

Mt. Gilead Baptist & Carter Temple C.M.E.

Two historically black churches in the *West End Addition*

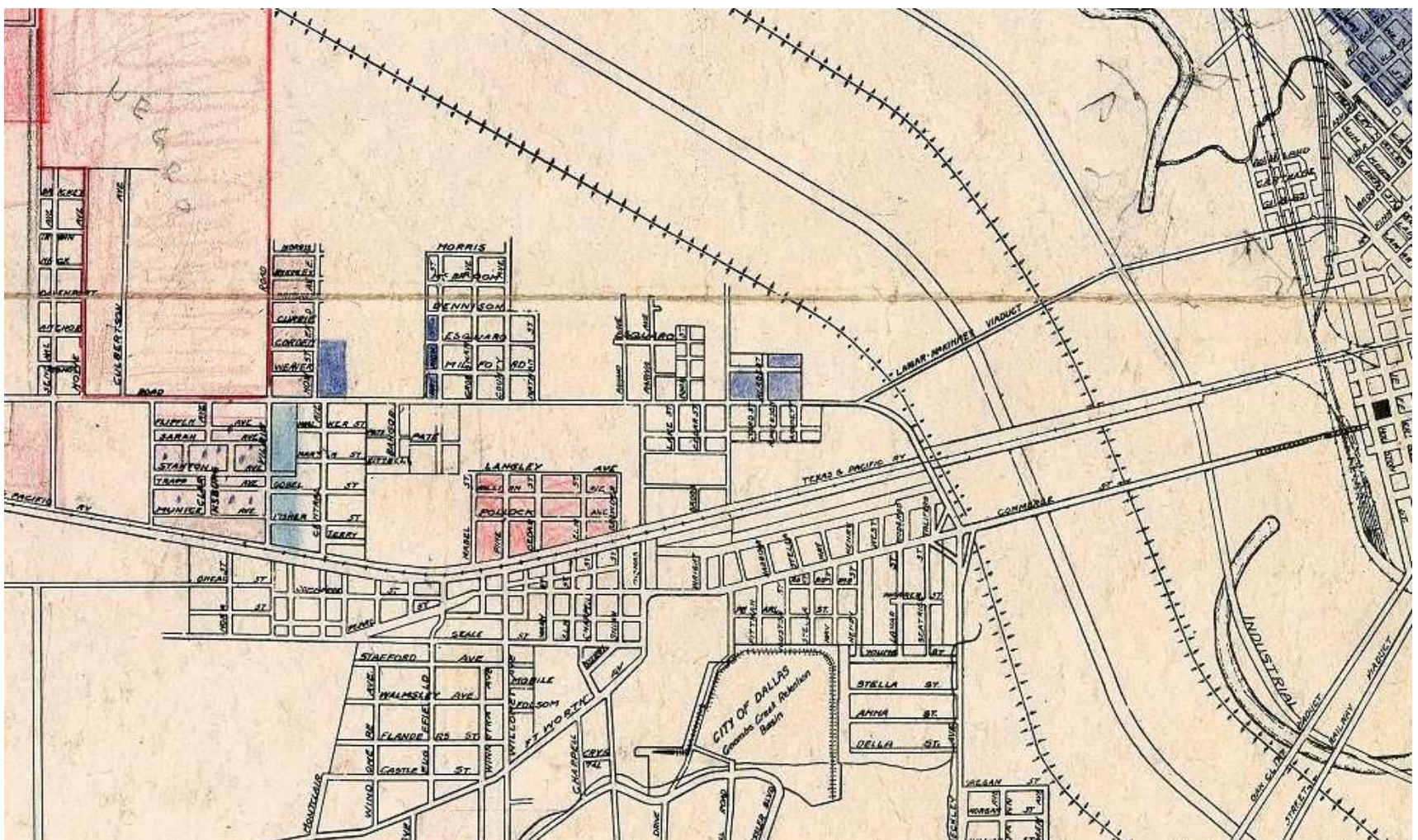
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27th April 2026 – last revised 1st May 2026

Within the relatively small area of Z.E. Coombes' "*West End Addition*" two separate congregations organized in the 1890s – *Mt. Gilead Baptist Church* and *Jackson Temple C.M.E. Church (Colored Methodist-Episcopal)*.

