

A Virginia Historical Highway Marker for

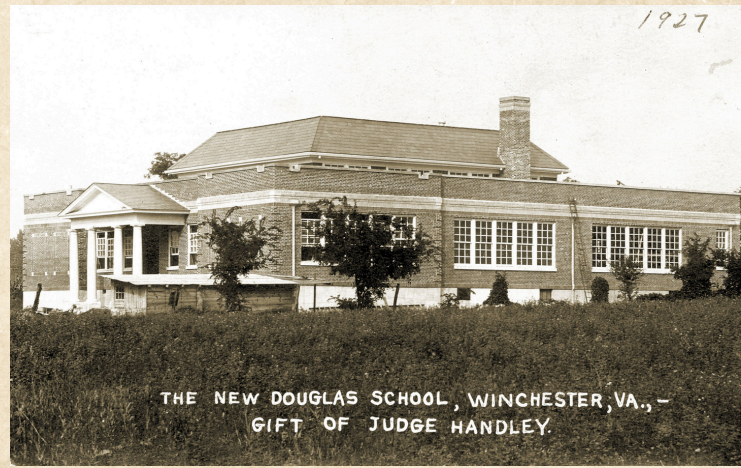
DOUGLAS SCHOOL

Winchester's public school for Black children, 1927–1966

Please join us for the unveiling of the new Virginia Historical Highway
Marker (address: 598 North Kent Street)

DOUGLAS SCHOOL

Douglas School, Winchester's public school for Black children, originated ca. 1878 with classes in the Old Stone Church. In the 1920s, overcrowding prompted citizens to campaign for better facilities. Built with state funds and a bequest from John Handley, the new Douglas School opened here in 1927 to serve grades 1–9. The building, later enlarged, offered a full 12 grades by 1952 and became a regional high school with students from nearby counties. School, church, and civic programs held here put Douglas at the center of Black community life. Winchester desegregated its schools in 1966. Renovations completed in 2022 prepared the building for use as school district offices and a museum.



Sunday, February 2, 2025, at 2:30 pm

Following the unveiling ceremony, attendees are invited to an open house reception in Douglas School sponsored by the Winchester City Public Schools. Inside the renovated original school building is a museum display about the school's history.

Thank you to the Adams Family Foundation for funding the marker.