

HALLS HILL
STATION #18
VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT

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HALLS HILL
**HIDDEN
GEMS**
HIGH VIEW PARK



HIDDEN GEMS WALKING TOUR BROCHURE

Discover the Gems of the
Halls Hill/ High View Park Community

HHHVP Gateway Park & Sculpture

North Cameron Street and Langston Blvd Arlington
2004 “Gateway” park divided by N. Cameron Street
which creates an approximately 0.25-acres west
section and a 0.1-acre east section with sculptures.

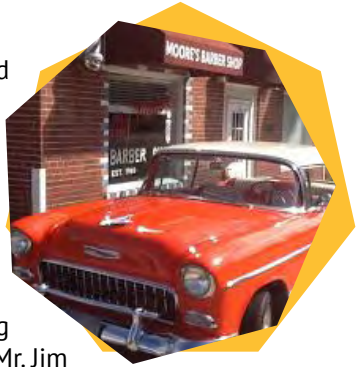


Hopewell Lodge No. 1700 (Site) **

2000 block, North Culpeper Street Arlington | ca. 1877
Demolished

Moore’s Barber Shop 4807 Langston Blvd

This local barber shop/beauty shop has occupied a prominent place in the social and commercial life of the Halls Hill/High View Park neighborhood. “Mr. James Moore, Sr., established Moore’s Barber Shop in Hall’s Hill in 1960. The barber shop has long been known as place for not only a great haircut, but also lively conversation and a friendly atmosphere. Its walls are papered with photos of clients and other memorabilia marking historic moments in the D.C. region and country. Mr. Jim



Moore, Sr., originally started the barber shop with a partner and at a different location a few blocks down on Langston Blvd (where the KFC is now).

Historically, the barber shop business was one of the few businesses black men could open and use to support their families. The barber shop is about personal service and relationships, and Moore’s has been able to maintain those over the years.

In 2002, the elder Mr. Moore retired and turned over the business to his son, James Moore, Jr., retired Arlington County firefighter, who had been working in the shop since he was seven years old.

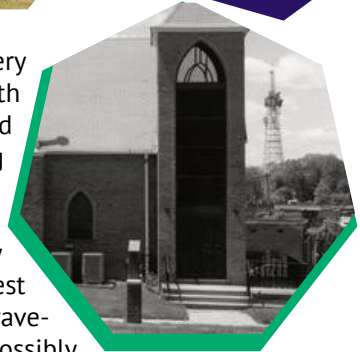
Calloway United Methodist Church 5000 Langston Blvd | Est. 1904

A bedrock of the Halls Hill religious community since shortly after the Civil War, the congregation of the Calloway United Methodist Church first organized in 1866 at the residence of Samuel Smith on the Saegmuller farm. The congregation moved from the Freedman’s Village area of Arlington to the Halls Hill area in 1870. The first church, a small wood-framed building constructed circa 1870 with congregant member funds, was on a site purchased from Alexander Parker in the vicinity of 4800 Langston Blvd. Winsted Calloway was the church’s first pastor and subsequent namesake. From 1872 to 1876, the

Sumner School, a school for African American children in North Arlington County, held weekly classes in the church building. In 1888, the current site was conveyed by congregant member and church trustee, Moses Jackson, although its most long-standing structure



was not constructed until 1904. The cemetery was established during the same time with its first and last recorded burials in 1891 and 1959, respectively. The oldest graves belong to Margaret Hyson (1825-1891), an emancipated slave who worked on the Hall's Hill plantation and the Rev. Winsted Calloway (1843-1891). "Calloway Cemetery is the oldest known church-affiliated, African American graveyard in the Hall's Hill neighborhood and possibly in all of Arlington. This historic cemetery represents an important connection to Arlington's undocumented African American heritage." The Calloway Church Cemetery became an Arlington County Local Historic District in 2012. According to the cornerstone, earliest renovations to the 1904 edifice occurred in 1940 although the extent of the building campaign is unknown. Congregant member, local architect, and Halls Hill community member E. Leslie Hamm was the project architect for the church's renovation and expansion in 1979 under the pastorate of Rev. Carl Renick. The renovation nearly doubled the square footage, expanded the choir loft, and added an open bell tower, vestibule, and new classrooms. The same year as its last 1959 burial, the widening of Langston Blvd caused the relocation of ten graves to Coleman Cemetery in Fairfax County.

