

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 9, 2025

Sherry A. Frear  
Chief, National Register of Historic Places  
and National Historic Landmarks Program  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 2013  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Frear:

We write to express our strong support for the designation of the Quindaro Townsite in Kansas City, Kansas, as a National Historic Landmark. This site embodies a profound chapter in our nation's history, reflecting the enduring struggle for freedom, equality, and community resilience.

Founded in 1857, Quindaro emerged as a beacon for Free-State advocates during the turbulent "Bleeding Kansas" era. Strategically located along the Missouri River, it served as a critical entry point for anti-slavery settlers and a sanctuary for those escaping bondage via the Underground Railroad. The town's establishment was a collaborative effort among the Wyandot Nation, New England abolitionists, and African American settlers, exemplifying a unique and harmonious multicultural alliance during a period marked by division and conflict.

Beyond its pivotal role in the anti-slavery movement, Quindaro became a nucleus for African American advancement post-Civil War. The establishment of the Quindaro Freedman's School, later known as Western University, marked a significant milestone as the first Black school west of the Mississippi River. Institutions like Douglass Hospital further underscored the town's commitment to education and healthcare within the African American community.

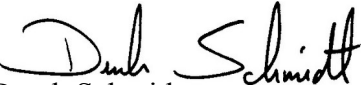
Archaeological excavations have unveiled a wealth of artifacts, offering invaluable insights into the daily lives of Quindaro's diverse inhabitants. The site's preserved foundations and structures provide a tangible connection to this rich history. Recognized on the National Register of Historic Places since 2002, Quindaro's significance has been further acknowledged through its designation as a National Commemorative Site in 2019.


The bipartisan introduction of the Quindaro Townsite National Historic Landmark Act (H.R. 5878) during the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress reflects the importance of preserving this historic site. Our offices were working toward the reintroduction of that legislation when we became aware that Quindaro was on the agenda for consideration by this committee.

Designating Quindaro as a National Historic Landmark would not only honor the site's historical significance but also ensure the preservation of its legacy for future generations. It stands as a testament to the collaborative spirit and unwavering pursuit of liberty that define our national identity.

Thank you for considering this nomination. We urge the National Historic Landmarks Committee to recommend the Quindaro Townsite for this designation.

Sincerely,

  
Derek Schmidt  
Member of Congress

  
Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Emanuel Cleaver, II". The signature is stylized with a large, circular loop at the end of the last name.

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress