

PRISCILLA HERBERT: THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY'S FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN GRADUATE

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ABSTRACT AND INTRODUCTION

Often when looking back into history, discoveries can lead to more questions. Though historical studies today have been refined so as to investigate more horizontal contexts and to include all parts of society as an equal reference to the present, it is evident that our backgrounds had many times been effectively blurred by social constructs of times when marginalized groups were cast out of historical consideration. With what is left now of vague accounts and missing pieces concerning groups often seen as less significant in previous times, it is the duty of historians to explain these stories and provide accurate representations of all people who came to shape the present.

The story of Trenton, New Jersey and The College of New Jersey presents a similar case in which integral parts of the Trenton area's cultural history have been almost unrecognized. As a vibrant hub of activity and advancement from the early times of colonial America, the current capital of New Jersey has held a crucial role to play in the development of the state itself and the United States as a whole. Beyond the crossing of George Washington and his troops over the Delaware River to take Trenton in the Revolutionary War however, the story of this city is one which has nearly faded into obscurity. The men and women who shaped Trenton turned the once small colonial town into the bustling epicenter of New Jersey's economic, industrial, and governmental affairs throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In fact, much of Trenton's history and its cultural legacies are entwined with that of the African American community which grew in a mutually beneficial relationship with the city's Caucasian social elites since pre-independence. Events such as the duty-free importation of African slaves encouraged by the English crown in the 18th century, the escapes of slaves in the antebellum period, and the flight of blacks from the American South's Jim Crow racial policies are today used as historical evidence to account for the degrees of diversity observed in New Jersey's cities. However, the story of how these citizens developed and flourished in a nation often geared towards their collective stagnation have been either disregarded or forgotten in northern cities dominated by ethnocentric racial views until recent decades. The narrative of African American history in Trenton and at The College of New Jersey is an example of how black citizens made invaluable contributions to the region's complex cultural history and yet were nearly forgotten about.

The establishment of the New Jersey State Normal School on North Clinton Avenue in downtown Trenton on February 9, 1855 (not to be used until a year later while classes in the first term were held in a building on the corner of East Hanover and South Stockton streets) marked yet another important milestone in the development of the city and the christening of TCNJ's legacy today.¹ With support from the state legislature and Rodman Price, state governor at the time of the school's conception, the New Jersey State Normal School began with its operations: "that of training teachers for the common schools in the science of education and the art of instructing youth."² It is at the Normal School where the obscured narrative of a crucial aspect of the local black community begins with Priscilla Herbert's graduation in 1879. Miss Priscilla Herbert's graduation marks an important stage in the advancement of minorities in the Trenton community and in the diversification of TCNJ's campus today as she was the first African American to graduate from the New Jersey State Normal School. However, while her story is integral as the cornerstone of African Americans' higher education in Trenton and at TCNJ, next to nothing is known of her more than that she attended the Normal School and graduated to

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begin a teaching career in New Jersey and Pennsylvania for an unspecified amount of years. At a time in Trenton when public schools were segregated, with institutions such as the "African Schoolhouse" on East Hanover street standing until the late nineteenth century in the city, Priscilla Herbert's contribution to the advancement of African Americans in academia during such an era are critical yet extremely difficult to trace.³

THE HERBERT FAMILY

Through research conducted at the Trenton Free Public Library's Trentoniana Collection and TCNJ's R. Barbara Gitenstein Library, the pieces of who Priscilla Herbert was and how she came to inspire generations of subsequent African American scholars may be investigated more thoroughly. However, it must be noted that as in most cases focused on the subject of groups traditionally marginalized throughout in American society, Priscilla Herbert's story has led to both questions and answers as to who she was and where she found herself in the years after graduating from the Normal School in 1879. Cases such as these are valuable in two ways. First, they reveal how stark inadequacies in the social consciousness of the past which, by believing certain groups (in this case African Americans and women) to be peripheral rather than socially equal in significance, failed to recognize and commemorate monumental strides for equality and thus hinder an accurate understanding of our social history today. Secondly, new methods of historical consideration used to assess stories such as that of Priscilla Herbert can today more accurately portray ourselves as the diversified national community we are to those of the future. In regards to the conflicting sources of public record, it should be noted also that the primary evidential sources drawn up in this report are federal and state censuses as well as various editions of the Trenton Fitzgerald Directory, all of which are presented sporadically and according to no specific order other than that which best fits the proceeding profile of the Herbert family story.

