



The Frank Riley home in  
Nicodemus Taken in June 1964

RF

MS-P

54531.1



no. 12

E

S 91-10-97  
Nicodemus

b b A

b

RH

MS-P

545:1.1

194



Standing George Sayers  
sitting on bench Jack Lewis

The only remaining store

in Nicodemus. Belong to

sitting on the step  
George Fletcher  
Burr  
Bates

RH

MS-P

545:1.1



General Store in Nicodemus, built  
in 1880, picture taken before 1964

Standing George Sayers, sitting on bench  
Jack Lewis and setting on step George  
Fetcher

RH  
MS-P  
545:1.1



SEP • 70



[SUNSET @ NICODEMUS, SEPT. 1970  
BY ANGELA BATES]

RH  
MS P  
545:1.1



Verna Napue

Nicodemus

Post of 4

La. 1950

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194

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RH

MS-P

no 7

545:1.1



91-10-97

Nicodemus

No. 2

9

243

["REG" HENRIES GAS  
STATION - HWY 18 AND 24  
JUNCTION]

RH

MS-P

194

545:1.1

BERNICE BATES  
ON RIGHT





RH

MS-P

545:

1-1



194

3





• JAN • 70



● [BY ANGELA BATES — 1ST WINTER  
TRIP TO NICOLEMUS, 1ST TIME  
SEEING SNOW]

Nicolemus  
Township Hall

RH

MS-P

545:1.1

# KANSAS HISTORICAL MARKER


## NICODEMUS

In July, 1877, Negro "exodusters" from Kentucky established a settlement here in the Promised Land of Kansas which they named Nicodemus. Although the colonists lacked sufficient tools, seed and money, they managed to survive the first winter, some by selling buffalo bones, others by working for the Kansas Pacific railroad at Ellis, 35 miles away. In 1880 the all-Negro community had a population of more than 400.

Their industry brought approving notices in Kansas newspapers. One story concerned a farmer who with one cow "broke and improved twelve acres of prairie and cultivated eight acres of corn; his wife drives the cow and keeps the flies off." Another spaded a four-foot hedge row around 160 acres of land. Edward P. McCabe, who joined the colony in 1878, served two terms as state auditor, 1883-1887, the first Negro to hold a major state office.

By 1887, Nicodemus had churches, stores, lodges, a school and two newspapers, but its future was blighted when a projected railroad failed to materialize. Nevertheless, these pioneers who built so much with so little hold a proud place in the Kansas story.

Erected by State Historical Society and State Highway Commission



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BY ANGELA BATES

