

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **OCT 22 1985**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**DEC 5 1985**

**1. Name**

historic Douglass Junior and Senior High School

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Tenth Avenue and Bruce Street  not for publication

city, town Huntington  vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Cabell code 011

**3. Classification** See Form

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Cabell County Board of Education

street & number 620 20th Street

city, town Huntington,  vicinity of state West Virginia

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cabell County Court House

street & number 8th Street & 4th Avenue

city, town Huntington, state West Virginia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Douglass Junior and Senior High School was built between 1924-26 to replace the old "Douglass School" located at the corner of Hal Greer Blvd. and 16th Street. The old Douglass School was renamed the Barnett School.

The building is situated on a 3/4 acre lot on the corner of 10th Avenue and Bruce Street. It is located in a residential neighborhood in the south-central part of the city of Huntington, West Virginia. It is near a recreational area that was once used by the students of the school.

Frampton and Bowers, an Ohio firm, constructed the building. The school, built in a rather traditional style for the period, was given an exterior of red brick with white terra cotta trim. The main entrances, both front and side, are finished with half columns and enlarged arched windows. The school, 113 ft. wide and 230 ft. long, is a three story structure with a concrete foundation and an asphalt/slag roof.

The general overall condition of the exterior is good, with little or no changes since its completion. The interior of the building has been renovated several times. The most significant additions came in 1937 with the construction of an auditorium and in 1950 with the completion of a gymnasium. In 1961, as a result of the end of segregation, Douglass closed its doors as a school. Remodeling and renaming occurred as it became a center for rehabilitated children, under the name of Fairfield School. Between 1963 and 1981 it was a school for special education. Internal remodeling occurred again in 1981 when the school was reassigned as educational offices including a center for student testing for which it continues to serve presently.

The Douglass Junior and Senior High School in Huntington is a building of local distinction, if not architecturally then certainly historically, which served for some thirty-seven years as the educational, cultural and athletic center for the black citizens of the city.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Black history

**Specific dates** 1924-26 **Builder/Architect** Frampton & Bowers

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Douglass Junior and Senior High School stands as a symbol for the black citizenry of the city of Huntington, West Virginia. As so admirably stated by those most knowledgeable, the graduates and friends of Douglass, the school served as a cultural and educational center for the black community for nearly forty years. "The act", they state, "of restoring Douglass to its former place of prominence would be of incalculable value to the entire area".

In 1891, in response to an appeal from the Negro leaders in the community, the Board of Education erected a building at the corner of Eighth Avenue and Sixteenth Street, on a lot 120x200 feet. It was a six room brick with basement, and cost \$15,000. It was named for Frederick Douglass. The high school course was then only two years in length but it put new life in the Community. The first class graduated in 1893. Two more classes were graduated in 1897. In 1899 the courses were lengthened to four years, adding to it several new branches. In 1903, three classes graduated and much was done toward building up the library.

In 1903, the faculty which had stood at seven for six years was increased to eight. Two years later, two more rooms were added to Douglass and the building was remodeled at a cost of \$8,000. Two years later a two-room frame building was erected on Tenth Avenue and Bruce Street, on a lot 120x130 feet, the whole valued at \$5,000. It was named for Rev. Nelson Barnett, a pioneer pastor. Also a portable building was set upon the Douglass school yard. Three years later in 1913, the Board of Education, erected a ten-room brick addition to Douglass at a cost of \$40,000. It contained a laboratory for physics and chemistry a domestic science room, a manual training room, a sewing room, a commercial room, a library, an assembly room and an office. It was a two-story brick building and fire proof. It was heated and ventilated by the fan system, which was installed at a cost of \$5,000. The rooms were large and well lighted. There were two large corridors with compolite floors. The Douglass school faculty had grown to seventeen teachers with a monthly payroll of \$1,500. The total enrollment in 1913 was four hundred and sixty-five in the graded and high school departments combined. The high school enrollment then was twenty.

The high school enrollment in 1919 was one hundred and twenty. Then, there was only one teacher for the high school. Later, there were seven. The building also in 1919 contained twenty rooms, whereas the original structure contained but six. The building at that time including the building, equipment and grounds was valued at approximately \$80,000. It was never surpassed by any other school in the state. Four years later, Douglass High was inspected by the State High School Supervisor and was found to meet all the requirements of a first class high school.

(See Attached Sheet)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Wallace, George S., Cabell County Annals and Families, Garrett, Massie, Publishers, Richmond, VA, 1935.