The extent of knowledge concerning Trenton's Herbert family with confirmed connection to Priscilla only extends to the generation before her with her mother and father. In various short summaries concerning the notable African Americans in Trenton's history published over time, the members of Priscilla's family are mentioned rather briefly. One such summary is that published by Jennifer B. Leynes in 2015 titled "Three Centuries of African-American History in Trenton: Significant People and Places" in which Priscilla's father is identified as Mansfield Herbert, a cabinet maker and "artistic picture framer."⁴ Reference to Mansfield's age is first made in the 1860 federal census which lists him as 57, revealing him to be born in 1803.⁵ The earliest public record linking Mansfield Herbert specifically to the city of Trenton is found in the 1859 Fitzgerald Trenton Directory (as the 1850 federal census gives his address as Dwelling no. 28 in Nottingham, New Jersey), in which he is listed as a "gilt frame maker" with a business at 28 Lamberton Street who resided at 24 Lamberton. Along with owning his own business, the "h" listed next to his name in that year's directory indicates that he was officially the owner of the 24 Lamberton Street home by 1859.⁶ According to the 1921 newspaper article titled "White Neighbors Bear Negro to Grave - Hensons' and Herberts' Unique Place in City Annals" by John J. Cleary in the Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser, Mansfield apparently worked on steamboats between Trenton and Philadelphia and settled in the Mercer county area around 1820. An 1840 federal census reveals that before settling permanently in his Lamberton Street home, Mansfield resided in Nottingham, a no longer existent town that is now Hamilton, New Jersey.⁷ He apparently then married the daughter (name not specified) of Henry Hooten, the previous owner of the Lamberton Street house, in 1826. This statement made in the Advertiser loosely aligns with 1670-1965 New Jersey marriage records which lists Mansfield as marrying a Susan "Houton" on January 6, 1825.⁸

Mansfield spent his life in Trenton and died there in 1880 at the age of 77. Along with Mansfield's relative prosperity as framer, he was a "staunch Republican and a tireless worker for the amelioration of his race" who commanded the signed respect and recognition of "300 or more" public officials.⁹ According to the 1850 federal census, Mansfield's held about \$4,000 in real estate assets by that year most likely in Nottingham, New Jersey.¹⁰ From this information it may be expected that the prominence of Mansfield Herbert inspired the success of his children listed in Cleary's 1921 Advertiser article as Henri, Ida, Agnes, John M., and Priscilla, distinguished for the first time in a news article here as "the first colored graduate of the State Normal School."¹¹ Whether Mansfield's roots could be found in a

narrative of suffering and persecution common to African Americans in the antebellum period or in one of privileged upbringing is unknown, yet is evident he was a man of advanced skill, capability, and influence upon the community around him.

In the 1874 Fitzgerald Trenton Directory, the Herbert family had grown by two others then living as boarders at the 24 Lamberton Street address. These two new listings show as Mansfield's son John M. Herbert, a "frame-manufacturer" as well, and Susan E. Herbert, a school teacher. John M. and Susan E. would have been 21 and 19 respectively according to the 1870 federal census where their names are listed with Mansfield's.¹² While nothing is known about the relationship between Susan E. and Priscilla, Susan's position as a school teacher may tell us that Priscilla grew up alongside driven and intelligent women of the academic field in her family.

The women of the Herbert family lack any mention in contemporary public documents beyond their listing as residents of the Lamberton home in censuses and city directories. Newspaper articles concerning the deaths of Herbert family men mentioned women only by name but not achievements. This is one example of the difficulty historians have today with tracing the Herberts. Again, this occurrence is common as the lives of African American women of the time were unfortunately either ignored or disregarded as less relevant even when their achievements marked significant advancements of the black and female communities. This point is bolstered by a statement made by Linda Kerber in her article "Ripple Effect" which says "the term 'woman' itself turns out to be problematic; the range of experiences as women was wide and disparate varying by race and ethnicity, by age, by class;..."¹³ Therefore given both her gender and ethnicity, Priscilla Herbert has no monument or report upon her achievement at TCNJ today nor any in published writing beyond a small mention in articles concerning her brothers or father due to embedded historical negligence of women's greater contributions to society.

TRACING PRISCILLA HERBERT

Tracing Priscilla's individual story begins with consulting censuses starting with the New Jersey Birth and Christening Index. According to this record, Priscilla is born on March 3, 1859 to father Mansfield and mother Ellen E. Herbert.¹⁴ This birth record, as well as the 1860 federal census which lists Ellen E. Herbert as being 28 (thus born in 1832) suggests that Ellen E. was the second wife of Mansfield most likely following the premature death of his first wife Susan Houten. Although there is no public record of his marriage to Ellen E., Mansfield most likely sought a young wife upon Susan's death to carry on his lineage. Ellen E. did so successfully starting with the birth of John M.. Upon the start of their family with John M.'s birth in 1853, Mansfield would have been 50 and Ellen E. 21.

