



THE HISTORY OF GEORGETOWN

BY THE
GEORGETOWN STEERING TEAM



THE BEGINNING OF GEORGETOWN

GEORGETOWN WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1870.

CITY FOUNDER HENRY SANFORD SOLD LAND TO BLACK PIONEERS.



EDUCATION IN GEORGETOWN (THEN)



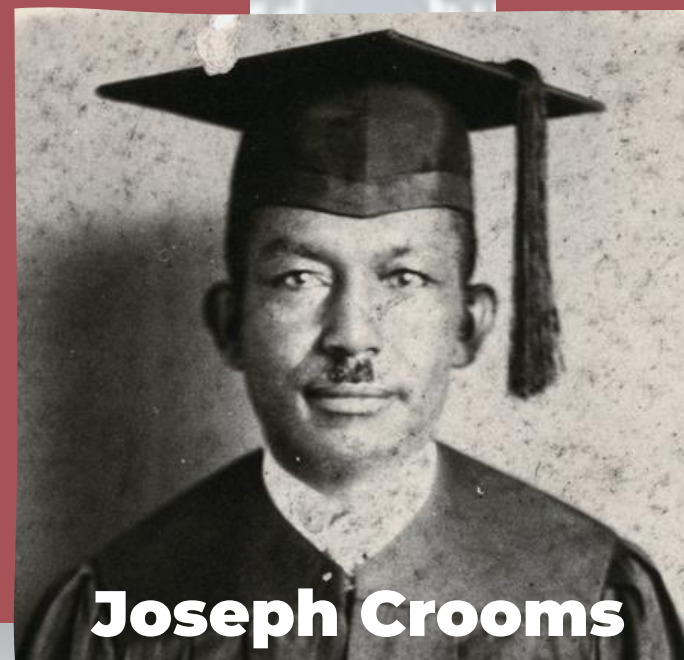
Hopper Academy

- Established in 1886, the school was originally named Colored School No. 11.
- In 1906, Joseph Nathaniel Crooms became principal of the Hopper Academy.
- The school, built by the community, had 5 teachers and 240 initial students.
- School for Black students in elementary, middle and high school students (until Crooms).



Crooms Academy

- High school for Blacks in Goldsboro in 1926.
- Founded by Joseph Crooms and his wife Wealthy Crooms.
- The first in Seminole County to offer Black students a high school education that went all the way to the 12th grade and provided a full range of subjects.



Joseph Crooms

EDUCATION IN GEORGETOWN (NOW)



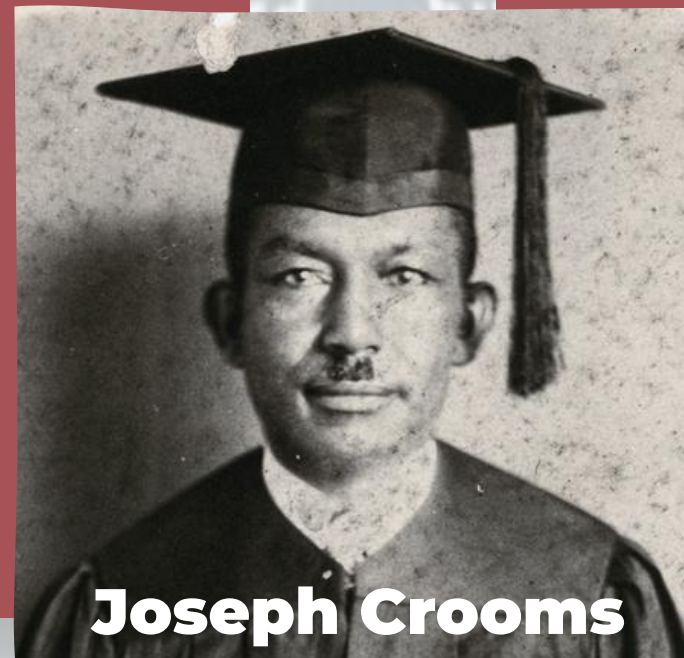
Hopper Academy

- Classes at Hopper continued until 1968.
- Since the building has become a community center to host art classes and events.
- The building is now being renovated.



Crooms Academy

- Became a magnet program in and renamed Crooms Academy of Information Technology by 2001.
- Has been recognized as a Distinguished Academy for ten consecutive years, NAF's highest honor.



Joseph Crooms

TRIVIA QUESTION ???

IF YOU WERE IN 8TH GRADE IN 1930 WHAT SCHOOL WOULD YOU ATTEND?

