

(Available October 1, 2011)

IN HONOR OF

Libraries Named for African Americans

Compiled by George C. Grant

— With Prefaces by Loretta Parham and Andrew “Sekou” Jackson —

“First Ever”
Comprehensive
Listing
& Descriptions

Over
260 Libraries
Profiled

Full-Page
Color Profiles
of Over 200
Libraries

Profiles Contain:

‘Color Photographs’

Administrators

Architects

Biographies

Builders

Collections

Features

Specifications

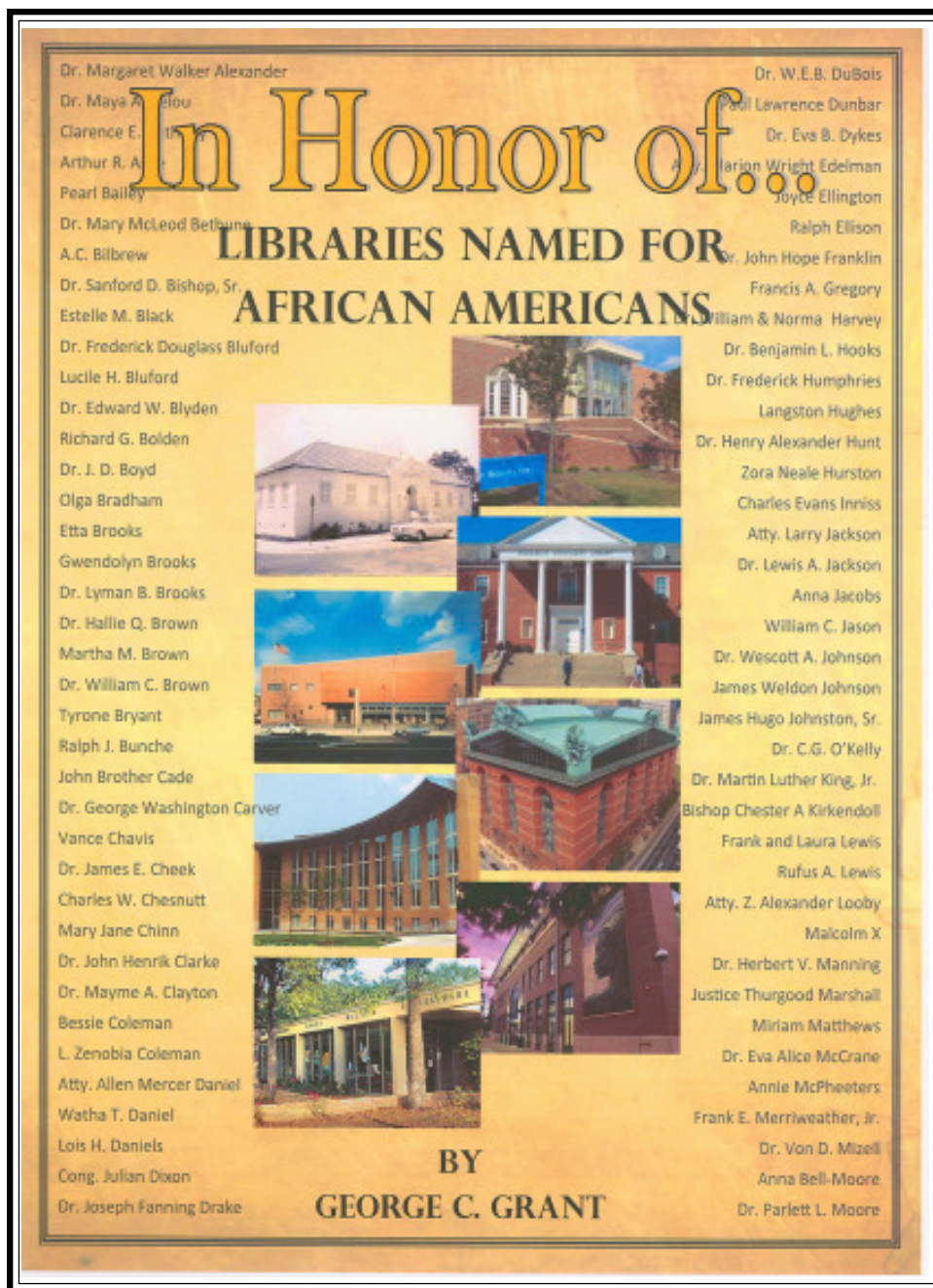
Hardcover

&

Spiral Bound

276 pages

8 1/2” x 11”



