

site in the rear of the colored church. As clearly shown in the picture, there is no opportunity for play and little possibility of the development of an adequate recreational ground. The building is poorly equipped, poorly lighted and unfit for school purposes.



NOTE--Marsh to the left with Canal boat back of it

DELAWARE CITY DISTRICT NO. 118

(Colored)

| | Score | Possible Score |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------|
| I. Site | 8 | 160 |
| II. Building | 57 | 200 |
| III. Service Systems..... | 57 | 250 |
| IV. Class Rooms..... | 34 | 225 |
| V. Special Rooms..... | 4 | 165 |
| | 204 | 1000 |

This school building is a two-room, one-story, frame structure 24x48, located on a site 50x100 feet, with a marsh on one

side and a canal on the other. The rear of the school building is 30 feet from the edge of the canal along which boats are continually passing. Upon no part of the school ground at the time of the survey was it possible to walk without wading through water or mud. Two new toilet outhouses had recently been struck down in the mud alongside the edge of the marsh. The score on the site of this building is the lowest recorded in the experience of the Survey Commission.

The building itself, except for the Waterbury heater, is but little better than the environment in which it is placed. There can be little hope for the education or Americanization of children that are required to secure their education under conditions such as are found in this building.

MT. PLEASANT NO. 119

(Colored)

| | Score | Possible Score |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------|
| I. Site | 75 | 160 |
| II. Building | 89 | 200 |
| III. Service Systems..... | 28 | 250 |
| IV. Class Rooms..... | 89 | 225 |
| V. Special Rooms..... | 2 | 165 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 283 | 1000 |

Shelter and to a degree protection from cold, inclement weather is all this building has to offer the children that are supposed to attend it. It is disqualified and condemned on every major item of the score card and reference to the detail scores will further emphasize the educational lacks. It is of special note that this building has but one toilet for the two sexes and that in the class

MEMOIRS
OF
TWENTY-TWO YEARS
IN THE
DELAWARE STATE SENATE

Roger A. Martin

By Roger A. Martin
(1972-1994)
Majority Leader
(1977-78;94)

-Robert E., S House 1908, Rep, Bridgeville, 2 yrs

LEDNUM

-Charles S., N House 1922, Rep, Wilmington, 2 yrs

LEE

-Clifford E., (1925-1990), S House 1986-88, Rep, Laurel retired businessman, 4 yrs

-Clifford G., (1947-), S House 1990-94, Rep, Laurel retired state police, 6 yrs

-Harvey E., N House 1948, Rep, Newark, 2 yrs

-Walter, N House 1920, Dem, Townsend, 2 yrs

LEGATES

-Harry E., (1897-1969), K House 1944, Dem, Harrington farmer, 2 yrs

-Richard B., (1942-). N House 1974, Dem, Newark autoworker, 2 yrs

LEKITES

-Albert P., S House 1934, Rep, Selbyville, 2 yrs

LEMON

-Francis Q., (1911-), N House 1940-44, Dem, Wilmington barber, 6 yrs

LESHER

-Herbert A., (-1971?), N House 1966-70, Rep, Claymont, 6 yrs

-Lois M., (1918-1977), N House 1972-74, Rep, Claymont, 4 yrs

LESLEY

-Allen Vorhees, (1822-1881), N Senate 1870-72, New Castle physician, 4 yrs

LESTER

-Claude N., (-1965), N House 1936, Rep, St. Georges, 2 yrs

-Edward, Jr., N House 1918-20, Rep, St. Georges, 4 yrs

-Harvey, N House 1926, Rep, St. Georges, 2 yrs

-William E., (-1959), N House 1952-54, Rep, St. Georges, 4 yrs

LEATHERBURY

-Walter S., N House 1914, Dem, Middletown, 2 yrs

LEWIS

-Beniah L., (1848-1920), K House 1882 (2), Senate 1886-88 (4), Dem, Harrington physician, 6 yrs

-Isaac, N House 1777, Pencader Hun, 1 yr

-Joel, N House 1795-7, Newark, 3 yrs

-Kendal M., S House 1827-30;34 (6), Senate 1831 (1), Whig, Laurel mariner, 7 yrs

-Luff, (1776-1827), K House 1812-13;23, Vernon (Harrington) physician, 3 yrs

-Philip, K House 1794, Kenton?, 1 yr

MID-ATLANTIC HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPES SURVEY



Connecting the Free Black Community of Polktown and the African Union Church Cemetery

