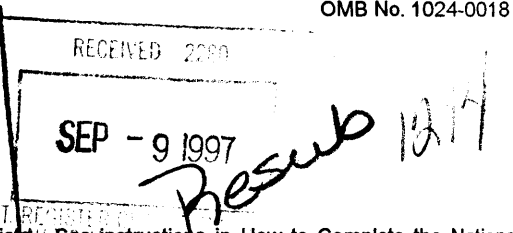
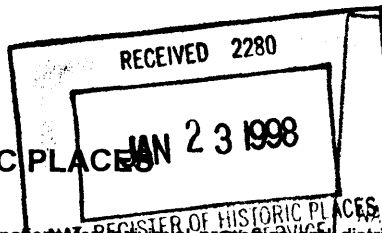


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for National Historic Landmarks or National Historic Districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Eatonville Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Various NA  not for publication

city or town Eatonville N/A  vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Orange code 095 zip code 32751

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
[Signature] 8/29/97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
[Signature] 2/3/98

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
51	26	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
51	26	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Family Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCIAL/Specialty Store \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGION/Church \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Family Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCIAL/Specialty Store \_\_\_\_\_

DOMESTIC/Single Family Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE/Wood Frame Vernacular \_\_\_\_\_

NO STYLE/Masonry Vernacular \_\_\_\_\_

Bungalow \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick Piers \_\_\_\_\_

walls Wood \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

roof Asphalt Shingles \_\_\_\_\_

other Wood Porches \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A, B, C, D, E, F, G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by survey.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black, COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL HISTORY, LITERATURE

Period of Significance

1882-1946

Significant Dates

1882

1887

1919

Significant Person

Hurston, Zora Neale

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other

Name of Repository

#

Eatonville Historic District  
Name of Property

Orange Co., FL  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 23 approximately

**UTM References**

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	4	6	2	2	0	0	3	1	6	5	9	2	0
Zone	Easting		Northing												
2	1	7	4	6	2	2	0	0	3	1	6	5	1	2	0

3	1	7	4	6	3	2	6	0	3	1	6	5	1	2	0
Zone	Easting		Northing												
4	1	7	4	6	3	2	6	0	3	1	6	5	9	2	0

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Alice M. Grant/Tina Bucuvalas, Historian (Folklorist)/Carl Shiver, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date May 1997

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section number 7 Page 1 **Eatonville Historic District  
Orange County, Florida  
Physical Description**

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**SUMMARY**

The Eatonville Historic District comprises approximately 23 acres of the town of Eatonville and contains 86 buildings of which 51 (approximately 66 percent) contribute to the historic character of the district and 26 are noncontributing. The district is mainly composed of wood frame residential buildings, but a number of commercial, religious, governmental, and social activity buildings are also found in the area. The contributing buildings were constructed between circa 1882 and circa 1946. The noncontributing buildings mainly date from the 1960s and later. The contributing buildings are mostly found in that area of Eatonville the was platted between 1882 and 1925. There are also a number of sites having the potential for archaeological study both inside and outside the boundaries of the historic district. These are not included as contributing historic resources but are described as they relate to the physical and cultural development of Eatonville during the historic period 1882-1946.

**SETTING**

Eatonville is an incorporated town of about 2,500 mainly African-American residents situated in the north-central section of Orange County, Florida (Attachment #1). The community lies about six miles from downtown Orlando and is bordered on the north and east by the city of Maitland and on the south by the city of Winter Park. West of the town limits is a rural section of Orange County. The western third of Eatonville is divided from the rest of the town by Interstate Highway 4. Eatonville is a mainly residential community, with a small number of commercial, religious, governmental, and educational buildings found mainly along Kennedy Boulevard, the town's main traffic artery.

Eatonville is an essentially black community located within a predominately white area of North Central Orange County. According to the 1990 census, approximately 98 percent of the town's residents are African-American, about 1 percent are white, and less than one percent have a Hispanic or other background. The majority of the residents work outside of Eatonville, in the nearby cities of Maitland, Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Winter Park, and Orlando. A substantial number of residents, however, both live and work in Eatonville. These include business professionals, civil servants, retail business owners, skilled workers, teachers, members of the clergy, and others. The present legal limits of the town comprises 416 acres. This includes the 112 acres of the original town plat, plus the 304 acres of the formerly separate property of the Robert Hungerford Normal and Industrial School which was annexed in 1919. That portion of the town lying west of Interstate Highway 4 was largely developed in the last two decades. The town is strategically located between two natural lakes: Lake Sybelia, which lies on the northern edge of the town site, and Lake Bell, which lies at the southeast corner and has always been in the town limits.

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**Physical Description**

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Eatonville's major thoroughfare is Kennedy Boulevard which runs east and west through the heart of the community (Photos 1, 2, and 3). This route connects the town with Maitland and with a rural part of Orange County. A secondary traffic artery is Wymore Road which borders Interstate Highway 4 on the east. Wymore Road links Eatonville with Winter Park to the south and Altamonte Springs on the north. There is no access to or from Interstate Highway 4 at Eatonville. Most of the town's small number of commercial buildings, major churches, and governmental and educational buildings lie on either side of that portion of Kennedy Boulevard running between East Avenue and Wymore Road. Lying immediately behind the buildings lining Kennedy Boulevard are the residential sections of Eatonville, containing mainly single family dwellings. The majority of these are one-story masonry vernacular buildings constructed after 1960. There are some multifamily residential complexes, mainly duplexes and other small units, scattered throughout the town. The only large multiple dwelling development is Oak Park Apartments on West Avenue, constructed in 1965.

What largely remains today of the historic town of Eatonville is bounded on the east by Taylor Avenue (Photo 4), on the south by Ruffel Street (Photo 5, intersection of West Avenue and Ruffel Street), on the west by Wymore Road (Photo 6) and Interstate Highway 4, and on the north by Fords Avenue (Photo 7) and Eaton Street (Photos 8 and 9). The topography of the land is mainly flat and, except along Kennedy Boulevard, the landscape is marked by small houses surrounded by large shade trees, palmettos, and a wide variety of ornamental plantings. There are also several small citrus groves associated with residential buildings and substantial areas of vacant property that are overgrown with wild vegetation. For the most part, the city plan is based on a regular grid of city blocks and streets oriented to the major compass points, but the blocks are not all uniform in size, and some of the streets traverse the grid for only a limited distance. Kennedy Boulevard, itself, runs in a slight "S" curve through the center of the community. All of the major streets in Eatonville are paved, and most have sidewalks.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION CONTEXT**

The following description of Eatonville as a whole from 1882 to the present provides a context in which to evaluate the integrity of the historic properties in the district.

**Historic Appearance of Eatonville**

The development of Eatonville occurred organically according to the layout of the various subdivisions that make up the community. The historic section of the town reflects minimal alteration to the subdivision plat lines that were established by 1925. Among the historic cultural elements that are

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still evident are the settlement patterns established by the founders, such as the early agricultural sites, and the sites of community institutions. The original town plat, filed at the Orange County courthouse on August 5, 1882, consisted of 112 acres, about 40 acres of which were soon after formally platted as three subdivisions (Attachment #2). These were Lewis Lawrence's Eatonville (1886), Clark's Addition (1886), and Holden Brothers' Addition (1893)—changed to Calhoun's Subdivision in 1925 (Attachments #3 and #4). The 1882 town plat contained just three blocks, only the northern two of which (2 and 3) are shown as subdivided into lots. The streets surrounding blocks 2 and 3, except for Apopka Road (Kennedy Boulevard), still bear their original names. The aptly named East and West streets for several years formed the east and west boundaries of the settled town.

Apopka Road, running east-west, bisected the town (Attachment #3). The road appears on the 1846 "Township Map of Government Lands" prior to any significant human settlement in the area. It began as a wagon trail no more than ten feet wide that by the 1860s had become the main road between Fort Maitland and Apopka. Historic photographs from the 1890s show it as a dirt road just wide enough for two vehicles to pass. The road margins were undefined except for large trees along both sides. It became a two lane paved road in 1928 and received its present name in 1964. Only one of the structures that originally stood along this main street of the town remains standing.

The first two subdivisions—Lewis Lawrence's Eatonville and Clark's Addition to Lake Maitland—were platted almost symmetrically north and south of Old Apopka Road. Lawrence's Subdivision contained 48 lots in two city blocks encompassing about 9 acres of land. Each lot measured approximately 50 feet by 150 feet. Clark's Addition contained 90 lots in 6 separate blocks containing approximately 11 acres of land. His lots measured 50 feet by 100 feet. Holden Brothers' Subdivision was also located on the south side of "Main Street" (Old Apopka Road). This new subdivision was partly a replat of Clark's Addition, adding six blocks to the south of town in that area today encompassed by East Avenue, Ruffel Street, West Avenue, and Lemon Street. Although not filed with the county clerk until 1893, the subdivision was surveyed in 1886. This new plat contained 90 lots in the six separate blocks, some of them as large as 50 feet by 200 feet. In 1925, the subdivision was replatted by Mary Calhoun and renamed Calhoun's Subdivision. Most of the large lots were subdivided into smaller parcels measuring 50 feet by 100 feet.

