



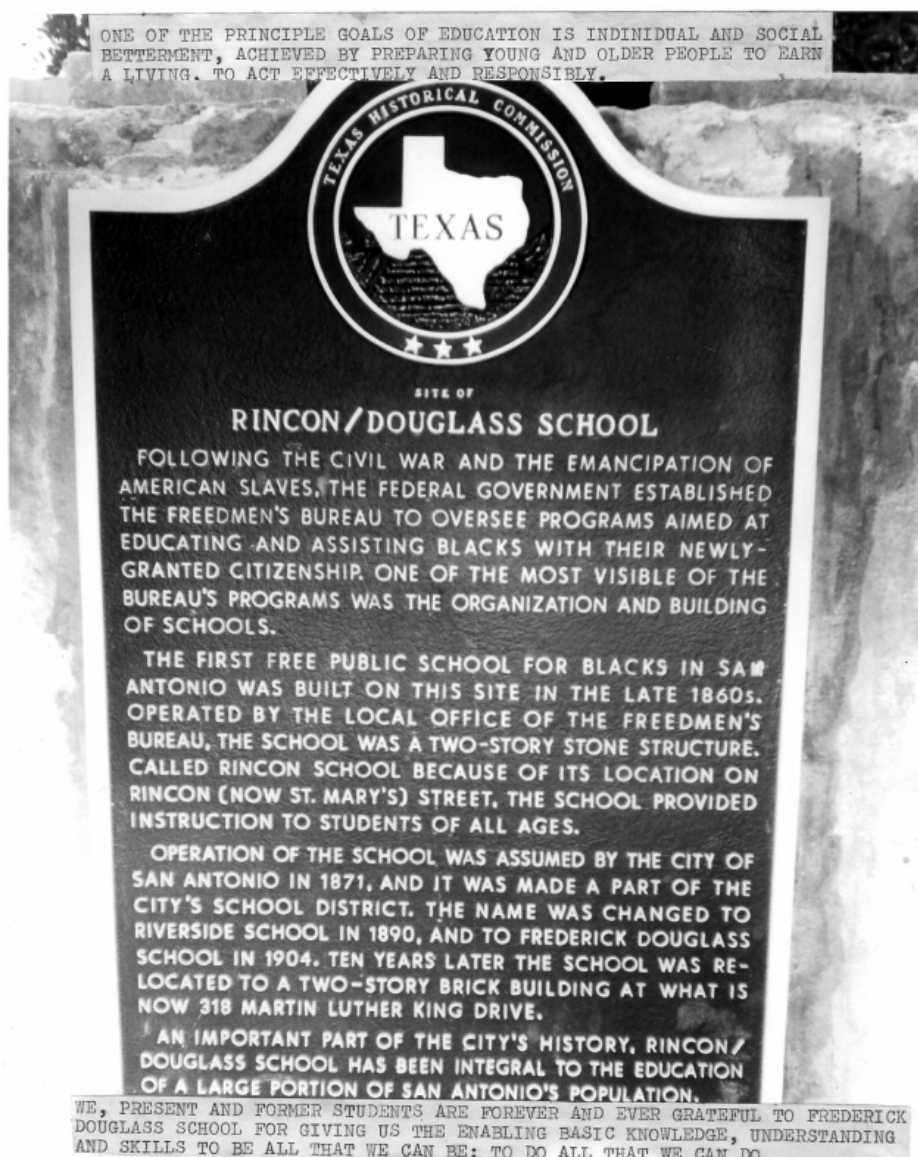
# *A History of Douglass Academy*

*Compiled by*  
*Raymond Kresha, MEd, LPC*  
*2008*

Sources:

The information in this document are from a number of sources, mostly photos and documents on the walls of the school as well as the trophy cabinets. They have been scanned and compiled in order to preserve them in an electronic format and make them available to others in the hopes that they will be of interest and a source of pride for the community.

Of particular help have been the following individuals: Jerelyne Castleberry Williams, a 1949 Douglass Junior High, and author of "The Brackenridge Colored School: A Legacy of Empowerment through Agency and Cultural Capital Inside An African American Community", Erna Baker, long-time community liaison for Douglass and preserver of many photographs and other artifacts, and members of the Class of 1933 and 1931 for donating items to the school for display.



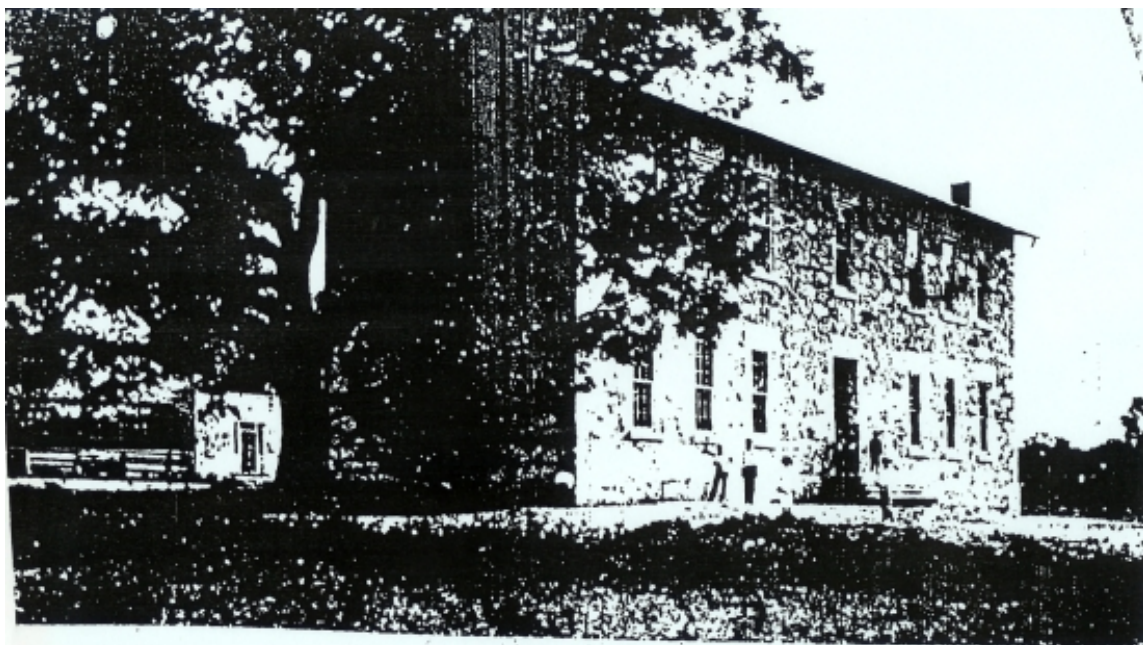
The plaque reads:

*“Site of Rincon/Douglass School” Following the Civil War and the Emancipation of American Slave, the United State Congress established the Freedmen’s Bureau to oversee programs aimed at educating and assisting Blacks with their newly granted citizenship. One of the most visible of the Bureau’s programs was the building of schools.*

*The first free public school for blacks in San Antonio was built on this site in the late 1860’s. Operated by the local office of the Freedmen’s Bureau, the school was a two-story stone structure, similar to the one in the photograph below. Called Rincon School because of its location on Rincón (now St. Mary’s Street) the school provided instruction to students of all ages.*

*Operation of the school was assumed by the City of San Antonio in 1871, and it was made a part of the city’s school district. The name was changed to Riverside School in 1890, and to Frederick Douglass School in 1904. Ten years later, the school was relocated to a two-story brick building at what is now 318 Martin Luther King Drive.*

*An important part of the city’s history, Rincon/Douglass School has been integral to the education of a large portion of San Antonio’s population.”*



**\*10. Rincon School**

Rincon & St. Mary's

Erected shortly after the Civil War, this was the first public school for Blacks in San Antonio.

