

Sun Gazette 9/14/2008

OLD NO. 8

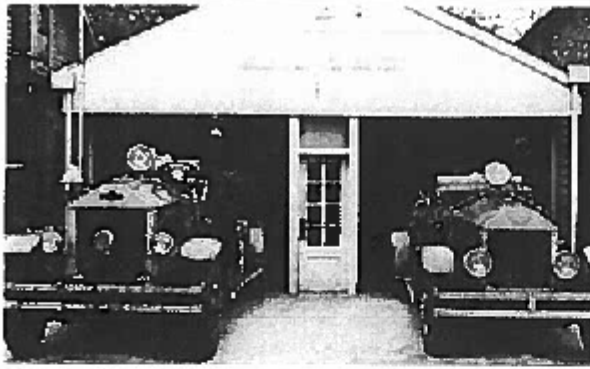


Photo Collection of Capt. Randy Higgins
Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Department
Old Fire Station No. 8

The Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Department protected Hall's Hill - a historic African-American neighborhood in the northern part of Arlington County.

Hall's Hill is "situated on land that was an antebellum estate" and "a number of current residents are descended from the estate's slave families," according to the web site arlingtonarts.org. The residents of Hall's Hill "endured the era of segregation and the struggle for civil rights," the web site said.

Until the early 1960s, the Arlington County Fire Department was also segregated and only black firefighters - paid and volunteer - were assigned to old Station No. 8.

The old station was replaced in 1963 by the current firehouse, which is located adjacent to the site of the old structure.

Read more about Hall's Hill and the book "Up On The Hill" at

Fire Station #8 Task Force Meeting #4
February 25, 2016
Langston-Brown Community & Senior Center
2121 N. Culpeper Street
Fire Station #8 History & Legacy Presentation

Presenters: Ms. Lydia Jones Cole; Mr. Jerome D. Smith, Battalion Chief, ACFD, Retired; Mr. Donald S. Reed, Captain, ACFD, Retired; and Ms. Kitty Clark Stevenson. All are 3rd Generation Arlingtonians.

1. Introduction – Ms. Kitty Clark Stevenson
2. Hope and History On The Hill – Ms. Lydia Jones Cole
3. Historical Significance of Fire Station #8 – Batt. Chief Smith, Retired; and Capt. Reed, Retired
4. Closing – Hall’s Hill Volunteer Fire Department, 1925 to Arlington County Fire Station #8, 1951, and into the 21st Century – Ms. Kitty Clark Stevenson

Excerpt:

“Halls Hill’s rich history of citizen participation has made life better for the neighborhood and the county as a whole.”

For years, the Halls Hill fire station struggled under an official benign neglect, which showed its effect in hand-me-down equipment and understaffing. However, Schwartz said the station volunteers persevered.

“Today, they serve as a lesson for those who want to serve their community and will not be deterred,” he said. “Our fire department has a national reputation, and that was built on the spirit and commitment of people like those from Halls Hill.” (Former Fire Chief, James Schwartz, *Sun Gazette, Arlington, March 3, 2005*, Ryan Self, *Staff Writer*.)

Resources and Handouts

Hope and History on The Hill – by Lydia Cole, September 30, 2015 – “... the fire engines from Arlington’s Fire Station 8 embody a legacy of hope and history for generations of residents from Hall’s Hill” ... Here’s the link: <https://lydiacole.exposure.co/hope-and-history-on-the-hill>

Legacy: Hall’s Hill VFD and Station No. 8 – A timeline of the rich history of the Hall’s Hill Volunteer Fire Department, for decades during segregation the only Arlington, Va. Station staffed by African Americans. Here’s the link: <http://library.arlingtonva.us/2015/08/04/legacy-halls-hill-vfd-and-station-no-8/>

Brochure: Arlington Public Library, Center for Local History, *Collecting, Preserving, Sharing Our Community’s History*. www.library.arlingtonva.us/localhistory

Short Bio Summaries

Lydia Jones Cole grew up on Hall's Hill and attended Langston Elementary School, Stratford Junior High and Washington-Lee High School. Her brother Michael Jones was among the four students that integrated Virginia Schools as one of the first African American students to attend Stratford Junior High School. She attended Howard University and has enjoyed a long career working in the television industry and corporate communications.

Donald S. Reed, son of Capt. Hartman S. Reed and member of the Arlington County Fire Department from 1974 - 2005. As a Firefighter at Station 2, our Engine Company received an award & plaque for rescuing a man trapped in a burning vehicle. Promoted to Lieutenant in 1993 & promoted to Captain in 1996. Retired in 2005.

Dale Smith is a veteran fire professional. He served thirty one and a half years with the Arlington County Fire Department. He started his career assigned to fire station 8 in North Arlington. He served as a paramedic, Fire/EMS Lieutenant, Fire/EMS Captain, Deputy Fire Marshall, Staff Assistant to the Fire Chief, North and South Fire/EMS Battalion Chief, Planning Chief, and as the Logistics Chief. He received numerous awards over his career including the Valor Award.

