



A. Mars Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church
800 E. 2nd Street



1. 202-204 S. Sanford Avenue



2. 208 S. Sanford Avenue



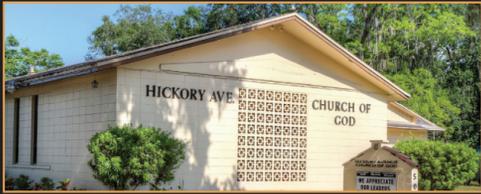
3. 210 S. Sanford Avenue



4. 400 S. Sanford Avenue



5. 401 S. Sanford Avenue



B. Hickory Avenue Church of God
503 Hickory Avenue



C. Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church
526 Sanford Avenue



D. Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church
710 Orange Avenue



E. St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church
813 Pine Avenue



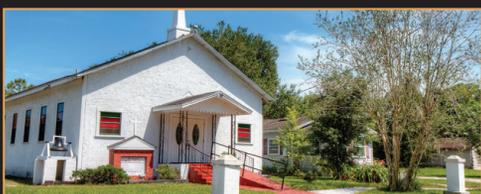
F. St. James A.M.E. Church
819 Cypress Avenue



G. St. John Missionary Baptist Church
920 Cypress Avenue



H. New Bethel Baptist Church
618 E. 10th Street



I. Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church
1101 Locust Avenue



J. Hopper Academy
1101 Pine Avenue



16. Sanford Avenue
Gateway



15. 512-516 S. Sanford Avenue

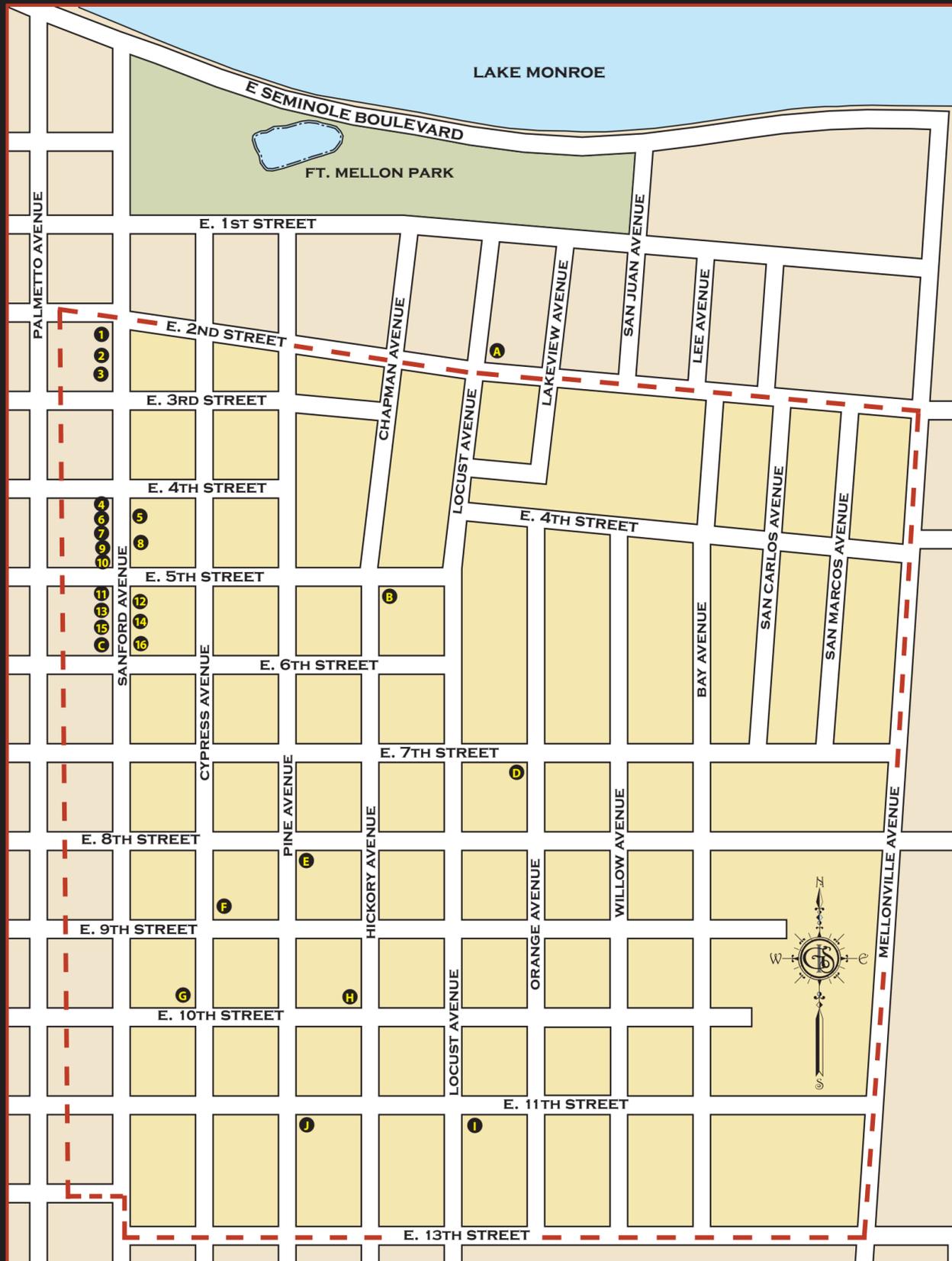


14. 511 S. Sanford Avenue



13. 506-508 S. Sanford Avenue

PATHWAYS TO HISTORY



Historic Georgetown Walking/Driving Tour



6. 406 S. Sanford Avenue



7. 412 S. Sanford Avenue



8. 417 S. Sanford Avenue



9. 418 S. Sanford Avenue



10. 440 S. Sanford Avenue



11. 500 S. Sanford Avenue



12. 501 S. Sanford Avenue

Georgetown, a Brief History...

Georgetown, a community east of Sanford Avenue and north of Celery Avenue, was established circa 1870. It was comprised of lots sold by Joseph Wofford Tucker and Henry Shelton Sanford to African American pioneers who had made their way from Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, West Florida and as far away as the West Indies.

Some of the first Sanford businesses owned by black settlers were in Tuckertown, which would later become the business district of Georgetown. In 1887 there were twenty-eight registered African American voters. Between 1887 and 1923 Georgetown supported barbers, a blacksmith, a dentist, dress makers, draymen, farmers, a general store, dry goods and millinery, hand laundries, insurance agents, a jeweler, several doctors, pharmacists, postal workers, land agents, restaurant owners, taxi drivers, a theatre, undertakers, and many churches. The thriving community demanded an abundance of goods and services. Family roots were planted in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and today the properties of many early settlers are still owned by the third and fourth generation family members. Sanford Avenue was home to a wide variety of businesses that served the needs of Sanford's African American communities during segregation.