A far-reaching law was passed by the State Legislature in 1872 setting aside one-half of the public domain for the support of schools, and authorizing any incorporated city to provide or the gratuitous education of all children of school age within its limits—thus permitting the establishment of independent school districts.

In 1873 the San Antonio schools were placed under the supervision of C. F. Fager, and 14 teachers were assigned to the following five schools:  
1st Ward—South Flores and Chubbau Streets across from the M&T Station  
2nd Ward—Schofield Street  
3rd Ward—Marie Street, in a building rented from St. Mary's Hall  
4th Ward—Lavesa and Matagorda Streets  
Colored School—Rincon Street (now St. Mary's), and the river near Ursuline Convent.

**The First High School**

By 1890, the system included ten schools:

No. 1—Central High School, Anapula Street (now Main Avenue); now L. W. Fox Vocational and Technical High School, and these grammar schools:

No. 2—Marshall Street; now A. F. Austin.

No. 3—Avenue E and Fourth Street; where KENS-TV is now located.

No. 4—Mason and Hackberry; moved to Austin Street, now Milam School.

No. 5—LaFite and Matagorda Streets; now Burnett School.

No. 6—Lavesa and Matagorda Streets; present Administration Headquarters of Schools; School moved to Farland Place, now Lamar School.

No. 7—S. Flores and Guilfoyle; moved to South Laredo Street, now Frank Johnson School.

No. 8—Pecos and San Fernando; now J. A. Navarro School.

No. 9—Riverside Negro School, Rincon Street;

A black-and-white photo of Rincon School is in the verticle files of the City of San Antonio, Texas' main library. It is available to the public for viewing, but not for circulation. San Antonio, Texas' 1913 directory lists this school as Douglass-St Mary Convent.

**Rincon/Riverside/Frederick Douglass School 1868 (est)-1913.  
Historical Marker/site located at 701 North St. Mary's St. San Antonio**



For ease of reading, the words in the previous photo above reads:

### **Rincon School Rincon & St. Mary's**

*Erected shortly after the Civil War, this was the first public school for Blacks in San Antonio.*

*A far-reaching law was passed by the State Legislature in 1873 setting aside one-half of the public domain for the support of schools and authorizing any incorporated city to provide for the gratuitous education of all children of school age within its limits – thus permitting the establishment of independent school districts.*

*In 1875, the San Antonio schools were placed under the supervision of C. Plagge and 14 teachers were assigned to the following five schools:*

*1<sup>st</sup> Ward – South Flores and Guilbeau Streets across from the MK&T Station.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Ward – Soledad Street.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Ward – Martin Street – a building rented from St. Mary's Hall.*

*4<sup>th</sup> Ward – Lavaca and Matagorda Streets.*

*Colored School – Rincon Street (now St. Mary's), and the [San Antonio] River, near the Ursuline Convent. [near Convent Street]*

### **The First High School**

*By 1800, the system included ten schools:*

*No. 1 – Central High School, Acequia St (now Maln Street); now L. W. Fox Vocational and Technical High School, and these grammar schools:*

*No. 2 – Marshal Street; now S. F. Austin*

*No. 3 – Avenue E and Fourth Street; when KENS-TV is [was] located.*

*No. 4 – Mason and Hackberry; moved to Austin Street, now Milam School.*

*No. 5 – Lafitte and Matagorda Streets; now Burnet School.*

*No. 6 – Lavaca and Matagorda Streets; now present Administration Headquarters of Schools; School moved to Parland Place, now Lamar School.*

*No. 7 – S. Flores and Guilbeau; moved to South Laredo Street, now Frank Johnson School.*

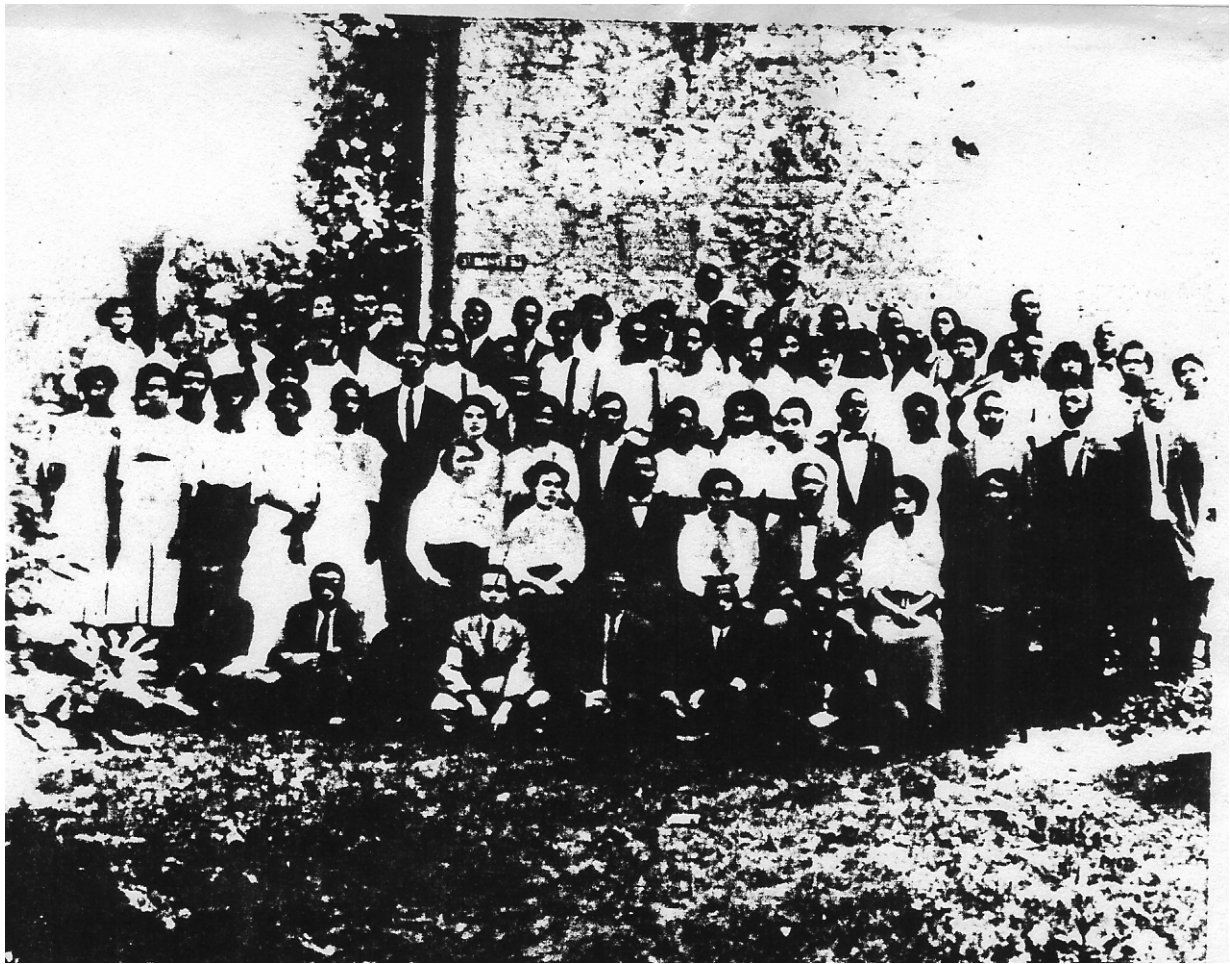
*No. 8 – Pecos and San Fernando; now J. A. Navarro School.*