Kitty Clark Stevenson, daughter of Capt. Alfred W. Clark. She retired from the Arlington County Personnel Department (1983-2000), serving in the positions of EEO Officer, Personnel EEO Specialist, and Selective Placement Program Manager. She also staffed the development and implementation of both the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (EEO Policy) adopted by the County Board in June 1984, and the Affirmative Action Plan (AAP) adopted by the County Board in 1986, and their revisions in 1995.

Location of the Original Fire Station

Between 1934 and 1962, the fire station was located at 2209 North Culpeper Street, an unpaved road. Additionally, the AC Library text states: 1962 – Ground is broken for a new Station No. 8 on land immediately east of the 2209 North Culpeper site, where, among other things, a small grocery store and an auto shop had stood. The new firehouse will have the address 4845 Lee Highway. The site is made up of five parcels that will be purchased by the County from 1962 to 1968. The final parcel is deeded by the Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Department and the Hicks family. That final portion was deeded to the trustees of the HHVFD by the Hicks Family, and is our cover picture. The County land records show that from 1962-1968, the County paid \$67,574.00 to build Fire Station No. 8 in 1963. It is time to spend more.

(February 25, 2016)



N. CULPEPPER

UNPAVED

UNPAVED

UNPAVED

N. CULPEPPER

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UNPAVED

2 D

2 D

2 D
TILE

HALL'S HILL
VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT
(COLORED)

S. D.

S. D.

CLUB

2871 69
8118 8118

4863 4861
1139 1137

2855 53 51
1135 33



HOPE HALLECK
CLERK TO THE
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July 17, 2015

Dear Ms. Bocian,

On behalf of the County Board, thank you for your letter of July 7 outlining the concerns of your community related to the current siting process for Fire Station #8. As you know, we have had two initial meetings to gather thoughts from the community on potential sites that could achieve the County Board's overall goal of bringing more Arlington households into a 4-6 minute emergency response arrival time. We have appreciated the participation from Highview Park residents and look forward to continuing the conversation with your neighborhood at Langston-Brown in the near future.

A number of questions have already been submitted by residents to the County. I have asked staff to review your questions and ensure that answers are provided as soon as possible. Once finalized, the answers will be shared with you as well as posted on the [County webpage](#) associated with this process. A number of answers have been posted over the past week and I encourage you to share them with the Highview community.

You asked a question regarding how the land at the current Fire Station #8 was acquired. I asked Tim O'Hora, Deputy Bureau Chief of the County Real Estate Bureau to research that question and following is the specific parcel table based on County land records.

"None of the properties were donated, and there are no restrictions on use in any of the 5 deeds."

<u>Acq. Date</u>	<u>Grantor(s)</u>	<u>Lot(s)</u>	<u>Deed Book/ Page</u>	<u>Acq. Price</u>	<u>Deed Restriction</u>
01/17/1962	Phillip Greenwell	Lot 19 Cottage Park	1462/435	\$ 40,500	None

08/15/1963	Hicks, et al. (Heirs of J. Hicks)	Lots Pt, 23, 24, 25 Cottage Park	1523/423	\$ 13,500	None
12/11/1963	Mima Williams	Lot 22, Pt. 23 Cottage Park	1534/64	\$ 7,324	None
01/12/1966	Macedonia Baker	Lot 32 Cottage Park	1611/514	\$ 1,250	None
03/09/1968	Hall's Hill Vol. Fire Dept. & Hicks, et al. (Heirs of J. Hicks)	Lot 26 Cottage Park	1671/153	\$ 5,000	None

Regardless of whether the fire station moves or stays in its current location, the Board is committed to a planning process for the Highview/Lee Hwy site that is robust, inclusive of the community and tailored to the site. It must include analysis of the environmental, traffic, noise and other impacts and evaluate potential mitigations for those impacts.

In addition, we have heard compelling statements from members of Highview and others about the need to ensure that Fire Station #8's place in Arlington's history is recognized. The Board agrees that this must be done and we are committed to ensuring that the long cultural history associated with the African American community and this fire station, as well as Calloway cemetery and Langston-Brown school, is appropriately commemorated and honored in whatever is ultimately constructed on the Fire #8 site. We believe, as I know you do, that it is important

that we keep telling the story of those African Americans who settled in Halls Hill – now Highview Park - for generations to come.

Thank you again for your letter. I know we will be talking soon.



Mary Hynes
Chair, Arlington County Board

I want to believe

I want to believe that money isn't the motivator behind the attempt to move Fire Station 8.

I want to believe that Arlington County doesn't see the land that Station 8 occupies as a cash cow and they must do everything possible to move Station 8 so the land can be milked.

I want to believe that Station 8's present home hasn't been promised to some future developer.

I want to believe that the screams of the all mighty dollar won't drown out the collective voices of the Halls Hill/High View Park and surrounding neighborhoods as they demand to keep Fire Station 8 in the place where it's wanted and stop trying to move it to a place where it's not fully embraced.

I want to believe that common sense will prevail and Station 8 will stay where it has been for over 100 years without complaint as the firefighters respond to the calls of the residents, visitors & businesses of Arlington County.

I want to believe, but only they know for sure.

Anonymous (2016)