



26128 Talamore Drive South Riding, Va 20152

LOCATING THE ALMOST BANNEKER SCHOOL



Across the street from Macsville. Sign faces west.

Report of 11/9/2017

Banneker was created in 1948 to replace the one room school house in the community of Saint Louis, considered a part of Middleburg. By 1946, both the Grant school in Middleburg, which serviced blacks, and the Saint Louis school were overcrowded, as were other “colored” schools, so a debate took place to decide where a modern consolidated graded school might be located.

We know of course that Saint Louis won, which is why Banneker is there. It would service children from western Loudoun and as far east as Dover, a community of Aldie along Route 50. Less well known is that there was a movement to place the school in the little community of Maxville, just east of Middleburg on highway 50. This is according to a 1946 petition, signed by many in Middleburg's African-American community (PTA and Community League of Grant School, 1946, Feb 6). Maxville in

2/13/2019

the petition was today's Macsville. The land in question was owned by William "Willie" N. Hall, a popular African-American contractor (Saffer, 2017).



The property in question was later known as Hall's Park, held the oldest of the Negro baseball fields. The grounds, today called Mickey Gordon Park for the man who organized and coached the Middleburg Babe Ruth team (initially white in 1956), had been established in the late teens by black builder Will Hall. The park was home to the Middleburg Braves. Situated at 23229 Carter's Farm Lane, Middleburg, Va 20118. The size of the park is 100 acres. (Scheel, 2003)

About Hall

William N Hall was William Nathaniel Hall of Middleburg, a building contractor, who was born March, 1890 and died in Leesburg August 4th, 1958. He was also buried in Solon Cemetery, according to his death certificate.

According to the 1940 U.S. census, Hall lived on Marshall Street in Middleburg and had a single year of high school for his education. At the time, he also had a son named William N. Hall the 2nd, aged, then aged 23, so it's possible that the William N Hall mentioned in the petition was the son. The son was born in 1917, had a year of college in 1940 and worked as a stone mason. He then died in 1947.

Questions:

- Why wasn't Macsville chosen? Records on this decision have been lost.
- When did Mr. Hall donate his land to the county? Was it as early as 1946, or perhaps in 1947 when his son died.
- When did the Loudoun County Parks and Recreation take over the plot and name it after Mickie Gordon?

Bibliography

PTA and Community League of Grant School. (1946, Feb 6). *Petition 38, Middleburg Citizens Propose MaxVille for new school*. Edwin Washington Project Archives, 2.5.A Yr 1946 Feb 6 Petition 38 Middleburg Propose MaxVille for new school. Middleburg: PTA and Community League of Grant School.

Saffer, W. (2017, 11 9). Discussion on William Hall. (L. Roeder, Interviewer)

Scheel, E. (2003, July 24). For Blacks, a Thriving League of Their Own. *The Washington Post*.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION
AND
COMMUNITY LEAGUE
Grant School
Middleburg, Virginia

February 6, 1946

Mr. O. L. Emerick,
District Superintendent of Schools,
Loudoun County,
Leesburg, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Emerick:

At our regular meeting held on February 4, 1946, your recent letter written to Dr. Edmead, chairman of our building site committee, was read. Indeed, it made us more informative than we had been before. Nevertheless, it was rather shocking to us to learn of your definite decision.

We had been impressed with the fact, as conveyed by you, that our committee would have been informed voluntarily without having had to write to you. You, of course, evaded this point of the agreement.

In addition, at our last gathering at the School Board meeting we had been informed that a plot of land could have been obtained definitely from Mr. William N. Hall at Maxville and that, were we satisfied with this location it would be a foregone conclusion. We definitely agreed to the proposal. Consequently, with your contrary decision and action we are undoubtedly disappointed.

