Hattie Mae White was the first black woman to be elected to the YWCA Metropolitan Board of Directors, where she served for six years. In 1958, Hattie Mae White became the first black since Reconstruction elected to a city-wide office in Houston when she was elected to the Houston school board.

Ruby Lockhart Thompson, who retired after 46 years of service to the district as teacher and administrator, taught at Bruce Elementary School, served as principal of Twenty Third Avenue and Turner Elementary Schools, and became the district’s first black female supervisor.

A native Houstonian and product of HISD schools, Jean Hines-Caldwell began her HISD career as an audiologist, then served for 38 years as a home-economics teacher and guidance counselor at her alma mater, Phillis Wheatley High School.

Tina Whidby (Elm) was a prominent civic leader, teacher, and principal for 25 years.

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper was born in Baltimore in 1825, an African-American woman who was not of slave parentage. She became a famous poet and abolitionist.

This school was named for Phillis Wheatley, a native of Africa who was sold as a slave in Boston. She became famous at age 13 as a poet. Wheatley was the first African-American to publish a book in America.

Barbara Jordan is well known in Texas as an attorney, State Senator, United States Congresswoman, and professor at the University of Texas at Austin. Her remarkable public speaking abilities have inspired untold numbers of young people to enter public life.

Ethel Mosley Young, an HISD educator who began teaching at Sunny Side when it was just a two-room schoolhouse without electricity, heat, or indoor plumbing. Built in 1918 by Mr. H. H. Holmes, the school became a thriving two-story facility serving close to 1,400 children under Young’s leadership as principal.

Carrie Rochon McAfee named first female principal of a comprehensive senior high school in Texas. Ms. McAfee’s participation in professional activities, community efforts, and charitable endeavors won her numerous awards and wide recognition prior to her 2004 retirement, after 52 years’ service in public schools.

Mrs. Hazel Hainsworth Young was a member of the first faculty of Jack Yates. She was the last surviving member of the first faculty.

Mabel Wesley was Houston’s first African-American female principal and mother of the publisher of the Houston Informer.