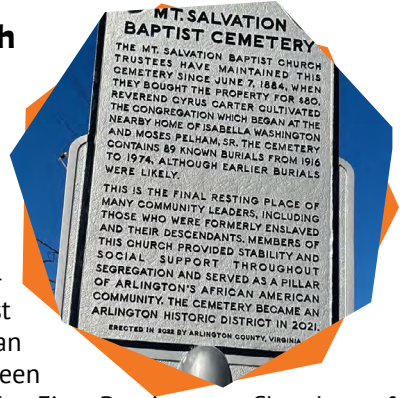


For over a century, Calloway Church fulfilled roles beyond its spiritual capacity serving as a civic and social center for longstanding community organizations like the John M. Langston Citizens Association (established 1924), the John M. Langston School (established 1925), and the Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Department (established 1918). During the Civil Rights Movement, Calloway Church provided student aid and hosted visitors, most notably during the Resurrection City/Poor People's Convention (May 12 – June 24, 1968). The church provided safe space for students to meet and prepare for integration and continued this tradition summarized in its current mission statement: "Open doors. Open hearts. Open minds." Calloway Church is a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which speaks to its ongoing involvement in civil rights since the 1960s.

Mount Salvation Baptist Church

1961 North Culpeper St. | ca. 1974

Historic African American congregation organized in 1872 in the Halls Hill neighborhood, with its original cemetery and a modern church building by architect Charles J. Bryant. Reverend Cyrus Carter, originally from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, organized several Baptist churches within the African American communities in Northern Virginia between 1866 and 1873. Rev. Carter organized the First Baptist Church of Chesterbrook, the First Baptist Church of Vienna, Mount Salvation Baptist Church (Mount Salvation) in Arlington, and Shiloh Baptist Church in McLean, VA. When Rev. Carter organized Mount Salvation circa 1872, the congregation began meeting at the residence of Brother Moses and Hattie Pelham.



According to the history of Mount Salvation, the current one-acre site was purchased in 1884 by the trustees of the church, which included Moses Pelham Sr. Washington Jones, Bonaparte Moten, Harrison King, and Horace Shelton from Bazil and Francis Hall for \$80. Land for the cemetery was acquired in 1888, and the first permanent church was constructed in 1892. Research suggests an interim one-room, wood-framed church existed between 1884 and 1892. Through circa 1885, the Independent School, an area school for African American children in Hall's Hill/High View Park, used the building for classes when the Washington School District constructed a new Sumner School at the corner of Langston Blvd and N. Culpeper Street. Reverend Cyrus Carter of Lincolnton, VA was Mount Salvation's first officiating pastor. Under the pastorate of Reverend Chinnor Coleman (1905-1917), the building was enlarged, and a baptismal pool installed. The most prolific building campaign began in the 1940s under the pastorage of Rev. N.R. Richardson (1931-1966). Renovations in 1942 included a façade renovation and the addition of a basement, new windows, and automatic bells/chimes. The two-story central bell tower was constructed in the 1950s and a new composition shingle roof was added over the original roof in 1963.

The original 1892 building was demolished on July 24, 1975, to make way for a new structure approved for construction on May 13, 1974 (Building Permit No.8760-C). Architect Charles J. Bryant, of Bryant & Bryant (Washington, D.C.) designed the new masonry and steel structure; E.L. Daniels of Arlington, VA was the contractor. The new church is associated with the historic Mount Salvation Baptist Church Cemetery.