Polktown, Delaware City

Red Lion Hundred

New Castle County, Delaware

*Cemetery
PAGE 26*

The location of Delaware City, and more specifically, Polktown afforded many residents access to marshes, both as a form of employment and as a seasonal source of food to supplement the family diet and income.¹⁰ A boat and nets valued at \$20 represented the single most valuable asset in Joshua Seiney's probate inventory. With a boat, he could fish for shad and sturgeon, oysters and terrapin. Other men worked the water as crew for large fishing and oyster boats, or as stewards on the steamboats that ferried passengers back and forth along the Canal. Even without a boat, men with knowledge of the marsh could trap muskrats for their valuable pelts.

Free black neighborhoods generally focused on three major ways of establishing community networks and a place on the landscape. In addition to homes, they acquired land to build schools and churches, efforts that required a certain amount of creativity and determination. The first school for free black children in Polktown opened in 1867, funded in part by the Freedmen's Bureau and built by local residents. The one-story frame front-gable building sat along the south side of the Canal, facing Dutch Neck Road just west of the main section of Polktown (Figure 13). Enrollment in the first few years averaged 15 to 20 children each year, more than half of the school-age children in Polktown, and confirmed the value that the residents placed on education. The school served Polktown's children until 1921, when plans to widen the Branch Canal called for demolition of the school.¹¹ Fortunately, the planned demolition coincided with the "grand experiment" of Pierre S. DuPont to update schools for children across the state of Delaware.

¹⁰ Herman, Bernard, Rebecca Siders, et al. *Marshland Resources in the Delaware Estuary, 1830 to 1950 +/-: An Historic Context*. Newark, Delaware: Center for Historic Architecture and Design.

¹¹ Sheppard, Rebecca J., Catherine Morrissey, and Melissa Blair, *Eastern Lock of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal: A Structural Study*, Newark, Delaware: Center for Historic Architecture and Design, 2013, page 17.



Figure 13: Old Delaware City Colored School Building (Source: Hagley Museum)

Surveyors working on his project noted the extremely poor condition of the original school, describing its location as being in a marsh, roughly thirty feet from the canal. They concluded that “There can be little hope for the education or Americanization of children that are required to secure their education under conditions such as are found in this building...Upon no part of the school ground...was it possible to walk without wading through water and mud.”¹² DuPont funded the construction of a new school that conformed to his ideas about educational environments (Figure 14). The new school, like others built for black school children, was still one-story in height, gable-roofed and built of frame with wood siding, but it was now two rooms in width,

¹² George D. Strayer, N.L. Englehardt, F.W. Hart, *General Report on School Buildings and Grounds of Delaware*, Bulletin of the Service Citizens of Delaware, 1 (October 15, 1919), p. 3.

Colored Women Favor Suffrage.

The Colored Equal Suffrage Club has adopted a resolution asking the Legislature to ratify the suffrage amendment. The club met in the offices of "The Advocate" and heard an address by Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, urging affiliation with the National Woman's Party. The meeting was the first of a series by which the suffragists hope to secure the active support of colored women of Wilmington. Judge Hastings will speak at the next meeting.

"Colored Women Favor Suffrage"



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Fri, Jan 20, 2023

EQUAL SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

Business Transacted at the Annual Meeting at New Castle.

Special Correspondence of Gazette and Journal.

New Castle, Nov. 16.—The fourth annual meeting of the Equal Suffrage Association of Delaware was held yesterday in Armory Hall, in the old Court House. The session was opened at 10.30 o'clock by the reading of the 4th chapter of Philipians by the Rev. Eugene Thrasher, pastor of Nazareth M. E. Church. The roll call and the reports of the president, secretary and treasurer followed with a report by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt on the national bazaar which is to be held in New York, December 3d to 6th. The association decided to use holly to decorate the booth that shall represent this State at the bazaar. The balance of the session was devoted to routine business. The afternoon session opened at 2 o'clock with Mrs. Martha S. Cranston presiding. Mrs. Ellen H. E. Price of Swathmore, Pa., read an interesting paper on the "Value and merit of the association to mankind and womankind." Prof. William H. Purnell of Delaware College delivered an address and eulogized the work of the members of the organization. An interesting talk on legislation was given by Prof. Wesley Webb of Dover.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Mrs. Martha S. Cranston, Newport, president; Mrs. Margaret W. Houston, Georgetown, vice-president; Mrs. Mary H. Thatcher, Wilmington, corresponding secretary; Mrs. May Price Phillips, recording secretary; Miss Emma Lore, Wilmington, treasurer.

