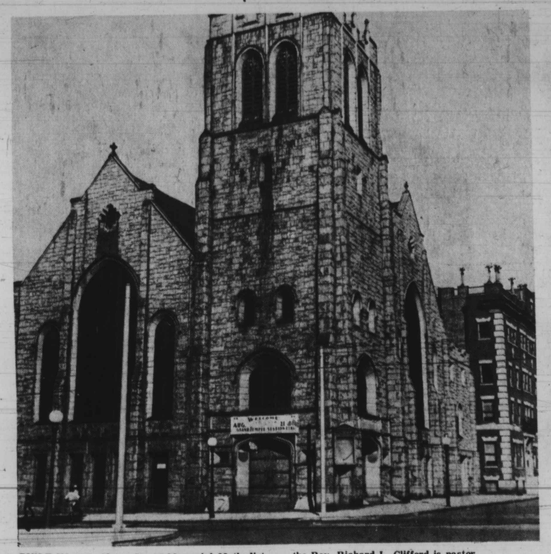

BUILT IN 1898, Sharp Street Memorial Methodist Church is located at Dolphin and Etting St., where the Rev. Richard L. Clifford is pastor.

LOG CABIN — This log cabin, located in Ellicott City, was built in 1780, first serving as a settler's hut. Later it was used as a meeting place for members of the St. Luke A.M.E. Church. (AFRO Staff Photo by Roman Hankewycz)

Sharp Street Church, 78, still serving the faithful in Northwest Baltimore

The church records of Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church do not reveal where the church was started. However, their records state the church had a black congregation prior to 1802.

Before 1802 the black members worshipped in the gallery of the Lovely Lane Chapel (on German St. now Redwood) and numbered about one third of the denomination.

In the hall of the old Sharp Street Church, many of the leaders received their training under Daniel Coker.

Several of the members then withdrew and organized Bethel AME Church in 1811. The first local preachers meeting was held in the church in 1856.

In 1858, a second meeting was called. Memorials from the meetings were sent to the general conference asking that an "annual conference for colored preachers" be organized.

The Washington Annual Conference was organized by Bishop Levi Scott of Delaware in 1860 and Rev. Benjamin Brown Sr. was elected secretary of the conference.

The conference closed Oct. 31, 1864 and slavery was abolished in Maryland, Nov. 1, 1864.

At the closing session of the conference the Sharp Street Church pastor offered this resolution: "Resolve, above all, that we do hereby offer devout thanksgiving and praise to the giver of all good things, for the blessing of his providence in making Maryland a free state and restoring liberty to many of our brethren who have heretofore been in bondage, to God be the glory and to us, the privilege and duty of making this dispensation available to our moral and intellectual elevation."

In 1870 an organization was established for the development of an aged home. This was the beginning of the N. M. Carroll Home for the aged. A parsonage was purchased in 1896 at 507 W. Lanvale St. The home is now located at 822 Carrollton Ave.

Sharp Street Church purchased land for a cemetery in 1872 and called it "City of the Dead for Colored People." The cemetery is located between Annapolis Rd. and Hollins Ferry Rd., in Mt. Winans area. It is now known as "Mount Auburn Cemetery."

In 1870, a few members of Sharp Street Church left the area of South Baltimore to establish a village on the west side of Hollins Ferry Road.

The church saw a need to minister the area. Soon after the purchase of the cemetery, Sharp Street Church built a chapel on one corner of the land and called it "Sharp Street Mission". The building is still owned by Sharp Street Memorial Church and is now known as "Mount Winans United Methodist Church."

The late Rev. D. W. Hays, officials and members decided to build a new church and purchased a lot on the corner of Dolphin and Etting St., where the church is now located.

Ground breaking ceremonies were held Feb. 9, 1898 and the corner stone was laid March 24, 1898. The building was completed and ready for occupancy Oct. 15, 1898. The edifice was named Sharp Street Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. Richard L. Clifford is now serving as pastor of the church. Others who have served as pastors of Sharp Street Memorial Methodist since the Washington Conference of 1864 are:

Benjamin Brown Sr., John N. Mars, Charles G. Key, Henry A. Carroll, Edward W.S. Peck, James W. Dansberry, Benjamin Brown Jr., James H. Harper, H. Brice, Warner H. Cook, James Peck, Thomas Davis, Robert H. Robinson.