Homestead lots measuring 50 feet by 100 feet were advertised for as little as thirty-five dollars, and additional tracts were offered for as little as five and ten dollars an acre, depending on the location and improvements. Property could be purchased on the installment plan, and the early settlers of Eatonville often bought more than one lot in order to have enough land for subsistence vegetable

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gardens, citrus groves, and small farm animals. Some of these larger tracts persisted until the mid-1920s and 1930s when they were broken up for the residential use that dominates the community today.

Early dwellings were mainly one-story, wood frame houses of about 500 square feet with no more than two or three rooms. As the town matured, more substantial dwellings were erected by the more prominent and prosperous residents of Eatonville. A photograph taken in the early 1920s shows Mayor Samuel Mosley (served 1920-1922) standing on the front porch of his house, a well-built, two-story, wood frame dwelling (Attachment #9), typical of the sort of modest middle class homes constructed in many small communities in the U.S. around the turn of the century. Some land was also set aside in each of the subdivisions for non-residential uses: for churches, the city cemetery, the municipal government, and social organizations. During the early years of the settlement, stands of pine, palmettos, and other vegetation separated the settled subdivisions from lakes Sybelia and Bell, and dense thickets of wild vegetation were found on undeveloped lots in the town itself. A large portion of the land, especially in the northwestern section Eatonville, remained heavily wooded until about 1920. As the town's population increased in the first two decades of the twentieth century, homes were built on these parcels of land. The trees and other growth that once dominated the sparsely settled community provided shade from the scorching rays of sunshine in summer and protected home sites from flooding during the thunderstorms that frequently strike Central Florida during the warmer months of the year. The native trees and vegetation that originally covered the site of Eatonville have been thinned considerably over the town's more than a century of existence.

The residents of Eatonville used the water from lakes Sybelia and Bell for such domestic activities as cooking, bathing, doing laundry, and irrigating crops. The townspeople have traditionally used these waterways and their shorelines for leisure activities such as fishing, boating, and picnicking. When the Robert Hungerford Normal and Industrial School developed its farm in the 1890s, Lake Bell was surrounded by the school's agricultural fields and pastures. Two ditches or canals were dug connecting the lakes before 1918. One traversed the area between East and West Streets. The other lay on the western edge of the community, running along the line of present-day College Avenue. These channels carried surface storm water away from the central part of town. The ditches were filled in about 1928, but long-time residents claim to be able to locate their courses.

The town did not grow in land area after 1887 until 1919 when the municipality annexed the property of the Robert Hungerford Normal and Industrial School, an academic-vocational school for African-American children founded in 1889. Starting with one building and two teachers, the school proved successful in expanding its land holdings, physical plant, and student body. At its zenith in the first years of the twentieth century, pupils came from all over Florida and the southern states. The school



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and the town were mutually supportive. By the middle of the 1890s, several important institutional buildings were found along Apopka Road, as were the residences of some of the town's early settlers:

- St. Lawrence A.M.E. Church (circa 1882)
- Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (1895)
- Clarke's Store (pre-1890, housed Eatonville town hall and post office)
- Oddfellows Hall (pre-1890)
- Robert Hungerford Normal and Industrial School (1889)

Of the above resources, only the building used for a short time as a church by the congregation of the St. Lawrence African Methodist Episcopal Church survives (Photo 10). The congregation was founded in 1881 and first held worship services in a small building donated by Lewis H. Lawrence, a generous white northerner who spent his winters in nearby Maitland. To make way for a larger building which was erected on the same site, the first structure was moved circa 1900 to a lot across Apopka Road directly across from the present St. Lawrence A.M.E Church (Photo 11). The former sanctuary, which now stands at 550 Kennedy Boulevard, was used for many years as the town library. Today it is a residence. This building is one of only two in town surviving from the nineteenth century. The other is the Robert Mosley House, constructed circa 1888 (Photo 12), located directly behind the former church on Taylor Avenue. The present St. Lawrence A.M.E. Church was completed in 1974.

The founding of St. Lawrence A.M.E. Church was quickly followed by the establishment of the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Its members congregated in the same small building as the Methodists, for the two groups agreed to meet on alternate Sundays. In 1889, the Baptists purchased a house on Eaton Street in which to hold services. By 1895, the congregation had outgrown this facility and built a much larger church on the southwestern corner of Calhoun Avenue and Apopka Road. Several buildings have succeeded the original church. The present imposing structure located at the southeastern corner of Calhoun Avenue and Kennedy Boulevard was completed in 1994 (Photo 13). It is one of the largest buildings in Eatonville. Another significant early site in Eatonville was the Old City Cemetery, found north of Clark Street near the location of the old Baptist church. It was established about 1890 and remained active until 1931. Today it is covered by a residential subdivision.

The most prominent institution in Eatonville during the later years of the nineteenth century was the Robert Hungerford Normal and Industrial School, founded in 1889 (Attachment #5). By the turn of the century, it comprised ten buildings and 304 acres of land, much of which was cultivated farm land and pastures. It also featured a sawmill (Attachment #6), a dairy and workshops for the teaching of a wide variety of vocational skills. At its height it had twelve teachers and 132 students, many of whom resided

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on the campus. Photographs of the school taken in the early twentieth century show a group of large, well-built wood frame buildings that included dormitories for resident students, classrooms, and living quarters for the teachers (Attachment #10). By the 1920s, however, the institution began to suffer a shortage of financial backing. The buildings fell into disrepair, and student enrollment declined sharply.

In 1930, the city of Eatonville constructed a wood frame elementary school that stood on the property at the corner of West Avenue and Lime Street. It provided instruction for children in grades one through six until a new and larger facility was erected south of the Hungerford School in 1960. The building was demolished many years ago but it is immortalized by Zora Neale Hurston in her biographical novel, Dust Track on a Road as "the brown with white trim modern public school with its well kept yards and playgrounds...."

**Eatonville During the Zora Neale Hurston Era (1891[?]-1940)**

Zora Neale Hurston's life and literary work was most influenced by Eatonville as it was between 1900 and 1940. This was also the period when the town's heritage solidified and gained in importance. Most other black towns began a fatal decline in these decades, but Eatonville maintained itself and was insured a place in history. Hurston's childhood overlapped with the lives of the town pioneers and the stabilization of the physical community. Her family lived across the road from Joe Clarke's store, so she encountered a cross section of the town's citizens. Her exposure to southern black folklore and culture was immediate and full.

The town plan at that time was basically the same as it is today, but its physical characteristics were still very rural and the appearance of the community was in some ways quite different. Old Apopka Road was basically an unpaved country lane. Bare earthen footpaths (Attachment #11) meandered across established lot lines and street rights-of-way. Many of these streets were themselves little more than earthen footpaths in the early days. Pine and palmetto thickets stood between occupied properties, and much of the town was marked by small citrus groves (Photo 14), vegetable gardens and animal pens. These are images found in Hurston's books.

By the time Hurston began to consciously study black folklore and culture, Eatonville had entered another period of evolution. Hungerford School had reached its maximum size and dominated the town's land area. Many of the early pioneers had died and new leaders had emerged. Residents started to sell portions of their land to meet financial demands.

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**General Physical Appearance of Eatonville, 1945-Present**

Following World War II, national and regional economic conditions prompted most of the residents holding larger tracts of property to divide and sell their land. This allowed for the residential growth of the 1940s to the 1960s which saw a rapid increase in population. Following World War II, new subdivisions were developed in Eatonville. The first of these, Campusview (1950) and Catalina Park (1952), were built at the western extremity of town on land that had previously been part of the Hungerford School property. A third development was the Addie Johnson Subdivision, built on land north of Kennedy Boulevard between College Avenue and Wymore Road. These were followed by the Lake Lovely (1962) and Bel Air Homes subdivisions (1963) on the west side of town and Eaton Estates (1964) on the northeast. The creation of these new subdivisions was necessary to accommodate the hundreds of new residents that were moving to Florida's all-black town. By the mid-1960s, the population of Eatonville had increased to more than 2,000.