In the 1860 federal census, Mansfield's family members at the Lamberton Street address are listed and aged accordingly: Mansfield; 57, Ellen E.; 28, John M.; 7, Eliza; 5, Robert H. (Henri); 3, and Priscilla; 1. The following decade's census of 1870 lists each member ten years older respectively with three new members of the family (Gustav; 6, Agnes; 9, and Susan; 15) included. As Eliza's name does not appear in the 1870 federal census report, it is presumed she died during childhood of an unknown cause sometime in the 1860's. From this information and contemporary listings in the Fitzgerald Trenton Directories, it can be recognized that the directories made no mention in its pages of Priscilla and her siblings simply due to their age below eighteen. While this is typical of most population indexes of the past and present as children hold no civic post until adulthood, this example of the Trenton directories' omission of Priscilla and her siblings until age eighteen presents a further challenge to historians today in tracing lineage when consulting only municipal records.

Priscilla Herbert's name finally begins to appear specifically within Trenton's public records in the latter half of the 1870's. In 1877, presumably following her eighteenth birthday, Priscilla Herbert's name shows for the first time in the Fitzgerald Trenton Directory listing her as a student living at 24 Lamberton Street.¹⁵ This small bit of information suggests that Priscilla's academic career lasted around 2 years at the Normal School, ending while she was 20 years old. According to the city directory, in 1877 Priscilla lived with her Father, brothers John M., R. Henri, and Gustav (listed on the federal census, not city directory likely due to age), sisters Agnes (a dressmaker) and Ida (also a teacher), and Susan. Ellen E. did not appear at this time in the city directory, but was listed on the federal censuses published before

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and after this year. Interestingly as well, Ida did not appear in the federal censuses until 1880 albeit she is listed as three years older than Priscilla.

With three teachers at the Lamberton Street house, it appears a tradition of the Herbert family's role as educators began here and carried on through Priscilla. In the 1880 Report conducted by the New Jersey Department of Education, Priscilla's name appears again a year after her Normal School graduation. She is listed under "Certificates to Normal School Graduates" in the subgrouping "Elementary Course" (Image 1).¹⁶ This is the first public account of an African American graduating from The New Jersey State Normal School, what has evolved now into The College of New Jersey.

From two separate summaries on members of Herbert family, one being a Trentonhistory.org article concerning the life of Priscilla's brother Henri and the other an obituary for John M., previously portrayed organization of the Herbert family lineage throughout time have evidently failed to show a complete representation of the siblings' relations. In the obituary article titled "Prominent Negro Dies in Hospital: John M. Herbert Was Well-Known As Worker For Race Betterment" dated to January 5, 1929 and published by an unknown newspaper abbreviated by archivists as "SG," Priscilla's brother John M. is listed as the son of Mansfield Herbert and as a resident of 25 Lamberton Street his whole life. He is said to have been survived by no children or spouse, but by his two sisters Agnes L. Kemp and J.T. Richardson who both resided in Trenton as well.¹⁷ Given that the death of Henri is confirmed in 1909, it appears that the public record disregarded mention to Henri due to his death twenty years earlier. However, there is no mention in the Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser article about a J. T. Richardson being one of Mansfield's children.

Articles of today concerning the family, however, present another side of Mansfield Herbert's lineage in Trenton history. In the 2015 report presented by Trentonhistory.org titled "Three Centuries of African American History in Trenton: Significant People and Places" by Jennifer B. Leynes, Priscilla's other brother Henri Herbert is acknowledged for his many achievements including publishing of the city's first African American newspaper The Sentinel and work with other contemporary publications, his political positions including doorkeeper of the New Jersey Senate, and his ownership of a cigar shop in the city. It is in this article that his father Mansfield and siblings including sisters, Priscilla and Ida, and brothers John M. and Gustavas are presented in relation to Henri without any mention of those alleged sisters of John M., Agnes or J.T., in the article clipping of the "SG" newspaper.¹⁸