(The actual size of the book is 8.5” x 11”)

Illinois

Harold Washington Library Center
Chicago Public Library
Chicago, Illinois
www.chicagopubliclibrary.org/branch/library



The Honoree
Harold Lee Washington
(1922-1987)
Mayor of Chicago, 1983-1987

A native of Chicago, Harold Washington, served in the Army Air Corp in World War II before earning degrees at Roosevelt University (B.A.) and Northwestern University (J.D.) Then, after practicing law as an assistant city prosecutor and an Illinois Industrial Commission arbitrator, he was elected to and served in the Illinois State House of Representatives (1965-1976) and the Illinois State Senate (1977-1980).



During his terms as an Illinois state legislator, he is credited with having helped to establish the Illinois Fair Employment Practice Commission and the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday.

In 1983 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representative and served there until his election as the first African American mayor of the city of Chicago, a position he held until his death in 1987. During his term as mayor, his reforms included increased service to minority neighborhoods, increased city minority hiring, the appointment of an African-American police commissioner and deficit and patronage reductions. —AAA

Design, Construction, Costs
Opened: 1991
Architect: Thomas Beeby, Hammond, Beeby & Babka; SEBUS Group; E. P. Epstein & Sons
Builder: Schal/Mortenson Construction
Square feet: 756,640 Square Feet
Collection Capacity: 2,000,000 volumes
Seating Capacity: 2,337
Costs: \$ 144 million
Special Features and Collections:
Thomas Hughes Children's Library (18,000 Square Feet)
10 Large 2-Story Reading Rooms
On American Institute of Art List of American's Favorite Architecture
Listed in Guinness Book of Records as the "World's Largest Public Library Building"



Library Administrators

May A. Dempsey, Commissioner
Greta M. Bever, Assistant Commissioner

84

Celebrate:

MOST Libraries Named for:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - 17
Dr. George Washington Carver - 11
Frederick Douglass - 8 ...

Libraries Named for:

Educators - 71
Civic Leaders - 32
Professional Librarians - 24
Clergy - 19
Youth - 1

YOUNGEST Library Honoree:

Roosevelt Thompson - 22 years old

and much more...

— Over 260 Libraries and Honorees Profiled —

Discover Most Libraries:

CITIES with the MOST libraries:

Chicago, IL - 12, Jackson, MS - 11

SYSTEMS with the MOST libraries:

Chicago PL - 9, Jackson-Hinds PL, MS - 9

STATES with the MOST libraries:

Florida - 18, California, Texas - 16
Illinois, Mississippi, North Carolina - 15

MOST RECENT libraries named/ renamed for African American:

Marian Wright Edelman Branch
Dorothy M. Height/Benning Branch
Ronald G. Parrish Management Library
Earl S. Richardson Library

and much, much more...

Maryland



The Honoree
Dr. Earl S. Richardson
President, Morgan State University,
1984 - 2010

A Maryland native, Dr. Earl S. Richardson is a graduate of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (B.A.), and the University of Pennsylvania (M.S. and Ed.D.) and conducted research as a Ford Foundation Fellow and a Kellogg Foundation Fellow.



Following appointments as Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, and Assistant to the President of the University of Maryland System, he was appointed President of Morgan State University, where he served from 1984 until his retirement in 2010.

