



# Quakertown Memorialization

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**Parks and Recreation /  
Historical Preservation**

**September 13, 2022**

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# Background

On April 19, 2022, Council Member Byrd requested a work session to explore ways the City could commemorate former residents of Quaker.

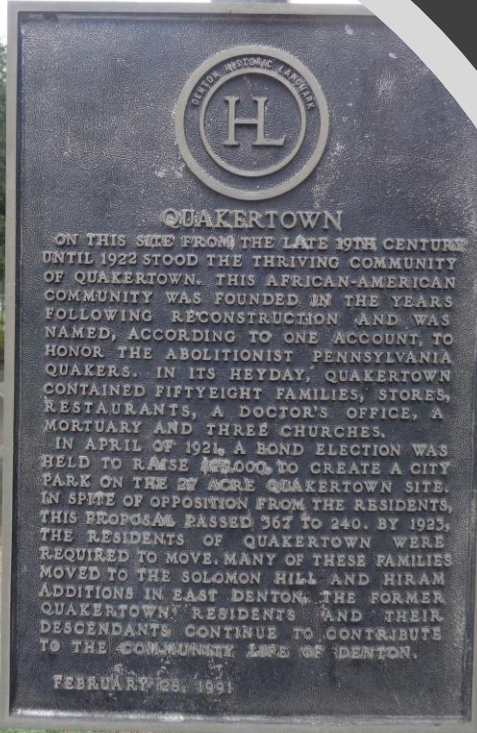
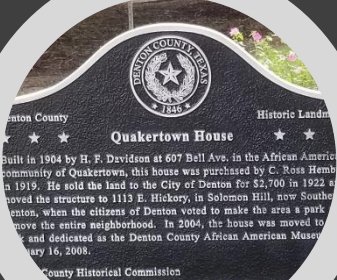


# Considerations / Concerns

- **Process**: The scope of a permanent memorial in Quakertown Park could be included in the Downtown Master Plan effort. This effort would take time and require a significant public input component.
- **Function**: How will the memorial co-exist within the wider context of a fully operational park (maintenance, City-wide events, etc.)?