In an article dated to October 1909 titled "R. Henri Herbert Dies Suddenly: Found Dead in Middle of Street in Trenton New Jersey," Henri is said to leave his "mother, Mrs. Ellen Herbert... a brother John M. Herbert (mentioned here as his death did not occur until two decades later as mentioned above), and two sisters, Miss Ida Herbert and Mrs. H. L. Kemp."¹⁹ This is the first and last time in which the name H.L. is mentioned among the children of Mansfield Herbert while also the second time the surname Kemp is mentioned preceding the middle initial L. While it is possible that her name does not appear in the city directories potentially due to a marriage and move out of the city, only the single mention of her among all reports and contemporary articles concerning the Herbert's illuminates both the inconsistencies between state/city directories and federal censuses and a general neglect of both women and black citizens' affairs at the time. Inconsistencies with these public records/articles and the work of Leynes further demonstrate that sources published in recent times regarding the complete history of families integral to the Trenton's development also conflict with these primary sources from the past. Thus, these historical conundrums exhibit that the women of the Herbert family faced greater difficulty than Herbert men in preserving their legacy for the future. This leads inevitably to more questions: why were the newspaper articles of the past either missing pieces of the family or omitting the names of women? The general lack of a mother's name in an publication concerning the Herbert children is yet another indication of women's (especially African American women) marginalization at the time. For example, although Ellen E. of the Herbert family is mentioned only in the federal censuses and Mansfield Herbert is listed with no spouse within the Fitzgerald Trenton Directory, it is not until a year after his death in 1881 that Ellen E. is officially identified as his wife in the Fitzgerald Trenton Directory.

In the 1881 edition of the Fitzgerald Trenton Directory, the name Mansfield is first omitted from the listing of Herberts now at 25 Lamberton Avenue (also indicating either the family's move to the next door number or a change in the city's address numbering). At the same time, the name Ellen E.

Herbert begins to appear with sub-description of “widow Mansfield” and the subsequent “h” following her name indicating that she had inherited ownership of the address from her deceased husband. By this year, the Herbert family had swelled to three more new adult tenants according to the Fitzgerald Trenton Directory: Gustavas, a wood dealer, Tillie, a teacher, and Robert (no profession specified).²⁰ The premier listing of Ellen E. as a citizen and apparent wife of Mansfield outside of federal censuses only after his death indicates another historical detail common in these times. The perception of women’s position simply as secondary or irrelevant in these times is apparent in this sudden appearance of Ellen in the records of Trenton history only after her husband’s death. While Ellen E., the mother of Priscilla and her siblings, was completely absent from the Fitzgerald Directory and most news articles concerning her children, she may have only become relevant by Trenton municipal standards upon the death of her husband when she became the sole proprietor of the house on Lamberton Street. As reflected by Priscilla’s story, that of Ellen shows again that the regard for women in Trenton history (most likely bolstered by their identity of women of color as well) lacked so heavily as to neither mention them in public directories nor mention their existence upon the publication of articles concerning the death of their husbands and/or children. At a time when black men themselves needed to be differentiated as “prominent” or “well-to-do” before being recognized as parts of the community or receiving coverage in local newspapers, black women represented an even more suppressed section of the population who gained even less recognition for their achievements than their male counterparts and family members.

Therefore, this investigation suggests not only that African Americans had to make great achievements to be acknowledged by their community, but also that women of color at this time suffered through even more societal neglect. Their stories, identities, and mere existence were not acknowledged outside of their relevance to male family members. As Linda Kerber says in the article “Ripple Effect” that “the first stage of writing women’s history...is making individual women visible,” historians may more clearly understand how the legacy of Priscilla Herbert alone as the first African American graduate in TCNJ’s history has been almost completely forgotten through recent decades and yet has had profound effect on future generations of female and black students alike in Trenton.

By 1881, the name Priscilla Herbert ceases to exist in the Fitzgerald Trenton Directory.²¹ As is stated in Jennifer B. Leynes article, Priscilla had a career in teaching all around New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Therefore, while the date of her death is unknown and expected to precede that of her brother Henri in 1909 as her name is omitted from his obituary, this absence of her name from the city directory as well as all census records after 1880 indicate that she quickly moved on to teach beyond the Trenton community after graduating from the Normal School in 1879. To understand the life of and identity of Priscilla Herbert beyond these census records, an examination of the lives of her siblings may offer some further details about how Priscilla herself facilitated a legacy of African American advancement in the history of TCNJ.

PRISCILLA HERBERT’S FOUR SIBLINGS

Of Priscilla’s four siblings, who stood out most prominently in the Trenton community was her brother Henri. As said above, the tradition of the Herbert siblings as educators in Trenton began first with Henri’s career as a teacher as listed in the 1877-1879 editions of the Fitzgerald Trenton Directory. Priscilla following suit after her brother, sister, and other housemates thus suggests that she was raised in a household which regarded educators highly. In the years until his death in 1909, Henri held other various professions including journalist, wood and coal dealer, cigar dealer, secretary and treasurer of the National Cigar manufacturing Co., inspector, and foreman. He is further distinguished in the article “White Neighbors Bear Negro to Grave” as the founder and editor of the first African American Newspaper in Trenton named *The Sentinel*, and again in recent years by Leynes for his political involvement as a staunch Republican and seat with his brother John M. within the esteemed African American Eclectic Club. Jack Washington’s book *Quest for Equality: Trenton’s Black Community, 1890-1965* pays testament to R. Henri as the first leader of the club in 1877.²² In a piece written by Henri called “Our Problems and Our Burdens” which appeared in the *Colored American Magazine*, Henri spoke earnestly about the racial tensions which plagued African Americans in northern cities such as poor representation, mistrust, and lower socio-economic opportunity (*Colored American Magazine*). Another

