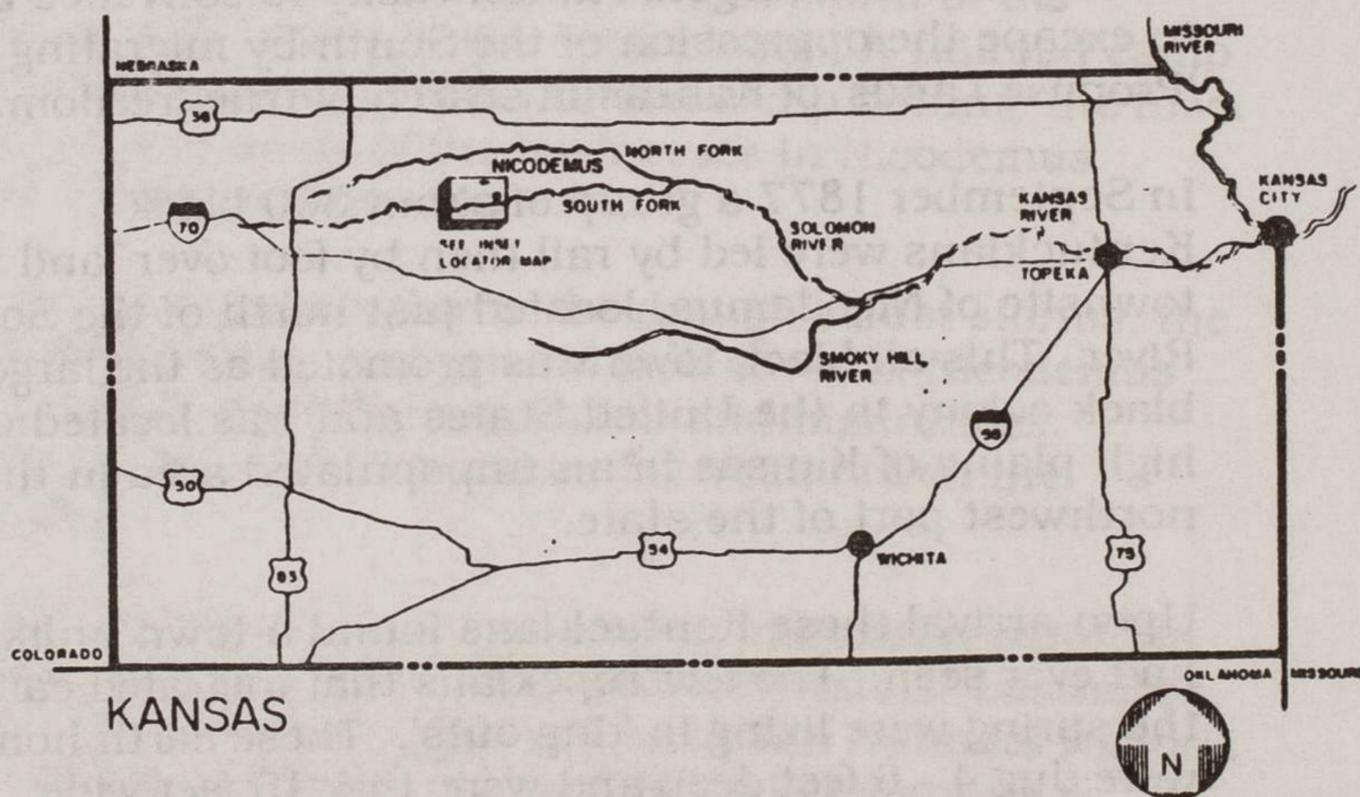


THE OLDEST EXISTING ALL AFRICAN
AMERICAN PIONEER TOWN

The Nicodemus Historical Society



Nicodemus, Kansas

An All African American Pioneer Town
National Historic Landmark (1976)

To Preserve the Photographic, Written,
Geneological, and Architectural History of
Nicodemus

THE OLDEST EXISTING ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER TOWN

NICODEMUS was established in 1877. W.R. Hill, a white man from Indiana and W.H. Smith a black pioneer, established a partnership that resulted in the organization of two towns, Nicodemus and Hill City. In the spring of 1877 Hill and Smith ventured to Topeka, Kansas where with four other black men, they organized the Nicodemus Town Company. Hill and Reverend Roundtree, one of the organizing members, traveled to Lexington and Georgetown, Kentucky to convince blacks to escape the oppression of the South by migrating to the 'Promise Lands' of Kansas in search of true freedom.

In September 1877 a group of about 300 black Kentuckians were led by rail then by foot over land to the townsite of Nicodemus, located just north of the Solomon River. This all black town was promoted as the largest black colony in the United States and was located on the high plains of Kansas in an unpopulated area in the northwest part of the state.

Upon arrival these Kentuckians found a town unlike they had ever seen. The few Topekians that migrated earlier in the spring were living in 'dug outs'. These earth homes were dug 4 - 6 feet deep and were 14 x 15 feet wide. Many, upon seeing this sight returned to Kentucky. Most of them had no choice but to stay and dig in for the winter.

During that first year the settlers all but starved. However, the Osage and Pottowottami Indians who were traversing through the area after their winter hunt, shared their game with the starving settlers of Nicodemus. In the following spring and fall other settlers came to Nicodemus.

As the town began to grow a business district was established with a bank, livery stables, several hotels, general and drug stores, real estate and law offices, and even a doctors office. The population reached around 700. Three schools were established to provide educational instruction to the many children in the

township. Religious training was as important as educational training. The four of the founding fathers of Nicodemus were ministers and several churches were established to accommodate the many weary souls of Nicodemus.

In 1887 when the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroad companies failed to extend their rails through Nicodemus, businesses and people began to leave. In 1888 the Union Pacific laid track just south of the Solomon River through the open plains. A railroad camp came into existence. This railroad camp became the town of Bogue and many of the businesses in Nicodemus transferred to this new town site.

In subsequent years due to the drought, dust storms, the Great Depression, and general lack of work, Nicodemus continued to lose its population and businesses. Currently there are fewer than 50 residents on the townsite.

In 1976 Nicodemus was elevated to national recognition when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Efforts are currently underway to obtain National Historic Site status for Nicodemus. If this national status is obtained, Nicodemus will become a National Park. Not only will the few remaining historical structures be restored and maintained, but the entire history interpreted through programs open to the general public.

The Nicodemus Historical Society was established as a non-profit corporation in 1989. Its purpose is to preserve the history of Nicodemus, Kansas. For more information contact us at (913) 674-3311.

Donations and your support are welcome!

township. Religious training was as important as educational training. The fact of the founding fathers of Nicodemus were ministers and several churches were established to accommodate the many weary souls of Nicodemus.

In 1887 when the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroad companies failed to extend their lines through Nicodemus, business and people began to leave. In 1888 the Union Pacific laid track just south of the town. A road through the open plains. A road camp came into existence. The railroad camp became the town of Bogue and many of the businesses in Nicodemus transferred to the new town site.

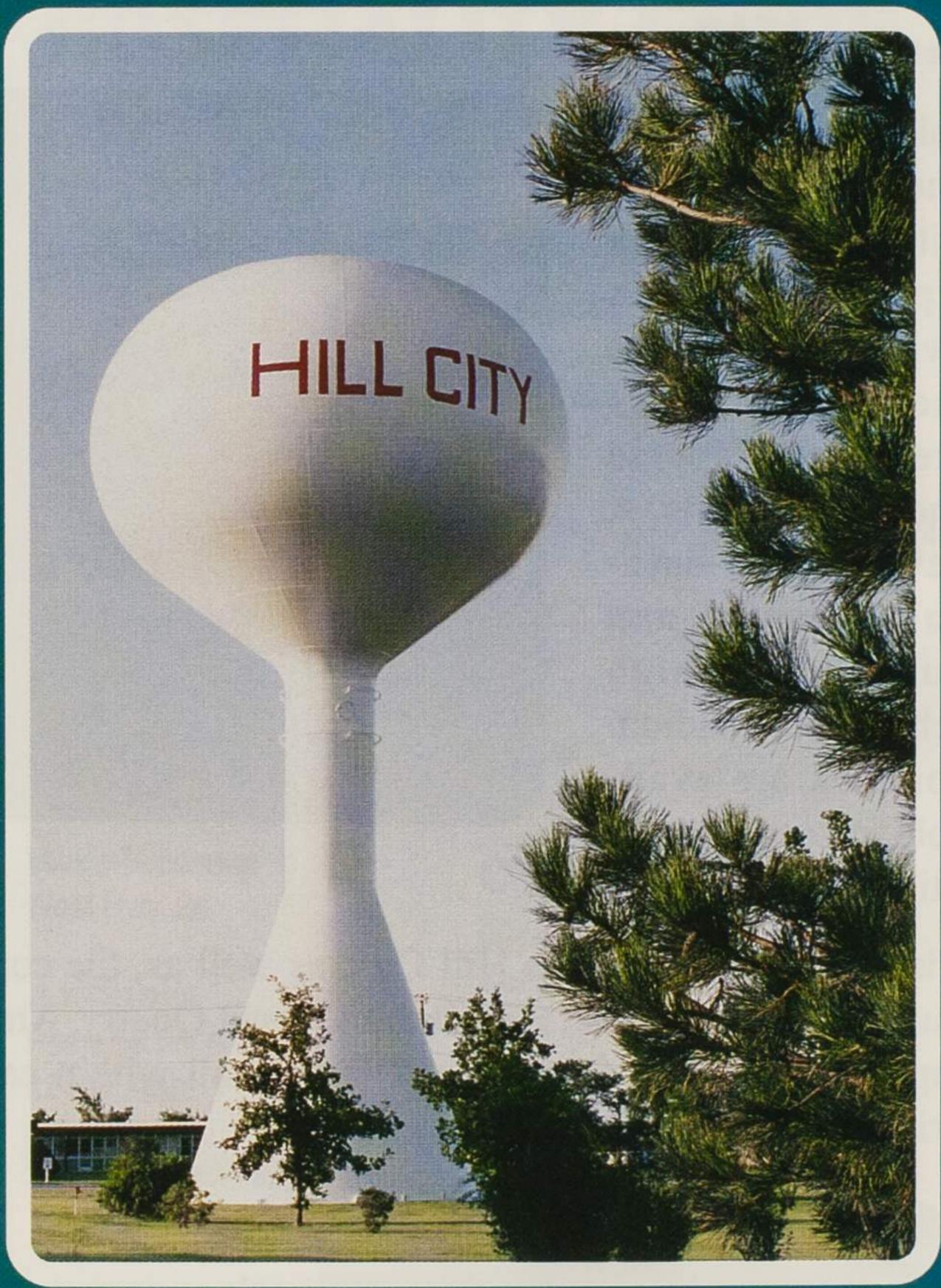
In subsequent years the town brought business to a halt. The general lack of work in Nicodemus continued. The town's population and business activity fell to a low level. In 1903 the town was abandoned.

In 1978 Nicodemus was elevated to national recognition when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Efforts are currently underway to obtain National Historic Site status for Nicodemus. If this status is achieved, the town will become a National Park. The town will be maintained in its original state as a historical site. The town will be maintained in its original state as a historical site.

The Nicodemus Historical Society was established as a non-profit corporation in 1989. Its purpose is to preserve the history of Nicodemus, Kansas. For more information contact us at (913) 674-3311.

The Nicodemus Historical Society
P.O. Box 139
Bogue, Kansas 67625
(913) 674-3311

HILL CITY KANSAS

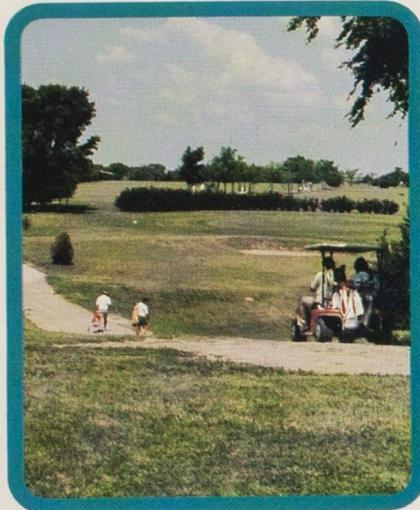


*A Great Place
To Come Home To*

HILL CITY, KANSAS

Located in central Graham County in Northwest Kansas, just north of the picturesque Solomon River Valley, Hill City offers a unique blend of shopping, dining, and great community living. Top-notch educational, commercial, medical and cultural facilities are available in this county seat community.

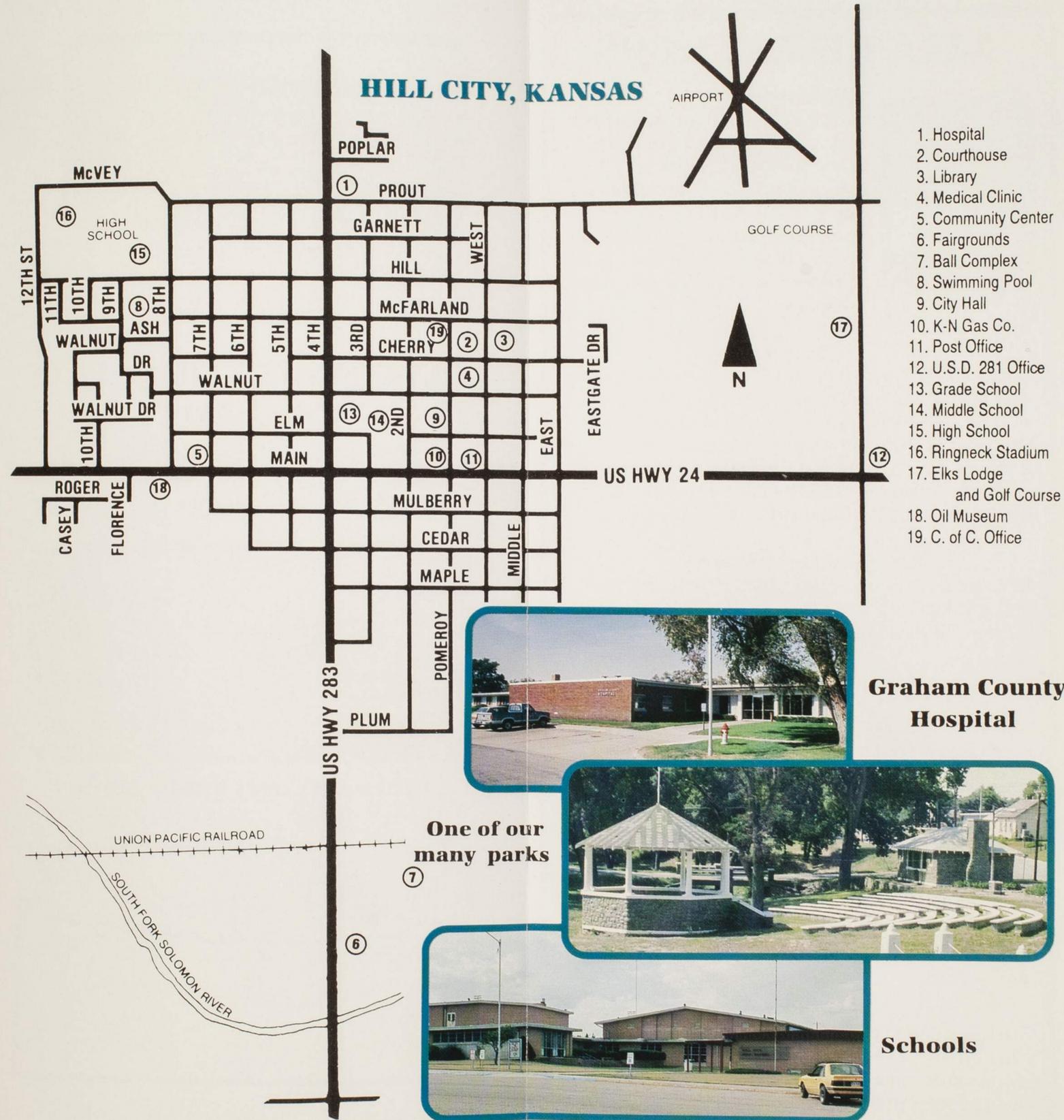
Take time to relax in one of several Hill City parks. Enjoy a dip in our modern swimming pool. Use the 9-hole grass greens golf course and tennis courts. A new softball-baseball complex and outstanding high school sport stadium complex are available for team competition.