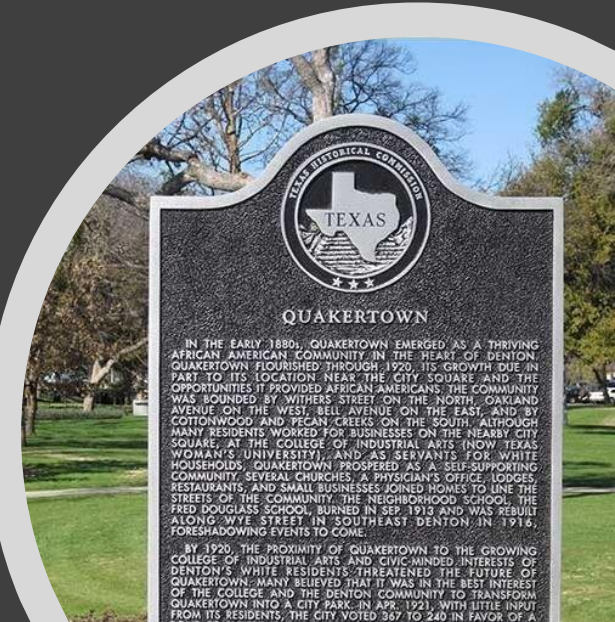






## Existing and Planned Memorials

10/24/22 - SEDNA



# Permanent Memorial Options

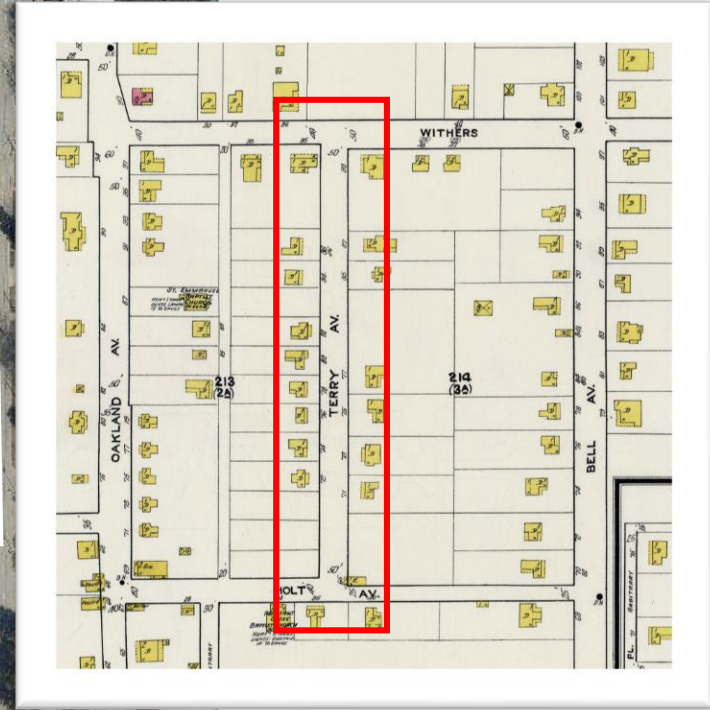
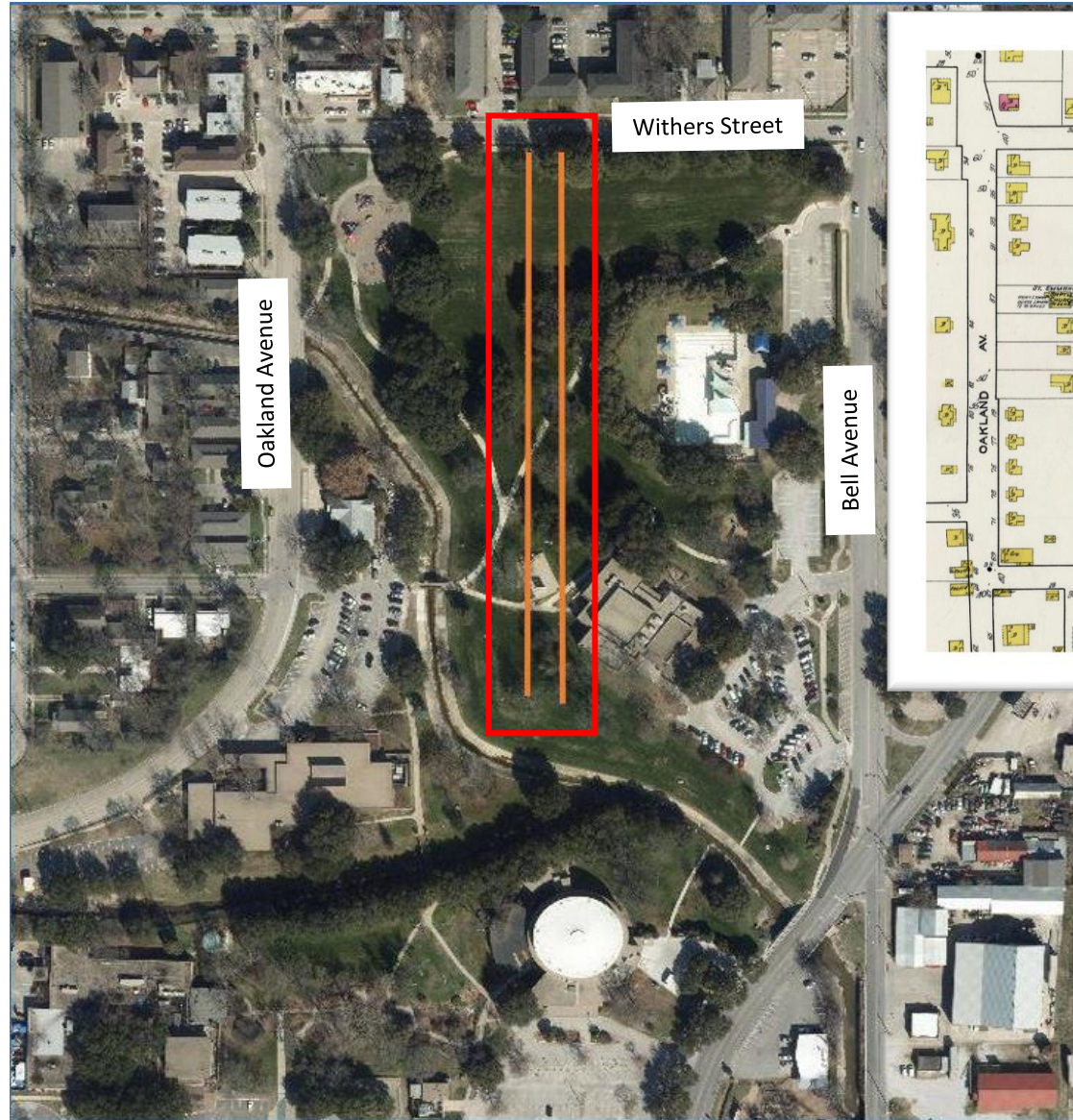
- Terry Avenue Sidewalk Installation
- Memorial Markers
- Denton Women's Building / Museum Space
- Healing / Sculpture Garden / "Living Museum"