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later small article titled "R. Henry Herbert Ball Team" dated to July 11, 1940 in the Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser shows that an all-white youth baseball team was named after him in around the turn of the century.²³ Clearly, such commemoration of a leading black citizen by an all-white recreational team in a segregationist-era city gives testament to even a distinct posthumous level of respect for R. Henri Herbert held among both the white and African American communities alike in Trenton.

John M. Herbert also held distinctions among the white and black communities of Trenton. In the article mentioned above titled "Prominent Negro Dies in Hospital," John M.'s knowledge of the German language, participation as the only black member of the Fourth Ward Republican Club, and local advocacy for the advancement of African Americans as President of the Eclectic Club suggest a zealous activeness for the betterment of Trenton community as a whole.²⁴ Furthermore, Jack Washington points to John M.'s involvement in the Trenton NAACP chapter as further indication of his activity in social advancement of the city's African American community beyond the local realm. Along with these posts within the community, John worked successfully as an upholsterer until 1904 when he began a flooring business which he turned into J. M & Co. in 1918. He was the last member of the Herbert family in the city directories to claim ownership of the Lamberton house after Ellen E.'s death on August 18, 1915.²⁵ John M.'s death, though apparently occurring on either Dec. 31, 1928 or Jan 1, 1929, does not coincide with his omission from the Fitzgerald Trenton Directory in 1928. This suggests that he had fallen ill and most likely forfeited ownership of the home (and therefore the Herbert legacy at the Lamberton Street house) a number of months before his death.

Ida Herbert is listed as a local school teacher living at 25 Lamberton Street up until 1910 when her name is last seen in the Fitzgerald Trenton Directory.²⁶ Ida's omission from the directory in 1910 coincides with records of the Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser's obituaries which state that she died in Trenton on January 23 of that year.²⁷ She had spent her entire life living at the Lamberton Street house and working as a teacher in Trenton. Gustavus (listed variably as Gustav, Gustaves, Gustavus, Gustavis, G.P., or G. Pelman) worked interchangeably as a wood/coal salesman and an upholsterer with brother John M. until 1894 when according to an article from an unnamed Trenton newspaper he became "the first colored man to get a [hotel] license in this city."²⁸ This article is supported by Washington again in his book when he points to the Eclectic Club as "setting the stage" for the first licensed liquor club (most likely incorporating a hotel in the levels above) owned by "Gustavis" Herbert on Barnes Street as is complicit with the Fitzgerald Trenton Directory's account of Gustavus claiming an "h" next to the 28 Barnes address in the city.²⁹ Gustavus' life at 25 Lamberton Street is accounted for until the year 1900 by the Fitzgerald Trenton Directory when his name ceases to be listed, and no official obituary in Trenton's archives exists for him specifically.

The vertical files of the Trentonian at the Trenton Free Public Library do not include any mention of Priscilla in the collection binders marked 'State Normal and Model Schools', 'African American - Women', 'African American - Professional Men and Women', or 'African American - Firsts,' or in any primary source collections.³⁰ The only remaining leads on the story of Priscilla's life are found in the Federal and New Jersey censuses. After her graduation from the Normal School in 1879, Priscilla's name is omitted from the 1880 Fitzgerald Trenton Directory. In that same year, the federal census lists Priscilla as boarding in a house on Greene Street in Princeton, New Jersey and working as a school teacher. Along with the Leynes report from 2015 which states Priscilla taught around the New Jersey and Pennsylvania area, this census information suggests that Priscilla's ambition and qualifications directed her towards a teaching profession away from home quickly after her graduation. Although the 1890 federal census is fragmented and does not return any leads on Priscilla in this decade, the subsequent federal census of 1900 shows that Priscilla had moved to Philadelphia and lived in the city's seventh district on Lombard Street sometime before then. It is unspecified in this census but assumed that she continued her teaching career there at this time.