Also, John A. Holmes, Samuel Griffin, Nathaniel Carroll, Davis W. Hays, Alfred Young, Isaac L. Thomas, W.A.C. Hughes, M. J. Naylor, Charles Y. Trigg, William H. Dean and Walter A. English, J W. Waters, R. S. Coates, Herbert A. Green, Kelly L. Jackson, Joshua Williams, Edward D. Carroll and Forrest C. Stith.

Dates to remember

JUNE 6
Black explorer Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable established Chicago's first permanent settlement, 1772.

JUNE 7
Birth of poetess Gwendolyn Brooks in Topeka, Kan. in 1917. She received the Pulitzer Prize for her volume of poetry entitled Annie Allen.

JUNE 8
The Supreme Court banned discrimination in restaurants in Washington, D.C. in 1953.

JUNE 11
The American Convention of Abolition Societies was formed in Philadelphia, 1794.

JUNE 12
Assassination of Medgar W. Evers, head of the Mississippi branch of the NAACP, in Jackson, Miss. in 1963.

JUNE 13
Ida Wells Barnett, born in Mississippi in 1889, was a noted journalist and fervent anti-lynching advocate. In 1894 she compiled and published a statistical study on lynchings entitled "A Red Record."

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Michael Harrington

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W.E.B. DuBois

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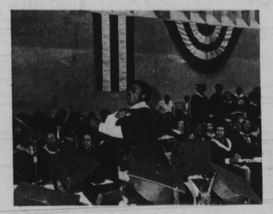
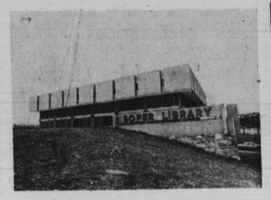
The Morgan State University Alumni Memorial Gate was the site of ceremonies commemorating the much-deserved university status granted to the 108-year-old institution by the state legislature. In the background is Carter-Grant-Wilson Administration Building.



Nathan Carter is the gifted and enthusiastic Director of the Morgan State University Choir. The Choir's many stellar performances have brought them international acclaim.



Morgan State University's Soper Library, completed in 1974, functions as a source of current, authoritative information for the Morgan student and community.

The Carl Murphy Fine Arts Building is the site of most artistic activities at Morgan State University. Concerts, recitals, plays and exhibitions are held there.

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

A HISTORICAL NOTE

During the organization meeting of the Washington Conference of the Methodist Church which closed on October 31, 1864, a colored minister introduced this resolution: "Resolved, above all, that we do hereby offer devout thanksgiving and praise to the Giver of all good things, for the blessing of His Providence in making Maryland a Free State, and restoring to liberty many of our brethern who have heretofore been in bondage, to God be the Glory, and to us, the privilege and duty of making this dispensation available for our moral and intellectual elevation."

The last two words of the above resolution "intellectual elevation" were challenging to the assembled group. Those pioneers realized that there could be very little progress for themselves and their newly freed fellowmen without education or intellectual elevation.

The idea of establishing a school was definite and pressing. However, the implementation of a great and good idea was most difficult for these men. They had experienced the help and friendship of white ministers and Bishop Levi Scott in the organization of their Washington Conference. The advice of these same friends was sought in implementing the idea of a school under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Scott called a meeting of the advisers on December 25, 1866. It was agreed to form themselves into a Board of Trustees, thirteen in number. During a meeting on January 3,1867,the Board of Trustees approved Bishop Scott's proposals that the name of the school be the Centenary Biblical Institute of the Methodist Episcopal Church and that for the ministry in the Methodist Episcopal Church "As shall have been judged by a Quarterly Conference to be divinely called there." In attendance during that January 3 meeting and listed among the founders of the school were Hugh Bond, Reverend James Brown, Isaac Cook, Francis Crook, William Daniel, Henry Drakeley, Reverend William Harden, Daniel Hill, Reverend Samuel Hindes, Thomas Kelso, Reverend John Lanahan, Reverend Charles Reid and Reverend Robert Turner.

