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2. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

What I am trying to accomplish is total preservation of the remaining historic structures on the townsite, as well as collect and preserve the written and photographic history of Nicodemus. I am also trying to make use of all that we have collected and researched by developing educational programs and materials for use in the schools, museums, and by the general public. To ultimately re-create Nicodemus for the general public to visit and experience.

My greatest success to date would have to be, that I got the attention of Senator Dole and he in turn took the initiative to get a Feasibility Study funded (the first step towards National Site Designation) and secondly, that thousands of *more* people know about Nicodemus; what it stands for; where it is; and what we are trying to do in terms of saving it. My greatest disappointment is that there isn't enough interest in the African American community at large (nationally) about African American history and historic preservation. I have learned as a result that the job of historic preservation is two fold - its expending efforts to plan and execute actual preservation, but more importantly to also educate the public as to the historical significance and need for preservation. I'm grateful that I have an educational background in *education* and the natural ability to teach. An attribute that is invaluable in this business.

3. WHY DO YOU WANT A SABBATICAL?

Because it has taken its toll on me financially. I do not get paid for any of my efforts and as a result I have suffered from it financially, by neglecting my own personal business endeavors. The timing for such a sabbatical is excellent, in that after December 9th, when we have a legislative development meeting on the proposed Nicodemus legislation, there will be dead time (up to a year possibly) that the bill will be before Congress in committee and up for vote. A perfect time to take a serious break! It will also give me a chance to look at it with a fresh and rested mind! The next phase of development - developmening plans for the site interpretive programs, (aside from the physical plans to restore), will require creative thinking and I am best at that when I have a rested and clear mind. Within the next five years I hope to be working more intensely on the actual restoration and interpretive development and implementation of the site, through planning and coordinating all aspects of the site.