*No. 9 – Riverside Negro School, Rincon Street;*

*No. 10 – [missing]*







**Photo of Students at Douglass High School on Rincón St,  
circa 1912.**

The original building, according to SAISD records, indicates funded with \$4,000 from the proceeds of the sale of an abandoned Confederate tannery, a facility that processed animal hides into leather. The Texas State Historical Association, on their website, says that the Freedmen's School "provided a formal curriculum of arithmetic, reading, writing, history, and geography. In addition, a practical curriculum of civics, politics, home economics, and vocational training was provided."

The history of Douglass mirrors the history of African Americans in Texas. The school was built a few years after the Civil War ended. In the 1870's and early 1880's, it was called the Rincon Street School after the street it faced and was the first free public school for Blacks in San Antonio. In 1871, the Freedmen's Bureau transferred the school to the City of San Antonio. In 1873, the Texas Legislature passed a far-reaching law that set aside one-half of the public domain for the support of schools and authorizing any incorporated city to provide for the free education of all children in their limits, which permitted the establishment of Independent School Districts. The City of San Antonio it's schools in the care of the newly created San Antonio Independent School District around 1875, under the supervision of C. Plagge and 14 teachers. There were five schools at this time; the Rincon Street "Colored School" was one of them. Instruction was provided to students of all ages. This reiterates the document printed above.

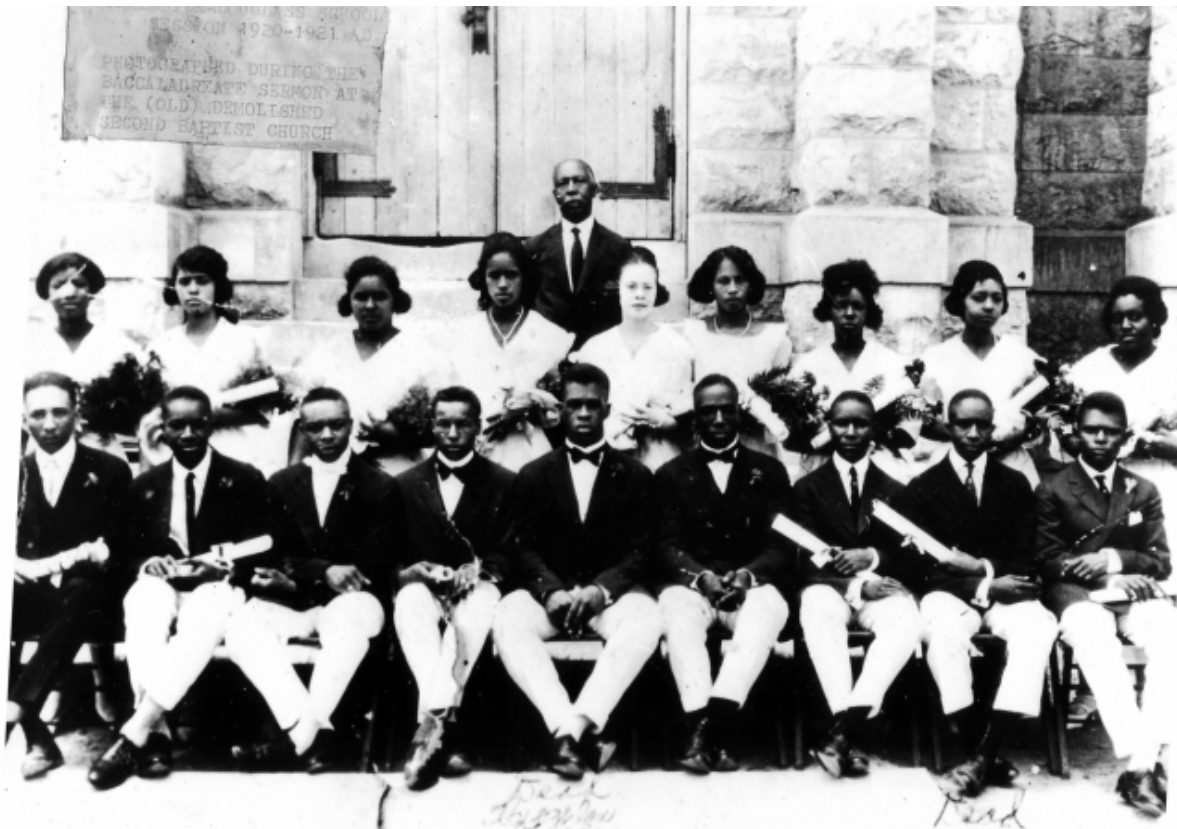
In 1884, the SAISD Board changed the name of the #9 school on Rincón Street to Riverside Negro School. It was changed again in 1902 to honor Frederick Douglass, the name the school carries to this day. With the increasing population and push by members of the African-American community to provide an education to black children, a new, much larger school was built on Nebraska Street and completed by 1913; the Douglass High School on the San Antonio River was sold to help pay for the new school.

The 'new' Douglass High School grew as well, adding the first Junior High School in 1920's. The senior high students were transferred in the fall of 1933 to the new Phyllis Wheatley High School for Black built on what is now Gabriel Street. Following you will find photos of classes in the 'heyday' of Frederick Douglass High School:



Booker T Washington(above) visited Douglass at the Rincón Street location, as documented in this photo to the left. The gentleman marked Dr. Ball is believed to be Dr. David Ball, President of Guadalupe College for African Americans in Seguin.