Historically, the church played a unifying role in developing the moral and social culture of a community. Most of the churches established in Georgetown were formed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In many instances the churches began as brush arbors, simple structures made from palmetto leaves and other foliage meant to shield worshipers from the elements. Georgetown's churches were viewed by the community as an extension of home life.

Georgetown has three sites on Florida's Black Heritage Trail: The Hopper Academy (1101 Pine Avenue), the John H. Hurston House (621 E. 6th Street), and St. James African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, (819 Cypress Avenue).

How to Enjoy this Walking/Driving Tour...

The walking tour begins at the southwest intersection of Sanford Avenue and 2nd Street, noted as location 1. The walking tour includes sites numbered 1 through 16 as shown on the tour map. While you're walking along Sanford Avenue, be sure to visit the 8 heritage markers and 5 seat cubes located along the east side of the street, between 1st Street and 6th Street.

The driving tour begins at the northeast corner of Locust Avenue and 2nd Street, noted as location A. The driving tour includes sites lettered A through J on the tour map.



Historic Georgetown Walking/Driving Tour

1 202-204 S. Sanford Avenue

Constructed in 1917, this brick building housed the Stanley-Rogers Hardware Co. Faded remnants of the hardware company sign are visible on the south wall of the building. The building was also home to R. L. Harvey Plumbing for 29 years (1952-1981).

2 208 S. Sanford Avenue

Constructed circa 1929, this two-story brick building is the only commercial building on Sanford Avenue with a second-story porch. For almost twenty years it was the home of Aiken Printing. The building has been a private residence for many years.

3 210 S. Sanford Avenue

This building replaced an earlier two-story wooden building which existed from 1890-1922. The brick façade contains three large storefront openings which had been sealed over for decades. In 2014, an extensive rehabilitation project was undertaken, which returned the appearance of the building to an earlier time period. For almost twenty years the building housed a grocery store and shoe repair shop. Many locals may remember Lu Harriet's Variety Store, which occupied the building from 1966-1982.

4 400 S. Sanford Avenue

Constructed circa 1929, this masonry building once had a corner entry and wood canopy along the east and north facades, but it has been significantly altered. From the depression era through World War II it was home to the Forrest Gatchel Cash Grocery.