Visit the Oil Museum in Hill City, as well as, the community of Nicodemus, the Minium Fossil Quarry, Antelope Lake and the Cottonwood Ranch, all within easy driving distance from Hill City.



We welcome you to worship in one of our 11 city churches. Good clean country living in an area wealthy in agricultural and mineral resources.



1. Hospital
2. Courthouse
3. Library
4. Medical Clinic
5. Community Center
6. Fairgrounds
7. Ball Complex
8. Swimming Pool
9. City Hall
10. K-N Gas Co.
11. Post Office
12. U.S.D. 281 Office
13. Grade School
14. Middle School
15. High School
16. Ringneck Stadium
17. Elks Lodge and Golf Course
18. Oil Museum
19. C. of C. Office



Graham County Hospital



One of our many parks



Schools



HOSPITALITY GUIDE

Where to Stay

Western Hills Motel
West Hwy. 24
913-674-2141

Pomeroy Inn
Bed and Breakfast
224 W. Main
913-674-2098

Commercial Outfitting and Guide Service

Jayhawk Outfitting
East Highway 24

Mike's Taxidermy
West Hwy. 24

Antiques

Pomeroy Inn Antiques
224 W. Main

Stone House Antiques
115 S. 2nd

Gun Exchange
104 E. Main

Evelyn's Antiques & Collectibles
216 N. 7th

Where to Eat

Rowdy's
415 W. Main
Pizza Hut
W. Highway 24

Walden's Family Restaurant
118 West Main
Donut Shop
W. Highway 24

Elks Club
East Hwy. 24
Western Hills Restaurant
West Highway 24

Shack II
601 W. Main

Burger N Bun
W. Highway 24

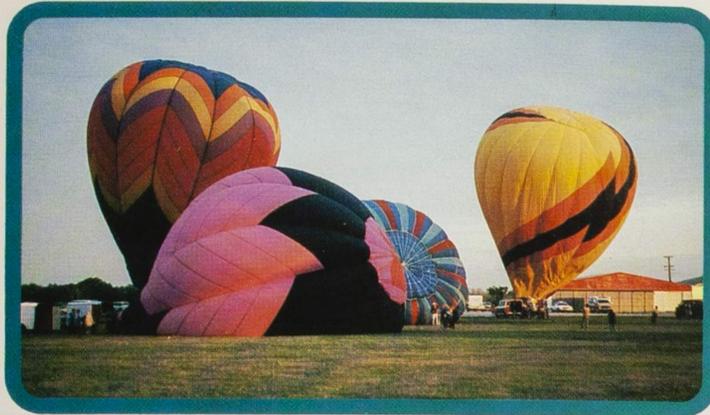
Convenience Stores

Cameron's Corner
Hwys 24 & 283

East Side Country Store
East Highway 24



Comfortable lodging available in traditional accommodations as well as a bed and breakfast.



ANNUAL EVENTS

Solomon River Valley Hot Air Balloon Festival

Alumni & Memorial Day Weekend:

A breathtaking sight of Hot Air Balloons can be seen at dawn and dusk.



Graham County Fair and Rodeo

Last Weekend in July

PRCA-WPRA Rodeo, Carnival, Parade and Sidewalk Sale.

Graham County Fairgrounds

Gun, Coin, and Antique Show

First Weekend in April

Graham County Fairgrounds

ESA Arts and Crafts Fair

Saturday before Thanksgiving

AREA ATTRACTIONS



Oil Museum

Located beneath an oil derrick on west Highway 24 in Hill City, the Oil Museum tells the story of oil from formations deep in the earth to its recovery, processing and use. Many pieces of equipment used in the process over the years are on display.

Nicodemus

Located 14 miles east of Hill City, Nicodemus is the only remaining all African-American pioneer town west of the Mississippi. It was established in 1877 by ex-slaves from Kentucky and Tennessee. In 1976 it was designated as a National Historical Landmark and is currently under consideration for inclusion in the National Park system.

Minium Fossil Quarry

15 miles northwest of Hill City you will find the Minium Fossil Quarry, the site of internationally recognized geological finds.

Cottonwood Ranch

A renovated, early-day ranch of the Pratt Family who settled there in the 1880's from England. The ranch is just west of Studley, a community 15 miles west of Hill City, and is a National Historic Site.

Antelope Lake

Small scenic lake northwest of Morland, offers a great spot for picnics and fishing.



An abundance of quail, ducks, dove, pheasants, turkey, and deer provide sport for the hunter; numerous area lakes provide exciting fishing as well as the opportunity for boating, skiing, and other sports.



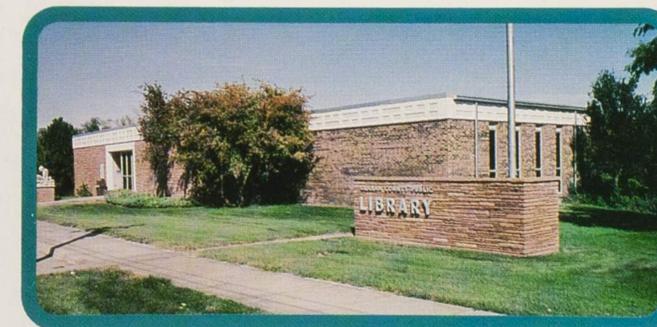
A touch of the Old West lives in a private Buffalo herd pastured just east of Hill City.

HILL CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

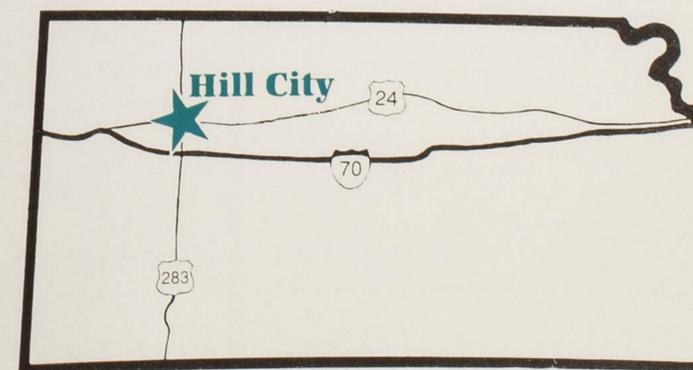
913-674-5621

P.O. Box 155

Hill City, KS 67642

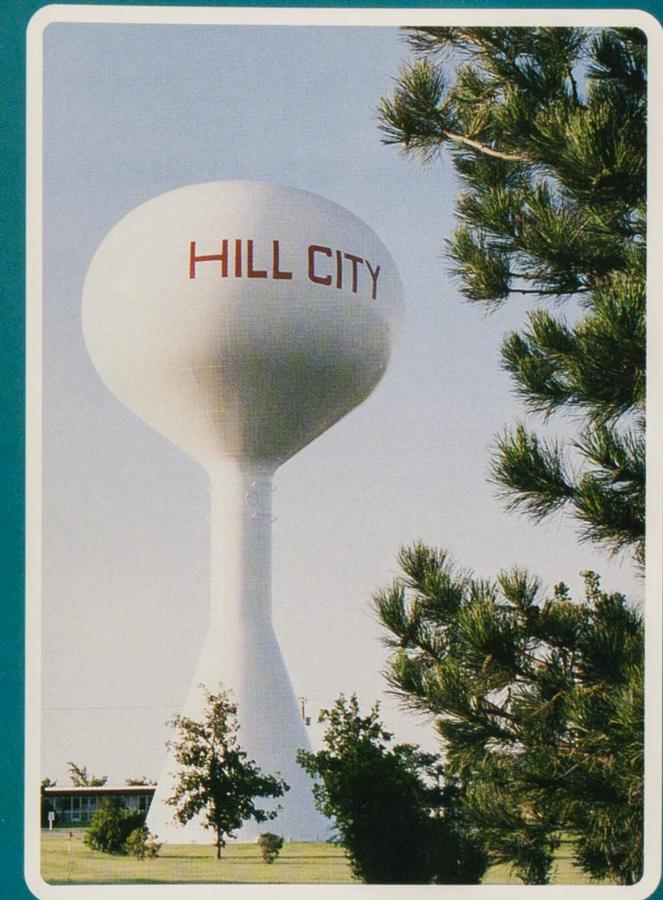


Graham County Public Library



Hill City is located at the intersection of U.S. Highways 24 and 283 and is just 23 miles north of I-70.

HILL CITY KANSAS



*A Great Place
To Come Home To*

BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS

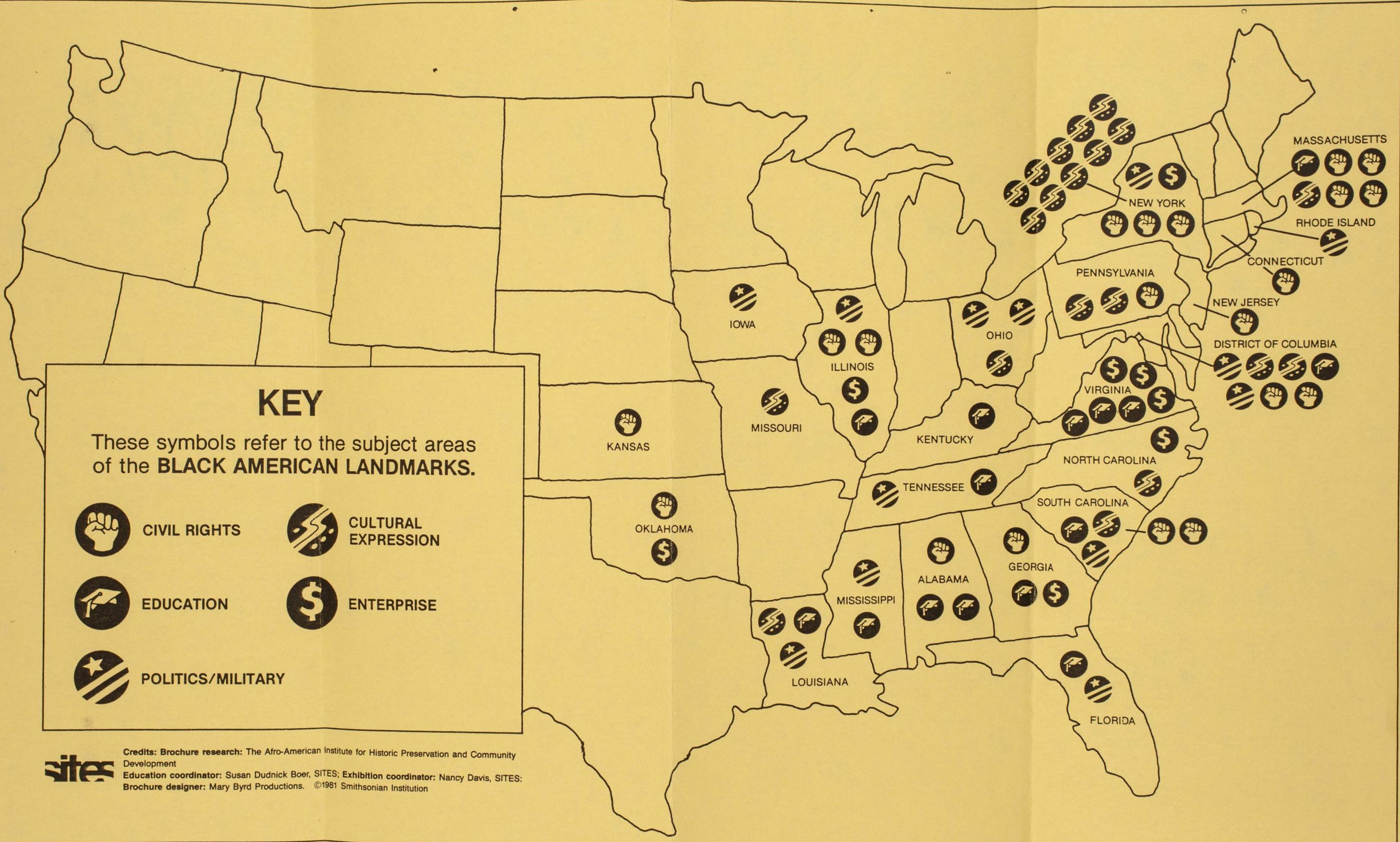
Eighty-eight sites that commemorate the achievements of black Americans have been designated as National Historic Landmarks by the U.S. Department of the Interior. This guide, developed to accompany the exhibition, **BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS**, introduces these sites. Seventy-six locations are pinpointed on the map and listed by state. Refer to the guide when planning a trip and use it to supplement your knowledge of black American history. Most of the structures are still standing; addresses are provided in the state listings on the back.

Several sites are, however, no longer in existence and are simply marked by a stone or sign post; others are in danger of being torn down. Still other buildings or areas associated with important black Americans, especially in the western states, have not as yet been officially documented. It is urgent to identify these locations and act to protect them before they are destroyed. By preserving our historical landmarks, we can learn from, take pride in, and be motivated by the achievements of our forebears.

For more information on Black American history, and on historic landmarks in your area, contact the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Washington, D.C.), your state or local historical societies, museums, libraries, colleges and Chambers of Commerce. *The Directory of Afro-American Resources*, edited by Walter Shatz and published in 1976 by R.R. Bowker, N.Y., lists the research and learning centers of black American history.

Initiated by the Afro-American Institute for Historic Preservation and Community Development **BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS** was developed by the National Architectural and Engineering Record, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The exhibition was organized and is circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). SITES is a program activity of the Smithsonian Institution that organizes and circulates exhibitions on art, history, and science to institutions in the United States and abroad.

Brochure Cover Photo: Virgil J. White, Jr., A.I.H.P.C.D.



KEY

These symbols refer to the subject areas of the **BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS.**

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|---------------------|
|  | CIVIL RIGHTS |  | CULTURAL EXPRESSION |
|  | EDUCATION |  | ENTERPRISE |
|  | POLITICS/MILITARY | | |



Credits: Brochure research: The Afro-American Institute for Historic Preservation and Community Development
 Education coordinator: Susan Dudnick Boer, SITES; Exhibition coordinator: Nancy Davis, SITES;
 Brochure designer: Mary Byrd Productions. ©1981 Smithsonian Institution

ALABAMA

-  **Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, 1878**
454 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery
The church from which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., pastor from 1954 to 1959, organized the black boycott of segregated city buses in 1955.
-  **Tuskegee Institute, 1881**
Tuskegee, Macon County
A fitting memorial to the great black educator, Booker T. Washington. Tuskegee Institute is perhaps the best known black university in the United States.
-  **Swayne Hall, Talladega College, 1857**
Talladega County
The oldest campus building, constructed by slave labor before the liberal arts college was established.