We feel certain that you have taken cognizance of the many disadvantages of the selection of a site in St. Louis. At any rate, may we have the pleasure and opportunity to point out, as we see them, some of the many disadvantages of constructing a school in St. Louis rather than in Middleburg:-

1. St. Louis roads are unsatisfactory, and during some winter months they are impassable.
2. The land selected is swampy and will require extensive drainage. In short, all lands in St. Louis present this feature.
3. St. Louis lacks all of the conveniences of stores, theatre, and denominational churches.
4. St. Louis lacks Negro leadership and Negro wealth.
5. St. Louis will not attract much patronage in case of school functions and activities.
6. In any school neighborhood there should be conducive surroundings so as to offset the decoy of youngsters. St Louis does not present this qualification.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION
AND
COMMUNITY LEAGUE
Grant School
Middleburg, Virginia

February 6, 1946

Mr. O. L. Emerick,
District Superintendent of Schools,
Loudoun County,
Leesburg, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Emerick:

At our regular meeting held on February 4, 1946, your recent letter written to Dr. Edmead, chairman of our building site committee, was read. Indeed, it made us more informative than we had been before. Nevertheless, it was rather shocking to us to learn of your definite decision.

We had been impressed with the fact, as conveyed by you, that our committee would have been informed voluntarily without having had to write to you. You, of course, evaded this point of the agreement.

In addition, at our last gathering at the School Board meeting we had been informed that a plot of land could have been obtained definitely from Mr. William N. Hall at Maxville and that, were we satisfied with this location it would be a foregone conclusion. We definitely agreed to the proposal. Consequently, with your contrary decision and action we are undoubtedly disappointed.

We feel certain that you have taken cognizance of the many disadvantages of the selection of a site in St. Louis. At any rate, may we have the pleasure and opportunity to point out, as we see them, some of the many disadvantages of constructing a school in St. Louis rather than in Middleburg:-

1. St. Louis roads are unsatisfactory, and during some winter months they are impassable.
2. The land selected is swampy and will require extensive drainage. In short, all lands in St. Louis present this feature.
3. St. Louis lacks all of the conveniences of stores, theatre, and denominational churches.
4. St. Louis lacks Negro leadership and Negro wealth.
5. St. Louis will not attract much patronage in case of school functions and activities.
6. In any school neighborhood there should be conducive surroundings so as to offset the decoy of youngsters. St Louis does not present this qualification.

7. In case of accidents, which undoubtedly will occur, a physician could not be reached immediately, neither could the proper first aid be administered because of the lack of clinical facilities.
8. The inhabitants of St. Louis are less progressive and less community conscious than those of Middleburg. Consequently, cooperation will be inadequate and inefficient.
9. Building such a school in St. Louis would not improve the panorama of our colored and white citizens. This should be one of our ultimate objectives, especially in this atomic age.
10. A building of such anticipated magnitude and architecture should be within the range of sightseers. Therefore, it should be definitely located, if not on, near a macadam road. Such an execution of contemplation and democratic principle shall, without the shadow of a doubt, reverberate in the hearts of all Negroes.
11. Middleburg has always been the leading centre of the surrounding communities for Negroes. It possesses leadership, wealth, progressiveness, and potentialities.
12. St. Louis has always presented a problem in the boarding of teachers --- the homes are limited and are without modern conveniences. The situation will be more perplexing with an increased staff. No one knows any better than you the difficulty in obtaining and retaining qualified teachers, particularly at so critical a time. Hence, we should at least attempt to make the surroundings pleasant for those who are here, those who are to come, and those who will stay.

In short, we Negroes with broad minds and considerable forethought are desirous not only to facilitate improvement of ourselves alone, but for our white brethren as well. It must be borne in mind that a community cannot progress adequately half weak and half strong. We should be able to produce the same impact alike though it may be on opposite sides of the fence.

Now that we have presented our points of view we beg to offer an alternative site --- Mr. William N. Hall's plot of ground at Maxville which is still available. We understand that the price is far beyond the Board's intended expenditure. However, realizing what it would mean to our race and posterity we have committed ourselves to reimburse Mr. Hall the deficit should you and the other members of the Board be so gracious as to grant us our request and conclude the deal.

Conclusively, we, the undersigned patrons, citizens and taxpayers, petition you to reconsider the proposed site and substitute Mr. Hall's plot. Furthermore, we trust that you may be sufficiently open-minded to visualize our predicament as a race to extend to us due consideration and to make such consideration possible.