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Langston Brown Community Center/Sumner School

No. 2 (Site) 2121 North Culpeper Street | ca. 1886

The current Langston Brown Community Center stands on hallowed educational ground, as this was the site of the post-Civil War Sumner School, established for newly freed slaves in Arlington County. The Sumner Schools taught African Americans students who resided in the Washington District of Alexandria County (present-day Arlington County). There are two 1868 accounts regarding the origin of Sumner School (No. 1) led by Etta Row Jackson. One recounts the school beginning in the “Wonder House” on Falls Road (now Langston Blvd), the other states it



was taught from the one-room, wood-framed Calloway United Methodist Church (Calloway Church) that was also located on Langston Blvd. Historic references of the “Sumner School” begin circa 1872; Charles Sumner (1811-1874), “that great statesman, advocator, and fighter for a civil rights bill which would also give freedom to schools” was the institution’s namesake. By 1872, a Sumner School was being ran from the Calloway Church with at least 21 children led by teacher Ettie J. Rowe; likely the same school noted in 1868. Miss Jennie E. Arnold had charge of the school in 1874. By 1876, the school relocated “across the road to a more commodious and comfortable house in the Odd Fellows’ Hall; “Miss Arnold remained teacher of approximately 60 students. It appears another school, the “Independent School” began in the Mt. Salvation Baptist Church soon after the Sumner School relocated to the Odd Fellows Hall in 1876. It is hypothesized that the reference to a Sumner School No. 1 and No. 2 began around this time to differentiate between the two schools that likely administered to two different age groups.

By 1885 the Washington School district decided to purchase a half-acre lot from Bazil Hall to construct Sumner School No. 2 at the current site. The Sumner School No. 2 included students from both schools. Arlington County land records list the school district’s purchase on August 10, 1885, for 75 dollars. In 1924, following post World War I expansion needs, the school was demolished to construct the John M. Langston School.

Langston Brown Community Center/ John M. Langston School (Site)

2121 North Culpeper Street | ca. 1925

Built as a high school for African American students and named for a prominent abolitionist, the Langston School was also a rare example of a Rosenwald School in Arlington County. The John M. Langston School site is the former location of the Julius Rosenwald John M. Langston School. The school's namesake, John Mercer Langston (1829-1897), was born a free African American man in Louisa County, Virginia.



Langston became a renowned abolitionist, politician, attorney, and educator. In 1924, following post-World War I expansion needs, the Sumner School #2 was demolished to construct the John M. Langston School (Langston School). At the recommendation of the Hall's Hill/High View Park community, the school board accepted that the school "henceforth be known as the John M. Langston Elementary Colored School." Construction of the four-teacher type Langston School was partially funded by the Julius Rosenwald Fund (\$1,100), Arlington County (\$31,400), and the surrounding African American community (\$500). Upman and Adams Architects, a Washington DC firm, designed the school and local African American contractor Noble N. Thomas constructed the brick edifice. Additional local tradesmen involved in the construction of the school included Dan Ferguson (carpenter), Jim Williams (plumber), Howard Moten (bricklayer), Floyd Hardy (painter), John Gilliam (electrician) and Mr. Littlejohn (electrician) (Best et. al. 1995).

Members of the Hopewell Lodge No. 1700 led the cornerstone laying ceremony on October 19, 1924, before a crowd of more than 1,000; the school was dedicated on May 30, 1926.

Post-World War II population growth necessitated the expansion of the Langston School, which received additions in 1953, 1959, and 1964. Secondary schools in Arlington County integrated from 1963-1964, followed by the desegregation of elementary schools in 1966. In 1966, Langston

School, by then Langston Elementary, was one of five that served the north central corridor of Arlington County. The Langston Elementary student body, the only African American elementary school in north Arlington County, was divided between Lee-Reed, Woodlawn, Cherrydale and Taylor Elementary Schools. A kindergarten remained in the building through 1971.



Fire Station No. 8/ Hall's Hill

Firehouse 4845 Langston Blvd - 1961

Historically important landmark in the Hall's Hill neighborhood, this building dates from 1962 and replaced an earlier fire house built in the 1920s. In 1918, residents of Hall's Hill, established the Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Station.