CONNECTICUT

-  **First Church of Christ, 1771**
Farmington, Hartford County
This building served as the center of worship and community life of the *Amistad* captives, a group of slaves who revolted en route to the United States and, after a trial here, was eventually freed. Their case established the legal precedent that under specific circumstances, Africans had the rights of kidnapped free men.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

-  **Blanche K. Bruce House, 1865**
909 M Street, N.W.
Home of the first black American to serve a full term in the U.S. Senate (1875 - 1881), representing the state of Mississippi.
-  **Mary Ann Shadd Cary House, 1821**
1421 W Street, N.W.
The first black newspaperwoman in America. Shadd was also an educator, lawyer, abolitionist and, during the Civil War, recruiting officer for the Union Army. She lived here between 1881 and 1886.
-  **Charlotte Forten Grimké House, c. 1880**
1698 R Street, N.W.
Born of wealthy, free black parents, Grimké, a writer, poet, educator, and activist was among the first group of northerners involved in educating slaves in the occupied Union territories of the South.
-  **General Oliver Otis Howard House, 1867**
607 Howard Place, N.E.
Howard University
Residence of the Union General and the only one of the four original Howard University buildings still standing.
-  **St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1876**
15th and Church Streets, N.W.
Church founded in 1876 by Alexander Crummel, a black scholar and spokesman for black liberation. St. Luke's is a testimony to Crummel's belief that the church should play a role in education and social change.
-  **Mary Church Terrell House, 1907**
326 T Street, N.W.
Residence of the civil rights leader and first president of the National Association of Colored Women.
-  **Cartier G. Woodson House, 20th century**
1538 Ninth Street, N.W.
Founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and the *Journal of Negro History*. Woodson helped to educate the nation about the contributions that Afro-Americans made in its development and progress. Woodson lived here from 1915 until his death in 1950.

FLORIDA

-  **Nancy McLeod Bethune Home, c. 1920**
Bethune-Cookman College
Daytona Beach
Home of the black activist and educator on the campus of Bethune-Cookman College, founded by Bethune in 1904.
-  **British Fort, 1814**
Six miles southwest of Sumatra, Franklin County
Site at which runaway slaves lived alongside Seminole Indians. Its destruction in 1816 precipitated the first Seminole War.

GEORGIA

-  **Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District, Atlanta**
The district includes his birthplace, gravesite, and the church where King served as assistant pastor.
-  **Stone Hall, Atlanta University, 1882**
Atlanta
This hall is most closely associated with the history of the university, founded in 1866 by the American Missionary Association to offer black Americans a quality academic education.
-  **Sweet Auburn Historic District, Auburn Avenue, Atlanta**
Auburn Avenue was once called "the richest Negro street in the world." The district typified the rapid growth of black enterprise in the wake of post-Civil War segregation.

ILLINOIS

-  **Robert S. Abbott House, 1916**
4742 Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago
Home (from 1926 to 1940) of the founder and editor of the *Chicago Defender*, a newspaper which encouraged southern blacks to migrate northward, especially during the first half of the 20th century.
-  **Oscar Stanton De Priest House, 1920s**
4536-4538 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Chicago
Residence of the first black American elected to the House of Representatives from a northern state (1935).
-  **Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable Homestead, Pioneer Court, Chicago**
401 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago
This site, home of the black fur trader and his family, is recognized as the first settlement of Chicago.
-  **Ida B. Wells-Barnett House, c. 1889 - 1890**
3624 South Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago
Home of the 1890s civil rights advocate, crusader of the rights of black women and founder of the *Memphis Free Speech* newspaper.
-  **Daniel Hale Williams House, 1905**
445 East 42nd Street
Chicago
Home of one of America's first black surgeons, responsible for establishing quality medical facilities for blacks at the end of the 19th century.

IOWA

-  **Fort Des Moines Provisional Army Officer Training School, 1917**
Des Moines
The first black officers' training camp, used in 1917. Black units led by men trained here served in the Ninety-Second Division in France.

KANSAS

-  **Nicodemus Historic District, 1877**
Nicodemus, Graham County
The only remaining town of the black "Exoduster" movement. This brought blacks out of the south to the midwest in the hope of finding a better life.

KENTUCKY

-  **Lincoln Hall, Berea College, 1887**
Berea, Madison County
Founded in 1855, Berea was the first college established in the United States for the specific purpose of educating blacks and whites together.

LOUISIANA

-  **The African House, Yucca Plantation, 18th and 19th centuries**
La. 119, 0.1 mile east of intersection with La. 493
Melrose, Natchitoches Parish
Established by a former slave who became a successful business-woman, the plantation includes probably the oldest buildings of African design built by blacks for blacks in the U.S.

-  **James H. Dilard Home, 19th century**
571 Audubon Street
New Orleans
Home of the black educator who helped strengthen vocational and teacher-training programs in the 19th century.
-  **Port Hudson, 1860s**
Port Hudson
East Feliciana Parish
A Confederate stronghold and the scene of a Civil War assault by two Union regiments composed of free blacks and ex-slaves from Louisiana.

MASSACHUSETTS

-  **African Meeting House, 1805**
8 Smith Court
Boston
This brick meeting house and community center was used as the first black church in Boston and is the oldest existing black church in the U.S.
-  **Maria Baldwin House, 196 Prospect Street, Cambridge**
Home (from 1892 to 1922) of one of the most distinguished educators and a leader in community organizations during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
-  **Paul Cuffe Farm, c. 1797**
1504 Drift Road
Westport, Bristol County
A pioneer in the struggle for minority rights in the 18th and early 19th centuries, Cuffe was active in the movement for black settlement in Africa.
-  **William E. B. DuBois Boyhood Homestead, 1868**
Route 23, Great Barrington
Berkshire County
Site of the boyhood home of the prominent black sociologist and writer who was a major figure in the civil rights movement during the first half of the 20th century.
-  **William C. Nell Residence, 3 Smith Court, Boston**
Home (from 1851 to 1856) of the abolitionist and leader in the fight against Boston school segregation. Nell was also the publisher of the first history of black Americans written by a black historian and the first black to hold a federal position (postal clerk, 1860).

-  **William Monroe Trotter House, c. 1890**
97 Sawyer Avenue
Dorchester
Home of the founder of the radical black newspaper, *The Guardian*, and a leading civil rights activist during the first decades of the 20th century.

MISSISSIPPI

-  **Isaiah Thornton Montgomery House, 1910**
West Main Street
Mound Bayou, Bolivar County
Home of the founder, in 1887, and first mayor of Mound Bayou, a southern town in which black Americans could obtain social, political, and economic rights in an age of white supremacy in the South.
-  **Oakland Memorial Chapel, 1838**
Alcorn University
Alcorn, Claiborne County
This chapel dominates Alcorn University, the first black land grant college in the United States.

MISSOURI

-  **Scott Joplin Residence, 1890s**
2685-A Morgan
St. Louis
The last surviving residence of Scott Joplin, the king of ragtime and one of the most creative black musicians of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

NEW JERSEY

-  **T. Thomas Fortune House, 94 West Bergen Place, Red Bank, Monmouth County**
Home (from 1901 to 1915) of the owner and editor of three New York newspapers, the *New York Globe*, the *New York Freeman*, and *New York Age*, who led a relentless fight in the press against corrupt politicians and those who denied blacks their full rights of citizenship.

NEW YORK

-  **Louis Armstrong House, c. 1900**
3456 107th Street
Corona, Long Island
For years the home of the famous jazz musician whose talents entertained millions throughout the world.
-  **Ralph Bunch House, 115-125 Grosvenor Road, New Gardens, Queens County**
Home of the undersecretary of the United Nations and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his 1949 contribution to peace in the Middle East.
-  **Will Marion Cook House, 1891**
221 West 138th Street
New York
Home of the early 20th century black composer whose music was a forerunner of the jazz of the Big Band era. Duke Ellington called him "the master of all masters of our people."
-  **Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington Residence, 935 St. Nicholas Avenue, Apt. 4A, New York**
Residence of "Duke" Ellington, considered by many to be the most creative black composer of the 20th century.
-  **Lamuel Haynes House, 1793**
Route 149
South Granville, Washington County
Home of the first black ordained minister in the United States and the first black minister of a white congregation.

-  **Matthew Hanson Residence, 1928**
Dunbar Apartments
246 West 150th Street
New York
Home of the black explorer who was assistant to Robert E. Peary and in 1909 became the first man to reach the North Pole.
-  **James Weldon Johnson Residence, c. 1900**
187 West 135th Street
New York
From 1925 to 1938, the home of the song writer, poet, author, first black general secretary of NAACP, and civil rights activist.
-  **Villa Lawaro, 1918**
North Broadway
Greenburgh, Westchester County
Designed by the noted architect Vertner Woodson Tandy for Madame C. J. Walker, a cosmetics manufacturer and the country's first black millionaire, the villa illustrates the achievements of blacks in both architecture and business.

-  **Claude McKay Residence, 1931**
180 West 135th Street
New York
From 1941 to 1946, the residence of the black poet and writer often called the father of the "Harlem Renaissance."
-  **Florence Mills House, 1886**
220 West 135th Street
New York
Home of the internationally popular singer who became a symbol of success for black Americans in the 1920s.
-  **New York Amsterdam News Building, 2293 Seventh Avenue, New York**
Home of one of America's best known black newspapers, the pages of which have historically reflected the interests and concerns of black Americans.

-  **Paul Robeson Residence, 1916**
555 Edgecomb Avenue
New York
Residence of the talented black actor and singer who suffered public condemnation in the 1940s and 1950s for his political sympathies.
-  **John Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson Residence, c. 1915**
5224 Tilden Street
Brooklyn
Home of the baseball player who in 1947 became the first black to play in the major leagues, thus opening the doors to full black participation in professional sports.

-  **St. George's Episcopal Church, 1856**
Third Avenue and East First Street
New York
Home church of Harry Thacker Burleigh, the black musician who helped establish the Negro spiritual as an integral part of American culture.

-  **Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged, 180-182 South Street, Auburn, Cayuga County**
Established in 1908 for aged and indigent blacks by the most famous "conductor" of the Underground Railroad. Tubman led more than 300 slaves to freedom.

NORTH CAROLINA

-  **North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, 114-116 West Parish Street, Durham**
Home of the black-managed company, founded in 1898, that achieved financial success in an age of Jim Crow.
-  **Union Tavern, c. 1800**
Milton, Caswell County
The workshop-studio (from 1848 to 1858) of Thomas Day, a free black who became a well known cabinetmaker, employing both slaves and white apprentices as assistants.

OHIO

-  **Paul Lawrence Dunbar House, 1890**
299 N. Summit Street
Dayton
Dunbar, one of the first Afro-Americans to gain distinction as a poet and writer, lived here from 1903 to 1906.

-  **John Mercer Langston House, 1855**
207 East College Street
Oberlin, Lorain County
Langston, who was the first black American elected to public office (1855) and first dean of Howard Law School, was appointed resident minister of Haiti and chargé d'affaires to Santa Domingo by President Theodore Roosevelt. He lived here from 1856 to 1867.

-  **Colonel Charles Young House, Columbus Pike between Clifton and Stevenson Roads, Wilberforce, Greene County**
Residence (from 1894 to 1898) of the highest ranking black officer in World War I and the first black military attaché.

OKLAHOMA

-  **Boley Historic District, 1903**
Boley, Oklahoma County
Largest of the Negro towns established in Oklahoma to provide black Americans with the opportunity for self-government in an age of white supremacy and segregation.
-  **Ranch Historic District, 1879**
Mariand, Kay County
Home of the "101 Wild West Show" which featured Bill Pickett, inventor of steer-wrestling and member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

PENNSYLVANIA

-  **Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1889**
419 6th Street
Philadelphia
Founded by a former slave in 1793, this became the mother church of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in America.
-  **Henry O. Tanner Homestead, 2903 West Diamond Street, Philadelphia**
Boyhood home of the late 19th and early 20th century black expatriate painter whose work earned recognition in Europe and, later, in the United States.

-  **Frances Ellen Watkins Harper House, 1006 Bainbridge Street, Philadelphia**
Home of the black writer active in 19th century woman's suffrage, temperance, black rights, and abolitionist movements.

RHODE ISLAND

-  **Site of the Battle of Rhode Island, 1778**
Providence
The only Revolutionary War battle in which an all black unit, the First Rhode Island Regiment, participated.

SOUTH CAROLINA

-  **Chapelle Administration Building, 1925**
1530 Hazlewood Street
Columbia
One of the finest buildings of John Anderson Lankford, "the dean of black architects," who helped other black architects gain recognition.
-  **Penn School Historic District, 19th century**
Frogmore, Beaufort County
Northern missionaries organized one of the first southern schools for blacks here that pioneered in health services and self-help programs.
-  **Robert Smalls House, 1843**
511 Prince Street
Beaufort
Smalls, the only black captain in the Union army who later fought for black rights while a member of Congress, lived here — as a slave and later as a free man — from 1863 to 1915.
-  **Stono River Slave Rebellion Site, 1739**
Rantowles vicinity
Charleston County
Site of a slave rebellion during which about 100 escaped slaves burned plantations and murdered whites before being stopped by militia.
-  **Vesey Denmark House, c. 1820**
56 Bull Street
Charleston
Residence of a free black Charleston carpenter whose 1822 plans for a slave rebellion were a sign of black resistance to slavery.

TENNESSEE

-  **Fort Pillow, 1861-1864**
Tennessee 87
Fort Pillow, Lauderdale County
This Confederate fort was captured by Union troops in 1862 and recaptured by Confederates in 1864. Heavy losses by black soldiers in that battle made the fort a symbolic "Alamo" for them.
-  **Jubilee Hall, Fisk University, 1873 - 1876**
17th Avenue North
Nashville
A Victorian Gothic structure, the oldest building on campus. The school was founded by the American Missionary Association to offer a liberal arts education to blacks after the Civil War.

VIRGINIA

-  **Benjamin Banneker: SW-9 Intermediate Boundary Stone, 1792**
18th and Van Buren Streets
Arlington
This stone commemorates the accomplishments of perhaps the most famous black man in Colonial America who helped to survey the city of Washington, D.C.
-  **Charles Richard Drew House, date unknown**
2505 First Street South
Arlington
From 1920 to 1939 the home of the black physician and teacher best remembered for his pioneer work in discovering the means to preserve blood plasma.
-  **Hampton Institute, 19th century**
0.8 mile Northwest of intersection of Route 60 and Hampton Roads
Bridge Tunnel
Hampton City
Now a liberal arts college, the Institute was founded by the American Missionary Society to offer vocational education to former slaves. Booker T. Washington was a graduate.
-  **Virginia Randolph Cottage, 1937**
2200 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, Henrico County
Home of the first supervisor of the Anna Jeanes Fund, an organization established to finance rural black schools in the South. Randolph developed a pattern of teacher supervision that was adopted internationally.

-  **Jackson Ward Historic District, 19th century**
Between 4th, Marshall, and Smith Streets and the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike
Richmond
A foremost Afro-American community of the 19th and early 20th centuries with a center for ethnic social organizations and protective banking institutions.
-  **Maggie Lena Walker House, c. 1909**
110A, East Leigh Street
Richmond
Home of the 1903 founder of the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank, the first woman to establish and head a bank.

BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS

Eighty-eight sites that commemorate the achievements of black Americans have been designated as National Historic Landmarks by the U.S. Department of the Interior. This guide, developed to accompany the exhibition, BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS, introduces these sites. Seventy-six locations are pinpointed on the map and listed by state. Refer to the guide when planning a trip and use it to supplement your knowledge of black American history. Most of the structures are still standing; addresses are provided in the state listings on the back.

