

May 7, 1991

Oprah Winfrey
Harpo Studios
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Oprah:

I wrote you in June of 1989 requesting your honorary membership to the Nicodemus Historical Society. You declined due to the construction of Harpo Studios and various projects you were working on then.

I appeal to you again. This year at our 114th Emancipation Celebration a documentary film is being made and we would like for you to be a part of this celebration and documentary film. We would like for you to do the commentating for it. We are very much interested in what your association with Nicodemus, one of the most famous all black towns west of the Mississippi River.

We are beginning our campaign to have Nicodemus selected to the roster as a National Historic Site. This takes an Act of Congress to designate it as such. Nicodemus presently is a national historic "landmark", but with the status of historic "site" the federal government is mandated to assist in the restoration and maintenance of this most historic place.

It is a living witness to the time in our American history when black pioneers went against all odds, came to Kansas with courage, faith and self determination to create an existence for themselves by establishing their own all black town.

With the documentary we are hoping to get publicity for this most significant project. The governments roster of national historic sites only includes seven Afro-American sites out of over three hundred total sites. We have support of individuals within the Department of Interior that are encouraging of us, but we are the ones that have to lobby the Kansas legislature and congress to nominate Nicodemus to the roster.

I hope you have had a chance to read the book I sent you "Promised Land: Black Settlement at Nicodemus, Kansas". It gives you the history and the historic buildings of Nicodemus.

Nicodemus and it's rich history is even worth considering for a movie or small series. I believe the american public has been primed by "Dances With Wolves" to see our american history portrayed in a new light. Hollywood always depicted the Indians as savages, and blacks didn't exist as a part of the west, in