



CITY OF FORT PIERCE

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

REBECCA GROHALL, AICP, PLANNING DIRECTOR AND FPRA DIRECTOR
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING ♦ DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ♦ URBAN DESIGN ♦ ZONING

JUNE 27, 2016

Owner /Applicant

St. Paul African American
Methodist Episcopal
Church/Pamela Carithers

Location

1405 North 27 Street

Parcel ID:

2404-608-0099-000-2

Legal Description:

GARDEN CITY FARMS 05 35
40 TRACT63-LESS W 264 FT
AND LESS S 25 FT AND LESS
N 25 FT- (2.55 AC) (OR 207-
2769)

Requested Action

The applicant has submitted a Preliminary Historic Designation Application and is petitioning the Board for designation of the subject property under the designation criteria of Significant Event (Section 23-36(a) (1) and Significant Person (Section 23-36(a)(2)) of the City Code.

Staff

Kori Benton
Senior Planner

Maria Lewicka, AICP
Historic Preservation Planner

HISTORIC SITE DESIGNATION REPORT



St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church Current Site Location. Church Dedication on the above location was held on April 22, 1979.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS / CRITERIA

The following sections of the City Code apply to the consideration of this designation:

Section 23-36. Designation Criteria.

- (A) Consistent with the criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places, the board shall recommend for designation places, buildings, structures, landscape features, archaeological sites and other improvements as individual sites, districts or archaeological zones that are significant in Fort Pierce's history, architecture, archaeology or culture and possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship or association; and meets the following criteria:
- (1) (Significant event) Are associated with events that have made significant contribution to the pattern of history in the community, St. Lucie County, the state or the nation; or
 - (2) (Significant person) Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

EVENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

There is no events of significance presented at this time.

PERSON OF SIGNIFICANCE

Reverend George M Champion served from 1976 to 1979

Reverend George M Champion was a fourth generation African Methodist Itinerant Elder. He has preached and lectures at many colleges and universities. He was effective church administrator and ecumenist. He pastored eight charges, including St. Paul, where he led the church into building a church facility at its current location.

Reverend J Richard Campbell served from 1980 to 1983

Under the Reverend J Richard Campbell tenure the parsonage was completed in 1983.

Reverend Willie D. Young served from 1983 to 1986

Under the Reverend Willie D. Young tenure the St. Paul AME church sign was erected.

Reverend F. Josephus Johnson served from 1986 to 1989

Reverend George Lovelace Champion, Sr. served from 1989 to 1992

Reverend F Bernard Lemon served from 1992 to 1999

Reverend F Bernard Lemon served as the distinguished Presiding Elder of the 'Lively' Lakeland District of the West Coast Annual Conference of 11th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Before being appointed a Presiding Elder, Reverend Lemon pastored several churches within the 11th Episcopal District including St. Paul AME Church.

Reverend Samuel L. Sullivan served from 1999 to 2002

Reverend Samuel L. Sullivan took the ministry to the airwaves with "The Anointed Trumpet of God" radio ministry.

Shepherd W.J. Jackson served from 2002 to 2004

Shepherd W.J. Jackson shared his vast knowledge of AMEism and his willingness to do God's will God's way.

Reverend Nathan M. Mugala served from 2004 to 2008

Reverend Nathan M. Mugala lifted the spiritual morale and raised the level of commitment of the congregation. He visited individual members in their homes, revived outreach ministers, fed the community, and set a Godly example of Christian service. During his tenure, the church prospered mightily.

Reverend Dr. Melvin A. Kennerly served from 2008 to 2009

Reverend Vincent Lane served from 2009 to 2011

Under Reverend Vincent Lane tenure the church efforts were focused on restoration of the health and wellbeing of the church.

Reverend Melvin E. Hymes served from 2011 to 2014

Under Reverend Melvin E. Hymes administration the church's major focus was spiritual revival and the refurbishment of the property.

Reverend Dr. Waymon T. Dixon served from 2014 to present**A N A L Y S I S**

St. Paul Church is historically significant in the areas of religion, and African American history. Many St. Lucie County Colored Welfare Association meetings, defending property owner's rights and community resident's rights to vote, were held in this church. Also, many significant persons are associated with the church.

St. Paul Church was established in 1890 and was the first, and is the oldest, African American Congregation in St. Lucie County. The original church located on currently vacant lot, bounded by Citrus and Delaware Avenues and 5th and 6th Streets, burned down and a new church was built in 1906 on the northwest corner of 8th Street and Avenue B. That church was destroyed by a devastating storm in 1926 and again rebuilt on the property located on the southeast of the present site. For a short time church was also held in the Dreamland Theatre building located on 8th Street.

The current location of the St. Paul African American Methodist Episcopal Church, which is a subject of this application, was dedicated in 1979. All the mentioned above, important historic events took place on the Church's previous locations.

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N

On May 23, 2016, the Historic Preservation Board accepted the Historic Designation Application and directed staff to further research the history associated with the current church location, and complete the Designation Report.

Based on the documents provided by the applicant and further research conducted by staff, the conclusion was made that at this time there is no sufficient documentation to justify the Designation of the current Church site.

S O U R C E S

Author Unknown, Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Fort Pierce, Florida, "A Glimpse of Our History 1890-2015".

St. Lucie County Property Appraiser's Property Record Card

Orlando Ledger, Rev. Franklin Bernard Lemon, Obituary, August 21, 2014

Orlando Sentinel, George Champion Obituary, April, 24, 2008.

Orlando Sentinel, "The Rev. George Champion Sr., 64, understood the power of faith", April, 26, 2008.