#8 was the County's first African American-manned fire station created during a segregated era

when African American communities across the nation created autonomous social, civic, religious, commercial, and residential enclaves throughout the nation (ACCB 1994; Simon 2018). The fire department elected its first officers in 1925 and officially incorporated in 1927. By 1934, the department moved to its current location on property owned by the Hicks family. The first HHVFD building located at 2209 N. Culpeper Street was adjacent to the William and Susana Hicks residence on Lot 26 of the Cottage Park subdivision. The building was a simple, two-bay, front-gabled structure with a center-ridge, bell-rigged cupola constructed circa 1934. The rudimentary beginnings of the fire station included a team of six who utilized a two-wheel cart outfitted with a 60-gallon chemical tank to navigate the High View Park neighborhood (ACCB 1994; Walk Arlington 2014; Simon 2018). The Halls Hill community procured the equipment for the fire station during its earliest years through fund-raising carnivals, door-to-door canvassing, and subscription support. By 1926, the force acquired a 1917 Mitchell motor-driven fire truck with a mounted 60-gallon chemical tank/extinguisher. Through continued community support, the fire department continued to upgrade its equipment. In 1933, they acquired a County-provided 1929 Diamond-T fire truck, a 1929 600-gallon pumper in the early 1950s. Unfortunately, County-provided equipment was often used, outdated or faulty. In addition, County compensation for the department also lagged.



In 1951, eleven years after their Caucasian peers, the County's first paid African American firefighters were Alfred Clark and Julian Syphax; Clark became the first African American Fire Captain in the County. When the station became County-owned in the early 1960s, it was a combination engine and truck company with a crew of 21 that operated a 100-foot aerial ladder truck. The station remained all African American through the 1960s. Planning for a new county-owned fire house in Hall's Hill started in the early 1960s. The county Board acquired several additional parcels of land, contracted architect Richard Parks to design the building, and paid \$134,216 to build the station in August 1962. The ground-breaking ceremony for the second First Station No. 8 building occurred in 1962. The second and extant building reflected mid-century modern architectural influences and was located east of the previous building at 4545 Langston Blvd oriented to face the busy thoroughfare.

The newly renovated Fire Station 8 opened in August of 2024.

Hall's Hill Wall (Segregation Wall)

17th Street North, rear property line | ca. 1920

The wall serves as a reminder of the lengths that white residents went to prevent their African American from being at any time in their white neighborhood. The Segregation Wall is a mixed-match agglomeration of fences privately constructed by white residents of neighborhoods surrounding the south end of Hall's Hill/Highview Park neighborhood beginning in the 1930s. Section 14 of Arlington's 1930 Zoning Ordinance allowed for the construction of a rear fence or wall to a height not exceeding seven feet. Rear property walls and fences made way for racialized building practices. Along the rear property line of the white homes bordering Hall's Hill, including the neighborhoods of Fostoria and Waycroft, residents constructed a seven-foot-tall cinderblock wall. At its height, the Segregation Wall enclosed the neighborhood to the south behind the residences along N. 17th Street. The only extant section of "The Wall," as the structure is commonly known throughout HHHVP, was constructed by residents of the Woodlawn Villas and Cardwells subdivisions. Portions of it exist behind the homes along 17th Road North between N. Culpeper and N. Edison Streets. The fence sections are materially disjointed given each resident was responsible for building on their own lot. Glebe Road to the southwest of the neighborhood was a major thoroughfare for services and amenities not provided within the community. Prior to the erection of the wall, residents could walk to Glebe Road unhindered across unbuilt land. Once the wall was complete a one block "short-cut" became a twelve to thirteen block circuitous walk up to Langston Blvd and over to Glebe Road.



During the era of desegregation, children from HHHVP were to attend Woodlawn Elementary, on the other side of Segregation Wall. After HHHVP parents petitioned the school board, portions of the wall were demolished to allow school children passage to the newly integrated Woodlawn Elementary. Creation of this new accessway between N. Culpepper and N. Abingdon required the acquisition and demolition of two Woodlawn Villa properties circa 1966.

The remaining wall sections are commemorated by a historical marker. The historic marker as erected in 2016 by Arlington County in honor of the 150th Anniversary of Hall's Hill. The marker was a collaborative effort between the HHHVP Historic Preservation Coalition and the County's Historic Preservation Program to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the neighborhood.