Class of 1921 (below)





**Douglass Class of 1926**

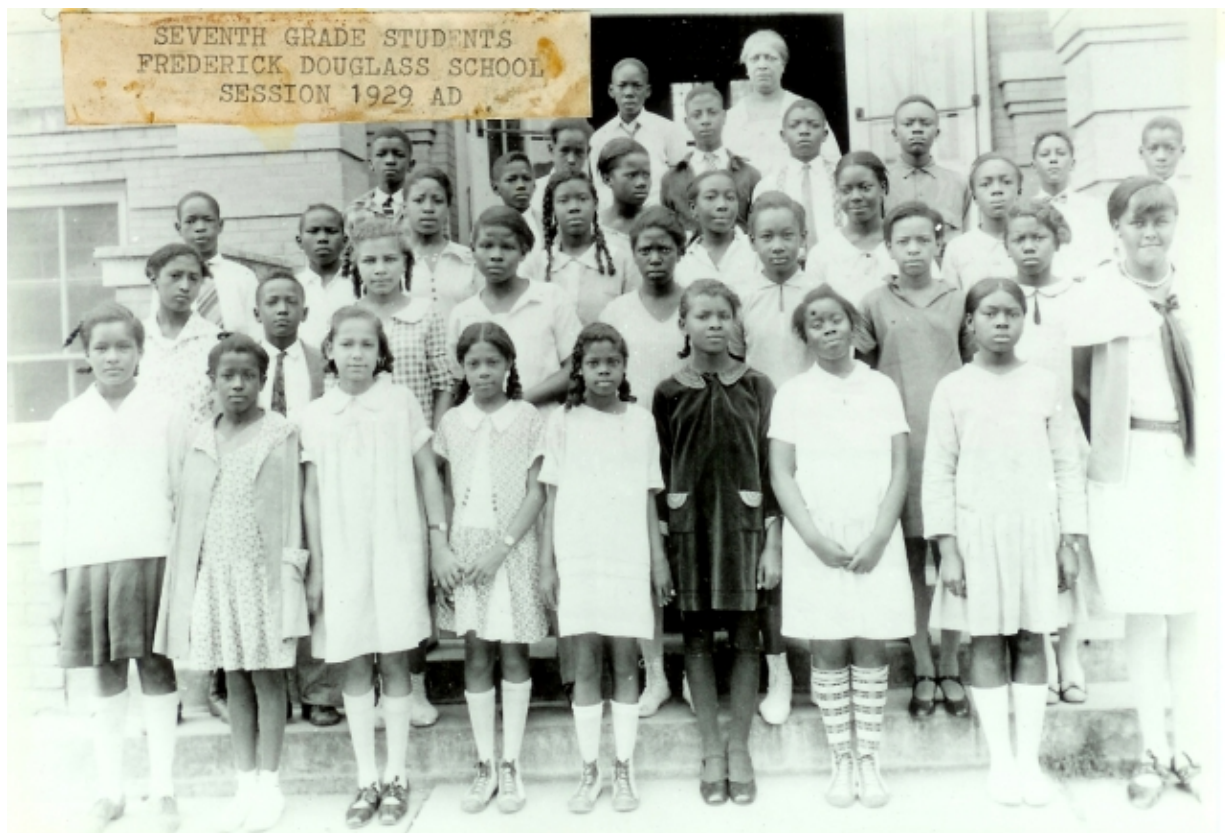


**Douglass Class of 1927**





**Douglass Class of 1929 (above) Seventh grade of 1929 (below)**

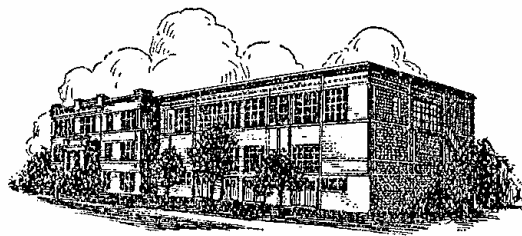




**Frederick Douglass School Class of 1931**

COMMENCEMENT DAY EXERCISES

OF



DOUGLASS SENIOR SCHOOL

AT

DOUGLASS AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1931

10:30 O'CLOCK A. M.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



## Order of Exercises

Processional

Prayer

Music "I'm So Glad" Dett

Introduction of Class and Parents Principal

Music "My Heart At Thy Sweet Voice"  
—C. Saint Saens

Address to Graduates Rev. C. Harold Stepteau,  
Pastor of Bethel A. M. E. Church

Music "Where My Caravan has rested" Lohr

Presentation of Diplomas and Certificates  
—Mrs. J. E. King  
Pres. of School Board

Awarding of Scholarships

Benediction Rev. R. H. Mason

## Candidates for Diplomas

Barr, Judge	Johns, Elridge
Bell, Ruth Hettie	Johnson, Duncan Wilson
Berry, Gerneral Ernest	Johnson, Odesa
Bilton, Marguerite Ruth	Johnson, Oliver William
Bland, Lillian	Jones, Algeva Elizabeth
Burleson, William	Jones, Louise Burdett
Brown, Cleola Birdie Lee	McClain, Willie Catherine
Callis, Erma Johnnie Lee	McKinney, Jesse George
Caviness, Catherine Bonita	McKinney, Odell Townsend
Chretien, Joseph Paul	McVea, Artelia
Clark, Etta O'Neil	Mayo, Bernice Othella
Clark, Frederick Douglass	Miller, Arthur Benjamin
Clark, Shelburn Melvin	Mitchell, Georgia
Craft, Beulah Lorita	Mitchell, Lurline Eugenia
Cole, Irene	Moore, Delois Sylvester
Cunningham, Anna Bell	Pallemon, Hazel Marie
Dilworth, Lillian Mabel	Peoples, Elizabeth Eola
Dixon, Joseph Lee	Plummer, Agnes Louise
Davis, Sarah Corine	Polk, Willistine Elizabeth
Edwards, Velma Vivian	Roberts, Henrietta Eugene
Evans Ora Lee	Robinson, Zola Myra
Evans, Robert Lee	Rogers, Jewel Tereasa
Fennell, Eugene Willis	Sanford, Ruth Elma
Franklin, Horace Lee	Smith, Lillie Jewell
Green, Lettie Mae	Spears, Emma Lee
Griggs, Mildred	Taylor, Evelyn Lucille
Hayes, Katherlene Eugenia	Taylor, Nora Lee
Handson, Corine	Tennal, Lemon Inez
Harrison, Amanda Luvenia	Terrell, Inez Delois
Harrison, Justa Joetta	Tippins, Helen Marguerite
Hightower, Lillian Eddie	Walker, Charline Elizabeth
Hodges, Frankie Beatrice	West, Lucille Estelle
Holmes, Oliver Wendell	Williams, Otho
Hughes, Julia	Wittenberg, Marguerite Nellie
Jackson, Dorothy Mae	Woods, Reuben Henry
Jefferson, Timothy	

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### HONOR ROLL

Paul Chretien	Georgia Mitchell
Melvin Clark	Delois Moore
Beulah Craft	Hazel Pallemon
Velma Edwards	Henrietta Roberts
Horace Franklin	Jewel Rogers
Julia Hughes	Lillie Smith
Jesse McKinney	Inez Terrell

