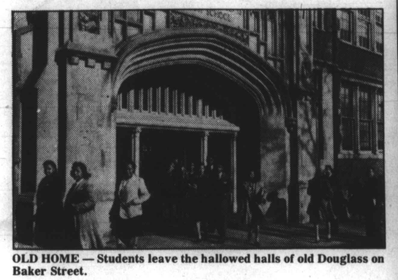
The Maryland State Lottery
Joins in the Celebration
of Black History Month.

The Maryland State Lottery

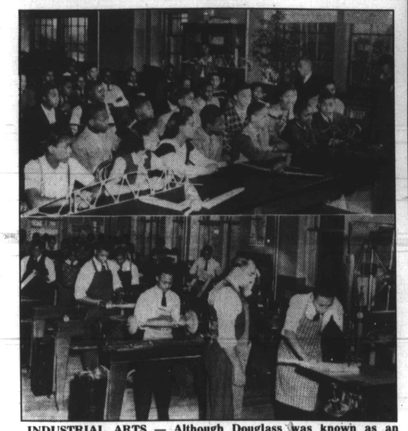
Douglass High School — Alma Mater of our community

TOUGH GUYS — Ike Dixon, center, poses with the star backfield of Douglass High School's class of 1943.

LOOKING COOL — A group of Douglass flappers smile for the camera while relaxing at Brown's Grove in 1929.



OLD HOME — Students leave the hallowed halls of old Douglass on Baker Street.



INDUSTRIAL ARTS — Although Douglass was known as an academic school, its industrial arts classes were second to none. In the top picture, students study aeronautics, and below that photograph students work in a woodworking class.

DOUGLASS DEBS — A group of Douglass graduates are sitting pretty in this 1954 AFRO file photo.

If talent were money, the endowment of Douglass High School in Baltimore would be overwhelming.

The list of its distinguished graduates read like a who's who of Black America. Doctors, lawyers, entertainers, and others have passed through the portals of the famous school, and have gone on to make their mark in the world.

Part of the reason for the school's sterling reputation is that the fact that it was the only academic high school for blacks in Baltimore for many years.

Students from as far away as the Eastern Shore would come to Baltimore to attend Douglass.

The other reason for its high reputation was simply the quality of the teaching staff.

The roots of Douglass go back a long way in the history of the city. In 1865, at the end of the Civil War, A Douglass Institute was set up by black citizens to educate adults.

The institute soon folded, but the name lived on. In 1883 a Colored High School was organized on the second floor of what is now the Peale Museum on Holliday St.

In 1927, a new building was erected on Baker and Calhoun Sts. The student body moved there, and it was named Frederick Douglass High Schol.

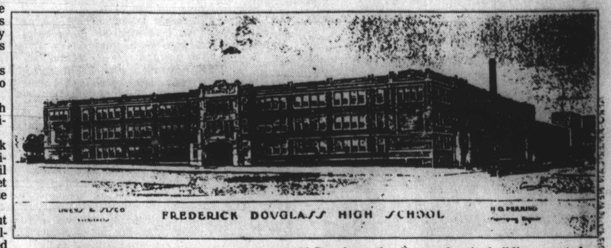
According to a Sunpapers article by Carl Schoettlier, Douglass was the only city high school for blacks until 1940.

In 1954, the school moved to its present location on Gwynns Falls Parkway. The enormous building once housed the students and faculty of Western High School.

Over the years the graduates have gone on to great things. Men and women such as Cab Calloway, Thurgood Marshall, Gabriel Maddox, the well-known Baltimore printer; police officer T. Hiram Butler, public relations person Twilah Scarborough, Judges Harry Cole and Robert T. Watts, former state Del. Isaiah "Ike" Dixon, former mayor Clarence "Du" Burns and others.

The years at Douglass were happy for formative years for thousands of black Americans and they are still vivid for many grads.

As one Douglass graduate, Barbara Davenport of the class of 1943 recalled, "years of memories cascading like Niagara Falls are thrown upon the mind-screen."



THE BIG TIME — An artist's rendering of old Douglass, the first and only building erected specifically for Douglass High School.

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