

Appendix 3: Background of APS School Names

APS Elementary Schools

Abingdon – named for a plantation in Arlington (part of its location is now included in the grounds of Reagan National Airport); associated with both the Custis family and the Alexander family for which Alexandria was named, both slaveholder families.

Arlington Science Focus – named for the instructional focus of the school.

Arlington Traditional – named for the instructional approach and focus of the school.

Ashlawn – possibly named for Ash Lawn Plantation near Charlottesville, home of James Monroe, a slaveholder, Founding Father, U.S. Ambassador, Governor of Virginia, Secretary of State and War, 5th U.S. President and author of the Monroe Doctrine.

Barcroft – named after the Barcroft Community House (built for the the Methodist Episcopal Church and housed the original Barcroft School until 1925) and the name of the local neighborhood and civic association where the school is located.

Barrett – named for Kate Waller Barrett, prominent Virginia physician, humanitarian, philanthropist and social reformer.

Campbell – named for Elizabeth Campbell, former APS School Board member and founder of WETA, and her husband, Edmund Campbell, legal representative for Arlington and Virginia families to declare the “Massive Resistance” segregation laws as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court

Claremont – named for the Claremont neighborhood and civic association where the school is located, and name of a port town on the navigable portion of the James River.

Discovery – named for the Discovery space shuttle and in remembrance of the mission flown by John Glenn, US astronaut, Senator and at one time, resident of the Discovery school neighborhood

Drew – named for Dr. Charles Drew, an African American physician and blood transfusion researcher who developed the “bloodmobile” process and the blood plasma storage process led to large-scale blood banks credited for saving thousands of lives in World War II

Glebe – named for Glebe Road, which takes its name from the nearby historic Glebe House. The original structure was built in 1775 provided for the rector of the Fairfax Parish (which included Alexandria, Arlington and Falls Church). The original structure burned in 1808 and was rebuilt in 1820, and the octagon wing was added in 1950. The house is listed on the Virginia and National Register of Historic Places.

(Patrick) Henry – new name approved. The school will become **Alice West Fleet Elementary School** when the new facility opens in 2019, honoring a former African American APS reading teacher and active community leader

Hoffman-Boston – taking its name from the original Hoffman-Boston High School at that location which was the only junior and senior high school for black students in Arlington before desegregation, named for two Arlington County black educators.

Jamestown – named for Jamestown, Virginia, the first settlement and capital of the Virginia Colony and first permanent English settlement in North America, site of the first landing in North America of African American prisoners in 1619, and site of the first African American indentured servants in North America. Records indicate that while some remained slaves, others eventually gained their freedom. When the

capital was moved to what is now Williamsburg, Jamestown ceased to exist. Named in honor of King James I of England.

Key – named for Francis Scott Key, author of the U.S. national anthem “The Star-Spangled Banner” during War of 1812. Key owned slaves, but freed them in the 1830s. He publicly criticized slavery and gave free legal representation to some slaves seeking freedom.

Long Branch – named for the Long Branch Creek in Arlington. The school was a merger of three small elementary schools in the Lyon Park/Ashton Heights areas in the early ‘70’s (Maury – now the Arlington Arts Center, Clay – now a park, and Fillmore, the original smaller school that was expanded to become Long Branch).

McKinley – named for William McKinley, 25th US President. Served in the Civil War as an enlisted soldier in the Union Army.

Nottingham – named after Nottingham Street which was named after Nottingham, England. The street is adjacent to one of the school’s property lines

Oakridge – named as a reference to the adjacent Arlington Ridge Road and the geographical landscape of the surrounding area OR possibly named for Oak Ridge in Charlottesville, a slave plantation

Randolph – named for Peyton Randolph, a Virginia planter/slaveholder and public official from the Colony of Virginia. Served as Speaker of the House of Burgesses and the first President of the Continental Congress.

Taylor – named for Zachary Taylor, 12th President of the U.S., Major General in the Army, hero in the War of 1812 and Mexican-American War. Despite being a slaveholder, he strongly advocated for banning slavery in the new U.S. territories, and as the threat of Southern secession grew, he sided increasingly with the antislavery Northerners.

Tuckahoe – named for Tuckahoe Plantation near Richmond, boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson for several years, and associated with the Randolph family, both slaveholder families.

APS Middle Schools

Gunston – named for Gunston Hall plantation in Fairfax, home of George Mason, Virginia planter, politician and statesman, honored with the naming of George Mason University, a slaveholder

(Thomas) Jefferson – named for Thomas Jefferson, a Virginia planter and slaveholder, Founding Father, principal author of the Declaration of Independence, Secretary of State, 3rd US President, and founder of the University of Virginia.

Kenmore – named for Kenmore Planation in Fredericksburg, home of George Washington’s sister Betty Washington, a slaveholder. The property was renamed in 1819 by new owner, Samuel Gordon, for the place of the family ancestors in Kenmore, Scotland.

Swanson – named for Claude A. Swanson, an American lawyer and Virginia Democrat who served as U.S. Representative, Governor of Virginia and U.S. Senator before being named U.S. Secretary of the Navy under President Franklin D. Roosevelt from 1933 until his death

Williamsburg – named for Williamsburg, the second capital of Virginia, which was named in honor of King William III of England.

APS High Schools

Arlington Community High School – named for the location and to indicate that the school serves students from throughout the Arlington community rather than a fixed boundary

Arlington Career Center – named for the instructional focus of the school

H-B Woodlawn – when the program opened, it was called Hoffman-Boston (because it was housed at the Hoffman-Boston School). Then the program moved to the former Woodlawn Elementary School (now the Arlington Hospice on N. 16th Street) and took on the name H-B Woodlawn. Woodlawn was a plantation in Fairfax that was part of the Mount Vernon estate owned by George Washington, a slaveholder. The name is a combination of Hoffman-Boston Elementary School (formerly Junior-Senior High School), where the Alternative Program for middle schoolers was located and Woodlawn Elementary School (on 16th Street N, now the hospice), where the Alternative Program for high schoolers was located from 1972-78 and in the Waycroft-Woodlawn neighborhood.

Langston-Brown HS Continuation/Community Ctr. – named for two individuals: John Mercer Langston was an abolitionist attorney, educator, US Congressman from Virginia and 1st Dean of Law at Howard University and 1st President of Virginia State University. Lillian Brown, a lifelong Arlington resident, civil rights and neighborhood resident, she focused on improving housing, daycare, recreation and education in Arlington, was a former director of Head Start, and helped form and became executive director of the Arlington Community Action Program, the agency over Head Start and many other community support programs.

New Directions – named for the opportunity and outcome that this program provides to students.

Stratford Program – the name of the program was taken from the original “Stratford Junior High School” location name. Stratford Hall was the original plantation house of the Lee family in Westmoreland County, Va., which took its name from a town and parish in London, England. The school was also the site of the first public school integration in Virginia.

Wakefield – named for a plantation in Westmoreland County, Va., the birthplace of George Washington, a slaveholder, takes its name from a city in West Yorkshire, England.

Washington-Lee – named for two Virginia generals: George Washington, general of the Revolutionary Army and 1st US President, and Robert E. Lee, a U.S. Army General before resigning to become Commander of the Confederate Army in the Civil War, and later President of Washington College. Both were slaveholders.

Yorktown - named for Yorktown, Virginia, site of the last battle of the Revolutionary War. Yorktown is the county seat of York County, one of the eight original shires in colonial Virginia, which was named for the ancient city of York in Northern England.