## Candidates for Certificates

### Toilet Science

Brown, Ernestine Armenia	Green, Lettie Mae
Ellis, Dovie Louise	Irving, Mona Alice
Ellis, Marguerite	Kelley, Lucille Maudras
Worley, Edwina Willie	

### Domestic Art

Bland, Lillian	Moore, Delois Sylvester
Durham, Lucille Tommie	Scott, Mary Ellen
Harrison, Amanda Luvenia	Terrell, Inez Delois

### Domestic Science

Anthony, Frances	Plummer, Agnes Louise
Bell, Ruth Hettie	Roberts, Henrietta Eugene
Caviness, Catherine Bonita	Robinson, Zola Myra
Evans, Ora Lee	Rogers, Jewel Tereasa
Handson, Corine	Smith, Lillie Jewell
Hughes, Julia	Spears, Emma Lee
Jones, Louise Burdett	Wittenberg, Marguerite Nellie
McVea, Artelia	

### Vocational

Givens, Henry—Auto Mechanics
Leath, Joe White—Auto Mechanics
Williams, Thelbert—Carpentry

FARRISH PRINTING





**Frederick Douglass School Class of 1932**

# Commencement Day Exercises

of



## Douglass Senior School!

at

Douglass Auditorium

Friday, June third

One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two

ten thirty n'clock A. M.

San Antonio, Texas

## Order of the Exercise

Processional

Prayer

Music "Little Mother of Mine" Burleigh

Introduction of Class and Parents

Music "Sweet Mystery of Life" Herbert

Address to Graduates Miss M. E. Branch

President Tillotson College

Austin, Texas

Music "I'm so Glad Trouble Don't Last Always"

Dett

Presentation of Diplomas and Certificates

—Hon. Koger Stokes

Pres. School Board

Awarding Scholarships

Benediction



## Douglass Senior School, Session 1931-1932

Allen, Alfreda  
 Allston, Ima Jewell  
 Bailey, Ernest Allen  
 Beverly, Bernice Viola  
 Black, Ralston Newton  
 Bland, Verna Dell  
 Brown, Juanita  
 Brown, Thelma  
 Bruce, Winifred  
 Byars, Cora Mae  
 Cabiness, Millie Lee  
 Cantu, Ruby Mae  
 Cantu, Thomas  
 Chase, Kellar  
 Chatman, Leona  
 Clark, George Henry  
 Clayton, Celestine Mildred  
 Conway, Annie Dell  
 Coruthers, Robert Bernard  
 Crawford, Billie Marie  
 Crawford John W.  
 Crisp, Anne E.  
 Daniels, Margaret Havel  
 Davis, Lillie Mae  
 Elliott, Mary Dell  
 Eusan, Wilbur Thirkield  
 Floyd, William Howard  
 Fuery, Audrey Herman  
 Gammage, Lillian Earline  
 Green, Idella  
 Grundy, Ethel Eloise Patricia  
 Hall, Lucille Wilbur  
 Harris, Leslie Wakefield  
 Harris, Samuel Maxwell  
 Haywood, Evelyn  
 Hicks, Annie Bell  
 Hill, Willie Beatrice  
 Hodges, Jason A. Jr.  
 Holloway, Mary Frances  
 Hood, Hannah Mae  
 Jackson, Blanche Hazel  
 Johnson, Emmet Leroy  
 Johnson, Hazel Wyvonnia  
 Johnson, Joseph W.  
 Johnson, Lois Elizabeth  
 Johnson, Lorenzo Vernon  
 Johnson, Myrtle Frances  
 Johnson, Samuel Morris  
 Johnson, Teresa  
 Jones, Jim Ella  
 Jones, Mildred Ben  
 Jones, Samuel

Jones, Van S.  
 Landry, Lelia Elvira  
 Langram, Eloise Margaret  
 Langram, Ponce De Leon  
 Larremore, Vernon Eugene  
 Levison, Grace Valrie  
 Lewis, Imogene  
 Lott, Alzo William  
 Lott, Dessaline Elizabeth  
 McMurray, Joyce Lee  
 Majors, Hattie Mae  
 Mathis, Annie Mae  
 Morgan, Prince Claxton  
 Mouton, Eva Vernell  
 Murray, Jefferson  
 Myers, William Bunting Jr.  
 Osborne, Julius Ferdinand  
 Pierson, Lucille Josephine  
 Porter, Rosa Lee  
 Priestley, Lillie Josephine  
 Randle, Annie Mae  
 Shannon, Monroe Abram  
 Sheffield, August  
 Simmons, Arthur Lee  
 Smith, Burton Ivy  
 Sneed, Emanuel Joseph  
 Stain, Marguerite Catherine  
 Stevens, Thelma Laula  
 Stinson, Bernice Myrtle  
 Strait, Effie Jewell  
 Strait, Geneva  
 Street, Mayme Lee  
 Summers, Esterleen Gerald  
 Sutton, Oliver Carter  
 Sykes, Marion  
 Taylor, Thelma Louise  
 Taylor, Vernice Lola  
 Tennal, Charles  
 Tennal, Zona Gale  
 Thomas, Lillie Dell  
 Thomas, Lucia Theodosia  
 Threadgill, Reginald Kindred  
 Tobin, Mary Teresa  
 Waiters, Clarence  
 Warren, Armenta Ann  
 Warren, Cara Gladys  
 Warren, Samuel Arvan  
 White, Charity  
 Williams, Sophia Grace  
 Wilson, Lillian L.  
 Wrenn, Ruth Grace

50  
 133  
 714  
 117

### Honor Roll

Hood, Hannah Mae  
 Thomas, Lucia Theodosia  
 Taylor, Thelma Louise  
 Jackson, Blanche Hazel

Lott, Alzo Williams  
 Beverly, Bernice Viola  
 Warren, Cara Gladys

# Candidates for Certificates

## Toilet Science

X Dessaline Elizabeth Lott	Lillie Mae Richardson
Hattie Mae Majors	Eula Lee Robinson
Jessie Earline Powell X	Dorothy Williams X
Annie Mae Randle	Geraldine Williams Y

## Domestic Art

Crunk, Zeline X	X Stevens, Thelma Laula
X Crisp, Anne E. "	X Street, Mayme Lee
X Haywood, Evelyn	X Warren, Armenta Ann
X Hall, Lucille	X Warren, Cara Gladys
X Jones, Mildred Ben	Williams, Geraldine