We wish to express our grateful thanks for your immediate action.

Sincerely yours,

Clarendon C. Fisher

Gurley H. Wanger

Lorraine Dade

John Parker

Henry Page

Joseph D. Butler

John W. Wanger

Robert Douglass

Geo. B. Turner.

Walter Simpson

J. M. Hensborough

Mrs. Kate Smith

Fannie B. Stewart

Nora Smith

Ellen Grayson

Dorothy E. Scott

Snella Brown

Alisia Read

Mat Read

Laura M. Harris.

Estelle R. Wade.

Mrs. Hattie S. Hall

Mrs. Mildred Jackson

x Mrs. Kate Hill

x Mt. Flood Hill

Lenna Stewart

Mrs. Jane Butler

Miss Sadie Scott

Maurice Bk. Edmond, M.D.

William M. Jackson

Ruth Cook

C. P. Cook & Son }
(Metal roof contractors)

Bethia Cook.

Willie Haskins

Virginia Artis

Malie Smith

Jahmie T. Smith

Theodore D. Baldwin

A. P. Smith
 Edith C. Smith.
 Mrs Carl Dawson
 Pauline Trammell
 Mrs Laura Dawson
 Louise Brooks
 Mrs Carrie Donaldson.
 Robert D Skipton
 Mrs Mamie Douglass.
 Mrs. Mary Douglass.
 M. Christine Baldwin
 Mary Taylor
 Francis M. Wanger,
 Mary Jackson
 Yvette Peterson
 Sallie Irving
 Lillian L. Ford
 Kiyoko Thomas
 Ethel S Brown
 Pinkney C Brown.
 Mollie M. Evans
 George & Evans

James Smith
 Randolph B. Evans
 Edna B. Evans.
 Thomas C. Young
 Virgie W. Young
 Myrtle McCady
 Mrs Moses Grayson
 Mr Moses Grayson
 Mrs Isabel Grayson
 Mrs Mozell Hatcher
 Mr Wilmer Hatcher
 Mrs S uphia Washington
 Mr force Washington
 Lloyd Hall.
 Mrs. Lloyd Hall
 Mrs. Mary Hall
 Hannah Perry
 Juanita Bushrod
 John H Moten
 Fannie B Moten
 Posie Richardson
 Clara & Pyle.

Charles H. Smith

Emma D. Smith

Henry Art's

Flossie Blunder

Mrs Josephine Washington

James L. Blunder

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION
AND
COMMUNITY LEAGUE
Grant School
Middleburg, Virginia

February 6, 1946

Mr. O. L. Emerick,
District Superintendent of Schools,
Loudoun County,
Leesburg, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Emerick:

At our regular meeting held on February 4, 1946, your recent letter written to Dr. Edmead, chairman of our building site committee, was read. Indeed, it made us more informative than we had been before. Nevertheless, it was rather shocking to us to learn of your definite decision.

We had been impressed with the fact, as conveyed by you, that our committee would have been informed voluntarily without having had to write to you. You, of course, evaded this point of the agreement.

In addition, at our last gathering at the School Board meeting we had been informed that a plot of land could have been obtained definitely from Mr. William N. Hall at Maxville and that, were we satisfied with this location it would be a foregone conclusion. We definitely agreed to the proposal. Consequently, with your contrary decision and action we are undoubtedly disappointed.

We feel certain that you have taken cognizance of the many disadvantages of the selection of a site in St. Louis. At any rate, may we have the pleasure and opportunity to point out, as we see them, some of the many disadvantages of constructing a school in St. Louis rather than in Middleburg:-

1. St. Louis roads are unsatisfactory, and during some winter months they are impassable.
2. The land selected is swampy and will require extensive drainage. In short, all lands in St. Louis present this feature.
3. St. Louis lacks all of the conveniences of stores, theatre, and denominational churches.
4. St. Louis lacks Negro leadership and Negro wealth.
5. St. Louis will not attract much patronage in case of school functions and activities.
6. In any school neighborhood there should be conducive surroundings so as to offset the decoy of youngsters. St Louis does not present this qualification.