



**NEWS
FROM:**

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DOLE PROPOSES NICODEMUS AS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole announced that he has introduced legislation establishing Nicodemus, Kansas as a National Historic Site. Nicodemus is the only remaining western town established by African-Americans during the Reconstruction period following the Civil War.

“Too often, the tragic legacy of the Civil War was that blacks traded the chains of slavery for poverty, prejudice and persecution,” Dole said. “The free soil of Nicodemus allowed blacks to flourish. In my view, it is important to preserve that rich heritage, so that future generations will understand the special place of Nicodemus in the settling of the West.”

Senator Dole introduced the legislation after a report by the National Park Service indicated that “if Nicodemus is not protected and preserved by a public or private entity, it is inevitable that the historic structures will continue to deteriorate and eventually be razed”.

The historic site would include the First Baptist Church, the St. Francis Hotel, the Nicodemus School District Number 1, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Township Hall.

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