During the 1940s and 1950s, Eatonville began to lose its distinctive rural character and started to look more like the average small southern town. By 1930, Hungerford School was in financial difficulty, and the buildings were falling into disrepair. The school was temporarily rescued from oblivion by L.E. Hall who came to Hungerford as principal in 1931. Assisted by generous contributions by supporters of the institution, the older structures were renovated and a new building, Wright Hall, was erected. By the 1940s, enrollment had declined and the aging buildings were again falling into disrepair. In 1942, Cluett Hall (Attachment #7), a large multi-purpose building was destroyed by fire. Shortly after the war, Hungerford began the transition from a private to a public institution. In 1950, the trustees of the Hungerford School turned administration of the school over to the Orange County Public School System. When the school became part of the Orange County School District, a number of improvements were made to the physical plant. In 1951, six classrooms and a small administrative building were added. The new construction required the demolition of Calhoun Hall (Attachment #8). A year later a cafeteria was built and the old Home Economics Building removed. Other construction included a gymnasium, a music unit, and six more classrooms.

In 1965, a new elementary school was built on the southern end of the Hungerford school grounds. In 1967, the Orange County Public Schools Board changed the name and mission of the historic Hungerford School, which had been in existence for nearly eighty years. The Orange County School Board decided that school would no longer function as an academic-vocational school but as an alternative school providing vocational training and career education for non-college bound students. The name of the school was changed to the Wymore Career Education Center (Photo 15). By this time the last of the historic wood frame buildings had been removed or fallen victim to fire. Expansion of the

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Wymore Career Education Center has continued to the present day, the latest addition being the Robert Hungerford Memorial Auditorium in 1996.

Modern police and fire department buildings, clearly visible from Kennedy Boulevard, were erected on Peoples Street in 1971 (Photos 16 and 17). Buildings scattered along Kennedy Boulevard include grocery stores (Photo 18), the massive Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (Photo 13), a motel and restaurant, a gas station, barber shop, night club (Photo 19), beauty parlor, and other small business enterprises. Located on Kennedy Boulevard near the center of town, is the small but modern Eatonville Town Hall, behind which is the municipal waterworks, with its concrete reservoirs and tall metal water tower bearing the name of the town.

The Wymore Career Education Center (Photo 15) dominates the southwestern part of historic Eatonville, its 34 acre campus blending with that of the Hungerford Elementary School lying immediately to the south. Immediately west of these educational facilities is the corridor of U.S. Highway I-4, which soars above Kennedy Boulevard (also State Road 438 A) and defines the western boundary of historic Eatonville.

Over the last few decades, Eatonville has acquired a number of recreational and community service facilities. The Eatonville Day Nursery and Kindergarten at the corner of West and Lime Streets opened in 1962 to provide supervised care and primary education to the children of working parents. A community pool and tennis courts were constructed in the 1970s. Several mini-parks were developed next to residential areas. The Denton Johnson Community Center on Ruffel Street was constructed in 1984 to house a variety of cultural and recreational events.

**Modern Residential Buildings**

Single family housing remains dominant in Eatonville. According to the 1990 U.S. census, there were 1,001 housing units in Eatonville. Of these, 714 (71 percent) were single family dwellings, most of which were owned by the inhabitants. The majority of these are masonry vernacular residences, like the one at 225 Johnson Avenue (Photo 20), erected during the 1960s or later. They are generally one-story in height and are constructed of concrete block, which in many cases has been stuccoed. Another common type of finish to concrete block dwellings is "art brick," which is applied in a manner similar to stucco. In some cases the block construction is clearly visible and the exterior of the house has merely been painted. Brick and brick veneer construction is common in some of the more newly developed areas of Eatonville, and there is some continued use of wood frame construction. Most of the newer wood frame houses have vinyl or metal siding. Multiple family dwellings first made their appearance in

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Eatonville with the construction of the Oak Apartments in 1965. Since then, duplexes and apartment complexes of various sizes have appeared within the town's environs.

Federally subsidized housing for low income families was introduced into Eatonville in the early 1980s, bringing about the construction of new single family dwellings and apartment complexes. Federal funding also made possible the rehabilitation and modernization of older homes, the laying of sidewalks and the installation of sewer, water, and drainage facilities. The improving financial condition of many of the town's residents in recent years has allowed them to build or purchase new homes, so some of the residential sections Eatonville have the same modern suburban character that one finds in the nearby cities of Maitland and Winter Park.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Historic Residential Buildings**

Eatonville has approximately 60 residences that are 50 or more years old, most of which are located within the district boundaries. The majority of these are wood frame vernacular residences erected between 1920 and 1946. The houses are generally one story in height and have a small porch on the main facade. It is difficult to date most of the buildings exactly, since construction records are scarce. The city directories for Orlando and the other incorporated communities of Orange County do not give any listings for Eatonville until 1949, even though the town had been incorporated since 1887. There are also no Sanborn maps for Eatonville, and the building records maintained by the Orange County Property Appraiser are incomplete and not wholly reliable. The oldest house in Eatonville appears to be the Mosley House at 1 Taylor Street (Photo 12). Oral tradition reports that this frame vernacular residence was constructed in 1888. Samuel Mosley was mayor of Eatonville from 1920 to 1922. The oldest building in the district is probably the Old St. Lawrence A.M.E. Church (Photo 11) which was reportedly constructed in 1882. The building is now used as a private residence.

The housing in Eatonville was more typical of that found in small country towns, where most of the residents were shopkeepers or tradesmen. By the 1920s, the rural character of Eatonville was rapidly disappearing. The citrus groves, subsistence farms, and vegetable gardens gave way to the subdividing of the land into house lots. A few houses within the historic district boundaries stand amid or in close proximity to an orange grove, but little evidence remains of what Eatonville must have looked like in the late nineteenth century.

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**Physical Description**

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**Non-residential Historic Buildings**

Other than the Old St. Lawrence A.M.E. Church, there are only two non-residential buildings within the boundaries of the historic district that appears to be more than fifty years old. One is the two-story concrete block grocery store at 501 Kennedy Boulevard (Photo 18). Constructed around 1945, this masonry vernacular edifice occupies the site on which Joe Clarke's Store once stood. The other is a small, one-story, wood frame warehouse/workshop located at 124 Gabriel Avenue.

**Historical Archaeological Sites**

Many areas of Eatonville offer potential for the archaeological investigation of the historic development of Eatonville. These include the Hungerford School property, the old cemetery site, the vicinity of the shorelines of lakes Bell and Sybelia, and the site of the first Eatonville Elementary School. One site of particular local interest is that of the Hurston family home, located in the historic district at the southeastern corner of Kennedy Boulevard and West Avenue (Photo 37). The block on which the Hurston Home stood is vacant and might offer valuable information on everyday life in Eatonville.

**Historic District Boundaries**

The boundaries of the historic district meander from north to south through the original plat of Eatonville and those subdivisions established in the latter part of the nineteenth century, then run west through those areas of the town that were laid out in the first two decades of the twentieth century, finally terminating at Wymore Road. The choice of boundaries was made in part on the distribution of historic buildings and in part on the physical development of Eatonville between c. 1887 and c. 1935. During that period, most of the concentrated development of the town was confined to the original plat of Eatonville, which today comprises that area of the community bordered by East, West, Eaton, and Ruffel streets. About a dozen residences dating from the historic period of development are found outside the district boundaries. The majority of these lie south of Kennedy Boulevard and west of West Avenue, being bounded on the south by Ruffel Street and on the west by College Avenue. These older homes are surrounded by single family dwellings and apartment buildings of recent construction.

Although the city of Maitland actually lay about one mile east of Eatonville in 1887, its corporate boundaries lay on the east side of East Street. With the exception of the buildings found on the Hungerford School property, most of the construction of new buildings in Eatonville during the nineteenth century took place in those blocks that were formed out of the original plat. This limited pattern of development is made clear by the "Map of the Town of Eatonville Orange County Florida

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1920" produced by E.L. Fly & Associates in their 1990 "Historical & Architectural Archaeological Site Survey for the Town of Eatonville, Orange County, Florida" (Attachment #12). Virtually none of the property west of Calhoun Avenue had been developed by 1920, and those sections of the town where construction had taken place were poorly defined, with few streets having actually been laid out and footpaths being use by the town's residents to move from one part of the community to another.

No part of the residential area of Eatonville was densely built up prior to the 1960s. Eatonville's claim to have had between 200 and 300 residents in 1889 may have been an exaggeration. There were certainly no more than about that same number of residents as late as 1920. Although there have been significant losses of historic buildings in Eatonville through demolition, attrition, and redevelopment, the boundaries of the district reflect the kind of dispersed development that characterized the community during the historic period.