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CVS/ Peoples Drug Store

4709 Langston Blvd | ca. 1956

Three of the historically significant sites along Langston Blvd are the two drugstores and Howard Johnson's Restaurant that witnessed non-violent and ultimately successful sit-ins of restaurant facilities in 1960. This culminating moment in Arlington County was reached through the bravery and tenacity of the Nonviolent Action Group (NAG), a group started at Howard University, and their supporters. Students from



North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College led the first nonviolent desegregation sit-in at Woolworth's in Greensboro, North Carolina on February 1, 1960. Their passive resistance emboldened others and sit-ins and versus picketing became a powerful nonviolent method to protest segregation. NAG's first official sit-ins occurred along Arlington's Langston Blvd corridor during June 1960. Commercial establishments like Drug Fair, People's Drug Store and Woolworth were selected for NAG sit-ins because of their apparent hypocrisy. Outlets of these chains in the District were desegregated by 1960 but locations in Virginia and Maryland continued to operate according to the de facto/de jure segregation that persisted in the South. NAG led the first sit-in with an interracial group on June 9, 1960, at the People's Drug Store (4709-A Langston Blvd) and the Drug Fair (3811-3815 Langston Blvd). Management at both the Drug Fair and People's Drug Stores closed in response to the sit-ins. The NAG groups returned to the same locations the following day to more success and no arrests.

Sit-in participants were trained to withstand crowd retaliation and practice true nonviolence; Calloway United Methodist Church was one HHHVP institution that opened its doors for training.

High View Park

1945 North Dinwiddie Street | ca. 1930

Located in the heart of the Halls Hill neighborhood, this park was reserved for African Americans as part of Arlington County's segregated parks system. According to long-time resident of Halls Hill/High View Park (HHHVP), Saundra Green, the area was the neighborhood playground from at least the 1930s on land that belonged to the Carpenter Family (Green 2019). For a time, the park was managed by Mr. Ernest Green, manager of the Negro Section of the Arlington County Parks and Recreation Department. In the 1950s, the park received its first rudimentary equipment, a swing set and backstop but was staffed during summer months to create activities for neighborhood children.

Arlington County began its Neighborhood Conservation Program (NCP) in 1964. The first HHHVP NCP adopted by the County occurred on February 13, 1965. One prioritized community issue identified in the 1964 HHHVP NCP was to: "...propose a fully equipped playground with facilities to include drinking fountains, a storage building and toilets. Our playground has been totally unusable for almost three years, although the present construction offers some encouragement." The final statement of the NCP ranked 'Recreation-playground' as one of four "Priority number 1 items." It appears the County received the HHHVP NCP and finally followed through with implementation by the early 1970s. According to the park parcel's real estate data, it was purchased by the County on January 1, 1971. By 1979, the baseball field was added, and the basketball courts first appear in 1981. Today, amenities of this three-acre park include a picnic area, charcoal grills, playground, a permit-priority baseball/softball field, two lighted basketball courts with bleachers. In 2024 the Halls Hill Historic Preservation Coalition worked with the County's Historic Preservation Program to rename the High View Park field after long-time resident, and community advocate Alfred Forman Sr. who dedicated his life to his family and the Halls Hill/High View Park community.