As President of Morgan State University, Dr. Richardson is credited with a "rebirth" of the campus, with renovations and construction of classrooms and research buildings, residence halls, auxiliary buildings, and the new library totaling nearly \$400 million. —MSU

Library Administrators

Dr. Richard Bradberry, Director 2010--
Ms. Karen Robertson, Director 1980-10
Dr. George C. Grant, Director 1976-80
Prof. Walter Fisher, Director 1966- 75
Ms. Beulah M. Davis, Director 1926- 65

Earl S. Richardson Library
Morgan State University
Baltimore, Maryland
www.morgan.edu/library/university_library.html

Design, Construction, Costs

Opened: 2008
Architect: Design Collective, Inc., Baltimore, MD & Sasaki Associates, Watertown, MA.
Builder: Hess Construction, Gaithersburg, MD
Square feet: 222,500 Square feet
Collection Capacity: 650,000 Volumes
Seating Capacity: 1,500+
Costs: \$ 56 Million

Special features and collections:

The Benjamin E. Quarles Seminar Room
The Parren J. Mitchell Meeting Room
The Beulah M. Davis Special Collection
The Clarence W. Bourn Room
President's Boardroom and Terrace
Environmentally friendly green roof
Computer lab with 60 computers
Private Group Study Rooms
Technology-enhanced Instruction Room



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“FIRSTS, MOSTS AND TOTALS”

INDEX TO LIBRARIES BY TYPE

(Academic, Government, Public,
Research, Special)

INDEX TO THE HONOREES BY NAME

INDEX TO THE HONOREES BY CAREERS

INDEX TO ARCHITECTS

INDEX TO BUILDERS

Mississippi



The Honoree
Medgar Evers
(1925-1963)

Born in Decatur, Mississippi, Medgar Wiley Evers was educated at Alcorn A&M College (B.S.) and in 1952 launched his career as an insurance salesman, while dedicating his time to working with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as its first Mississippi field secretary.

He shortly became well known as a civil rights activist and an effective champion for the rights of Mississippi minority and poor. He fought for school desegregation and enforcement of the 1954 court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, for the right to vote for everyone, and advocated the boycotting of Mississippi businesses that discriminated against Blacks. This resulted in frequent threats to his life and, in 1963, he was assassinated in the driveway of his home.



Library Administrators

Carolyn McCallum, Exec. Director.....2003--
Shirley Simmons, Branch Supervisor

Medgar Evers Boulevard
Branch
Jackson/Hinds Library System
Jackson, Mississippi
www.jhlibrary.com/branches

Design, Construction, Costs

Opened: 1990

(In 1976, the George Washington Carver Library Collection was moved to the Delta Drive Branch, which was renovated in 1990 and renamed the Medgar Evers Branch when Delta Drive was renamed Medgar Evers Boulevard in 1992.)

Architect: Benton & Perkins

Builder: General Construction, Inc.

Square feet: 11,884

Costs: \$ 5,505,690

Special Features and Collections:

A statue of Medgar Evers
Children's Book Week
Black History Month Programs
Summer Reading Program
Annual Health Fair
Children's Story Hour

Quote over entrance to the Library:

*"That which seeks to
destroy the freedom of man
seeks to destroy the soul of
man."*

— Medgar Wiley Evers

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From the Introduction:

“IN HONOR OF: Libraries Named for African Americans is, first and foremost, a documentation and celebration of the outstanding contributions to libraries and their communities made by individuals from all walks of life — educational, professional, spiritual, political, cultural, human rights, arts and letters, and financial, among others.

It is also the first comprehensive acknowledgment and expression of appreciation to the agencies that have honored them by the naming of their libraries...”

— George C. Grant, Compiler

From the Prefaces:

“To be recognized through the naming of a building is an honor. For that recognition to be given to a member of the African American community by the naming of a library is a celebration of both individual and societal achievements.”

—Loretta Parham, CEO & Library Director
Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library

“The Black Experience in America begins with generations of enslaved Africans prohibited from reading and later denied access to both books and libraries. To have more than 250 libraries named after Black people from all walks of life, across this nation, is a chapter worthy of reading and passing along to our children and communities...”

—Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako)
Executive Director, Queens Library's
Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center



**The Honoree
Mrs. Estelle M. Black**

At the library dedication, College President Jack Becherer, comprehending an outpouring of love, pride and admiration for Estelle M. Black said, "This is a spirit that will live on." The tribute to Estelle M. Black was a reflection of her success as an advocate, mentor and librarian.



As a child, Estelle visited the neighborhood library often. After high school, she studied at Kendall College in Evanston, IL, worked as a cataloging typist at Deering Library of Northwestern University, helped start a high school library, worked as a library clerk during Rock Valley College's inaugural year of 1965-1966 and was a research librarian at the headquarters of a heat-treating company.

With the support of extended family and close friends, she confidently balanced family role to husband and three children; a 27 year career at Rockford Public Library; completion of baccalaureate (BS., Rockford College, 1977) and masters degrees (Library Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1979); and leadership within the local community, the Illinois Library Association (president, 1988), the American Library Association, and the American Library Association Black Caucus, Executive Board). — RVC

**Estelle M. Black Library
Rock Valley College
Rockford, Illinois
www.rockvalleycollege.edu/library**

Design, Construction, Costs

Original Construction Completed: 1971
Renovation Completed: 2007
Architects: Ernest J. Kump & Assoc (Palo Alto, CA) Earrant, Deininger, Dommer, Dramer & Gordon (Dubuque, IA) & C. Edward Ware & Assoc. (Rockford, IL)
Renovations: Legat Architects (Crystal Lake, IL)
Builder: Sjostrom & Sons, Inc. (Rockford, IL)
Square feet: 38,000
Collection capacity: 135,000
Seating capacity: 347
Renovation Costs: \$ 5.5 Million
Special features and facilities:
38 Research computers
Wireless Internet Access
Library Instruction Classroom
Library Cafe
Six Group Studies

Library Administrators/Titles/Dates

Dr. Hsiao-Hung Lee, Director 2000- ___
Ms. Eileen Dubin, Director 1993- 99
Carl Steele, Director 1968- 93
Ms. Kathleen Backus, Director 1965- 68

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Introduction

IN HONOR OF: Libraries Named for African Americans is first and foremost, a documentation and celebration of the outstanding contributions to libraries and their communities made by individuals from all walks of life - educational, professional, spiritual, political, cultural, human rights, arts and letters, and financial, among others. It is also the first comprehensive acknowledgment and expression of appreciation to the agencies that have honored them by the naming of their libraries.

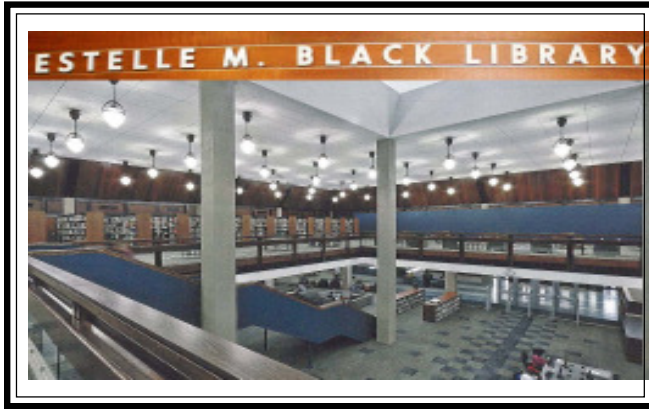
IN HONOR OF... is the result of extensive and extended research and data collection. Between 1980 and 2000, when apprised of them, I periodically featured stories about some of the libraries being named for African Americans in issues of the *Newsletter of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association*, which I edited. Then, I remember reading the chapters, “Black Academic Libraries,” by Marva L. Deloach and “*Libraries of Public Library Systems Serving Predominantly Black Communities*,” by Jill A Bourne in the *Handbook of Black Librarianship* (2nd ed., 2000); as well as the 1996 *Florida Libraries* article, “Honoring African Americans Through Florida’s Libraries,” by Nancy M. Allen and reflecting on the interesting range of careers and contributions of the persons for whom some of the libraries had been named. That curiosity sparked my investigation of library namings for African Americans that may have occurred both before and after that period.