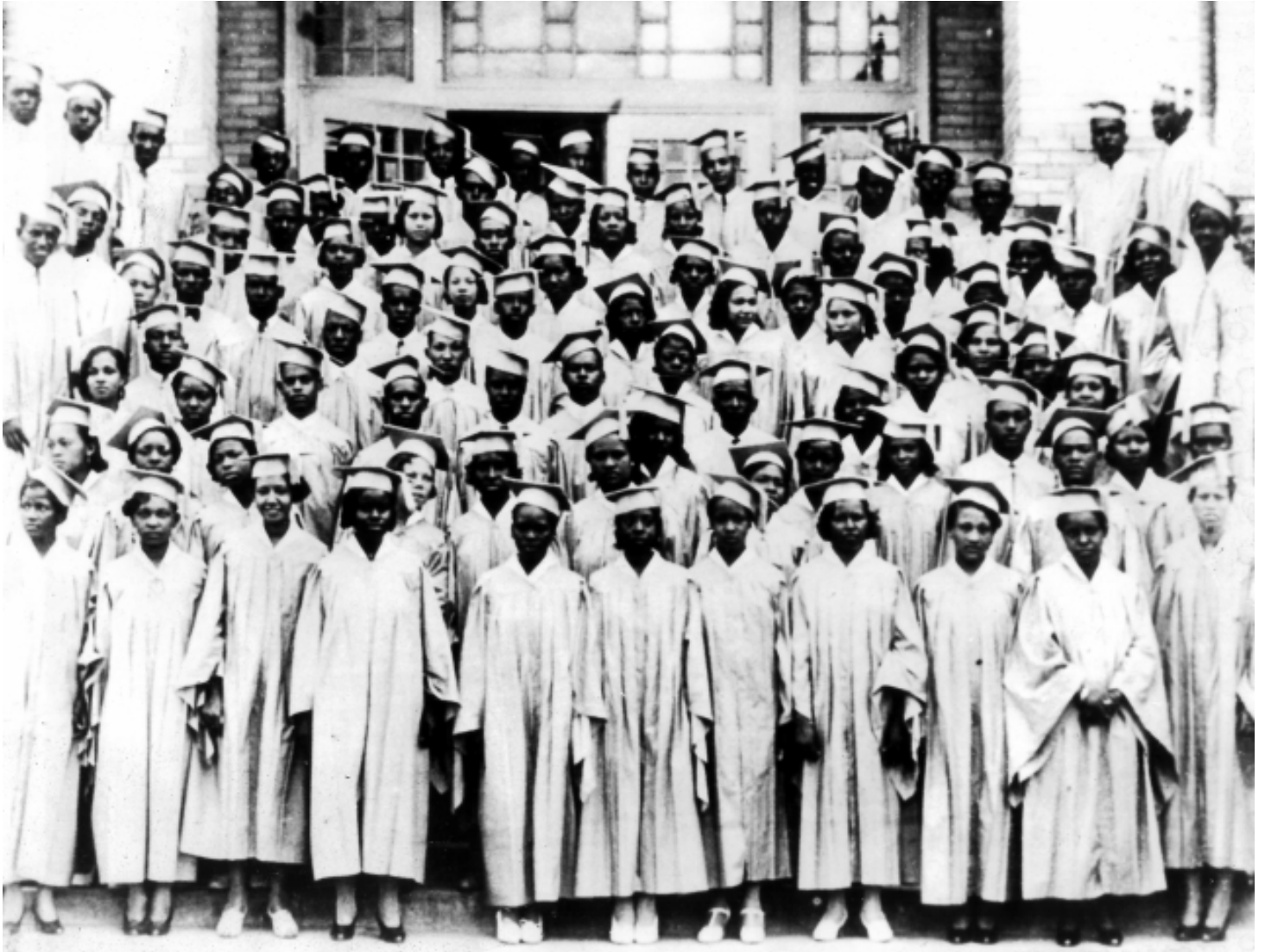
*Mary Helen Mary*

## Domestic Science

X Allston, Ima Jewell	X Johnson, Myrtle Frances
X Cantu, Ruby Mae	X Johnson, Lois Elizabeth
X Conway, Annie Dell	Napier, Dorothy Fay X
X Clark, George Henry	Woods, Elridge
X Sykes, Marion	Green, Gertrude X
X Thomas, Lillie Dell	Green, Girda X

## Oratorical

Fredrick D. Ferrell X	Ernest John Joshua X
Daniel Elton Smith X	



**Douglass School Class of 1933**

This was the very last class that graduated from Douglass High School. A larger more modern school for Black students was completed, and students began going to Phyllis Wheatley High School, which was renamed

Commencement Day Exercises

of

Douglass High School



at

Douglass Auditorium

Friday, June second

Nineteen hundred and thirty-three

ten o'clock A. M.

San Antonio, Texas



## Order of Exercise

Processional

Prayer

Rev. R. H. Mason

Music

"Hail and Farewell"

—Powers

Address to Graduates

Rev. F. D. Young

Music

"Since You Went Away"

Johnson & Johnson

Presentation of Diplomas and Certificates

Hon. R. S. Menefee,

Pres. School Board.

Music

Song dedicated to the Principal

Class

Benediction



## Graduates

### Douglass Senior School, Session 1932-1933

Adamson, Virgil Moore, Jr.  
 Bacon, Lillie Audrey  
 Beasley, Geraldine Frances  
 Beasley, Giraud Willard  
 Bell, Eugene  
 Black, Claude William, Jr.  
 Blevins, Elizabeth Genevieve  
 Blocker, Hattie Lee  
 Rooker, Othello Claude, Jr.  
 Brooks, Laura Frances  
 Brown, Hazel Maudell  
 Brown, Inez Lucile  
 Brown, James Manuel  
 Burleson, Robert Bernard  
 Burton, Eva Yvonne  
 Canada, Herschel Allen  
 Carter, Mary Elizabeth  
 Coleman, Bessie Mae  
 Cooper, Lucinda Pleasant  
 Cox, Alice **Alice**  
 Davis, Elbridge Fulton  
 Davis, Hermie Janice  
 Davis, James Eddie, Jr.  
 Dawson, Glennie Mae  
 Dawson, Harry Daniel, Jr.  
 Drummer, Bessie Lee  
 Durham, Willie Mae  
 Eckford, Oscar Lee  
 Edmonds, Edwin Richardson  
 Floyd, Bernice Juanita  
 Franklin, Inez  
 Gilder, Frances Elizabeth  
 Glosson, Alonzo Calvin  
 Handson, Catherine  
 Hatch, Everett C. L.  
 Hays, Joseph Harold  
 Haywood, Lurene  
 Henry, Jesse Ray  
 Herring, Hase Vivian  
 Hill, Alma Marie  
 Hillmon, Saletta  
 Hodges, Eloise Elizabeth  
 Hodge, Loretta Henry  
 Holley, Irene Truelove  
 Jackson, Emmett Scott  
 James, Aubrey

