



# A brief history of Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy



*WAAC Capt. Charity Adams drills her company on the drill ground at the first WAAC Training Center, Fort Des Moines, Iowa. May 1943.*



*Maj. Charity E. Adams and Capt. Abbie N. Campbell inspect the first contingent of African American members of the Women's Army Corps assigned to overseas service. 6888th Central Postal Directory Bn. February 15, 1945.*

The Charity Adams Earley Girls Academy opened in the fall of 2005, with a namesake and location as distinctive as its own unique status.

Housed in the former Shoup Mill School, the Girls Academy was the first of two single-gender schools developed by Dayton Public Schools to offer educational environments specific to the learning styles of both girls and boys. (The Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy opened in 2006). The school was the only one of its kind in southwestern Ohio. In its first year, the Girls Academy served students in grades kindergarten through second; it has since expanded to serve through grade six.

The school's namesake, Charity Adams Earley, served with distinction in the nation's first African American division of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). Upon graduation, she was named company commander of the female Basic Training Company, the first black woman to earn such a commission. After earning the status of major, she was chosen as the first black WAAC to be posted overseas during World War II; her position with the 6888th Central Postal Battalion in Birmingham, England, had her overseeing a vast mail operation for troops and war workers stationed overseas. In 1949, the retired Lieutenant Col. Earley married Stanley Earley, and the couple made Dayton their hometown. Charity Adams Earley continued to lecture and serve on various boards, as well as publish her memoirs, *One Woman's Army*. She died in 2002 at the age of 83.

In addition to the school's namesake, the school building also has a long history. Shoup Mill School was opened in 1958, to relieve crowded conditions at the former Loos and Shiloh schools. The building consisted of 17 classrooms and a multipurpose room, with office and other facilities.

Shoup Mill School closed in 1982, and the building was sold to Buckeye Trails Girl Scout Council for use as the organization's headquarters. Since the Girls Academy opened, the BTGSC has built a new location adjacent to Charity Adams; the school benefits from a strong partnership with the Girl Scouts.