Following a brief retirement, I became even more fascinated with libraries that had been named for African Americans and began compiling a list of them and their honorees. Not being satisfied with a simple listing, I crafted a questionnaire to collect data and images of each library — What were the honorees’ contributions and accomplishments? Who honored them? What did the libraries look like? Who designed them? Who built them? What were some of their special features and collections? And, who administered them?

The initial questionnaire was mailed in 2004 to over 150 libraries. However, only about 25 percent of the questionnaires were completed and returned. Three years later, with the Internet as a vehicle for contacts, the identification of additional libraries and the collection of data about them was made much easier. The wealth of information available on websites suggested that complete profiles could be compiled. This led to the decision to resume the project and to satisfy, once and for all, my curiosity and interest in the library-naming phenomenon, especially with regard to those named for African Americans.

Phase II began with an accumulation of partial and complete profiles of nearly 130 libraries named for African Americans. In 2009, I began sending email requests to those libraries that had not yet provide information. As these electronic responses began to arrive, the names and locations of other libraries named for African Americans were suggested by respondents. I also visited a...

Illinois



The Honoree Mrs. Estelle M. Black

At the library dedication, College President Jack Becherer, comprehending an outpouring of love, pride and admiration for Estelle M. Black said, *"This is a spirit that will live on."* The tribute to Estelle M. Black was a reflection of her success as an advocate, mentor and librarian.



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With the support of extended family and close friends, she confidently balanced family role to husband and three children; a 27 year career at Rockford Public Library; completion of baccalaureate (BS., Rockford College, 1977) and masters degrees (Library Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1979); and leadership within the local community, the Illinois Library Association (president, 1988), the American Library Association, and the American Library Association Black Caucus, Executive Board). — RVC

Estelle M. Black Library Rock Valley College Rockford, Illinois

www.rockvalleycollege.edu/library

Design, Construction, Costs

Original Construction Completed: 1971

Renovation Completed: 2007

Architects: Ernest J. Kump & Assoc (Palo Alto, CA) Eurrant, Deininger, Dommer, Dramer & Gordon (Dubuque, IA) & C. Edward Ware & Assoc. (Rockford, IL)

Renovations: Legat Architects (Crystal Lake, IL)

Builder: Sjostrom & Sons, Inc. (Rockford, IL)

Square feet: 38,000

Collection capacity: 135,000

Seating capacity: 347

Renovation Costs: \$ 5.5 Million

Special features and facilities:

- 38 Research computers
- Wireless Internet Access
- Library Instruction Classroom
- Library Cafe
- Six Group Studies

Library Administrators/Titles/Dates

Dr. Hsiao-Hung Lee, Director 2000- __
Ms. Eileen Dubin, Director 1993- 99
Carl Steele, Director 1968- 93
Ms. Kathleen Backus, Director 1965- 68

California



Joyce Ellington Branch San Jose Public Library

San Jose, California

www.sjpl.org/joyceellington

The Honoree Beatrice Joyce Jordan Ellington (1930–2005)

Joyce Ellington was born Beatrice Joyce Jordan on August 17, 1930. Joyce was raised at 468 No. 11th street, the same house where her mother was born in 1909, and lived her entire life in Northside neighborhood of San Jose. She graduated from San Jose High School, and Evergreen Valley College, receiving her AA degree at the age of 74. She was married Bob Ellington, also a San Jose native and nephew of famed jazz musician Duke Ellington.