CROOMS ACADEMY OR HOPPER ACADEMY

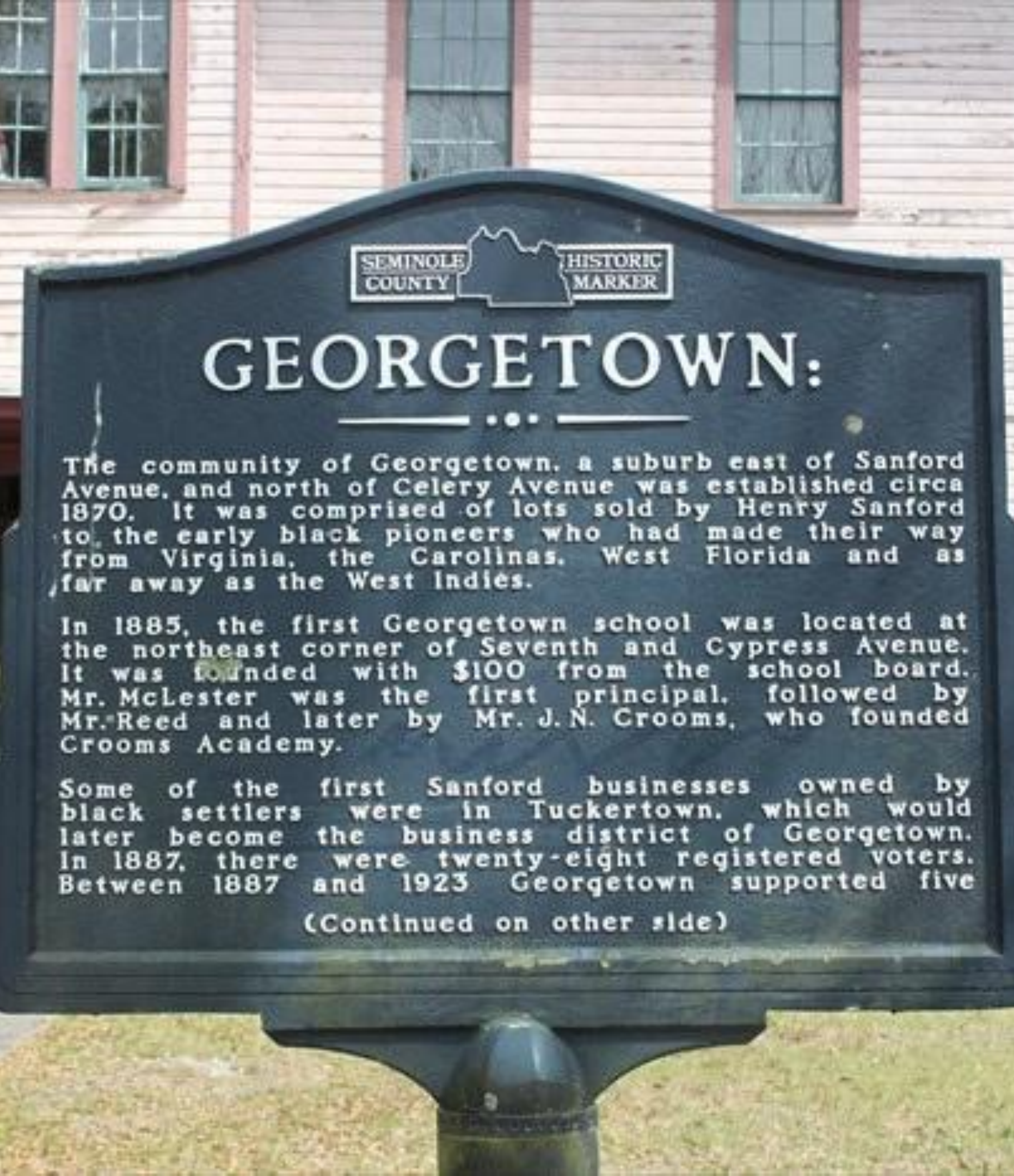


TRIVIA QUESTION ???

IF YOU WERE IN 8TH GRADE IN 1930 WHAT SCHOOL WOULD YOU ATTEND?

CROOMS ACADEMY





“At least two historians conclude that without Goldsboro and Georgetown, Sanford would never have become the region’s commercial and railroad hub of the late 1800s and may not have been in position to become the county seat in the early 1900s.”

A TALE OF 2 CITIES IN SANFORD’S PAST

The Orlando Sentinel | Sept. 20, 1991



BUSINESS IN GEORGETOWN



Railroads provided jobs for 360 of black laborers who laid iron rail tracks between Sanford and Orlando in 1880.