Several sites are, however, no longer in existence and are simply marked by a stone or sign post; others are in danger of being torn down. Still other buildings or areas associated with important black Americans, especially in the western states, have not as yet been officially documented. It is urgent to identify these locations and act to protect them before they are destroyed. By preserving our historical landmarks, we can learn from, take pride in, and be motivated by the achievements of our forebears.

For more information on Black American history, and on historic landmarks in your area, contact the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Washington, D.C.), your state or local historical societies, museums, libraries, colleges and Chambers of Commerce. *The Directory of Afro-American Resources*, edited by Walter Shatz and published in 1976 by R.R. Bowker, N.Y., lists the research and learning centers of black American history.

Initiated by the Afro-American Institute for Historic Preservation and Community Development BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS was developed by the National Architectural and Engineering Record, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The exhibition was organized and is circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). SITES is a program activity of the Smithsonian Institution that organizes and circulates exhibitions on art, history, and science to institutions in the United States and abroad.

BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS

Eighty-eight sites that commemorate the achievements of black Americans have been designated as National Historic Landmarks by the U.S. Department of the Interior. This guide, developed to accompany the exhibition, **BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS**, introduces these sites. Seventy-six locations are pinpointed on the map and listed by state. Refer to the guide when planning a trip and use it to supplement your knowledge of black American history. Most of the structures are still standing; addresses are provided in the state listings on the back.

Several sites are, however, no longer in existence and are simply marked by a stone or sign post; others are in danger of being torn down. Still other buildings or areas associated with important black Americans, especially in the western states, have not as yet been officially documented. It is urgent to identify these locations and act to protect them before they are destroyed. By preserving our historical landmarks, we can learn from, take pride in, and be motivated by the achievements of our forebears.

For more information on Black American history, and on historic landmarks in your area, contact the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Washington, D.C.), your state or local historical societies, museums, libraries, colleges and Chambers of Commerce. *The Directory of Afro-American Resources*, edited by Walter Shatz and published in 1976 by R.R. Bowker, N.Y., lists the research and learning centers of black American history.

Initiated by the Afro-American Institute for Historic Preservation and Community Development **BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS** was developed by the National Architectural and Engineering Record, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The exhibition was organized and is circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). SITES is a program activity of the Smithsonian Institution that organizes and circulates exhibitions on art, history, and science to institutions in the United States and abroad.

Brochure Cover Photo: Virgil J. White, Jr., A.I.H.P.C.D.

ALABAMA

- Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, 1878
454 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery
The church from which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., pastor from 1954 to 1959, organized the black boycott of segregated city buses in 1955.
Tuskegee Institute, 1881
Tuskegee, Macon County
A fitting memorial to the great black educator, Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee Institute is perhaps the best known black university in the United States.
Swayne Hall, Talladega College, 1857
Talladega County
The oldest campus building, constructed by slave labor before the liberal arts college was established.

CONNECTICUT

- First Church of Christ, 1771
Farmington, Hartford County
This building served as the center of worship and community life of the Amistad captives, a group of slaves who revolted en route to the United States and, after a trial here, was eventually freed. Their case established the legal precedent that under specific circumstances, Africans had the rights of kidnapped free men.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Blanche K. Bruce House, 1865
909 M Street, N.W.
Home of the first black American to serve a full term in the U.S. Senate (1875 - 1881), representing the state of Mississippi.
Mary Ann Shadd Cary House
1421 W Street, N.W.
The first black newspaperwoman in America, Shadd was also an educator, lawyer, abolitionist and, during the Civil War, recruiting officer for the Union Army. She lived here between 1881 and 1886.
Charlotte Forten Grimké House, c. 1880
1698 R Street, N.W.
Born of wealthy, free black parents, Grimké, a writer, poet, educator, and activist was among the first group of northerners involved in educating slaves in the occupied Union territories of the South.

- General Oliver Otis Howard House
607 Howard Place, N.E.
Howard University
Residence of the Union General and the only one of the four original Howard University buildings still standing.
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
15th and Church Streets, N.W.
Church founded in 1876 by Alexander Crummel, a black scholar and spokesman for black liberation. St. Luke's is a testimony to Crummel's belief that the church should play a role in education and social change.

- Mary Church Terrell House, 1907
326 T Street, N.W.
Residence of the civil rights leader and first president of the National Association of Colored Women.
Carter G. Woodson House, 20th century
1538 Ninth Street, N.W.
Founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and the Journal of Negro History, Woodson helped to educate the nation about the contributions that Afro-Americans made in its development and progress. Woodson lived here from 1915 until his death in 1950.

FLORIDA

- Nancy McLeod Bethune Home, c. 1920
Bethune-Cookman College
Daytona Beach
Home of the black activist and educator on the campus of Bethune-Cookman College, founded by Bethune in 1904.
British Fort, 1814
Six miles southwest of Sumatra, Franklin County
Site at which runaway slaves lived alongside Seminole Indians. Its destruction in 1816 precipitated the first Seminole War.

GEORGIA

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District
Atlanta
The district includes his birthplace, gravesite, and the church where King served as assistant pastor.
Stone Hall, Atlanta University, 1882
Atlanta
This hall is most closely associated with the history of the university, founded in 1866 by the American Missionary Association to offer black Americans a quality academic education.
Sweet Auburn Historic District
Auburn Avenue
Atlanta
Auburn Avenue was once called "the richest Negro street in the world." The district typified the rapid growth of black enterprise in the wake of post-Civil War segregation.

ILLINOIS

- Robert S. Abbott House
4742 Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago
Home (from 1926 to 1940) of the founder and editor of the Chicago Defender, a newspaper which encouraged southern blacks to migrate northward, especially during the first half of the 20th century.
Oscar Stanton De Priest House, 1920s
4536-4538 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Chicago
Residence of the first black American elected to the House of Representatives from a northern state (1935).
Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable Homesite
Pioneer Court
401 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago
This site, home of the black fur trapper and his family, is recognized as the first settlement of Chicago.
Ida B. Wells-Barnett House, c. 1889 - 1890
3624 South Martin Luther King Drive
Chicago
Home of the 1890s civil rights advocate, crusader of the rights of black women and founder of the Memphis Free Speech newspaper.
Daniel Hale Williams House, 1905
445 East 42nd Street
Chicago
Home of one of America's first black surgeons, responsible for establishing quality medical facilities for blacks at the end of the 19th century.

IOWA

- Fort Des Moines Provisional Army Officer Training School, 1917
Des Moines
The first black officers' training camp, used in 1917. Black units led by men trained here served in the Ninety-Second Division in France.

KANSAS

- Nicodemus Historic District, 1877
Nicodemus, Graham County
The only remaining town of the black "Exoduster" movement. This brought blacks out of the south to the midwest in the hope of finding a better life.

KENTUCKY

- Lincoln Hall, Berea College, 1887
Berea, Madison County
Founded in 1855, Berea was the first college established in the United States for the specific purpose of educating blacks and whites together.

LOUISIANA

- The African House, Yucca Plantation, 18th and 19th centuries
La. 119, 0.1 mile east of intersection with La. 493
Melrose, Natchitoches Parish
Established by a former slave who became a successful business-woman, the plantation includes probably the oldest buildings of African design built by blacks for blacks in the U.S.

- James H. Dillard Home, 19th century
571 Audubon Street
New Orleans
Home of the black educator who helped strengthen vocational and teacher-training programs in the 19th century.

- Port Hudson, 1860s
Port Hudson
East Feliciana Parish
A Confederate stronghold and the scene of a Civil War assault by two Union regiments composed of free blacks and ex-slaves from Louisiana.

MASSACHUSETTS

- African Meeting House, 1805
8 Smith Court
Boston
This brick meeting house and community center was used as the first black church in Boston and is the oldest existing black church in the U.S.
Maria Baldwin House
196 Prospect Street
Cambridge
Home (from 1892 to 1922) of one of the most distinguished educators and a leader in community organizations during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
Paul Cuffe Farm, c. 1797
1504 Drift Road
Westport, Bristol County
A pioneer in the struggle for minority rights in the 18th and early 19th centuries, Cuffe was active in the movement for black settlement in Africa.

- William E. B. DuBois Boyhood Homesite, 1868
Route 23, Great Barrington
Berkshire County
Site of the boyhood home of the prominent black sociologist and writer who was a major figure in the civil rights movement during the first half of the 20th century.

- William C. Nell Residence
3 Smith Court
Boston
Home (from 1851 to 1856) of the abolitionist and leader in the fight against Boston school segregation. Nell was also the publisher of the first history of black Americans written by a black historian and the first black to hold a federal position (postal clerk, 1860).
William Monroe Trotter House, c. 1890
97 Sawyer Avenue
Dorchester
Home of the founder of the radical black newspaper, The Guardian, and a leading civil rights activist during the first decades of the 20th century.

MISSISSIPPI

- Isaiah Thornton Montgomery House, 1910
West Main Street
Mound Bayou, Bolivar County
Home of the founder, in 1887, and first mayor of Mound Bayou, a southern town in which black Americans could obtain social, political, and economic rights in an age of white supremacy in the South.
Oakland Memorial Chapel, 1838
Alcorn, Claiborne County
This chapel dominates Alcorn University, the first black land grant college in the United States.

MISSOURI

- Scott Joplin Residence, 1890s
2685-A Morgan
St. Louis
The last surviving residence of Scott Joplin, the king of ragtime and one of the most creative black musicians of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

NEW JERSEY

- T. Thomas Fortune House
94 West Bergen Place
Red Bank, Monmouth County
Home (from 1901 to 1915) of the owner and editor of three New York newspapers, the New York Globe, the New York Freeman, and New York Age, who led a relentless fight in the press against corrupt politicians and those who denied blacks their full rights of citizenship.

NEW YORK

- Louis Armstrong House, c. 1900
3456 107th Street
Corona, Long Island
For years the home of the famous jazz musician whose talents entertained millions throughout the world.
Ralph Bunch House
115-125 Grosvenor Road
Kew Gardens, Queens County
Home of the undersecretary of the United Nations and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his 1949 contribution to peace in the Middle East.

- Will Marion Cook House, 1891
221 West 138th Street
New York
Home of the early 20th century black composer whose music was a forerunner of the jazz of the Big Band era. Duke Ellington called him "the master of all masters of our people."

- Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington Residence
935 St. Nicholas Avenue, Apt. 4A
New York
Residence of "Duke" Ellington, considered by many to be the most creative black composer of the 20th century.

- Lamuel Haynes House, 1793
Route 149
South Granville, Washington County
Home of the first black ordained minister in the United States and the first black minister of a white congregation.

- Matthew Hanson Residence, 1928
Dunbar Apartments
246 West 150th Street
New York
Home of the black explorer who was assistant to Robert E. Peary and in 1909 became the first man to reach the North Pole.

- James Weldon Johnson Residence, c. 1900
187 West 135th Street
New York
From 1925 to 1938, the home of the song writer, poet, author, first black general secretary of NAACP, and civil rights activist.

- Villa Lowaro, 1918
North Broadway
Greenburgh, Westchester County
Designed by the noted architect Vertner Woodson Tandy for Madame C. J. Walker, a cosmetics manufacturer and the country's first black millionaire, the villa illustrates the achievements of blacks in both architecture and business.

- Claude McKay Residence, 1931
180 West 135th Street
New York
From 1941 to 1946, the residence of the black poet and writer often called the father of the "Harlem Renaissance."

- Florence Mills House, 1886
220 West 135th Street
New York
Home of the internationally popular singer who became a symbol of success for black Americans in the 1920s.

- New York Amsterdam News Building
2293 Seventh Avenue
New York
Home of one of America's best known black newspapers, the pages of which have historically reflected the interests and concerns of black Americans.

- Paul Robeson Residence, 1916
555 Edgecomb Avenue
New York
Residence of the talented black actor and singer who suffered public condemnation in the 1940s and 1950s for his political sympathies.

- John Roosevelt "Jackie" Robinson Residence, c. 1915
5224 Tilden Street
Brooklyn
Home of the baseball player who in 1947 became the first black to play in the major leagues, thus opening the doors to full black participation in professional sports.

- St. George's Episcopal Church, 1856
Third Avenue and East First Street
New York
Home church of Harry Thacker Burleigh, the black musician who helped establish the Negro spiritual as an integral part of American culture.

- Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged
180-182 South Street
Auburn, Cayuga County
Established in 1908 for aged and indigent blacks by the most famous "conductor" of the Underground Railroad, Tubman led more than 300 slaves to freedom.

NORTH CAROLINA

- North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company
114-116 West Parish Street
Durham
Home of the black-managed company, founded in 1898, that achieved financial success in an age of Jim Crow.

- Union Tavern, c. 1800
Main Street
Milton, Caswell County
The workshop-studio (from 1848 to 1858) of Thomas Day, a free black who became a well known cabinetmaker, employing both slaves and white apprentices as assistants.

OHIO

- Paul Lawrence Dunbar House, 1890
299 N. Summit Street
Dayton
Dunbar, one of the first Afro-Americans to gain distinction as a poet and writer, lived here from 1903 to 1906.

- John Mercer Langston House, 1855
207 East College Street
Oberlin, Lorain County
Langston, who was the first black American elected to public office (1855) and first dean of Howard Law School, was appointed resident minister of Haiti and chargé d'affaires to Santa Domingo by President Theodore Roosevelt. He lived here from 1856 to 1867.

- Colonel Charles Young House
Columbus Pike between Clifton and Stevenson Roads
Wilberforce, Greene County
Residence (from 1894 to 1898) of the highest ranking black officer in World War I and the first black military attaché.

OKLAHOMA

- Boley Historic District, 1903
Boley, Oklahoma County
Largest of the Negro towns established in Oklahoma to provide black Americans with the opportunity for self-government in an age of white supremacy and segregation.
Ranch Historic District, 1879
Marland, Kay County
Home of the "101 Wild West Show" which featured Bill Pickett, inventor of steer-wrestling and member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

PENNSYLVANIA

- Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1889
419 6th Street
Philadelphia
Founded by a former slave in 1793, this became the mother church of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

- Henry O. Tanner Homesite
2903 West Diamond Street
Philadelphia
Boyhood home of the late 19th and early 20th century black expatriate painter whose work earned recognition in Europe and, later, in the United States.

- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper House
1006 Bainbridge Street
Philadelphia
Home of the black writer active in 19th century woman's suffrage, temperance, black rights, and abolitionist movements.

RHODE ISLAND

- Site of the Battle of Rhode Island, 1778
Portsmouth
The only Revolutionary War battle in which an all black unit, the First Rhode Island Regiment, participated.

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Chapelle Administration Building, 1925
1530 Harden Street
Columbia
One of the finest buildings of John Anderson Lankford, "the dean of black architects," who helped other black architects gain recognition.

- Penn School Historic District, 19th century
Frogmore, Beaufort County
Northern missionaries organized one of the first southern schools for blacks here that pioneered in health services and self-help programs.

- Robert Smalls House, 1843
511 Prince Street
Beaufort
Smalls, the only black captain in the Union army who later fought for black rights while a member of Congress, lived here — as a slave and later as a free man — from 1863 to 1915.

- Stono River Slave Rebellion Site, 1739
Rantowles vicinity
Charleston County
Site of a slave rebellion during which about 100 escaped slaves burned plantations and murdered whites before being stopped by militia.

- Vesley Denmark House, c. 1820
56 Bull Street
Charleston
Residence of a free black Charleston carpenter whose 1822 plans for a slave rebellion were a sign of black resistance to slavery.

