

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3256

To establish the Nicodemus National Historic Site in Kansas, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 1996

Mr. ROBERTS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the Nicodemus National Historic Site in Kansas, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

4       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5               (1) the town of Nicodemus, in Kansas, has na-  
6       tional significance as the only remaining western  
7       town established by African-Americans during the  
8       Reconstruction period following the Civil War;

9               (2) the town of Nicodemus is symbolic of the  
10      pioneer spirit of African-Americans who dared to

1 leave the only region they had been familiar with to  
2 seek personal freedom and the opportunity to de-  
3 velop their talents and capabilities; and

4 (3) the town of Nicodemus continues to be a  
5 viable African-American community.

6 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

7 (1) to preserve, protect, and interpret for the  
8 benefit and enjoyment of present and future genera-  
9 tions, the remaining structures and locations that  
10 represent the history (including the settlement and  
11 growth) of the town of Nicodemus, Kansas; and

12 (2) to interpret the historical role of the town  
13 of Nicodemus in the Reconstruction period in the  
14 context of the experience of westward expansion in  
15 the United States.

16 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “historic site”  
19 means the Nicodemus National Historic Site estab-  
20 lished by section 3.

21 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
22 the Secretary of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NICODEMUS NATIONAL HIS-**  
2 **TORIC SITE.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the  
4 Nicodemus National Historic Site in Nicodemus, Kansas.

5 (b) DESCRIPTION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The historic site shall con-  
7 sist of the First Baptist Church, the St. Francis  
8 Hotel, the Nicodemus School District Number 1, the  
9 African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Town-  
10 ship Hall located within the approximately 161.35  
11 acres designated as the Nicodemus National Land-  
12 mark in the Township of Nicodemus, Graham Coun-  
13 ty, Kansas, as registered on the National Register of  
14 Historic Places pursuant to section 101 of the Na-  
15 tional Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470a),  
16 and depicted on a map entitled “Nicodemus Na-  
17 tional Historic Site”, numbered 80,000 and dated  
18 August 1994.

19 (2) MAP AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.—The  
20 map referred to in paragraph (1) and an accom-  
21 panying boundary description shall be on file and  
22 available for public inspection in the office of the Di-  
23 rector of the National Park Service and any other  
24 office of the National Park Service that the Sec-  
25 retary determines to be an appropriate location for  
26 filing the map and boundary description.

1 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF THE HISTORIC SITE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer  
3 the historic site in accordance with—

4 (1) this Act; and

5 (2) the provisions of law generally applicable to  
6 units of the National Park System, including the Act  
7 entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Serv-  
8 ice, and for other purposes”, approved August 25,  
9 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and the Act of August  
10 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666, chapter 593; 16 U.S.C. 461  
11 et seq.).

12 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To further the  
13 purposes specified in section 1(b), the Secretary may enter  
14 into a cooperative agreement with any interested individ-  
15 ual, public or private agency, organization, or institution.

16 (c) TECHNICAL AND PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide  
18 to any eligible person described in paragraph (2)  
19 technical assistance for the preservation of historic  
20 structures of, the maintenance of the cultural land-  
21 scape of, and local preservation planning for, the  
22 historic site.

23 (2) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—The eligible persons  
24 described in this paragraph are—

1 (A) an owner of real property within the  
 2 boundary of the historic site, as described in  
 3 section 3(b); and

4 (B) any interested individual, agency, or-  
 5 ganization, or institution that has entered into  
 6 an agreement with the Secretary pursuant to  
 7 subsection (b).

8 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Sec-  
 10 retary is authorized to acquire by donation, exchange, or  
 11 purchase with funds made available by donation or appro-  
 12 priation, such lands or interests in lands as may be nec-  
 13 essary to allow for the interpretation, preservation, or res-  
 14 toration of the First Baptist Church, the St. Francis  
 15 Hotel, the Nicodemus School District Number 1, the Afri-  
 16 can Methodist Episcopal Church, or the Township Hall,  
 17 as described in section 3(b)(1), or any combination there-  
 18 of.

19 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

20 (1) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE  
 21 STATE OF KANSAS.—Real property that is owned by  
 22 the State of Kansas or a political subdivision of the  
 23 State of Kansas that is acquired pursuant to sub-  
 24 section (a) may only be acquired by donation.

1           (2) CONSENT OF OWNER REQUIRED.—No real  
2           property may be acquired under this section without  
3           the consent of the owner of the real property.

4   **SEC. 6. GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the last day of the  
6           third full fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment  
7           of this Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the  
8           officials described in subsection (b), prepare a general  
9           management plan for the historic site.

10          (b) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the general man-  
11          agement plan, the Secretary shall consult with an appro-  
12          priate official of each of the following:

13                 (1) The Nicodemus Historical Society.

14                 (2) The Kansas Historical Society.

15                 (3) Appropriate political subdivisions of the  
16          State of Kansas that have jurisdiction over all or a  
17          portion of the historic site.

18          (c) SUBMISSION OF PLAN TO CONGRESS.—Upon the  
19          completion of the general management plan, the Secretary  
20          shall submit a copy of the plan to—

21                 (1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
22          sources of the Senate; and

23                 (2) the Committee on Resources of the House  
24          of Representatives.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There are authorized to be appropriated to the De-  
3 partment of the Interior such sums as are necessary to  
4 carry out this Act.