Between 1887 and 1923 Georgetown supported five barbers, a blacksmith, a butcher, a dentist, five dress makers, two draymen, seven farmers, a general store, three dry goods and millinery, five hand laundries, three insurance agents, a jeweler, seven medical doctors, two pharmacists, five postal workers, three realtors, three restaurant owners, five taxi drivers, a theater, undertakers, and many churches.



Pilgram Black

- Born in Georgetown. Started working at 11 years old at a mill house
- Became migrant crew leader and was recognized by the Florida Industrial Commission.
- Drove crew of almost 30 workers to New York to harvest potatoes, apples, and other fruits.



Marie Jones Franics

- Sent to Florida A&M to get her nursing license in 1943
- Ran the Jones-Francis Maternity Hall in Georgetown out of her old home.
- She educated other nurses and delivered over 40,000 babies.



Ingrid Nathan

- Started Hopper Academy in 1956.
- Ingrid integrated Seminole County Public Schools in 1964 as the first Black student at Sanford Middle School. Now she has a building named after her at the school.
- She went on to become a teacher herself, educating student in SCPS.



Ishmael Harris

- Started Hopper Academy in 1956.
- Fought in the Vietnam war and joined an all-Black war troop with over 50 men called the Mau Maus.
- First Black electrician hired at Florida Power and Light in Central Florida following his time in the war in January of 1971.



Dr. George H Starke

- First African American doctor accepted as a member of the Seminole County Medical Society and the Florida Medical Association.
- Physician and surgeon for over 50 years.
- Often took livestock, vegetables and other food as payment.



Prince W. Spears

- Well known architect who lived in Sanford.
- Designed and built churches in Georgetown and Goldsboro including Saint James AME Church, Saint John Missionary Baptist Church and others.
- Designed several homes on Sanford Avenue.



Wealthy Crooms

- She served as vice principal and teacher for Hopper Academy and Crooms Academy.
- Vice-president of the Advisory Board of Bethune-Cookman College.
- Husband co-founded the Bethune Beach Corporation, which created the only beach that black people were permitted to use in Volusia County during the first half of the 20th century



Zora Neale Hurston

- Grew up in Eatonville and lived in Sanford.
- American folklorist, anthropologist, author and filmmaker associated with the Harlem Renaissance.
- Wrote her first book while living in Georgetown.
- Friends with Langston Hughes and other historical figures.



SANFORD

EST. 1877

SANFORD AVENUE

Georgetown's business district developed along Sanford Avenue between 1st and 6th Streets and thrived from around 1880 to the 1950's, when Sanford was booming in agricultural and transportation development. A highly sought after residential district developed south of 6th Street along Sanford Avenue, and prominent African American families chose to have their homes built there. A number of the homes were designed by African American architect, Prince W. Spears. These homes were designed with attention to detail and architectural style, and became the center of cultural and social activity in the community.

In 1936 the Works Progress Administration Federal Writers Project documented the Georgetown community. Project writer Margaret Barnes noted the many lovely residences, lodges, stores, and churches that served the African American community. She stated, "By far the best shops and residences are on Sanford Avenue".



620 S. Sanford Avenue
Built in 1924, home of
physician George Barwell.



612 S. Sanford Avenue
Built in 1915, home of
writer David C. Brock.



614 S. Sanford Avenue
Built in 1917, home of
businessman Holy L. Piles.



616 S. Sanford Avenue
Built in 1922, home of
educator J.R. Crepps.

All images are the property of the
Sanford Museum.

Pathways to History is a series of self-guided tours focused on Sanford's development and its neighborhoods. Scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.sanfordfl.gov to learn more about Sanford's rich history.



PATHWAYS TO HISTORY



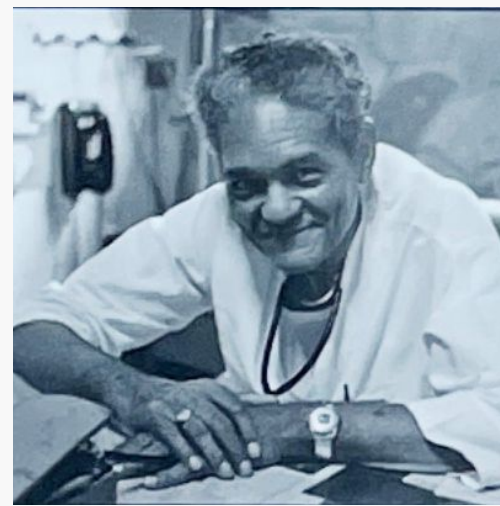
In 1936 the Works Progress Administration Federal Writers Project covered the Georgetown community.