Jarmon, Melvin John Wesley  
 Jefferson, Leslie Ulysses  
 Johnson, Elsenia Cornelia  
 Johns, Willie Mae  
 Jones, Catherine  
 Jones, Charles William Bruce  
 Jones, Nellie Arnett  
 Kirven, Lazar  
 Lane, Harry Badger, Jr.  
 Lankford, Sarah Annie  
 Lewis, Athene Gerard  
 Long, Clemmie Holloway, Jr.  
 Lowery, Thomasine Louise  
 Marshall, Nancy Geneva  
 Martindale, Vera Pauline  
 McAdams, Dorothy Mae  
 Mooney, Julia Anita  
 Morris, Muriel Lee  
 Moss, Mezzelle Gwendolyn  
 Newton, Herbert Eldridge  
 Owens, Addie Vivian  
 Phillips, Helen Pauline  
 Polk, Phillip, Jr.  
 Rainey, George Greeley  
 Ray, Violet Augusta  
 Reed, Doris Johnnie Mae  
 Richardson, Naomi  
 Sanders, Leo Ivan  
 Shannon, Ethel Mae  
 Smith, Celestus Marcus  
 Stevenson, Charles Houston  
 Stewart, George Laurence  
 Summerville, Vivian Elizabeth  
 Sutton, Essie Matilda  
 Taylor, Herbert Julius  
 Tease, William Eckford  
 Thompson, Lillian Gladys Mae  
 Walker, Rolin  
 Wallace, Andrew Robert  
 Warner, Maude Eleanor  
 Watson, Anna Grace  
 Williams, Charles Henry  
 Williams, Maggie Belle  
 Wilson, Marena Belle  
 Winchell, Mickie Joseph  
 Young, Maxine Dolores

### Honor Roll

Booker, Othello Claude, Jr.  
 Brooks, Laura Frances  
 Edmonds, Edwin Richardson  
 Gilder, Frances Elizabeth  
 Handson, Catherine  
 Hillmon, Saletta  
 Holley, Irene Truelove

Jones, Nellie Arnett  
 Kirven, Lazar  
 Lowery, Thomasine Louise  
 Martindale, Vera Pauline  
 Newton, Herbert Eldridge  
 Richardson, Naomi  
 Stevenson, Charles Houston  
 Young, Maxine Dolores

## Candidates for Certificates

### Toilet Science

Anglin, Charlie  
Houston, Florentine  
Lee, Sallie

X Reed, Doris Johnnie Mae  
Williams, Geraldine  
X Wilson, Marena Belle

### Domestic Art

Anglin, Birdie Mae  
Elliott, Mary Dell  
Jones, Catherine  
Phillips, Helen Pauline X

X Richardson, Naomi  
Stain, Marguerite Catherine  
Thomas, Eliza Mae  
X Warner, Maude Eleanor

### Domestic Science

Bacon, Lillie Audrey X  
Burton, Eva Yvonne X  
Glosson, Alonzo Calvin X  
Holley, Irene Truelove X  
Jones, Nellie Arnett X

X Lankford, Sarah Annie  
X Marshall, Nancy Geneva  
X Mooney, Julia Anita  
X Owens, Addie Vivian  
X Ray, Violet Augusta

Walker, Charlotte Eleanor

### Auto Mechanic

Durham, James Hall

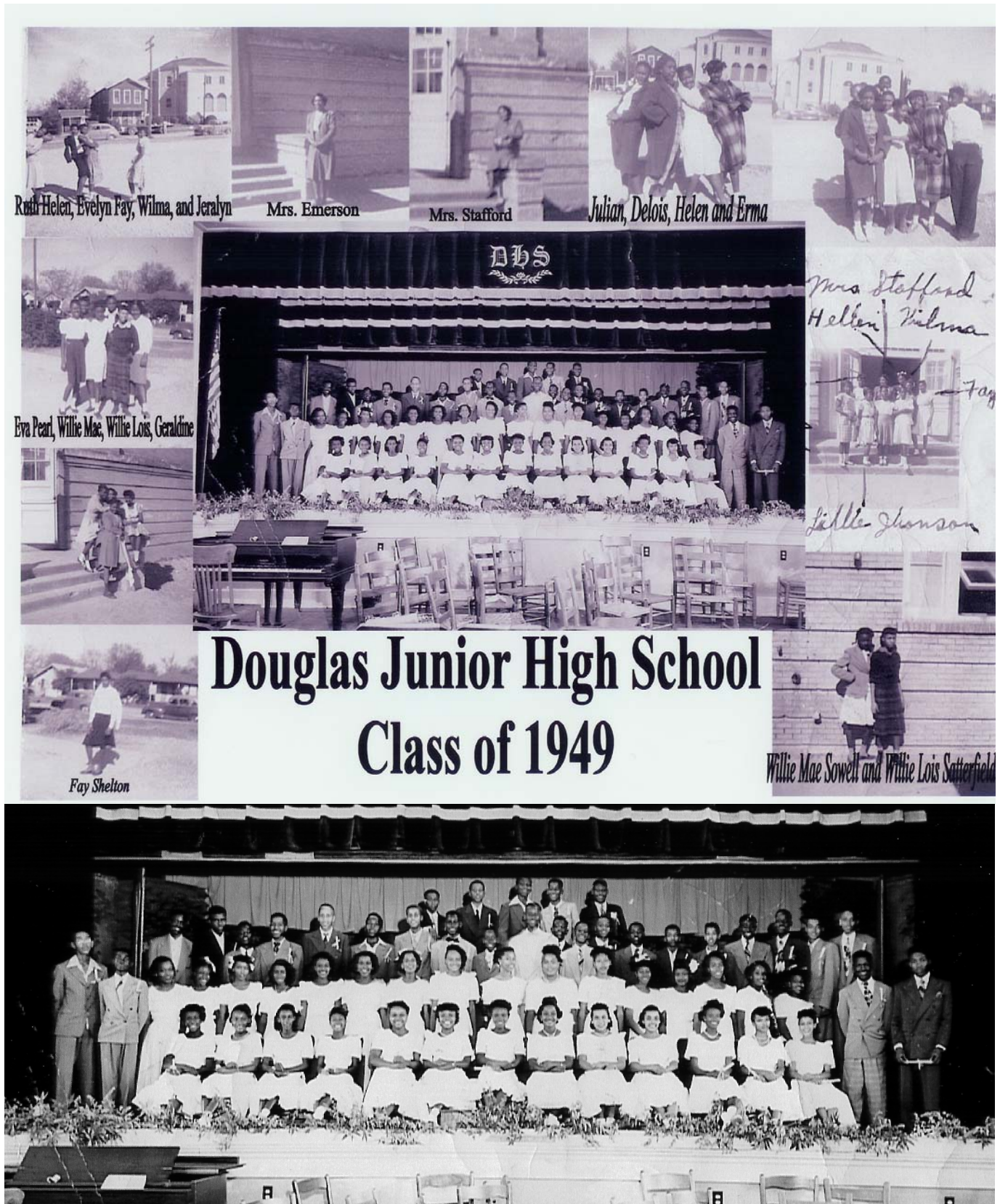
### Vocational--Carpentry

Johnson, George L.

Wesley, James  
Willrich, Rogers



Douglass remained a Junior High School for 42 years until 1970, when the Civil Rights Movement and Legislation forced schools to integrate.



## Frederick Douglass Junior Class of 1953



FRONT ROW: Thomas Eggleston, Jerald Jackson, Wilshire Jones, Herman Brown, Weldon Smith, (?), Charles Hamilton, Ira Smith, Elmo Roberts, (?), David Mayberry.

