



Alpha Omega Nims:

Alfred Omega Nims: I was born in Tallahassee, Florida at 445 West Tennessee Street on May 17, 1930, about two years before Tennessee Street was paved. My birthplace was located directly behind, north, of the original St. Mary Primitive Baptist Church on Call Street. It was about ten yards east of the present church. On the west side of Macomb Street., or opposite of Woodyard, was the Messiah temple, which is now located further north of Macomb Street. But at the time it was on the corner of Tennessee and Copeland, facing east.

By today's description, it was between what is now Bethel Restaurant and Popeye's on Tennessee Street. I could ride my bike from home to church. The church was a wood frame building, which I believe the current church is constructed the same way; same entrance, two doors side by side, a basement and a very large parking to the west side of the church - in between the parsonage and church. The pastor was Rev. Capus P. Allen and the Associate pastor was Rev. D.H. Crawford.

There were many black families in the area including: Mr. Samuel Coleman, who was the first Black US Postal carrier in Tallahassee. Mr. West Washington was also in the neighborhood and operated a wood yard from his business on the current Popeye's Fast-food site. In front of the wood yard was a Sundry and Watch Repair Shop owned by Mr. J.B. Lincoln, an African American. Due West, on the west side of Macomb Street headed north, was the Masonic Temple at the corner of Tennessee and Macomb. The lodge was up on the top floor and the bottom floor housed the offices of Atlanta Life Insurance, headquartered in Atlanta; Afro-American Life, headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida; and Central Life Insurance, headquartered in Tampa, Florida. The Temple later moved further North to Macomb at Georgia and Macomb Street, where it still stands today. It was and is a white masonry building. Next to the Temple was Curt

Hayes' Grocery Store, another African American owned and operated businesses. Macomb Street was two lanes at the time.

Other Frenchtown businesses that I recall growing up in the area were: At the corner of Tennessee going north toward Virginia Street was Johnson Furniture (white owned and operated), next was Odd fellows Hall that later became a Holiness Church, next was an auto body shop, then a vacant lot where cab drivers for Quick Service operated off of. Across Virginia Street was the KP Hall, then Capital Theater owned by Ms. (Margaret – “Maggie” Yellowhair), then Pete Nims' Home was there at Carolina and Macomb. When I came back from (from) the war, James Taylor was operating a filling station on that site. Of course, later Capital Theater was turned into a grocery store owned by Edwin Norwood and some other partners, mostly doctors. From Carolina up to Brevard there was nothing except Streamline Cleaners. On Brevard and around the corner toward Macomb was Goldsmith-a Clothing Store, Stafford Jewelry Clark Furniture, which later rented to the Leon County Schools for Lincoln Band practices. Of course Ashmore Drug Store, the building is still standing, was a Soda Shop. On the east side of Macomb starting at Brevard were Sullivan Grocery, Franklin Cleaners, Lee's Grocery and Variety, the Green Lantern, which later became the Chicken Shack. Houses were sitting behind the Chicken Shack and there were a few vacant lots, then the Cab Stand, Crump Barber Shop to which later added a package store, then Pete Nims' Pool Hall, Richardson's Club (Robert Richardson was the owner); his children were Robert Jr. (“Snook”), Ophelia and Bessie. Next was the Red Bird Café owned by Pap McKinney, then Spivey's Piglet Wiggly (white owned), then The Tampa Store Grocery, next Bennett Amoco Service Station, then Artistic Barber Shop (owned by the Clacks), then Ruth Adams Restaurant.