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Mary Church Terrell House

The Mary Church Terrell House was built between 1873 and 1877, and is located at 326 T Street, N.W. in Washington D.C. This hallowed structure was, and still is, a very important memory and significant site in African American history in the United States. The House was home to the civil rights leader, Mary Church Terrell, who was the first black woman to serve on an American school board.

At the age of 86, Mary led a fight to integrate eating places in the District of Columbia. She led this fight because there were laws that were created which said that eating place proprietors were not allowed to feed people of a different color besides white. Mary began this battle after her and some of her colleagues went to a restaurant one day and were refused to be served because they weren't white, so they filed a lawsuit. Eventually, three years later, they were in court and the lawsuit led to the desegregation of restaurants in the District of Columbia.

The House was eventually deemed historic, officially, in 1975, and it was home to the very famous civil rights activist, Mary Church Terrell and her husband, Judge Robert Terrell. When Mary passed away in 1954, her will guaranteed that Howard University would gain possession of her house after the death of her daughter, Phyllis. It was not until 1998 when Howard University got possession of the House. The Mary Church Terrell House, which is not open to the public, was preserved to not only to tell people, but to help them understand an event that happened in their city's past.

Works Cited: "Mary Church Terrell House." *We Shall Overcome*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 Jan. 2016.
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