Mrs. Mary H. Thatcher was elected a delegate to the Woman's Federation of Clubs. The election of a delegate to the National Convention, which is to be held in Minneapolis, Wis., the first week in June, was postponed and placed in the hands of the executive committee. Miss Emma Lore sang "The Star Spangled Banner" in a pleasing manner. The history of Woman's Suffrage in Delaware during the past five years was read and proved very interesting. Among events chronicled was the placing of matrons at the police station, Wilmington; appointment of a female factory inspector, and raising the age of consent of females.

The value of the press was spoken of and the offer of Editor Bell of the Sunday Star to print the doings of the association were commented upon.

Mrs. Catt, at the evening session, delivered an interesting address on equal suffrage and answered a number of questions relative to the organization.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE STUDY CLUB.

First of a Series of Meetings at Bethel Church Tomorrow.

The Equal Suffrage Study Club will hold the first series of public meetings tomorrow at Bethel A. M. E. Church, Sixth and Walnut streets, at 8 p. m. This meeting promises to be one of unusual interest, as ex-Senator Washburn of Maryland is to be the speaker of the evening.

"Equal Suffrage Study Club"



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Fri, Jan 20, 2023

FORMER SENATOR TO ADDRESS SUFFRAGE CLUB

The Equal Suffrage Study Club will hold the first of a series of public meetings in Bethel A. M. E. Church, Sixth and Walnut street, tomorrow evening. This meeting promises to be one of unusual interest, as former Senator Washburn, of Maryland, is to be the speaker.

The Suffrage Study Club was formed for the purpose of studying the subject of suffrage from every viewpoint, and familiarizing its members with municipal, city and national government, questions of interest in national and international life and with the idea of making an earnest analysis of the feminist movement. It is proposed to hold a series of public meetings, at each of which a lecture will be given by some man or woman of wide repute.

There will be music by the choir of Bethel Church, a solo by Miss Essie Rust, a short talk outlining the work of the club by the president, Mrs. Alice M. Dunbar, and the lecture of the evening. Mr. Washburn will speak on the topic, "The World-wide Woman Movement, and What it Means to the Negro." It is expected that a large crowd will be present, as the occasion is one of unusual interest.

"Former Senator to Address Suffrage Club"



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"House Votes Down Suffrage by 22 to 9"



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"Suffrage to Wait Awhile in Delaware"



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Fri, Jan 20, 2023

SUFFRAGISTS AFTER LESTER'S SUPPORT

Delaware City suffragists have arranged on open air meeting to be held in front of the fire company house at 7:30 o'clock tonight, at which Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles will speak.

Mrs. Thomas Whiteman, of Delaware City, is in charge of the meeting and will introduce the speaker. Miss Vivian Pierce, of the Woman's Party, has been in Delaware City for the past few days assisting with arrangements for the meeting, the purpose of which is to persuade Representative Lester, of St. Georges, to vote for ratification of the suffrage amendment.

Tomorrow evening a meeting will be held in St. Georges at which Mrs. Hilles and Miss Mabel Vernon are to be the speakers. After the open air meeting in Delaware City tonight Mrs. Hilles will address a gathering in the colored school house, where Mrs. Alice Dunbar-Nelson of Wilmington will also be one of the speakers.

"Suffragists After Lester's Support"



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Fri, Jan 20, 2023

SUFFRAGISTS IN RALLY AT SMYRNA

More Than 400 Persons Hear Mrs. Victor duPont, Mrs. Hillis, Miss Dubrow

MRS. SPEAKMAN AS PRESIDING OFFICER

Special to The Evening Journal.

SMYRNA, April 16.—Over 400 enthusiastic advocates of equal suffrage crowded the New Century Club House last night to hear Mrs. Florence Bayard Hillis and Mrs. Victor duPont of the Woman's Party. The hall was gorgeously decorated with purple, white and gold banners and flowers of the same color. The Dover band gave a concert presiding over the meeting. Mrs. Cummins Speakman, president of the local branch, in introducing the speakers said that the meeting was for the purpose of impressing on Representative Snow that many of the people in his district want him to vote for ratification of the suffrage amendment when it again comes before the House of Representatives.

