



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*.