

Miner Normal School

2565 Georgia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Miner Normal School has its origins in Myrtilla Miner's School for Colored Girls established in 1851. Miner opened her school in Washington, D.C., in hopes that it would become a model teaching facility for black girls. Although there were a number of privately run schools for free blacks in the District at that time, Miner's was the only one devoted solely to teacher training.

The Miner School, as it came to be called, operated in several different locations during its first years. Myrtilla Miner left the school in 1858 because of poor health, planning to recuperate in California. She was never able to resume her duties at the school, however, and she died in Washington in 1864. Meanwhile, in 1863 the school was incorporated as the Institution for the Education of Colored Youth. In 1871 the institution became affiliated with Howard University's Normal Department. This arrangement was short lived, however, and in 1875 the school began once again to function independently. In 1877 the school moved into a building constructed for it by the District of Columbia. After functioning for some 10 years in this semipublic capacity, the Miner School was incorporated into the District's public school system, becoming one of the first publicly funded institutions for the training of black teachers. Although officially renamed Washington Normal School #2, the school continued to be known as the Miner School.

Construction on the present building was begun in 1913. The building was officially dedicated as the Myrtilla Miner Normal School in 1917. In 1929, in response to longstanding demands for the upgrading of teacher-training programs in the District, Congress voted to expand the Miner School into a four-year, degree-granting institution, and the school became Miner Teachers College. With the end of segregation in 1955, Miner merged with the District's white teachers college to become the District of Columbia Teachers College. The college operated until 1977, when it merged with two other institutions to form the University of the District of Columbia. [CA 10/11/91, 91001490]