Senator Price, who has announced he will vote for ratification, attended the meeting and was greeted with applause when his support of the measure was mentioned by the speakers.

In her appeal for favorable action by Delaware, Mrs. duPont, said she has been a suffragist for fifty years and she did not want another year to pass without her having the right to vote. "I feel confident, however, that I and all Delaware women will vote for President next November," said Mrs. duPont. "For it is certain that a thirty-sixth State will ratify the national amendment before that time."

Mrs. Hillis made an impressive appeal that Delaware live up to its high traditions by helping to establish "true democracy" in this country, and Miss Mary Dubrow, of New Jersey, urged Delaware women to do all in their power to secure ratification here for the sake of the millions of women who would then be enfranchised.

The local patronesses of the meeting comprised Mrs. Clarence B. Raymond, Mrs. W. W. Tophay, Miss Gertrude Achady, Mrs. Joseph Smithers, Mrs. D. D. Shilleroo, Mrs. Leland Harmonson, Mrs. D. F. Holland, Mrs. Emily Spruance, Mrs. Sarah Parrot and others.

Mrs. Florence Bayard Hillis will speak before the Philomathean Club of Philadelphia tomorrow afternoon on "Ratifying the National Suffrage Amendment in Delaware" at the clubhouse of the organization, No. 393 Walnut street.

"Suffragists in Rally At Smyrna"



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Fri, Jan 20, 2023

EQUAL SUFFRAGE

Fourth Anniversary Convention
Held in New Castle.

OFFICERS ARE ELECTED

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt President of the National Association, One of the Speakers and Urges Delaware Women to Make a Creditable Exhibit at the Bazaar.

In Armory Hall, New Castle, yesterday was held the fourth annual convention of the Equal Suffrage Association of Delaware, when the following officers were elected to serve the ensuing year: President, Mrs. Martha A. Cranston of Newport; vice-president, Mrs. Robert G. Houston of Georgetown; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Mary H. Thatcher of this city; recording secretary, Mrs. May Price Phillips of New Castle; treasurer, Miss Emma Lore of this city. The election of a delegate to the national meeting of the Equal Suffrage, which is to be held in Minneapolis, was deferred, and the executive committee was authorized to choose a delegate. Newport was selected as the place for the next annual meeting, the invitation to meet there being given by Mrs. Gallaher.

Delegates at yesterday's meeting were from the auxiliary clubs of Newport, New Castle and this city. The Rev. Eugene Thrasher of Nazareth M. E. Church, New Castle, made the opening prayer for the cause of free womanhood. At the morning session routine business was transacted. Mrs. Thatcher, who was delegate to the State Federation of Woman's Clubs, made a report of that gathering. Mrs. Cranston and Mrs. Thatcher spoke of the National Suffrage Association meeting in Washington, to which they were delegates.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National Association, made a brief speech, in which she urged the women to make the Delaware exhibit at the National Suffrage Bazaar to be held in New York worthy of the state. She gave an interesting account of the preparations being made by other states for the bazaar, which will open on December 3. She suggested holly as the decoration for the Delaware booth. She also presented her plan of doubling the membership of the National Association. She thought a man or woman could do good and effective work for woman suffrage by becoming a member of a suffrage club and paying yearly dues into its treasury.

At the afternoon session an address was made by the Rev. William H. Purnell of Delaware College, who spoke of some of the objects toward which the women were striving. Professor Wesley Webb of Dover spoke of "Legislation," as applied to equal suffrage. Mrs. Thatcher read a history of the woman's suffrage movement in Delaware. The state association was formed in 1896. One of the most important aggressive steps by the women of the state, she said, was the organization of the State Federation, which now recognize the Equal Suffrage Association.

Before the afternoon session closed Miss Lore, by request, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" in a pleasing manner.

At the meeting last evening Mrs. Catt made an interesting address on equal suffrage, and gave her auditors an opportunity to ask questions. She is the foremost woman in the equal suffrage movement in the country.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE CONVENTION.

**Sessions Were Held in Armory Hall,
New Castle Yesterday.**

The fourth annual convention of the Equal Suffrage convention of Delaware was held in Armory Hall, New Castle, yesterday. There was a good attendance.