Finally, Priscilla appears to have moved back to the Lamberton Street house in Trenton by 1905 according to the New Jersey state census. According to this census she resided here again with her mother, sister Ida, and brothers R. Henri and John M. and was working as a school teacher again in Trenton. She was 46 at this time and still remained unmarried as the rest of her siblings in the Lamberton house had.³¹ This report from 1905 is the final testament of Priscilla in public documentation until her

name is mentioned again in the 1921 Advertiser article by Cleary. As is seen in how Herbert family members' names are absent from obituary listings of siblings' death after their own deaths, omission of Priscilla's name from the obituary of her brother R. Henri in 1909 along with the inclusion of her name in the New Jersey state census of 1905 thus suggests that she had died sometime between 1905 and 1909.

TRENTON AND THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

The matter of Priscilla Herbert's memory is one which needs further consideration at TCNJ because it revives the historical connections between the school and the local Trenton communities. With the movement of the Normal School in 1929 out of downtown Trenton to the Hillwood Lakes location where TCNJ exists today came an almost definitive severance between the Trenton area's higher education programs and the minority communities which resided in or around the city. As is seen in the Map 1 of Trenton, color delineates between sections of the city ranging between "best" (green), "still desirable" (blue), "definitely declining" (yellow), and "hazardous" (red) depending most heavily on the density of minority populations within a given area. These urban color-coding maps, known as "security maps", were part of property appraisal methods issued in response to Great Depression property devaluation between 1935 and 1940 by the Home Owner's Loan Corporation (HOLC), an agency established as part of Roosevelt's New Deal policies.³² While this map was drafted decades after the last of the Herbert family is suggested to have resided in Trenton, these delineations based upon racist zoning practices must be expected as relevant to racial property divisions that existed in Priscilla's time and likely grew into such which were outlined by the HOLC map.

Lamberton Street was located in the red zone "D4" while the Normal School campus was also located in the red zone "D3". Both the locations of 25 Lamberton on corner of Lamberton and Federal Street and the original location of the New Jersey State Normal School on North Clinton Ave between Model Avenue and Monmouth Street are highlighted on Map #1. Below the North Clinton Avenue lies the corner of East Hanover and South Stockton Street, where the first temporary classes of the New Jersey State Normal School took place temporarily. Given this information, the steps of Priscilla's daily commute to the Normal school can even be traced for the first time. This commute, most efficiently mapped out using comparative maps, would have consisted of westward walk from the Lamberton Street house three blocks down Federal Street to Second Street, then a left turn and northward three-block walk down to Hamilton street, another westward right turn on onto Hamilton for 3 blocks, followed by a northward turn onto South Clinton Ave. After about a half mile, Priscilla likely then veered right in this forked road onto the northwestward North Clinton Avenue to arrive at the Normal School roughly three blocks down. Likely a fifteen- to twenty-minute walk for the young scholar.

The high volume of minority populations in the red zones surrounding the Normal School thus suggest that while racial tensions still dominated zoning measures in the city in the late 19th and 20th centuries, the zone's location in within the city limits offered greater education opportunities to the non-white citizens of Trenton and thus mutually beneficial systems of social equity among students and therefore the city's ethnic groups altogether. The example of Priscilla's proximity to the school shows how African American students were likely within walking distance from the Normal School and therefore had easier access to the city's higher education facilities in the years before the move to the Hillwood Lakes location in the late 1920's. The movement of the campus thus undoubtedly hindered the higher education of Trenton's minority population with implications which may be observed to this day.

Along with the location change, augmentations to the school's name (from "Trenton State College" to "The College of New Jersey") have further masked TCNJ's past as an institution once based centrally out of downtown Trenton. These steps taken by administrators have come to reflect a turning away of the school from the its roots in downtown Trenton and the void which exists between the campus and city today. With those changes were the loss of historical identity for the school as well as knowledge about TCNJ's past involvement in the betterment of local African American citizens. Trenton's Herbert family of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries now exists as a monument to the advancement of African American communities around the country, while Priscilla represents both a loss of local cultural knowledge in Trenton and the example she set for generations of minority students attending TCNJ after her. Therefore, it is crucial that cultural links between the school and the city of Trenton be investigated more thoroughly in modern times so that public understanding of TCNJ's