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**List of Resources**

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**Contributing Buildings**

Street Address

Construction Date

North Calhoun Avenue

24	c. 1928
30	c. 1927
37	c. 1928
112	c. 1935

Clark Street

251	c. 1946
337	c. 1935
339	c. 1935
416	c. 1945
494	c. 1945
498	c. 1945
526	c. 1935

Eaton Street

6	c. 1940
18	c. 1935
46	c. 1935
48	c. 1925
131	c. 1928
137	c. 1928
254	c. 1927
306	c. 1935
345	c. 1935
428	c. 1935



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**List of Resources**

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Fords Avenue

316 c. 1928

Gabriel Avenue

106 c. 1930

122 c. 1935

124 c. 1935

Johnson Avenue

200 c. 1939

Kennedy Boulevard

355 c. 1946

418 c. 1946

501 c. 1946

525 c. 1925

525 (Rear) c. 1925

550 (Old A.M.E. Church) c. 1882

Lemon Street

429 c. 1946

433 c. 1946

437 c. 1946

Peoples Avenue

139 c. 1935

155 c. 1935

192 c. 1946

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**List of Resources**

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Ruffel Street

509 c. 1935

Taylor Avenue

1 (Mosley House) c. 1888  
102 c. 1945  
112 c. 1945

North West Avenue

7 c. 1935

South West Avenue

125 c. 1926  
137 c. 1935  
147 c. 1945  
149 c. 1935  
155 c. 1935  
177 c. 1945

Wymore Road

111 c. 1945  
175 c. 1945

**Noncontributing Buildings**

Street Address

North Calhoun Street

110

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Clark Street

301  
307

Eaton Street

10  
12  
16  
141  
255  
318  
326

Fords Avenue

312

Gabriel Avenue

112

Kennedy Boulevard

426  
427  
512  
521  
523

Lemon Street

445

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Peoples Avenue

- 11 A
- 11B
- 103
- 148

South West Avenue

- 115
- 117
- 119
- 157

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Statement of Significance**

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**SUMMARY**

The Eatonville Historic District is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage (black) and Community Planning and Development, as the oldest black incorporated municipality in the United States. It is also significant under Criterion B, as the hometown and subject of study of Zora Neale Hurston, an internationally acclaimed African American anthropologist, folklorist, and novelist. The town was a primary focus of Hurston's ethnographic study of her racial heritage and strongly affected her ethnographic and literary writings. Eatonville was a continuing source of inspiration for her novels that gave her an important place among the 1930s Harlem Renaissance writers. Her works strongly influenced contemporary African American authors, among them Ralph Ellison, Alice Walker, and Toni Morrison. Since 1989, the Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities in Eatonville has celebrated Hurston and Eatonville as an internationally recognized expression of the aspirations and accomplishments of peoples of African origin.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

During the years immediately preceding and following the Civil War, many black settlements were organized and started all over the United States. Between 1865 and 1900 there were approximately 400 black enclaves, settlements, and towns. By 1920 that number had risen to more than 800. The majority of these entities were informally organized. Fewer than 150 ever became legally recognized and structured municipalities. Today there are fewer than 12 chartered black towns surviving in the United States.

The drive and aspiration to create municipal corporations founded and managed by African Americans newly freed from slavery can be traced to the consequences of the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862, and to the subsequent ratification of the thirteenth, fourteen, and fifteenth amendments in 1865, 1868, and 1870 respectively. The states that had comprised the defeated Confederacy resisted attempts to implement the new freedoms provided to former slaves, and several southern states passed "black codes," laws designed to limit drastically the rights of freedmen. The federal government responded with the Reconstruction Act of 1867, dividing the South into five military districts and allowing the states that had participated in the rebellion to be readmitted to the union only after they had ratified the Fourteenth Amendment. The suffrage of those who had supported the confederacy was drastically curtailed, and for a time, the South was under the control of a Republican Party made up of Negroes, local whites who had remained loyal to the union, and Northerners who had come south looking for business and political opportunities, or as missionaries or philanthropists seeking to improve the welfare of former slaves.

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Included in the effort to reconstruct the South was the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands established in the War Department by Act of Congress on March 3, 1865. The "Freedmen's Bureau," as it was commonly called, sought to encourage former slaves to settle on lands abandoned by their owners before their occupation by federal troops. This action, however, was opposed by President Andrew Johnson. The attention of freedmen turned to the still plentiful public lands in Florida included in the Southern Homestead Act, and Central Florida became the scene of feverish activity on the part of freedmen in search of homestead lands. The establishment of settlements or "colonies" of blacks proved difficult, in part because of a lack of funds and physical resources such as building materials, food supplies, tools, and determined leadership among the former slaves. Further adding to the difficulties of freedmen in realizing their goals was the dissolution of the Freedmen's Bureau on January 1, 1869.

Although the Reconstruction Era was not officially over until 1877 when President Rutherford B. Hayes withdrew the last federal occupation troops from the South, the military was no longer used to enforce federal election laws, and former confederates had their civil rights restored. Freedmen were disillusioned by the failure of the federal government to enforce the constitutional amendments giving them the rights of full citizenship, and most attempts to establish independent black townships were abandoned or failed after only a few years. The desire of African Americans to control their own destiny, in view of the fact that they remained unable to claim the rights of full American citizenship, remained unflagging, and the Florida frontier became the stage for at least one instance of success in the founding of the Town of Eatonville.

In the late 1870s, newly-freed slaves began to drift into Central Florida. They came from as far west as Mississippi and as far north as South Carolina, with Georgia and Alabama in between. Many of these freedmen settled around St. John's Hole (Lake Lily) in the heart of what was then called Fort Maitland, a community of winter homes established mainly by wealthy northerners on the northern shore of Lake Maitland. The freedmen and their families came in search of work and soon began to toil at clearing land, planting crops and citrus groves, and helping to build houses, hotels, and the railroad, which had been completed between Jacksonville and Fort Maitland in 1880. Eventually they built more permanent homes on land west of the town and established themselves as community leaders, landowners, and businessmen. They were instrumental, together with white northerners who had come south seeking economic opportunities, in bringing about the incorporation of the town of Lake Maitland in 1884.

Despite the apparently cordial relations between the white and black inhabitants of Lake Maitland, there was great interest among the black settlers in forming their own town. The prospects of

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establishing a black township in the vicinity of Lake Maitland did not at first appear promising. During the years between 1875 and 1877, an effort was made by African Americans Allen Ricket and Joseph E. Clarke to purchase land in Central Florida for the purpose of establishing a colony for colored people, but the white land owners were unable or unwilling to sell them any tract large enough for that purpose. In 1882, two white men, Josiah Eaton and Lewis Lawrence, who were among the founders of Lake Maitland, offered to sell blacks a large tract of land one mile west of Maitland.

The land offered was part of a 160 acre tract bought by Eaton on November 15, 1875 from William Stubblefield. From his holdings, Eaton sold 22 acres to Lewis Lawrence, a philanthropist from Utica, New York, on May 24, 1881. Lawrence had the north ten acres platted and donated the property to the trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, formerly known as the Lawrence Church of Maitland. The south 12 acres were deeded to Joseph E. Clarke on November 18, 1885. The property held by Clarke and the Lawrence Church of Maitland is thought to be the first property procured for the purpose of establishing a new black township in Florida. Eventually, more acreage from the tract of land owned by Joseph Eaton was acquired, so that at the time of incorporation the original city limits finally had grown to 112 acres. The additional land was bought by Joseph Clarke, who would be one of the first mayors of Eatonville. If it is true that every town should have a founding father, then Eatonville's should certainly be Joseph E. Clarke. Clarke (born 1859) and Allen Ricket, another signer of the Eatonville charter, had tried unsuccessfully immediately after the Civil War to establish a settlement for freedmen in other parts of Florida. The difficulty in obtaining land for Negroes was made dramatically clear in a notice that appeared on the front page of the January 22, 1889 edition of the city's weekly newspaper The Eatonville Speaker.

**Colored people of the United States: Solve the great  
race problem by securing a home in Eatonville, Florida,  
a Negro city governed by Negroes**

Eatonville, Orange County, Florida is situated six miles north of Orlando, the County seat of Orange County, two miles north of Winter Park.... During the years between 1875-1877 an effort was made by Allen Ricket, J.E. Clarke...to purchase land for the purpose of establishing a colony for colored people, but so great was the prejudice then existing against the Negro that no one would sell the land for such a purpose. In 1883, Lewis Lawrence, who came to Maitland in 1875 from Utica, New York, came to the rescue by purchasing the land on which is now the Town of Eatonville, named after a Mr. Eaton. Mr. Lawrence, who at once built them a church and several cottages, gave them a chance to pay for the same on easy payments. Tony Taylor and Allen Ricket were the first to

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take up residence in Eatonville. Six years have passed and today Eatonville is an incorporated city of between two and three hundred population with a Mayor, Board of Aldermen, and all the necessary adjuncts of a full-fledged city, and not a white family in the whole city!