The morning program consisted of the reading of Scripture and a prayer by Mrs. Mary Challenger; roll call of officers; appointment of committees; reading of minutes; report of president; report of corresponding secretary; report of treasurer, National Bazaar. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. Afternoon, 2 o'clock, reading of minutes; paper, Mrs. Ellen H. E. Price, Swarthmore, Pa.; address, Prof. William H. Purnell, Newark; talk on legislation, Prof. Wesley Webb, Dover; election of officers; history of Woman's Suffrage in Delaware. Evening, 8 o'clock, prayer; music; address, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt; music.

Form 1218

| CLASS OF SERVICE | SYMBOL |
|------------------|--------|
| Day Message | |
| Day Letter | Blue |
| Night Message | Nite |
| Night Letter | N L |

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

| CLASS OF SERVICE | SYMBOL |
|------------------|--------|
| Day Message | |
| Day Letter | Blue |
| Night Message | Nite |
| Night Letter | N L |

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT

21 P FO 10

DELAWARE CITY 355 PM 29

GOV JOHN GG TOWNSEND

DOVER DEL

CALL SPECIAL SESSION OF LEGISLATURE NOW TO RATIFY SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT

MRS CHAS SPIGHALLER
410 PM

DOVER DEL 1/29/20

32a

NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

BRANCH OF INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE AND OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Mrs. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, *President*

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 171 MADISON AVENUE

TELEPHONE, 4818 MURRAY HILL
NEW YORK

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PUBLISHING COMPANY, Inc.

Miss ESTHER G. OGDEN, *President*
171 Madison Ave., New York

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

CHAIRMAN

Mrs. CHARLES H. BROOKS
WICHITA, KANSAS

SECRETARY

Miss KATHERINE PIERCE
112 N. BROADWAY
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

PRESS DEPARTMENT

Miss ROSE YOUNG, *Director*
171 Madison Ave., New York

January 16, 1920.

To His Excellency,
Governor John G. Townsend, Jr.
Dover, Delaware.

My dear Governor Townsend:-

I have had a letter from the Governor of Nevada enclosing copies of letters he has sent to the Governors of the States whom I have reported to him as promising special sessions.

It has occurred to me that you might think, as this is just the suggestion that I made to you, that I had put the same idea to all the Governors. I wish you to know that I made this suggestion to no Governor but yourself.

I am very glad that Governor Boyle has taken it up and I sincerely hope that the Governors in the various states will join with him in making a finish of the ratification of the federal suffrage amendment.

Yours very truly,

President

State Executive Committee
 Chairman
 MRS. FLORENCE BAYARD HILLES
 Vice-Chairman
 MRS. JULIEN ORTIZ
 MRS. FREDERICK BRINGHURST
 Secretary
 MISS MARIE LOCKWOOD
 Treasurer
 MRS. JAMES GINNS

National Woman's Party

DELAWARE BRANCH

17 EAST SEVENTH STREET, WILMINGTON

TELEPHONE 5580

Jan. 24th 1920.



His Excellency the Governor of Delaware -

My dear Governor I am enclosing you
 a press clipping, stating that the State Democratic
 Committee has passed resolutions in favor of Demo-
 cratic support for the Suffrage amendment. This,
 I think, is all that the Democrats can do - it lies
 with the Republicans who are in power, to call the
 special session for ratification, and make them
 feel responsible for its success. As the Legislature
 convenes next January, surely they can arrange
 to agree to postpone the case of the school code.
 It can perfectly well wait - the present attitude
 of the A & D part factions regarding it, seems much
 more conciliatory, so I am hopeful that the matter
 can be arranged that they will agree to act only
 on ratification of the amendment. You asked me

from the telephonic ~~now~~ Alfred J. Dupont Stone of
the Suffrage Question - He is not a Suppaler,
but he is not an anti. His wife was a Suppa-
list, and several times subscribed to the Nat-
ional Woman's Party. His brother in law, Edward

Bradford is an avowed Suppaler, & I believe
would be willing to help us. If we can get the
Special Session, & get the Legislature to agree
not to call up any other legislation but the
Suffrage amendment, I believe the measure
will go through easily and quickly
for there can be no doubt of ratification now -

Thanks for your letter, & believe me

Sincerely
Francis Bayard Hill

State Chairman