



T.J. ELDER COMMUNITY CENTER
316 HALL STREET
SANDERSVILLE, GEORGIA 31082

T.J. Elder High and Industrial School, built in 1927, is now part of T.J. Elder Primary School and called the Elder Community Center. The structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is an authentic "Rosenwald Plan School". Currently, it is a cultural center for religious and social activities.

Professor Thomas Jefferson Elder, educator and statesman, came to Sandersville January 1, 1887 to start an educational legacy that continues today. Sandersville High and Industrial School founded in 1888 was the first school for Black Americans in Washington County. The new school built in 1927 was renamed by the Sandersville City Council and Washington County Board of Education in 1933.

Professor Elder's account states: "A spacious brick building was erected, six rooms and auditorium, including stage and curtain. We bought scenes and curtains. The building is outstanding and thought to fill all needs for years to come, and behold it filled in one year".

Elderites, former students of T.J. Elder High School, gather every two years around July 4 to remember the dreams and philosophies of the man for whom two schools in Washington County are now named, T.J. Elder Primary School and T.J. Elder Middle School.

Elder Center
P.O. Box 6137
Sandersville, GA 31082