TENNESSEE

- Fort Pillow, 1861-1864
Tennessee 87
Fort Pillow, Lauderdale County
This Confederate fort was captured by Union troops in 1862 and recaptured by Confederates in 1864. Heavy losses by black soldiers in that battle made the fort a symbolic "Alamo" for them.

- Jubilee Hall, Fisk University, 1873 - 1876
17th Avenue North
Nashville
A Victorian Gothic structure, the oldest building on campus. The school was founded by the American Missionary Association to offer a liberal arts education to blacks after the Civil War.

VIRGINIA

- Benjamin Banneker: SW-9 Intermediate Boundary Stone, 1792
18th and Van Buren Streets
Arlington
This stone commemorates the accomplishments of perhaps the most famous black man in Colonial America who helped to survey the city of Washington, D.C.
Charles Richard Drew House, date unknown
2505 First Street South
Arlington
From 1920 to 1939, the home of the black physician and teacher best remembered for his pioneer work in discovering the means to preserve blood plasma.

- Hampton Institute, 19th century
0.8 mile Northwest of intersection of Route 60 and Hampton Roads
Bridge Tunnel
Hampton City
Now a liberal arts college, the Institute was founded by the American Missionary Society to offer vocational education to former slaves. Booker T. Washington was a graduate.

- Virginia Randolph Cottage, 1937
2200 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, Henrico County
Home of the first supervisor of the Anna Jeanes Fund, an organization established to finance rural black schools in the South. Randolph developed a pattern of teacher supervision that was adopted internationally.

- Jackson Ward Historic District
Between 4th, Marshall, and Smith Streets and the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike
Richmond
A foremost Afro-American community of the 19th and early 20th centuries with a center for ethnic social organizations and protective banking institutions.

- Maagie Lana Walker House, c. 1909
110A, East Leigh Street
Richmond
Home of the 1903 founder of the Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank, the first woman to establish and head a bank.

BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS

Eighty-eight sites that commemorate the achievements of black Americans have been designated as National Historic Landmarks by the U.S. Department of the Interior. This guide, developed to accompany the exhibition, BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS, introduces these sites. Seventy-six locations are pinpointed on the map and listed by state. Refer to the guide when planning a trip and use it to supplement your knowledge of black American history. Most of the structures are still standing; addresses are provided in the state listings on the back.

Several sites are, however, no longer in existence and are simply marked by a stone or sign post; others are in danger of being torn down. Still other buildings or areas associated with important black Americans, especially in the western states, have not as yet been officially documented. It is urgent to identify these locations and act to protect them before they are destroyed. By preserving our historical landmarks, we can learn from, take pride in, and be motivated by the achievements of our forebears.

For more information on Black American history, and on historic landmarks in your area, contact the National Trust for Historic Preservation (Washington, D.C.), your state or local historical societies, museums, libraries, colleges and Chambers of Commerce. The Directory of Afro-American Resources, edited by Walter Shatz and published in 1976 by R.R. Bowker, N.Y., lists the research and learning centers of black American history.

Initiated by the Afro-American Institute for Historic Preservation and Community Development BLACK AMERICAN LANDMARKS was developed by the National Architectural and Engineering Record, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The exhibition was organized and is circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). SITES is a program activity of the Smithsonian Institution that organizes and circulates exhibitions on art, history, and science to institutions in the United States and abroad.

Brochure Cover Photo: Virgil J. White, Jr., A.I.H.P.C.D.



IS IT TIME TO REORDER?

IT'S EASY TO DO! SIMPLY ATTACH A GOOD SAMPLE COPY OF
YOUR FORM, FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW, AND RETURN
IT TO US. IT'S THAT SIMPLE!

WE CAN ALSO DO

Carbonless Forms
Letterhead
Labels
Programs
Stationary
Invoices
Stapling

Newsletters
Envelopes
Resumes
Invitations
Advertisements
Numbering
Layout Design
YOU NAME IT!

Typesetting
Business Cards
Bulletins
Announcements
Padding
Collating
Booklets

*Prairi
Printers*

*300 North Pomeroy
Hill City, KS 67642
(913) 674-5722
FAX: (913) 674-5547*

Company _____

Paper Color _____

Address _____

Ink Color _____

Phone # _____

Quantity _____

FAX # _____

Size of Paper _____

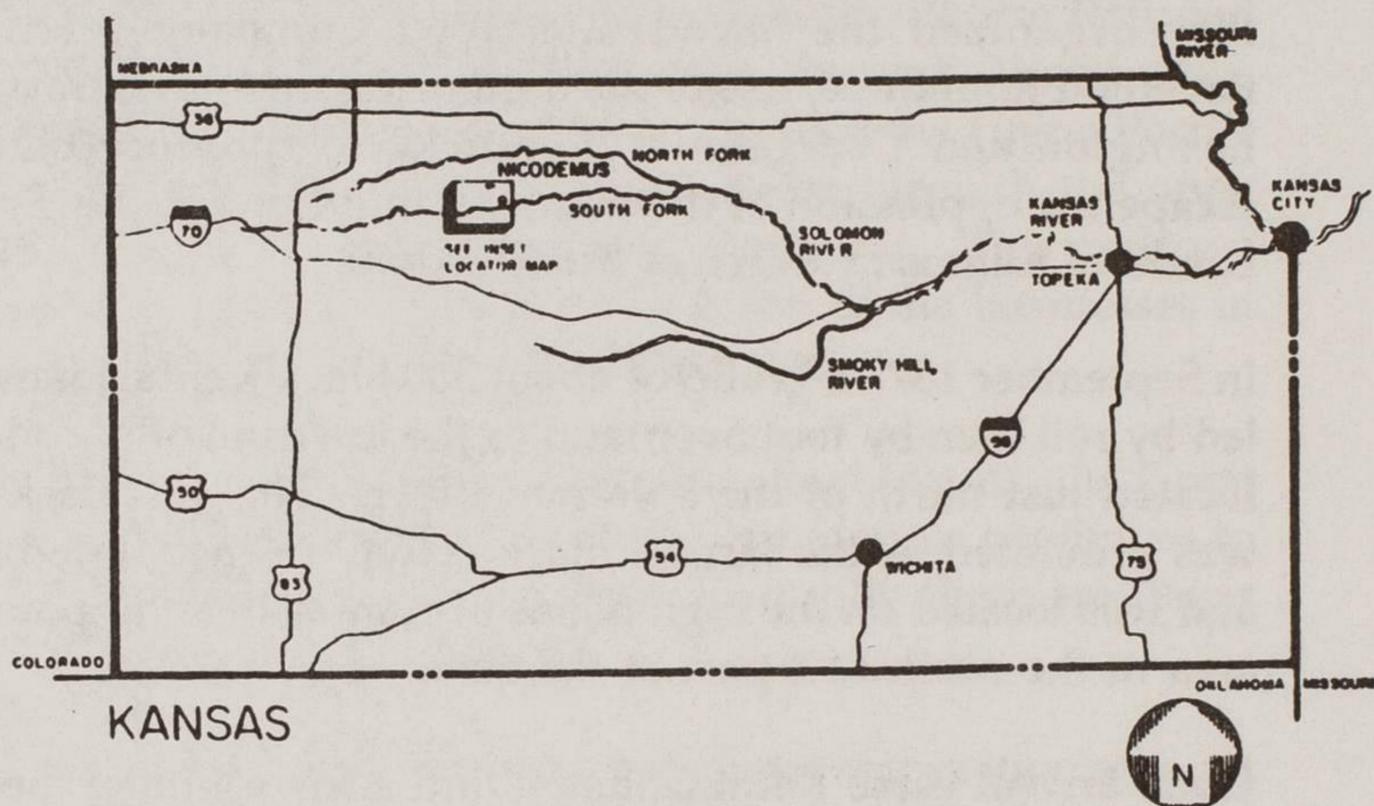
Ordered By _____

Date Needed _____

REFERENCE # 170-1

THANKS FOR YOUR ORDER!

HISTORIC NICODEMUS, KANSAS National Historic Site



An All African American Pioneer Town
National Historic Landmark (1976)

DIRECTIONS

*45 Miles NW of Hays (I70) on Highway 24 between
Hill City and Stockton*

THE OLDEST REMAINING ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER TOWN

NICODEMUS was established in 1877. W.R. Hill, a white man from Indiana and W.H. Smith a black pioneer, established a partnership that resulted in the organization of two towns, Nicodemus and Hill City. In the spring of 1877 Hill and Smith ventured to Topeka, Kansas where with four other black men, they organized the Nicodemus Town Company. Hill and Reverend Roundtree, one of the organizing members, traveled to Lexington and Georgetown, Kentucky to convince blacks to escape the oppression of the South by migrating to the 'Promise Lands' of Kansas in search of true freedom.

In September 1877 a group of about 300 black Kentuckians were led by rail then by foot over land to the townsite of Nicodemus, located just north of the Solomon River. This all black town was promoted as the largest black colony in the United States and was located on the high plains of Kansas in an unpopulated area in the northwest part of the state.

Upon arrival these Kentuckians found a town unlike they had ever seen. The few Topekians that migrated earlier in the spring were living in 'dug outs'. These earth homes were dug 4 - 6 feet deep and were 14 x 15 feet wide. Many, upon seeing this sight returned to Kentucky. Most of them had no choice but to stay and dig in for the winter.

During that first year the settlers all but starved. However, the Osage and Pottowatomi Indians who were traversing through the area after their winter hunt, shared their game with the starving settlers of Nicodemus. In the following spring and fall other settlers came to Nicodemus.

As the town began to grow a business district was established with a bank, livery stables, several hotels, general and drug stores, real estate and law offices, and even a doctors office. The population reached around 700. Three schools were established to provided educational instruction to the many children in the

township. Religious training was as important as educational training. The four of the founding fathers of Nicodemus were ministers and several churches were established to accommodate the many weary souls of Nicodemus.

In 1887 when the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroad companies failed to extend their rails through Nicodemus, businesses and people began to leave. In 1888 the Union Pacific laid track just south of the Solomon River through the open plains. A railroad camp came into existence. This railroad camp became the town of Bogue and many of the businesses in Nicodemus transferred to this new town site.

In subsequent years due to the drought, dust storms, the Great Depression, and general lack of work, Nicodemus continued to loose its population and businesses. Currently there are fewer than 50 residents on the townsite.

In 1976 Nicodemus was elevated to national recognition when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Recent efforts resulted in Senator Dole introducing the "Nicodemus National Site Bill" to Congress, on January 23, 1996. The Bill passed on October 3, 1996 and was signed into law by President Clinton on November 12, 1997. This legislation will provide for the preservation of Nicodemus. Not only will the few remaining historical structures be restored and maintained, but the entire history interpreted through programs open to the general public.

* * * * *

The Nicodemus Historical Society was established as a non-profit corporation in 1989. Its purpose is to preserve the history of Nicodemus, Kansas. Individual membership \$25.00. For more information contact us at (913) 839-4280.

We accept donations to support our efforts!

WE SPONSOR

**History Slide Presentations
and Lectures**

Group and Personal Tours

**We sell homemade crafts and canned items
made by the Women of Nicodemus**

Books, Videos, Mementos Available

**Educational Information and Tours for
Teachers and Schools**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nicodemus Emancipation Celebration

Last Week End in July

Jul 25-27th 1997

Jul 31th- Aug. 2 1998

Jul 30 - Aug 1, 1999

Nicodemus Pioneer Days

2nd Weekend in October

Cowboy Round Up - Aug. 21

Hunting Seasons Opens

2nd Weekend in November

Call Us and we'll make accommodation arrangements
with some of our residents to host hunters.

**MORE INFORMATION NEEDED?
HISTORY INFORMATION PACKET \$6.00**

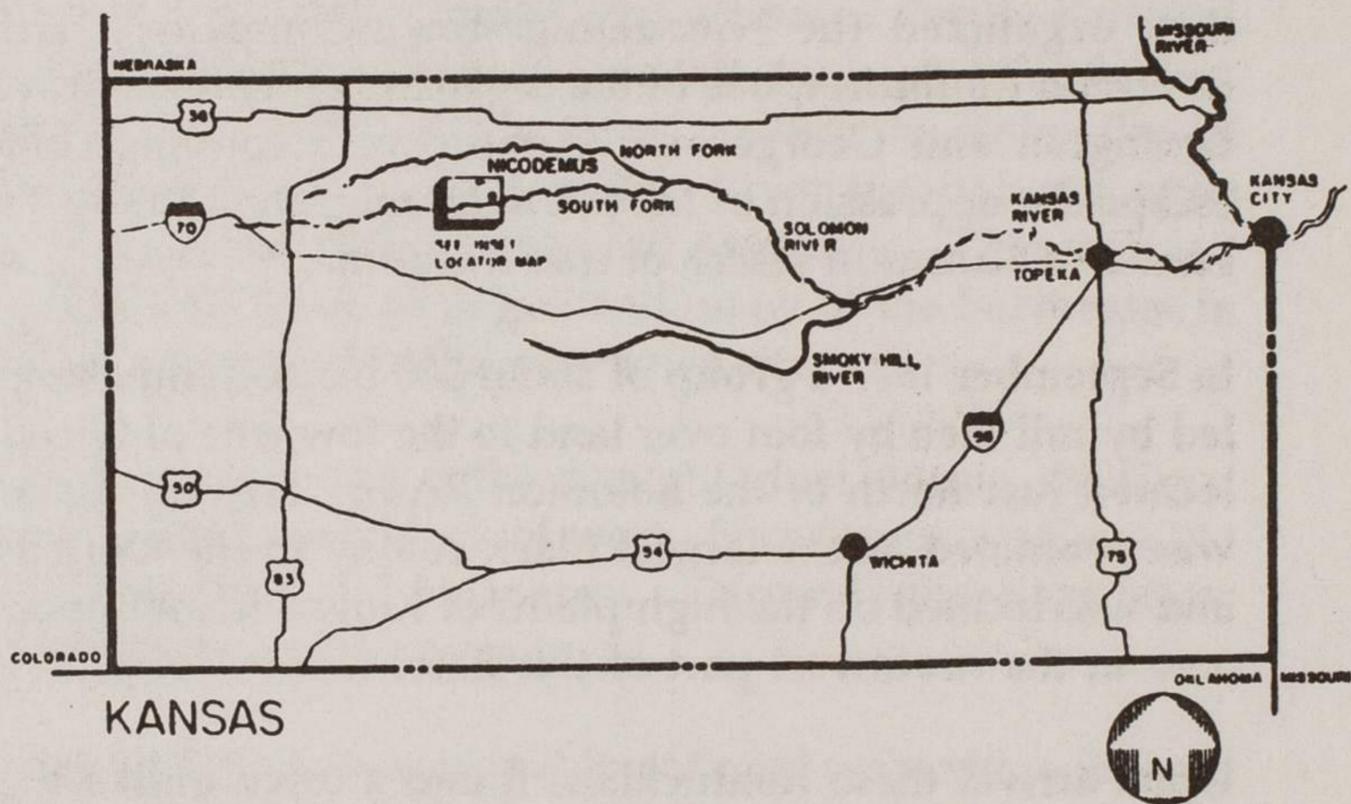
The Nicodemus Historical Society

P.O. Box 139

Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

HISTORIC NICODEMUS, KANSAS National Historic Site



An All African American Pioneer Town
National Historic Landmark (1976)

DIRECTIONS

*45 Miles NW of Hays (I70) on Highway 24 between
Hill City and Stockton*

THE OLDEST REMAINING ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER TOWN

NICODEMUS was established in 1877. W.R. Hill, a white man from Indiana and W.H. Smith a black pioneer, established a partnership that resulted in the organization of two towns, Nicodemus and Hill City. In the spring of 1877 Hill and Smith ventured to Topeka, Kansas where with four other black men, they organized the Nicodemus Town Company. Hill and Reverend Roundtree, one of the organizing members, traveled to Lexington and Georgetown, Kentucky to convince blacks to escape the oppression of the South by migrating to the 'Promise Lands' of Kansas in search of true freedom.