Project writer Margaret Barnes noted the residences, lodges, stores, and churches that served the African American community.

"By far the best shops and residences are on Sanford Avenue," she said

TRIVIA QUESTION ???

MATCH THE JOB WITH THE PERSON:



Farmer

Teacher

Author

Teacher

Doctor

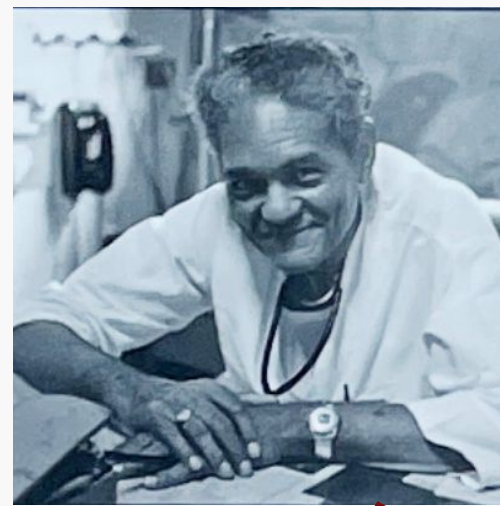
Nurse

Electrician



TRIVIA QUESTION ???

MATCH THE JOB WITH THE PERSON:



Farmer

Teacher

Author

Teacher

Doctor

Nurse

Electrician





RELIGION IN GEORGETOWN

BLACK CHURCHES IN GEORGETOWN WERE FORMED BEFORE THE CITY OF SANFORD WAS INCORPORATED.

CHURCHES WERE A SAFE HAVEN FOR COMMUNITY AND WORSHIP FOR FORMER ENSLAVED BLACKS.



Saint James African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church



- Formed in 1867 as a prayer group.
- Formed 10 years before the City of Sanford was incorporated.
- Building constructed from 1910 and 1913 by famed Black architect Prince W. Spears.
- Mother Church of AME faith West Sanford, Bookertown, Cameron City, Midway, and Fort Reid.

ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



- Formed in 1878 under an arbor brush.
- Building construction began in 1880. A newer building was constructed in 1889 and was used until 1958.
- The church's final structure was built in 1961.

ZION HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

- Founded in 1888 under Wash Levingston.
- Services were first held in an old horse stable on Mellonville Avenue from 1888 to 1890.
- John Hurston, the father of award-winning author and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston was a pastor for 17 years to about 200 people.



ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

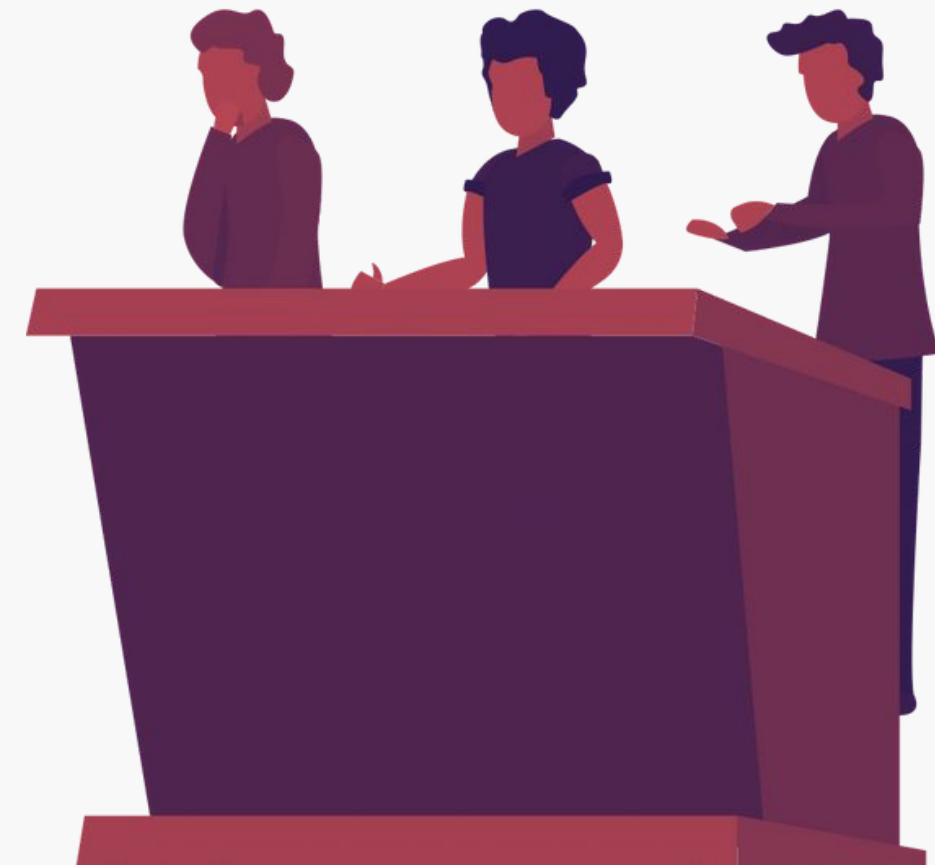


- Founded in 1895 under M.W Evans.
- Part of church construction plan designed by Prince W. Spears.
- In 1969, the church was remodeled and refurbished, and continued to experience the growth of its congregation.