5 401 S. Sanford Avenue

Constructed circa 1929, this brick building contained a large wooden awning on the façade. For many years it was the location of H & A Department Store, then Jeff's Department Store. The original sign for "H & A" is on display at the Sanford Museum.

6 406 S. Sanford Avenue

This building has been a hub of nightlife activity for most of its history. For over a quarter of a century it housed The Palace Beer Garden & Tavern (1952-1978), as well as Nick's Package Store (1947-1973). The presence of Charlie Lemon's Billiards from 1957-1963 added to the vibrant social scene in the 1950s-1960s.

A Mars Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church 800 E. 2nd Street

Mars Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church originally operated as the "Mars Hill Seventh Day Adventist Society". The congregation did not have a permanent home in its early history (1913-1924), but instead assembled at various meeting places, including the home of Reverend Charles H. McDonia. In 1924, the McDonia family purchased a lot at E. 6th Street and Pine Avenue and a church was erected to serve as the new home for the congregation; that building is no longer standing. The current sanctuary at 800 E. 2nd Street was purchased in 1979.

B Hickory Avenue Church of God 503 Hickory Avenue

The Hickory Avenue Church of God began as "The House of Prayer" in 1903. Originally, the group worshiped in a garage on 10th Street between Sanford Avenue and Cypress Avenue. As the congregation grew, the church was renamed and a house of worship was placed at 503 Hickory Avenue. Under Bishop Leon Deveaux's leadership from 1959-1970, the current church building was erected.

C Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church 526 Sanford Avenue

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church began in 1891. The church was then known as New Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church (1891-1895). Services were held in a home on 6th Street and Hickory Avenue. In 1895 the church acquired a lot at the northwest corner of Sanford Avenue and E. 6th Street and constructed a wooden church building on their new site. By 1933 the wooden church was moved to the back of the lot, to make way for a new church building. This second church was constructed of red brick, and contained 24 stained glass windows and a bell. It was designed and built by African American architect Prince W. Spears. That building fell into disrepair and was later demolished. The third and present church building was constructed in 1967.

D Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church 710 Orange Avenue

Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church was organized in a brush arbor on June 9, 1888. From 1888 through 1890 church services were held in an "old horse stable" located on Mellonville Avenue. The stable was relocated to a lot on 5th Street and Locust Avenue, where it was remodeled into a proper church building. The congregation met there until 1926, when a new church building was constructed at the corner of 8th Street and Orange Avenue. The historic church contains eight stained glass windows and a bell tower. Reverend John Hurston (father of the well-known author Zora Neale Hurston) served as the church pastor for nearly two decades.

7 412 S. Sanford Avenue

Constructed circa 1929, this large concrete block building contained three symmetrical storefront openings. It has been altered significantly over the decades, though still retains its original roof-line. A large wood canopy existed on the building facade; it is unknown when it was removed. The building has been home to various barber and beauty shops throughout its history.

8 417 S. Sanford Avenue

The D.O. Brown Building was constructed in 1916. Early in its history, the building was home to a meat market and butcher. In 1938 the Stokes Fish Market opened at this location, and it remained there for fifty-four years, until 1992. The iconic Stokes Fish Market murals on the north and south ends of the building are cherished fixtures of Sanford Avenue. The mural on the north elevation replaced a painted, historic Coca-Cola advertisement.

9 418 S. Sanford Avenue

This circa 1929 masonry building was constructed with four storefronts and a wooden canopy that ran the length of the façade. The original transom windows delineate the location of the historic storefronts, which were significantly altered. For forty-four years this building was home to the Eloise Beauty Shop (1947-1991).

10 440 S. Sanford Avenue

This building replaces an earlier residential structure that was demolished sometime after 1924. The masonry building was constructed with a wooden canopy that extended along the east and south façades. The building retains much of its original exterior appearance, with the exception of the canopy which was removed at an unknown time. For much of its history the building was home to several furniture stores.

11 500 S. Sanford Avenue

Constructed circa 1932, this masonry building's exterior appearance is largely intact, as it contains its original storefront openings and transom windows. For a brief period during World War II, this building was home to the African American United Service Organization (U.S.O.). From 1952 through 1971 the Boteler Howard Wholesale Confectionery occupied part of the space, with neighboring business Hoover Radio and TV Service (1957-1974).

E St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church 813 Pine Avenue

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church formed in 1878 and services took place under a brush arbor until 1880. The first church, a small cabin-like wooden structure was built in 1881 on land purchased from Henry S. and Gertrude Sanford. In 1906 under the leadership of Reverend Castle Brewer, a new, rectangular wooden church with steeple and bell was constructed. Mr. Brewer served as the church's pastor for forty-seven years, from 1889-1936. In 1958 the structure built in 1906 was condemned, forcing the congregation to meet at temporary locations, including Hopper Elementary school and Mars Hill Seventh Day Adventist Church. The third and current church was dedicated in 1961.

