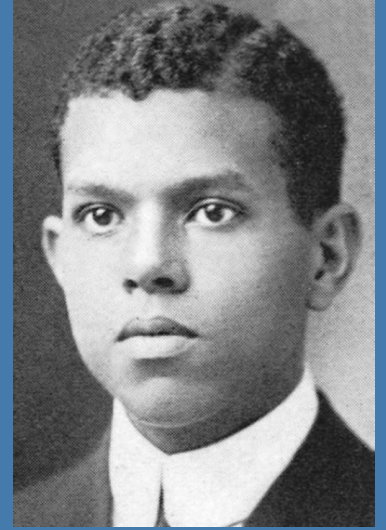


# David Crosthwait



David Crosthwait: May 27, 1898 – February 25, 1976

He was an electric and mechanical engineer who invented and patented over one hundred inventions for HVAC systems.

David Crosthwait was born in Nashville, Tennessee to David Crosthwait Sr., a physician and Minni Harris Crosthwait. Crosthwait grew up near Kansas City, Missouri and later obtained a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University. After university, Crosthwait was hired by the

C.A. Durham Company and was an exceptional employee and was promoted in 1915 and 1919. While working for the C.A. Durham Company, in 1920, Crosthwait obtained a Master's Degree in Science from Purdue University. In 1925, Crosthwait became the director and technical advisor for C.A. Durham Company. During his time at the company Crosthwait worked in the company's research laboratory and was the authority in inventions and experiments of heat transfers, ventilations, and air conditioning. Leading to the development of control and vacuum systems for heating major buildings such as the Rockefeller Center in New York.

Crosthwait retired from the industry in 1969, but became a professor at Purdue teaching heating theory and control systems until his last year of life. Throughout his life Crosthwait created a total of 39 US patents and 80 international patents for his inventions. He gained the respect from his peers early on in his career, during a time when many African-American inventors were seen as inferior or taken advantage of by big corporations.

## Resources:

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