# Terry Avenue Sidewalks

- Main Quakertown road
- Provides sense of place
- Once in place may be difficult to changed, modified for future development, park maintenance, etc.
- Impacts trees, stage, irrigation and other existing park features
- Impacts the functionality and flow of park space





# Memorial Markers

- To mark residences, churches, and other similar landmarks
- Includes names of individuals who owned/lived at that location
- Can be placed in concrete or flush with the sidewalk surface
- Would require research to validate historical information
- Concerns: maintenance, vandalism, aesthetic effect







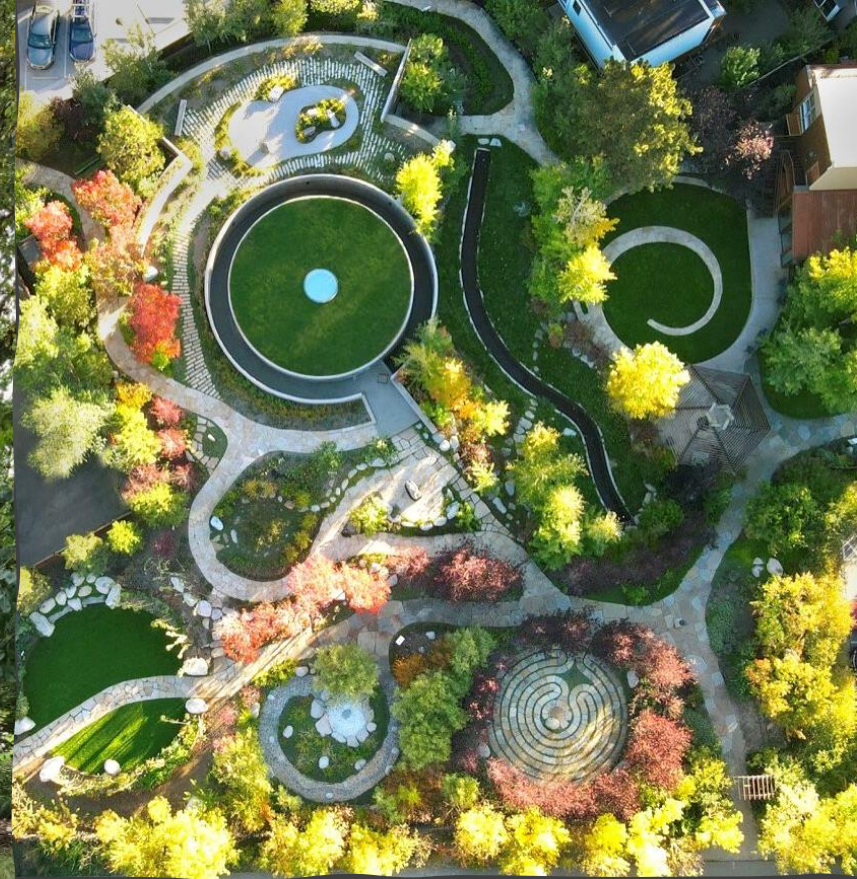
# Denton Woman's Club/Museum Space

- City owns the land and lease expires 2026
- Building/improvements belong to the Woman's Club, any name change would be at their discretion