TRIVIA QUESTION ???

WHICH CHURCH WAS FORMED BEFORE THE CITY OF SANFORD WAS INCORPORATED?

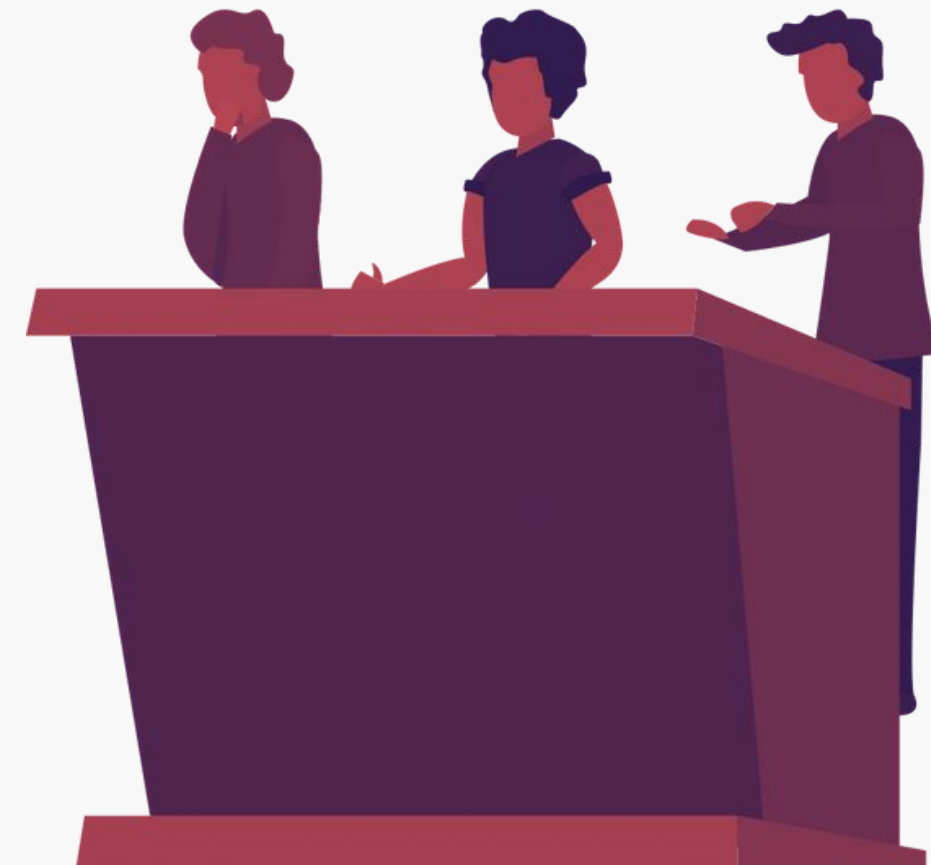
- A. ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
- B. ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
- C. SAINT JAMES (AME) CHURCH
- D. ZION HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



TRIVIA QUESTION ???

WHICH CHURCH WAS FORMED BEFORE THE CITY OF SANFORD WAS INCORPORATED?

- A. ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
- B. ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
- C. **SAINT JAMES (AME) CHURCH**
- D. ZION HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH





GEORGETOWN ART HISTORY CONTEST

Description: Art history contest was established by the Georgetown Steering Team to help educate the community about local Black history. Students submit an original art project (drawing, watercolor or acrylic painting, photography) reflecting the history of life in Georgetown, FL or how the Emancipation Proclamation affected life in Florida.

Resources to learn more about Georgetown are available at the Sanford Museum and with the UCF RICHES program.

First place contest winner will be awarded a \$100 scholarship supported by the Harris family. Deadline to apply and submit artwork is May 3, 2024. For questions or more information email georgetownsteeringteam@gmail.com.

Application items:

- Art piece
- A paragraph reflecting how your art submission reflects the history of life in Georgetown or shows how the Emancipation Proclamation affected life in Florida.

