

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ANNOUNCES FEDERAL GRANT FOR PRESERVATION OF
HISTORIC BLACK KANSAS TOWN OF NICODEMUS

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced the award of a \$30,000 federal grant to the Kansas State Historical Society for the historic preservation of Nicodemus, Kansas, a small western Kansas town that began as a refuge for blacks after the Civil War.

According to Dole, the federal grant is from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Parks Service and will help fund the documentation and production of a master plan for the ultimate preservation of Nicodemus. The State is expected to match the award.

"I am pleased that this grant will help preserve a unique chapter in Kansas history," Dole said. "Although small in size, Nicodemus is a giant symbol of black Kansas achievement and pride. The preservation of this landmark site which stands for freedom certainly deserves our support."

Nicodemus became a place of hope for many former slaves who left the south after the Civil War to start a new life above the Mason-Dixon Line.

The federal and state grants will provide funds for the photography of historic Nicodemus sites, the architectural studies needed for restoration and preservation, and the expertise of an historian to document the town's significant history.