

PEOPLE OF GREENWOOD



MABEL B. LITTLE

Entrepreneur, Civil Rights Activist & Advocate
(1896 - 2001)

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Mabel B. Little lived to be 104 years old and spent the majority of her days as a leader and advocate for her beloved Greenwood community, pushing for the passing on of the memories of past accomplishments and struggles: "We must regain our memory as a people so that we will never again forget to make our future" (Little, Fire on Zion, p.90).

Little moved to Tulsa from the all -black town of Boley, Oklahoma in 1913. The granddaughter of slaves, Little moved to Tulsa in hopes of earning enough money to support her going to the only college in Oklahoma that blacks could attend: Langston University.

Little's first job was working at the Brady hotel for \$20 per month. By 1915, Little began a side business of washing, setting, and waving hair using skills taught to her by her aunt. In 1917, Little opened the Little Rose Salon, which was the first establishment in Tulsa that catered to African -American beauty needs.

Because of Little's community advocacy, the Mabel B. Little Heritage House in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is named in her honor.



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