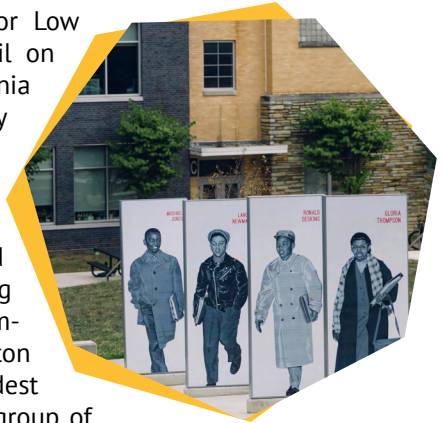
E. Leslie Hamm House**

1900 North Cameron Street | ca. 1950

Home of architect Leslie Hamm and wife Dorothy Hamm, prominent Civil Rights-era activists, and community leaders. Edward Leslie Hamm, Sr. (1917-2013) and his wife, Dorothy Bigelow Hamm (1919-2004) were longtime residents of Halls Hill, dedicated to seeing the advancement of their local community and the African American community at large through their professional and personal lives. From a profile in 1969 in the Washington Post: "For 15 years the Hamm's have been involved in just about every phase of the civil rights struggle in Arlington, not to mention the fact that they as much as anyone are responsible for the neighborhood conservation program". Edward Hamm was an architect who apprenticed with architect Romulus Cornelius Archer, Jr., an African American architect who opened a private practice in Washington, D.C. in 1921 and became the second licensed African American architect in the city in 1926. Edward Hamm designed and constructed the Hamm's residence located at 1900 N. Cameron Street "brick by brick and board by board," the building took five years. Hamm graduated from the Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) in 1940 with a degree in Building Construction. In his local community, Hamm was the project architect for the renovation and expansion of Calloway United Methodist Church (Calloway Church) at 5000 Langston Blvd in 1979. As an active community member, Edward Hamm served as a member of the Arlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee, Board of Directors for the Arlington

Interchurch Committee on Housing for Low Income Families, the Arlington Council on Human Relations; the Northern Virginia Fair Housing Association; the County Advisory Board on Health and Welfare; and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Dorothy Hamm was also a prolific and active community member. She, along with her counterparts in the black community worked to integrate Arlington County schools. In 1956, she and her eldest son, Edward Leslie Hamm, Jr. joined a group of



families in a civil suit to integrate the all-white Stratford Junior High (Stratford High); the suit was *Clarissa S. Thompson et al. v. the County School Board of Arlington*, 159 F. Supp. 567. Though the 1956 civil suit was unsuccessful, but in 1958, by order of the U.S. District Court Stratford Junior High became the first white public school in Virginia to desegregate. Desegregation was an arduous process and Dorothy Hamm was a participant in challenging the Pupil Placement Act, which was designed to delay school integration while giving the appearance of compliance (Virginia Changemakers n.d.). The Hamm's were collectively involved in challenging Virginia's poll tax in 1963. Later the same year Dorothy Hamm was arrested for her involvement in the public protest to desegregate Arlington theatres. The arrest did not deter her efforts as she remained politically and civically active serving as a delegate to Arlington County and state conventions in 1964, was appointed assistant registrar and a chief election officer in the Woodlawn precinct in Arlington, worked to establish a local chapter of the Congress on Racial Equality organized in Arlington, and participated in the 1968 "Poor People's March on Washington". She became the first recipient of the Arlington County Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in 1982 and the Virginia House of Delegates honored her lifelong contributions in a joint resolution in 2002. Dorothy Hamm's most recent, postmortem accolades include recognition by the Virginia Women's Monument Commission "Voices from the Garden" project and honor for the historic role she played in integrating Stratford Junior High School.

The newly renovated Stratford Junior High, a National Register of Historic Places-listed resource, Virginia Landmark and Arlington County Historic District, reopened as the Dorothy Hamm Middle School beginning the 2019-2020 school year.

Miss Allen's Store (Site) 1821 North Columbus Street | ca. 1935

Although the original building no longer stands, this was the site of an active grocery/residence in the Hall's Hill/Highview Park neighborhood. Prior to the Civil Rights Movement, African American communities were mostly autonomous and self-reliant for goods and services. Many service-oriented businesses were located within the homes of the proprietors to offset the cost of purchasing land and building a shop. The home of Washington and Rose Allen was reportedly the first home-based general store in Hall's Hill/Highview Park. Arlington Directories from 1955 to 1964 list Rose H. Allen as resident of 1821 N. Columbus Street as well as the "Allen & Davis Grocery". According to the Arlington County Building Card for 1821 N. Columbus Street, the residence, noted as a "concrete block dwelling," was owned and occupied by Washington and Rose Allen in 1935. The historic home appears to have been razed circa 2001 as only the land was sold in 2001. The extant residence was constructed circa 2002.