In September 1877 a group of about 300 black Kentuckians were led by rail then by foot over land to the townsite of Nicodemus, located just north of the Solomon River. This all black town was promoted as the largest black colony in the United States and was located on the high plains of Kansas in an unpopulated area in the northwest part of the state.

Upon arrival these Kentuckians found a town unlike they had ever seen. The few Topekians that migrated earlier in the spring were living in 'dug outs'. These earth homes were dug 4 - 6 feet deep and were 14 x 15 feet wide. Many, upon seeing this sight returned to Kentucky. Most of them had no choice but to stay and dig in for the winter.

During that first year the settlers all but starved. However, the Osage and Pottowatomi Indians who were traversing through the area after their winter hunt, shared their game with the starving settlers of Nicodemus. In the following spring and fall other settlers came to Nicodemus.

As the town began to grow a business district was established with a bank, livery stables, several hotels, general and drug stores, real estate and law offices, and even a doctors office. The population reached around 700. Three schools were established to provided educational instruction to the many children in the

township. Religious training was as important as educational training. The four of the founding fathers of Nicodemus were ministers and several churches were established to accommodate the many weary souls of Nicodemus.

In 1887 when the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroad companies failed to extend their rails through Nicodemus, businesses and people began to leave. In 1888 the Union Pacific laid track just south of the Solomon River through the open plains. A railroad camp came into existence. This railroad camp became the town of Bogue and many of the businesses in Nicodemus transferred to this new town site.

In subsequent years due to the drought, dust storms, the Great Depression, and general lack of work, Nicodemus continued to loose its population and businesses. Currently there are fewer than 50 residents on the townsite.

In 1976 Nicodemus was elevated to national recognition when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Recent efforts resulted in Senator Dole introducing the "Nicodemus National Site Bill" to Congress, on January 23, 1996. The Bill passed on October 3, 1996 and was signed into law by President Clinton on November 12, 1997. This legislation will provide for the preservation of Nicodemus. Not only will the few remaining historical structures be restored and maintained, but the entire history interpreted through programs open to the general public.

* * * * *

The Nicodemus Historical Society was established as a non-profit corporation in 1989. Its purpose is to preserve the history of Nicodemus, Kansas. Individual membership \$25.00. For more information contact us at (913) 839-4280.

We accept donations to support our efforts!

WE SPONSOR

**History Slide Presentations
and Lectures**

Group and Personal Tours

**We sell homemade crafts and canned items
made by the Women of Nicodemus**

Books, Videos, Mementos Available

**Educational Information and Tours for
Teachers and Schools**

DATES TO REMEMBERS

Nicodemus Emancipation Celebration

Last Week End in July

Jul 25-27th 1997

Jul 31th- Aug. 2 1998

Jul 30 - Aug 1, 1999

Nicodemus Pioneer Days

2nd Weekend in October

Hunting Seasons Opens

2nd Weekend in November

Call Us and we'll make accommodation arrangements
with some of our residents to host hunters.

**MORE INFORMATION NEEDED?
HISTORY INFORMATION PACKET \$6.00**

The Nicodemus Historical Society

P.O. Box 139

Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

WE SPONSOR

**History Slide Presentations
and Lectures**

Group and Personal Tours

**We sell homemade crafts and canned items
made by the Women of Nicodemus**

Books, Videos, Mementos Available

**Educational Information and Tours for
Teachers and Schools**

DATES TO REMEMBERS

Nicodemus Emancipation Celebration

Last Week End in July

~~Jul 25-27th 1997~~ 28, 29 + 30 2000

Jul 31th- Aug. 2 1998

Nicodemus Pioneer Days

2nd Weekend in October

Hunting Seasons Opens

2nd Weekend in November

Call Us and we'll make accomodation arrangements
with some of our residents to host hunters.

**MORE INFORMATION NEEDED?
HISTORY INFORMATION PACKET \$6.00**

The Nicodemus Historical Society

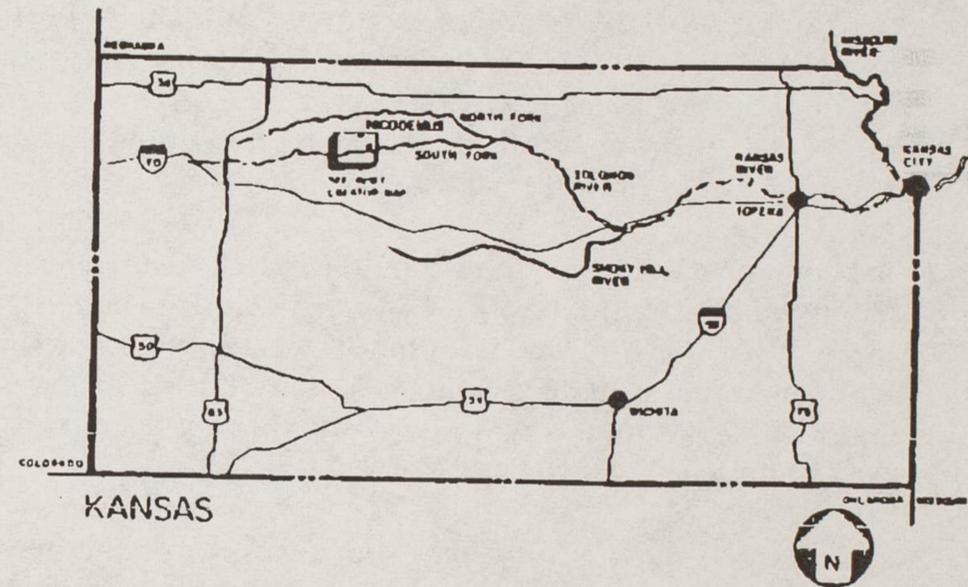
P.O. Box 139

Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

→ Bogue

HISTORIC NICODEMUS, KANSAS National Historic Site



**An All African American Pioneer Town
National Historic Landmark (1976)**

DIRECTIONS

45 Miles NW of Hays (I70) on Highway 24 between
Hill City and Stockton

THE OLDEST REMAINING ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER TOWN

NICODEMUS was established in 1877. W.R. Hill, a white man from Indiana and W.H. Smith a black pioneer, established a partnership that resulted in the organization of two towns, Nicodemus and Hill City. In the spring of 1877 Hill and Smith ventured to Topeka, Kansas where with four other black men, they organized the Nicodemus Town Company. Hill and Reverend Roundtree, one of the organizing members, traveled to Lexington and Georgetown, Kentucky to convince blacks to escape the oppression of the South by migrating to the 'Promise Lands' of Kansas in search of true freedom.

In September 1877 a group of about 300 black Kentuckians were led by rail then by foot over land to the townsite of Nicodemus, located just north of the Solomon River. This all black town was promoted as the largest black colony in the United States and was located on the high plains of Kansas in an unpopulated area in the northwest part of the state.

Upon arrival these Kentuckians found a town unlike they had ever seen. The few Topekians that migrated earlier in the spring were living in 'dug outs'. These earth homes were dug 4 - 6 feet deep and were 14 x 15 feet wide. Many, upon seeing this sight returned to Kentucky. Most of them had no choice but to stay and dig in for the winter.

During that first year the settlers all but starved. However, the Osage and Pottowatomi Indians who were traversing through the area after their winter hunt, shared their game with the starving settlers of Nicodemus. In the following spring and fall other settlers came to Nicodemus.

As the town began to grow a business district was established with a bank, livery stables, several hotels, general and drug stores, real estate and law offices, and even a doctors office. The population reached around 700. Three schools were established to provided educational instruction to the many children in the

township. Religious training was as important as educational training. The four of the founding fathers of Nicodemus were ministers and several churches were established to accommodate the many weary souls of Nicodemus.

In 1887 when the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroad companies failed to extend their rails through Nicodemus, businesses and people began to leave. In 1888 the Union Pacific laid track just south of the Solomon River through the open plains. A railroad camp came into existence. This railroad camp became the town of Bogue and many of the businesses in Nicodemus transferred to this new town site.

In subsequent years due to the drought, dust storms, the Great Depression, and general lack of work, Nicodemus continued to loose its population and businesses. Currently there are fewer than 50 residents on the townsite.

In 1976 Nicodemus was elevated to national recognition when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Recent efforts resulted in Senator Dole introducing the "Nicodemus National Site Bill" to Congress, on January 23, 1996. The Bill passed on October 3, 1996 and was signed into law by President Clinton on November 12, 1997. This legislation will provide for the preservation of Nicodemus. Not only will the few remaining historical structures be restored and maintained, but the entire history interpreted through programs open to the general public.

The Nicodemus Historical Society was established as a non-profit corporation in 1989. Its purpose is to preserve the history of Nicodemus, Kansas. Individual membership \$25.00. For more information contact us at (913) 839-4280.

We accept donations to support our efforts!

NICODEMUS

NEWS REVIEW

SPRING ISSUE

1992

OFFICERS

President
Angela Bates

Treasurer
Gil Alexander

Secretary
Vickie Jones

Angela Bates/Editor
Earlice Rupp/Co-Editor

HISTORICAL TRIVIA

Dug outs were the first houses that the settlers of Nicodemus lived in. These structures were usually 14 x 16 x 4 or 6 deep in the earth, with weeds for roofs. Fleas, rodents, and flooding were constant problems. To eliminate the flea problem, many would wash the floors down with hot water. This only provided temporary relief. The floors were hard and were swept clean like we sweep floors today. After the dug outs people lived in 'soddie or sod houses'. These were similiar in size to dug outs, however they were erected above ground and made from Kansas prairie/sod. Since wood was scarce, people continued to live in these until wood could be obtained and houses built. More permanent structures such as large community buildings, churches, stores, etc. were made of native limestone.



SOD HOUSE

(Courtesy Kansas State Historical Society)

SOCIETY'S BRIEF

o The Study Team for the Department of Interior was on the townsite January 13, 1992 for their initial site visit. The overall project and its objectives were discussed.

o The Community Task Group for the Nicodemus Site Project met February 18, 1992, to discuss historical interpretive programs and activities for each historical structure and the townsite as a whole, if site status is achieved.

o A Community meeting was held on February 29, 1992, for the purposes of obtaining input from the community at large regarding possible historical interpretive programs for Nicodemus.

o John Mann, producer for the Nicodemus Documentary met with Angela Bates for initial review of the first edited version. He was at Kansas University to select archival photographs and materials for use in the documentary. He hopes to have the documentary finished by June.

o Homecoming is in a few months and we are beginning to plan some of the activities that promise to be fun. The 2nd Annual Bike Tour is scheduled for Sunday, August 2. For all those who want to brave this tour or part of it for fun, please fill out the attached registration form and send it in.

o A Nicodemus Telephone Directory is currently underway. It will include names of relatives and friends who have visited Demus over the last several years. It will also include Historical Society members and others who we have on record. We will be publishing it sometime in the fall and will be selling family and business ads. If you want to make sure your name, address, and phone number are included in the directory, please send it to us. Please indicate your mother's maiden name.

o JohnElla Holmes-Petrie provided a tour of Nicodemus to about 60 elementary students on Friday April 3. Angela Bates has hosted and given tours to a number of people over the last several year. She gave a tour to 6 Rotary exchange visitors from Norway on Monday, April 13. Efforts are underway with state and local tourist organizations to plan and organize tours. The Historical Society is working on an informational packet that will be given to tourist when they arrive.

o April 11 the community of Nicodemus was invited to a special tour of the Spencer Research Library at Kansas University in Lawrence and to see the Nicodemus Exhibit. They attended a special luncheon in their honor. Five members from the community attended. The exhibit will be

on display through the month of May. It is open to the general public and all are encouraged to see it.

o Plans are underway to begin a clean up in and around historical structures. Signage for these structures is also being considered as a temporary measure until site status is obtained.

o April 25 - 30, 1992, Angela Bates and Kansas University geography graduate student Helen Scheumaker will be in Georgetown, Kentucky to conduct research. Helen is documenting the cultural difference in grave sites and tombstones of Nicodemus versus Hill City and Stockton and other white communities. Her research will be invaluable to Nicodemus. Angela will be visiting with the Georgetown and Lexington Historical Societies and individual families of those Kentuckians who returned after seeing the promise land of Kansas, in 1877.

BIRTHDAYS

January

1/2	Helen Scroggins
1/3	JohnElla Holmes-Petrie
1/7	Erwin Dabney
1/18	Johnnie Powell
1/21	Gwen Smith
1/22	Karla Legere

February

2/2	Marci Penner
2/13	Robert Brogden Jr.
2/16	Ernestine VanDuVall
2/22	George Wellington
2/24	Ora Switzer
2/24	Rene Clark
2/25	James Creighton
2/26	Teresa Switzer

March

3/1	Thomas Wellington
3/14	Howard Webster
3/16	Quilik Walton
3/22	Mark Taylor
3/23	Leo Williams Jr.

1992 MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not paid your dues please do so as soon as possible. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!
1992 DUES \$15.00

SEND US YOUR NEWS

CHAT BACK

BOB DOLE
KANSAS
161 SENATE HART BUILDING
DND 22-6821

COMMITTEE
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
REAL ESTATE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 13, 1992

Dear Friends,

I regret that I am unable to be with you today in Nicodemus, but would like to take this opportunity to thank all interested citizens and the National Park Service Study Team for their help in making this important meeting possible. As you may know, I have long taken a keen interest in preserving our key historical sites in the state of Kansas. The Fort Larned National Historical Site and the Fort Scott National Historical Site are two excellent examples of our government properly preserving the history of our great state for many generations to come.

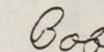
The town of Nicodemus has a long and important history as a home to black pioneers, and is a unique chapter in the settling of the West. Not only is it's designation as an Historical Site crucial in preserving our past, but it would provide for future generations an accurate historical account of the brave Americans who made this town their home.

Last year, in the Department of Interior appropriations bill, I asked that funds left over from the Wilson Lake study be used to examine the feasibility of adding Nicodemus to the park system as a National Historic Site. I strongly support this study, and eagerly await it's findings.

Finally, I would like to send my special regards to Angela Bates of the Nicodemus Historical Society. Only through Angela's hard work and persistence have we come this far. I look forward to working with her, the National Park Service, and all supporters of Nicodemus as the study develops.

Again, thanks for coming. I will closely monitor the work of the study team as we map the future of Nicodemus.

Sincerely,



BOB DOLE
United States Senate

BULLETIN BOARD

April 29 The Nicodemus Historical Society will be providing a community tour to 15 tour bus companies. These tour bus companies are touring the northwestern part of the state to determine places to visit for the scheduled tours.

May 12 - June 3 There will be a Nicodemus exhibit at the Hansen Museum in Logan, Kansas. The exhibit is on display in conjunction with "The Long Road Up the Hill, Blacks in Congress from the 1880's through 1990", a Smithsonian sites exhibit. All are welcome and encouraged to see the exhibit.