- Current functionality and layout unsuitable for use as a museum or exhibition space
- Woman's Club currently not interested in pursuing a name change for the building



# Healing/Reconciliation Garden and Living Museum

- Could build a new garden at Henry Taylor's lot
- OR expand and renovate current garden located between City Hall and the Civic Center
- Meandering Paths, thematic "rooms," various sensory elements
- Memorial artwork/sculpture
- Historical signage
- Combines community, history, education, nature, healing and social engagement generating a sense of place
- Would require a moderate level of continued maintenance



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# Temporary Memorial Options

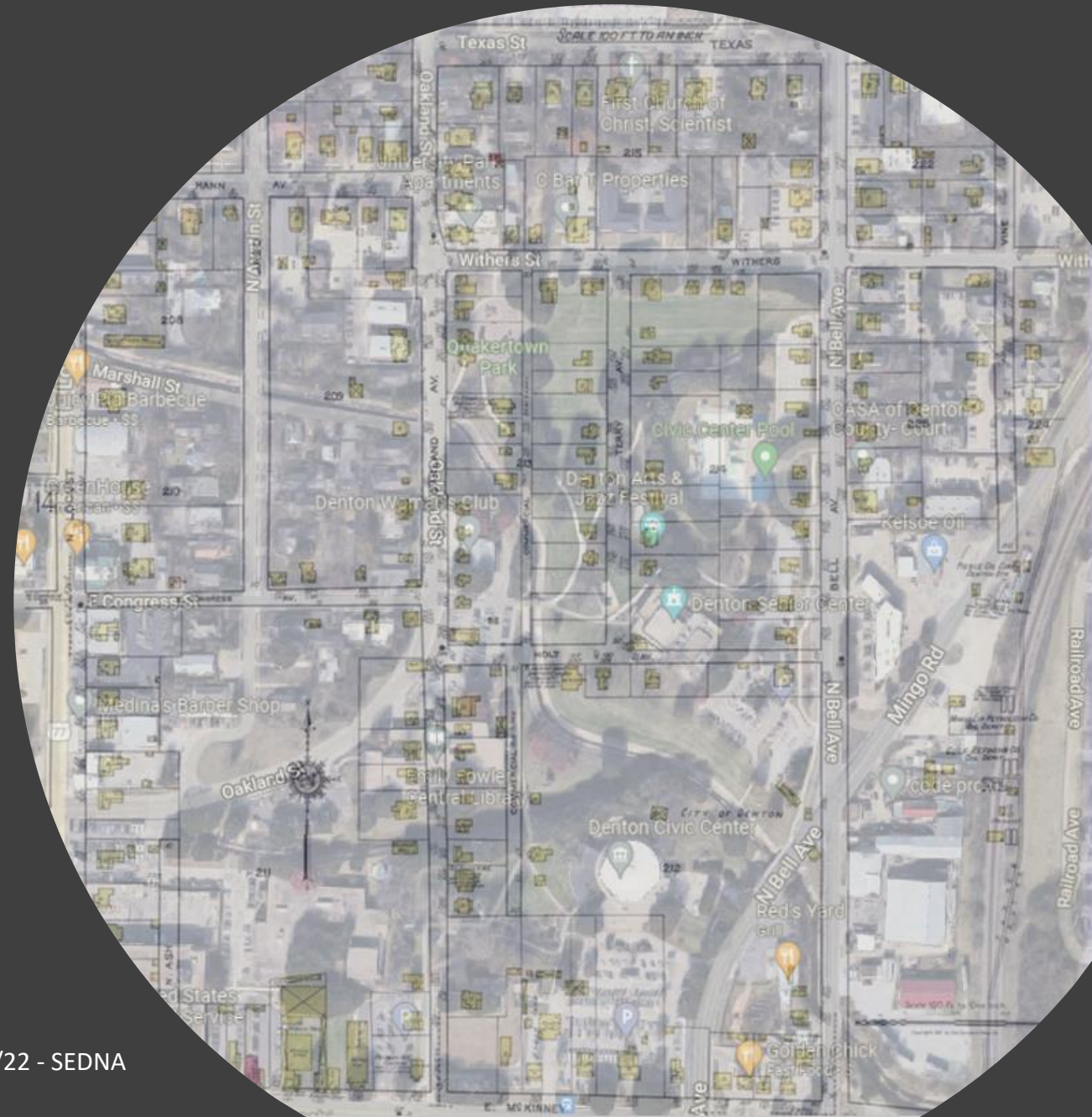
- Quakertown Property Outlining
- Explanatory Signage
- Remembrance Events





