

# THE HISTORIC TOWN OF FAIRMOUNT HEIGHTS



## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2019

Did you know that .....

- In early 1886. John and Caroline Silence purchased twenty-nine acres of land. Six acres were subdivided and became North and West Fairmount Heights (1910) Mt. Weisner (1909 Waterford (1911) and Sylvan Vista (1923).
- In 1907, William Sidney Pittman, architect and son -in-law to Booker T. Washington had moved to Fairmount Heights (historic site 72-09-18). He was elected President of the Fairmount Heights Improvement Company .
- In 1909, the first school for colored children open in Fairmount Heights and was in a one- room frame house on 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue with Carrie Griffin as the first teacher .
- In 1911, William S idney Pittman was hired by the Prince George 's County Board of Education to design a school for Fairmount Heights.
- In 1912, the school known as the "Colored School " #1 in District 18 was constructed (historic Site 72-09-9).
- In 1914, the Board established an industrial department of the School, James F. Armstrong was appointed Superintendent of Colored Schools in Prince George 's County.
- In 1916, the first Fire Department began with the purchase of a fire engine. The engine cost \$200 .
- By 1922, a movement for the Town to become incorporated spread and the matter was taken to the people by Mr. Cornelius Fonville (historic site 72-09-35 602 60<sup>th</sup> Place).
- By 1928, Doswell W. Brooks lead the Citizens Association and the following w ere appointed to draft a town charter , George Patterson, Robert S. Nichols, Edward Ferguson, Charles L. Morris, Jr., W.C. Jones, Mrs. S.Q. Charity and Mrs. Lottie Kellum.
- By January 1925, the charter was passed by the State Legislature.
- On June 5, 1935 the charter was approved by the people of Fairmount Heights

Sources/References: MNCPPC Black Historic Project, Fairmount Heights Brochure & Year Book of the Town of Fairmount Heights for Year 1946