Tattoo/Judge Thomas R. Monroe Law Office

4818 Langston Blvd | ca. 1935

Law office of Thomas Monroe, Esq. first African American judge in Arlington County. This was an African American-owned building built by area resident Vance Green who operated multiple businesses from the property, including a barber and beauty shop, dentist office, and the law office of attorney Thomas Monroe from the structure. Thomas R. Monroe (1924-2005) was a lawyer of many soon after opening his solo law office on Langston Blvd in 1955. That same year he became president of the Arlington County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People through 1956. Arlington County Directories from 1955 to 1964 confirm Monroe's law practice located at 4818 Langston Blvd (Hill's various dates). From 1955 to 1959, his law firm was named Hankins, Myer & Monroe; it was listed as Myers & Monroe in 1961 and 1964. In 1968, Monroe joined the law firm Bean, Kinney & Korman as the first African American partner in a non-minority law firm in Virginia. In four short years, he was appointed to the bench where he served as the first African American Circuit Judge in Arlington County and the first to serve on all three Arlington courts. Judge Monroe retired from Arlington County judiciary in 1993 leaving a legacy of "compassion as well as competence" according to then-fellow Chief Circuit Judge William L. Winston.

Judge Monroe was a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, VA and served as an Army sergeant during World War II before studying law at Howard University.

Hicks' House (Site) 2211 North Culpeper Street

Home site of prominent entrepreneurs Theodore and Lucy Hicks in the Cottage Park Subdivision. William H. and Susana Hicks were some of the first entrepreneurs in the Hall's Hill/Highview Park (HHHVP) neighborhood of Arlington County. In 1904, they purchased a 3.5-acre parcel along with Daniel E. Wiseman and created the "Cottage Park" subdivision for residential and commercial development. One of their first businesses was the Hicks Bus Company which serviced the Rosslyn streetcar stop, approximately four miles east of the HHHVP neighborhood. In 1892, the Washington & Arlington Railway began to provide streetcar service from the county [Arlington] to the District of Columbia. The Washington, Alexandria, and Mount Vernon Electric Railway began the same year with service between Alexandria and Mount Vernon. Beginning in 1894, this streetcar line extended to Washington, D.C. However, with service to the African American neighborhoods limited to stops at Nauck and Penrose on the Washington & Arlington Railway line, the streetcar had less impact on the other black communities. The neighborhood of Hall's Hill in the northern section of the county, for example, relied on the independent Hicks Bus Line to provide access to the streetcars. The streetcar lines only connected the county to Washington, D.C. without any cross-routes within the county (Maas et. al. 2016:40, edited). African American communities were reliant on public transportation or independent services like those provided by the Hicks Bus Company well into the twentieth century until the automobile became an affordable purchase. Although the company started in the 1924, and operated during the 1920s and 1930s, the Hicks Bus Line "was not able to compete with ever-expanding white-owned bus services". Hicks ceased operation sometime during the Depression years of the 1930s.

Hicks Market and Restaurant (Site) 4903 Langston Blvd | ca.1940

Site of a locally important market and restaurant operated by the long-prominent Hicks family in the Cottage Park subdivision. The family operated the Hicks Market and Restaurant, formerly located at 4903 Langston Blvd, on lots 20 and 21 within the Cottage Park subdivision.

By the 1950s, Hicks Market and Restaurant was a social hub with a pool hall on the second floor operated by John Hicks, Jr. Theodore Hicks (William and Susana's son) rented out the former general store and restaurant on the first floor. The enterprise remained family-owned until it burned down in a 1956 fire, and it was never rebuilt. Nevertheless, the social and civic legacy was initiated when William and Susana Hicks influenced their son and daughter-in-law, Theodore and Lucy Hicks,



to help the HHHVP community persevere through racial segregation. The couple purchased lots 27 and 28 of the Cottage Park subdivision from Susana Hicks soon after their marriage in 1927 and became long-standing HHHVP community members through the 1960s. In 1944, the family deeded lot 26 to the Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Department (HHVFD), located at the corner of N. Culpeper Street and Langston Blvd, to further root the HHVFD as a pillar of HHHVP. When the HHVFD expanded in the 1960s, it did so on Cottage Park parcels 22 through 26.