There followed a description of the area surrounding Eatonville "where wildlife abounds" and a description of the climate where "the slightest frosts are almost unknown." The notice ended with the following information about the price of land:

Five and ten tracts can be bought for five and ten dollars an acres, according to location and improvements. In Eatonville, lots to actual settlers (colored): 44 X 100, can be bought for thirty-five dollars cash; and fifty on time.

Prospective buyers were urged to write for further particulars to J.E. Clarke, who at the time was mayor, postmaster, and owner of a general store (Attachment #9). Clarke and other early developers, made an active effort to encourage blacks in the area and from other parts of the state to settle in Eatonville, reaching potential settlers by advertisements in newspapers throughout the former slave states of the Old South and by word of mouth. The town had gotten off to a good beginning with the construction of the church that Lewis Lawrence had built on land that he had donated to the congregation. To honor their benefactor, the congregation named it the St. Lawrence African Methodist Episcopal Church. The cottages he erected on nearby lots provided some of the first residences for the new community.

In August 1887, 27 men met in the Oddfellows Hall, a building donated to the new community by Lewis Lawrence, and voted on the question of incorporating the Town of Eatonville in Orange County, Florida. All the men resided within the boundaries of the proposed town and had gathered in response to a legal notice advertised in the Maitland Courier. Their meeting was historically significant because all 27 men were Negroes, and the municipality they unanimously voted to incorporate is recognized today as the oldest incorporated all-black town in the United States. It was described as follows:

The original city limits include the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 35, and the "SW of the SW" of the NW 1/4, the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4, and the North 149 feet of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 26, Township 21 South, Range 29 East, all lying in Orange County, Florida, and consisting of approximately 112 acres.



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Such were the circumstances, as much as we have been able to determine, that led to the founding of Eatonville, Florida. The name for the new community was proposed by Lewis Lawrence in honor of Josiah Eaton. The City Charter (Appendix), recorded in Miscellaneous Book 7, Page 467, Records of Orange County, Florida, shows the following particulars about the town's establishment:

Date of Election Meeting: August 15, 1887  
Electors for "meets and bounds" and for mayor:

Joseph E. Clark [*sic*], Matthew B. Brazell, J.B. Brazell, David Yelder, Ishmael Williams, Anderson Lawson, F. Carraway, Columbus H. Boger, Willie Sewell, George Oats, W.T. Thomas, Clemmon Thomas, J.N. Watson, T.J. Pender, J.R. Johnson, Simon Bivin, Smart Byrun, A.J. Bird, Louis Brazell, C.L. Sizemore, Richard Weston, Richard Butler, E.L. Horn, Joseph Lindsay, Elecy Smith, Joseph Walker, J. Tony Taylor, E.J. Shines, John Suman. (There are 29 names, but the number of recorded votes is 27 for and none against.)

The officers elected were:	Mayor	Columbus H. Boger
	Clerk	J. R. Johnson
	Marshall	W.T. Thomas
	Tax Assessor	J.B. Brazell
	Tax Collector	J.N. Watson
	Treasurer	L.D. Brazell

Aldermen elected: J.E. Clark [*sic*], M.B. Brazell, David Yelder,  
E.L. Horn, E.J. Shines

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**Early Life in Eatonville**

Six years after its incorporation, Eatonville claimed to have between 200 and 300 residents, all of them black. Life in the new colony for the first twenty years or so followed no set pattern of settlement or employment for able-bodied men and women. Some men found year-round employment in the areas surrounding Eatonville as citrus workers, either picking or hauling fruit, or working in the packing houses. After the harvest, there was work cleaning, pruning, and fertilizing the citrus groves. Other men worked as yardmen, handymen, carpenters, and general construction laborers. Some worked on the railroad, laying rails or keeping the rail bed in good repair. Other men made a living in Eatonville, itself, as house builders, shoemakers, cobblers, storekeepers, and other enterprises. The women tilled vegetable gardens, worked in the groves, or hired out as cooks and maids for the white residents of nearby towns. Children were encouraged to go to school. With the founding of the Hungerford School, it was possible for them to get an education within their own community. The curriculum included both academic and vocational studies. The children also helped out with domestic chores.

The two early churches of Eatonville, St. Lawrence A.M.E. Church and Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, were the mainstays of the religious and communal life of the town. The deep religious feelings generated in the worship services, prayer meetings, and other activities seemed to permeate much of the life of early Eatonville. All citizens were encouraged to attend one of the churches and the children were expected to be pupils of one of the church Sunday schools. Most of the town officers, including the mayors, were active in either the Methodist or Baptist congregation.

**The Hungerford School Years**

One institution that helped insure the success of Eatonville was the Robert Hungerford Industrial School, founded just two years after incorporation of the town. Joseph Clarke and other community leaders appealed to Booker T. Washington at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama to assist Eatonville in the establishment of a school or academy for the education of black children in the community and elsewhere in Florida. In 1888, Washington sent Russell C. Calhoun and his wife, Mary, to set up the school. They both had attended Tuskegee Institute. Using Tuskegee as their model, the Calhouns began to forge a school that would eventually provide vocational and academic training for black students in central Florida. The basic goal of the school was to teach a vocational trade or skill to black boys and girls. In addition, a good work ethic, sound morals and human values, and proper social graces were fundamental to all of the educational programs.

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Initially, the campus was established on a 36 acre tract just outside the western town limits. Growth of the school proceeded slowly, but ten years after their arrival in Eatonville, the Calhouns had established a viable school. Russell Calhoun spent a considerable amount of his time soliciting funds and other kinds of assistance for the school. A noteworthy event assuring the continued growth and success of the school came in 1898 with the donation of 160 acres of land adjacent to Eatonville by Edward C. Hungerford, his wife Anna, and several of their relatives and friends. The Hungerfords were residents of Chester, Connecticut, who owned a winter home in Maitland. The campus and farm became the Robert Hungerford Industrial School, named for the Hungerfords' son, a medical doctor, who had died after contracting malaria while treating Negro children in Louisiana who had been afflicted with the disease.

Other benefactors made cash contributions that enabled the school to increase and improve its facilities. Among these was Booker T. Washington, founder of the Tuskegee Institute. In 1899, the foundation was laid for Booker T. Washington Hall (Attachment #10), a two-story multi-purpose building. Later, George B. Cleutt, a manufacturer from Troy, New York, gave \$8,000 toward the construction of other campus buildings, including dormitories for boys and girls. By 1900, the campus had grown to 340 acres and was a dominant physical and cultural presence in the area. It became known throughout the region as an excellent place of learning for Negro children. Administrative, classroom, and dormitory buildings were located on the northern half of the original site. Barns, workshops, animal pens, and garden plots were located on the southern half. The main approach to the campus was from Old Apopka Road (now Kennedy Boulevard). The school functioned as a self-sustaining unit.

All students were required to spend the school term in residence on campus, whether they were from Eatonville or not. In addition to their studies, the boys and girls in attendance tended crops, prepared their own meals, and learned a trade. Gardens were used for teaching and were also the main source of vegetables for students and staff. Poultry produced eggs and meat for the institution. By the early 1900s additional land was acquired by Hungerford and developed for agricultural production. Eventually the school had its own citrus grove on Old Apopka Road. A full-time gardener and at least two horticulturists were included on staff. Lake Hungerford, found at the southwest edge of the present boundaries of Eatonville, was created circa 1900 to supply water for the cultivation of vegetables and citrus. It remains a significant part of the town today.

When Hungerford School was incorporated into the Eatonville town limits, it covered 340 acres. This meant that the school and its farm made up approximately 62 percent of Eatonville. Difficult economic times in the late 1920s and 1930s forced the school to sell the farm land in a piecemeal fashion. The administrative and classroom core remained on the original tract. The current Wymore Career Education Center is located directly on this tract.

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**Zora Neale Hurston**

While much of Eatonville's significance lies in its relevance to its founding as an African American community founded by freedmen, another part rests on its association with Zora Neale Hurston, author and folklorist. There are conflicting accounts of her early life. The woman that was to become a distinguished novelist, folklorist, and anthropologist was born in either 1891 or 1900, depending on the biographical sources detailing the events of her life that one chooses. She was the next to the youngest of eight children and the daughter of a Baptist minister and mayor of Eatonville. Her family lived close to the center of town, where she encountered a wide cross section of Eatonville's citizens. Hurston's mother died when she was nine, and she left home at age fourteen to join a traveling dramatic troupe.