July 31 - August 2 1992 Nicodemus Homecoming (Emancipation Celebration)

August 3 Nicodemus Historic Site Study Team Public Meeting

DEATHS

Lloyd L. Wellington
January 13, 1909 - February 24, 1992
Services held at Nicodemus
February 29, 1992
Interment - Mt Olive Cemetery
Nicodemus

Bobby Lacy
September 12, 1907 - April 8, 1992
Services held at Nicodemus
April 11, 1992
Interment - Nicodemus Cemetery
Nicodemus

The Nicodemus Historical Society
Post Office Box 139
Bogue, Kansas 67625
(913) 674-3311

**A National Historic Landmark
An All African American Pioneer Town**

**Invite a friend or relative to Join
The Nicodemus Historical Society
Individual Membership \$25.00
Senior Citizens - Donation**

NICODEMUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Preserving Our Historic Past
for Future Generations*



Why Nicodemus?



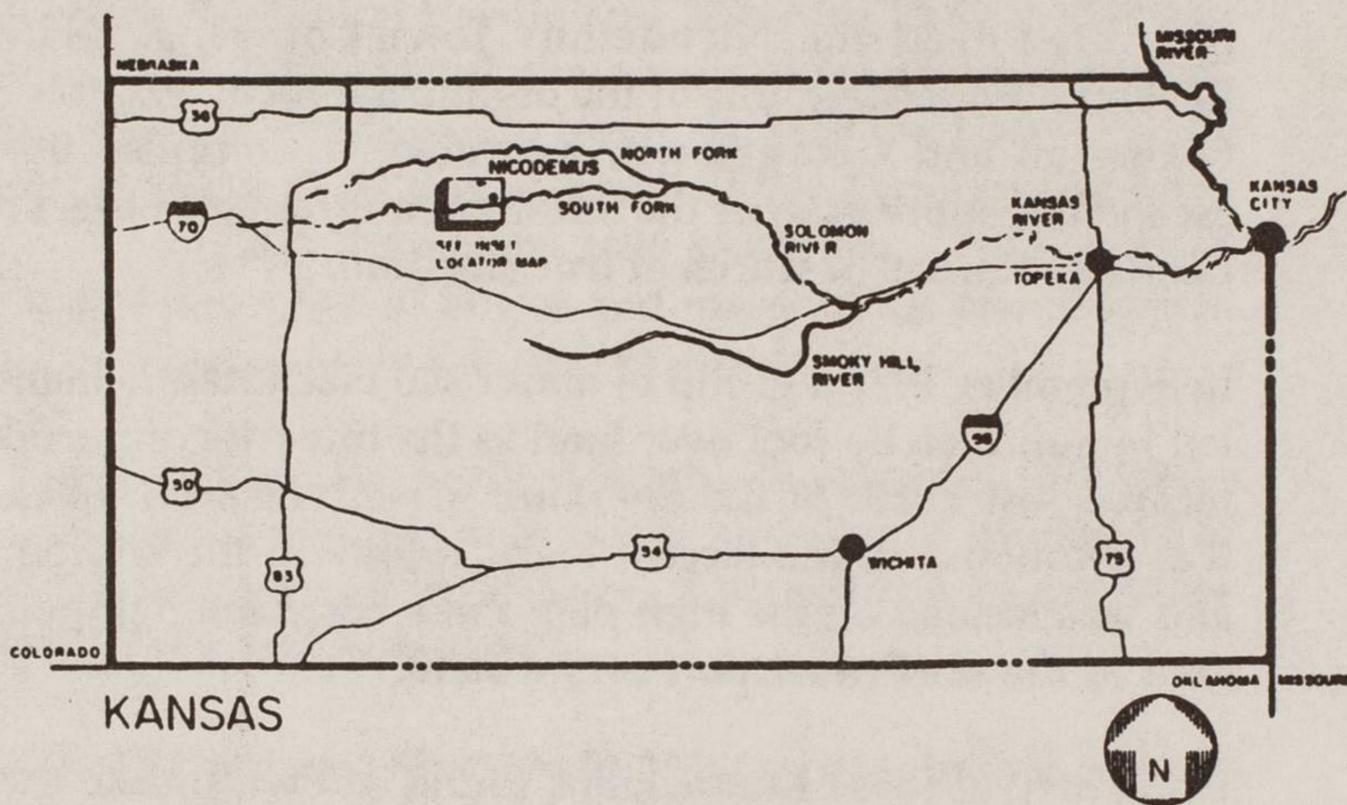
The Nicodemus Historical Society is pursuing National Historical Site status for Nicodemus, Kansas, the only remaining all-Black town established (1877) by "Exodusters" during the post-Civil War western migration. National Historic Site status will ensure federal support in the preservation and restoration of Nicodemus, establishing it as one of the most historically significant sites west of the Mississippi River.

Support our preservation efforts. Send your tax deductible contribution to:

Nicodemus Historical Society
Post Office Box 139
Bogue, KS 67625

Your \$50 contribution entitles you to membership in the Nicodemus Historical Society and a copy of *Promised Land: Black Settlement at Nicodemus, KS* published by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

HISTORIC NICODEMUS, KANSAS National Historic Site



An All African American Pioneer Town
National Historic Landmark (1976)

DIRECTIONS

*45 Miles NW of Hays (I70) on Highway 24 between
Hill City and Stockton*

THE OLDEST REMAINING ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER TOWN

NICODEMUS was established in 1877. W.R. Hill, a white man from Indiana and W.H. Smith a black pioneer, established a partnership that resulted in the organization of two towns, Nicodemus and Hill City. In the spring of 1877 Hill and Smith ventured to Topeka, Kansas where with four other black men, they organized the Nicodemus Town Company. Hill and Reverend Roundtree, one of the organizing members, traveled to Lexington and Georgetown, Kentucky to convince blacks to escape the oppression of the South by migrating to the 'Promise Lands' of Kansas in search of true freedom.

In September 1877 a group of about 300 black Kentuckians were led by rail then by foot over land to the townsite of Nicodemus, located just north of the Solomon River. This all black town was promoted as the largest black colony in the United States and was located on the high plains of Kansas in an unpopulated area in the northwest part of the state.

Upon arrival these Kentuckians found a town unlike they had ever seen. The few Topekians that migrated earlier in the spring were living in 'dug outs'. These earth homes were dug 4 - 6 feet deep and were 14 x 15 feet wide. Many, upon seeing this sight returned to Kentucky. Most of them had no choice but to stay and dig in for the winter.

During that first year the settlers all but starved. However, the Osage and Pottowatomi Indians who were traversing through the area after their winter hunt, shared their game with the starving settlers of Nicodemus. In the following spring and fall other settlers came to Nicodemus.

As the town began to grow a business district was established with a bank, livery stables, several hotels, general and drug stores, real estate and law offices, and even a doctors office. The population reached around 700. Three schools were established to provided educational instruction to the many children in the

township. Religious training was as important as educational training. The four of the founding fathers of Nicodemus were ministers and several churches were established to accommodate the many weary souls of Nicodemus.

In 1887 when the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroad companies failed to extend their rails through Nicodemus, businesses and people began to leave. In 1888 the Union Pacific laid track just south of the Solomon River through the open plains. A railroad camp came into existence. This railroad camp became the town of Bogue and many of the businesses in Nicodemus transferred to this new town site.

In subsequent years due to the drought, dust storms, the Great Depression, and general lack of work, Nicodemus continued to loose its population and businesses. Currently there are fewer than 50 residents on the townsite.

In 1976 Nicodemus was elevated to national recognition when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Recent efforts resulted in Senator Dole introducing the "Nicodemus National Site Bill" to Congress, on January 23, 1996. The Bill passed on October 3, 1996 and was signed into law by President Clinton on November 12, 1997. This legislation will provide for the preservation of Nicodemus. Not only will the few remaining historical structures be restored and maintained, but the entire history interpreted through programs open to the general public.

* * * * *

The Nicodemus Historical Society was established as a non-profit corporation in 1989. Its purpose is to preserve the history of Nicodemus, Kansas. Individual membership \$25.00. For more information contact us at (913) 839-4280.

We accept donations to support our efforts!

WE SPONSOR

**History Slide Presentations
and Lectures**

Group and Personal Tours

**We sell homemade crafts and canned items
made by the Women of Nicodemus**

Books, Videos, Mementos Available

**Educational Information and Tours for
Teachers and Schools**

DATES TO REMEMBERS

Nicodemus Emancipation Celebration

Last Week End in July

Jul 25-27th 1997

Jul 31th- Aug. 2 1998

Nicodemus Pioneer Days

2nd Weekend in October

Hunting Seasons Opens

2nd Weekend in November

Call Us and we'll make accommodation arrangements
with some of our residents to host hunters.

**MORE INFORMATION NEEDED?
HISTORY INFORMATION PACKET \$6.00**

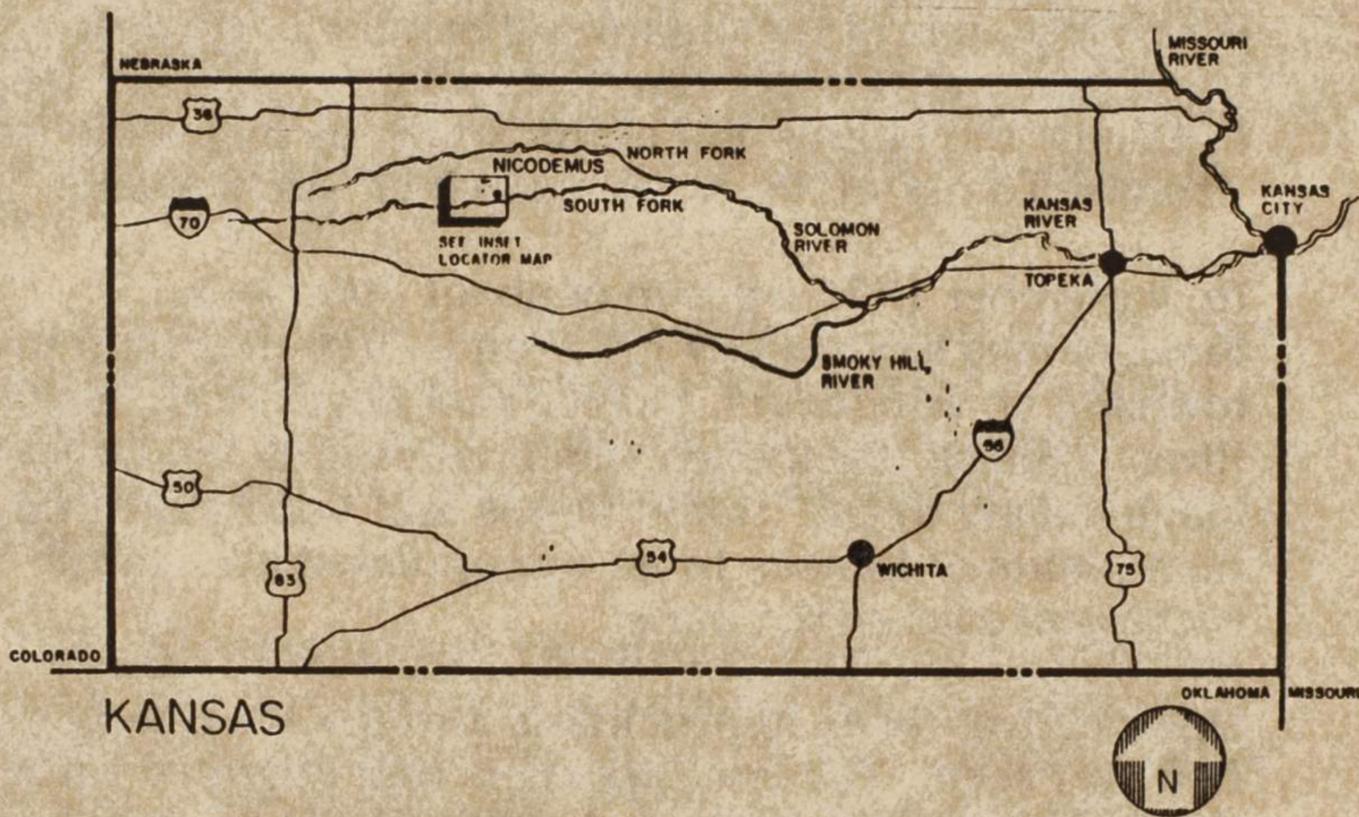
The Nicodemus Historical Society

P.O. Box 139

Bogue, Kansas 67625

(913) 839-4280

The
Nicodemus
Historical Society



Nicodemus, Kansas

An All African American Pioneer Town
National Historic Landmark (1976)

To Preserve the Photographic, Written,
Geneological, and Architectural History of
Nicodemus

THE OLDEST EXISTING ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER TOWN

NICODEMUS was established in 1877. W.R. Hill, a white man from Indiana and W.H. Smith a black pioneer, established a partnership that resulted in the organization of two towns, Nicodemus and Hill City. In the spring of 1877 Hill and Smith ventured to Topeka, Kansas where with four other black men, they organized the Nicodemus Town Company. Hill and Reverend Roundtree, one of the organizing members, traveled to Lexington and Georgetown, Kentucky to convince blacks to escape the oppression of the South by migrating to the 'Promise Lands' of Kansas in search of true freedom.

In September 1877 a group of about 300 black Kentuckians were led by rail then by foot over land to the townsite of Nicodemus, located just north of the Solomon River. This all black town was promoted as the largest black colony in the United States and was located on the high plains of Kansas in an unpopulated area in the northwest part of the state.

Upon arrival these Kentuckians found a town unlike they had ever seen. The few Topekians that migrated earlier in the spring were living in 'dug outs'. These earth homes were dug 4 - 6 feet deep and were 14 x 15 feet wide. Many, upon seeing this sight returned to Kentucky. Most of them had no choice but to stay and dig in for the winter.

During that first year the settlers all but starved. However, the Osage and Pottowottami Indians who were traversing through the area after their winter hunt, shared their game with the starving settlers of Nicodemus. In the following spring and fall other settlers came to Nicodemus.

As the town began to grow a business district was established with a bank, livery stables, several hotels, general and drug stores, real estate and law offices, and even a doctors office. The population reached around 700. Three schools were established to provided educational instruction to the many children in the

township. Religious training was as important as educational training. The four of the founding fathers of Nicodemus were ministers and several churches were established to accommodate the many weary souls of Nicodemus.

In 1887 when the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroad companies failed to extend their rails through Nicodemus, businesses and people began to leave. In 1888 the Union Pacific laid track just south of the Solomon River through the open plains. A railroad camp came into existence. This railroad camp became the town of Bogue and many of the businesses in Nicodemus transferred to this new town site.

In subsequent years due to the drought, dust storms, the Great Depression, and general lack of work, Nicodemus continued to loose its population and businesses. Currently there are fewer than 50 residents on the townsite.

In 1976 Nicodemus was elevated to national recognition when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Efforts are currently underway to obtain National Historic Site status for Nicodemus. If this national status is obtained, Nicodemus will become a National Park. Not only will the few remaining historical structures be restored and maintained, but the entire history interpreted through programs open to the general public.

The Nicodemus Historicial Society was established as a non-profit corporation in 1989. Its purpose is to preserve the history of Nicodemus, Kansas. Individual membership \$25.00. For more information contact us at (913) 674-3311.

Donations and your support are welcome!