Cited as existing at least as early as 1894, the *Mt. Gilead Baptist Church* hosted the classes for the first black school in West Dallas, which evolved into the *Fred Douglass Elementary School*.¹ *Mt. Gilead Baptist Church* moved within *West End Addition*, from its original location just north of the Texas & Pacific Railroad tracks to a new building site on today's Bayonne, close to the school. Its name became *New Mt. Gilead Baptist Church*, often misspelled as "*Mt. Gilliam Baptist*".² The old site of *New Mt. Gilead Baptist Church* at 1051 Bayonne Street is now *Greater Mt. Pilgrim Church*. The *New Mt. Gilead* congregation later relocated to 1804 North Beckley. Around year 2020 the congregation moved south 14 miles into a new building at 2000 West Pleasant Run Road in the city of Lancaster, where it continues today.

Only a couple of blocks away, at almost the same time – 1895 – another congregation, perhaps led by Reverend James A. Jackson³, organized the *Jackson Memorial C.M.E. Church*, or *Jackson Temple C.M.E. Church*. Around year 1935 the congregation renamed itself *Carter Temple C.M.E. Church* (sometimes cited as *Carter's Temple Memorial Church*). For a century, the congregation remained at what-is-today 2503 Crossman Street, previously designated as 206 Maple, or 2505 Medina. (Numerous street name and street number changes have made tracing the history here difficult.) At some point in time this congregation started holding its services in south Dallas County churches. The C.M.E. denomination name changed to "*Christian Methodist-Episcopal*". In August of 2021 its long-owned site on Crossman was sold for new residential development. It appears that that there had been at least three church buildings for that congregation on that Crossman site.



Attributed to year **1945**: Detail from a city map showing segregated Dallas housing areas.

Unknown source (picked up circulating on Facebook circa 2000)

