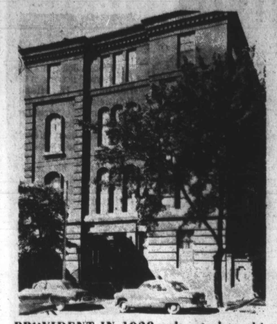
Provident observes 85th year of service

A very significant part of Baltimore's history is Provident Hospital. Now in its 85th year of operation, Provident was the first hospital established in Baltimore by black citizens to service the black community.

It began on June 13, 1894 in a small, three-story rented building at 418 Orchard Street, equipped with ten beds and was then, Provident Hospital and Free Dispensary.

Provident came into being because a group of black physicians, all graduates of reputable medical schools, had a dream of providing good medical care to the people of Baltimore's black community.

There was no budget, no endowment, and no state aid. This group of pioneering doctors, led by Dr. William T. Carr and Dr. J. Marcus Cargill, used their own money and collected donations from friends, churches, merchants and fraternal organizations to launch the hospital.



PROVIDENT IN 1928 relocated to this building in the 1500 block Division Street.

However, the tiny building soon became overcrowded and the increased demand for medical treatment soon moved Provident's Board of Trustees to the brave decision to expand to larger quarters.

This time a larger private dwelling was purchased at 413 Biddle St. with an adjoining house at 415 Biddle St. to be made available when sufficient funds could be secured.

Within a year the second building was annexed, forty beds provided and more doctors secured to give service to the sick.

Attempts were also made to gain political support. One of Provident's pioneer leaders, Dr. J. Marcus Cargill, won a seat on the City Council.

His first legislative act was to have Provident Hospital included in the Baltimore City Code for provision for aid to hospitals for the care of the indigent.

The first appropriation was cut off when there was no strong black representation to press the issue.

After six years, the Provident Board of Directors decided to change from a physician-controlled board to one which included laymen. James A. Bradford, a successful grocer, became president of the board in 1900.

Later Dr. G. H. Waring, principal of Douglass High; John H. Murphy, editor of the then AFRO-AMERICAN Ledger; Dr. John A. Holmes, pastor of Metropolitan Methodist Church; John W. Hughes, caterer and Dr. Mason A. Hawkins, teacher, were

(Continued on Page 7)

MODERN FACILITY — This is the Liberty Heights Avenue view of the new Provident Hospital, a multi-million dollar complex in West Baltimore which serves over 200,000 persons.

added to the board.

In 1914 an advisory board of 35 citizens raised funds for Provident which was by this time serving nearly 100,000 persons. The buildings were remodeled and a modern operating room installed.

During World War 1, a multitude of health problems beset black citizens, such as an alarming rate of tuberculosis with only meager provisions for treatment.

By 1926 Provident alone could not meet the increasing health care needs among the black population where the death rate was twice as high as the white race.

At that point, white bankers, physicians, merchants and clergymen were alerted to the need for a larger institution.

Union Memorial Hospital was building on 33rd Street and its former dwellings on Division Street, consisting of a four story hospital plus eight adjoining houses were available for $50,000.

Through long and tedious campaign drives in both the black and white community, funds were raised and on Oct. 7, 1928, the new Provident Hospital on Division Street was dedicated.

However, Provident didn't stop there. The drive to raise more funds continued and on Dec. 14, 1970 a new ultra-modern 271 bed hospital with six major in-patient services opened.

Provident now serves a population of over 200,000 with a variety of age groups as it attempts to deliver the best health care services.

Baltimore school system is 150 years old

The Baltimore city public school system which serves over 140,000 students in 192 schools began 150 years ago on Eutaw Street.

Probably the most significant changes in Baltimore are witnessed by the events that took place in the education system of Baltimore.

Beginning Sept. 21, 1829 when the first public school opened in Baltimore, other dates include:

1839 — The Male High School founded (called Central High School and Baltimore City College at later dates).

1839 — Night schools started to meet the needs of those boys who were not able to attend day schools. (Oldest adult education program in the country).

1844 — Eastern Female High School and Western Female High School founded.

1848 — Separate primary and grammar schools organized.

1849 — Public School Teachers' Association of Baltimore founded.

1851 — Normal school classes established for newly appointed teachers.

1857 — Establishment of the Public Floating School on the ship Ontario — nautical school for boys.

1864 — Fifth year added to Central High School (Baltimore City College).

1866 — Rev. John N. M'Jilton, D.D., appointed first Superintendent of Public Instruction.

1867 — Ten public schools for Negro children established.

1872 — First school census.

1873 — Grammar school for Negro children started at Saratoga Street near Charles.

1874 — Beginnings of the English - German schools. (English - German School No. 1 opened on Biddle Street, near Pennsylvania Avenue.)

1882 — Colored High School housed with the Colored Grammar School in the City Hall at Holliday Street near Lexington. (Frederick Douglass High School).

1884 — Baltimore Manual Training School began operations March 3, 1884 on Courtland Street, near Saratoga. (1893 — name changed to Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.)

1892 — Colored Manual Training School opened on Fremont Street near Lombard. (1897 — name of school changed to Colored Polytechnic Institute.)

1893 — Cooking school opened for girls — cookind and domestic economy.

1898 — The New Charter of 1898 established the Department of Education headed by a Board of School Commissioners consisting of nine persons appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council.

1901 — Baltimore Training Schools for Teachers started. Classes for training teachers for colored schools were conducted at the Colored High and Training School, Pennsylvania Avenue and Dolphin Street until 1909, when the Colored Training School became a separate school located at Mount and Saratoga Streets.

First public school kindergartens established.

1902 — Preparatory schools established for advanced grammar school pupils — forerunners of junior high schools.

Ungraded classes organized for pupils with behavior problems.

1904 — Parental school opened.

1907 — Classes started for epileptic children.

1911 — Summer sessions held in certain elementary schools for non - promoted and retarded children.

1912 — Compulsory school age raised to fourteen years.

1913 — Classes started for crippled children.

(Continued on Page 7)

—Provident

(Continued fom Page 6)

—School

(Continued fom Page 6)

1916 — Classes started for anemic children (open - air classes).

1917 — Classes started for deaf children.

1918 — Annexation Act of 1918 — 37 additional schools added to Baltimore City.

1919 — Organization of junior high schools — grades 7 - 9.

1920 - 21 — Baltimore School Survey (Strayer Survey) furnished the basis for a long - range program of development.

Homewood Demonstration School in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University offered elementary and junior high pupils a program of advanced work.

1922 — First platoon or work - study - play school developed at School No. 13.

Colored parental school established.

Division of Vocational Education created.

1923 — Educational - vocational guidance and counseling established.

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NOV. 10	VA. ST. COLLEGE (1:30 p.m.)	YOUTH DAY
NOV. 17	HOWARD UNIV. (1:30 p.m.)	"I LUV MORGAN" DAY

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