One of the founders of the Northside Neighborhood Association, she was referred to as “the dean of all neighborhood activists in San Jose”. She was been a long time member of the Order of Eastern Star, and participated as a Den Mother for the Boy Scouts, as well as a Docent for the San Jose Historical Museum. In 1950s, she served as president of the Grant School PTA. Joyce Ellington, who always had “a deep love of literature and the arts”

A highly respected community advocate, she was the first minority female to serve as a Library Commissioner for seven years, and as chairperson in 1980. She successfully lobbied city and school officials to build the original Empire Branch (1977). Her extraordinary, tireless efforts towards improving her neighborhood, its schools and libraries, earned her the honor of having the Empire Branch Library renamed the Joyce Ellington Branch library. (SJL)

Design, Construction, Costs

Library Opened: 2008

Architect: Tetra Design

Builder: John Plane

Square feet: 14,500

Collection capacity: 72,500

Seating capacity: 100

Costs: \$ 7.3 million

Special Features and Collections:

Technology Center

Community Room

Public Art

Planetree Health Center

Planetree Health Collection



Library Administrators

Jane Light, Library Director 1997-present

Keye Luke, Branch Manager

Jim Fish, Library Director 1990- 1997

Homer Fletcher, Library Director ... 1970- 1990

Mississippi



The Honoree Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander (1915-1998)

Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander was an outstanding author, Prolific researcher, and dedicated teacher. In 1968, she founded the Institute for the Study of History, Life, and Culture of Black People — now named in her honor — at Jackson State University, where she was Professor Emerita of English.

Her works include the classic poem, “For My People” (1937) and the book, of the same title, which won the Yale Younger Poets Award (1942); the ground-breaking novel, *Jubilee* (1966); the critically acclaimed biography, *Richard Wright, Daemonic Genius: A Portrait of the Man* (1988); her collected poems, *This is My Country* (1989); and numerous other books, essays and poetry.

Her vision found expression in her artistic and educational pursuits, especially at Jackson State, where she made her permanent home in 1949. It was there that she engaged a nascent Black Studies movement and hosted several national academic conferences on the topic. With an eye towards her legacy, she donated her papers to the Alexander Center, which forms the single largest manuscript collection of black, female writers of the twentieth century. —MWANRC



Margaret Walker Alexander National Research Center Ayer Hall Jackson State University Jackson, Mississippi

www.jsum.edu/margaretwalker

Design, Construction, Costs

Opened: 1968 in Existing Building

Phase I Renovations: 1997

Architect: Robert Parker Adams

Builder: Harris Construction

Phase II Renovations: 2003

Architect: Robert Parker Adams

Builder: W. H. Scott Construction

Collection Capacity: Not available

Seating Capacity: Not available

Renovation Costs: Not Available

Special Features and Collections:

Ayer Hall Museum/Exhibit Area

Jubilee Gift Shop

Archival Vault

Special Collections

1,000 Oral Histories

Mississippi Archival Collections

35 Manuscript Collections

Photograph and Scrapbook Collections

Library Administrators

Dr. Robert Luckett, Director

Ms. Angela E. Stewart, Archivist

Dr. Alferdeen Harrison, Director

Mr. W. Alexander, Director

North Carolina

Stanford L. Warren Branch Durham County Library Durham, North Carolina www.durhamcountylibrary.org



Design, Construction, Costs

Original Library Opened: 1916, as the Durham Colored Library and renamed for Dr. Stanford L. Warren who donated funds to purchase land for a new building in 1940.

Renovated Library Opened: 2006

Square feet: 10,244

Special Features and Collections:

- 88-seat Meeting Room
- Tutoring Rooms
- Community Bulletin Board
- Wireless Internet access
- Selena Warren Wheeler
- African American Collection



The 1940 Stanford L. Warren Library

The Honoree Dr. Stanford L. Warren (1863-1940)

Dr. Stanford L. Warren was born in Caswell County, North Carolina. He was a prominent African American physician and businessman and the co-founder of the Lincoln Hospital.

He was president of the Board of Trustees of the Durham County Library from October, 1923 until his death in 1940, during which time the library experienced continued growth and expansion and larger financial assistance from the City and County of Durham.



