



HOWARD  
UNIVERSITY



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# Myrtilla Miner Building

FACT SHEET

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## Who was Myrtilla Miner?

Myrtilla Miner (1815-1864) was a white educator who fought for the rights of Black teachers and students. In 1851, she founded the Normal School for Colored Girls in Washington, D.C. At one point, it was the only school offering education beyond the elementary level for African-Americans in the nation's capital. That school closed in 1860.

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## What is the history of the Miner Building on Howard University's campus?

After its construction in 1913 and 1914, the building was known as the Miner Normal School, and it was part of the District of Columbia's public school system. In 1929, the Miner Normal School was renamed the Miner Teachers College and Black teachers were trained there for 70 years.

When the Miner Teachers College merged with the Wilson Teachers College for white teachers in 1955, the new institution's name became the DC Teachers College. In 1977, it was absorbed into the University of the District of Columbia. Howard University bought the building in 1990.

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## Is the building considered historically significant?

Yes. In 1991, historic preservationists in Washington, D.C. succeeded in getting the building added to the National Register of Historic Places. Their nomination cited three reasons to justify its selection. First, was its role in establishing early teacher-training programs for Blacks and history as a primary source of teachers and administrators for segregated public schools in Washington, D.C., and other southern communities. Another reason was the building commemorated Myrtilla Miner's contributions to Black education. Third, the building's architecture had real historical significance based on the significance of its design.

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## What is the historical significance of the building design?

Designed in the shape of an E, the large, brick, three-story structure is an early example of Colonial Revival architecture — a style that did not become widely used for public schools until the 1920s and 1930s, according to the National Register nomination form. Read the full National Register document [here](#).

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**What is the Miner Building used for now?**

The building has been vacant for decades, except for one first-floor corridor that was renovated to provide a few classrooms for the University’s School of Education.

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**What is its future after renovations are complete?**

The Miner Building will house Howard’s School of Education and the University’s Middle School for Mathematics and Science, a D.C. Public Charter School. Miner’s renovation costs are included in Howard University’s initial \$785 million investment for its campus development program.

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**What renovations are being made?**

Work will be largely inside but throughout the building. Significant historical features are being preserved, such as the Miner Building’s tall arched windows, two grand staircases that rise from the ground floor to the first and second floors, and limestone baseboards in corridors. Renovations will also spur collaboration between the Middle School and the School of Education. For instance, there will be an observation room where School of Education students can watch and listen as experienced Middle School teachers conduct classroom instruction. Other new spaces will include a modern science lab for the Middle School, a School of Education Student Commons and a Teachers Lounge.



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**Contact Information  
TBD**

