylor Almuni v. DHS Alumni
William C. Taylor MS – Warrenton, VA
September 1, 1995 (Very Tall)

TSAU 1952 Trophy
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL
TROPHIES AND OTHER AWARDS

DHS – 1949 Tri State Champions
Ambers, C
Ashton, V
Berry, A
Brown, T
Coates, B
Jackson, R
Morris, K
Roberts, M
Winston, G

TSHAU II 1944

THSAU 1949

TSAU 1951

N.V.A.A. C Tournament 1961
1962-1963 Tournament First Place

Small Cup – No Writing

Marie Medley Howard Award (Rather Tall)
For Outstanding Fair Play and Sportsmanship Displayed During the Season of 1954-1955
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL
TROPHIES AND OTHER AWARDS

PLAQUES

Plaque to Margaret Lloyd from MLK

LDAA Certificate of Life Membership from NAACP

Anna Gaskin Plaque from Loudoun Teachers Association
1900-1950 (Ms. Gaskin taught at Willisville)
https://loudounschoolproject.wordpress.com/schools/schools-s-through-w/willisville-colored-school-loudoun/

3rd Annual Marshall Street Center Music Festival, Middleburg, VA 2nd Prize 1957

2nd Annual Marshall Street Music Festival
1956 - 2nd Prize
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL
TROPHIES AND OTHER AWARDS

4th Annual Marshall Street Center
Music Festival Middleburg, VA  2nd Prize 1958

Town of Leesburg Proclamation –
75th Anniversary of DHS
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL
TROPHIES AND OTHER AWARDS

MLK Plaque – Large and Heavy

BOS Proclamation – 75th Anniversary

Gen. Assembly Resolution 2017 Commending School
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL
TROPHIES AND OTHER AWARDS

OTHER

American Flag that was hanging in front area from ceiling

Loudoun Times Mirror Article (Feb. 1992) Barbara Bush
Probably larger than 11 X 17 and Two sections for story

Alvin Dodson DHS 1955
Rams Sweatshirt
DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL
TROPHIES AND OTHER AWARDS
Douglass High School Commemorative Committee
TIME CAPSULE SUBCOMMITTEE
April 18, 2022

Items Currently Agreed to By Full Committee:

- Time Capsule Inside Building (Location to be determined by architects)
- Plaque attached to time capsule to have:
  - Picture of Douglass on Front
  - DHS-CC Names
  - Year of Insertion
  - Year to Open 2072 (and reason for the date. The original dedication was May 15, 1942.)
- Each Committee member, each member organization and Committee as a whole to insert information yes
- Contents both Digital (recordings and photos) and archivable paper (Items Recommended, with the notion that physical objects will be about today: Covid test, CRT, etc. Mask, Newspaper articles about current events and the Committee, photos of the reconstruction, etc. and other items suggested by the Committee. Every member gets to recommend one item for inclusion. The committee as a whole also gets to recommend an item.+
- Plaque at the Site of the Capsule on the Exterior Wall to state:
  - What is there
  - Created by DHS-CC

Frederick Douglass Quote ""The life of a nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous."
- Frederick Douglass.¹

  - When to be opened (May 15, 2072. The original dedication was May 15, 1942.) This information would also be provided in the Kiosk.

¹ From speech given on the 23rd anniversary of Emancipation in the District of Columbia, Washington DC, April 1885.
When placed in the wall

Additional Information from LCPS:
- All information to be placed in the time capsule should be ready by (Subcommittee recommendation. August 15. (we recommend )
- LCPS will purchase the time capsule and archival material. Each organization represented gets to insert one piece.
- LCPS can store information in the Cloud (Need to confirm this)
- Information can be handwritten, typewritten, or photocopied onto the archival paper. Yes. Still to be discussed, how many pages allowed.