# Quakertown Outlining

- Outline Terry Street with athletic paint and include temporary signage throughout the park showing the location of houses, businesses, and churches.
- Signage could include information about past owners and residents at each location
- 80+ Quakertown landmarks coincide with the current Quakertown Park area



# Explanatory Signage

- Temporary signage would help readers understand the history of Quakertown
- Can provide a sense of space with the use of historic photographs and maps
- Possibility of being easily damaged

## Discover Seneca Village

Between 1825 and 1857, before the city built Central Park, this area was the location of Seneca Village – a community composed predominantly of African Americans, many of whom owned property. This was the most densely settled section of the acreage slated for Central Park; by 1855 the community numbered approximately 225 and had 52 homes and three churches.

Explore the history, community, and landscape of Seneca Village in a series of interpretative signs. Begin at the information kiosk (A), then visit the sixteen signs throughout the area, in the order suggested. Download or photograph a map of the signs here or pick up a brochure at one of our visitor centers.

To learn more about Seneca Village, visit:  
[www.senecavillage.org](http://www.senecavillage.org)



### Map Key

- AME Zion Church
- African Union Church
- The Wilson House
- All Angels' Church
- Irish Americans
- Summit Rock
- Lewis, Lutz, and Sorensen
- Housing
- Tanner's Spring
- Reservoir Reservoir
- Livelihood
- Cemetery
- Reservoir Keepers
- Downtown Connections
- Andrew Williams
- Gardens
- ▲ Introduction
- Welcome Information





A historical black and white photograph of a two-story wooden storefront. A man in a hat and light-colored shirt stands in the doorway. Two children are seated on the porch to the left. A sign above the door reads "CELLAR DO STAIRS" and "FOR ALL LADIES' USE". A picket fence is in the foreground.

# Remembrance Events

- Quakertown History Speaker Series
- Day of Remembrance
- Arts Events
  - Related Arts or Musical Events
  - Youth-focused educational events
  - Gathering Day for Congregations
  - Scheduling



## Recommendations to Council:

- Consider including a permanent memorial as part of the Downtown Master Plan. The memorial should reflect public input received in the master planning process.
- Consider options for more immediate temporary memorial gestures for the centennial of Quakertown's removal.



## Next Steps:

- Build Database of Quakertown Descendants
- Receive SENDA Input
- Develop temporary signage for public/board/council consideration
- Develop a calendar events for the a Centennial Memorial Program
- Develop committee for Quakertown master planning effort



# Temporary Signage Samples



## Remembering... QUAKERTOWN

### PLEASANT GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church is one of the original three churches founded in Quakertown shortly after the construction of the Frederick Douglass School. Pleasant Grove congregational history holds that, in 1884, Deacon Marion Mays and fellow worshipers met in Quaker under a ceremonial brush arbor to establish the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church. The 1921 Sanborn map for Quaker locates the church on the south side of Holt Avenue between Terry Avenue and Oakland Avenue. After the passage of the Park Bond in 1921, the Pleasant Grove church was successfully



relocated to the Solomon Hill neighborhood in Southeast Denton. In 1949, the original church building was reconstructed, speaking to the resilience of the church and its congregation.



