



Loudoun County, Virginia

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NEWS RELEASE

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Public Encouraged to Participate in Naming of Historic Loudoun County Courthouse

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the process for naming the historic Loudoun County Courthouse building in downtown Leesburg. The courthouse, constructed in 1895, is located at the southwest corner of the courthouse grounds at the corner of King and Market streets in Leesburg.



The county's Heritage Commission has reviewed the historic significance of the courthouse grounds and developed recommendations, presented to the Board of Supervisors in 2020, on how the county can fully reflect the history of the grounds and Loudoun County.

The commission has recommended the historic courthouse building be named in honor of Charles Hamilton Houston, who assembled and led an all-African American legal defense team for a murder trial there in 1933. The defense team, which included assistance from law student and future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, challenged the all-white jury selection process, setting a historic legal precedent. Two years later, the Supreme Court ruled biased jury selection unconstitutional.

Individuals can comment on the proposed honoring of Houston or suggest additional names through an [online form](#). Suggested names should have a demonstrated connection to the history of the courthouse; submissions will be reviewed for compliance with the county's naming standards. The comment form is open now through Friday, June 24, 2022.

A committee composed of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and two members of the Heritage Commission will consider the commission's recommendation and review additional suggested names. The committee is expected to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in the fall of 2022.

For more information, visit loudoun.gov/courthousehistory.

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