

Historically Significant Churches in the SEDNA area

As part of the 100th anniversary commemoration of Quaker with the 100th anniversary of SEDNA area neighborhoods, there are historic churches in the SEDNA area which should be recognized. Gaining a Registered Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) marker from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) for any building qualifies the owners of the building with a 25% rebate incentive for the rehabilitation of the building for its continued use.

The THC and National Park Service (NPS) guidelines for distinguishing a building as historic are:

- The building must be 50 years of age or older
- The basic structure of the building needs to hold its historical integrity (the major part of the building looks like it did when it was built)
- This history is significant to the community:
 - Associated with events that have made significant contributions
 - Associated with the lives of persons significant to the local past
 - The building embodies:
 - the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or methods of construction, or
 - holds high artistic value, or
 - represents a significant and distinguishable entity important to local history

The highest federal recognition provided a historic building is its listing in the National Register of Historic Places, recognizing the building's qualifications from these standards. The highest State of Texas recognition is the building's listing as a Texas Historic Landmark award with a RTHL state marker. Both of these awards offer incentives to provide rehabilitation of the building with financial incentives to help keep the building in continued use. The Texas rehabilitation incentive is a rebate of 25% of the total cost for the rehab. The Federal rehabilitation incentive is a rebate of 20% of the total cost. Listing a building in the National Register of Historic Places provides both incentive for 45% of the total cost.

There are five historic churches in the SEDNA area, three which had church buildings at Quaker before the 1922 forced relocation of Quaker residents:

- St. James AME Church, relocated to 1107 East Oak but without moving their building
- Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, relocated to 105 South Wood with the St. James AME building
- St. Emmanuel Baptist Church, relocated to 509 Lakey

Two other churches are historically significant in their relationship to the Black enclave of Quaker:

- Mt. Pilgrim CME Church, engaged with Quaker with building located at 339 Robertson Street
- St. Andrew Church of God in Christ, community began in Quaker but had no building

These nine churches are currently located in the SEDNA area:

- Solomon Hill Neighborhood:
 - St. James AME, relocated from Quaker to 1107 East Oak Street
 - Pleasant Grove Baptist, relocated from Quaker to 105 South Wood Street
- New Quaker Neighborhood:
 - East Prairie Church of Christ, 717 East Prairie Street
- Freedmen Town Neighborhood:
 - St. Emmanuel Baptist Church, relocated to 509 Lakey Street
 - St. Andrew Church of God in Christ, 608 Lakey Street
 - Mt. Calvary Baptist, 1111 Wilson Street
 - Morse St. Baptist, 921 Morse Street
- Fred Moore School Neighborhood:
 - Mt. Pilgrim CME Church, 339 Robertson Street
- Lincoln Park:
 - Simmons St. Church of Christ, 411 Simmons Street

Historic Denton typically uses a number of historical documents to determine the age of a building while provide Historical Resource Surveys to the Texas Historical Commission, the first step in recognizing an area for consideration in the National Register of Historic Places. City property tax records are useful, containing a 1946 image of each building and its history; however, church property is not taxed so the city property records do not provide build dates for buildings.

THC provides Subject Matter markers to buildings with significant history related to the congregation, independent of the present building providing housing of the church. These markers are of value, but do not provide the building rehabilitation incentives. As example, St. James AME Church holds a Subject Matter marker instead of a Registered Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) marker so the 25% incentive for building rehabilitation was not available to assist the congregation to rebuild the church after the recent roofing issues.

To determine qualified historically significant church buildings, initially based on the building age, other modes are helpful. The significant considerations of each of these churches follows.

St. James AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church

relocated from Quaker to 1107 East Oak Street

The cornerstone of St. James AME Church dates the current building built date to June 11, 1962, marking the church building to over 50 years in age, a historic criterion. The THC Subject Matter marker in front of the church provides significance criteria, awarded in 1985 when the building was 23 years of age. New consideration of applying for a RTHL marker for the building over 50 years old would be advised that provides the highest level of recognition for the building and its congregation.



Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

relocated from Quaker to 105 South Wood Street

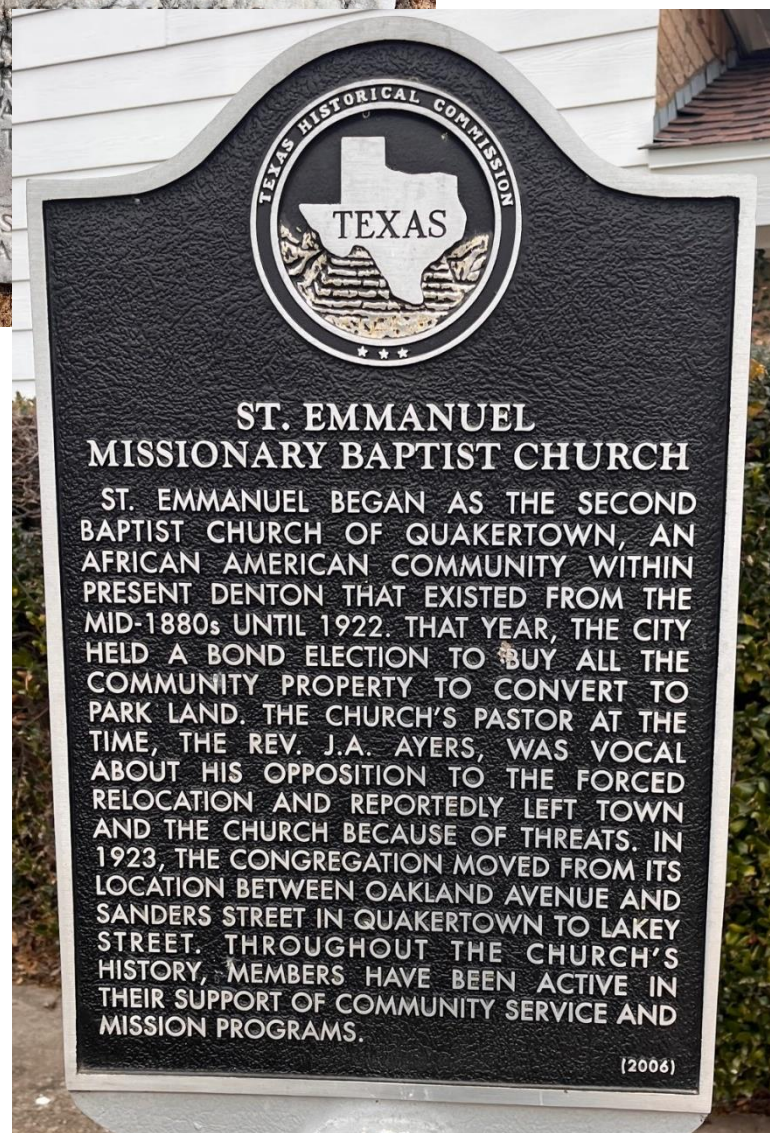
The cornerstone of the Church dates the current building built date to April 1950, marking the church building to over 50 years in age, a historic criterion. The second cornerstone indicates a remodel date of February 1987, which needs clarity if the original building was altered or only expanded within the past 50 years. The city Historic Landmark marker in front of the church provides significance criteria. It confirms that the Quaker church building used by St. James AME was moved in 1923 to this site by this congregation until 1950 when the current building was built. If the current building holds integrity from the 1950 building date, the building could qualify for an RTHL marker via the THC.



St. Emmanuel Baptist Church

relocated from Quaker to 509 Lakey Street

The cornerstone of the Church dates the current building built date to 1942, marking the church building to over 50 years in age, a historic criterion. The THC Subject Matter marker in front of the church provides significance criteria. If the current building holds integrity from the 1942 building date, the building could qualify for an RTHL marker via the THC.



Mt. Pilgrim CME Church

Originally located at 339 Robertson Street

The cornerstone of the Church dates the current building built date to 1958, marking the church building to over 50 years in age, a historic criterion. A second cornerstone date a rebuilt to 2005. If the current building holds integrity from the 1958 building date, the building could qualify for an RTHL marker via the THC. The significance of the congregation and this location of their church building provides the criterion for an RTHL marker awarded from the THC.



St. Andrew Church of God in Christ

Rooted at Quaker, originally located at 608 Lakey Street

A cornerstone on the Church building could not be located, so exact build date is unknown. If the building is over 50 years of age this would fulfill the historic criterion. The church's historical significance meets the RTHL criteria. The building could qualify for an RTHL marker via the THC if the age of the building is over 50 years. Visual inspection of the building construction offers clues that the current building is not yet of age.

Morse St. Baptist

921 Morse Street

A cornerstone on the Church building suggests the building was built in 1985, so the building is less than 50 years in ago. Visual inspection of the building construction offers clues that the current building if not yet of age.



East Prairie Church of Christ

717 East Prairie Street

A cornerstone on the Church building could not be located, so exact build date is unknown. If the building is over 50 years of age this would fulfill the historic criterion. Visual inspection of the building construction offers clues that the current building is not yet of age.

Mt. Calvary Baptist

1111 Wilson Street

A cornerstone on the Church building could not be located, so exact build date is unknown. If the building is over 50 years of age this would fulfill the historic criterion. Visual inspection of the building construction offers clues that the current building is not yet of age.

Simmons St. Church of Christ

411 Simmons Street

A cornerstone on the Church building could not be located, so exact build date is unknown. If the building is over 50 years of age this would fulfill the historic criterion. Visual inspection of the building construction offers clues that the current building is not yet of age.