Rev. James E. Browne House 2011 North Culpeper Street | ca. 1930

Home of NAACP chapter president Rev. Browne and the site of strategy meetings attended by Thurgood Marshall and others during Civil Rights era. In the 1930s Browne, originally from Texarkana, TX, first lived in the Cherrydale before relocated to 2011 N. Culpeper in 1953. While in Cherrydale, his daughter was bussed to Langston Elementary School on Langston Blvd although they only lived two blocks from the all-white Cherrydale Elementary School (Browne in Bozeman et. al. 2004). Though an electrician by trade and full-time vocational teacher in Washington D.C., Browne became president of the Arlington chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (Arlington NAACP) from circa 1951-1954; he became the Education Chairman of the Arlington NAACP and President of the Hoffman-Boston Parent Teacher Association in 1955. Under his presidency, the 1947- 1950 Constance Carter v. the School Board of Arlington County was filed and won whereby by federal order, local District Judge Albert V. Bryan was ordered to reverse an earlier decision and "provide equal facilities for the county's Black students." As a result, the Hoffman-Boston school, the only African American secondary school in south Arlington County, received an "inadequate addition" in an attempt to "equalize" the school (Browne in Bozeman et. al. 2004). The case outcome unfortunately perpetuated the "separate but equal" 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson finding that reinforced Jim Crow segregation and inequality but led to desegregation in the 1950s. Then Special Counsel for the NAACP, Thurgood Marshall had been attending Arlington NAACP community events in the wake of the 1954 Brown v. Board decision; over 400 attendees heard his keynote address at the meeting held on March 9, 1954, at the Hoffman-Boston High School (Arlington NAACP 1954). In the flyer for this meeting, Marshall is heralded as the "world famous civil rights lawyer, (who) has spearheaded our (Arlington NAACP) legal crusade for Complete freedom. He has the key to FULL CITIZENSHIP. Help the NAACP to unlock the door" (Arlington NAACP March 1954). During this time, then-president Browne opened his home for a meeting with attorneys Thurgood Marshall, Spottswood W. Robinson III, and potentially Oliver White Hill or Martin A. Martin. (Robinson, Hill, and Martin were former classmates of Howard University Law School and partners of the law firm Hill, Martin, and Robinson based in Richmond, VA who were all

active Virginia NAACP lawyers.) Browne recalls Marshall stating, “this whole business of “separate but equal” ain’t gonna happen, we might as well go “whole hog””, and the decision was made to pursue desegregation lawsuits to end Jim Crow laws. Browne’s daughter was selected as the lead plaintiff to allow her admittance into the all-white Washington-Lee High School. During case preparations, Browne’s daughter graduated, and Clarissa Thompson took her stead. The court case, Clarissa S. Thompson, et al. v. County School Board of Arlington County, Virginia, et al, Civil 1341 was filed in 1956 and despite years of massive resistance and bureaucracy, Stratford Junior High School in Arlington became the first white public school in Virginia to integrate on February 2, 1959 (APL various). Browne became an ordained minister after his presidency with the NAACP and was assistant pastor of the Calloway United Methodist Church in the 1950s under long-standing senior pastor Rev. N.R. Richardson (ca. 1931-1946) and Rev. John F. Monroe (1947-1957).

Hall's Hill/High View Park is a historic Black neighborhood located in North Arlington. Founded in 1866, it was one of eleven Black neighborhoods originally established in the period following the US Civil War in Northern Virginia. It is comprised of a small area whose structures include single family homes, schools, a community center, places of worship, retail businesses, and a fire house. Its most notable geographic feature is that it is the highest elevation in Arlington County, and this feature led to the renaming of the neighborhood to Highview Park in the 1960s as a means of separating it from its past as a plantation on which enslaved persons lived and worked.

This walking-tour brochure provides residents, and those “passing through”, with the opportunity to discover people and places that have positively impacted the legacy and longevity of the Halls Hill/High View Park neighborhood. These Hidden Gems possess a value and beauty that have not always been honored nor appreciated, and therefore have received far less recognition than they deserve.

Join us in learning about, remembering and honoring the brilliance, heroism, resilience, and love of a community we affectionately call HALLS HILL!

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