ITEMS TO VOTE ON:

1. Size of Time Capsule: Currently proposed to be 19.5”x15.5”x9.6” (Interior)

2. When to open time capsule: 20 Years (2042) or 50 years (2072)? Anniversdary of the dedication.

3. Where to display items once opened: Committee suggestion is at the school. Somewhere at Douglass in public

4. Can those individuals who have devoted time each month to attend the meetings and provide input, but are not Committee members, be allowed to submit an item and/or written statement to the capsule? The consensus was NO. However, they can provide appropriate historical information for inclusion in the drive.

2 The Subcommittee recommended that Donna and Sara each be allowed to submit a letter.
3 Because of their importance to providing high school education to Blacks and thus supporting the cause which led to Douglass, the Subcommittee recommends that John C. Walker (first Black high school teacher) and Edith Harris (second high school teacher), both at the “Training center,” be honored with a display of a photo of each on a wall at Douglass, as well as a biographical statement. The subcommittee also recommended that more details be placed in the digital drive.
5. The subcommittee also recommended that an event be staged by the Committee to which members invite their children and grandchildren in the hopes that those people will remember the importance of the effort and attend the opening of the time capsule in 2072.
Chair Randall did not accept Supervisor Buffington’s friendly amendment that these qualifications would only apply to full-service Sheriff Departments in counties with a population over 400,000.

The motion passed 8-1: Supervisor Umstattd opposed.

**Board Requests:**
 Supervisor Briskman requested additional information regarding: the consultant providing what the lowest cost could be if the County established a police department, improvements regarding transparency within the current Sheriff’s Office, improvements to equity and diversity within the current Sheriff’s Office and providing the specific numbers of internal review cases. Chair Randall indicated that she would work with Supervisor Briskman regarding the timeframe and process for addressing additional questions.

**Link to discussion:**
https://loudoun.granicus.com/player/clip/6945?meta_id=209284

Staff Contact: Charles Yudd, County Administration

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**Douglass High School Commemorative Committee Request for Board of Supervisors Time Capsule Item (Countywide)**

Chair Randall explained that the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee (DHSCC) plans to place a time capsule on the property of the Douglas High School to be re-opened in approximately 50 years. On March 15, 2022, the Chair’s Office received a request from the Board of Supervisors’ (Board) appointee to the DHSCC to identify an item to be placed in the time capsule.

Chair Randall suggested the Board include the following: a Board Pin, Letter from the Board, the Board’s Code of Ethics, the Board’s Rules of Order, and a picture of the full Board.

**Link to discussion:**
https://loudoun.granicus.com/player/clip/6945?meta_id=209305

Staff Contact: David Street, County Administration

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**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **APPOINTMENTS**

   1a. **Confirmations**

      Supervisor Umstattd moved that the Board of Supervisors confirm the following appointments with terms expiring as noted for each committee. (Consent Item) (Seconded by Supervisor Briskman. The motion passed 7-0-2: Supervisors Buffington and Saines absent for the vote.)

      **Environmental Commission**

      - Brendan Shaw (Public Utilities-Electric representative) nominated by Supervisor Letourneau (term expires 06/30/2025).
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING
INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: Douglass High School Commemorative Committee Request for Board of Supervisors Time Capsule Item

ELECTION DISTRICT(S): Countywide

CRITICAL ACTION DATE: At the pleasure of the Board

STAFF CONTACT(S): David Street, County Administration

PURPOSE: The purpose of this item is to facilitate the Board of Supervisors’ (Board) input on an item to be placed in the planned Douglass High School Commemorative Committee (DHSCC) time capsule.

BACKGROUND: The DHSCC has proposed that a time capsule be placed on the property of Douglass High School to be re-opened in approximately 50 years. On March 15, 2022, the Chair’s Office received a request from the Board’s appointee to the DHSCC to identify an item to be placed in the time capsule. Along with an item, the Board may include a document describing the organization.

ISSUES: The Board has limited room allocated in the time capsule. As such, an appropriately sized item or items selected to represent the Board may include: a photograph or picture, a small object or small collection of objects (e.g. challenge coins, patches, pins), a letter or document, or another object that represents an achievement, milestone, or priority of the Board.

Additional item submission instructions for the time capsule are anticipated in mid-April.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with this information item.