Records from files, Cabell County Board of Education Office.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3/4 acre

Quadrangle name Huntington, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	7	3	7	5	0	4	0	4	2	5	2	5	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Located on a lot measuring 175 x 200 ft. at the N.E. corner of 10th Avenue and Bruce Street, Map Book 1, Map 18, lot no. 11, Block "E"; Deed Book No. 292, p. 35. Cabell County Courthouse, Huntington, WV

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Alan B. Gould, Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs

organization Marshall University date July 22, 1985

street & number Hal Greer Boulevard telephone 696-6690

city or town Huntington, state West Virginia 25701

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 16, 1985

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*for* Patrick Anders date 12/5/85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet      Douglass Junior-Senior      Item number      8      Page      2  
   High School

Douglass Junior-Senior High School was expanded on the corner of Tenth Avenue and Bruce Street at a cost of approximately \$160,000. A school survey conducted in 1932 showed that the school was admirably located. The school was rated first class by the State Department of Education and in March 1927, was admitted to membership in the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, a recognition which placed the school in the front rank of secondary schools in the country. The enrollment showed marked increase each year until its close in 1961.

Douglass was fortunate in its selection of administrators; each principal was progressive, intelligent and visionary. Each sought to enrich the curriculum so that the School could adequately meet the demands of the times. It was mostly through their efforts that Douglass High School made valuable contributions to the State and Nation in terms of intelligent useful citizenry. Douglass graduates entered various fields of endeavor and proved very successful. The closing of the School was due to the 1954, United States Supreme Court decision to end segregated schools.

The last class graduated from Douglass in the Spring of 1961. Following a decision by the Board of Education, the building reopened in 1963 as a school for special education and was renamed Fairfield School. In 1981 its function was changed to that of serving as a testing center and an educational office building. While it continues to be used for the same purposes today, in March, 1985, at the behest of local citizens and the county historical landmarks commission, the Cabell County Board of Education changed the name of the school back to that of Douglass Junior and Senior High School.

Many graduates of Douglass Junior-Senior High School have played significant roles in the history and development of their community. Among Douglass graduates who achieved prominence at home and in distant parts of the country, are the following who represent but a small number of the total:

Dr. Leroy Allen - Outstanding educator, and lecturer. He served as President of Bluefield State College.

Dr. Vernie Bolden - Pastor of the Church of the Covenant, Rochester, New York. He is on the staff of The Rochester Theological Seminary. Dr. Bolden has published several books on Psychology.

Herman Bailey - Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge of New York (State).

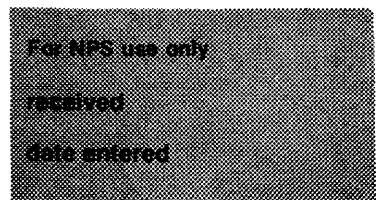
Attorney Earl Johnson - Served as the first Black President of the Council of Jacksonville, Florida. He was involved in many major Civil Rights cases in Florida during the 1960s. He served at one time as an attorney for Dr. Martin Luther King.

Hal Greer - First Black athlete at Marshall University. He was an outstanding basketball player there, and later was a long time star with the Philadelphia 76'ers.

Virginia Monroe Dennis - Commissioner of Voter Registration for the State of Delaware.

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Continuation sheet      Douglass Junior-Senior      Item number      8      Page      3  
   High School

Dr. Effie Carter Gear - Distinguished educator in Florida. Presently principal of Belle Glade's Grand View High School.

William Gear - Served as Mayor of Belle Glade, Florida.

Attorney Robert Early - Prosecuting Attorney, New York City.

Roy Goines - Senior Personnel Relations Associate, Ford World Headquarters, Detroit, Michigan.

Aubrey Lee - Vice President of the National Bank of Detroit, Michigan. This bank has 100 branches.

Dr. Emory Polley - Outstanding in the medical field, Cleveland, Ohio.

Robert Alston - Later a graduate of Hampton, Institute; and

William Hill - Graduate of A and T college, Greensboro, NC

Both of the above men were two of the first chosen to train and serve as Black Pilots in the United States Air Force. They served with distinction in Italy with the 99th Pursuit Squadron.

Joseph Slash, Jr. - First Black Deputy Mayor of the City of Indianapolis where he is the Senior Deputy Mayor.

Joseph A. Slash - Educator, Supervisor of Mathematics, Cabell County, WV, Superintendent of Schools, Cabell County, WV (First black superintendent of Cabell County.)

Among the greatest of the graduates of Douglass was Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), the noted black essayist, historian and activist. It was he who founded in 1915 the nation's oldest black history organization, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History which originated Black History Week and publication of the Journal of Negro History. Woodson, according to the National Cyclopedia of American Biography, graduated from Douglass High School in 1895 and later served as the school's principal. While Woodson did not matriculate in the present building, the famous black educator is remembered for maintaining old West Virginia associations, particularly during the early 1920s when he served as dean of West Virginia State College.

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Continuation sheet

Douglass Junior-Senior  
High School

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Major Bibliographical References

National Cyclopedia of American Biography, vol. 38, New York, James T. White & Co., 1953, pp. 367-68.

Miller, Armenta M., et al, Douglass High School Reunion 1973 Souvenir Program Book, Huntington, WV, Franklin Printing Company, 1973, p.11.