SECOND ROW: (?), Maude Jackson, Melinda Whitley, Katherine Jones, Jean Adams, Marion Rector, Barbara Brown, Gwendolyn Chatman, Tyrone Littlejohn, Mary Johnson, Hazel LeBrown.

THIRD ROW: Barbara McVea, Cornelia Wilson, Barbara Nichols, Eleanor Jackson, Eloise Green, Algerine Eddington, Carolyn Louise Philips, Margie Ruth Johnson, Josephine Marshall, David Ramsey, Lena Jewell Sledge, Barbara Sneed, Virgie Jones, Francis White, Helen Doris Wilson, Louise Carolyn Philips, John Green, Betty Moore, Ernestine Daniels.

FOURTH ROW: McKinley Mitchell, Harold Hughes, Elvoid Miller, Harold Tarver, Charles Tatum, Fred Rogers, Franklin Brown, Murray Wash, (?), George Chapman, Charles Taft, Norman Powell, Kensley Turbin, Allan Cherry, Irving Champ Gilbert, Evvie Davis, Larry Van Wren.



FRONT ROW: Lloyd Brown, Lazar Kirven, (?), (?), John Harris, (?) George Dismuke, Gene Autry Jones, R.H. Price, Floyd Montgomery, Thomas Jefferson, Lloyd Rideaux, James 'Pinkie' Brown, Norris Wilson.

SECOND ROW: (?), Mary Louise Randle, Emma Henderson, Carrie Pitts, Ella Ray Ellison, Jane Smith, Stella Adams, Alma Ruth Sheppard, Betty Richardson, Eva Jones, Jackie Bibbs, Joyce Bland, Nathelia Billups, Mary Rogers, Dorin Roberts, Edna Hills, Vivian Sprigs.

THIRD ROW: Vieta Smith, Ima Jewel Freeman, Otis Lee Martin, (?), Clara Lewis, Winona Ollerson, Jessie Lee William, Dorothy Liggins, Mamie Hunt, Imogene Richie, Doris Dorn, Helen Margaret Wilson, (?) Martha Lee Brooke, (Eason?) Savannah Hobbs, Norma Jean Jones, Joyce Ann Jones, Willie Mae Hilliard, Dorothy Curry, Rosolyn Ann Tanner, (?).

BACK ROW: Clarence Hudson, Roy Lee Smith, Leon Holland, Henry Louis James, Edgar Evans, Charles Rhodes, Thomas Wilson, Charles Whitehead, Reginald Barnett, Moses Brown, (>), James Wesley, Joe Louis Word, James Eugene Brown, Kenneth Tealer, Joshua Duncan, Winston (Wilson) Hemphill

MISSING OR UNIDENTIFIED: Webster Cavanaugh, Marvin Davis, Loree Hartfield, Barbara Hurd, Lowell Hurd, Dorothy Johnson, Ruby Johnson, Rosa Keys, Billie McClure, Elisabeth Moore.



In 1970, Douglass became an intermediate school to complement Herff Elementary School who served kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade two blocks away from Douglass.

In 1983, the final high school class held a 50-Year Reunion at Douglass:



FIRST ROW, from left to right: Bessie Lee Drummer, Catherine Handson, Lucinda Pleasant Cooper, Naomi Richardson, Hermie Janice Davis, Hattie Lee Blocker, Laura Francis Brooks, Thomasine Louise Lowery, Lillian Gladys Mae Thompson.

SECOND ROW, from left to right: Claude William Black, Athene Gerard Lewis, Elridge Fulton Davis, Inez Lucile Brown, George Greeley Rainey, Everett C.L. Hatch, Leslie Ulysses Jefferson.

THIRD ROW, from left to right: Mickie Joseph Winchell, Clemmie Holloway Long, James Eddie Davis, Anna Grace Watson, Marena Belle Wilson, Charles Houston Stevenson, Celestus Marcus Smith, Lazar Kirven.





**Douglass Intermediate Elementary School Faculty, Spring 1989**



**In 1999, an historical marker was placed outside the front of the school.**

In 2002 Douglass began serving pre-kindergarteners through the fifth grade, as the primary-intermediate split was not as efficient with increasing testing standards, such as the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). TAKS testing begins in third grade and having students for the five prior years in one school allowed faculty make any needed adjustments early on to meet the increasing standards rather than have testing begin with brand new students to the school. Douglass became and 'Academy' in 2004 to add the sixth grade, to mirror the District's interest in removing the need to change schools as much as possible (many elementary schools added up to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade).

In addition to the internal changes being made to the age and grade of students served, there was a major change to the building itself. The citizens of the San Antonio Independent School District passed a historic and, at the time, record bond issue in 1997 to revitalize and modernize the many older building in the District, including Douglass. During a lengthy planning period with much community input, and with revised architectural plans, the campus moved to the vacant Burnet Elementary on Barrera Street, as the bulldozers began demolition in 2002. Students were bussed from their neighborhoods morning and night for the four years it took to complete the project. During that time, in 2004, Douglass became an Academy with the addition of the sixth grade. Construction was completed in May of 2006 with the newly refurbished facility dedicated in September of 2006.





The changes wrought during construction included a new wing with classrooms, kitchen, cafeteria and two courtyards. A central tower was also added to house an elevator and stairwell to connect the old with the new and accommodate handicapped students and citizens. The historic main classroom building, auditorium, and gymnasium were gutted and completely redone. The vocational shop, also used as a band room, was transformed from four walls to a modern library.



The historic Douglass Auditorium now boasts a new stage surface, a modern lighting and sound system, and curtains, but retains the original floor, seating, and mezzanine. This photo is from the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Dedication on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006.



From Left to right: Melanie Zepeda, Principal, Liz Melson, Assoc. Supt., Dr. Robert Durón, Supt., Jon Christopher Pope, student, John Howard, School Board Member (and former Douglass Student),

The \$9.3 million project encloses 73,692 square feet.

## ***Douglass Academy***

### ***School Principals***

Years Served	Name	# of Years
1878-79	Frank Matthew Hadbedl	1
1879-80	John Gannon	1
1880-81	Sarah J. Merrick	1
1881-82	R. H. Harbert	1
1882-83	Mary J. Grimes	1
1883-84	John A. Moore	1
1884-89	M. N. Brown	7
1891-1933	Samuel Johnson Sutton	42
1933-48	Samuel Houston Gates	15
1948-63	Dr. Samuel T. Scott	15
1963-69	George W. Mervin	6
1969-70	Dorothy Lee Friday	1
1970-74	Virgil W. Walker	4
1974-77	James H. Sutton, Jr.	3
1977-82	Joan Pytel	5
1982-86	Donald L. McClure	4
1986-87	Ellina V. Perry	1
1987-94	Madrette Clark	7
1994-96	Sylvia M. Garza	2
1996-98	Elida Vazquez-Bera	2
1998-99	Janet Peden	1
1999-2000	Betty Austin	1
2000-03	Carmen Alvarado	3
2003-	Melanie Herr-Zepeda	5