

J. LUPTON SIMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Opened in 1976, **J. Lupton Simpson Middle School** is located on 490 Evergreen Mill Road, SE in Leesburg, Virginia. The school was named for a principal and educator who worked in the Loudoun County Public School (LCPS) system for almost 40 years. Part of a family of LCPS educators, James Lupton Simpson was greatly loved and respected by his students and by the LCPS faculty and administrators with whom he worked.¹

J. Lupton Simpson (1902-1967)

Born May 24, 1902, in Fayetteville, North Carolina, James Lupton Simpson was the son of educators John S. and Mary Smoot Simpson.² In 1904, the family moved to Loudoun County to take teaching jobs; Mr. Simpson eventually became the principal of Lucketts High School the school from which J. Lupton graduated in the early 1920s. After high school, J. Lupton attended Hampden-Sidney College. His further studies included graduate work at the University of Virginia, Radford Teachers' College and George Washington University.³

In 1926, the younger Simpson began working in Loudoun when he was appointed as a teacher and Assistant Principal at Lucketts High School where his father still served as Principal and his mother served as Assistant Principal. In 1929, the younger Simpson became Principal at Waterford High School; he served in this position until 1938 when he transferred to become the Principal of Ashburn High School.⁴ In May 1944, Simpson transferred to be a science teacher and Assistant Principal at Lincoln High School.

Two months later, he became Lincoln's Principal. Simpson remained in that position until 1954.⁵

¹ Loudoun County Public School "Biography of Mr. J. Lupton Simpson," J. L. Simpson Middle School History, LCPS web site <https://www.lcps.org/Page/20583>.

² Charles P. Poland, Jr., *From Frontier to Suburbia* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2005), p. 249n.

³ "J. Lupton Simpson, Loudoun Educator," *Washington Post*, 27 June 1967, p. C4, accessed through ProQuest Historical Newspapers. Also, *Loudoun County High School Yearbook* 1961, p. 8, Courtesy of Edwin Washington Project Archives.

⁴ During this period, he met teacher Marion Sydnor Porter; Porter and Simpson married in 1934. "Paeonian Springs, Va.," *Washington Post*, 29 July 1934, p. 16, accessed through ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

⁵ Under Simpson's leadership, Lincoln was known for its "strong academic reputation." LCPS *Board Minutes Book IV February 17, 1944, to June 30, 1951*, and *Minutes Book V July 1951 to September 1956*, LCPS Administration Building Record Archive.

In 1954, LCPS consolidated the white students of four small high schools, including those from Lincoln High School, into the new, centrally located Loudoun County High School.⁶ The new school had capacity for 1,000 students. In addition to traditional classrooms, the high school included an auditorium, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, an agriculture studies shop, a general shop, a home economics space, and special rooms designed for physics, chemistry, biology, general science, art, and music.

When the new high school opened, Simpson taught chemistry and worked as an Assistant Principal. In 1956, the LCPS School Board offered to promote Simpson to Principal, but he declined the position. In 1961, student yearbook editors referred to him as:

...our beloved vice-principal...His enthusiasm and cheer are trademarks at Loudoun, encouraging and inspiring students to do and be the best of which they are capable...Here he works unceasingly for the good of the school, his dedication to his job and unfailing consideration for our needs commanding the respect and admiration of every one of us.⁷

In 1965, J. Lupton Simpson retired from LCPS. In 1967, he died at the age of 65.⁸

⁶ Between 1869 when Virginia began a statewide public education system and the late 1960s when Loudoun County fully integrated its public schools, white children and black children were required to attend separate school facilities.

⁷ 1956 and 1961 Loudoun County High School Yearbooks, courtesy of Edwin Washington Project Archives.

⁸ “Judges Listed for Loudoun 4-H Exhibit,” *Washington Post*, 12 September 13, 1946, and “J. Lupton Simpson, Loudoun Educator,” *Washington Post*, 27 June 1967, p. C4, accessed through ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