The Nicodemus Historical Society
P.O. Box 139
Bogue, Kansas 67625
(913) 674-3311

WE SPONSOR

**History Slide Presentations
and Lectures**

**Group and Personal Tours
1-877-421-3311**

**We sell homemade crafts and canned items
made by the Women of Nicodemus**

Books, Videos, Mementos Available

**Educational Information and Tours for
Teachers and Schools**

DATES TO REMEMBERS

Nicodemus Emancipation Celebration
Always the Last Week End in July
July 30, 31 and August 1, 1999

Nicodemus Pioneer Days
1st or 2nd Weekend in October

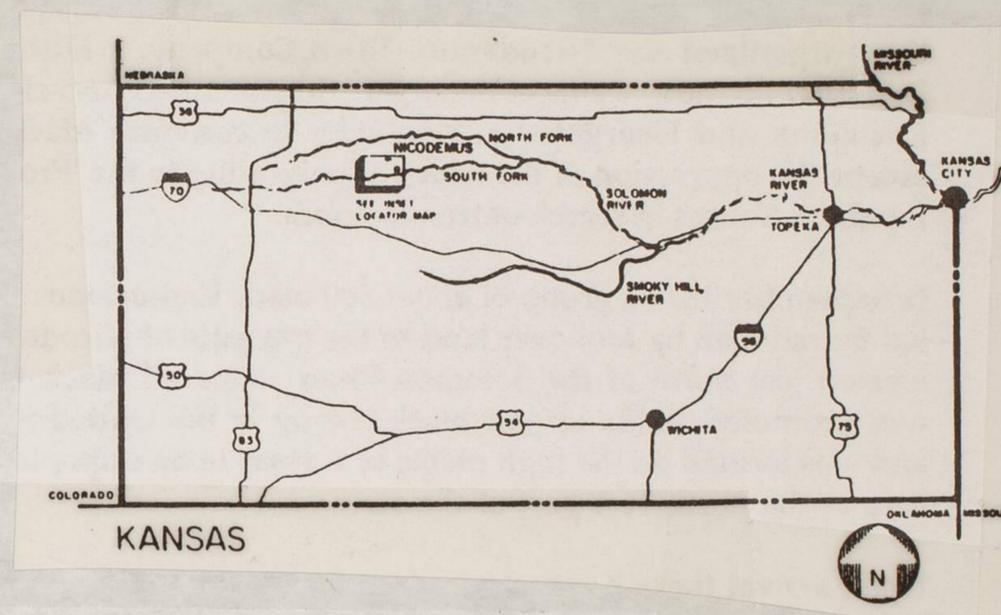
Hunting Seasons Opens
2nd Weekend in November

Call Us and we'll make accommodation arrangements
with some of our residents to host hunters.

**MORE INFORMATION NEEDED?
HISTORY INFORMATION PACKET \$6.00**

The Nicodemus Historical Society
P.O. Box 139
Bogue, Kansas 67625
(785) 839-4280

HISTORIC NICODEMUS, KANSAS National Historic Site



An All African American Pioneer Town
National Historic Landmark (1976)
National Historic Site (1996)

DIRECTIONS
45 Miles NW of Hays (170) on Highway 24 between
Hill City and Stockton

THE OLDEST REMAINING ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER TOWN

NICODEMUS was established in 1877. W.R. Hill, a white man from Indiana and W.H. Smith a black pioneer, established a partnership that resulted in the organization of two towns, Nicodemus and Hill City. In the spring of 1877 Hill and Smith ventured to Topeka, Kansas where with four other black men, they organized the Nicodemus Town Company. Hill and Reverend Roundtree, one of the organizing members, traveled to Lexington and Georgetown, Kentucky to convince blacks to escape the oppression of the South by migrating to the 'Promise Lands' of Kansas in search of true freedom.

In September 1877 a group of about 300 black Kentuckians were led by rail then by foot over land to the townsite of Nicodemus, located just north of the Solomon River. This all black town was promoted as the largest black colony in the United States and was located on the high plains of Kansas in an unpopulated area in the northwest part of the state.

Upon arrival these Kentuckians found a town unlike they had ever seen. The few Topekians that migrated earlier in the spring were living in 'dug outs'. These earth homes were dug 4 - 6 feet deep and were 14 x 15 feet wide. Many, upon seeing this sight returned to Kentucky. Most of them had no choice but to stay and dig in for the winter.

During that first year the settlers all but starved. However, the Osage and Pottowatomi Indians who were traversing through the area after their winter hunt, shared their game with the starving settlers of Nicodemus. In the following spring and fall other settlers came to Nicodemus.

As the town began to grow a business district was established with a bank, livery stables, several hotels, general and drug stores, real estate and law offices, and even a doctors office. The population reached around 700. Three schools were established to provided educational instruction to the many children in the

township. Religious training was as important as educational training. The four of the founding fathers of Nicodemus were ministers and several churches were established to accommodate the many weary souls of Nicodemus.

In 1887 when the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroad companies failed to extend their rails through Nicodemus, businesses and people began to leave. In 1888 the Union Pacific laid track just south of the Solomon River through the open plains. A railroad camp came into existence. This railroad camp became the town of Bogue and many of the businesses in Nicodemus transferred to this new town site.

In subsequent years due to the drought, dust storms, the Great Depression, and general lack of work, Nicodemus continued to loose its population and businesses. Currently there are fewer than 50 residents on the townsite.

In 1976 Nicodemus was elevated to national recognition when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Recent efforts resulted in Senator Dole introducing the "Nicodemus National Site Bill" to Congress, on January 23, 1996. The Bill passed on October 3, 1996 and was signed into law by President Clinton on November 12, 1997. This legislation will provide for the preservation of Nicodemus. Not only will the few remaining historical structures be restored and maintained, but the entire history interpreted through programs open to the general public.

* * * * *

The Nicodemus Historical Society was established as a non-profit corporation in 1989. Its purpose is to preserve the history of Nicodemus, Kansas. Individual membership \$25.00. For more information contact us at (785) 839-4280.

We accept donations to support our efforts!

Plan a Summer Youth or Adult Kansas History Tour

See and Experience
African American Western History first Hand at
Nicodemus National Site
Historic Nicodemus, Kansas
One of the Newest National Parks

Highway 24 - 45 minutes northwest of Hays
(3.5 hours from Wichita area)

The only remaining all Black Pioneer town West of the Mississippi

Learn about the history of the Black migration to Kansas from Kentucky • see the five historic buildings from horse drawn wagon • visit the Historical Society's Museum • see photos from two TNT movies at the Nicodemus Buffalo Soldiers headquarters and meet some of their members dressed in 1870's military uniform and equipment • visit the Nicodemus National Park Service Visitors Center and see exhibit and videos on this historic remnant of the the West • Eat great Bar-b-que and visit with the few remaining residents and 'old timers'.

Gifts and souvenirs available.

Dressed in period attire, Angela Tompkins, Nicodemus descendent and historian will be your tour guide. Barrie Tompkins will be your wagon master and townsite tour guide. Both are nationally known for their history programs and portrayals about the Black West.

Plan this Day Trip now for your summer program.

Call Now for More Information or Group Rates
1-877-421-3311 toll free



WE SPONSOR

**History Slide Presentations
and Lectures**

Group and Personal Tours

**We sell homemade crafts and canned items
made by the Women of Nicodemus**

Books, Videos, Mementos Available

**Educational Information and Tours for
Teachers and Schools**

DATES TO REMEMBERS

Nicodemus Emancipation Celebration
Always the Last Week End in July

Nicodemus Pioneer Days
2nd Weekend in October

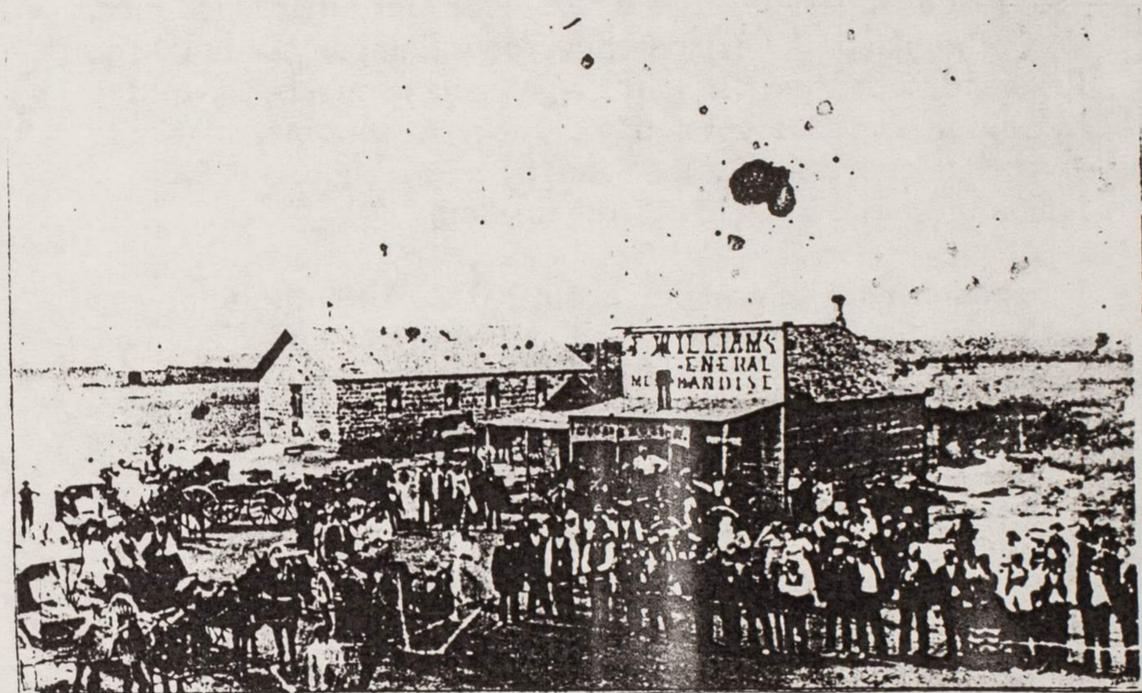
Hunting Seasons Opens
2nd Weekend in November

Call Us and we'll make accommodation arrangements
with some of our residents to host hunters.

**MORE INFORMATION NEEDED?
HISTORY INFORMATION PACKET \$6.00**

The Nicodemus Historical Society
P.O. Box 139
Bogue, Kansas 67625
(785) 839-4280

**HISTORIC
NICODEMUS, KANSAS
National Historic Site**



**An All African American Pioneer Town
National Historic Site (1996)
National Historic Landmark (1976)**

DIRECTIONS

*45 Miles NW of Hays (I70) on Highway 24 between
Hill City and Stockton*

THE OLDEST REMAINING ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER TOWN

NICODEMUS was established in 1877. W.R. Hill, a white man from Indiana and W.H. Smith a black pioneer, established a partnership that resulted in the organization of two towns, Nicodemus and Hill City. In the spring of 1877 Hill and Smith ventured to Topeka, Kansas where with four other black men, they organized the Nicodemus Town Company. Hill and Reverend Roundtree, one of the organizing members, traveled to Lexington and Georgetown, Kentucky to convince blacks to escape the oppression of the South by migrating to the 'Promise Lands' of Kansas in search of true freedom.

In September 1877 a group of about 300 black Kentuckians were led by rail then by foot over land to the townsite of Nicodemus, located just north of the Solomon River. This all black town was promoted as the largest black colony in the United States and was located on the high plains of Kansas in an unpopulated area in the northwest part of the state.

Upon arrival these Kentuckians found a town unlike they had ever seen. The few Topekians that migrated earlier in the spring were living in 'dug outs'. These earth homes were dug 4 - 6 feet deep and were 14 x 15 feet wide. Many, upon seeing this sight returned to Kentucky. Most of them had no choice but to stay and dig in for the winter.

During that first year the settlers all but starved. However, the Osage and Pottowatomi Indians who were traversing through the area after their winter hunt, shared their game with the starving settlers of Nicodemus. In the following spring and fall other settlers came to Nicodemus.

As the town began to grow a business district was established with a bank, livery stables, several hotels, general and drug stores, real estate and law offices, and even a doctors office. The population reached around 700. Three schools were established to provided educational instruction to the many children in the

township. Religious training was as important as educational training. The four of the founding fathers of Nicodemus were ministers and several churches were established to accommodate the many weary souls of Nicodemus.

In 1887 when the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroad companies failed to extend their rails through Nicodemus, businesses and people began to leave. In 1888 the Union Pacific laid track just south of the Solomon River through the open plains. A railroad camp came into existence. This railroad camp became the town of Bogue and many of the businesses in Nicodemus transferred to this new town site.

In subsequent years due to the drought, dust storms, the Great Depression, and general lack of work, Nicodemus continued to loose its population and businesses. Currently there are fewer than 50 residents on the townsite.

In 1976 Nicodemus was elevated to national recognition when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Recent efforts resulted in Senator Dole introducing the "Nicodemus National Site Bill" to Congress, on January 23, 1996. The Bill passed on October 3, 1996 and was signed into law by President Clinton on November 12, 1997. This legislation will provide for the preservation of Nicodemus. Not only will the few remaining historical structures be restored and maintained, but the entire history interpreted through programs open to the general public.

* * * * *

The Nicodemus Historical Society was established as a non-profit corporation in 1989. Its purpose is to preserve the history of Nicodemus, Kansas. Individual membership \$25.00. For more information contact us at (785) 839-4280.

We accept donations to support our efforts!

THE OLDEST EXISTING ALL AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER TOWN

NICODEMUS was established in 1877. W.R. Hill, a white man from Indiana and W.H. Smith a black pioneer, established a partnership that resulted in the organization of two towns, Nicodemus and Hill City. In the spring of 1877 Hill and Smith ventured to Topeka, Kansas where with four other black men, they organized the Nicodemus Town Company. Hill and Reverend Roundtree, one of the organizing members, traveled to Lexington and Georgetown, Kentucky to convince blacks to escape the oppression of the South by migrating to the 'Promise Lands' of Kansas in search of true freedom.

In September 1877 a group of about 300 black Kentuckians were led by rail then by foot over land to the townsite of Nicodemus, located just north of the Solomon River. This all black town was promoted as the largest black colony in the United States and was located on the high plains of Kansas in an unpopulated area in the northwest part of the state.

Upon arrival these Kentuckians found a town unlike they had ever seen. The few Topekians that migrated earlier in the spring were living in 'dug outs'. These earth homes were dug 4 - 6 feet deep and were 14 x 15 feet wide. Many, upon seeing this sight returned to Kentucky. Most of them had no choice but to stay and dig in for the winter.

During that first year the settlers all but starved. However, the Osage and Pottowottami Indians who were traversing through the area after their winter hunt, shared their game with the starving settlers of Nicodemus. In the following spring and fall other settlers came to Nicodemus.

As the town began to grow a business district was established with a bank, livery stables, several hotels, general and drug stores, real estate and law offices, and even a doctors office. The population reached around 700. Three schools were established to provided educational instruction to the many children in the

township. Religious training was as important as educational training. The four of the founding fathers of Nicodemus were ministers and several churches were established to accommodate the many weary souls of Nicodemus.

In 1887 when the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific Railroad companies failed to extend their rails through Nicodemus, businesses and people began to leave. In 1888 the Union Pacific laid track just south of the Solomon River through the open plains. A railroad camp came into existence. This railroad camp became the town of Bogue and many of the businesses in Nicodemus transferred to this new town site.

In subsequent years due to the drought, dust storms, the Great Depression, and general lack of work, Nicodemus continued to loose its population and businesses. Currently there are fewer than 50 residents on the townsite.

In 1976 Nicodemus was elevated to national recognition when it was designated as a National Historic Landmark. Efforts are currently underway to obtain National Historic Site status for Nicodemus. If this national status is obtained, Nicodemus will become a National Park. Not only will the few remaining historical structures be restored and maintained, but the entire history interpreted through programs open to the general public.

The Nicodemus Historicial Society was established as a non- profit corporation in 1989. Its purpose is to preserve the history of Nicodemus, Kansas. For more information contact us at (913) 674-3311.

Donations and your support are welcome!