After leaving the troupe, Hurston studied at Howard University in Washington, D.C., then went on to Columbia University and Barnard College. She received an A.B. from Barnard in 1928—after working closely with the eminent anthropologist Franz Boas. From 1927 to 1932 Hurston conducted field research in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and the Bahamas. Her first fieldwork was undertaken in Eatonville and the surrounding area, since she knew the culture and had maintained strong family connections. Her best known folklore collection, Mules and Men (1935), included black music, games, oral lore, and religious practices largely based on her field research in the area. She later collected folklore in Jamaica, Haiti, Bermuda, and Honduras. Tell My Horse (1938) was a similar collection illustrating the folklore of Jamaica and Haiti.

Hurston became well-known among the authors and intellectuals of New York's "Harlem Renaissance" during the mid-1920 and 1930s. Her ethnographic work was conducted at a time when black culture was not a popular field of study, so it had an impact on many black writers of the time. However, she became famous primarily for her novels based on characters in social contexts drawn from her fieldwork and childhood experiences in Eatonville, Florida. She published four novels: Jonah's Gourd Vine (1934), Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937), Moses, Man of the Mountain (1939), and Seraph on the Sewanee (1948). Her prolific literary output also included short stories, plays journal articles, and an autobiography, Dust Tracks on a Road (1942). Hurston's novels were noteworthy for her portrayal of a strong black culture in the South. Hurston herself was also known for her flamboyant character, her faith in individual initiative, her love of the South, and her ability to live unimpeded by racism.

Hurston worked for the Works Progress Administration Federal Theater Project in New York (1935-1936) and the Federal Writers Program in Florida (1938). For the latter job, she again collected

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traditional culture in Central Florida. She taught briefly at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach (1934) and at North Carolina College in Durham (1939). Hurston received Rosenwald and Guggenheim Fellowships (1934, 1936-1937) and a Litt.D. from Morgan College (1939), and was a member of the American Folklore Society, American Anthropological Society, American Ethnological Society, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

In later life, Hurston worked for several years as a maid in Miami in order to support herself. Later she moved to Ft. Pierce, where she wrote and worked at various short-term jobs. She suffered a stroke in early 1959 and died in St. Lucie Welfare Home in Ft. Pierce on January 28, 1960. Although she died penniless and unrecognized by the contemporary literary community, her writings were rediscovered in the 1970s.

Certainly Hurston was a well-known native daughter of Eatonville during her time. Moreover, many residents remain alive who were acquainted with her, and many more know her work. Recent interviews conducted in Eatonville by Dr. Tina Bucavalas, Folklorist with the Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation, found that most of the older residents personally had known Hurston. For some this familiarity was limited, but others had known her family well. Among the younger residents, most had learned of Hurston through programs brought to Eatonville by the annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival. The festival was established in 1990 by the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc., a local non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Eatonville and the legacy of Zora Neale Hurston. Over the years, the festival has presented lectures, dramatic works, exhibitions, and poetry readings by influential scholars and cultural figures. Among the many important figures who have participated in the festival are author Toni Morrison, who received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1993, novelist Alice Walker, poet Maya Angelou, jazz musician Ramsey Lewis, and renown actors Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis. The Hurston festival has established Eatonville as a center of African American culture in Central Florida and is known to folklorists worldwide.

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Orange County, Florida**

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Orange County, Florida  
Geographical Data**

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Boundary Description

The official boundaries are those shown on the map titled "Eatonville Historic District, Orange County, Florida."

Boundary Justification

The district boundaries encompass the majority of those remaining resources, mainly residential buildings, representing the historic development of the town of Eatonville during the period from circa 1882 to circa 1946, while minimizing the inclusion of noncontributing buildings and structures.

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1 **Eatonville Historic District  
Orange County, Florida**  
**Photographs**

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

1. Kennedy Blvd., Eatonville Historic District
2. Eatonville, Orange County, Florida
3. Carl Shiver
4. September 1996
5. Bureau of Historic Properties
6. Looking East from College Avenue
7. Photo 1 of 40

**Items 2-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.**

1. Kennedy Blvd.
6. Looking West from West Avenue
7. Photo 2 of 40

1. Kennedy Blvd.
6. Looking West from College Avenue
7. Photo 3 of 40

1. 102, 112 Taylor Avenue
6. East (Main) Facade and South Elevations, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 4 of 40

1. West Avenue
6. Looking Northeast from Ruffel Street
7. Photo 5 of 40

1. 111-175 Wymore Road
6. North (Main) Facades, Looking East
7. Photo 6 of 40

1. 316 Fords Avenue
6. North (Main) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 7 of 40

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2 **Eatonville Historic District  
Orange County, Florida**  
**Photographs**

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1. 254 Eaton Street
6. South (Main) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 8 of 40
  
1. 345 Eaton Street
6. South (Main) Facade and West Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 9 of 40
  
1. Old St. Lawrence A.M.E. Church, 550 Kennedy Blvd.;
6. North (Main) Facade, Looking South
7. Photo 10 of 40
  
1. St. Lawrence A.M.E. Church, 549 Kennedy Blvd.
6. South (Main) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 11 of 40
  
1. Robert Mosley House, 1 Taylor Avenue
6. West (Main) Facade, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 12 of 40
  
1. Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, 412 Kennedy Blvd.
6. North (Main) Facade, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 13 of 40
  
1. Orange Grove
6. Intersection of Calhoun Avenue and Clark Street, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 14 of 40
  
1. Wymore Adult & Community Education Center, College Avenue
6. East (Main) Facade, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 15 of 40
  
1. Eatonville Fire Department, 11 A Taylor Avenue (NC)
6. West (Main) Facade, Looking East
7. Photo 16 of 40

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3 **Eatonville Historic District  
Orange County, Florida**

**Photographs**

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1. Eatonville Police Department, 11 B Taylor Avenue
6. West (Main) Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southeast (NC)
7. Photo 17 of 40

1. 501 Kennedy Blvd.
6. South (Main) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 18 of 40

1. 426 Kennedy Blvd. (NC)
6. North (Main) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 19 of 40

1. 225 Johnson Avenue (Typical NC, non-historic residence)
6. West (Main) Facade and South Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 20 of 40

1. 131 Eaton Street
6. South (Main) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 21 of 40

1. 137 Eaton Street
6. South (Main) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 22 of 40

1. 46 and 18 Eaton Street
6. North (Main) Facades and East Elevations, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 23 of 40

1. 6 Eaton Street
6. North (Main) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 24 of 40

1. 429, 433, 437 Lemon Street
6. South (Main) Facades and West Elevations, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 25 of 40

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 4 **Eatonville Historic District  
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**Photographs**

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1. 137, 147 South West Avenue
6. West (Main) Facades and North Elevations, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 26 of 40

1. 177 South West Avenue
6. West (Main) Facade, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 27 of 40

1. 155 Peoples Street
6. Main (West) Facade, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 28 of 40

1. 139 Peoples Street
6. West (Main) Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 29 of 40

1. 525 Kennedy Blvd.
6. South (Main) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 30 of 40

1. 7 North West Avenue
6. South (Main) Facade and West Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 31 of 40

1. 24 Calhoun Avenue
6. East (Main) Facade and North Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 32 of 40

1. 339 Clark Street
2. South (Main) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
3. Photo 33 of 40

1. 337 Clark Street
6. South (Main) Facade, Looking North.
7. Photo 34 of 40

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 5 **Eatonville Historic District  
Orange County, Florida**  
**Photographs**

---

1. 251 Clark Street
6. South (Main) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 35 of 40

1. 418 Kennedy Blvd.
6. North (Main) Facade and West Elevation, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 36 of 40