RED: Negro neighborhoods

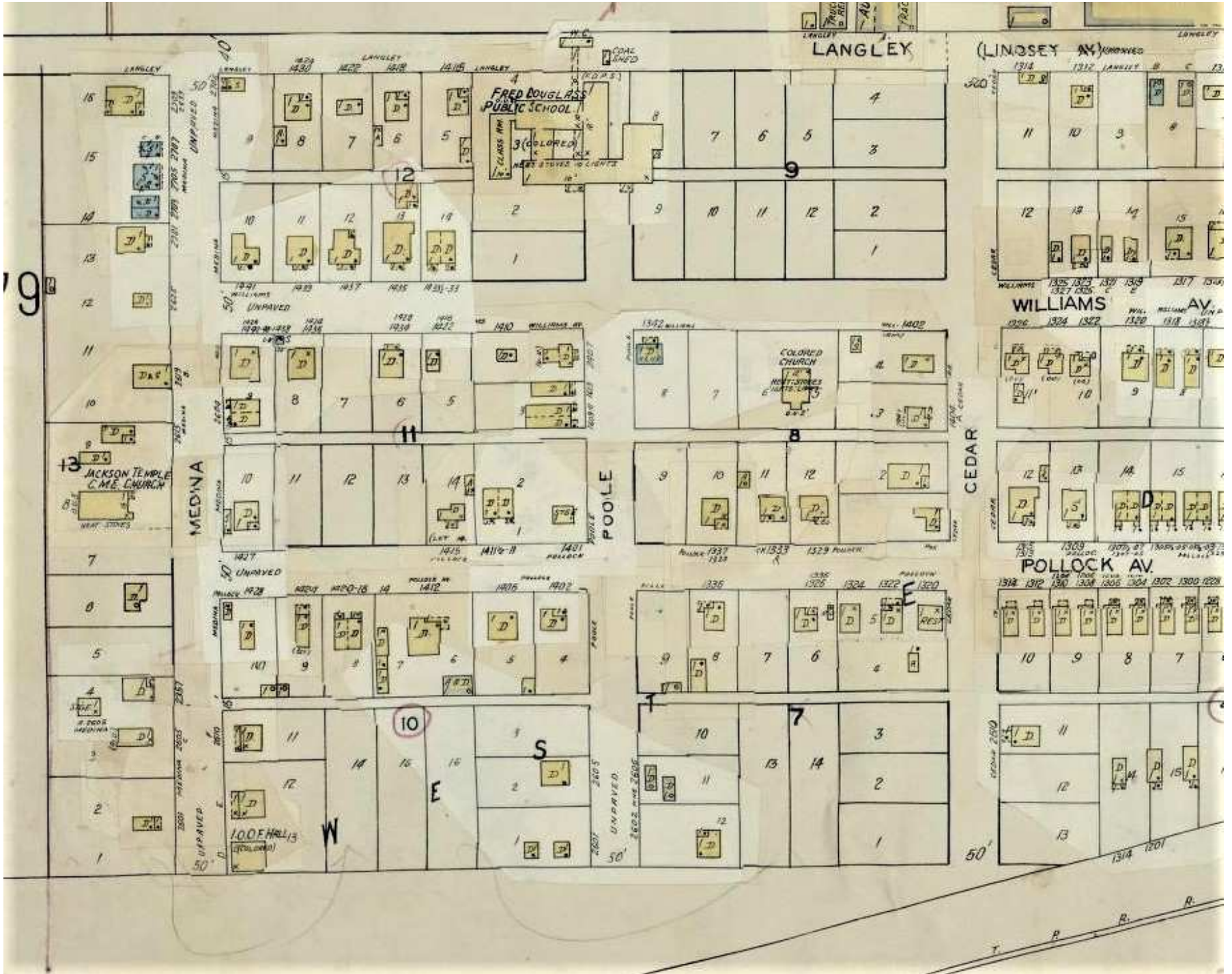
BLUE: Mexican neighborhoods

Shown above is a detail from a map showing housing segregation in Dallas around year 1945. *West End Addition* then was an all-Negro neighborhood, surrounded by a surprisingly mixed demographic of "Mexican" and "White" enclaves. Solidly Negro occupation of West Dallas was then west of Vilbig. I continue to believe that black settlement in the *College Park* addition, at the southwest corner of today's Vilbig and Singleton Road – from the unsuccessful 1887 attempt to established the *National Christian College* -- had been the first black neighborhood of West Dallas. Exactly when the *West End Addition* became a black neighborhood is uncertain.⁴



1922: Sanborn Insurance Map; Dallas, Texas, Volume 5, Sheet 580 (fragment from)

Mt. Gilead Baptist Church (incorrectly labeled "Mt. Gilliam") was at today's 2402 N. Winnetka: ~32.7743°N, 96.8401°W). Even in 1922, the subdivision was still sparsely filled-in. A school **West Dallas Public School (Colored)** started there by 1894, then later moved to its own building about 2 1/2 blocks north (32.7767°N, 96.8401°W). **Jackson Temple C.M.E. Church** stood at today's 2503 Crossman Avenue (~32.7752°N, 96.8414°W). *West End Addition* was still sparsely occupied in 1922. Street names have all changed: Pine (College) to Winnetka; Poe to Muncie; Williams to Bayonne; Lindsey to Duluth; Cedar to Conklin; Maple to Crossman.



1950: *Sanborn Insurance Map; Dallas, Texas, Volume 5, Sheet 580* (fragment from)

Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, has relocated to today's 1010 Bayonne (~32.7755°N, 96.8393°W) occupying a building now gone. By 1955 it is being called **New Mt. Gilead Baptist Church**. The **Jackson Temple C.M.E. Church** also has built a new building since 1922. Despite this map's label, by 1938 it had already changed its name to **Carter Temple C.M. E. Church**. The neighborhood school had been brought into the Dallas Independent School District, grown with a number of additions, and acquired the **Fred Douglass Elementary School** name. The neighborhood continues to fill with homes, though many lots remained vacant.

There was virtually nothing printed in the *Dallas Morning News* about either of these churches before the 1970s -- so little information that I have combined my findings into a single article.

Before the levees were built in the 1930s, both of these church sites would have been threatened by occasional Trinity River floods. Almost certainly both would have been damaged in the great 1908 flood which submerged the entire *West End Addition*.