F St. James A.M.E. Church 819 Cypress Avenue

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1913. Two earlier church buildings existed previously on the site, the first from 1881-1893, and the second from 1893 - circa 1910. The buildings were simple wooden structures that no longer accommodated the ever growing congregation. A newspaper article from 1910 states, "The building here... is to be torn down and a new one, to seat five hundred, is to be erected. It will have circular seats, raised floor, gallery and everything modern." Designed by African American architect Prince W. Spears, the building is representative of the Gothic Revival style. The red brick structure contains decorative corbeling, Tudor and segmental arched stained glass windows, a bell tower, and decorative wood overhangs above entry doors. The interior is octagonal shaped, and features slanted, semi-circular seating in the baptistery. Most of the original features of the church still remain, including the matching stained-glass windows. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

G St. John Missionary Baptist Church 920 Cypress Avenue

St. John Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1888 by Reverend Paul Youmans, who served until 1895. It is unknown where the congregation originally gathered. In 1896 a lot at the northwest corner of 10th Street and Cypress Avenue was purchased. It is likely that a wood frame structure was constructed on the site and existed from circa 1896-1922. The present church building was constructed during the tenure of Reverend Charles J. Smith. Built in 1922, the building was designed and constructed by Prince W. Spears. The square brick building contains Gothic pointed stained glass windows and a corner bell tower. In the 1990s the church was significantly altered, which included lowering the entire sanctuary to accommodate the increasingly elderly congregation.

12 501 S. Sanford Avenue

Constructed circa 1926, this masonry building contains the original storefront configuration and a reconstructed canopy. The building was a fixture of Sanford Avenue's social scene, as it contained pool/billiard halls for almost thirty-four years of its history. Many locals may remember games played at the Sanford Avenue Pool Room or Sonny's Pool Room. These businesses shared the building with various cafés, including the Sanford Avenue Café.

13 506-508 S. Sanford Avenue

Constructed circa 1926, this building was once home to Eaverly's Drugstore. The masonry building retains its original façade openings, and one grouping of transom windows. The storefront windows and doors were altered at some point in the building's history.

14 511 S. Sanford Avenue

This stately home with a wide wrap-around porch was designed and built by African American architect Prince W. Spears for Dr. Edward and Elizabeth Strickland. Dr. Strickland was a well known dentist who served the community for decades. The home is the only remaining residential structure on Sanford Avenue, between 1st Street and 6th Street.

15 515-516 S. Sanford Avenue

Constructed circa 1920, this masonry building is mostly original. It features a decorative parapet, original transom windows and canopy, and original storefronts. Early in its history it was home to the West Sanford Real Estate Co. and jeweler J. Coulter.

16 Sanford Avenue Gateway

In the years following World War II and the late 1990s the business district of Sanford Avenue was significantly altered in the name of "progress". The changes favored the automobile, and paid little attention to the pedestrian. In 2014 a \$2.5M streetscape project was completed. Improvements included brick streets, wide sidewalks, lush landscaping, streetlights, and infrastructure upgrades. Sanford Avenue's unique sense of place and charm is highlighted by heritage markers between 1st Street and 6th Street, as well as an interpretive seating area in the gateway park. The gateway feature anchoring the 6th Street end of the project was designed to pay homage to the historic churches that played a pivotal role in shaping Georgetown's history.

H New Bethel Baptist Church 618 E. 10th Street

New Bethel Baptist Church was established in 1931 under Reverend Willie H. Henderson. The church was formed by members of St. John Missionary Baptist Church. The congregation met in various locations until the members purchased a lot on Hickory Avenue and E. 9th Street and constructed a building. The building was constructed from an old house that was purchased from Chase & Company, and then demolished to provide salvaged lumber. According to local accounts, the women of the church would work at the lot on Saturdays, pulling nails from the wood timbers. In 1970 a lot was purchased at Hickory Avenue and E. 10th Street. It is at this location that the present church stands.

I Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church 1101 Locust Avenue

Mt. Moriah Primitive Baptist Church was constituted in 1922 when members of the Orthodox Primitive Baptist Church split to form two churches, the other of which was New Salem Primitive Baptist church (located in the community of Goldsboro). In 1924 a white, rectangular wood building with steeple was constructed at E. 11th Street and Locust Avenue to house the congregation. The present day building replaced the 1924 structure. The bell on display at the site is the original bell from the Orthodox Primitive Baptist Church, which was located at 8th Street and Palmetto Avenue.