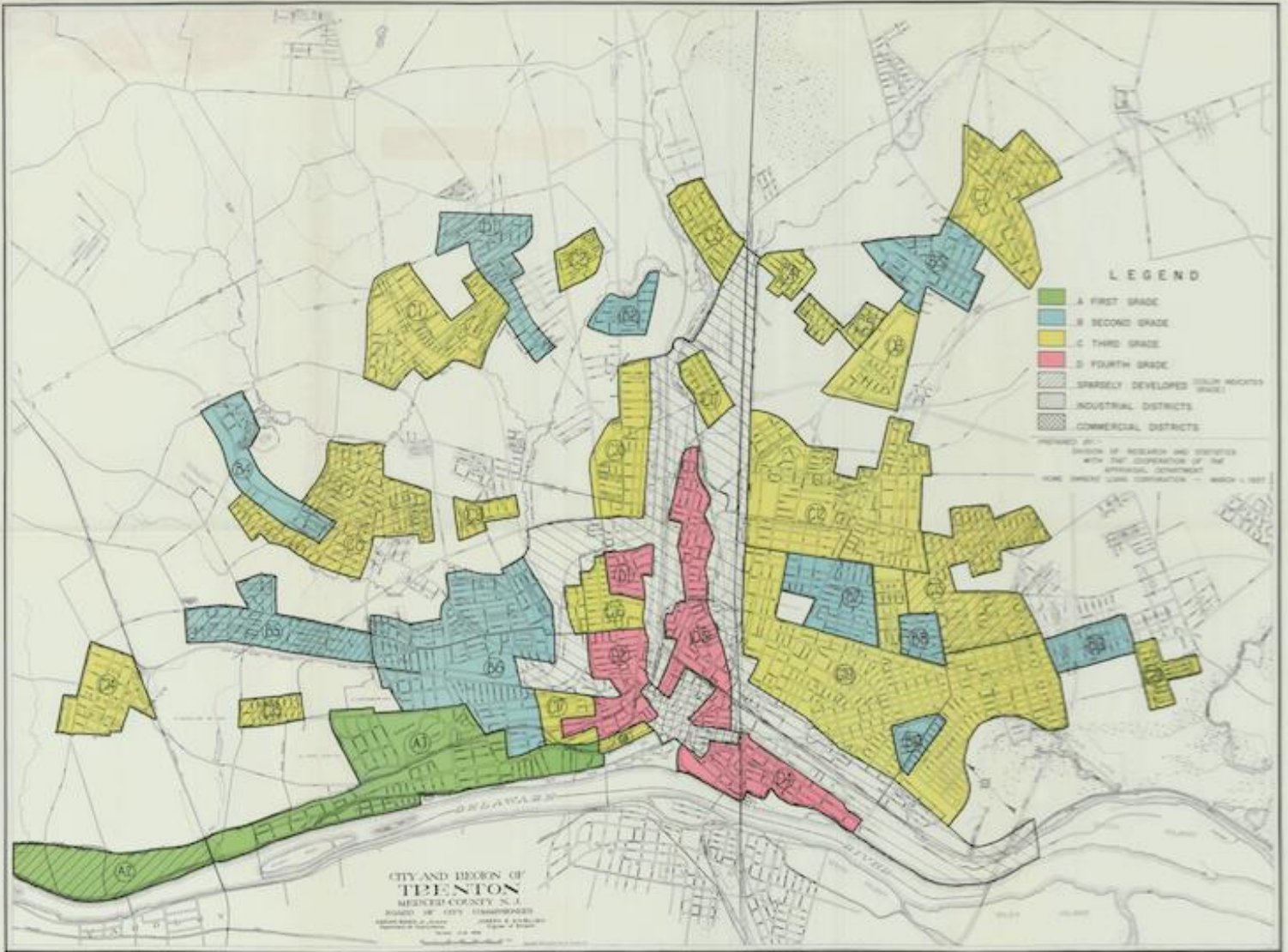
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diverse history may foster in a future of increased social awareness and perhaps even a reunion of the campus and its past in downtown Trenton.

Image 1

One year after her graduation from the New Jersey State Normal School, Priscilla Herbert's name appears on a New Jersey Department of Education Report listing "Certificates to Normal School

CERTIFICATES TO NORMAL SCHOOL GRADUATES.