## Remembering... QUAKERTOWN

### ST. JAMES AME CHURCH HISTORY

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church is the oldest African American congregation in city of Denton, and was one of three churches that once had its home within the Quakertown community. St. James was initially established in the late 1880s by a group of families who settled in Denton after relocating from the White Rock area of Dallas County. The original St. James AME Church structure was built in Freedman Town, a neighborhood located south of the Denton Square. Original charter members of the church included: Jim, Dicy, Jerry, and Ford Crawford; Phyliss Hall; Giles and Esther Lawson; Arthur and Harriet Cochran, M.P. and Sallie Robert Lambert; Henry and Charlotte Maddox; Jim and Mattie Holt, and Emly Russell. As more African American families moved northeast of the square to settle in Quaker, the St. James AME Church also moved, establishing a



new home on Oakland street in the late early 1890s. The church was rebuilt on the same spot in 1899 and again in 1909, to accommodate a growing congregation. The congregation sold their land to the City of Denton following the Park Bond vote in April 1921 and moved their congregation to its present location in Southeast Denton at the corner of Oak and Crawford streets.



## Remembering... QUAKERTOWN

### ST. EMMAMUEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY

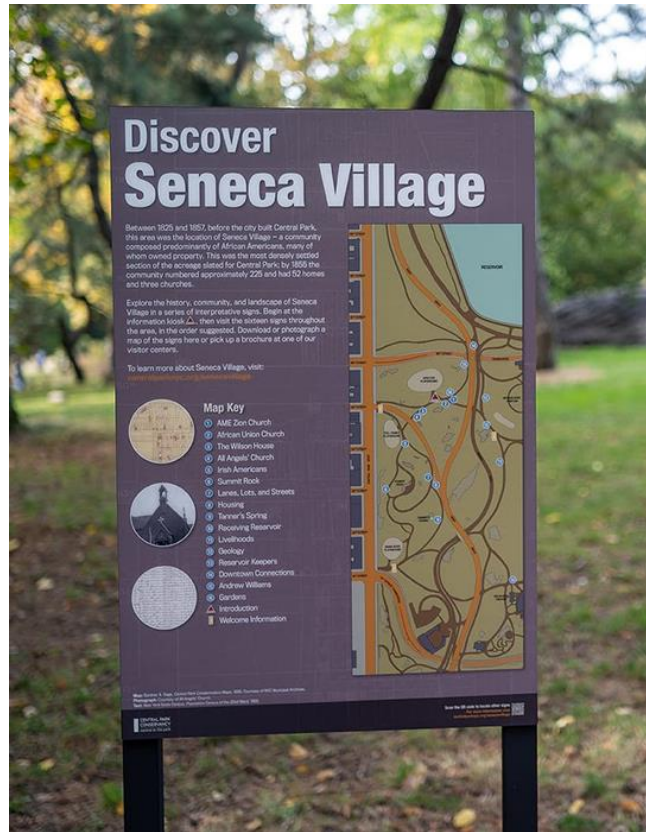
St. Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church was one of three churches built by Denton's African American community in Quakertown. The church was founded in 1906 through the combined efforts of the church's first pastor, Rev. F. Scroggins, and congregants Rev. and Mrs. David Griffen, and Rev. and Mrs. L.J. Johnson. A church home was built shortly thereafter in Quakertown between Oakland Street and Sanders Street. With the opening of the College of Industrial Arts, which was originally named the Texas Industrial Institute and College for the Education of White Girls, and was



the precursor to Texas Woman's University, a racially-motivated movement to remove the Quakertown community grew among some sections of the Denton population.



# Signage Imagery for Consideration





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# Signage Imagery for Consideration





# Garden Imagery for Consideration





# Garden Imagery for Consideration





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# Questions?

