

# **Woodson (H.D.) and Metropolitan A.M.E. Church Collection**

## **An inventory of H.D. Woodson and Metropolitan A.M.E. Church Collection at DC Public Library**

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on May 05, 2021.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

[peoples.archive@dc.gov](mailto:peoples.archive@dc.gov)

---

## Table of Contents

---

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Summary Information .....        | 3 |
| Biographical / Historical .....  | 3 |
| Scope and Contents .....         | 4 |
| Arrangement .....                | 4 |
| Administrative Information ..... | 4 |
| Related Materials .....          | 5 |
| Controlled Access Headings ..... | 5 |
| Collection Inventory .....       | 5 |
| Series 1 .....                   | 5 |

---

## Summary Information

---

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b>               | People's Archive, MLK Library                          |
| <b>Creator:</b>                  | Woodson, Howard D                                      |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | H.D. Woodson and Metropolitan A.M.E. Church Collection |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | 093  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>         | 1852-1913  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 0.5 Linear feet  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 1 Boxes  |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English  |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English  |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

Howard D. Woodson was born April 26, 1876 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the University of Western Pennsylvania (now the University of Pittsburgh) with a degree in civil engineering in 1899, becoming one of the first African-American men to do so. Woodson began his career working in the Pittsburgh area for companies such as the Carnegie Steel Company, the American Bridge Company, the Pittsburgh Coal Company, and the D. H. Burnham Company. He also worked for the United States Navy. In 1907, he moved to Washington, D.C. and began his long career with the Public Buildings Administration. Woodson continued working for the PBA until 1943, when he retired and began a private structural engineering practice. Woodson lived at a number of addresses in the Northeast quadrant of the District, including 1450 S Street NE, 18 Quincy Place NE, 5008 Fitch Place NE, and 4918 Fitch Place NE. He took a particular interest in Northeast's infrastructure, and was instrumental in improving the sewer systems, widening roads such as Benning Road, and having a bridge built over the Anacostia River at East Capitol Street. Woodson was also the founder of many Northeast civic associations, including the Northeast Boundary Civic Association, the Far Northeast Council, the Far Northeast Business and Professional Association, and the National Technical Association. In recognition of his work, Woodson High School at 5500 Eads Street NE was named in his honor. Woodson also served as a Sunday school superintendent at the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church on M Street NW. Metropolitan A. M. E. was born out of segregation and discrimination in the Nation's capital. African-American members of the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church left the congregation in 1821 and formed their own church; they petitioned for and were granted acceptance by the National African Methodist Episcopal Church.

These members began the Israel A. M. E. Church in 1821 and eventually joined up with the Union Bethel A. M. E. Church in 1870 (taking the name Metropolitan in 1872). The church has a long history of being on the forefront of African-American causes, including slavery and civil rights. Civil rights leaders such as Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Jackson, Angela Davis, and others have preached in their pulpit. The church was also the site of inaugural prayer services for the Clinton-Gore presidential administrations. H. D. Woodson eventually left the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church and joined the congregation of the Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church. He remained a member of this congregation until his death in March 1962.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

This collection consists of materials found in the former home of Howard D. Woodson, including personal documents from his time in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and items from when he served as the superintendent of Sunday school at the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church in Washington, D.C. Example materials include a commencement program, treasurer reports, a tax levy, monthly reports, class lists, teaching aides, annual reports, construction quotes and contracts, invoices, and speeches.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

Processed without series. The materials are arranged in alphabetical order by title or subject.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW  
Washington, DC  
[peoples.archive@dc.gov](mailto:peoples.archive@dc.gov)

## Revision Description

Finding aid revised to be more evergreen. 2020-08-13

## Custodial History

The materials in this collection were found by a resident of 18 Quincy Place NE (the home of H. D. Woodson from 1909 to 1913) and donated to the DC Public Library.

## Processing Information

Basic archival procedures were used at the time of processing.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Materials

Collection 091, Minnie S. Woodson and Woodson Family Collection

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- City churches
- Organizational Records
- Sunday schools
- African Americans

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### Series 1

| Title/Description                     | Instances |          |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Catalogue - Allegheny Institute, 1852 | Box 1     | Folder 1 |

|   |       |           |
|---|-------|-----------|
| Commencement Program - Western University of Pennsylvania, 1899                     | Box 1 | Folder 2  |
| McQueen and Odenwald - Electrical Contract, 1913                                    | Box 1 | Folder 3  |
| Metropolitan A. M. E. - Annual Report of the Librarian, 1912                        | Box 1 | Folder 4  |
| Metropolitan A. M. E. - Directions for Beginners in Practical Christianity, Undated | Box 1 | Folder 5  |
| Metropolitan A. M. E. - Men and Religion Forward Movement, 1912                     | Box 1 | Folder 6  |
| Metropolitan A. M. E. - Money for Chairs, Undated                                   | Box 1 | Folder 7  |
| Metropolitan A. M. E. - Monthly Reports, 1911-1912                                  | Box 1 | Folder 8  |
| Metropolitan A. M. E. - Publications List, Undated                                  | Box 1 | Folder 9  |
| Metropolitan A. M. E. - The Resultants of Emancipation, 1870                        | Box 1 | Folder 10 |
| Metropolitan A. M. E. - Standards of Service, Undated                               | Box 1 | Folder 11 |
| Metropolitan A. M. E. - Sunday school Class List, Undated                           | Box 1 | Folder 12 |
| Metropolitan A. M. E. - Treasurer's Reports, 1911-1912                              | Box 1 | Folder 13 |
| Metropolitan A. M. E. - Work Estimate, 1912   | Box 1 | Folder 14 |
| Pittsburgh City Tax Levy, 1913  | Box 1 | Folder 15 |
| Pittsburgh - Sunday school Class List, Undated                                      | Box 1 | Folder 16 |
| Postcards, 1912   | Box 1 | Folder 17 |
| Proceedings of the National Convention of the Colored Men of America, 1869          | Box 1 | Folder 18 |
| Supply Lists, 1912-1913   | Box 1 | Folder 19 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)