Carter Temple C.M.E. Church (formerly Jackson Temple C.M.E) – c. 1935⁵ – at today's 2503 Crossman Avenue



Carter Temple C.M.E. Church (formerly Jackson Temple C.M.E) – c. 1940s⁶ – at today's 2503 Crossman Avenue

FOOTNOTES:

1. *African American Families and Settlements of Dallas: On the Inside Looking Out – Exhibition, Family Memoirs, Personality Profiles and Community Essays, Vol. II*; May, 1990; Black Dallas Remembered, Incorporated, Publisher; Dr. Marnie L. McKnight, Project Director; article on pages 51-53; "West Dallas Community" by Choloe Baker and W.B. Anderson; page 51-53.
2. The few researched Dallas City Directory listings:
 - Dallas City Directory 1918:**
 - Jackson Temple: south side of Eagle Ford Road (West Dallas)
 - (No Mt. Gilead Baptist, or other name for such a church is listed in this edition)
 - Dallas City Directory 1928:**
 - Jackson Temple M.E.: 206 Maple
 - Church of God: 3028 Williams
 - Dallas City Directory 1930:**
 - Jackson Temple M.E. Church: 206 Maple
 - Mt. Gilliam Baptist: 1328 Williams
 - Dallas City Directory 1936:**
 - Jackson Temple C.M.E. Church: 206 Maple (WD)
 - Mt. Gilliam Baptist: 1328 Williams
 - Dallas City Directory 1937:**
 - Jackson Temple C.M.E. Church: 206 Maple
 - Mt. Gilliam Baptist: 1328 Williams
 - Dallas City Directory 1938:**
 - Carter Memorial C.M.E.: 206 Maple
 - Mt. Gilliam Baptist: 1328 Williams
 - Dallas City Directory 1944-45:**
 - Carter Memorial C.M.E.: 2502 Medina (Carter's Temple Memorial Church)
 - Mt. Gilead Baptist: 1410 Williams
 - Dallas City Directory 1955:**
 - Carter Temple C.M.E.: 2503 Crossman
 - New Mt. Gilead Baptist: 1328 Williams
 - Mt. Gilead Baptist Church: 1010 Bayonne
 - Dallas City Directory 1961:**
 - Carter Temple C.M.E.: 2503 Crossman
 - New Mt. Gilead Baptist: 1010 Bayonne
3. 1900-June-6th; *Dallas Morning News*; page 10; *Ministers' Union of Dallas*
In this brief article Reverend James A. Jackson presides over a meeting of ministers of various Dallas County black churches, but more specifically "Rev. D.C. Crockett of West Dallas CM.E. Church" is cited, along with "Rev. R. W. Jackson". Though there are other citations of these three names, none tie them to West Dallas or the "Jackson Temple C.M.E. Church" in the West End Addition.
4. *Dallas County Deed Records*; Volume 95, pages 254-257; 1888-July-30th; signing of the plat map of "West End, An Addition to the City of Dallas by Z.E. Coombes, August 1888".
 - Deeds filed almost immediately thereafter sell large portions of West End to William. B. Gano (1854-1913).
 - Z.E. Coombes (1833-1895) was a son of William Nelson Coombes (1803-1867). He was a prominent figure in law, government, and the Masonic order. In 1866 Z.E. Coombes had been elected County Judge, head executive of Dallas County, but in November 1867 had been removed by the U.S. Army during its Reconstruction administration of Texas, one of many government officials all over the state dismissed on charges of neglecting the rights of blacks. Later Z.E. Coombes was elected as a State Representative and fate made him the head Mason presiding over laying of the cornerstone of the new Texas capitol building in 1885. This research has sadly found no evidence portraying any racial intent Z.E. Coombes might have had in establishing his West End Addition in 1888. The presence of the Mt. Gilead Baptist Church and Sadie Shields organizing the first black school in West Dallas sometime prior to 1894 gives the appearance that West End might have been a black enclave -- on "the other side of the tracks" from the W.R. Fisher Addition and Flanders Heights beyond -- from its very beginning. Alternatively, this West End Addition was platted at the height of the buying frenzy in the new Oak Cliff Addition. Oak Cliff investments were faltering by October 1891, and possibly West End Addition, facing similar investment problems, had then begun renting to blacks. It would not have been socially permissible or legally possible at that time for the neighborhood to be randomly mixed racially – segregation was the law. Evidence is lacking for certainty of the date of earliest black occupation of this West End Addition.
 - As an unrelated aside, the William B. Gano who started selling lots as West End Addition opened in 1888 turns out to be a grandfather of the famous aviator and eccentric multimillionaire, Howard Hughes (1905-1976).
5. This date for this photograph comes from the source cited as **Note 1** above.
This picture was taken from the *Facebook* webpage of: "Carter Temple CME Church", (April 2026).
6. Same as **Note 5** above.

(End of Footnotes)