

MILESTONES IN EDUCATION

Following a petition from black leaders, the **Gainsboro branch of the Roanoke library system opened in 1921** in the Odd Fellows Building on Gainsboro Road; it was one of only four black libraries in the South at the time. Twenty years later, a new library facility opened on Patton Avenue, on land acquired from St. Andrew's Catholic Church. This historic library still serves the community and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Lucy Addison came to Roanoke from Northern Virginia in 1887 and taught in Roanoke City Schools for forty years. She was the **first principal of the**

Harrison School, which grew to become the largest black school in Virginia. Addison served on the Library Committee and was instrumental in convincing the Roanoke Library Board to open a library branch on Gainsboro Road. She was vice president of the Burrell Memorial Hospital Association and the Sunday School superintendent of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. In 1928, a **new high school for blacks was built and named in honor of Addison**; the building still stands northwest of the I-581 and Orange Avenue interchange.



Lucy Addison (left) and Addison High School in the 1920s (right). The school later became Booker T. Washington Jr. High School. It is now used for school administration.