

## **Booker T Washington School (2019)**

**Marker #: 22703**

### **Marker Text:**

In 1906, the small community of Brewer incorporated as the city of Teague. The Trinity & Brazos Valley Railway turned the rural village into a booming town for agricultural shipping and commerce. The Texas Legislature voted to incorporate the Teague Independent School District (ISD) the following year. A one-room school served the African American Community until October 1909, when the Teague ISD built a new school. The African American School received less financing and other resources than the city's school for white students.

The schools location west of the railroad tracks physically reinforced the law and practice of segregation in the community. The school was sited on two acres of land and contained three classrooms. Professor B.S. Cox was the early principal and lone teacher for the students. Despite the modest setting, attendance gradually increased and so did the school's physical accommodations and staff. Twenty-eight faculty members served the student body in the decades to follow, each occupying a special place in the hearts and minds of their pupils.

In response to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in Brown v. Board of Education, The Teague School Board dedicated a new Booker T. Washington High School Campus in 1956 to maintain dual school systems of supposedly equal merit. In 1968, Teague schools were integrated, with older students attending Teague High School and the Booker T. Washington campus becoming an integrated junior high school. The school district sold the property in 1975 and the 1950's buildings were later razed. The legacy of Booker T. Washington Schools is in the memories and lives of its esteemed graduates, whose dedicated faculty helped their students succeed in academics, athletics and civic engagement.

### **Directions:**

Drive through Teague on Main Street heading west, cross the railroad tracks onto FM1365/Washington Ave, turn left on Busby Ave, take a left on Jefferson St which turns into J.A. Brooks Drive. Marker is across the street from the First Baptist Church South Teague.

**Address:** 400 J. A. Brooks Dr, Teague, TX 75860  
(SE corner J.A. Brooks Dr. and Monroe St.)

### **GPS:**



## BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL

IN 1906, THE SMALL COMMUNITY OF BREWER INCORPORATED AS THE CITY OF TEAGUE. THE TRINITY & BRAZOS VALLEY RAILWAY TURNED THE RURAL VILLAGE INTO A BOOMING TOWN FOR AGRICULTURAL SHIPPING AND COMMERCE. THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE VOTED TO INCORPORATE THE TEAGUE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (ISD) THE FOLLOWING YEAR. A ONE-ROOM SCHOOL SERVED THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY UNTIL OCTOBER 1909, WHEN THE TEAGUE ISD BUILT A NEW SCHOOL. THE AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOOL RECEIVED LESS FINANCING AND OTHER RESOURCES THAN THE CITY'S SCHOOL FOR WHITE STUDENTS.

THE SCHOOL'S LOCATION WEST OF THE RAILROAD TRACKS PHYSICALLY REINFORCED THE LAW AND PRACTICE OF SEGREGATION IN THE COMMUNITY. THE SCHOOL WAS SITED ON TWO ACRES OF LAND AND CONTAINED THREE CLASSROOMS. PROFESSOR B.S. COX WAS THE EARLY PRINCIPAL AND LONE TEACHER FOR THE STUDENTS. DESPITE THE MODEST SETTING, ATTENDANCE GRADUALLY INCREASED AND SO DID THE SCHOOL'S PHYSICAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND STAFF. TWENTY-EIGHT FACULTY MEMBERS SERVED THE STUDENT BODY IN THE DECADES TO FOLLOW, EACH OCCUPYING A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THEIR PUPILS.

IN RESPONSE TO THE 1954 U.S. SUPREME COURT RULING IN *BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION*, THE TEAGUE SCHOOL BOARD DEDICATED A NEW BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS IN 1956 TO MAINTAIN DUAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS OF SUPPOSEDLY EQUAL MERIT. THE EARLIER SCHOOL BUILDING WAS SOLD TO THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. IN 1968, TEAGUE SCHOOLS WERE INTEGRATED, WITH OLDER STUDENTS ATTENDING TEAGUE HIGH SCHOOL AND THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON CAMPUS BECOMING AN INTEGRATED JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SOLD THE PROPERTY IN 1975 AND THE 1950s BUILDINGS WERE LATER RAZED. THE LEGACY OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL IS IN THE MEMORIES AND LIVES OF ITS ESTEEMED GRADUATES, WHOSE DEDICATED FACULTY HELPED THEIR STUDENTS SUCCEED IN ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

(2019)