A school with a particularly rich history of educating black Americans of Maryland, Morgan has come through four major eras on its way to becoming the University it is today.

The first era (1867-1890) found the college in its embryonic stage as the Centenary Biblical Institute; its second era (1890-1938) brought a change in name when an endowment by Dr. Lyttleton F. Morgan, a former Chairman of the Board of Trustees enabled the school to offer courses on the collegiate level. As a result, the name of the institution was changed to Morgan College. The third era (1939 to June 30, 1975) was initiated by an act of the Maryland General Assembly creating Morgan, the state college, in November, 1939.

The fourth and perhaps most significant era to date is just beginning. In April of last year(1975), the Maryland General Assembly created Morgan State University when it voted to give the college university status, effective July 1. Governor Marvin Mandel signed the bill granting university status on May 15. The legislative action enables the new University to once again come under the purview of a board of trustees which serves and governs only Morgan.

It has been one hundred-eight years since the founding of the college which was to become Morgan College in 1890, Morgan State College in 1939 and Morgan State University in 1975. The unfolding years have provided a vivid study in contrast which shows that since 1867 Morgan State University has grown from:

. . . a small and humble private institution established by the Methodist Church to a significant and exciting public institution supported by the State of Maryland.

. . . an institution devoted primarily to the education of Negroes to a college which serves an extensive clientele without regard to race.

. . . an institution with a handful of students and two part-time faculty members to one which has over 5,000 students and a full-time faculty of 315, of whom 40 per cent hold doctoral degrees.

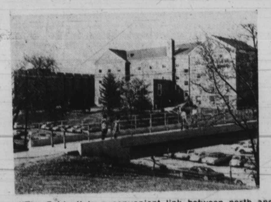
. . . an institution designed primarily for the education of ministers to one offering undergraduate work in 22 departments and 45 areas of study, graduate work in several departments and dedicated to providing instruction in the liberal arts and sciences.

. . . a single classroom to a beautiful campus of 130 acres and 35 buildings valued at more than 42 million dollars in 1975.

. . . an institution with an annual operating budget of practically nothing to more than 17 million dollars in 1975.

. . . an institution with little impact on the community to one which has an international reputation as an outstanding institution of higher education and whose almost 12,000 graduates are playing significant roles in the activities of our state and our nation.

"THERE IS A NEW UNIVERSITY IN TOWN, THAT IS 108 YEARS OLD. . ."



"The Bridge" is a convenient link between north and south campuses at Morgan State University as well as a popular area to meet and greet friends. In the background is Truth House, one of four women's dormitories at the University.

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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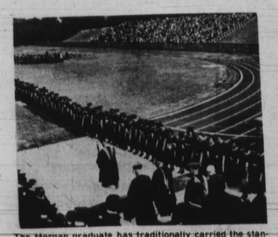
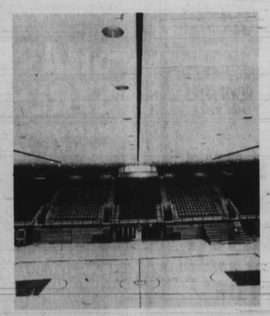
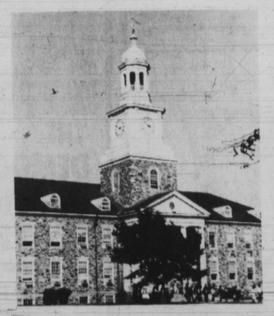


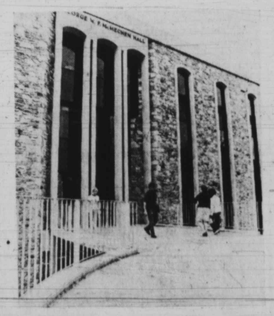
The Morgan graduate has traditionally carried the standards of excellence nurtured at the University throughout his lifetime. Morgan graduates have distinguished themselves in a host of professions.



Morgan State University's Hill Fieldhouse, dedicated in October, 1974, is the home of the Morgan Bear Basketball squad. . .



The Dwight O. W. Holmes Hall, named for a former Morgan president, houses the College of Arts and Sciences.



The George W. F. McMechen Hall houses the University's School of Business and Management as well as the University Book Store.

3 JUL 3