He supported the construction of the Durham Colored Library in Durham, North Carolina when he donated \$4,000.00 during the Great Depression to purchase a site for a new building to replace the Durham Colored Library that had provided services since opening in 1916.

“During his lifetime, he figured in every forward movement of the Durham community and was closely connected with its educational, economic and business life.”

Library Administrators

- Brenda Watson-Hall, Manager
- Selena Warren Wheeler, Director
- Ray Nichols Moore, Director
- Hattie B. Wooten, Director



George Washington Carver Branch

Austin Public Library System

Austin, Texas

www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/

The Honoree George Washington Carver (1861–1943)

George Washington Carver, born near Diamond Grove, Mo., is recognized as one of America's most prominent agricultural chemist, agronomist, and experimenter whose development of new products derived from peanuts (groundnuts), sweet potatoes, and soybeans helped revolutionize the agricultural economy of the South. For



most of his career he taught and conducted research at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Tuskegee, Ala.

After becoming the institute's director of agricultural research in 1896, he devoted his time to research projects aimed at helping Southern agriculture, demonstrating ways in which farmers could improve their economic situation. He conducted experiments in soil management and crop production and directed an experimental farm.



Design, Construction, Costs

Original Construction Completed: 1933

(Colored Branch of Austin Public Library)

Second Construction Completed: 1979

(Now the George Washington Carver Museum)

New Construction Completed: 2004

Architect: Lundgren & Associates

Square feet: 15, 000 Square Feet

Collection capacity: 70,000 volumes

Seating capacity: 1,000 seating places

Renovations Costs: \$ 6.4 Million

Special Features and Collections:

African American Culture Collection

Expanded Adult and Children Computers

Wireless Internet Access

VICTORY Tutoring Study Rooms

Four Public Meeting Rooms

Art Exhibit Space

Sue McBee Collection

Larry Wilkinson Collection

Annual Austin African American Book Festival



George Washington Carver Branch, 1979-2004

Washington

Douglass-Truth Branch Seattle Public Library Seattle, Washington www.spl.org

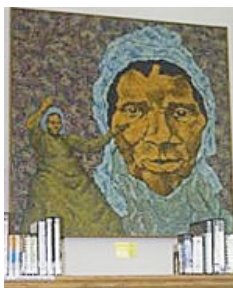


Design, Construction, Costs

Opened: 1914 as Yesler Branch
Renamed: 1975, Douglass-Truth Branch
Renovated: 1987, \$ 790,000
Renovated: 2006
Architect: Schacht Aslani Architects,
Special features and collections:
 New Computer Lab in 1997
 New Children's Room
 African American History/Culture Collection

Library Administrators

Valerie Garrett-Turner, Br. Mgr 2006--
Val Frye, Branch Transition Mgr 2005-06
Francesca Wainwright, Br. Mgr 2004-05
Jane Appling, Branch Manager 2005
Valerie Garrett, Branch Manager 2001-04
Carolyn Head, Branch Manager 1999-01
John Sheets, Branch Manager 1998



Sojourner Truth & Frederick Douglass
Murals in the Douglass Truth Branch

The Honorees Frederick Douglass (1817-1895)

Frederick Douglass, a well-known Black orator and foremost leader of the abolitionist movement in the nineteenth century, was born in 1817 on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. In his fight to end slavery, he was recognized as a leader, author, philosopher.



Among the other activities that he devoted his life to were: advisor to President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, membership in the Equal Rights Party, U.S. Marshall for the District of Columbia (1877), and Consul General to Haiti (1888-1891).

Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)

Born a slave Isabella Baumfree in New York, Sojourner Truth, after being freed by the New York State Emancipation Act of 1827, became an itinerant preacher and traveled across the country as an abolitionist, preaching and lecturing for the abolition of slavery, supporting Union soldiers, and assisting slaves who had escaped to the North. She was one of an active group of Black women abolitionists and was a friend to many of the leading white abolitionists in her day.