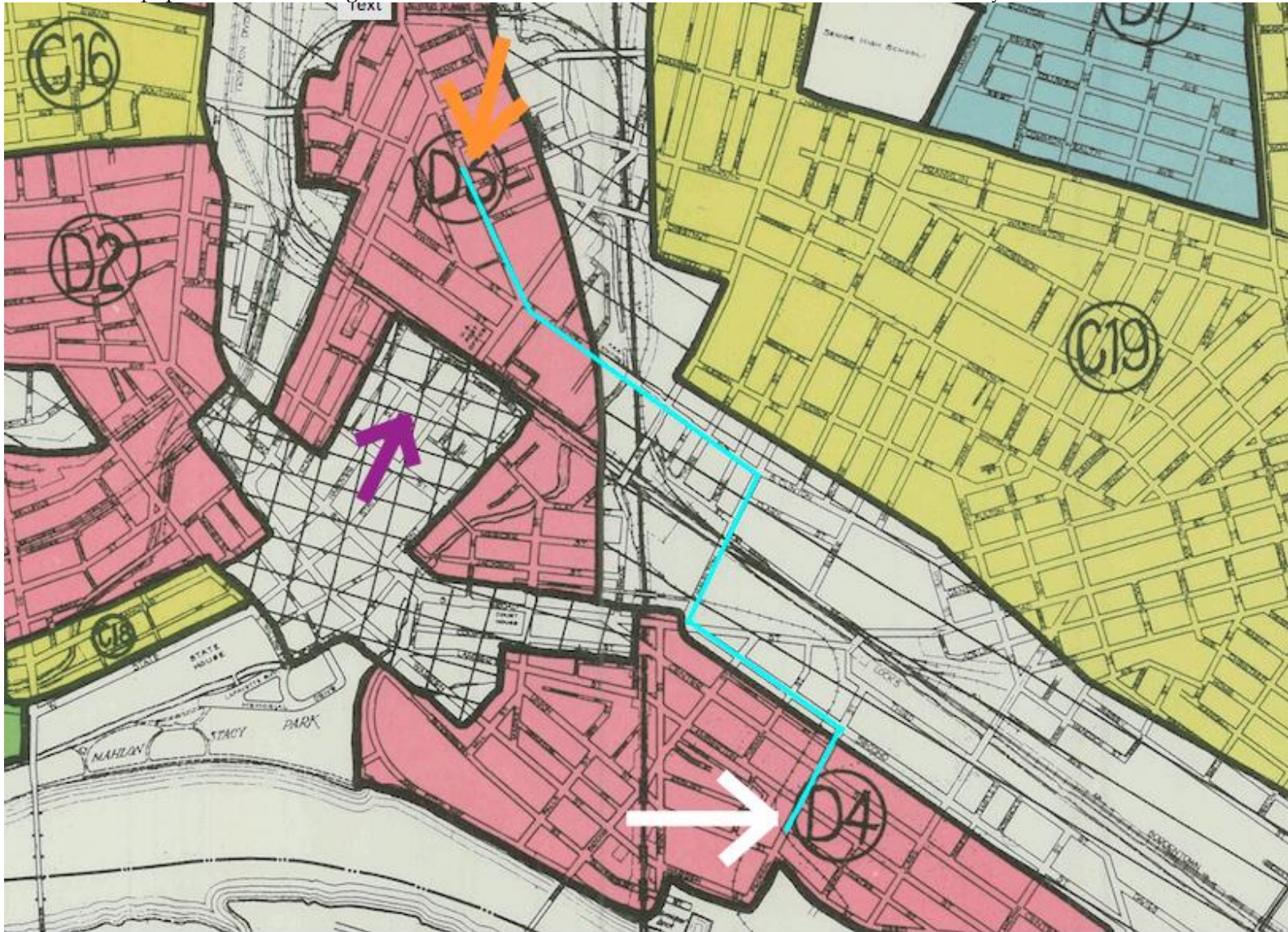


Graduates" in the subgrouping "Elementary Course" received on January 31, 1879. This marks the first time an African American graduated from what is now The College of New Jersey.

Map 1

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Sections of the Trenton, NJ ranging between “best” (green), “still desirable” (blue), “definitely declining” (yellow), and “hazardous” (red) depending most heavily on the density of minority populations within a given area. The Delaware River straddles the western side of the city, on which both



the “most desirable” and most “hazardous” sections rested. Proximity between both racial/economic sectors was close, thus showing racial diversity of Trenton along these lines having persisted into the 1940’s. The red zone D4, that which sits on the bottom closest to the Delaware River, contained Lamberton Street on which the Herbert family lived and conducted business into the early 20th century.

Map 2

Upon a closer view of the southwestern section of Trenton resting against the Delaware River, three main points of Priscilla Herbert’s story may be pointed out. The Herbert family’s 25 Lamberton Street home is pointed out with a white arrow, while the New Jersey State Normal School’s permanent

location until the 1920's on North Clinton Avenue and its 1855 initial temporary location on the corner of East Hanover and South Stockton Street are identified by the orange and purple arrows, respectively. The light blue lines designates one of the fastest routes which Priscilla likely took when walking from her Lamberton Street home to the Normal School daily.

ENDNOTES

1. "A History of Trenton: 1679-1929", Trentonhistory.org, <http://www.trentonhistory.org/His/Schools.html>
2. "STATE NORMAL SCHOOL OF NEW-JERSEY.; Position and Description of Buildings Inception of the School Its Organization Course of Studies Adopted Important Movements for the Benefit of the Pupils, etc," *New York Times* July 30, 1865, <https://www.nytimes.com/1865/07/30/archives/state-normal-school-of-newjersey-position-and-description-of.html>
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