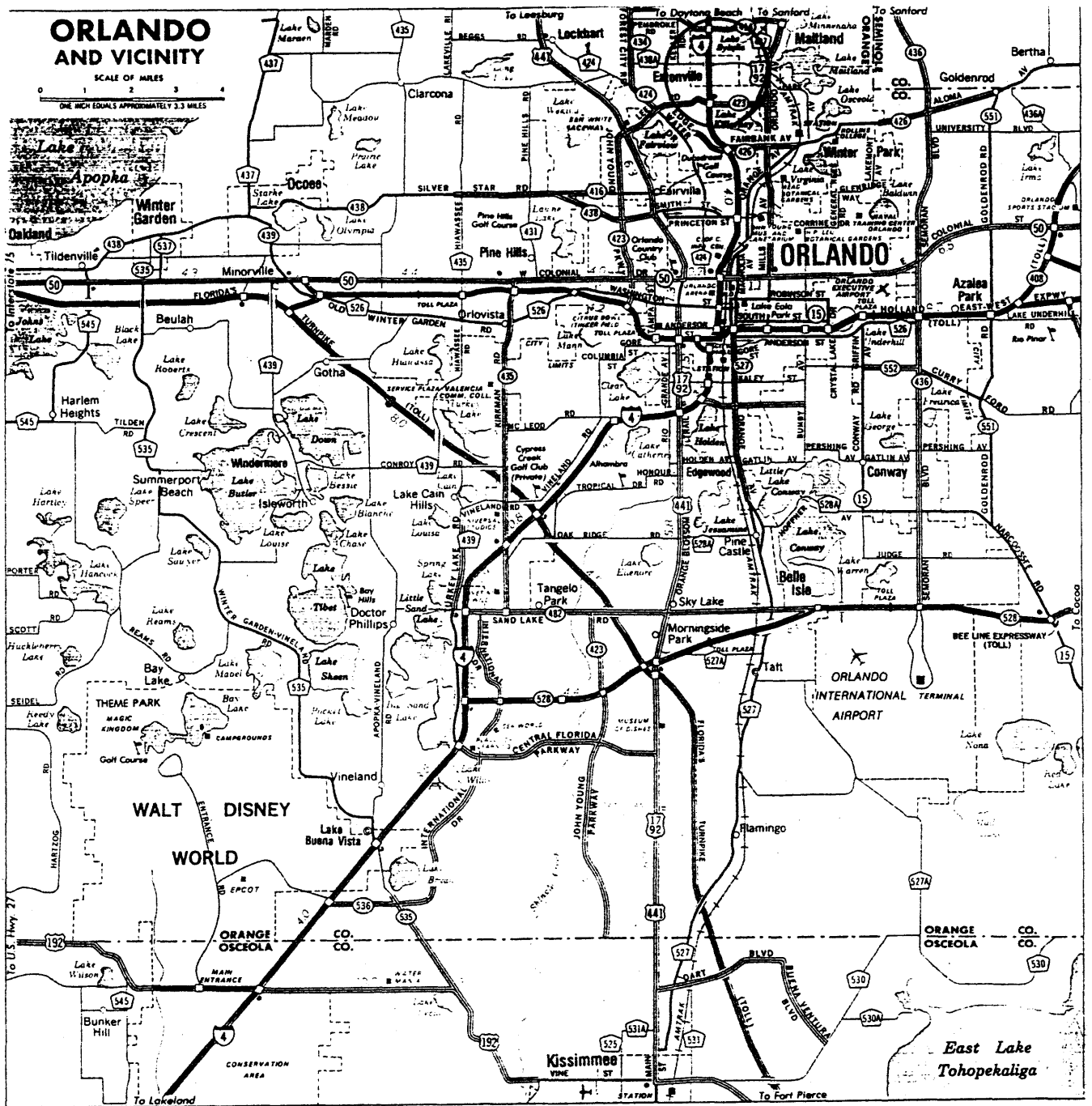
1. Vacant Block, Hurston Family House Site
6. Intersection of Kennedy Blvd. and North West Avenue, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 37 of 40

1. 526 Clark Street
6. North (Main) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 38 of 40

1. 494, 498 Clark Street
6. South (Main) Facades and East Elevations, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 39 of 40

1. 428 Eaton Street
6. North (Main) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 40 of 40





ABSTRACTS

TITLE INSURANCE

FIDELITY TITLE & GUARANTY CO.

60 NORTH COURT AVENUE

Section 36

Township 21 South

Range 29 East

Sec.  
36

MAP  
OF  
EATONVILLE

8-5-82

ORIGINAL 10 ACRE TRACT PLATTED FOR  
LEWIS LAWRENCE AUGUST 5, 1882

DEEDED FROM JOSIA C. EATON TO LEWIS C. LAWRENCE  
MAY 24, 1881

CLARK  
ADDITION TO  
LAKE MAITLAND

5-14-86

CLARK ADD'N TO TOWN OF LAKE MAITLAND FILED 5-14-

DEEDED FROM LEWIS H. AND ELIZABETH C. LAWRENCE TO  
JOSEPH E. CLARK NOV. 18, 1885

MARY C. CALHOUN  
1ST ADD  
SUBDIV.  
1883  
B.L. PERRY  
M.B. BLUNT

LAKE ST...

C. B. Haskell

ATTACHMENT #3

City of Deltonville

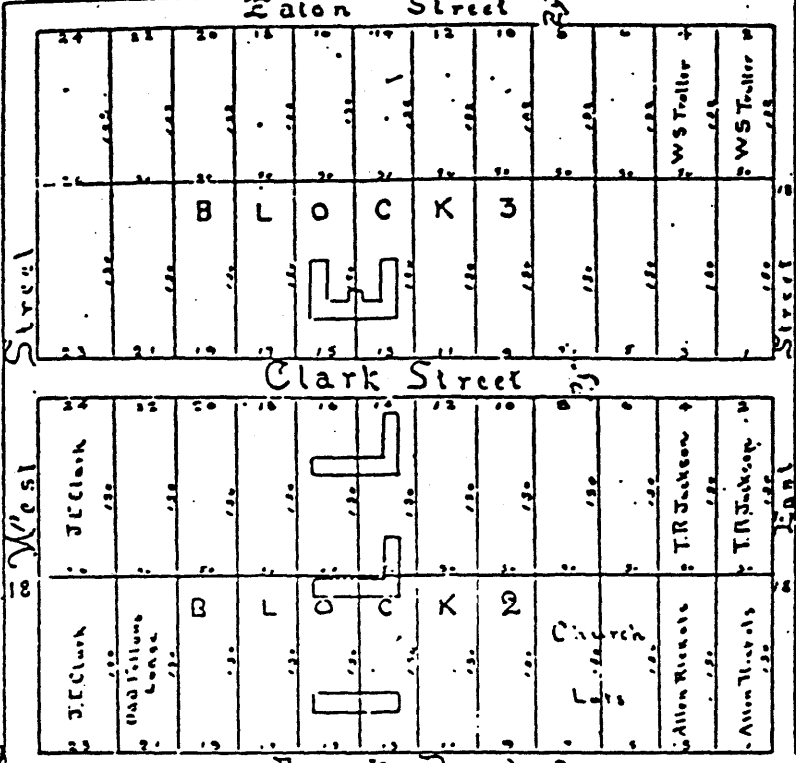
for

John Lawrence

Sec. 21 Township 21 Range 29 E

Town of Deltonville Orange County Ala

Scale 1 inch = 100 ft



Hawes Land

West Line Section 36 T 21 R 29 E

1/4 mile post U.S. SURVEY

Centre of Section 36 T 21 R 29 E

EATONVILLE

BLTKI

T. M. Wilcox

809 feet Block

Filed Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 1882

Recorded in B.M.

Chas. A. ...

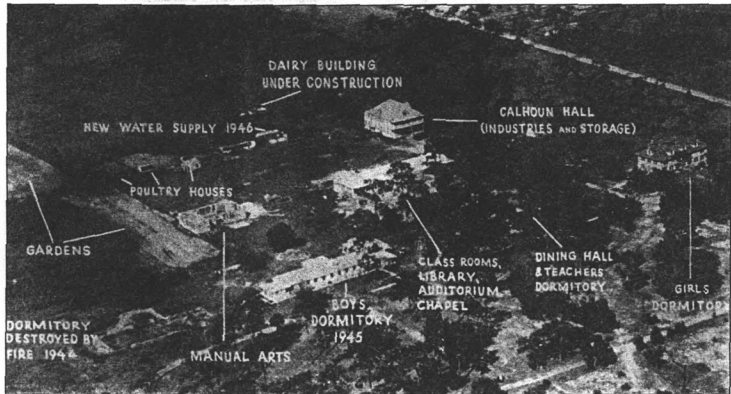


## UNDERSTANDING

### ATTACHMENT #5

studying the roots of African-American associational structures, political institutions and attitudes toward education and world view. The race colony is a historic social process that provides a window through which to observe the continuities of African-American culture.

