

The Heritage of L. C. Anderson

Born 1853 the son of slave parents in Tennessee, Laurine Cecil Anderson attended public schools in Memphis and college at Fisk University in Nashville. He came to Texas in 1880 to accept a position as principal of a training school in Brenham. He married Lizzie Pollard in 1882, and they had four children. After her death he married Fanny Pollard, and they had one child.

In 1884 Governor Oran M. Roberts appointed Anderson Principal of Prairie View Normal and Industrial College, now Prairie View A & M University. When the Colored Teachers State Association was formed in Prairie View in 1885, he was elected its first President and served until 1889.

In 1896, Anderson resigned his position at Prairie View to become Principal of Austin's Robertson Hill High School. A newly erected school was renamed E. H. Anderson High School in honor of L. C. Anderson's brother, who was also an educator.

At the time, the school was the only high school for Blacks in the city, and L. C. Anderson served as the principal for thirty-two years.

L.C. Anderson died January 8, 1938, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery. Two days after his death the Austin School Board voted unanimously to rename Anderson High School, in his honor.

In 1971, the L.C. Anderson building at 900 Thompson Street in east Austin was closed as a high school by Federal District Court Order as a step in the desegregation of the Austin Independent School District.

A new school opened in August, 1972, at 8403 Mesa Drive and was named L.C. Anderson High School by the Austin Independent School District's Board of School Trustees to perpetuate the memory of this outstanding educator and Austin citizen. The new school's first principal was Mr. W. Charles Akins.