J Hopper Academy 1101 Pine Avenue

Hopper Academy was built circa 1906, prior to the creation of Seminole County. The school educated children from elementary age through the 10th grade. When most of the schools constructed in Florida for African American children at the turn of the 20th century were small one-story buildings with perhaps two small classrooms lit only by natural exterior light, Hopper Academy featured an impressive 8,734 square feet, with approximately 4,300 square feet on each floor. Hopper Academy ceased to operate as a school in 1968. In 2014, the building was awarded a grant by the Division of Historical Resources, and an extensive restoration will be undertaken to create a community center and museum.

The Sanford Avenue heritage markers, seat cubes, and walking/driving tour brochure were made possible by a Preserve America grant administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, the Sanford Community Redevelopment Agency, and the City of Sanford. The project was recognized with a historic preservation award in 2015 from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.

by the first decade of the 20th century. vegetable shipping centers in the United States location as a terminus for steamships from the north, Sanford became one of the largest



Waterfront Development

Due its position on the St. Johns River and its operation during World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War and the Vietnam War.



Military History

Sanford's military history began with the creation of Fort Mellon, a U.S. Army post during the 2nd Seminole War in 1942. Naval Air Station Sanford opened and was in on a grid, with land set aside for churches, schools and parks. Many of the original parks still exist today.



Historic Parks

In 1877 a plat was created of newly incorporated Sanford. The city was laid out on a grid, with land set aside for churches, schools and parks. Many of the original parks still exist today.



Transportation History

Henry S. Sanford dubbed Sanford "The Gate City of South Florida." Transportation dominated Sanford's early development with riverboats and railroad lines that established the city's importance as a transportation and agricultural center.



Historic Goldsboro

Goldsboro was one of the first incorporated African-American towns in Florida. The town was annexed by Sanford in April 1911. Goldsboro is home to Croon's Academy of Information Technology, founded in 1926 as a high school for African-American students.



Historic Georgetown

City founder, Henry Sanford, established the Georgetown neighborhood for the many African-American citizens seeking opportunity in the new city. The neighborhood contains two sites on Florida's Black Heritage Trail.



Residential Historic District

The historic homes in this district represent a number of different styles. The buildings within the district were primarily constructed during the city's period of prominence as an agricultural and transportation center.



Commercial Historic District

The Downtown Commercial Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, contains 25 buildings. The tour includes examples of various architectural styles dating from 1883 through 1925.

Historical Figures

Prince W. Spears (Born 1877) was a prominent African American architect, mason, and builder who designed many landmark buildings in Sanford's Georgetown and Goldsboro neighborhoods. Sparse records exist to document the life of this talented man; however it is known that he attended Clark University in Atlanta and graduated in 1908. Projects executed by Prince W. Spears include churches (St. James A.M.E. Church, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church) and residences (511, 611, 612, 614, and 620 S. Sanford Avenue). Spears moved on from Sanford in the 1930s and it is unknown where he lived thereafter. His year of death is unknown.



Professor Joseph Nathaniel Crooms (1880-1957) was a prominent African American educator in Florida. He was the Principal of Hopper Academy from 1906-1926. In 1926 his family donated land for construction of a new, "modern" school in the Goldsboro neighborhood. J. N. Crooms served as Principal there until 1953. His wife, Wealthy Mabel Crooms (1884-1982) worked alongside him at Crooms Academy as the Assistant Principal.



Zora Neale Hurston (1891-1960) was an American folklorist, anthropologist and author. She wrote her first published novel, *Jonah's Gourd Vine*, while living in Georgetown. Her father, the Reverend John Hurston, was the pastor of Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church on Orange Avenue. He provided some of the inspiration for the main character in her novel, a pastor named John.



Altermese Smith Bentley (1910-2004) was an educator whose career impacted the lives of students in Sanford and Philadelphia. Upon her retirement from the School District of Philadelphia in 1975, she and her sister Eunice S. Whitehead returned to Sanford and built a home on the family plot in Georgetown. Her father was the Reverend Charles J. Smith, pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church. An avid historian, Mrs. Bentley authored: *The History of the First South Florida Missionary Baptist Association (1888-1988)*; *Georgetown: The History of a Black Neighborhood*; and *A Comprehensive History of the Progressive Missionary & Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc.* Her efforts at preserving the community's heritage resulted in rescuing the historic Hopper Academy from demolition, thereby securing and preserving it for future restoration. Bentley Elementary School is named in her honor.