Eatonville, among its many contributions to African-



Courtesy of Florida State Archives

*This aerial view of the Hungerford Campus gives some clue to the learning experiences available to the students.*

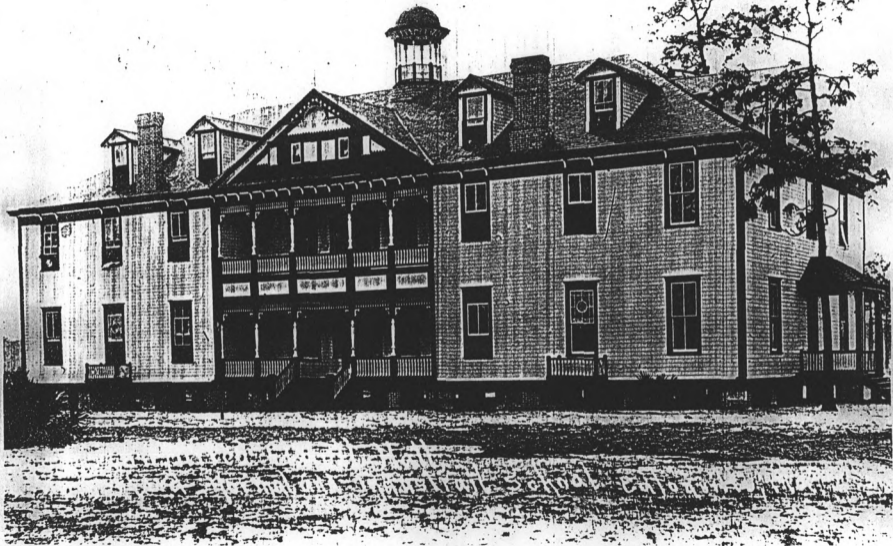
American cultural history, was a community founded in the tradition of the race colony. Therefore, a reconstruction of its early history offers a glimpse of this important aspect of African-American culture within the American cultural fabric.

African-American settlers first came to the northeast section of what is now called Orange County, Florida, because of the work opportunities in Maitland, a town being built by Northern whites, many of whom were Civil War veterans.

Coming from neighborhoods and enclaves in the surrounding counties and towns as well as from West Florida, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, these African-Americans provided the necessary work force to build a town where whites never had lived. In 1885 Joe Clarke, originally from Georgia, was the first African-American to acquire land.

Maitland's civic, political and religious leaders helped





## U N D E R S T A N D I N G

political rights of the school.

Though initially separate from the Eatonville community, Hungerford was eventually annexed into the town. By the time of the annexation, the school had grown to include 304



*This 1915 photo shows female students waiting to dine at Hungerford's Calhoun Hall.*

acres, which accounted for 62 percent of Eatonville's area.

Citizens of the Eatonville community have an established tradition of community involvement and pride. Early on, women joined together for social welfare purposes — sewing quilts and sharing baskets of vegetables and other items that were distributed to the community's needy. The Household of Ruth had an Eatonville chapter whose records show an active membership spanning the late 1800s to 1968. Over time, members included Eatonville's most well-thought-of and/or socially prestigious women — wives of mayors, preachers, store owners.

As the town grew and its needs changed, the citizens' civic involvement kept pace. By the late 1950s, for example, Eatonville recognized its need to organize a volunteer fire department. Mr. Mack Robinson, longtime businessman and owner of Mack's Garage, became the first fire chief. The



## DISCOVERY

and the quarrel killed a fast friendship between the two artists.

Even in 1954, Zora still was bitter on the subject of Langston Hughes. In a business letter to the *Saturday Evening Post*, a copy of which is in the possession of Marjorie Alder, she wrote of him:

"I thought him very innocent-like and full of simplicity and virtues. I was to discover later that his shy-looking mien covered a sly opportunism that was utterly revolting."

In words that underlined the unusual, sometimes contradictory, conservatism she often expressed in her later years, she added, "I found out about communists from him."

But all this was far distant as Zora completed her education and prepared to conquer "God's green dirt-ball."

If visions of *Kubla Khan* had unlatched the gate to her future road, her study of anthropology under renowned Dr. Franz Boas at Columbia University in the late 1920s threw the gate wide.

It was Boas, her "Papa Franz," as she playfully called him, who arranged a fellowship that enabled Zora, in February 1927, to go home from college to Florida, to Eatonville, to collect the folklore of her people.

Zora had begun to "jump at de sun." She



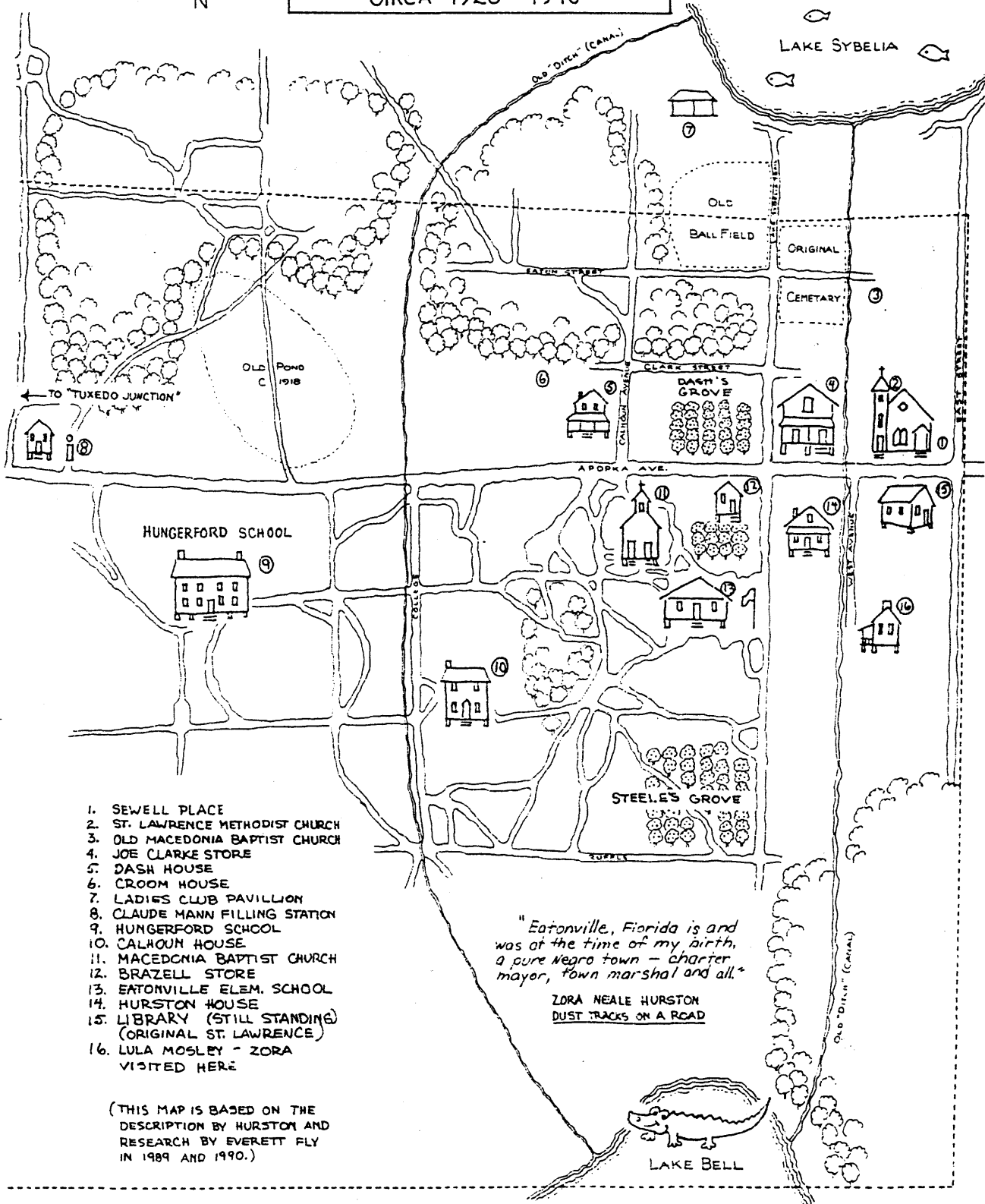
Joe Clarke's Store. The social center of Eatonville, men and women gathered here to swap stories and "tell lies".

Courtesy of Florida's Ministry



Booker T. Washington Hall,  
Robert Hungerford Normal and Industrial School,  
Eatonville, Fla.

EATONVILLE, FLORIDA  
CIRCA 1920 - 1940



1. SEWELL PLACE
2. ST. LAWRENCE METHODIST CHURCH
3. OLD MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
4. JOE CLARKE STORE
5. DASH HOUSE
6. CROOM HOUSE
7. LADIES CLUB PAVILLION
8. CLAUDE MANN FILLING STATION
9. HUNGERFORD SCHOOL
10. CALHOUN HOUSE
11. MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
12. BRAZELL STORE
13. EATONVILLE ELEM. SCHOOL
14. HURSTON HOUSE
15. LIBRARY (STILL STANDING)  
(ORIGINAL ST. LAWRENCE)
16. LULA MOSLEY - ZORA  
VISITED HERE

(THIS MAP IS BASED ON THE  
DESCRIPTION BY HURSTON AND  
RESEARCH BY EVERETT FLY  
IN 1989 AND 1990.)

"Eatonville, Florida is and  
was at the time of my birth,  
a pure Negro town - charter  
mayor, town marshal and all."

ZORA NEALE HURSTON  
DUST TRACKS ON A ROAD